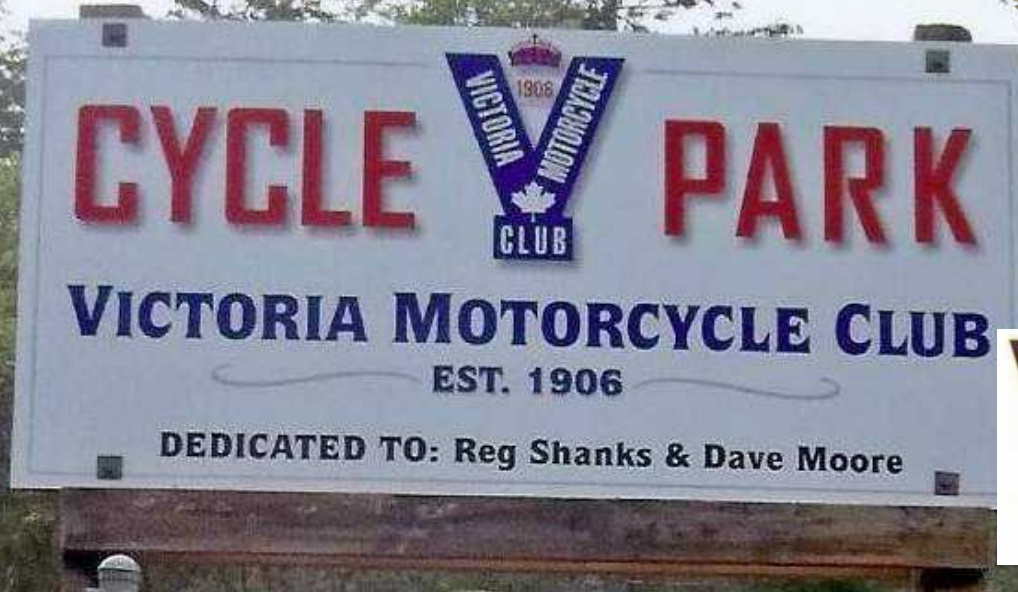


# THE VICTORIA MOTORCYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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[WWW.VMC.BC.CA](http://WWW.VMC.BC.CA)



**EDITORS MESSAGE—BY Roger Boothroyd**  
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We've come a long way since those early days of the combination car and motorcycles in 1906 and the split in 1912 when we became known as the Victoria Motorcycle Club. Members could ride almost anywhere there wasn't housing or industry such as beaches, fields and gravel pits. Some areas needed permission such as the water shed but there certainly was a lot more freedom to ride off road.

Fast forward to the seven acres of property the club owned on Hoy Lake Road in the 50's and early 60's. There was still a certain amount of freedom even in those days. That property was sold in the early 60's and section 119 on Happy Valley was purchased without access to it, however, with permission from a neighbour we were able to use his property to enter ours. In 1968 the club bought section 13 for access to section 119. The freedom I mention was still there as we were able to ride over the top of 119, then over the radar tower (it wasn't there) mountain, down the other side to the Sooke Road and into Morningside and make our way up to Cowichan Lake without seeing anyone. That is all gone now as we are landlocked with houses all around us. Which brings me up to date.

In my last newsletter I inserted a page and a half of **Cycle Park Property—General Rules and Etiquette** compiled by members of the executive. This is information that all members should read, inwardly digest and follow. It's not meant to be "dictatorial" but to ensure the safety of all members and guests and to be respectful of our neighbours. These General Rules are now on our website and Facebook page and may be posted at the property. *It's about common sense and courtesy and respect for all around you.*



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WHO, WHEN, WHERE ? You might recognize a few of the motley crew in this photo. Some of these riders are no longer with us and some were non-members. All enjoyed the day. Answer on page 3.



### CLUB NEWZ



Once again congratulations are in order for member Trystan Hart. FMF KTM Factory Racing's Trystan Hart was crowned "King of the Motos" on Sunday, January 29th in Johnson Valley, California. Read all about it at Speed Sport.

<https://www.speedsport.com/other-series/off-road-racing/hart-is-crowned-king-of-the-motos/>

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BCORMA (British Columbia Off Road Motorcycle Association) is alive and well in BC.

BCORMA continues to provide our members the BCORMA Trail Supporter program as a tool to raise additional club funds to provide direct trails funding and matching funding towards ORV Trails Fund projects. Please include it into your club memberships, Fun Ride sign-ups, etc. Clubs are raising \$1,000s a year for their trails with the Trail Supporter Program. Call or email if you want more information.

We should have a made in Canada Dirt Bike Rider School Program available for 2023 riding season. Its been in the works for over a year, and if any of the clubs would like to offer local certified training to future riders, please let me know.

For 2023, BCORMA member dues continue to be \$200 due at the beginning of the year unless the club has less than 10 members or are new. Both your invoice and membership renewal form for 2023 are attached. We still have a few clubs that have 2022 dues outstanding. Please check your records and make sure your 2022 dues have been paid and cleared your bank. If not, please include the club's 2022 dues in your payment with a note. **Peter Sprague, Executive Director BCORMA & VMC Member**

**Ed. Note:-** The VMC is a supporter of BCORMA and has renewed their membership. <https://www.bcorma.ca>

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Antique motorcycles sell for unbelievable prices at a Mecum Auction lately. Here are the top 10.

10	1931 Indian 402	\$159,500	9	1916 Henderson 4 Cylinder	\$165,000
8	1914 Henderson C Model	\$176,000	6	1922 Ace Sporting Solo c/w Sidecar	\$198,000
5	1927 Indian Ace Four	\$214,500	4	1925 BMW R37	\$220,000
3	1925 BMW R32	\$220,000	2	1938 Vincent HRD Series A Rapide	\$330,000
1	1908 Harley Davidson Strap Tank	\$935,000			

Info on the Harley Davidson can be seen at- <https://www.rideapart.com>

**WOW !**

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## VINTAGE SPEAKING

### A Brief History of the Marque Royal Standard



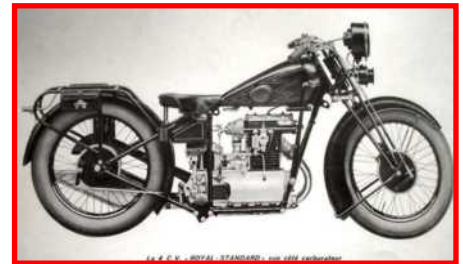
M. Pauchand & Cie, Geneva (parent company Ateliers des Charmilles, S.A)



**F**ounded in 1919, the company built its first motorcycle in 1928 using an OHC inline 349cc parallel twin engine with chain drive designed by René Zürcher, son of Ernest, co-founder of Zedel. A second model was released with a b/s of 60x72mm giving 412cc. Production totaled fewer than 700 units and ceased in 1932.

The manufacturers' catalogue gives the bore as 60 mm. and the stroke 73 mm., giving a capacity of 412 c.c. The two cylinders in

line are cast in a block and the cylinder head and cambox are heavily finned. Unit construction is employed, a four-bearing crankshaft is provided. the vertical shaft is skew-gear-driven, and the camshaft itself bevel-gear-driven. It is claimed that the balance is so perfect that the engine will not vibrate at 5000 revolutions per minute and the irregular torque inherent in the type is not apparent on opening the throttle. Stress is laid on the fact that, owing to the finning, the rear cylinder does not run hotter than the front. The timing gear is incorporated in the gearbox and the whole is abundantly lubricated, ensuring very silent operation. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~



**S**tarted in 1981 by Bob Gillies (RIP), the *Greybeards Enduro* could only be ridden by riders over the age of 36, supposedly all with graying hair and beards but this year it was combined with the Wellburn Enduro so there were a few younger competitors riding including **Graham Turner's** girlfriend **Bonnie**. In this event a handicap system is used where entrants start with 100 points. The entrant then subtracts their age for a total, and timing points lost at the end of the event are then added to that figure.

Thirty-nine riders showed up at the start line on the road to Port Renfrew near Cowichan Lake for what was to be an enjoyable event. Sunshine prevailed as riders set off on the 35 kilometre course using many of the easier Terra Nova trails and roads. Prior to starting, the riders had chosen the speed they wanted to maintain all day so in some cases this created the usual silly games of hiding from other competitors, who didn't have an odometer, to keep them from staying on time. There was also an option to ride two loops but many opted out as the weather changed drastically to a torrential downpour with hail. The oldest bike to compete was **Ron Foster's** 1978 Montesa Cota 348 and the oldest rider was first place **John Boomer Gronow** (RIP) at 73. Second place was 70 year old **Howie Sadler** (RIP) and third went to 67 year old **Don Richardson** (RIP). Fourth and fifth were taken up by (youngsters) **Roger Boothroyd** and **Gary Brown** respectively.

The picture shows most of the entrants in the **2003 Greybeards Enduro plus Wellburn Enduro**. The Graybeards was one of the VMC's favourite events but sadly has not been run for several years.



**If you really want something, you will find a way.  
If you don't, you will find an excuse !**

**Victoria Motorcycle Club**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting - Held on February 21, 2023**

upstairs at Barnes Harley-Davidson Victoria

Prepared by **Peter Smither** and edited by **Peter Grant** This was the second Regular Meeting of 2023.

By show of hands 25 Voting Members present and two New Member Applicants in attendance.

In Attendance: President: **Dave Horner** Vice President: **Mark Fisher** Treasurer: **Perry Chow**

Secretary: **Peter Grant** Directors: **Brent Donaldson, Dave Fair, Gary Gronow, Jordan McFarlane, Justin Roach, Mike Hornick**, - absent **Nick Newton**,

Committee Chairs present included: **Rick Kool**-Membership, **Peter Smither**-new Website and acting Secretary and **Roger Boothroyd**-Newsletter Editor.

Absent: sadly Past President **Dan McLaren** passed away Jan 29, 2023

A **'Website Pre-Design'** meeting was held by **Bobbi Bjornholt** from 6:00-7:00, prior to regular meeting

- This web design meeting was a chance to receive additional member feedback. **Bobbi** explained how her feedback system worked and what she was looking for. She placed sheets on the wall which listed feedback which had already been received from club members and gave instructions to the members in attendance to go up, read the suggestions and to put a mark beside the suggestions they considered most important to be designed into the new website. A maximum of six marks was to be left.

- **Peter Smither** also quickly demonstrated a mock draft of a website.

- Ongoing discussion was happening with members as they filtered in for the regular meeting, and the information tabulated by **Bobbi** will be used in addressing website committee discussions and the site development (More detail below in regular meeting minutes).

**Welcome:** The meeting was called to order by the President **Dave Horner** at 7:30 PM.

1) The minutes of the previous Regular Meeting of 01/17/22, were read aloud by acting Sec. **Pete Smither**.

- **Andy James** moved the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by **Charlie Parker**. Carried.

2) Minutes of the prior weeks Executive Meeting of 02/15/23 were read aloud by **Dave Horner**.

- **Brent Donaldson** moved to accept these minutes as read, second by **Mike Hornick**. **Carried.**

**Business arising from the Minutes**

3) **Dave Horner** - read a letter received from **Barb Lohrmann** read by regarding the passing of past President **Dan McLaren**.

- Noted all the letters and notes of support received from club members after **Dan's** death.

- Approved selection for lifetime membership designation

4) **Perry Chow**-presented the Treasurer's Report

Current financial situation detailing income and expenditures over the month. Income and expenses are tracking close to initial budgeted amounts.

**Dave Horner** - reviewed all improvements and capital projects underway or planned for Cycle Park in 2023.

**Motion was put forward by Perry Chow:**

To approve expenditure of \$120,000 for current projects which includes Electrification of Cycle Park, the building of an Electrical Service Building, the construction of new Clubhouse Pavilion, the installation of a Powered Gate with the appropriate control equipment and Trenching and Installation of electrical cable, water and communications conduit from the Electrical Building to the new clubhouse.

- This \$120,000 is in addition to the \$35,000 already approved for the power installation approved and under-way by BC Hydro.

Discussion was carried out on efficiencies that club members had brought to this project including at cost materials for the gate, no labour costs for the gate, contractor rate purchasing for the clubhouse and electrical building without any markup, which also included some further reductions below contractor rate for items such as trusses.

- all Labour required for these builds is expected to be by club member participation.

**Roger Boothroyd** moved the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by **Jordan McFarlane**.

The general membership, by show of hands voted 25/0. **Motion Carried.**

5) **Rick Kool** - **Membership:**

There are now 428 current VMC members (Junior, Active, Senior, Life and Honorary

Continued Page 5

**Continued From Page 4**

with 4 applicants on the Wait List.

- Any Late Renewals received from this point forward will not be processed.
- If those people wish to become a VMC member again they need to begin the new member application process and be placed on our applicant Wait List.
- Once the 475 number is reached, all new prospects' names will be placed on a Wait List until openings as available.
- The number of 475 will be reviewed as we move to 2024.
- Approx 88 members did not renew for 2023 and sadly 4 members passed away.

Lively discussion ensued with members present regarding cutting off the membership for the current year at 475 members. Reasoning for this cut-off was that we need to regain control over the Club and at Cycle Park, and that we need to develop membership so that it participates in the activities of the club and that the VMC membership needs to be perceived as having value.

**Motion (a):**

Moved to accept the 41 prospects on the waitlist (if all other criteria are met) and to then temporarily suspend processing any new membership. The motion also included that new members had to attend a Mandatory club Orientation Meeting on site which would be held by **Brent Donaldson** (dates yet to be decided) and attend at least one club meeting with their sponsor prior to next January. New members also had to volunteer at least one day labour in 2023.

**Motion (b):**

Moved that the 475 membership number was only fixed for 2023, and it would be evaluated in February 2024, and that that number was to be evaluated annually.

New Criteria for New Members includes that all new members be required to attend an Orientation Meeting on dates TBC, hosted by **Brent Donaldson** at Cycle Park. Any membership privileges conveyed to the new members is contingent on that member attending the scheduled Orientation in the current year or face expulsion from the club.

The combined Motion: was put forward by **Nick Newton** and seconded by **Roger Boothroyd**, membership voted 19/6 in favour. **Carried.**

**6) New Membership Requirements for 2024 - Discussion by **Peter Smither****

A new membership requirement, to begin in 2024 will make it mandatory for all Active Members to contribute no less than 6 hours / 1 Day annually working on behalf of a sanctioned club activity, project or event.

- This is based on the idea that Membership is a Privilege, not a Right, that we want Members who want to be engaged and actively involved in a range of club activities.
- This change is being put in place as the Cycle Park has been experiencing high levels of wear and tear and needs maintenance. Far too few members ever give back to the club.
- There is also a need for volunteers for events to take the load off the people that regularly do volunteer and show up.
- To facilitate this mandatory Work Requirement, we propose that tracking Volunteer Hours will be done digitally via a new website online form when activated mid-2023.

This form will be simple to fill out and formatted for both web, tablet and phone platforms.

- Members need to fill out this form which will include inputting their email, name and clicking a few checkboxes indicating the volunteering that they will be doing. This form will populate a spreadsheet that will be accessible for committee members. At events the committee member running the activity will just check off confirmation of attendance by volunteers.
- No submission by the member means no record of work. The Committee chairman in charge of the event/work activity will track attendance and update the electronic record.
- If a member has not completed a digital form submission and the Committee Chair has not signed off, then that member's renewal application will be rejected for the following year.
- There will be some flexibility allowed initially as members learn and apply this technology.

One example of this might be: several guys decide to go to the property and cut Broom on

**Continued Page 6**

the upper level when there is no Committee Chairman present. Their volunteering will be accepted in good faith so long as the online form is completed for all that participated and the volunteer work can somehow be verified.

- **Peter Smither** suggested that this remain an ongoing discussion for the March and April meetings, that we schedule to vote on enacting one day of Mandatory Work requirement by all Active members at the regular May meeting.

- **Peter** provided a demonstration of draft website volunteer sign-up form and process.

- All current club members will be notified by direct email and website with further discussion at the March and April meetings with the vote scheduled to take place at the regular May meeting. To be enacted for beginning Feb. 2024.

**Membership is a Privilege, not a Right**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

7) Discussion on whether or not to name the Clubhouse Pavilion the “Memorial Pavilion”. Several members have brought up past key club members with the idea of naming the Pavilion after them, however after group discussion it was decided that once the pavilion was built we would look at the idea of placing brass plates on the internal support beams (at a height where they would not be affected if future walls were built), that would name past members.

- There was general consensus that this would be a good idea going forward and that further discussion would be had on this matter at future meetings.

**Motion:**

To approve naming the new Clubhouse Pavilion as the “Memorial Pavilion”. by **Dave Horner**, seconded by **Jordan McFarlane**, **Motion carried 25/0.**

**Committee Reports:**

8) Issues with the Gate and Access to Cycle Park - Discussion put forth by **Gary Gronow**. Due to a significant number of non-members who actively access and ride at VMC Cycle Park, a motion is going to be put forward for the following changes:

- Effective end of day on March 31st a new Security Key type Padlock will be installed on the Cycle Park gate.

- For all members that desire unencumbered access to ride and enjoy the VMC’s Cycle Park property they will need to purchase a key, from **Rick Kool**.

- **Rick** with Executive support will be on site **April 1st & 2nd** to receive a \$60 fee (cash or cheque only), for a new secure non-copyable key which will be used to secure the gate until the powered Electric Gate is installed and fully operational.

- At that time the Secure Key will be exchanged at no cost for an electronic gate Access Fob.

- The new automated opening/closing/locking gate once installed will permit tracking entry and exit at Cycle Park. A video camera is to be installed to record anyone trying to sneak in a second vehicle. The gate control will be set to allow only the minimum amount of time required for one vehicle to enter. The same access fob/code will also be required to exit.

- This will allow club members with the key unencumbered access to the site while keeping out non-members who are abusing concurrently almost open access (the 2020 keycode has been given out extensively in the community and therefore no longer serves as a barrier).

-We have 75 keys on hand for Series II padlock, which are marked for non-duplication. The revenue raised selling these first 75 keys will more than cover the cost of any extra keys we need to cut to bridge the gap between the April 1st date and when the power gate is installed.

- On Event Days there will be a system override that will be obligatory to remain open during the event to allow volunteers and spectators that are non-club members to freely enter and exit.

- If a Secure Key (or Access Fob) is lost the \$60 fee will be charged to secure a replacement plus any associated costs for reprogramming.

- Any Members leaving the club midseason will be refunded their \$60 for the return of the key/fob. This will allow the consideration of potential new members on the list being expedited for membership in 2023 only.

**Motion:**

To accept the gate Lock and Key change procedure as proposed:

Moved by **Brent Donaldson** and Seconded by **Peter Smither**. Voted 25/0. Carried.

- Executive members will be in attendance at the main gate on Saturday April 1st and Sunday April 2nd during the hours between 9:00am to 2:00pm to facilitate this activity.
- Any Members wishing to secure a key are requested to bring cash or check to the gate at that time.
- This change in entry protocol is to be published on our existing website and social media and will be sent to all club members via direct email.

**Motion:**

To accept the Mandatory Work Requirement and implementation timeline as proposed by **Peter Smither**:

Moved by **Peter Smither**, Seconded by **Roger Boothroyd**, Vote 25/0. Carried.

**9) Website Rebuilding Project:**

- An email was sent out last month requesting member feedback on ideas for website redesign:
- In total 61 comments were sent back on the e-form, which have already assisted developing new website design requirements.
- This month, one hour before the VMC February meeting **Bobbi Bjornholt** held a session to receive direct member feedback (See above).
- A rough draft of a website was shown to provide a visual of **Peter Smithers** direction on new website design.
- Discussions are taking place on what particular web design system will be used that allows us to host and build websites. A five-minute demonstration of the website was projected on the screen was done to give an idea of the direction we're headed, hopefully to get everyone interested and to get further feedback next month.
- The demonstration website is currently built on Google Sites.
- The other option put forward by **Bobbi** is a product called WordPress (content management system - CMS) that contains plugin architecture and a template system, so you can customize any website to fit your business, blog, portfolio, or online store. WordPress is a far more sophisticated system, however it will require a higher skill level to build and maintain, therefore will also result in higher costs.
- Google Sites (the current website draft) is not a full CMS like WordPress, but is a high-level alternative to one that is simple to use, and can be maintained internally by club members with minimal computer skills (capability in MS Word and Excel would be sufficient).
- **Peter Smither** has a current website designed and functioning (not yet published), that can meet all the present criteria put forward by the club.
- What is not included in this draft website is an online payment system. The executive has previously chosen not to use PayPal due to holdback requirements has not made a decision yet on what online payment system would eventually be integrated into a new website.
- Club members have put Online Payments forward as one of three key requirements for the website.
- The two key requirements gleaned from member feedback are:
  - o Event scheduling including upcoming events
  - o Online payment system - At minimum for renewals of membership
- Followed by the next two requirements:
  - o Information about VMC
  - o Ability to sign up for events online.
- Future requirements from the executive required for website:
  - o Online membership renewals
  - o Online volunteer tracking forms
  - o Online Indemnity waivers
- Discussion finalized for the night as the VMC website is an ongoing development.



**Other New Business:**

**10) Hillclimb naming - by Roger Boothroyd:**

- Moved by **Roger** that the annual VMC Hill Climb event be named "**The Wes Morhart Hillclimb**" after **Wes** who held the record at Pkols (Mount Douglas) for 20 years.

- Seconded by **Charlie Parker** and accepted unanimously.

11) Trail Maintenance Work Party Committee: - by **Tony Wilson**

- Discussion was had on approaches to doing trail maintenance and overall maintenance of the site. No motion was tabled.

12) Mosaic Forest Trail Access: Committee: - **Dave Horner**

- Dual sport ride across Mosaic Forest managed lands in 2023 for road-legal insured bikes is being contemplated for the summer of 2023.

- More detail to follow on this at the next meeting.

13) Annual awards presentation:

- Due to the diminishing space in the meeting room at Barnes Harley Davidson the event is to be held at Cycle Park when weather permits - date and time to be announced.

14) Events Calendar: - **Dave Horner**

- **Sam Kings** Ride the Vibe Trials and Enduro two-day schools at Cycle Park.

- **Pre-registration required** as there is limited space.

o Trials clinic on March 11/12. The link:- <https://ridethevibe.ca/school/trials-specific-dirt-school-vmc-bc-2023>

o Enduro specific school with **Sam King** and **Trystan Hart** on March 18/19. Here is the link:

<https://ridethevibe.ca/dirt-school/trystan-hart-sam-king-enduro-dirt-school-vmc-victoria-bc-2023>

15) The Grind Enduro by VIDRA will not be held at Cycle Park in 2023.

16) **Jordan McFarlane** - to add a Trials competition on June 11th with another trial to be run, date TBC

- These are in addition to five Trials events already scheduled by Dave Fair/VMC Trials Group.

17) No other new business items were tabled

18) Next Regular Club Meeting: - Tuesday March 21st 7:30 at Barnes H-D.

19) Next Executive Meeting: - Not scheduled

**Adjourn**

On a motion by **Peter Smither**, seconded by **Charlie Parker** the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.





## IN MEMORIAM



Allan Holmes (RIP)

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of our friend and member **Allan Holmes** in the Jubilee Hospital at the end of January. **Allan** had been battling a respiratory ailment for many months and was on oxygen.

A valued member of the Geritol II group, **Allan's** hard work and ingenuity was always there when building new trails and bridges. His work ethic was top notch in anything he did.

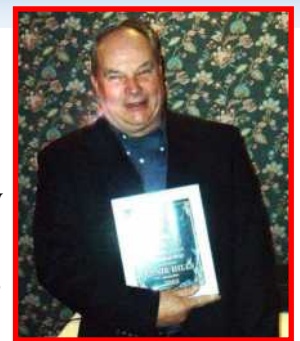
He enjoyed road rides whether they were events organized by the club or non-club rides. He also liked competing in enduros and even rode in the Terra Nova, the VMC's premier two day event (no longer run). His help cutting up the turkeys for the ladies in the kitchen during the TN was greatly appreciated.

**Allan** retired from Don Mann Excavating having worked there most of his life. He will be missed by family, friends and members. On behalf of the VMC, our sincere condolences to his family. There will be a celebration of life on May 20th at the Lambrick Park Church.



## CLUB NEWZ CONTINUED

Congratulations to VMC member **Ernie Hills** who, this year, reaches 70 years of membership in the club. **Ernie** joined in May of 1953 and immersed himself in all the different varieties of events the club had to offer. A mechanic by trade, this friendly member was always willing to help in any way he could. His name adorns many of our perpetual trophies and here is a list of his winning ways.



Ernie in 2003 with his 50 year plaque



Paper Chase RR—1-1954, Novice Trial—1-1956, Major Trial—1-1956, Memorial Trophy—1-1956, 57, 64, Amor TT Scramble—1-1960, Wellburn Reliability Trial—1-1961, Field Meet—1-1956, 57, 59, 60, 64 plus placing in 1966, 68, Valvoline Team Trial—1 with **Al Barclay** and **Martin Spriggs**. He also placed in the top three in more than a few other events.

Ernie competing against **Al Barclay** in a slow race  
In a Field Meet

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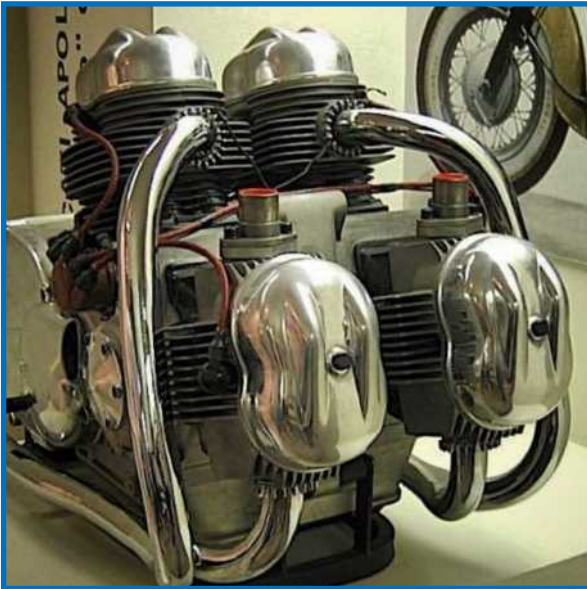


## FMF KTM'S TRYSTAN HART NAMED 2022 AMA ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

The **American Motorcyclist Association** recently announced the winners of its 2022 AMA Racing and Organizer Awards, given to the standout individuals and organizations from AMA-sanctioned competition and recreational endeavors. FMF KTM Factory Racing's **Trystan Hart** earned the prestigious honor of AMA Athlete of the Year (Grand Championship) for his outstanding performance throughout the 2022 race season.



## ?? MYSTERY MOTOR ??



The 1964 **Ducati Berliner 1260 Apollo** was a prototype 1,257 cc (76.7 cu in) [V4 engine motorcycle](#) producing 100 bhp (75 kW) and capable of over 120 mph (190 km/h). It was never put into production, but did influence other production Ducatis that followed. Both Ducati and their United States distributor, [Berliner Motor Corporation](#), were experiencing declining sales of existing small-capacity single-cylinder models, and sought to create a bike to compete with [Harley-Davidson](#). Berliner Motor was keen to have a model that could win lucrative police motorcycle supply contracts, and that could also sell as a civilian touring bike.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

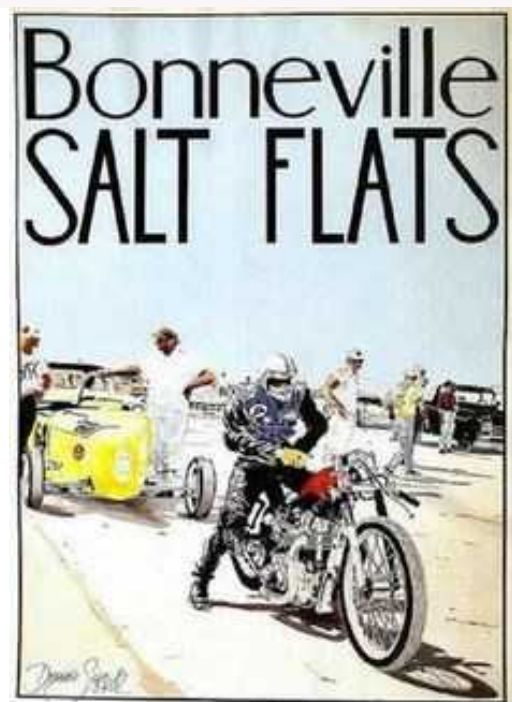
[Fabio Taglioni](#) was to develop a bike that conformed to US police specifications, and was bigger than any current model Harley-Davidson. Taglioni decided on an air-cooled 1257 cc 90° two-valve head V4 using a 180-degree crankshaft with [roller](#)

[bearing](#) big ends. That [crankshaft](#) fitted into a horizontally split [wet sump crankcase](#) with a center main bearing support. The bore was 84.5 mm, and the stroke 56 mm. Valve actuation was by [pushrods](#) and [rocker arms](#). The engine was a stressed member of the heavy duty open cradle frame with a central box section front down-tube between the forward cylinders. A small car-sized starter motor and [generator](#) were fitted. It had a five-speed transmission, at a time when most motorcycles had four. [Ceriani](#) developed the [suspension](#) package, but riders today would be alarmed by the inadequate front and rear single leading shoe 8.675 in (220.3 mm) [drum brakes](#). The stopping distance was huge, and had to be allowed for. It had a 61.2 in (1,550 mm) wheelbase, and weighed 596 lb (270 kg) dry.<sup>[2]</sup> Taglioni dismissed the Berliners' suggestion of shaft drive, and chose chain final drive. The police specification stipulated 16-inch tyres, so there was little choice in that.

From Wikipedia.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## VINTAGE ADS OF OLD



## Oh Crap Corner !



← Don't let this happen at Cycle Park !!



Who is riding this submarine bike ??

## HOME MADE



We first wrote about **Dennis Franz** way back [in 2010](#) and again [in 2013](#). His V8 engines were amazing little builds, but he's come a long way since then. I hadn't been watching him for years and while I was looking at another engine on the web I came across a later build, though it's several years old, as well. The sound of a Vmax with a good exhaust is often compared to a small block Chevy, but this little V8 built by **Dennis Franz** is something else alto-



gether, the sound is absolutely fantastic, great lumpy idle like it has a good cam then when he get's on it, well, you need to watch the video and listen. Courtesy Kneeslider magazine. Photo courtesy **Peter Tanshanomi** [Dennis Franz Builds a V8 Motorcycle with a Glorious Soundtrack](#) ([thekneeslider.com](http://thekneeslider.com))

**SUPPORT THE CLUB THAT SUPPORTS YOU.**

**As usual please send me any reports or articles for a future edition. This is your newsletter, so try and help me with a contribution etc.**

## IN MEMORIAM



Peter Liard with Dan McLaren 1979 Sidecar Trial

It is with sadness that we say a last good bye to Life member **Dan McLaren**. Dan passed away peacefully on February 9th after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Born and raised in Victoria, Dan rode motorcycles prior to joining the VMC in 1964 but had broken membership while racing bikes in the UK and travelling through Europe. Once Dan found his passion for riding motorcycles, he made a living fixing them to support his riding them. Of the countless hours Dan expended volunteering for the club many were



President Dan McLaren

spent scanning the old VMC minutes, with help from **Barb Lohrmann**, and converting all to PDF format. He attained Life membership in 2012. He was on the Executive for many years and was President from 2012–2015 and has the longest time as Past President of any member. There will be a Celebration of Life in 2 to 4 months at First Memorial Funeral Services on 4725 Falaise Dr. in Royal Oak.

On behalf of the VMC, our sincere condolences to his family and to his partner **Barb Lohrmann**

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## CLUB NEWZ CONTINUED



An interesting Youtube video on transverse V twins. Check it out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz-Dx40q5YY>

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And for those interested in road racing, have a look at this:-

[https://www.crightonmotorcycles.com/the-machine?dm\\_i=6RAG,Q5M1,304CPL,38QYG,1](https://www.crightonmotorcycles.com/the-machine?dm_i=6RAG,Q5M1,304CPL,38QYG,1)

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It is illegal to lane split in most of North America. Here is an interesting article about lane splitting sent in by member Monte Belson.

<https://www.advrider.com/the-wonderful-world-of-california-lanesplitting/?>

[utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter-02%e2%80%9321-2023](https://www.advrider.com/the-wonderful-world-of-california-lanesplitting/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-02%e2%80%9321-2023)

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The Vancouver Island Dirt Riders website

[Vancouver Island Dirt Riders - Home of the VI Hare Scramble Series & VI Hard Enduro Series](#)

The Canadian Pacific Trials Association website

[Canada Pacific Trials Association | A motorcycle trials club for enthusiasts in the Greater Vancouver area.](#)  
[trialsbc.com](http://trialsbc.com)

Life is not the way it's supposed to be, it is the way it is  
The way we cope with it, is what makes the difference



## CLUB NEWZ CONTINUED

It was the place to go on a particular fall Sunday to watch the attempts of motorcyclists getting up a steep dirt climb. Shortly after WWI the Victoria Motorcycle Club's annual Mount Douglas (now known as PKOLS) Hillclimb, started on one day a year and was usually well attended by spectators. There were three different areas in the park for the hillclimb and the last, and very popular one, was closest to Cedar Hill Road. All three areas are now all grown over and one would never know that motorcycles used them for hillclimbing. In 1985 the hillclimb was terminated by the Parks Committee and in 1987, the club built a hillclimb at Cycle Park and have used it ever since.



Wes and JoAnn Morhart  
1962

One member stood out at the Mt. Douglas event. That was **Wes Morhart** (RIP) who held the record in the event for 20 years. Starting with a Triumph, he switch to a variety of BSA's during those years with the last one being a BSA '58 Spitfire, his was the time to beat.

At the February general meeting, I moved that the name of the Hillclimb at our property be named the **Wes Morhart Hillclimb**. It was seconded by **Charlie Parker** and passed unanimously. Ed.

### WHO WAS LES BLOW ? By Roger Boothroyd

**L**es Blow was a member of the Victoria Motorcycle Club beginning in the mid 1940's until his death in 2001.

He owned British Motors selling MG's and had a car lot in Sidney. The motorcycle business name was British Motors doing business as Les Blow Motorcycles. His shop was near the Times/Colonist building on Douglas Street. When the Japanese bikes were available he sold both Honda and Yamaha

He sold many makes of bikes and was very competitive in VMC events. His love of motorcycling was passed on to his two sons, **Gord** and **Russ**, and his grandson **Oliver** who continue to ride and compete. Both sons are life members of the club. His wife "**Lill**" was also involved with the VMC Women's Auxiliary.

Les sold his motorcycle business to former member **Neil Laing** who in turn, sold it to **Joe Brown** (deceased). **Joe** carried on the name and moved the business several times. The final move was to the store at the six mile bridge. **Joe** sold it to SG Power Products who kept it open for a year and then closed it having amalgamated the business with their store on Hillside Ave (no longer in business).

**Les** also worked for a short period of time at Cornell Chev Olds as he was the distributor for Winnebago motorhomes. Many are the times that **Les** travelled to the US to pick up one of these motorhomes.

**Les Blows** winning ways started back in 1946 by placing first in the Mount Douglas Hillclimb Paul Girardeau club event. It carried on through 1948 by taking first place in the Novice Trial and the Brentwood Reliability Trial. In 1948 he donated the Paper Chase Trophy to the club.



Continued Page 14

## Who Was Les Blow Continued

The Memorial Trophy, given to the member who amasses the most points during the year by placing in major events, was presented to **Les Blow** and **Tom Waterman** in 1949. In 1950, **Les** was the sole winner of this trophy as well as winning the men's Activity Award.

The Major Scramble was won by **Les** five times - 1949, '50, '52, '54, and '55. In 1950 he also tied for first with **Sunny Gilder** in the Field Meet.

In 1964 **Les** and his son **Gord** were the winners of the first Terra Nova Enduro.

**Les** enjoyed his rides on the road having travelled to many places in North America. He continued competing in club road events and did well in the 1980's In 1984 and '85 he won the Poker Run and the Road Riding Championship. That trophy was also presented to him in 1987 and in 1988 he won the Nuts in May Road Ride.

The Les Blow Trial was originally called the "Hangover Trial" as traditionally it was run after the Banquet and Trophy presentation. The Frank Baylis trophy donated by the Baylis Family is used for this event.



## THE LES BLOW TRIAL - BY ROGER BOOTHROYD

**P**ostponed from a week ago, due to cold, wind, snow & rain, the Les Blow trial was run on March 5th at Cycle Park, the VMC's property on Happy Valley Road. It was warmer with none of the other weather changes—no wind, snow or rain, a chilly but perfect day for an event.

Thirty-six riders signed up for the event. The committee for the day had laid out ten checks in varying degrees of difficulty for the seven classes. Four of the expert checks were close to the parking lot so that any visitors and family had a chance of watching. The balance were laid out farther up the hill.

There was also a few checks laid out by parents for the tiny tots with small wheel bikes near the big rock at the end of the parking lot. They are always fun to watch as some are still learning how to ride.



A "tiny tot" Beginner hesitates going through the mud



The Beginner "tiny tots" were happy  
Sent by **Susan Fair**

After the traditional horn calling for all riders, **Dave Fair** and **Riley Ferguson** gave the riders meeting. It was then time to start the bikes and proceed to the different checks to determine which route the various classes would ride and who would ride them first. This is always a "bit of a head game" as riders want to pick the best line through the check and watching another rider gives them time to determine that.

In the Beginner "tiny tot" class **Benson Duggan** took first place with twenty-six points. In second was **Benson's** sister **Elizabeth** with 34 points. Third place went to **Dylan Dougan** with 46 points. All were on Oset.

There were three riders in the Junior class. Riding a TRS, first place went to **Alicia Lim** with 24 points. Close behind on another TRS was **Natalia De Rossonoll** placing second with 26 points. **Cecelia Olsen** on a Gas Gas was third with 74 points. Both the Junior and Beginner classes only rode two loops.

Continued Pag 15

## THE LES BLOW TRIAL CONTINUED

Like the Junior class, there were only three riders in the Intermediate class and **Ryan Bachinski** on a Vertigo placed first with 14 points. On another Vertigo **Ben Williams** took second with 58 points. Third place went to Scorpa mounted **Jake Eastman** with 91 points.



Peter Falk  
Photo by Dale Coull

In the Senior Intermediate class with seven riders **Dave Carlson** on a Montesa led for the first two loops by four points. Unfortunately he increased his points on the third loop to land him in second place overall with 29 points. **Peter Falk** on a Vertigo had an excellent third round putting him in first place with 19 points. Third place **Dan Hilton** on a Beta had 39 points.

In the largest class of the day, the Sportsman, the battle was on for first and second place. **Melissa Andrist** on a Gas Gas was in the lead over **Braydon Taylor** on a Vertigo by one point after two rounds. In the third round both had identical points which gave **Andrist** the win by one point. Her total was 56 while **Taylor's** was 57. In third place was **John Faa** on a Vertigo with 66 points.

In another three rider class, the Senior Sportsman, **Dave Nunn** after two loops was in a big lead over the other two rivals. He continued his lead through the third loop to take first with 30 points. Second place went to **Ernie Ferguson** with 41 points while **Mike Graham** was third with 45 points. All riders were on Vertigo.



Ernie Ferguson  
Photo by Dale Coull

Five riders were entered in the expert class. Our club trials champion, **Thomas Cordner** on a Vertigo, ran away with first place with 4 points.

Second, also on a Vertigo, was **Jeremy McChesney** with 26 points. Riding a "vintage" Montesa was **Ryon Bell** who placed third with 30 points.

The Clubman class with only three riders was won by Montesa mounted **Graham Twigg** with 25 points. **Rick Whiting** from Nanaimo on his TRS took second with 45 points. There was no third place. Full results on our website at:-

<https://www.vmc.bc.ca>

Next trial is the **Rick Wells Trial** on March 26th at Cycle Park.

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Thomas Cordner  
Photo by Roger Boothroyd

## CLUB NEWZ CONTINUED



THE START OF  
THE NEW PAVILION  
AT CYCLE PARK  
MARCH 5, 2023

**VMC CALENDAR 2023**

Jan-23

Month	Day	Event	Location
January	1		
January	8		
January	15		
January	17	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
January	22		
January	29		
February	5		
February	12		
February	19		
February	21	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
February	26	Les Blow Trial	VMC Group
March	5		
March	11 & 12	Sam King's School	
March	18 & 19	Sam King's School	
March	21	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
March	26	Rick Wells Trial	VMC Group
April	2		
April	9		
April	16		
April	18	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
April	23	Equalizer Enduro	
April	30	Joe Brown Major Tr	VMC Group
May	7		
May	14		
May	16	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
May	21-22	May Day Parade	
May	27-28	Cougar Cup Trial	VMC Group
May	28	Nuts in May RR	Graham Turner
June	4		
June	11		
June	18	Paper Chase RR	
June	20	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
June	25	Field Meet	
July	2	Canada Day Dual Sp	
July	9		
July	16	Trial Parking Lot	VMC Group
July	18	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
July	23	Show 'n' Shine	
July	30	Poker Run RR	
August	6		
August	13	Economy Run RR	
August	15	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
August	20		
August	27	Century Run RR	
September	3	Team Enduro	
September	10	Mt Baker RR	
September	17	Brentwood Enduro	
September	19	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
September	24	Memorial Trial	VMC Group
October	1	Hillclimb	
October	8	Thanksgiving	
October	15		
October	17	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
October	22	All Day Dual Sport	
October	29	Reg Shanks Trial	VMC Group
November	5		
November	12		
November	19		
November	21	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
November	26	Lohrmann Trial	VMC Group
December	3		
December	10		
December	17		
December	19	Meeting	Barnes HD 7:30
December	24		
December	31		

April 9 - Easter May 14 - Mothers Day May 22 Victoria Day June 18 - Fathers Day  
 July 1 - Canada Day August 7 Civic Holiday September 4 - Labour Day October 9- Than anksgiving  
 November 11 - Remembrance Day December 25 - Christmas December 26 - Boxing Day.