Montana BMW Riders Bylaws

Article 1 – Definition. Montana BMW Riders is a Montana Non-Profit Corporation and is hereafter referred to as ‘the club’.

Article 2 – Purpose. The club is organized primarily to promote camaraderie among people who enjoy BMW motorcycles, and to share a common interest in motorcycle ownership, riding proficiency, mechanical maintenance, and safety. At all times, it shall be the club objective to promote a positive image of motorcyclists, engage in activities that demonstrate that objective, and enhance the motorcycling experience for its members.

Article 3 – Affiliations. The club is affiliated with BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (BMWMOA) and the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA). Individual membership in these organizations is strongly urged and highly recommended for club members.

 Article 4 – Membership. Any individual with an interest in motorcycles and motorcycling is eligible for membership. Although we are united primarily by the BMW marque, riders of all brands and types of motorcycles are welcome. Members are welcome from across the state of Montana and beyond.

Article 5 – Dues. Individual membership is secured via the payment of club dues. Dues are collected on an annual basis and shall apply to the current calendar year. Dues received afterOctober from newly-joining members shall be effective for the following year as well. Aside from that exception, membership renewal is due January 1 of the calendar year. Any changes in the annual dues amount (increase or decrease) during any year shall become effective on January 1 of the following calendar year.

Article 6 – Meetings. Regular club meetings will be held once monthly, generally on the third weekend of each month. Each meeting’s time and location shall be announced in advance.

Article 7 – Officers. Officers are elected members who guide the club’s strategic planning, organize club Staff and Contributors, carry out critical club functions, and provide sound stewardship of club resources. The club officers (who also constitute the Board of Directors) shall consist of: 1) President, 2) Vice-President, and 3) Secretary/Treasurer. The President shall preside over meetings and handle the daily operations of the club. The Vice-President shall, in the absence or incapacity of the President, substitute for the President. The Secretary\Treasurer shall keep the minutes, membership records, and financial records of the club; prepare any necessary reports to governmental entities; and maintain the club’s affiliations. The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible to provide financial reports to the President upon request and will annually prepare and submit a financial report to all members.

Article 8 – Terms of Office. Officers shall be elected to two-year terms. If an Officer vacancy occurs, the remaining officers shall appoint an interim replacement to serve until the next Officer Election.

Article 9 – Officer Elections. Elections shall be conducted on alternating years during the month of February. A long-standing member shall be appointed as Election Officer for that year’s election. The Election Officer receives ballots that are submitted either on paper or electronically, ensures that only ballots submitted by eligible members are tallied, and at the conclusion of the election, announces election results to the full membership.

 Article 10 – Voting. Each member of the club who has paid dues during the current year or any new member who paid dues after the preceding October upon joining shall be eligible to one ballot per election. If dues have not been paid by February 1st of that year, that member shall not be eligible to vote.

Article 11 – Club Staff. Staff are voluntary positions held by members that accept significant responsibility to manage club assets – such as the club’s newsletter, webpage, and others as they arise – and that carry out essential club functions throughout the year. Staff coordinate regularly with Officers. Officers are responsible for assignment and oversight of Staff positions.

Article 12 – Club Contributors. Contributors are members who volunteer time and effort to organize and produce signature club activities and deliverables – such as contests, special events, and others as they arise – that substantially broaden and enhance the club’s value to its members. Contributors coordinate as needed with Officers and Staff.

Article 13 – Club Funds. Funds owned by the club shall be administered by the Officers through diverse mechanisms that advance the club’s purpose and best serve its members. None of the club officers, staff, or contributors shall receive any compensation for their time and effort, nor shall any of the funds of the club be personally used by any member.

Article 14 – Dissolution. In the event of dissolution of the club, all remaining funds of the club will be donated to a charity to be determined by a majority of the members present at the annual business meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Article 15 – Changes to Bylaws. Changes to these bylaws may be proposed by Officers and ratified by a majority vote of active members, with the same voter eligibility guidelines as defined above, and with a simple majority deciding the vote. Proposed bylaws changes will be announced at least one month prior to the ratification.