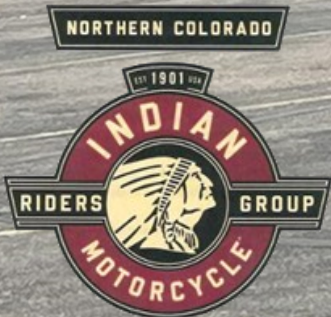


NORTHERN COLORADO

# *Informer*

INDIAN MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUP®

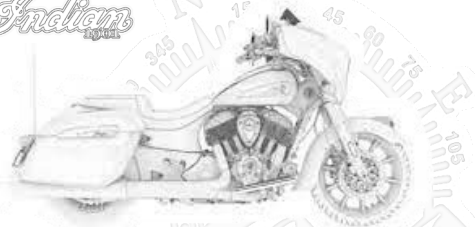
# 2036



MAY 2026



Indian  
MOTORCYCLES



RIDE, SEEK, AND EXPLORE

# Informer

## NORTHERN COLORADO IMRG UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>—Bikes & Bites Dinner Ride

We will kick off the evening by meeting at **Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins @ 6:00 pm** (KSU 6:15 pm) before heading south for a sunset cruise. The ride concludes at CJ's Patio in Loveland, where we'll enjoy dinner together. This is a great chance to catch up with the group and enjoy a mid-spring evening on two wheels.



### Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>—Cinnamon Roll & Peak-to-Peak Ride

Gear up for a high-altitude treat! We're heading back to the pines for a run to Glen Haven. There's nothing quite like the winding roads that lead us to the Glen Haven General Store for those yummy cinnamon rolls. Once we've had our fill, the journey will continue with a scenic ascent into Estes Park where will begin riding the Peak-to-Peak Highway with the Rockies as our backdrop. This ride is all about great views and even better company.

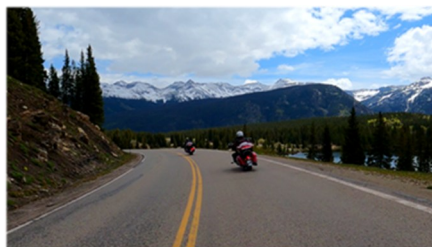


More details to follow.

### Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>—2026 Durango Rendezvous

The Durango Rendezvous is a motorcycle rally held in Ignacio nearby the mountain town of Durango. Set against the backdrop of the San Juan Mountains, this event blends high-altitude adventure with a laid-back social atmosphere. **The event itself goes from June 8<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Some individuals in the chapter will be leaving on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and a larger group leaving on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> with everyone returning Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>.**



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Mid-May - June 2026

- 5/21 Bikes & Bites Dinner Ride
- 5/23 Cinnamon Roll/Peak-to-Peak Ride
- 6/8 - Durango Rendezvous
- 6/14 Chapter Membership Meeting & Guanella Pass Ride
- 6/20

## RESOURCES

[Going on NoCo IMRG Group Rides](#)  
Guidance & waiver forms for rides

[NoCo IMRG YouTube Channel](#)

[NoCo IMRG Instagram](#)

[NoCo IMRG Facebook Group](#)

[nocaimrg@gmail.com](mailto:nocaimrg@gmail.com)

About Northern Colorado IMRG



If you are going to Durango, make the trip your own. The rally offers a fantastic variety of rides and activities to enjoy. You are welcome to explore independently, or as part of the NoCo IMRG group. For riding within our own group, we are thinking Million Dollar Highway (Thu), Mesa Verde (Fri) or Indian Motorcycle Owners Ride (with Mike Kennedy), and Monument Valley (Sat).

Remember, there is zero pressure or expectation to stick with our own group. This is your vacation! Whether you want to follow the pack or strike out on your own, we want you to relax and enjoy Durango exactly how you see fit. More details to come.

Please visit [Going on NoCo IMRG Group Motorcycle Rides](#) for ride waivers, ride level ratings, and other detailed information about going on our group rides.

For up-to-date information on all Northern Colorado IMRG rides and events, visit our [Events Calendar](#).

## THE 2026 WRECKING CREW: INDIAN MOTORCYCLE'S NEW ERA OF DOMINANCE

If you thought the "Bagger Wars" were intense before, 2026 has officially moved the needle from a rivalry to a takeover. As the MotoAmerica King of the Baggers (KOTB) season roars through its early rounds, one thing has become crystal clear: Indian Motorcycle (IMC) isn't just competing. They are rewriting the record books.



With a revamped "Wrecking Crew," a high-stakes partnership shift, and a podium consistently occupied by Indian Challengers, the 2026 season is shaping up to be a showcase of pure American V-Twin performance.

### The Strategic Pivot: Technical and Personnel Shockwaves

The off-season was defined by two equally significant seismic shifts: a massive overhaul of the rider lineup and a fundamental change in the team's technical foundation.

For years, the S&S Cycle partnership was the backbone of Indian's factory racing efforts. However, for 2026, Indian made the bold move to partner with Vance & Hines Motorsports to lead the factory program. This wasn't just a change in stickers on the fairing. Vance & Hines, legendary for decades of racing dominance, brought a fresh perspective to the Indian Challenger platform. The Vance & Hines-modified Indian Challenger seems to have found a "cheat code" for both corner and top-end speed. Powered by the liquid-cooled PowerPlus 112 engine, these bikes are currently the most feared machines on the grid.

Just as impactful as the mechanical switch was the complete restructuring of the rider roster. In a move that effectively dismantled the competition's depth, Indian secured a "Super Team" by recruiting the most prominent talent from the Harley-Davidson camp.

### The Return of the Champions: A Two-King Lineup

The centerpiece of the 2026 campaign is the unprecedented pairing of two former series champions on a single factory roster. For the first time, the "Wrecking Crew" features back-to-back title winners, creating a "dream team" that the rest of the paddock is struggling to answer.

- **Troy Herfoss (#17):** After a legendary 2024 season where the Australian took the series by storm and claimed the title in his rookie year, Herfoss is back with a singular focus to reclaim the throne. While Harley-Davidson's Kyle Wyman currently holds the #1 plate following his 2025 championship run, Herfoss is determined to bring that number back to Indian. His presence provides the veteran leadership and technical feedback that has allowed the team to hit the ground running with the new Vance & Hines setup.



- **Hayden Gillim (#69):** The 2023 KOTB Champion made the high-profile jump from Harley-Davidson to lead the Indian charge alongside Herfoss. Gillim's transition has been seamless. Known for his aggressive style and tactical brilliance, he has already proven he can extract every ounce of performance from the Challenger. Having the 2023 and 2024 champions sharing data in the same pit box has proven to be an insurmountable advantage.
- **Rocco Landers (#97):** Completing the raid on the Harley-Davidson camp, rising star Rocco Landers also traded his Road Glide for a Challenger in 2026. Bringing youth and a "nothing-to-lose" energy, Landers provides a triple-threat. By pulling Landers over alongside Gillim and Herfoss, Indian didn't just gain speed, they secured the future of the class. Landers frequently challenges the veterans and is proving the Indian platform is the new home for elite talent.

## 2026: THE SEASON OF INDIAN DOMINANCE

We are only a few rounds into the 2026 season, but the statistics are staggering. Indian Motorcycle has been nothing short of dominant.

### Daytona: Breaking the Streak

The season opener at Daytona International Speedway was a statement. Hayden Gillim didn't just win; he shattered Kyle Wyman's long-standing Daytona win streak. In a display of pure horsepower on the high banks, Indian secured back-to-back 1-2 finishes. Troy Herfoss proved his championship pedigree by taking a hard fought victory of his own, while Rocco Landers overcame early mechanical gremlins to climb onto the box.

### Road Atlanta: The Historic Sweep

The momentum only accelerated at Road Atlanta. In a historic moment for the brand, Sunday's Race 2 saw the first-ever full Indian Motorcycle podium sweep. Hayden Gillim took the top step, followed closely by teammates Rocco Landers and Troy Herfoss.

The sight of three Indian Challengers crossing the finish line before a single Harley-Davidson could even enter the frame sent a clear message to Milwaukee: the gap is widening.

### Why Indian is Winning

It's a combination of the "Perfect Three":

1. **The Platform:** The Indian Challenger's PowerPlus engine remains the benchmark for bagger racing, offering a power-to-weight delivery that the air-cooled competition struggles to match.
2. **The Engineering:** The Vance & Hines partnership has refined the performance to a point where the bikes carve through apexes with surgical precision, looking completely unflappable even under extreme racing conditions.
3. **The Chemistry:** Despite being former rivals, Gillim, Herfoss, and Landers are working in tandem, sharing data and pushing each other to higher speeds.

### Looking Ahead

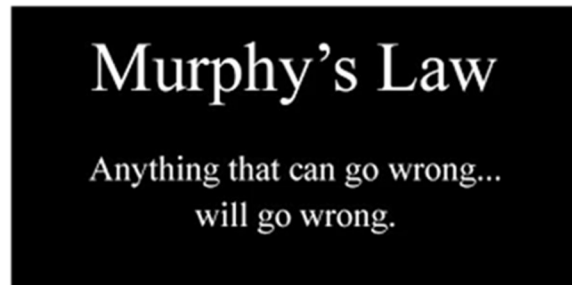
As we move further into the season, the question is no longer "Can Indian win?" but "Can anyone stop them?" With Hayden Gillim and Troy Herfoss neck-and-neck at the top of the standings, the internal battle within the Wrecking Crew is becoming the most exciting narrative in motorcycle racing today.

The 2026 King of the Baggers season belongs to Indian Motorcycle. Strap in—it's going to be a fast ride.



## MURPHY'S MOTORCYCLE LAWS: WHY THE ROAD ALWAYS HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR

If you've spent any significant time on two wheels, you know the universe operates on a different set of physics the moment you kick up the kickstand. It's a strange mixture of road-trip voodoo and cosmic coincidence. It's about the inevitable, the ironic, and the "you've got to be kidding me" moments.



Edward Murphy famously said, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." But in the world of motorcycling, that law has several specialized clauses. Here are a few persistent Murphy's Motorcycle Laws you might have encountered.

### 1. The Law of the Final Layer

The probability of realizing your ignition keys are in your pocket is directly proportional to the number of layers, buckles, and gloves you have just finished securing.

### 2. The Audience Clause

A motorcycle will not, under any circumstances, tip over when there is no one else around. It will only fall over when there are spectators to bear witness.

### 3. The Visibility Paradox

The more time you spend cleaning and polishing your motorcycle to a mirror finish, the higher the likelihood of a freak thunderstorm occurring shortly after leaving on a ride.

### 4. The Bug-to-Shield Ratio

The farther you are from your next planned stop, the larger the bug that will splatter directly in your line of sight. These "kamikaze" insects specifically target the one spot on your visor you can't look around.

### 5. The Thermal Inevitability

If you decide to leave your rain liner or heated gear at home because the forecast is "100% clear and sunny," you are guaranteed to encounter a freezing downpour or a freak cold front by noon.

### 6. The "Universal" Accessory Law

Any part labeled as "Universal Fit" is so named because you will have to search the entire universe to find a motorcycle that it actually fits without a hacksaw and a blowtorch.

### 7. The Mechanical Itch

The moment your hands are completely covered in grease or oil, your nose will begin to itch with increasing intensity.

### 8. The Kill-Switch Comedy

The likelihood of your bike refusing to start while the rest of the group is impatiently waiting for you is 100%, until you finally figure out that both your kickstand is down, and the kill switch is in the 'OFF' position. Only then will it roar to life, just as group starts to leave you behind.



## 9. The Lane Change Logic

In stop-and-go traffic, the lane you just left will immediately begin moving faster than the lane you just joined. This is a constant of the universe, like the speed of light.

## 10. The Backorder Principle

The one part that is keeping your bike off the road will be the only item currently on a "permanent factory backorder" with no estimated ship date.

### Conclusion

Riding a motorcycle is an exercise in managing the unexpected. While Murphy might be a constant passenger on the back of your bike, his "laws" are part of what makes the hobby so memorable. After all, if everything went perfectly, we wouldn't have any good stories to tell at the next meetup.

Keep the rubber side down... *unless Law #2 kicks in!*

## MILES AND MINDFULNESS: LONG-DISTANCE MOTORCYCLE TOURING

There is a fundamental difference between a weekend "twisties" run and the grueling endurance of a long-distance motorcycle tour. When the goal isn't just the destination, but hundreds of miles of asphalt between here and there, the game changes. Motorcycle touring is a test of preparation, physical stamina, and mental fortitude.

Whether you're planning your first cross-state trip or aiming for a multi-state cross-country tour, there are some things to keep in mind to stay comfortable, safe, and inspired on the open road.

### 1. Preparation: Beyond the Machine

While your bike needs to be ready, you need to be ready too. Long-distance riding is an athletic endeavor requiring both stamina and familiarity with your setup.

- **Build Your Mileage Base:** If you typically only ride 30-40 miles, jumping into a 400-mile day can be a recipe for a physical meltdown. Start with 100-mile loops and incrementally work your way up to build saddle time endurance, and to help condition your muscles for the unique attributes and vibrations of the bike.
- **The T-CLOCS Inspection:** Perform a rigorous check of Tires, Controls, Lights, Oil/Fluids, Chassis, and Stands.
- **Test Your Luggage:** Don't let the first day of your tour be the first time you ride with fully loaded trunks and saddlebags. Weight changes your braking distance and cornering. Practice riding with your full kit to refine your suspension settings and balance.
- **Riding Fitness:** You don't need to be a marathon runner, but core strength and cardiovascular health significantly reduce fatigue. Specifically, focus on building muscular endurance in your legs and core. This ensures you don't wear out from the constant physical work of maneuvering a heavy, luggage-laden machine through slow-speed turns, parking lots, and technical mountain passes. A fit rider stays alert longer and recovers faster from the physical toll of wind and vibration.



### 2. Essential Gear and Ergonomics

On a long trip, you can encounter four seasons in a single week. Versatility and comfort are your best friends.

- **The Helmet & Ear Protection:** A full-face or modular helmet will help to shield you from wind blast and environmental fatigue. Adding in a Pinlock insert will act as a dual-pane window to prevent visor fogging in rain or cold. High-quality earplugs will block constant wind noise and is the single most effective way to



to prevent the mental "brain drain" that sets in after hours of riding on the road.

- **Ergonomic Tweaks:** Consider a windshield to reduce "wind buffet," highway pegs to stretch your legs, or a seat pad. Small changes in your seating position make massive differences after eight hours in the saddle.
- **Hydration Packs:** Don't wait for a gas station. A hydration bladder or water bottle allows you to sip water constantly, preventing the "brain fog" that comes with mild dehydration.

### 3. The Mental Game: Efficiency vs. Speed

The quickest riders aren't necessarily the ones going the fastest. They are the ones who are the most consistent.

- **Bank Time, Not Speed:** Aim for a steady, sustainable pace. Speeding increases stress and fuel consumption, leading to more frequent stops. By maintaining consistency and keeping your breaks short and "time-efficient," you'll cover more ground with less exhaustion.
- **The 90-Minute Rule:** Stop every 60 to 90 miles. Use these breaks to walk around, stretch, and reset your focus. If you start to feel sluggish, a quick "visor-up" moment to let fresh air hit your face can provide a temporary reset. Don't drag out your breaks. The longer you're off the bike, the less you want to get back on it. Keep breaks short to maintain touring mentality and momentum.
- **Early Starts:** Set off early in the morning hours. You are freshest and most enthusiastic in the morning. Starting early gives you some wiggle room for unexpected detours or mechanical issues, and helps to ensure you are off the road before sunset when animal activity increases or becomes more difficult to see.

### 4. Nutrition and Chemical Management

What you put in your body dictates how your brain handles the road.

- **Small, Frequent Meals:** Avoid the "food coma" triggered by heavy, starchy meals like burgers and fries. Stick to light, high-protein snacks such as nuts, jerky, or fruit to keep your blood sugar stable.
- **Strategic Caffeine:** Caffeine is a tool, not a food group. If you over-consume it early, you'll crash by mid-afternoon. Save the espresso hit for when you truly feel your focus waning to get the maximum benefit.
- **Electrolytes:** If you're sweating in your gear all day, water alone isn't enough. Use soluble electrolyte tablets to replace lost salts and prevent muscle cramping.

### 5. Logistics and Safety

- **Low and Centered:** Pack heavy items at the bottom of your saddlebags to maintain a low center of gravity.
- **"Emergency" Access Items:** Keep your rain suit, first-aid kit, and tools in an easy to access location for immediate access. Don't make it so you have to unpack your saddlebags or luggage to reach.
- **Navigation Redundancy:** GPS is a powerful tool, but it can lose signal in canyons or remote areas. Download your maps locally on your phone or GPS device before you leave. Additionally, consider carrying a physical paper map and memorize the "bigger picture" of your route to maintain a sense of direction if your electronics fail.
- **Ride Your Own Ride:** Never feel pressured to keep up with a faster riding buddy. Pushing your limits leads to errors. The goal is always to arrive safely.

### Final Thoughts

Long-distance touring is as much a meditation as it is a sport. When the visor goes down and the engine hums at a steady rhythm, the world's noise fades away. You aren't just observing the landscape, you are in it.

Prepare well, prioritize consistency over speed, and remember - the best stories rarely come from the days when everything went perfectly. They come from the detours, the mountain passes, and the miles in between.

*Safe travels and keep the shiny side up.*



## RE-DISCOVERING A LEGEND AT THE COLORADO AUTO SHOW

The Denver Convention Center was a hub of automotive passion early April, and Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins was grateful for the opportunity to be part of the excitement. Thanks to a unique invitation that provided them with floor space at the show, the dealership and Northern Colorado IMRG spent three days engaging with the Denver community and introducing the Indian Motorcycle brand to the community.

### Building Brand Awareness

Our primary goal was brand awareness, and the show provided the perfect setting to gauge where Indian stands in the minds of local enthusiasts today. We met a wide spectrum of riders:

- **New Faces:** Many were completely new to the brand and curious about the modern engineering.
- **Legacy Fans:** Long-time riders shared stories of Indian motorcycles they remembered from decades ago.
- **The "Re-discovered":** We met many enthusiasts who were surprised and excited to learn that Indian Motorcycle is still producing world-class motorcycles today.
- **The Wider Community:** We enjoyed many conversations with riders of other brands. Even those loyal to other manufacturers took the time to stop by, expressing genuine admiration and respect for the craftsmanship and style of the Indian lineup.



These conversations were the highlight of our weekend, allowing us to share the story of America's first motorcycle company with a wide range of community visitors.

### A Premier Showcase

The display featured a diverse lineup brought straight from the Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins showroom floor to showcase the full breadth of Indian Motorcycle engineering. From the raw, urban energy of the FTR to the long-haul power and capabilities of the Challenger and Pursuit, there was a model for every interest.



Featured models included:

- The versatile Sport Scout and the high-performance Scout 101.
- The long-distance dominance of the Challenger and Pursuit.
- The classic bagger style of the Chieftain Dark Horse.
- The Centerpiece: The Roadmaster Elite 125th Anniversary edition. As a tribute to over a century of heritage, this machine served as a great conversation starter about where the brand has been and where it's going.

### A Surprise Visit from the Wrecking Crew

One of the highlights of the weekend was a surprise visit from Rocco Landers, a standout rider for the Indian Motorcycle Wrecking Crew. It's not every day you get a professional racer walking your floor, and it was a thrill to hear his perspective on the current lineup.

Interestingly, Rocco didn't spend any time looking at the Challenger, the very machine he pilots in the King of the Baggers series. Instead, he spent time admiring the FTR and the Chieftain Dark Horse. He mentioned he was itching to ride the FTR, but he had a clear favorite for his own garage. He explained that if he were to own an Indian today, it would be the Chieftain Dark Horse that was on display. Even a professional racer likes to "leave work at the track" and look at something different for his own garage.



- Friday: Randall and Paul
- Saturday: Randall, Mark, and Ted
- Sunday: Jeff and Steve

### **More Than Just a Car Show**

While the Colorado Auto Show was primarily about cars, the Indian Motorcycle display was a welcome surprise for most visitors and a great addition to the overall exhibit, especially for long-time fans and those who re-discovered the brand over the weekend.

Many visitors were surprised to learn that the display belonged to Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins and not one of the local Denver dealerships. It was rewarding to hear from so many people who already knew about the Fort Collins shop and had such great things to say. The Fort Collins dealership should be incredibly proud of the legacy they've built and the loyal community of riders they've gained over the years.

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*Ride, Seek, and Explore!*



**Northern Colorado IRMG #2036**  
**2026 Calendar of Events (Updated 5/19/2026)**  
 For the latest updates visit: [nocoimrg.org/events](http://nocoimrg.org/events)

January	
Sat 1/17	Chapter Membership Meeting
February	
Sat 2/14	2026 Ride Planning Meeting
Sat 2/21	Chapter Membership Meeting
March	
Sat 3/21	Chapter Membership Meeting
April	
Sat 4/18	Chapter Membership Meeting & Post-Meeting Ride
Thr 4/23	Dinner Ride (6 pm)
Sat 4/25	Road Officer Training (9 am) & Ride Ready Skills Practice (11 am) - Timberline Church
May	
Sat 5/2	International Female Ride Day ride ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/InternationalFemaleRideDay">https://www.facebook.com/InternationalFemaleRideDay</a> )
Sat 5/16	Chapter Membership Meeting (10 am) & Ride Ready Skills Practice - Timberline Church
Thr 5/21	Bikes & Bites Dinner Ride (6 pm)
Sat 5/23	Cinnamon Roll & Peak-to-Peak Ride
June	
Mon 6/8 to Sun 6/14	Durango Rendezvous - Sky Ute Casino, Ignacio, CO Chapter group departing Wed 6/10 to Sun 6/14
Sat 6/20	Chapter Membership Meeting & Guanella Pass Ride (8:30 am) Meet at Black Bear Diner - Johnstown, CO
Thr 6/25	Dinner Ride (6 pm)
Sat 6/27	Cameron Pass Ride Brown bag lunch (and maybe a pie stop...)
July	
Sat 7/11	Indian Motorcycle Great Outdoors Cookout
Sat 7/18	Chapter Membership Meeting & Post Meeting Ride
Thr 7/23	Dinner Ride (6 pm)
Sat 7/25	Granby Loop Ride
August	
Sat 8/8	Pikes Peak Mountain Ride
Sat 8/15	Chapter Membership Meeting & Post Meeting Ride
Fri 8/21 to Sat 8/22	Demo Days (Tentative)
September	
Sat 9/5	Ride Ready Skills Practice
Wed 9/9 to Sun 9/13	IMRG South Region Roundup
Sat 9/19	Chapter Membership Meeting & Folds of Honor Charity Ride
Thr 9/24	Dinner Ride (6 pm)
October	
Sat 10/17	Chapter Membership Meeting & Post Meeting Ride
Thr 10/22	Dinner Ride (6 pm)
November	
Sat 11/21	Chapter Membership Meeting
December	
Sat 12/12	Wreaths Across America
Sat 12/12	Annual NoCo IMRG Chapter Christmas Celebration

**Board meets first Thursday of every month in 2026**



**Northern Colorado IMRG Chapter #2036**  
c/o Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins  
1800 SE Frontage Rd  
Fort Collins, CO 80525