

NORTHERN COLORADO

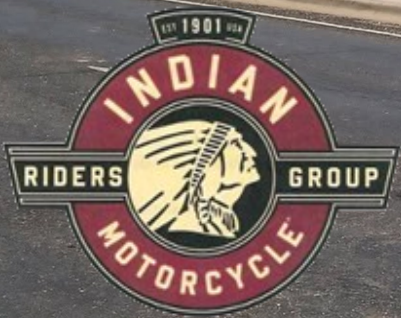
Informant

INDIAN MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUP®

2036



NORTHERN COLORADO



JULY 2026



Informer

NORTHERN COLORADO IMRG UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 18th—NoCo IMRG Monthly Chapter Meeting

We'll have our regular group chapter meeting at **9:30 a.m.**, at **Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins**. It's a great chance to reconnect, trade stories from the road, and catch up with the group. Be sure to stick around after the meeting as we'll be hosting the **Indian Motorcycle Great Summer Cook Out** immediately following!



Saturday, July 18th—Great Summer Cook Out



Join us for the annual Indian Motorcycle Great Summer Cook Out Event **between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**, at the **Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins**. The Northern Colorado IMRG will be assisting the Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins with this cookout event to celebrate with our motorcycle riding community and fellow enthusiasts.

Thursday, July 23rd—Dinner Ride

Ready for a mid-week break? We're meeting up at **Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins at 6:00 p.m.**, rolling out with KSU at 6:15 p.m. sharp. Come enjoy an evening cruise through the summer air, ending with dinner at a local spot. It's a great chance to wind down, catch up, and share some laughs on two wheels!



UPCOMING EVENTS

July - August 2026

- 7/18** Monthly Chapter Meeting & Indian Motorcycle Great Outdoors Cookout
- 7/23** Dinner Ride
- 7/25** Granby Loop Ride
- 8/8** Pikes Peak Mountain Ride
- 8/15** Monthly Chapter Meeting & Post Meeting Ride

RESOURCES

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

[NoCo IMRG YouTube Channel](#)

[NoCo IMRG Instagram](#)

[NoCo IMRG Facebook Group](#)

nocoimrg@gmail.com

[About Northern Colorado IMRG](#)



Saturday, July 25th—Granby Loop Ride



Get ready for a spectacular, all-day mountain adventure! We're hitting the road early and packing in some of Colorado's most iconic tarmac before wrapping up in the late afternoon.

Our route takes us toward Granby, either carving through the open spaces of Walden or scaling the heights of Trail Ridge Road through Rocky Mountain National Park. From there, we'll head south over the sweeping curves of Berthoud Pass, loop through Black Hawk, and catch the Peak-to-Peak Highway through Nederland. We'll finally wrap up the day in Longmont.

Saturday, August 8th—Pikes Peak Run

We head south to conquer America's Mountain, Pikes Peak. This high-altitude expedition will test your riding ability but will also reward you with some of the most jaw-dropping views in North America. From the toll gate in Cascade, we'll lean into 19 miles of continuous, sweeping mountain asphalt, climbing through pristine pine forests before breaking above the tree line.



Once we clear the trees, the real fun begins. We'll navigate the fully paved switchbacks as we ascend to the **14,115-foot summit**.

At the top, we'll park the bikes at the newly built Summit Visitor Center to take in the massive 360-degree views that inspired "America the Beautiful."

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

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.

In Loving Memory of Pat McGregor



The Northern Colorado Indian Motorcycle Riders Group is profoundly saddened by Pat McGregor's sudden and unexpected passing late Sunday evening on June 21, 2026.

Since joining our chapter in 2021, Pat became a core member of our chapter's community. To those of us who knew him, he was much more than a member. He served as a true ambassador for the fellowship and camaraderie that we strive to foster within our chapter.

Pat was quite simply our "Dynamo" with his constant source of energy and drive, and providing many great moments within the group. He always brought enthusiasm, and had an innate ability to brighten the room the moment he entered. He made even the most routine gatherings feel like an event worth celebrating.

Beyond the energy he brought to our group, Pat was also our resident "Maverick." He lived life authentically, never feeling the pressure to conform to the expectations of others. He possessed a rare, independent spirit that marched confidently to the beat of his own drum. Yet, what made Pat truly special was how he balanced that independence with a profound commitment to the fellowship of our chapter. He didn't need to follow the crowd to be an essential part of it. He simply chose to share his time with us,



and in doing so, he made us all better.

Pat's impact was felt most deeply through his dedication to our meetings and dealership activities. He was a constant presence, always the first to extend a hand to a new member or share a seat with someone who looked like they needed a friend. He possessed a unique, observant mind. His wit was sharp, and his perspectives often challenged us to look at the world, and our place in it, a little differently. He wasn't just a face in the crowd, he was someone who helped define our shared sense of belonging.

While his seat at our meetings will remain empty, the culture of inclusion, energy, and independence that Pat fostered remains a permanent part of our chapter's legacy. Every time we gather for meetings or events, we will carry his memory with us. We will miss his laughter, his sharp wit, and the genuine, unstoppable enthusiasm he brought to every interaction.

Rest in peace, Pat. You will be dearly missed.

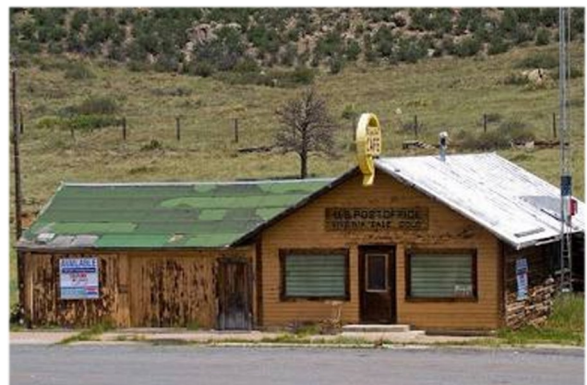


[Remembering Pat](#)

ROADSIDE GHOSTS: THE STORY BEHIND HIGHWAY 287'S ABANDONED POST OFFICE

If you've ever driven the scenic stretch of U.S. Highway 287 between Fort Collins and Wyoming just about four miles south of the border, across the rolling foothills, a lone, weathered structure sitting just off the shoulder has no doubt caught your attention. This is the old Virginia Dale Post Office and Cafe.

With its sun-faded wood, peeling green tarpaper roof, and a vintage yellow "CAFE" sign perched on the crest of the roofline, it's a roadside oddity for travelers passing by. For local riders, including the Northern Colorado IMRG, this weathered landmark is a familiar sight often passed on the way out for a two-wheeled adventure or a welcoming signpost marking the final leg of the journey back home. If you look closely, above the front door, you can still make out the faint, hand-painted lettering: "U.S. POST OFFICE VIRGINIA DALE, COLO." Though the building has sat empty since the 1990s, it represents the final 20th-century chapter of a wild frontier history that dates back more than 160 years.



From Outlaws to Mail Routes: The Deep Roots of Virginia Dale

While this specific roadside building served as a community hub, grocery, and mail stop for modern drivers, the name "Virginia Dale" carries a legendary weight in Western lore. In 1862, the legendary stagecoach tycoon Ben Holladay moved the Overland Trail mail route south to bypass regional conflicts. He established a home station



station in this lush, grassy basin so passengers could rest, eat hot meals, and change horses. The man chosen to run it was Joseph A. "Jack" Slade, a notorious division manager with a lethal reputation and an uncontrollable temper. Slade named the picturesque valley after his wife, Virginia.

Jack Slade was so infamous that a young Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) wrote about meeting him for breakfast at a nearby station in his 1872 memoir "Roughing It," admitting he was terrified of the man. The area quickly became a magnet for both high society and high-stakes crime.

In 1865, Vice President Schuyler Colfax was stranded at the station for days due to regional trail raids. In 1863, outlaws ambushed an army payroll stagecoach just a mile from the station, stealing \$60,000 in gold coins. The bandits were caught by the U.S. Cavalry, but the gold was never recovered (rumor has it it's still buried in the nearby foothills).

The Evolution of a Landmark

When the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, the stagecoach lines went dark almost overnight. However, the local ranching community stayed. The focus of Virginia Dale shifted from a bustling wilderness truck stop to a tight-knit homesteading community.

Era	Function of Virginia Dale
1862–1867	Crucial Overland Trail stage station and division point.
1874–1990s	Homesteading hub with its own school, church, and eventually, the Highway 287 post office/cafe.
1990s–Present	Abandoned landmark; mail service routed through nearby Livermore (ZIP 80536).

The original 1862 log stage station, the last of its kind, still stands intact on the Overland Trail. It actually sits about a mile east of the highway on private land, carefully preserved by the Virginia Dale Community Club.

The yellow building we see today on Highway 287 was built later to capture the automotive traffic of the mid-20th century, serving as a gas station, a spot to grab a hot cup of coffee, and the official post office for local ranchers until it finally closed its doors in the late 1990s.

Next time you head up toward the Wyoming border, whether you're rolling out with the Northern Colorado IMRG crew on a new adventure or coming past on the return ride, give a little nod to this old vacated building at the side of the road. It isn't just an empty shell, it's a monument to the pioneers, outlaws, and riders who have been passing through this high-country for generations.

PROFILES IN THE PARKING LOT: RIDER PERSONALITIES

Have you ever looked at a motorcycle and immediately guessed the personality of the person riding it? We're talking about the distinct and undeniable vibes the rider of the motorcycle has. What if the type of motorcycle actually reflected the traits of the rider? Inspired by the sharp observations of the "Salty Old Biker," a motorcycle lifestyle content creator on YouTube, we take a humorous look at our favorite types of motorcycles and identify the personality of that bike's rider.



The Cruiser: The Stoic Veteran

He rides to escape, not to arrive. Clad in a leather vest with sunglasses that never come off, this rider has been around since the beginning. He values simple hands-on mechanical function, scoffs at modern rider technology, and has a bottomless supply of stories he'll tell regardless of how many times you've heard them. He expects respect and is happiest on the open road, setting his own pace.



The Sport Bike: The Adrenaline Junkie

You'll hear this rider coming long before they arrive. They treat every public road like a personal racetrack, viewing speed limits as mere suggestions. Between the high-tech gear and a collection of cameras meant to document every maneuver, they live for the thrill of the lean. While they can be chaotic in a group setting, there's an undeniable, youthful fearlessness to their style.



The Adventure Bike: The Perpetual Explorer

This rider approaches every weekend trip as if they are embarking on a transcontinental expedition. Their bike is equipped with everything from emergency navigation systems to enough survival gear to last a week in the wilderness, even if the ride is just to a local café. They are the go-to experts on gear technology and are always eager to narrate the nuances of the terrain, no matter how minor.



The Electric Bike: The Modern Optimizer

Clean, quiet, and efficient, this rider has traded engine noise for battery analytics. Instead of turning wrenches, they focus on software updates and optimizing their ride modes for maximum performance. They aren't interested in the traditional culture of loud pipes or oil changes. They are driven by the pursuit of technological advancement and sustainable travel.



The Café Racer: The Stylized Artisan

This rider is a master of aesthetics, prioritizing a vintage look above all else. Their machine is a curated piece of art—minimalist, uncomfortable, and undeniably stylish. They prefer short, curated rides to trendy coffee shops where the focus remains on the craft of the bike rather than the length of the journey.



The Touring Bike: The Disciplined Pilot

Think of this rider as the captain of a mobile command center. They prioritize comfort, planning, and long-distance capability above all else. With a perfectly scheduled route, heated seating, and constant communication with their passenger, they master the art of the long-distance haul with ease and dad-like precision.



The Dual Sport: The Chaotic Free Spirit

This rider views paved roads as merely optional connectors between dirt trails. Their machine is a rugged, mismatched tool of utility that seems to survive on sheer enthusiasm alone. They are prone to spontaneous detours through rough terrain, and they treat every ride as an opportunity for unscripted discovery.



THE TRIKE
THE SAGE OF STABILITY

The Trike: The Sage of Stability

Having earned their miles on two wheels, this rider has moved to three for maximum comfort. Their machine is a customized platform for long-distance relaxation, complete with storage and high-end audio. They embody wisdom and calm, often serving as the stabilizing presence in any group.



THE BAGGER BRO
THE CROWD PLEASER

The Bagger Bro: The Crowd Pleaser

This rider is all about making an impression. With a thunderous custom sound system and an eye-catching, highly modified bike, they ensure that everyone knows they've arrived. They are seasoned attendees of rallies and custom shows, viewing their machine as a canvas for high-impact design and personal expression.



THE CHOPPER
THE UNCOMPROMISING ARTIST

The Chopper: The Uncompromising Artist

This rider has prioritized attitude over everything, including comfort and reliability. Their bike is an extreme, handcrafted sculpture that commands attention on the road. While it may require more time in the shop than on the road, they ride with a unique sense of pride, knowing they've built a machine that is entirely their own.

THE SOUND OF THE ROAD: YOUR MOTORCYCLE RIDE MIGHT BE COSTING YOU YOUR HEARING

For most of us, the appeal of motorcycling is found in the sensory experience like the feel of the wind, the leaning into corners, and the mechanical roar of the engine. However, there is a hidden long-term price many riders pay for after years of time spent in the saddle.

While most riders are diligent about wearing helmets, gloves, and jackets, one critical piece of gear is frequently overlooked—hearing protection. Understanding why riding causes hearing damage is the first step in helping to ensure you can enjoy the road for years to come.

The Silent Thief: Wind Noise vs. Engine Noise

Many riders mistakenly believe the noise of their engine or aftermarket exhaust is the primary culprit for hearing loss. While engine noise contributes, research shows the most significant threat to your hearing while riding is actually wind noise.

The Math of Decibels

Hearing damage is cumulative and depends on both the volume (decibels) and the duration of exposure. Occupational health and safety guidelines generally set 85 dB as the threshold where sound begins to cause permanent damage if you are exposed to it for long periods.





Consider these figures:

- **At 40 mph: Wind noise inside a helmet can reach 90 dB.**

What this means: To put this in perspective, 90 dB is equivalent to the constant, direct noise of a hairdryer, a kitchen blender, or a power drill running right next to your ear. Even at these slower urban speeds, you are already operating above the safe exposure threshold.

- **At 65 mph: Wind noise can climb to 100+ dB.**

The Danger Zone: At 100 dB, permanent hearing damage can begin in as little as 15 minutes. When you are on a multi-hour road trip, the constant turbulent roar of air acts like a high-pressure jet, effectively wearing down the delicate hair cells in your inner ear.

Why You Don't Notice the Damage

The damage caused by wind noise is gradual and deceptive. Unlike a sudden loud explosion, wind noise is a constant, low-frequency hum that your brain eventually tunes out. You may feel like you have adjusted to it, but your inner ear is actually suffering from overstimulation.

Once those tiny hair cells in the cochlea are damaged, they do not grow back. The result is often tinnitus (a persistent ringing, buzzing, or hissing in the ears) or progressive high-frequency hearing loss, making it difficult to understand conversations in crowded or noisy environments.

How to Protect Your Ears Without Losing the Experience

The good news is that you don't have to give up riding to save your hearing. You just need to change how you approach wind management.

High-Fidelity Earplugs

Avoid cheap foam plugs that muffle everything and make it hard to hear traffic or your engine. Instead, invest in motorcycle-specific high-fidelity earplugs. These use acoustic filters to reduce the dangerous decibels of wind noise while allowing you to still hear sirens, horns, and your motorcycle's engine clearly.

Manage Your Airflow

Adding a taller windshield to your bike can move the airflow over your helmet rather than directly at it, significantly reducing turbulence.

A helmet that doesn't fit properly at the neck allows air to rush up into the shell. Using a chin curtain or a neck gaiter can help seal out that air.

Choose a Quieter Helmet

Some helmets are aerodynamically designed to minimize noise. When shopping for your next helmet, look for reviews that specifically test for dB levels at highway speeds. Full-face helmets are universally quieter than open-face or modular options.

The Bottom Line

Hearing loss is irreversible, but it is entirely preventable. By making high-fidelity earplugs a standard part of your pre-ride gear check, right along with your helmet and gloves, you help to ensure you'll be able to hear the world clearly long after you put the kickstand down for the day.

Protect your ears today, so you can keep enjoying the roar of the engine tomorrow.



CANYONS, CURVES, AND FERRIES: TAMING THE OZARKS AND TURNING FOR HOME

What a ride! Day 6 of the Northern Colorado IMRG Ozarks Hillbilly tour last year was everything we dream about when we twist the throttle. We left our Springdale home base for a spectacular 215-mile loop through the rugged heart of Arkansas. This was the final full day of canyon carving and camaraderie before packing up for the long trek back home to Colorado.

We kicked the morning off by leaving Springdale and crossing the scenic White River, winding our way into the beautiful, rolling rural landscapes past Huntsville. Our first major rest stop was at the Buffalo Outdoor Center in Ponca. Today it's a beautiful mountain outpost, but it was once a booming zinc mining town rich with local history. From there, we cruised through Jasper, the scenic home of the historic Rocky Mountain Elk herd, where the views were stunning.

For lunch, we pulled up to the legendary Cliff House Inn. Perched precariously on a sheer bluff, the restaurant offers a spectacular view overlooking the famous "Arkansas Grand Canyon." Sitting out there, enjoying a great meal while looking out over the green valley was a moment when the world's problems just completely disappeared.

After lunch, it was time to tame the Arkansas Dragon on Highway 123. Arkansas' answer to the famous Tail of the Dragon did not disappoint. We tackled 15 miles of technical curves and 80-degree hairpins that left smiles on our faces. Everyone handled the twisties like pros.

After taming the Dragon, we dialed it back a bit for the Timber Loop, a beautiful, winding ride through the historic mountain towns of Deer, Nail, and Pettigrew—the former "Hardwood Capital of the World." During a quick roadside break to stretch our legs, we got a taste of true Southern hospitality. We made quick friends with an enthusiastic neighborhood dog and chatted with a local boy who was thrilled to see our motorcycles. We then pointed our fairings back through the canopy of the Ozark National Forest to finish out the loop.



[Play the video](#)

On Day 7, we traded our Springdale homebase for the open highway to start our trek back to Colorado. Of course, the Ozarks wasn't about to let us leave without showing off one last time. We kicked the morning off heading east on Highway 412, soaking in the long, sweeping curves of the mountains and passing through Alpena, a historic railroad town named for its alpine-style peaks. The ride also gave us a firsthand look at just how powerful the spring rains were (spring 2025) this season, with normally quiet creeks like Deshields looking more like major, rushing rivers.

Our route soon brought us to a hidden gem of a road, Highway 125, which led us directly to Bull Shoals Lake for a ride on the Peel Ferry. As the last remaining public ferry in Arkansas, this 20-minute floating shortcut offered us a perfect chance to catch a cool lake breeze and take in some beautiful 360-degree views. It also provided a quick



safety lesson for the group when the ferry hit the dock a little harder than expected, causing one of our riders to experience a minor tip-over incident. It was a gentle reminder for all of us to stay off the bikes and wait until the ferry is completely secured before mounting up!

We crossed the state line into Missouri on Highway 160 where the road is carved directly into towering limestone walls, creating the incredible sensation of riding through a massive, natural mountain cathedral. Farther down the road, we stopped in Monett to admire the impressive 60-foot Freedom Silo, and even took a brief, meaningful detour through some local neighborhoods where some of us have deep family roots.

We wrapped up this fantastic transition day in Carthage, Missouri, pulling into a classic roadside hotel that has been serving road weary travelers for over 70 years. It was the perfect dose of Route 66 nostalgia to cap off the evening. The Ozarks gave us absolutely everything we could have asked for and more over the prior week.



[Play the video](#)

Ride, Seek, and Explore!



Northern Colorado IRMG #2036
2026 Calendar of Events (Updated 6/18/2026)
 For the latest updates visit: 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 (https://www.facebook.com/InternationalFemaleRideDay)
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
Sun 6/14	Chapter group departing Wed 6/10 to Sun 6/14
Sat 6/20	Chapter Membership Meeting & Post-Meeting Ride
Thr 6/25	Dinner Ride (6 pm)
Sat 6/27	Cameron Pass Ride Brown bag lunch (and maybe a pie stop...)
July	
Sat 7/18	Chapter Membership Meeting & Indian Motorcycle Great Outdoors Cookout
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