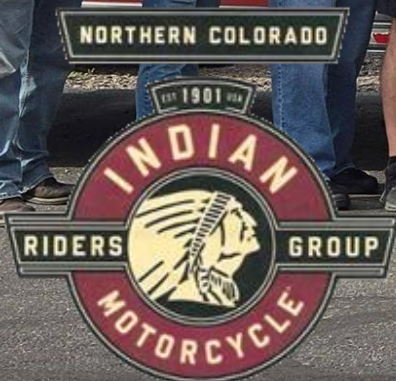


NORTHERN COLORADO

# *Informer*

INDIAN MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUP®

#2036



SEPTEMBER 2026



# Informer

## NORTHERN COLORADO IMRG UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Chapter Meeting & Post Meeting Ride



We hope you were able to attend our a great monthly Chapter meeting with us this month at Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins. It's was a perfect chance to catch up with fellow riders, swap stories, welcome new members, and extend greetings to those who we may not have seen for a while.

After our meeting, we did a short do a group ride to Mash Lab Brewing in Windsor, CO, for a fun lunch on a beautiful afternoon. This ride was also Northern Colorado IMRG's official National IMRG Charity Ride for Folds of Honor. The National IMRG Charity Ride for

Folds of Honor is a nationwide, synchronized charity event organized by Indian Motorcycle and the Indian Motorcycle Riders Group (IMRG). It raises funds for Folds of Honor, a nonprofit that provides educational scholarships to the spouses and children of fallen or disabled U.S. military service members and first responders.

If you would like to make a donation to Folds of Honor, we still encourage you to visit the official [National IMRG Charity Ride team page for NoCo IMRG](#), and click the "Donate Now" button.

### September 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Dinner Ride

Wind down your Thursday evening with good food, great company, and a relaxed group ride! We'll gather at the **Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins at 6:00 pm** with KSU at 6:15 pm to head out on a short, easygoing route making our way to **Austin's American Grill on**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September – November 2026

- 9/19 Chapter Membership Meeting & Post Meeting Ride
- 9/24 Dinner Ride
- 10/17 Chapter Membership Meeting & Post Meeting Ride
- 10/22 Dinner Ride
- 11/21 Chapter Membership Meeting

## RESOURCES

[Going on NoCo IMRG Group Rides](#)

Ride guidance & waiver forms

[NoCo IMRG YouTube Channel](#)

[NoCo IMRG Instagram](#)

[NoCo IMRG Facebook Group](#)

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

[About Northern Colorado IMRG](#)



**Harmony in Fort Collins** for dinner **between 7:15 and 7:30 pm**. It's the perfect way to catch up with fellow chapter members mid-week.

You hopefully already received a Punchbowl invitation in your email or text messages with all the details. Please RSVP so we can make sure we have tables for everyone. Ride with us or meet us there. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

## NORTHERN COLORADO IMRG: CELEBRATING EIGHT YEARS ON THE ROAD

July 30<sup>th</sup> marked the Northern Colorado IMRG 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Since chartering at Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins in the summer of 2018, the NoCo IMRG has grown into one of the most active Indian Motorcycle Riders Group chapters in the region. Over eight seasons the chapter has logged 209 official events, spent 197 days in the saddle, and covered more than 30,000 miles, all while building a tight-knit community around riding, safety, and fun.



### Chapter Growth at a Glance

Event volume has stayed remarkably consistent since the chapter's early years, settling into a steady rhythm of roughly two events a month (not counting chapter meetings) with an average of just over two ride days and 310 miles logged monthly across the chapter's history.

| Year                     | Events | Ride Days | Miles |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 2018 (founding, Aug–Dec) | 8      | 5         | 662   |
| 2019                     | 26     | 24        | 3,220 |
| 2020                     | 27     | 21        | 2,667 |
| 2021                     | 32     | 28        | 4,192 |
| 2022                     | 24     | 22        | 2,961 |
| 2023                     | 25     | 25        | 4,597 |
| 2024                     | 25     | 28        | 4,540 |
| 2025                     | 25     | 28        | 5,187 |
| 2026 (through July)      | 17     | 16        | 2,290 |

Notably, the chapter's founding year (2018) had only five months of activity but still delivered eight events, including the very first official Chapter Ride to Coal Creek Canyon on August 11, 2018. Despite the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 remained one of the chapter's most active years, with 27 events and nearly 2,700 miles ridden. 2021 stands out as the chapter's busiest single year on record, with 32 events, 28 ride days, and over 4,000 miles logged.



## Event Mix

Day rides have always been the backbone of the chapter's calendar, but the group has steadily diversified its offerings, adding dinner rides, formal skills training, and multi-day tours.

| Event Type       | Count | Ride Days | Miles  |
|------------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Day Ride         | 86    | 86        | 9,849  |
| Multi-Day Ride   | 17    | 78        | 19,239 |
| Social           | 32    | 0         | 0      |
| Dinner Ride      | 28    | 24        | 633    |
| Training         | 27    | 0         | 0      |
| Dealership Event | 11    | 1         | 43     |
| Breakfast Ride   | 8     | 8         | 552    |

While day rides account for the largest share of events, the chapter's 17 multi-day rides, just 8% of total events, account for nearly two-thirds of all miles ridden (19,239 of 30,316). These extended trips have become the chapter's signature adventures, taking members far beyond Northern Colorado.

## Signature Trips & Milestone Adventures

- The chapter's multi-day rides have grown steadily more ambitious over the years, from an overnight in Cripple Creek in 2019 to a ten-day, nine-night tour of the Ozarks in 2025:
- Ozarks Adventure (May–June 2025)—10 days, 2,730 miles, staying at an Airbnb in Springdale, AR
- Beartooth-Glacier Road Trip (July 2024)—8 days, 2,175 miles through Thermopolis, the Beartooth Highway, Glacier National Park, and Vernal
- Durango Rendezvous—attended annually (2019, 2022, 2023, 2026) as part of Indian Motorcycle's flagship national event, riding Molas Pass, Silverton, Ouray, Telluride, and Mesa Verde
- Alpine, WY Trip (June 2021)—5 days, 1,476 miles, with rides to Idaho Falls and Grand Teton National Park
- Black Hills, South Dakota (July 2021)—5 days, 1,153 miles, home-based in Deadwood with rides to the Badlands
- Thermopolis Multi-Nighter (Sept 2023)—4 days, 998 miles through Wyoming and Montana

Beyond Colorado, chapter rides have carried NoCo IMRG members into Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, 12 states in addition to Colorado itself.

## Chapter Traditions

A handful of recurring rides and gatherings have become fixtures of the NoCo IMRG calendar, giving the chapter its identity year after year:



- Glen Haven Cinnamon Bun Ride—an annual ride to the Glen Haven General Store, run every year since 2018
- Wreaths Across America—the chapter has placed wreaths on veterans' graves at Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins every December since 2019
- Holiday Social—the chapter's year-end meeting and party at Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins, held every December since 2018
- International Female Ride Day—recognized with a dedicated group ride every May since 2020
- Road Officer & Motorcycle Skills Training—ongoing motorcycle safety instruction and practice held at Timberline Church in Fort Collins
- Indian Motorcycle Demo Days—the chapter has supported dealership demo-ride events at Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins nearly every summer since 2019

### Community & Partnership

Beyond the open road, our chapter has forged lasting community partnerships. Most notably with Indian Motorcycle of Fort Collins, collaborating on the Great Summer Cookout, Swap Your Swag events, and Demo Days. We are deeply committed to rider safety offering motorcycle skills training and honoring Timberline Church with a plaque for hosting our safety trainings. Our philanthropic efforts proudly extend to Realities for Children, Folds of Honor, and Wreaths Across America. Furthermore, we cherish our camaraderie with sister chapters, having memorable meet-and-greets with the Pikes Peak, Rocky Mountain, and Sturgis IMRG chapters.

### Looking Back—and Ahead

From a single ride across Coal Creek Canyon in August 2018 to a ten-day cross-country tour of the Ozarks in 2025, NoCo IMRG's eight-year record tells the story of a chapter that has stayed true to its roots as a riding group with lunch and dinner rides, cinnamon rolls in Glen Haven, flatlander and mountain treks, and monthly chapter meetings, while steadily pushing its horizons further out. With 209 events, 197 ride days, and over 30,000 miles behind it, the chapter enters its ninth year with 2026 already off to a strong start: 17 events and 2,290 miles logged through early August, including a return trip to the Durango Rendezvous.

---

## THE ROAD SPEAKS: WHY THESE QUOTES FEEL TRUE TO RIDERS

There's something about a good motorcycle quote that hits different than typical riding advice you hear. Maybe it's because the people who say this stuff aren't theorizing but have actually put in the miles behind bars and know the difference between riding on two wheels in the wind versus four in a cage. Whatever the reason, riders have been swapping these lines for as long as there have been motorcycles, and they still show up on patches, garage walls, saddle bags, and memes.

Why do these motorcycle quotes resonate so deeply? Because riding strips away the noise of everyday existence. When you are balancing on two wheels at highway speeds, or carving through mountain road twisties, there is no room for trivial worries. The best motorcycle sayings capture that clarity simply and directly, acting as a mirror for the inner philosophy every rider shares.





## Stripping Life Down to the Essentials

Riding has a way of stripping life down to the essentials, and a lot of the best quotes out there capture this feeling. For a rider, the world shrinks to the immediate present whether it's the curve of the road ahead, the low rumble of the motorcycle, the wind in your face, the scenic landscape, and the smell in the air. Many iconic sayings reflect this fundamental simplification.

Writer and lifelong rider Robert Pirsig, author of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, spent an entire book making the case that riding puts you directly in the world instead of just watching it go by while watching through a glass pane. That's the difference between a motorcycle and a car in one sentence. You're not a passenger to the landscape; you're part of it. Others have stated it as the difference between watching a movie versus staring in the movie.

Take the ultimate mantra of the motorcycle subculture, "**Live to Ride, Ride to Live.**" It is more than just a catchy phrase inscribed on leather vests and t-shirts. It is an existential declaration. To a rider, riding is not merely a hobby or a convenient way to commute. It is a fundamental part of existence, a life force as vital as breath itself.

Similarly, consider the old adage, "**Two wheels move the soul.**" While cars get you from point A to point B, a motorcycle connects you to the environment and nature itself. You feel the temperature drop in a mountain valley; you smell the pine trees and asphalt after a summer rain. The machine becomes an extension of the rider, and the journey becomes a spiritual exercise in mindfulness.

## Embracing Risk, Freedom, and Accountability

Motorcycling demands your complete attention. Being on a motorcycle always requires your presence and situational awareness. There is no steel cage surrounding you, only your wits, your training, and your bike.

This reality inspires quotes celebrating freedom and personal responsibility. As the saying goes, "**Four wheels move the body, but two wheels move the soul.**" Another favorite among long time riders is, "**Keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down.**" On the surface, it is a humorous wish for a safe trip. Underneath, it's a reminder of the delicate balance required on every ride, which requires a blend of skill, respect for the motorcycle, and a healthy awareness of mortality making every successful journey deeply rewarding.

Other classic sayings slant toward the therapeutic power of the throttle:

- "**Therapy is expensive, wind therapy is cheap.**" Every rider knows the sensation of setting off with a cluttered mind and returning an hour later with a profound sense of peace.
- "**You've never seen a motorcycle parked outside a psychiatrist's office.**" A lighthearted and widely loved favorite highlighting the unique, stress-relieving power of a long, solitary two-wheel ride over traditional mental health care.

## The Road as a Teacher

Ultimately, the road speaks to riders because it teaches lessons that standard classrooms cannot. It demands focus, rewards courage, and fosters a tight-knit community of strangers who will wave an acknowledgment when passing each other on the road.

These sayings endure because they are true. They distill the complex emotions of fear, exhilaration, independence, and camaraderie into a few memorable words. Some quotes are less about a laugh and more about capturing the actual feeling of being out there. The reasons we keep doing this year after year. So, the next time you hear a seasoned rider drop one of these classic lines, remember, they aren't just quoting a cliché. They are speaking the honest, unvarnished truth of the road.



To truly understand the rider's mindset, a few more classic adages capture the philosophy, humor, and grit of motorcycling:

- **"Ride like you are invisible."** A grim yet vital piece of defensive riding wisdom passed down to every new generation of motorcyclists, emphasizing total situational awareness and survival. Assume no one sees you, and everyone is out to get you while riding out on the road.
- **"You don't stop riding when you get old, you get old when you stop riding."** A testament to the ageless passion of the motorcycling community, celebrating riders who maintain their bikes and spirit well into their golden years.
- **"Chrome won't get you home."** A practical mechanic's reminder that flashiness and custom accessories matter far less than mechanical reliability and proper maintenance when you are miles away from civilization.
- **"Any day you can ride is a good day."** A simple, grounding perspective reminding riders to appreciate the pure joy of the ride regardless of the weather or traffic.

### Why These Sayings Stick With Us

What makes these quotes worth passing around isn't just that they're clever. It's because they capture something true about why we ride in the first place. Whether it's the freedom, the focus, the friendships, or just the sheer fun of it, there's a saying out there that nails it every time.

*Ride safe, ride often, and we'll see you at the next chapter event.*

---

## MOTORCYCLE SKILLS: FINDING YOUR BIKE'S FRICTION ZONE



This article is adapted with inspiration from Kevin Morris (McRider) and his instructional resources on motorcycle safety and low-speed clutch control.

Mastering clutch control is the single most critical skill for low-speed motorcycle maneuvering. Whether you are launching from a stoplight, navigating a crowded parking lot, or performing tight U-turns, understanding your bike's friction zone, the precise range where the clutch begins transferring power to the rear wheel, gives you complete authority over the bike.

### Why Friction Zone Awareness Matters

Understanding the direct relationship between the throttle, clutch, and friction zone is essential for every rider. When you operate all three in harmony, you maintain smooth, predictable power delivery. Mismanaging this relationship leads to two common beginner mistakes:

- **Stalling:** Releasing the clutch lever too quickly without enough throttle starves the engine of momentum, causing it to die instantly.



- **Sudden Lurches ("Whiskey Throttle"):** Rolling on too much throttle while suddenly releasing the clutch lever or grabbing the throttle in panic as the bike moves, causes the motorcycle to surge forward uncontrollably.

Learning to use the clutch lever as your main power regulator acts as a safety release valve. Even if you give too much throttle, keeping the clutch in the friction zone prevents the motorcycle from suddenly lunging forward and getting away from you.

### The Objective

This fundamental exercise introduces you to the mechanical feedback of your motorcycle. By isolating the relationship between minor throttle inputs and clutch release, you learn to modulate power smoothly without stalling or jerking forward.

### Prerequisites & Setup

- **Gear:** Full riding gear (helmet, gloves, boots).
- **Location:** A flat, open, paved area clear of traffic, gravel, or obstacles (like an empty parking lot).
- **Position:** Sitting upright on the motorcycle, wrists flat, and eyes looking straight ahead.

### Step-by-Step Exercise Protocol

#### 1. Prepare the motorcycle

- Engine running, motorcycle at a complete stop
- Squeeze the clutch lever fully to the handlebar
- Shift down into 1st gear (listen/feel for the click)

#### 2. Apply minimal throttle

- Roll the throttle slightly—just enough to raise engine rpm slightly above idle
- Hold the throttle completely steady (keep the rpms steady)

#### 3. Engage the friction zone

- Ease the clutch lever out ever so slowly (millimeter by millimeter)
- Listen for the engine sound to soften slightly
- Feel the motorcycle begin to pull or creep forward

#### 4. Disengage and repeat

- As soon as the motorcycle moves forward a few inches
- Roll off the throttle completely
- Squeeze the clutch lever fully back in

#### 5. Drill the repetitions

- Repeat Steps 2 through 4 until finding the friction zone becomes second nature

### Key Takeaways

- **Avoid Popping the Clutch:** Releasing the lever too quickly causes the engine to stall or the bike to lurch forward unexpectedly.



- **Keep the Throttle Steady:** Do not continuously twist or blip the throttle. Set a tiny amount of power and leave it fixed while your left hand does all the work.
- **Build Muscle Memory:** The goal isn't distance; it's repetition. Finding the exact lever position repeatedly develops intuition that carries over into every aspect of riding.

## BORN TO BE WILD: DOGS OF EVERY SHAPE AND SIZE LOVE THE OPEN ROAD



There is a moment right before kickstand-up that every riding dog owner knows by heart. Their passenger's riding gear and safety straps are clicked into place, the engine turns over, and their traveling partner lets out a sharp, impatient yip. It's the universal canine signal for "Hurry up and let's go."

While you might picture a very specific image when thinking of a motorcycle dog, like a big Golden Retriever grinning out of a vintage sidecar, the reality on the road is far more diverse. From ten-pound Terriers tucked into tank bags to ninety-pound

German Shepherds riding shotgun, two-wheel adventure isn't limited by breed. It's defined by an unmistakable, shared passion for the journey.

### Big, Small, and Everything in Between

Walk through any mountain pass overlook or highway rest stop, and you'll quickly realize canine copilots come in every imaginable package. Pint-sized navigators like Chihuahuas, Dachshunds, and Jack Russells are born highway royalty. Mounted safely in tank bags, tail-rack cockpits, or secure chest harnesses, these tiny riders get an eye-level view of the road right over the handlebars, making up for their small footprint with sheer attitude.

Medium-built breeds like Heelers, Australian Shepherds, and Border Collies fit brilliantly into specialized, rigid rear-seat carriers bolted directly to the frame.

Known for their focus and working drive, these dogs track the changing landscape with intense curiosity, naturally leaning into sweeping curves right alongside their human.

Gentle giants like Labradors, Huskies, Great Danes, and rescues of mystery origin command the pavement from custom sidecars. With enough room to stretch out, prop their chins on the padded tub, and catch the wind full force, they remain the undisputed rock stars of every interstate stretch.



### Why Dogs Crave the Ride

If you've ever watched a dog stick its head out of a car window, multiply that sensation by a hundred. To a dog, a motorcycle isn't just a way to get from point A to point B, it's a high-definition, 360-degree sensory playground. A



dog's sense of smell is thousands of times more sensitive than ours. Riding through a valley on two wheels means taking in a rich, constantly shifting tapestry of forest pine, river water, and mountain air at sixty miles per hour. Unlike sitting behind glass windows in a car, riding on a bike exposes dogs directly to the environment. They feel the sun warming their fur, the cool shift in temperature when entering a canyon, and the rush of wind across their body.

Dogs are natural pack animals, and a road trip is the ultimate pack activity. For hours on end, there are no distractions, no closed doors, and no work calls. It's

just you and your best friend for an entire journey, moving together at the exact same speed, taking in the same horizon.



### Where the Wind Takes You

Riding with a four-legged partner changes the entire dynamic of a road trip. You aren't just logging miles. You are sharing an experience that breaks down every social barrier on the map.

You'll see it the moment you pull in to rest in the middle of nowhere. You flip up your helmet visor, and everyone around instantly drops what they're doing to stare at your passenger. He's not checking GPS or worrying about the route. He's wearing tinted goggles, a custom vest, and a grin stretching from ear to ear. From truck stops off the interstate to quiet cafes in tiny mountain towns, a dog on a bike brings instant smiles, and turning every quick fuel stop into a chance to share stories with fellow travelers.



When you finally pull in for the night at the end of a long stretch, turn off the ignition, and unclip their goggles, you'll witness a very specific kind of "road exhaustion." It's the peaceful, happy tiredness of a copilot who lived every single curve, bump, and sunrise right alongside you.

---

*Ride, Seek, and Explore!*



## Northern Colorado IRMG #2036

2026 Calendar of Events (Updated 8/11/2026)

For the latest updates visit: [nocoirmg.org/events](https://nocoirmg.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<br>( <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                                        | 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<br>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                                           | Southern Exposure Ride to the Springs                                                                                                                           |
| Sat 8/15                                          | Chapter Membership Meeting & Post Meeting Ride                                                                                                                  |
| Thr 8/20                                          | Dinner Ride (6 pm)                                                                                                                                              |
| Fri 8/21 to<br>Sat 8/22                           | Demo Days                                                                                                                                                       |
| September                                         |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sat 9/5                                           | Ride Ready Skills Practice                                                                                                                                      |
| Wed 9/9 to<br>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 Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80525