

# The Bee Cee Beemers' 25th Annual Nakusp Hot Springs Rally



The Kootenay Lake Ferry between Kootenay Bay and Balfour is the longest free ferry ride in the world.

**FROM THE TIME OF ARRIVAL GREETED** by the banner, “Welcome to Bee Cee Beemers’ 25th Anniversary Rally – and 10th Annual Nakusp Hot Springs Rally” to the time of departure on Sunday, the hours were filled with the sound of riders sharing their passion. From the seminars to the bike Parade, GS rides, Rotary breakfast, field events and evening campfires, there was something for everyone. Nightly motorcycle adventure movies were a huge hit!

All it would take would be a look at the map to see why BMW riders gathered 18–21 August in Nakusp, British Columbia. Great roads, many quite empty of other vehicles, stretch in every direction. And the town itself—the nicest small town in BC—is another compelling reason. When you couple that with being able to start every day with a cup or two of fresh brewed Kicking Horse coffee and the great meals served with attention to detail in a tree-lined oasis by none other than Debbie Guest and crew, what’s not to love! Michael McPeak, Rally Chair, enthusiastic “Deb Guest, our caterer—I can’t say enough about this woman’s amazing work ethic, her steadfast efforts to make sure everyone always gets fed and fed well!” The nightly menu included a Greek feast Thursday, brats and sauerkraut Friday and steak or chicken with

all the fixings Saturday.

Add to that a soak in the Nakusp Hot Springs (with a ten-mile continuous curvy road coming and going), the Farmers’ Market, or a walk along the lake front all add to the delight. Past locations of Oliver, Lilloet, Kimberly, and Enderby built the tradition. Nakusp continues to make this a most difficult rally to leave.

Led by Michael and Bernie McPeak, who spend countless hours

before the rally, somehow it all comes together to build the one-of-a-kind magic when many more volunteers pick up the pace on site. Michael says, “My wife, Bernie McPeak, who does not ride a motorcycle, is not a Bee Cee Beemer club member and can’t really tell a GS from an RT, is my number one at the rally and the hardest worker out there. Her joy is not the bikes; it’s the people on the bikes! My hat goes off to Reinhard Bartel, our Kicking Horse Coffee Meister and 50/50 Vendor Extraordinaire. This year he set a new record of \$1,024. Don

Estergaard, of Coquitlam, B.C., was the happy winner of \$512.”

Irene Jack worked tirelessly with infectious cheer everywhere and sold all the T-shirts. Rob Owen organized the prizes, Tommy Ryser led up the unique field events, and John James organized the challenging GS rides. This year’s sponsors included Vancouver BMW Ducati, BMW Motorrad Canada, Bentley Motorrad, Kicking Horse Coffee, Overwaitea, Shail’s Motorcycles, and What’s Brewing on Broadway, to name a few. Eric Elshof stored the rally stuff. Many of the attendees helped with setup and cleanup. It was great to see recycling containers handy everywhere!

An annual tradition, the Friday Bike Parade to the Halcyon Community Home for the Seniors Ride was heartwarming. To see the enthusiasm of all, riders and passengers, made this an event not to be missed!

Peak attendance was on Saturday night, when the Bee Cee Beemers served 266 dinners. The long distance award went to Greg Anderson from New Milford, CT, who rode 3370 miles. There were four field events and five awards.

- Slalom Ride: Michael Pryor
- Diminishing Circle Ride: Jerry Bauer
- Slow Race: Keith Follitt
- Plank Ride: Eric Elshof



Closing Ceremonies hosted by Michael and Bernie McPeak



Banquets used to be in a hall with silver and starched white tablecloths; food tastes even better at the sunshine outdoors in Nakusp.



The Nakusp Hot Springs refresh the soul while the ride to it refreshes the spirit.

• Sportsmanship: Pol Gomez

The rally logo, displayed on the rally pin, T-shirts, and a special cake, is the sixth design by Johnathan Erickson. Called "Sun," it reflects his unique First Nations heritage. He's pursuing an art degree. This won't be the last you'll hear of him!

The weather was perfect for the whole rally weekend, but the red log building, the Seniors Association Activity Center, was a great place to really appreciate the seminars and as a backup in case of inclement weather. David Hough hosted his should-be-trademarked "Coffee with Dave" as well as seminars entitled "Stupid Hurts!" and "Cornering Tactics." The research he's done to really speak to the issues is priceless! Rick Wallace, Crash Scene Safety Instructor, distilled his real world experiences to show how to prevent further injury when a crash occurs. He demonstrated simple things everyone can do with confidence. Paul and Voni Graves shared their perspectives gained during their annual four or five



Unique Rally Logo on delicious cake. Chocolate!



Eric Elshof riding the diminishing circle in the Field Games. PHOTO BY PEDRO CATALAN

month wander around the United States and Canada. Not for the faint hearted!

A really special commemorative gift was awarded to the first 250 attendees, an aluminum, focusable, high output super bright LED laser-engraved flashlight. Functional and fun! The nightly light shows from ralliers playing with them lit the skies!

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year. It will be even more fun with you there! Keep an eye out for details at <http://beecebeemers.com/>.

2012 here we come. ☺

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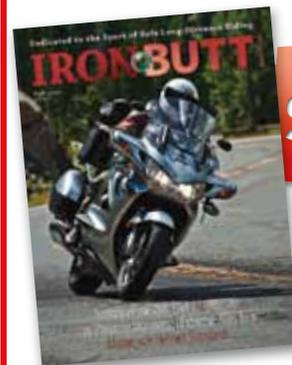
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