

# The Pack

Utah Riders Association of Triumph's Official Newsletter

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## First!

-David Barth

As with anything new, there will be many firsts. Since we are a new club, we have many firsts to come. First epic ride, first hilarious quote, first roadside breakdown, first motorcycle campout... the list goes on. This is, of course, our first newsletter. We are hoping to provide you with interesting content every couple months to help spur your passion for the lifestyle we all love so much. You can look forward to ride reviews, club news, motorcycle comparisons, bike projects, and anything else we can come up with. I am very excited about future "firsts" and want to extend my warmest welcome to all of our new members. See you on the road soon! ■

## Ride the Pass

-David Barth

Our first ride was held April 5th and, despite a few April showers, it was a success. We enjoyed seeing a wide range of bikes; everything from older Tigers to "modern classic" Bonneville's. After some socializing with



free sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks, we headed for Johnson's Pass. There was a light rain that worked to lubricate the road. A few rear tires slid around the tighter corners. Our first

stop was at the Maverik in Eagle Mountain. The light rain continued but spirits were still high. After all, motorcycling isn't baseball; you can ride in the rain.

After some regrouping we continued towards Cedar Fort and Fairfield. Heated grips would have been a nice addition as we left the summit of Five Mile Pass. I think this ride probably convinced a few riders to purchase new clothing and cold weather accessories!

At the junction of UT-73 and UT-36 it was decision time. To the north were Tooele and some angry looking clouds. To the southwest were the town of Rush Valley and ultimately Johnson's Pass. We decided that heading towards Rush Valley we might be able to ride around the storm. Even from the junction it was evident that Johnson's Pass had received a blanket of snow. We decide to forego the pass this time and keep our finger tips from freezing off. Not to mention slushy visors are not that much fun, either.

After a quick detour a little ways up the pass due to a missed turn (who was leading the ride anyway?) we turned north towards Grantsville on Mormon Trail. Mormon Trail is a road that is under-loved by UDOT but was still in good enough condition for all species of bikes in the group. Avoidance of fairly large potholes kept a fairly boring stretch of straight road interesting. As if on cue, the sun came out and it became a beautiful end to the day. Our last stop was the Maverik in Grantsville. Smiles were all around. Even though we were not able to hit the main attraction of the pass, we were all glad just to get to go to the park with a great group of riders. The only casualty of the day was a helmet visor bolt that was remedied with the fix-all duct tape. All-in-all, it was a good ride that will be a primer for great summer of rides. I look forward to see everyone on our next ride scheduled for May 3rd at 11 AM at Triumph of Utah. We will be having lunch at the Stockton Miners Cafe and then traveling to the historic mining town of Eureka in the Tintic Mountains. We will return via the west side of Utah Lake. Until then, happy riding! ■



## President – David Barth

When I was a kid I loved all things with wheels. Particularly, I rode my bicycle everywhere. I would have loved to have a motorcycle but my parents wouldn't allow that. In retrospect, that probably wasn't a bad thing because I did some crazy things as a kid. About 6 years ago I decided to buy my first motorcycle, a BMW G650GS. Putt-putt-putt, beep-beep, Putt-putt-putt, beep-beep. That's all my wife heard as I rode it up and down the road behind our house over and over again. I was in love with riding.

A few years (and bikes) later I purchased my first Triumph: a 2006 Sprint ST 1050. The famous triple. What a great motor! It had obnoxious D&D pipes, blue projectors, and other farkles. As fast and fun as the Sprint was, I missed the off road capability of some of my previous bikes. Luckily, Triumph has just jumped in the mid-weight GS game with the Tiger 800XC. The growl of the triple with reasonable off-road capability had me sold. It gained the newest spot in my garage and I have been riding it ever since. Riding has become one of my main passions (outside of skiing) and is a great activity me and my wife can enjoy together. I am so glad that I can be part of this great new club! I look forward to meeting new people who share my passion and the great times we will have!



## Vice President – Paul Adams

I had the good fortune to be born and raised in the Salt Lake Valley where I've spent my life exploring and loving the mountains and deserts surrounding it. Most of that time was spent on foot, skis, snowshoes, snowboards, and pedal bikes.

Motorbikes are a newer way for me to explore and socialize. I grew up wanting to ride and participate in motorcycle culture. Steve McQueen, Evel Knievel, and Arthur Fonzarelli, as well as the wild neighbors next door to my family first gave me the bug. Unfortunately, much like David Barth and many others, my parents were not comfortable with the idea of their teenage boy on top of a speeding motorcycle. Looking back, I'm pretty sure they were aware that I was learning how to ride on my friends' bikes in the large tracts of empty land surrounding our home but still kept a standing policy that I wasn't going to park one in their garage.



My parents' worst fears were cemented into reality for me when I chose to become a paramedic. I've been exposed to the worst possible outcomes involving motorcycle riding which caused a hesitation for me to become more involved. Fortunately, I married into a motorcycle family. My father-in-law, Renn Charlesworth has applied his "subtle" sales pressure on me for years, always tempting the rider in me to come out and play.

I finally gave in to my never ending wish to ride with the purchase of my current and only bike. My 2006 Triumph Bonneville T-100 is a long time, dream come true. I've grown very fond of Triumph's past and current product line as well the rich history and culture surrounding Triumph. I'm glad we now have Utah Riders Association of Triumph in the state to bring like-minded enthusiasts together. I've had a great time working with the Board of Directors and can't wait to meet and ride with new members.



## Secretary - Craig Mossberg

I have been a fan of British bikes and cars since the 1960's. After a long career in the medical manufacturing industry, I was able to retire early a few years ago. I became a corner marshal at the Miller Motorsports Park and my passion for motorsports was rekindled. I purchased a 1960 Austin Healey Sprite which is a lot of fun. Several of my friends were bike people and kept talking about the "smile factor" involved in motorcycling. This plus working the AMA road races and the World Superbike races, led me to Triumph motorcycles.

My first Triumph was a jet black 2010 Bonneville which I equipped with a 2 into 1 Arrow exhaust system. This was a great bike and I hated to give it up but I lusted for a Thruxton. Late in 2013, I bought a Brooklands green 2013 Thruxton. I belong to the Triumph Owners Motorcycle Club, The Utah British Bike Club, the Sports Car Club of America, the Bonneville Austin Healey Club and the Utah Salt Flats Racing Association. I'm happy to be involved in the establishment of the Utah Riders Association of Triumph and look forward to making many new friends and participating in many fun events.

## Treasurer - Travis Soto

I've always loved to tinker with mechanical gadgets and love being in the outdoors. After watching "the Long Way Round" several years ago, I caught the bug and decided to buy my first motorcycle and try my hand at adventure riding. In 2009 I bought a 2006 BMW 650GS. I learned to ride on this bike and had many fun adventures. While this bike was fun I decided to go bigger in 2012, so I sold the 650GS and bought a 2005 BMW1200GS. This bike was beautiful and I had a lot of fun on it. A friend and I did a few adventures close-to-home and we found that wrestling loaded 700 lb. motorcycles off-road was a little more difficult than they make it look on TV. While I still plan on riding to Alaska some day and attending the BMW off-road riding school, last year I sold the 1200GS. After selling the big adventure bike I decided I wanted to try something new so I bought a 2007 Triumph Bonneville T-100. This bike is a blast to ride and it has a much different feel than the BMW's. I'm sure I'll get another BMW down the road, but for the time being I am enjoying riding my Triumph. I am excited to be involved in the establishment of the new club as it's a great way to meet new friends and pursue the shared interests of other like-minded individuals.





## Webmaster – Dave Kizerian

When it comes to motorcycles, I'm a relative newbie. I've always been a "car guy." I've owned, built, broken, and fixed, far too many cars and trucks since I was old enough to drive. My interest in automotive engineering, mechanics and design, has recently overflowed into an interest in motorcycles as well.

In the fall of 2013 I took the MSF course, and then went looking for my first bike, a cruiser, probably rhyming with Marley Jamison. Luckily my loving and thrifty wife steered me towards a more sane first ride, a Kawasaki Vulcan 900 Cruiser. I rode it deep into winter, but kept finding enjoyable roads by my house that went from pavement to dirt, just when they started getting fun.

In January I bought a Triumph Scrambler, and have been amazed at how much fun it is for the kind of riding I do. I'm probably going to keep a cruiser in the garage as well, since my commute is over 70 miles per day, and my wife is more comfortable on the back of the cruiser as well. I have my eye on the new Thunderbird LT, just don't tell my wife.

## Club Ambassador - Jeff Thurmond

The summer after my second year in college I had a job as a gas station attendant, back when someone would actually come out to your car and pump the gas and clean the windshield. The assistant manager had a re-painted 650cc Triumph Trophy; said it was a 1961. He gave me a ride one day and I was instantly in love. Having survived the Lucas electrics of a TR-3 and MGA, I bought the Triumph motorcycle from him a few weeks later and passed my motorcycle license on a borrowed Cushman scooter since the Triumph scared me the first few weeks I had it.

I learned later the motorcycle Steve McQueen rode in the Great Escape was also a 1961 Triumph TR6 Trophy decked out to emulate a BMW R75. The next year I sold the Triumph and got a used Bultaco. Clearly I knew nothing about motorcycles as evidenced by getting a Spanish build off-road bike. I had only fallen a couple of times on the Triumph Trophy and being in Salt Lake City with lots of hills and mountains, I wanted to learn to ride off-road. I spent more time on the ground than on the Bultaco and learned that I had zero off-road ability. Sold it the end of that summer and got a used Triumph Trophy the next year.

Over the years I moved a few times and it seemed there was always a motorcycle in my life. Riding a motorcycle became a part of my life and who I am. I still have no off-road skills but that has not dampened my enjoyment of pavement riding. I am glad I moved back to the Salt Lake area as the roads here are wonderful with little traffic. I clearly have a passion for riding and know that sanity and mental freedom is achieved on two wheels.



# The Last Mile

As the name hints at, this section is the end of the newsletter. We'll use this section to dispense club information, give parting shots, post some pictures, or even profile club members. The news for this time: The Great Club Survey is coming! Keep an eye on your email boxes for a survey that will ask you about what you are looking for in this club. We want this club to be the best in the state and your input will help us get there. We hope to see all of you at this Saturday's ride. Don't be shy to invite friends that ride other brands. While we are "about the brand", as a motorcycle community, we are about the ride. Plus, seeing all those Triumphs may just convince your friend to "trade up" to a Triumph. See you Saturday!



Want to submit an article? Have a suggestion for a future article? Send us an email at: [President@utahrat.com](mailto:President@utahrat.com)