

## The jinx theory

As morbid as it may sound, there are days when I have to remind myself that I could always be worse off. I usually remind myself of an exchange from the Mel Brooks film *Young Frankenstein*:

**Dr. Frankenstein: What a filthy job.**

**Igor: Could be worse.**

**Dr. Frankenstein: How?**

**Igor: Could be raining.**

Of course, at that very instant, the skies open up in an apocalyptic deluge.

In the last 18 months, I have attempted several trips and rallies, only to be stymied, it seems, at every turn. One of these trips, on which I took my then-10-year-old daughter towards the 2012 RA Rally in Colorado, came apart for all my friends to see thanks to the wonderful world of social media. We ended up coming home—separately—on airplanes, with my sidecar rig making the journey from Denver to Manassas in the back of an 18-wheeler.

Just this past weekend, I found myself working the clock-stopping table at the Void 8 rally in Fredericksburg, VA. I should have been out in the rather horrible weather with all the other competitors, but in mid-September I sprained both of my knees in an epic slip-and-fall-and-roll-and-twist-and-fall-some-more.

I'm a bit more thankful than I probably should be that the riding season is coming to a close—though, honestly, for many of us in the capital area, we don't really have an end to our riding season. Instead, it's barely October and I'm already thinking of laying my K1200RS up for the winter to get its clutch replaced.

It's hard to keep a positive mental attitude sometimes, especially when it seems as if the world is conspiring against you to keep you down in the dumps. It's in those precise times that I remind myself—hey, it could be raining. Obviously, this would not have worked had I managed to participate in the Void, as it rained so much that weekend that one of the competitors told the rally masters that he could have used

a bigger rally towel. Perhaps that's a rally joke that you might not get, but if you recall the weather over Columbus Day weekend, it might make sense anyway.

When I was a youngster, my brothers and I would superstitiously refuse to talk about something we were excited about or something we desperately wanted to happen. We were, in our youth, afraid we would jinx whatever it was, that the mere act of uttering the words would somehow muster the forces of the cosmos against us, forever thwarting our carefully-laid plans, our deepest desires.

For 2014, I'm bringing that back. I'm not going to talk about anything I've got planned that involves a motorcycle before it happens. I figure if nobody knows about it, if it all goes south on me, then there won't be anybody to say, "Aw, man, that sucks. Maybe next year." If there's no sympathy, perhaps then the cosmic energies won't rally against me.

If only Carl Sagan were still here to verify my jinx theory...

December brings changes to the club Board of Directors, and also presents opportunity if you are interested in chairing or assisting one of our committees. The new Board will be reviewing committees and appointing chairs as needed.

Keep in mind that even if a current chairperson continues in the role, we can still use your assistance to lighten their load. If you are interested, speak up! Send an email to any board member—the board email addresses are all listed on page 2.

The following is a brief description of each committee and the role within BMWBMW.

### Meetings & Events Committee

The Meetings & Events Committee is responsible for arranging places and programs for general membership and Board of Directors meetings, and for arranging places for club events not covered by other committees, such as the picnic and holiday party. The date and location for all Board and general membership meetings should be published in the monthly newsletter and on the club website at least two months prior to the meeting date. The chairperson for this committee is also responsible for writing an article for the newsletter and on the website two months in advance of any major club activity (i.e. Oktoberfest, picnic, etc.).

### Rides Committee

The Rides Committee is responsible for the planning, organization, and management of regularly scheduled, ride-related activities.

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