



The CRA INSIDER

President's Report

February 2024

The 2024 season is already off to a great start thanks to a robust membership drive. Membership opened on February 1. If you haven't registered, [please do so!](#)

The Board of Directors had a very productive strategic-planning retreat in January, the results of which include a set of strategic priorities for the club, measurable goals for 2024, and a new committee structure that will allow more member participation in the running of the club. We are working with the Stewards to finalize these initiatives and will be prepared to provide details at the next Membership Meeting on March 5.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for New Racer School at [Motoprime](#) on March 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by and bring a friend.

As another reminder, if you can't make a Membership Meeting, you can always reach out to the Board with ideas, questions, or concerns. E-mail info@cra-mn.com, or visit cra-mn.com/wordpress/contact to contact individual Board members directly. We love hearing from you!

Ike Messmore
President

Upcoming Events

Sat. Feb 24 12-3pm	Simply Ride Season Kick-Off and Open House 7550 Washington Ave S Eden Prairie, MN 55334
Wed. Feb 28 7pm	Special Rules Forum - proposed rule amendment Regarding: SuperSport Rule Section 7:10.C Held virtually via GoTo Meeting at this link
Tues. March 5 7-9 pm	BOD and Membership Meeting Held virtually via GoTo Meeting at this link Invitation will also be emailed prior to meeting
Sun. March 17 11am-4pm	New Racer School Motoprime Motorsports 16640 Kenrick Ave, Lakeville, MN 55044
March 23-24 Sat 9am - 7pm Sun 10am - 5pm	Donnie Smith Bike Show St. Paul RiverCentre, 175 Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN Please contact workerliaison@cra-mn.com to volunteer to work the CRA booth!

A complete list of upcoming events can be found at the [CRA's website](#).



2024 Season Schedule:

May 3-5

July 5-7

July 19-21 (RevFest)

Aug. 30-Sept. 1

Sept. 20-22

At Brainerd International Raceway's
Competition Course



**TRACKSIDE
LABS**

Looking to improve your lap times?

Over the 2022 season, Justin Miest of Nielsen Racing utilized the MICHELIN POWER PERFORMANCE tires to break two track records on both configurations of Brainerd International Raceway: the Donnybrook Course with a 1:38.514, and the Competition Course with a 1:34.163.

Without the incredible levels of grip that MICHELIN POWER PERFORMANCE tires provide, and the expert knowledge and experience that Trackside Labs offers, records like these would be nearly impossible to set.

Accelerate your program to the next level!

TRACKSIDE LABS

Brandon Punt

612-562-4395

TracksideLabs@gmail.com



Join the **CRA** at **Simply Ride** for their annual Season Kick-Off & Open House! Let's kick off 2024 with good times as we celebrate the upcoming riding season.

February 24th
12-3pm

Simply Ride
7550 Washington Ave S
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Enjoy delicious food, explore awesome vendors, and get ready for the thrill of the road. Plus, we've got exciting raffles with fantastic prizes! One Free Raffle Ticket per guest.

It's a day of fun, brews, and all things bikes! Mark your calendars and rev up the excitement – we can't wait to celebrate another great year of riding with you. See you there!



Special Rules Forum

You are invited to attend and weigh in at a Special Rules Forum which will be held [virtually at this link](#) on **Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 at 7pm** in regards to the following:

SuperSport Rule Amendment: Section 7:10.C

Current Rule: Stock valves, guides and seats must remain OEM. Valve seat may be recut and multi angle valve jobs are allowed.

Proposed change: Add *Aftermarket replacement valves may be used as long as they are of stock size “diameter” and not lighter weight than OEM.

Rationale: Cost savings. Currently the cost of replacement valves for a 2008+ Yamaha r6 is \$ 2275.00, while for a set of Vance & Hines replacement valves the MSRP cost is \$1060.00. This is a \$1215.00 savings. These aftermarket replacement valves will offer no additional performance gains, simply a more cost effective replacement part. The Vance and Hines replacement valves are also homologated for use in MotoAmerica SuperSport.

Valve specs:

OEM 2008 Yamaha R6: Ex 23.03mm diameter, 14g weight
In 27.01mm diameter, 18g weight

Vance and Hines R6 Valves: Ex 23.02mm diameter, 14g weight

In 27.01mm diameter, 18g weight

We hope to see you there! If you are unable to attend, but would like to weigh in on the discussion, please email your thoughts, comments, and concerns to racerliaison@cra-mn.com.



35th Annual Donnie Smith Bike Show

The CRA is in need of several volunteers to attend the 35th annual Donnie Smith Bike Show on March 23rd & 24th to promote the CRA and inform attendees why the CRA is the best racing experience in the Midwest.

Support Your Club & Help The CRA Grow

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Membership@CRA-MN.com for additional details.

This is a great opportunity to support the CRA and earn extra volunteer points.





59th Annual Flood Run[®]

Support Your Club &
Help The CRA Grow

The CRA is in need of 4 volunteers to attend the 59th annual Flood Run on April 20th to promote the CRA and inform attendees why the CRA is the premier Roadracing club in the Midwest



This is a great opportunity to support the CRA and earn those elusive off season **volunteer points**.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Membership@CRA-MN.com for additional details.

Beach Bar
2030 St. Croix Trail S
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN

Available volunteer shifts:
8am – 12:00pm



2024 Membership

The [2024 CRA Membership Drive](#) will open at 8am on February 1st, 2024

All of the 2023 competition numbers will be reserved for those riders until Friday, March 15th. After March 15th, all unclaimed numbers will be released into the available number pool. The list of reserved numbers can be found here: [2023 CRA Rider Roster](#)

Membership Pricing For 2024

Membership	Price*
Racer Membership • Includes Competition License	\$130.00 +tax
Single Weekend Reciprocating License • <i>Does not include voting rights</i>	\$35.00 +tax
Standard Membership	\$30.00 +tax
Vendor/Business Member • <i>Does not include voting rights</i>	\$30.00 +tax
Volunteer Membership	FREE

*All prices shown on MotorsportReg include sales tax at a rate of 8.375%

Please note that ALL racers & volunteers must complete their membership BEFORE they are allowed to participate in a CRA event at Brainerd International Raceway.

The CRA announces acceptance of 2 of our woman racers to the exclusive Royal Enfield Build.Train.Race program

By: Mike Williams

Build.Train.Race (BTR) is the first all-woman initiative teaching women to build and race their own motorcycles. The program highlights women and motorcycle culture in North America through a unique format that brings together riders from different backgrounds to race in an exclusive series across the United States.

The 2024 BTR Class consists of 5 returning racers and 8 new riders – 2 of whom, **Miranda Cain** and **Kira Knebel**, hail from our own CRA!

I was able to connect with Miranda and Kira while they were busy at their first build event in Dallas. Here are a few excerpts from our interview:

BTR sounds like an amazing experience. Can you share with us what is involved, what you will be building, and where you will be racing?



Miranda C: The program is composed of 3 parts: Build.Train.Race. The Build: where we take a Royal Enfield Continental 650 in street trim and chop away! We remove a few stock parts and with partnerships from some amazing companies, we transform them into race-prepped bikes.

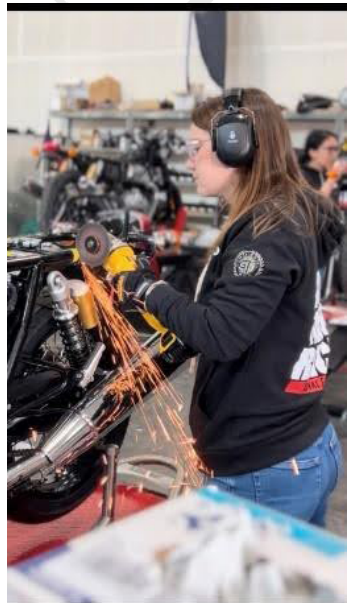
Kira K: Train: we will meet in several weeks for training sessions on track with seasoned coaches and peer coaches. We learn technique, riding skills, how to race, and how to be in front of media and cameras.



Race: we participate in several MotoAmerica weekends in our own sanctioned event, racing against our teammates. (These races ARE live streamed and also uploaded to YouTube later). We are going to some amazing tracks this year - Barber, Road America, the Ridge, and Mid-Ohio!

How does being part of the Royal Enfield Build. Train.Race program advance your personal racing goals?

Miranda C: I've closely watched the past teams and this program has been a goal of mine since I started racing with CRA. The experience and knowledge that is shared with us is going to be incredible. I will learn so much from my teammates and everyone Royal Enfield has brought in for us.





Kira K: I have already exceeded whatever sort of dreams I thought were possible, so I really don't know how far I can go. Even by September 2023, I had no idea it was even possible for me to be a part of BTR. This is an incredible opportunity, and I'd really like to treat it as more of a stepping stone to, perhaps, something

greater. There is no value that could be calculated for the support, coaching, networking, and experience that this program is capable of.

How has your experience with the CRA prepared you to earn a spot on this prestigious team?

Miranda C: I am typically the one who works on my bike for CRA and that experience directly translates to BTR in the sense that I am my own mechanic for this program. While we are provided mechanics to help guide us, they are not there to do the work. Having the experience of being a one-woman team at CRA is definitely helpful when there will be 12 other racers getting ready at the same time. On top of my mechanical skills, I have been a huge supporter for the other women at CRA and I feel as though BTR is a fantastic outlet to show other women that racing is possible!



Kira K: The amazing guys with Fisk Brothers Racing went above and beyond to help me feel confident in my set-up. I can stumble through a lot of the mechanics myself, but nothing beats the support network of a great club. Even just being pitted with a legit team with fast people and having that exposure to what they talk about, how they



think when they ride, the advice they can give, it all adds up. I was able to apply it to my riding and continued to claw forward, making up crazy amounts of ground in my first year of racing! CRA has a special energy, and it synergizes with what racing is really supposed to be about... and it is definitely more than just riding hard and winning trophies.

Why is BTR important to attract more women racers to the track (and CRA)?

Miranda C: Seeing as this is an all-woman team composed of women who vary in age, race, geography, and attitude, goes to show that anybody can race! There is support for each and every one of us and the paddock has always been a welcoming spot for those wanting to learn and race! I strongly believe that the program, which started as a team for women with little to no racing experience, is a huge gateway into the world of roadracing.



Kira K: It's not atypical for women to grow up in a more traditional way, where we may not have had access or support from our family in any realm of racing or mechanics. I knew nothing about motorcycles when I first started, and likewise, I had never been exposed to any kind of race event prior to my first time racing! I know that I felt like I might never be able to race or even be good at riding fast. BTR really builds on a support network with amazing coordinators and is built around absolute love for the future of the sport. And what everyone is dedicated to prove is that women CAN do it and we absolutely deserve to be here.

What advice do you have for women who are interested in becoming racers?



Miranda C: Come to the track! Come meet the racers! I love when other women are interested in racing and have questions for me! I enjoy passing on knowledge that I have been told or that I learned myself.

Kira K: It can feel really intimidating at first, but the best thing you can do

is just jump in head first and trust yourself and the community. There will always be amazing people who will help support you through any learning or guidance you may need, you just need to ask. We might throw down when the visors are shut, but in the paddock we are family.



Will we see you at CRA events at BIR this year?

Miranda C: Yes! I plan to be at all 5 rounds, but I may dial it back this year... maybe not. You'll have to wait and see!

Kira K: It's going to be a very busy year, and as long as I can get the additional time off work, I'll be at as many CRA events as I can. I'm definitely planning on Round 1!

The CRA is so proud of Miranda and Kira leading the way, advocating for **“More Women Racers, Racing More!”**

In fact, this is a focus for the CRA in 2024, and we want to hear from you! This year we want to create more opportunities to engage more women racers with the CRA. We will be scheduling a planning session soon for anyone who wants to join in and help grow our CRA community of women racers. If interested in participating, please reach out directly to me, Mike Williams, racerliaison@cra-mn.com or call me at 651.408.2906.

For more information about BTR, check out their website - <https://buildtrainrace.com/>, Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/build.train.race/> and I know both Miranda https://www.instagram.com/mcain_186/ and Kira <https://www.instagram.com/broitomoto/> would love to chat anytime and for you to follow their journey as well!

Photos courtesy of Build.Train.Race.



Special Announcement!

By: Miranda Cain

We are excited to announce that InGearMoto has a special Contingency program for our new racers of 2024!

Any new racer who attends the New Rider School at MotoPrimo on Sunday, March 17th AND graduates with their race license within 2024 gets a \$50 gift card to the InGearMoto shop!

Each racer MUST complete BOTH parts in order to receive this promotion - no exceptions. So tell your friends, the time is now to get their license and let's go racing!



The chiefs would also like to share some stats from the 2023 season and our goals for the club in 2024...



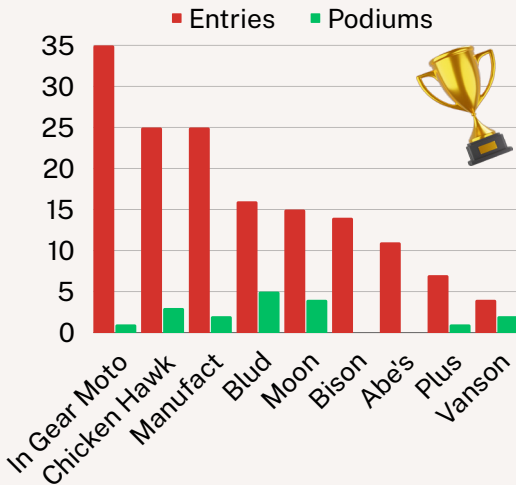
2023 CONTINGENCY RECAP

2023 SEASON STATS

175 Racers	2100 
5 Events	Finishes

CONTINGENCY RESULTS

45 Racers	152 Entries
8 Vendors	18 Podiums
4 Manufact	





2024 CONTINGENCY GOALS

**PROMOTE
ENGAGE
CELEBRATE!**

**2X Racers
(>90)**

**2X Vendors
(>16)**

MORE! MORE! MORE!

- Newsletter
Spotlights
- Racer Registration
- Tech Barn
- New Racer School
- Vendor Promotion
- Podium
Presentations
- and More!

If you have any feedback, we would love to hear from you, our participants, on ways and ideas to make our programs/ procedures better!

Wide Eyed

An essay by: Will Markkula

I'm Will Markkula, a Featherweight rider, and I compete in CRA. I am 15 years old. I was able to get my new rider's license last year in May at Brainerd International Raceway. I come from a motocross background. I started on a Yamaha PW50 when I was 4 years old. I started racing when I was 10 years old in 2018. Now, I compete on a YZ250f and a YZ125 all over Minnesota in District 23. My goal is to qualify for the National Loretta Lynn's in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee.

My dad raced CRA when he was in high school. (He graduated in '93.) In his second year, he was the Most Improved Novice Rider of the Year. He raced on an FZ600 his first year and a FZR600 in his second year. Like all dads, he wanted to show me to follow in his footsteps. I'm sure the second he knew I was a boy he wanted me to race, which is what happened. He just made sure it was what I wanted first. It was exactly what I wanted.

This May, I rented a bike from CRA's Brad Kreller (my dad went to high school with him) to get my new rider's license. It was a Kawasaki Ninja 250. I got to see all



the conditions. The highlight of my weekend was racing in the rain. I love mud races for motocross and I can say the same about road racing!! I got 2nd in the rain!! It was an 18 lap race.

Everyone was crashing out of the race but the flaggers were quick to start flagging so everyone was able to slow down and have caution when passing the crashes. The medics were even quicker than the flaggers. Not a single person was injured. On lap 14, I was coming around Turn 5 the fastest I had the entire day. I didn't even let off, which might have been why I was sent sliding into the grass on the outside. The medics were out there and had me checked out before I was even off the ground. I finished 2nd without finishing the race because everyone else crashed. This was my first road race.

In September, I was given the opportunity to race an R3 under the Fisk Brothers Racing tent. After the first session, I was running a 2:23 lap time. In my last race I ran a 2:04 lap time. They showed me what their team is all about. They showed me nothing but kindness. Any questions I had about the bikes or the track or anything at all were answered. They were some of the nicest people I've ever met. In my final race, I left it all on the track. I pulled the hole shot and led all the way to Turn 3. I was in second for a while and ultimately finished 3rd!! I also knocked my lap time down by almost 20 seconds. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience.



Say Hello to Your Next Race Bike

Available to any CRA racer with an expert license, Krämer Motorcycles USA invites you to try one of our bikes at your next race round, for free.

*Oh, you betcha!



*Subject to availability. One ride per racer. CRA race rounds only. Krämer Motorcycles USA is not responsible for helping you take home all your trophies. Contact joe@kramer-motorcycles.com for requests.

Krämer Motorcycles USA - 114 1st Avenue West, West Fargo, ND 58078 - 701-367-2258

Let's Get To Know Rob Oliva!

By: Lindsay Ingebritson

Rob has been a racer with the CRA since 2000. He's had a break or two in there but he always finds his way back to where the sport started for him. It's great to have you back, Rob! If any of you reading this are on social media and [follow the CRA](#) (which you all should!), you've probably noticed an increase in amazing content being put out there by us. That's because Rob has started to volunteer as well by helping promote the club through social media. Believe it or not, he grew up very introverted and lacked a lot of ability to hold effective social interactions. Rob says, "So now I overcompensate."

When Rob is not at one of our CRA race weekends he manages a network of Powersports dealers for the top Powersports company in the world. He also owns LM2, allowing himself and others to live their adventures. They have a race team (of course), but also rent track bikes, and have their own line of coffee (note to self - ask Rob about his coffee) and apparel. In the winter he rides snowmobiles out west in the mountains. Rob also travels the world with SPD Action Travel, experiencing different cultures and working on checking off bucket list tracks that he's always wanted to ride.

Rob has raced in AMA, CCS, MRA, WERA, and Moto ST. He says that each club has its unique characteristics, but the CRA has a very unique vibe where although the competition is strong, the racing is almost secondary to the camaraderie. Rob races with the CRA to get the best of time with friends while also getting to test his skills. Rob encourages everyone to experience a few new organizations.



Try some different tracks. You'll gain a great perspective on just how special the CRA is as a club and as an exceptional collection of outstanding people. Rob has a lot of pride when he tells people about his time with the CRA. The feeling is mutual, Rob. The CRA has a lot of pride in you being a part of us!



Let's Get To Know YOU!

Want to be featured in our next newsletter?

Submit this [form](#) and email a picture to Lindsay Ingebritson at treasurer@cra-mn.com so we can get to know YOU!





GEAR UP & RIDE | BOBSCYCLE.COM



Central Roadracing Association

**RIDER
SUPPORT**

15%

**OFF ANY
Product Over
\$150**

USE CODE : BCSCRA23

- Limit 1 Discount Per Memeber
- Expires 9/31/2023
- Excludes Some Select Brands

WHY SHOP AT BOB'S

- Top Rated Customer Service
- Gearing You Up Since 1971
- Employee Owned Not Corporate
- Free Shipping On Orders Over \$99



LOW PRICE GUARANTEE!

**Find It Cheaper Online &
We Will Match or Beat Their Price**

See Our Website For Details

HOW TO FIND US!

Our Retail Store:

**65 W. Viking Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55117**

Local 651.482.8181

800.437.2627

On-Line:

E.mail bobs@bobscycle.com

BOBSCYCLE.COM

GEAR UP & RIDE

Follow Us On



© 2023 Bob's Cycle Supply, Inc.

The CRA would like to give a **HUGE THANK YOU**
to **CORIN GAUER** for creating this promotional
flyer for the upcoming race season.

CRA
CENTRAL ROADRACING ASSOCIATION

2024 ROADRACING
SEASON

BRAINERD
INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

FREE ADMISSION FOR
VOLUNTEERS

MAY 3-5 JULY 5-7 JULY 19-21
AUG. 30 - SEPT. 1 SEPT. 20-22

New Racers Welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CRA-MN.COM

CRA
CENTRAL ROADRACING ASSOCIATION
www.cra-mn.com