



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



January, 2017

Volume 41, Issue #1

Founded 1976 - Charter #83, BMW Motorcycle Owners of America



Dessert Social at the Home of Linda & Doug Tewksbury

left to right: Carolyn Gardener, Lynne Clark, Bob Metzger

photo by Doug Tewksbury

Adventure with Ambassadors

David Peterson leads an increasing number of riders to awesome places of food.

See page 12 of this issue.

Want a Date?

Dan Russell chums up with the club's founding members.

See page 8 of this issue.

Dessert Social

Linda Tewksbury recounts the delights and disasters of the season.

See page 10 of this issue.

BMWRO President's Message

by Bob Metzger



Rolling On... Conspicuity

As we become acquainted over the next several years I have a confession I would like to make right up front. I'm a teacher. I have always been a teacher, and I always will be a teacher in one form or another. There, you have it! Lindy and I have one magnet on our refrigerator at home. It simply says, in big bold letters, TEACH!

Many of you know, I'm an instructor with the Team Oregon Motorcycle Safety Program. I teach a lot, hundreds of hours a year. Why? The answer is simple; I'm a teacher. My Team Oregon job has two objectives: teach street skills and street strategies to new and returning riders to give them a basic skill set before they venture out onto the street. It can be a cruel world out there as most of you know. Not only do I get to touch the 12 people in the class, but my job also extends to their loved ones; family, friends, and co-workers. If each of those 12 students only knows 100 people, I get to touch them all in one class. That, dear members, is pretty awesome!

Expect a semi-steady diet of street skills and strategies over the coming months.

Now, let's get to the "meat" of this month's column. Many riders this time of year hang-up the gear, many of us don't. Regardless, this is a great time of the season to go to the bookshelf, pull off one of our motorcycle books in the collection, and refresh our memories of best motorcycling practices. I do. A few

weeks ago, Lindy (my wife, best friend, and wing "man") wondered aloud why her bike had less rearward conspicuity than mine. I didn't have a ready answer, at least none that she would instantly buy. She briefly mumbled something about a life insurance policy. I set off to correct the issue by installing high intensity LED brake lamps to her R1200R. The Phasor P3 lamps from Skeen Design are truly amazing, and the topic of this first column was **bttrn: conspicuity**. Let's discuss a few ways to achieve better conspicuity.

Gear

A well-known fact: being seen reduces crashes. Most multi-vehicle crashes between motorcycles and automobiles occur at intersections. Riders need to be especially vigilant and communicate with other motorists. The easiest passive communication can be achieved by wearing bright gear. Take a look at the photograph below—Courtesy Team Oregon and MN DOT. How many motorcyclists do you see? Which rider did you see first? The majority of you will have seen the rider wearing hi-viz first.

Lane Placement

When riding, be aware of your lane placement. Remember to choose a lane position where you accomplish two objectives simultaneously: 1) **see** and 2) **be seen**. Don't hide in traffic. Position yourself where other motorists expect to see you. Remember, the first words often spoken after a crash by the motorist is, "I didn't even see you!" As if all this wasn't enough, don't forget to leave yourself an escape route and a space cushion between yourself and other vehicles.



Rear Facing Conspicuity

Let's be honest. Unless you are riding a high-end touring machine, most tail lights on a motorcycle are marginal at best. There are more ways to encourage and distract motorists than ever before. Riders are concerned with being rear ended by a distracted motorist. I know I am. Luckily there are many ways to add to your "6 o'clock" conspicuity. Least expensive is just manually flashing your brakes while stopped. Flashing lights attract more attention. Add some retro-reflective tape. Cheap. Add, more lighting (Skene P3 LED shown \$135.00). The new LED's are bright and have programmable flashing. With a little bit of help from a friend, if you feel uncomfortable splicing into your bikes wiring harness, the job is easy and effective. Luckily LED lamps draw so little power, they are invisible to your BMW CanBus system. After adding LED lamps to the rear of Lindy's scooter as well, she reported that motorists seemed to be giving her a bit more space from behind.



Daylight Running Lamps (DRL)

I've read numerous studies and it generally seems that researchers can't definitively state (within statistical certainty) that DRL's greatly increase rider conspicuity. Here is my take on DRL's. Low beam



head lamps are generally the least effective. If DRL's are used, they potentially increase rider conspicuity, with yellow being most effective. A recent NHTSA study claimed that as more vehicles employ DRL's, it decreases the effectiveness of motorcycle DRL's as we become part of the norm. So what about some good old anecdotal evidence? Mixed feelings. At least once a week, in daylight conditions, I will have an oncoming vehicle, flash their bright lights at me. Great. You see me. Mission accomplished! However, the other day—while decked out in hi-viz gear, LED's blazing—I had a motorist violate my path of travel. All that past practice using maximum in-line breaking paid off. All things considered, I choose to use DRL's and give myself an edge at being seen.

I look forward to seeing, and meeting many of you at our next club gathering at Driftwood Shores in Florence on Saturday January 21st. Put it on your calendar, and don't forget to go to the club's website and register. Until then, head and eyes up!

Bob





BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

- Event:** **January 2017 Beach Bash**
Date/Time: January 20–22, 2017
Place: Driftwood Shores Resort, Florence, OR 988416 1st Avenue **(541-997-8263)**
Description: The annual January meeting and banquet, will be held at Driftwood Shores Resort. Driftwood Shores Resort is located along the beach with easy access to the shoreline. For those wishing to spend either one night or two at the hotel, there has been a block of rooms set aside for the event at a discounted group rate at individuals own expense. The resorts amenities include an indoor swimming pool, hot tub and on-site restaurant. All rooms face the ocean for beautiful views and may be reserved until January 9, 2017 as follows;
Single Queen with microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker for \$95 per night plus tax or
Double Queen 2-bedroom suite with full kitchen; sleeps 4 at rate of \$135 per night +tax
The club has reserved a suite with a full kitchen and a fireplace for a social time prior to the event. Social Time in Hospitality Suite: January 21, 2017 starting at 4:30 PM and following the banquet and meeting.
Banquet: January 21, 2017 starting at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
Menu: Fresh mixed greens with Chef's choice of dressing. Maple glazed wild caught salmon with alder smoked salt, Oregon chardonnay chicken with gruyere cheese and caramelized onions, pepper flat iron steak with Rogue Creamery smokey blue cheese butter. Served with Yukon gold mashed potatoes, garlic roasted vegetables, herbed and seeded rolls with butter.
Meeting: Following the dinner, the first club meeting for 2017 will be held, introducing the new club officers. Golden Rider Award will be announced.
Cost: **Member and Associate Member Cost:** \$15 per person (the club subsidizes the other half of the meal cost).
Non-member cost: \$30 per person
Registration for the event closes January 13, 2017
Hotel reservations at group rate ends January 9, 2017.
Contact: Linda Tewksbury, bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

- Event:** **Annual Winter Tour Show**
Date/Time: February 25, 2017 — 6:00 pm — 10:00 pm
Place: Premier Motogear, 414 Queen Ave SW, Albany, Oregon
Description: Kim & Janice Dorsing share their epic moto adventure in person with pictures. See full page poster in this issue.
Contact: Deb Weber, **541-926-2107** or email to premiermotogear@comcast.net

- Event:** **Chief Joseph Rally 2017**
Date/Time: June 23-25, 2017
Place: Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, Oregon
Description: The Fairgrounds has it all: green grass camping, hot showers, clean restrooms, a large Pavilion building for meals, improved **Wi-Fi** and an RV Park along the John Day River—doesn't get any sweeter. All within walking distance of downtown hotels, motels, shopping and restaurants & John Day's own micro-brewery & pub.
Contact: Doug Tewksbury at **541-543-7320** or bmwro.rallymaster@gmail.com.

Non Sanctioned Events

- Event:** **Bob Marley Birthday**
Date/Time: February 5, 2017
Place: Fort Hoskins Historic Site, Philomath, OR
Description: This is **YEAR THIRTEEN!** It's a lot of fun. This is a **NO HOST** event [*Which means: No Host, No Rules, No Invitation. You assume all personal risk*]. Riders who want to eat something: Bring **YOUR** own food, plates, utensils, coffee cup and music to participate.
On site: a picnic table, charcoal and grill to prepare your celebratory dinner. If you want to share food, bring something everyone will enjoy!
Contact: Roger Paquette, **541-852-0434**



- Event:** **The Airheads Beemer Club Death Valley Rendezvous**
Date/Time: February 17–20, 2017
Place: Furnace Creek Campground, Highway 190, Death Valley, CA
Description: This year marks the 25th anniversary of the "Oldest and Lowest of all Airhead Rendezvous," and—as in the previous 24 years—we will brave the unpredictable weather of February to gather at the Furnace Creek Campground in Death Valley National Park on President's Day weekend.

Contact: Gary Jackson (So. California Air Marshal)
619-559-0108, SoCalAirmarshal@gmail.com
John Covington (Central California Air Marshal)
714-309-8077, jwcov@yahoo.com or
you can just direct them to the web site Event
calendar which has the above information.

Recurring Events

Event: **Central Oregon 2nd Saturday**

Date/Time: Second Saturday of each month

Location: Various ride and lunch locations in the
Central Oregon Region.

Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
alicelebarron@hotmail.com

Event: **Central Western Friday Lunch**

Date/Time: Every Friday around noon-ish

Place: Various places around Eugene. Check the events
calendar [onLine](#) for locations.

Event: **Central Western Region
1st Saturday Ambassador
Ride**

Date/Time: Various dates and times. See the event calendar
on the web site for more information.

Location: European Motorcycles of Western Oregon

Description: Various routes.

Contact: Jim Breen, **541-912-4500** or
jpbior@aol.com or
Bob Metzger **608-642-1186**
bobmetzger51@gmail.com

Event: **Southern Oregon 1st Saturday**

Date/Time: First Saturday of each month

Location: Various lunch/breakfast and ride locations for
southern Oregon members.

Contact: Dan Hall, dnehall@frontier.com
Mark Collier **541-499-1395**
mcollier5895@gmail.com

Event: **NW Oregon 1st Saturday Ride**

Date/Time: First Saturday of each month

Location: Various breakfast and ride locations in the
Northwest Oregon Region.

Description: Finding the twisties and connecting with our
membership for grins and food sharing.

Contact: David Peterson **503-327-5592**
dwpeterson01@yahoo.com
Mike Ripley **503-789-2966**
gobeezer@live.com

Event: **Doc Wong Riding Clinic**

Date/Time: Second Saturday of each Month, 9:00 am

Location: Mr. Ed's Moto: 414 Queen Avenue, Albany

Contact: Don Weber **541-791-5142**
don@mredsmoto.com

2017 Pacific Northwest Four Corners Tour

**Come experience the very best of the
Pacific Northwest motorcycling events this
summer!**

We're pleased to announce the very first **Pacific
Northwest Four Corners Tour**, where we've linked
this summer's rallies of the BMW Riders of Oregon,
the Washington State BMW Riders, Bavarian
Mountain West Riders of Idaho, and the BeeCee
Beemers of British Columbia.

Those riders who attend all four rallies will
receive awards and recognition from the Clubs and
the MOA; but the best reward will be the fantastic
riding opportunities and fabulous scenery of this
beautiful corner of our two countries.

Pick up your Tour packet at the **Chief Joseph
Rally**, June 23–25 in John Day, Oregon. Experience
the unique geology, scenery, and roads of Central
and Eastern Oregon. Then, the week after the MOA
National Rally in Salt Lake City Utah, ride north
to Republic, Washington for the **Cascade Country
Rendezvous** 20–23 July in Republic, Washington.
Next, join us in beautiful and remote Grandjean,
Idaho in the heart of the Sawtooth Mountains for
the **Stanley Stomp**, 10–13 August. For the grand
finale, journey north to fabulous British Columbia
(bring your passport!) for the **BeeCee Beemers
Annual Rally** in Nakusp, near the heart of the
Canada's Columbia Mountains, 17–20 August.

- All four events feature excellent paved
road touring and a plethora of unpaved GS
adventuring.
- Certificates and other prizes will be awarded for
attending two, three, and all four rallies.

Details and additional information will be
available on each club's web sites after the New Year.
Or contact Dan Muir, President Washington State
BMW Riders at president@wsbmrw.org.



THE BEEMER BEAT

NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Ken Riebeling, Eugene, OR. 1993 R100gs



Bylaws, Policies & Guidelines

If you are interested in any of the above, just visit our website and download. www.bmwro.org

FIND THE BMWRO NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM ONLINE:

[HTTP://BMWRO.ORG](http://BMWRO.ORG)

BMWRO Club Officials

President:

Robert Metzger (608-642-1186)
bmwro.pres@gmail.com

Vice President:

Scot Lamper, (503-706-1601)
bmwro.vp@gmail.com

Secretary:

Alice LeBarron, (541-647-7194)
bmwro.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Linda Tewksbury (541-543-7943)
bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

BEEMER BEAT Editor:

Forest McGregor, (541-761-2320)
bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Doug Tewksbury
bmwro.web@gmail.com

Club Liaison

Doug Tewksbury
bmwro.news@gmail.com

Activities

Scot Lamper, (503-706-1601)
bmwro.vp@gmail.com

Ambassador Program Welcomes New Members

Ambassadors for the Four Regions are:

Central Western Region

(South of Salem, including Eugene & Oakland from the coast to the Cascades).

Jim Breen—541-912-4500

jpbior@aol.com

Bob Metzger—608-642-1186

bobmetzger51@gmail.com

Central & Northeast Region

(East of The Dalles, including I-84 to Ontario, south of Columbia River to US 20, Baker City & including US 20 to LaPine. Includes Camp Sherman/Bend/Redmond/Sisters & Prineville area).

Alice LeBarron—541-647-7194

alicelebarron@hotmail.com

Southern Region

(Oakland, OR into California. The coast through Klamath Falls).

Dan Hall—541-862-7411

dnehall@frontier.com

Mark Collier—541-499-1395

mcollier5895@gmail.com

Northwest Region

(from Longview, WA south through Salem, OR, the coast to the Cascades, including The Dalles).

David W. Peterson—503-327-5592

dwpeterson01@yahoo.com & www.wfodave.smugmug.com

Michael Ripley—503-648-0578

gobeezer@live.com

Please call or email your regional Ambassador for club outings and rally information.
We can assist you with learning more about BMWRO

BMW Riders of Oregon and Mr. Ed's Moto **present:**

THE 13TH ANNUAL WINTER TOUR SHOW

On Saturday, February 25, 2017, Kim & Janice Dorsing will be presenting their retirement ride adventure. Starting from Portland, Oregon, Kim and Janice set out on an epic 87-day, 16,000-mile ride around the United States (and some Canada) on their K1600GTL BMW.

Enjoy the fun times as they share their experience! What better way to start planning your 2017 adventures!

Doors Open at 6 PM

Show Starts at 6:30pm

Refreshments will be served.

This is a **free** event, but space is limited, so mark it on your calendar and **RSVP to:**

Deb Weber: **541-926-2107** or email to **premiermotogear@comcast.net** to reserve a seat.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017

Location

Please RSVP!

Premier Motogear, 414 Queen Ave SW, Albany, Oregon

<http://www.mredsmoto.com/map.htm>

Want a Date?

by Dan Russell

"Sam, when did you start riding?" I queried.

Not Sam, but other BMWRO members, piped in: "Before there was dirt." Sam paused for a chuckle between popcorn bites. Additional playful comments referred to the era of life's emergence from primordial swamps. Sam Olsen and his wife, Karen, founded BMWRO in 1976, so they actually are from the Darwinian ages of BMWRO.

BMWRO CW (BMW Riders of Oregon Central West) holds weekly lunch gatherings at a variety of area restaurants. The lunches are a relatively new feature of BMWRO, having begun about three or four years ago. So far, BMWRO CW is the only region within BMWRO that has established this routine. Members, former members, and their spouses enjoy sharing motorcycling and other stories. Some attendees arrive at the destination like reliable BMW's. Other members are more like some



Sam Olson

by Dan Russell



**Linda Tewksbury, Barbara Mitchell, Karen Olsen,
Linda Seaman, Galdys Hasse**

by Dan Russell

of our earlier bikes, arriving when they can.

"1972," Sam answers my question about when he started riding.

"Was that on a BMW?" I ask.

"No, it was a Honda," Sam clarifies. "The first BMW was my wife's in 1972; and, then I got one a couple months later."

Fred Hasse informs us that he had a Honda first, too. He tells us that a friend with a BMW took Fred's Honda for a spin, and then pulled up alongside of Fred. "I wouldn't ride that piece of s _ _ _!" his friend declared.

"I then bought a BMW," Fred laughs.

Sam's health has forced him to give up riding, but he still "rides" every Friday by joining fellow BMWRO riders just as if he were at a motorcycle campout. Those of us who are fortunate enough to still climb onto our bikes sometimes ride them to these lunches, sometimes we choose four wheels, especially if the restaurant is close to home or the weather is inclement. Always, we enjoy the

richness of interacting with other BMW Riders of Oregon.

Inactive riders tell of trips they've made. These trips become possible new destinations for current riders. Some riders who are slowing down share their favorite roads with us as well. This generational transfer of knowledge assists those who are increasing their explorations. Gene Fessenbecker did that just a few months ago for some interesting GS roads.

"What was your favorite trip, Sam?"

"Alaska," he recalls. "Rode to Fairbanks, then Circle City, then took a flight up over the Arctic Circle."

Circle City, Alaska—more accurately named just Circle, AK—is 160 miles northeast of Fairbanks at the end of the Steese Highway. Circle was named by 19th century gold miners who believed that the town was above the Arctic Circle, but it actually sits about 50 miles to the south.

Circle, established in 1893 along the Yukon River, rapidly



Circle, AK 1899 & Circle, AK 2008

Public Domain



thrived with 700–1200 (reports vary) people in the 1896. Gold had been discovered nearby. Saloons, dance halls, a library, a school, a newspaper, and even an opera house were all there. Circle almost as quickly became a ghost town when the population plummeted after gold was discovered in the Klondike and Nome (1897 and 1899, respectively). In 2010, the population was holding steady at 104.

The Steese Highway, according to “The Milepost”, was completed in 1927 and is a designated Scenic Byway. It’s reportedly 161 miles long, with the last half being mostly gravel except for sections by populations. It ends at Circle.

Perhaps, Sam’s comments about his favorite trip will inspire you

to put some unique adventure on your own horizon; maybe, even Circle, AK? Regardless, it’s a joy to hear these stories from those who’ve traveled before us, and a privilege to share the table with the founders of BMWRO.

BMWRO CW’s luncheons provide a great opportunity for all of our riders. They are a splendid format for riders to enjoy the camaraderie regardless of their current riding status. I’m reminded

of the old adage: “A family that dines together stays together.” If you’re a BMWRO member of any region, come join us. Lunches are every Friday with few exceptions, and the Event Calendar lists the locations. We look forward to seeing you there.



Gladys Hasse, Doug Tewksbury, Fred Hasse, Gene Fessenbecker, Tom Mitchell, Sam Olsen

by Dan Russell



Dessert Social— December 2016 at Tewksbury Social Center

by Linda Tewksbury

December eleventh's dessert social welcomed in the new club president, **Bob Metzger**, allowing a number of old friends and a few new friends, a chance to sample a number of different desserts while enjoying the company of others. A total of thirty people attended from as far south as Roseburg, as far north as Aumsville and as far north-west as Lincoln City. As usual for this time of year, the Cascade Mountains had snow making road conditions from the east of the valley hazardous for travel.

Thankfully, the "worst-ice-storm-in-decades" for the area did not happen until three days after the get-together. As many have heard, the Santa Clara area of Eugene—where we live—was among the hardest hit from the storm that took place. Due to the accumulation of ice on local trees, limbs as well as whole trees came down from the weight, taking out power lines. To my knowledge, no



From left to right: (sitting) Sandi Godsil, Linda Paquette, Carl Boulden, Karen Olsen, Roger Paquette, Jim Breen, (back of the head) Tom Mitchell

photo by Dan Russell

one was injured as a result of the ice storm, although a large number of people were inconvenienced with power outages.

Although Doug and I were fortunate to not be among those that lost power and heat, several of our fellow BMWRO members in the area did. Some lost power for a few hours while others lost power for an entire week. Many a

brave soul ventured out after the storm, including our neighbor, who described trees down blocking roads, including River Road—the main roadway through our area of town. Doug and I felt that our backyard was far enough to travel. As we would stand outside and hear limbs crack and break, we would hear an occasional thud. We would simply turn to each other and say "there goes another tree." Having lived in the country most of my life, Doug and my sons have teased me for decades, saying if there is ever a holocaust, mom is supplied for at least a year, so I did not need to venture out.

For those who were able to attend the Dessert Social, there were desserts galore—more than enough cakes, pies, brownies, cookies and candies. I am sure that of those present, many reached their sugar intake limit—enough to sustain them for some time to come. Conversations were abundant and spirits were high as we approached the Christmas



season. It is always so wonderful to have riders and their significant others join together in a relaxed festive atmosphere, with the prospects for a whole new year ahead of us.

That being said I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always I hope many of you will join in and enjoy the various club



Sandi Godsfil, Shiela Boulden and Linda Tewksbury

photo by Doug Tewksbury



Lindy Metzger and Gabriela Angulo Machuca

photo by Doug Tewksbury



Mary Cruse and Susan Gosser

photo by Doug Tewksbury

events in between your rides. As always stay safe and watch out for the other guy.

Attendees:

Gabriela Angulo Machuca	Secondary Members
Carl Boulden	BMWRO Member
Shelia Boulden	BMWRO Member
James Breen	BMWRO Member
Jeremy Brosnahan	BMWRO Member
Lynne Clark	BMWRO Member
Mary Cruse	Guest of Member
Tim Cruse	BMWRO Member
Gene Fessenbecker	Guest of Member
Arturo Gardener	BMWRO Member
Carolyn Gardener	Guest of Member
Sandi Godsfil	Secondary Members
Tim Godsfil	BMWRO Member
Skip Gosser	BMWRO Member
Susan Gosser	BMWRO Member
Laura Keir	BMWRO Member
Louise Melton-Breen	BMWRO Member
Robert Metzger	BMWRO Member
Lindy Metzger	Guest of Member
Barbara Mitchell	Guest of Member
Tom Mitchell	BMWRO Member
Karen Olsen	BMWRO Member
Sam Olsen	BMWRO Member
Linda Paquette	Guest of Member
Roger Paquette	BMWRO Member
Dan Russell	BMWRO Member
Renata Russell	Youth age 12 and younger
Linda Seaman	Guest of Member
Doug Tewksbury	BMWRO Member
Linda Tewksbury	BMWRO Member



The editor wants to send a shout-out to the Tewksburys for taking on so many club responsibilities—Treasurer, Web-Guru, and Chief Joseph Rally Facilitators—and still do even more at every opportunity to pull the club together for fun and frivolous functions like this.

NW Ambassadors Ride Report – December 2016

David Peterson #90113
Michael Ripley #191665

We've made a lot of the weather over the past few months. Iffy prospects have held down our head count. We expected more of the same as we wrapped up the year. But combine prospects of sun with dry pavement and out from the woodwork they crawled—nineteen in all, on seventeen motorcycles. It may have been the weather...or the prospect of goodies. For today we were heading to Amity and the Briggittine Monastery—home of some of the region's finest fudge and truffles.

Timing is everything when laying out a ride. **David** and **Mike** had pre-riden the week before, only to find parts of OR-153 under six feet of water. Another side road—the Grand Island Loop—had a problem with a wee pothole or two. They weren't deterred, but discretion is an important trait for a leader when you have sixteen people in tow.



After greetings and a briefing, it was time to hit the road. David and **Diane** took the lead, while in no particular order, **Kim Dorsing and Janice Mathern, Steven Polansky, Ric Holderbaum, Tom Jackson, Neal Malagamba, Louie Robida, David Morganstern, Greg Straub, Steve Woodward (*all the way from Corvallis*), **Dana White**, and first-timers **Jim Howard, Eric Lintner, Doug Shapiro, Craig Spearing, and Ken Spencer**, queued up to follow. Mike rounded out our parade,**

amber lights ablaze. Mike was so far back that David had to correct for curvature of the earth just to see him, but see him he did—no one was lost along the way.

Regular riders know that David hates to take the same way twice—a severe constraint when departing from the same location month-in and month-out. He learned this month that too much meandering in suburbia can get a little tedious, even if it's a different path. Eventually we made our way to Ladd Hill Road where, with one left turn, tract homes and traffic gave way to a two-lane ribbon bounding over farmed hills. This is why we ride.

The road extends south, until the Willamette gets in the way. This is not a bad thing, as Wilsonville Road follows the river east and west. We headed west, enjoying one of the best main thoroughfares greater Portland offers to motorcyclists. Eventually, the road west tees into OR-219. Our itinerary demanded we stay on the west side of the river, so we had no choice but to endure the dreaded OR-99 corridor through Dundee, where four lanes reduce to two. It's hard to ride with one's fingers crossed, but it must have



Mike Ripley, on pre-ride, trying to decide how deep is too deep!

Photo by David Peterson

worked—we encountered Dundee nearly traffic-free. Still, the new bypass can't arrive soon enough.

A few miles later, we resumed our southern migration on the Lafayette Highway. The pace quickened inversely with the traffic. We passed several signs pointing to Amity, but David had a better way in mind.

Eola Hills Road climbs the lone bit of elevation in these parts. It's a series of off-camber lefts and rights that demanded the utmost attention from all of us. It's only about six miles, but a better six miles can't be found in Yamhill County. (Take that with a grain of salt...there are a lot of nice roads in Yamhill County.)

Passing through Amity, it was clear the water had receded dramatically in a week's time. OR-153 was reopened and the standing water was reduced to large puddles well away from road's edge. After another mile, a sign marked a gravel road to the Briggittine Monastery. Founded in 1976, it is the only Briggittine monastery of men in the world. The monks are not priests and while recognized by the Roman Catholic church, they are autonomous, supporting themselves



Our long ribbon of riders.

Photo by Diane Peterson

mainly through the sale of their chocolate fudges and truffles.

We had called ahead and they greeted us with extra samples. We made it well worth their time; several riders left with one box or more. They were forced to restock the shelves in the middle of our visit!

Soon we were back on the road. Ballston Road swings north toward Sheridan. It provides an on-ramp to OR-18, giving us a safer path to cross this speedway. Soon we were on Muddy Valley Road, making our way toward McMinnville and lunch. You would never know it from its street presence, but **Laughing Bean Bistro** is an excellent lunch stop. There is no signage street-side, just a poorly

marked drive-through for the coffee crowd. But when we stepped inside, they had assembled a single table to seat 17. The food was delicious and the service first rate. If you're on the west side of McMinnville, stop by for breakfast or lunch (they close at 2).

As usually happens, lunch was where the crowd began to scatter. Those who remained got another treat when we toured Woodland Loop Road, an often-passed side road that also climbs a hill and connects the Yamhill-Newberg Highway with Laughlin Road. Muddy Valley Road...Woodland Loop...like I said earlier: there are a lot of nice roads in Yamhill County.

And so the year ended on a high note. We covered a lot of territory and made more than a few new friends along the way. We'll be here again in January, embarking on another year of seeking the roads less travelled. Hope you can join us for a ride or two along the way.

Check out photos from past First Saturday rides [here](#). And if you have photos of your own you want to share, don't hesitate to forward them to David at dwpeterson01@yahoo.com.

Total miles, December Ride: . . 181

Total First

Saturday miles – 2016: 3,037

LaughiNG BeAN biSTro,
2274 NW 2nd Street, McMinnville
OR (503) 883-9628



Kim Dorsing waits patiently while the shelves are restocked.

Photo by Diane Peterson

Well fed and warm—Great end to a Great year of riding!

photo by Diane Peterson



BEEMER BEAT Editor
289 Pine Dell Lane
Grants Pass, OR 97526



Visit our website at:
WWW.BMWRO.ORG