



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



May, 2017

Volume 41, Issue #5

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



So. Oregon Ambassador Ride

photo by Forest McGregor

Quick Survey: if you have opened this issue of the Beemer Beat, [click here](#) to send an email.

Motorcycle Touring Tips

from Bob Metzger, see pages 4-5.

Ride Reports

David Peterson brings another report on pages 12-13.

Jim von Stein reports on Southern Oregon Ambassador Ride; pages 10-11

Chief Joseph Rally

Doug Tewksbury—CJR Rallymaster—tells all about how to pre-order your Rally Tee.

See Page 9



BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

Event: **Memorial Day Weekend Camping**

Date/Time: May 26, 2017, 1:00 pm until Monday, May 29, 2017, 11:00 am

Place: Eagleview Group Campground
1771 Bullock Road, Oakland, OR

Description: There are only 10 RV pads available, so please be sure to register early. To assure an RV pad please email bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com. Otherwise it will be first come first serve. There are lots of tent sites available and notification is **not** required to save a site. Food will not be provided, but grills will be available. Eagleview Group Campground is situated between the Pacific Coast and the city of Roseburg, Oregon.

Contact: Linda Tewksbury, **541-543-7943**
bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

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 rest-rooms, 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.

Event: **Women Riders Campout**

Date/Time: August 3-6, 2017

Place: Pioneer Ford Campground along the Metolius River, about 6.8 miles north of Camp Sherman.

Description: Rustic camping under Ponderosa Pine forest beside the Metolius River. Potable water, picnic tables, fire ring, vault toilets.
Limited space. Please sign up on the bmwro.org website event calendar or contact one of the hosts. Good paved routes and off-road routes in the area. Gas & groceries in Sisters, 22 miles away. Meals on your own or shared; we usually pool our resources and come up with some tasty creations.

Contact: Alice LeBarron alicelebarron@hotmail.com or phone **541-647-7194**
Robin Dunn robindunn2005@msn.com or phone **541-226-6595**

Event: **Solar Eclipse Campout**

Date/Time: Aug 18, 2017 @ 2 PM until Aug 22, at 10 AM

Place: Near Aumsville, OR. Directions available only after required registration*

Description: Tent camping for viewing of the Solar Eclipse on August 21, 2017. Bring your own food and beverages, but coolers and grills for cooking will be available. See Event Calendar for more details. This event is for BMWVRO members

Cost: BMWRO Members—No Cost
Certified Eclipse Viewing Glasses: \$2 each

Contact: Linda Tewksbury @ **541-543-7943**
BMWRO.treasurer@gmail.com

** There are going to be,—according to the Office of Emergency Services—an estimated 50,000 people in the Salem area for the eclipse. Checking their other predictions—for other eclipses which have happened around the world in years past—they have been off each time with numbers nearly always double their predictions.*

Ergo, the hosts for this BMWRO event are concerned that—should their location for the campout be made public—uninvited people may just show up. As it is, one of their neighbors listed their field as available on Craig's List for RV parking at a cost of \$300 per night and are totally filled up.

So with respect for their wishes and privacy, host names and location will not be advertised, and will only made available to members after they have registered.

Event: **Umpqua River Campout**

Date/Time: Friday, Sept 8th 1pm to Sunday, Sept 10th 11am

Place: Horseshoe Bend Campground, Deer Flat Group Site in the Umpqua National Forest, 31 miles east of Glide on Hwy 138

Description: Rustic camping along the Wild & Scenic Umpqua River with good paved and gravel routes in the area. Potable water, picnic tables, fire rings, flush toilets. Plenty of space but please contact host if you are planning to bring an RV; no hook-ups available. Please sign up on the bmwro.org website event calendar or contact host.

Cost: Free to BMWVRO members. \$10 for non-members

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

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 jbbinOR@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

Heard-On-The-Road

Event: **BMW Freeriders Campout**

Date/Time: May 12-14, 2017

Place: **Deschutes River State Recreation Area**, Rufus, OR. GPS coordinates: 45.634315,-120.908132

Description: Free Camping, Food provided. No cost to register. The BMW Freeriders take donations to help out with the cost of food, etc. People can just show up and we will direct them where to camp, park etc. **RSVP** helps me know how much food to bring: jgrael18@gmail.com

Contact: Joyce Graesch **(509) 771-2579**

Event: **NorCal's Annual '49er Rally**

Date/Time: May 25, 12pm — May 29, 9am

Place: Mariposa (California) Fairgrounds.

Featured Speakers: Shalmarie Wilson & Stephanie Terrien of SheAdv. Other speakers include Richard Battles, Greg Peart, Dave Rankine, Wayne Boyer, Bill Stermer, Julia Stermer, Russ & Hillary & Reg Kittrelle!

Description: Held Memorial Day Weekend each year and offers grassy camping, hot showers, fantastic rides, cold drinks, and great food.

GS Giant's Field Trials

GS Training by Lance Thomas

Seminars by Doc Wong

Guided GS Historic Ride

BMS Custom Motorcycle Seats - RIDE ALL DAY, SMILE ALL THE WAY!

Seminars • Live Music • Beer Garten • Daily Events • Children's Events

Cost: **Early Bird Registration** - \$55 until May 11, \$65.00 after May 11

Saturday Dinner: \$20.00

Contact: Joe Luthy mjluthy@gmail.com
more info at: <http://bmwnorcal.org/49er>

Event: **Riding the Tunnel of Trees 2017 BMWRA International Rally**

Date/Time: July 6-9, 2017

Place: Emmet County Fairgrounds, Petoskey, MI

Description: details below

Contact: details below

Riding the Tunnel of Trees 2017 BMWRA International Rally

Located in Northwest corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula—about 50 miles below the "Big Mac" bridge—the Emmet County fairground sits on a beautiful location above Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay on the outskirts of Petoskey; and will be our rally home base. Downtown Petoskey is about a mile and a half away and is full of small specialty shops, restaurants, and "watering holes". <http://www.petoskeydowntown.com/>

The fairground has a number of large, updated buildings for our activities along with grandstands and "dirt area" where we are looking into "GS" activities. Yes, there is plenty of nice grass for our "Green Eureka Timberlines" and a number of full service hook-ups for the "Cushy" RVs.

With Pre-registration you will save \$15.00. You can also order Friday & Saturday meals and T-shirts. You will save \$4.00 per shirt by pre-order. Ladies shirts and long sleeves will only be available on pre-order.

More information is available on the BMWRA website:

<http://bmwra.org/news/national-rally>

and pre-registration is now open:

<http://bmwra.org/ra-national-rally-registration>

BMWRO President's Message

by Bob Metzger



Motorcycle Touring – It's Contagious

When it comes to motorcycle touring, volumes have been written. A quick search of the Internet shows there is no shortage of advice on how to conduct your tour from start to finish. If you enter "motorcycle touring" into any

search engine you will receive over 19 million hits.

I'm no stranger to the road, but I'm no Fred Rau either. I've never won a mileage contest in my life, and I don't plan to. Lindy and I once rode our bicycles 2700 miles just to follow the Missouri River and the trail of Lewis and Clark. But that's another story. In a few paragraphs you will get to my top ten list for touring on two wheels. First, my early two wheel touring background—my credentials, if you please.

My first motorcycle tour was an affair born in the total spirit of unpreparedness. It was to be a no-plan long weekend affair from north of Chicago to St. Louis. This tour was the brainchild of my riding buddy, Jack. "No maps necessary", he said. Keep in mind the time was Memorial Day, 1972. Simply sling our legs over our 650cc Triumph Bonneville's and roll south on Interstate 55

to visit his cousin. If you go back and check the weather history, you will discover that it was that very weekend where the entire Gulf of Mexico rose from its seabed and tried to wash away Illinois. The Sun dared not intervene to quash the Gulf's ambitions. Sleeping under a bridge on I-55 with rats the size of cats is not my idea of camping. We never made it to St. Louis. At first light of day we rode back to northern Illinois in our rain gear, which consisted of denim and trash bags. Hypothermia sucks.

On my second motorcycle tour I was introduced to the kindness of strangers. Again, the brainchild of Jack, we decided to ride to California from Illinois. Yes, the same 650cc Triumphs. At least, I thought, we were heading to drier climates. The year was 1974. All was going well until the outskirts of Bakersfield California when Jack's entire transmission decided it had had enough and exited. I towed Jack to the first motel we found in Bakersfield. Fortunately, the owner of the motel was a retired Navy machinist mate. He had a garage full of every tool imaginable. We took inventory of the parts we needed, made a phone call to the



Triumph distributor near L.A. and set off riding two-up to acquire our parts.

When we arrived at the distributor, he gave us a box. Enclosed were the entire guts of a new transmission! Everything was included from gears, to shafts, and seals. We repaired the hole in the back of the engine with epoxy, installed the new transmission and headed north.

At this point in the story I should tell you that Jack was no stranger to speed. I swear I thought he had said, "Highway 1." Apparently he had said "Highway 101." The next time I saw Jack was three weeks later during a chance encounter at a rest stop off I-80 in Iowa. After a brief chat marveling our luck, we left the rest area together. Jack promptly left me in the dust. I never saw him again. Ever.

My third motorcycle tour was a solo ride to Yellowstone. The year was 1976. It was everything a tour should be: sun, perfect temperatures, and not a drop of rain. Early one morning as I crested a hill, I could see a number of emergency vehicles in the distance. As I got closer, I saw a motorcycle lying on its side. Camping gear and bike parts were strewn across the highway. The e-crew had the rider sitting up against a tire of one of the vehicles. He was holding a blood soaked rag against his face. At that very moment I understood the old Bell Helmet ad, "If you have a \$10 head, wear a \$10 helmet. If your head (face) is worth more, wear a Bell." I've worn a full coverage helmet ever since.

Without further ado, here are my top 10 touring tips—in no particular order. However, I am particularly fond of numbers 9 and 10.

1. **Be partner-particular.** Choose your riding partner wisely. Here are a few conflicting behaviors that will kill a riding partnership: speed, morning departure time, and the mechanical ineptitude of a partner who believes routine maintenance is for suckers.
2. **Nutrition.** Don't buy your fuel where you fuel your motorcycle. Breakfast is the best value—eat hardy. Go for the protein. Eat a modest lunch—avoid carb loading. Visit at a grocery before stopping for the day. Make your evening meal of cheese and fruit. Best travel food: banana bread. It requires no refrigeration, it's packed with calories and last for days.
3. **Stretch and get physical.** Stretching and walking improves circulation, fosters relaxation, relieves stress, and enhances coordination. Stretching gives a greater sense of over-all well being. I like a brisk evening walk about the campground or from the motel around town.
4. **Be Spontaneous.** Planning is good, but leave time for discovery. I always consult RoadsideAmerica.com before I leave. I want to know where the oddities are located. Give me a field full of concrete corncobs—let's go! Give me the location of the world's biggest ball of twine and I'm there! GPS is great, but I love to pour over paper maps in the evening.
5. **Evening accommodations.** Stay at mom & pop motels whenever possible. I use my cellphone to call ahead for accommodations after consulting TripAdvisor.com. I like to have a fair idea in the morning where I'm going to lay my head at night. This is born from college road trips where the "let's keep going" attitude led to more than a few uncomfortable nights sleeping in the car or on a picnic table. Get a National Parks pass for campgrounds. I like to stop early, pop up the tent, and then watch the show as RV folks try to slip their 11-foot wide motorhome between trees 12 feet apart!
6. **Photography.** Take lots of images and videos. When you get home you will realize that $\frac{3}{4}$ of them should be deleted. Pick the best image of your tour. Take it to Costco for a canvas enlargement. Hang it on your wall where you can forever reflect on past journeys. Your grandchildren will thank you.
7. **Hydrate.** If you wait until you are thirsty it is too late—you're dehydrated. Save alcohol for the evening. Enough said about that.
8. **Don't be a slave to mileage.** Remember, it is about the journey, not the destination. Avoid fatigue.
Now for my two favorite motorcycle touring tips.
9. **Talk to people.** Show interest. Ask questions about their lives. We all have life stories. The most unforgettable moments of any trip will be the ones you shared with strangers. Think about the historic changes people—just 20 years older—have seen in their lifetime. Always be respectful. You are a guest in their community. Thank them for their service if warranted. Remember, that many of the people you meet wish they were doing exactly what you are doing.
10. **Take $\frac{1}{2}$ the stuff, and twice the money.** You will have a great trip!

It has been said that the real adventure does not begin, until something goes wrong. Lindy is fond of saying, "No struggle—no story." She is a very wise woman.

Head and eyes up!

Bob



NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Jan Berger, Portland, OR unknown
Deborah Mullen, Eugene, OR 2017 BMW F700GS
David Rexford, Portland, OR 2013 BMW F800GT
David Robertson, Grants Pass, OR 2012 BMW K1600GT
Gavin Silaski, Beaverton, OR 2017 BMW F700GS
Jeff Yarnall, Tualatin, OR Riding: 2005 1200GS,
..... 2006 650GS Dakar, 2004 R1150 RTP
Allan Warman, Portland, OR 2000 BMW R1100 RT
Bill Munroe, Bend, OR unknown



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

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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 present CHIEF JOSEPH RALLY

Join us at the **Grant County Fairgrounds**, nestled in the scenic Strawberry Mountains, **John Day, Oregon**, for a weekend of terrific riding, seminars, food and fellowship. This historic city is located at the Junction of Hwys 395 and 26. Enjoy the West's best riding; gold and cattle country, refreshing mountain passes, painted hills, river canyons, and wide open desert. Visit the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument or any of four different museums.

Friday and Saturday evening dinners are provided in rally fee. On site food vendors and in town restaurants available for other meals. Beer garden on site. Experience organized tours to selected attractions; self guided maps with touring and off-road routes. Tech sessions, seminars, door prizes, awards, entertainment and more are scheduled. Commemorative Rally T-Shirt will be available for sale.

The Grant County Fairgrounds, on the John Day River, offers green grass camping and hot showers! Reservations required for adjacent RV Park [541-575-1900] extra cost involved. Excellent motel accommodations, dining options and shopping are just three blocks from the Fairgrounds. Leashed pets are welcome.

Oregon is for Riders!
Come to John Day
and see what we mean!

We encourage everyone to pre-register for the rally. This helps us efficiently plan food and the rally schedule.

And, you save \$10.00!

The first 500 pre-registered guests are guaranteed a rally pin.

Pre-Registration:

\$50.00 per person for club members

\$60.00 for non-club members

More info at: www.bmwro.org

click the Chief Joseph Rally link

Gate Registration:

\$60.00 per person for club members

\$70.00 for non-club members

12 yrs and younger: \$10.00 per person

Deadlines:

US Mail Pre-Registration: June 12, 2017

OnLine Pre-Registration: June 12 2017

Refunds: June 12, 2017

Grant County Fairgrounds ~John Day, OR
June 23-25, 2017

WWW.BMWRO.ORG

Mohawk Valley Metric Century Bicycle Event

from Scot Lamper

On May 13th, Eugene Velo is sponsoring the Mohawk Valley Metric Century bicycle event and they are looking for about four (4) volunteers to provide motorcycle support. Basically, they would like these volunteers to ride sweep and carry a few spare parts for bicyclists and be reachable via radio should you come across an emergency situation.

- If you are interested in volunteering to help at this event, please contact Scot Lamper at bmwro.vp@gmail.com.
- For more details about the event please link to www.mohawkvalley100k.org



People Helping People.
A non-profit organization supporting people with developmental disabilities.

The '49er Let's Roll!

Mariposa, CA 2017 May 25 - 29
BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California

**Seminars - Live Music - Beer Garden
Daily Events - Children's Events**

**Early Bird Registration - \$55 until May 11
\$65 after May 11
Saturday Dinner - \$20**

Register Online: bmwnorcal.org/49er



2017 Highlights:

- Registration starts Saturday, March 4th at European Motorcycles of Western Oregon
- Final mileage will be verified on Saturday, October 7th
- Monthly prizes will be given during 1st Saturday Coffee each month
- Grand prize will be awarded during finale party on October 7th
- Bonus miles will be awarded for:
 - Attending 1st Saturday Coffee (100 miles)
 - Attending shop rides (200 miles)
 - Getting a non-BMW or non-Ducati friend to participate (200 miles)
 - Tag us on your Facebook ride post (200 miles)
 - *Submitting picture of you & your bike with police officer, Oops! (300 miles)
 - *Submitting picture of your bike's flat tire, Ouch! (300 miles)
 - *Submitting picture of you & your bike at designated landmarks:
 - Haystack rock at Cannon Beach (100 miles)
 - Mary D. Hume Shipwreck (100 miles)
 - Crater Lake (200 miles)
 - Steens Mountains (300 miles)
 - Hells Canyon (400 miles)
 - Craters of the Moon National Monument (500 miles)
 - Leavenworth, WA (500 miles)
 - Petrified Forest, Sonoma, CA (600 miles)
 - Cape Flattery, WA (1000 miles)
 - Portland, ME (5000 miles)

*Submit pictures to Jeff @ jawyer@bmwrotr.com

2017 Chief Joseph Rally

by Doug Tewksbury, Rallymaster

The annual Chief Joseph Rally will be held from June 23rd to the 25th. Join us at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day Oregon for another year of getting together with friends near and far. There will be plenty of fabulous roads to ride, seminars, door prizes, Geology Rocks tours, guided tour rides, vendors, Friday and Saturday night meals and so much more. Next door—in the open arena—you may also watch the Grant County Stock growers conduct a team roping event.



Come early to find your best green grass camping spot.

If you haven't already registered for the rally, please do so by going to <http://bmwro.org> and clicking on the link to "Register for the Rally". BMW Riders of Oregon (BMWRO) club members pay \$50 and non-members pay \$60 prior to June 12th. After that, the rate goes up to \$60 and \$70 respectively so be sure to register early and save yourself \$10.

your order as soon as possible. A cut-off date for ordering has not been set so don't loose out—place your order now. Long sleeve white T-shirts can also be ordered.



Women's short-sleeve Tee



Men's short-sleeve Tee

Rally T-shirts will ONLY be available by pre-order. You can place your pre-order by going to <http://bmwro.org> and clicking the link labeled "2017 Order Rally T-Shirt". When you arrive at the rally you can pick-up your pre-order at the **Information Booth** after you make your payment. Pre-orders not picked up by 12:00PM (noon) will be sold over the counter. Be sure to visit the web site and place

The short sleeve T-shirts are medium grey. The long sleeve T-shirts are white.



CJR Photographers Wanted

Doug is asking all would-be photographers planning to attend the Rally to send your Rally photos to him—so we can share them with the entire club through the website and this club newsletter. Bring a camera. Use a phone camera. Take pictures. Send pictures to bmwro.rallymaster@gmail.com.



Southern Oregon Ambassador Ride Report

by Jim von Stein
and Forest Gregg

On April 22, our group of riders met at the Dutch Bros. Coffee stand in Grants Pass—Forest taking group photos after eating a delicious Gyro sandwich from a vender at the local Growers & Crafters Saturday Market.

Ten riders on eight bikes took Redwood Highway (199) to Selma where they turned off onto the Illinois River Road. They followed this road until the pavement ended at a fork in the road with gravel in both directions.

There was a group discussion about whether the gravel road would be suitable for the two Daves on street bikes—**Dave Robertson** riding two-up with **Diane Robertson** and another Dave—so the GS riders went to scout out the one-or-two mile distance—**Dan Hall** would estimate about a half mile—to the swinging bridge leaving the



Daves (and Diane) behind. When they came to a deep runoff ditch—beyond which they could see a muddy hair-pin turn—they decided it was not suitable for Daves on Road bikes to traverse—nor for any of those on GS bikes.

Dan Hall and **Mark Collier**—our intrepid Ambassadors—had gone beyond that point and reported that the “road bridge” (*not to be confused with the Swinging Bridge*) at the river was under water. After a few minutes, the GS group

reassembled with the two Daves (and Diane) at the place where the pavement met the fork-in-the road.

From there, the group rode back to Selma. After some discussion, they rode a little further south of Selma and took Reeves Creek Rd. and Deer Creek Rd. back to Selma—a nice little loop with twisties, oh but for the dump truck which lead a lazy ribbon of riders in its wake. Sigh.

From Selma, the riders went their separate ways.



End of the Road—Bridge under water

photo by Dan Hall

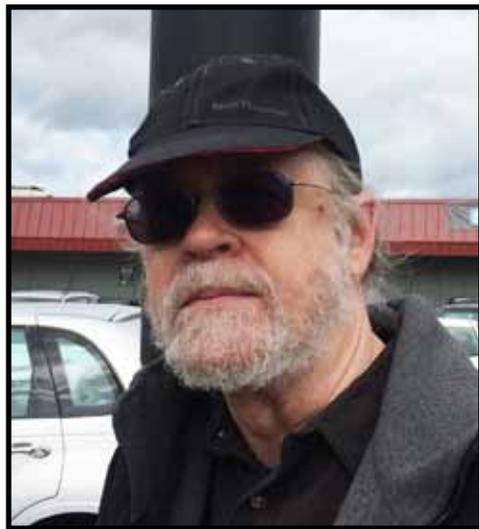
Note: from Dan Hall

Our late April BMWRO ride started in downtown Grants Pass at the Saturday Growers Market. Elie and I usually get coffee and visit the market on Saturday mornings. As soon as we walk into the market, we spot one of our regular BMWRO ride members and stop to talk for a few minutes.

He spots a gyro sandwich vendor and decides to buy a couple before our ride leaves town and then departs to look for his better half. He can sometimes look slightly scruffy with his graying beard and pony tail. It seems that our Market security force had spotted him

talking to us and so followed him and started asking questions about what he was doing. I'm guessing they thought that he was a local homeless person bothering their freshly groomed customers. Of course they didn't realize he was wearing an \$700+ Aerostich jacket, rides a BMW and was actually quite harmless. He did manage to leave the market without being hand cuffed, ate his gyro and went on our ride. Who says GP doesn't have any police?

Dan Hall



Scruffy von Stein

photo by Forest McGregor



Mel Ortner at Swinging Bridge—Summer 2016

photo by Dan Hall



Rest Stop at Illinois River's Edge

photo by Dan Hall

Letters to Editor

Forest,
 You might put a small blurb in the BB about So. Oregon BMWRO member **Mel Ortner** (see photo above). In the spring 2017 issue of the "BMW Motorcycle Magazine", on page 90 there is a nice 2 page article with pictures about Mel's discovery of motorcycles and BMW's.

Dan Hall
 So. Oregon Club Ambassador



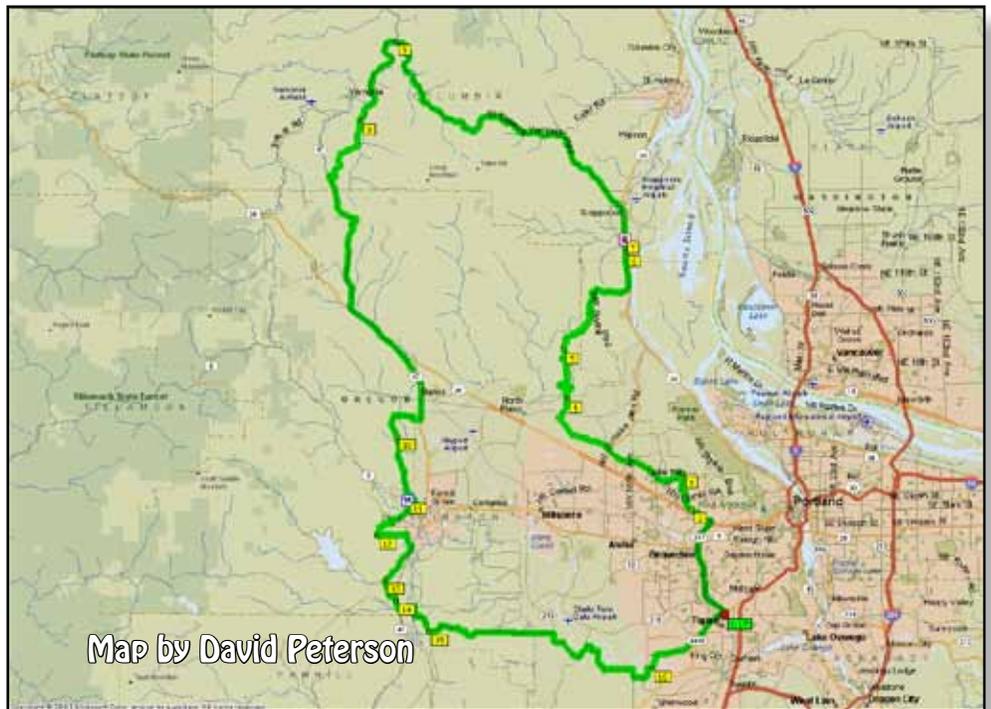
NW Ambassadors Ride Report April 2017

David Peterson #90113
Michael Ripley #191665

It started with an email from the “hostess with the mostess.” Back in January, **Carol Lamper** insisted April Fools Day was a perfect excuse for a picnic. “I’ve ordered some foolish paraphernalia—you know the usual fake spilled cola, rubber chicken and fake dog poo etc. The only thing missing is food and 40 of our closest friends...” she said.

With Carol at the helm, we knew the missing food would be remedied shortly. And we also know the popularity of rides grows exponentially with the prospect of free lunch. So we immediately prepared an itinerary with a lunch stop at *Chez Lamper*. But, truth be told, she already had us at rubber chicken and fake dog poo.

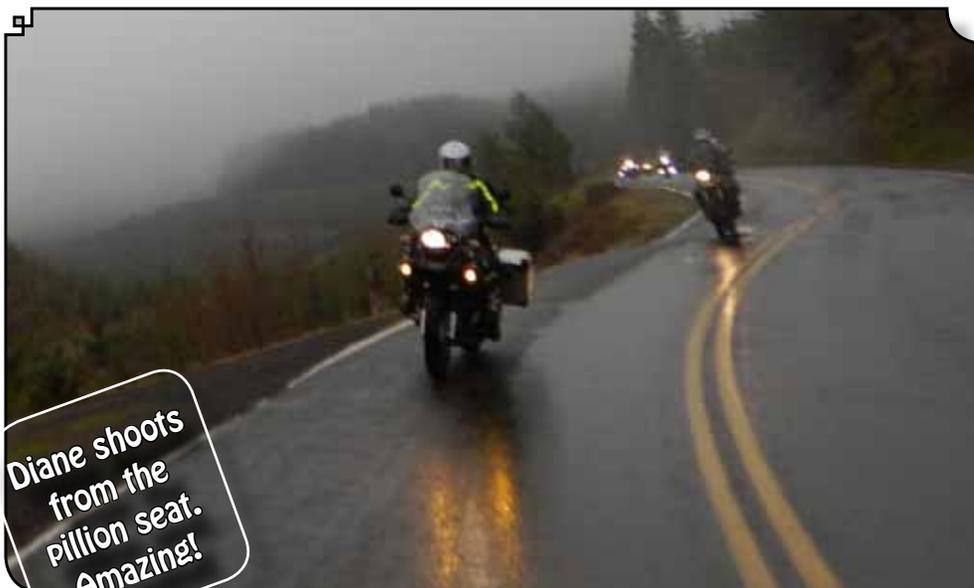
As we’ve lamented here ad nauseam, this has been a wet and gloomy winter. But at the appointed hour, dry pavement and our lunch invitation attracted quite



a conga line of riders – 23 riders in total, on 20 bikes. Many were folks we’ve enjoyed before. But **John and Hope Austin**, newcomers from Alabama, joined us for the first time. On separate bikes, no less! After years of riding the sunny southern flatlands, our wet, twisty roller-coaster might have been a challenge. But there they were, in the thick of it, and smiling broadly when we stopped for gas. Clearly, they were home on any road.

Oh yeah...the road. Ours was a counter-clockwise loop to our destination in Forest Grove. After a short trudge north on OR-217 and a few Beaverton stop lights, we found ourselves on West Union Road, heading for the hills. It also began to rain, not a downpour but another one of those wet, misty squalls where one can take nothing for granted. Soon the road narrowed and gnarled as we climbed Jackson Quarry, Mason Hill, and Moreland Roads to Skyline. I’ll bet you didn’t know that these Portland West Hills are known formally as the Tualatin Mountains, separating the Tualatin Basin from the Portland Basin.

Reaching Skyline, our merry band motored west to Rocky Point Road. Even in wet conditions, Rocky Point is an exciting carousel with well-engineered corners and views to match. Unfortunately, on this day, we fell behind an Audi station wagon which seemingly considered any change in direction as an act of extreme vertigo. It took us forever to get to the bottom, but it did wonders for allowing any stragglers to catch up.



Diane shoots from the pillion seat. Amazing!

Snaking our way down Rocky Point Road.

Photo by Diane Peterson



nice shot, Prez!

Herd of Iron Horses Rest While Riders Feast

Photo by Rober Metzger

After a brief gas stop in Scappoose, we pressed on toward Vernonia. A quick survey of our group had accounted for everyone and the smiles enthusiastically reminded us that conditions needn't be perfect for a ride to be fun. We bypassed Vernonia on Pebble Creek/McDonald Road, eliciting sighs of relief from several of our GPSers, who noted that David's map had mistakenly included a few roads of the *pavement uncertain* variety.

It was at the junction of OR-47 and US-26 that our ribbon of riders got tangled. As many of you know,

that's a heavily-travelled corridor, with only the stop sign on OR-47 as control. As we were turning left, it made for quite a challenge. Everyone got through it safely, but not everyone made it smoothly the rest of the way. For several minutes at the Lampers', groups of two and three dribbled in, realizing they were off course. It appears that GPS has some utility after all. Not everyone was so fortunate; David was still getting phone calls into the evening from a few who

wondered what happened. Our apologies to anyone who didn't make it to lunch.

Scot and Carol put on a monster spaghetti feed, the perfect antidote to a morning of riding in the elements. Many other riders from as far away as Eugene had ridden up to join us. David found himself rushing to clean up a spilled can of Coke, only to realize it was one of Carol's April Fool favors. Then he turned around to see a cake with his name on it. He thought he had successfully slithered through March without noting his 60th birthday. Leave it to Carol to make sure nothing passes unnoticed.

The weather only got better in the afternoon, making the ride home enjoyable. It also left us with a sneaky feeling there are better riding days ahead. Kudos to Scot and Carol Lamper for making this April Fools day one to remember.

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, April Ride: 146

Total First Saturday miles – 2017: 523



David looks so young with his cheeks puffed up like this.

David wheezes his way through another set of birthday candles.

Photo by Dan Russell

So. Oregon Ambassador Ride to Illinois River

photo by Dan Hall



Doesn't
Dan just
take the best
photos?

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