



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



April, 2018

Volume 42, Issue #4

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



Dorena Reservoir (Dam in Distance)

photo by Dan Russell

Mountain Loops & Covered Bridges

from David Peterson, page 10.

Central West Ambassador Ride

from Dan Russell, page 9.

Tips On Becoming A Better Rider

from Bob Metzger, page 4.



BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

Event: **2018 Chief Joseph Rally**
Date/Time: Friday, June 29, 2018 to Sunday, July 1, 2018
Place: Grant County Fairgrounds
 411 NW Bridge St., John Day, OR
Description: 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. All this in one day's riding! Visit the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument or any of four different museums. Begin planning your trip now! Oregon is for Riders! Come to John Day and see what we mean!
Contact: Robert Metzger, **608-642-1186**
bmwro.pres@gmail.com

Event: **Sixes River Coastal Campout**
Date/Time: Friday, July 27, 2018, until Sunday, July 29, 2018,
Place: Edson Creek Campground
 Sites B & C, Port Orford, OR
Description: Bring your tent and sleeping bag to this beautiful grassy campground among tall trees. We'll cook the Saturday night dinner, you're on your own for the rest. Great paved and dual-sport riding in the area. Enjoy the warmth while getting out of the wind a little off the beach, about 10 miles inland from the ocean and highway 101. Cool off in Edson Creek, which bends around the big group campsite and has a nice little swimming' hole. Groceries and restaurants are about a 15 mile ride away in Port Orford. We did this in 2015, and had a wonderful relaxing weekend—come join us again!"
Cost: For members:\$5.00
 For non-members:\$10.00
It is preferred that you register on-line.
Contact: Keith Matteson, MotoMatteson@gmail.com

Event: **Walton Lake Campout and Quarterly Meeting**
Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 7th at 2 pm to Sunday Sept. 9th 1 pm
Registration ends September 4, 2018.
Place: Walton Lake Campground Large Group Site
 Ochoco National Forest

Description: Primitive camping with fun paved and GS routes in the area. Nearest gas and supplies are 30 miles away in Prineville. Club will provide dinner on Saturday. All other meals are on your own. Quarterly Club Meeting will be held Saturday afternoon. We have the Large Group Campsite, which has more flat space for tents and is closer to the water supply than our last campout at Walton in 2016. See [campground website](#) for detailed directions to the site and for description of campground.

USFS places a limit on space for RV's and cars, so if you are planning to bring an RV or car, please contact Alice LeBarron prior to registering.

Cost: For members:\$5.00
 For secondary members:\$5.00
 For non-members:\$10.00
It is preferred that you register on-line. If you have a problem paying, on-line, contact Alice LeBarron to make other arrangements.

Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
bmwro.secretary@gmail.com

Event: **Women Riders Campout**
Date/Time: Friday Sept, 14th at 2 pm to Sunday Sept. 16th at 1 pm
Registration ends September 10, 2018.
Place: Cape Perpetua Campground Group Site
Description: Primitive camping (no showers, but there is running water). Nearest gas and supplies are three miles away in Yachats. See [campground website](#) for detailed directions to the site and for description of campground. The group campsite has a large covered shelter, a fire pit, and a large grassy area for tents. There are nice hiking trails from the campground as well as good riding in the area. The Women Riders Campouts are typically low-key events with plenty of shared stories and ideas, as well as opportunities to learn from one another in a supportive environment. Food is typically shared or on your own. Due to limited parking, there will not be room to accommodate cars or RVs.
Motorcycles & Spyders only, please.

Cost: For members:\$5.00
 For secondary members:\$5.00
 For non-members:\$10.00
It is preferred that you register on-line. If you have a problem paying on-line, contact Alice LeBarron to make other arrangements.

Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
bmwro.secretary@gmail.com
 Jalene Case **541-272-2337**
jalenecase@gmail.com

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
Gary Stead **541-593-7461**
garystead67@gmail.com

Event: **Central Western Region 1st Saturday 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: Dan Russell, **541-221-0990** or
danrussell@gmail.com
Jim Breen, **541-912-4500** or
jpbior@aol.com or

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: **Oregon Vintage Motorcyclists Event**

Date/Time: Sunday May 20th from 10:00-3:00
Place: Benton County Fairgrounds, 110 SW 53rd Street, Corvallis, OR

Description: The featured Marque this year is BMW.
Ride your vintage (or not) to the event.

Cost: Gate fee \$5.00 per vehicle.

Editor's Appreciation

from Forest McGreggor

I want to thank several members of the club for the assistance they have provided over the years.

To **Dan and Elie Hall:** I am grateful that you told me about previous editors including clip art and that you enjoyed it as part of the newsletter. I have tried to include clip art in all issues as a result.

To all past—and present—club **Presidents:** for providing a monthly President's Message. It's important to know I have content I can count on.

To **Linda Tewksbury:** I am grateful for her editorial skills and will miss her monthly critique of my early drafts for the *BEEMER BEAT*. She's brutal, but thorough.

To **David Peterson:** I am grateful for his reliability—I can count on him to provide an excellent report and fabulous images *every* month (*even if he misses the deadline date for submissions*).

To **Keith Matteson:** for giving me permission to pull any of his stories from *South-on-a-Bike* (website) as filler for issues that are shy of content. He is quite wordy, however, and sometimes his best stories are too long for the immediate need.

To **All Members** who fancy themselves to be photographers and have sent in their many fabulous images to share—I wish I could do a photo journal, the images are so enticing.

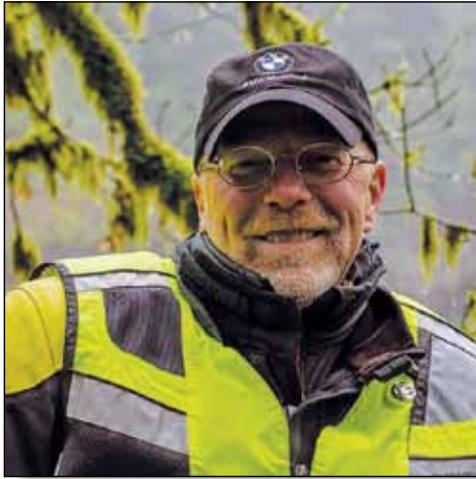


January Central Western Ambassador Ride

photo by Diane Peterson

BMWRO President's Message

by Bob Metzger



Tips On Becoming A Better Rider – Part 1

First Gear

Have you ever done the “dance of shame”? The scenario goes something like this: your mind is multi-tasking and has drifted away from the task at hand—riding your motorcycle. Riding a motorcycle requires your full attention and participation. Perhaps you’re thinking about your today, or tomorrow, a future event, or a dreaded task just over your event horizon. You approach a busy intersection and gently roll to a stop on the yellow light. Impatiently you wait for the green light. The light turns green and as you attempt to get underway the motorcycle stalls because your motorcycle is in 3rd gear. You quickly pull in the clutch and stab a foot toward the ground to keep from toppling over. Frantically you tap at the shifter to get into first gear and begin feeling like a rank amateur as the driver behind you becomes impatient.

Does this sound familiar? We’ve all done it, and we know better. As we roll to a stop we should be in and remain in 1st gear, while we wait for the green light. This avoids the “dance of shame” and allows us to be ready to **GO!**

Leg And Foot Placement

I will acknowledge there is a fair bit of subjectivity and personal-style associated with leg and foot placement on a motorcycle. Remember that you, the rider, are the top one-half of the motorcycle. Be connected. New riders have a hard time keeping their knees against the tank. When cornering they often allow the inside knee to wander out into no-man’s-land. This is the result of not trusting their traction. It is unnecessary movement. When engaged in maximum straight-line braking, it is important to grip the tank with the knees to control forward body momentum.



I’ve never liked positioning my feet on the pegs near my boot heel. This foot position forces the toes to point downward, reducing ground clearance in a lean. I hate the surprise of my toe scraping the pavement. I don’t feel “connected” to the motorcycle in this position. Once shifting is done, my favorite foot position, like many pro riders, is to place the ball of the foot on the pegs. This makes me feel a better connection to the

machine, better allows use of calf muscles when necessary, avoids toe scraping, and gives me better tank grip when necessary.

Talk & Listen To Yourself

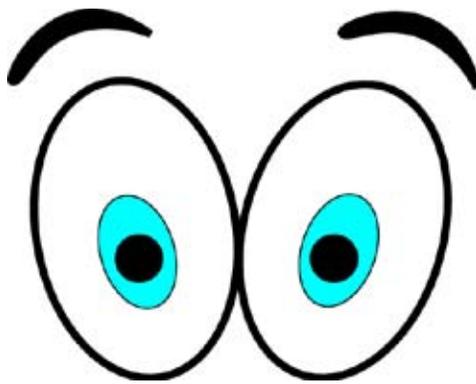
One realization I have had is the power of talking and listening to yourself inside your helmet. It is an amazingly powerful technique to actually verbalize your ride and your observations about the road ahead. Next time you ride give it a try. Actually speak to yourself out loud. Don’t worry, you only have an audience of one. You don’t have to worry about looking the fool.



Your conversation should go something like this. *“A curve to the left is coming up, slide right toward the outside of the curve. Scrub off a bit of speed. Turn your head and look for the exit of the curve. Be prepared for oncoming traffic. There is the exit. Press to initiate lean and roll on the throttle. There is a break in the fog line ahead on the right. It is a hidden intersection. A car is going to appear. No car. Continue scanning....”* You get the idea. Talk yourself through the ride for 5 or 10 minutes and you will be amazed at how your riding improves with conscious effort.

Pay Attention - Don't Become Complacent

Fatigue or familiar roads can play a roll in complacency. We've all been riding for quite sometime in all types of terrain and conditions. There is an old saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt." Rolling along on two wheels leaves no room for contempt or complacently. Does that mean we can't enjoy the ride? Of course not. It means that after you take in the hawk gliding overhead, or the colorful meadow of sunflowers, it is back to the business of purposeful scanning. If you feel yourself becoming complacent or fatigued, STOP. Take a break or call it a day. Riding a motorcycle always requires our full attention.



Look Further

The ability to effectively scan when riding a motorcycle is not natural to we humans. Purposeful scanning is a discipline that must be cultivated. I frequently coach new riders to keep their head and eyes up! Don't look down. There is no information a few feet in front of the motorcycle. I guarantee that if you look down, Earth will be there. Scanning far ahead allows us to identify directional cues and hazards as early as possible. Keeping the head and eyes up also

gives the impression of slowing down the ride, allowing us to make sound decisions well in advance, **BEFORE** we have to execute proper actions.

Do you need help with keeping your head and eyes up? Get a small sticky note and draw a pair of google-eyes on the note. Now, stick it on your windscreen or near your instrument cluster. Leave it there for a month or two. Every time you drop your head and eyes and see the sticky note, it will remind you to look further down the road.

Next month we will explore more tips to improve your riding. Until then...

Safe Journeys,

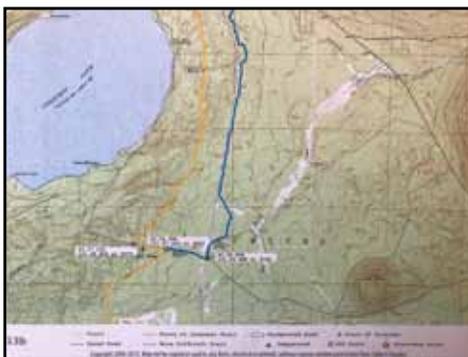
Bob



Oregon Back Country Discovery Maps Available

from Bob Metzger

At this time of the year, most of our big epic trips have come to a close. Hopefully, we carry fond memories forward as we eagerly begin planning our motorcycle trips for 2018.



Last year, Milt (Butch) Farrand donated—to the BMW Riders of Oregon club—the entire series of the **Oregon Back Country Discovery** topographic route maps. **Thank you Butch!**

Since our membership is spread across 98,466 square miles—known as the State of Oregon, and beyond—it is hard to find a central location where everyone can

access these map volumes. Therefore, I am the default custodian. If you wish to borrow them, I will happily loan them to you via USPS.

Simply contact me, I will give you my PayPal account number and you can drop the round trip postage into my account. If you don't have a PayPal account, you can still contact me and we can work out a hand-off at a mutually agreeable time and place.

Journey on!



NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Jonathan Wild, Springfield, OR. 1998 Triumph Tiger
Alex Weiss, Bend, OR. 2017 BMW R1200 GS Adv
Jason Emerson, city unknown, OR. Unknown
David Mazour, City unknown, 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, (541-915-4616)
bmwro.pres@gmail.com

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Chris Henry, (541-915-4616)
bmwro.vp@gmail.com

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Activities

Chris Henry, (541-915-4616)
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).

Dan Russell—541-221-0990

danrussell@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

Gary Stead —541-647-0135

garystead67@gmail.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 pre-registered rally fee. Gate registration will NOT include meals. On-site food vendors and in-town restaurants are available for other meals. Beer garden on-site. **Geology Rocks Tour** and guided on and off pavement tours; self guided maps with touring and off-road routes. Tech sessions, Team Oregon seminars, door prizes, awards, entertainment and more are scheduled. Rally T-Shirts must be pre-ordered online: bmwro.org.

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. **Those who do will get a meal ticket** 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:

No dinner ticket

\$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, 2018
OnLine Pre-Registration: June 12 2018
Refunds: June 12, 2018

Grant County Fairgrounds ~ John Day, OR
June 29 – July 1, 2018

WWW.BMWRO.ORG



EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY

The BMW Motorcycle Owners of America invites you to join us for our 46th Annual National Rally next July in Des Moines, Iowa. Enjoy nightly entertainment, more than 100 vendors, daily door prizes, BMW demo rides, seminars, huge grand prizes and a host of craft breweries. Iowa boasts beautiful rally grounds and some of the friendliest people you'll ever meet!

ACCOMMODATIONS

For a list of Hotels and Bed & Breakfast accommodations, please visit www.bmwmoa.org/rally18hotels

QUESTIONS?

Contact Brian Hinton, Lee Harrelson or Deb Gasque at: 2018rallychairs@bmwmoa.org

**BMW Club
Motorcycle Owners
of America**



July 12 - 15, 2018
Iowa State Fairgrounds



EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY

Register online at:
www.bmwmoa.org/rally18

EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY

Register online at:
www.bmwmoa.org/rally18



March, 2018 CW Ambassador Ride

by Dan Russell

After February's weekday ride to Tony's Crab Shack had to be cancelled/postponed—due to icy/snowy conditions—Central Western riders **Tim Cruse, Doug Tewksbury, Jim Thornton, Bob Metzger**, and I don't let a few rain showers get in the way of our First Saturday Ride. After all, it is Celtic Rider Presentation day at our local BMW dealer's, and Ireland is known for its rain.

We depart European Motorcycles of Western Oregon (EMCWOR). The rain showers and green fields lend an Irish feel up the hills and down the dales while we wind our way to circumnavigate Dorena Reservoir. The curves and remote forests of the Lorane–Cottage Grove Highway never fail to stimulate the sense of motorcycle adventure. Each of our BMW's seems to ask its rider to loosen the reins, but the wet road surfaces encourage us restrain their frisky impulses. Restraint is wise in Lane County—which led Oregon in traffic deaths in 2015 with 57 fatalities. Today, we will travel one of the deadliest roads in the county for 2010–2015: Row River Road. Row River Road and Crow Road each had six fatalities, which were exceeded only by Cottage Grove's London Road which had seven. (<http://kval.com/news/local/lane-county-no-1-in-oregon-for-traffic-deaths-we-can-save-lives-and-reduce-suffering>)

Completing the southern half of rounding Dorena on Shoreview Drive, we joined Row River Road to circle back along the northern shore. At Harms Park, we line our studly bikes along the shoreline's parking lot for a rest. Water levels are conspicuously low. The Dorena Dam, visible at the west end, was



left to right: Doug Tewksbury, Bob Metzger, Tim Cruse



New Member Jim Thornton



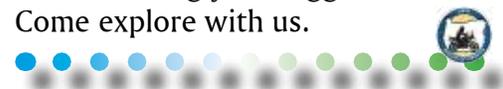
left to right: Tim Cruse, Bob Metzger, Jim Thornton, Doug Tewksbury

completed in 1949 to help with flood control. There will be little, if any, need for that this year with lower snow packs and rainfall. The reservoir has been rated in the past as one of the America's best fishing lakes and has been a popular tournaments site. More recently, natural occurring mercury has put a crimp on the consumption of the resident fish. Planting of hatchery trout still makes it a popular fishing venue. Catching bass that can be consumed in limited quantities is still popular.

Irish food at Eugene's Pint Pot Public House beckons, so we rejoin Row River Road and head along back roads onto Camas Swale Road/Hamm Road to return through the foothills to lunch. **Jim Thornton**—a native Eugeniean who now resides on an airstrip home in Independence—joined BMWRO last month. Yet, he has already made two of our club rides despite the extra distance. Unfortunately, today Jim has to return home after lunch. The rest of us head home, dry off, and then meet at European

Motorcycles of Western Oregon for Bob & Lindy Metzger's Celtic Riders presentation. With their slide show, they take us on a real tour of Ireland. Somehow, nearly all of their photos have blue skies. Ours will be coming soon, eh?

If you've wanted to get out on your bike, but the weather or other factors have left you couch-riding, now is a great time to join fellow BMWRO members in your area on our ambassador rides. The better weather is coming and our destination and routes explore the less traveled areas of some of America's most wondrous outdoors. Riders are friendly and always willing to lend helping hands. Ambassadors provide destination and route ideas and each rider is encouraged to ride his own ride. If you have ideas for destinations or routes, contact one of your region's ambassadors. We are always open to considering your suggestions. Come explore with us.

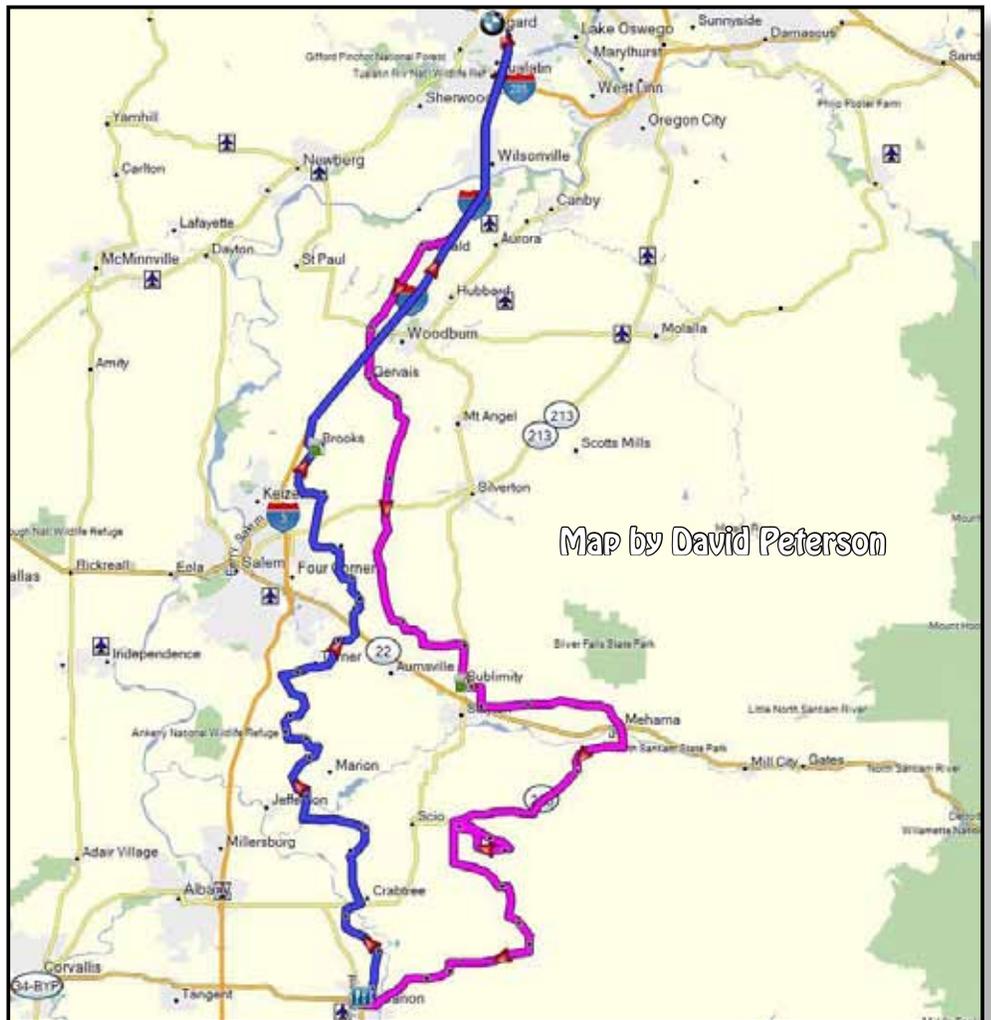


Mountain Loops and Covered Bridges NW Ambassadors Ride Report – March 2018

David Peterson #90113
Michael Ripley #191665

After a pretty mild winter, in recent weeks the weather has reared its ugly head again. Maybe there is something to this Punxsutawney Phil thing after all. Nevertheless, we did get a welcome break on March 3rd, and our regular riders were chomping at the bit... how else could one explain the throng at 9AM on a Saturday at the local BMW shop?

No fewer than 20 folks had heeded the call to ride. Many were veterans, a few were first timers. **Chuck Trapp** had so much fun last month, he brought his wife, **Joy**, and his daughter, **Jessica**. (If you are curious, they were not all on one bike.) A few weeks ago, we



The mingle before the meander

Photo by Chris Henry

bumped into **Roger Tay** on a Tigard BMW shop ride and he liked what he heard. He joined us for the first time on a White Multistrada. We'll be watching to see his mount next time, as he has eleven bikes in the shed from which to choose!

After the usual pre-ride kibitzing, it was time to mount up. Each month we try to explore a different quadrant in the region; this month, it was time to point south and east (quadrant IV, for you Cartesians out there). We were headed for Lebanon and Mexican food, with a guarantee that at least some of the roads would be new. **David and Diane** rode to the very edge of the driveway, straining to make sure all eighteen bikes were locked and loaded. A flash of the lights from **Mike** in the back, and the ribbon unfurled. Besides Roger and the Trapps, you could

find Chris Henry, Doug Hicks, Ric Holderbaum, Chuck Mileur, David Morgenstern, Steven Polansky, Louie Robida, Camron Rust, Tammy Tolbert, Larry Wood, and Jeff Yarnall. Again, the master link in the chain was Neal Malagamba, who floated in the middle of the pack, holding the accordion together.

Lebanon is a 70-mile, 70-minute drive from Tigard; but, you already know that's the *last* route we would ever consider. We endured our small dose of I-5 to cross the river, then headed west on Ehlen Road to explore. A quick turn south on Butteville Road vaulted the freeway, and a quick stop in Gervais allowed us to regather. Then the fun began.

Howell Prairie Road is a wonder of the Willamette Valley. Ostensibly along the valley floor, it runs for about seventeen miles and is chock full of twists, turns, and wonders you don't expect to find on a valley floor: elevation changes! Every time we ride it, we want to turn around and do it again.

We'd been riding for 90 minutes when we approached Sublimity, and it was time to take a break. The



Dominating the curb in Sublimity

Photo by Chris Henry

gaggle of bikes attracted a little attention, mostly from neighbors glad to share their own riding tales. Gassed and drained, we remounted and continued our ramble.

Although it was a nice day, a nip remained in the air. The elevation climbed as we headed east. Weather was concentrated in the surrounding hills, the fresh snow on tree tops reminding us that the seasons had not yet fully changed.

Fern Ridge Road deposited us in Lyons and once everyone safely crossed OR-22, we began our final push toward lunch.

A couple of years ago, we toured the covered bridges of Linn County. Two of them, Larwood and Gilkey, fit nicely into today's ride. But not before we entertained a detour. Many of you have undoubtedly zipped through the county along Richardson Gap Road. Near the north end, a sign informs passersby of Rodgers Mountain Loop. Usually the pace is too brisk to consider, but rides like today's are perfect to explore the road less travelled.

The road rises and drops nearly 1,000 feet over the course of the nine-mile loop. One can only assume from the clearcut that this land has been managed by local timber families for decades. The road itself was in fine shape, bumpy in spots, yet well marked. But caution was the watchword, for plenty of traction gravel could be chanced upon. We found ourselves looking forward to another ride later in the season, when hopefully the gravel will have been swept



Cascading down Rodgers Mountain

Photo by Diane Peterson

away. But the thumb's up at loop's end suggested the side trip had been a hit.

Larwood Road was our final diversion east. Well-maintained and marked, it's another prime example of why we prefer the backroads to the interstate. It follows Crabtree Creek, which flows to the Santiam River. Larwood tees into Fish Hatchery Road; turning south we crossed Crabtree Creek via the Larwood Covered Bridge. Built in 1939 and renovated in 2002, the 105-foot crossing was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. A particularly interesting side bar: Roaring River empties into Crabtree Creek just below the bridge. According to *Ripley's Believe It or Not* (actually, according to the [Statesman Journal](#)), this confluence is the only one in the world where a river flows into a creek.

After a quick photo stop, it was on to lunch. Determined to push east as far as paved roads would



Crossing the Larwood Covered Bridge

Photo by Diane Peterson

allow, we followed East Lacombe Road toward Green Mountain, before heading west. Central Linn County is a dead reckoner's delight, providing innumerable options for returning to civilization. We chose

Totem Pole/Mt. Hope Drive, which eventually deposited us in Lebanon.

And not a moment too soon. As we doffed the bikes, the rain began. Nothing serious, but enough to make us grateful to be indoors



Beleaguered bikers beckoning burritos

Photo by Diane Peterson

for an hour. Our hostess, Braden, did an exceptional job of carving a sizable niche out of the middle of a busy restaurant to accommodate 20 hungry motorcyclists—and their gear. The conversation was boisterous as everyone discussed the morning's ride and whatever else was on their mind. The food must have been a hit, judging by the order-of-magnitude drop in the decibel level once lunch was served.

After lunch, the bikes were wet, but the hour had done its trick. A few folks peeled off, waving goodbye, then the chase began anew. One might think we'd shot our wad before lunch, but that wasn't the case at all. Tennessee Road makes its way northward from Lebanon, a constant barrage of lefts and rights as it encounters the property lines of the valley's [Century Farms](#).

Crossing OR-226 we soon found ourselves approaching Gilkey Covered Bridge. No time for a stop here, but the bridge was beautiful,

crossing Thomas Creek since 1939, and having been recently restored just last summer. If you're looking for an interesting local ride to entertain out-of-town guests, you can hardly do better than to ride from covered bridge to covered bridge in Linn County. Oregon has more covered bridges (51) than any state west of the Mississippi. There are at least seven in Linn County alone.

Our last diversion of the day was the Summit Loop, off of Parish Gap Road between Jefferson and Turner. Like Rodger's Mountain, it's an easy one to pass by. But if you enjoy quick elevation changes and off-camber corners, it's definitely a find.

It was after 4pm when we gathered for our final gas stop. Many bid a hasty farewell as they rushed off to extract something productive from the day. All agreed we were lucky indeed to squeeze another great day of riding out of the winter calendar. Next month

promises spring and daylight savings time.

What more do you need to get the riding juices flowing?

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, March Ride: 242

Total First Saturday miles – 2018: 585

[Ixtapa Mexican Restaurant](#)

25 N. Santiam Hwy, Lebanon, OR (541) 451-3995



One last pose before the interstate and home

Photo by David Peterson

Northwest Ambassador Ride

photo by Charles Trapp



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