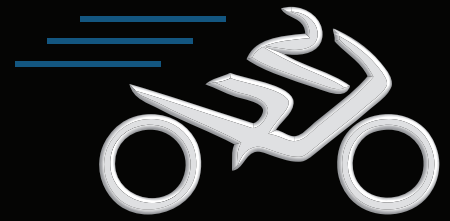




THE BEEMER BEAT



Newsletter of the BMW Riders of Oregon

August, 2019

Volume 43, Issue #7

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



Photo by Chris Henry

Fairgrounds Camping CTR 2019

**BMWRO Executive Committee
Nominations Wanted!**
from Linnea Alvord Pg. 6

Another One Bites the Dust!
Don's Leg Story - from Steve Miller
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**David Peterson's
Mt. St. Helen's Ride**
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Event: **Long weekend overnight trip to the Wallowas**
Date/Time: August 2–4, 2019
Place: Enterprise, OR
Description: Navigation expert David Peterson will lead a spirited 400-mile per day group from the Portland area over to the Wallowas for a fun-filled road-oriented weekend getaway. Never fear, this ride will be open to 20 riders who register and show up in Enterprise to partake of a group riders on Saturday up to Hells Canyon, Lewiston and Rattlesnake Canyon, among other highlights. The Wallowa County Fair is on-going during this time as well. Twenty (20) motel rooms are reserved in anticipation of the trip - twenty (20) rider cap.
Registration: Closed.
Contact: David Peterson **503-327-5592**
dwpeterson01@yahoo.com

Event: **Canal Creek Campout**
Date/Time: August 16–18, 2019
Place: near Waldport
Description: We've reserved a group campsite near Waldport with Canal Creek running alongside the campsite. We've got room for tents and several small RV spots (trailers and motorhomes are not recommended). There is both good road and dual sport riding in this area. There are restrooms but no water. We will have some drinking and cooking water available. Dinner on Saturday will be provided but other food will be on your own. Nearby there are several good restaurants. A full service store is 10 miles away.

Register: Registration Deadline August 9th
Cost:
BMWRO Members \$5. 00
Associate member. 10. 00
Non-member or Guest. 20. 00

Directions: From the Valley take Hwy 34 from Corvallis and Philomath towards Waldport for 43 miles. When you reach the bridge crossing the Alsea River turn left on E. Boundary Rd., follow Boundary for 5 miles to the campground. Alternatively from the Coast follow Hwy 34 east for 6.7 miles to Boundary and again go 5 miles up.

Contact: Keith Matteson **(541) 272-2373**
motomatteson@gmail.com

Event: **Steens Mountain Campout and Quarterly Meeting of the Membership**

Date/Time: September 6–8, 2019
Place: The Narrows RV Park, OR

www.bmwro.org

Description: After a busy summer, we'll take this opportunity to get out to the eastern part of the state and see the Alvord Desert and Steens Mountain loop as BMWRO returns to this popular site at The Narrows RV Park.

Your registration fee includes 2 nights grassy tent-camping, free showers, free WiFi, and a scrumptious catered dinner Saturday evening. All other meals are on your own. If you prefer to bring an RV rather than sleeping on the ground, the RV park will offer 10% discount to BMWRO members for RV sites with hook-ups. Make your RV reservations directly with the Narrows RV Park at 541-495-2006.

Plenty of Good Food!

Saturday dinner (included in your registration) will be your choice of a meat or a vegetarian/gluten-free lasagne, green salad, green beans, french bread, and dessert.

There is a restaurant & bar on-site offering their Fish & Chips & Salad Bar for \$16.95. Other restaurants are available in Burns, French Glen, & Fields.

A special breakfast buffet is being planned for Saturday & Sunday mornings for a separate fee, paid at time of registration. Breakfast buffet, served from 7:00-9:00 am each morning includes biscuits & gravy, hard-boiled eggs, fresh fruit, bagels & cream cheese, muffins, oatmeal & milk, orange juice, cranberry juice, coffee & tea for \$9.25 per person.

Spectacular Riding, Campfire Camaraderie, and a Meeting!

Steve Miller is planning to lead another one of his awesome GS rides! Have you ridden the Steens Mountain Loop road (a GS route)? How about riding out to the Alvord desert for some wheelies and donuts? The ride down to Fields for their famous hamburgers & milkshakes is a lovely paved route. Maybe you'd like a hot springs soak at Crystal Crane Hot Springs or Alvord Hot Springs. So many choices! We'll have our 3rd quarter club meeting Saturday afternoon at 4:30 pm before dinner is served at 6 pm.

Registration: Required before August 25, 2019.

Register online at www.bmwro.org

Cost:
BMWRO Members \$10. 00
Associate member. 15. 00
Non-member or guest. 20. 00

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



Recurring Events & Heard-On-The-Road

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 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: TBD

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
 Neal Malagamba **503-969-3220**
n.malagamba@icloud.com

Event: **Doc Wong Riding Clinic**

Date/Time: This event will be suspended for a few months.

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



www.bmwro.org

Heard-On-The-Road

Event: **Stanley Stomp**

Date/Time: August 8-11, 2019
Place: Grandjean, ID at the Sawtooth Lodge
Description: Idaho BMW Riders present the Stanley Stomp. Heated pool, showers, meadow camping, rental cabins, hot springs.

Registration: Registration required.

Cost: \$80.00; pre-registration only.

Register: <https://www.idahobmwriders.com/stanleystomp.html>

Event: **16th Thunder Mountain Rendezvous**

Date/Time: September 20-22, 2019
Place: Delta County Fairgrounds in downtown Hotchkiss, Colorado

Description: BMW Riders of Western Colorado (MOA #270) present the 16th Thunder Mountain Rendezvous on a colorful weekend of the Western Slope of Colorado. Our low elevation venue includes a large meeting hall, restrooms with showers, plenty of grassy camping and the convenience of walking to downtown restaurants, stores and motels.

Contact: www.bmwridersofwco.com



Photo by Gavin Silasky

BMWRO President's Message

Rally Report by Alice LeBarron

I'm still wrapping up the last bits of rally information and getting all of our new Associate Members into the website database. Bill Hedges is getting the financial stuff tabulated from the rally. David Morganstern is reviewing the survey results. If you're on the Facebook BMWRO page, there have been lots of wonderful pictures of the rally! Yes, we had "weather"! Mostly it was warm, sunny, & dry interspersed with some pretty dramatic, short-lived thunderstorms. We had a total attendance of 422 this year. Rally attendees appreciated the variety of guided rides. The seminars & movies were all well-attended. The Friday night live music, co-sponsored by **Weiser Technik**, was a hit! A huge thank you to Weiser for their generous contribution! The **Team Oregon** on-road classes were filled again this year as well as their new offering of 4 clinic sessions. We were fortunate to have classes and seminars on improved riding skills and safe riding techniques from the guys at **Team Oregon** and from **Walt Fulton/Streetmasters and Dave Hough**. The riding was spectacular and the camaraderie warm and upbeat!



Photo by Bruce Henriksen

Thanks to the last minute efforts of Carol Dallas, Nate Levin, and Steve Miller, the 50/50 raffle resulted in a \$380 donation to the Juniper Arts Council in memory of John Fiedor. John led the popular Geology Rocks! Tours for the past 5 years at CJR. Steve Miller (Prineville), Christy Graham (Fortuna, CA), and Ron Holzkamp (Medford) were the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd prize winners respectively for the 50/50. Great use was made of Carol Dallas' hotdog hat!

The Long Distance 2-up Rider Award was a tie, awarded to Graeme & Sue Duncan of Australia and Camron & Karen Rust of Hillsboro. Graeme & Sue flew to Kelowna, BC where they picked up a motorcycle and rode to John Day via the Arctic Circle sign in Alaska. Camron & Karen rode across country to South Carolina and then back to John Day. Long journeys by both and remarkably close in mileage according to Google maps! Graeme & Sue won an Expedition Model Cycle Pump from **Best Rest Products, Inc.** They put it to good use with a flat tire after leaving the rally. Camron & Karen won a Battery Power Pack donated by **Hansen's BMW** in Medford.

The Long Distance Female Rider Award was also a tie: Val Weston from Dayton, NV (458 miles) and Michelle Randall from Suquamish, WA (459 miles). Each won a large pack of **Cycle Wipes** donated by Dave Swezey.

Long Distance Male Rider was won by Marty Sluyter, 2927 miles, from Tallahassee, FL. His prize was a Tire Repair Tool donated by **Rocky Creek Designs**.

The Youngest Female Rider Award went to Val Weston, who was also one of the two winners of the long-distance female rider award. Her prize was a signed copy of Proficient Motorcycling by Dave Hough.

The Youngest Male Rider Award went to Daniel Kuzmin. His prize was a signed copy of Mastering the Ride by Dave Hough. Daniel also won the award for **Oldest BMW Ridden to the Rally** on his 1975 R75/6. His prize was a laser image of a 1923 BMW in a crystal block, donated by **Clarence Story**.

The Oldest Male Rider Award went to Bill Habel (Portland). **The Oldest Female Rider Award** went to Carole Brooke (Chico, CA). Both were awarded a BMW insulated coffee mug and a BMW cap from **Steve Prokop Bavarian Motorcycle Service**. Many, many door prizes were given out. BMWRO is very grateful to the vendors for their support of our rally and their contribution of prizes! Please support them with your business! See their logo ads on page 7 of this issue.

Ride Safe! Have Fun! Alice

Call for Artwork

I'm already thinking about next year's Chief Joseph Rally! How about putting some of your creative energy into designing the artwork to be used for next year's rally? Do you have an idea for a design that would make a great T-Shirt? Have a photo that you think would do well on a T-Shirt? I'll be accepting submissions for artwork until Nov. 1st. Want to talk over some ideas? Send me an email: Alice LeBarron bmwro.pres@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Ron & Maggie Sieber, Salem, Or. 1978 BMW 100 RS
Dennis Hammer, Hillsboro, OR. . . 2018 BMW K1600 Grand America
James Aguilar, Salem, OR. 2017 BMW 1200 GS Adventure
Thomas Whelchel, Tualatin, OR. 2018 BMW R1200GS
Chris Bushore, Happy Valley, OR. 2011 BMW R1200GS
William Sawyer, Klamath Falls, OR. 2017 BMW R1200GS
Douglas Baker, Port Orford, OR. 2013 BMW R1200R
Jason Wise, Bend, OR. 2005 BMW F650GS
Bradley Maier, Portland, OR. 2012 BMW F800GS

BMWRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Alice LeBarron, **541-647-7194**
bmwro.pres@gmail.com

Vice President/ Activities:

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

Secretary:

Linnea Alvord, **503-816-9058**
bmwro.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Nate Levin, **503-931-9789**
bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Stacy Brock, **541-292-0567** (Text preferred)
bmwro.web@gmail.com

BYLAWS, POLICIES & GUIDELINES

These are located in the Documents section of our website:
www.bmwro.org and can be viewed by members who are logged in.

BMWRO COORDINATORS

Membership Coordinator

Gavin Silaski, **503-333-2386**
bmwro.membership@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Craig Porter **518-316-6836**
bmwro.editor@protonmail.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) .

AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEER REQUESTED—
if interested please contact any member of
the Executive Committee.

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

Neal Malagamba—503-969-3220
n.malagamba@icloud.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

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

BMWRO Executive Committee Nominations Wanted !

This October, we will be electing a new Vice President and Treasurer for the BMWRO for the next 2 years. This is the official request to nominate a candidate or raise your hand for these positions before the next quarterly membership meeting Saturday, September 7 at the Steen's Mountain Campout, September 6-8. Nominations will close at the Membership Meeting. The positions are for two-year terms, starting January 1, 2020.

As a member of the executive committee, these roles each have the opportunity to directly influence the club and drive its continuous improvement. If you have questions about either of these two positions, please contact either Alice LeBarron at bmwro.pres@gmail.com or Linnea Alvord at bmwro.secretary@gmail.com.

BMWRO depends completely on the work of us as volunteers. Please consider this opportunity to use your talents, experience, and love of motorcycling to help BMWRO evolve and succeed.

If you wish to submit a candidate, or raise your own hand, please let Linnea Alvord know at bmwro.secretary@gmail.com.

What happens from there? Before the vote, the club secretary will publish your name, a brief bio as to why you're interested and your experience that supports the position. Voting will be by electronic ballot and will happen during October. New officers will be announced at the November Quarterly Meeting.

Linnea Alvord

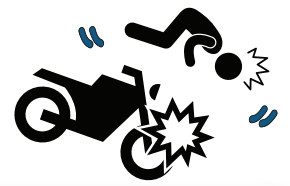
Secretary, BMWRO

BMWRO thanks these vendors for contributing prizes for the 2019 Chief Joseph Rally.



“Yeah, another one bites the dust!”

-Queen



Don's Leg... by Steve Miller

Heading north from Mt. Vernon, the light rain increased to full-on, including hail piled white on Highway 395's shoulders. I chuckled inside my helmet at the satisfaction of riding with skilled and well-kitted mates. Keith Matteson, Don Weber and I were heading out to pre-ride Keith's "Easy GS ride" scheduled for Saturday of the CJR.

Initially we tried the Old Ritter Road which departs 395 at the top of the hill very near the Ritter Lookout. We rimmed out at a ranch gate with the other option; a slimy 2-track that had us voting for Ritter Road. (Mind you, it was still raining. Bleh.) So north up 395, then west along the Middle Fork John Day River we rode, the rain tapering off as we passed Ritter Hot Springs to a full stop by the time we came to the end.

Two options at the road's end are; further WSW toward Monument, or ENE up the North Fork eventually getting back out to Hwy 395 just north of Dale, OR. The road through to Monument has been closed for some years, the primary rancher in there apparently fed up with abuse to her cattle, but the other direction was our target, the North Fork Road.



The site of Don's mishap

Photo by Steve Miller



Don Weber's Transport

Photo by Steve Miller

with me following a bit behind. Up the track 200 yards and around a bend, Keith finds Don sitting on his downed bike, who says, matter-of-factly, **"I broke my leg."** Keith replies, "Seriously, what's up?" Don had already activated his SPOT satellite device, so we made him comfortable in the grass & wildflowers, plied him with vitamin-I, (Ibuprofen), which was the best pain meds we had. (*note to self), and watched the road dry out as we sorted our options.

Then, very fortuitously, a couple drove up in an SUV (the only car of the whole day), and offers, "Anything we can do?" "Why sure...", we chorused, "...can you drop Don by the John Day hospital?" And other than listening to Don for the whole trip to JD, it was only a slight diversion from their return to Seneca, their home...continued on pg. 9 →

This is a pretty good road and in the first 1/2 mile, drops down to the river level with a couple tight turns, some cobble rock, a small bridge, but mostly just dirt. Keith was leading on his 650 Dakar, I on my 650 GS, then Don on his 800 GS. Keith and I crossed the bridge and only as we were bleeding off the last 1/4 mile of elevation did we realize **IT WAS SLICK!** The ruts were mild and softly rounded, but there was no changing lines now, because just that quickly it was **pucker-time!** Straight-up greasy! We slip, slide, and slip some more, down to the river level and sidestand our bikes, remarking how quickly the surface had descended to slicks-ville!....And wait for Don. **Hmm....Still no Don.** Keith takes off walking back up the road, slick even under our boots,



Note the doctor's expression!

Photo by Deb Weber

♪ "Yeah, another one bites the dust!" ♪

-Queen



Don's Leg... continued from pg 8

Now getting Don's 850 back to John Day presented an entirely different challenge! But hours later, and after crossing the Sheriff (who cancelled the SPOT assist request), and Keith's returning clear to Mt. Vernon for a good phone signal, we had the bike loaded on rally attendee Claude William's trailer and headed for the rally grounds. Then Keith turns to me and asks, "Well..., wanna go ride the ride?" So we did. On a route that's

become known as....**Don's Leg.**

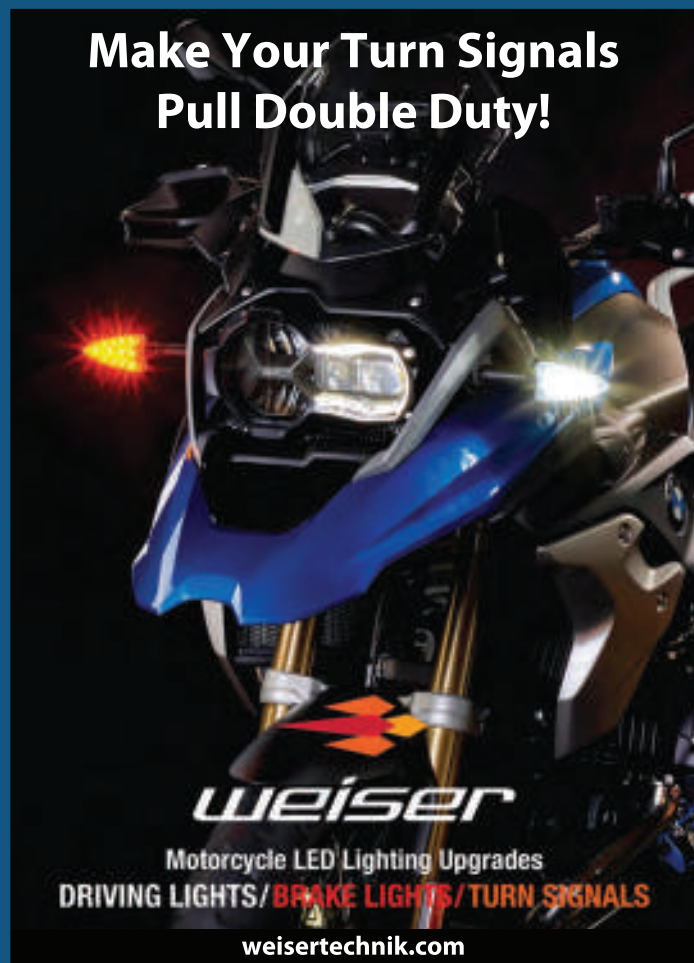
President's Note: I saw Don sitting in the Pavilion, shortly after his return from the hospital. He waved his Super Hi-Tech Racing Crutches and called out **"I won the prize!"** Don spent the rally weekend getting around with a 4x4 ATV loaned to him by Dusty, one of the fairgrounds staff. He had surgical repair of his fractured left tibia & fibula on July 5th and reports that he is healing well, though sore, and making plans to ride to the Steens Mountain Campout!



Photo by Steve Miller

Don's bike doesn't look so bad once the slick stuff dries

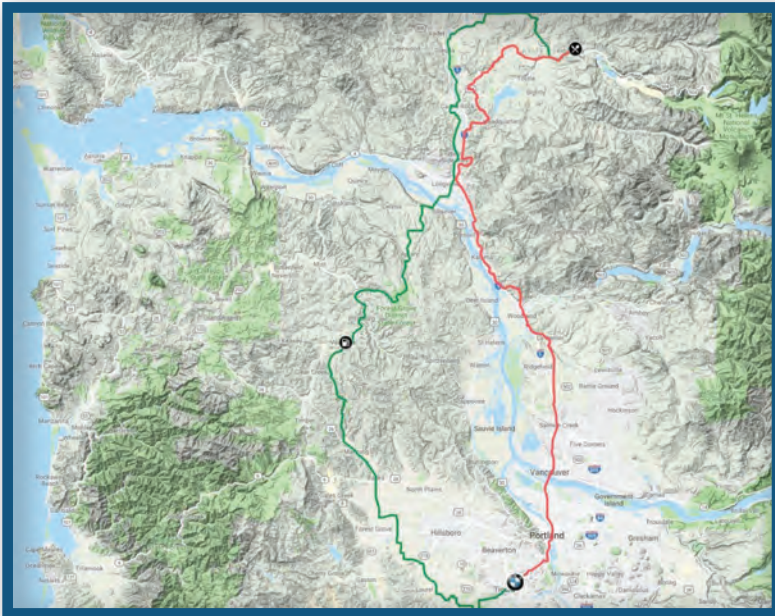
Make Your Turn Signals Pull Double Duty!



Don Weber writes:

"A GREAT BIG THANK YOU
to every body for the help and friendship shown
to Debbie and Don during this adventure."

**BMWRO thanks Weiser Technik for
co-sponsoring the Friday evening live
music at the 2019 Chief Joseph Rally.
We are grateful for their generous support!**



Map by David Peterson

It was Fourth of July weekend - time for an intimate ride with friends. After all, everyone was using the holiday weekend to get out of dodge, right? Wrong! The RSVPs kept coming - and there are always folks who just show up. At the appointed hour, off we rode - 25 enthusiastic day-trippers on 19 bikes. It was going to be a full house at lunch! But first we had to get there. Today's destination? **Fire Mountain Grill**, a lovely roadhouse west of Mount St. Helens, known for its homemade berry cobbler. The challenge? Meandering hither and yon northward, without the contact patch touching I-5. After a rousing pre-ride meeting where the rules of the road were discussed, we assembled the conga line. As we were to realize later, not everyone may have been fully engaged when the intersection rules were addressed.

The toughest part of any large ride is negotiating the congestion that precedes pastureland. Stop lights and traffic can slice a procession to ribbons; fortunately everyone was familiar enough with Tigard that we got through cleanly. Soon we were in Scholls, and a quick stop showed all present. Things opened up as we darted through Washington County, before our last early clash with civilization in Cornelius.

Off to Mount St. Helens we go!



Photo by Diane Peterson

On past Verboort, we were still hanging together. **David** and **Diane** were leading, with **Kim Dorsing** and **Janice Mathern** close behind on GreTL. Trailing them, in no particular order, were two-ups **David** and **Staci Tasker** (on their maiden voyage with us), **Justin Carr** and **CJ Strauss**, and **Louie** and **Karen Robida**. Among the solo riders were **Bob Ingersoll** (back after a layoff forced by a broken ankle) and his buddy, **Bob Hermerath**, who was also joining us for the first time. **Mitch Cooper** came down from Longview, where we would be passing through shortly. **Rett Russell** was another first-timer, joining **Frank Boyle**, **Chuck Mileur**, **Keith Picone**, **Kyle Emerson**, **Dave Miller**, **Dan Noble**, **Tammy Tolbert**, **Cam Rust**, **Charles Trapp**, and **Steven Polansky**. Fullfilling the thankless tail gunner role was **Mike Ripley**.

Not only was he continuing to abandon family in Phoenix, but with his regular steed in the shop, *he rented a 1979 airhead* to join us. Enduring a short stretch on Sunset Highway, the air thickened and the road in the distance was decidedly wet as it climbed westward into the Coast Range. Fortunately, we were about to turn north. But not before serious rain began to fall. We were heading in the right direction this time and after a few wet minutes, the rain stopped once and for all. Spirits were high as we stopped for a quick rest in Vernonia. Soon we continued north, heading for the Washington border. Once we exited OR-47, the roads became less familiar and the formerly tight formation began to unravel. One rider missed the exit onto Apiary Road; a couple more were surprised by turns later on. We regrouped long enough to enjoy a short tour of industrial Longview (which, surprisingly, is dominated by an assortment of senior living communities, rehab facilities, and halfway houses - who knew?



Photo by David Peterson

North of Longview was a real treat. For years, many of us have gazed from I-5 at the network of rural roads that parallel and cross below along the Cowlitz River. On this ride, we explored them all, Old Pacific Highway to Barnes to Imboden to Mandy, before skirting along the river underneath I-5 to Jackson Highway and WA-505. If you're in the neighborhood, get out your map and study it - these roads are worth the extra effort.

It was almost 1PM, and folks were getting hungry. Fortunately, lunch was just 30 minutes and one last, long wooded stretch away. Arriving at the restaurant a little later than expected, we were greeted with smiles. The entire back porch of the Fire Mountain Grill, overlooking the Toutle River had been reserved just for us. It was hardly a scorching day, but everyone enjoyed lunching outdoors. Verna, our dynamo of a waitress, was gathering drink orders before helmets were off, lunch orders before jackets were doffed, and serving us our fare before we'd even stretched out.

My chili was piping hot, and the sandwiches, burgers, and salads seemed to be a big hit. Only a few of us left room for cobbler; I resolved to save mine until my next run up the mountain. Whatever we were doing in the morning must have worked, for only two riders decided to dead head home from lunch. In the spirit of the day, the rest of us resolved to rush down the east side of I-5, delaying the inevitable until the last possible on-ramp. A sunnier day might even have encouraged us to make a run for the Johnston

Observatory, a twisty 75-mile addition that would have made for a really long day. Instead, we stuck to the plan, zipping west on Spirit Lake Highway, then abruptly turning right onto Tower Road. From there, the day's fun hit its climax, as we doubled back to find Silver Lake, Headquarters and Holcomb Road. *Especially* Holcomb Road. A map, even in satellite view, simply doesn't do it justice.

Only 4 miles long, it twists and contorts in impossible directions, rising, then falling 725 feet, all along perfectly engineered corners and reasonably fresh tarmac. Anyone slogging along I-5 would do well to take exit 42 and find this gem just east of the interstate, before hopping back on and making their way, slogging no more. There was one more twisty diversion, along Green Mountain Road, before we eased our way back into familiar territory. We stopped for gas in Woodland and said our final farewells. I thought the bulk of the remainders would hop onto the freeway nearby and sprint home. Instead, most stayed with me on side roads - another 25 miles - before hopping once and for all onto I-5. It had been a

long day, one that could have been remembered for the frustrations of staying together. But throw in a few unexpected thrills in the afternoon, and a good day knocked on the door of the great. 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, May Ride: 265
Total First Saturday miles – 2019: 1,599 [Fire Mountain Grill](#)—9440 Spirit Lake Highway, Toutle, WA 98649 (360)274-5217



Nothing better than having Tower Road all to yourself.

Photograph by Diane Peterson



Hungry bikers...we're almost there..

Photo by Diane Peterson



The perfect biker stop is along the Toutle River.

Photo by David Peterson

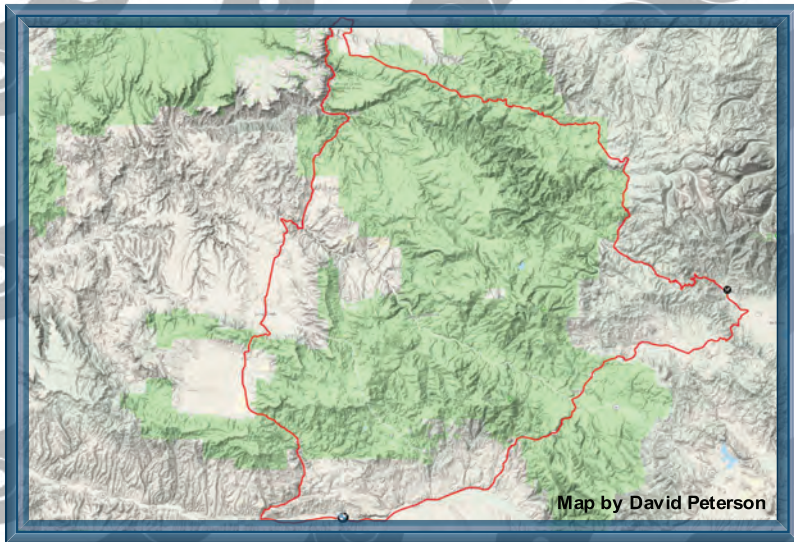


Photo by Dan Hall

Rally Ride to Magone Lake by Dan Hall

Larry Cagle, Steve Sincerny and myself took a ride around Strawberry Mountain Friday, and yes the baby 310GS made it up the hill with no problems. When the sun came out one of the high meadows had lots of wildflowers, a beautiful ride. We stopped in Prairie City and found a large custom motorcycle shop. This place was amazing for being in the middle of nowhere. Mostly custom Harley parts but a few interesting old bikes. An old 50cc 2 stroke Harley like Larry learned to ride on, old Triumph's and an old BSA. Across the street was an antique shop where we each ended up spending a few dollars for gifts, lots of fun talking to the two lady's working there.

Next we rode north on Kenny Forks road and turned west to Magone Lake. What a beautiful lake, I had been here about 10 years ago and the area was now much improved. Then the roads were gravel but were now paved all the way to the lake with bathrooms and a nice campground. The last time I was here we had a bear run across the road in front of us but not this trip. We continued on gravel roads to Highway 395 and back to the Rally. Our rides were short but we got to see some of the beautiful country around John Day.



Rallies are known for their camping and programs...and this year's Chief Joseph Rally had quality offerings. A more lush, sumptuous campsite than the Grant County Fairground simply doesn't exist. And anyone who came away unenriched from a Team Oregon cornering clinic or Bruce Henrickson's moto-photography presentation just wasn't trying.

But the main draw to John Day every year is the spectacular setting and the roads surrounding it. So, sooner or later, it was time to saddle up and explore the neighborhood. One well-attended offering was my Ukiah Loop Tour. Saturday morning found fifteen eager souls looking for a long lap through the mountains. Most of our troop was unfamiliar with the area, so we set a pace that, while energetic, enabled all to take in the sights.

Ours was a clockwise loop of about 200 miles. The first section included one of the prettiest stretches of US-395. From Mt. Vernon to Ukiah Junction, the route rises to 5,100 feet while topping several crests that separate the old settlements of Fox, Long Creek, and Dale. No traffic and wide sweeping corners made for a memorable ride on this clear, temperate day.

Eighty miles in, Ukiah was a perfect place to take a break. Barely larger than the other settlements, it nevertheless has a personality that's made visible with the yard art that surrounds the lone gas station. After a quick espresso, we were ready to hit it again.

The next 40 miles were along NF-52, a section of the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway. The road was in much better shape than when I last passed through, offering a scenic vista along the North Fork John Day River drainage. It continues southeast crossing tributary after tributary, before ending at the junction with NF-73. Here the Blue Mountain becomes the Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway, which slices through the Elkhorn Mountains. Continuing straight would have taken us past Anthony Lakes Ski Area and the steep descent to Haines.

Instead, we turned right toward the gold rush towns of Granite and Sumpter. Here the land, still rugged, begins to show the scars of its mining heyday, when massive dredges culled the local streams for gold. The greatest of them all, the Sumpter Valley Dredge, resides in Sumpter, newly restored and the locus of an impressive State Heritage Area.

While in Sumpter, we had lunch at Carole's Mad Dog Saloon. The choices were odd — Italian fare instead of the usual burgers and sandwiches. And it must have been an Easy Bake pizza oven, for orders beyond a single pizza meant a looonnnng wait. Eventually fed, we gathered ourselves for the final stretch back to the fairgrounds.

The 85-miles final stretch is beautiful, but familiar to John Day regulars. Nevertheless, the group seemed to enjoy the pace as we zoomed by the campgrounds and meadows. A few of us stopped for ice cream at Austin Junction, while others zoomed ahead to catch the afternoon events at the fairgrounds. All who participated signaled "thumbs up" at the choice of route and John Day as destination. With all this scenery, who wouldn't want to make a vacation of John Day to Great Falls for the National next year? It's certainly something to think about.



Photo by Alice LeBarron

Fairgrounds Camping CJR 2019

Visit our website at:
WWW.BMWRO.ORG

Newsletter Editor
 Craig Porter 518-316-6836
bmwro.editor@protonmail.com



Photo by Alice LeBarron



Keith briefs the riders before his GS ride

Why BMW RO Membership?...A Thank You from Bill Habel

At this year's CJR, coming into the motel lot, I had a real spongy rear tire (moan). A group of riders gathered came over to assist and volunteer to fix it. Chris Henry took out his trusty multi tool, removed the nail, reamed the hole and-vulcanized the plug, inserted same and voila, it worked. But vulcanized? New technology to me.

And, so I came upon an act of kindness and new info simultaneously. A benefit of Membership. And one of those "pass it on things"

Incidentally, the new technology (vulcanizing the plug) is from BestRest Products in Washington.