



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



September, 2015

Volume 39, Issue #9

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



Women Riders' Camp Out

photo by Forest McGregor

South-on-a-Bike

A first installment from Keith Matteson as he and Jalene go north to go south. See page 10-11.

Nominations!

Become more involved in the club: nominate yourself for one of the Executive Committee positions. See page 4.

Ride Reports

and Camping reports along with a letter to the Editor from Roger Paquette. Various pages.

BMWRO President's Message

by Jay Bennett

Appreciation for the Volunteers

The BMW Riders of Oregon is a volunteer organization. We hear that often, but what does it really mean? Here's my humble view: nothing can happen—like a day ride—without a volunteer to lead and other volunteers to back them up. Everything in our club that happens is because of volunteers and teamwork. So there are many resources this club needs to exist and flourish and **volunteers are head-and-shoulders, above all else, the most important.**

The club has some very high caliber people and we all should be honored that we belong to such a talented group. The giving of these people to put on an event such as a campout or dinner is significant. For it to run smoothly, they have put a lot of time, talent and thought into it. When things run without a hitch, it's because someone has done a great job of planning and executing. We all know BMW Riders are strong, smart and motivated individuals—we need to add giving and generous to others to that list too.

We see people such as rally volunteers and chair people putting their best effort forward to make the rally a success. Our Ambassadors give the local groups a great ride experience and a chance to meet other local, like-minded souls. The newsletter editor, webmaster and contributors that write articles are, without a doubt, a plus to others for their reading pleasure, new ideas for rides and keeping the communication juices flowing. Hosts of events such as campouts or dinners are instrumental in giving others the entertainment and fellowship of the events. And don't forget the unsung work of the club officers working most of the time in the background to make the club a success. All in all, volunteerism is the spark that ignites the fires for the club. I hear appreciation a lot at events, but don't forget to thank the people that make this club run and excel when something needs to be done.

So why do people volunteer and what do they get from it? A snippet was sent from Forest McGregor to me and according to one volunteerism expert, Thomas W. McKee, there are three principal reasons:

1. **Self-Serving** reasons
2. **Relationship** reasons
3. **Belief** reasons



The reason a person volunteers may change over time, too. For example, a person may setup a ride to have someone to ride with and then host another event to keep in touch with people they have met and like, and finally move to where it seems like to volunteer is the *correct* thing to do in the organization or society. No right or wrong reasons here, just some understanding of what makes people put in the effort, their time—and sometimes even a little risk—to be a volunteer. Me personally, I think I volunteer my time for all those reasons to some degree, and then to know something has been accomplished that would not have happened without those efforts. For instance when you look at the sea of smiling, satisfied faces at the rally and know it was in some small part due to your efforts you become satisfied.

Ultimately we all want a positive experience from the club and volunteering is one way to gain that.

Ride well, ride far, ride safe (and have fun) and give volunteers a hearty thanks

Jay





BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

Event: **Steens Narrows**
Date/Time: September 11-13, 2015
Place: Narrows RV Park, OR
Description: A Saturday and Sunday morning continental breakfast and a Saturday night meal of PRIME RIB and green salad, plus more. Cost ?
The Narrows RV Park is 26 miles south of Burns on Hwy #205, on the way to Frenchglen and Fields. General Meeting to be held Saturday afternoon.
Cost: For members: \$15.00; for non-members: \$25.00
Contact: Ed Foltyn. Please **RSVP** No Later than 8/29/15. Preferred method of sign-up is thru our website and use PayPal at: <http://bmwro.org/SNC-preregistration.html>
Or contact Ed Foltyn at bmwro.vp@gmail.com or **503-577-9154** to reserve a space in the tent area and/or for dinner. An accurate head-count is needed for the Saturday night meal. RV hookups at your own expense: call **(541-495-2006)** to make reservations for RV camp spots or visit: www.narrowsrvpark.com. Also checkout: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/recreation/steens-mtn.php>

Event: **Winter Celebration and Quarterly Meeting**
Date/Time: November 21st, 2015
Location: Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR
Description: Join BMWRO club members for our Annual Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, Oregon
Join BMWRO club members for our Annual Winter Celebration to be held at the Oregon Gardens Resort in Silverton, Oregon. To sign up for the event see the club calendar at: http://www.bmwro.org/content.aspx?page_id=2&club_id=301799. For questions or help email Janet Bennett at jlbenett60@gmail.com or call **541-745-5838** and leave a message. Dinner for club members is \$15 per person; Associate or Nonmembers \$30 per person. The cutoff for dinner sign-up is November 12, 2015.
There will be a meet and greet at 5:30 p.m. in the Lounge, dinner starts at 6:30 followed by a short club meeting. We will not be having a "White Elephant" gift exchange this year. Make it a weekend by booking a room at the resort. The resort is holding rooms for both Friday and Saturday night; guest rooms are \$99.00 plus tax (1-2 people per room). Must reserve room before October 19, 2015 to receive this price and to guarantee a room. Room Rate includes



Lounge and bar at the Oregon Garden Resort

breakfast in the morning and Garden admission. Rooms with pet allowances are available. Call the Resort for further information. Participants can book online or call the reservation department at the Oregon Garden Resort **503-874-2500** and reference "**BMWRO15**". If you would like to book online, just follow this link: www.oregongardenresort.com. Guests will be prompted for a group code which is: **BMWRO2015**. Please follow the steps below to make online reservations:

1. Under "your place to dream" enter dates of stay, rooms needed, and number of guests for reservation.
2. Click "Book now"
3. Under dates you will see "Have a Promo or Group code? Enter it now"
4. Input Group Code
5. Click "update"
6. Group block will open with room options that are available.
7. Choose option and click "add to cart"

Contact: Janet Bennett, jlbenett60@gmail.com or call **541-745-5838**

Recurring Events

Event: **Central Oregon 2nd Saturday**
Date/Time: Second Saturday of each month
Location: Various ride and lunch locations in the Central Oregon area.
Contact: Alice LeBarron alicelebarron@hotmail.com
541-647-7194

Event: **Central Western Region
1st Saturday Ambassador Ride**
Date/Time: First Saturday of each month), Meet at 8:30 a.m., will leave parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
Location: European Motorcycles of Western Oregon
Description: Various routes.
Contact: Jim Breen, **541-912-4500** or jpbior@aol.com or Bob Metzger **608-642-1186** bobmetzger51@gmail.com

Event: **Southern Oregon 1st Saturday**
Date/Time: First Saturday of each month
Location: Various lunch/breakfast and ride locations for southern Oregon members.
Contact: Dan Hall, dnehall@frontier.com

Event: **NW Oregon 1st Saturday Ride**
Date/Time: First Saturday of each month
Location: Various breakfast and ride locations in Central Oregon area.
Description: Finding the twisties and connecting with our membership for grins and food sharing.
Contact: David Peterson **503-327-5592** dwpeterson01@yahoo.com
Susan Ortiz-Renteria **503-779-7842** dirtsquirt816@gmail.com

Canyon Creek Fire Donation by BMWRO

In case you have been gone or hiding to avoid the smoke in air, you may not have heard that our much loved John Day area has a major fire threatening the town and is less than 5 miles south of Canyon City. As of this writing 36 homes and 50 outbuildings have been lost, but thankfully there has been no loss of life. A couple members of the club suggested making a donation to the victim relief fund. After some discussion and a unanimous decision by Executive Committee, the BMWRO is donating \$2000 to the relief fund started by Old West Federal Credit Union.

This money will be considered as we make our annual charitable donations at the end of year, but we felt we must act quickly to assist some hard hit people. Once again BMW Riders of Oregon are giving back to people in the places that matter most to the organization.

For more info on the fire: http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2015/08/new_evacuations_ordered_as_can.html

For personal donations: <https://cms.bancvue.com/custom/fi/oldwestfcu/fb/disclosure/Job-1.pdf>

Jay Bennett, President of BMWRO

Event: **Eugene 1st Saturday Coffee**
Date/Time: First Saturday of each month 9:00 to 11:00 am.
Location: Eugene BMW store, 2891 W. 11th Ave
Contact: Jim Breen **(541) 912-4500**, jpbior@aol.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



Upcoming Elections for Executive Committee Positions

This fall we will be holding elections for our club Vice-President and Treasurer. All of the executive committee positions are for two-year terms; the President and Secretary positions will be open for elections in the fall of 2016. ***Nominations for Vice President and Treasurer are open NOW thru Sept 12th.*** Candidates will be announced at the club meeting Saturday, September 12th at the Steens Mountain Campout and additional nominations can be offered at that time. The ballot will then be published in the October **BEEMER BEAT**.

Our current Vice President, Ed Foltyn, is choosing to step down from his position. The Vice President also fills the role of Activity Coordinator. With many irons in the fire, Gordon Taylor is wanting to step down from his role as Treasurer. He is willing to stay involved to help a newly-elected treasurer transition into the role.

If you have an interest in helping BMWRO thrive, consider stepping forward as a candidate for one of these executive committee positions. Feel free to contact any of the current executive committee members to discuss your thoughts or questions.

Please submit nominations to Alice LeBarron by email: bmwro.secretary@gmail.com or by snail mail: 1627 NE Bear Creek Road, Bend, OR 97701 or by phone: **541-647-7194**.

NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Jared Ritchey, Corvallis, OR 2013 BMW R1200 GS

Keith Wolhar, Philomath, OR 2013 F800GS, 2001 K1200LT

Take time to write a story about your riding adventures and submit it for publication in the **BEAMER BEAT**—bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com



It is amazingly gratifying for one's ego to have a story printed in a semi-professional publication.

FIND THE BMWRO NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM ONLINE:

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

Bylaws, Policies & Guidelines

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

BMWRO Club Officials

President:

Jay Bennett (541-760-0675)
bmwro.pres@gmail.com

Vice President:

Ed Foltyn, (503-577-9154)
bmwro.vp@gmail.com

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

Gordon Taylor (802) 356-4954
bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

BEEMER BEAT Editor:

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

Webmaster:

Doug Tewksbury
bmwro.web@gmail.com

Club Liaison

Doug Tewksbury,
bmwro.news@gmail.com

Activities

Ed Foltyn, (503-577-9154)
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

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**

Dairy Point Campout

by Alice LeBarron

With lots of careful planning, snafu's can still happen. When plans fell through at the last minute, **Steve Miller** saved the day by offering to haul all of our Saturday night dinner supplies in his truck, which meant towing his F650. **Thank you, Steve!** He may have towed his bike, but he did get out on the dirt tracks for some exploring, heading out to some lookouts in the Fremont NF. You rock, Steve!

Jim Sims from Corvallis was an early arrival on his bumblebee BMW. **Chuck** from Troutdale came in for just a few hours of visiting Friday before he headed back home. **Bob Owen** showed up from Auburn, Washington. Next, the Florence contingent arrived: **Bob Whitlock, Butch Farrand, and Bill DuBeau** to add their level of fun to the group. Then we were joined by three friends from the Vancouver/Portland area: **Patrick Bolan** on his R1200RTP, **Caleb Cook**, and **Mike** on his Triumph. Patrick entertained us with a show-and-tell of his inflatable safety jacket and all of his bike's many farkles. Mike's rear tire was looking very thin on



Shucksters Bob Whitlock and Butch Farrand, cleaning up the corn!

photo by Steve Miller

tread; I later got report that he made it as far as Lapine before his tire gave out on him—then it was tow-truck time. I was glad to hear that he made it home safely. **James & Leslie Golden** rode up from the Redding area. Most of the riders had not been in this area of Oregon before and used the campout as an opportunity to explore a new area. It was a fun group of riders! Great folks to camp with!

On Saturday, I joined up with the guys from Florence for a fun and scenic ride to Bly for lunch (good food in Bly, by the way—I was too full to try the homemade pie, though). Then we explored a back route where Bob led us to

the Mitchell Monument for a bit of history. This was the site of a fatal Japanese balloon bomb explosion May 5, 1945, killing 6 residents of Bly, ages 11 to 26. It was the only place on the American continent where death resulted from enemy action during WWII.

After a somber moment of reflection, we rode on, glad to be alive on a glorious day. Back at camp, everyone pitched in to help with dinner. We were lucky to be in one of the few places in Oregon that was smoke-free that weekend. With clear, cold nights and mornings, we were grateful to be able to have nice campfires. This was probably the last place in Oregon that campfires were allowed—the Paisley ranger district had assured me that campfires in designated rings were okay. As for the Pleiades Meteor Showers, we had the clear skies needed for good viewing; but I couldn't stay awake late enough or crawl out of my sleeping bag early enough to see them.

As we were packing up to leave on Sunday morning, a couple of riders passed by the campground on their KTM and then came back to visit. After talking with them for awhile, we found out it was Clarence Story's cousin and his wife. Small world!



Steve Miller, caught in the act!

photo by Bob Whitlock

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These good folks service our grand toys—
BMW motorcycles—and we should remember that
without them, how would we get the parts and
services we need when we need them? Support
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MotoFantasy Norton Fall Rental Special:

The only rentable 2015 Norton Commando 961 in the world, for as little as \$75!!**

Guest journalist Jack Lewis* of MOTORCYCLIST Magazine rode the Norton last month to write a review. Look for that in coming months. Equipped with South Bay Norton's performance exhaust, hotter plugs and wires, and mapping, Jack said it sounds *"like the voice of God"* delivering power as a proper Norton should. A well-balanced ride, the Norton 961's three-way adjustable Ohlins shocks make a very stable platform.

The Brembo radial tires are progressive and sure.
Just enough vibration seeps through to let you know this is a mechanical device.

The Norton motorbike embodies the MotoFantasy idiom:
"Motorcycles you may not buy but would love to ride."
Be careful though, customers have a habit of buying bikes they've rented here!

* Jack is one of the prominent motorcycle journalists of the 21st century.
If you ride, you'll enjoy reading his new book Head Check.

** 80 miles plus \$1/mile over that.
DiamondStone/MotoFantasy:
16693 Sprague Lp, La Pine 97739,
between Sunriver & La Pine.

A New Co-Ambassador for the Northwest Region

I would like to welcome **Michael Ripley**
as the newest co-ambassador for the BMW Riders of Oregon in the NW Region!

By way of a short introduction, Mike came to Hillsboro 20 years ago to work at Intel, where he is still gainfully employed as an engineer. Important assets include a wonderful wife, four sons, and an R1200RT.

Mike will take over the baton from Susan Ortiz at the end of the 1st Saturday ride,
to be held this year on September 12 (the 1st Saturday is Labor Day weekend this year).
From then on, Mike and David Peterson will.

Mike can be reached at:
Email: gobeezer@live.com
Phone: 503-648-0578

Let's also give a round of applause to **Susan Ortiz**
who has been diligently acting as co-ambassador for the 5 years that I've been riding.

NW Ambassador's Ride Report – August 2015

David Peterson #90113
Susan Ortiz-Renteria #106802

94°...92°...97°...106°! It's been a remarkable string of warm days—27 days over 90° at last count: a new record. So where did we plan our August ride? Why, into the depth of the oven, of course—the Columbia Gorge town of Goldendale, WA.

Eleven hardy souls on nine bikes showed up at Tigard BMW ready to ride. **David** and **Diane** led the way, eagerly chased by **Bob Berner**, **Ric Holderbaum** (on a fully-farkled, new-to-him GSA—welcome back, Ric), **Colin Luther**, **Willy Paul**, **Neal Malagamba**, the **Perlichs** – **Karl and Ramona**, and **Steve Polansky**. **Mike Ripley** did a yeoman's job keeping everyone herded along the right path.

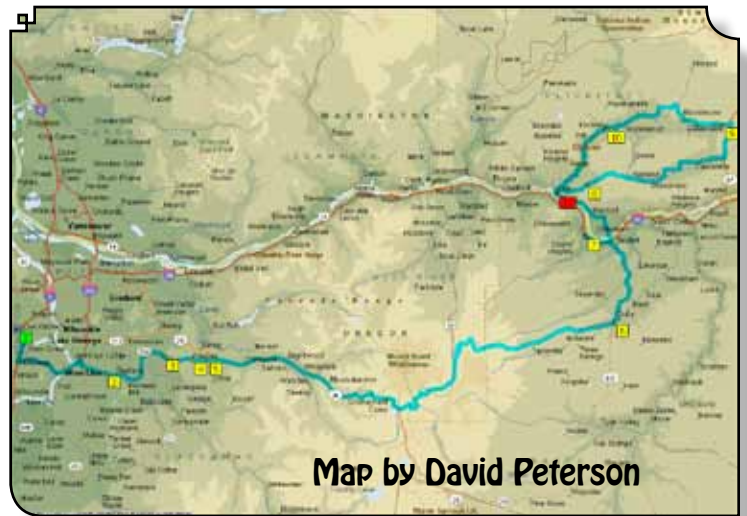
We did our best to take the cool way there. The only relief from this kind of heat is elevation and the closest elevation in the right direction was Mt. Hood. Getting to Mt. Hood from metropolitan Portland can be kind of dreary—unless you go the back way. Quickly exiting I-205, we carved through Redland and Barton, connecting with US-26 at Shorty's Cutoff. All without encountering a single traffic light for over 20 miles!

Once on US-26, it was easy rolling over the Mt. Hood's south shoulder. Which was actually quite lucky given the scope of the [construction going on there](#). After a quick pit stop, it was on through Dufur to The Dalles and lunch.



Photo by Diane Peterson

It's easy to spot your lunch destination when you've sent out reconnaissance. **Carol Lamper**, who was returning from a long journey of her own, got wind of our plans and decided to beat us there. "There" was **Cousins' Restaurant & Saloon**, a must-stop for any hungry motorcyclist heading through the gorge. We were also joined by Bob Berner's wife, **Barbara**. Bob and Barbara have recently relocated from Marin County to Hood River. Bob's eagerly joined us on our last couple of rides and Barbara drove over to join us. Welcome to them both.



Map by David Peterson

It took them a while to seat us (why we bother to call ahead, I'll never understand), but lunch was plentiful and tasty once we got on track. It was an eventful hour of camaraderie, for when we finally threw on the jackets, the heat of the day was upon us. The temperature had risen 20° while we dined. And the humidity had risen as well.

We crossed the Columbia, then, after waving goodbye to Carol and Willy, we turned north at Lyle into the Klickitat Canyon. A spectacular 35-mile ribbon of asphalt, WA-142 gently rises with the river, eventually tapering to a 15-foot single lane canyon section that rises 1,200 feet in three miles, before the center line reappears for the last 9-mile romp into Goldendale. As we gathered at the Dairy Queen, helmets came off with shrieks of, "I hit a-hundred-and-three!" and "That's nothing...mine said a hundred-and-ten!" I was thinking, "You guys are nuts...we didn't go anywhere near that fast." Then I looked at my *thermometer* and I understood.



Reads 106°

Heat like this beckons for relief in the form of ice cream—and one could do much worse than the Dairy Queen we were standing next to. Neal had been having throttle problems most of the day, which we guessed might be heat-related. They flared up in earnest on the next section of the ride, down the Centerville Highway back to Lyle. Eventually, he limped to the bottom.

It was late in the day so Ric and the Perlich's volunteered to accompany him home, where he arrived with no further problems. The rest of us headed west on WA-14, grateful to be out of heavy interstate traffic and for the most part, in the shade. It had been a warm one, but another great time was had by all.

Next month, we're heading south to very rural Linn County and the challenging Quartzville Scenic Byway. It's Labor Day in September, so we're going to again push the ride out a week to September 12th. Tigard BMW is where we meet, clutches out promptly at 9:45 a.m. Come join us!

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, August Ride:335

Total First Saturday miles, year-to-date: 1,804

Cousin's Restaurant & Lounge,
2114 W. 6th Street, The Dalles, OR
(541) 298-2771,
www.cousinsthedalles.com



Photo by David Peterson

Letters to the Editor

Banking Karma

from Roger Paquette

I was filling my gas tank en route —“Dallas to Oceanside Ride”. I hear a voice asking me if I have jumper cables. I look over. There's a hipster guy alongside a 750 Honda chopper at the next pump island. They're called “bobbers” now. I look and think, *Wow, look at that huge front disc brake! What a waste on a hard tail.* I told the guy, “push it over out of the way. When I'm done, I'll help you.”

I had just bought a lithium back-up battery. “Jump-start your three-quarter-ton Chevy up to five times,” said the advertisement. Worked pretty well on the iPhone but hadn't tried it on a vehicle. I had bragged about it to Jay Bennett at the Sixes Campout. We're always showing off gadgets. I dug it out of my tank bag. The guy reaches through a mass of spaghetti and attaches the red and black jumper cables. I flip on the battery. Nothing! I said, “let the device charge your battery a

little”. I look over the exposed red, white and black “Custom” wiring harness while waiting—trying not to be judgemental; yes, me! LOL. I notice a lack of soldered connections. Geez, it's all just crimped together! I was afraid to ask if this was a “test run”. Hope it doesn't rain today. Okay, try it now. It starts! Eureka! I pack away my stuff and climb aboard my bike. The “bobber” stalls. Of course, it doesn't start. Take out my battery pack. We reconnect it. *Hey I need some wrenches, what have you got?* Nope, no tools, just the battery pack. He starts whacking the wire connections with his iPhone (*apparently there's an app for that*). So, I let him use my Leatherman. It starts again! I quickly repack my stuff while telling him to let it run a couple of minutes to charge some. I take off, 'cause I'm supposed to meet Jay in an hour. Sucker works like a champ. I keep thinking about Chief Engineer Scotty and his lithium crystals.

True story; filler for **BEEMER BEAT**.
 Regards, Roger Paquette





Central Oregon Second Saturday Ride

by Alice LeBarron

August 8th was another gorgeous day for a ride! A bunch of us met up in Bend and headed out on the Alfalfa Market Road. Just west of the Alfalfa store, we turned north on the Johnson Ranch Road, which took us through some scenic ranch country and a couple of fun turns before connecting to the Powell Butte Highway. At the gas station in Powell Butte, we collected a couple more riders and went on to Prineville, where we were joined by two more riders. By this time, we had 14 riders on 12 bikes. **Doug Tewksbury** swept as I led the group on the fun and scenic route to Walton Lake in the Ochoco Mountains.

We enjoyed our sack lunches as we sat around talking motorcycles. Some of the riders gathered

around trying to troubleshoot the over-heating problem that **Bill Brisson** was having with his K75.

From Walton Lake, **Steve Miller** and **Mike Applebee** headed off to explore some gravel, dirt, and rocks. We followed Bill back to Prineville, where he felt that his bike was performing okay, so he took the highway home; a few of us took the back route through the Crooked River Gorge and across Bowman Dam.

Pictured left to right are: **Jon & Chris Drake**, **Steve Miller**, **Doug Tewksbury**, **Mark Spencer**, **Mark Applebee**, **Jay Yake**, **Ed Kennell**, and **Fred Wilde**. Also riding with us but missing from the picture are **Bryan & Caroline Wavra**, **Bill Brisson**, and **Joe Quinn**. Some are new members, some are long-time BMWRO members, and some will hopefully be joining BMWRO. Altogether, it was a really nice group of people to ride and visit with!



Women Riders' Camp Out

by Alice LeBarron

For the 3rd annual Women Riders Campout, we gathered at a couple of adjoining riverside campsites at Kiahanie campground, north of Westfir on the Aufderheide Forest Drive. This gave us a wonderful place to camp and ride!

I arrived at the campground early on Thursday in order to get the primo campsite. Pretty soon, here comes Robin Dunn from Grants Pass, a new member to

our group. Then Kris Jacobson and Carol Lamper each rolled into camp, and Kim Muggoch arrived with Angie Brinkman-Vanderpool—another welcome newcomer to our group.

Because of the high risk of forest fires, campfires were not allowed, so we had to be creative in our work-arounds. A fire-colored scarf was draped over a Luci-light to create the campfire ambiance as we sat around visiting; the evening was warm and comfortable, but soon we were getting creeped-out by Kris's scary story-telling! Carol made sure that



we had plenty of S'mores! We just had to roast the marshmallows over the gas campstove!

Friday morning started out with some map-reading lessons from "mapmaker" Kris Jacobson. Then we were off to find a good lunch at the Brewer's Union Pub in Westfir and an afternoon ride.

By the time we got back to camp, Forest had arrived with her camp mascot, Ragnar; soon after came Liz Jones, who rode in on that sweet K75S. There was much discussion about the History Channel's "Viking" series—with a well-loved character named Ragnar.

Saturday morning found us speculating about KC rumors, but we eventually headed out of camp for a ride up the Aufderheide and over to the Vida Café for lunch. Returning to camp that evening, we combined our food provisions and mutual efforts for an outstanding camp dinner!

As we sat around the "campfire" that night—again roasting marshmallows for S'mores—there was some wonderful brain-storming for future BMWRO events and campouts. Each year, I come away from the Women Riders' Camp Out with new ideas and inspirations!



South On A Bike August 22, 2015

by Keith Matteson

Our first day took us up the Nehalem River on the dirt road that leads from Mohler up through Spruce Run Park, depositing us on Hwy 26, which we followed to our friends' house in Hillsboro. The road up the river is a favorite of mine, and always brings back memories of a storm years ago that caused floods and

slides, cutting all the roads south from Astoria except this one. In old "788"—my trusty work pickup—I followed it in the dark, splashing through swollen creeks coming down across the road, but made it through and home to Newport that night. Things were stirred up in the high winds and rain, and at one point a huge bull elk stood frozen in the headlights, both of us worried about where to go next. I turned off the lights and he disappeared. Our trip up the river and to Hillsboro was less eventful.

Nathan and Chris were wonderful hosts to us, returning the favor of our hosting them earlier in the summer through

MotoStays. A place where we could just crash for the night without thinking too much was a godsend. After all the preparations for putting our lives on hold, we were mentally exhausted. They took us to a great Mexican place, and then all I remember was sliding into bed and waking up the next morning wonderfully refreshed.

We took a wandering route up to Tacoma, going back out through Vernonia and Clatskanie, then crossing over on the little ferry to Puget Island. At Cathlamet, we ate our grocery-store lunches and shot a short video for the web page. Being a little silly is coming easier as we relax into a new life.

In Tacoma we visited with a few close friends and my family. I have an older brother and sister, as well as my Mom and Dad. Four days with them went by fast, and soon it came time to say goodbye. With us planning on being gone for the next two years, and my parents being 90 and 92, it was a serious goodbye, and weighed heavy on me. Will I see them again? I don't know. Still, we have their full support and blessing for this trip. These were people who had had adventures themselves, with Dad in Africa and Europe in WW II, and the two of them deciding on short notice to move from New Jersey out to some town called Tacoma in the 1950s just before I was born. They rolled the dice and took the chance, and I've always been grateful I was raised out west where dirt bikes were plentiful. They came out to see the motorcycles fully packed and send us off, and so turning the bikes up the drive and away from them felt okay.

We passed over the North Cascades Highway (Hwy 20) in Washington and followed it east. We camped at Lone Pine, then continued on through Winthrop and Omak, and up and over Sherman Pass. We camped again along Lake Roosevelt just north of Kettle Falls, and had a marvelous swim in the now dammed-up Columbia River. The Grand Coulee Dam creates a lake that stretches far across northeast Washington. That day and the

next, we rode by several forest fires and heavy smoke, the fires often visible from the road. We learned that Hwy 20 was closed not long after we rode through the area, so considered ourselves lucky we didn't have to backtrack the long way around. The fires leapt up from the trees in a frightening display of power, with black smoke roaring up to mix with the air and form a thick gray haze obscuring everything.

At the border going into Canada, Jalene had a friendly lesson that you can't take small self-defense cans of pepper spray into Canada. After giving it up and pleading ignorance (and smiling that Jalene smile) they sent her off to go have fun.

The sign in Castlegar said "Camping", so we followed it and found ourselves at a golf course with RV spaces and a nice corner for our tent. We set it up and then sat back and watched as the golf balls sailed into nearby trees along the 18th fairway, often followed by sounds of exasperation from the tee box. Sure enough, along came the golf cart and the ball was rescued and swatted away. Showers were had with "old Loonies", the Canadian dollar coins. I'm not sure if there is a new loony. But old loony or new, the hot water felt great to scrub away three days of travel. We ate at the clubhouse, tasty food and beer, and listened as the retired guys gave each other a ribbing over their day at golf.

Breakfast at the clubhouse started us down the road to Nakusp, where we spent the next three days attending a Horizons Unlimited (HU) Travellers meeting. HU is an organization in support of world overland motorcycle travellers. They have meetings and events at various places the world over. This meeting was structured much like some of the fisheries science conferences I've attended, with each day filled with presentations by travellers about journeys, preparation, first-aid, border crossings, bike repairs on the road, and lots of fun and games. We had purposely planned the start of our trip around this event, as we intended to learn as much as we could

before setting out across the continents. We had delayed some important decisions until after being able to get the best information at this meeting, and boy did we get information! At times it was like drinking from a fire hose, listening to people who had just recently completed exactly what we intend to do.

A classic example was meeting a wonderful couple from Mexico City, Javier and Isabel, who spent an afternoon with our giant Michelin map of Mexico spread out on the table, circling and drawing out all the best roads and their favorite places to visit. Many others bent over to lend a hint or pick up some of what was being offered. It seemed like each time we talked to someone new about a region we might go through, the deck got re-shuffled as we got excited about another new idea.

But soon Sunday came and it was time for everyone to pack up and say their goodbyes. We had a fantastic experience at Horizons Unlimited in Nakusp, and hope to make many more of these meetings either here or in other places of the world.

So now here we are in camp at Cedar Lake, just outside of Golden, BC. Tomorrow we will head up the road to Lake Louise and Banff not far away, as we begin the real trip.

Addendum, Kampground Karma – August 24, 2015

After I had finished writing, a 1200GS came rolling in, with a rider in good gear swiveling his head about as thought looking for a site. As they were all filled up, I waved him over and offered that he could pitch his tent with us. Turns out that the rider, Lee, worked for the regional power company and was actually at work on his GS checking out potential sites for substations for people wanting to put power back *INTO* the grid. After a chat, he set up his tent and took off to find some dinner. We went to bed before he got back, and he was also up and out of there early as well. When Jay and I rolled out, we found \$20 on the table. Totally unnecessary but much appreciated, Lee! It's paying for our campsite up here near Lake Louise tonight.

Speaking of Lake Louise, what a crazy swarm of humanity we saw at the lake. I couldn't tell which was more impressive – the incredible head-dress of the Native American, or the massive turban of the Indian fellow having his photo taken with him. And along with our two Indians was a mix of languages of all sorts—lots of Japanese and German, also Australian, American, and plenty of Spanish—quite the pleasing assortment of flavors.



Keith working in his "office"

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North Fork of the Willamette River

photo by Forest McGregor

