



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



May, 2015

Volume 39, Issue #5

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



BMW Riders Get “Skooled” in Riding Motorcycles

photo by Jay Bennett

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Jay Bennett shares a brief review of the RSP Class held on April 19 – see page 9

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Laura Stewart shares her perspective from the pillion — see page 7

Harris Beach Campout May 29

sign up before May 22—if you want to eat the catered BBQ—at the [BMWRO](http://www.bmwro.org) website

BMWRO President's Message

by Jay Bennett



Nothing Happens When You're Not There

There is a lot happening this year. We are all about bikes, sights and people and not necessarily in that order. This organization, as most human endeavors, runs on people but also serves people. As I'm so fond of saying nothing happens without you. Here are some of the highlights and opportunities to help out and work with some great people.

The Chief Joseph Rally is warming up nicely for June 18–21st. If you haven't already registered, please take a minute and sign up at <https://bmwro.clubexpress.com>. The early, online registration saves you money and helps our planning. **Volunteers are needed for the gate registration and information booth** and these are good ways to meet new friends. We will be holding a club meeting at the rally—time and place TBD. Our vendors and door prizes are starting to take shape with some generous donations starting to arrive. **One area we need someone's help is stepping up to be the Door Prize Chairperson.** This person will work with vendors and other organizations to gather gifts and arrange the raffle at the rally. It's not a hard job, and who doesn't like to give away free stuff! Right now Lynne is filling this role in addition to her Rally Master

role and we need to help her out. See Lynne Clark, our Rally Master, at bmwro.rallymaster@gmail.com if you can lend a hand or have questions for any of these volunteer opportunities.

The Ambassador Program was originally setup to bring new members into the club and make them feel welcome. The program has become much more than that. It has allowed the BMWRO to become more in touch to the local areas and has been great at creating local day rides and (mostly eating) events. **We would like to have an additional ambassador in Central Oregon** to co-host with Alice LeBarron. Steve Miller has recently went on to other undertakings; and thanks, Steve, for all your contributions. See page 5 of this issue for a list of the Ambassador in your area and get out there.

Our events calendar is filling up with some great opportunities to get some riding time and some social opportunities. Check out website Event Calendar and sign up or contact the event host to let them know you want to participate. **If you have an idea for an event in your area, become a host.** You will be surprised at the feeling of accomplishment and neat people you will meet as a host. Contact our Activities Chairperson and VP, Ed Foltyn, with your ideas.

One club tradition or process that comes up quickly in our group—where good people are needed—is club officers. As this is the transition year where the President and Secretary are now on a 2 year rotation, only the **VP and Treasurer will be voted on in 2015.** Start thinking about who would make a good candidate for these critical positions for the next two years. Both positions help set the direction of the club. The VP also manages the activities through the year. The Treasurer has responsibility for the health and wellbeing of our finances. Both are critical roles for our club.

As you can see we've got a lot on our plate but the club is continuing to grow and develop in positive trajectory. What happens and how it happens depends on all of us.

Jay





BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

Event: **South Coast Campout & BBQ**

Date/Time: May 29–30, 2015

Place: Harris Beach State Park, Brookings, OR

Description: Campout along the coast at Harris Beach State Park just north of Brookings, OR. Mark and Hanna Camarillo will be hosting a BBQ feast featuring chicken and ribs along with all the trimmings. They own *Misty Mountain Brewery* and will be bringing their micro-brews along. Ride along the beautiful Oregon coast or down to the Redwoods just south of the park. Cost of the event, for camping, parking and Saturday night BBQ, is \$10 per member, \$25 for non-members.

RVs are **not** allowed in the club reserved tent campsite and **must reserve their own separate site**.

Contact: Dan Hall, dnehall@frontier.com.

Pre-registration required on the website (www.BMWRO.org). Registration required by Friday, May 22 to get an accurate count for food. **Limited to 24 campers** at the reserved sites, but additional folks are welcome to make separate reservations for camping. All must pay the BMWRO fee to attend the Saturday night BBQ.

Event: **12th Annual BMWRO MotoGear Swap Meet**

Date/Time: June 6, 2015 –Saturday– from 9 am to 3 pm or until it is over—rain or shine.

Place: Premier Motogear Parking Lot, 414 Queen Ave SW, Albany, OR www.mredsmoto.com/map.htm

Description: Free Space - We supply the space, you supply the table and stuff! Make money and clean the garage at the same time! Enjoy free refreshments and camaraderie!

Contact: Don & Debbie Weber
(**RSVP** for space: **541-926-2107** or email to motogear@mredsmoto.com)

Event: **Chief Joseph Rally**

Date/Time: June 18–21, 2015

Place: Fairgrounds at John Day, Oregon
GPS coordinates: N44°24.967', W118°56.868'

Description: The BMWRO's Annual Rally and the highlight of the motorcycling seasonal calendar!

Contact: Lynne Clark, BMWRO.rallymaster@gmail.com



Harris Beach Campground

Event: **BMW Bike Show**

Date/Time: June 27, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Antique Powerland Museum, Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum Display Field, 399 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, OR

Description: Display of BMW Motorcycles. Entry fee of \$5.00 to the Antique Powerland grounds. Food vendors will be available for breakfast & lunch

Contact: Steve's Bavarian Motorcycle Service, **503-538-8120** or stevesbmw@msn.com

Event: **Sixes River Campout**

Date/Time: July 24–26, 2015

Place: Edson Creek Campground, sites B&C

Description: Rustic tent camping experience on the banks of the Sixes River. Great road and dual-sport riding in the area, connecting over to the Rogue River and beyond. Large grassy camping area under tall firs at the confluence of Edson Creek and the Sixes River. Along the coast, but several miles inland out of the fog zone. Fire pit and tables. Five miles north of Port Orford, and 25 miles south of Bandon. See [Brochure](#) online

Contact: Keith Matteson, keithbob@charter.net

Event: **Central Oregon Area Campout**

Date/Time: August 14–16, 2015

Place: Haystack Reservoir South Shore Campground, Willow Group Campsite

Description: Superb road and off-road routes in the area. Wide open desert skies for viewing the Perseids meteor showers. Shoreline campsites

Contact: Alice LeBarron alicelebarron@hotmail.com and Steve Miller shuntermiller@gmail.com

Event: **Women Riders Campout**

Date/Time: August 20–23, 2015 (Fri–Sun)

Place: Kiahane Camp Ground (near Westfir)

Description: Rustic-camping • good-food • fun-women

Contact: Alice LeBarron alicelebarron@hotmail.com

Event: **Ride, Camp, Ride, Camp... Repeat, Oregon Midweek Tour to Finish at Horseshoe Bend Campgrounds**

Date/Time: August 25–28, 2015 (Tuesday to Friday)
Place: Tentative schedule, see details under Description

Description: Tour of Central and Southern Oregon
Tuesday Evening 25 August: The initial rendezvous would be near the center of Oregon at Walton Lake in the Ochoco Mountains. This is a secluded campsite where we can anticipate our next few days' adventures. You would pack your own food, supplies, etc.

Wednesday 26 August: Now rather than passing through this area on the way to somewhere else, we can spend the day riding the profusion of convoluted, twisty roads in whatever sequence fits your needs. There will be no set time schedule, no fixed route, nobody telling you to do anything but to enjoy your day. With one caveat; we will be gathering again that evening in North Eastern Oregon, probably near Joseph (home of the early Chief Joseph Rallies). No doubt that night will provide input on Wednesday's travels and inspiration for the next day.

Thursday 27 August: Time for some open country blitzing followed by a restful sojourn in the South Central region. The aim is to select spots that are not on your normal itineraries. I've several campsite candidates in mind at this time in the Southern Cascades. Of course, if you have some favorite bivouac that you'd like to suggest, please send it along. The camping plan is still evolving.

Friday 28 August: Now is the chance to have "some more" as there are many wonderful routes down in the South and West. We don't, as a club, encourage enough riding in this spectacular part of our State. It will be hard to choose between so many excellent alternative routes to our Friday night destination on the North Umpqua.

Contact: Jim Stewart, 69jystewart@gmail.com

Event: **Horseshoe Campout near Steamboat**

Date/Time: August 28–30, 2015—Friday–Sunday
Place: details to follow

Description: Shady Trees and a beautiful river
Contact: Roger Paquette

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.

Contact: Janet Bennett. 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 Jay and Janet Bennett at jlbennett60@gmail.com or **541-760-0823** 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.narrowssrvpark.com. Also checkout: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/recreation/steens-mtn.php>

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Dave Visse, Tualatin, OR. 1200GS
Russ Mecredy, Eugene, OR 1983 BMW R100, 2006 Ducati St3s
Glen Muilenburg, Metolius, OR 2005 R1150RT
Sherry Berger, Durham, CA unknown
John Becky, Sisters, OR. 1993 BMW R100GS
Marcus Merrick, Amity, OR. 2002 BMW R1150GS
Lindy Metzger, Eugene, OR 2009 BMW R1200R

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

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Club Liaison

Doug Tewksbury,
bmwro.news@gmail.com

Activities

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

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

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

Susan Ortiz-Renteria – 503-779-7842,

dirtsquirt816@gmail.com

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

April So. Oregon Ride

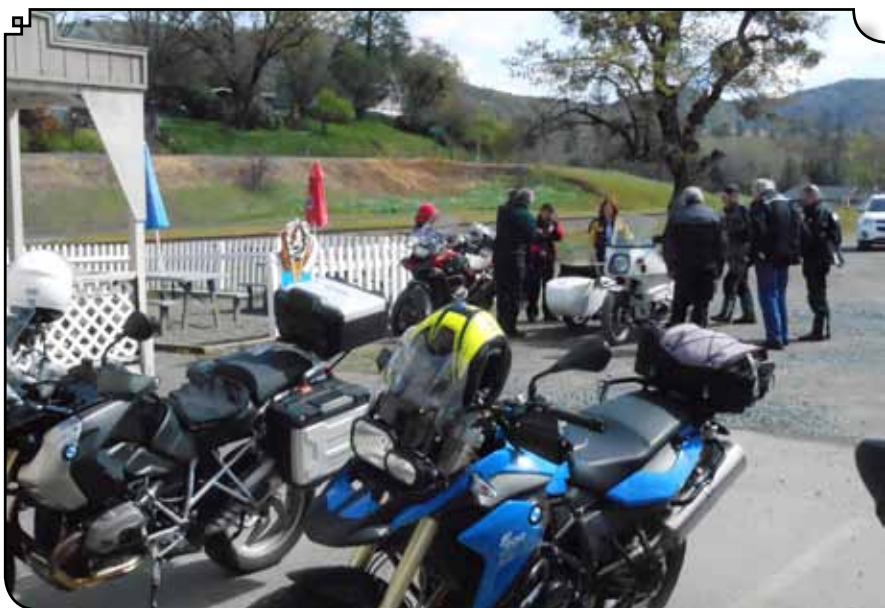
by Dan Hall

After weeks of nice sunny, warm riding weather things rapidly changed just before our scheduled April Saturday ride. The forecast was for freezing temperatures overnight and low 50's during the afternoon with scattered showers and possible snow in the mountains. I had planned to go up over the mountains from Williams to Selma—always a great spring ride—but decided to change to lower elevations.

Despite the cool temperatures, nine of us met in Gold Hill for lunch and the showers stayed away. This month we had an eclectic group of bikes, from a brand new R1200RT with every option—including **clutchless** shifting—to an R100RS with a vintage sidecar that can only be described as rustic. All the other bikes were GS's—including one F650 version that I don't think has been washed since leaving the factory several years ago.

The rumor at lunch was that when **Steve** and **Lori** on the big R12GSA zoomed passed **Chris** and **Louise** in the R100RS sidecar on the freeway, the shock wave almost sucked the sidecar off of the old RS. However, Steve backed off the throttle to slightly above an idle and followed Chris and Louise into Gold Hill.

After a hearty lunch we all headed for Rogue River via back roads, except Chris and Louise who had enough high speeds and motored back to Ashland to tighten up the sidecar bolts. From Rogue River we took East Evans Creek Road across the old Wimer covered bridge and followed the beautiful winding road along Evans Creek until we got to Sam's Valley, north of Medford. At this point we zigzagged south until reaching Jacksonville where four of us stopped for coffee. Overall a great scenic ride with cool temperatures and great friends.



***Editor's Note:** Dan Hall has a terrific wit — when the muse tickles him — and expresses it well in writing. Always a fun-read—I particularly like the subtle 'jabs' directed at specific individuals in the story. We know who you are, filthy F650 GS rider.*



BMW Riders of Oregon present CHIEF JOSEPH RALLY

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

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

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

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

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

And, you save \$10.00!

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

Gate Registration:

\$55.00 per person for club members

\$65.00 for non-club members

12 yrs and younger: \$10.00 per person

Pre-Registration:

\$45.00 per person for club members

\$55.00 for non-club members

More info at: www.bmwro.org

click the Chief Joseph Rally link

Deadlines:

US Mail Pre-Registration: June 3, 2015

OnLine Pre-Registration: June 3, 2015

Refunds: June 3, 2015

Grant County Fairgrounds ~ John Day, OR June 19-21, 2015

2015 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

ON LINE AT

WWW.BMWRO.ORG

**Not in
Moses Lake,
Washington**



WHEN:

Saturday, June 27th from 10:00 to 3:00

WHERE:

Antique Powerland Museum

Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum Display

3995 Brooklake Road NE

Brooks, OR

503-393-2424

www.antiquepowerland.com

Directions: Take I-5 North or South to Exit #263 towards Brooks onto Brooklake Road. West to the entrance.

There is a \$5.00 entry fee to the grounds.
Food vendors will be available for breakfast and lunch.

Steve's Bavarian Motorcycle Service

Steve and Jan Prokop

503-538-8120 and stevesbmw@msn.com

Perspectives from the Pillion

by Laura Stewart

In response to Jay's April President's Message about "Why We Ride", I am submitting this updated article that was first published in 2000.

It wasn't a conscious choice, nor did I yearn for it as a youngster growing up in suburban Chicago. It was actually a "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer (mostly poorer), in sickness and in health" decision ... his, not mine. When we were dating, Jim and my Dad, a true gearhead in all respects, talked for hours about sports cars and motorcycles ... the technical stuff. That should have been my first clue, but I assumed Jim was just trying to impress my father out of love for me. Brilliant, huh? We agreed when we married that he would make all the simple little decisions: what vehicles we would buy, which turnoff we would take, what state we would live in and which house we would purchase. He would let me make all the important big ones: how we could cure world hunger and if Red China should have been admitted to the United Nations. It was a fair deal.

I said, "No", several times actually. But he bought the BSA when I was hospitalized and literally too sick to argue about it. By the time I had the strength to protest the expense, he was already into his second set of Avons. I was a product of my mother's motorcycling fears—its dangers and risks. And I felt a young father should have developed the good sense to curb this lusty, irresponsible passion for speed and excitement. Yeah, Right! Many bikes later, I am ready to admit publicly that I am glad that I lost that first argument. Motorcycles have taken



Laura & Jim Stewart
Winter Residence - Parker Dam, California

photo by a friend

the two of us over hundreds of thousands of miles in the United States and Europe. These journeys have offered spectacular scenery, enchanting points of interest and exhilarating adventures that we could not have financed or experienced by car. Nor would we have met such wonderful folks like you, the BMW Riders of Oregon. Membership in this club has been one of the bright spots in our lifetimes. The caring concern and camaraderie of these friendships has warmed our hearts.

We soon realized that old BSA was not the ideal sport-touring mount. Twenty minutes on that two-wheeled padded 2 by 4 was all I could ever handle. Jim haunted motorcycle showrooms. Peering over his shoulder at a new, year old, Suzuki GS-1000, I foolishly asked, "If you bought that model, could we ride it to Chicago to surprise your mother for her birthday?" Within the week we were heading east. My earliest recollection of riding pillion

was simply longing for a seat that didn't vibrate at the end of a day's ride. That was BHT—before hot tubs—a development that would have been absolute heaven then. But I also remember the peace and restful periods of meditation crossing the Great Basin. It was a unique mode of travel. I could totally clear my mind or use the time to plan a dinner party, develop a color scheme, ponder new song lyrics or draft this article. I am not making this up; it's what I really do back there. In the intervening years we have acquired a revolving stable of BMW's. Today the passenger seats are more comfortable (especially with my Mr. Ed's custom saddle won at last year's rally), the horsepower is more impressive, and the storage capacity, thank goodness, is far more generous. The Suzuki never passed the soft luggage phase.

July's ride to Billings, Montana for the national BMW Rally will mark our 35th annual summer

motorcycle trip. (Jim did the math on this one; he remembers everything, which is a good thing since I remember nothing. That is, of course, one of the reasons I married him ... to count things like that.) We didn't begin riding together until the kids were old enough to abandon them to unwary friends for short periods and we had prepared our will. And we didn't always do the motel and fine dining thing that I look forward to now. Jim claims I eat my way across the country, sampling local specialties. Life is full of simple pleasures.

During our motorcycle tours we have developed a comprehensive set of hand signals that, should Jim choose to pay attention, let him know that I would like to: stop at a rest area, take a picture, get a meal, take a walk (or take a hike if I have had enough of him). Do I ever whine or complain? Constantly. Without fail I am too hot, too cold, too tired, too uncomfortable, too hungry... So how does a husband deal with that? Mostly through an abominably cheerful attitude, selective hearing, logical reasoning, utmost patience and disgusting humor.

A few recurrent themes have surfaced over the years. See if any of these sound familiar:

"You can't be too safe." Do you have any idea how much money a couple can spend in the name of safety? And there are friends (you know who you are) who endorse these repairs, improvements, and accessories, just for the heck of it. If these friends didn't get so much pleasure out of teasing me, I would just have to kick their tires or punch their lights out.

"I need to order a set of tires" ... again. Do you have any idea how much a woman can spend to balance his expenses with hers ...

which I absolutely refuse to do ... sometimes?

"You can never have too many motorcycles." How many can he ride at one time? Seriously, how many bikes can a man afford to store, modify, insure, and keep in tires and oil filters? How many dealers can he subsidize? And why does he need to study the classifieds when he has just purchased "the best motorcycle he has ever had or the last one he will ever buy?" Is it just to keep in practice?

"I think I'd like to go to a campout/rally this weekend." Should you really encourage him to go riding when he needs to unwind, relax, get away or adjust his attitude? Absolutely. A man in a pout is not a pretty sight and to leash him will be sheer misery for both of you. Sometimes he even returns bearing gifts and sufficiently energized to accomplish the projects he couldn't or wouldn't face before. And after all these years he knows better than to return to the homeplace with joyous reports of what I missed, who he saw and how much fun he had without me.

"You won't need to bring that; it's supposed to be hot this weekend." I have learned to always bring and wear three more layers of clothing than he thinks I will need. I pack the heated electric jacket too; we finally own machines sophisticated and powerful enough to actually plug it in. Do I care if I look like the Michelin Man? Not much; my pride can handle ridicule in exchange for comfort.

"It is only fifty more miles to ... another hour until ..." Why does he always stretch my endurance by insisting we get up earlier or travel farther on each leg of the journey? Why is it that for him the main objective of motorcycle touring

is riding or going somewhere and for me it is stopping or arriving there? Why is it that his pleasure is measured by how much territory he covers in the shortest possible time? His overriding ambition, no pun intended, will be to stretch the daylight and miles to their limit, and usually mine.

"How do I look?" Restrain yourself from asking this question. He will tell you, "You look fine", which translates to, "You look like crap, but I'm getting used to it." After all, he is no fool. He knows how much space and weight a full wardrobe, shoes, toiletries, hair dryer and other trappings of a woman's life are going to take in the luggage area. There are some women who look beautiful, a regular fashion statement, the moment they step off the foot pegs. I just have to live with the knowledge I'm not one of them. It's OK; I'm tough.

"So how fast were you going?" It's a fair question when he asks me to write a check for his speeding ticket. What is this fascination with speed? Why must he challenge the machine and himself to new heights of performance and agility? Who cares anyway? Why does he need to watch Moto GP and World Superbike races and inhale Superbike Planet news? Why does he covet the indecently fast new RR race bike in his Medicare years? I'm convinced it is a "guy thing". I certainly don't have an obsessive desire to burn up the pavement in my Subaru; of course, any idiot knows it's impossible anyway. I have learned that it is pointless to ask him to slow down, to take it easy. I just pray twice as hard. Today we have developed a new code to replace, "Be Safe!" which just annoys the heck out of him; we have substituted, "Ride Fast, Take Chances!"

I will end this reflection as I did several years ago when I wrote my first "Perspectives from the Pillion". So, why do I continue to ride pillion when my hair is gray and my back aches at the end of a day's ride? Why do I throw my leg over the saddle when my body screams in protest? Because as crazy as it seems, I can truly appreciate his devotion to the pastime. Riding calls up all of the senses: sight, smell, touch, sound and taste, putting the rider in closer touch with nature and the environment. I can contemplate the beauty God has given us and what man has done with it ... good and bad. It is a form of escape that diverts me from home and housework. This is a compromise that exercises his need to be doing something, to stay active and my need to be taken care of, to be a spectator. But the best reason why I ride is because he loves it and my gift is to occasionally share it with him. So I hitch a ride, praying that he doesn't develop a burning interest in hang gliding next.



Editor's Note: I am personally glad that Laura decided to revise this story and submit it for publication. She has an amazing wit and humor and is an accomplished writer. Laura Stewart has been a member of our club since 1984 when her husband of 47 years finally saw the BMW-light. During that tenure she has co-chaired three Chief Joseph Rallies, edited the Beemer Beat for six years and served as club Treasurer for another four years. This last office reflected her pre-retirement background in finance: banking, Oregon Tech Financial Aid Office and church Financial Secretary. She raised a daughter (45) and son (38) and currently augments her motorcycle wanderlust by singing in church choirs, watercolor painting and instructing and producing digital photo albums. She has been co-owner of nine BMW motorcycles.

BMW Riders Get "Skooled" in Riding Motorcycles

by Jay Bennett



Ten riders from BMWRO took the range at Lane Community College for Team Oregon's Rider's Skill Practice (RSP) on April 19th. These riders, with 8 guys and 2 women, applied themselves to the training enthusiastically. The weather was terrific with cool sunny conditions. As a BMWRO member and a part time Team Oregon instructor, they let me watch, observe, take pictures and "shag" cones for the exercises.

I was very impressed to see some very good riders that were out there, because they know motorcycles are a lifelong learning experience. Everyone gets something from these classes is my observation. The class is setup where you do a complex set of maneuvers at the beginning of class for a score and then again at the end. Between the two evals are



seven exercises and discussions to increase a rider's awareness and riding abilities. The difference in scores is significant in most cases and a student can see what they have learned.

The after class feedback I got was very positive and people thought the time and money was well spent. People find this more challenging than they first expect. This class is available to intact groups like ours or to the public. So if you are interested setting up a class in your area find 12 riders and contact any of the officers or Team Oregon directly. If you can't get 12 riders, just sign up in your local area as an individual. You will have fun, become a better rider, get an insurance discount and learn something that could save your life.



NW Ambassador's Ride Report — April 2015

by Susan Ortiz-Renteria #106802
& David Peterson #90113

One of our goals as Ambassadors is to get people out riding. We were able to observe one such meet-up while we were convening for the pre-ride. Mike Ripley and Neal Malagamba were meeting up for a ride to the Gorge. This made Susan smile and think “Mission accomplished!”

April 4th was a crisp, clear Saturday morning. Our destination? Pe Ell, Washington—a small burg of 632 people on WA-6, between Raymond to the west and Chehalis to the east. There aren't a whole lot of ways or reasons to get there—which is exactly why it was a perfect destination for lunch! **David and Diane** led the charge, chased by **John Vissell, Andy Sulla, Kim Dorsing, Janice Mathern, Chris Henry, Neal Malagamba, Mike Ripley, Colin Luther, Ric Holderbaum, Alan Resnik, René Renteria,** and **Bob Ingersoll**. Oh, and we can't forget **Susan**, sweeper *extraordinaire*, waving frantically at key intersections—David's sign that it was time to move on.

9:45 arrived and out went our clutches. Up OR-217, over Cornelius Pass, west on US-30. We've covered a lot of territory over the past 2+ years; so much that



it's inevitable that many roads have become familiar. But not all of them. Just beyond Goble is Neer City Road—a twisty little 7-mile bypass—the perfect alternative to the traffic-laden, heavily-patrolled artery that is US-30. Unless it's early spring. And there's moss on the roads. And you're on a well-worn set of Hidenau's. Then it becomes a dual sport ride.

And so it was for René. A small lean to the left yielded a not-so-subtle front-tire chirp. Standing up the F800GS, a moment later he was still standing up... in a muddy ditch a foot-deep in water. Fortunately, no damage to the bike that a hose wouldn't wash away. But soggy and cold, he headed home, no doubt with visions of dry clothes and a hot shower in mind.



René and his Adventure-Tourer

photo by Neal Malagamba



Sweeping Through Lewis County, WA

photo by Diane Peterson

Soon we were back on the bikes, crossing the Columbia, and making our way around the backside of Kelso-Longview. Then north on the Westside Highway, along the Cowlitz River, and west on the dead-end road that is WA-506. Three of our group were determined to document the dead-end, while the rest of us followed the map. But Susan quickly wrestled them into submission after a short wait, we finished the remaining run into Pe Ell.



Waiting For Stragglers

photo by David Peterson

If you eat out in Pe Ell, you do it at **Evey's**. It's not much to look at, but the food's pretty good and the service is the best we've seen this year. Our waitress went *verklemt* when describing her favorite pork sandwich. Her performance elicited a number of takers. David—who after three visits, considers himself an Evey's regular—stayed with his tried and true...herb-battered gizzards and a piece of banana-cream pie!

As we mentioned, Pe Ell is a crossroad. The quickest escape is toward Chehalis and I-5. But to some folks, you can never have too much of a good thing. That's how Mike Ripley sees riding. He and a few recruits took off west, adding a hundred miles to their ride. The rest of us headed toward I-5. Toward, we say, not onto...yet, anyway. It was another 60 miles of bucolic riding through Lewis and Cowlitz counties before we succumbed to the inevitable.

It's happening again this Saturday. This month, we're heading to Astoria to check out its newest brew pub, **Buoy Beer**. Come join us!

Before we go, we also wanted to remind everyone to sign up for the mileage contest. If you didn't get the form from your ON Magazine here's a [link](#).

Here's a quick recount of Oregon's contestants' accomplishments last year:

- Oregon contestants broke 200,000 miles for the first time! That places us ahead of Idaho and 100,000 miles behind Washington.
- Oregon had 26 contestants!
- We rode an average of 8,305 miles!
- Your fearless ride leader took first place in Oregon, with 19,236 miles.

If you have not signed up for the mileage contest yet, you have until **May 11th to get it postmarked**. If you need signatures email dirtsquirt816@gmail.com and we can make arrangements.

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 me at dwpeterson01@yahoo.com.

Total Miles, March Ride: 226

**Total First Saturday miles,
Year-To-Date: 563**

**Evey's Café & Lounge,
416 N. Main Street, Pe El, WA 98572
(360) 291-9902.**



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Turn & Burn — Chris Henry

photo by Jay Bennett

