



THE BEEMER BEAT

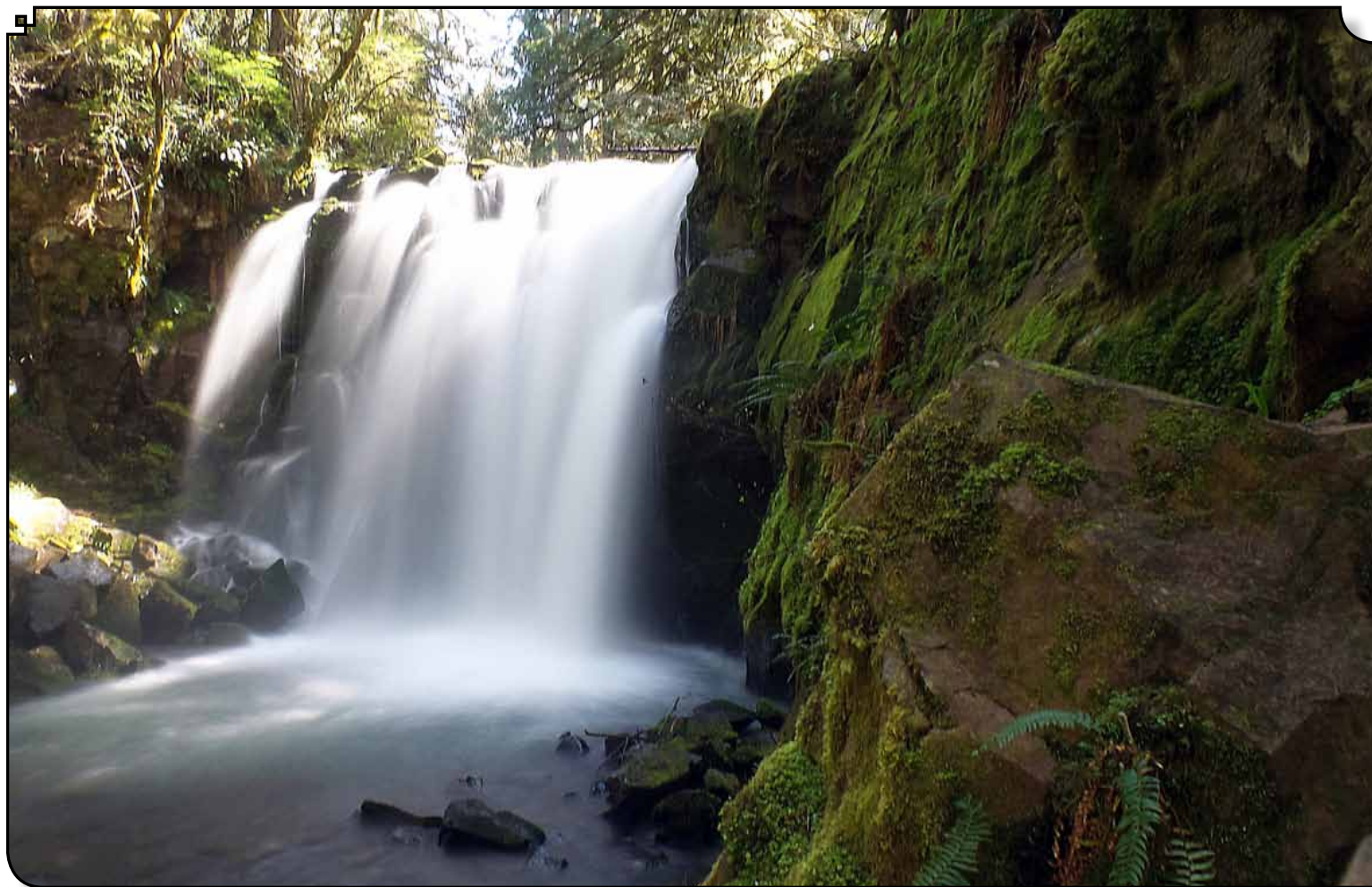
Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



June, 2018

Volume 42, Issue #6

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



Magestic Falls
This! is an Ambassador Group Ride.

photo by Dan Russell

Riding The BMW G310R

from Bob Metzger,
see pages 3-4

Let's Have Lunch in Raymond!

from David Peterson,
see pages 11-13.

Chief Joseph Rally June 29-July 1



BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

- Event:** **Premier Motogear's 14th Annual Swap**
Date/Time: June 2, 2018, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Place: Premier Motogear of Oregon
414 Queen Ave SW, Albany, OR
Description: see page 8 for details!
Contact: Debbie Weber, **541-926-2107**
- Event:** **2018 Chief Joseph Rally**
Date/Time: Friday, June 29, 2018 to Sunday, July 1, 2018
Place: Grant County Fairgrounds
411 NW Bridge St., John Day, OR
Description: Join us at the Grant County Fairgrounds, nestled in the scenic Strawberry Mountains, John Day Oregon, for a weekend of terrific riding, seminars, food and fellowship. This historic city is located at the Junction of Hwys 395 and 26. Enjoy the West's best riding; gold and cattle country, refreshing mountain passes, painted hills, river canyons, and wide open desert. All this in one day's riding! Visit the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument or any of four different museums. Begin planning your trip now! Oregon is for Riders! Come to John Day and see what we mean!
Contact: Robert Metzger, **608-642-1186**
bmwro.pres@gmail.com
- Event:** **Sixes River Coastal Campout**
Date/Time: Friday, July 27, 2018, until Sunday, July 29, 2018,
Place: Edson Creek Campground
Sites B & C, Port Orford, OR
Description: Bring your tent and sleeping bag to this beautiful grassy campground among tall trees. We'll cook the Saturday night dinner, you're on your own for the rest. Great paved and dual-sport riding in the area. Enjoy the warmth while getting out of the wind a little off the beach, about 10 miles inland from the ocean and highway 101. Cool off in Edson Creek, which bends around the big group campsite and has a nice little swimming hole. Groceries and restaurants are about a 15 mile ride away in Port Orford. We did this in 2015, and had a wonderful relaxing weekend—come join us again!"
Cost: For members:\$5.00
For non-members:\$10.00
It is preferred that you register on-line.
Contact: Keith Matteson, MotoMatteson@gmail.com

- Event:** **Walton Lake Campout and Quarterly Meeting**
Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 7th at 2 pm to Sunday Sept. 9th 1 pm
Registration ends September 4, 2018.
Place: Walton Lake Campground Large Group Site
Ochoco National Forest
Description: Primitive camping with fun paved and GS routes in the area. Nearest gas and supplies are 30 miles away in Prineville. Club will provide dinner on Saturday. All other meals are on your own. Quarterly Club Meeting will be held Saturday afternoon. We have the Large Group Campsite, which has more flat space for tents and is closer to the water supply than our last campout at Walton in 2016. See [campground website](#) for detailed directions to the site and for description of campground.
USFS places a limit on space for RV's and cars, so if you are planning to bring an RV or car, please contact Alice LeBarron prior to registering.
Cost: For members:\$5.00
For secondary members:\$5.00
For non-members:\$10.00
It is preferred that you register on-line. If you have a problem paying, on-line, contact Alice LeBarron to make other arrangements.
Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
bmwro.secretary@gmail.com
- Event:** **Women Riders Campout**
Date/Time: Friday Sept, 14th at 2 pm to Sunday Sept. 16th at 1 pm
Registration ends September 10, 2018.
Place: Cape Perpetua Campground Group Site
Description: Primitive camping (no showers, but there is running water). Nearest gas and supplies are three miles away in Yachats. See [campground website](#) for detailed directions to the site and for description of campground. The group campsite has a large covered shelter, a fire pit, and a large grassy area for tents. There are nice hiking trails from the campground as well as good riding in the area. The Women Riders Campouts are typically low-key events with plenty of shared stories and ideas, as well as opportunities to learn from one another in a supportive environment. Food is typically shared or on your own. Due to limited parking, there will not be room to accommodate cars or RVs.
Motorcycles & Spyders only, please.
Cost: For members:\$5.00
For secondary members:\$5.00
For non-members:\$10.00

It is preferred that you register on-line. If you have a problem paying on-line, contact Alice LeBarron to make other arrangements.

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

Recurring Events

Event: Central Oregon 2nd Saturday

Date/Time: Second Saturday of each month
Location: Various ride and lunch locations in the Central Oregon Region.

Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
alicelebaron@hotmail.com
Gary Stead **541-593-7461**
garystead67@gmail.com

Event: Central Western Region 1st Saturday Ride

Date/Time: Various dates and times. See the event calendar on the web site for more information.

Location: European Motorcycles of Western Oregon

Description: Various routes.

Contact: 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
Mike Ripley **503-789-2966**
gobeezer@live.com

Event: Doc Wong Riding Clinic

Date/Time: Second Saturday of each Month, 9:00 am

Location: Mr. Ed's Moto: 414 Queen Avenue, Albany

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



Heard-On-The-Road

Event: 46th Cascade Country Rendezvous

Date/Time: Thursday, July 19, 2018 to
Sunday, July 22, 2018

Place: [Ferry County Fairgrounds](#)
14 Lawson Way, Republic, WA

Description: Registration will include Friday evening dinner, morning coffee, cold refreshments in the afternoon, evening beer garden, camping, off-road training, seminars, off-pavement and on-road guided rides, access to GPS tracks, and door prizes. Saturday's dinner will cost \$25 and is **only** available to **preregistered guests**. As usual, this will be fabulous catered meal.

Registration: Due by July 8, 2018. Register online at [Washington State BMW Riders](#)

Event: Idaho BMW Riders Stanley Stomp

Date/Time: Thursday, August 9, 2018, 8:00 AM until
Sunday, August 12, 2018, 5:00 PM

Place: Sawtooth Lodge. 27 miles north of Lowman, Idaho. Go to www.idahobmwriders.com for more information

Event: Bee Cee Beemers Nakusp Hot Springs Rally

Date/Time: Thursday, August 16, 2018, 8:00 AM until
Sunday, August 19, 2018, 5:00 PM

Place: Nakusp Municipal Campgrounds
4th Street and 10th Avenue NW,
Nakusp, B.C. Canada

Description: The Nakusp Hotsprings Rally has become a tradition - one that has BMW riders from all over North America returning to year after year

Contact: www.beeceebeemers.com

Event: 20th Annual Beartooth Rendezvous

Date/Time: Thursday, August 16, 2018, 10:00 AM until
Sunday, August 19, 2018, 12:00 PM

Place: Lions Beartooth Mountain Youth Camp
Hwy 212 (10 miles south of Red Lodge)
Red Lodge, MT

Description: Ample space for tent camping; plus 13 cabins with 8 bunks in each; hot showers and toilets in bath houses. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday dinners provided with registration. Our dinners are of the meat and potato variety. A great band.

Cost: Registration before July 20. \$80.00
Registration after July 21 100.00

More details: Visit the BMWRO.org website and visit the Event Calendar in the month of July for more information.

BMWRO President's Message

by Bob Metzger



Riding The BMW G310R—Still BMW Motorrad

A few days ago I stopped by European Motorcycles for Western Oregon in Eugene and decided that it was time to demo-ride one of the latest offerings from BMW Motorrad—the G310R. Following a small bit of pre-ride paperwork, it was time to throw a leg over the saddle and see what this little BMW sibling was all about. The G310R did not fail to impress me from the get-go. I found this little machine to be comfortable and capable.

To begin, let's talk about the price and background of the G310R. Base price is just under \$5,000.00. It is the cheapest way to ride a new motorcycle with a BMW Roundel. Although the motorcycle carries the famous Bavarian insignia, the bike is actually manufactured in India under the ever watch-full eyes of BMW representatives. I understand the release date of the G310R was actually delayed because BMW was unhappy with certain aspects of



the motorcycle's finish. Apparently, those deficiencies have now been corrected.

Engine And Frame

Weighing in at 350 pounds wet, the 313 cc rear slant single cylinder engine puts out a decent 34 horsepower at 9,500 rpm and 20.6 ft-lb of torque delivered through a counterbalanced shaft. Counterbalancing helps the engine rev smoothly and all but eliminates rider-fatiguing vibrations. I could actually use the mirrors! Compression ratio is a respectable 10.6:1. The engine delivered plenty of power through a seamlessly shifting synchromesh 6-speed transmission. Clutch pull is smooth, easy, and linear across the friction zone.

Although the bike *IS* small in size, it does **NOT** feel small once in the saddle. As one among us used to riding big BMW machines with windscreens, I enjoyed the

nostalgic feel of riding a naked bike. When sporting a full coverage helmet, you can't see the dash display or the front headlight nacelle. I like that! It gives the rider a sensation of being "out there"—just being one with the sky, the wind, and the horizon.

Rider position for me was entirely comfortable. The designers gave the saddle a nice upward curve which made me feel "connected" to the motorcycle. Standard saddle height measures just under 31 inches. I would characterize the rider position as mostly upright. Feet and legs are a bit tucked back in sport-bike fashion; however, the G310R utilizes a semi-wide set of grips for a more up-right torso position. I found the wide bars gave the motorcycle quick response to rider inputs. The bike had excellent "flick-ability". The tubular steel frame feels substantial and nicely anchors all the components into a solid unit.



Suspension And Brakes

The G31 0R sports a pair of 41mm non-adjustable inverted forks up front, and a preload adjustable rear shock. The front brake utilizes a 4-piston single 300 mm disc and a 240 mm floating caliper rear disc brake. Under moderately high load, the brakes felt firm and secure. Stopping was not a problem. Anti-lock brakes are standard equipment as you would expect from BMW. Anti-Lock Breaks (ABS) can't be deactivated. When engaged, the ABS felt smooth and predictable. The inverted forks did a great job of mitigating front end suspension dive. Another nice touch I liked were the braided stainless brake lines for a more premium look and feel.

Fit And Finish

Manufacturing quality is very clean. I didn't notice anything on the demo bike that looked cheap or fit poorly. I really liked the look of the upswept muffler and the engine radiator fairing. Overall the bike has a great, aggressive-looking stance. Although it looked

a bit like an afterthought to me, the lower engine cowling did nicely compliment the overall lines of the bike. Kudos to the G310R design team for easy access to the oil filter with minimal body panel removal. The Strato Blue paint finish was flawless to my eye.

The digital display is easy to read and has an adequate array of information including the usual standard indicator light you would expect. BMW has also included some nice-to-have indicators as well including low fuel-light, digital distance to empty readout, low temperature icing light, and ABS warning light. I also thought the engine temperature readout and date functions were a nice touch.

The linear digital tachometer occupies the lowest position on the display and is a bit hard to read; but few riders look at the tach anyway.

Final Thoughts

My short demo ride revealed very little in the way of surprises from the G310R. I believe it would make a great entry level bike for novice riders, or a solid

fuel-efficient around town commuter motorcycle for the experienced rider. Did I mention fuel consumption? The fuel injected G310R delivers an amazing 65-70 mpg from the 2.9 gallon tank. Although I did not experience the claimed top speed, BMW tells us it is about 90 mph.

Most impressive to me was—even though I knew I was riding a small motorcycle—it never felt excessively small or under powered. I was impressed by the smooth shifting transmission and power delivery across engine spectrum.

If I had to pick one negative, I suppose it would be the slightly noticeable engine vibration delivered through the firm seat. But for me, this is no big deal since this little gem was designed for the short haul, not as full day touring machine.

I think BMW Motorrad has a small displacement market-segment winner on their hands!

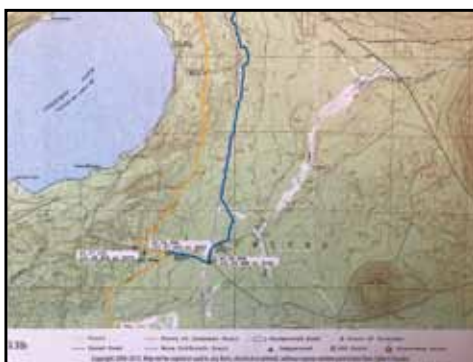
Bob



Oregon Back Country Discovery Maps Available

from Bob Metzger

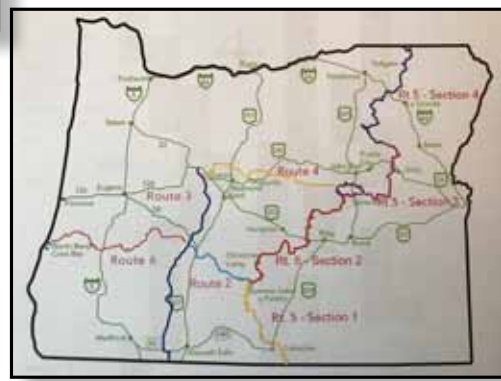
Last year, Milt (Butch) Farrand donated—to the BMW Riders of Oregon club—the entire series of the **Oregon Back Country Discovery** topographic route maps. *Thank you Butch!*



Since our membership is spread across 98,466 square miles—known as the State of Oregon, and beyond—it is hard to find a central location where everyone can access these map volumes. Therefore, I am the default custodian. If you wish to borrow them, I will happily loan them to you via USPS.

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

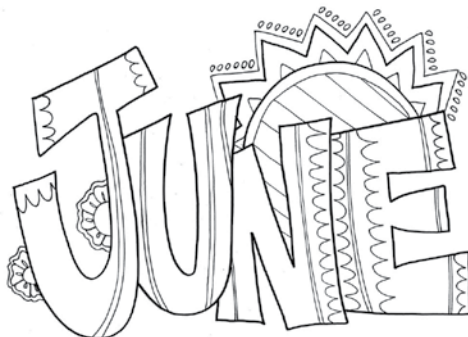
Journey on!



NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Andy Spleithof, Medford, OR unknown bike
Bill West, Grants Pass, OR unknown bike
Patrick Gillen, Portland, OR 2013 BMW R1200 GSA
Eric Peterson, Salem, OR 2003 BMW R1150R



Bylaws, Policies & Guidelines

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

FIND THE BMWRO NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM ONLINE:

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

BMWRO Club Officials

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bmwro.pres@gmail.com

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

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Doug Tewksbury
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Activities

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

Ambassador Program Welcomes New Members

Ambassadors for the Four Regions are:

Central Western Region

(South of Salem, including Eugene & Oakland from the coast to the Cascades).

Ambassador Volunteer Requested—

Central & Northeast Region

(East of The Dalles, including I-84 to Ontario, south of Columbia River to US 20, Baker City & including US 20 to LaPine. Includes Camp Sherman/Bend/Redmond/Sisters & Prineville area).

Alice LeBarron—541-647-7194
alicelebarron@hotmail.com

Gary Stead —541-647-0135
garystead67@gmail.com

Southern Region

(Oakland, OR into California. The coast through Klamath Falls).

Dan Hall—541-862-7411
dnehall@frontier.com

Mark Collier—541-499-1395
mcollier5895@gmail.com

Northwest Region

(from Longview, WA south through Salem, OR, the coast to the Cascades, including The Dalles).

David W. Peterson—503-327-5592
dwpeterson01@yahoo.com & www.wfodave.smugmug.com

Michael Ripley—503-648-0578
gobeezer@live.com

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



BMW Riders of Oregon present CHIEF JOSEPH RALLY

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

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

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

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

We encourage everyone to pre-register for the rally. **Those who do will get a meal ticket** and, you save \$10.00!
The first 500 pre-registered guests are guaranteed a rally pin.

Pre-Registration:
\$50.00 per person for club members
\$60.00 for non-club members
More info at: www.bmwro.org
click the Chief Joseph Rally link

Gate Registration:
No dinner ticket
\$60.00 per person for club members
\$70.00 for non-club members
12 yrs and younger: \$10.00 per person

Deadlines:
US Mail Pre-Registration: June 12, 2018
OnLine Pre-Registration: June 12 2018
Refunds: June 12, 2018

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

WWW.BMWRO.ORG

Cowboy Ride & Lunch at Chief Joseph Rally Friday June 29, 2018

Back by popular demand, the Grant County Stock Growers have stepped up to support us with another farm visit and LUNCH (not breakfast as in the past). In 2018 we will be going on a scenic ride around the back of the Strawberry Mountains then thru Seneca and finally to Izee for lunch (approximately 78 miles). At the Izee Ranch will then be served a chuck wagon lunch. Lunch will consist of custom made, all-beef BBQ brats, home cooked beans, salad, drinks and cookies. After lunch there will be a presentation on the operations of the ranch with an emphasis on recent watershed improvements. Please come with a full gas tank as fuel won't be available for around 115 miles.



Each year this popular event has provided the attendees with an opportunity see how an operating ranch works, have a tasty chuck wagon style lunch and a great group ride with others to boot.

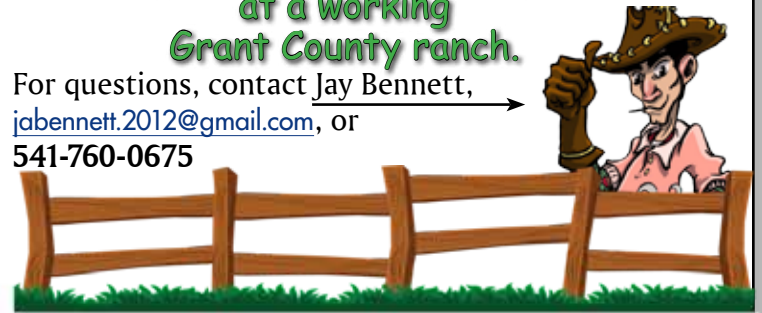
We will ride (or drive) to the ranch starting from the fairgrounds main gate around 10:00 am. Maps will be available. Lunch will be served around noon by the Stock Growers Association and their helpers.

Please reserve your spot early, as the spots are limited and on a first come first served basis (75 maximum—the sooner you sign up and pay for your meal, the more assured you are of getting a spot). Please sign up online at www.bmwro.org.

Cost: \$15.00 with proceeds going to financing the Grant County Stock Growers Association.

**Come out and enjoy this unique experience
of having a ride and chuck wagon meal
at a working
Grant County ranch.**

For questions, contact Jay Bennett,
jabennett.2012@gmail.com, or
541-760-0675



Premier Motogear's 14th Annual Swap June 2, 2018, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Premier Motogear of Oregon, 414 Queen Ave SW, Albany, OR

- We supply the space, you supply the table!
- Fun and Free way to clean your garage of all motorcycle and camping related stuff!
- Enjoy refreshments, camaraderie, and lots of great deals!

Please **RSVP** by calling:
541-926-2107, or e-mail:
premiermotogear@comcast.net
We hope to see you here!



CW Ambassador Ride—June 2018

By Dan Russell

A group composed almost entirely of riders who haven't recently ridden much on the ambassador rides, treated themselves to a gorgeous weather day, beautiful country backroads, sensational waterfalls, and a tasty, bountiful lunch. **Jon Wild, Casey, Lynne, Milton (Butch) Farrand** and I started from European Motorcycles of Western Oregon in Eugene. We stopped briefly in Brownsville to welcome **Mike Moshofsky, Ron Bramlett, and Bob & Becky Hoehn** to the group. With three of our regular riders out of town, these nine riders picked up the slack and more. We continued up Hwy. 228 toward Sweet Home.

Just west of Sweet Home, we followed Pleasant Valley and Berlin Roads to head east on McDowell Creek Road. In Linn County's McDowell Creek Park is an area that

Grant's Getaways titled "Beauty Beyond Belief." Majestic Falls is only 40 feet high, but is known as one of the most photogenic waterfalls. Water plummets 120 feet over worn shelved rock at the aptly-named **Royal Terrace Falls**.

Both waterfalls are but a very short walk from individual parking lots, but there is also a looped trail that can be hiked to them.

From the waterfalls, we split into two groups: one to stay on paved roads; the other to follow the loop's partly graveled (1.6 miles gravel) route east. All of us met up at "The Point"—a restaurant that sits across Highway 20 from the park on the south side of Foster Lake. The staff was extra nice, setting up a large table for all nine of us with only a short phone call's notice. The food portions were copious and delicious. For our return, the Brownsville group took a curvy Crawfordsville Road, while the Eugenians opted for Marcola Road and McKenzie View Drive.



Royal Terrace Falls

Our first Saturday ride for May was a planned varied road surface route through the coastal mountains to and from Yachats. It was cancelled while awaiting results of a review of the club's



Ron Bramlett



Mike Moshofsky

liability insurance and waiver policies. Thank you to all of you for your patience while these matters are worked out.

There were nine riders on seven bikes: Jon Wild, Mike Moshofsky, Bob & Becky Hoehn, Ron & wife Bramlett, Casey & Lynne, Milt (Butch) Farrand, myself—Dan Russell.

UPDATE:

After 1) advice from two prominent personal injury attorneys that club and ride-leading ambassadors could be sued in a way that personal motorcycle insurance would not likely cover; and 2) that the club appears to me to be very resistant and slow to get such coverage, I have resigned from being CW Ambassador. Thank you all for your active ridership!!! Loved it!



GEOLOGY ROCKS!



Riders: Jon Wild, Mike Moshofsky, Bob & Becky Hoehn, Ron & wife Bramlett, Casey & Lynne, Milt (Butch) Farrand

photo by Dan Russell

Statement from the Executive Committee

Regarding the club waiver, Bob Metzger, BMWRO President, has been in contact with Chris Henry (VP), Alice LeBarron (Secretary), Doug Tewksbury (Webmaster), BMW MOA, other organizations, and some attorneys. He has sent out a survey to the club members regarding the waiver and received

several responses. Bob, Chris and Doug met to discuss changes to the waiver. Bob will now be able to get the waiver to an attorney to review it and provide the Executive Committee with any recommended changes based on the lawyer review.

**Chief Joseph Rally
John Day, Oregon**

**2018 Biker Tours
Friday & Saturday
June 29 & 30
11:30 am
to 5:00 pm
25 bike limit,
each tour**



Let's Have Lunch in Raymond! NW Ambassadors Ride Report – May 2018

David Peterson #90113

The weather's getting better and the riding season has formally commenced. Our May First Saturday was postponed to Sunday to accommodate the already full schedule. But the calendar change affected very few; as the appointed hour approached, fourteen bikes and sixteen riders were chomping at the bit, looking forward to enjoying our longest ride so far this year.

This month, the compass pointed north and west. We were heading for Willapa Bay, famed for its oyster beds. David and Diane were the tip of the whip. In his mirrors, David could see **Louie Robida, Frank Boyle, Kim Dorsing & Janice Mathern, Ric Holderbaum, Chris Henry, Colin Luther, Steven Polansky, John Sorensen, and Jeff Yarnall.** **Camron Rust** was also with us on his GTL, while wife **Karen** decided her Spyder needed a workout. We also welcomed first-timer **Bill Hedges** on his 600GS. It was a big group, but tail gunner **Neal Malagamba** made sure everyone stayed on track.

Usually, we work hard to depart from the major arteries as quickly as possible. But we had a lot of ground to cover today, so we opted to shelf our favorite nearby roads. After 20 minutes or so, we



departed Sunset Highway for old dependable, OR-47 through Vernonia and beyond.

Here the fun officially began. No matter the time or the day, 47 is always a great improvement over where you've just been. Today the weather was cloudy, but dry and warming steadily. Tires were warming steadily as well, as we edged along the Nehalem toward Mist. It's a great stretch of road, the river around every bend, often under a canopy



Chasing along the Nehalem Highway.

Photo by Steven Polansky

of fir and hemlock. North of Mist, it's not as pretty, but who cares! The road rises 800 feet in just two miles along the clear cut. We were lucky today: little traffic save for one Subaru that looked like he was having as much fun as we were. Immediately, as we crested Clatskanie Mountain, the grade pitched downward, one well-banked decreasing-radius "S" after another for five miles until we reach the end of the road in Clatskanie. Newly paved in the last year or so, Mist to Clatskanie is easily the finest stretch of asphalt within 100 miles of Portland. Believe me...we've checked.

Road carousels have a way of spreading out the group, so it took us a few minutes to reconnect. Then it was on to Westport, to catch the ferry. It's a short ride (about nine miles), and we were pressing to get down the hill because we had a lot of territory to cover. Then it occurred to me, we had a 35-minute wait for the ferry...that would have been



The Oscar B. as it dispatches motorcycles and riders to Cathlamet

Photo by Dale Mosby

plenty of time to ride up and down Clatskanie Mountain again!!

We were first in line, ensuring we would all make it onto the ferry. Operated by Wahkiakum County

between Westport and Cathlamet, the ferry is the last regularly scheduled car ferry to cross the Columbia between two states. The *Oscar B* leaves Oregon promptly at 15 minutes after each hour, 365 days a year, before docking fifteen minutes later on Puget Island in Washington. From there, the Julia Butler Hansen Bridge completes the journey back to the mainland.

Waiting for us in Cathlamet was **Dale Mosby**. Dale lives in Arch Cape and despite his enthusiasm for riding, meeting in the middle made more sense than joining us at the start in Tigard. He seamlessly joined the procession as we continued our trek along WA-4 westward toward Willapa Bay. Our group number remained the same, as Jeff Yarnall peeled off to the east for a family commitment.

When I sent out the ride announcement, more than one club member responded with a warning about law enforcement along WA-4 and US-101. Watching one of Washington's finest emerge



Beating a path to the next back road

Photo by Diane Peterson

from an unmarked gray muscle car with ticket book in hand in the first ten minutes of our resumed journey only reinforced the message. We throttled back our enthusiasm a bit. As it turned out, unnecessarily, for no other constables were to be seen the rest of the way to Raymond. And taking it down a bit had the added virtue of allowing the gorgeous landscapes to leave an even greater impression.

Along Willapa Bay stand islands of oyster shells. As if they weren't enough, the town of South Bend proclaims itself as the "Oyster Capital of the World." We kept a low profile as we passed through town, particularly as we passed River View Dining, a small BBQ oyster joint near the west end of town. We had intended to lunch here, but Manny, the proprietor, was so overwhelmed by our smallish pre-ride group, that we were forced to find another venue.

Sight unseen, we ventured instead to Raymond, where Danielle at the **Pitchwood Alehouse** was waiting. She was a little confused, as another unannounced motorcycle group arrived before us, taking the table she had set for us in the heart of the restaurant. They were just finishing when we arrived; soon we were seated and all concerns about the new lunch venue dissolved. Everyone was fed quickly and heartily; I can report that my oyster shooters and French Dip sandwich were the best road food I've had this season.

As much as we enjoyed our repast, we are, after all, an itinerant bunch. An hour passed and it was time to gas up and move on. WA-6 is the main line back to I-5, but we make it our mission to find alternatives. This endeavor started out fine. But in short order, my GPS betrayed me and I missed a turn in the route. All in



Karen and Camron high-five the journey so far while we wait for the ferry to Cathlamet.

Photo by Steven Polasky

my mirrors kept faithfully behind me. Nevertheless, at the next junction, we were missing two or three bikes. We were all heading in more or less the same direction, so I knew things shouldn't be too far off the mark. I sent the rest of my contingent southward on WA-6, with instructions to wait for me in Pe Ell. Then I returned to the missed junction and took the road not taken. Finding no one, I kicked on the afterburners and raced to Pe Ell, where all were present and accounted for. No harm, no foul, as it turned out.

East of Pe Ell, McDonald to Wildwood Road into Vader is another must-find. Pastoral farmland in the foreground, Mts. St. Helens, Adams, and Rainier in the distance—a beautiful ride. In Vader, we stopped at an old general store and said our good-byes. A few of us who weren't done yet headed for cobbler at the foot of Mt. St. Helens before calling it a day. Either way it had been another ride for

the ages. Can't wait to do it all over again next month.

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:347

Total First Saturday miles – 2018:1,148

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Walton Lake, 2017

photo by Dan Russell

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