



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



April, 2016

Volume 40, Issue #4

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



Well Wishers Send “Get Well” Card to Kim Dorsing

photo by Anonymous

Into Columbia

A story from Keith Matteson.
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An update on Kim Dorsing

David Peterson's Ride report.
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Easter in Barichara, Columbia

From Jalene Case's Facebook
page—see pages 4 & 6 of this
issue for some nice images.

BMWRO President's Message

by Jay Bennett



The Road Department

Roads—both paved and unpaved—are our partners in motorcycling. A motorcycle without a road is pretty pointless (except for some of you that like to admire your bike in the garage on winter nights). We sometimes cherish a good road for the pleasure it can bring. Other times a road is just a utility; an efficient way to get somewhere. Sometimes a road is a problem with its obstacles (or dangers) to overcome. On occasions it's a combination of all three.

My first road rides were on the paved and unpaved logging roads in the foothills of the Cascades. About six miles from our house was a web of private logging roads that my friends and I would get lost in for entire Saturdays before we had driver's licenses. These little roads and little Hondas were taking us on big adventures. The roads were laid down for the log trucks but were open to us on the weekends. Many a time we were lost, ran out of gas or nearly frozen on those roads; but we were making lifelong memories on those roads.

Roads often follow commerce and the early settlers' progress; so they don't always follow the straightest path, and we motorcyclists benefit from that. In parts of the world the roads were established by armies to move troops and gear. Interstate Hwy I-5, the Alcan Highway and many roads in Europe's Alps were originally militarily significant. In the mid-Willamette Valley, the old Santiam Wagon Road from Albany to Sisters was built to transport cattle but is now a great day-long adventure for dual sport folks. The reason the road was built and the terrain it was built on is important because it often defines the quality of the motorcycling experience. Imagine the Romans invading Europe and you understand why the heck a road in the Alps is built the way it is. In modern times they would simply bore a tunnel and none of those fantastic hairpins would be there.

Many roads follow water because of its ability to cut a path through obstacles or water was the original "road" into an area. Motorcyclists benefit from this in a couple of ways; but just think how much better a ride is up a waterway with visceral excitement of the water and road mixing together. For the dual sport crowd, a road with water usually means water crossings with their inherent risks —anyone here ever drive into a river, watch the water rise over the motor and then the handlebars?—and the reward when you get to the other side successfully (and hopefully get to see your riding partner land in the same water). Most of Oregon's best roads follow water. A few roads come to mind such as the Gold Beach to Galice road along the Rogue River, the Crooked River Road from Prineville Dam into Prineville or even Hwy 101 along the south coast (when traffic is light).

Roads are a surprise sometimes. I have a personal goal that each time I ride for fun, I try a new road. For those that ride with me, that means u-turns are common and mandatory because we will find dead-ends. This can also lead to finding some of the best roads you didn't know existed. Many times in riding I have passed by a road that had no value to me for getting somewhere. But riding it: sometimes the road is a surprise and becomes one of my favorite motorcycling roads. Other times the road is a dud and can be written off my list of spots needing exploration. Hwy 3 north from Enterprise is an example of a terrific surprise: where, on a map, it looks arrow straight to Lewiston Idaho, but on a bike it is anything but straight and has great vistas to boot.

Roads can change over time or conditions. Beartooth pass in Montana is one of my favorite roads in the West. But get caught in a sudden rain and lightning storm—like my son and I did one evening—and you will have another perspective on this formidable road. There is nothing like darkness, wet pavement, nearby lightning strikes and thousand foot drops to improve your riding style. And how about roads that you remember being fresh and well paved that fall into disrepair with tar snakes, pot holes or landslides? It makes me feel old when I think of pavement that has gone through its life-cycle right before my eyes. Other roads may be old, but make me feel young; like the Old McKenzie (Hwy 242) where I feel like I must ride this old friend once a year and am relieved to see no corner has been straightened or improved by the road department.

Okay so roads are our friends. We have some old friends and hopefully some recently visited friends; now get out there make new friends. ~ Jay





BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

- Event:** **Chief Joseph Rally**
Date/Time: June 17, 18 and 19, 2016
Place: Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, OR
Description: Full Page Poster in this issue
Registration is now open online
www.bmwro.org
Contact: Clarence Story, Rally Master **(541) 525-5315**
or email: bmwro.cjrrallymaster@gmail.com
Carol Lamper, Co-Chair, carol.lamper@gmail.com
- Event:** **Walton Lake Campout**
Date/Time: Friday July 29 to Sunday July 31
Place: Group Campsite at Walton Lake in the Ochoco Mountains east of Prineville.
Description: More details will be posted on the club website event calendar and in future issues of *BEEMER BEAT*.
Contact: Alice LeBarron, alicelebarron@hotmail.com
- Event:** **Steens Narrows**
Date/Time: September 9 - 11, 2016
Place: Narrows RV Park, OR
Description: A Saturday and Sunday morning continental breakfast and a Saturday night meal of BBQ, plus more. 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 Janet and Jay Bennett. Please **RSVP** No Later than **8/30/16**. Preferred method of sign-up is thru our website and use PayPal at: <http://bmwro.org/SNC-preregistration.html>
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>
Contact: Janet Bennett at jlennett60@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.*

Recurring Events

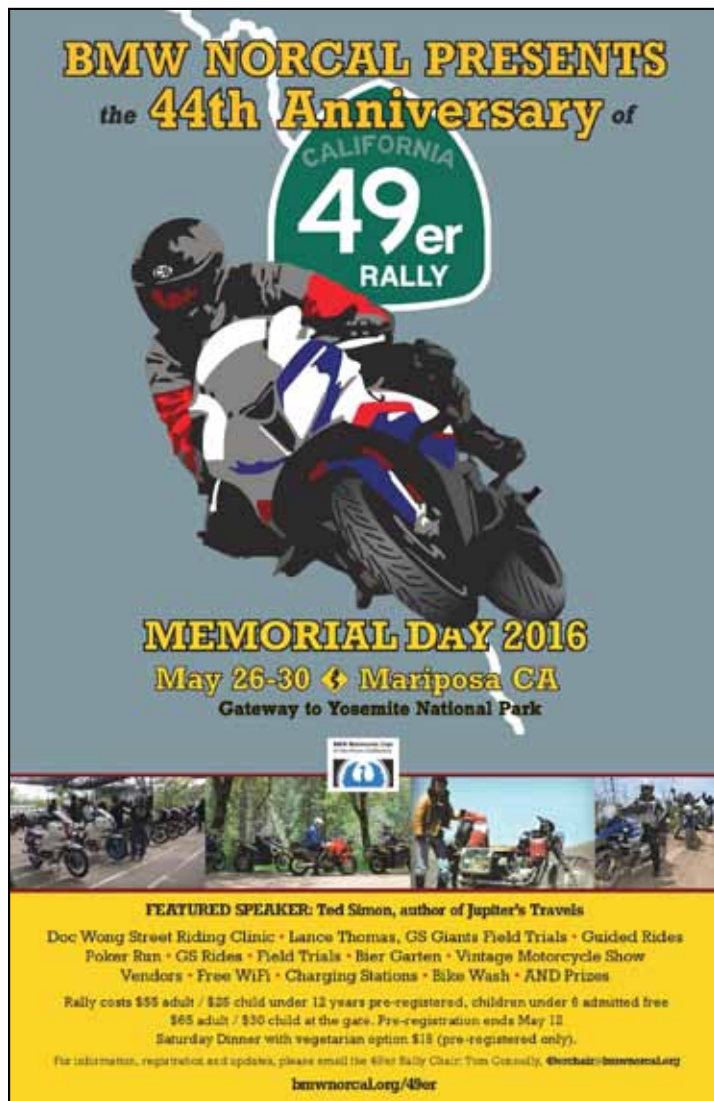
- Event:** **Central Oregon 2nd Saturday**
Date/Time: Second Saturday of each month
Location: Various ride and lunch locations in the Central Oregon Region.
Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
alicelebarron@hotmail.com



- Event:** **Central Western Region 1st Saturday Ambassador 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: Jim Breen, **541-912-4500** or jpbmOR@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 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

Additional Events

Event: **The 44th Annual 49er Rally**
Date/Time: May 26-30, 2016—Memorial Day weekend
Place: Mariposa County Fairgrounds, California
Description: Hosted by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California (NorCal)
See advertisement on page 4
or visit bmw49er.org
Contact: Tom Connally 49erchair@bmwnorcal.org



BMW NORCAL PRESENTS
the **44th Anniversary** of
CALIFORNIA 49er RALLY

MEMORIAL DAY 2016
May 26-30 ♦ Mariposa CA
Gateway to Yosemite National Park

FEATURED SPEAKER: Ted Simon, author of *Jupiter's Travels*
Doc Wong Street Riding Clinic • Lance Thomas, GS Giants Field Trials • Guided Rides
Poker Run • GS Rides • Field Trials • Bier Garten • Vintage Motorcycle Show
Vendors • Free WiFi • Charging Stations • Bike Wash • AND Prizes

Rally costs \$55 adult / \$25 child under 12 years pre-registered, children under 6 admitted free
\$65 adult / \$30 child at the gate. Pre-registration ends May 12
Saturday Dinner with vegetarian option \$15 (pre-registered only).

For information, registration and updates, please email the 49er Rally Chair: Tom Connally, 49erchair@bmwnorcal.org
bmwnorcal.org/49er



Easter in Barichara, Colombia

from Jaylene Case's Facebook page

We're holed up in Barichara Colombia while the heavy travel week of Easter passes. The silver lining is that we get to see an up-front-and-personal view of Holy Week in a small town. We watched a procession on Thursday afternoon that involved carrying the large objects (sculptures, art pieces? Not sure what to call them) out of the church into the main square. It was 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon and super hot so we didn't follow the procession.

[Story continues on page 6](#)



NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Don Chase, Olympia, WA 2006 R1200RT
Dan Denchel, Prosser, OR 2016 R1200GSA
Jon Drake, Bend, OR 2013 BMW K1600
Cliff Dunn, Beaverton, OR 2009 F800GS
Terry O'Brien, Sandpoint, ID 1974 BMW R90S
Mike Roberts, Vancouver, WA 2009 R1200GS & 2005 K1200LT

BMWRO Club Officials

President:

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

Vice President:

Scot Lamper, (503-706-1601)
bmwro.vp@gmail.com

Secretary:

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

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bmwro.web@gmail.com

Club Liaison

Doug Tewksbury,
bmwro.news@gmail.com

Activities

Scot Lamper, (503-706-1601)
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

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



[Continued from page 4.](#)

The next procession was at 5:00 a.m. on Good Friday and we decided to roll of bed with no coffee, tea, or breakfast and watch it for a little while. We arrived at the church in the dark of morning lit by a nearly full moon. This procession was different. We noticed people—anyone it seemed—begin walking into the street bearing their personal crosses. Then, there were two large crosses carried by several men each; and—at the end of the procession—there was a gigantic cross carried with much difficulty by 20–30 men. We had to follow.

So we fell into the crowd at the back of the procession, behind the enormous cross. As the we moved through the streets, more people joined until there were hundreds of people. The crowd moved slowly up hill stopping only to recognize one of the stations of the cross. It was like a walking Catholic mass.

In the end, the three large crosses were erected and concreted into place with applause from the crowd. By then, it was 8:00 a.m. There are so many more details and photos to share, and in honor of Easter, I'm sharing a few now.



Support your local BMW Motorcycle Dealerships and Service Centers for Oregon

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
your local BMW motorcycle dealership and service
centers with your business. And thank you.




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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:

\$60.00 per person for club members

\$70.00 for non-club members

12 yrs and younger: \$10.00 per person

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

Deadlines:

US Mail Pre-Registration: June 3, 2016

OnLine Pre-Registration: June 3, 2016

Refunds: June 3, 2016

Grant County Fairgrounds ~John Day, OR **June 17-19, 2016**

2016 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
ON LINE AT

WWW.BMWRO.ORG

Into Columbia

by Keith Matteson

A quick note to let people know that we've successfully flown ourselves and the bikes into Colombia from Panama City. There are no roads connecting the two countries, so it's either fly or take a boat. The gap is about 80-100 miles wide, nothing but swamp, jungle, and mountains. Putting the bikes in a shipping container was a little cheaper, but much slower. When you add in the additional cost of waiting, hotels, food, taxis, etc., it ends up being more expensive and a hassle, so we chose to fly the bikes and ourselves.

Not that it wasn't a hassle, but at least it was all over in 3 days. We took the bikes to the air freight company on a Tuesday, disassembled them to compact things, strapped them down to pallets, and shrink-wrapped them. Next day we flew to Colombia ourselves while the bikes went in another plane. Thursday we retrieved the bikes, processed through Customs and Immigration (mass paperwork!), then put the bikes back together and rode off into Bogota.



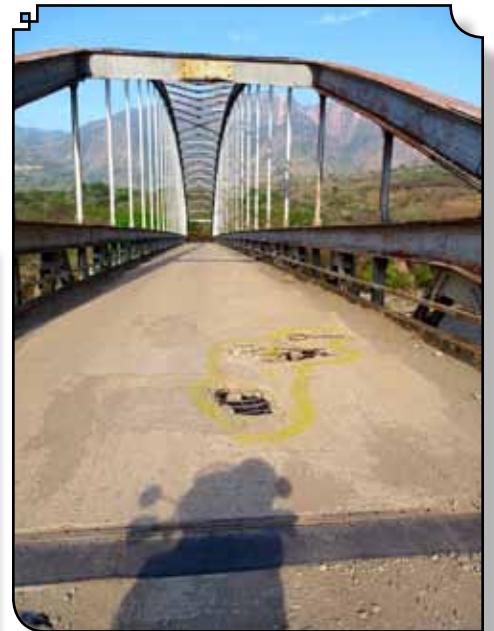
Packing up the bikes for shipping by air. Cardboard was wrapped around and over, then the whole thing was shrink wrapped. All arrived perfectly.

Bogota is a HUGE city, with about 8.5 million people. We left there on Saturday and headed north through the Andes. We are now at a little tiny town called Barichara, and staying at a lovely hostel while we let the Easter madness go by. Traveling over this holiday in such a Catholic country is impossible. We will wait here and

watch the processions, festivals, and all the other hoopla that's sure to go on. We're only a couple of blocks from the main square and



**Near the bottom of the canyon, looking down at the Suarez River and the bridge I crossed.
Way back on the far rim is the town we are staying in, Barichara.**



The bridge has some deferred maintenance issues. Some of the holes were big enough to fall right through. They were scattered all the way across.

cathedral, so we'll have a great time of it.

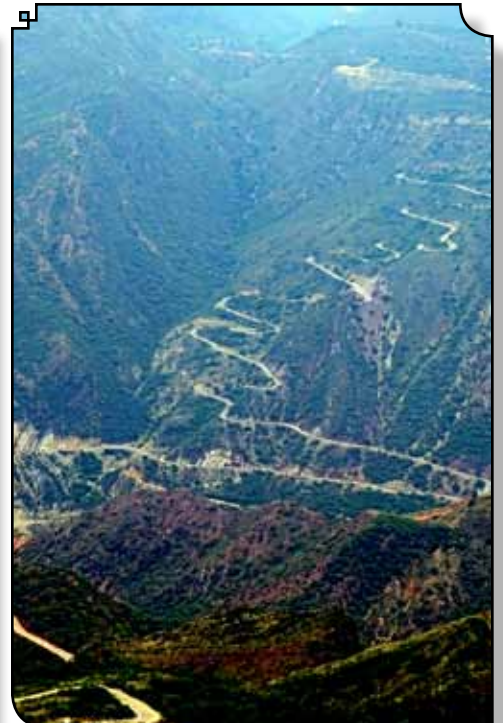
After that it's north, working our way up to Cartagena. It's a very old city, and everyone tells us it's a superb place to visit and spend time in the old section of the town. Then we'll circle south again, through Medellin and other places we'd like to see before heading down into Ecuador. We think we'll spend at least a month in Colombia, to see the sights and let the rainy season south of us pass to some degree.

This morning I took the bike out and crossed down into the upper section of what is reported to be the second-largest canyon in the world. Tomorrow I'd like to go up to the upper part, where there is another road that goes down and up, very steep and twisty like some of the roads we were on in the Alps. Today was all on dirt, and the bridge crossing the river was very old, with holes in the concrete deck that you could fall through, maybe 75' down to the river. Thankfully



Our street for the next week. We are staying at Tinto Hostel on the right. By coincidence, we learned our friends Scott and Susan stayed here on their ride out a couple of years ago.

some kind soul had circled the holes with green spray paint, so I guess everything was all good.



It was dirt all the way down, then up the other side, but a good road. Several homes along the way, folks farming and raising cattle.



NW Ambassadors Ride Report March 2016

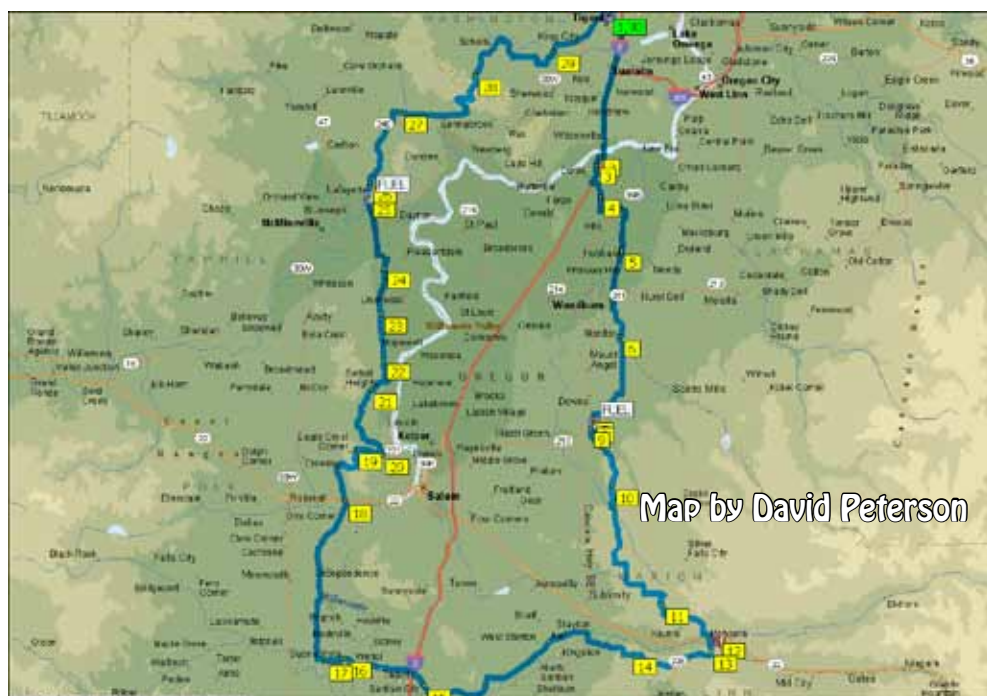
David Peterson #90113
Michael Ripley #191665

We've been extremely lucky with the weather this season. Despite the [wettest December in Portland history](#) and the [wettest winter in western Washington history](#), we consistently managed a respite on the first Saturday of each month. March was no exception. When we arrived at Tigard BMW, the pavement was decidedly dry, er drying.

Before we hit the road, we had some personal business to attend to. **Kim Dorsing** has been a regular fixture in our mirrors on first Saturdays for over three years. Kim and wife **Janice Mathern** have also ridden from Canada to Texas with David and **Diane**, not to mention their own 90-day epic retirement lap around the U.S. last summer.

So it was a big surprise to learn that Kim needed heart surgery to make his retirement right. Which means for the next few FSRs, Kim &

Janice's fun will be in the reading, not the riding. We wanted them to know that while they may be out of sight, they will not be out of mind. And so, our merry band gathered around a get-well banner. That was two weeks ago and we are pleased to report that Kim is stronger by the day. We expect to see him back in the saddle sooner rather than later—that is, if we don't lose him to golf. That's another story; we'll leave it to each of you to make our case.



Ah yes...the ride. Sixteen riders, some without bikes, gathered at the start. **Scot** and **Carol Lamper** had other plans, but they couldn't miss a photo op. Those ready-to-ride included newcomers **Scott Bradley** and **Ranée Niedermeyer**, along with, in no particular order, **Mark Wegener** (Ranée's ride), **Frank Boyle**, **Colin Luther**, **Steven Polansky**, **Phil Murray**, **Alan Resnik**, **Randy Vogt**, **Greg Straub**, and **Ric Holderbaum**. Mike, as usual, did a yeoman's job keeping us in line from the rear.

This month's itinerary took us down I-5 only to get us across the Willamette. Our first chance to exit south of the river was at Charbonneau, and take it we did. Soon we were on Boones Ferry Road, paralleling the freeway before crossing to the east side on Arndt Road. Then it was through Aurora, over Lone Elder, then south on Meridian Road into Silverton, where we gassed up.

All winter long we've ridden with heated clothing tethered to the bike. In Silverton, both Diane and David pulled the plugs and threw them into the top case—for a long while, they hope. For spring is definitely in the air.



Well-wishers old and new.

photo by Anonymous

Our lunch destination in Lyons, we still had farther south to travel. Scenic options in this area usually default to OR-214 through Silver Falls State Park. But all of us have been there many times—and new road discovery is the first rule of FSR. Bypassing downtown Silverton, we soon found ourselves on Victor Point Road, running among century farms and great expanses of sod. Roughly 25% of the Willamette Valley consists of grass seed farms¹. With 50% either urban or forested, that leaves only 25% of the land divided among other crops and uses. The road—and the views—were spectacular.

After about fifteen miles, Victor Point Road led us to Triumph, Basl Ridge, and Fern Hill Road, which deposited us onto OR-22 at Lyons, just yards from our lunch stop.

The **North Fork Crossing Restaurant** sits at the east end of Lyons. Under new ownership and freshly renovated, it offers typical road food, very well prepared. David personally recommends



Twisting our way through Marion County

Photo by Diane Peterson

the fried green beans and Penne Bolognese. Both were wonderful and a single entrée was enough to satisfy both David and Diane's prodigious appetites.

It was clear before we mounted up that while we wouldn't start in the rain, we'd be both lucky and surprised if we finished that way. The skies were darker and the rain started to spit as we left lunch. We headed west on OR-226, then quickly transitioned

to Kingston—Jordan Road. Quickly through Stayton, we continued west through Jefferson, over I-5, and onto the Buena Vista Ferry. It was here our luck ran out. The drops began as we boarded and they only got fatter as we motored north through Independence. It came down steadily as we topped Eagle Crest in west Salem, but it really didn't slow us down. At Hopewell, we exercised our option to avoid the beaten path, staying on Webfoot Road rather than the more heavily trafficked OR-154.

Rainwear was well-tested as we stopped for gas and goodbyes in Lafayette. But the smiles and thumbs up suggested we had done our duty for another month. And as for Kim and Janice, we can only say, Kim, get healthy soon. It's just not the same without you.

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, January Ride: 212

Total First Saturday miles – 2016: 485

[North Fork Crossing Restaurant](#)
22935 Jennie Road, Lyons, OR
97358 (503)900-9016



Aboard the Buena Vista ferry.

photo by Anonymous

¹Oregon Seed Council, *Frequently Asked Questions*. Accessed 22 March 2016 at <http://www.oregonseedcouncil.org/faqs/>.





from Jalene's Facebook page, March, 28, 2016

Granadilla fruit, oatmeal, coffee and Keith Matteson and I are off! It will be a two-day trip from Barichara to Santa Marta Colombia near the top of the country.



2006 K1200S for Sale \$6,250



Beautiful, one-owner, 2006 K1200S; 45,000 miles, carefully maintained by Hansen's in Medford. Fully equipped with bag-mounts, center-stand, ESA and ABS; recent plugs, cam chain (as recommended at 48,000), clutch and battery—all BMW OEM parts. This is the bike that exemplifies Sport-Touring! A fantastic ride, very quick (0-60 in 3.0 secs) and comfortable on the long ride!

Asking \$6,250;

Call Ken Reeder in Medford, **541.840.7911**.



THE BEEMER BEAT

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289 Pine Dell Lane
Grants Pass, OR 97526



Visit our website at:
WWW.BMWRO.ORG

Panama

photo by Keith Matteson

