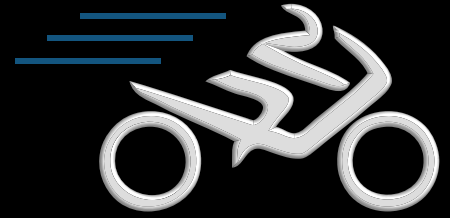




THE BEEMER BEAT



Newsletter of the BMW Riders of Oregon

March 2019

Volume 44, Issue #3

Founded 1976 - BMWMOA Charter #83, BMWRA Charter #264



Photo by Bruce Henriksen

On the Coast

Secretary's Message
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Elevation Fun Tour
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**David Peterson's
Ride Report**
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NEW MEMBERS

Todd Quinn, Portland, OR. 2015 Triumph Bonneville
Jeffrey Beasley, Boise, ID. 2018 Triumph Tiger 800 XCX
Mike Prinke, Aloha, OR. 2009 BMW F800GS
Loren Scott, Eugene, OR. 2019 BMW F750GS



BYLAWS, POLICIES & GUIDELINES

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

BMWRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

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

Vice President/ Activities:

Liz Jones, 541-285-7573
bmwro.vp@gmail.com

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

David Cook, 541-7402484
bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

Webmaster:

(Position is currently vacant)

BMWRO COORDINATORS

Membership Coordinator

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

Newsletter Editor

Craig Porter 518-316-6836
(Text preferred)
bmwro.editor@protonmail.com

*Submission date for the newsletter is
the 14th (firm) of each month.

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) .

Clarence Story — 541-689-2822
ccstory@go-ducks.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

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

Central & Northeast Region

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

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

Southern Region

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

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

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

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



Upcoming BMWRO Events

Elevation Fun Tour

When: April 15 - October 15

Where: See details on page **13** of this issue.

Eagleview Campout and 2nd Quarter Meeting

When: Friday, May 29, 2020, 1:00 PM until Sunday, May 31, 2020, 11:00 AM

Where: Eagleview Campground Group Site

110 Bullock Road

Oakland, OR 97462

Contact(s): Jay Bennett -- 541-760-0675, jabennett.2012@gmail.com

Women Riders' Campout

When: Friday, June 05, 2020, 4:00 PM until Sunday, June 7, 2020, 1:00 PM

Where: Silver Falls State Park Group Site B

20024 Silver Falls Highway

Sublimity, OR

Contact(s): Carol L Dallas -- 503-860-8787, carol.dallas57@gmail.com

Chief Joseph Rally

When: Thursday, June 18, 2020, 12:00 PM until Sunday, June 21, 2020, 12:00 PM

Where: Grant County Fairground

411 NW Bridge St

John Day, OR 97845

Contact(s): Alice LeBarron -- 541-647-7194; bmwro.pres@gmail.com

Edson Creek Coastal Campout

When: July 17-19

Where: Edson Creek Group Campsite near Port Orford.

Details TBD. Host needed. Contact: Keith Matteson Motomatteson@gmail.com

Alsea Falls Campout

When: August 3 - 6

Where: Alsea Falls Recreation Site - Group Campsite #14 & standard site #15

13 miles east of Monroe, OR

Canal Creek Campout

When: Aug 28 -30

Where: Canal Creek Group Campsite near Waldport.

Contact: Keith Matteson Motomatteson@gmail.com

Crystal Crane Hot Springs Campout

When: Sept 10 - 13

Where: Crystal Crane Hot Springs is 25 miles east of Burns on Hwy 78

All events require pre-registration. Click on the title of the event to go to the event page.

Recurring Events

Event: **Central Oregon 2nd Saturday**

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

Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
alicelebarron@hotmail.com

Event: **Central Western Region 1st Saturday Ride**

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

Location: European Motorcycles of Western Oregon

Description: Various routes.

Contact: Clarence Story **541-689-2822**
ccstory@go-ducks.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
 Mark Collier **541-499-1395**
mcollier5895@gmail.com

Event: **NW Oregon 1st Saturday Ride**

Date/Time: First Saturday of each month
Location: Various breakfast and ride locations in the Northwest Oregon Region.

Description: Finding the twisties and connecting with our membership for grins and food sharing.

Contact: David Peterson **503-327-5592**
dwpeterson01@yahoo.com
 Neal Malagamba **503-969-3220**
n.malagamba@icloud.com



Event: **Willow Springs Raceway**
Date/Time: April 17-18, & April 24 - 25
Location: Willow Springs, CA
Description: If you can get down to Willow Springs Raceway for these dates, you'll have an exciting opportunity to watch BMWRO member Dave Kaechele racing his sidecar! Dave gave a seminar at CJR last year on building and racing sidecars. It was well attended and got good marks on the survey. Dave will be talking about sidecars again this June at Chief Joseph Rally.

Event: **BMW Sport Touring**
Date/Time: May 22-25
Location: Red Hill Motel, Weaverville, CA
Description: The bmwsporttouring.com group will have their annual gathering at the Red Hill Motel. Bill Buck, a Bend BMWRO member, says these gatherings have good people, great riding, and convivial evenings.
Contact: Patty @ Red Hill Motel for reservations 530-623-4331

Event: **Cascade Country Rendezvous**
Date/Time: July 16 - 19
Location: Republic, WA
Description: The annual rally hosted by the Washington State BMW riders.
Contact: www.wsbmwr.org



Event: **BMW Motorcycle Owners of America National Rally 2020**
Date/Time: June 25 - 28 2020
Location: Montana Expo Park, Great Falls, MT.
<http://www.goexpopark.com/>

Rally Website: <http://rally.bmwmoa.org/>

Registration opens January 1st, 2020!

MOA website: <https://www.bmwmoa.org/>

BMWRO Name Tags



BMWRO Name Badge Order Form

Use this form to order your name badge(s). Print this form, complete your information below and mail the form along with your payment to the Treasurer at the address below.

This form is for BMW Riders of Oregon members only.

Your mailing address:

Name: _____

Address line 1: _____

Address line 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip code: _____

Please include your email address or phone number in case we have any questions:

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please include \$15.00 for each engraved name badge.

Name on badge(s): _____

Mail this form and payment to:
BMWRO Treasurer
c/o Dave Cook
7455 NE Haugen Rd
Corvallis, OR 97330

Whatsisname?

At the January Quarterly meeting, members voted to adopt a new design for our name badges using the club logo. Kudos to Dave Cook for this new design! To order nametags, members can find the Name Badge Order Form on the BMWRO website under Documents in the left-hand menu. These name badges give you the option of attaching with a pin or with a magnet. For those who have a pacemaker, the magnet can be removed. We've all been in the situation where we recognize the face but can't kickstart the memory to come up with the person's name. We can all help by wearing our name badges and proudly show our membership in BMWRO!

BMWRO Secretary's Message



Photo by Bruce Henriksen

BMWRO Website Updates: We need your help to keep our website updated with new and interesting information! BMWRO Members wishing to post Photos or Ride Reports on our website pages should send their submissions to Linnea Alvord at bmwro.secretary@gmail.com. For Sale by Members postings should also be sent to Linnea for inclusion on our website. If you want to cancel or edit your For Sale by Members listing, be sure to notify Linnea. If you have suggestions for links to be included on the Routes & Tracks page, send those suggestions to Linnea.

We get a lot of wonderful photos posted on our BMWRO Facebook page, but we have a lot of members who don't see the Facebook page, so please consider posting some of your great motophotos on our website, as well!



Chief Joseph Rally Update by Alice LeBarron

Registration is now open for the 42nd annual Chief Joseph Rally, being held at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day, Oregon June 18 - 21, 2020. Detailed information can be found on the Rally Information page on our BMWRO website. The schedule of events will be posted there and you can expect more events to be added as arrangements are finalized for rides & seminars.

Friday and Saturday dinners are included with your Pre-registration. A very limited number of meal tickets will be available for purchase at the gate. Both meals this year will be catered by Brenda Coley of the Snafflebit Dinner House in Canyon City. Dinner Friday will be a Chicken Enchilada casserole, Corn tacos with taco meat, cheese, tomatoes, & lettuce, chips & salsa, refried beans, green salad, & dessert. Dinner Saturday will be Chicken Parmesan, loaded baked potato, carrots, green salad, rolls, & dessert. Vegetarian options will be available each night for those who mark vegetarian on their pre-registration.

As we did last year, your rally T-shirts must be pre-ordered. The link to the T-shirt store is on the BMWRO website Rally Information page. Your orders will be delivered to the rally, where you can pick them up at the Information Booth. As I write this, I am still working with the T-shirt vendor to arrange for T-shirt styles and colors. My goal is for you to have a selection of T-shirt styles, fabrics, and colors to choose from, as you did last year. All of the T-shirts will have the design printed on the upper left chest. This year's T-shirt art is displayed at the top of this page.

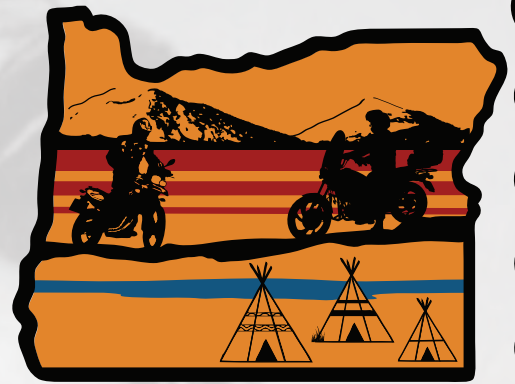
The last few years, we haven't had any hats for sale and I heard a lot of requests for hats, so this year, we will again have hats available for purchase! As with the T-shirts, your hats must be pre-ordered and will be available to pick up at the Information Booth. Hats will be black, baseball-style, with the BMWRO logo embroidered in front.

We've got an interesting mix of motorcycle movies planned for this year's rally, from dirt bike racing to MotoGP racing to antique motorcycle endurance racing. Motorcycle movies will be showing each evening in Keerins Hall. The movie for Thursday evening will be *This is Moto* sponsored by Giant Loop. The movie on Friday evening will be *The Doctor*, *the Tornado*, and *the Kentucky Kid* sponsored by Lee Block of Racer Gloves and then Saturday evening we'll be showing *White Knuckle: the Story of the Motorcycle Cannonball*.

David Morganstern, Louie Robida, and Bob Grimm have been busy contacting vendors and are making arrangements for vendor booths at the rally as well as collecting door prizes! We are so thankful to have these vendors supporting our rally! This year, the vendor logos are being displayed on a separate page labeled Vendor Links on our BMWRO website. You can reach their individual websites by clicking on their logo from the Vendor Links page. As we get closer to Rally time, more vendor links will be added, so keep checking back! The Vendor Links page will remain active through the year.

I'm looking forward to welcoming you all to John Day for our 42nd Chief Joseph Rally!

Alice

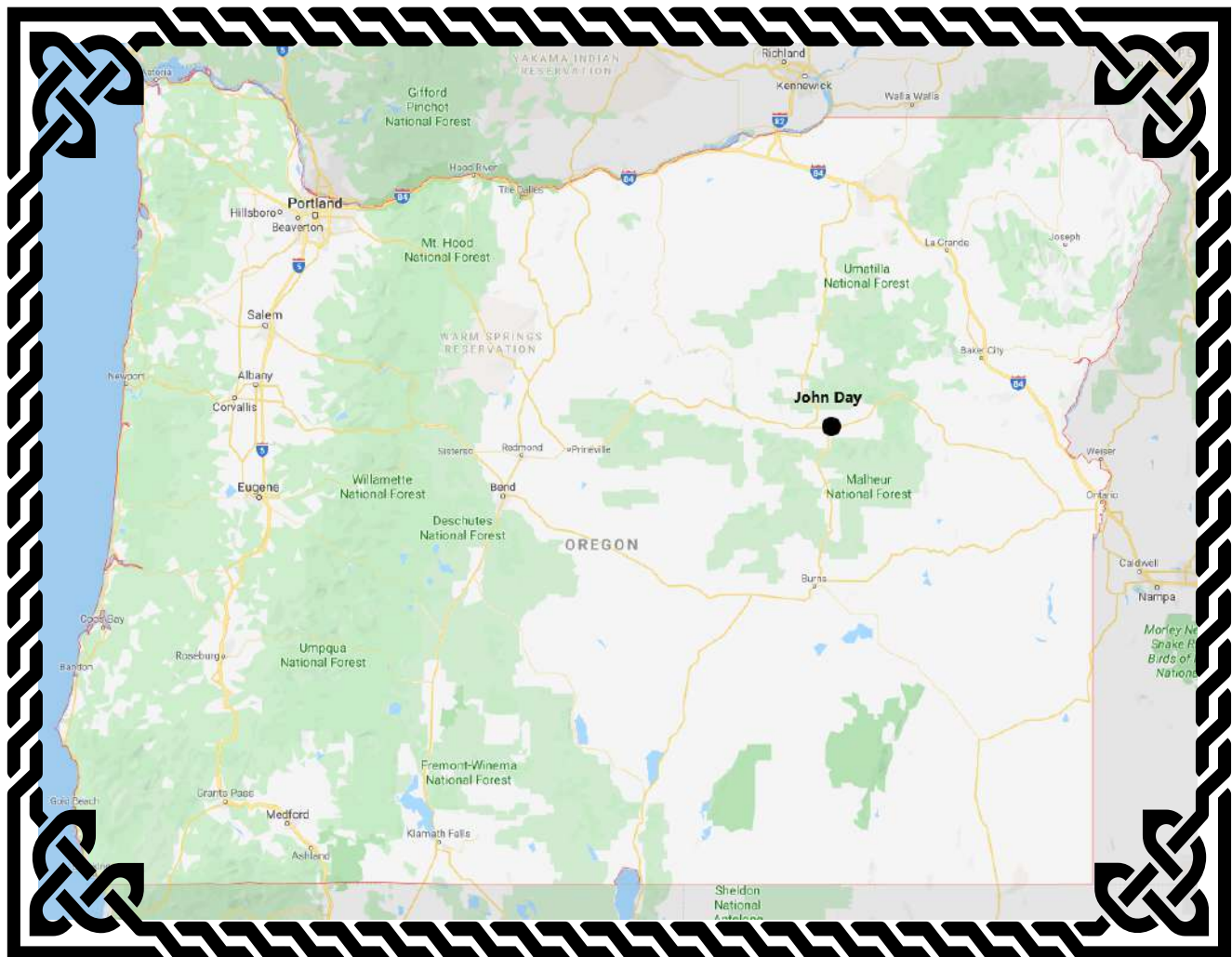


CHIEF JOSEPH RALLY • JUNE 2020
BMW Riders of Oregon



Ride John Day to the MOA!

David Peterson #90113



To John Day...		
From Portland	272	miles
From Seattle	396	miles
From San Francisco	620	miles
From Los Angeles	873	miles
From Las Vegas	756	miles
From Denver	1,001	miles
From Chicago	1,879	miles
From Great Falls	685	miles
Source: Google Maps		

It's March. The worst of the winter is behind you. Days are getting longer and daylight savings time arrives any day now. The time for summer planning has arrived—if you haven't already begun. You're thinking about trekking to the MOA Rally in Great Falls, now only four short months away.

Hmmm, you think. That's a long trip. I can't take too many like it this summer. But what a beautiful part of the country. I really want to go. What if I add a week and make it a real vacation?

That's where we come in. You want to make it a trip for the ages? How about adding another rally to

the mix? Join the BMW Riders of Oregon for the 42nd Annual Chief Joseph Rally in John Day! Then make it an epic tour of the west by meandering on to Great Falls!

Why Oregon?

When nonresidents think of Oregon, they often describe it as ...*ocean on one side, Idaho on the other. One big city—and nothing else—somewhere in the middle! Oh, and we like to shop there... no sales tax!*

Well that's a start...but only a start. Oregon does have an ocean coast—a stunning one at that—and a mountain range that parallels it, making valley-to-coast travel a motorcyclist's dream. [Crater Lake](#), in

continued on Pg. 10

Oregon's southwest corner, sits at over 6,000 feet and is the deepest lake in the U.S. [Hell's Canyon](#) in the northeast corner, is among the deepest canyons in North America. In fact, Oregon's mean elevation is 3,300 feet, which means plenty of topographic variety in every ride you take. Virtually every rural drive in Oregon is over a ridge, along a river, through a forest, or crossing a canyon. Where ever you're from, we're willing to bet the Oregon portion of your journey will rank first among its highlights.

Why the Chief Joseph Rally in John Day?

[John Day](#) is a quiet farm and ranch community located in Grant County, Oregon. Situated between the Strawberry Mountains to the south and the Blue Mountains to the east, it has transitioned over the last 135 years from a bustling mining and timber economy to agribusiness and increasingly, outdoor recreation and tourism. The Grant County Fairgrounds offer the perfect rally venue. Its lush main lawn is heaven on earth for campers and its location in the center of town is an easy stroll from motels and restaurants.

The rally itself will entertain morning, noon, and night. There will be free showers for campers. Door prizes. Vendors. Rider awards. Seminars. Friday and Saturday night dinners. A beer garden. Complimentary morning coffee and tea. Guided road and adventure rides. Rider skill classes offered by [Team Oregon](#). Maps of self-guided touring and GS routes. Motorcycle movies each evening. And live music on Friday night!

On to Great Falls! [\(click on map to access interactive map\)](#)



Just when you thought there couldn't be more, it's time to move on to the MOA National Rally in Great Falls. The shortest route is 632 miles—an easy two or three day ride. But it's mostly Interstate—and we hope you have gotten your fill of the Interstate on the way to John Day. Instead, we offer three sublime alternatives that capture some of the choicest roads to be found in the northwest. Plus, if you're really looking for an adventure, we also present a bucket list GS alternative.

Lolo Pass-I

Our first option measures out at 840 miles. It includes OR-245—the Dooley Mountain Highway—a 40-mile carousel that will get the juices flowing as you begin your trek east. Mountains give way to valley as you follow the Oregon Trail toward the Snake River. Crossing into Idaho, the road follows the river up canyon before aggressively ascending ID-71 to the high valley along US-95. At Cambridge, the route continues north. Lots of camping, but few motels. New Meadows at the 247-mile mark might be a good target for day one. Grangeville, at 330 miles, will have more lodging options.

If you stay the night in New Meadows, day 2 starts off with a bang. First, the sweeping ride along the Salmon River will delight. Next, keep an eye out for White Bird, thirty miles north of Riggins. Here, new US-95 grinds its way out of the canyon, 2,900 feet of climb along a steady 8%, 6.5-mile course north. Along the way, a viewpoint overlooks the valley where 100 cavalymen lost their lives in the opening battle of the five-month long conflict in 1877 known as the Nez Perce War. But what has always stirred the motorcyclist is the paved scribble on the other side of the valley. Old US-95 climbs the same 2,900 feet in fourteen miles, in such a dizzying array of twists that if laid together, they would form 37 complete circles. **Don't miss it!**



White Bird Grade

Gas up in Grangeville, the largest town for the next 160 miles. Then enjoy the 26-mile roller coaster that is ID-13. The next scenic stretch follows US-12 across the Idaho panhandle into Montana. Following the Clearwater, then the Lochsa River, this 133-mile stretch crosses the Bitterroot Range at Lolo Pass before descending into the Bitterroot Valley, teeing into US-93. There is plenty of camping in the Bitterroot Valley—and far fewer motel rooms. Back up the road, a favorite of mine is [Lochsa Lodge](#), located just west of Lolo Pass on US-12. And of course, Missoula is just another fifteen miles up the road, making for a 260-mile day, if you stayed in New Meadow.

At this point, you're only 169 miles from Great Falls. But it's only Tuesday. You could just lope into town and relax until the rally begins. Of course, [Glacier National Park](#) and the [Going-to-the-Sun Road](#) are tantalizingly close. If you've never been, you must take this ribbon of wonder, one of the most scenic roads in all of America. But check on conditions: the road often opens only in mid-June and the Park Service has already announced that [pavement preservation](#) will delay this year's opening until at least June 22nd. Taking in Glacier puts you 349 miles out from Great Falls. You'll probably want to enjoy the park, spend the night in St. Mary or Browning, and roll into Great Falls on Wednesday or Thursday.

Lolo Pass-II



Old Spiral Highway

Our second, 839-mile option, wends through Oregon gold country, climbing the Blue Mountains before steeply descending 3,500 feet to the valley below. You'll then scoot north through the towns of Union, Imbler, and Elgin, before descending toward the confluence of the Wallowa and Minam Rivers. Gas up in Enterprise, for there is none to be found along the next 103 spectacular miles through Joseph Canyon and the Rattlesnake Grade ascent on the other side.

At the 299-mile mark, Clarkston, WA/Lewiston, ID might be an ideal stop the first night. You're going to be chomping at the bit to hit the road the next day, but before leaving town for good, find your way to the [Old Spiral Highway](#).

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Built in 1917 to accommodate the early automobile, it enabled residents along the river to climb the 2,000 feet to the top of Lewiston Hill. With 64 perfectly engineered corners along its 7.3-mile length, it is often cited as Idaho's windiest road.

Now eastbound, the route also crosses Lolo Pass on US-12, this time heading south at the junction with US-93. Spending the night in or near Hamilton, MT might be the right call, making for a 240-mile day.

Day 3 of Lolo Pass-II heads south on US-93 before climbing into Montana's Sapphire Mountains. This is Indian country, with many markers and waysides denoting the Nez Perce War. Along MT-43, [Big Hole National Battlefield](#), site of the conflict's largest battle, is a worthy stop.

From here, it's 235 twisty mountain miles to Great Falls, allowing for a leisurely day or two in Great Falls before the rally begins.

Beartooth Pass

Ready for an adventure? This 1,239-mile option makes the most of the week between the rallies. Day 1 will follow much of the Lolo Pass-I route across the Snake River. Heading south on US-93 and staying in Payette, ID will put the first-day mileage at 245 miles. Day 2 is a long day (354 miles), bisecting the Sawtooth Mountains on your way toward the Grand Tetons. After spending the night in Idaho Falls, you'll continue on to Cody, WY, (265 miles) passing through [Grand Teton](#) and [Yellowstone](#) National Parks along the way. Day 4 is short (112 miles), but spectacular, as you carve the magnificent [Chief Joseph Scenic Byway](#) and crest 10,947-foot Beartooth Pass on your way to Red Lodge, MT. A final press (262 miles) across the high prairie puts you in Great Falls by Happy Hour.

A GS Alternative?

There are myriad ways to roam off-road between John Day and Great Falls, but one passage stands out. In the heart of the Idaho panhandle lie two of the largest untrammeled wilderness regions in the continental United States. To the North is the Selway-Bitterroot; to the south, the Frank Church-River of No Return. Together, they cover almost 3.4 million acres of rugged solitude. But between them lies a 95-mile fire road built in the 1930s. The [Magruder Corridor](#) is just one section of the Idaho Backcountry Discovery Route, but I mention it specifically because to access it, you must ride ID-14 to Elk City—one of the most delightful and picturesque ribbons of tarmac anywhere. To find it, follow Lolo Pass-I to ID-13. The Magruder Corridor terminates at US-93.

In conclusion, while all roads may lead to Great Falls, the most memorable ones pass through John Day. Go to the BMW Riders of Oregon [website](#)—and start your planning today! Then...Saddle Up & Ride!



Elevation Fun Tour Revived

We are resurrecting a contest that the Club held in the 1990's. This contest is to travel over as many of Oregon's approximately 300 mountain passes, summits, gaps, or saddles as you can within a 6-month time span. Riders will be scored on how many highway passes they cross and the height in elevation of the crossing. For instance , Alsea Summit is 1,211 feet. That would be 1 point for the summit crossing and 1,211 points for the elevation. Potentially there could be 2 winners, one for the most passes crossed and one with the highest elevation totals. The rules are fairly simple. The contest begins April 15th and ends October 15th. The rider must submit a photo with both the official elevation marker and their motorcycle clearly visible in the frame. Riders must also submit the date of the photo and a description of where the summit or pass is located using Highway number, nearby town or county, or GPS coordinates since there are many places that share the same name. For instance there are 6 Windy Gaps in Oregon, just tell us which one you are using. Only summits, passes, gaps and saddles in the State of Oregon are permitted to be used in this contest. You can only use a crossing once.



Entry fee is \$10.00 per BMWRO member and you must be a member to participate. If we have enough entries cash prizes will be awarded to the first place finisher(s). 2nd and 3rd place finishers will also be recognized. Submit your photos to Gary Harkins at porche1gt2@gmail.com. No entries submitted before April 15th or those received after October 15th will be counted. The winner(s) will be announced at the November Club meeting.

Remember: Please be extremely careful when taking the photo. Pull off in a safe manner and watch for traffic and other hazards.

To enter: Fill in and sign the form. Return it and a check payable to BMWRO for \$10.00 per member to BMWRO c/o Dave Cook, 7455 NE Haugen Rd. Corvallis, OR 97330.

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
_____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____
Motorcycle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Motorcycle
Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

I/We understand that the BMW Riders of Oregon cannot assume responsibility for any aspect of my/our safety and that if I/We participate in any sanctioned event I/We do so voluntarily on my/our own assessment of ability, the course and all facilities and conditions, assuming all risk. I/We release and hold the BMWRO harmless for any injury or loss to my/our person or property which may result therefrom.

Signed: _____
Date: _____ Print Name: _____

Chocolate Cake to Berry Pie

NW Ambassadors Ride Report-February 2020

David Peterson #90113



Map by David Peterson

It's February...who knew what to expect come ride day. Dry days preceded a rainy December ride; mixed days a mixed January jaunt. The last days of January were dry and balmy with temps approaching 60°. Would our luck hold *just one more day*?

Nope.

But, hey, to me, a rainy day is just an excuse to change my gloves and go for a ride. And you know what? Eleven of my closest friends felt just the same way. Including Diane, fit as a fiddle,

continued on Pg 15

and ready to take pics. We were getting ready to don our helmets, when our favorite BMW of Western Oregon Sales Associate, Rainer Helmke, stepped in to apologize for the lack of breakfast donuts.

We're touched, Rainer, we collectively thought. But, really, it's no big deal. After all, we'll be eating soon enough.

Then he offered chocolate cake instead. *Chocolate cake???? What's going on here?* One look at the cake and it all became clear. In a bit of self-congratulation, I had submitted paperwork for the 200,000-mile recognition plaque from BMW Motorrad. Rainer and the gang at the shop turned its presentation into an event. Thanks to them and to all the other soggy riders who shared the moment with me.



Map by David Peterson

To all my fellow enthusiasts...Let them eat cake!

But it was to be just a moment. We had a 100 soggy miles to ride. Not to mention, a ferry to catch. After strapping on our helmets and plugging in our jackets, we released our clutches and propelled into the foggy mist. This month's gang fell into place—Arizona Mike Ripley behind me, followed by Ric Holderbaum, Justin Carr and CJ Strauss (two-up), Kyle Emerson, Mark Wegener, Jeff Yarnall, Charles Trapp, and Cam Rust, tailgunning, amber lights ablaze for me to see.

continued on Pg 16

This month, the compass pointed north. We crossed the Columbia, looking for exit 9, signaling our departure from I-5. There we found Steven Polansky patiently cooling his jets; he hadn't anticipated a pre-ride cake party. We scooted north through La Center, then on through Woodland. Just when it looked like we would be I-5 bound once more, we abruptly cut back eastward.

Green Mountain Road is another of the many surprising roller coasters one finds riding in the suburban foothills between La Center and Castle Rock. Today's stretch rapidly climbed over 800 feet, before twisting its way back toward I-5. At today's apex, Green Mountain continues northeastward before dropping back into the flats of Kalama. We'll save that segment for a dryer, warmer day. Did I say dryer? As it turned out, the fog lifted and the rain stopped, allowing for some spectacular views to the west. Our truncated Green Mountain tour descended Lane Road, depositing us slightly south of Kalama.

My ideal plan would have had us aboard the *Oscar B.*, aka the Cathlamet Ferry, for its noon departure. But it was now 11:07 and with the ferry still an hour's ride away, we weren't going to push it. So we took a 15-minute break in Kalama. The ferry runs on the hour, but I thought we might catch a break. A landslide had [closed WA-4](#) west of Cathlamet, leaving the ferry as the only westward transportation option. Perhaps they were running the ferry more than once an hour?



Descending Green Mountain in Kalama

Photo by Diane Peterson

continued on Pg 18

Soon after we remounted, the drizzle resumed. It wasn't a pounding rain, just the moisture-laden air that loves to stick to your visor. We sedately rode through industrial Longview before opening it up on WA-4. Twelve miles before Cathlamet, we approached the junction with Mill Creek Road. Now it was 11:55; there was no way we'd catch the twelve o'clock ferry. *Maybe they're running multiple crossings...*

Mill Creek is a twelve-mile loop that's almost as fun as Green Mountain. It was new to most of the group, and it was clear in later conversation that they enjoyed their new find. To my surprise, after a week of rain, it was relatively free of debris. The loop deposited us just west of Cathlamet. Six minutes later, we were at the ferry landing. It was 12:20—perfect timing *if they were running multiple crossings...*

Nope.

There were no multiple ferry runs. We stood patiently in the rain, waiting for the top of the hour. Then the rain let up, and patches of blue even appeared. There was additional good news: with WA-4 closed, the ferry ride would be free!

Time passes quickly when a motorcycle gaggle gathers, even in the rain. The ferry ride was lovely—and packed—and the remaining ride to lunch was only a half-mile. The folks at the [Berry Patch](#) set us up at our own extended table and were ready with hot coffee and hot chocolate before we even sat down. The cuisine was road food at its finest, topped off with a piece of homemade marionberry pie. Riders are no strangers to the Berry Patch; but if you've never been, it alone merits a ride to Westport. Go for the food; stay for the Oregon logging history lesson that adorns its very long halls.

After lunch, the weather held and it was on to our last thrill ride of the day. OR-47 is a favorite for most of us who haunt northwest Oregon. Even with rain and runoff, the road is a spectacle since its repaving a few years back. Today the road was clear of traffic and despite our earlier weather woes, this stretch was relatively dry.



Chasing along Mill Creek Road.

Photo by Diane Peterson

We took a left toward Scappoose and continued our spirited run for another twenty miles, before stopping for the last time. Helmets came off and smiles were bright. It had been a little soggy. But all agreed, there was no better way to celebrate the first Saturday in February.

continued on Pg 18



Photo by Diane Peterson

Cake in the morning, the Berry Patch for lunch.

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, February Ride:	214
Total First Saturday miles – 2020:	313



"May the road rise to meet you,
and the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face and
the rains fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold
you gently in the palm of his hand.



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