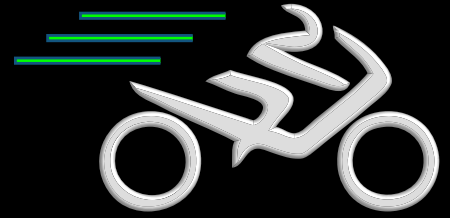




THE BEEMER BEAT



Newsletter of the BMW Riders of Oregon

June 2020

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



Photo by Mark Strand

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BMWRO President's Message

Presidents Message

I've been getting a lot of inquiries about the status of campout plans for this summer. We started out the year with a full calendar of plans for rallies and campouts that quickly got cut down due to Covid-19. I sure hope that you're all doing what you can to stay healthy! As I write this, the guidelines for Oregon state have just eased up for most of our counties and I'm feeling hopeful that we may be able to have group campouts in the near future. The primary deciding factor will be whether group campsites will be open for our use. If they are, then we'll have to be making a few changes in order to comply with Covid-19 precautions. As it looks now, this is what we'll be doing for campouts:

- Pre-registration will be required; no drop-ins. Registration for each campout will be limited to 25 people, or whatever the current state guideline is saying.
- Those attending will be required to maintain appropriate physical distancing. Members must take responsibility to remind those who may overstep this guideline. Those who refuse or repeatedly overstep will be asked to leave.
- Please do not attend if you are sick.
- Provide your own hand sanitizer, bleach wipes, and face masks and use them as needed.

Keep in mind that we are currently being asked to avoid traveling further than 50 miles radius from home; I hope this guideline can open up soon. You'll need to provide your own meals for the first two campouts that we've got scheduled (Edson Creek and Alsea Falls). This may ease up if all is going well by the Canal Creek Campout.

Our Newsletter Editor, **Craig Porter**, informed the Executive Committee that the May issue would be his last. He's been interviewing for a job that would mean a move to Hawaii. We wish him well in his new endeavors and thank him for the work he's done with our Newsletter Designer and the Executive Committee to produce each issue.

Without our usual monthly rides and no events happening lately, I want to look at some other content to keep the newsletter interesting. A huge thanks to **David Peterson** for continuing to write great motorcycling stories each month! I always look forward to each issue to see what he's written! His stories always are interesting and engaging!

Since June would normally find us planning, packing, and riding off to John Day for the Chief Joseph Rally, I've pulled together a collage of past CJR photos. I know it's not the same as being there, but hopefully it will trigger some good memories! Next month, I'd like to do a Blast From the Past with a collage of motorcycling photos from our members. I hope you'll pull out something from your photos of your own motorcycling history and send it to me! I'm looking forward to seeing what you come up with!

Be sure to check the BMWRO website Event Calendar for the latest information on events. We're working on keeping it updated continuously as our current situation keeps changing. I'm missing seeing you all! I hope to see some of you at campouts this summer!

Take care, stay healthy, and ride safe!

Alice



Photo by Bruce Henriksen

Please Welcome Our New Editor



Photo by Bruce Henriksen

Hello fellow BMWRO members. I'm your new Beemer Beat editor.

I've been a member of BMWRO for many years. I believe my first rally was in 2006.

I attended on my first BMW; a 2004 R1150R. A profound realization happened at that first rally! I had found 'my people'. Likeminded folks who embraced adventure yet valued safety and respect for the sport as well as each other. An inclusive group where I felt a sense of belonging. What a great experience that was!

I'm a social person, I'm energized by sharing with others, in fact, I still am friends with some of those riders I met at that first rally.

I was taught to ride at 14 by my dad.

My first bike was a '72 step through Honda Trail 90.

Riding almost every weekend in the dirt of rural Central Oregon, I advanced to a more serious Honda 125. I rode off and on in my young adulthood but was busy raising children, working on a commercial poultry farm, learning to hunt and fly fish.

I returned to my riding passion at age 42 and here I am 20 years and about 200 thousand miles later. I'm on my 5th BMW in my life. A 2013 F700GS.

I'm really not a dirt rider yet those lessons I learned in the dirt are still with me every time I ride.

I'm happy to help our club as the new editor. Send me your stories, share a gear review, tell me about your plans and events!

Carol Dallas

Note from President Alice LeBarron: I just recently received this news article and thought it might be of interest to any of our members who are also MOA members. I know that there is some confusion out there among some of our BMWRO members. BMWRO is a charter of MOA, but membership in one does not confer membership in the other. Each of the two clubs has separate membership fees. So, if you are also a member of MOA, you might want to take advantage of this offering, especially since physical distancing is currently a big part of our lives.

Online Cornering Course Gets Boost in Motorcycling World

BMW MOA now offers members full access to online training program

March 22, 2020 – The Street Skills LLC motorcycling school announced a new partnership with the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America that enables its members 100% free access to its *Cornering Confidence* online course. “My digital course is a game changer for experienced motorcyclist training,” said Jon DelVecchio, instructor and curriculum writer at Street Skills. Since its launch in September, over one hundred motorcyclists have enrolled in the course. These riders have increased their skills in an unconventional, but effective way. The online *Cornering Confidence* course format provides many benefits to students. Here are the most significant:

Exclusivity. Jon’s proprietary course curriculum teaches a simplified cornering method, or formula, that targets a problem area that motorcyclists are motivated to solve. One of the most self-recognizable skill deficiencies is cornering ability.

Location. The online course stands out from traditional live face-to-face training because students do not have to travel to a physical location to receive advanced instruction which can be hundreds of miles away.

Scheduling. Regardless of location, many live courses have limited offerings, which may not work with student calendars of availability. Students access Jon’s course on their computer or digital device when they have discretionary time. Techniques are practiced and self-evaluated through students’ regular riding activities or purposeful practice on their own motorcycles.

Affordability. Jon’s online course is inexpensive relative to other training options. Live advanced courses range in price from \$150-\$3,000. The online course is priced well below that. Introductory tuition for the basic online course is only \$50. “In today’s world of smart phones and digital connectivity,” said Jon, “it makes more sense now than ever to learn how to ride a motorcycle online.” The BMW Motorcycle Owners of America is one of the largest and most respected motorcycling clubs in the world. They have reached that status by creating rich membership experiences. Included in their mission is a major focus on education and training, funded by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America Foundation. Because of the foresight and strength of club leadership, 25,000 motorcyclists now have free access to the only advanced cornering training on the Internet. “The riders of the MOA pursue high levels of enjoyment and safety when they ride,” said Jon, “so our partnership was a match made in heaven.” Several interactive Cornering Confidence online course packages are available to any motorcyclist interested in developing their skills. Visit CorneringConfidence.com for more information.

For more information:

Jon DelVecchio

585.340.7058

jon@streetskills.net

CorneringConfidence.com

NEW MEMBERS

Massimo & Michelle Battistini, Salem, OR
2019 BMW 1250 GSA



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:

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

Webmaster:

(Position is currently vacant)

BMWRO COORDINATORS

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bmwro.membership@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Carol Dallas
503-860-8787
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

Edson Creek Campout

Date: July 17- 19, 2020

Location: Edson Creek Campground Group Sites B & C, see map below

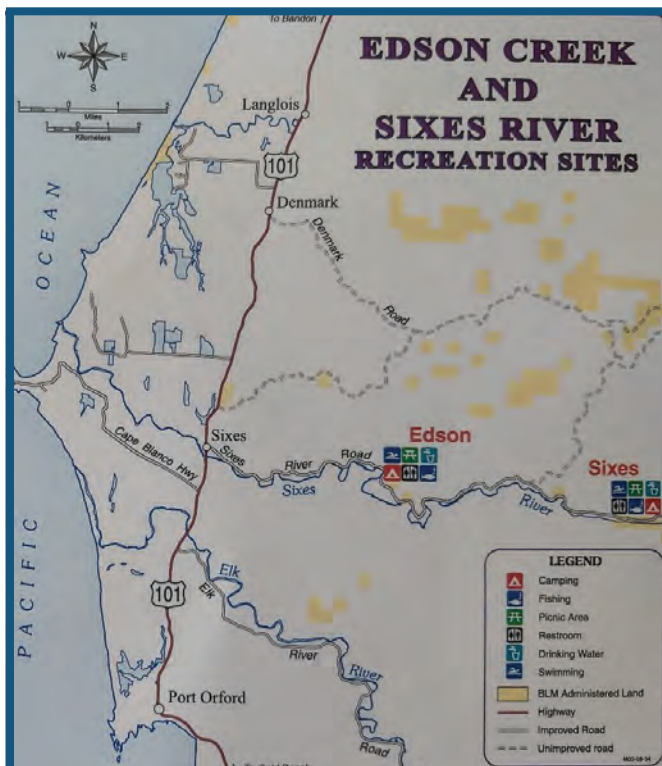
Contact: Keith Matteson 541-272-2373 Motomatteson@gmail.com

Description: This popular campout has been called the Sixes River Campout in the past. Since Sixes River Campground is a different site farther inland, we are more correctly calling it the Edson Creek Campout to hopefully eliminate some confusion.

This campsite has lots of grassy camping space in a beautiful open meadow surrounded by tall alder and myrtle trees. Enjoy the warmth while getting out of the wind & fog, about 10 miles inland from the ocean. Cool off in Edson Creek, which bends around the big group campsite. There's great paved and dual-sport riding in the area. Groceries and restaurants are about a 10 mile ride to Port Orford. You will be responsible for your own food and water; there's a potable water spigot back in the main campground. Group site has picnic tables and vault toilets. We'll have a nice bonfire each night.

Directions: From Bandon, follow Hwy 101 south about 25 miles to turn left onto the Sixes River Rd. From Port Orford, follow Hwy 101 north about 5 miles to turn right onto the Sixes River Rd. Follow the Sixes River Rd 4.3 miles and turn left into the Edson Creek Campground. (This left turn is just before the bridge.) Once you've turned onto the gravel campground road, stay left at the first Y and follow the road north past the main campground until you come to a road and gate to your right. Follow this road straight back to the group sites. Watch for BMWRO signs.

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



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Alsea Falls Campout

Date: Monday, August 3, 2020, 2:00 PM until Thursday, August 6, 2020, 1:00 PM

Location: Alsea Falls Recreation Site, Group Campsite #14 & standard site #15, 13 miles east of Monroe, OR

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

Description: This is a "No -Host" Campout, meaning that each person will be responsible for their own meals. Services (restaurants, pizza, brewpub, groceries, gas) are 13 miles away in Monroe. Paved and GS routes in the area. Campsite has potable water, firepit, picnic tables, vault toilets.

Directions: From Corvallis: Take Hwy 99W south about 15 miles. Turn right on Alpine Road, follow for approximately 9 miles. Alpine Road turns into South Fork Road. Follow about 4 miles to the Alsea Falls Campground on the right.
From Alsea: Travel south from the town of Alsea on the Alsea-Deadwood Hwy for about 1 mile. Turn left on the South Fork Road and follow for approximately 8.5 miles (stay on main paved road). Pass the Alsea Falls Day-Use about 0.5 miles and turn left into the Alsea Falls Campground Entrance.

Canal Creek Campout and 3rd Quarter Meeting

Date: Friday, August 28, 2020, 2:00 PM until Sunday, August 30, 2020, 11:00 AM

Location: Canal Creek Campground near Waldport, OR <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/siuslaw/recarea/?recid=42379>

Contact: Keith Matteson MotoMatteson@gmail.com 541-272-2373

Description: We've reserved a group campsite near Waldport with Canal Creek running alongside the campsite. We've got room for tents and 2-3 RV spots less than 30' length with no hookups (large trailers and motor homes are not recommended). Please check with Keith Matteson if you are planning to bring an RV. There is both good paved road and dual sport riding in this area. There are restrooms but no water. We will have some drinking and cooking water available. Dinner on Saturday will be provided but other food will be on your own. Dinner will be Albacore tuna grilled over the fire with corn on the cob and salad. Nearby there are several good restaurants. A full service store is 10 miles away.

Directions: From the Valley take Hwy 34 from Philomath towards Waldport for 49.5 miles. When you reach the bridge crossing the Alsea River turn left onto Canal Creek Rd. This turn is at the west end of the Hwy 34 bridge over the Alsea River. Follow Canal Creek Road for 5 miles to the campground. Alternatively from Waldport, follow Hwy 34 east for 7 miles to Canal Creek Road, turn right and go 5 miles.





Upcoming BMWRO Events

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Crystal Crane Hot Springs Campout

Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020, 3:00 PM until Sunday, September 13, 2020, 11:00 AM
Location: Crystal Crane Hot Springs, 25 miles east of Burns, OR, on Hwy 78, Phone: 541-493-2312
<https://www.cranehotsprings.com/>

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

Description: **Soak it up, Buttercup!** Come join your friends and club members as we spend a weekend at Crystal Crane Hot Springs in Crane Oregon. Soak in the pond or reserve a private tub room. Crane is a family friendly, clothing required Hot Springs! This area offers riding to those beloved areas we treasure: Fields Station, Steens Mountain, Malheur Refuge, Diamond and French Glen. Saturday night we have reserved the community room for a potluck type meal so plan a side dish to bring and share. The club will provide a hearty main course (TBD on what type of hearty course). Your host will be looking for volunteers to help put the Saturday dinner together! Please contact Carol at the address above if you want to help. All other meals will be on your own so bring your own food and beverage or ride out to neighboring communities for dining. You'll need to call or email the lodge to reserve your own accommodations (Rooms, cabins, tent sites, and RV spots). Your camping or cabin fees are in addition to your event registration fee. Act soon as good sites will go fast!



Beach Bash! Annual Meeting and Banquet at Driftwood Shores Resort

Date: Friday, November 06, 2020, 4:00 PM until Sunday, November 8, 2020, 11:00 AM
Location: Driftwood Shores Resort <https://driftwoodshores.com> Florence, OR 541-902-6443
Contact(s): Alice LeBarron 541-647-7194 bmwro.pres@gmail.com
Liz Jones bmwro.vp@gmail.com

Description: It's time for another Beach Bash at the Driftwood Shores in Florence! We're encouraging you to arrive Friday for a weekend of fun at the beach! Join us Friday evening for a bonfire on the beach and S'mores. Saturday during the daytime, you can take a ride, walk the beach, or explore along the coast. Then join us at 4:30pm on Saturday for Happy Hour in the Hospitality Suite. The Banquet dinner will be served Saturday evening at 6 pm followed by our Annual Meeting. Saturday dinner menu: Honey Glazed Chicken Breast, Braised Beef Tenders w/Cabernet Sauvignon Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Fruit Salad, Spinach Salad with Strawberries & Feta, and Home style Green Beans.

You must reserve your rooms by Oct. 5th for the special group rate. For online room reservations, click here:

<https://reservations.driftwoodshores.com/> Enter Group Code **321528** and PIN **8263**. For room reservations by phone, call 541-902-6443 and mention BMW Riders. Group rates apply for Fri, Sat, & Sun., Nov 6, 7, & 8th.

Besides making your room reservations with Driftwood Shores, be sure to register on the BMWRO website by the Oct 29th deadline so that we have an accurate head count for dinner.

BYO Drinkables for the Friday beachside campfire and for Saturday Happy Hour. Please drink responsibly.



Heard-On-The-Road

Event: **BMW Motorcycle Owners of America National Rally 2021**

Date/Time: Rescheduled for June 24 - 27 2021

Location: Montana Expo Park, Great Falls, MT.
<http://www.goexpopark.com/>

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

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

Event: **4th of July Picnic**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 4th, 12 noon to about 3 or 4 pm.

Location: Box Canyon Campground on the Aufderheide Scenic Byway, FR 19

Description: Family and friends gone off to their own 4th Celebration? Don't worry, small gatherings are very IN this year! Ride out to FR 19, AKA: Aufderheide Scenic Drive, for a gathering of motorcycle friends. We will meet at the Box Canyon Campground at 12 noon. A small barbeque will be fired up for your grilling pleasure.

Box Canyon Campground is located at 3700 feet. It is approximately the half-way point between Hwy 58 & Hwy 126. It is a free horse camp. It features 13 campsites and vault toilets. There is no drinking water and you must pack out your garbage. We will pick a vacant campsite for day use upon arrival and set up for lunch, rain or shine. Very simple; YOU BRING your OWN food, utensils, water and garbage bag! This is located in the Willamette National Forest, McKenzie Ranger District.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recarea/?recid=4396>

Official speed limit on the Aufderheide is 45mph!

No sign up nor reservations required, just show with YOUR food. Note: this is a day event, not a campout, even though it is being held at a campground.

Contact: Roger Paquette mrgsa02@hotmail.com 541-852-0434

Event: **2nd Semi-Annual Eclipse Campout (without the Eclipse)**

Date/Time: Thursday, July 30, 2020, 11:00 AM until Monday, August 3, 2020, 5:00 PM

Location: Skip's Place; Aumsville, OR

Description: BMWRO member Skip Gosser is inviting BMWRO members to join his friends & family for a campout on his ranch in Aumsville.

Contact: Skip Gosser (503) 749-1601 for details.



Skip Gosser, host of the Eclipse Campout



2017 Eclipse campout

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 porsche1gt2@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: _____

Everywhere We Rode, It Was All Greek to Me

NW Ambassadors Ride Report-May 2020

David Peterson #90113

To my astonishment, we had to bid adieu to FSR #2! The stay-at-home prescription remains unchanged after eight weeks and joy-riding our community just seemed unpatriotic without looser guidelines. On the plus side, it didn't hurt that the weather was damp and chilly.

But First Saturday was immediately followed by a week of 80° temps. And the clamor to unshackle ourselves from our homes seems to be building. It got me to thinking about warm-weather trips in times of calamity. Which brought back memories of Greece...



Along the water heading to lunch in Kiparissi.

Photo by Diane Peterson

It was December 2006 when we started planning our next "motorcycle adventure of a lifetime." Back in those days, it was still (barely) possible to journey to an attractive destination using miles for Business Class travel. I say barely because, try as we might, once we decided on Greece as our destination, it was impossible to align an itinerary with our calendar. The airline taunted us by saying, "Try again next year."

And so, we did.

One kernel of truth we uncovered was that reservations could be made as much as a year in advance. We took the next several months to lock in our plans and renew our passports. Then, in mid-September,

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Diane began "Operation Book It." We estimate that it took forty hours of decision matrixing and cajoling. But when the dust settled, we had our itinerary. In September 2008, we would tour Greece by motorcycle.



Photo by David Peterson

Exploring the parched Greek countryside in the southernmost Peloponnese.

Some of you may be a little hazy about what happened in 2008. In January, the government and investors began worrying about a sustained fall in the housing market. Homebuyers who had purchased homes with adjustable-rate mortgages in 2006 and 2007 were seeing their teaser rates expire and reset-to-market rates that were too expensive to service. The Federal Reserve began lowering interest rates, but it wasn't helping. By February, foreclosures were up 60% over the prior year. In the spring, the Fed lowered interest rates twice more and began buying mortgage securities to keep the market afloat. In July, the first of the large mortgage originators failed and by the beginning of September, the government had taken over the two largest sponsors of mortgage bonds. Stock markets had fallen about 20% since the first of the year.

We boarded our plane on Tuesday, 9 September and spent our first five days exploring Athens from dawn 'til dusk, marveling at the culture and all the wonderful infrastructure to get us from around. Athens hosted the Olympics in 2004, and no expense had been spared on the transit system to remake Athens into a world-class city. Our hotel was situated at the foot of the Parthenon and we enjoyed an evening concert of the national symphony and chorus in the [Odeon of Herodes Atticus](#), an ancient stone amphitheatre near the Acropolis.

On Sunday, we were whisked across town to the eastern suburbs. There we met Michael, our guide for eight days of moto-touring. Michael was a Triumph aficionado, with a garage collection that would rival many museums. We got acquainted with our mates, and after an hour or so, we were off.

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Photo by David Peterson

The Peloponnese coast meets the Mediterranean.

Our tour covered the [Peloponnese](#), the southernmost region of Greece, connected to the mainland by a thin land bridge called the Isthmus of Corinth. The Peloponnese is mountainous in the interior and ringed with an insanely-ragged coastline. Our week would consist of constant ridge runs that would eventually give way to the sea, where we would have lunch, or perhaps, stay the night.

Our first official stop of the trip was in Isthmia, along the southern edge of the isthmus. I note *official* stop, because earlier we had stopped briefly so that Michael could be joined by his mistress. While I found Michael to be a fine fellow whose company I thoroughly enjoyed throughout the tour, Diane took a different view. She had dealt exclusively with Michael's wife, Deborah, while arranging the trip, becoming friends along the way. And just before arriving, she learned Deb had been diagnosed with cancer.

Diane and Michael would not become pen pals.

This first stop was fascinating. The isthmus is four miles wide. First proposed in classical times, in 1883 a [canal](#) was opened, essentially connecting the Mediterranean in the north with the Aegean in the south. We crossed the canal on a submersible bridge; large tankers and yachts crossed over our bridge after it sank to the bottom of the canal. A very cool operation to watch in action.

We motored along the coast, stopping to visit an impossibly-situated hillside monastery and enjoying the incredible views around every corner. Riding in Greece requires heightened awareness. That's because marble is everywhere, including in the aggregate in most of the roads we journeyed. Architectural marble is prized for its polished luster — and that is true even in the roads. Consequently, riding on these roads was always a bit squirrely. And when they were wet, it was borderline dangerous.

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Photo by David Peterson

Taking a break on the long trek from Olympia to Athens.

Fortunately, we experienced little rain and temperatures in the 80s for most of our trip. The first night we stayed in [Mycenae](#), where we toured the [Lion Gate](#) and learned about the [Bronze Age](#) and [Helladic chronology](#). Our next day was a joy as we climbed the arid hills and rambled into valleys, always with a view of the sea in the distance. Our destination was [Monemvasia](#), a small town and island at the end of the index finger that is the Peloponnese (look at a [map](#); the Peloponnese looks like a disembodied right hand).

We spent two days in Monemvasia, one of the most memorable places we've ever visited. The town is a medieval fortress, built 300 feet or so above sea level on the seaward side of a block island. It's teeming with activity, including the regular traffic of donkeys, which carry the freight which sustains the bustle in the town. We saw donkey caravans laden with everything from cut flowers for restaurant tables to stone and grout for restoring the many Byzantine churches.

It had been four days of delight, motorcycling in a magical world, incommunicado from news of every day life. We packed the bikes and headed back into the hills, westward bound along another ungodly beautiful run of mountains and ruins and drops to the sea. The weather had begun to change as we approached our destination, a small, stone hotel on the harbor in the village of [Gerolimenas](#).

It was Thursday, 18 September, and as we entered the lobby, CNN aired on a large flat-screen. Financial mayhem was the story of the day, or the last few days, as far as we could tell. We learned that Lehman Brothers had failed, Merrill Lynch had sold itself to Bank of America, and the Federal Reserve was forced

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to purchase AIG, a multi-national insurance company. The stock market had fallen another 8% since we boarded our plane. We had been blissfully unaware.

Most of us were, anyway. One of us was a broker who had clients tied up in a bunch of debt-fueled investments that were hard to unwind. He blanched when he saw the news, our first view in four days. U.S. markets closed at 11pm, local time. From that day on, we never saw him at dinner again. And he looked like he'd been up all night when we gathered to ride in the mornings.



The Meteora in central Greece.

Photo by David Peterson

The remainder of the trip included more outstanding riding and sideshows. In small dinghies, we toured the [Caves of Diros](#), flooded limestone caverns rumored to be near the entrance to Hades. We wandered the grounds of ancient [Olympia](#), where the Olympics were held quadrennially from 776 BCE to 393 CE, and where today the Olympic flame is lit every four years to start the modern-day Games.

After returning to Athens, we relinquished the bikes and rented a car for a final adventure. Kastraki is a small village in the Thessaly region of Greece, about 250 miles north of Athens. It sits at the foot of [Meteora](#), a rock formation “hosting one of the largest and most precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries” (Wikipedia). Six of the original twenty-four monasteries remain. They are open for tours and they are quite simply one of the most interesting destinations we’ve ever visited. The rocks are not easily explained geologically and the monasteries were built atop the pinnacles over a period of three centuries. Once finished, the monasteries were only accessible by ladder or the large nets used to haul goods and people. “This required quite a leap of faith — the ropes were replaced, so the story goes, only ‘when the Lord let them break’.” (Wikipedia)

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After Meteora, we expanded our reach to include a visit to [Delphi](#), which the Greeks considered the center of the world. There, [Pythia](#), the high priestess of the Temple of Apollo, sat as the Oracle whose counsel mattered most in the ancient classical world.



Photo by David Peterson

The Monastery of St. Stephen above the plains of Thessaly.

Our frenzied trip ended with a race to Athens to surrender our car, so we could spend the night canoodling in the Athens airport while we waited to board our early morning flight. We returned to an uncertain world, which slowly began to right itself after a few more months.

It's a situation not unlike where we find ourselves today. There has never been a disaster or event from which we did not recover. This, too, shall pass. With luck, maybe, even before the first Saturday in June.

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:	0 (hopefully for the last time; this time, I'm serious)
Total First Saturday miles – 2020:	542

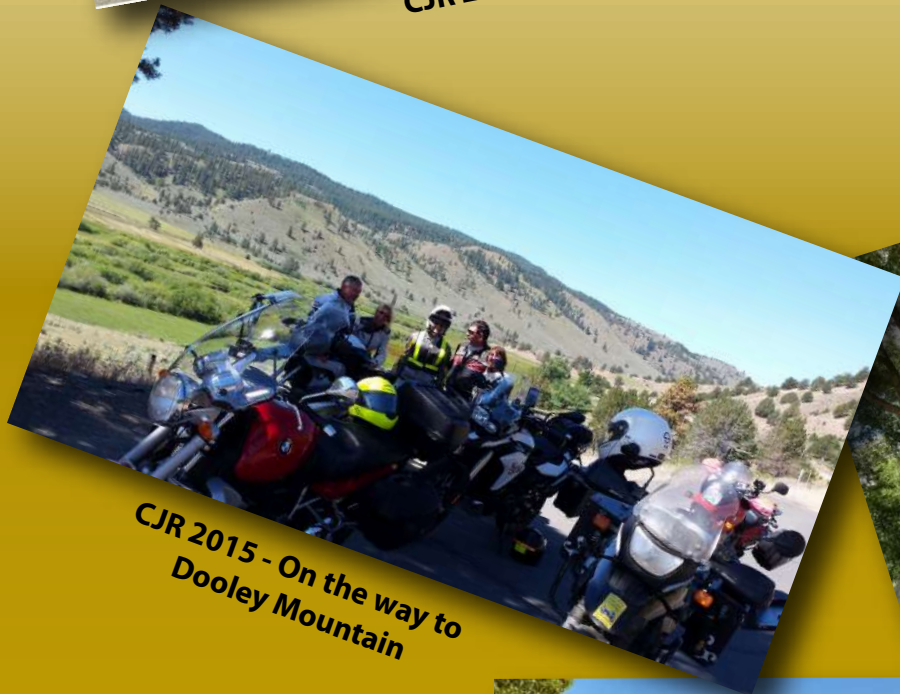
Blast from the Past



CJR 2013



**CJR 2014 - On the way to
Middle Fork Road**



**CJR 2015 - On the way to
Dooley Mountain**



**CJR 2018 - Camping in the
Noisy Area**



CJR 2018 Evening

More from Blast from the Past



CJR 2018
Happy Hour at the 1188



CJR 2019 Ketih Matteson briefs
the riders before his GS ride.



CJR 2019



CJR 2019 Steve Miller's
Indian Peak GS ride



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