



# THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the  
BMW Riders of Oregon



March, 2019

Volume 43, Issue #3

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



## Regrouping at the Canby-Marquam Highway. Northwest Monthly Ambassador Ride

*photo by Diane Peterson*

### What's Your Best Story?

from Alice LeBarron  
see page 4.

### Galloping to Guacamole in Gates

from David Peterson,  
see pages 10-12.

### Best Ever Letter To Editor

from Ellen Barton,  
see page 8.



# BMWRO

## Coming Events



### Club Sanctioned Events

**Event:** **Long Weekend Ride to the Sacramento Mile**

**Date/Time:** May 17 - 20, 2019

**Place:** Cal Expo Race Track, Sacramento

**Description:** **Registration is required**, but will need to be made by email or phone with Skip Gosser. We'll ride partway down to Sacramento on Friday, May 17 and camp or motel that night. On Saturday, May 18th, we'll ride to Sacramento, get settled in our hotel rooms, and then ride to the Race Track. Gates open for the legendary Sacramento Mile flat track race at 5:00 pm. Racing is done by 10:00 pm. Then back to our hotel rooms for the night. On Sunday, May 19th, we head for home, with plans to camp or motel along the way. Plan to arrive back home Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>. On the way down to Sacramento—and on the way home—weather will dictate if we choose to motel rather than camp. Each person will be responsible for their own costs for camping, motels, food, and race tickets. If we have enough people signed up, Skip might be able to get discounted rates for the race and motel. To sign up, contact Skip Gosser. Let him know if you wish to share a motel room, as he will be reserving a block of rooms. Skip will be leaving from the Salem area. Alice LeBarron will be leading a contingent from the Bend area. If you plan to ride from the Bend area, contact Alice as well as Skip. Route is not yet determined, but we will avoid I-5 as much as possible. Those coming from the southern region may wish to join up with us along the way.

**Contact:** Skip Gosser [skipg26@hotmail.com](mailto:skipg26@hotmail.com)  
**503-749-1601**

**Event:** **41st Annual Chief Joseph Rally, 2019**

**Date/Time:** June 27-30, 2019

**Place:** Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, Oregon

**Description:** Join us at the Grant County Fairgrounds—nestled in the scenic Strawberry Mountains—of 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!

**Register:** Online registration opens March 1, 2019  
[www.bmwro.org](http://www.bmwro.org)

**Contact:** Alice LeBarron, [bmwro.pres@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.pres@gmail.com)

**Event:** **Coastal Campout**

**Date/Time:** July 26-28, 2019

**Place:** Edson Creek Group Campground

**Description:** Keith Matteson will once again be commandeering this beautiful area's coastal campout. You may follow some paper plate signage to find the secluded and quiet campground, and once there both road riders and dualsporters will relish in the local opportunities. NOTE: There may be a menu change from last year's amazing chicken BBQ to fresh-caught ocean varietals. Guaranteed no left-overs!

**Contact:** Keith Matteson

**Event:** **Long weekend overnight trip to the Wallowas**

**Date/Time:** August 2-4, 2019

**Place:** Enterprise

**Description:** Navigation expert David Peterson will lead a spirited 400-mile per day group from the Portland area over to the Wallowas for a fun-filled road-oriented weekend getaway. Never fear, this ride will be open to 20 riders who register and show up in Enterprise to partake of a group ride on Saturday up to Hells Canyon, Lewiston and Rattlesnake Canyon, among other highlights. The Wallow County Fair is on-going during this time as well. Twenty (20) motel rooms are reserved in anticipation of the trip—twenty (20) rider cap..

**Contact:** David Peterson **503-327-5592**  
[dwpeterson01@yahoo.com](mailto:dwpeterson01@yahoo.com)



**Event:** **Canal Creek Campout**  
**Date/Time:** August 16–18, 2019  
**Place:** near Waldport  
**Description:** Jay Bennett knows more roads and off-roads than many locals in this area. This is a fantastic, top-of-line campsite and the area is a haven of road and offroad riding. Want to bring your “little” bike? This is a great opportunity to ride those 125s-450s!  
**Contact:** Jay Bennett [jbennett.2012@gmail.com](mailto:jbennett.2012@gmail.com)  
541-745-5838

**Event:** **Steens Mountain Campout**  
**Date/Time:** September 6–8, 2019  
**Place:** The Narrows  
**Description:** After a busy summer, we’ll take this opportunity to get out to the eastern part of the state and see the Alvord Desert and Steens Mountain loop. This campout includes the 3rd quarter meeting, and offers a well-endowed campsite area with showers, a bar... and more spectacular riding. Alice LeBarron will ensure a scrumptious catered meal and coordinate with ride leaders to make this a great way to “cap” your summer riding months.  
**Contact:** Alice LeBarron  
**541-647-7194**  
[alicelebarron@hotmail.com](mailto:alicelebarron@hotmail.com)

## Recurring Events

**Event:** **Central Oregon 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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:** TBD

**Event:** **Southern Oregon 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:dnehall@frontier.com)  
Mark Collier **541-499-1395**  
[mcollier5895@gmail.com](mailto:mcollier5895@gmail.com)

**Event:** **NW Oregon 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:dwpeterson01@yahoo.com)  
Neal Malagamba **503-969-3220**  
[n.malagamba@icloud.com](mailto:n.malagamba@icloud.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](mailto:don@mredsmoto.com)

## Heard-On-The-Road

**Event:** **Cascade Country Rendezvous**  
**Date/Time:** July 18–21, 2019  
**Place:** Ferry County Fairgrounds, Republic, WA  
**Description:** The annual rally put on by the Washington State BMW Riders.  
**Contact:** [www.WSBMWR.org](http://www.WSBMWR.org)

**Event:** **Stanley Stomp**  
**Date/Time:** August 8–11, 2019  
**Place:** Grandjean, ID at the Sawtooth Lodge  
**Description:** Idaho BMW Riders present the Stanley Stomp. Heated pool, showers, meadow camping, rental cabins, hot springs.  
**Cost:** \$80.00; pre-registration only.  
**Register:** <https://www.idahobmwriders.com/stanleystomp.html>

**Event:** **16<sup>th</sup> Thunder Mountain Rendezvous**  
**Date/Time:** September 20–22, 2019  
**Place:** Delta County Fairgrounds in downtown Hotchkiss, Colorado  
**Description:** BMW Riders of Western Colorado (MOA #270) present the 16<sup>th</sup> Thunder Mountain Rendezvous on a colorful weekend of the Western Slope of Colorado. Our low elevation venue includes a large meeting hall, restrooms with showers, plenty of grassy camping and the convenience of walking to downtown restaurants, stores and motels.  
**Contact:** [www.bmwridersofwco.com](http://www.bmwridersofwco.com)





# BMWRO President's Message

by Alice LeBarron



photo by Bruce Henriksen

## What's Your Best Story?

### Call for Articles/Stories

If you have an interesting moto-related story to tell or an article on moto-travel, gear, riding safety, or tech tips I'd like to share it with the BMW riding community. I need articles and stories to include in future issues of the Beemer Beat. Please submit your articles to Alice LeBarron [bmwro.pres@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.pres@gmail.com)

### Membership Coordinator

I'm happy to report that **Gavin Silaski** has volunteered to fill the role of BMWRO Membership Coordinator, which will take some of the load off the shoulders of our secretary, **Linnea Alvord**. Gavin has extensive experience working with membership levels and dues and working on the leadership committee during the time that his boys were in Boy Scouts. He also has experience working with websites from his work as an IT

manager, so will be able to help Stacy with some of her webmaster duties, as well. You will be able to reach him at [bmwro.membership@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.membership@gmail.com).

### Mileage Award

Congratulations to **Dichelle Chambers** from Grants Pass! She was just awarded for making the 200,000 mile mark ridden on BMW motorcycles!

### Help Needed

We're still in need of someone to host our May quarterly meeting. If you are interested in helping figure this out, please contact **Chris Henry** [bmwro.vp@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.vp@gmail.com).

We are also still in need of one or two persons to fill the role of ambassador for the Central Western region. This region covers the territory from south of Corvallis to Sutherlin and from the coast to the Cascade mountains. If you live in this area and are interested in finding out more about this role, please contact any of the Executive Committee members. This is a fun way to get involved with other BMW riders and your help would be very much appreciated!

Ride Safe! Have Fun!

Alice



Dichelle Chambers

## 2019 Chief Joseph Rally Update

March, 2019

By the time you read this, registration will be open for the 2019 Chief Joseph Rally! Many people have put their efforts toward making this rally a great opportunity to experience some of Oregon's superb riding and the camaraderie of fellow riders. Our schedule is filling out nicely with guided rides, daytime seminars, and evening entertainment. Click [here](#) to go to the Rally Registration page.

### Ride, Ride, Ride!

**Jay Bennett** has been making arrangements for the very popular Cowboy Lunch Ride. This year, the ride will take you along a scenic route to another ranch location to enjoy their cowboy cuisine and get an up-close look at ranch life! You can sign up for this when you register for the rally. Space is limited, so sign up early! Cowboy Lunch Ride cost is \$15, which includes a delicious lunch.

Our Ride Coordinator, **Keith Matteson**, has been working with Team Oregon to arrange for some motorcycling skills classes to be offered at the rally this year. A Cornering Skills class will be offered once on Friday and once on Saturday. The class starts with an hour-long classroom session to be followed by an on-road instruction/practice session. This same class was offered at the rally last year and got rave reviews! These classes are limited to 12 riders each day, so sign up early. These classes fill up fast! You can sign up for the Team Oregon classes when you register for the rally.

# 2019 Chief Joseph Rally Update

March, 2019

Team Oregon Cornering Skills class cost is \$40.

Team Oregon will also offer four half-hour U-turn Skills Clinics on Saturday afternoon at a location about two minutes ride from the fairgrounds. These clinics are limited to six (6) riders in each session. The cost for the clinic is \$10 and these are expected to fill up fast! Sign up for these U-Turn Skills Clinics when you register for the rally.

Mark Collier is planning to lead a paved route ride over Dooley Mountain on Friday. Steve Miller is planning a GS ride on Saturday for advanced riders and Keith Matteson is planning a Super Easy GS ride on Saturday. We'd like to have one or two more guided paved route rides, so if you would like to lead a ride, please contact Keith at [motomatteson@gmail.com](mailto:motomatteson@gmail.com). This is a fun way to get involved! You can choose your own route and stops along the way or get some ideas from Keith or Alice LeBarron.



## Volunteer positions to be filled:

We still need a volunteer to host the Thursday evening Meet & Greet Wine Tasting, typically held from 7 pm to 10 pm. It's fun to kick off the rally each year with this social gathering! Liquor control laws require that it be held in the RV park since alcohol will be consumed but not sold. This is a BYOB event. If you are staying in the RV park at the fairgrounds during CJR, please consider volunteering to host this popular event. If we don't have a host for this Meet & Greet, it won't be scheduled.



We need a couple of volunteers to run the 50/50 Raffle. The volunteers who do this will sell raffle tickets Friday & Saturday afternoons before dinner. The raffle tickets are drawn after dinner on Saturday. Of the total amount of money collected, 50% goes to support a John Day school project, 25% goes to the 1<sup>st</sup> prize ticketholder, 15% goes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize ticketholder, and 10% goes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize ticketholder. It is not necessary to dress in costume, but that can be a fun way to draw attention to the raffle. If we don't have any volunteers for this, the 50/50 raffle won't happen.

Please consider these important roles for CJR 2019; and if you're interested in filling these volunteer positions, please contact Alice LeBarron [bmwro.pres@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.pres@gmail.com).

## Moto-movies

We're excited to have moto-movies to show at the rally this year! This was a popular addition to last years rally! Thanks to sponsorship from Lee Block of RacerGloves and Harold Olaf Cecil of Giant Loop, we have some excellent titles to choose from. The movie selections will be announced in the April **BEEMER BEAT**. Movies will be shown in Keerin's Hall North on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday evenings.

## Rally T-shirts: order online

Arrangements have been made to provide you with choices in T-shirt styles, fabrics, and colors as well as a sweatshirt option. Rally shirts will be available by on-line orders only. If you want to pick up your shirt at the rally, **you must place your order before the June 6<sup>th</sup> deadline**. After the June 6<sup>th</sup> deadline, the webstore will re-open from June 24 to July 6<sup>th</sup>. Orders, placed during this second webstore opening, will be shipped to your home for an additional shipping charge. There is a link to the webstore on the rally registration [page](#).

Your Rally Co-chairs,

Bill Hedges  
David Morganstern  
Alice LeBarron

[bmwro.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.secretary@gmail.com)

## NEW MEMBERS

### Motorcycle

**Bill Buck**, Bend, OR. . . . . 2018 BMW R1200RT

Correction: February 2019 issue has Joel & Julia living in Lake O. That should be **Lake Oswego**. We apologize for this error:

**Joel & Julia Ogden** , Lake O, OR . . . . . 2013 R1200RT



## Bylaws, Policies & Guidelines

If you are interested in any of the above, just visit our website and download. [www.bmwro.org](http://www.bmwro.org)

## FIND THE BMWRO NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM ONLINE:

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

## BMWRO Executive Committee

### President:

Alice LeBarron, (541-647-7194)  
[bmwro.pres@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.pres@gmail.com)

### Vice President/ Activities:

Chris Henry, (541-915-4616)  
[bmwro.vp@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.vp@gmail.com)

### Secretary:

Linnea Alvord, (503-816-9058)  
[bmwro.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.secretary@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Nate Levin, (503-931-9789)  
[bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com)

### BEEMER BEAT Editor:

Forest McGreggor, (541-761-2320)  
[bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com)

### Webmaster:

Stacy Brock,  
[bmwro.web@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.web@gmail.com)

### Membership Coordinator

Gavin Silasky, (503-333-2386)  
[bmwro.membership@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.membership@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—**  
if interested please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

### 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](mailto:dwpeterson01@yahoo.com) &  
[www.wfodave.smugmug.com](http://www.wfodave.smugmug.com)

**Neal Malagamba—503-969-3220**

[n.malagamba@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:alicelebarron@hotmail.com)

### Southern Region

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

**Dan Hall—541-862-7411**

[dnehall@frontier.com](mailto:dnehall@frontier.com)

**Mark Collier—541-499-1395**

[mcollier5895@gmail.com](mailto: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



# BMW Riders of Oregon present



## 41<sup>ST</sup> CHIEF JOSEPH RALLY

Join us at the **Grant County Fairgrounds**, nestled in the scenic Strawberry Mountains, **John Day, Oregon**, for three days 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.

### Accommodations Include:

- Grass camping Thursday–Friday–Saturday
- Hot showers
- Guided rides—paved route and GS
- Maps for self-guided paved & GS rides
- Door prizes and Rider Awards
- Vendors
- Seminars
- Motorcycle Movies
- Beer Garden
- Bike Wash Station
- Live Music Friday Evening— Award-winning Roots & Blues Musicians, Kinzel & Hyde with their guest Jim Roy
- Adjacent RV park  
(separate fee; for reservations call 541-575-1900)
- Motels, restaurants, & groceries within walking distance
- Leashed pets are welcome

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

### Early Registration:

(March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>)

**\$55.00** for BMWRO members  
**\$70.00** for non-BMWRO members  
Includes 3-nights camping, Fri & Sat dinner,  
rally pin for the first 500, and door prize ticket.

### Gate Registration:

**\$45.00** for BMWRO members  
**\$60.00** for non-BMWRO members  
Does not include meal tickets

A limited number of Fri & Sat dinner tickets will be available at the gate for **\$15.00** each.

Breakfast will be available for purchase in the pavilion Fri & Sat mornings.  
Rally T-shirts available by pre-order.

**Deadline: June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**For early Registration.**

More info at: **[www.bmwro.org](http://www.bmwro.org)**  
click the Chief Joseph Rally link.

**June 27 – 30, 2019**  
**Grant County Fairgrounds ~ John Day, OR**  
**[WWW.BMWRO.org](http://WWW.BMWRO.org)**





Here's a photo of some of the Central Oregon members when we got together for Thai food. Not much happening in the way of riding during our winter months, but we still enjoy getting together every month to talk of motorcycle adventures!

Left to right: Steve Miller, Bob and Kathy Burroughs, Phyllis Webb, Joy Cesafsky, Sydne Anderson, Alice LeBarron, Bruce Moses, Jim Osher, Allen Cesafsky, and Doug Courtney.

*from Alice LeBarron*



Joy Cesafsky writes that she and Allen are having an amazing time in New Zealand on their motorcycle tour!

## Letters to the Editor

Hi Forest. LOVED the bugs and butterflies for February [BB]! I should have complimented you earlier, many times! Your clip art designed for the season or the content of the article is always entertaining and is only one thing that makes our newsletter appealing and can't-wait-to-read-it special. Thank you for all you do to connect this far-flung club with each other. Regarding bugs and butterflies, I find the insect world a fascinating place, full of color, amazing camouflage of shape and color, just a pleasure to observe.

One day on the Steens Mountain campout, a small insect landed on the windscreen that looked like a tiny dragon. Either this appearance was to paralyze prey or ward off those who would prey on it. I gifted myself with a butterfly tattoo when I entered my 70<sup>th</sup> decade. It reminds me every day that life is amazing, special, and transforming.

*from Ellen Barton*

## MOA Getaway Rally, anyone?

*from David Morganstern*

I'm riding over to Coeur d'Alene, ID from Portland on Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> to the MOA Getaway Rally. I'm interested in knowing if any other BMWRO members who are also going, would be interested in riding over with me?

I'd prefer to avoid major highways and seek a more scenic ride on secondary roads.

If anyone is interested, please contact me, David Morganstern, at: [portlandia09@gmail.com](mailto:portlandia09@gmail.com)



# A Look Into The Future of Roads

*from Forest McGregor*

After Tesla came out with its revolutionary teleportation invention—the TeslaPortal—there was much speculation about the future of roads and highways. At the time, it was predicted that everyone in America would have a teleportation device in their own homes by the end of the century. Others said it was too expensive to own. Travel across the country—or to another country—would just an automobile ride to a teleportation center (formerly known as airports).

For the most part, the TeslaPortal has replaced the need for automobiles as well as delivery trucks. Fresh vegetables, teleported directly to food centers, arrives fresher than when it traveled by truck. We are beginning to see other ramifications of the new technology, including fully prepared meals using MECT (Matter-Energy Conversion Technology). Just as Star Trek was successful in predicting wireless handheld communication devices and computer tablets, it was just a matter of time before someone invented the MECT.

Twenty five years after Tesla's revolutionary invention, over forty-five percent of the American population owns some version of the TeslaPortal. Thanks to the clever Chinese population of pirates—who reverse engineered the TeslaPortal—cheap knock-offs have become widely affordable. Old roads and freeways still exist, but the automobile industry has been losing market share. Today, few people travel by automobile; and there is a bill before Congress to eliminate funds for the maintenance of roads. With the progressive Green Party in the House and Senate, this bill is likely to pass.

While fossil fuels—and the machines that depend on them—are on the decline, the motorcycle industry has boomed. More people now own some sort of scooter or moto-vehicle than those who own any four wheel vehicle. Pickup trucks pulling RVs are still on the roads as an aging population hangs onto its favorite way to travel. In spite of these obstacles, the roads remain uncongested and have become the last vestige of motorcycling. With far less automobile traffic, motorcycle traffic has taken over the highways and freeways. New games and competitive cycling have sprung up across the country. If these aging roads are not to be maintained, one must speculate as to how long motorcylces will survive the MECT revolution. Why did Roddenbury not predict a flying scooter?



Jesse Luggage has notified the 2019 CJR Planning Committee that they will not be able to come to the rally as a vendor this year. However, they have generously donated a gift certificate for a metal top case (valued at \$400.<sup>00</sup>) as a door prize.

Thank you Jesse Luggage!



## Oregon Back Country Discovery Maps

Thanks to the generosity of Milt (Butch) Farrand, BMWRO has a complete set of maps for the Oregon Backcountry Discovery Routes.

Refer to [www.oohva.org](http://www.oohva.org) for more information about these maps.

BMWRO members who wish to borrow the maps should contact Alice LeBarron [bmwro.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.secretary@gmail.com).

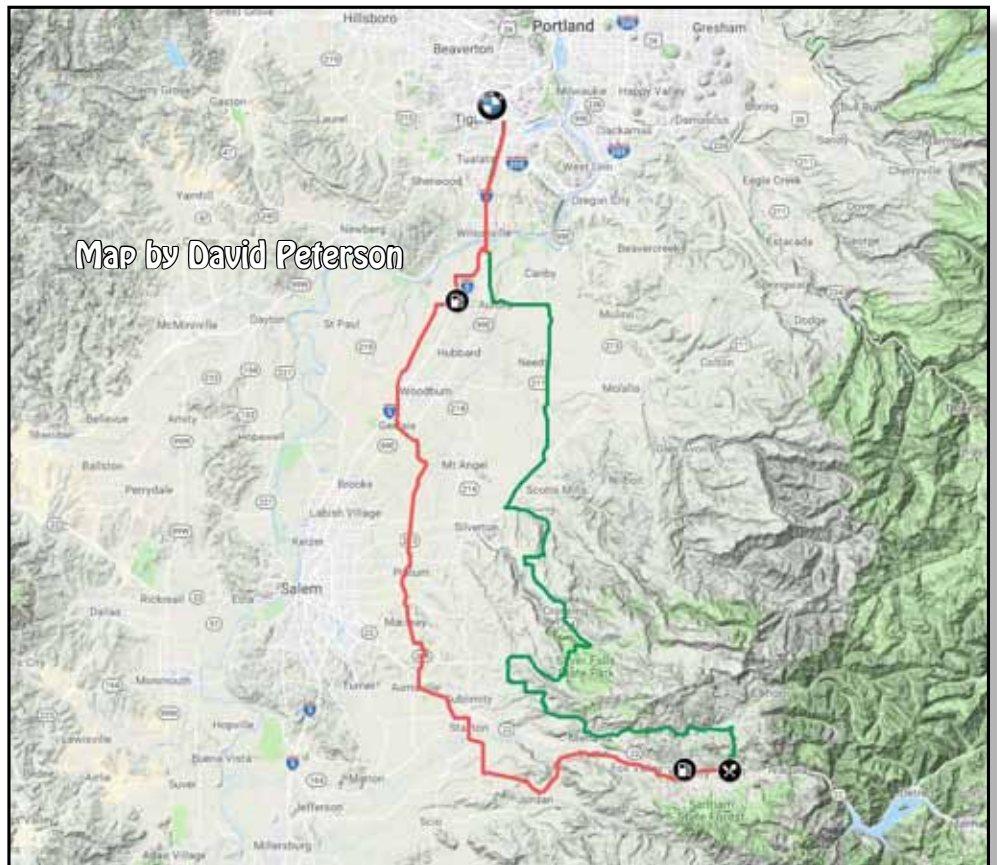


# Galloping to Guacamole in Gates NW Ambassadors Ride Report – February 2019

David Peterson #90113

Our favorable winter weather continues. After a week of bleak and dreary forecasts, the clouds parted and the sun even made an appearance. Enough so that fifteen hardy riders climbed out of bed to ride—none earlier than our man **Chris Henry**, who rides up from Eugene in all but the worst weather, 100 miles, just to join us at the starting line. I like to think it's because of the stellar rides we put together. Of course, it might be the free donuts on First Saturdays...

Whatever the motivation, thirteen motorcycles rolled out of the lot. This month, it was another southern run, with a twist: a little elevation. Winter rides usually call for exposed, sunny roads. But this year's mild streak enticed me to push the envelope. In addition to Chris, the eager cohort included newcomer **Kyle Emerson**, along with familiar faces **Mike Ripley**,



**Charles Trapp** and his daughter **Jessica**, **Ric Holderbaum**, **Chuck Mileur**, **Mark Wegener** and his passenger **Ranée Niedermeyer**, **Jeff Yarnall**, **Camron Rust**, **Keith Piccone**, and **Frank Boyle**.

Our usual MO is to ditch I-5 the first chance we get. Today was no different. The first exit after crossing the river leads to Canby,

either by expressway or two-lane. Guess which one we chose? Although it's a straight section, it is scenic, with Langdon Farms Golf Club, followed by the Aurora Airport to our right. After a quick left on Ehlen Road and another on US-99, we finally broke free of traffic lights. Here the ride officially became fun.

Canby-Marquam Highway bisects the valley between OR-213 and I-5. It's an interesting tableau, with hazelnuts, sod, or alfalfa on every parcel. It's particularly pleasing to see the acres of sod, but not surprising, given Marion is the number one county producer of sod in the country. But it's been equally fascinating to see the acres of new hazelnut trees we've seen in our travels over the past year. The hazelnut has been Oregon's state nut since 1989. Eight hundred family farms harvest over 70,000 acres of hazelnuts each year. Production is undoubtedly about to rise.



A beautiful winter day near Silverton.

Photo by Diane Peterson



After a short run on OR-213, it was now time to get in the hills. The sun was warm and the roads dry, assuring us of plenty of traction in the shady areas. South Abiqua Road leads to Timber Trail and its twisty, 800-foot climb to the top of the plateau. We were having a ball threading our way into Silver Falls State Park, where we stopped for a break.

We were still an hour from lunch. Unfortunately, our descent from Silver Falls was into a thick fog. It took a little getting used to, but everyone negotiated the carousel to Mehama unscathed. After a short stretch along OR-22, we arrived at the “secret segment.” While all of us have taken the Santiam Highway to the east, few have ventured along North Fork Road. It runs dozens of miles into wilderness, eventually turning to forest road 25 miles in. But the first ten miles straddle the north fork of the Santiam—two lanes of pure motorcycle adventure. I say adventure because it abruptly turns to gravel in one damaged section, then just as quickly returns to pavement. At the ten-mile mark, the last opportunity to return to civilization presents itself. Gates Mountain Road is only four miles long; but it climbs 1,000



**Climbing Timber Trail Road toward Silver Falls.**

*Photo by Diane Peterson*

feet through a series of exquisite corners before, just as quickly, delivering you down an 1,100 feet descent to the other side. Few in the group had ever visited it before. The smiles and high-fives when we pulled into lunch suggested all of us would be back.

**Sierra Mexican Restaurant** has been an institution in Gates for 23 years. This has been a sterling achievement, given the population of Gates is only 489. The Martinez family pulled out all the stops for us, quickly seating us at one large table, then feeding us from their excellent menu. Everything was wonderful, topped off by a special

baked dessert prepared just for us. They may be the only game in town, but we couldn’t have asked for more.

The fog lingered after lunch, but we’d seen worse. After a quick sprint south of Lyons, we said our goodbyes to Chris and Mark and Ranée. The rest of us navigated a northward arc, through Aumsville and ascending Howell Prairie Road until we got to Gervais. Butteville Road offered us our last opportunity to avoid I-5. Eventually, we stopped in Aurora to congratulate one another on another safe run of the gauntlet. Will our weather luck hold on coming rides? You’ll never know unless you come join us.

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](mailto:dwpeterson01@yahoo.com).

**Total miles, January Ride: . . . . 190**  
**Total First Saturday**  
**miles – 2019: . . . . . 312**

**Sierra Mexican Restaurant,**  
302 N. Santiam Hwy, Gates, OR  
(503) 897-2210



**Not every stretch of road was pristine.**

*Photo by Diane Peterson*



# You can't beat the Sierra for Mexican food in Gates.

*photo by Anonymous*



Visit our website at:  
[WWW.BMWRO.ORG](http://WWW.BMWRO.ORG)

*BEEMER BEAT* Editor  
P.O. Box 67  
Merlin, OR 97532

