



THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the
BMW Riders of Oregon



May, 2019

Volume 43, Issue #5

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



Chris Henry appears out of the morning mist!

Ft Hoskins OR, 04/20/2019

photo by Roger Paquette

Ambassador's Report/Central Oregon Region

from Alice LeBarron.
See page 6.

The Weather Abets Our Ride to Siletz

from David Peterson.
See page 12.

LeMay Motorcycle Days 2019

from Rolf-Immo Gabbe.
See page 4.



BMWRO

Coming Events



Club Sanctioned Events

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

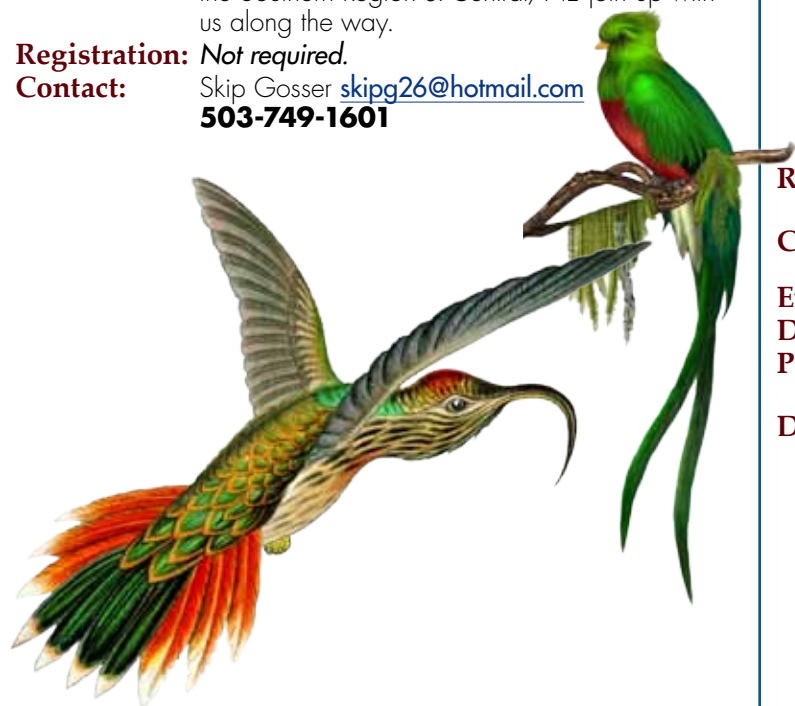
Date/Time: May 17 - 20, 2019

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 5pm. Racing is done by 10 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 20th. 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 ASAP as he will be reserving a block of motel rooms. Let Skip know if you wish to share a hotel room. Skip will be leaving from the Salem area. Route is not yet determined, but we will avoid I-5 as much as possible. We can make plans to have riders from the Southern Region & Central/NE join up with us along the way.

Registration: *Not required.*

Contact: Skip Gosser skipg26@hotmail.com
503-749-1601



Event: **Quarterly Meeting of the Membership**

Date/Time: May 19, 2019, 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm

Place: Shirley's Tippy Canoe
28242 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Troutdale, OR

Description: Please join your fellow club members and the executive committee at Shirley's Tippy Canoe for our quarterly club meeting. Shirley's Tippy Canoe is a rustic dining spot in Troutdale, nestled along the Sandy River, near to camping, fishing and riding in the Columbia Gorge.

Cost: BMWRO Members \$5.00
Non-Members & guest 22.00

Registration: Required before May 4, 2019
Payment in advance only—register online.

Contact: Linnea Alvord bmwro.secretary@gmail.com

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: *Early registration ends June 15, 2019*
www.bmwro.org

Contact: Alice LeBarron, bmwro.pres@gmail.com

Event: **BMWRO July 4th Picnic**

Date/Time: July 4, 2019, 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm

Place: FS 19 (Aufderheide): Box Canyon Horse Camp, approx. halfway between Hwy 126 & Hwy 58

Description: Family and friends gone off to their own 4th Celebration? Don't worry, BMWRO still loves you. Ride out to USFS Highway 19, aka Aufderheide Scenic Drive for a gathering. We will meet at the Box Canyon Horse Camp at 12 noon. A small barbeque will be fired up for your grilling pleasure. Box Canyon Horse Camp is located at 3700 feet. It is approximately the half way point either from Hwy 58 or 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 upon arrival and set up for lunch, rain or shine. Very simple, you bring your own food, utensils, water and garbage bag! This is all located in the McKenzie Ranger District. If you have questions, look it up online or a map. Official speed limit on the Aufderheide is 45mph! No sign up nor reservations required, just show with your food

Registration: not required.

Contact: TBD

Event: Women Riders Campout

Date/Time: July 18–21, 2019

Thursday from 2:00 pm until Sunday, 10:00 am

Place: Jackson Campground on the Applegate River near Jackson, OR

Description: This year, the Women Riders Campout takes us to SW Oregon. We've reserved the Group Campsite at this small campground along the Applegate River.

Directions: From Jacksonville, travel south 6.5 miles on Highway 238 to Ruch, OR, and turn left on to Upper Applegate Road (County Road 859). Continue approximately 7 miles to the campground. Route and campground road is paved.

Amenities: Potable water, picnic tables, firepit, flush toilets. Fishing. Hiking trails. A General Store with kayak and paddle boat rentals available—about 5 miles away at Applegate Lake. Plenty of good riding to explore! And get this: there's a real-life Bigfoot trap near the trail! (I don't think they've ever caught one, though!) How about a ride to the Oregon Caves?

Food: As has become the tradition for the Women Riders Campout, bring some groceries to share and we'll put it all together to come up with some yummy, creative meals. Gas & groceries about 14 miles away in Jacksonville.

Registration: *Required before July 16, 2019*

Cost: BMWRO Members No Fee
Associate member \$5.00
Non-member or Guest 10.00

Contact: Liz Jones, **541-306-0437**

Event: Sixes River 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 varieties. Guaranteed no left-overs!

Register: *Registration on [club website](#) Now Open*

Contact: Keith Matteson, motomatteson@gmail.com

Event:

Long weekend overnight trip to the Wallowas

Date/Time: August 2–4, 2019

Place: Enterprise, OR

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

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!

Register: *Registration on [club website](#) Now Open*

Contact: Jay Bennett jabennett.2012@gmail.com
541-745-5838

Event: Steens Mountain Campout and Quarterly Meeting of the Membership

Date/Time: September 6–8, 2019

Place: The Narrows RV Park, OR

Description: Registration fee includes two nights tent-camping (or 10% discount on RV sites with hook-ups), free showers, free WiFi, and dinner Saturday night—discover all menu options (including vegetarian/gluten-free) on the club website. The club meeting will begin on Saturday at 4:30 pm before dinner is served at 6:00 pm. A breakfast buffet is being planned for Saturday & Sunday mornings for an additional fee of \$9.25 per person—paid in advance when registering. Restaurant and bar located on site.

Registration: *Required before August 25, 2019.*

Register online at www.bmwro.org

Cost: BMWRO Members \$10.00
Associate member 15.00
Non-member or guest 20.00

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



Recurring Events

Event: **Central Oregon 2nd Saturday**

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

Contact: Alice LeBarron **541-647-7194**
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 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: **Doc Wong Riding Clinic**

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

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

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



Heard-On-The-Road

Event: **LeMay Motorcylce Days 2019**

Date/Time: June 13–23, 2019

Place: LeMay Collections at Marymount
325 152nd Street East
Tacoma, WA

Description: See page 5 for details.

Contact: <https://www.lemaymarymount.org/marymount-motorcycle-week>

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.

Registration: *Registration required.*

Cost: \$80.00; pre-registration only.

Register: <https://www.idahobmwriders.com/stanleystomp.html>

Event: **16th 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 16th 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

Letters to the Editor

*from Dan Hall,
Club Ambassador, Southern Region*

Finally got around to reading the BB this month. Nice write-up on the TeslaPortal. I want one. I might be able to keep up with Jim (von Stein) on that; of course, I'd probably run into him somewhere in the sky or Portal land. Very entertaining.

Yep, you can print my letter in the BB. I haven't had much input lately. We lost some riding days last fall because of the smoke; and it seems like it's been wet this spring—every time Mark (Collier) and I talk about a ride. Its gotta get warmer and dryer soon. I have been getting in short rides only, on the clear days.

2019 Chief Joseph Rally Update

May, 2019

The committee of rally volunteers has been hard at work on plans for this year's rally. Our goal is to continue the tradition of making the Chief Joseph Rally the Best in the West! Now all we need is YOU! Be sure to get your registration in early.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

Registration will be available at the gate, but does not include meals. Why should you attend the rally? Well, here are a few reasons:

- Great rides and awesome geology in the painted hills & Strawberry mtns
- Grass camping & hot showers
- TEAM Oregon classes & clinics to elevate our riding skills
- An award-winning blues band on Friday nite
- Motorcycle movies each night
- Good food
- Good Fellowship with old and new friends
- Beer Garden
- Seminars & classes on a variety of topics
- A diversity of vendors
- The chance to win some great door prizes

We're looking forward to seeing you in John Day!

*Bill Hedges
David Morganstern
Alice LeBarron*

LeMay Motorcycle Days 2019

from Rolf-Immo Gabbe

As the riding season rapidly approaches, we're all looking at the calendar and making plans. One event in the Northwest that we should consider is Lemay Motorcycle Days at Marymount in Tacoma, WA.

Yes, the dates overlap with the MOA National, so some of us will be out of town; but for those who aren't off traveling, it's a great event near home. And actually, if you're coming straight home from the MOA Rally, you can still enjoy the tail end of it.

So let's get to what and when it is: Lemay Motorcycle Days is a ten day celebration of all things Motorcycle. Okay, maybe just most things; but it covers a pretty broad spectrum. It runs from **June 13–23, 2019**. Hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm every day.

The Event is held at:

LeMay Collections at Marymount, 325 152nd Street E Tacoma Washington, 98445

The centerpiece of the event is a classic and vintage bike show of about 200 bikes. This year's theme is "Italian", but the show will include a wide variety of bikes from a large number of manufacturers both current and extinct (okay, maybe that's a bit harsh—because if people care for the bikes, they're not really extinct; but the manufacturer doesn't exist anymore).

Incidentally, should you have a bike you'd like to display, you can do that. Read on (toward the end).

Along with the bike show there are events on the weekends bracketing the show. There's a Show

& Shine, a great AHRMA Vintage Trials event, a killer Women's Conference moderated by and featuring Mary McGee and Debbi (Selden) Pugh, Motorcycle Soccer, a Summer Solstice procession where the Wicked Witch of Winter gets banished, a Seattle Cossacks Stunt Team Performance, Field Skill Events in which you can participate (and see if you do as well as the Cossacks), and a Benefit Run and Ice Cream Social benefitting the Washington Soldier's Home in Orting.

Phew! Let me catch my breath. There's also food booths on site, various vendors, displays by the Pacific Northwest Museum of Motorcycling—last year presenting ground-breaking research on the first American Woman Motorcyclist, whose story has twists and turns that would rival a soap opera (but don't take my word for it, check out the research for yourself).

Of course, the Motorcycle Show and History displays are there to look at all day every day.

The cost? Free to Lemay Family Collection members, \$15 for a one day admission, \$30 for a multi-day pass, special promotions for the Women's conference (women who arrive by bike – rider or passenger - \$5) and Father's Day (dads get in for \$5 whether they arrive by motorcycle or not). Bit of a double standard there? Women have to show up on a bike to get the special deal, dads don't. Just saying.

Or maybe you'd like to get in free? If you display your bike in the show you get an Exhibitor's Pass that get you in free for the entirety of the event. If you have a bike you'd like to display, contact info@lemaymarymount.org for information and a copy of the Vehicle Loan Agreement.

<https://www.lemaymarymount.org/marymount-motorcycle-week>

Ambassador's Report/Central Oregon Region

Spring has been a long time coming here in Central Oregon. For a full week prior to our usual Second Saturday gathering, the weather forecast was for snow and rain; but fortunately, the sun peeked through the morning of April 13th! Seven of us met for lunch at the River's Place, a new food truck lot in Bend. After some time to visit, **Dave Mazour**, **Mark Mniszewski**, **Bob Burroughs**, and **Bill Buck** joined me for a short afternoon ride while **John Beeson** and **Lee Block** went their separate ways.

Looking forward to some warmer spring weather in the forecast, we made plans for a mid-week ride for Thursday, April 18th. What a great day that turned out to

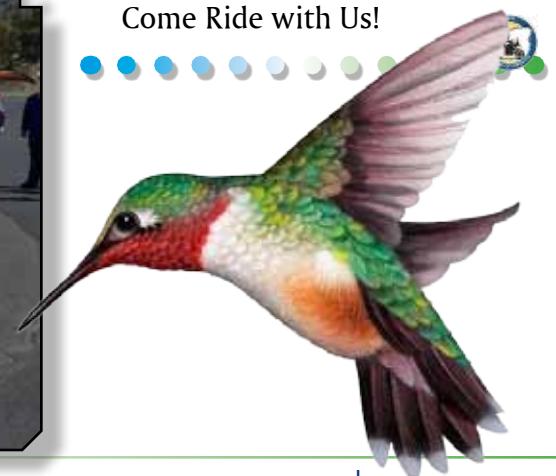
be and what a great group showed up for the ride! We did a fun loop around Central Oregon, linking together some of my favorite roads for about 160 miles of beautiful

scenery and fun twisties! Lunch was picnic style at the Head of the Metolius. Joining me on the Thursday ride were Mike Jackson, Mark Mniszewski, Bill Buck, one who will not be named because he was playing hooky from work(!), **Jason Wise**, Bob Burroughs, and **Kurt Miller**. There was one other rider whose name I've forgotten, I'm sorry to say. Thanks to Kurt for sweeping the first half of our ride and to Bob, who swept after Kurt and his friend peeled off.

Alice LeBarron

President, BMW Riders of Oregon and Ambassador to the Central and Northeast Region

Come Ride with Us!



NEW MEMBERS

Motorcycle

Craig Porter, Portland, OR 2018 BMW R1200GSA
Augustine George, Tualatin, OR 2011 BMW R1200RT
Michael & Michele Benedict, Vernonia, OR. 2010 BMW K1300GT
Tim Hanson, Portland, OR 2018 BMW R1200GS
William & Sharon Lawrence, Vale, OR 2010 BMW 1200GS



Bylaws, Policies & Guidelines

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

FIND THE BMWRO NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM ONLINE:

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

BMWRO Executive Committee

President:

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

Vice President/ Activities:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com

BEEMER BEAT Editor:

Forest McGreggor, 541-761-2320
bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Stacy Brock, 541-292-0567 (Text preferred)
bmwro.web@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator

Gavin Silaski, (503-333-2386)
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 &
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

BMW Riders of Oregon present

41ST 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 1st to June 15th)

\$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 15th
For early Registration.

More info at: www.bmwro.org
click the Chief Joseph Rally link.

June 27 – 30, 2019
Grant County Fairgrounds~John Day, OR
WWW.BMWRO.org

Dan Hall Leads a cohort of Southern Oregon Riders

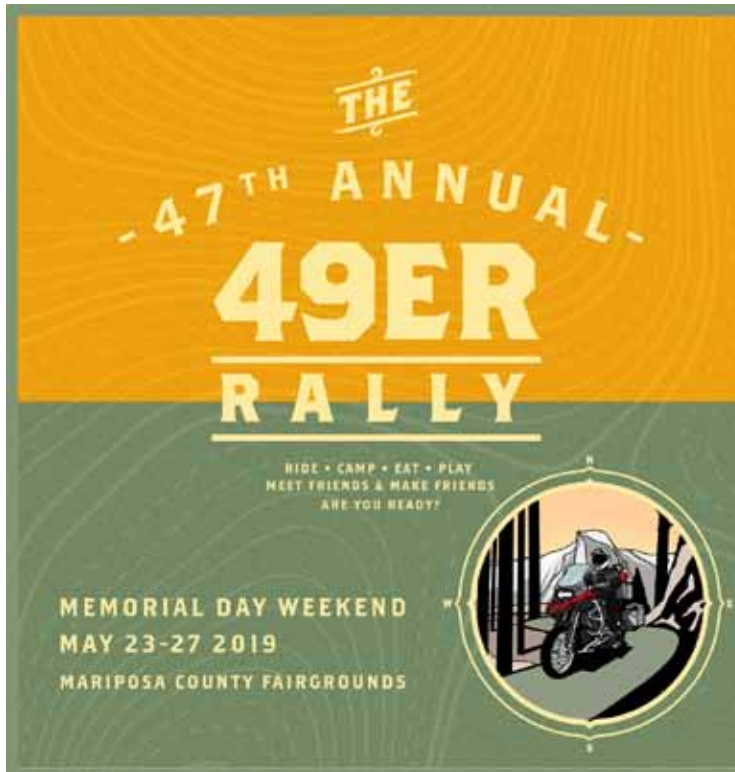
From Forest McGregor

Sorry, Dan, but as you can see, I've squeezed your images into this never-never land of ads and other miscellaneous bits. It appears to me—from these photos—that a party of nine riders, yourself included, were in attendance. Did you take Roll?



Weiser Technik

Weiser Technik is generously co-sponsoring the cost of the musicians at the Rally on Friday night. BMWRO is grateful for their support.



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS

Hurry for BIG discounts

As an EARLY BIRD registration you will receive

20% Discount on your entry fee

20% Discount on your Saturday Dinner

20% Discount on your Event T-Shirt

Early Bird Registration from now until March 31 2019

Pre-registration Apr 1 - May 19, 2010

Save 20%

REGISTER TODAY!



BMWRO proudly acknowledges these CJR vendors. Click on a logo to visit their website.



Remembering Ramey "Coach" Stroud

Long-time BMWRO member, Ramey Stroud (AKA: Coach), passed away March 30, 2019. Coach shared his knowledge by teaching motorcycling skills at our Chief Joseph Rally as well as teaching motorcycling skills at his ranch near Lyons, OR. He was a keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting in November 2014. The following excerpt is from a story written about the life of Ramey "Coach" Stroud by Andrew Shaughnessy, published January 2, 2019. Coach will be fondly remembered by the many lives he touched. Rest in peace, my friend.

Excerpt from Shaughnessy's story:

"That's it," Stroud told me, gesturing to the place he planned to die. It was a good spot — the crest of a grassy hill, surrounded by an ancient forest of towering trees, with a clear view of the wooded valley rolling beyond. Nearby, a creek sang over the moss and rocks, and the mountains rose green and silent in the Oregon sky.

"You know, there's a beginning, a middle, and an end," he mused, looking out over the valley. "And if you live the middle part right, the end is not so tragic."

Over the course of his 71 years, Ramey "Coach" Stroud has striven to live the middle part right.

He's one of those characters that seems plucked straight out of an adventure novel, his story is a collection of madcap escapades, whirlwind romances, and feats of derring-do. Looming large in Stroud's childhood memories is his Uncle Roy, a lanky desert cowboy — quiet, except when he had something to say. He wore a big hat and boots and had a slow way of talking.

"Ramey," Uncle Roy would say, "you want to get along in this life, you gotta learn to do three things: jump high, fart loud, and fear nothing."

They were words Stroud would live by.

Excerpt from "The King of Adventure Stares Down Death" by Andrew Shaughnessy with permission from the author and Narratively. Read the full story at: <https://narratively.com/the-king-of-adventure-stares-down-death/>



Letters to the Editor

from Jim von Stein

There's a saying that stupid should hurt. I'm here to verify that it does.

After a very nice BMWRO ride Saturday (thanks, Dan!), I was making my way home when a moment of inattention (that's the stupid) led to me not curving when the road did, and I was into about four inches of loose gravel on the shoulder. I managed to stay out of the two foot deep ditch and upright; but when I tried to get back onto the road the result was a tank-slapper high-side and a broken clavicle.

I realize now (too late) that the loose gravel was concealing an edge trap where the pavement began. If I'd stayed in the gravel and stopped, I probably would have been Okay.

Live and learn...

from Gary Wasserman

"Eyes On Wheels Motorcycle Patrol has been providing security for foot and bicycle race events in Oregon for more than 10 years. The goal is to deter actions directed at the race participants by providing a roving set of eyes. Since Eyes on Wheels has been patrolling acts of violence and harassment have been virtually eliminated.

Eyes On Wheels is an entirely volunteer effort and depends on mature and skilled motorcyclists generously giving their time and effort so the patrols can be effective. This year EOW is committed to patrol Hood To Coast Pacific City, Reach The Beach, Tour de Cure, Cascade Lakes Relay, Hood To Coast Relay, and Hood To Coast High Dessert. If you would like to learn more please visit our website, eyesonwheelspatrol.com and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/eyesonwheels>.

You can contact me directly at eyesonwheelspatrol@gmail.com and 503-329-8419.

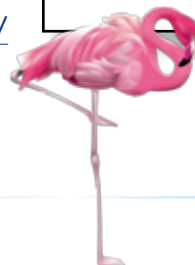
Thanks and ride safe!

Gary Wasserman, EOW Administrator"

503-329-8419

Eyes on Wheels Motorcycle Patrol

P. O. Box 22812, Milwaukie, OR 97269



The Weather Abets Our Ride to Siletz NW Ambassadors Ride Report – April 2019

David Peterson #90113

A common theme for my recent reports has been the weather. I've marveled at our good fortune through the rough winter months; we haven't had a wet ride since September, in spite of the Northwest's penchant for soggy, gray winters. In the days preceding our April event, the weather was as dreary as ever, and every forecast said Saturday would be a 100% continuation of the same. I popped out of bed to the patter of heavy rain, nearly as heavy as the shower I stepped into. Dressed and ready to go, I ran one last check of weather.com's six-hour weather window. Good news! The cell soaking us at



A soggy start, but relief is in the distance.

Photo by Diane Peterson

the moment was moving to the northeast...and after about 10:15 am, it was clear skies for the rest of the day!

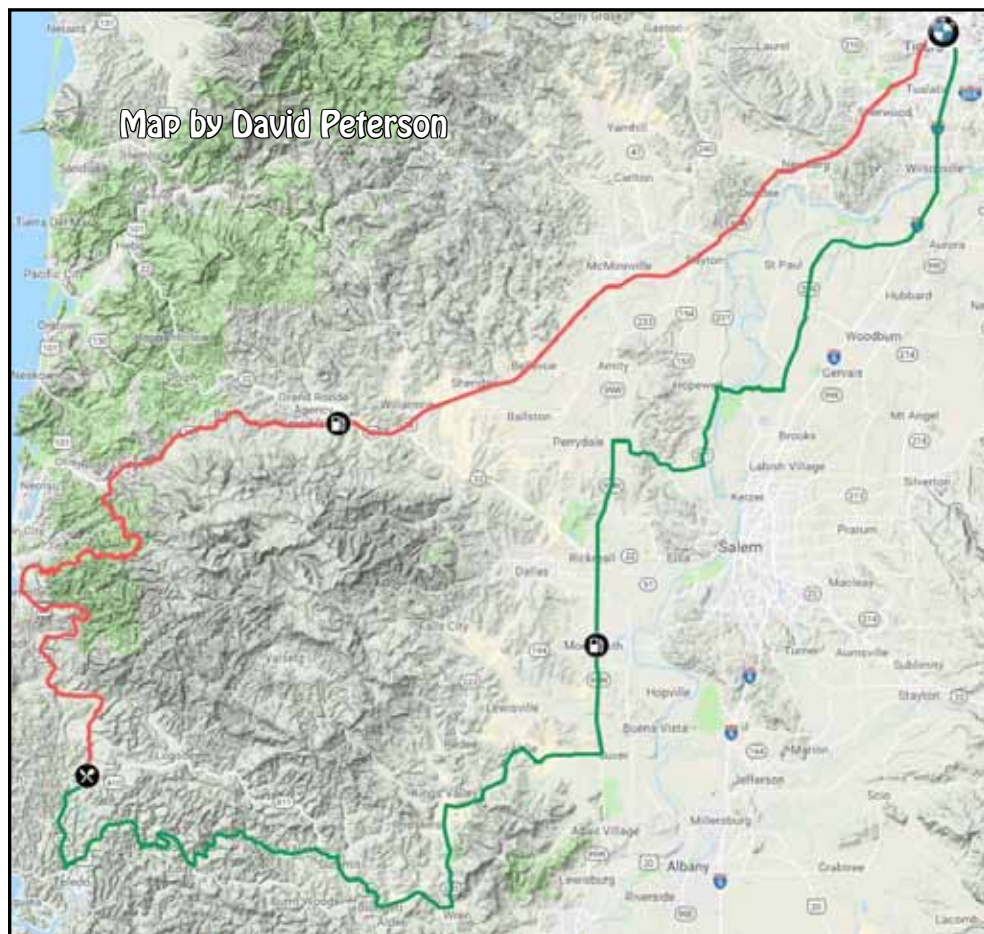
Could weather.com be trusted? We were going to find out.

First though, we had to get to 10:15. Our pre-ride ritual always includes a guess at the attendance over/under. Today, we set the

number at eight; I took the “over eight”, Diane the “under”. The ride to the shop was a soaker; amidst my optimism were strong seeds of doubt. But when we arrived, we were pleased to see a bevy of bikes we recognized. The *over* won!—ten riders had either seen the same radar I had; or maybe they are just made of heartier stock. As for those who RSVP'd, saw rain, and opted for breakfast in bed (**Morganstern, Polansky...** I'm calling you out), all I can say is, you missed a great ride. Maybe even the best ever!

9:45 rolled around, and we were off. The rain had tapered to a gentle mist. I was so encouraged I put away my rain gloves and slipped into my everyday Helds. Bad decision. Blinded by my post-10:15 optimism, I neglected to consider our first twenty miles were due south, directly back into the storm. In ten minutes, my gloves were soaked. But in another ten, we exited I-5, heading west. By the time we reached the swollen Willamette to board the Wheatland Ferry, the rain had stopped. We had seen the last rain of the day.

The rain or shine few included our GTL posse: **Cam & Karen Rust** on one, **Kim Dorsing** and **Janice Mathern** on the other. **Kyle Emerson**, who has only recently



moved to Oregon, joined us for the third consecutive month—demonstrating that neither cold nor wet will deter him from a good ride. **Mike Ripley** made his routine trek from Arizona, perhaps against his better judgment; battling a stomach flu, he cried “No mas!” when we stopped for gas in Monmouth. **Charles Trapp** and his GS were also with us; his smile just seems to get bigger as the weather worsens. **Ric Holderbaum** brought up the rear, ensuring that nobody would be left behind.

West of the river, the skies were blue and the roads were drying. Right on time; 10:15 had come and gone. After gassing up—and bidding adieu to **Mr. Ripley**—we headed into farmland, where the roads were curvy and in great shape. Airlie Road was our departure point. Near Joint Creek, a hard left onto Maxfield Creek Road is where things really open up. Only seven miles long, Maxfield Creek is a series of long sweepers which gently rise in Polk County and fall



Sunning ourselves aboard the Wheatland Ferry

Photo by Diane Peterson

into Benton County. It tees into OR-223, where we turned south, continuing the rollicking sprint for another seven miles.

Now that we were warmed up, it was time for some technical riding. OR-180 is a designated, but completely unsigned state highway, which roughly parallels (in the same way the flight of a bee might parallel the side of your house) OR-20 between Blodgett and Eddyville. It's narrow, with plenty of decreasing radius turns and at least five railroad crossings along its twenty-mile length. The rail crossings range from never repaired (Oh my God, I just bent a rim) to state-of-the art (What's the big deal?). In other words, it was the best part of the ride...so far. We had originally intended to head directly to Siletz via Logsdan Road, but the week's heavy rain raised concern about a two-mile gravel stretch. All were in agreement that we had not short-changed ourselves at all by taking the alternative route. Yet, on a nice day, it's a beautiful ride which I highly recommend.

Near Eddyville, we merged onto OR-20 for the last run to Siletz.



Kim and Janice sweep along Nashville Road.

Photo by Diane Peterson

Siletz is a quiet town situated along the Siletz River, only eight miles from the ocean. Established in 1910, the city was incorporated in 1946 and today exists mostly to serve the health needs of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. The social center of town is the rather weather-beaten **Siletz Road House & Brewery**. Don't let the drab exterior deter you. We were warmly greeted with a large table set just for us. The food, especially the wraps, was excellent, as was the service. After 140 hard miles, it was the perfect place to catch our breath.

As if we hadn't had enough fun, some of the best riding of the day was yet to come. Any riders who've lapped the state know the carnival ride that is OR-229 north of Siletz. Afterward, those expecting a placid ride through Lincoln City and home then got the shock of the day when we abruptly veered back inland south of town. Drift Creek Road/NF-17/Bear Creek Road is twenty-one miles of mountain meander, about



Making our way along a wet Bear Creek Road.

Photo by Diane Peterson

as close to off-roading a street bike will want to get. The road, barely a lane-and-a-half wide is intended for two-way traffic, making every blind corner its own private adventure. It rises almost 1,700 feet to run a ridgeline barely as wide as the roadway. At the midpoint sits a popular trailhead. We've been here before: in 2016, a ride included a four-mile hike to Drift Creek Falls and the impressive suspension

bridge over it. Luck was with us on this Saturday; oncoming traffic was light and the gravel descent near the north end of the road was easy for all to negotiate.

Now back on OR-18, it was time to dead head home. We all agreed that it had been one of our better outings, made nearly perfect by the weather that almost wasn't. I'm knocking on wood that our string of (mostly) dry First Saturdays continues. Join us and see if we can keep the streak alive!

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, March Ride:283

**Total First Saturday
miles – 2019:760**

Siletz Road House & Brewery
267 N. Gaither Street, Siletz, OR
(541) 444-7012

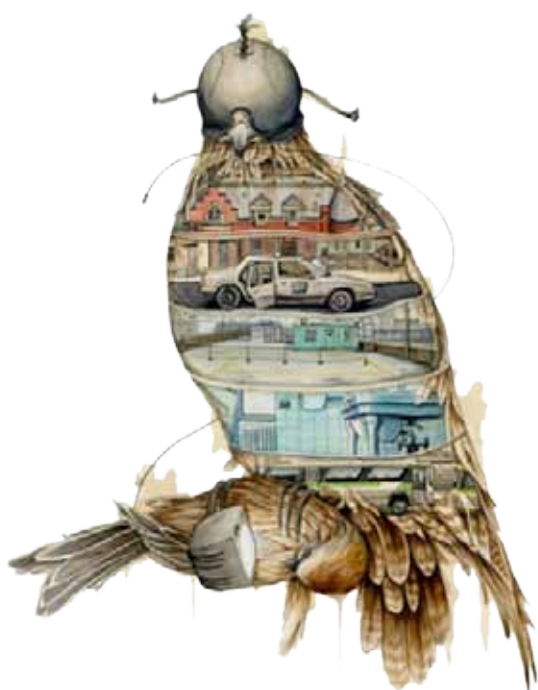


It's fist bumps all around as we finish another great ride.

Photo by Diane Peterson

Logger artistry along OR-18.

photo by Diane Peterson



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