



# THE BEEMER BEAT

Newsletter of the  
BMW Riders of Oregon



October, 2015

Volume 39, Issue #10

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



## Oregon Coastal Range

*photo by Jim Stewart*

### Another GS (Geriatric Survival) Ride

By Jim Stewart on page 8

### A Trip in Spain

Instead of the traditional President's Message, Jay Bennett begins a travel log which starts in this issue and continues next issue.

### Voting Ballot

See center pages for voting options. Vote before October 31.

# Spain Motorcycle Touring

by Jay Bennett

## Background

Janet and I decided to ride with our longtime buddies from New Zealand, **Darryl Payne** and **Simone Boulton**. We have ridden with them in the US and New Zealand so knew about riding with them and how we got along. **Spain Motorcycle** is the rental agency that we contracted with for setting up the self-guided, 9-day tour of Spain's Pyrenees Mountains. The tour included for us a bike (2 up), hotels (with breakfast included) and a tourbook with routes and regional information. Darryl and Simone were on separate bikes.

## Thursday Night 8:30 – Barcelona

Tonight we met with **Diego** of Spain Motorcycle Co. He seems well sorted with the arrangements, trip info and the final financial transactions. He's brought bikes from Madrid to Barcelona—a six hour trip—with two in a van and riding a third. The bikes look good with a couple of minor tip-over type scratches only. They have new tires, brakes, etc. We sign a contract in Spanish and hoped for the best. Simone doesn't get the BMW 800 she was promised (because of a parts problems) and is not happy with Diego. She's on a Honda NC750, but looks nice and includes three huge Givi Bags. That also means she won't have a GPS and hand warmers for the duration of the trip.

<http://www.spainmotorcycle.com>

## Friday Morning – Barcelona to Andorra

Packing 9-days of stuff into side and tail bags is pain enough; but we find there's a broken BMW Telescoping "Vario" bag—it's got a broken latch and telescopes too much. I called Diego in his room and says it's okay. After further packing we think it will be okay but on the road it extends further, threatening to drop our undies on the road. Wishing we had duct tape, grrrrr... The bags are too delicate—IMHO—but a long term revenue stream for BMW. We have three bikes and two GPSs so Darryl and I each have a GPS. With the GPS preferences all preset differently, they are taking us in different directions.



The Ride

Darryl's is set to off-road and mine is in Spanish; but even after a session of matching settings, they still sometimes don't agree; but we work through it. One person leads and the other follows. The city and surrounding towns are confusing, at best, and a bit of a test. But once out of the city, we climb into the Montseny National Park. The road improves greatly as it climbs and becomes more rural and now we are seeing what this new Wasser Boxer BMW can do. Exploring the suspension settings it seems to do everything right—even with two riders and a heavy cargo load. We are railing through the hills and having a great time. Our first night's accommodations aren't even in Spain: Andorra is "micro-state" controlled by both Spain and France, and it seems to be a financial haven for shopping and keeping one's money safe from taxes. It's also a very nice little high mountain valley that is growing quickly and is overrun with tourists when we arrive on Friday evening. We spend over an hour going some 4 miles to our hotel. Once there, even parking the bikes is a challenge and we end up paying 8 Euros to park one bike overnight in a parking garage. I need a couple of beers and food as it's 8:30—I'm tired and hungry, but the hotel bar is welcoming.

## Saturday – Andorra to Jaca

This day we are supposed to climb high into Pyrenees Mountain; but the skies are threatening with dark, wet clouds depositing their payload on us as we take off. Rain is plentiful and snow is possible. Our original plan for the day included high passes, but we decide to go lower into the west side foot hills on N-260, which turns out to be a real motorcyclist's treat. Rolling through hills and valleys and seeing old towns and villages is pretty awe inspiring. The terrain is much greener than I expected in early fall. Castles and churches—hundreds if not a thousand years old—are everywhere. The hills are green and the dairy cows are happy in the fields and hillsides as we roll north.

*(Continues on page 4)*



Pyrennes Roads





# BMWRO

## Coming Events



### Club Sanctioned Events

- Event:** **Winter Celebration and Quarterly Meeting**
- Date/Time:** November 21st, 2015
- Location:** Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR
- Description:** Join BMWRO club members for our Annual Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, Oregon Join BMWRO club members for our Annual Winter Celebration to be held at the Oregon Gardens Resort in Silverton, Oregon. To sign up for the event see the club calendar at: [http://www.bmwro.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=2&club\\_id=301799](http://www.bmwro.org/content.aspx?page_id=2&club_id=301799). For questions or help email Janet Bennett at [jlennett60@gmail.com](mailto:jlennett60@gmail.com) or call **541-745-5838** and leave a message. Dinner for club members is \$15 per person; Associate or Nonmembers \$30 per person. The cutoff for dinner sign-up is November 12, 2015.
- There will be a meet and greet at 5:30 p.m. in the Lounge, dinner starts at 6:30 followed by a short club meeting. We will not be having a "White Elephant" gift exchange this year. Make it a weekend by booking a room at the resort. The resort is holding rooms for both Friday and Saturday night; guest rooms are \$99.00 plus tax (1-2 people per room). Must reserve room before October 19, 2015 to receive this price and to guarantee a room. Room Rate includes breakfast in the morning and Garden admission. Rooms with pet allowances are available. Call the Resort for further information. Participants can book online or call the reservation department at the Oregon Garden Resort **503-874-2500** and reference **"BMWRO15"**. If you would like to book online, just follow this link: [www.oregongardenresort.com](http://www.oregongardenresort.com). Guests will be prompted for a group code which is: **BMWRO2015**. Please follow the steps below to make online reservations:
1. Under "your place to dream" enter dates of stay, rooms needed, and number of guests for reservation.
  2. Click "Book now"
  3. Under dates you will see "Have a Promo or Group code? Enter it now"
  4. Input Group Code
  5. Click "update"
  6. Group block will open with room options that are available.
  7. Choose option and click "add to cart"
- Contact:** Janet Bennett, [jlennett60@gmail.com](mailto:jlennett60@gmail.com) or call **541-745-5838**



Lounge and bar at the Oregon Garden Resort

### 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 area.
- Contact:** Alice LeBarron [alicelebaron@hotmail.com](mailto:alicelebaron@hotmail.com)  
**541-647-7194**
- Event:** **Central Western Region 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Ambassador Ride**
- Date/Time:** First Saturday of each month, Meet at 8:30 a.m., will leave parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
- Location:** European Motorcycles of Western Oregon
- Description:** Various routes.
- Contact:** Jim Breen, **541-912-4500** or [jpbior@aol.com](mailto:jpbior@aol.com) or Bob Metzger **608-642-1186**  
[bobmetzger51@gmail.com](mailto:bobmetzger51@gmail.com)
- 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)
- Event:** **NW Oregon 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Ride**
- Date/Time:** First Saturday of each month
- Location:** Various breakfast and ride locations in Central Oregon area.
- 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)  
Susan Ortiz-Renteria **503-779-7842**  
[dirtsquirt816@gmail.com](mailto:dirtsquirt816@gmail.com)

**Event:** **Eugene 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Coffee**  
**Date/Time:** First Saturday of each month 9:00 to 11:00 am.  
**Location:** Eugene BMW store, 2891 W. 11th Ave  
**Contact:** Jim Breen (541) 912-4500,  
[jpbinor@aol.com](mailto:jpbinor@aol.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)



(Continued from page 2)

The cows here don't stand in pastures so much as on impossible inclines which they somehow negotiate while grazing. We are in hills near the meeting of Spain's largest BMW Rally, which is the same time we come through. We are pressed for time to get to our next hotel so don't stop but see many, many BMW's. Think of riding near John Day during the CJR and encountering similar numbers of BMWs on the road with couples and individuals enjoying their bikes. We get to our hotel in downtown Jaca—a medium sized town—and park near a castle and the old town. After cleaning up, we walk into the old town area and by 8:30 the entire town seems to be there with kids, teens, parents and grandparents mingling around and talking, eating and light drinking with friends and probably many extended family members. Just a normal Saturday night in Jaca, Spain. The socializing is quite different from our American way, but good to see old world “networking” in action.

### Sunday 13 Sept – Jaca to San Sebastian

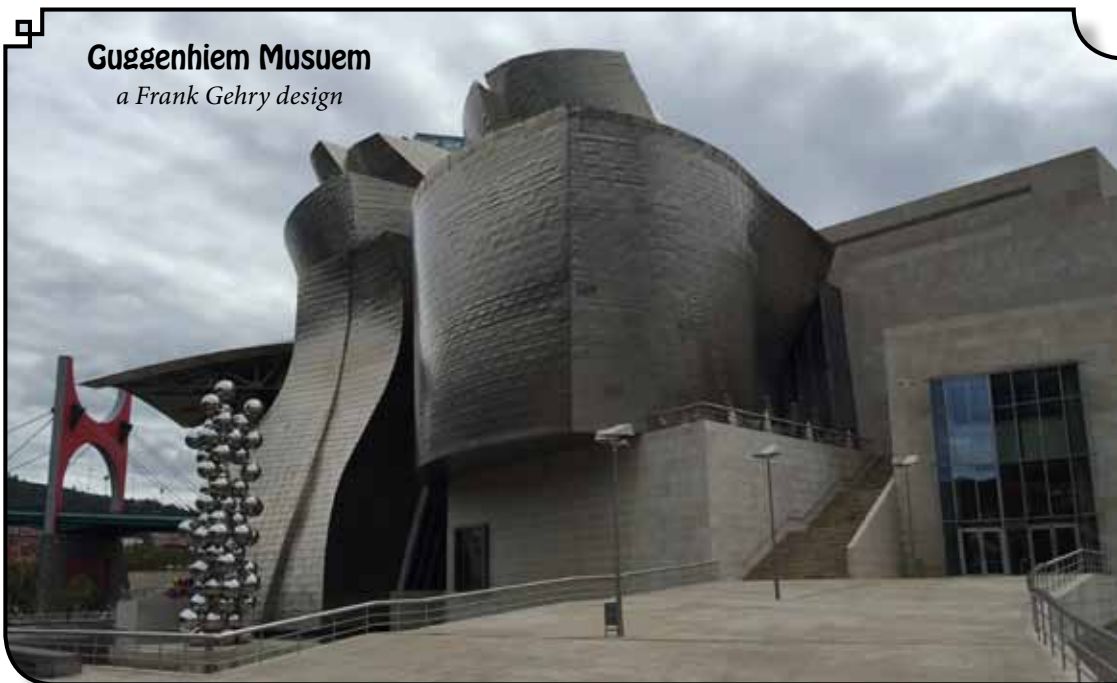
We leave Jaca and head back up into the Pyrenees Mountain crossing passes and above the timberline, as the weather is much dryer today. Once again we see the hill climbing cows free roaming on the sides of the roads as we climb the high passes. They are very docile and tame

as some cows and calves are on the road—with their usual tell-tale cow pie at the apex of corners—but they don't budge or seem to care as we ride through the grazing animals. Perhaps they are trying to be neutral—like the Swiss people—where you can pass through, just don't bother them or stop as you go by and everyone remains happy. At one point we run into a farmer moving a herd from one field to another but doing a poor job of keeping the animals in a bunch. When a couple of cattle get separated and try to get back, one decides to bolt over the hitch of a trailer pulled by a car. He doesn't clear the hitch and manages to hoof the car a bit. The French guy driving the car jumps out and starts to get upset but decides to give it up and drives off. Anyway we pass over the hills into France and get a coffee at a small village that seems quiet on the Sunday morning until the church lets out and then people are milling around getting their coffee and bakery bread. We head to the coast and go into Biarritz France for a little culture. Biarritz is a bit of a mini Monte Carlo with a beach, casino and lots of high end shopping. Right off the bat, I'm not sure I like the place as they tell us we are too late for a meal at 2:30, but eventually we find a snack bar willing to serve us a ham, cheese & butter on French bread with a Coke. It is actually quite good. That's culture, if you ask me. In San Sebastian, again we go to old city and find a wild party going on in streets. We eventually figure out this Basque region of Spain has a rowing contest and it was held this day which gave everyone reason (especially the younger folks) to celebrated with excess liberations. There are bottles, cups and other trash everywhere in the ancient old city this night. In one bar, the chaos is too much for me and we walk outside and nearly get grabbed by the bouncer when I forgot to settle up; but after quickly paying the bills, things are good. Note to self: don't forget to settle up even in a wild party or we may see more of Spain than we want.....

### Monday 14 Sept – San Sebastian to Santander

We ride from San Sebastian to Bilbao where the **Guggenheim Museum** is located in Spain. The building is a piece of art itself and shaped perhaps like a ship and clad with 33,000 sheets of titanium. As it's Monday, we find it closed, but later hear the building is actually better than the contents anyway. We ride into Santander—which to me seems more of a central Spanish city with more industry and non-tourism related businesses.

This Travel-Log continues in the next issue of the **BEEMER BEAT**.



**Guggenheim Museum**

*a Frank Gehry design*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Motorcycle

**Ysmael Badua**, Beaverton, OR ..... 2003 BMW R1200CL  
**Nate Levin**, Salem, OR ..... 2009 BMW F800GS  
**Keith Wolhar**, Philomath, OR ..... 2013 F800GS & 2001 K1200LT

Take time to write a story about your riding adventures and submit it to the newsletter—  
[bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.newsletter@gmail.com)



It is amazingly gratifying for one's ego to have a story printed in a semi-professional publication.

### FIND THE BMWRO NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM ONLINE:

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

## Bylaws, Policies & Guidelines

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

## BMWRO Club Officials

### President:

Jay Bennett (541-760-0675)  
[bmwro.pres@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.pres@gmail.com)

### Vice President:

Ed Foltyn, (503-577-9154)  
[bmwro.vp@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.vp@gmail.com)

### Secretary:

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

### Treasurer:

Gordon Taylor (802) 356-4954  
[bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.treasurer@gmail.com)

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Forest McGregor, (541) 761-2320  
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Doug Tewksbury  
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### Club Liaison

Doug Tewksbury,  
[bmwro.news@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.news@gmail.com)

### Activities

Ed Foltyn, (503-577-9154)  
[bmwro.vp@gmail.com](mailto:bmwro.vp@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).

**Jim Breen**—541-912-4500  
[jpbior@aol.com](mailto:jpbior@aol.com)

**Bob Metzger**—608-642-1186  
[bobmetzger51@gmail.com](mailto:bobmetzger51@gmail.com)

### Central & Northeast Region

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

**Alice LeBarron**—541-647-7194  
[alicelebarron@hotmail.com](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)

### 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)

**Michael Ripley**—503-648-0578  
[gobeezer@live.com](mailto:gobeezer@live.com)

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



# NW Ambassadors Ride Report- September 2015

Susan Ortiz-Renteria #106802

David Peterson #90113

Michael Ripley #191665

Long holiday weekends often conflict with First Saturday plans—and so it was again in September. But as “they” say, “Good things come to those who wait.” Our wet, 44° pre-ride gave way to another glorious, twisty day in the Oregon sun. Will it be the last of this remarkable summer? Who knows, but we’ll take ‘em while we can get ‘em.

The Steens Campout also didn’t dent attendance. At the appointed hour, 12 enthusiastic First Saturdayers on 10 bikes departed the yard. **Ric Holderbaum, Bob Ingersoll, Neal Malagamba, Mike Ripley, Karl & Ramona Perlich,** and newcomer **David Visse**, fell in behind **Susan**. **Clarence Story** joined us from Eugene to ride the two roads in Oregon he apparently had never found on his own. He was so enthusiastic about this adventure of discovery that he talked **Tod Roy** into coming up, all the way from



Crescent City! **David & Diane** rode sweep, making sure no one was left behind. We would have been a baker’s dozen, had we waited seven more minutes for **Andy Sulla** to join us from Vancouver. Next time, Andy, chase us!

We kept our time on the Interstate to a minimum, jumping off I-205 at exit 10. Minutes later, we were carving corners through rural Clackamas County. **Frank Boyle**, no fool he, decided that waiting for us in Estacada made much more sense than Gresham—to

Tigard—to Estacada. Engine idling at OR-224, he joined without us even having to stop.

It’s late in the season and shadows were long as we began the 70-mile Estacada-to-Detroit section. Well-maintained and reasonably untrafficked, it may be the most picturesque rural byway within 50 miles of downtown Portland. For the first 28 miles, it’s state-maintained as OR-224. Just south of Ripplebrook Ranger Station, OR-224 gives way to NF-46 and as the ascent steepens, the road narrows. About 20 miles north of Detroit, the elevation quickly drops 2,000 feet, then follows the Breitenbush River to its confluence with the Santiam.

Motorcycles were everywhere, especially BMWs. It was easy to confuse who was riding with whom. It’s not good form to pass the leader, and Susan was getting agitated when a fourth bike roared from the pack to pass her, until she realized they were *not* members of our merry band. Well, at least three of them weren’t.

There is but one gas pump in Detroit, but fortunately, nearly



Photo by Diane Peterson

*(Continues on page 7)*

# BMWRO ELECTION BALLOT

**Ballot Must Arrive by Friday October 31, 2015 to  
Alice LeBarron Secretary.**

**Direct your questions to any executive officer.  
Telephone responses will not be accepted.**

**Email voting is welcome.**

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

**Each member is allowed one vote.  
For two members in a household,  
please use one ballot with each member  
voting once—a space is provided for 1st and 2nd person.**

**Thank you and please vote.**

## TO SNAIL MAIL:

remove this page from the newsletter (*or print pages these 2 pages, back to back*),  
fold so the address to the Secretary is the outside mailing label,  
tape close, place stamp and mail.

**If using the “write in” for a candidate’s name, please print clearly.**

Office	Nominees	1st person's vote	2nd person's vote
<b>Vice Pres:</b>	<b>for 2 years</b>		
<i>nominated:</i>	<b>Scot Lamper</b>		
<i>write in</i> ————→			
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>for 2 years</b>		
<i>nominated:</i>	<b>Linda Tewksbury</b>		
<i>nominated</i>	<b>Doug Tewksbury</b>		
<i>write in</i> ————→			

**Place  
Postage  
Here**

**TO:  
Alice LeBarron, BMWRO Secretary  
1627 NE Bear Creek Road  
Bend, OR 97701**

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*(Continued from page 6)*

everyone had plenty of fuel to move on. With good reason... they were hungry! Twenty minutes later, we found ourselves basking on the deck of the **Marion Forks Restaurant**, with the creek burbling below. It really pays to call ahead.

But we had also done reconnaissance. Skip Gosser had morning duties that precluded riding to Tigard. But he knew where we were eating and was the first to arrive, making sure the group was accommodated. It also turned out to be old home week at the restaurant. **Ron Bramlett** joined us unannounced from Brownsville and **Allen Cesafsky**—who was just out for a ride from Bend—pulled up a chair as well.

Lunch was bittersweet, with Susan standing up and formally turning her Ambassador duties over to Mike Ripley. Susan's a geotechnical engineer with ODOT, and needs to free up her time to focus on a few new professional goals. She was instrumental in putting together the NW First Saturday Ride series almost three years ago, and she has orchestrated or led practically every ride since. We're going to miss you, Susan, and we hope your other endeavors

will leave time enough to join us on more than a few future FSRs.

Who's Michael Ripley, you ask? Until now, while not formally an Ambassador, he should have been. Since he joined us for the first time in July 2013, he's participated in 19 of 24 rides, more than everyone except David and Susan (who had to be there!) Want to know more? He's a BYU grad and father of four, who has worked for 20 years as an Intel engineer specializing in security. Nerd runs in the family. Besides his youngest boy, still in high school, one son just earned a mathematics degree and the other two are studying computer science and mechanical engineering. Mike enjoys fast things, including ATVs and jet skis, in addition to his trusty R1200RT, which he rides far and often. It will be a pleasure to chase him for a change.

We got our first chance on the next section of the ride. Although it's marked as a [National Back Country Byway](#) on many maps, Quartzville Road is hard to find and often missed. Even today, with Mike leading a ribbon of bikes, at least three in the ribbon blew right past the junction at Straight Creek Road and had to turn around. The eastern end of the byway is actually

NF-11 and it climbs steadily and narrowly to about 5,000 feet before descending to Quartzville Creek at the 25-mile mark. The remaining 25 miles follows the creek (a National Wild and Scenic River since 1988) upstream to Green Peter Reservoir (another of Oregon's starkly empty 2015 catch basins), and on to the junction with US-20, just east of Sweet Home. [The Best of the West](#) triathlon offered an interesting distraction on the last third of the section. We rode by about three (3) in the afternoon—the competitors had been at it since eight that morning. The anguish on the faces we passed told many of us all we needed to know about running a triathlon.

The group fragmented as we stopped for fuel in Sweet Home. Clarence and Tod headed back to Eugene/Crescent City, Ron to Brownsville. A little later, we lost Skip in Aumsville. David took the lead, having changed the route to avoid the triathlon as well as Sublimity's Harvest Festival. Those who stayed to the end were rewarded with fruit pie a la mode at the **Willamette Valley Pie Company** east of Salem.

It was a fitting end to what is likely to be our last full-day ride of the year. Susan noted that the Quartzville ride also coincided with the opening of Oregon's first [In-N-Out Burger](#) store. An apt metaphor as we welcome Mike and usher in fall and we say so long to Susan and this fabulous summer. In-N-Out... and so it goes...

The rides may shorten, but they will be no less appealing. Especially in October, when we'll be touring Western Washington County, punctuated by brunch—hosted by Scot & Carol Lamper on October 3rd—save the date. Details to follow. Hope to see you then.



Photo by Diane Peterson



photo by Susan Ortiz-Renteria

## Another GS (Geriatric Survival) Ride Or We Never Saw the Elephant

by Jim Stewart

What do you look for in planning a motorcycle trip? Which has a higher priority, the ultimate destination or the route to be traversed? Will you be riding solo or in a compatible group? Is the weather ever going to be a factor? The length of such a list of concerns can easily match the length of the trip itself. Wait, let's just get started.

Therefore, after six months of devising a Dual-Sport ride through Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, our group of miscreants were ready. That is until Fire Season. Our itinerary was almost a perfect one-to-one correspondence

between intended camping spots and a series of out of control wildfires. This was especially ironic in that two years ago we battled torrential rain and flood conditions for all but two days in a three-week sojourn. Thus, we showed uncharacteristically good judgment and re-routed with a quick 180-degree turn of tail.

So, on 2 September our quintet of elderly moto-geezers assembled at Deb's Café in downtown Alsea for one of the few professionally prepared meals we would see for the next two weeks. We headed south into the highlands of the Siuslaw National Forest. Fittingly, we rode (at first) in chronological order: **Art Gardener**, Eugene, KTM 690; **Allan Timmons**, Sidney, B.C., Yamaha WR 250; **Jim Stewart**, Klamath Falls, BMW F 650 GS Dakar; **Don Weber**, Albany, BMW F 650 GS; **Jeff Jones**, Bend, BMW R 1200 GS. This is a good group of like-minded rider/campers who over many miles of traveling together

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,  
September Ride:.....301**

**Total First Saturday miles,  
year-to-date:..... 2,105**

**Marion Forks Restaurant &  
Lounge, 34970 OR-22, Idanha, OR  
97350 (503)854-3669**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
marionforks](https://www.facebook.com/marionforks)

**Willamette Valley Pie Company,  
2994 82nd, Avenue NE, Salem, OR  
97035 (503)362-8857**

[www.wvpie.com](http://www.wvpie.com)



**Jeff Jones & Don Weber**

photo by Jim Stewart



have developed the calluses and broad shoulders that result from fending off the constant barrage of good natured kidding. Fragile ego's need not apply for a position in this group.

Although we had a trio of modern GPS equipped bikes and detailed paper maps, navigation was still a constant work-in-progress. It was as if we were the moto-equivalent of the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle—*i.e. there is a fundamental limit to the precision with which both the position and momentum can be known simultaneously*. But that has never deterred us before. Besides, we thought it was very neighborly of Mr. Weyerhaeuser to leave his big yellow iron gate open—the one next to the No Trespassing sign—and provide us with such panoramic views of the Coastal Range.

The first time I met Don (and Debbie) Weber was at a BMWRO campout decades ago at Loon Lake, east of Reedsport. To commemorate such an auspicious change in my life, I suggested we

camp there again. Being pre-Labor Day weekend it was both a neat and quiet campsite and a great springboard to a complex series of roads taking us eventually to the Rogue River drainage. Escaping fires to the North, we entered the Salmon Fishing/Camping families to the South. But the price was right—\$7 apiece, albeit more than three times what we would eventually find—and the showers were hot and soothing.

Years ago I had been informed of the Brandy Peak Distillery near Brookings. Since we were going to be utilizing the old Carpentersville Road (the precursor to US 101), now was the time to stop in. This was for historical and educational purposes only, of course. But so as not to be rude to our gracious tour guide, several of us made purchases. These were gifts to appease our poor and grieving wives left back at home. Note: Most of the purchases did indeed make it back home.

To give you a flavor of the tenure of this trip, ponder this next day. We had camped on the north

end of Crescent City, CA and in the morning headed inland. After riding 50 miles through coastal firs and redwoods we emerged on the south end of Crescent City, CA. This was not to be a high-mileage trip. Minimizing our time on major roads, we went back up and into the redwoods at Lady Bird Johnson Grove. This was my favorite section of our choices of routes. Bald Hills Road connects the Pacific on the west with the Yurok Indian town of Weitchpec at the confluence of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. The road up on the west is equalized by the descent into the river valley on the east. Multiple switchbacks and steep grades make for a memorable, yet strenuous, descent. That night we camped among the oaks at Ish-Tang Campground on the Hoopa Reservation. Fortunately, it, too, provided a scenic, back-way out of town avoiding the traditional paved route.

A discerning reader will notice that we aren't covering a lot of ground. Very astute. In fact when I asked Don, "Are you okay? I've never seen you ride so slow." He responded in pure Weberian logic, "Al's tires are only good for 3000 miles so I want to make them last." And this guy is our leader? But we also employed other well-thought out schemes. For example: Jeff is active in the Deschutes County Search & Rescue, so we were protected. Never mind that we would never enter Deschutes County. Being the youngster of the group (not quite yet 60) and on the biggest, heaviest, fastest, most comfortable motorcycle, we attempted to neutralize his excellent riding skills by keeping him on nearly slick tires and fill his cavernous panniers with all of the liquid purchases. By contrast, Art, our senior member, had the best power-to-weight ratio and Allan was riding a modern dirt bike



**Al Timmons & Art Gardener**

*photo by Jim Stewart*



with lights. Both of these guys showed extremely good judgment throughout the trip and never put themselves in harm's way. That is probably why they can continue to enjoy the controlled adventure of Dual-Sport riding. Jim, the third member of this Septuagenarian Trio, still doesn't quite fully comprehend the full meaning of restraint. So even though a wheel-lock face-plant into the soft dust only pulled a few muscles and demolished a pannier, he'd do well to pay heed to his other colleagues.

The scenery on top of and along the Lost Coast was exceptional—even if the pavement was not. But with the long travel suspension and the agility of a single-track vehicle we were never deterred. Petrolia, Honeydew, and sinuous back roads to Shelter Cove were all just part of the trip. But we were lucky. The weather was perfect. Bright blue skies and dry, although very dusty, roads made for attentive but not suicidal riding. Tight first gear hairpins in rock-studded slippery mud would have been much more than memorable.



**Jim Stewart**

*photo by Laura Stewart*

Continuing our generally anti-clockwise path, we maneuvered via Branscomb, Laytonville and Dos Rios into Covelo. All of these could be connected by asphalt, but we found an alternative. Covelo—according to our hometown companion at lunch—is now a mixture of “ranchers, loggers, Indians, and them \$%&#\*# Hippies”. It was indeed a strange combination of new Range Rovers and completely thrashed old pick-ups. A local merchant was selling T-Shirts with a road sign proclaiming:

***End of the World . . . . . 9 miles  
Covelo. . . . . 11 miles***

Unfazed, we headed east over the 6006 foot Mendocino Pass and into the 100 degree heat on the other side. Surprisingly, Black Butte Lake had a scenic supply of water, an empty campground, and welcome showers all for \$2 each. In this part of California there was no need for a rain fly on your tent. A warm and dry night under the stars was the prelude for our advance toward the foothills of the Sierra's.

As always happens on good adventures, the unplanned and the unexpected cement long lasting memories. Inhaling the dust as we climbed out of Chico, we happened upon a wonderful stretch of new pavement—it even had lines painted on it! We were sure we were (temporarily) lost again. This road was supposed to be more rocks and dust—instead it was an undulating, twisting ribbon terminating at a back-woods café in Butte Meadows. (This one deserves another ride. Of course, the hot pastrami sandwich didn't hurt either.) Our last night camping in the timber at Antelope Lake yielded another entry to the Memory Column. Blatantly ignoring the “we have bears” signage at the entry, Art left a packet of “bait” on the table. All that was left in

the morning of over 1 ½ lbs of tortillas was a shredded plastic wrapper a few feet away. Not a believer in bears, Art surmised it was that well-known, but seldom-seen, south-of-the-border, woods creature: El-Sas-Quacho. It was time to move onto Cedarville.

This was our last night as a group-of-five as we celebrated Art's 74th birthday. Tomorrow it would be up and over the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and back to civilization with the BMW Club at the Narrows campout. Jeff would be sharing a tent with his wife, Liz. Allan would no longer be referred to as “The Road Worrier”. Art would be able to enjoy his glass of wine in a subdued and tranquil setting. Don would only have to take care of himself (a full-time job by itself). And Jim could take the ball-peen hammer to his aluminum bags (again) and down a few ibuprofen while reflecting on the past two weeks.

In the mid 19th century there was a surge of travelers always looking to see what was over the next ridge. They had heard the stories, anticipated the experience. Is that the way you feel when you head out for the long awaited motorcycle trip? Perhaps this next experience will be the best one yet. Unfortunately, for many of those adventure seekers of 180 years ago, their expectations never materialized. Their dreams were never fulfilled. They had “seen the elephant”.

We had high hopes and anxious anticipation at the beginning of September. Each day was glorious. Each turn in the road was a new adventure. We spent a special time in our short lives with people we care about, doing what is important to each of us. There were no elephants in sight.

*(Continues on page 11)*

The Greek poet Horace must have felt the same when he wrote:

*Happy the man, and happy he alone, he who can  
call today his own: he who, secure within, can say,  
Tomorrow do thy worst,  
for I have lived today.*



## Minutes of BMWRO Members Meeting Sept. 12, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order by vice president Ed Foltyn at the Steens Mountain Campout. There were 21 members and 4 non-members present. Due to a time conflict with the U of O football game on TV in the saloon, additional members attending the camp-out were not present at the meeting.
2. Ed introduced himself and secretary Alice LeBarron as two of the four members of the executive committee present.
3. The secretary's minutes from the June meeting at the Chief Joseph Rally were published in the July Beemer Beat and were approved as published.
4. Ed was unable to present the treasurer's report, as he had not received the report from Gordon, who was unable to attend this meeting.
5. Ed reviewed the accomplishments of the club since our last meeting. \$2000 was donated to the Grant County Fire Relief Fund and this was met with kudos and a round of applause from the members. We reviewed the club-sponsored activities of the summer; members enjoyed camp-outs at Brookings, Sixes River, Dairy Point, and the Women Riders Campout. Upcoming activities were discussed:
  - Oct. 3rd: Octoberfest Ride to Eat, hosted by Carol and Scot Lamper
  - Nov. 21st: Winter Celebration and General Membership meeting to be held at the Oregon Garden Resort, hosted by Janet Bennett.
  - Jan. 2016: Beach Bash hosted by Dave & Deborah Kaechele.

A reminder was given to watch the website Events Calendar and the *BEEMER BEAT* for activity updates.

A concern was voiced by Dave Kaechele regarding the date of the November meeting; he was under the impression that the By-Laws stated that all meetings were to be held on the second Saturday. Ed explained that the Oregon Garden Resort was not available for our event on the second weekend in November. (Note: since the meeting, the By-Laws have been reviewed. There is no stipulation regarding which weekend the meetings are to be held. The By-Laws state: "Regular business meetings shall be held four (4) times per year, and generally be organized in conjunction with a BMWRO scheduled event. Regular business meetings shall be planned for the months of January, May, September and November." By-Laws can be accessed on the BMWRO website filed under Documents.

6. **Old business:** There was no old business to discuss.



### 7. **New business:**

- a. **Elections:** Alice explained the election process and timetable for elections.  
  
Vice-President: one nomination was received and seconded for Scot Lamper.  
  
Treasurer: two nominations were received and seconded for Linda Tewksbury and for Doug Tewksbury.  
  
Ballots are included in this issue of the Beemer Beat. New officers will be installed at the November meeting.
- b. **Chief Joseph Rally 2016:** Co-chairs Lynne Clark and Carol Lamper reported on plans so far; they have been busy developing new ideas for the rally.
  - Vendors will be given free admission to the rally; members made suggestions for additional vendor incentives.
  - A tipi will be on the grounds for the massage vendor.
  - MOA will offer a Performance Academy for Experienced Riders in place of the Smart-Trainer.
  - The awards categories will be changing. Watch for further details.
  - There will be some changes in how door prizes are handed out, posting the winners of smaller prizes prior to Sat. dinner and announcing the winners of the larger door prizes after dinner on Saturday.
  - Lynne asked for and received feedback regarding the idea of showing motorcycle movies or training videos at the rally.
  - Lynne & Carol would like to have more guided rides and perhaps a poker run.
  - Lynne gave us an update on volunteer positions that still need to be filled for 2016 CJR:
  - Joy Cesafsky will run the Registration Booth again.
  - Jim Stewart will chair the Awards.
  - Carol Lamper will take care of Signage.
  - Volunteers are needed to organize: Wine tasting, Door Prizes, Info Booth, Poker Run, and 50/50 drawing.
  - Volunteers will be needed to help with: Registration Booth, Info Booth, and set-up and take-down.
8. The next membership meeting will be held Saturday, Nov. 21st at the Oregon Garden Resort as part of our Winter Celebration.

The meeting was adjourned by Ed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice LeBarron, Secretary, BMW Riders of Oregon





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

## NW Ambassador Ride Members

*photo by Skip Gosser*

