

HONDA SPORT TOURING ASSOCIATION

Washington State Chapter

October, 1996

Cascade Loop Ride

This ride was originally scheduled to tour the south central Wa area but Tom decided later in the season that he would lead along North Cascades Hwy #20 to Winthrop. As luck would have it, the weather decided to be finicky and couldn't decide whether it would serve up downpour, or sprinkle all day long. Turnout was good, if you call 6 bikes for mid September good. Tom, George, Bob, Matt, Elbert, Theresa and myself showed to ride, while Jim showed up for breakfast, but didn't ride.

We decided that Winthrop would be too long of a haul with uncertain weather conditions, so George offered to take us on some of his favorite roads touring the backroads to Snohomish (Harvey's Airfield) where we all stopped so that George could get in his coffee and cigarette fix. Seeing the way the George flies on the big bad ST1100, I would need a cigarette too! Talk about fast, I tried to chase, but the roads were too slick and having the added responsibility of a passenger, I gave up all efforts to keep up. (Having worked until 4 AM that morning, I wasn't totally alert either) Kudos to George... you belong on a track!

After coffee, I peeled off and headed for home. Elbert had left us just before coffee, leaving only 4 riders to head up towards Granite Falls and at that point I believe that the rest had given up.

Three Pass Run II

Welcome to Packwood...as Dan Meekhof's new hometown, a great place to ride but not to speed. (I'll get back to this)

As people all came down at different times, we all experienced different weather conditions on the way. I took the day off on Friday so that I could get there early. Mark, a buddy of mine, met me at 10 and we were on our way. Theresa followed (she actually got there 45 minutes ahead of us) in her car so that I could bring poker supplies, alcohol (partial full bar), and all-weather gear for any condition. The three of us had perfect riding (and driving) condition except for the traffic getting out of Seattle. Flew down and unpacked. By this time, Don Peter had shown up and others trickled in having claimed that they encountered rain along the way.

In all we had 9 bikes: Don Peter (Ride Leader), Don Clark (of Ca.), Nadine Berthold (Oregon State Director), Elbert (Membership Director), Matt (Boozo), Bob (Bobo), Dan M. (he lives there), Mark (possible new member), Theresa (my high-speed travel companion), and myself (all around nice guy)!

Friday night was fun, experiencing Packwood food and night life. Pizza was great but the bar across the street needs to learn how to welcome their tourists, not glare at them, after all we did bring cash. It appeared that there would be two sub-groups on this ride. Let's call group #1 the "elders" (for lack of a better term), and group #2 the "youth". Most of the description to follow will consist of the "youth" activities. At this point, Mark had been up for almost two days straight so he went back to the Inn to crash, while the rest of the "youth" went to Dan's place to play poker and do some drankin'. We didn't play for money, but if we did, the "HOUSE" would've cleaned up! Dan proceeded to wax us in poker while Boozo and Bobo were getting tanked on Yukon Jack. (I think Matt likes me!)

Saturday morning we ate breakfast and headed off on our run towards Windy Ridge on Mt. St. Helens. Didn't take 10 minutes and wouldn't you know...we got busted! Putting along, with minimal traffic, at about 70 or so, we got pulled over by officer friendly. He was so friendly, he didn't even go into the spiel about scraping up dead motorcyclists off the road and skipped directly to the ticket writing process. What a turd! I can't begin to explain all the things that we felt were bull**** about this bust, but to make a long story short...all 5 of the "youth" are contesting and results will be posted a newsletter to follow.

This screwed up our day for the total of about 5 minutes, cause going up St. Helens, I saw Matt pass Dan going around a corner, and four turns later, I saw no more! Matt... remember, that was your SECOND ticket and the wife won't let you keep the scooter if you get another!

Of all the rides, Mt. St. Helens has got to be one of the best! Roads are awesome for screaming along, and the scenery is worth stopping for, which is what I did. I let the group pull away but Mark came back to see if I was ok. I think, even if there are different interests and objectives, it's good to ride with at least one other bike on

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Three Pass Run II con't.

this mountain for safety reasons. With the roads wet in places and no guard rails in turns, someone could lose it in a corner (like I almost did), and simply slide off the road over the edge, and not be found for quite awhile. I learned real quick, when the front end slides... you're going too fast, dummy!

If you haven't noticed already...

You have a new newsletter editor (also named Dan) for the winter months. I'm not sure how long I am assuming the responsibility of newsletter editor, but I'm more than happy to help out. If anyone has any comments on the way that I write the letter, please keep them to yourselves! (just kidding) :-)

Send any suggestions on to me, either to the address on the right, or e-mail me. I will try to keep the newsletter entertaining while providing details on rides, occasionally putting people in their places when the need arises.

I don't foresee a newsletter in November due to lack of subject matter (no rides) but there WILL be a December newsletter primarily with details on the Christmas Party and the Motorcycle Show.

First: I have talked to Kirby about holding the Party at his place again (1st Law of Precedent: *Once you do it, you're stuck doing it*) and he was open to the idea. We should plan on thinking up new rides and repeating rides we've enjoyed in the past. This year the group ventured out and discovered a lot of new roads and places to visit as a result of the meeting we had last December. Though I wasn't present a lot of the time, I heard that whole camping idea was a big success, and I

personally would like to take more 2-4 day trips out of state. (Hotels are in abundance, Peter!)

Second: I guess the motorcycle show will be a few weeks earlier than it has been in years past. Start thinking if you'd like to be a part of this, and if you can spare the time to man the booth. Details to follow...

Editor's Comments

Another season of riding has come and gone. I have enjoyed meeting new people and making new riding friends. I have learned so many things and become a much better rider having spent time with the group. I can't imagine riding alone anymore and am looking forward to next season's adventures (police altercations, crash and burn, high-priced tire repairs, etc.) Everyone should think about bringing new members to the club and introducing them to the fun and comradery of riding in a group. The experience is invaluable!

One question that was recently proposed to me: Should we rename the club Honda Duck Sport Touring Association? No, because the abbr. would be HDSTA and people would mistake that for Harley Davidson. Isn't that a contradiction in terms -- Harley / Sport Touring -- yeah, right!

Should you need to contact me, feel free:

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