

Washington State Chapter February, 1997

The Motorcycle Show

There were so many cool bikes that I don't even know where to begin. A group of us met at the show and already we couldn't stop gawking at all the new rides. I know we all had our personal favorites going into the show, but there were a few surprises that caused you to dream just a little (okay - a lot!)

BMW showed off its all new K1200RS (claimed 130 HP and top speed of over 150 mph) as well as its water-cooled single additions, the F650 and F650ST.

BUELL now has 4 V-Twin models on the market - the new M2 Cyclone, updated S1 Lightening, power-enhanced S3 Thunderbolt, and the S3T Thunderbolt Sport Touring.

DUCATI has added 2 new models - the 748, and the 750 Monster. These personally attracted me and I took a couple of pictures of each. Since our group seems to be attracting more Ducati riders lately - maybe I'll have to make the switch too!

HD displayed the brand new 1997 FLSTS Heritage Springer Softail which resembles the 1948 HD Panhead with its fringed and embossed leather, 1940's styled fenders and tombstone taillight.

HONDA proudly displayed its new water-cooled power monster, the CBR1100XX. What I believe to be Dan M's next bike, the 996 Super Hawk, was very impressive as was the six-cylinder Valkyrie and the Shadow American Classic Edition.

KAWASAKI (did they have anything new this year? I don't remember seeing anything here)

SUZUKI enters the V-Twin market this year with the TL1000S which is touted as an engineering masterpiece. With its EFI, aluminum truss frame, and rotary damper rear suspension it should be quite exciting to ride. The new GSX-R600 is a sweet ride for the high-velocity inclined.

TRIUMPH showed off its T595 Daytona and the T509 Speed Triple that were truly heart stoppers. Both these bikes drew quite a crowd and were very good looking machines.

YAMAHA with it's new Royal Star is definately giving HD a run for their money. I loved the styling of the bike, and given a choice of a standard

bike, I'd buy Japanese... The YZF600R, and YZF1000R were also two stand-out bikes and deserve a lot of attention.

Well, there you have it. I looked at them all, I liked a lot, and loved a few (okay, so I drooled a few times too, wishing I had more money, and a lot of garage space!)

Club Ski Trip

After taking the day off work to go to court for a minor traffic infraction, I picked up Mat and Bob and we were on our way!

Arriving relatively early on Friday night at Dan's place in Packwood, we went to dinner, played poker, and watched a snow-boarding video of Warren Miller's to put us in the mood. It worked!

It rained all night and when we woke up, Dan checked the snow conditions on the Internet and we took a chance to drive up to White Pass! Good thing we did. The skies stop raining, the sun came out, the snow was rain-wetted and soft underneath - needless to say, we had perfect spring skiing conditions!

Jim, who drove down early Saturday morning to catch up with us, along with Mat and I skied, while Bob and Dan snowboarded. Jim, for not having been skiing in 3 years, could've skied our butts off if he was in prime form! Mat and I were pretty even in ability, and the boarders-from-hell did great too!

Having had success in this mid-winter excursion, we made plans to do it again, this time at Crystal Mountain, so if you can ski/board, make sure you come to the February 8th meeting, cause I'm sure we'll be making another ski trip in February!

My Wheels

Finally back, it's about time - for those that didn't know, I sent my wheels to California to have them chromed. They are the epitome of beauty, but not without some problems. Anyone wanting to be blinded by the shiniest wheels they've ever seen, ask me to send

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Wheels con't.

you a picture. I'm not going into the specifics of the problems here, but if you're considering having something like this done to your bike, talk to me first. I'll let you know what to look out for.

Typos

Didn't anyone catch the fact that I wrote January **1996** on the last newsletter? I'm sure you all did, and that you didn't want to embarrass me by telling me so. Well, when I screw up, point it out! It keeps me in check...

Also (yes, that's not all) I got the date wrong on the Montana ride. Can you believe it - the ride I've been waiting for, and I blew it! It is on July 18-20, **NOT** June 28-30 as previously reported. If Elbert had stayed for the Christmas Party, this error would not have happened - Shame on Elbert! (To his defense, he pointed out both the errors!) Wanna be the official proof-reader???

Due to the previous error - I've moved the Oregon Coast Ride to June so that we don't have two long rides two consecutive weekends. Check the schedule below, it should be accurate and up to date.

February 8 - First 1997 Club Meeting

Due to the numerous requests of how to get to the correct Denny's, take the N. 44th St. Exit (EXIT 7) off I-405 just North of the Renton Boeing Plant. Denny's is located at the NE corner of intersection of North 44th and I-405. Discussion will consist of the next Ski trip and the **TDB** rides.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

February 8 - 1st Club Meeting of 1997

March 8 - Club Meeting / Ride **TBD***

March 22 - Granite Falls / Lake Cavanaugh

April 12 - Club Meeting / Ride **TBD**

April 19 - Dewatto

May 10 - Club Meeting / SW Wa

May 31 - Mt. Baker / Mosquito Lake

June 14 - Club Meeting / Ride **TBD**

June 27-30 - Western Oregon Coast / Hwy 101

July 12 - Club Meeting Monroe / Winthrop

July 18-20 - Montana / Spokane (Big Sky Run)

August 9 - Club Meeting Federal Way / Mt. St. Helens

August 15-17 - Oregon Camp-Out / Cascade Locks

September 6 - Leavenworth

September 13 - Club Meeting / Ride **TBD**

September 19-21 - Three-Pass Run III / Packwood

October 11 - Club Meeting / Dinner @ Cafe Veloce

December 6 - Christmas Party / **TBD** (@ Kirby's)

***To Be Determined** by those present