

## Washington State Chapter

### April, 1997

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#### **March 8 - Club Meeting**

We had 13 people brave the elements and make it to the meeting. Actually, though it had rained the entire week prior, and was predicted to rain in the evening, the weather at the time of the ride was perfect.

Few chose to ride (fear factor) to the meeting and fewer had the desire to make a day of it. Having met at Denny's (not getting thrown out this time) we discussed many items including one ride that was not scheduled this year - Sol Duc Hot Springs. After having realized this fact, I chose to include it on our schedule. See New Addition.

Also discussed was getting a intercom system for our club. Many of us are in favor of the 900mhz Collett Communicator. It offers an extended range of transmission (about 3 miles) over the 49mhz model (1/4 mile or line-of-sight.) The cost of the 900mhz model is about \$250, but the benefits are worth the \$\$\$.

We would have the capability to talk on two channels - rider to rider, or rider to group. I think this will be a worthwhile investment in club riding. Not only for safety (being able to report back of debris in the road), but also keeping in touch with riders that are falling behind or having mechanical problems.

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#### **March 8 - Ride around Mercer Island**

Kirby, Larry, Mark, Trevor, and myself had a little itch to take care of. The five of us went for a quick little ride around Mercer Island. This could be risky since there is limited entry/exit to the island, but we didn't even see any of our favorite people in the black and whites.

I have found that starting the loop on West Mercer Way and finishing on the east side works better for two reasons. One - your tires have time to warm up before the twistier section of East Mercer Way, and Two - the exit route puts you directly onto a freeway on-ramp which means you don't spend a lot of time waiting to get out of the immediate area of the island.

One more piece of advice - only do the loop once! No matter how tempted you are to go back and

smooth out the turns you missed, it's not worth getting a ticket! Nothing like having someone call MIPD and reporting a group of bikes on the island doing what SOUNDS like high speeds.

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#### **March 22 - Granite Falls, Lake Cavanaugh**

It turned out to be another great day for a ride! After a week long of record rainfall, it cleared up in time for our scheduled ride. Eleven members made the meeting, all riding, and all ready for a great day!

Attendees were: Larry Wacek, Chris Harnish, Tom Johnson, Jim Holzberger, Mark Grabrick, Mat McDanold, Bob Kramer, Peter Broda, Kirby Drawbaugh, Jennifer Wosachlo, and myself. After breakfast, we pulled out in two groups due to Tom taking his time to get out of the parking lot.

The first group was about 5 minutes ahead of the second, and after playing chase for the first 15 minutes, the inevitable happened. WSP clocked us from 63-69 MPH in a 55 zone just past Woodinville. After checking our licenses, and giving us a verbal warning, we were on our way to meet up with the rest of the group in Monroe where we were meeting Kathy Kost and Pat Taylor. WSP had mentioned that the first group had gone by at 65+, but that he couldn't get turned around fast enough to go after them. Remember guys, there is safety in numbers, and if an officer has to write 11 tickets for a minor infraction, the chances are we will only get a warning.

After all meeting up in Monroe without Kirby, who went home to tend to his Duc's woes, we were ready to cruise! Our route was as follows:

From Monroe, we headed NE along Woods Creek Road then N on Wagner Rd, N to Meadow Lake Rd, right on Storm Lake Rd to Dubuque Rd. Take a right and then an immediate left to Creswell Rd, right on Carpenter Rd. At Anderson Rd, take a left and that leads to Granite Falls. We took a brief break here to stretch.

From Granite Falls, we headed north along Jordan road to Arlington Heights Road, making a left to go into Arlington and then north on Hwy 9. we followed 9 around the east side of Lake McMurrey and took a

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### **Granite Falls, Lake Cavanaugh con't**

right onto Lake Cavanaugh road, and rode it out until we hit the unpaved section. At that point, we back-tracked to Arlington, got on 530 to I-5 and proceeded home.

I hope with the use of a map, you can follow this route on your own. It's truly worth riding, with minimal traffic, and we saw no enforcement.

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### **Technologically Challenged - NOT!**

Mat McDanold and I have headed up the effort in putting together a Washington State HSTA Home Page on the Internet. There is a link provided to and from the National HSTA home page as well. I'm really excited about this - what took us so long?

We're striving to make this one of the premier web sites and are hoping that many of our members will visit it now that it's on-line and provide their opinions and suggestions to make it even better.

Sections of the web site currently include: Ride Schedule, Photos (of rides and members,) Tech Tips for the do-it-yourselfer, Links to other websites, previous Newsletters, and Classified ads for our members who are looking to buy/sell/trade goods.

**<http://www.snwsc.com/hsta/main.htm>**

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### **New Addition to the Schedule**

During the Christmas party, there was mention of a ride to Lake Crescent / Sol Duc Hot Springs which includes the riding of Hwy 112 (noted as one of the best roads in WA for a motorcycle.) Somehow this ride was

not added to our calendar and therefore it is being inserted on the weekend of June 21-22 now.

This is an overnight ride, with camping in the Sol Duc area on the peninsula. It will consist of passing through the towns of Sequim, Sekiu, and Neah Bay. I missed this ride last year, but was told that I missed a good one.

Bring your rainwear because Sol Duc is in the middle of the Olympic Rain Forest, but don't let that dissuade you from coming out that weekend. Who knows, that weekend may consist of 2 of the 60 DRY days of the year.

Also, as you can see, the schedule has been newly re-formatted. The format was changed to give you more information about the rides and meeting locations, directions, and times, allowing you to decide to come to meetings that are closer to your home.

Your schedule is conveniently printed on one sheet of paper, so that you can throw it in your tank bag, and have all the information in one place.

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### **Entertainment**

During the last ride on March 22nd, something caught my eye that had me laughing for the rest of the day. I have to share it with our members.

The license plate frame on Jennifer's EX500 has to be the best I've ever seen. The slogan reads:

**"Don't You Wish ... I Was Riding You?"**

**"The Faster I Go ... The Behinder You Get!"**

- Mat McDanold CBR1000F

**"Her's, Not His!"**

- Kathy Kost VFR750