

Washington State Chapter July, 1997

May 31 - Mt. Baker - Rain Delay

Meeting for breakfast is always fun, but the rain does put a damper on things. I guess that's what happens in the Pacific Northwest - constant drizzle!

Mat, Bob, Dan, Chris, Mark, Theresa, and myself showed at Mitzel's to have a BS session. Everyone was curious about Mark, Kirby, and me going down to Reno over Memorial Day weekend so we divulged the juicy details on riding the eastern Oregon countryside. Mark's major news was the acquisition of a new, all red, '96 900RR with a Two-Brothers system. I guess he got tired of chasing me and Kirby on our 900's all weekend. I commend you on your choice Mark!

June 8 - Mt. Baker - Postponed

It doesn't take long for us to get back in the saddle if it rains. We made up the Mt. Baker run as an impromptu ride on June 8th. Most of the regular riders were notified and a few were able to make it on the short notice. This wasn't officially a club ride, but I'll include the details for you just the same...

At breakfast, we decided to make up the Mt. Baker ride that had rained out previously. Mark, Chris, Jennifer, Bob, and myself rode, while Mat rode about half-way with us, and Dan Meekhof showed for breakfast only.

We started up I-5 and exited at Marysville for gas and to head over to the coast by way of Marine View Drive. After cruising by Kayak Point, we continued north just past Warm Beach and headed east towards I-5 along Norman Road. At the end of this stretch (STOP sign), make a quick right, then left again (kinda like a chicane.) Mat headed home from this point while we hopped on Old 99 and headed north parallel to I-5 and crossed I-5 at Starbird Road. Here we got lost trying to get over to SR-9 and ended up making a loop back to the Stanwood exit at I-5. Again, we headed north on Old 99 and this time tried a different loop. Finally we found our way to SR-9, directly before the twisties of Lake McMurray.

We continued north along SR-9, after getting through Sedro Woolley, and made a right at Mosquito Lake Road, just after going through Acme. (I wonder if this is where Wile E. Coyote gets his gear from...)

After nearly getting taken out by a pissed off horse owner, we stopped for lunch at the Nooksack Casino, where the burgers are great, and the gaming was generous.

Due to time limitations imposed upon us by Jennifer (just kidding) - we rode home from that point, making our way south on SR-9, and catching I-5 southbound.

We had no mechanical problems, or police intervention during our ride, which was already pretty mellow. Mosquito Lake Road had some rubble in the road, one bad area in particular, but everyone made it through just fine. The dark clouds ahead of us when we stopped for lunch caused us to bag the trip up to the summit.

June 14 - Winthrop - North Cascade Highway

This year of riding so far has far exceeded my expectations. Turn out has been huge, and our regular group of riders seems to be growing. Having 12 people show up for a ride that really had no prior planning, and then deciding to make a 500 mile day out of it was great. The weather couldn't be any better - 90's predicted east of the mountains, and that was the deciding factor.

Attendees were Mark Grabrick, Chris Harnish, Larry Wacek, Mat McDanold, Jim Claussen, Dan Meekhof, Kirby Drawbaugh, Peter Broda, Stan Kendall, Trevor Norsworthy, Tom Johnson, and myself.

After eating, and discussing the options, Peter finally talked us into going to Winthrop. At first thought, I planned on making up the Dewatto ride, but the weather was so nice, that it called for a LONG ride.

After getting on the freeway, I exited shortly after in Marysville and followed the same route as described previously, up to Starbird Road. We hopped on I-5 and headed north to Mt. Vernon, at which time we noticed the Larry and Stan were not in tow. Trevor had wanted to stop to buy a sweatshirt, so we pulled

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over, took some pictures, and figured we would catch up to Larry and Stan along Hwy 20 to Winthrop. We didn't. Either they kept going straight through, didn't stop for gas, and didn't eat, or turned around somewhere and didn't bother telling us. Either way, it was an uncomfortable feeling to me since I feel responsible for keeping track of everyone. Since I feel like the designated baby-sitter, please let ME know BEFORE you go your own way and separate from the group. I'd really appreciate it.

We encountered one blue-light-special in Concrete, where it was anticipated and we were already down to 25 mph at the time. The detector alerted us well ahead of time. The speed limit drops to 30 mph and is **strictly** enforced. If you ever pass through Concrete, heed this warning. Also be wary of Newhalem. We didn't encounter any there, but in the summer months, they staff up.

Continuing along Hwy 20, we finally got to the mountain pass roads heading around Diablo and Ross Dams. The roads are HSS (High Speed Sweepers) and there was hardly any traffic. I thought it would be nice to take pictures of riders ON the road, so I pulled off, just past a sharp turn where I knew that people would come through leaning hard. Unfortunately some cars mingled in and I only got one good shot, of Mat. I can't wait to see the picture - might be worthy of a 8x10! I wanted to get Peter, but being the rabbit that he is, the only good shot I got of him was from above at an overlook of the twisty road from about 1/2 mile away. See that dot - that's Peter fully leaned over, really, it is.

After almost a solid hour of HSS, we finally got to Winthrop, pulled over, and ate lunch. We looked for Stan and Larry, but to no avail. We also talked about going back and doing it all over again, but instead, we continued on towards Chelan, Entiat, and Wenatchee

along SR-153 and US-97. From here we had two good choices to get home - going over Stevens (US-2) or Blewett Pass (continuing along US-97.)

Mat headed solo over Stevens, while the 6 of us that were left, headed over Blewett. Again, a lot of HSS that seemed to be even better heading north to south than the other way. Peter, Mark, and myself seemed to put a little distance between us and Chris, Kirby, and Trevor. Mark was really flying on the new 900RR - I'd say he has gotten the hang of it quite quickly.

We planned for one last break at Snoqualmie Pass and we went our separate ways after that. The weather was fantastic, the bikes ran great, and we definitely took advantage of the day. After all that riding, I was still up for more - I went home, took a shower, put the leathers back on, and rode to Mt. Baker to visit the folks. Chalk up another 120 miles...

June 21-22 - Sol Duc Hot Springs - Rained Out

Mother nature did it again... Stay tuned for a re-scheduling of this ride, possibly August 23-24.

Upcoming Events

June 27-30 - Shilo Inn Lounge, Seaside OR. - 10 pm
Western Oregon Coast

July 12 - Mitzel's in Canyon Park - 8 am
Ride to Winthrop / Cascade Loop

July 18-20 - Martha and Rod Eastwood's Res. - 7 pm
Spokane / Montana

On the net - <http://www.snwsc.com/hsta/main.htm>