

Washington State Chapter
January, 1998

Show Edition !!!

1997 Christmas Party

The party was a great success. Twelve members attended - Mat & Nicki, Jim, Mark, Chris, Bryce, Elbert, Rich & Ann, Kirby & Adelle, and myself. Bob and Dan Meekhof were picking up Dan's new dual-sport in North Bend, OR and were unable to attend.

After most of the food had been devoured, and all the tales were told, we did something new. I wanted to present awards for various 1997 antics on club rides. The awards were presented as follows:

- ♦ **Bob Kramer / *Is the Kickstand Down? Award*** / for tipping his bike in a parking lot while standing on the wrong side to catch it.
- ♦ **Bryce Ulrich / *Get Away from my Bike Award*** / Mr. Electronics, with all the bells and whistles, now darts off his bike before people can start to ask questions.
- ♦ **Chris Harnish / *Beam Me Up, Scotty Award*** / having attempted to warp into the 90's on a VFR750 (2 of 'em) from 1982 bikes (2 of 'em). Warp Failure - Abort!
- ♦ **Dan Hytry / *Can't go, Needa Clean My Wheels Award*** / to recognize my obsession with cleaning my wheels after every ride. I now carry WD/40 in the trunk at all times.
- ♦ **Dan Meekhof / *McGuyver Award*** / anyone who can keep a bike running for as long as Dan has, deserves this award. One side note - the Hurricane has an evil twin out there somewhere! We've seen it!
- ♦ **Elbert Silbaugh / *Hooked on Phonics Award*** / famous for missing meetings (I counted 3) because he didn't double-check the time or location printed on the schedule.
- ♦ **Jennifer Wosachlo / *Just Chillin' Award*** / wind-chill got the better of her in the early part of the year. We all waited while she went to buy long-johns.
- ♦ **Jim Holzberger / *D.O.T. Award*** / not only can Jim always find a gravel road at will, but he can also find ones that include low-flying golf balls too.
- ♦ **Kevin Jaquith / *Are We There Yet? Award*** / always wondering how to make the Ducati go faster, quicker, and handle better. When you get there... we'll let you know!
- ♦ **Kirby Drawbaugh / *Tortoise and the Hare Award*** / for crushing me in the Bunburner 1500 Endurance Rally.
- ♦ **Larry Wacek / *Ghost Rider Award*** / how many times did we get down the road only to find that Larry was no longer in tow? Come to think of it, we didn't see him at the party either. Maybe in spirit...

- ♦ **Mark Grabrick / *Big Man On Campus Award*** / tired of being the 'small fry' on a 600F2, the only club member who gave into peer pressure to buy a bigger bike!
- ♦ **Mat McDanold / *Roadkill Cafe Award*** / for his uncanny ability to seek and destroy any moving objects on or near the road. Poor birdie!
- ♦ **Mike Hansen / *Just-in-Time Award*** / being the newest member of the club, he gets this award for joining HSTA just-in-time. Get it?
- ♦ **Peter Broda / *OUTSTANDING Award*** / for riding from Billings to Missoula (350 miles) on rubber so thin, you could see the air on the inside upon arrival!
- ♦ **Tom Johnson / *Pinnocchio Award*** / after tipping the bike over performing a U-turn on uneven gravel, he still couldn't reach the pegs - one broke off.

Regarding the 1998 schedule, it was stipulated we will have one meeting per month that is consistent - second Saturday @ Kennydale Denny's @ 8am. You can tell your friends to show up without fear of checking the schedule. Other meetings to be held in conjunction with planned events. We will have a February meeting on the 3rd Saturday @ Kennydale Denny's @ NOON.

First Ride: ZX-9R by Jim Holzberger

What to do on a Saturday while the Huskies are losing? Take a test ride on the 1998 Kawasaki ZX-9R!

I was fortunate to wrangle a ride on one of the first of these amazing machines to hit our shores. Unfortunately, the weather was somewhat uncooperative (45deg. and intermittent drizzle) and did not allow me to explore the 9R's cornering capabilities. What I can say about the bike is that it's comfortable, light, and wicked fast. Like a 900RR only more so. Hop on the 600 size machine and fire it up. It only takes a minute for two bars to show on the digital temp. gauge and you're ready to go.

Tall first gear- not to worry, the 9R will pull cleanly from low RPM. Get out on the road in traffic and appreciate the light nimble feel. Nice bike, I think to myself, feels like a firmly suspended F3. A few miles south and the traffic clears enough to exercise the highly oversquare motor. Roll into the throttle at an indicated 35mph in 2nd and hold on! The 9R rockets forward

First Ride: ZX-9R continued...

as the front wheel reaches for the sky, grab 3rd and 4th and you're literally flying. Time to check out the binders, 6 piston Tokico's with great feel and bite. I've never ridden anything that accelerates as fiercely as the 9R.

Clyde Akers at Puyallup Kawasaki had already put on some ultrasticky D207GPs by the time I got to ride the bike. Good thing, as wheelspin was easy to induce on the cold semi-damp pavement. The 9R really rips. Of course, for someone as tall as me the top half of the tach is obscured by the back edge of the windscreen. Fancy new electronic carbs and 3D ignition mapping courtesy of a throttle position sensor make for a near seamless rush of power. The faster the engine turns, the harder it pulls. Throttle response is quicker than with most CV type carbs, no noticeable lag. I'm glad that it was bilious Kawasaki Racing Green or I might have had to rethink my Yamaha order.

Kawasaki should do something about the harsh compression damping in the front, the front wheel has a difficult time tracking the pavement under hard acceleration - even at just slightly over the speed limit. Perhaps this can be dialed out, but I think a call to RaceTech or Lindemann would be in order. If my new Yamaha is this good I'll be overjoyed.

I'm afraid, very afraid - for my license that is. Clyde was good enough to let me sample his new bike, he has 4 more coming. '98 looks to be the year of the Sportbike.

Seattle Motorcycle Show

We DO have a booth this year - come see us!

1998 WMRRA/OMRRA Schedule

Apr	4	Bremerton Rider School
	18-19	Portland Practice/Race
	25-26	Seattle Practice/Race
May	9-10	Spokane Practice/Race
	16-17	Portland Practice/Race
	30-31	Seattle Vintage/Superteams/Race
Jun	13-14	Bremerton Practice/Race
	28	Portland Race
Jul	5	Bremerton Rider School
	12	Seattle Race
	17-19	Portland FUSA Weekend
Aug	15-16	Seattle Vintage/Superteams/Race
	22-23	Portland Practice/Race
Sep	5-6	Spokane Vintage/Superteams/Race
	18-20	Portland Practice/Vintage/Race
Oct	4	Portland Race

Upcoming Events

January 2-4 - Seattle Motorcycle Show - HSTA Booth
Washington Convention & Trade Center, Seattle
Fri 5 pm - 10 pm, Sat 10 am - 9 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm

February 21 - Denny's in Renton (Kennydale) - **12 noon**
First 1998 Club Meeting, Ride ???

March 14 - Denny's in Renton (Kennydale) - 8 am
Club Meeting, Ride to Snoqualmie Valley

March 28 - Mitzel's in Monroe - 8 am
Ride to Granite Falls

See 1998 HSTA Event Calendar for complete details!

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