

Washington State Chapter April, May, June 2000

April 8 – Granite Falls / Lake Cavanaugh

The first half went great. Mercer Island was a treat for those that didn't know about the loop. Soon thereafter, we had a pucker factor 5 narrowly avoiding a spinning Subaru in the middle of I-90 at freeway speeds.

After that, we retraced some good roads from previous rides, including Issaquah-Fall City Road. I was looking forward to the afternoon of no traffic, and gorgeous scenery. Turns out, that at our gas stop in Monroe, Mark had to go to a DIFFERENT gas station than the rest of us. We filled and waited for a while, then headed out again. We didn't see Mark so I held back and waited longer. I told the group to go ahead (mistake #1) and that we would catch up.

Mat took over as leader, and then someone told him that we lost some more people. Turns out that Jim and Bryan also fell back to wait for Mark and I (mistake #2). Somewhere along the way, Alan got separated and now we had 4 groups of riders going different directions.

Mark and I pulled out about 2 minutes behind the group from Monroe. I followed the roads that I thought (mistake #3) Mat would take, since we talked about them the day earlier. I didn't run into Jim & Bryan, Alan, or the rest of the group upon arriving in Granite Falls.

I guessed (mistake #4) that they went on to Arlington (knowing that Mat rides fast, and not knowing that anyone else was looking for me). Mark and I hauled to Arlington (never breaking the speed limit ☺), and waited 20 minutes once we got there. As I cussed inside my helmet that Mat must've continued onward, we jumped back on and hauled butt x2 (never below the speed limit ☺) to get to Lake Cavanaugh. Still no signs of anyone as we started to backtrack our steps.

Meanwhile – Mat backtracked to Monroe to look for us. He found Alan, but didn't see Jim or Bryan. At Monroe, people were getting antsy and I don't blame them. From there, I guess the group disbanded. After Mark and I arrived back in Arlington, we saw Jim and Bryan. I picked up my cell phone, and after checking my voicemail, figured out what happened. Should I have called earlier? Probably. (mistake #5)

Synopsis:

Mark and I arrived in Granite Falls before the rest of the group. I guess I overestimated Mat's speed, and while we were chasing him, he was still behind us.

For those that missed out on the Lake Cavanaugh part of the ride, it was simply awesome. I think I passed all of about 2 cars and the roads were in pristine condition. I think we'll get another chance to make this one up later in the year.

I apologize to anyone who came out for the first time and had to see this. Those of us that know each other, just feel stupid about the whole thing. We do have communicators, and I guess this is a great example of why we should be using them.

May 13 - Leavenworth

Well, this proved to be a spirited ride over some great roads. After breakfast in Renton, we headed up the freeway to make up some time since having 12 riders at breakfast took a little longer than usual.

Once in Monroe, we met up with Joel, and continued east along Ben Howard Road. Great twisties alongside the farm lands and only minimal gravel.

Now on US-2, going over Steven's Pass, it was more like droning, on a 2-lane mountain highway. As we passed a group of Datsun 280Z's, who were being touched by the "long arm", I thought the coast would be clear. We crested the pass, and still didn't see any law dogs, so I started to stretch the CBR's legs. Watching my mirrors, and still having a number of bikes right on my tail, I assumed the pace was okay for most. Not another couple of turns ahead, and *poof*, another one of Washington's finest.

We stopped after rolling by him at something over the speed limit, and I introduced myself. He asked the usual questions without any hostility, and informed that he would be looking at ID's and letting us go.

I think I jinxed us at breakfast after telling everyone what minimal law intervention we've experienced on club rides over the last couple of years. Back on the road, we behaved for awhile (a few turns) and picked up the pace as we headed into Leavenworth.

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May 13 – Leavenworth con't

Finally arriving, we regrouped (since some people disassociated themselves as we were pulled over) and had an early lunch. Leavenworth had some sort of German festival going on at the time that we arrived but we didn't stick around long enough to put on our Leiderhosen and join in. We mounted back up and headed back, this time by way of US-97, abusing some fantastic HSS (high-speed sweepers) over Blewett Pass.

After stopping in Cle Elum for a late lunch, we continued home on I-90. As we were coming down from Snoqualmie Pass, Dave Gleason (CBR600) tossed a master link, and as a result dropped his chain. Marv and Paul were able to field repair the chain and hobble the bike to I-90 Motorsports in Issaquah (free ad), where the more permanent fix was made.

This shows the true spirit of HSTA. Always willing to pull over and help a biker in need. I had no knowledge of the incident until I got to work on Monday and read my e-mail. From various reports, all went smoothly. Luckily, no one was hurt by the loose chain, and everyone got home safe.

In Loving Memory - Nadine Berthold

I'm sorry to report that one of our members to the south suffered a fatal motorcycle accident. The service was held April 1st in Portland. Nadine did not suffer, and died while doing what she loved to do, riding her motorcycle. Members from Rose City Motorcycle Club were in attendance as were other members of HSTA, including Jim Holzberger and myself.

Events At-A-Glance

June							July						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3							1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

June 10 - Denny's in Kenndale – 8am Breakfast
Club Meeting / Ride to Mt Baker

June 25-29 – STAR2000 – Avon, CO

July 7-9 – SUPERBIKE Races – Laguna Seca, CA

July 8 - Denny's in Kenndale – 8am Breakfast
Club Meeting / Ride to Mt St Helens

July 22 - Mitzel's in South Everett – 8am Breakfast
Club Meeting / Ride to Mt Baker

July 29 - Kingston Inn – 8am Breakfast
Club Meeting / Ride to Neah Bay

NOTE CHANGE:

August 18-20 – OREGON CAMP-OUT
Cascade Locks, OR

Contacts: John and Rhoda Strode (OR State Co-Dirs)
Cascade KOA for Reservations: 1-800-KOA-8698

NEW: www.geocities.com/MotorCity/Garage/4714/