

Washington State Chapter Late August, 2000

July 8 – Mt St Helens by Mat McDanold

Meeting at the usual place, for breakfast. I wasn't sure how many or who would show up for this ride. All I knew was, Dan wasn't going to be here and I was hoping that someone else with that much road experience would arrive so I didn't have to lead the ride.

Attendees were Russ Gienau (ZX-9R), Joel Vaughn and his girlfriend Lisa (CBR1000F), 3 boys from Bremerton, and a potential new member on an ST1100. Since nobody knew exactly how to get to Mt. St. Helens, I ended up leading the ride but I didn't exactly know where I was going either. I'd been there before but I always followed someone else.

We headed south on I-5 to Tacoma where I took us down SR-7 into Spanaway. After we stopped at 300+ stop lights, we finally made it through the stop and go BS. We continued down 7 until we reached Morton. We stopped again for 10 minutes to stretch our legs out and use the bathroom. Everyone topped off and we proceeded towards Randle, where we would turn south traveling on FR-25 for approx. 20 miles and then turning right onto FR-99. Making a couple stops along the way we finally arrived at Windy Ridge.

On the way back, Russ offered to shoot some video of the group turning corners so we all thought that was a good deal. Giving him about a 5-minute head start we started our decent back towards Randle. Just before we arrived back at FR-25 we passed Russ and he mentioned that a truck got in the middle of the shot so he offered to film once again. The next corner he set up on was virtually a hairpin and I was excited because I could lean farther into the turn. Ironically, another truck went by, hugging the centerline, at the moment we were leaning into the corner. This caused enough of a distraction for the rider behind me to miss the corner and wash out in the soft side of the road.

Luckily everyone was ok and though the bike suffered damage, it was still rideable, thankfully. We declared it to be lunchtime so we headed back to Randle where we ate lunch at the Mt. St. Helens Inn.

As we walked through the door into the restaurant, who should I happen to walk into but Dan Meekhof, of all people. The irony to that is Dan Hytry

ran into Dan Meekhof twice in Packwood preceding this trip to Randle so I made it 3 times in three trips. Small town or Dan Meekhof has ESP.

On the return trip, Russ took over and lead us into Lacey on a few back roads. From there we all headed in separate directions.

July 22 – Mt Baker

Wow, great ride, great turnout. We had 11 bikes at the outset, and after Jim Appleby (who rode down from Bellingham) peeled off, we had 10 determined riders heading up to the summit of Mt Baker.

Trevor Norsworthy showed up with his son, who had just completed an MSF course. I was a little worried and asked Trevor if he had briefed his son on HOW we ride. He did fine. Lucky kid even got to ride the old man's new VFR800! There's some trust!

Alan was sporting a new bike (5th in as many months) and said that he really enjoys the SV650 that he's currently on.

After stopping briefly in Maple Falls, I gave a warning about the 15mph switchbacks as you approach the ski area. They ARE sharp and can easily be blown by not respecting them. As it turns out, many thanked me for the warning because they ended up blowing them anyway. At least they were prepared. ☺

On the way back, we continued towards Bellingham to catch SR-11 (aka Chuckanut Drive). As we got on the freeway in B'Ham, it started to rain. We took the first exit and it really started to come down. Half the group (the ones with pink panties) tucked their tails between their legs, and ran for home. The other half (the ones with big hairy cajones and a death wish) continued to do Chuckanut in the rain. We got soaked. Not just a little wet, but completely saturated.

Back on I-5, we pulled over at Smokey Point, where we found Larry dripping at the rest area. Since it now stopped raining, we blasted the rest of the way home. Miserable ending to a long day of great riding.

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July 29 – Neah Bay by Jeff Cahill

Four bikes showed up: Jean and I (2-up), a buddy from work (ZX-11), Marv, and Dan Paulsen from Graham, WA. A brief stop at the Hood Canal Bridge, a stop for a car that went off the road, and we were off.

Lots of gravel in all the shady spots, so had to be careful. We made it to Neah Bay by about 12:30. We looked at the map and decided to take a small loop just past the town and then back into town for lunch. I was in the lead and came around a corner, started accelerating on the straight, and the pavement ended! No warning at all. Jean and I hit a huge pothole in the wet gravel, went airborne, and went down.

Our riding gear saved our asses as we were up to about 35-40 mph. We're both OK, just a little sore on the left side, and the bike is pretty much cosmetics. It rode fine the rest of the day.

We ate lunch in Neah Bay, put some ice on Jean's foot, and hosed off the bike at an RV park. Dan broke off at SR-113 and headed south while the three of us went back SR-112 to be at the BBQ by 6:00pm. That was a nice end to the day and the ribs were tender! Jean and I were quite popular, as you can imagine.

We headed back with Marv to the ferry and we were home by 10:30pm or so. My buddy spent the night at the park.

Other than the wipe-out, a great 357-mile day.

Events At-A-Glance

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

Aug 12 - Denny's in Kenndale – 8am Breakfast
Club Meeting / Ride to Mt St Helens

Aug 18-20 – Oregon Campout – Friday Evening
KOA in Cascade Locks, Oregon
Contact: John or Rhoda Strode (541) 863-5303

September 1-4 – Oregon Outing IV – Friday Evening
Pendleton, OR
Contact: Dan Hytry (206) 612-2821

Sept 9 – Mitzel's in South Everett – 8am Breakfast
Club Meeting / Ride to Winthrop

Sept 10 - Denny's in Kenndale – 8am Breakfast
Ride for Kids (Enumclaw)

Sept 15-17 – Packwood Pursuit – Friday Evening
Dan Meekhof's Residence, Packwood, WA
Contact: Dan Hytry (206) 612-2821