

Washington State Chapter Early September, 2000

August 12 – Mt St Helens

I was really looking forward to this ride because I knew that I wouldn't be carrying a passenger (not that I mind), and because I was trying to burn off as much of the rear tire as possible (read "able to ride REAL fast").

While at breakfast, I had a great surprise. Dawn, my wife who was not planning on coming, showed up on her F3, looking to ride with the big dogs. We had talked before that she felt she wasn't ready to do St Helens, being a new rider, but I was glad to see her make the attempt to ride with us.

10 bikes showed for today, while we were to meet one more along the way. We had 2 Larry's, 2 Dan's, 2 Don's (1 Dawn), Russ, Bob, Marv, and Jon. I probably would've forgot to mention John, except that there was something that caused him to stand out.

We started with doing some back roads through Renton, and continued through some of my favorite roads with little or no enforcement to Enumclaw. From there we went through the valley near Orting, and out towards Eatonville. Slight diversion due to a parade in Morton turned out to be a great sideroad. We'll do that one again! At Randle, Dawn continued through Packwood on home, and we motored to the top of Windy Ridge. We met up with Paul (twice totalled Hayabusa) Gienau on the way up.

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. (having dejavu? See Mat's report last month)

Same deal, same result! No sooner did we shoot through the "picture zone" did someone go off into the Twilight Zone. Any guesses as to who it was?

After reviewing the scene, and putting together what happened, it looked like Jon got caught up in the scenery and forgot to make the turn. He bailed in a good spot in that he rolled down an embankment of only 50 feet and the bike stayed relatively close to the roadway. He suffered a cut below his right knee and some road rash on his back. Didn't break any bones, but the VTR he was on was unridable due to a broken right handlebar caused by the high-side flipover. Luckily medical

attention was nearby, and he got a ride to the hospital where they cleaned him up.

After getting a hold of HRCA for towing, which took about 2 hours total, we were back on the road and completed the day by looping through Packwood and over Cayuse Pass to Enumclaw, and then home. This day was 336.9 miles and 6:45 total riding time, according to Larry Mayer's trick digitripmeter.

Jon is a walking example for wearing the right gear – leather, or at least something durable that zips together to form a one-piece unit. Jeans and a t-shirt did not provide much protection. I hope he chooses wisely next time.

Bridgestone Battlax BT56SS

Jim steered me towards the new BT56SS and I'm glad he did. I don't do a whole lot of product recommendation but because I've been so impressed with my tires, I had to say something.

Prior to leaving for California, I put on new rubber thinking that I'd be lucky to make it home on one set. I would've expected that 3000 HARD miles would be about all I could get from them. I got back from Cali with 2800 miles on the odometer and the tires still looked great. Now, another 2500 miles later, I still have them on the bike. I tried to use them up on St Helens, but to be honest, I'm going to have to SMOKE them off because I KNOW they won't last another 2000 miles, for the Oregon Outing.

They hooked up great from the minute they were mounted. No slip, no 50-mile break-in, no nothing!

For something less aggressive, Bridgestone is offering the BT010, and BT020 for longer tire life. I ride my bike pretty hard, but for those of you less likely to be in "high-speed" mode, the above tires are probably a great fit as well. The cost on mail order is about \$115 for the rear, and \$85 for the front. Add shipping and mounting, and you're probably getting a great deal! Expect to pay \$150, and \$130, plus tax, plus mounting at local shops.

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Sept 1-4 Oregon Outing IV

Here's the information that you all are asking for. Looks like you have a couple of options...

We will use Pendleton as a base camp, and branch out from there on day-rides Saturday, and Sunday. We'll probably ride the Blue Ridge Mountains one day and discuss other options for the other day. Monday will consist of your ride home.

Places to stay (increasing in cost) are:

Traveler's Inn, 310 SE Dorion Avenue
(541) 276-6231, Price is Low.
John and Rhoda Strode are booked here.

Super 8, 601 SE Nye Avenue
(541) 276-8881, Price is Medium
Dan and Dawn Hytry are booked here.

Best Western, 400 SE Nye Avenue
(541) 276-2135, Price is Medium-high

Red Lion Hotel, 304 SE Nye Avenue
(541) 276-6111, Price is no object (High)

We'll meet for dinner Friday at 8pm or
for breakfast Saturday at 8am at the:
Shari's, 319 SE Nye Avenue
Next door to the Super 8 above.

Events At-A-Glance

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

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 Kennydale** – 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

October 14 – **HSTA Dinner at Olive Garden** – 7pm
Club Meeting / Recap of the Season
Olive Garden at Totem Lake
11325 NE 124th Avenue
(425) 820-7740