

Washington State Chapter February-April, 2001

January 13 – Lunch & Go Karts

I think we should establish our Club Motto as:
“Pray for Rain”

Here's why. We went go-kart racing in an indoor track at Sy-Kart in Tukwila. What a hoot! The cost was \$13 for 10-minutes, which may seem steep. But, at the end of that 10-minutes, you find yourself reaching into your wallet, and running to the counter to buy another session so that you can get back on the track. It was a workout to boot – most felt the pain in their wrists, while my lower back felt the toll.

We had 12 show up for lunch at Claim Jumper – which was fantastic. A couple of new prospects are still forthcoming, and Tim from Florida is really looking forward to some twisty roads, as opposed to Florida's straight highways. Can't wait to take him up St. Helens.

After lunch, we all then cruised over to Sy-Kart and suited up. Trevor and Sean met us there, and I expected to see Dean, but he never showed. After a brief video on what to do, and more importantly, what NOT to do, we started racing. Jim and Donald pretty showed the rest how it was done. Great lap times were recorded and everyone had fun. I can't wait for the next time! This was the perfect activity to do in lieu of riding in the rain on ride days. Pray for rain!

March 10 – Snoqualmie Valley

For the start of the season, the weather wasn't all that bad. It was a little chilly, but then again, no one came to ride the wheels off this early, right? A lot of the usual people came out so it was good to see familiar faces of those that hadn't ridden much with us in the last couple of years. Welcome Back!

After having lunch, we took some of my favorite little roads out of Renton, through Issaquah, and out towards Carnation. Nothing really exciting happened until Marv took the lead. I waved him by, thinking he would show us a new road that we talked about at lunch, and all I saw was a big puff of carbon being blown out the exhaust on his RF900. He went by, and it was obvious that the bike hadn't been hammered like that in a while. I had to back off for fear of CO poisoning.

We started getting into it, and as we came around a car on a straight stretch, an oncoming cruiser looked familiar. Sure enough, it was a cop. We backed off, awaiting him to turn around and come talk to us, but he stayed his path, and we took our first “warning” in stride.

We explored some new roads that I was unfamiliar with, and as we came through a residential area, Marv introduced us to a roller-coaster on asphalt. Nice neighborhood, fantastic street that had ups and downs, even a few residents took notice as we came through. Hopefully none of them got any of our license numbers. ;-)

The ride concluded quickly as we came into the backside of Totem Lake and hopped on the freeway. We put in just enough miles to call it a day and the weather held off long enough for us to get home. I know I can't wait to start putting on some monster miles this year... Live to ride, ride to live!

Blast in Palm Springs by Cary Perkins

I missed the first ride with you guys. My girlfriend conned me into going to Palm Springs.

What do you get when you mate a Honda Spree and a Harley Sportster? The Buell Blast, of course. It was the closest thing that I could find to a sporty bike to rent. 35 HP of single thumpin' fun. A girly-man's dream.

Off into the seventy-degree temps up Hwy 74 towards San Diego. A bit of NoCal in SoCal. It was a beauty of a twisty road into the mountains that surround Palm Springs. The temp dropped twenty degrees or more at the 5000 ft level. I was freezing my privates off.

What would a good ride for me be without hypothermia? Absolutely nothing!

I spotted two new Ducati 900SS's parked up at a country cafe near Idilwild. I pulled in for hot coffee and chat. Turns out the owners of these Duckies are millionaires from Seattle! They keep the 900's at their winter homes in Palm Springs. They own one of everything back home in the NW. NE Oregon is a favorite of their group, as well.

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Blast in Palm Springs con't

On through the sweepers to my turn around point, Wagner Springs. I did it all again, backwards. This must be one of best bits in all of SoCal. Go do it some day. You'll be happy.

The second day was spent through the Joshua Tree National Park. Wonderful place to moto a little street bike. Not a piece of straight road for a hundred miles through the high desert. They also have a midnight hike through the park for nudists. I'll need to go back for that. Great place this desert.

I shed a tear when I had to give my little bike buddy back to the owners. There is something to be said for smaller bore bikes. Light, Flickable, Useable power.

I'll see you guy's next time. I'll have my CBR327RR by then. Fireblade with a small block Chevy.

I've Moved

You'll notice on the return label, that I've moved. No wonder the NL has taken 3 months to get out! It was time to get into a bigger house and with the interest rates down, this was the perfect time. Now I have a garage so, I'll be able to polish everything after club rides.

As a result, next year's meeting schedule will reflect more meetings being held further south. Just kidding... no changes will occur.

However, I would like to host the Christmas party this year. I guess that IS a change. ;-)

Events At-A-Glance

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

April 14 – Denny's in Kennydale – **8 am Breakfast**
Club Meeting / Ride through Snoqualmie Valley

May 12 – Petosa's in Monroe – **8 am Breakfast**
Club Meeting / Ride to Granite Falls + Lake Cavanaugh

Oregon Outing V May 25-28

May 25 – Shari's in Puyallup – 7 am Breakfast
10904 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, 253-539-0417

LOOK AT THE ADDRESS!

There are no definite plans made for this ride yet, but it will probably follow the same way that OO IV did last September. Look towards Pendleton for Friday night on May 25th. Please confirm your intentions on this ride, and let me know any of your ideas.

We will avoid Pig farmers this time!!!

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