

Washington State Chapter March-June, 2002

February 9 – Sykart by Mark Grabrick

Racing didn't happen on Saturday as expected. I met Alan at the door and he informed me that a group had rented the place for an hour. So instead of opting to call it a day, Tim said, "Let's do lunch."

We ended up at Simply Thai by Southcenter Mall. The food was great. Attendees were Alan Belnap, Tim Popovich, Jim Holzberger, Alan's cousin Brady and another friend. Newcomer Stan, who has been a member for over a year, joined us from the Carolina's. The food at Simply Thai is very good to say the least if you like Thai food.

At Sykart, we were able to see that the track layout has changed. The racing line is much different now than from last month. Some guys are talking of riding to Snoqualmie Valley next month so we'll see how the weather is. Until next time...MG

March 9 – Sykart by Mark Grabrick

We had an excellent turnout for racing. Racers were as follows, Stan, Jim Holzberger (recovering from the flu), Tim, Heather (Tim's GF), Alan, Christina (my fiancée), and myself. Stan had an early start with a heat run before we signed up, so he was already to go for the next round. Dan and Dawn showed up later, after we already started the second round of racing. Times for the first race are as follows: Best lap times were: Tim at 29.82, me at 30.03, Stan 30.47, Christina 30.92, and Heather with a best lap time of 33.47. We had a hoot racing, considering we had another couple who T-boned the pole headon in the back section of the course, causing all types of problems around the track.

Stan and I decided to have one more race. The course was running fast in this heat as there weren't as many drivers. The following "best lap" times posted for that race were Stan at 29.38 and me at 28.41. Much faster the second time around.

If you have a membership to this place and have 5 races with a lap time of 28.00 seconds or faster for people up to 200 lbs, you get to move up to the 9.0 hp karts (the ones we race are the 6.5 hp.) If you are

considering racing more than just a few times a year that might not be a bad way to go. Hope to see everyone next month's ride. MG

April 13 – Snoqualmie Valley

We had a rather large gathering at Dennys to kick-off the riding year. Most of the breakfast discussion centered around plans for Laguna, and Jim's new dual-sport that he rode to breakfast from Puyallup. Needless to say, he didn't partake in the club ride this day.

Some new faces appeared. Daryl Wilson and his daughter joined us following breakfast for a quick little jaunt over the hill into Issaquah, Fall City, Carnation, and north through Snoqualmie Valley. Near the conclusion of the ride, I realized that I had lost some header nuts and my bike wasn't running 100%. Mark pulled out some metric nuts, I spun them on and we called it a day at that point. It was short but sweet and we accomplished what we set out to do... clear the cobwebs off the bikes, and out of our brains! With the weather being hit and miss all spring, we were lucky this day.

May 11 – Granite Falls

Wow – what a turnout for a great day of weather. This season has kicked off exactly as planned. I'm glad that we didn't punish ourselves by starting in March for riding.

As we assembled in Monroe, more and more bikes kept showing up. It turned out that another group had the same idea and destination so there must've been over 20 bikes at 8am. We had 16 with HSTA so I split the group in two and Mat and Marv each led half. Mat told me later he wasn't sure about leading a lot of people he wasn't familiar with but he did a fantastic job. Marv gets kudos for setting a brisk pace for what was considered the "slow" group, for lack of a better term.

I know this ride was successful because Mark didn't get lost. ☺ We reassembled at Granite Falls, and then again in Arlington. From there, we all went towards Lake Cavanaugh and were disappointed to discover the

Honda Sport Touring Association
Washington State Chapter
Dan Hytry, NW Regional Newsletter Editor
11200 SE 264th Place
Kent, WA 98031

May 11 – Granite Falls con't

chip-seal bandits had struck. Though the road was still grippy, we weren't familiar enough to clip along at normal pace to test the accumulations of gravel in the center and on the edges. Someone brought up lunch, so we backtracked to Smokey Point, and pondered the options. At this point, the group broke apart and we called it a day before noon. It was a short day in my mind, but once again, better to save the bike, than test people's limits this early in the year.

June 8 – Special ERC for HSTA

ERC stands for Experienced Rider Course and that is what 12 lucky people will be doing on June 8th. The Seaside ride is going to have to be postponed / cancelled so that we could make way for the ERC in our busy schedule.

Many members have expressed interest in doing this and since scheduling one is 4-5 months away, I pulled some strings, and put this together. I thought it would be nice to have the group get some pointers, and also have a fun day testing our limits in a safe environment. I will be catering the deal (for participants) and would encourage you to stop by if you have the time, and see what it's all about. We should be riding on the range at about 1:30, following lunch, until about 6pm, culminating in a skills evaluation. Riders will use their own bikes and learn finer points of braking, swerving, and turning at speeds.

Events At-A-Glance

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

May 24-27 – **Oregon Outing – Northeast, Oregon**

May 24 – **Shari's in Puyallup** – 7am Breakfast

10904 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup

Contact: Dan Hytry 206-612-2821

June 7-9 - **Seaside, Oregon** – **Cancelled** (see below)

June 8 - **Experienced Rider Course for HSTA**

Renton Class / Kent Range – 8am

June 15 – **Mt Baker (Local Ride)** – 8am, No Breakfast

Meet at the Truck Scales, northbound I-5, So Everett

June 21-23 – **LOLO Pass – Idaho to Montana**

June 21 – **Shari's in Puyallup** – 7am Breakfast

10904 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup

Contact: Jim Holzberger 253-531-8180