



# the Beemer Reader

Newsletter of the BMW Riders of Vancouver Island

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## FROM THE EDITORS

### BREAKFAST AT THE OLYMPIC VIEW SEPT. 7

Sigh, another summer turned into memories. I guess it all goes by faster and faster as you get older (something to do with one year becoming a smaller and smaller percentage of your life?), but it sure seems like the riding months fly at a disproportionate rate. Oh well, more incentive to seize the moment. And anyway we still have the fall, my favorite riding season. Of course I probably say that of each of the (3) seasons in turn, but really, fall has the most valid reasons for being the best: you've had months of time spent in the saddle to hone your skills, the roads are generally in great shape, there's less traffic as the multi-wheeled behemoths start to return from whence they came and the kids return to school, and the riding is the sweeter for the awareness of its approaching pause. I feel invincible at this time, and have to remind myself that a bigger percentage of accidents involving bikes happen at this time of year than any other, probably having to do with just that feeling. But it's *so* sweet!

Yes, well. In this issue we have another new member, Richard Doucet, making his writing debut (with us I mean - he's been published in Cycle Canada, paid and everything!) He very graciously took the job of writing up the Washington Rally from my hands after I pointed out that he had after all a unique perspective on it, being a rally virgin at the time. Many thanks for an excellent article, and also thanks to him and to Bill and Gay Miller for their member profiles (remember those?)

Ride hard, ride safe, and enjoy! Love, Sally

### OLYMPIC VIEW GOLF CLUB ⊕ 9:30 AM ⊕

January 6 .....	Saturday
February 4 .....	Sunday
March 2 .....	Saturday
April 14 .....	Sunday
May 4 .....	Saturday
June 2 .....	Sunday
July 6 .....	Saturday
August 11 .....	Sunday
<b>September 7 .....</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
October 6 .....	Sunday
November 2 .....	Saturday
December 1 .....	Sunday

### ● IN THIS ISSUE ●

<b>1996 WA Rally - A Virgin's Tale</b> by Richard Doucet .....	<b>2</b>
<b>That Was A Party!</b> .....	<b>5</b>

#### Member Profiles:

**Richard Doucet**  
**Bill and Gay Miller**

## 1996 WA RALLY - A VIRGIN'S TALE

by Richard Doucet

This year's get together by the Washington State BMW club was in the southern Cascades. The town of Cashmere welcomed riders from as far away as New Hampshire, Vermont, and California. The "Canuck Gang" was present from BC and Alberta, with a good crowd from the "Big Island".



*Rally revellers from L to R: Author Richard, Lise, Brian, David and Marshall Berger - the one who married his sweetie while riding their bike, covered in the MOA two years ago*

Steve Daniels ("The Great Pumpkin") and I caught the Coho over to Port Angeles, hooking up with Highway 2 heading east through Stevens Pass. Once out of the Seattle suburbs the traffic disappeared and the road opened up, inviting us to exercise our right hands. The ride over the pass was a treat, with the temperature dropping as the road rose. Coming down the east side, the southern Cascades opened up before us. When we hit the valley bottom and Leavenworth the temperature was in the high 20s. It was looking to be a good weekend.

Arriving in Cashmere, we got directions at the gas bar to the fairgrounds, identified by the HUGE flag flapping in the breeze. We paid our rally fee (\$38 US), were handed a rally pack (schedule, meal tickets and pin) and hunted down the Island crowd. Sally and her entourage were camped out in between the animal barns (familiar territory I think!) *Hey, whad'ya mean by that??* A good place to pitch a tent actually, offering protection from the sun and wind and right next to the showers and washrooms. Steve and

I pitched our tents and settled in to "Rally Mode". It's time to admit I am a "Rally Virgin", so I really didn't know what to expect. We made a beverage run and then sat around "Party Central" getting to know everyone. Among the crew were California club member David "Mad Dog" Wells, and Kristin Ackerson's relatives from Arizona.

The fairgrounds proved to be a nicely laid out area for a rally - close to town, lots of level grass for camping, and great facilities. There was a small store selling rally stuff, and Ride West from Seattle (which used to be Buckingham's) set up shop selling accessories and doing repairs.

Friday dawned clear and sunny, a light breeze blowing over the fairgrounds. Once everyone was awake and had the "cocktail webs" shaken from their craniums, a few of us walked

into town to test the local cuisine. We had breakfast in a 1920's diner (can't remember the name) on the main drag, and luckily for our stomachs it was great. Big servings and lots of caffeine are a good cure for any lingering effects of a long night. Once back at the rally site, we relaxed and welcomed other riders as they arrived, alone or in groups. Everyone coming from the west was a bit soggy, having had to endure the wrath of Ma Nature until they got over Stevens Pass. Somehow, because of our location, the weather went around us the whole time. A few sprinkles came down Saturday and the clouds were threatening, but didn't have the heart to spoil our weekend. By late Friday more of the Island gang had shown up: Brian Radford and his Missus from Salt Spring, Stan Jensen and his daughter Kirsten, Gord Apperley, Doug Hunter and Barry Lucas - all together about 10 members from our club.

Saturday was scheduled to have several activities, the first ones at 9am being a GS run and a poker run for the road gang. Lise Duncan, David, Stan and I went for the GS run, through the state park in Forest Service roads and back to the site via some great back roads. The run through the state park was challenging and scenic, rising up to about 1000 meters before heading back into the valley. The Forest Service roads were perfect for GS riding - mostly dirt with

the odd stretches of loose gravel thrown in for some excitement. Lots of switch backs and blind sweepers to test our riding skills and traction capacity of our tires. On one corner with a wash-out, David discovered the disadvantages of ABS on dirt. In one of the few drop-offs with a ledge and some bushes, he tried out the flight capabilities of a GS1100. It doesn't. Over the edge he went. Luckily the bushes stopped further progress and we were able to haul his mount back on the road, with a few scrapes to his bike and one mangled bush. The Forest Service now calls this corner "Mad Dog Leap"! Near the end of the ride, on the paved section, we took the old Blewett Pass road for about 20 miles. This road is inactive (ie closed) and is nothing but hairpin turns connected by very short straights. All second and third gear, with a rock face on one side and bushes and drop-offs on the other. David and I led the pack, having an unofficial road race. Rounding one bend, we encountered a pick-up coming the other way. After passing us, he was run into the bushes by Lise. That girl has no fear! Amazingly, no one had any mishaps



*David will do anything to get more horsepower!*





*They say a picture is worth a thousand words!*

and we all arrived back in one piece. A great ride and a definite grin generator. The road riders also had a good run, but without any off-road excursions or playing chicken with pick-up trucks.

The show and shine was held in downtown Cashmere later that afternoon, to give the towns people a look at some of the bikes. Steve Daniels won the "Best Customized" award for his bike "The Great Pumpkin" (my name for it, not his). It really does look nice, with some fine customizing touches. Be sure to give it the once over at the next meeting. Also that afternoon were the field events, where Stan did some fine riding and some funny things with a chocolate coated hot dog! There were lots of laughs and a good demonstration of bike control.

In the late afternoon, door-prizes and show and shine awards were handed out. Steve now has to see if he can powder coat the engraved boulder he received. The big supper wasn't too bad - roast beef and pork with the fixins. There was no shortage of burps and rumbling stomachs afterwards. Not too many people took part in the dance that night. Most people gathered in groups talking about "Beemers" and telling lies.

Early Sunday morning I was awakened by the sound of bikes being warmed up and hitting the road. A group of us decided to head north on 97 then west to 20 via 153, stopping in Winthrop for a coffee fix and a snack. I left the group once we hit the border, staying in Vancouver a few days before heading back to the "Big Island". As I lay back that evening, I remembered the friends I made and the good riding we did together.



*Now that's a chocolate-lover's grin!*

## THAT WAS A PARTY

Once again Stan and Suzanne Jensen and their daughter Kirsten hosted a splendid party at their house, with some 20-25 people enjoying a perfect summer's day in the shade of their very accommodating plum tree. This year they rented a barbecue so there was plenty of room for all - sirloins sizzled happily with shish kabobs and salmon steaks, and were consumed with a variety of salads, breads and beverages. And for dessert, a beautiful chocolate cake made and decorated with the club logo by Chris Jones and his wife Barb, and a deliciously decadent chocolate cheesecake brought by Dennis Grimmer. Before and afterwards, there was the usual story swapping (embellishing) and bike talk, and a very *unusual* demonstration by Laurie Keating of an Australian Aboriginal instrument called the *didgeridoo*, followed by various feeble attempts by the rest of us to emulate him. Not at all as easy as it looks! But what a haunting sound!

Another highlight of the evening was the door prize draw. Stan got various dealers, including Sidney Touring, S & M Cycle, Vic Honda, SG Power, and Shail's in Vancouver, to donate items or gift certificates, 20 or so items in all. Some were, um, interesting - remember the cow shirt Steve Daniels was wearing at breakfast the next morning? But Brian Davies was very happy with his \$60 gift certificate from Sidney Touring, and Dave Wells was impressed with his cool-o JT Threds sunglasses. As usual, I didn't win anything but I don't care - I'm saving all my luck for the Big Strike at a national rally!

Sorry you missed it, some of you? Consider this: BOTH of our California members were in attendance! Now we just have to work on getting David Hills out here from New Hampshire at the same time!

Many thanks again to Stan, Suzanne, and Kirsten for a most enjoyable evening.

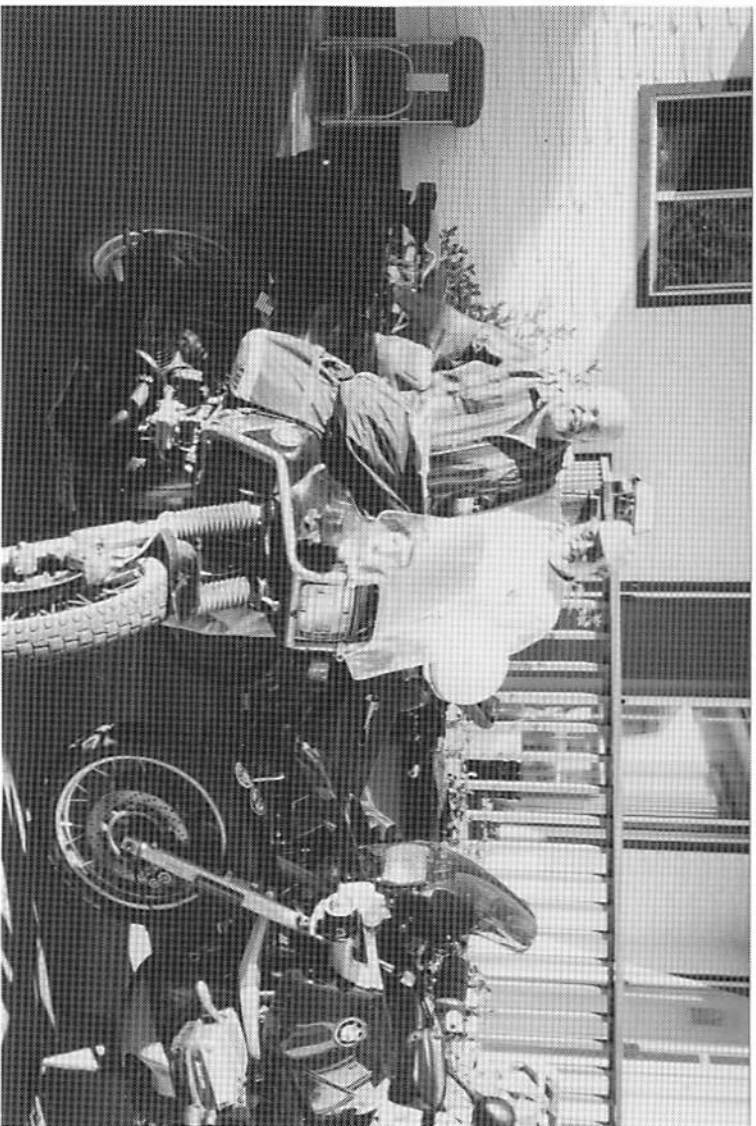
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*Happy winners Geoff Stevenson and Derek Hamlet, while Brian Davies, Laurie Keating and Barb Jones look on*



*Stan and daughter Kirsten drawing for dorr prizes*



*Our California members Wayne Marsula and Dave Wells*

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