



THE BEEMER READER

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EDITORIAL

When you read this (and if you haven't paid your 2009 dues to Peter you won't be reading these words) it will be April and the riding season will have arrived, even if you live in Prince George, which you don't. For the past month I have been about 2000 Km. from my motorcycles, travelling by rail thru California and into Arizona. Train travel is very pleasant and railway passengers see aspects of the scenery that are not displayed to any other travellers. Some of that scenery is spectacular and some of it consists of graffiti on warehouse walls, not particularly edifying. None of the scenery is tilted to left or right in a rear view mirror, as it should be if you and your bike are rounding a tight bend. Trains rarely do that. Anyway, we were in country that Gretchen and I had visited about 25 years ago when we were both much younger and probably more vigorous. Every day on this holiday I was reminded in one way or another of those bygone times, and even with the limitations imposed by the ancient frames of today's bike and rider I was wishing for two wheels or even three rather than the 80 wheels that carried us over the steel rails.

We are home again and more or less ready for lots of good riding in 2009. We hope you are also ready, and that having availed yourselves of the bulk club tyre order as coordinated by Bill Wallace you will be thinking of the roads leading to the 49'ers Rally, Chief Joseph, Cascade Country, Rocky Bow-Lunatic Fringe and Hot Springs and wherever else the roads may go.

Cheers from S.S.I., **Brian & Marjie**

SAT. APR 5TH, BREAKFAST BLUE PETER PUB 9:30 AM

ROADS I HAVE RIDDEN**By Vince Martorino**

Lets Ride South 2008 Days 4 &5

Now in Oregon and the map says closed for the season so it is a must ride road. We were a little late in leaving due to the other bikers we joined after dinner to exchange stories over a few drinks. We left Enterprise on hwy 82 till a right at 39 and rode inside to Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Slowly this trip was becoming a trip of canyons. What a wonderful road with thick forests, up one ridge down the other side along side several rivers till near the end of the road and an overlook 6790 ft to a truly magnificent view. Once we left the area it was another right to hwy 71 and along the Snake River by a couple of dams on our way to Boise Idaho for the night. OD 89688

First thing in Boise was the Honda shop for a new front tire and breakfast at a local diner filled with atmospheres from the 50s. So now it was freeway for a while to hwy 30 at Bliss. The first few miles was through Hagen Fossil Beds and many waterfalls splashing into the Snake River. After that flat farm land to Twin Falls, then to 93 north for a short distance to Shoshone Water Fall Park in another canyon. After that it was south on hwy 93 to Wells, Nevada. Next it was left on 80 to Wendover West. We came over the last rise to the town and the view of the Bonneville Salt Flats and are they flat. We spent the night at a casino hotel. OD 90228

Sorry no photos. Had trouble sending them & Vince is away until the end of the month. Ed.

BMWMOA**Submitted by Martin Hobbs of Valley Riders**

Would anyone like 3 months free membership in BMW MOA. This is for people who are not already members. If so send me your mailing addresses please. tonibec@hotmail.com
Martin. BMW MOA Ambassador 17748

MESSAGE**From Brian Davies**

For those members who enjoy receiving their newsletter by email - - Please Please Please keep me up to date with your email address changes. I had 6 bounce back to me this month.

CHIEF JOSEPH RALLY

The BMW Riders of Oregon annual Chief Joseph Rally will be held again this year on June 18 - 21, 2009 at the John Day, Oregon Fairgrounds. This is our tenth year at this great site. There are many exciting things to do and places to see along with great motorcycle roads to get you there.

Our new secure online registration process or snail mail registration form can be found at our website at www.bmwro.org. **Liz Jones** Registrar

WANTED A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS

Do you have an interesting route to ride or a special restaurant the Club should visit? We are looking for volunteers to provide variety to our ride calendar. Volunteering requires a little time to coordinate the event. Here's what is involved. For a breakfast meeting, it is a matter of contacting the restaurant (we are always amenable to changes) and making a reservation with approximate numbers and times. For a ride there is a little more work, but not much. In addition to the restaurant reservations, you will need to select a meeting place for the start and plan a route. You can get lots of ideas by talking to club members at our breakfast meetings. The club also has a copy of Destination Highways BC, which can provide ideas. If you are willing to give it a try, Please contact **Bob Leitch** by email (bleitch@telus.net) or phone 250-656-6694.

TEN THINGS TO DO WHEN RIDING ON NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND

by John S. Marczyk



John Marczyk & BMW 2002 1150 GS in the Caitlins,

What an adventure! I rented a 2002 BMW 1150 GS in Christchurch well before arrival taking advantage of the great exchange rate. If you can get a cheap airline ticket to New Zealand, now is the time to go with the Canadian dollar trading for almost \$1.40 in New Zealand currency. Even with the inflation common to this part of the world, there are many good deals to be had. And, these deals can even be found in the highly expensive tourist destinations such as Queenstown, Mount Cook, and Milford Sound.

On the road for 14 days from mid-February 2009, New Zealand's autumn, the odometer at the end of the trip registered 4,227 kilometres, and all for about \$300 (Cdn) for gas with octane ratings between 95 and 98. I smiled as I rode past the many bank account shattering travel trailers and gas guzzling automobiles! While my travel distance will not be considered any great feat among "iron butt" riders, it was a perfect distance-time ratio that permitted exploration of glaciers, mountain roads, and remote rural villages; some offering the best meat pies in the world. A relaxed schedule also allowed me to take advantage of the best of the rapidly changing weather patterns that cross New Zealand's South Island. I consider the "getting there" and the destination as equally important experiences. I was successful at coming to that balance on this adventure.

Below you will find my "Top 10" experiences & lessons learned while on the South Island roads, sealed and unsealed, over 14 wonderful days. I set no priorities among the ten as every experience is unique, taking in many variables; many are just plainly based on personal preferences or values so it's not possible to compare. At the same time, I have learned that many of our club members appreciate information on "special rides" so they can decide on their own when an opportunity arises; therefore, as you read my choices from my very long list of favourite rides, places and things to experience, please keep in mind rides tend to be unique and personal. What I enjoy may not be what you enjoy. Having stated that, some of the rides I did on South Island may have common appeal. Based on the above, I believe the following rides and lessons learned on South Island are worth sharing with you.

1. On average plan on no more than 350 km per day when riding on South Island. Narrow roads, rapidly changing weather conditions, windiness and sheep drives, even on main highways, make travel hard work. With safety as a prime consideration, limit distance expectations. In addition, an early start and arrival at destinations by 3:00 p.m. almost always guarantees uncongested roadways, inexpensive accommodation at destinations and time to explore local sites, or to stop along the route for the 100s of hiking options. This is "tramping heaven mate"! I did a couple 500 km days, finding an "iron butt ethic" had few redeeming values. Stop in the small villages. Visit the museums in Dunedin and Christchurch, and even the small village museums focusing on pioneer heritage. This provides an excellent educational grounding for your visit. The pioneer museum in Rangiora, north of Christchurch where my family lives, is New Zealand's best-kept secret. It covers at least five hectares of roofed exhibits ranging from traction engines to needlework. There is something there for all tastes and all ages. Continued...

- 2. National Parks make up one-third of New Zealand. Many are located on South Island. Include these in your travel itinerary.** All have endless hiking opportunities; many have inexpensive and comfortable hut accommodation. Fjordland National Park has an awesome riverside accommodation in Milford Sound for \$25 (Cdn) per night.
- 3. Plan at least a couple of days in the City of Nelson on South Island's north coast.** Nelson has sunshine when the rest of New Zealand is experiencing the worst of weather. It's known for sunshine and had me heading north on South Island when the rest of the country was experiencing cyclones and under water! Nelson and Victoria have many similarities in streetscapes. Stay at Accents on the Park, a professionally run hostel opposite beautiful tree-lined Trafalgar Square in central Nelson. Cost is \$20 (Cdn) a night. Family suite for \$80.
- 4. Glenorchy, a small village with only a gas station and small hotel, an hours ride from Queenstown is a don't miss for riders.** Loney Planet refers to Glenorchy as "set in achingly beautiful surroundings". The road to Glenorchy is a dead end, which keeps tourist traffic low. Travel on a beautiful s-curve, sealed road along the lake well into the backcountry with views of glacier clad Mount Aspiring. There are also many well-maintained gravel roads from the village that penetrate deeper into the backcountry. These are on my list for a return visit to Glenorchy, a favourite.
- 5. The Caitlands are an absolute must for South Island bike travel. Take Scenic Hwy 92 from Invercargil to Papatowai and Balclutha. A great ride!** Located north of the City of Invercargil, this region has some of the nicest rolling rural countryside in a rich green mountain range setting. Pioneer cottages from the 1860's dot the landscape. Villages are very small and friendly. Stay at the Hilltop Backpackers, a million dollar home high above the Village of Papatowai with a billion dollar view of the Antarctic Ocean, rural landscapes and coastal mountains. Cost \$24 (Cdn) per night.
- 6. The entire coastal highway from Greymouth to the Haast Pass.** The road winds through Tasman Sea coastal lowlands and forests. There are lots of elevation changes. Road shoulders are wide and mowed so oncoming traffic is highly visible, making higher speeds safe. En route are the Franz Josef and Fox glaciers. Both are World Heritage Sites!
- 7. Timaru, located on the Pacific Ocean, to Mount Cook via Lake Takapo Hwy 8.** This route provides the nicest views of the Southern Alps all the way to Mount Cook. The road is narrow and windy, yahooo! Do not take the alternate route from Omaru to Twizel on Hwys 83 and 8. These entail very long straight stretches on which it takes much self talk not to red line an engine. Note, too speeding violations are not tolerated by local police. Speed limits are 90-100km in New Zealand. The roads everywhere have billboards linking highway mortality with speeds over 100 km. These appear to be meeting their objective as drivers religiously hold speed at 100 kph. I was sure at times I heard some chanting "slow and steady wins the race".
- 8. Backroads route from Golden Downs to St. Arnaud via villages of Kikiwa and Toulouse.** This rural road will take you through highly modified forest and valley landscapes but the ride is a pleasant one, and beats the Highway 6 route to Westport and the west coast from Nelson and Abel Tasman National Park.
- 9. Two small stretches of mountainous road that will challenge all skill levels while providing beautiful views of Marlborough Sound and the Abel Tasman Ranges.** The "Marlborough Parkway", located between Picton and Village of Havelock, is an awesome mountain and valley ride en route from Picton to Nelson. Picton resembles Sidney, B.C. as it is also the inter-island ferry port connecting Wellington on North Island.
- 10. Highway 72 between Geraldine and Rangiora.** A very nice and charming interior rural route to be used as an alternative to Hwy 1, the more coastal route south of Christchurch. There are many nice villages at which to stop for meals. A do not miss is the Village of Sheffield which is known in the Southern Hemisphere for its award winning meat pies. As a meat pie connoisseur, in my opinion the red curry beef pie ranks the best in the world! Continued...

- The mountain and rural landscapes are similar to those found throughout British Columbia. Vancouver Island in particular has some striking landscape parallels.
- New Zealanders are a very friendly, open, helpful, generous and conservative people much like Canadians (on this part of the Great Divide). Asking one farmer for road directions one afternoon ended after an hour-long conversation and an invitation to dinner with his family.
- New Zealand, like Canada has a quality of life envied by the rest of the world. In recent years, it has been rated second in the world by the United Nations for quality of life.

Above all, personal safety on the road and in communities is second to none on South Island. Whether camping in the backcountry, or walking the streets of Christchurch early in the morning after a round of pubs on Oxford Terrace, this is an easy and safe travel destination. Moreover, the Kiwis will always smile and wish to speak with you, whether you are inclined or not, no matter where you find yourself. There is much fascination about Canada, and questions wishing to be asked about places in our country to which their family members or friends have immigrated. I found that a very large number of Kiwis I met had such connections on Vancouver Island and British Columbia. It's easy to understand why: There are many parallels in culture and landscapes. Plan your next overseas ride on South Island. You won't be disappointed.



BRIGANTINE RUN 18 APRIL 2009

Come join us for the annual run to the Brigantine Pub in Maple Bay

Where: Victoria: The Tim Horton's on Millstream at Highway 1.

Nanaimo: The Tim Horton's at 1812 Bowen Rd

When: Saturday 18 April 2009

Victoria departs at 10:00 AM

Nanaimo departs at 10:00 AM

RSVP: To Bob Leitch at bleitch@telus.net or (250) 656-6694 by 15 April 2009 I will plan for about 20 at the Brigantine Pub, but will adjust numbers according to responses so that the Pub can plan seating and staffing accordingly.

**FIRST ANNUAL
VANCOUVER ISLAND
BIKER BLESSING
SATURDAY MAY 2, 2009**

11 am—2 pm

2110 Church Road, Sooke

All Motorcyclists Welcome

Ride out to Sooke and join us!

This free event hosted by Knox Church

To Jordan River & Port Renfrew

Church Rd. Highway 14 (aka Sooke Rd) **2110**

CLUB HATS AND T SHIRTS

Prices are as follows:

Hats \$13.50 each

Short sleeve tee's \$12

Long sleeve tee's \$14

I must have a minimum order to proceed, minimum orders are 6 for T-shirts and 12 for hats.

If any one has any suggestions for other types of clothing items you can check out the following web sites and get in touch with me.

The following web sites are sources to our supplier, feel free to troll them for ideas:

<http://www.stormtech.ca>

<http://www.sanmarcanada.com>

I have had one request for long sleeved fleece pullovers with club logo embroidered on left breast.

Conrad Moller conrad@jacktar.ca H: 250-479-1730 M: 250-889-2716

MOTORCYCLE SKILLS TRAINING

By Bob Leitch

Following up on some discussions that we had at the AGM, I have canvassed island trainers to see what they could offer. The responses included a track based advanced course, a police training advanced rider training, basic rider safety training, a tailored skills and BBQ session, and the experienced rider course. Based upon replies to my email and at the March Breakfast, the predominant choice was the Police Advanced Riding Training Course. The VISC ERC was a distant second and there was little support for the other options. Here is a summary of the reply I received from the Police ART. We have 2 instructors and this year a third motorcycle officer who is training with us to become a Police motorcycle instructor. Normally limit our group to 10 - 15 riders. For a one day skills development we would start with low speed handling drills and using patterns taken directly from the Police motorcycle course we teach and work into some higher speed braking in the afternoon. The cost would be \$3,000 (\$200 per rider), a significant break off the \$495 for the full 2 1/2 day course and the \$350 charged for the one day Advanced Handling Level II course.

www.advancedridertraining.ca

I am working with the instructors to finalize a date and location (currently it looks like 24 May at Ogden Point). There are currently nineteen people who have indicated an interest. So there is already a four person waiting list but the final date may affect who can attend. If any others are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. I hope to finalize details by 1 April 2009.

CONCERNING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

from Bob Leach

1. We need to select a date that does not conflict with ongoing rallies.
2. We need a rendezvous place i.e. pub, hall etc. Any thoughts???
3. Time of event--night or day, weekend what day?
4. Commemorative t-shirts and/or sweatshirts.
5. Public relations with other clubs, newspaper articles, Canadian biker etc.
6. Someone mentioned redoing the club patch.
7. A one time donation to a suitable charity.
8. A ride of some significance i.e. overnighter, when, where, how long?
9. Dealer and BMW of Canada involvement.
10. Any other thoughts?

These are just some ideas that Don Robertson and I would like to throw out to the members for feedback. They can use my email address - jkbleach@shaw.ca

INTRODUCING LUCY STORMS**By John S. Marczyk**

Lucy Storms (nee Tetreau) hails from Alberta where at St. Alberta High School her petite form could be found on the football field cheering on her team as a cheerleader. Lucy's zest for life has not changed.

Born in Edmonton as the middle child in a family of twelve children, Lucy's younger years took her and her family throughout Alberta. "We moved constantly as my father was the Superintendent of Schools", Lucy shared with some hesitation. "We went where ever my dad had to be to assist in organizing school districts experiencing difficulty with their challenging work."

Lucy spent most of her young adult married life moving (again) between the Alberta summers and Arizona winters raising her two boys. Along with a group of friends, the winters were spent enjoying dirt biking across river beds and the desert sands. Lucy remarks, "It was all about playing: riding horses, Jeeps and dirt bikes." There are many fond memories in those Arizona landscapes for Lucy.

Lucy moved to Vancouver in 1987, to raise her boys alone working as an accountant. Those years were spent as a passenger on motorcycles. "All my boyfriends had to have a motorcycle," Lucy was quick to point out. "If they did not own one, they failed the screening, and it was 'next' !" Riding was exciting and a thrill.

Lucy believes her greatest personal motorcycling achievement was moving from the passenger seat to the driver's seat in 1998, where for the next five years she rode a Verago 1100. Today Lucy rides a BMW R1100 RS.

Lucy's dream motorcycle trip is inspired by the movie 'Motorcycle Diaries', based on the journals of Che Guevara, leader of the Cuban Revolution. In his memoirs, Guevara recounts adventures he, and best friend Alberto Granado, had while crossing South America by motorcycle in the early 1950s. Lucy draws much energy from the vision of riding across Peru and Brazil, experiencing the wonderful landscapes, peoples and Latin lifestyles and culture.

On riding solo Lucy explains, "I never thought I could do it, but I can." Lucy enjoys freedom on the road, meeting new people along the way, and on her own schedule. When asked on how she addressed loneliness and sharing what she experienced, without hesitation Lucy exclaimed, "I use the internet!" Every couple of days Lucy indicated she would write e-mails to friends and family to share special experiences, "Upon coming home and reading my own e-mails, I am always amazed about how much I experienced."

Lucy feels the perfect combination to combat loneliness on solo trips is to meet friends along the route. Doing so provided both an objective en route and an evening or two to share tales from the road.

Lucy also keeps a diary of her trips capturing forever those awesome sunsets in words, and not mind alone. Reliving the pages of her diary years later, Lucy smiled and shared with me, "Gee, those trips all sounded like a lot of fun!" As we all have experienced, with the passage of the years, many trip details vanish. For Lucy, these are captured forever in her diary and e-mails home.

THIS LIST ENABLES YOU TO: submit articles or ideas for future issues of Beemer Reader, pay your dues of \$15, order club clothing, and borrow books and DVD's.

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CLUB RIDE SCHEDULE 2009

www.bmwrv.org bmwrv@shaw.ca

Date	Event	Location	Type	Organizer
Apr 5 Sunday	Monthly Gathering	Blue Peter	Breakfast	Colleen Barnes
Apr 18 Saturday	Brigantine Run	Maple Bay	Road	Bob Leitch
May 2 Saturday	Monthly Gathering	Olympic View Golf Course	Breakfast	Volunteer needed
May 16 Saturday	Monthly Ride	Saltaire Pub	Road	Don Robertson
May 22 - 24 TBConfirmed	49er Rally	Auburn, California	Rally	Volunteer needed
May 24 Sunday	Ride for Dad	Victoria	Charity Event	Bob Leitch
Jun 7 Sunday	Monthly Gathering	Pioneer House	Breakfast	Volunteer needed
Jun 20 - 21 Saturday/Sunday	Camp-n-Ride	Gold River	Road	Tom Thornton
Jun 18 - 21 Thursday/Sunday	Chief Joseph Rally	John Day, Oregon	Rally	Volunteer needed
Jul 4 Saturday	Monthly Gathering	Dakota Restaurant	Breakfast	Volunteer needed
Jul 16 - 19 Thursday/Sunday	BMWOA National Rally	Johnson City, Tennessee	Rally	Volunteer needed
Jul 19 Sunday	Monthly Ride	Port Renfrew	Road	Volunteer needed
Jul 23 - 26 Thursday/Sunday	Cascade Rendezvous	Republic, Washington	Rally	Klaus Kreye
Aug 9 Sunday	Monthly Gathering	Salt Spring Island	Breakfast	Brian Radford
Aug 14 - 17	Hotspings Rally	Nakusp, BC	Rally	Volunteer needed