



THE BEEMER READER

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OREGON ODYSSEY

When we told our non motorcycling friends that we were off to Oregon, most said “Oh yes! The Oregon Coast is just beautiful in summer.” But they lost all interest and were only barely polite when we said that the High Desert of Eastern Oregon was our actual destination. (As it turned out, that so-called desert has had about 3 inches of rain this month, while Salt Spring Island on this supposedly Wet Coast has had to date just three-tenths of an inch).

We counted eight RVI members that made it to the Chief Joseph Rally in the John Day Valley which is just 70 miles north of the High Desert, and close enough to have gotten some of the rain. Marjie and I enjoyed the Rally, and while most of the 700-odd attendees dispersed homewards on Sunday morning, we stayed in Oregon to pursue some other interests. We can tell you that we did not camp out after the Rally. It took a day or two in a motel to get the tent dried out, and with the thermometer down to zero Celsius on Monday morning we were glad to be out of the frigid elements – even though within the next few hours we were stoically enduring 33 Celsius while clad in protective riding gear and travelling by the rapidly shrinking puddles, fading evidence of the downpour in the desert.

This is the “Sagebrush Sea” as Ian Tyson calls it in one of his ballads.

Anyway we are home now, and Gretchen has another 3300 Km on the odometer. Despite the attentions of several knowledgeable Air Heads at the Rally, led by our own Klaus and Ernie, wielding wrenches and dismantling the poor old beast with seemingly reckless ferocity, she continues to have no functional tail light, fuses persist in burning out due to apparent short circuit which doesn’t show up in meticulous monitoring of the wiring circuit. Maybe a gremlin dwells within the headlamp shell. No problem if you stop riding before darkness, and now that that the low beam element has burned out, one should indeed quit while there is still daylight. Maintenance is definitely needed here. Photos on page 2. **Brian**

SAT. JULY 4TH, BREAKFAST DAKOTA CAFE 9:30 AM



Photos by **Brian Radford**



Gretchen enjoyed being the centre of attention

UPCOMING RALLYS

Lunatic Fringe

10-12 July

Pre-registration closes 30th June

For Registration forms or any other information

Please contact Magda at (403) 912-0837 or E-mail us at: rallyinfo@rockybowbmw.ca

Cascade Country Rendezvous - Republic, Washington

23-26 July

Pre registration closes 1 July <http://www.wsbmwr.org/index.php/2009-ccr>

BeeCee Beemers Hotspring Rally, Nakusp, BC

13-16 August

Pre registration closes 1 August <http://www.beeceebeemers.com/rally.htm>

The 2010 BMW MOA International Rally is in Redmond, Oregon.

July 15 - 18 2010

This is the same location the Rally was held in 2001.

It's a great location, a great venue with good riding all around the area.

Now you have plenty of time for advance planning.

INTRODUCING COLLEEN BARNES

By John Marczyk



Colleen Barnes on Duffy Lake BMWRVI
Ride August 2008

With 90 acres on Saltspring Island, Colleen Barnes and Howard Horel enjoy a peaceful rural life away from many of the stresses of modern life. Colleen, a community nurse working in the Capital Regional District with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, faces many challenges day-to-day in her chosen health care career that started with registered nursing licencing in 1976. In 1981, Colleen acquired a Bachelors degree in nursing from the University of Victoria.

Colleen met husband Howard in 1993, a now retired logger with deep roots on Saltspring Island, and was reintroduced to horses. They rode them on the Monashee Range together. They married in 2004. In 2003, Colleen fulfilling a long time dream travelled to south-eastern France to ride the white, pony-like Camargue horse, believed to be descended from prehistoric horses that lived during the Palaeolithic period, 17,000 years ago. The Camargue is an ancient breed believed to have been crossbred with other breeds, particularly Arabian horses.

“I just went from horses to motorcycles. It was a natural transition. Both give me

a sense of freedom and living in the moment.”

With Howard’s 45-year history with motorcycles, Colleen was soon introduced to the sport. In 2003, Colleen completed the Vancouver Island Safety Council (VISC) introductory program. “It was really a challenge for them to teach me, Colleen remembers, “I didn’t even know where to put the key.”

One day, months after graduating from the VISC program, her former instructor caught eye of Colleen riding in the region. Staying well back not to be noticed he observed Colleen’s skill development. Smiling from ear-to-ear, he rode up to Colleen, announcing, “I am so proud that you were my student. You did everything right!”

Needless to say, Colleen is a proud advocate of the VISC for the confidence they build in the safe enjoyment of the sport. Colleen plans on taking the VISC 3-day advanced program¹ in May 2009 as part of her continuous learning and love for the sport.

Since 2003, Colleen has clocked 24,000 km on a 2003 Suzuki and two BMW GS 650s. After a BMW club breakfast in November 2004, Colleen stopped by Vancouver Island BMW to check out the new ABS-equipped GS 650. “There was this yellow 650 GS that caught my eye,” Colleen recalls, “I left the black 650 GS, and rode it away.”

For Howard’s 65th birthday, Colleen surprised him with a 2005 Moto Guzzi, which nicely complements the 71 Norton and 78 CX 500 Honda.

With respect to the most memorable ride, Colleen recalls the story where she and Howard rode the Bella Coola Valley. “Howard led the way down the 1500 metre gravel road descent (Heckman Pass). A tourist rolling by Howard providing a report on

¹ The VISC Experienced Rider Program is designed for motorcyclists that learn to ride on their own. Over the three-day period, emphasis is placed on filling knowledge gaps in motorcycle control techniques. The cost of the program is \$325.

Colleen's progress said 'your buddy is okay, he's going kind of slow but steady', to which Howard proudly replied, 'That's my wife!'

The Bella Coola ride was special to Colleen for a number of reasons, the most significant of which included its wilderness context, perfect July weather, majestically rising mountains west of Williams Lake, and of course, a mastering of sometimes white knuckled gravel riding skills from Anahim to the Bella Coola Valley.

Joining up with others upon retiring from her demanding nursing career, Colleen envisages California and the Baja Peninsula as a dream ride destination. Howard, proud to be Canadian, prefers

July 2009

British Columbia adventures, with Barkerville earmarked as a special future ride.

Colleen was born in Trochu, Alberta. She came to Victoria in 1977. Maintaining a second home in Victoria for many years for career reasons, Colleen leaves for Salt Spring Island permanently in June

2009. Earlier in June she will be riding "solo" (without Howard) to Portland with the Vancouver Island Women's Motorcycle Club.

Colleen would like to express her gratitude to all members of the BMW Riders of Vancouver Island for a very supportive, friendly and fun environment.



Howard Horel on Duffy Lake Ride

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

Submitted by Colleen Barnes

Vancouver Island Safety Council is looking for instructors for the motorcycle safety course.
Contact: 1005 Henry Eng Place Victoria, BC 250-478-9584

ROADS I HAVE RIDDEN**LET'S RIDE SOUTH 2008****By Vince Martorino****Day 8 Grand Canyon North Rim**

After breakfast and a short browse through the lodge at Jacob Lake we head for the north rim lodge at Angle Peak. It's 44 miles to the park entrance on a road that sweeps through easy turns with an open pine forest. At one point we open on to a high mountain meadow. After passing through the gate entrance the road turns become much tighter and the forest denser. The altitude here is 8800 ft so the air is a little fresher but warms up fast as the day progresses. We park at the lodge and walk to Angle Peak for a few pictures. Back on the bike and a right turn at one of the two other roads so as to view the canyon from other viewpoints. Like other times we ride to the end of the road to enjoy the uniqueness of it and stop at all the viewpoints on the way back so that all our turn offs are right. Don't go all the way without spending time here. Any picture you have seen has never done justice to the sight like being there, allow at least 4 hours for this turn and ride all the roads. Now it was out of the park turn east on Hwy 89 down and past along the Vermillion Cliffs. These are coral in colour of about 2000 ft in height and 20-30 miles in length along a flat basin. Then around the corner, past the rock house and over the green Colorado River on the Marble Canyon bridge. Then it was a flat straight ride past the south rim entrance of which I have seen before to Flagstaff. A note of interest is that while riding through Flagstaff you are on Route 66. Some one said I should see Sonora which is just a little south of Flagstaff. So the way to Sonora was on Hwy 89A, a wonderful road through Oak Creek Canyon a very tight and deep canyon that eventually led to Sonora. This town is slowly becoming an expensive upper class tourist haven. So needlessly we carried on to a motel at Big Park. The road was still worth the trip.

OD 91770



**Photos By
Vince Martorino**

FROM YOUR CLOTH MOTH**Conrad Moller**

I am holding T Shirts ordered by the following club members:

Peter Coulson,
Randy Thompson,
Brian Cownden,
Kathleen Leach,
Tom Keene and
Bill Wallace.

Would these folks please contact Conrad so we can come up with delivery instructions at 250-479-1730 or email conrad@jacktar.ca

PLEASE CONTACT ME BEFORE 4 JUNE OR AFTER 27 JUNE

Thanks, conrad@jacktar.ca

**Submitted by Martin of the Valley Riders**

SUBJECT: Want to Ride

A Little 10-year-old girl was walking home, alone, from school one day, when a big man on a black motorcycle pulls up beside her. After following along for a while, turns to her and asks,

"Hey there, do you want to go for a ride?"

"NO!" says the little girl as she keeps on walking.

The motorcyclist again pulls up beside her and asks,

" I will give you \$10 if you hop on the back."

"NO!" says the little girl as she hurries down the street.

The motorcyclist pulls up beside the little girl again and says,

"I'm feeling generous today! I'll give you 20 Bucks "and" a Big Bag of Candy if you will just hop on the back of my bike and go for a ride with me."

Finally, the little girl stops and turns towards him and Screams Out...

"Look Dad, You're the one who bought the Harley instead of the Beemer"!

So ride it by yourself!

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.bmwrvl.org bmwrvl@shaw.ca

Date	Event	Location	Type	Organizer
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 18 Saturday	Monthly Ride	Port Renfrew	Road	Volunteer needed
Jul 19 Sunday	Rider Skills Training	Ogden Point	Event – Pre- registration required	Bob Leitch
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	Hotsprings Rally	Nakusp, BC	Rally	Volunteer needed
Aug 22 Saturday	Ride up Island	Qualicum Beach	Road	Tom Thornton
Sep 5 Saturday	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye
Sep 20 Sunday	Monthly Ride	Cowichan Lake	Road	Volunteer needed
Oct 4 Sunday	Monthly Gathering	Blue Peter	Breakfast	Colleen Barnes
Oct 24 Saturday	Annual Meeting	TBD	Meeting	Klaus Kreye
Nov 7 Saturday	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye
Dec 6 Sunday	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye



Japanese tow truck – submitted by **Brian Davies**

