



# THE BEEMER READER

VOLUME 19 No. 11 November 09

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Photo contributed by Chris Jones

**SAT. NOV. 7TH, BREAKFAST CHEQUERED FLAG 9:30 AM**

**EDITORIAL****By Brian Radford**

One fine Saturday morning in September, I went with a friend to the campus of Camosun College. My PhD friend is a Registered Professional Engineer and a professor at U. Vic, teaching the intricacies of metallurgy and materials to graduate students; and he had invited me to accompany him to a display of works in applied engineering science by senior students at Camosun. What has all this, wonderful as it may be, to do with us and our motorcycles?

Well, amongst the very impressive functioning works on display was a very avant guard concept motorcycle that could have come from some futuristic show room. Definitely not built for long distance touring but Wow, the "Assassin" with its alloy frame of generous and extended dimensions and rugged rectangular cross section certainly looks as though it would be a street scorcher. Also on display was a trailer mounted motorcycle dynamometer that would retail when and if it is produced for the market for a very small fraction of the price of a standard dyno as now utilized by the larger motorcycle shops. Like the 'Assassin' it is a product of Computer Assisted Design and Computer Assisted Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) Readily transported the Dynamometer could conceivably be used by a club such as RVI. And we would then know just how much power each of our bikes produces. Personally, I neither need nor want to know, as the comparatively few horses working for Gretchen or the Ural are quite capable of getting me into trouble. Maybe any bike would have enough power to do that to me given enough time to accelerate and a vertical enough slope to maximize gravitational assistance. I need to tell you about Last Chance to Camp and Ride, version #17 as put on by Valley BMW Riders. As is usual, getting to the event was at least half of the fun as the lateness of the season makes for some interesting riding conditions. Might get some agreement here from Ernie the Intrepid travelling via Duffy Lake where he found the first snow of the season. Quite a bit of snow. See picture on page 4 which looks like black and white but that's OK if you're depicting snow. I was chicken so I used all the river level routes to get to Last Chance at Oroville WA. So I didn't see any snow but lots of rain. In fact by the time I got to our son, Brock's house in Kelowna I was getting wet on the extremities so I was glad to call it a day. Saturday came and it was very rainy with the valley completely soaked in. We fiddled around, put off departure until noon when the rain obligingly stopped. We found some 25 people including RVI's Ernie the Intrepid. Some were sitting around in the lush green wet foliage and others were in the humongous motor home that one of the Valley Riders considered the only way to Camp and Ride. That big box could and maybe did contain all of us at one time.

Being Brian the Inept I managed to drop Gretchen as we were on the point of departure from the rally. It was a good thing that Brock was there to pick up his doddering parent and dust him off which he did after restoring Gretchen to verticality. The only casualty was the windshield broken into transverse halves and dispatched to the garbage can. Sunday morning but no churchly thoughts so far.

Sorry to go on at such length. To shorten the saga just let me emote about the cloudless Sunday skies and glorious fall colours. I split with Brock after breakfast at Keremeos. Fresh snow against achingly blue skies on the east slope of the Cascades. Later in the day I saw fresh snow on the west side of the Cascades.

*I've looked at snow from both sides now and yet somehow\_\_\_\_\_*

*Last winter's crud I do recall\_\_\_\_\_*

*I really don't like snow at all.*

(Apologies to Joni Mitchell)

Although it will be history by the time you read this, we hope to see you at the AGM on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Brian**

**UPCOMING RALLYS**

**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.

It is the middle of summer, but we still work unlike those retired and semi-retired friends of ours, and my brother John and I have a four day weekend free. The weather is great !

It just so happened we both own Kawasakis at the moment, and an old ZX-11 / ZZR group were having a gathering near Big Fork, Montana, and after some scenic rides there was a BBQ on the Friday evening as a wrap up to the week. American style BBQ with pulled pork, beef brisket and sausages, and the mandatory potato salad, coleslaw and baked beans, could not say no.

I picked him up in Chilliwack on Thursday morning, and we stopped in Hope for gas and so on, then took a great leap along the Crowsnest Hwy #3 all the way to Creston. We did not tour the famous brewery, having done so last year. A good motel with soft beds was in order after the fantastic Salmo-Creston stretch, to rest up for the night.

Friday morning found us meeting up with Harley riders, something about a big ol' HOG rally nearby, hope they all wore earplugs. We rode south through Idaho panhandle, then east into Montana to the Kalispell area. Big skies is a good name for this part of the USA, it really feels as though you can ride under majestic skies all day long. We met up with the gang and were welcomed, our bikes 'inspected' and met with approval .

After some socializing around the campfire it was time for a rest, as Sat/Sun were again riding days. On the way home we stopped in Osoyoos, one of my favourite stops, The heat was high and air was hot, as the song Ventura Highway goes. All in all a great way to spend four summer days, with a lot of camaraderie and some brotherly love too. I have two brothers, and they both ride - we inherited it!

"One of Montana's hidden treasures surely has to be Henry's Diner in Libby. This place seems right out of the 50's, and is a great place to have breakfast and watch small town America as it once was. If you're lucky someone may even pull up in their '62 Corvette and show it to you."



Photo by Horst Unger



Photo by Ernie Reigle (see editorial)



**FOR SALE:**

2002 R1150R rust/red, imperial gauges, BMW hard bags.  
 About 51,000km. \$7,500 negotiable  
 Call **Julia** 250-744-7228 [2julia@telus.net](mailto:2julia@telus.net)

**FOR SALE:**

- a) Aerostitch Standard Back Protector designed for the Roadcrafter or the Darien.
- b) New Smartire sensor kit used for monitoring tire pressure.
- c) Two gauge mounting cups (flat black) used for installing gauges on handle bars. **Bill Wallace** 250-652-0214

**WANTED:**

- a) Ohlins rear shock for a K75 or does anyone know of where I can get one. **Bill Wallace** 250-652-0214

**OREGON****By Geoff Stevenson**

At the top of Chinook Pass, WA., (5,430 feet), it was snowing. In Lincoln City, OR., it was 75deg F.

In Seaside, OR., the wind was howling at more than 30 knots and the rain was almost horizontal.

In Salem, OR., the sun came out for our football game and it felt like June.

In fact, it was mid-October all the time - and just another reminder that our northwest weather can be pretty unpredictable.

Some thoughts, then, on two recent trips, one on two wheels with son Brad and a longer one on four wheels with my wife, Anita.

Brad and I try to ride together every spring and fall. In the spring, as devoted Reader readers will recall, we spent a week together in Alaska. This reunion was more modest, but no less fun.

We met in Ellensburg, WA. I rode over Stevens Pass and south on Highway 97; Brad finished his day's work at Microsoft and headed south and then east on I90, over Snowqualmie Pass.

Ellensburg is one of the world's windier towns, but it was almost calm as he rode into the Thunderbird Hotel at the appointed hour.

Many of us know Canyon Road in Ellensburg, which is the usual collection of gas stations, over-priced motels and fast-food outlets, but the downtown area is a charming collection of elegant old buildings and well worth visiting.

Next morning we headed south on one of the best roads thereabouts: Washington 821, in the Yakima River valley. It's a wonderful collection of sweepers. Unfortunately, the speed limit's just 45 m.p.h., but it must have been my lucky day, since I talked my way out of a speeding ticket from a remarkably sociable and well-mannered Washington State Trooper. (He was driving a silver Dodge Charger - watch out for 'em).

Once over Chinook Pass, we dropped down a few thousand feet onto Highway 12, before turning south at Randle and heading up again to Windy Ridge, on the east side of Mount St. Helens.

Earlier, stopping in Naches, about 20 miles east of Yakima, we enjoyed the biggest cinnamon bun I've ever seen. It must have been 9 inches across and, working together, we couldn't finish it. Incidentally, the bill for the bun, two hot chocolates and two cups of coffee was \$7.45. We tipped generously.

The main visitor centre for the volcano is on the west side and reached via Highway 504. There are only washrooms at Windy Ridge, but you have a good view of the mountain if the weather co-operates and this area features excellent (and little-used) roads, many of them maintained by the US Forest Service.

After a few hundred more curves, we rode into Woodland, WA., and spent a quiet night at the Lewis River Inn. Brad has Washington Destination Highways, written by those entertaining Canadians, Brian Bosworth and Michael Sanders, and next morning we headed west of I5 and eventually to Olympia.

We enjoyed several excellent roads identified by the guide and while we'd have been there in half the time on the Interstate, we had double the fun.

We went through Vader, Winlock, Oakville and Little Rock before reaching Olympia in time for lunch. We dined in style at the Spar Restaurant on 4th Ave in the heart of the state capital. This is a great spot with lots of character; our southern chicken salads were excellent.

The Spar is owned by the McMenamin chain, which operates a number of restaurants, pubs and hotels through Washington and Oregon. They brew their own beer and I've found it good stuff, while the hotels offer good value for money.

At their Grand Lodge in Forest Grove, about 50km east of Portland, the room price includes a free movie - and you can watch the show sitting in an easy chair and sipping on a beer. Pretty civilized, I reckon. (I especially recommend the Sunflower IPA and Hammerhead ales).

After Olympia, I5 seemed the only sensible choice and we made it from there to Queen Anne in Seattle, where Brad and his wife live, in short order.

Watching TV news that night, I realized that it must have been my lucky weekend. Not only had I dodged that speeding ticket, but there had been a mudslide just east of Chinook Pass on Sunday afternoon. The pavement had buckled and the road is expected to be closed until spring (this is Highway 410 and it's not normally

maintained over the winter). No traffic had been caught in the mudslide, but I looked at the twisted pavement and tried to imagine riding through the mess. Then I poured myself a beer and tried to forget about it.

Next day I rode home, parked the bike, checked the tires on Anita's Camry and got ready for the 0700 Swartz Bay ferry the next morning.

This was to be a wine-tasting and shopping trip and while the wine tasting presented a few financial challenges (more on this later), the shopping, especially with no sales tax in Oregon and the Canadian dollar almost at par, was awfully good.

Anita bought a bunch of clothes; I bought a half-inch drive adjustable torque wrench for just \$27.99!

We explored a number of vineyards. Since I was driving, Anita did most of the tasting. Last time we'd been wine tasting, it had been free, but, it seems all this has changed.

We normally paid \$5 for a "flight" of wines (usually five or six) in each vineyard. In most cases, the \$5 was refunded if you bought a bottle. Most wines seemed to start at \$18-20, but we later found one \$20 Pinot Blanc in Fred Meyer's for \$12.40, so be warned!

However, a number of vineyards charged \$10 for a tasting. One wanted to charge \$15 a head to sample just four Pinot Noirs; we were a group of six then and if someone thought we were about to choke down \$90 for a few sips, they were mistaken: We left ASAP.

Wine is big business in the Willamette Valley. The bag holding one bottle we bought listed 177 vineyards in the valley.

Our timing couldn't have been better: The fall colors were at their best and the grapevines, marching to the horizon in gold and green, were quite a sight.

This is gently rolling country with an elevation change of 500-600 feet. Several of the vineyards had elaborate tasting rooms atop a hill and the views from there were impressive.

I wouldn't have tackled any tasting on two wheels. But it must be possible to park a bike at a nearby motel and find someone who'd drive you around. (Bill Wallace and I did this a few years ago in Osoyoos; it was the best \$25 we'd ever spent, although I suspect rates may have gone up since then).

The wines were mostly Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir. Vineyard prices ranged from \$12 to \$60 a bottle. We brought the regulation four bottles back over the border a few days later, but we didn't sample anything we considered outstanding.

But if you forgot the wine tasting, the area offers excellent riding. There is the odd gravel road, but mostly it's smooth pavement and there are LOTS of curves.

After we'd spent two days on the coast (staying in Lincoln City - \$75 for an oceanside room that I suspect might have been three times that in the summer), we wound up at a spanking new Marriot Hotel in downtown Portland.

Ah, the joys of Priceline! The room rate was officially around \$150; Brad booked us three rooms online a few weeks earlier for just \$43 each.

I'd almost forgotten what character Portland has - and how many lovely old buildings it's retained and preserved. And, with an efficient bus and train/streetcar system, you can get around easily without the complications of driving/riding in a strange big city.

We dined in high style at Jake's Crawfish Grill and, the next morning, ate breakfast at Bijou. Both are right downtown and come highly recommended.

In between times we explored Salem, the Oregon capital. This is a handsome city with lots of green space. We spent some time in Bush's Pasture Park (no, not THAT Bush!), an area of perhaps 50-60 acres with a football field, four tennis courts, baseball diamond and running track, plus miles of walking trails and some elegant old oak trees (didn't see any yellow ribbons, though).

We also stayed in McMinnville, a charming old town in the heart of the wine country. We chose another McMenamin hotel, this time the 95-year-old Hotel Oregon.

This features small, but comfortable rooms (most sharing a bathroom) and several bars pouring more of those good McMenamin suds.

Many of the rooms are named after interesting characters. We stayed in a cozy third-floor room honoring Patsy Gearin. She had been a waitress in the hotel in the 1940s. Her boyfriend, John Bates, drove by regularly, leaning

on the horn in his '35 Ford Deuce Coupe every time he saw his gal in the dining room, something that hardly impressed the patrons, but must have had quite an impact on young Patsy.

They were married soon after and, at last report, were still together after more than 60 years of marriage.

McMinnville is just down the road from the Evergreen Air Museum, which houses Howard Hughes' famous Spruce Goose - and a bunch of other interesting old flying machines.

All this would make a great 7- or 8-day ride from Victoria. Fall offers colorful trees - and affordable hotel rooms. Now, if it would just stay dry!



**Brad Stevenson admires a mid-morning feast in Naches, WA. Two grown men couldn't finish it!**

## **AGM SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

**By Brian Radford**

Twenty-nine people showed up, some on two wheels but mostly not. The usual suspects were at the head table, and we can thank Klaus, Peter & Bob for keeping the club between the ditches and rubber side down for the past year. For your sins and because no one has said otherwise, you will have to put up with me, assisted by long-suffering wife Marjie, as editor of this journalistic masterpiece for yet another year. Thanks also to Brian Davies who has agreed to preside again over the distribution of the Beemer Reader.

Plans are underway for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of RVI, the committee of Bob Leach -250-477-1099, Sally Harvey & Don Robertson is looking for your input as to how we will celebrate. Bill Wallace is putting together another tyre order and if you need new rubber you should let him know a.s.a.p. - 250-652-0214. As you can see, there are vacancies in the Club Calendar for 2010 and if you can help organize a ride or a breakfast, we'd like to hear from you. Next breakfast is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Chequered Flag. I hope to see you there.

Michael Poplawski michael.poplawski@gmail.com is organizing a Google Group for the Club. More next month. Cheers.

**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 2009-10

[www.bmwrv.org](http://www.bmwrv.org) [bmwrv@shaw.ca](mailto:bmwrv@shaw.ca)

Day	Date	Event	Location	Type	Organizer	
Saturday	7-Nov	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye	
Sunday	6-Dec	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye	
Friday	1-Jan	New Year's Day	2010			Need to work on tl
Friday	1-Jan	TROC	Islandview Beach	Other	Volunteer needed	
Saturday	9-Jan	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye	
Thurs-Sun	Jan 21- 24	Motorcycle Show	Abbotsford	Show	Volunteer needed	
Sunday	7-Feb	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye	
Saturday	13-Feb	Pot Luck	TBD	Other	Volunteer needed	Do we want to keep trying this??
Saturday	6-Mar	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast	Klaus Kreye	
Fri-Mon	2 - 5 Apr	Easter Weekend				
Sunday	3-Apr	Monthly Gathering	Blue Peter	Breakfast	Colleen Barnes	Colleen are you still willing to do these tw events?
Saturday	17-Apr	Brigantine Run	Maple Bay	Road	Volunteer needed	
Saturday	1-May	Monthly Gathering	Olympic View Golf Course	Breakfast	Volunteer needed	
Sunday	16-May	Monthly Ride	Saltaire Pub	Road	Don Robertson	
Monday	24-May	Victoria Day				
Thurs-Sun	May 28-31	49er Rally	Auburn, California	Rally	Volunteer needed	To Be Confirmed
Sunday	26-May	Ride for Dad	Victoria	Charity Event	Bob Leitch	To Be Confirmed
Sunday	6-Jun	Monthly Gathering	Pioneer House	Breakfast	Volunteer needed	
Sat-Sun	Jun 19- 20	Camp-n-Ride	Gold River	Road	Tom Thornton	