



# The WASH

UMCI Newsletter of Washington State



**Our Only Business**  
**Freedom, Friendship, Food & Fun**



**Ride Beside Me - Be My Friend**



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[International Website](#)

[Washington State Website](#)



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## Announcements & Tid Bits

June 21 - 24, 2023

2023 [International Norton Owners Association Rally](#)  
[Pine Near RV Park](#), Winthrop

June 26 - 29, 2023

Laird Park Campout, FCFS, Harvard ID  
**Please RSVP**

July 17 - 20, 2023

UMCI International @ [Chelan County Fairgrounds](#), Cashmere WA

**Cancelled for 2023**

September 24, 2023

[40th Annual Oyster Run](#)

Free event • No official starting point • No time schedule • No required route  
[Oyster Run - Motorcycle Run](#) - Anacortes WA

[Seattle/Tacoma - Sedro Woolley Lunch Rides](#)

### Cover Photo

Windmills, yesteryear vs. today, at the Wild Horse Wind Farm and Solar Facility  
[Visitor Center](#), [25905 Vantage Hwy](#), Ellensburg WA  
[Info](#) • [Flickr Photos](#) • [Google Earth](#) • [Action Video](#)



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## INTERNATIONAL REPS TWO CENTS!

Wow, what a great time at the Idaho State rally. Great fun and beautiful riding. Just a shout out to Larry for the great job on the rally and the time he served as the Idaho State Rep. He did a great job.

Idaho always seems to have it so together when it comes rally time. And the ladies in the Idaho group are outstanding and are always doing something, which usually includes making all of the members feel welcomed, and if you need anything they're ready to assist.

The riding down there is fantastic. If you can't find a ride in Kamiah that trips your trigger, then you're not looking very hard. The weather was great and the campground personnel were great to work with.

It was so good to see our Canadian friends again. The last time I saw Anne and Jerry, Anne said she was not getting the Covid shot so she would not be visiting the States ever again. Such a surprise to see them at the rally. Had a great conversation with Dan Magee and meeting the folks that rode down with him, good people for sure.

One of the things that stands out to me at these rallies is the re-connection with old friends and how that makes you feel inside. It's so cool to sit down for a while and just shoot the bull with an old friend or especially chat with someone you just met.

Needless to say, I had a good time and want to thank all of the Idaho UMCI for the great memories.

Well, now my hope is that some of you can take advantage of the great lineup of campouts that are on the agenda between this rally and the international, there are some great ones.

Now my focus is the International in Cashmere and get all of the details worked out. In talking with George Penner just a few hours ago, we have about 32 registered, so if you've not made up your mind, please send your registration in.

I'm not going to say anymore about the International. We'll have a great time just like we did at the Idaho State rally. I'm hoping all of you are and remain in good health. I'll stop for now. Enjoy your summer and enjoy life to its fullest. Ride safe, ride lots, but most of all have a ton of fun!!

Kevin and Kevi



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## Inland Northwest News

### HAPPENINGS OF SPOKANE AND INLAND EMPIRE UMCI CLUB JUNE 2023

The meeting was brought to order by Charlie Crane, and he asked former President Richard Hentz, to preside over the meeting. Richard spent the winter in Arizona, and recently returned to Twin Lakes, Idaho, where he parks his motor home on Dave Irvine, and Billie Leonard's property each summer. He is only going to be in the area for another two weeks, then he is going to attend a rally in Utah, and then from there, he will go to Pennsylvania, where he is originally from, to attend a reunion. He is going from there and try to visit states he hasn't been to before. He is pulling his Kwik Kamp trailer and is going to camp all the way.

The meeting was well attended. The summer ride schedule with rallies and camp outs were given. There are several events in this area.

After the meeting several members went for a ride to Reardan, WA, where Tom Wells, lives, to the annual "Mule Days" event. It was quite a treat for the big city dwellers to visit the quaint little town. They had a parade complete with horses and mules, and a car show that featured some real classics. The parade also featured some real old classic tractors, and some 1930's pickup trucks. Of course the local high school band played as they marched along. It was great to see such small town spirit.

After the car show, we rode on the back roads to the look out over lake Spokane, and then to the town of Seven Mile, for lunch. The weather was great, warm and sunny and the ride was excellent. We rode back to Spokane on back roads. First along the lake, through the town of Tum Tum, then on to Monroe Rd. Out near Deer Park. Then back to Spokane.

We saw dozens of motorcycles on our ride. Several other clubs had group rides, and passed by us as we rode. Motorcycle season has finally arrived. With the arrival, there comes several accidents already. Almost all of them have been young inexperienced riders, or alcohol related accidents. Inattentive driving is a big factor in auto accidents. We must all ride defensively and be aware of our surroundings and the other driver.



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## UMCI Idaho State Rally Kamiah, ID June 13-16, 2023

The weather for the Rally was perfect this year for great motorcycle riding. One group that rode to Keuterville for lunch on Tuesday encountered a rain squall, but it was over quickly and the sun shone again. The ride wound through parts of the Palouse hills that were shaped by the Missoula Floods.

The ice cream social with brownies on Tuesday night was a hit once the freezer was fixed to refreeze the ice cream.

A successful 50/50 raised money for the group and sent some home with extra cash in hand.

Two of the UMCI long-time members were remembered. Peter Venders from Cockrin, Alberta passed away recently from ALS. Ned Ackerman passed away at 101 years young this year. May they ride free with the wind always at their back on the twisty roads in the sky.

The highlight ride of the week was on Hwy 12 to LoLo Pass. This curvy two lane highway followed the Clearwater River then the scenic Lochsa River to Lochsa Lodge where the group sat on the epic porch overlooking the river for lunch. The sun was out, but the ride was a bit chilly in the shaded areas over some clouds.

Thursday was cooler with temperatures in the high 70's with some clouds. The group went on a ride to Orifino, ID and on to Dworshak Dam. Some took the "Dam Tour", given by a guide who answered everyone's "damn questions".

Thursday evening was the banquet back at camp. We feasted on baked potatoes with all the fixins', a salad, rolls, and the infamous cowboy caviar. ☑ The tally for the Rally attendance was 65 people, with 17 coming from Canada! Larry passed his torch to, Rick Killebrew. The Idaho group put on a fantastic Rally this year. A few people stood up and talked about their years of experience with the Idaho Rally, including Daniel from Canada, who led a contingent on a whirlwind ride from Canada. More was given for the 50/50, and the Raffle gave away some cool items including more handmade butcher blocks, and I won a beautiful hand embroidered flower and fireworks quilt.

It was so good to see old friends and meet some new ones at this Rally. The memories of those good times will live on.

Heather Parsley



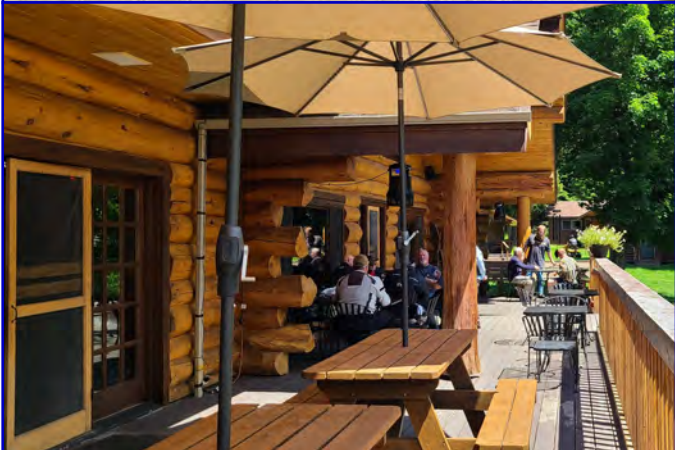
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## Idaho State Rally Photos

by Heather Parsley  
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## Idaho State Rally Photos

by Heather Parsley  
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**In Memory Of**  
**Ned Akerman**



**December 31, 1922 - May 29, 2023**

OUR GOOD FRIEND NED ACKERMAN WILL CERTAINLY BE MISSED!!

We have lost a long-time supporter of the UMCI and a friend to a lot of people in the UMCI not only Washington but Idaho, Oregon, and California and Canada! Ned was one of the first people I had the good fortune of being able to call friend. I don't believe I ever saw Ned without something good to say, or a smile on his face.

I turned my comments into Ned for a long time when he was the editor of the "Wash" and he amazingly didn't get annoyed when I was late as David would tell you was pretty often. Ned was always looking for the good side of people and it showed in the newsletter.

One of my memories of Ned was at the freeze out at Daroga State Park and it was a true freeze out, probably just about freezing every night. I saw this little tent and I do mean little, next to the Gazebo at the park and I could not believe anyone slept in that thing and keep warm. Well right about then Ned crawled out of the tent looking relaxed and not disturbed that it was so cold. I thought to myself that he must be one tough old bird.

I asked him how the heck he could get enough blankets in that tiny thing and he said all he had was one blanket and stayed plenty warm. I noticed a small little smile on his face at that time but didn't think much of it. But I noticed on all of the future freeze-outs his tent was always close to the Gazebo.

But come to find out later on that one blanket was an electric blanket and of course he stayed plenty warm. I never did notice the cord coming from the Gazebo to his tent. He thought it was pretty funny. That is the type of person Ned was. If he could pull your leg and get away with it, he would. I asked him about it and with the same little smile said, took you long enough.

I know a lot of people in the UMCI have fond memories of Ned please share them I know everyone will enjoy them. One of my regrets is that I didn't get to share more time with Ned that would have been so much fun.

Kevi and I send all of our prayers to Ned's family, I know that it has to be very hard on them. Ned will be missed. He is one of our members that gave a lot of himself for this club. I have lots of memories please share yours when you get a chance.

Kevin and Kevi

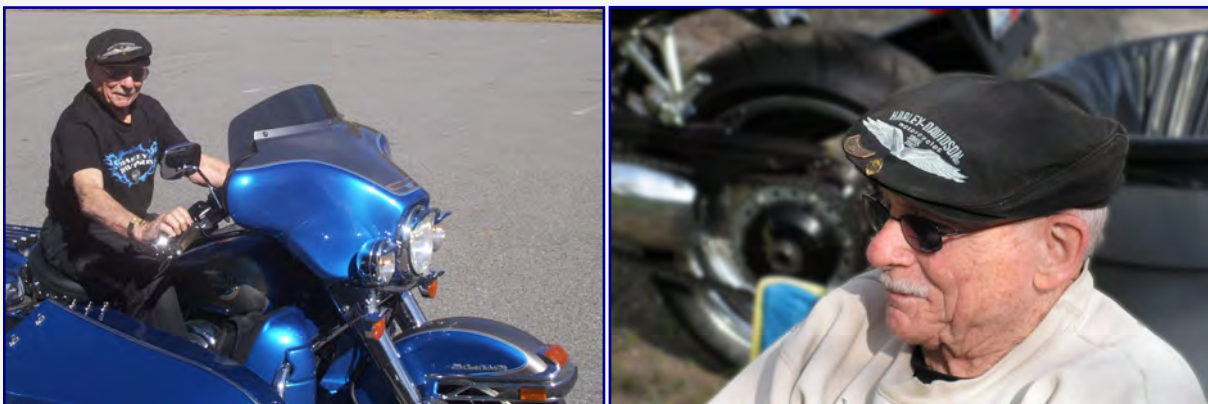


When I first joined UMCI, I met Ned and Esther Ackerman. I attended a couple breakfasts but then got side tracked. About a year later, Esther called trying to recruit members again so I returned to the group and got more involved in the various events. My brother, Ben Altman, and I were fortunate enough to share a camp spot at Tygh Valley with Ned and Esther. I believe it was Esther's last campout. But from that time we were good friends with Ned. I'm sure that every UMCI female remembers fondly Ned's hugs. For such a small, frail looking man, he had a powerful hug! I know where that power came from. I visited him in his room in the assisted living in West Seattle. He had a chin up bar across his bedroom door. He never rode the elevator to the dining room. He took the stairs, not for the exercise. He said by going down the stairs, he could see which ladies were sitting at which tables!! Typical Ned!

I remember being at the tavern in Rufus, Oregon with Ned. I thought he would explode. Our waitress was a really cute, buxom young girl but he was not making the typical Ned comments to her. I asked what the problem was. She couldn't take his drink order because she was under age. He said "even I have some morals" I had a lot of fun teasing Ned that night until an older woman came to work and so did Ned!

Yes, the precious man will be missed by all UMCI, especially the women.

Mary Nordby





One of my favorite memories of Ned was on our UMCI Germany trip in 2000. We were riding at speed on the Autobahn, Ned on his Harley. I was behind him when I noticed Ned with both arms in the air. When we stopped later he still had the grin on his face. His comment was ..."I've always wanted to do that!!". Ned was a terrific person. RIP.

Larry Dunton, Oregon City

He was a dear friend for many years.

Tom Wells, Reardan WA

I used to do many rides with UMCI and Ned was always at our Rallies. Two come to mind that I still laugh at to this day: We were having a rally in Tygh Valley and Ned came riding in on a New Harley he was trying out. As he came into the campground he Drove across the grass and didn't see the rather large dip in the ground And promptly dumped the Harley on its side. He immediately jumped Up and raising his hands over his head said: "I'm here and I'm Fine". He just was grinning and he certainly wasn't hurt. I don't know about The Harley, however.

The other time we were at a rally in Cache Creek, British Columbia. All of Us had our tents set up all nice and pretty. Then, in wandered a couple Of baby ducks. Someone grabbed one of them and put it in Ned's tent. Pretty soon, we heard hollering and Ned was rather put out that the Duckling had made a deposit on his tent floor. We all got a grin out of that. Ned was a very special man and a kind and gentle soul.

Pam Richardson, Grants Pass, OR.

I met Ned a couple of times, but never knew him well. Ned told me owned a car once, a new Ford, and after a year and four hundred miles, he got rid of it, didn't need a car!

David Fitzgerald, Kirkland WA





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## Helmet Medical/Contact Info Carriers



I have for sale some medical/contact information helmet carriers that are have self-adhesive on the back. The carrier information might come in very handy, if someone is injured on a ride or an event happens that they are not responsive. You would know who to call in addition to calling for emergency help. This would also be good to give to any new members joining your group that might go on a ride so you know who to contact in an emergency.

If you are interested in getting one carrier for your helmet, please send \$2 and a self-addressed envelope to my address. I will then put a stamp on your envelope and send one to you.

Kathy

Here is my contact information:  
**Kathy Aldrich, PO Box 1132, Moses Lake WA 98837**

Questions? [aldrichkathy@outlook.com](mailto:aldrichkathy@outlook.com)



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## 2023 Events On The Horizon Washington, Oregon & Idaho

**Apr 29-30, Spring Banquet - Othello Senior Center, Othello WA**

Kevin Besel, kbesel52@gmail.com - Registration attached!

**Apr-May? North Cascade Highway Opening Campout - Date TBA**

Duane Wood, 360-766-6603, See Flyer for Info *Fun, short notice excursion...*

**Jun 2-5, North Cascade Campout - [Loup Loup Campground](#), Twisp WA**

Dennis Parsley, 360-672-1901 - No Resv, FCFS, ([map](#)) ([Google Earth](#))

**Jun 11-17, Idaho Panhandle Tour 2023 - Includes Idaho State Rally**

Daniel Magee, 403 878-5859 - [Panhandle Tour Information](#)

**Jun 13-15, Idaho State Rally - Clearwater River KOA, Kamiah ID**

Larry Phelps, ljphelps1951@gmail.com - See Flyer for information

**Jun 20-23, Farragut State Park (Snowberry Campground), Athol ID**

David Fitzgerald, 206-300-5034 - [Reservations](#) (Non-Idaho Residents = \$\$\$)

**Jun 26-29, Laird Park Campout - [Laird Park Campground](#), Harvard ID**

1101 Palouse River Rd ([map](#)), David Fitzgerald, 206-300-5034 (Please RSVP)

**Jul 17-20, International - Chelan County Fairgrounds, Cashmere WA**

Kevin Besel, kbesel52@gmail.com - See Registration - Complete ASAP

**Aug 7-11, Silver Falls Campout - [Silver Falls State Park](#), OR**

David Fitzgerald, 206-300-5034 - Popular; [Register ASAP](#) for best selection

**Aug 8-10, Clyde Holiday - [Clyde Holiday State Park](#), Mount Vernon OR**

Dick Hohstadt, 541-786-0230, [dhohstadt007@gmail.com](mailto:dhohstadt007@gmail.com)

**Aug 23-27, Coos Bay Campout - [Coos County Fair Grounds](#), Myrtle Pt, OR**

Chris Williams, 541-404-5286 or [ebecknesr@gmail.com](mailto:ebecknesr@gmail.com), See Registration Form

**Aug 25-28, Lost Resort, Cabins & Campground ([map](#)), Ozette WA**

David Fitzgerald, [route66@outlook.com](mailto:route66@outlook.com), No Resv, [Info](#)

**Sep 1-4, Tygh Valley, Wasco County Fairgrounds ([map](#)), Tygh Valley OR**

Ben Altman, 541-993-9015 - Reservations not required

# 2023 UMCI International Chelan County Fairgrounds

July 17th - 20th

Cashmere, WA

Wescott Dr. & Kimber Rd.

**Please Register ASAP**  
(by June 1st is desirable)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Travel distance to Cashmere, WA: \_\_\_\_\_ Miles/Kilometers

Registration and Banquet per person ..... \$25.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RV Camping per night ..... \$25.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tent Camping per night ..... \$17.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Make Checks Payable To: George Penner**

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**Mail Registration to:**

**Mr. & Mrs. George Penner**

**77 Brugh Road**

**Oroville, WA 98844-9400**

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## Four Hour Motorcycle Ride Moses Lake, WA

June 11, 2023

We met at Bob's Café in Moses Lake, WA for our June meeting. We had one new rider with us today, Kathy and Hale Enlow, previously from Nebraska. Randy and Lynne Schaal from Snowbird Land 🤝 joined our group too!

Randy led our group after a nice breakfast on a ride thru Lind to Winona, Dusty, Lyon's Ferry, Starbuck, Pomeroy and then back to outskirts of Othello and Moses Lake. Randy and Richard competed on those steep switchbacks by Lyon's Ferry. Rich's trike kept up with Randy's motorcycle. We stopped for refueling and made a few rest stops on the route. There wasn't a lunch stop as everyone seemed to be full from breakfast. We will see where our next adventure takes us in July. Enjoy your summer and be safe on your rides!

Kathy Aldrich







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## Four Hour Motorcycle Ride





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## Blueberry Run

The blueberry run was a beautiful location! A small group of UMCI riders and friends took off from Moses Lake, riding on to Ephrata to pick up other riders on the way to Manson. The destination was Blueberry Hills Farm and Restaurant. We had a delicious lunch, bought frozen blueberries and sampled blueberry juice that was for sale. We were surprised and delighted with the huge lunches that were served. I have included a few photos!

We ate our lunch and had pleasant conversations that were over too soon. It was time to depart and as we got ready to leave, we experienced a sprinkling of rain. Everyone put on rain gear or not as we headed out for home! We stopped at one last rest stop just before Wenatchee and took off the rain gear as the sun came out. If you get a chance, you should visit Blueberry Hills!

Kathy Aldrich 🧐



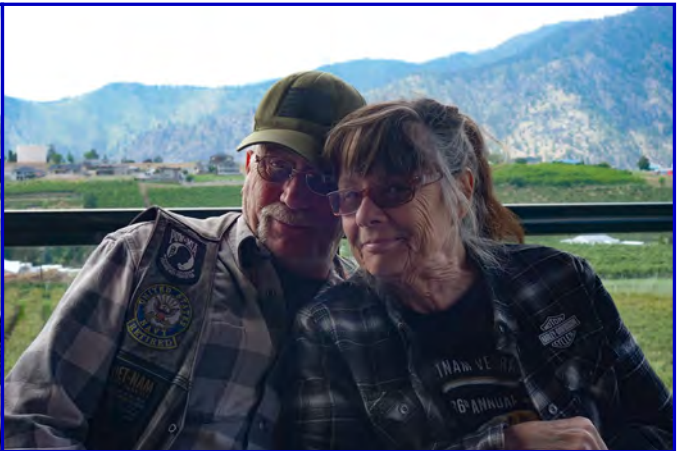


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## Blueberry Run





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## Solved - The Mystery of Evelyn's Tavern

Some of you may know of Evelyn's Tavern, located on the east side of Hwy 9, as you travel through the small community of Clear Lake, WA. I've always wondered about this place as I rolled past. Evelyn's doesn't look very appealing, in fact, the building looks kinda rough, run down, deteriorated, certainly a lack of upkeep. It's not uncommon to see one or more motorcycles parked in front, which contributes to your subliminal thoughts of this establishment.

I've wondered if Evelyn's was worthy of a UMCI visit? Many of us have passed by there several times, yet Evelyn's was a mystery; why is that? I asked a few people if they've ever been to Evelyn's? They all said no, but one responded in a slightly raised, inquisitive voice; are you kidding me? It's never occurred to me to go there, he said.

Well, I decided it was time to clear up the unknowns of Evelyn's. My wife I and jumped on the Harley and headed north on Hwy 9 to Clear Lake, a 59-mile excursion on the anvil. The Yamaha (the Couch) would have been a lot more comfortable, but subconsciously, I suspected that Evelyn's was popular with bikers. Only having seen Harleys in front, I figured my Yamaha would seem out of place and who needs to unnecessarily stand out, I thought.

When we rolled up to Evelyn's, there was one Harley and a tiny sub-compact car out front. I struggled somewhat to back the anvil into my parking space because of foot slippage due to the fine loose gravel. It was like trying to back the bike wearing roller skates. All I could think of was falling over while parking with my wife on the back. We're already plagued with the common ailments of old age; we didn't need to be found pinned down by a Harley in front of Evelyn's.

With the jiffy stand in place and helmets perched on the bike, we headed for the front door. When we entered, we were surprised to find the place half full or half empty, depending on which side of the river you're from. The obvious biker, and old geezer, was at the first table just behind the front door. We sat at the bar and looked around; to scope the place out. All we could see were ordinary, everyday looking people, middle age and beyond. I overheard one lady on the way out the door, comment to another person about being 90 years old. But where did all these people come from, with only a Harley and a small car parked in front? As it turned out, those patrons were parked on Hwy 9, just south of Evelyn's, on the west side of Hwy 9. What may not be obvious as you pass Evelyn's, there's very little parking at Evelyn's itself. The parking space in front is so shallow that only motorcycles and subcompact cars are permitted; hence motorcycle visibility.



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While bikers may visit Evelyn's, Evelyn's is not a bikers bar, but more of a community sanctuary. Everybody we encountered was warm and friendly. The waitress was top notch, a juggler, managing multiple issues effortlessly, simultaneously. She never missed a beat, smiling and chatting the whole time. Evelyn's is warm and comfortable. There's a photograph of Evelyn on the wall. We felt at home on the first visit. Evelyn's is my kinda place, warm and homey, with a kinda yesteryear atmosphere, similar to Pete's in Fall City, the Oxford Saloon in Snohomish, the Last Frontier in Fall City, the Hollywood Tavern in Woodinville, the Duvall Tavern and the Fiddlers Inn in Wedgewood, to name a few...

My wife had BBQ wings that were baked, not deep fried as is common. She loved them. I had the Deluxe Bacon Burger that featured the whole cow, enough for a platoon, seemingly, and I was successful by myself, to the very end, along with the excellent homemade coleslaw. According to the waitress, there's standing room only on Prime Rib night every Sunday, and they're busy, so get there early if you hope to participate.

Before we left, we went out back to check out the beer garden; it's huge. There was another large group of people out back having lunch. Some waved and said hello. Another group were playing horseshoes. Yes, horseshoes! The beer garden alone is its own entity, a comfortable looking place to relax or have a meeting.

Hard as it was, we had to leave and ventured to the anvil and donned our gear. As we prepared to depart, a Harley bagger pulled up sporting a vintage senior with whiskers everywhere, dressed in biker attire. He was friendly, but as he turned to enter Evelyn's, I couldn't help but notice large lettering on the back of his shirt that read, Member of The Arthritis Club.

We were, for the most part, the only visible bikers on premise, and we're not bikers, but motorcycle enthusiasts.

For what it's worth, Evelyn's is personally approved by me! We'd go back in a heartbeat, yes, we enjoyed it that much.





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## The North Cascade Campout

The North Cascade Campout of 2023, hosted by Dennis and Heather Parsley is a pleasant memory.

The Loup Loup campground is about one mile off Hwy 20. To get there, turn left (north) about 500 ft. east of the Loup Loup summit, then take the second right. The campground is on your left. Altitude is about 4000 ft.

The Loup Loup campground just reopened since our last visit in 2019. The campground was closed due to storm damage and Covid. It was nice to return to Loup Loup and learn that our favorite campground host, Esther, was there to greet us.

We arrived two days early and ran into the Parsleys, who arrived earlier and had already setup their camp. Other than the host and the Parsleys, we were the only ones there.

Dennis and Heather decided to visit Twisp, about a fourteen-mile drive. We continued to our old familiar campsite and setup our pop-up trailer. Then my wife decided to return to the campground entrance to register; a few minutes' walk.

Our group enjoyed a somewhat secluded camping area that was located just west of the main campground, but at a slightly lower elevation (30 ft.?). We were away from the normal camping traffic and not easily visible from the main camping area. This gave our segment of the campground the feeling of being unique; isolated, its own entity.

I finalized camp setup and decided to join her at the registration site. About half way there, you reach the higher elevation of the main campground to view a vast openness, spotted with tall trees. I heard a noise way off to my left as I approached my wife who was slightly to my right, about a 100 ft ahead. I focused on the distant sound of pounding hoofs to see a deer in a high-speed gallop, seemingly headed toward my wife. I yelled to my wife to look to her right. I could tell that she spotted the fast-moving animal that raced past her location. She said the deer passed her about twenty-five feet away. I don't think either of us was in jeopardy. Other than on TV, I had never seen a deer in full gallop. The rhythmic sound of the hoofs striking the ground is memorable.



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We had very pleasant weather, for the most part. Soft light from the sunrise at 5am, warm, comfortable temperatures during the day, but late evenings temps really plummeted; it was COLD! I guess that's to be expected at 4000 ft. in early June. On the other hand, the town of Twisp, at 1600 ft., was too hot! You couldn't shed enough clothing!

On the last evening, Dennis and Heather hosted a Taco Bar. There were plenty of fixin's. We were joined by the campground host, Esther. Everyone enjoyed tacos or taco salad. We ate well. The feast was capped by great brownies from Jan Dale, strawberry shortcake from Susan Fitzgerald and delicious watermelon, courtesy of Tonni Nielson.

Everyone had a great time. Group story telling marathons moved from campsite to campsite, throughout the day. What a great event. Everyone was sorry the North Cascade Campout came to an end.

Looking forward to next year!

daf



From left to right:

David Fitzgerald, Esther (campground host), Dennis Parsley (green arrow), Heather Parsley, Jan Dale, Tonni Nielson (Grand Forks, BC), Duane Wood, Gordon Dale, and Lynette Caruthers

Not shown: Susan Fitzgerald (Photographer), Kenny Smith (Unavailable)



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## The North Cascade Campout

*Photos by Heather Parsley*







## Oregon's Five Covered Bridges Day Loop

By Andy Cherney

**These scenic spans that recall Oregon's pioneer past make for a great daytrip**

Who doesn't like a covered bridge? The colorful spans have always evoked the mystery and romance of a bygone era, plus you usually find them plopped down in some ridiculously scenic terrain. And if you're a true aficionado, Oregon's not a bad place to be; the Beaver State claims upward of 50 covered examples. That's the most covered bridges west of the Mississippi.



The first covered bridges in Oregon were cobbled together by rugged pioneers in the 1850s, with that cover serving to keep the huge truss timber foundation dry. So a covered bridge could last 80 years or more, while an uncovered span would deteriorate in under 10. The abundance of Douglas Fir and the shortage of steel during the world wars meant construction of covered spans continued well into the 1950s, and at their peak, there were an estimated 450 covered bridges in Oregon. Now, however, probably less than 50 of these grand old spans remain open to vehicle traffic, most of them soldiering on as tourist attractions. And you could say they've done their job well: these bridges continue to be extremely photogenic and visually appealing.

50 bridges are a lot. Sure, maybe I could bag them all over the course of a couple of weeks, but for my first reconnaissance, I'd keep it simple. After some research, I discovered a cluster of these funky reminders of Oregon's pioneer past near the tiny town of Scio situated between Portland and Eugene. They were in peaceful, wide-open farm country, and best of all, the route could be run as a loop. Time to pack the cameras.



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With Interstate 5 serving as the main artery from Portland, it was the logical - if not preferred - place to start. If you're coming from the northern Cascades or from the east, however, any number of mountain roads can boost the fun factor: from the east, consider taking OR -22 or US-20 westbound, then, at Mehama, dropping onto OR-226 southbound to Scio; or for a real adventure, ride the Aufderheide Scenic Byway from Sisters over to Eugene, and then up to Albany.

From Washington, it's quickest to jam down I-5 south to the Albany exit for US 20 east. From the south, you can also go north on I-5 and do the same.

After exiting I-5 near Albany, head east for a couple of miles on US 20 before bearing left onto OR - 226 as it splits off to the east. Even those riders with a heavy throttle hand will find themselves easing the pace as they pass filbert orchards, tree farms, and alpaca ranches along 226. Really, there's nothing but farms for the first few miles of this flat and somewhat fast two-laner, framed by fields and barns and occasionally broken up by rolling hills and maybe a stray farm tractor.



*The Hoffman Bridge near the town of Scio was built by hand in 1936, and is still carrying vehicles today.*

Just past the town of Crabtree, you'll turn north (left) onto Hungry Hill Drive and ride approxi-

mately 1 mile to get to the first span on the loop: the Howe-truss type **Hoffman Covered Bridge**. This 77-year old span with Gothic style windows crosses Crabtree Creek and the Santiam River with a design that's distinctly different from the open truss layout you'd usually see in these parts. The original bridge has since been enlarged and squared to allow larger trucks to squeeze through, but you can still see signs that the upper beams were shaped by hand (bridge crews in 1936 didn't have portable power tools).

Gilkey Bridge is about 5 miles north of Hoffman; just turn around (don't cross the Hoffman Bridge) and go back the way you came along Hungry Hill Road as it heads southeast, until you hit Crabtree Drive /Cold Springs Rd, and turn west (right). Once you reach Gilkey Road, turn north (right) and ride several miles as Gilkey eventually becomes Goar Rd, and the bridge heaves into sight.



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*Pretty much in the middle of nowhere, the Gilkey Bridge runs parallel to a railroad bridge that was once covered as well. As you can imagine, both structures have since been rehabbed.*

The white, open-sided Gilkey Bridge sports large curved portals and an exposed truss design that seems almost ethereal as it crosses Thomas Creek about 3.5 miles southwest of Scio. The 120 foot long bridge was constructed in 1939, but seriously damaged in 1997 and then rehabilitated in 2017. Decent-size pullouts on the west side of the bridge allow you to park and snap photos safely, if you're so inclined.

After Gilkey you'll probably want a snack, and for that your best bet is just up the road in the quiet burg of Scio. Just continue up Goar Road across the bridge to Robinson Drive, and hang a right (east). After a couple of miles, Robinson dumps you literally in the middle of downtown Scio. Billed as "the covered bridge capital of the west," Scio's a peaceful little place with few eateries but if you're feeling remotely hungry, march straight over to the quaint Covered Bridge Coffee House for a homemade peanut butter bar or a fresh home-cooked meal.

East of Scio is the longest, and only red covered bridge in Linn County, the **Shimanek Bridge**. This 130-foot span is also the newest bridge in the country (completed in 1966), and is the fifth bridge at this location. Carrying Richardson Gap Road across Thomas Creek about 2 miles east of Scio, the Shimanek's red paint, portal design and louvered windows offer a different look than the normal whitewashed bridges in the area. Parking is tough here though, as there's a really narrow shoulder, so do yourself a favor and pull off further down the road for safety if you want a photo.



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If you're determined to hunt down a full five bridges, the **Hannah Bridge** is only a couple of miles farther east of Scio along 226, and the open-sided **Larwood Bridge** farther south is at the confluence of Crabtree Creek and the Roaring River - which according to "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" is the only U.S. river to flow into a creek. Pretty cool.

To complete the loop, either head west on 226 back to I-5, or take Stayton-Scio Road north out of downtown Scio to the town of Stayton, where you can catch the more entertaining US-22 westbound which eventually winds back to I-5 farther north. And there you have it – the 5 Bridges in a Day Tour: a relaxing route with a chance to gasp at a couple of old historic beauties, and tool along some relaxing back roads to boot.



*You're looking at the only red covered bridge in Linn County. The Shimanek is also*



*Often set among the scenic rolling hills of farm country, a tour of covered bridges is guaranteed to get your blood pressure down a few points.*





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## **Avoiding Tire Failure:** Getting the Most From the Tires That Were Meant For Your Bike

by Eric Tow



*Even with just 10 psi, it is difficult to see that this motorcycle tire is dangerously low in pressure.*

Motorcycles subject tires to an enormous range of forces, stresses and heat. Fortunately, motorcycle tires are overdesigned to be able to meet those needs and still have reserve. So why do some tires fail? Most motorcycle tire failures come as a result of low tire pressures and excessive weight. No wonder tire manufacturers rate tire pressure as the number-one priority and they strongly urge riders to check it regularly. So, if we're going to become fanatical about anything, it should be about religiously checking our tires and avoiding the sins of overloading them.



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“Overload and under inflation is a bad, bad combination on any motorcycle,” Dunlop’s Mike Manning explains. “It creates excessive flex in the tire and an excessive heat buildup that can negatively affect handling and could ultimately result in tire failure—for any kind of tire.” Unfortunately, overlooking tire maintenance is all too common, even among active long-distance riders. “In our travels to rallies and other motorcycle events, we routinely find motorcycles with badly neglected tires. We have found tires with multiple nails—some clearly from different times—and a high percentage of tires that were significantly underinflated.” Perhaps that’s because it’s difficult to see when a motorcycle tire is low in air.



*This low-profile car tire begins to bulge when tire pressure drops below 25 psi.*



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You can tell when most car tires are underinflated by as little as 5 pounds because the sidewalls visibly bulge. In contrast, a motorcycle tire must be nearly out of air before it appears to be low in air. The motorcycle tire is much more stiff by design, so giving the tire a kick or pressing the center with your thumb to see if it has enough air inside just won't do the trick. That's why it is so important to regularly check air pressures and keep them at their prescribed levels—even more so when carrying passengers or otherwise loading the bike. How often? Check pressures and visually check tires for foreign objects daily on a trip and weekly otherwise. And be sure to adhere to the motorcycle manufacturers' GVWR limits to avoid overloading tires. Use the worksheet below to assure that you are not exceeding the limits of your motorcycle and contributing to potential handling and tire problems.

### AVAILABLE LOAD CAPACITY:

1. Enter GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating). Check owner's manual or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plate.    1. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.
2. Enter dry weight of motorcycle. Check owner's manual.    minus    2. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.
3. Average weight of fluids (gas and oil).    minus    3.    40 lbs.
4. Available load capacity of your motorcycle (Line 1 – Line 2 – Line 3):    4. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.

### LOADING OF YOUR MOTORCYCLE:

5. Enter total weight of rider and passenger. Include helmets, boots and clothing.    5. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.
6. Enter weight of accessories you have added, including chrome, windshield, saddlebags, etc.    plus    6. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.
7. Enter weight of any cargo/luggage you are carrying.    plus    7. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.
8. This is the load you are adding to your motorcycle (Line 5 + Line 6 + Line 7):    8. \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.

If line 8 is greater than line 4, **YOUR MOTORCYCLE IS OVERLOADED**. Overloading your motorcycle could lead to tire failure, accident, injury or death.

*Courtesy, Motorcycle Industry Council*

The above is compounded further when tires are underinflated. Be sure to check tire pressures and make certain those pressures are appropriate for the load on the bike (most motorcycle manufacturers list different tire pressures for riding solo vs. when riding with the bike loaded and/or two-up).





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## 37th Annual UMCI Coos Bay Camp Out Coos County Fairgrounds, Myrtle Point, Oregon August 23-27, 2023

WEDNESDAY – Camp setup; self-guided tours.  
 THURSDAY - On-site registration; self-guided tours; **bring a can of chili!**; 50/50.  
 FRIDAY – Self-guided tours; hot dog and chili dinner; 50/50.  
 SATURDAY – 8 am: No host \$5 Pancakes & Eggs Breakfast (at fairgrounds)  
                   9 am: Poker run; 6 pm: No host \$25 Seafood Dinner (at fairgrounds).  
                   8 pm: Official meeting; 50/50 and **door prize** drawings.  
 SUNDAY – 8 am breakfast at Kozy Kitchen; breakdown camp. See you next year!!!!

RIDER 1 \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
 RIDER 2 \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Fees</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration <b>per person</b>	\$7		
Campsite at fairground \$35 <b>per night</b>	\$35		
Poker Run <b>per person</b> (optional)	\$5		
Dinner <b>per person</b> (optional) Sign up by Thursday night	\$25		
<b>Grand Total of Fees</b>			

Make checks payable to Chris Williams and mail to 721 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Myrtle Point, OR 97458  
 Questions or comments call Chris at 541-404-5286 or send an e-mail to ebecknesr@gmail.com.

THE UNDERSIGNED DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I/WE WILL NOT HOLD THE OREGON UMCI RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS, DAMAGE OR INJURY THAT MAY OCCUR WHILE AT THIS CAMP OUT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, Rider 1                      Date                      Signature, Rider 2                      Date





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# For Sale

2001 Goldwing • Great Shape • 45,000 miles • \$6100



Contact: Patrick McManus @ 206-355-1924



# For Sale

## AKRAPOVIČ Exhaust System for CAN-AM

A new muffler, or near new. It was on the bike for one short ride, two hours total. Then decided the original was more to my liking. Will fit Can-Am 2010 to 2023 RT models. New they cost \$1,000.00 but will sell for \$600.00 or best offer.



Contact Denny at: 541-817-3175  
••• Oregon Listing •••



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# For Sale

**1995 Honda Goldwing GL 1500 Interstate • 54,000 miles  
New Windshield • Tune Up • Brakes • Ready to go • \$4800**



**1995 Kwik Kamp with Queen Bed • \$2500**



**Contact Lucy Johnson at: 509-269-4648  
Eastern Washington**



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## For Sale

### Motorcycle / Sidecar Outfit

#### 1996 Yamaha Royal Star 1300cc

V4 • 5 Speed • Champion Escort Sidecar  
Fully Equipped with Running Boards • Fairing  
Studded Leather Saddlebags • Special Road Lights  
Special Patriotic Themed Painted Tank and Fender  
Color Matched Sidecar • Good Tires

Sidecar mounted on bike was ~~\$10,000~~

Asking: \$6000 or Best Offer



Call Dave at: 208-210-8088 OR 208-627-8945

Email: [sidecarbikerbillie@hotmail.com](mailto:sidecarbikerbillie@hotmail.com)



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## Freedom, Friendship, Food & Fun Our Only Business

### UMCI Representatives

International Representative	Kevin Besel, Othello, WA	509-531-1942
WA State & Columbia Basin Rep	Kevin Besel, Othello, WA	509-531-1942
Inland Northwest Area Rep (1)	Charlie Crane, Spokane, WA	509-238-4677
Inland Northwest Area Rep (2)	John Fast, Spokane, WA	509-238-2341
Okanogan Area Rep & Treasure	George & Willie Penner, Okanogan, WA	509-429-1736
Seattle/Puget Sound Area Rep	David Fitzgerald, Kirkland, WA - <i>Temp</i>	206-300-5034
Sedro Woolley Area Rep	Duane Wood, Bow, WA	360-766-6603

### Monthly Breakfast Schedules

Columbia Basin Area, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun.	9:00am, Bob’s Restaurant, 1807 E. Kittlestone, Moses Lake
Inland Northwest Area, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat.	8:30am, Denny’s Restaurant, 6 N Pines Rd, Spokane
Okanogan Area, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat.	8:30am, Cariboo, 233 Queen Street, Okanogan
Seattle/Puget Sound, 1st Sat.	9:00am, Big Lake Bar & Grill, 18247 Hwy 9, Mount Vernon
Sedro Woolley Area, 1st Sat.	9:00am, Big Lake Bar & Grill, 18247 Hwy 9, Mount Vernon

**David Fitzgerald, Editor**  
[UmciNewsWash@gmail.com](mailto:UmciNewsWash@gmail.com)

