

## 2008 John Day golf run

This was in conjunction with the Oregon BMW Riders annual Chief Joseph Rally. I had a couple of reasons for going; Tom Young the tire vendor at the rally was short handed mechanics, there are a number of golf courses in the vicinity, and I was going to display my collapsible golf cubs at Tom's booth. Mainly to get the word out about the clubs but also I took a couple sets to sell.

I left the shop on Wednesday evening around 1800hrs. Noticed the V-Strom was handling a bit strange it finally dawned on me that with 4 sets of golf clubs on the back I was carrying a bit more weight back there than normal. When I stopped for gas in Enumclaw I added a couple turns to the pre-load and that fixed the problem.

Went over Chinook pass, the most scenic as well. couple of photos. Snow cold.



the shortest route for me, but also Stopped at the top to take a pack still high and it was a bit

Road was clear with very good time into Yakima. trying to put down some have I am less likely to critters when on the

lite traffic so I was able to make Here I picked I-82 as I was just miles. And when riding at dusk I run into deer and other large interstate.

About Tri-Cities noticed a very large and bright full moon. I think it is what is called a solstice moon. Didn't have camera capable of getting a picture of it but is pretty impressive. Got into Umatilla around 2200hrs and found a motel for the night.

## 2008.06.19 Thursday

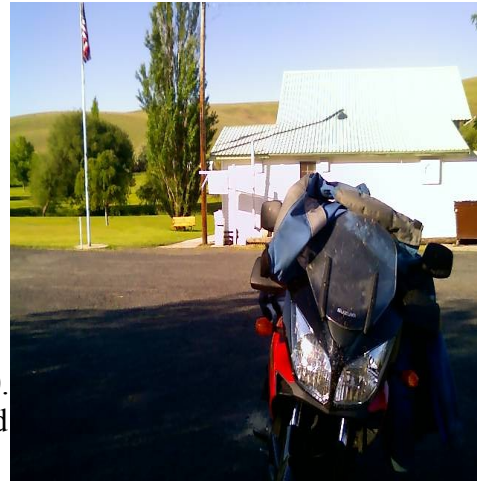
Left the motel early about 0630hrs, full tank of gas and off I went down Oregon route 207 to Heppner. As I was just getting into town I saw the familiar landmark for all golfers of a green and a flag stick. Guess I had zipped right past the club house without even seeing it. I made a quick u-turn and headed back. The golf course is called Willow Creek Country Club. This is a 9-hole course with two sets of tees in case you want to play 18 holes. There is a sign in sheet and honor box to pay for the round. 9 holes is \$12.

Very nice course and well maintained a friendly grounds crew and even the members. One of which was out doing some pruning as I was walking by. Asking if I was the motorcycle that was in the lot. That lead to discussion of my collapsible clubs.

Did not play all that well until after I got a few holes under my belt. Must have something to do with the mind set for riding versus playing golf not being any where close to the same.



This is the most interesting hole, this is #3. It is only a par 3 but the green is hidden behind that pile of rocks.



My bike in front of the clubhouse

Finished with a score of 36 on a par 30 course. Not bad but not great. Done playing around 0900. Drove into town from breakfast at the historic old hotel building in downtown. Good thing stopped when I did as the road I wanted to take to Monument turned out not to be marked very well. So asking the waitress for directions was a good thing.

On the map there was a paved road that went east off of 207 just south of Heppner that goes to Ukiah. The waitress gave me the local name for the road. Willow Creek reservoir road. Turned out to be a great road. About half way to Ukiah there is a turn off to the right on to a dirt road. It is 23 miles to the next main intersection, not far past the forest service work camp.



Where it says Heppner that takes you back to 207 about 26 miles south of Heppner.



Just had to take a close up of the signpost at the intersection .

Sunflower Flat Road is the one that I took into Monument. It is a good dirt road for about half the way in and then it turns back into pavement.

Great scenery and riding, saw several families with 5wheel trailers and quads and dirt bikes.

From Monument took the pavement to Long Creek. Finally saw another bike that looked like they were headed to the rally. From Long Creek went south on 395 to Mt. Vernon where it intersects with 19 for a short run into John Day.

Got registered at the rally found Tom Young's tent and had the clubs out on display in about an hour. About 30 minutes later sold the first set.



Kevin Pinkstaff hard at work changing tires for Tom. My V-Strom is there at the other end. I spent the rest of the day explaining about my clubs in between changing tires and performing other mechanic services on the Beemers.

20080620 Friday

The 9 hole golf course in John Day did not open until 0800, so had coffee and breakfast at one of the vendors at the rally. Just a short ride to the Golf Course, barely even got the bike warmed up. This is a private course but they do allow guests. The rates are reasonable \$12 for 9 holes. There was no wait at the 1st tee so after paying headed straight out. 1st tee is elevated looking out onto a wide fairway. One of the greens keepers was out mowing so I wanted to hit a good first shot. Did hit a good tee shot put myself within wedge range for 2nd shot. The bad part was the same greens keeper got to watch me mess that shot up.

The photo to the right is typical of the holes, where greens are protected by trees. The green is behind those trees at the end of the fairway. Also the small greens make the course challenging.



The photo at left is from the tee box of #4; a par 3 with water tight to the front of the green. My first bogey of the day. Ball landed on the green but bounced and rolled off the fringe.

Ended up shooting a 46 on a par 35 course not bad, not great, just hanging with normal handicap, but starting with 3 double bogeys did not help.

Got back to the Rally by 1000, busy day lots of tire customers and a few oil changes. Must have finished up the last bike around 2130hrs. Thank god for Jeff and Franci for making large quantities of Margaritas.

2008.06.21 Saturday

On Friday I had been talking to Eric about my golf clubs and trying to convince him he needed to buy a set. Later in the day he was hanging around the booth and I told him I was riding out to Seneca on Saturday to play the Bear Valley Meadows Golf Course. Told him I had a spare club or two if he wanted to join me. Said I would be leaving from the booth at 0700.

0700 there Eric was. We headed out of John Day south on 395. For those of you not familiar with this road it is a beautiful set of twisties that must gain over a 1000 feet in elevation as you go. Took us about 20 minutes to get to Seneca. Road past the turn off for the golf course and had to turn around. Found the sign near what appears to be the city park.

Got to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and honor box and the sign said that if the mini-mart is open go there to register.

Looking from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee toward the green. That is Eric standing next to his BMW. The green is hard to see but it is down there by those buildings.

This true pasture golf. As we were finishing putting on the first hole, two mules came up to the fence from the neighboring pasture to visit.



The fairway grass was about the same height you would normally expect for the first cut of the rough at most courses. The fairways are generously wide but if for some reason you do go off the fairway the ball is gone. The actual rough is very tall and thick. We started to keep score but then only kept track of how many strokes we had on each other. Eric beat me by something like 7 strokes. I had a really bad last few holes.

The good part was Eric was impressed with the very good feel of the collapsible clubs that I built. This from a guy that used to be a 4 handicap.

Putting on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole.



Bottom line was we had a good time and that really is the whole point. Going for nice ride, getting off the bike to have a little exercise, then getting back on the bike for more riding. Got back to the rally and back to work. Had another long day, broken up by high winds and later thunder storms. Had to hang onto the tents to keep them from blowing over.

2008.06.22 Sunday

Had spent a portion of Saturday night packing up what stuff we could. Especially since I planned on getting an early start in the morning. The thunderstorms last night had left the outside of my tent a bit damp but the tent did not leak so I was able to get a good nights sleep.

Up early and broke camp, had everything packed back up on the bike and ready to go in less than an hour from first waking up. Had a cup of coffee with Tom and then hit the road. Headed west on 19 to Dayville, where rumor had it they had just opened a small golf course.

The road from Mt Vernon to Dayville had just recently been chip sealed so it was not the greatest ride, but still not too bad as it was early enough in the morning there was nobody else on the road. The turn off for the golf course is well marked and takes you out of town a few miles on the South Fork road; hence the name of the golf course: South Fork Golf Course.



The course itself is 6 holes, with three different tees on each hole to allow you to get 18 holes in. All the holes are par 3's but you best bring at least a fairway wood as the number 1 hole plays 203 yards. The course layout makes good use of the undulating terrain to make an interesting and challenging course. Also the greens are a bit smaller than you would find on a regular par 72 track.

That's the clubhouse where you will find the honor box to pay your green fees, score cards, and it looks like there are some rental clubs as well.

When I arrive there was only one other guy on the course.



The entrance road is on the left hillside which parallels the first hole. The flag stick on the green is just visible from the tee box as it is below the hill. Also everything on this hole slants to the right so the trick is to hit to the left side of the fairway and let the ball roll.

This is the 6th hole and the only one I hit in regulation, and took par on it. What you can't see is the river on the left.



As I finished up my round and was getting back to the bike, I met and talked some of the locals that were just getting going that morning. Turns out one of the guys was the guy on the mower at John Day when I played there.

Overall this is a pretty nice course that is being well maintained. The fairways are still a bit rough but as I understand it the course has only been up and running for a couple of years.

After talking to the locals packed everything up and headed West toward Mitchell.

Stopped at this cafe for breakfast, there were already a number of bikes from the rally parked out front. Good thing as all the tables were full and if the other riders had not invited me to share their table I would not have had any where to sit.

Food was excellent by the way. After I ordered another rider came in and eventually joined us as well. I don't remember his name but I do remember the vanity plate 'sptnik' as I followed him for a few hundred miles on the way home. Turned out he



was headed home to Seattle, so we were going the same direction for much of the way.

We headed north on 207 out of Mitchell. Good pavement and fun road. There was a turn off to side road that goes through Twickham that we had talked about taking but we blew right on past it. Both roads hook up with 19.

Turned west on 19, stayed on 19 to Fossil, where we took 216 to Antelope. From there going north on 97 to Biggs Junction. We had been running pretty fast for some time and picked up head wind so the mileage was not so good. My gas light started blinking at me just after leaving Grass Valley with no gas between there and Biggs, I had to back it down a bit and keep it under 70 for the rest of the way in. It is roughly 35 miles between Grass Valley and Biggs. Per the owners manual when the fuel light starts to flash you have .8 gallons left. How much of that is usable I am not sure.

Anyway it was a good thing we slowed it down a bit as the local policia were out running radar along this section of highway. After both of us getting gas we continued north on 97, passing everything in sight all the way to Yakima. Here Sptnik and I parted company, he was headed to I 90 and home while I living in the south end of Puget Sound took highway 12 over White Pass.

Nice ride not much traffic even after turning north on to highway 7 at Morton. Just a pleasant ride back to the ranch on the twisty roads I grew up on.