

Subj: **trip report**  
Date: 7/16/2005  
To: [Ole1975](#), [XRBen](#), [RachelC246](#), [emily.k.thorpe@wamu.net](mailto:emily.k.thorpe@wamu.net), [Manningdesign](#), [MarkLaine](#), [Majava500](#), [fritz.drach@fredmeyer.com](mailto:fritz.drach@fredmeyer.com)

Hello –

Thought I'd give you a quick update about how the trip is going so far. In a word – great!

After leaving Portland, I headed to Corvallis via the back way (Newberg, McMinnville, etc), then through Alsea to the coast. My old Forest Service summer digs in Alsea are empty and for sale. I headed south on 101 and enjoyed a beautiful drive south, although the further south I got, the windier it became. It wasn't a problem though with my trusty stead.

After spending the night in Brookings Oregon (extreme SW corner), I headed out in the fog the next morning. It felt good, although it was a bit on the cool side. However, as the day progressed it got warmer and warmer. Soon I was REALY hot. When I stopped for a drink, I found it was 105 degrees. At dinner, I devoured two large carafes of water, must have been sweating a bit.

Made it down to San Rafael tonight. I know it's getting nearer civilization since even seedy hotels (which I am good at picking) are getting expensive. It's only a few miles to San Francisco, so I plan on heading over the Golden Gate Bridge tomorrow morning when traffic is light since everybody will be at church. Just Brian and the heathens out there!

The bike (Gertrude) is a wonderful traveling companion. Running great, getting almost 50 mpg (for a 300+ mile range), and has been very comfortable. We are just whispering along, humming to some iPod tunes, enjoying life.



Subj: **trip report**

Date: 7/19/2005

To: [Ole1975](#), [XRBen](#), [RachelC246](#), [emily.k.thorpe@wamu.net](mailto:emily.k.thorpe@wamu.net), [Manningdesign](#), [MarkLaine](#), [Majava500](#), [fritz.drach@fredmeyer.com](mailto:fritz.drach@fredmeyer.com), [ReanLaine](#), [pdrach@leupold.com](mailto:pdrach@leupold.com)

Hello all,

Here's just a quick update on my trip. I made it down to LA along the coast. I thought about going further, but as I got into LA, it got hotter and hotter, the traffic got faster and faster, closer and closer, then slower and slower, so I decided to do an about face and head back north. Since the weather is still too hot inland, I'm headed back along the coast. Will reevaluate this strategy as time goes by. The weather along the coast has continued to be a bit on the foggy side, but is pleasant nevertheless, with temperatures in the mid 60s and warmer when slightly inland or when the fog breaks for awhile.



At the moment I'm in Watsonville, which is just north of Monterey and Carmel. The bike needs its 6k service, which has rolled by a few hundred miles ago, and would be way late if I waited until I get home. So tomorrow I'll be hanging around the hotel and local area while the local BMW shop has Gertrude for the day. Then probably head north to get through San Francisco in the evening.



The trip has continued to be tremendous fun. I've enjoyed walking in the sand of the Carmel beach, watched some surfing, and chatting with a lot of nice people. I feel so lucky to be enjoying some of the nicest motorcycling roads around, with nice weather and beautiful scenery.

See you when I see you...

Brian/Dad



No plans about where to go next, I'm just winging it each day, having a great time. While its nice to have company, it has its problems too. I ran into a group of Harley people from Seattle this morning (drinking espresso of course - the BMW MAN had coffee). This is their second day, and they have a complete detailed itinerary for 17 days of traveling, averaging over 400 miles per day. I could see that some of the troops were already starting to grumble about things. I'd be curious to see how it all turns out in the end.

I'll let you know later on how things are progressing. I wish I could adjust to retirement :).

Brian/Dad

Subj: **trip report**  
Date: 7/21/2005  
To: [Ole1975](#), [XRBen](#), [RachelC246](#), [emily.k.thorpe@wamu.net](mailto:emily.k.thorpe@wamu.net), [Manningdesign](#), [MarkLaine](#), [Majava500](#), [fritz.drach@fredmeyer.com](mailto:fritz.drach@fredmeyer.com), [ReanLaine](#), [pdrach@leupold.com](mailto:pdrach@leupold.com)

Hello all,

Just a quick update as the end of the trip nears --

Yesterday I made it from Watsonville to Ukiah, and today, with a long day of riding (about 400 miles), I made it to Coos Bay. This morning I made the decision to again stay on the coast to avoid the heat, and I think I avoided it a little too much. It turned really cool, and pretty soon there was thunder and rain. A nice warm hotel room hits the spot!

The only really bad thing about the day was seeing an accident where a bicyclist was run over on 101. Peter - you be careful!

At the BMW dealer in Ukiah, they were servicing several CHP police bikes, which are like mine but with some "accessories." This is what the cockpit looks like:



I found the radar interesting. It reads out relative "target" speed (that would be me or you with it showing the difference between the cops speed and our speed), the cop's ground speed, and the difference, which is the thing we all worry about. I didn't know, however, about the "front/rear" switch. Does this mean they can track you as you approach them from the rear as they ride?

Of course I had to take a couple of pictures from the end of the Golden Gate Bridge. Here's one:



Fritz - that's a dandy Fred Meyer store in Brookings. I hadn't seen a two story store before.

The next choice is whether to go all the way up the coast to about Aberdeen ("where the women don't treat you mean") then cut over to the Seattle area, or cut over and go through Portland, then go north. I'll likely be home in a couple days, so barring any trip changes, you probably won't get another report. It's been a great trip, I just have to figure out what the next destination is going to be.

Brian/Dad