



Tandem bicyclists ride down Main Street during the Pendleton Fourth of July Parade.



Motorcyclists ride down Dorion Avenue for the start of the inaugural Pendleton Bike Week in July 2015.

May 27-30 / A.B.A.T.E. Campout

Bear Hollow Campground, near Fossil
Rally includes bike rodeo and show, tattoo contest, scavenger hunt, poker run and live music.

June 17-19 / Chief Joseph Rally

Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day
The BMW Riders of Oregon host a weekend of riding through gold and cattle country, mountain passes, painted hills, river canyons and wide-open desert.

July 7-11 / Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally

Main Street, Baker City
Features five great courses plus five scenic byways — Blue Mountain, Elkhorn, Hells Canyon, Journey Through Time and Oregon Outback — as well as a motorcycle show and BBQ.

July 20-24 / Pendleton Bike Week

Convention Center, Pendleton
This large motorcycle rally in its second year includes a .45 caliber poker run, bikini bike wash championship, tattoo contest, motorcycle hill climb, Wounded Warrior bike show, live music, Hardtail Saloon and Seattle Cossacks precision motorcycle drill team.

Ditch the cowboy hat and boots and grab a plastic helmet and aluminum frames — Eastern Oregon is becoming as much bicycle country as anywhere else in the state.

One of the region's biggest rides, Pendleton's **Century Ride of the Centuries**, enters its 13th year this Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, and will draw more than 300 riders and their families to Pendleton. The first day features the longest ride, about 100 miles to Hat Rock State Park in Hermiston. The next two days have shorter rides of 62 and 25 miles, much of that along old highways and wheat farms.

Chuck Wood has been a bicycle enthusiast his whole life and is a founding member of the community's cycling club, Pendleton on Wheels. He says the CROC appeals to cyclists from all over.

"There isn't a lot of traffic and that time of the year isn't too hot," he said, so the event's popularity is increasing.

You can find more information on Century Ride of the Centuries at www.cyclependleton.com.

Eastern Oregon also is home to three of the state's scenic bikeways: **the Blue Mountain Century, the Grand Tour and the Old West**.

The Blue Mountain is about a 108-mile loop starting in Heppner

and features a 26-mile-long climb to a peak of 5,300 feet through the Umatilla National Forest and then a swift decline to the hamlet of Ukiah. The Old West in John Day runs for 174 miles through scenic forests, high desert and countryside communities.

Wide open spaces and a variety of terrain

Pendleton on Wheels this year plans to take on the Grand Tour, Wood said. The 134-mile, figure-eight route starts in La Grande and offers views of the Elkhorn Range, Blue Mountains and the alpine Eagle Caps of the Wallowa Mountains.

Check out rideoregonride.com for more on the scenic bikeways.

And **Echo Red 2 Red** is the area's cross-country mountain bike race, which takes place in early March. Wood said he gave it whirl.

"I succeeded in coming in dead last," he said. "I finished."

The Oregon Bicycle Racing Association sanctions the event that has competitions of 15, 24 or 32 miles. Visit www.echored2red.com to learn more.

Wood also said La Grande and Echo have some fine mountain bike trails, and Pendleton soon could as well. He is part of a group working to establish multi-use trails on the south side of Pendleton's Airport Hill.

— Phil Wright