

Missing Motorcyclists Found

by Richard Burton

Four motorcycle riders from Bend who were reported missing November 5 spent a dark, cold night on the trail near China Hat Road and Camp II after one of their group ran out of gas, but all were found in good health the next morning.

Family members who stayed behind at Camp II reported to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office that the riders left about 4 p.m. and only planned to be gone about an hour. The missing were identified as Bend residents David Bingham, 36; Mike Fisher, 36; Mark Fisher, 36; and Tracy Dunton, 47.

When the four men hadn't returned by midnight, search and rescue personnel were called into the area. Four all-terrain vehicles, command personnel, an overhead team, and 12 searchers responded, searching throughout the night.

Three of the four missing motorcyclists returned to the camp about 9 a.m. the next morning, and said they built a warming fire and spent the night on the trail. They reported the fourth rider had run out of gas the night before, that they told him to stay where he was, and had planned to return with gas.

Search and rescue members went to the area where he was last seen and found the motorcycle, and began following foot tracks which were following the trail.

The last rider was found about 10:15 a.m. after he had hiked to the China Hat guard station, and was waiting for assistance.

Missing Motorcyclists Found by Richard Burton