Troopers nab speeding Bend motorcyclists, one at 120-mph

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Two Bend motorcyclists were cited by Oregon State Police troopers Thursday morning for high-speed violations near a highway construction zone on Highway 126 near Prineville, Oregon. One of the riders was traveling in excess of 120-mph.

On August 16 about 8:05 a.m., Crook County 911 dispatchers received a complaint about two motorcycles traveling toward Prineville on Powell Butte Highway through a construction zone.

An OSP trooper from the Prineville worksite was driving in a marked patrol car in the area of Highway 126 eastbound near Powell Butte when the two motorcycles matching the description from the original complaint were observed traveling at speeds of 65-mph in the posted 45-mph zone.

When the trooper turned to contact the riders, the news release stated, they both accelerated rapidly. The trooper attempted to overtake the motorcycles, but they continued at a high rate of speed for several miles before being overtaken. The trooper was able to pace one at speeds exceeding 80-mph, and the other at over 120-mph.

The riders, Ryder Bye, 31, and Jason Knight, 34, both of Bend, were stopped just west of Prineville and cited for speed violations. Byeâ€™s citation (80 mph) carries a penalty of $242.

Knight was cited under the increases speed penalty under Senate Bill 568, a law that became effective in 2006 that allows for increased fines for drivers going 100-mph or faster. Under the law, Knight faces a mandatory minimum 30-to-90 day suspension in addition to a $1,103 fine.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, excessive speed is a factor in over half of all traffic fatalities and the only factor in 30 percent of these crashes. Deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for persons of every age from 3 to 33 years old.

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