



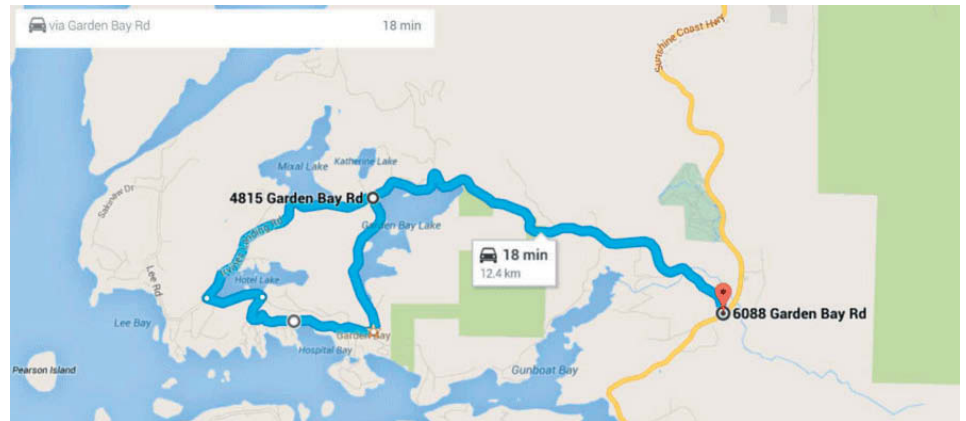
Texada with a little bit of Sechelt thrown in

by Rob Chapple

To sailors, Texada is the never-ending island. In my 26-footer at 6 knots or my friend's 50-footer at 10 it takes seemingly endless hours to traverse its length. I set out hoping that the gravel roads would prove much faster on my loaded down 2012 F800GS Trophy.

After catching a good connection from the Comox - Powell River ferry on to Blubber Bay, I was there. First night objective, a short run to Gillies Bay and the Shelter Point Campground.

The 34 km road is fun: lots of changes in elevation (hilly), twisty,



no shoulders beyond the white lines. A couple of right-handers with loose gravel that had just been laid inside the corners. Pavement is good to very good but with a few

sags or bumps. Some passing areas, but there are chunks of double yellow where a quick pass would be easy. Speed limits range 50, 60, 80. Early on, I slowed to let a string

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Shelterbay Campground “a gem”



of cars and pickups from the ferry past so I could rubberneck just a bit on an unfamiliar road.

Shelter Bay Campground is a gem. The view is from well north of the diminishing Comox Glacier, south past Mt. Arrowsmith to the hills above

Nanaimo. Some forest sites, some overlooking the ocean. Full facilities, \$21 per site per night. Fire pits. Many of the sites are large enough for two or three tents but I think that may increase the rate. You can pay by filling out a credit card slip but you need loonies for the shower. Seasonal concession: burgers and stuff.

Next morning, what I call morning anyway, with eight bald eagles circling Shelter Point and calling to each other, I zipped back to the General Store for some last-minute supplies (bottle of wine) before getting off the pavement and off the

grid. My iPhone 5 wasn't charging so I had it shut off to save for good reasons to call. I run a Spot with tracking on and can send an all is well message at the end of the day's ride. There is cell phone coverage (Rogers) at both campsites.

The Gillies Bay General Store has everything! Bakery, deli, produce, meat, canned goods, wines, spirits, variety of cold beer. Post office, ATM, you name it. Heading south past Shelter Point there is a bit more pavement, then gravel as you head along Mouat

Bay Road and turn left; there is handmade sign indicating Shingle Beach Campground. Soon you see yellow logging road signs Texada Branch 1, 1 km up etc. 11 of those onward and there is another small sign Shingle Beach on a narrow bushy track leading to the campground.

There is a surprising amount of infrastructure consisting of large covered eating/cooking areas, numerous outhouses, a sign indicating location of camping/day use sites. There is no camping directly on the beach but it is a short walk. If you like remote and gravel doesn't bother you, this is the place. At the same time it can be a hideout for partyers wanting to be far from the RCMP detachment in Gillies Bay. Much of the





Texada Inn open at 6 am for breakfast



campground is treed with large, aging, decrepit alders. Not the place to be if a big windstorm hits. \$5 per night per site, honour system.

If you are heading back to Powell River early and looking for breakfast, the Texada Island Inn in Van Anda opens at 6 am. You go just past the turn to the ferry, on the left. Slow down or you will miss it.

North of Powell River lies Lund (more or less the end of the pavement) and two interesting campsites. As you ride north from Powell River on the curvy pavement watch out for the 30 km/h limit through the Sliammon Reserve.

The first campsite is Dinner Rock Recreation Area, several km south of Lund and it's easy to miss the small wooden sign. The first 200 metres is packed gravel which then changes to pavement. Narrow and winding, it makes a descent to the picnic and camping area. It's a beautiful spot directly across from Savary Island. Campsites are mostly back from the water. No beach

access that I could see. No fees notices posted. Three km south of Lund is a junction to Oekover Arm,

just 2 km of good pavement. The Laughing Oyster Restaurant is right at the head of the inlet with the

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Laughing Oyster near the provincial park



provincial park a few hundred metres onward over hard-packed dirt/gravel. Well maintained sites that look like any other PP and the setting is beautiful.

South of Powell River, once clear of the city, lies a beautiful highway with sweepers that beg to be ridden hard. Close to the ferry terminal lie the separate Saltery Bay picnic and campground PPs. Both are worth a look.



First off ferry treated to curvy roads



The ferry from Saltery Bay lands at Earl's Cove and what follows is some of the best curvy pavement anywhere. The road surface is excellent and you can take advantage of the fact that motorcycles are first off the ferry. When you get to the PetroCan at Garden Bay Road, turn right for a delightful twisty ride around the north side of Pender Harbour. South through Sechelt, Gibsons and Langdale to the ferry to Horseshoe Bay. Almost home, or Duffy Lake!

Club 2014 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location
August 1 - 2, 2014	Blues Festival	Port Townsend
August 1 - 4, 2014	Up Island Event	Port MacNeill
August 7 - 10, 2014	38th Stanley Stomp Rally	Grandjean, ID
August 14- 17, 2014	Hotsprings Rally	Nakusp, BC
August 16, 2014	4th Vintage (pre-85) Motorcycle Show and Swapmeet	Western Speedway
Sunday, August 24, 2014	Club BBQ	Chez Conrad's
Saturday, September 6, 2014	Monthly Gathering	Pioneer House Duncan
Sunday, September 21, 2014	Monthly Ride	Port Renfrew / Cowichan loop
Sunday, September 28, 2014	33rd Annual "Oyster Run" Motorcycle Rally	Anacortes, WA
Sunday, October 5, 2014	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag
October	Annual Meeting	TBD
Saturday, November 1, 2014	Monthly Gathering	Log House Pub
Sunday, December 7, 2014	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag
Thursday, January 1, 2015	TROC	Island View Beach
Saturday, January 3, 2015	Monthly Gathering	Log House Pub



Bee Cee Beemers 2014 Nakusp Hot Springs 28th Annual Rally



BMW Motorcycle Club
Bee Cee Beemers



Date: August 14-17, 2014

Time: Starts around 3 PM



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Nakusp, B.C. Canada
GPS:
N50 14.678 W117 48.693**

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