



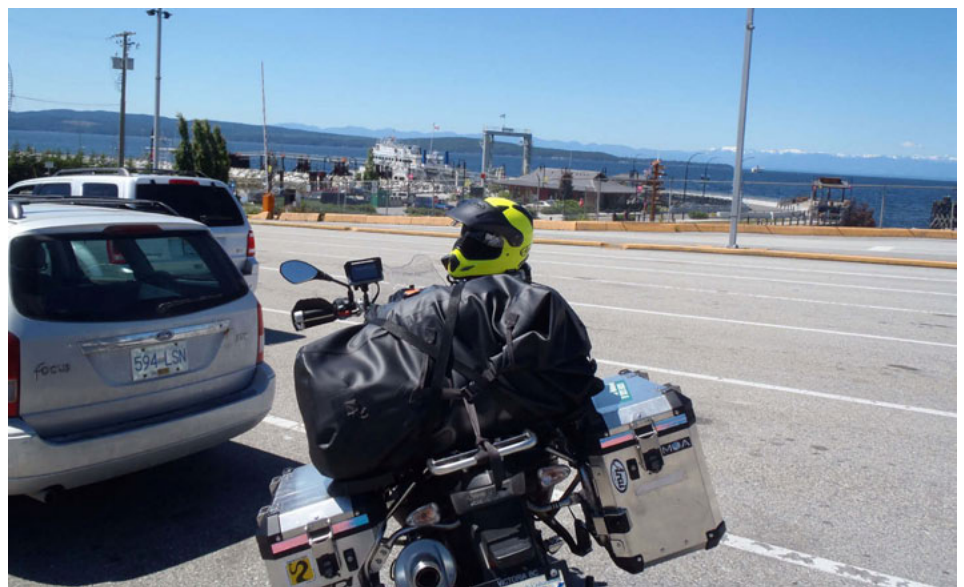
Gravel Goal: Reach Anderson Bay

Texada Redux

by Rob Chappel June 2015

Last year's trip included camping at Shelter Point and 25 km of gravel, return, to camp at Shingle Beach. I high-tailed it back to the mainland after a very wet night without exploring further on the many forest service roads. Good thing too: I wasn't ready for it.

The ferry connection from Comox works perfectly. If you rise early in Victoria, it's four hours taking the side roads (Telegraph, Cowichan Bay, Lakes, Osborne Bay, Chemainus, Naniamo, Northwest



The Comox Ferry makes a perfect way to start your trip.

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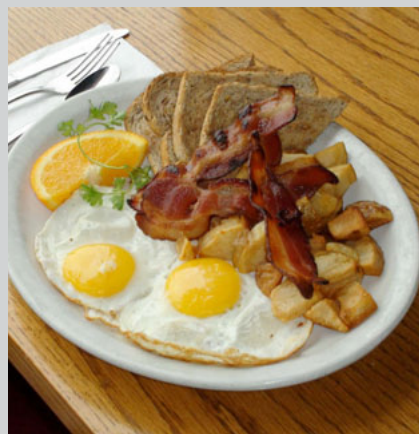
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Next Breakfast/Brunch

Sunday, August 2



WHERE:

Oak & Carriage Pub
132 Lower Ganges Road
Duncan

MEETING PLACE:

Meet at usual Timmy's
by Best Buy at 8:15 am for
8:30 am departure



Testing out the gravel capabilities



Anderson Bay at the south end of Texada.

Bay and the Seaside Route) to reach the Comox ferry by 9:30. You can save a lot of time by taking the highway.

New equipment for this trip included a huge dry bag from MEC. Not only did it contain all of my camping gear but also served to stow my riding gear including boots and helmet outside at night: more room in the tent was a big plus over previous trips. New rubber too. Michelin Anakee IIIs replacing worn Heidenau K60 Scouts. The Anakees are much more road-biased. On pavement they are smoother, grippier, and track far better than the Heidenaus. They don't get grabbed by longitudinal pavement cracks. More on their off-road performance later. I chose to camp two nights at Shelter Point to avoid tyranny of setting up

camp twice and to allow exploring with an unladen bike. Close to the Gillies Bay General Store, this park is outstanding! This year, taking regrettable advantage of the seniors' discount, two nights was \$38. The seasonal concession enjoys a new purpose-built facility next to the caretaker's residence. The menu is quite varied. As luck would have it, taking a short walk to snap pictures of the setting sun, I noticed a smouldering fire being fanned by strong onshore winds under an old log adjacent to some towering firs.

I raised the

caretaker who responded with a hose and shovel. Probably saved a major wildfire.

The real adventure began the next day. I had quizzed some locals about the backroads when I was waiting for the ferry. You can always count on finding someone who wants to look at and talk about a loaded adventure bike. I was advised to take the lefthand fork after passing Bob's Lake and Angel Lake to get to Anderson Bay at the south end of Texada.

Hopefully armed with skills from Don Hatton's Adventure Riding Course taken in July last year, off I go at 9 AM. First, a km or two of asphalt changes to hard packed gravel changes to rough gravel with potholes. Although the total ascent is not great there are some steep inclines over broken ground. Knowing how to ride standing and weighting the pegs to steer is essential. The Anakee IIIs perform



Home Sweet Home: camping at Shelter Point.



Backroads makes asphalt seem tame



South end of Malaspina Strait with Halfmoon Bay and the Thormanby Islands in the distance.

extremely well, tracking through gravel to change lanes and provide plenty of rear wheel traction to keep momentum up steep slopes.

The 9 1/2 “ travel of the F800GS suspension (greater than the R1200GS) is a big plus. On the remote roads, the logging companies often dig trenches about the size of my 21” front wheel across the roads to allow water

to flow without washing out the road. I cannot avoid them and if I slow too much I will dig in and go down. Better to trust the bike and bounce over.

Eventually I am rewarded with this view of the south end of Malaspina Strait with Halfmoon

Bay and the Thormanby Islands in the distance. Just beyond this point I descend a steep track with sharp rocks and boulders. I figure I have a 50-50 chance of a crash if I keep going. Alone and on a rarely used road, I decide to turn around. Going back up the steep broken ground worries me but no choice exists.

On the return road, now seeming very tame, I turn in to Bob’s Lake Recreation Area. Distracted by the cliff down to the lake ten metres in front of me, I slow too much, stall and drop the bike. I can’t lift the 480 lb bike. I remove my helmet and walk up to the road and place it on the ground so a passing driver might see it. Although I have practiced picking up the bike, this time, on a steep slope it takes all my strength to get it upright. Somehow I manage it, mount and ride down to a turning area. Going up the steep access road is a breeze, now. I retrieve my helmet and have a relaxing gravel ride back to Shelter Point.

Overall, 53 km of backroad; about as far as Victoria to Duncan. I was disappointed by not reaching Anderson Bay but very happy with the GS and keeping the rubber side down (mostly).

Club 2015 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location
Thursday - Sunday, July 30 - Aug 2	Cascade County Rendezvous	Republic Washington
Sunday, August 2	Monthly Gathering	Oak & Carriage, Duncan
Thursday - Sunday, August 6 - 9	42nd Stanley Stomp Rally	Grandjean, Idaho
Thursday - Sunday, August 13 - 16	Hotsprings Rally	Nakusp, BC
Sunday, August 23	Club BBQ	Chez Conrad
Saturday, September 5	Monthly Gathering	Pioneer House, Duncan
Sunday, September 20	Club Ride	Port Renfrew/Cowichan Loop
Thursday - Sunday, October 1 - 4	BMW RA National Rally	Harrison, Arizona



Club BBQ

Sunday, August 23

Mark your calendar, our summer BBQ event for the club will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2015 at Conrad Moller's house. The Club will provide hamburgers, fixings, salads, chips, ice cream, and soft drinks. The late lunch will be held about 1400. Light snacks will be available on arrival to tide members over until the BBQ gets hot and grilled hamburgers start making their way to the plates. Please let me know if you have any dietary considerations (vegetarian, don't do beef, etc). We will have some veggie burgers

Location: Chez Conrad
4584 Scarborough Road, Victoria

Directions:

- At the intersection of Wilkinson Road/Royal Oak Ave and West Saanich Road, proceed west on West Saanich for 1 kilometer
- Turn Left on Scarborough Road (directly opposite church)
- Conrad's driveway is the third on your right
- Park in the grass field

LET BOB LEITCH KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING BY 4:00 PM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015!!

Please bring your Kermit or Helinox chair and don't forget the sunscreen. We will have a limited amount of chairs, but if anyone is coming by car then please do bring a spare folding chair or two.





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