



Mark TROC 2016 on your calendar



FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016 AT 1:00 PM: *The New Year means the annual TROC - Toast to the Rest Of Canada. A quick photo opportunity at Island View Beach and then off to Sidney to enjoy a bowl of chili at Bob and Janette's home. Make sure you RSVP Bob Leitch and show up to start 2016 off with gusto!*

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Next Breakfast/Brunch

Saturday, January 9



WHERE:

Cherries Breakfast Bistro
4144 Wilkinson Road
Victoria

WHEN:

9:30 am



A look at getting your bike to Europe

from cyclecanadaweb.com
written by Paul Bremner

You don't need to sell the farm to have a motorcycle vacation in Europe if you're willing to do the legwork

Every year, without fail, I arrive home from the Toronto motorcycle show with a bag full of brochures for European tours. I'll spend that evening ogling photos of mountain passes in the Alps and Dolomites, trying to rationalize spending five figures on a vacation.

The truth is, unless a long-lost relative leaves me a boatload of cash, I'll need to find another way to ride in Europe. Fortunately, there are some affordable do-it-yourself options for us regular Joes — especially if you've got more time than money.

If you're planning on spending three weeks or longer in Europe, shipping your own bike across the pond is cheaper than renting once you get there. The longer you stay, the less you'll spend per day of riding. It also makes good sense if you intend to return for future trips. Motorcycle storage is readily available across Europe, and costs as little as one euro per day.

For anyone east of the Rockies, airfreight is now the simplest and most cost-effective way to ship a bike. After a long hiatus, Air Canada has jumped back into the business with a set of promotional rates that will get your bike to Europe from Toronto, Montreal, or Calgary for as little as \$700 one-way. You'll pay a variety of



additional fees and taxes, including a dangerous goods charge, but it's still 30 to 50 percent cheaper than just a few years ago. And it's pretty painless: bring the bike to Air Canada Cargo the day before the flight, drain the fuel tank and disconnect the battery, then hand in your paperwork. No crating required.

Currently, Air Canada ships from Montreal or Toronto to Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Munich, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Nice, Rome, and Zurich. From Calgary you can fly to Frankfurt or London. Vancouver connects to London only.

Things get more complicated when you land. Air Canada has done a poor job of promoting the program overseas, so the sight of a motorcycle in the cargo bay may leave airline employees and

customs officials scratching their heads.

Tour operator Stefan Knopf has been working with Air Canada Cargo officials at the Frankfurt airport. He offers this advice: "Ship to a busy airport where they'll have experience with motorcycle tourists," he says. "In Paris or Frankfurt, you can get your motorcycle out of the airport and on the road the same day. At a smaller airport it could take two or three days."

Knopf also cautions that many EU customs officials are unaware of regulations that allow the temporary importation of motorcycles for "touristic reasons," so they may charge you a deposit of 30 percent of the value of the bike. "It's supposed to be refunded when you exit the country, but it's actually



Do your homework before you arrive



very difficult to get that money back,” he says.

Knopf has worked with authorities in Frankfurt to develop a special customs document that streamlines the process, and eliminates the need for a deposit. But again, the process only works when officials know what they’re doing. “When my customers ship their bikes with Air Canada, we direct them to the main German customs office at Lufthansa Cargo. It’s about a mile away from Air Canada Cargo, but we can get your papers processed and your bike out the door within a couple of hours. No deposit required. The people at the smaller customs office at Air Canada still don’t get it.”

If you’d rather ship sea than air, online motorcycle travel forums such as ADVrider and Horizons Unlimited can connect you with other riders looking to share a shipping container to a major European port. The initial price may be less than airfreight, but

beware the hidden costs: you’ll pay as much as 300 euros to have the bike off-loaded and uncrated, and you’ll likely pay the 30 percent EU import deposit. There’s also the issue of time. Depending on the port of departure, and

the weather, a freighter will take 2–8 weeks to reach Europe.

You’ll also be shipping from a U.S. port. “Shipping by sea from Canada is very complicated,” says Knopf. “The ports just aren’t prepared to deal with motorcycle travelers.” Knopf ships containers to Germany from Orlando and either Los Angeles or Seattle at the beginning of each riding season. Many motorcycle travellers have also reported positive experiences with Schumacher Cargo Logistics, which sails out of Newark, Savannah, Houston and Los Angeles.

Because Air Canada Cargo doesn’t fly from Vancouver to continental Europe, shipping by sea could be an attractive option for B.C. riders. Knopf charges \$1,325 (U.S.) to ship a motorcycle by freighter from Seattle to Germany. The price includes clearance through customs, transfer to his B&B in Heidelberg, and storage of your motorcycle until you arrive.

Buying a bike overseas is another option. It requires a bit of legwork, but it’s possible. And it offers one significant advantage: you can sell the bike at the end of your trip and recover your costs.

Martin Hurley of Ireland’s Motofeirme has helped more than 200 North American riders buy and register local motorcycles for European travel. Located in picturesque Kinsale, in County Cork, Martin’s shop is just a few minutes down the road from the ferry to France.

The process requires a bit of trust from both parties. Martin will work with you to select a used motorcycle on DoneDeal.ie, Ireland’s answer to Kijiji. When you send the money via PayPal he’ll buy the bike, transfer the title to your name, and trailer the bike to his property. The entire transaction costs a very reasonable 150 euros, plus one euro per mile for transport. After your trip, you can store your motorcycle with Martin or he’ll help you sell it to another traveller.

Although Motofeirme gets rave reviews from customers, there’s one complication: you need an Irish address to insure the bike in Ireland. Motofeirme has been providing customers with a valid address, but given that a traveller from Canada can’t really be a resident of Ireland, it’s unclear how an insurance company would react in the case of an accident. As an alternative, Martin recommends buying a “green card” liability policy through Germany’s



Get Europe off your bucket list

TourInsure. This is a travel policy that covers you for everywhere in Europe except Ireland, where your bike is registered. So if you go this route, you'll need to get your bike to the ferry and make a beeline for France.

ARRIVE ALIVE

Tips if you take the plunge

Stefan Knopf has been leading tours and renting and shipping motorcycles for more than 23 years. His Heidelberg-based B&B has become a gathering place for moto-travellers from around the world. Here are his top tips for a smooth landing in Europe.

If you're going to be riding a Canadian-plated bike in Europe, you must purchase EU "green card" liability insurance before you get on the plane. This indemnifies you against any damage or injury you may cause an EU citizen. Without it, you will not get your motorcycle out of customs. You can purchase green card insurance cheaply from Greek or Bulgarian providers, but if you buy from a German insurer you'll get a more robust policy, including 2.5 million euros in liability protection, and coverage in destinations outside of the Euro zone, like Morocco and Russia.

Plan on buying roadside assistance. The German Auto Club ADAC (Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club) offers an inexpensive, comprehensive service that puts CAA to shame. If your motorcycle breaks down and



cannot be repaired within three days — or, if you're sick or injured and cannot ride — ADAC will ensure you and your bike get back to your pre-determined home base in Europe. Their coverage extends throughout Europe, as well as peripheral countries such as Russia, Tunisia, Morocco and even Iceland. Fancy taking that ferry from Barcelona to Tangiers? ADAC's got you covered.

Be aware of finicky local rules. When riding in the EU, you must carry a reflective vest for each person on the bike (for roadside emergencies). You must also carry a standard European first aid kit. In France, you are technically required to carry a portable breathalyzer, although they no longer fine you for non-compliance. All of these items are readily available at gas stations.

Stefan Knopf can be reached at knopftours@aol.com and Moto-feirme's Martin Hurley at sfadvmoto@gmail.com.



Ernie & the Asia Airheads

On a recent trip to the Orient, Island club member Ernie Reigle met up with Vincent Rakor the Airmarshall for Japan. He proved to be a wonderful host and knowledgeable guide for the Kanazawa region of Japan



Here's hoping everyone had a great Christmas and got something a little special in their stocking this year!



BMW RVI 25th Anniversary Mugs For Sale

Commemorative mugs have been offered at two breakfasts, and sales have been brisk.

These mugs make great souvenirs or gifts to family members. And they are useful to hold coffee, hot chocolate, or other libation, and they look fantastic!

There are still a few remaining, but if you want to ensure you get some, you would be wise to call Chris - 250-592-4311, or email

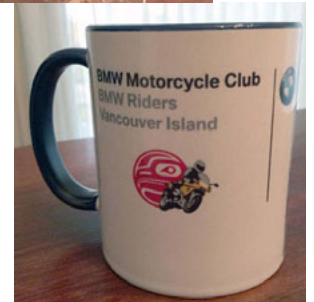
CDLJONES@SHAW.CA to secure yours.

I would be glad to deliver them within Victoria, or arrange to meet you so you can have them for Christmas.

I will bring the last few to the TROC get together at Island View Beach on January 1, 1:00 pm, but don't wait until then because they might all be gone.

Thank you to all members who purchased mugs, and for your expressions of appreciation for my efforts in putting this together. I look forward to another 5 years when we can celebrate 30 years of RVI.

Chris Jones



Club 2016 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location
Friday, January 1, 2016	TROC	Island View Beach & Bob's House
Saturday, January 9, 2016	Monthly Gathering	Cherries Breakfast Bistro
January 22-24, 2016	Vancouver Int'l Bike Show	Tradex/Abbotsford
Sunday, February 7, 2016	Monthly Gathering	Sea Glass Waterfront Grill
Saturday, February 21, 2016	Pot Luck – Chez Lucy's	620 Toronto Street, Victoria
Saturday, March 5, 2016	Monthly Gathering	Crooked Goose Bistro
Sunday, March 13, 2016	MSF Rider Training	TBD
Sunday, April 3, 2016	Monthly Gathering	Mary's Bleue Moon
Saturday, April 17, 2016	Cow Bay Run	Cow Café in Cowichan Bay
TBD May, 2016	Annual BCCOM MLA Ride	Victoria
Saturday, May 2, 2016	Monthly Gathering	Olympic View Golf Course
TBD May, 2016	BMW Demo Ride	Island BMW
Sunday, May 17, 2016	Monthly Ride	Saltaire Pub, Ladysmith
May 26 to 30, 2016	49er Rally	Mariposa, California
Saturday, June 4, 2016	Monthly Gathering	Shady Rest Pub, Qualicum Beach
Sunday, June 5, 2016	Motorcycle Ride to Live	Fountain Tire, Langford
June 18 & 19, 2016	Up Island Event	TBD
June 17 to 19, 2016	Chief Joseph Rally	John Day, Oregon