



## Make sure TROC is in your New Year plans



The annual *Toast to the Rest of Canada* will be held at the usual place, Island View Beach off Highway 17. Make sure you show up with your favourite libation for toasting and keeping the chill at bay. Start the New Year off right.

Then on to Bob and Janette's for their annual chili feed with a cake to honour the day.

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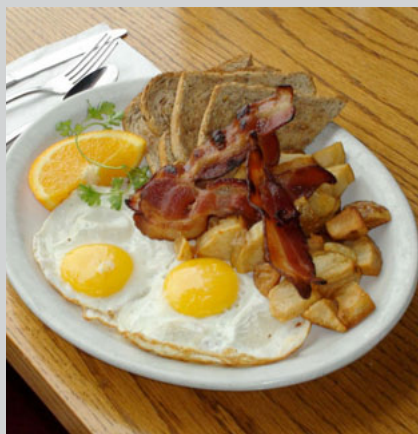
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## Next Breakfast/Brunch

### Saturday, January 5



### WHERE:

Cherries Breakfast Bistro  
4144 Wilkinson Road  
Victoria, BC

### WHEN:

9:30 am

*Remember to RSVP if you're coming to give the restaurant an idea of how many people to expect for breakfast.*



## Celtic Rider Garage fulfills a bucket list item



**Our machines at the Celtic Rider Garage prepped and ready to roll. The NC750X had 68 km on the odometer.**

*by Conrad Moller*

It was July of 2014 and the Minnesota State Fair grounds were littered with hundreds of BMWs and as many more rally goers. The air was redolent with the aroma of fair ground food and it was stifling and sticky. Seeking relief was a priority and the air conditioned vendors building was an excellent place to stave off the impending heat stroke. This is where I first clapped eyes on the Celtic Rider display and had a chance to chat about their tour

offerings. This would started an itch that I finally got to scratch this spring.

After several emails between myself and Celtic Rider I chose to accept Paul Rawlins advice that late May would be the perfect time to see his country and ride the Wild Atlantic Way. So, after dates were chosen, a machine selected and credit card information passed I was booked on Celtic Riders 14 day self-guided WAW tour. I had given some thought to their 21 day tour that added a

week in Scotland but previous tours have taught me that my attention span and enjoyment peek at two weeks.

I spoke to two of my riding amigos about joining me and only one, Dan from Carson City NV chose to join me. We both arrived in Dublin in late morning of 22 May within an hour of each other, Dan direct from San Francisco where as I required three flights on our national airline to get there. Living on our island paradise has some minor irritations. My flights turned out to be well chosen for connection times and because of a promotion by Air Canada promoting their new Signature service I was randomly chosen to be met at the jetway on arrival from Vancouver, schlept in a brand spanking new BMW M5 to the international terminal and escorted to the new Signature lounge where I was invited to take advantage of a sit down meal or graze on the sumptuous buffet offered. Due to the short connection time I chose the latter and finally waddled my way to the departure gate.

We spent our first three days





***The Healy Mountain Pass on the Beara peninsula taken from the top of the pass. Although this road was constructed in the 1850s I am sure it wasn't the oldest road we travelled.***

in Dublin shaking off the jet lag, visiting the city and getting caught up in the "Referendum" fever. Friday morning we were picked up promptly at 0800 by Paul's son David and whisked to Celtic Riders garage located in the peaceful countryside 30 km south west of the city.

The first item on the agenda was to meet the staff and then be introduced to our machines.

I had chosen their Honda NC750X as I figured it would be more than sufficient for the roads there and Dan had reserved a R1200GS. After a quick go over we completed the paperwork, were bestowed with plenty of CR swag and then it was time for coffee and fresh scones and banana bread fresh baked that morning by Louise, Paul's daughter and office

## **Bikes and beer fit together**

manager.

The next item of business was to pack our panniers, stow our luggage and attend Paul's thorough "Safely Riding Ireland" brief. His outstanding photo brief includes road types you will encounter, dangers you will encounter, such as tractors, livestock, cyclists, walkers and those who like to dawdle how to negotiate turns and roundabouts for those of us



***There are a multitude of ciders on the menu but I chose the one named for me. It was a good choice.***





## No air conditioning doesn't bother some



***A straighter section of the road through the "Gap of Dunloe" on the Ring of Kerry. Note the biological hazards which were ever present on most of the country roads.***

from countries who ride on the right side of the road and on departure Paul leads you until it is time to stop for lunch then after dining sends you on your way with one more warning to never take your eyes off the road for one second and to keep your left shoulder to the left side of the road.

This was my third country riding on the left having survived 8600 km in Australia and 5200 km in New Zealand I was feeling reasonably confident. I was never too intimidated by roundabouts but it I found I had to be extra vigilant when turning out of a petrol station to start out of the left had side of the exit.

On this trip after making a couple of U-turns I did find myself on the wrong side of the road but luckily with no dire consequence other than self flagellation over such a dumb mistake.

At the end of day one we found ourselves in Killkenny ensconced in a lovely old hotel on the River Nore and a fine view of Killkenny castle. Old hotels as it turned out were the bane of my buddies existence as none were air conditioned, and as we soon discovered even the new ones were not either.

As an old swabby who spent many years at sea I was quite used to less than ideal sleeping

conditions and survived many sticky sweaty nights.

From Killkenny our tour took us around the the Irish coast in a clockwise direction, south to Kinsale, then on to Killarny, Dingle, Lisdoonvarna, Westport, Donegal Town, Cardonagh until twelve days later when we arrived in Belfast Northern Ireland for a tour of the Titanic museum and our last tour night where we settled in a lovely boutique hotel in the university district.

The last day found us on the motorway south to Dublin



***No octane dilemma here as there is only one grade available but you must pay attention to which handle you choose. Most of the countries I have ridden in Europe now use green handles to indicate gasoline.***





***At the Slieve League cliffs view point this fellow sold me a pair of Irish wollen socks and talked my ear off. There was also an espresso cart and a hot dog vendor for those tired and thirsty from the up to the lookout. One of the fine advantages of touring on a motorcycle is the ability to ride where the cars can't or are not allowed go.***



***Waiting for our last ferry ride which would take us across Lough Foyle and into Northern Ireland. Greeting us on that side was HMP Magilligan. One of the grimmer places I have ever ridden past and it seemed to set the tone for me during our short stay in Northern Ireland.***

## **Full Ireland trip ended up at just over 2600 kilometers**

which interesting enough has a speed limit of 120 kph and is not a limited access road so you have vehicles entering out of driveways, slowing to make right had turns across opposing traffic and farm vehicles plodding along.

Our bike return was quick and easy along with final settlement of accounts. The total distance ridden on the tour was just over 2600 km.

Upon completing of our return Celtic Rider provided us with a ride across Dublin to the airport area where we were dropped off at our respective hotels awaiting our flights out the following day.

If you are considering a tour of Ireland I would not hesitate to recommend Celtic Riders "Wild Atlantic Way" tour. I found it a delightfully paced ride packed with great scenery and plenty of castles for those who so desire.



# Club 2018 / 2019 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location
Tuesday, January 1, 2019	TROC	Island View Beach & Bob's House
Saturday, January 5, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Cherries Breakfast Bistro
Sunday, February 3, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Beachwood Bistro
Saturday, February 17, 2019	Pot Luck	TBD
Saturday, March 2, 2019	Monthly Gathering	The Crooked Goose
Sunday, March 17, 2019	Rider Training - Coffee & Conversation	Location TBD
Sunday, April 7, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Surly Mermaid
Thursday, April 18, 2019	Season Start	Island BMW
Saturday, April 20, 2019	Cow Bay Run	Cow Café in Cow Bay
Saturday, May 4, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Jake's at the Lake, Cowichan Lake
Sunday, May 19, 2019	Monthly Ride	Rampant Lion, Maple Bay
Sunday, May 27, 2019	Vancouver Island Ride to Live	The Local, 1205 Wharf Street
Sunday, June 2, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Shady Rest Pub, Qualicum Beach
June 15-16, 2019	Up Island Event	TBD - Need a Volunteer
Saturday, July 6, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Saltspring Island
Sunday, July 21, 2019	Ride to Brunch	Shirley's
Saturday, August 3, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Unsworth Vineyard, Mill Bay
TBD August, 2019	Hotsprings Rally	Nakusp, BC
Saturday, August 25, 2019	Club BBQ	Chez Randy
Sunday, September 1, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Timberland Pub, Ladysmith
Saturday, September 21, 2019	Monthly Ride	Port Renrew / Cowichan Loop
Sunday, October 6, 2019	Monthly Gathering	The Crooked Goose
TBD October, 2019	Annual Meeting	TBD
Saturday, November 2, 2019	Monthly Gathering	Spitfire Bar & Grill
Sunday, December 1, 2019	Monthly Gathering	1550's Pub

## Do you have something to say? Want to tell a story?

We are always looking for member submissions to print in the BMWIR newsletter. Simply send your submissions to [gordsboyroy@gmail.com](mailto:gordsboyroy@gmail.com) and include any photos, charts or other material. We will get it in the newsletter for all to enjoy.