

Gary C Worrell

From: Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 14 November, 2010 17:07
To: 'Gary C Worrell'
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: Map.gif; Olympics2010-07.jpg; CapeFlatteryGoogleEarth.gif; DowntownForks01.jpg; DowntownForks02.jpg; ForksPickup.jpg; ForksMotorcycle.jpg; ForksSign.jpg; ForksVest.jpg; CrescentLakeAtDusk2010.jpg

Hello. Still out here in the Pacific Northwest.

My tasking over the weekend requires some work in the morning and some more in the evening, so on Saturday I took a road trip in-between.

Two of the places I tried to visit back in 2007 were burning in the back of my brain. The weather was supposed to be clouds and rain, but I thought I'd try it anyway.

So I headed out to Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mountains (see map). Last time I went into the mountains on the wrong road –

<http://igx.net/Postcards/Postcard20070909Part1.pdf>

<http://igx.net/Postcards/Postcard20070909Part2.pdf>

so this time I went on-line and got the GPS coordinates for the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. But alas, the road was closed seven miles out due to ice. I did snap some pictures along the way. I guess I'll be going back on another trip.

Then I headed out to the most Northwest corner of the contiguous 48 states, Cape Flattery. Last time the road was closed to normal traffic due to repaving. There was a shuttle bus, but I didn't have enough time to wait for a bus to get me out and back.

On the way I stopped at the Makah Tribe Cultural Center and Museum in Neah Bay. There they have an exquisite display of artifacts unearthed in 1970, dated to the 1700's when a quake buried a village in a mudslide. The mud and wet conditions made great preservatives, there were fabrics made of bird feathers, dog and cat hair. The Makah have been known to occupy the region at for least 4000 years.

From there, I went to my favorite eatery in Neah Bay, the Warm House, for fish & chips. Up to this point, it was cloudy and just a trickle of rain, but then it started dumping buckets.

Then I drove the few remaining miles to Cape Flattery. I got to the road's end (see the Google Earth image, my track is the white line), but there is nothing to see unless you

continue by foot on the cape trail. The heavy rain, coupled with the fact that I didn't procure a recreation permit before I got there, convinced me that I'd have to come back to do the trail another time. In the image you can see that it's quite a drop in elevation to get to the water. I guess I'll be going back on another trip.

Then it was on to Forks to get a souvenir for Denise, who has been putting up with my extended trip back home. Just in case you don't recognize the name, it's the location where the Twilight series of vampire/werewolf sagas take place. Forks is on the edge of the Hoh Rainforest, which receives 12-14 feet of rain annually. That makes for lots of cloudy days in the region, which is the premise for the stories – not much sunlight in Forks.

Forks is reaping windfall profits from the Twilight series, the town is inundated with visitors from around the world, and a whole Twilight tourist industry has sprung from an otherwise sleepy town. Of all the items for sale, the one I found most interesting was that they were selling bricks from the Forks High School (which figures prominently in the movie). It has been torn down and is being rebuilt. I guess the bricks were too valuable to house students. When I told Denise about the bricks she was disappointed that I didn't get one for her. My first thought when I saw them was how did I know they actually came from the school?

For those of you who are Twilight Fans, I asked what I should take pictures of that would be relevant. So attached is a truck, a motorcycle, the town sign, and a vest that was hanging in the local hardware store window with a sign that said you could come in and have your picture taken wearing the vest (note the hardware in the background).

On the way back, I got a picture of the dusk over Lake Crescent. Sometimes the clouds make for better images.

But wait, I almost forgot, I had WashingtonCAM set up in my rental car:

<http://igx.net/Video/WashingtonCAM/101113RoadTripCapeFlatteryForks-2HZ30FPS.wmv> (Windows)

<http://igx.net/Video/WashingtonCAM/101113RoadTripCapeFlatteryForks-2HZ30FPS.mp4> (Apple/i)

Some notes about the video –

I started the trip after performing my morning work. I couldn't have the camera on my dashboard while driving on a military base, so the video starts at a filling station outside the gate.

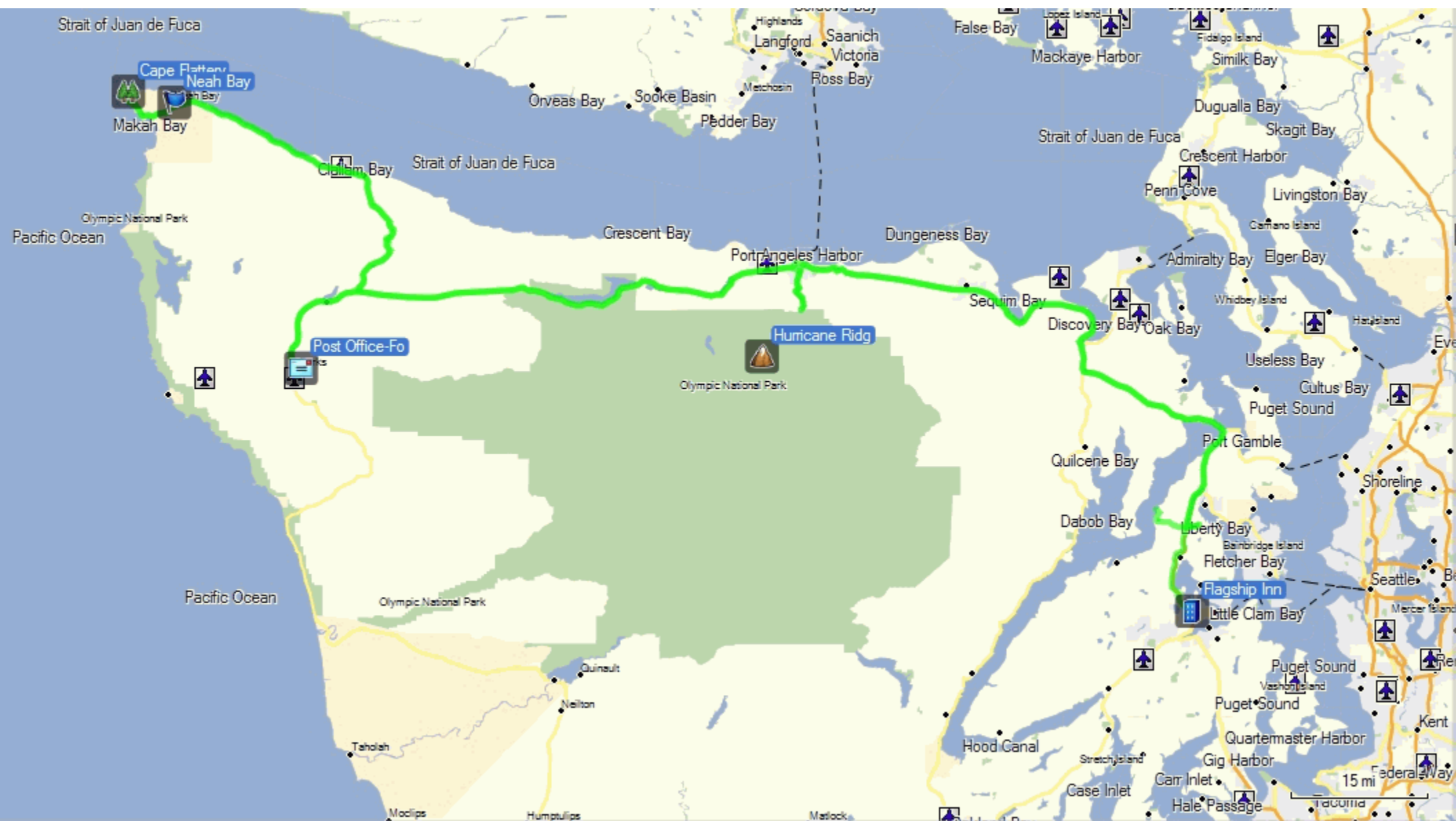
The raw video consumes many gigabytes of hard drive space. The recording software will write a 2 gigabyte file, then it stops writing to that file and opens another and

continues, resulting in many files that get concatenated and compressed into one file when I process the raw video. I mention this because there is a gap in the video, the file that was open when I drove into Forks was corrupted and unusable, so you see me make a turn, then all of a sudden I'm sitting in front of the Forks Post Office (the GPS point I was aiming for). Unfortunately, it missed an odd event –

The first traffic light when I got into town was red as I approached. There was a group of about 5 people crossing the street in front of me, and they all jerked their heads my way as I approached. All but one of them continued to cross the street, while one male stopped and stared at me for what seemed like minutes, before moving on. When I watched the final video I was going to count how many frames he stood there so I could see how long it was, but I have no record of the event.

Cheers,
G.

Gary C. Worrell















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