

Wet Ride To Hoquiam

Several well-planned, get-lots-of-sites-rides I've planned this year have fizzled out for a variety of reasons. I was once just 5 miles from the Hoquiam site, but circumstances dictated that we head straight home and go back to get Hoquiam another day.

When my GWTA group did not have an after-meeting ride planned the second weekend in February, I decided I could go to Hoquiam, and invited some of my friends who are both GWTA and CMA folks. They couldn't go that day, but wished me well.

The Hoquiam site (Saron Lutheran) is about 125 miles from my home in Redmond. Two-and-a-half hours away. My wife (a CPA) is working that day, so I need something to do, and I decide to go to Hoquiam. Yeah, sure, the weatherman says scattered showers, but when are they ever right, anyway?

I take I-5 all the way south through Olympia, then head west, taking Hwy 8 to the coast. I'm getting a bit cold, so decide to stop at a little shop near McCleary for coffee and to put on my rain gear. Guess what? I left my rain gear in Redmond! OK, I do have electrics, so after coffee and a visit with the shop owner, I crank up the juice and keep riding toward Aberdeen.

This road is always a good one to ride; nice views, flat, easy to handle. Yes, it is raining, but if I'm moving, I'm not getting wet. I find the church, and get set up for the picture. I get one, and then hang around for a few minutes trying to see if someone who comes by could take one with me in the picture, but no joy. Rather than continue to get wet, I decide to get on the bike and keep going.

I stop in Montesano for gas, and to eat my bag lunch. Ah, the coffee warm coffee takes good. I have a bit of history in this town, having ridden my bike up the Courthouse Disability ramp for a picture, and then having the county police chase me out of town, but they didn't catch me. So I'm always a bit worried about spending time here.

Back in Redmond in the early afternoon, I'm happy to get out of the rain. My bike is so-o-o-o ugly from the rain and mud that I actually think about washing it. Nah, it will wait. I've had my adventure for the day, and now have all of the west-side Steeple Chase site pictures.

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