

Gary C Worrell

From: Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 09 September, 2007 18:16
To: gcw@igx.net
Subject: Postcard Part 1
Attachments: HoodCanalBridge02a.jpg; StreamAtWhiskeyBend01a.jpg; ElwhaRiver01a.jpg; LakeCrescent01a.jpg; NeahBay01a.jpg; GlinesCanyonDam02a.jpg; map.gif

This postcard is in two parts - lots of pictures and I don't want to exceed anyone's max e-mail size.

So I had nothing to do on Saturday in the Pacific Northwest. I know I don't need to tell you what that means...

I had been told that Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mountains was a place to see that I hadn't already visited, so I made it one of several planned stops.

I began the trip at 6:45AM, because I knew my path was ambitious (see map), and I was supposed to meet a colleague at the Horse & Cow (it's a bubblehead/biker bar near my hotel) at around 9PM that evening.

I crossed the Hood Canal Bridge and drove down the waterfront a little to see if I could get a good photo. It is mostly a floating bridge, because the water is too deep (up to 340 feet) to sink pylons to support the roadway. To open, the bridge retracts sections on each side into the structure. In 1999 I got permission from the Washington State Department of Transportation to be on the bridge when it was opening so I could take pictures (those pictures can be found [here](#)). It's quite the engineering marvel. The attached picture is just the portion of the bridge that opens. You can see that the left side looks different from the right side. That's because in February 1979, the left (West) span of the bridge sunk in a severe storm and has since been rebuilt. Work is currently underway to replace the right (East) span, due to be completed in the summer of 2009.

From there I headed to Port Angeles, to begin the trek to Hurricane Ridge. Unfortunately I didn't research the path well enough. I went into the park too far west, on Olympic Hot Springs Road, then up Whiskey Bend Road. >From there I could have walked an 8-mile one-way trail to Hurricane Ridge, but since I was wearing the wrong shoes ;-) I decided to save that trip for another day. It wasn't a wasted effort, I got some nice pictures of mountain streams, and a shot of the Elwha River from a bridge.

While I was tooling around in the mountains, I got several views of the Glines

Canyon Dam & Reservoir. It is part of the Elwha River, and is a hydroelectric power plant. It's scheduled to be demolished and the area refurbished, in order to restore the Elwha River Ecosystem, particularly the salmon population.

Then it was on to Lake Crescent. You may remember the name from a postcard dated 21 FEB 2007. It was too rainy to get shots that day, but on this trip the Sun was out. Lake Crescent and Lake Sutherland (a much smaller lake to the east) were carved out by a retreating glacier a few years back. Originally it was one lake, but a landslide created the earthen dam that now separates the lakes. At it's deepest, Lake Crescent goes down 600 feet.

By now it was getting close to lunch time, so I drove an hour and twenty minutes to Neah Bay to have Halibut & Chips at the Warm House. I had been there before (again on the 21 FEB 2007 postcard) and I wanted to get some pictures of the area. I found out that from Neah Bay (on the Makah Indian Reservation) there was a shuttle bus that would take you to the furthest point Northwest on the Olympic Peninsula, but it only ran about every half hour. A little quick math and I figured out that I really needed to get moving if I was going to complete the journey on time. I decided to save that for another trip. One thing about my travel, there's always a next time.

When I left Neah Bay, I noted that there was a large crowd standing outside the local Coast Guard Station, complete with police vehicles and blinky lights. I wondered if there was some sort of demonstration or protest going on. This morning I found out why. You can read about it on the CNN web site [here](#).

Continued on Part 2...













