

## Gary C Worrell

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**From:** Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]  
**Sent:** 30 May, 2011 17:25  
**To:** 'Gary C Worrell'  
**Subject:** Postcard  
**Attachments:** Map.gif; ChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnelSatellite.gif; 110525ChesapeakeBayBridge01.jpg; 110525ChoptankRiverBridgeCambridge.jpg; 110525NanticokeRiverBridgeVienna.jpg; 110525CChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnel01.jpg; 110525CChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnel05.jpg; ChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnel01.jpg; ChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnel02.jpg; ChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnel04.jpg; ChesapeakeBayBridgeTunnel09.jpg

Hello.

It's been a while, but not because I haven't been travelling. I just haven't been anywhere new.

I recently had to drive to the Virginia Beach area. Usually I'd go down on the West side of the Chesapeake Bay, but this trip I opted to go down the East side of the bay, or at it is known locally, the Eastern Shore (see map).

There are really only two places to cross the bay on wheels. At the North is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, near Annapolis. But the next crossing is 135 miles to the South, at the mouth of the bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel first opened in 1964, with a second parallel span opening in 1999. From shore to shore it's 17.6 miles, with two tunnels along the way. I first crossed the CBBT in October 1975 while driving to Dam Neck Virginia, where I was stationed for about 18 months while I was in the Navy. At that time it cost \$6 to cross the bridge. Surprisingly, 36 years later the toll has only gone up 100% to \$12. While stationed at Dam Neck, I averaged two round trips across the CBBT per month, travelling back and forth to Pennsylvania on weekends. I've always thought I owned a piece of the bridge, having paid to cross it so many times.

On the satellite image the GPS track is in green, interrupted when I lost GPS inside the two tunnels. I've actually crossed over both tunnels by water in the same day. Back in the early 00's, I took a surfaced submarine ride from the Norfolk Naval Base to the Yorktown Naval Weapons Base. Because of the relatively shallow water in the bay, the submarine had to go out towards the ocean over the southern tunnel, then make a u-turn in the deeper water and come back in over the northern tunnel to head towards the York River.

But my favorite CBBT story occurred almost exactly 35 years ago, one early pre-dawn morning in May of 1976. Back then there was only one span with two lanes. The long straightaway's made it easy to see far into the distance to watch for oncoming traffic when you wanted to pass the vehicle in front of you. On this particular crossing, I was

riding a buddy's Kawasaki 175 motorcycle. He was borrowing my car so he could visit his girlfriend in college, and be able to take her to a fancy function. So I swapped my car for his motorcycle for the weekend. I was on my way back from Pennsylvania, normally a six hour, 300 mile drive.

Even though it was May and I was wearing a ski-mobile suit with gloves and a facemask, by the time I got to the CBBT I was suffering from hypothermia. Eager to get back to my trailer-home (that I shared with three other sailors) and warm up, I was running the Kawasaki wide open on the CBBT. As I came up behind an 18-wheeler, I could see oncoming headlights way in the distance. I judged I had plenty of time to get around the truck, so out into the left lane I went.

The wind from the truck put quite a strain on the 175CC engine, but I slowly crept along side. Then just as I reached the truck's cab, the Kawasaki decided that it was time for the "Primary" fuel to run out, requiring shifting the gas line valve to the "Backup" position. Although the engine had quit, I was caught in the draft of the truck, and it was just pulling me and my little bike right along. While I frantically fumbled for the fuel valve in my bulky ski gloves, I noticed the headlights in the distance were closing in fast. Just in time (or so it seemed) I applied the brakes to fall back behind the truck, where eventually I located the fuel valve, flipped it and got the engine running again. But, since the hypothermia was in control, I got back in the left lane again and passed the truck.

I had TacomaCAM running this trip:

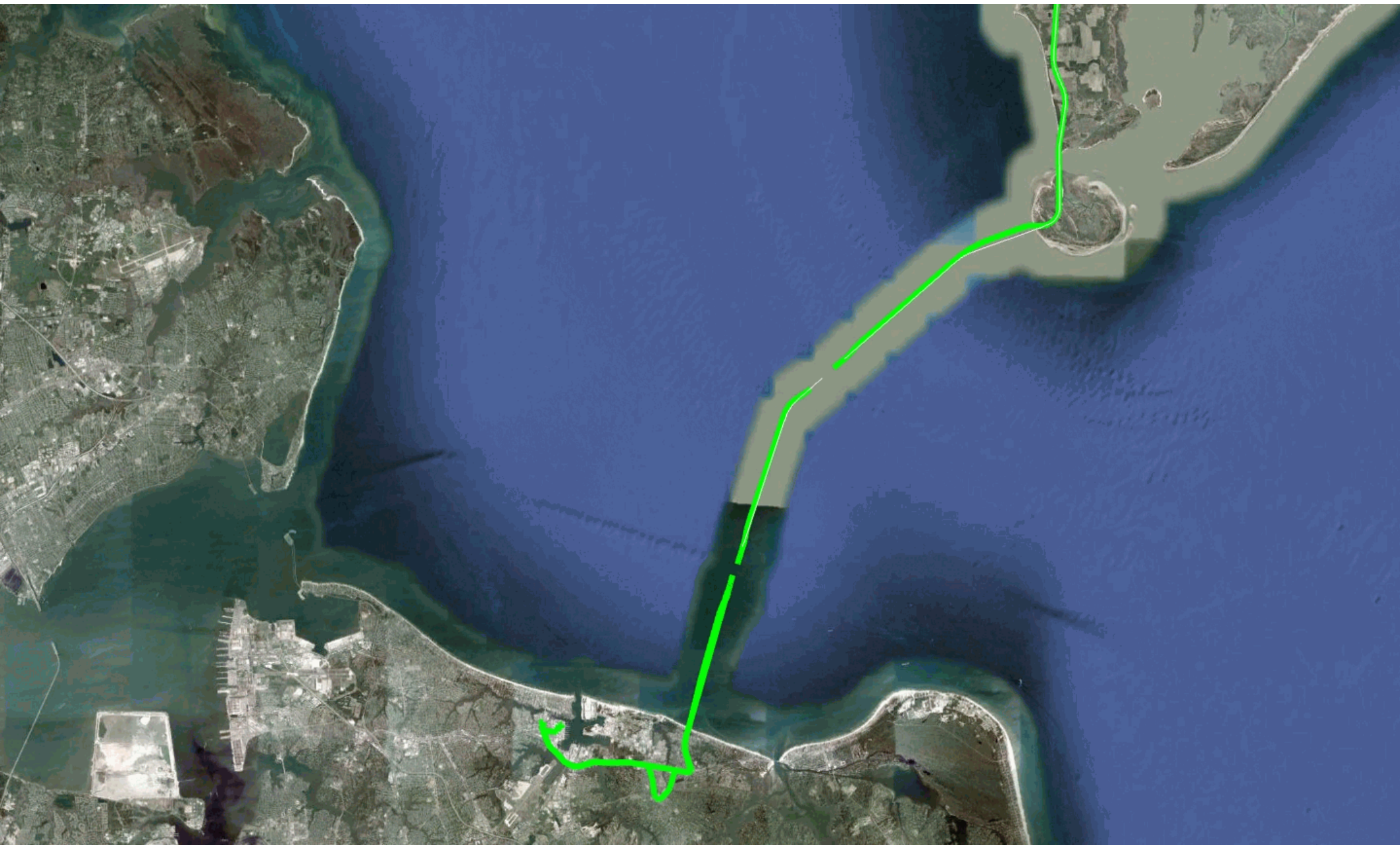
<http://iqx.net/Video/TacomaCAM/110525ToNorfolkViaEasternShore2HZ30FPS.mp4>  
(Apple/i/Andriod)

<http://iqx.net/Video/TacomaCAM/110525ToNorfolkViaEasternShore2HZ30FPS.wmv>  
(Windows)

Attached are some images extracted from the video, and a couple of night shots taken from the scenic stop on the CBBT. While parked at the stop, a cargo ship passed over the southern tunnel. TacomaCAM just happened to be in the right position to see it as it went out to sea.

Cheers,  
G.







NO  
VEHICLES  
OVER  
5T OVER  
LEFT  
LANE

USE  
↓  
LANE  
ONLY

NO  
VEHICLES  
OVER  
5T  
OVER  
LEFT  
LANE

