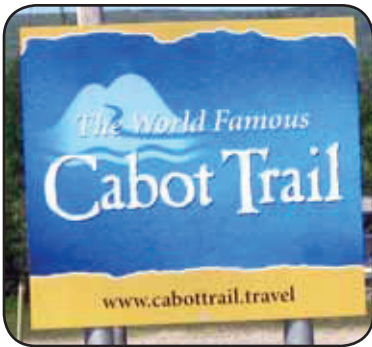




The Seadawg Report

**Been there, Done That and got the T-shirt....
(and it is a beauty!)**

I know, I know... BTD... Been there Done That and got the T-shirt. In this case, rather than some dismissive platitude, it really means something. What I am talking about is the Cabot Trail Biker T-shirt. Here is the catch, you actually have to go there and get the t shirts. No Ebay, No mail order, no 47 road side stands hawking the same tourist trinkets. Brilliant says I. So brilliant in fact that we planned a 3 day ride mini vacation around the T-shirt. I know, you are probably thinking I have really lost it or fallen down and hit my head real hard. A vacation tied to a T Shirt. Not just any old shirt mind you... it is a Cabot Trail Biker T-shirt. The shirt is the brain child of Daniel Ross. Daniel owns a screen print business in Antigonish Nova Scotia, a leisurely hour and a half ride to the Cabot trail. This next fact is also very cool. The shirts are delivered by Dan on his ride. Motorcycle from shop to shop to happy end user. How cool is that?



For those of you who love the twisties, the scenic and panoramic views, then the ride thru the Highlands of Cape Breton is well worth the ride. The Cabot Trail, located around the top end of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island is stunning. I could start streaming off a litany of superlatives and you the readers are probably thinking, yeah right. Guess what? Any words I use to try and describe the raw beauty that Mother Nature has sculpted would only come up short in trying to relay to someone who has not seen it.

Our ride group, 6 bikes and 8 peeps planned this trip over dinner in the dead of winter. I am so blessed. My missus has found my love of the bike and we get to share the joys of going places, seeing things and having experiences. Though today's experience on the way home from the island is an experience we both would like to forget. It is the 13th of June as I pen this article. The temps were single digits, the wind blew and the rain, though intermittent, was everything from a sprinkle to a deluge. The thermal liner and the rain insert went back into my 3 piece jacket. Rain gear, warm weather gear, and damn near anything we could find and we all looked like various sizes and shapes of the Michelin man. Note to self: Keep the liners and the gauntlets in the hard bag along with the neoprene face mask. Without these I would most assuredly have succumbed to Hypothermia. Yep... Mid June and Hypothermia. The elements can be just as dangerous as stupid car drivers.

Lest I have a week go by without another dumbass cager story this week's edition involves a pickup truck with a trailer hauling 4 large round bales of hay, 1 in the truck, 3 on the trailer. I am not sure why he felt the need to use the 100 series controlled access highways but he did. But the 3 foot piece of 2 by 6 that he had sticking out the side of his load with no flag takes the cake. Only problem was that I became aware as he decided to "dick" around as we were trying to come off the on ramp and into traffic. Merging 6 bikes into traffic is routine for our group. Flirting with the 2 by 6, well that was a whole different matter. (Where are the cops when you need them? I know busy harassing riders going to the Highlanders MC field day. That is another story...).



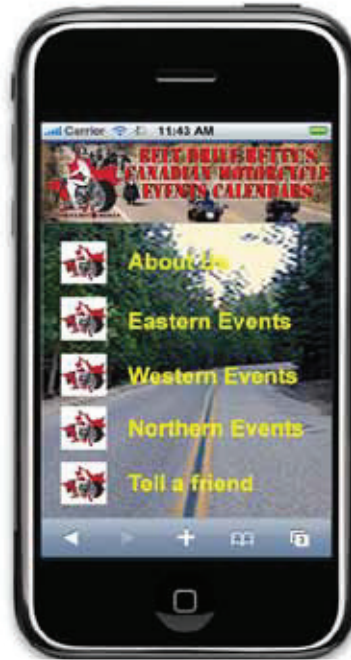
So yes, we planned a trip around ~~Continued on Next Page...~~



mini ride vacation and getting the shirts. You see one of the beautiful brilliances of the Cabot Trail Biker Shirt is that the only way to get them is to stop at the Coastal Waters Pub and eatery in Ingonish. This biker friendly establishment has a large paved parking lot. It is strategically located alongside the Cabot trail. The food is good hot and plentiful, and even though our party of 8 came thru the door at the same time as another large group and several other couples, the wait wasn't unreasonable and the quality didn't suffer. In fact we were busy deciding who in our group wanted the shirts, talked about our run up and down Cape Smokey and Jason Leblanc, co owner of the seasonally operated Coastal pub was slinging grub and good coffee.

T-shirts in hand we departed for the rest of the afternoon riding the twisties from Ingonish to Cheticamp. This section of the trail is less, breathless and speechless.

The only way you will know for sure is BTDT (Do yourself a favour and get the shirt... trust me on this one, this is a beauty that you will want to add to your biker ware collection and you are only getting this one at the Coastal waters pub in Ingonish). Daniel reiterated to me today over the phone that he fully intends to keep the integrity of the shirts provenance. If you weren't there and done that, don't bother pretending. By a biker for bikers. Lets support someone who truly gets it. Next week's article: More from the Cabot Trail, including the best kept secret on the Trail. Seadawg the Magic Man
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