

Club members Fred and Clarke set from from the Lake Audy warden station Friday morning enroute Deep Lake. Fred bike packing on his fat bike and Clarke on a mountain bike with panniers rode the rolling terrain past harvest scenery through Horod and Olha (snack stop) to an unoccupied campground. A few rain showers, shrinking daylight and the 80 km ride resulted in an early turn in.

Saturday started with cool, thick fog which cleared for pleasant riding on the Central Trail past the Sugarloaf hills to Gunn Lake. Horses had made for some rough sections but overall the 44 km trail was in good condition. The mowers had cut a wide swath but unfortunately had blown hawthorn branches onto the trail in places. We had no flats but I am aware of two others. The spur into GL is challenging but the campground was clean and well stocked with wood. No water flowed from the well. With rain threatening it was an early night followed by a spectacular lightning show. Although we never experienced hail, there was marble sized stones along the trail to Whitewater Lake in the morning.

Sunday it was a cool, rainy, muddy 36 km ride out to the Grasshopper Valley trail and our vehicles. Not another soul was spotted in RMNP. (We missed the Mooseknuckle Adventure Race activities around the Grasshopper Valley Trail the preceding day.)

Wildlife spotted included 2 foxes, a mink gnawing on a dead muskrat, a skunk we almost ran over, 2 swans, 2 salamanders, multiple deer and bison. There were lots of beer “signs” on the trail but no sightings.

The outing has Clarke thinking about using his fat bike with panniers next year.

Cheers.

Clarke





















