

VIRGINIA RIDER

Serving the Riders of Virginia & West Virginia

MAGAZINE™



**HIGHLAND
COUNTY**
VIRGINIA

FREE

AUGUST 2026

www.virginiarider.com

GREAT PLACES TO RIDE



Highland County's quiet, winding roads welcome motorcyclists from around the country. Located at the western edge of the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia in the Alleghany Mountains, Highland County enjoys one of the highest mean elevations of any county east of the Mississippi River. Called "Virginia's Little Switzerland" or "Virginia's Sweet Spot" with roughly 2300 residents, it is also the least populous county in the Commonwealth. Monterey, the county seat, is located 45 miles west of the intersection of Interstates 81 and 64 in Staunton.

The annual Highland County Maple Festival draws over 25,000 visitors annually and is designated a "Local Legacy" by the Library of Congress. Highland County is home to Virginia's first Barn Quilt Trail, the Mountain Mama Road Bike Challenge, Highland County Fair, Hands & Harvest Festival, Wintertide, McDowell Battlefield, and more. The county is 416 square miles of spectacular mountain terrain. No matter where you go, enjoy the freedom and solitude our mountains have to offer!

Visit us at www.highlandcounty.org and order your map today at <https://www.highlandcounty.org/brochures/>. We look forward to seeing you!



VACATION STARTS WITH VA

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
MOUNTAIN
LOVERS
virginia.org

HIGHLAND
COUNTY
VIRGINIA
highlandcounty.org

 Hayfields State Park



Our scenic roads are calling
you to Virginia's least
populous county.
See you soon in **Highland.**

 Virginia's First
Barn Quilt Trail



 75th Highland
County Fair
Labor Day Weekend



 Hands &
Harvest Festival
2nd Weekend
in October



 Highland County
Maple Festival
2nd & 3rd Weekends
in March



Virginia Tourism Corporation



from the editor's desk

Welcome back, friends! Or if you are joining us for the very first time, Welcome, to our Virginia rider family of readers, riders, passengers & motorcycle enthusiasts. It's so good to have you here with us. We hope you all have been enjoying a wonderful summer out on the road. It seems like just yesterday we were saying hello to summer, and now it's on its way to writing the final chapter in the history books. Of what we have left of summer, let's not count the days...let's make the days count!

We would love to hear from you to share your stories and pictures from the road, events, or just life as a rider. They may wind up being in a future edition of the magazine. We love to share stories that come from the heart. You don't have to be a professional writer to send in stories. Just tell it like it is, and I'll take care of the rest 😊 Send your stories and pictures to me anytime at virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com.

You'll be seeing some amazing fall events being added this month to the Events page of our site virginia.com. More riders tend to come out in the months of autumn to participate in events, so they don't have to fight the scorching temperatures of summer. I have to admit that it is more enjoyable to ride when the temperatures are cooler. It's hard to beat a nice cool breeze on the knees and on your face while on a steady cruise...just one of the many things to love about riding.

As we wind down the summer days and get ready for fall, we would like to remind you that the rider-friendly businesses that are here with us in the magazine would love for you to visit them. They are here with us to let you know that they are there for YOU. Whether you see them here for a month or all year long, our advertisers are some of the best of the best places you'll find that support our motorcycle communities throughout the Virginias. Their support helps us bring Virginia Rider to you each month during the riding season and in the winter months too. We are so grateful to have them along for the adventure.

Stay awesome & be safe out there, friends! We'll see you next month!

Happy trails,

Kelly



IN THIS ISSUE



BREAK DOWNS WHILE RIDING

If you've never broken down while riding your motorcycle, it's important to know what steps to take to keep you and your bike safe until you can get help.



RUFF RIDERS

This month, three dogs from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada named Hyway, Phreaway, & Allieway, who started out as trucking dogs, found that riding was easy for them when they became Ruff Riders on motorcycles.



THE BIKE SAVER

This month's Bike Saver is all about how most riders have one bike that they wish they had never let go through selling it, giving it away, or any other way they may have parted ways with it.



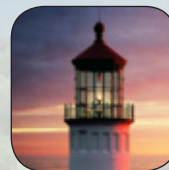
MUSIC AND MOTORCYCLES

Christopher Cross's "Ride Like the Wind" tells a romanticized Western story of a condemned outlaw and murderer fleeing a death-by-hanging sentence to reach the safety of the Mexican border.



IN GOOD HANDS

Motorcycle riders can sometimes experience numbness and strain in their hands and wrists. We have some great tips to help deal with those issues.



THE LIGHTHOUSE

This month our column brings the story of a group of university alumni and their former professor. The ultimate lesson of the meeting has to do with a simple cup of coffee and what it can teach us.



RIDING THE 5 & DIME VA LOOP

A group of riders set out to ride the scenic route through Hopewell and several adjoining counties. It turned out to be much more than just a ride, becoming a journey of self-realization for life.

ON THE COVER

Beautiful Highland County is 416 square miles of spectacular mountain terrain. No matter where you go, enjoy the freedom and solitude the mountains have to offer!



August 2026

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Roll with us on Facebook @virginiaridermagazine



Newest Virginia Road Trip - 5 & DimeVA

Come and stay a while! Call 804-541-2461.

- Scan & Plan -

Browse our calendar of local events and view area attractions to make the most of your ride through HPG.

Explore on: visithpg.com/events



New roadside breweries, coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, special events & live music. It's cycle season here in Hopewell/Prince George VA.

Visithpg.com

Stops along the 5 & Dime: in Hopewell and Prince George



5anddimeva.com



Visithpg.com

Two Local Favorites.
Your Vote Matters!

Good Ship Brewing and Salty Siren
have been nominated in the

Virginia Ordinary Awards!



GOOD SHIP BREWING
Nominated for
New Restaurant
of the Year



SALTY SIREN
Nominated for
Restaurant Employee
of the Year

Let's bring these awards home!



**VOTE FOR
YOUR FAVORITE**



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THE NOMINEES**





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PRE-RIDE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT



T-CLOCS

- T - Tires and Wheels
- C - Controls
- L - Lights and Electrics
- O - Oil and Other Fluids
- C - Chassis
- S - Stands

IT'S HOT OUT THERE...

Please think of your dog. ❤️

HOT PAVEMENT BURNS PAWS

If it's too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for their paws.

TIP: Place the back of your hand on the pavement. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them.

HOT CARS CAN KILL

Never leave your dog in a parked car. Not for a minute.



Even with the windows cracked, cars heat up FAST and can be **FATAL**.

LEAVE THEM AT HOME

Dogs don't belong in stores. It's unsafe, uncomfortable, and unnecessary.



70° OUTSIDE = OVER 100° INSIDE A CAR IN MINUTES!



LOVE THEM. PROTECT THEM. BE THEIR VOICE.

❤️ A little kindness can save a life.



VIRGINIA RIDER
Animal Lovers Magazine





DRAGON RIDERS RETREAT

dragonridersretreat.com

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Set in Southwest Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Dragon Riders Retreat is a sanctuary for motorcycle riders. We are a motorcycle-only, short-term cabin lodging, designed exclusively for riders who value comfort, security, and community.

- One-room air-conditioned/heated cabins with modern amenities on-site, providing a relaxing retreat from the summer heat or mountain chill.
- Each cabin features a comfortable queen bed to help you recharge after thrilling mountain adventures
- Dedicated motorcycle parking with secure spaces for your ride
- Full hookup RV spot for toy haulers or motorhomes with a bike trailer.
- Plenty of parking for trucks and trailers for those who don't want to ride in.
- Free guided tour motorcycle rides
- Outside full kitchen available and wrap-around deck common / gathering area

From legendary motorcycle roads to outdoor adventure and local flavor, discover unforgettable good times just minutes from your cabin.



**Open Season-
May 1st - October 31st
Open 24/7**

Experience our ultimate motorcycle retreat where rugged mountain terrain meets comfortable lodging in Virginia's most scenic landscape. Reserve your stay with us today!




Dragon Riders Retreat
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Barren Springs, Virginia 24313
(276) 239-0025







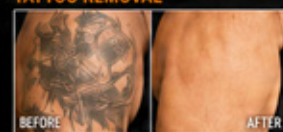

more pics on our website!

WE CAN'T REMOVE YOUR EX FROM YOUR MEMORY. BUT THE TATTOO? LET'S TALK.

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*For the tattoos
you outgrew and
the sun spots
you earned.*

THE BEST PART ABOUT MOTORCYCLISTS



WE DON'T SEE RACE, GENDER, OR RELIGION
WE SEE PASSION



I was riding next to this guy
When I noticed....



Watch for
potholes!



Produced by TIDEWATER MOTORCYCLES, HOLLYDAYS, INC.
& SUFFOLK FESTIVALS, INC. in conjunction with SUFFOLK PEANUT FEST
with SUPPORT from the CMA BEACONS

SWAMP ROAR MOTORCYCLE RALLY SUFFOLK, VA

24th Annual scenic 80-mile ride around
the Perimeter of the
Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

Biker registration begins at 8:00am
at the Suffolk Executive Airport on Highway 13,
just south of downtown Suffolk. Blessing of Bikes prior to send off.
Send-off begins at 11:00am. Rain or shine.

REGISTRATION

\$20 per driver | \$10 per passenger

Includes commemorative event pin and admission
to Suffolk Peanut Fest (a \$10 value)

Light breakfast provided, while supplies last.

First 100 drivers registered to receive ride t-shirt.

Swamp Roar Bike Show

\$10 Participation Fee | Awards Presented

~ plus ~

Peanut City Chop & Swap

CASH or CHECKS ONLY

Please make checks payable to: Suffolk Festivals, Inc.

SuffolkPeanutFest.com

HOW TO REGISTER

PRE-REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT SUFFOLK FESTIVALS OFFICE



Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm (Until Sept. 25)
440 Market St. 2nd Floor | Suffolk, VA 23434

Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm (Beginning Sept. 28)
Suffolk Festivals Office at Suffolk Executive Airport

MAIL TO: Suffolk Festivals, Inc. P.O. Box 1852 | Suffolk, VA 23439
ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE. CHECKS & CASH ONLY.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



SPECIAL THANKS TO PAM & BRIAN MATHIS

VISIT
SUFFOLK
Virginia

Driver Name (Please print clearly)

Passenger Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Daytime Phone

E-mail Address

CIRCLE T-Shirt Size: S M L XL 2X 3X 4X 5X

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- ☐ Swamp Roar Driver (\$20)
- ☐ Swamp Roar Passenger (\$10)
- ☐ Bike Show Entry (\$10)

CONSENT TO THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS:

I understand that photographs may be taken of me and/or my child at the Suffolk Peanut Fest and Suffolk Swamp Roar Motorcycle Rally for publication in materials used to promote the Suffolk Peanut Festival and associated activities.

WAIVER FOR PARTICIPATION: I hereby agree to participate in the Swamp Roar Motorcycle Rally produced by Suffolk Festivals, Inc., Tidewater Motorcycles, and HollyDays, Inc., upon the understanding and condition that I agree to abide by the rules, policies, and procedures of the festival.

I will not hold the City of Suffolk, Tidewater Motorcycles, HollyDays, Inc., or Suffolk Festivals, Inc., its staff, employees, representatives, volunteers or agents responsible for loss of personal property or for medical or dental expenses incurred as a result of said participation including liabilities, expenses, or judgments, attorney's fees or court costs, except claims caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Suffolk Festivals, Inc.. In the event of injury, I give permission to have myself or my child transported to the nearest medical facility and have appropriate care administered.

Driver Signature

Date

Passenger Signature

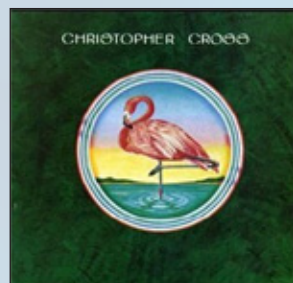
Date

(Parent or guardian if passenger is under 18 years of age)

MUSIC & MOTORCYCLES



RIDE LIKE THE WIND



Released in February 1980, Christopher Cross's "Ride Like the Wind" tells a romanticized Western story of a condemned outlaw and murderer fleeing a death-by-hanging sentence to reach the safety of the Mexican border. Cross wrote the lyrics while tripping on LSD during a drive from Houston to Austin.

Ride Like The Wind

It is the night, my body's weak
I'm on the run, no time to sleep
I've got to ride, ride like the wind
To be free again

And I've got such a long way to go
To make it to the border of Mexico
So, I'll ride like the wind, ride like the wind
I was born the son of a lawless man
Always spoke my mind with a gun in my hand
Lived nine lives, gunned down ten
Gonna ride like the wind

And I've got such a long way to go
To make it to the border of Mexico
So, I'll ride like the wind, ride like the wind
Gonna ride like the wind

Accused and tried and told to hang
I was nowhere in sight when the church bells rang
Never was the kind to do as I was told
Gonna ride like the wind before I get old

It is the night, my body's weak
I'm on the run, no time to sleep
I've got to run, ride like the wind
To be free again

And I've got such a long way to go
To make it to the border of Mexico
So, I'll ride like the wind, ride like the wind
And I've got a long way to go
To make it to the border of Mexico
So, I'll ride like the wind, ride like the wind
Gonna ride like the wind



*Saw these guys riding through Galax today! Thought it was very cool to see.
Shared on Facebook by Eric Shaffner*



*Same bike, same place, same girls.
71 years difference*





LET'S DO SOME SHOTZ!!!
Email your pics to virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com



THE BIKE SAVER

Full Circle

Everybody has that one bike that got away, the one bike that they wish they had never gotten rid of, or sold, or otherwise somehow parted ways with. I'm no exception.



My 1978 Honda CX500

Many years back, after getting a headful of rum, I stupidly made a deal with a friend of mine to sell him my 1978 Honda CX500, for the paltry sum of \$300; and when he showed up with the cash the next day, I ruefully kept my end of the bargain and sold it to him – even gave him a helmet to go with it. The last time I saw that bike, he was throttling it up the street away from its former (my) home. The three dead presidents in my hand did nothing to console me.

I found out later he only had it for a few months and, despite my admonition that IF he was going to sell it, to sell it back to me, which of course he didn't. He sold it to somebody else, and that was that. I was gripped by seller's remorse. I never should have sold that bike. In the parking lot, that bike is a pig - but get her out on the road, and she turns into a ballerina.

Skip forward to March 2025. My birthday is in March. A friend of mine stops by with a 2002 Harley-Davidson Road King, and at first I thought he wanted me to work on it, when out of the blue he says, "It's yours."

What...? A furrow crosses my brow. "What do you mean, 'it's mine'?" ...

This Did Not Compute.

"You idiot; I'm GIVING it to you! Happy Birthday!"

with John Peterson



I look very 'red-neck chic' in my garage clothes here, but you can clearly see the light beginning to dawn on me that he was GIVING me a Freekin' HARLEY!!

I was flabbergasted; I mean, what a gift! Love Ya Buddy (We go way back; I've known this guy since high school – but HOLY S*IT)!

There IS a caveat to this – it didn't start. Oh, it cranked fine all right, it just wouldn't fire. So, me being the inquisitive type ("The Bike Saver", if you will), I did some digging and found out it needed a new fuel pump and neutral switch.

I also discovered quite by accident that the damn thing had an alarm system on it! I had no idea how the starter fob worked, so in the course of fiddling around with it to start the bike I somehow armed the alarm, and when I tried to stand it up one time it went off – and that sucker was LOUD! Like, car alarm loud! Freaked me out, with this huge bike honking away in the driveway. Thankfully it only lasted for an eternal forty-five seconds.

'Okay, so the alarm works...!' I thought. But it still wouldn't start, so I got to digging.



See that flash of light blue there...? Yah - that's the fuel pump, buried in the gas tank. A real PITA to get to, but I got it out. I put in a new fuel line and fuel valve as well, put in new injectors

in case it was the injectors that were keeping it from firing (which I now doubt, but hey – New is Good!), hit the starter and VROOOM...! She fired right up, but MAN she was loud! That bike damn near shook the ground with that Harley vibration, and when I rolled on the throttle it was like being in a thunderstorm without the rain (if you know, You Know) – but she ran! I had the title too, but on top of repairing all the other bikes I had ahead of it the Harley mostly just sat; and bikes don't like to sit.



The 2002 Harley-Davidson Road King is a huge bike. I thought my 1975 Goldwing was big, but this thing takes the cake! Moving it around the garage was a challenge because, at 750 pounds or thereabouts, if that thing wants to tip over, it WILL – luckily that never happened...and it has a car tire for a rear wheel, for Pete's sake! So mostly I just started it from time to time to keep fresh fuel next to the injectors, and it started every time.

Flash forward to July 2026. Recognizing that I would unfortunately probably never ride it, I put it up on Facebook Marketplace for a sum that I believed accurately represented the bike. A few days later, after a lot of "Is this available?" messages that I ignored, I got a message from a local guy named Wesley who said, "That's my old bike!! Let's talk..." Wesley correctly named the previous owner, so I set up a meet with him.



He rolled up into the drive two days later, and I think I was as excited as he was to be reunited with his old machine. Wesley is a hugely nice guy; I was kind of surprised to see that he didn't bring a trailer, but no need to, really. I had kept the bike well and was glad to see it going to someone who wanted it, especially someone who had a history with it.

Wesley said he'd ridden the Harley until about seven or eight years ago when he got interested in a Corvette. A coworker got interested in the bike, and Wesley sold it to him, who got it back on the road and rode it until he passed. The bike then went under the radar for some years until it came to me, and the rest is history, as they say.

We shared some pics of his other machines and agreed that the orange Harley was a beast of a bike. I gave him the backstory on how the bike had come to me and asked him what he thought when he saw it on Marketplace.

He chuckled and said, "I couldn't believe it! It was like, 'that's my old bike!'" Wesley says seeing the bike again brought back a whole flood of memories; he plans to ride it for a while and "see what happens."

I was really happy to get his bike back to him; it needs to be on the road. I've bought and sold a lot of bikes over the years, but this is the first time I've ever had a bike come full circle and get back to someone who loves their bikes as much as I do.



And y'know what...? Wesley 'fits' that bike; take another look at the pictures, and you tell me – who looks better on it...? Certainly not me!

Wesley – Ride Safe, Brother!

P.S.: And if you happen to know anyone in central Virginia who bought a cherry 1978 Honda CX500 from a guy named Richard about eight years ago – Let Me Know!



VIRGINIA RIDER MAGAZINE

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THE LIGHTHOUSE

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." - Matthew 5:14

A cup and coffee



A group of highly established alumni got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation among them soon turned into complaints about their stressful work and life. The professor went to his kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups, including porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive, and some exquisite. The professor told them to help themselves to the coffee.

After all the students had a cup of coffee in their hands, the professor said: "Did you notice all the nice-looking cups are taken, and only the plain, inexpensive ones are left behind. While it is normal for everyone to want the best for themselves, that is the source of problems and stress in your life.



"The cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's just more expensive and hides what we drink," the professor continued.

"What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but all of you consciously went for good-looking, expensive cups and then began eyeing each other's cups."

"Let's consider that life is the coffee and the jobs, houses, cars, things, money, and position are the cups. The type of cup we have does not define or change the quality of our lives."

Moral: Sometimes we fail to enjoy the coffee by concentrating only on the cup we have. Being happy doesn't mean everything around you is perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections and find peace. And the peace lies within you, not in your career, jobs, or the houses you have.

Twenty Dollar Bill



A well-known speaker started his seminar by holding up a brand new twenty-dollar bill. In the room filled with people, he asked if anyone would like to have his \$20 bill. Hands in the room started going up. He crumpled the bill and asked the crowd if anyone was still interested in having the bill. The hands were still up, signaling that people still wanted the crumpled \$20 bill.

He then dropped the bill on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked up the now crumpled and dirty \$20 bill. "Does anyone still want the bill?" he asked. Still, the hands went into the air.

The speaker said, "Today we have all learned a valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the bill, you still wanted it because it did not lose its value."

"Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We may feel as if we are worthless; but no matter what happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value."

Moral: Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, we are priceless. The worth of our lives comes not from what we do or who we know, but from who we are.

"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
- 1 Samuel 16:7



25TH ANNUAL Sherri Parker Memorial POKER RUN AND BIKE SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026
Driver Village - Suffolk, VA
driverevents.com

\$25 donation per participant includes complimentary t-shirt for the first 150 registrants. Detach and complete registration form and return with your check made payable to:

Sherri Parker Memorial Fund, Inc., c/o Holly Hoffer
and send to 4237 Driver Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435

Name: _____

T-shirt Size: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Waiver for Participation: I hereby agree to participate in the Sherri Parker Memorial Poker Run & Bike Show upon the understanding and condition that I agree to abide by the rules, policies and procedures of the Poker Run & Bike Show.

I will not hold the Sherri Parker Memorial Fund, Inc. or Driver merchants, agents or representatives, responsible for any loss of property or for medical or dental expenses incurred as a result of said participation including liabilities, expenses, judgments, attorney's fees or court costs. In the event of injury, I give permission to have myself or my child transported to the nearest medical facility.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**PLEASE CHECK ONE
(Bike Show only):**

☐ Touring

☐ Custom Bagger

☐ Softtail

☐ Ladies

☐ Sportster

☐ Foreign

☐ Rubbermount

(DYNA & FXR)

☐ Antique

☐ Special

Construction
(Competition Bikes)

☐ Antique Patina

Proceeds to Benefit THE GENIEVE SHELTER



THIS IS A TAMA SPONSORED RIDE

\$25 donation per person

includes a complimentary t-shirt for the first 150 registrants
(pre-registered t-shirts can be picked up at on-site registration on ride day)

POKER RUN REGISTRATION

9:30am-11am

The Skeleton Key Bar & Grille (Back Entrance)

4300 Portsmouth Blvd., Chesapeake

Parade of Bikes will stage at Sleepy Hole Park,
4616 Sleepy Hole Rd. Suffolk at 12:30pm prior to ride into Driver at 1pm

BIKE SHOW REGISTRATION

12pm-1:30pm in Driver Village

CLASSES

Touring • Custom Bagger • Softtail • Ladies • Sportster • Foreign
Rubbermount • Antique • Special Construction • Antique Patina

DOOR PRIZES & VENDORS

Contact Holly Hoffer (757) 676-3808 • HOLLYDAYSFLORAL@aol.com

Special Thanks

Beech Grove United Methodist Church | Boyce Performance Cycles | Suffolk Tourism
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The Skeleton Key Bar & Grille | The Beacons CMA Tidewater, VA | TAMA | Tidewater Motorcycles
Fatboys | ABATE of Virginia J.W.Bowman Jr. Plumbing & Sewer Services



MORE GREAT PLACES TO RIDE

5 & Dime VA Loop

Story & photos by Kateryna Pakliachenko
Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce



“Have y’all ever heard of the 5 & Dime VA Loop?”

It’s a scenic route that takes riders through some of the most beautiful and historic areas of our region, connecting the City of Hopewell, Prince George County, Charles City County, James City County, and Surry County. While it’s well-known among motorcycle enthusiasts, last weekend was my first time experiencing it for myself—and what an experience it was.

We started our journey in Hopewell and followed the loop on our way to support the Charles City Police Motorcycle Unit Fundraiser. As someone riding the route for the first time, I wasn’t quite sure what to expect. What I found was something much more than just a ride.

There was a feeling of freedom in it—the wind, the sunshine, the open roads, and the constantly changing scenery. Somewhere along the way, I realized that this kind of peace had been missing from my life for a while.



For a few hours, there was nowhere to rush, nowhere to be except right there in the moment. Time seemed to fly by.

Eventually, we reached a point where the road simply ended. To continue the journey, there was only one option: travel by water. That’s when we boarded the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry, which quickly became one of my favorite parts of the trip.

I had never experienced anything quite like it. Dozens of motorcycles rolled onto the ferry together, and for a few minutes, it felt like a floating community gathering. Riders stepped off their bikes, stretched their legs, shared stories, laughed, and enjoyed the view. It was a chance to slow down and appreciate the journey itself.

I also learned about the area’s incredible history. Looking across the water and seeing the ship replicas nearby made me appreciate just how much history surrounds us here in Virginia. Sometimes we drive past these places without realizing how significant they are.

Another thing that left a strong impression on me was seeing the support from local law enforcement throughout the ride. As we traveled through different communities, I gained a new appreciation for the police departments that help keep these events safe and organized. Watching officers coordinate traffic, escort riders, and work together across county and city lines reminded me that a lot happens behind the scenes to make community events possible.

The fundraiser itself was dedicated to supporting the Charles City Police Motorcycle Unit, and seeing riders come together from different places to support that mission was inspiring. It wasn’t just about motorcycles—it was about community.

Sometimes the best way to learn about a region is not from a brochure or a website, but by experiencing it yourself. Last weekend, the 5 & Dime VA Loop showed me a side of our communities that I won’t soon forget.

Learn more about the 5 & Dime VA Loop at visithpg.com.



What To Do When Your Motorcycle Breaks Down While Riding

New rider? Here’s what to do when you break down.

It happens to the best of us and can be a pretty big buzzkill. You go from enjoying a leisurely, smooth ride when all of a sudden, there’s some clanking and thumping that can’t amount to anything good. Your calm ride is now one that is full of anxiety.

Believe me, I’ve been there when something feels wrong, and the panic sets in. I’ve had to try to clear my head so I can determine the right thing to do, but all I can do is hold on tight. When your motorcycle breaks down, it’s equal parts wondering if you’ll be able to save your own skin, regretting not performing that summer motorcycle maintenance you were supposed to, and terror about how much of an arm and a leg it would cost to fix it.

While it’s understandable to worry about the potential financial ramifications of your bike breaking down, your priority should always be your safety.

Here’s what to do when your motorcycle breaks down when out on the road:

Get to the right side of the road:

This may come as a surprise, but traffic can be a very, very dangerous thing, especially if you’re riding on a highway or interstate. There’s a reason that laws exist that prevent drivers from stopping for animals when they’re driving on highways or interstates, and that’s because a horrible pileup can happen in seconds. If the cars around you are riding a road where it’s normal to average 65 to 67 MPH, your motorcycle breaking down in that situation is a very dangerous one. If you can feel your bike struggling and slowing, no matter the reason, you need to immediately get off the road.



When you’re stranded in the middle of the road, it’s much too high a risk that a distracted driver can hit you at 65 MPH. And if that’s the case, I don’t think that will be an accident you’ll be able to walk away from with just a few scratches and bruises. So if you do feel the bike giving up beneath you and struggling, do everything in your power to make it to the far right of the road or the shoulder. Get a hold of the clutch so that you can keep your bike going and signal as much as you can to the drivers around you that you’re trying to move over. If they see that you’re struggling, they’ll want to stay far behind you or move over to the lanes away from you. That way you’re safe from oncoming traffic, and it will be easier to get help. Once you’re there, you can take a look at your bike and assess the potential problem.

Find your nearest exit:

Depending on where and what time of day you’re driving, traffic might be too suffocating for you to get to the right side of the road. Even though your emotions will be in overdrive, you’ll have to determine if it’s safe for you to try to make it to the right side of the road. If you don’t think you can do so without hurting yourself or others, you’ll need to find the nearest exit. Some interstates and highways won’t have exits on the left side, but for those that do, it will just act as an additional outlet to safety. If you’re in the far left lane and can’t get over to the right, if there’s grassy room or a strip of pavement on that side where you can seek safety, use it. If the road you’re on does have an exit on the left side, slowly take it until you can pull into a store or gas station parking lot.

Turn signals are everyone’s best friend:

Especially in this case, turn signals are going to be something that you want to use. You should either put on your hazard lights or the turn signal aligned with whatever side you’ll be turning on. This is especially true when it’s dark out because drivers will have an even more difficult time seeing you.



Yeah, I get it, “cagers” (strangely more commonly in luxury cars, go figure) are notorious for not using their turn signals or hazards; don’t be like them. Especially in this kind of situation, you want to give the people around you every possible warning as to what’s going on so that they get more time to adjust their driving.

Decide to fix or call for help:

So this one is going to depend on every individual rider, as every person will have different resources available, along with knowledge of what could be going on. Regardless of whether you have limited knowledge on how to fix a bike, it doesn’t hurt to try and hunt for the cause or problem. The more information you know, the better your chances of potentially fixing it yourself, or at the very least, you’ll be able to verbalize this issue to someone else. If you can fix it yourself and have the resources to do it right then and there, it still might be a good idea to call someone, as you can never be completely confident that your solution will be correct.

If you’d prefer not to touch it and wait for help, your first goal should be to call a friend who has a truck that you can easily load. You can save money that way (depending on if you do or



don’t have AAA) and sometimes, you know, it’s nice to just have a familiar face come to the rescue after your heart almost exploded from your chest. Depending on how scary an experience it was, it might be best to call a friend or family member. Motorcycle accidents of any kind, especially when your bike breaks down in the middle of the road, are nothing to joke about.

You might be stranded:

Okay, not “Lost” level stranded, where no one will ever find you again, but if you’re riding on a remote road, it can sometimes take hours for you to flag someone down. Plus, if your cell phone is dead or can’t find service to make a call or send a few texts, then you really are at the mercy of whatever driver happens to find you. Let’s hope they’re friendly.

While we can’t know when our bike might break down, it’s always best to prepare yourself for the “what if.” You have motorcycle insurance, correct? You hope you’ll never have to use it, but it’s there in case you need it. The same goes for being prepared when riding, and you only need a few things. Water is the first and most important, because you don’t know how long you’ll be along the side of a road. You can get dehydrated quickly, and that is something you don’t want to happen. You should also always have sunscreen on hand, especially during the hot summer months, because being stranded could mean that you’ll burn to a crisp. If you’re stranded, you might just need to be patient.

While your motorcycle jacket might be heavy enough to keep you warm, some cities and states experience insane dips in temperature once night comes, and it never hurts to have an extra jacket or sweater on hand. Also, just in case your cell phone dies, do yourself a favor and just memorize a few friends’ numbers. That way, if you can make it to a phone, you don’t have to rely on your phone’s contact list to reach out to some family or friends.

Proper bike maintenance should usually help to prevent something like this from happening, but you never know. And for those times, it’s best to be prepared with some kind of game plan in mind.

Thanks so much to our friends at Rumble On for sharing this article with us!
Source: <https://brainbucket.rumbleon.com/when-your-motorcycle-breaks-down>



FIT FOR THE ROAD

IN GOOD HANDS – Hand Numbness

Motorcycle riders sometimes experience hand numbness, forearm fatigue, and other hand/wrist/arm discomfort. According to the Mayo Clinic, hand numbness is “usually caused by damage, irritation or compression of one of the nerves or a branch of one of the nerves in your arm and wrist”. As it happens, the ulnar and median nerves run right through the palms, which are also the same spots that support your weight on a bike.

Everyone is different, so you’ll need to find what works for you. And of course, like any condition that persists, it is always best to get it checked out by a trained medical professional. Although we can’t officially back any of the following, here are some suggestions from fellow riders that may help with hand/wrist/arm numbness, fatigue, or discomfort:

Rider Technique

- Lighten up on the grip/ avoid over gripping the bars.
- Put less weight on wrists. Hold weight up with core abdominal and leg muscles.
- Bring a small rubber or tennis ball on long rides and squeeze it on breaks
- Keep hands relaxed, upper body loose, only lightly touching and steering the bars.
- Grip gas tank with knees to keep weight off wrists. Ditto foot pegs.
- Shake out hands every half hour or so
- Squeezing/pumping the hands to release muscle tension.
- Remove rings before venturing out.
- Increase exercise off the bike in order to improve overall fitness and core strength.
- Place hands backward to stretch fingers the opposite way.
- Move hands out beyond the end of the grips and rest pinky finger on the bar-end.

Bike Mods/Gear

- Replace stock grips with softer/foam grips.



- Add grip covers/grip puppies Kuryakyn grips and palm rests
- Add throttle lock, throttle rocker, or throttle pads.
- Wear well-padded gloves, like gel palm gloves.



- Replace OEM bar end weights with heavier ones.
- Adjust brake and clutch levers to straighten out the wrists.
- Reposition your bars so your wrists are straighter
- Loosen the handlebar mounts/rotate the bars for a more comfortable angle on the wrist.
- Reposition handlebars closer to the body, or choose a different bend.

- Check tension on the steering head bearings to reduce vibration on the handlebar ends
- Make sure the seat is not set too high.
- Use Anti-vibration risers.
- Try cruise control attachments. The Crampbuster™ helps maintain steady control of the throttle.
- Try heated grips: they’re like a heating pad for the hands.
- Wear carpal tunnel arm braces

If you are feeling any hand numbness or wrist pain from riding, the following exercises, which were designed by a sports medicine physician, may give you some much-needed relief:

Stretching



With one hand, bend the wrist upward and feel a stretch. Hold it for 15 to 30 seconds. Then bend it the other way. Do three sets on each hand

Grip Strengthening



You can use a grip strengthening tool, or grabbing a rubber ball works. Squeeze and hold for five seconds. Do three (3) sets of 10

Tendon Glide



Start with the fingers of your hand held out straight. Gently bend the middle joints of your fingers towards your upper palm. Hold for five seconds. Do three (3) sets of 10.

Scapular Squeeze



While sitting or standing with your arms by your sides, squeeze your shoulder blades together and hold for five seconds. Do three (3) sets of 10.

Wrist Extension



Hold a soup can or hammer handle in your hand with your palm facing down. Slowly bend your wrist upward. Slowly lower the weight down into the starting position.

Gradually increase the weight of the object you are holding over time. Do three (3) sets of 10

Range of Motion



Flexion: Bend your wrist forward, hold for five seconds.
Extension: Bend your wrist backward and hold position for five seconds.

Side to Side: Gently move your wrist from side to side.

Do all of the above for three (3) sets of 10

Taking care of your body is a top priority if you want to be able to enjoy riding, so keep yourself in good hands so you can always stay fit for the road.



Source: <https://motorcycletraining.com/riding-tip-exercises-to-relieve-hand-numbness-and-wrist-pain/>



Almost a foot of sun at my place.
Probably not gonna make it to work.
Ya'll stay safe out there!

EASY DOES IT

EASY CHEESY HAM ROLL-UP LOG

If you love cheese and ham, this easy-to-make, scrumptious-to-eat yum will likely become one of your favorites to whip up any time of the year! With just 3 ingredients, you'll be enjoying this gem in no time, so let's get baking!

Here's all you need:

- 1 ball pizza dough or pizza crust dough
- 8 oz. thinly sliced fresh deli ham
- 1 cup freshly shredded mozzarella cheese

Here's all you do:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Roll out pizza dough on a lightly floured surface. Press to form a 12 x 8-inch rectangle.

Arrange ham slices evenly over dough to within 1/2 inch of edges. Sprinkle evenly with cheese. Starting at one of the short ends, roll up dough to form a log. Pinch seam together to seal. Place, seam side down, on a greased baking sheet.

Ovens can vary, so bake until deep golden brown, anywhere from 30 to 50 minutes - check often after 30 minutes depending on the oven.

Let stand 10 minutes before cutting into 8 slices with a serrated knife.

Serve with mustard, horseradish sauce, or whatever you enjoy! Bon appetit! ❤️



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By Tripp Wells of the 757 Bike Meet-up & Ride!
Facebook group – Thanks for sharing Tripp!



I ride like I'm invisible.

Assume drivers don't see you, even when they're looking right at you.

RRRuff Riders

Three Road Dogz Hyway Phreaway Allieway

All our girls started out as trucking dogs so it was extremely easy for them to merge into becoming Ruff Riders. Putting their favorite treats and toys into the carriers was fun, especially having a fluffy blanket inside to curl up to. However, we did not expect Hyway to become so protective of her space in the (Kuryakyn - Grand Pet Palace) carrier. People try all the time to take pictures during charity rides or just a scoot around town, but if they get too close, she will bark and even nip if some individuals do not respect her space. Once she is out of the carrier and on her leash, she becomes a different dog; so relaxed and sociable, unless she spots another dog, then the Chihuahua personality comes out! Lol

One of our first long rides was Mississauga, ON to Edmonton, AB. Planning is always key. A few items to have on a road trip are:

- *food and water with collapsible dishes
- *cooling items that help are cooling pads placed under a blanket, cooling vest or bandanna, plus frozen water bottles where your pet can lick the condensation
- *carry extra medications, papers showing that your Fido's shots are up-to-date, and that they are chipped when crossing borders
- *also have a tag to write down what camping stall you are in just in case Fido decides to take a sight seeing tour without you
- *it's also very handy to have the app, BringFido to find pet friendly hotels and restaurants
- *extra leash, goggles, and a break-away harness are always useful



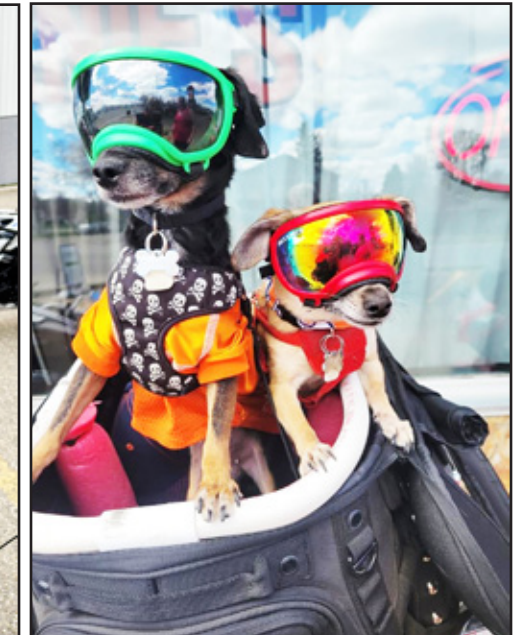
Training our girls to keep their Rex Specs goggles has been challenging. Our first suggestion is to buy an inexpensive pair like Doggles Eyewear or Namsan because losing them while riding is more likely to occur. A trick we use is to attach a metal bead chain with a ball joint buckle to the goggles and to the collar. Another option is a baby's tether from their soother. The technique we found helpful for training was to hold a treat in front of the goggles so your pet will realize that if they put their nose through the straps, they get a treat. Repetition is mandatory, and taking breaks when frustrated is also crucial. Your pets are so sensitive to your vibe.

Hazard Note: Please use helmets on your pets. Your pets can overheat quickly; that is why they are considered a novelty item.

I believe our greatest gratification is when we participate in charity rides like Ride For Mom, Ride For Dad Edmonton, and Edmonton Toy Run, to name a few. We get so much enjoyment from children and their excitement of seeing these cuties riding on the back of a motorcycle. We love bringing them, not only for our pleasure, but also for how much attention they bring to charities we are passionate about. Plus we get to share safe information on traveling with our girls.

One Facebook group that has tons of information is Motorcycling with Fido.

Here is to a safe and fun filled year.





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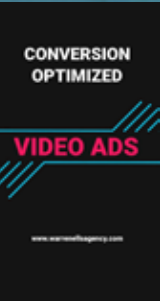
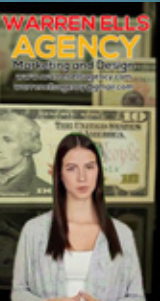
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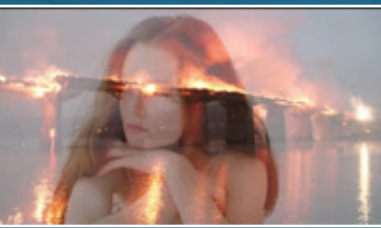
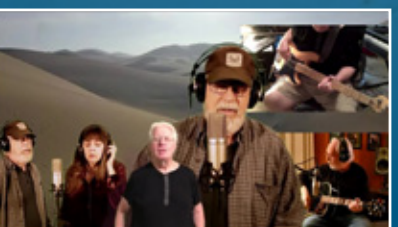
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