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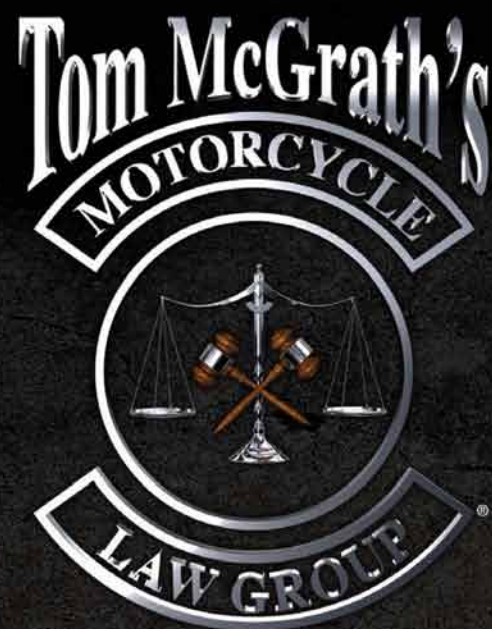
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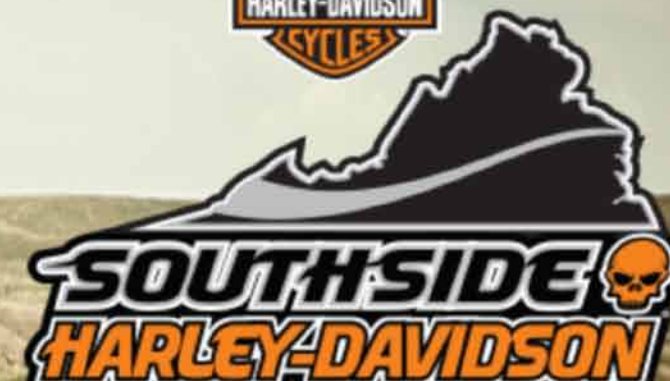
# IT'S TIME TO RIDE

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## from the editor's desk

Welcome friends! We're so glad to have you with us for this September issue of Virginia Rider. It's been a fantastic riding season & now, going into the fall months, you get to enjoy the most favorite time of year for most riders. If you don't live in the mountainous areas of Virginia & have not ventured out west for a ride yet this year, we have so many incredible places for you to go on adventures with great places for you to stay as well. Virginia hosts some of the nation's most exciting motorcycle roads & a few of them are world-famous! We're very fortunate to have the Heart of Appalachia with us as they take you through the Appalachian Back Roads where you'll get to experience over 1500 miles of amazing roads with 14 vetted routes. They have a brand new FREE map for you too! Check out the centerfold for all the details & see how you can find roads such as the Heartbreaker, the Corkscrew, the Back of the Dragon & our favorite, the Woodbooger! ...plus many more unforgettable roads to ride.

If you're looking for a great place to stay while you're out on adventures, Ridge Rider Cabins (on our cover & featured inside) is just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, & get this...it's for Motorcyclists only! They have everything you need to relax & enjoy yourself after a day of riding!

Is there anything about motorcycling here in Virginia that you wish you could change? How would you like to gather around a table with fellow motorcyclists, enjoy a free lunch, share your ideas & talk about issues that concern motorcyclists here in Virginia? On October 6th you can do just that at "The Motorcycle Roundtable" in Richmond (see article in this issue for details). Your voice would be welcome in deciding the issues that need to be addressed in 2020.

Did you know that you can read Virginia Rider online anytime at our website, [virginiarider.com](http://virginiarider.com)? You can read the latest issue & back issues too! Sign up on our Home page to have the digital copy of the magazine delivered to your email box every month... don't worry, this magazine subscription is FREE!

I'm truly grateful for all of the support that we've had this year from EVERYONE! ...our readers & especially our advertisers! We couldn't be here without YOU!

We love hearing from our readers! We welcome your events, stories, pictures, funnies, comments or suggestions that you'd like to share with us – email us at [virginiarider-magazine@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiarider-magazine@yahoo.com)... please keep those SHOTZ pictures coming too!

Thanks again for being here with us! Safe travels & happy trails to all...

Stay awesome,

*Kelly*

## IN THIS ISSUE



There's nothing like the thrill of the wind hitting your face on two wheels, but add two wheels and a make-your-own path, and what do you have? The ATV experience. Jennifer Traxler takes us through the ABCs of ATVS in **MAKING TRAX**.



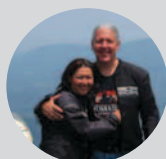
According to Bryce Belair, Molly's owner, she's just as happy hiking the Appalachian Trail as she is riding in her custom milk crate seat on the back of Bryce's bike. She loves to go anywhere people are. **MOLLY** is one lucky dog!



Can you believe it's September already? We hope you took advantage of all the great **EVENTS** that happened over the summer and there are still lots of great ones to come.



Matt Danielson has a warning for you if you are using a GPS device on your bike: Beware. Your GPS may be collecting evidence against you. He explains in this month's **TOM MCGRATH'S MOTORCYCLE LAW GROUP** article.



Instead of Bill Murray reliving Groundhog day in Punxsutawney, PA, Marc would prefer spending every day riding the Blue Ridge Parkway. Great bikes, great rides, comfortable Ridge Rider cabins. Talk about **GREAT PLACES TO RIDE**. Cushy!



In **SHOTZ**, our monthly pictorial, we'll feature your pics of rides, bikes, friends and anything else relating to bikes that you'd like to share with us. Send 'em in!



What can we learn about what's important in life from cups, coffee and a crumpled twenty dollar bill? We'll find out in this month's edition of **The LIGHTHOUSE**.



They're called a "Black-Tar Snake" & their populations are growing at an astounding rate. They can be seen on roads all over the U.S., including the highways & byways throughout Virginia.

Kelly Collins - Owner/Editor  
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ON OUR COVER:  
Ridge Rider Cabins on the Blue Ridge Parkway cater specifically to motorcyclists. You can check out their story and pictures in this month's issue.



*Supporting Local Individuals Fighting Breast Cancer!*

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2019**

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**Registration:** 9:00 a.m. at Big Woody's - Great Bridge  
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**Kickstands up:** 11:30 a.m. to AJ Gator's - Witchduck  
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**Rider: \$20 - Passenger: \$10 - Walkups and Non-Riders: \$20**  
**Admission Includes:** Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Pig Pickin'

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Buddy Cummings: (757) 339-3156 or email: [info@thepinkride.org](mailto:info@thepinkride.org)

**100% of NET Proceeds go to Support Local Breast Cancer Patients & Causes!**

**[thepinkride.org](http://thepinkride.org)**



# EVENTS

## ★ **Sep 8 3rd Annual Red Knights 9/11 Ride - Prince George**

Join the Red Knights Chapt 8 for 80+ scenic miles while remembering those we lost on 9/11. Registration starts at 7:30am at Prince George Fire Department - Company 1, 6500 Courthouse Road, Prince George, VA 23875. Blessing of the Bikes & safety brief prior to. Kickstands up at 9:11am. Ends at Namozine VFD. Registration before the event is encouraged at [www.RedKnightsVA8.com](http://www.RedKnightsVA8.com). Driver is \$20. Passenger is \$10 prior to 9/1/19. After or on-site, \$25 for Driver & \$15 for Passenger. Part of the proceeds will be going to help those in our community. See our website for more information & to register.

## ★ **Sep 13 HRHD Friday the 13th BIKE NIGHT – Yorktown, VA**

5pm – 9pm. Join us for some awesome music from “NRVS System”, cold beers, great food from Frank’s Monster Munchies , raffles, prizes, vendors and a bunch of Fun. Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, 6450 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA, [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

## ★ **Sep 14 6th Annual “Remember the Fallen Ride” - Norfolk/Virginia Beach**

Registration starts at 0900, Sunrise Cycles, 1559 E. Little Creek Road, Norfolk. \$10 per bike. \$5 passenger. 50/50. First bike out at 1000. After Party starts at 1300, AJ Gators, 401 N. Witchduck Rd., Virginia Beach Raffle prizes. Best & Worst hand. Music by the Beach Blaster. All proceeds will go to charities of Blue Knights Virginia V. [BlueLineEventVA@yahoo.com](mailto:BlueLineEventVA@yahoo.com). Event coordinator Dan Mitchell, 757-288-5922. Rain date 9-21-19.

## ★ **Sept 14 HRHD Demos and Dogs Day – Yorktown, VA**

10am to 5pm Come on in to demo some new bikes both 2019-2020 models. We will have FREE hotdogs for everyone (while they last). Come take an awesome demo and get fed. Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, 6450 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA, [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

## ★ **Sept 14 EDMARC Poker Chip Run – Portsmouth**

Mark your calendars for the 2019 EDMARC Poker Chip Run at Bayside Harley September 14, 2019 from 9am - 4pm. Annual EDMARC Children’s Hospice Charity Event. This year’s event will have a little bit of a spin with a Poker “Chip” Run & Scavenger Hunt! Afterwards, come out and show your skills riding solo and two-up in our motorcycle games including Slow Race, Drag Race, Plank Ride, Fuzzy Ball Race, Balloon and Straw Drop! Did we mention.....FOOD! Poker Chip Run - Registration Begins: 09:00 am. Last Bike Out: 10:00 am. Riders - \$10. Passengers - \$5

## ★ **Sept 20 & 21 Ninth Annual Virginia ALR Rally – Newport News**

Sept 20 at 10 AM – Sep 21 at 2 PM. Hosted by Department of Virginia - American Legion Riders and American Legion Braxton-Perkins Post 25, 7609 Marshall Ave, Newport News, Virginia 23605. Fellowship - Food - Entertainment - Camping - Bike Games - Bike Show - Awards - Vendors - 50/50 Raffle - Door Prizes - POW/MIA Ceremony at the Virginia War Museum. (757) 245-4532, [albraxtonperkins25@gmail.com](mailto:albraxtonperkins25@gmail.com)

## ★ **Sept 20 & 21 IMRGF Annual Skyline Ride – Fredericksburg, VA**

Join us for a beautiful ride thru some of central Virginia’s pristine country side and the ever spectacular Skyline Drive. This is our 3rd annual event and with your participation it keeps growing and getting better each year. We will have a Friday night “Dealership Party” with fun, food and a classic rock band. On Saturday at the end of the ride we will be giving away prizes. There will also be a 50/50 raffle each day to increase your chances of winning. Good Luck!!!. This event will help raise money for our charity Childhelp, located in Lignum, Va. Childhelp is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse. Founded in 1959 as International Orphans, Inc. by Sara O’Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, Childhelp is one of the largest non-profit child abuse prevention and treatment organizations in the nation. Online Registration is available NOW at our website: [www.imrgf.com](http://www.imrgf.com). Please register early, online registration ends Sep. 19. If you are unable to sign up, you can always register at the Dealership Party on Friday night at Indian Motorcycle of Fredericksburg, 10151 Southpoint Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, (540) 642-4017.

## ★ **Sept 21 Peace Day Open House – Yorktown, VA**

11am to 4pm. We will be chilling out with some Live reggae from your favorites “The AmbassadorZz” , DD214 Smokehouse will be out serving up some awesome BBQ and Wings. We will have vendors, and a nice chill spot to listen to the music. Come on out, bring your kids, pets, and friends. Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, 6450 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA, [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

## ★ **Sept 21 2nd Annual Elevate Church BIKE-A-THON – Windsor, VA**

Sept 21 - 10am to 2pm, 150+ Miles. Depart & Return location 23486 Deer Path Trail, Windsor, VA. There will be a “Meet & Greet” about the ride on July 27th at 3pm at Elevate Church Bldg. This ride benefits Hope Project, Brazilian Missions & the Youth Challenge. For more information contact Mike & Paula Apperson, 757-376-2453 or 757-636-1291. \*See flyer in this issue to use QR Code to sign up!

## ★ **Sept 28 Yorktown Cars & Coffee – Yorktown, VA**

Start your day with some hot java & cool cars & bikes at 9am. Everyone is welcome!...Kids, Pets & All Vehicles & Bikes! At Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, 6450 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA, [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

# EVENTS

## ★ **Sept 28 Mom’s Ride – Manassas, VA**

Hosted by Brothers in Christ MM Manassas VA. Registration starts at 9am. KSU at 11am. Ride starts and ends at City Grille. Raffle tickets available from any BNC member with top prize of \$1000. All proceeds benefit community outreach programs. City Grille, 10701 Balls Ford Rd, Manassas, Virginia 20109, (703) 330-3011.

## ★ **Sept 28 Shenandoah Valley Biketoberfest 2019 - Front Royal, VA**

12 PM – 8 PM. Shenandoah Valley Veterans Association is proud to present the 3rd annual Shenandoah Valley Biketoberfest!! Warren County Fair, 26 Fairground Rd, Front Royal, Virginia 22630 (540) 635-5827, [wcfair@comcast.net](mailto:wcfair@comcast.net)

## ★ **Sept 29th 11th Annual The Pink Ride - Chesapeake/Virginia Beach VA**

Supporting Local Individuals Fighting Breast Cancer! Hampton Roads Largest Charity Motorcycle Ride! Registration Begins at 9am at Big Woody’s Great Bridge. Kickstands up at 11:30 to ride to AJ Gator’s – Witchduck. Tickets: \$20 Rider, \$10 Passenger. \$20 Walk-ups and Non-Riders. Admission Includes: Hamburgers, Hotdogs, & Pig Pickin”. Live Auctions, Silents Auctions, & Raffles. 100% of NET Proceeds Go to Support Local Breast Cancer Patients & Causes. For more info. Vendor & Sponsorship Opportunities contact: Buddy Cummings (757) 339-3156. or Email us at [info@thepinkride.org](mailto:info@thepinkride.org)

## ★ **Oct 5 Old Dudes MC Poker Run – Yorktown, VA**

The 18th Annual Old Dudes Mc Poker Run, and raffle. Join us for a great day, for a great cause. Proceeds from the event benefit “Here for the girls”. Registration is from 8:30-10 am @ Quaker Steak & Lube, 12832 Jefferson Ave, Newport News. Group departs at 10:15. Frist stop is Jose Tequilas Williamsburg, second stop is Lovells Place West Point, third stop is The Wild Horse Country Cafe & Malt Shoppe Gloucester, and the ride will finish up at Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson Yorktown, by 3 pm where there will be food, live music by Fine Swiss Cheese, and more fun. [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

## ★ **Oct 6 VCOM Legislative Roundtable - Richmond, VA**

The Legislative Roundtable is where Virginia Motorcyclists gather to discuss issues of importance to the motorcycling community, and to have input on the 2020 legislative agenda. Location: Richmond Downtown Courtyard by Marriott, 1320 E. Cary St., Richmond, Virginia 23219. The Roundtable will start at 1:00 p.m. in the Capital Room, and lunch will be provided. For more information see article in this issue or contact Matt Danielson, of McGrath, Danielson, Sorrell & Fuller, Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists, 1- 800-321-8968, [motorcyclelawgroup.com](http://motorcyclelawgroup.com)

## ★ **Oct 12 IV King’s Hwy Ride – Harrisonburg, VA**

One day, one ride, one reason. Saturday Oct 12. Registration 10am. Kickstands up 11am. \$20 per rider. \$5 per passenger. Door prizes \* 50/50 \* Lunch after ride. Hot Dogs, Drinks & Tropical Smoothie Café on-site. Bikers with a Mission s hosting a ride and community event for our Community Place @ 17 East Johnson Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Start and End ride at Our Community Place. More info: 540-421-7911 or [ourcommunityplace.org](http://ourcommunityplace.org).

## ★ **Oct 12 HRHD 41st Anniversary Celebration – Yorktown, VA**

10 AM - 9 PM. Make plans now to be a part of this event. We will have a Sound Off competition with \$1k prize, a Bike show with \$1k prize, “The Wheelie Wizard” stunt show for the Family, Our Famous “In House” HRHD BBQ for everyone, and lots more. We will have more details coming, but make your plans now! [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

## ★ **Oct 13 Suffolk Swamp Roar – Suffolk, VA**

Details coming next month! [www.SuffolkPeanutFest.com](http://www.SuffolkPeanutFest.com)

## ★ **Oct 19 CVMA Poker Run – Yorktown, VA**

Beginning and ending at HRHD , the stops will be: -Old city BBQ, -Two drummers smokehouse, -Gloucester VFW post 8252. Registration 1100-1300 @ HRHD. First bike out at 1330. \$20 per bike \$10 for passengers. DJ, live music 50/50 tickets raffle prizes. [hrhd.com](http://hrhd.com)

## ★ **Nov 23 10th Anniversary Bikes For Tykes Bike Build – Virginia Beach, VA**

Hosted by Boneshakers Social Club BSSC C3. BoneShakers Family please come out and help assemble the bikes we will be giving away On Dec 7th. Bring hand tools and a good attitude. Ice House Restaurant, 604 Norfolk Ave, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451.





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Sunday, October 6, 2019

This year's Virginia Motorcycle Legislative Roundtable will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at the Richmond Downtown Courtyard by Marriott, located at 1320 E. Cary St., Richmond, Virginia 23219. The Legislative Roundtable is where Virginia Motorcyclists gather to discuss issues of importance to the motorcycling community, and to have input on the 2020 legislative agenda to be presented to the Virginia General Assembly by the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists as well as other state motorcyclists' rights organizations.

The Roundtable will start at 1:00 p.m. in the Capital Room, and lunch will be provided. The Roundtable usually lasts three to four hours. If you can make it we would welcome your voice in deciding the issues that need to be addressed in 2020. In past years the Roundtable was the starting point for legislation such as Virginia's red light bill, the prohibition against motorcycle only checkpoints, the modification of Virginia Code to allow two two-wheeled motorcycles to travel abreast in a single lane, legislation improving Virginia's Rider Education Program, the creation of the autocycle category which removed three wheeled

automobiles from Virginia's motorcycle crash data, and legislation allowing motorcyclists to utilize accent lighting to improve nighttime visibility. This year we would expect conversations on many diverse topics affecting motorcyclists, to include lane filtering/splitting, grass clippings and other debris in the roadway, and the creation of a "Watch for Motorcycles" license plate. No topic is off limits so long as it relates to motorcycling, motorcycle safety, and/or motorcyclist rights. All voices and opinions are welcome.

If you are interested in attending we would welcome you around the table. If you are unable to attend but want to express your ideas, or if you have any questions concerning this year's Virginia Motorcycle Legislative Roundtable, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Matt Danielson

McGrath, Danielson, Sorrell & Fuller

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**GLOVES** - well-padded gloves protect your palms, knuckles, and fingers.

**PANTS** - long-sleeved pants help resist abrasion and can protect against sunburn, windburn or hypothermia.

**BOOTS** - boots provide protection against foot and ankle injuries.

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# WHEN TWO CHAPTERS MEET



It took months of planning and 2 years to actually come about, but a 3 day trip finally happened! The first year was a total wash out! It rained for like 3 days straight and I just had to make a decision before we would have to be stuck paying for the rooms. This trip was to combine 2 riding groups; one from the north and one from the south. Some members of GWRRA (Gold Wing Road Riders Association) "not with any particular chapter" from South Jersey, along with some members from the South Jersey Retreads combined forces to meet up with members of GWRRA Chapter SC-E along with a few members from other SC chapters and even a few from NC-I joined us.

I mapped it out for both groups to ride equal distances and meet somewhere right in the middle. Well that middle happened to be Covington, VA.

Due to the heat I decided to bump up our leaving time an hour and leave at 7am instead of 8am. The NJ group formed two even groups of 6 bikes each. We were 2 channels apart on the CB, and left ten minutes apart.

Well Fifteen folks from the south headed north, while fifteen folks from the north headed south. There was no rain in sight, however the temperatures were soaring! I am talking record breaking heat!



Day 1) Friday was a meet and greet. However not without jumping into the pool first! Oh my God was it hot riding down to Covington! We took cover whenever we could, drank plenty of water and used our evaporative cooling vests!

Out of our two groups I, Jeff DiStefano, was the first to leave out, and funny, the last to arrive. Group two was led by Sam Beloff. Our breaks were great; as we were leaving they were pulling up. We took more breaks than normal because of the dangerous heat, and I didn't want anyone to get hurt!

Sam had called me on the phone to tell me that route 81 was at a standstill by Stanton, VA so instead of getting off the highway going around the accident then getting back on, I decided to take back roads there until the last 13 miles. We dropped like 10 degrees in temperature by doing so!

The Southern Group headed north up through the Mountains of NC, and enjoyed a number of twisty roads (spending the night in NC to make a 2-day trip out of their Northward-Journey). Dave Dolinger (SC-E) GWRRA # 195758, led the group on a wonderful route!

Day 2) We were to all meet in the parking lot at 8am with a full tank of gas. My bike and Sam's bike were parked up front and had the folks evenly split up the ride by parking behind us, it looked so cool! Group pictures were taken, of course followed by a briefing, again two groups and two CB channels apart. It was a 230 mile loop with a tour of the Greenbank Observatory before having lunch at The Buckhorn Inn. The Buckhorn Inn is located at 2487 Hankey



Mountain Hwy. in Churchville, VA. We were very much impressed with the Inn! There's so much history there and the food was GREAT! Moreover, the prices were GREAT! One of the owners Mitch Diehl gave us a tour of the Inn. They were able to seat all 30 of us plus could have seated another 30! If you're planning a trip near there, be sure to stop in for a GREAT lunch at a price that won't hurt you! A fellow who takes pictures and writes for the Virginia Rider Magazine, Marc Ritchie had contacted me on Friday and asked if he could take pictures of our group and interview us. After lunch we mounted up and rode 90 miles back to the hotel. It was so cool!

That evening we all had dinner at the hotel and gathered around for a little magic show hosted by our (NJ) very own Steve Black! Then we said our final fair wells because the NJ folks wanted to get an early head-start on the temps heading back north.

Day 3) We had two groups going back, my group left at 5:10 am and Sam's left at 5:30. We met up at a gas station in MD with only 120 miles from our starting point. It was even hotter on Sunday!

The SC/NC Folks headed out at 8:30am in two groups - one stopped at a Bed & Breakfast for the night while the remaining 11 traveled on to their final destinations in the Carolinas. All encountered a little rain, but for the most part it was a very nice ride, with plenty of scenery, some twisties, and of course no trip is complete without at least one gravel road!

To sum it all up, everyone got along great and had a blast! They even want to make it an annual event! Maybe our friends up in Ontario, Canada (ON-G) Jack & Linda, Wayne & Lori might want to join us! We will have to try to coordinate with the VA Folks next year also! :~)) Blue Skies!

Jeff DiStefano  
GWRRA #277026







# GREAT PLACES TO RIDE

with Marc Ritchie and Rose Grant

## Golden Ridge Riders On The Storm

I've often said, if I had the means, I'd ride up and down the Blue Ridge Parkway every day for the rest of my life. It's the greatest playground a kid with a bike ever dreamed of, and always on most everyone's top 10 list of roads to ride. So, when Rose and I got word that Lesley and Dennis Capen, owners of the new Ridge Rider Cabins, had invited us to stay in one of their cabins right off the BRP, we didn't have to ponder long, and we made a reservation.

We arrived on our day of departure at Wayne Cycle Shop in Waynesboro, VA. They've been awesome sponsors of Virginia Rider Magazine from the start, and were all too eager to get on board with our journey, by hooking us up with one of the nicest pre-loved machines in their stable: a 2006 Gold Wing we recently featured on a ride through Highland and Pendleton counties. Rose and I had fallen in love with "Goldie," and her more than capable craft of carving through the Alleghenies. Needless to say we were looking forward to experiencing her charms through the Blue Ridge Mountains as well. Check out <https://www.waynecycle.com/>, or visit them in person, and let Jennifer, Adam, Zing, Susan, and the rest of the crew, help you find the machine you'll fall in love with.



There was a chance of thunderstorms forecast for the afternoon. Although the "severe" term was nowhere to be found, we wanted to get to our lunch destination at Bent Mountain Bistro, where we were meeting my Mom and her husband, Fe, before weather arrived. We reluctantly relied on routes 11 and 81 to get us to Buena Vista, and 501 towards Big Island where we would eventually hop on Old Blue. As a consolation, we got to hear back to back Alter Bridge songs, on Goldie's powerful audio system, swinging through the twisties of Little Deals Gap with no one in front of us. It was awful :)

About 15 minutes before we arrived at Bent Mountain, we could see storms rapidly forming around us. We had just enough time to park the bike, take our helmets off, greet everyone, and get in the door, before the skies opened up. I joked if anyone wanted to dine outside. It was great seeing them, and catching up over another fine meal. We had all the time in the world as my weather app notified me that there were "severe thunderstorms expected in the area within the next hour."

A couple of other bikers were there too, waiting out the storm. We chatted with them for a while as the rain drops kept falling. A short time later, there were some breaks in the clouds, so we all left together. Rose and I had some extra copies of Virginia Rider magazine which we passed out. Teams Harley and Mercury departed after we said our goodbyes, while Team Honda dug out some rain gear, and storm chasing equipment, still savoring the smoked barbeque. Anyone with range to ride to the Roanoke area has got to stop here. It's that good! Like them on fb, or visit <https://bentmountainbistro.com/> for all the great food!

Rose and I only donned our rain jackets. It was just spitting annoyingly, and I put my faith in Goldie's fairing to keep us dry. Her Dunlop Elites also did a fine job of sticking to the soggy curves once back on the BRP, but it was getting hot, especially with no airflow and waterproof jackets. The rain had stopped and we were eagerly looking for an overlook to gear down at.

It's always a good thing to stumble on a cool place we've never been to. As fate would have it, the Smart View Overlook at MM 154.5 turned out to be one of those places. All too often we only stop at the overlooks that look appealing from the roadway. This one had a golf cart path that led to a log cabin built in the 1890's with a spectacular view. It was in a seclud-



ed area, and since it was off the beaten path, we enjoyed taking some "touron free" pictures while repacking our rain gear. Turns out it's a great place to hike and picnic, too, and has plumbing as an alternative to anyone who prefers trees.

Just when we thought we were out of the woods, with less than 20 miles to go, we rounded a corner, and all I could picture, was the Gorton's Fisherman somewhere in the North Atlantic, stepping out onto his deck as a wave of water introduced itself to someone who was once dry. It was a wall of liquid sunshine and we had no choice but to drive through it. Fortunately, there was another overlook right there, with some leafy trees covering just enough of the pavement for us to park under and gear up again.

True to form, the mighty GL was making a wall of its own, keeping our legs and feet dry, as we pressed on through the brief tropical depression. I still managed to get in a leg squeeze or two. Arriving at the cabins, we were relieved everything was dry. We were eagerly looking forward to the firepit later on. Rose and I immediately felt welcomed by the "Motorcycles Only Beyond This Point" sign. We later learned they also have a designated area for riders trailering their bikes. The office door was open (as it always is), but vacant. Inside, there was a clipboard with our names on a registration card, and a key for the cabin. There was also an assortment of snacks and a refrigerator filled with drinks with an honor system cash box on the counter.

As we were unpacking Goldie, Lesley drove up in her side by side to greet us.

It didn't take long for Rose and I to feel completely at home. She thanked us for coming, pointed out where everything was, and asked if we had any questions. I only had one: where's a good place to eat? Inside our room, we were instantly met with a cozy warmth and charm of a proper motorcycle enthusiast's cabin. Not only was it clean and spotless (like Felix, Alice and Hazel were once there), we began to notice the attention to detail of little things like the bath mat, shower curtain, pillows, lamp, and even a wash bucket with a polish spray bottle and microfiber cloths. These were no ordinary cabins. Check out <https://ridgeridercabins.com/> and like their fb page for more info and reserve your cabin before it gets busy during the fall riding season; and experience what it's like to stay in a place built by and for motorcycle enthusiasts, free of Griswolds.

*These were no ordinary cabins. Check out [ridgeridercabins.com](https://ridgeridercabins.com) ...and experience what it's like to stay in a place built by and for motorcycle enthusiasts, free of Griswolds.*



On our short ride to Jane's Country Cafe for dinner, which Lesley recommended, we spotted one of the biggest bears we've ever seen crossing the road ahead of us. It sucked not having the camera with us, but we did enjoy the food, great service, and a \$15 bill. Rose and I also enjoyed, as we always do, the Mayberry atmosphere and flavor of Meadows of Dan.

Later that evening, we couldn't help but fall into our chairs waiting for us at the firepit with our excellent hosts, Lesley and Dennis, and our properly chilled "provisions." Once dark, every blink seemed to reveal twice as many stars as before. We saw more satellites crossing the clear sky than we could count, including two crossing each other's path. Rose and I were completely checked out, disconnected and unavailable until further notice: unthinkable in today's world. It was a slice of heaven in a place as enchanting as any we'd ever been to, and another wonderful dream come true, for that kid on a bike.

Cheers and thanks for reading!!

Marc Ritchie  
Photos: Rose Grant  
Correspondence:  
[facebook.com/brmtcva](https://facebook.com/brmtcva)







# The Lighthouse

"It's a dark world. Be the Light." – 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, but that is the source of problems and stress in your life. "The cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most of the 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 on 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 every-

thing's 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 rooms started going up. He crumpled and crumbled the bill and asked the crowd if anyone was still interested to have the bill. The hands were still up signing 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, now crumpled and dirty \$20 bill. "Does anyone still wants 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 we are worthless; but no matter what happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value."



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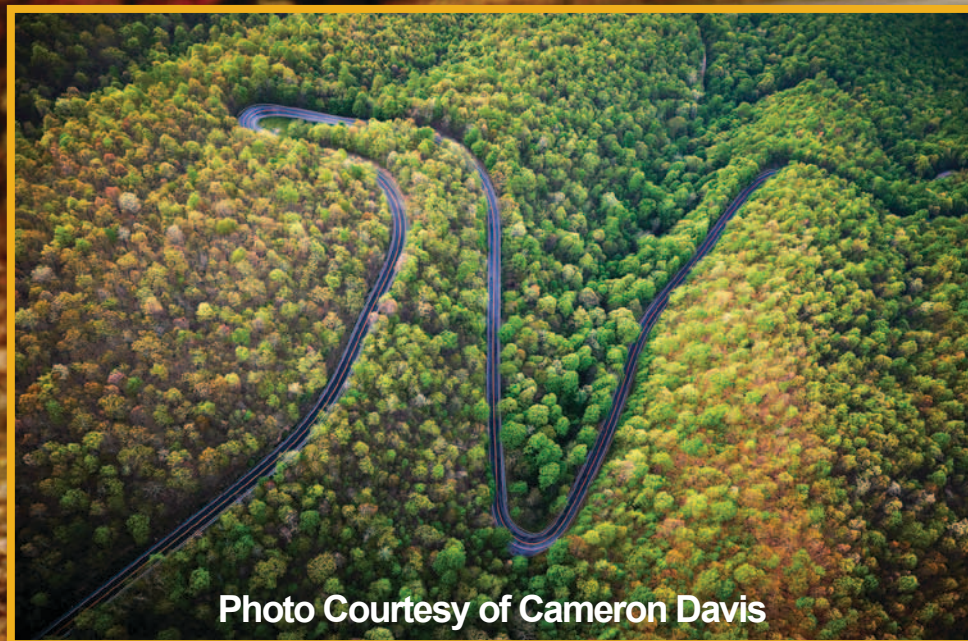


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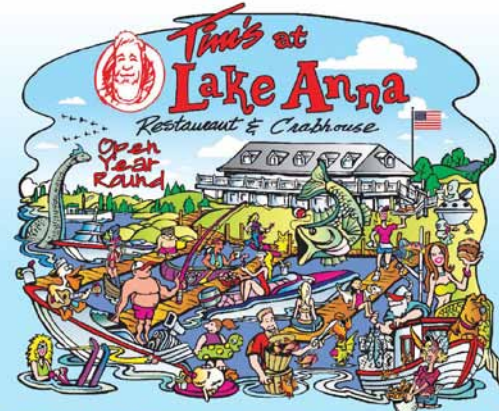


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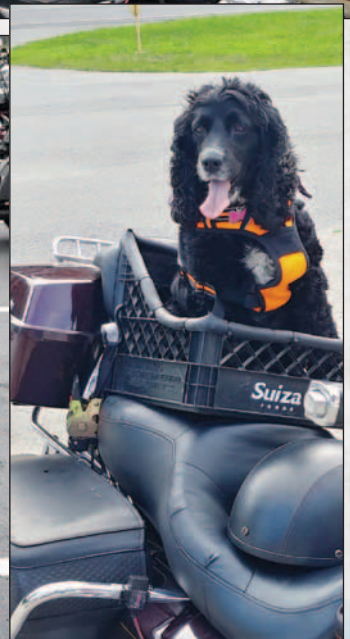
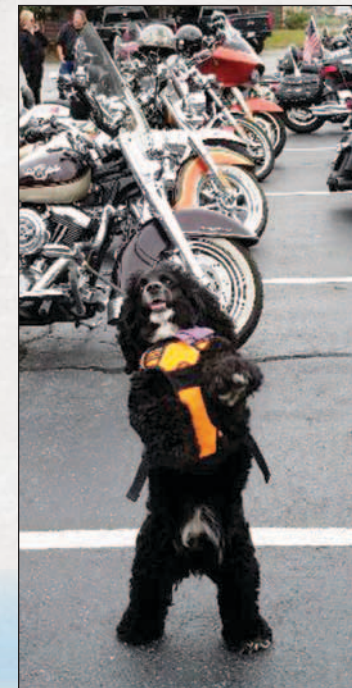


# RRRuff Riders

## MOLLY



Molly and my oldest son Connor hiking



Molly is a 5 year old Cocker Spaniel. I found her on craigslist with a small rehoming fee of \$50. Shortly after I brought her home in April, I figured it would be a good time to get her used to riding. She loves going anywhere with people. I made a seat for her out of an old milk crate. A towel is used for the bottom. 1/2" id fuel line hose covers the top. I use two ratchet straps to hold the milk crate to the bike. I like the mobility of the setup, because when it's just Molly and I she rides behind me on the seat. In a pinch I can move her to the luggage rack of the truck, for another rider. We have ridden plenty of miles both ways and she is happy either way. Molly has ridden with me all over Virginia. We go to the mountains and hike sections of the Appalachian Trail. The farthest we have hiked in one shot was the Virginia Triple Crown (about 37 miles). The farthest I have ridden with Molly would be from Virginia to New Hampshire. We made lots of stops, but she didn't mind the trip in the least. For anyone looking to get their dog riding, I say "just do it". Make sure you get some doggles (googles for dogs). You don't want an expensive vet bill, because you didn't want to spend \$8.99 on Amazon. Molly's owner, Bryce Belair, works at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.



Molly and Bryce

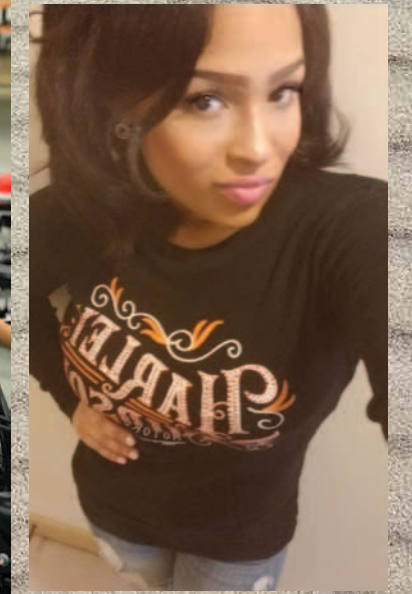


Connor, Molly and me at McAfee's knob. A popular overlook on the Appalachian Trail.





Got SHOTZ? Email us at [virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com)





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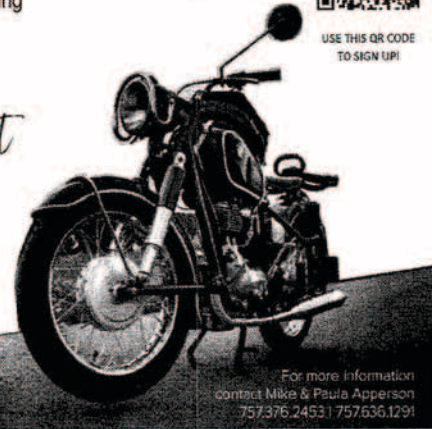
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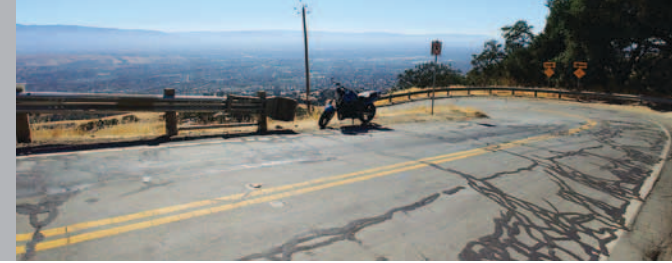
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# TAR SNAKES



While you're out on the roads enjoying a nice ride, have you ever seen the snakes that appear out of nowhere & slither across the road? These kind of snakes don't have real fangs, but they can be just as deadly – particularly for motorcycle riders. They're called a "black-tar snake" & their populations are growing at an astounding rate. They can be seen on roads all over the U.S., including the highways & byways throughout Virginia.

## WHAT ARE TAR SNAKES?

Tar snakes are random lines on roadways, sometimes very long & often "squiggly," made from asphalt sealer – a material made from tar – that highway crews install to help prevent further cracking of the actual roadway surface itself. As roadways age, particularly when subjected to rain, cold weather, and heat, they begin to break down. Cracks develop in the external surface and, if left unchecked, the cracks can compromise the entire roadbed. As a temporary fix, highway construction crews fill the cracks with the tar-based sealant. It prevents water from getting into the cracks and it postpones the need for more expensive road repair. The repairs often result in random, windy lines of tar that resemble snakes; hence, the name black-tar snakes.

## AUTOMOBILES BARELY NOTICE TAR SNAKES

Tar snakes have little, if any, effect on passenger vehicles and trucks; with four or more wheels on the pavement at any given moment, a slight loss of traction isn't dangerous. If you're on a motorcycle though, your encounter may be very different. The snakes can be hazardous in that they:

- Have a different texture than the asphalt around them. Motorcycle tires react to the snakes than to the adjacent road.

- Can create an uneven, bumpy road surface that can wreak havoc on your bike's suspension.
- Become slick and soft in hot weather and when they are wet.
- Can come upon the motorcycle driver without warning.

Because tar snakes are generally softer than the surrounding asphalt, they tend to collect foreign objects – small screws, nails, and pieces of metal. Those objects can damage tires and even cause blowouts.

## HANDLING TAR SNAKES

Motorcycle riding experts have several great tips for maneuvering through tar snakes as safely as possible. Here's the best ones that we've found:

- Scanning the surface ahead of your bike. If you have noticed "snakes" on the roadways that you routinely travel, try to memorize their location so as to avoid them.
- Riding over the snakes – if you can – at a 90-degree angle. Snakes are most dangerous when you ride over them "vertically."
- Reducing your speed when you identify a patch of highway that should be marked "snakes ahead."
- Remaining "loose" on the bars. Try to let the tires find their own traction as you move through the dangerous area. The stronger your grip, the more likely you'll end up in a spill.

Tar snakes can show up very quickly after a nice long stretch of beautifully paved road so stay alert & stay safe!



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# MAKING TRAX

With Jennifer Traxler

## ABCs of ATVs (All-Terrain Vehicles)

With Jennifer Traxler

We all know how enjoyable and spiritually fulfilling riding on two wheels is; getting out in the country, breathing the oxygen-rich air deeply, surrounding ourselves with nature while creating memories. The same feeling is available year-round on four wheels!

But before you get started there are a few things you should know. First and foremost, safety should be your highest priority. Yes, just as with riding motorcycles and horses, riding ATVs can be dangerous. There are some very important rules and laws to follow and guidelines to operate within to minimize the risks. I'll try to touch on as many as I can in this article.

My first suggestion is to read every page of the ATV Safety Institute website ([atvsafety.org](http://atvsafety.org)). They have some invaluable information on safety and off-road etiquette and laws. They have six Golden Rules that should really be followed to the letter.

### The ATV Safety Institute's Golden Rules

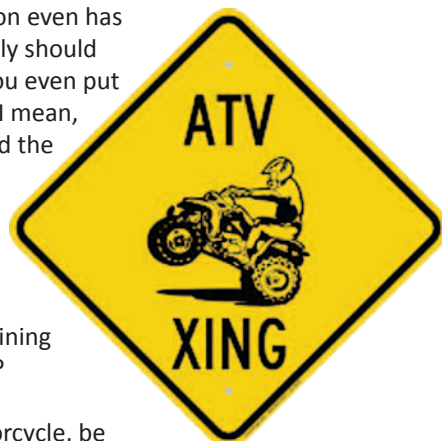
1. Always wear DOT compliant helmet, goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.
2. Never ride on paved roads, except where permitted by law.
3. Never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. Never carry a passenger unless your ATV is specifically made to carry two people.

5. Ride an ATV that is right for your age.
6. Supervise riders under 16 years old - ATVs are not toys.

The ATV Safety Foundation even has e-courses that riders really should consider taking before you even put your key in the ignition. I mean, we should all have passed the MSF course, or at least passed the written and riding test at the DMV before riding a motorcycle, so why shouldn't we have just as much training before operating an ATV?

Just like riding your motorcycle, be sure to look over your ATV before riding. It would totally suck to be stranded miles from anything with a preventable problem. Be sure to check your tires and wheels, fuel and oil, chain or belts, handlebars, lights and electronics, and all the buttons and knobs. It is probably not a bad idea to carry a first aid kit, a water bottle, a snack, and tool kit. Fortunately, most modern ATVs come with a tool kit under the seat.

Although they didn't invent the ATV, Honda made them popular in 1970 with a three-wheeled machine called the ATC90 (All-Terrain Cycle). It had no suspension, but instead, big balloon tires. They gradually introduced larger displacement models throughout the 70's and 80's. In the 80's, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Polaris, and Suzuki all released their own three-wheeled models. Suzuki was the first to release a 4-wheeler in 1982, coining the term "Quad". Honda released their 4-wheeler in 1984, the TRX200, and ruled the market, owning almost 70 percent of all ATV sales here in the US. The 3-wheeler officially came to an



*an assortment of Kawasaki, Suzuki, Honda and Yamaha ATVs from 50cc up to 750cc Photo by Jennifer Traxler*

end in 1987 when safety concerns resulted in the more stable 4-wheel ATVs becoming the industry standard. ATVs even have their own Motocross and off-road racing events nationwide!

Picking the right ATV for you is just a matter of knowing what you'll be using it for. Do you want to use it for hunting or exploring nature? Do you want to use it for racing or competing? Would it be extremely useful getting around and maintaining your farm? Maybe you only want it for a couple trips a year to a favorite recreation destination. They are available in 2WD and 4WD, most adult models are liquid cooled and fuel injected, and many have automatic transmission. The more capable models have locking differential and independent rear suspension. Power steering is a real arm saver on long days of riding the trails, and something I personally wouldn't go without. Some of the larger displacement models are capable of towing well over 1,000 pounds! Be sure to tell your salesperson exactly the features you need. I'm sure they would be happy to find you the perfect machine to meet your needs.

In conclusion, ATVs offer riders an excellent way to get away from everything, and spend time in either solitude or fellowship, surrounded by God's great cathedral. Whether your goal is to reach your destination quickly or if the journey IS the destination for you, there is a perfect ATV and perfect trail for you. There are several dedicated ATV trails throughout Virginia, so be sure to ask your local powersports dealership personnel where they ride. If you don't have enough land of your own, you could also ride on a friend or neighbor's property, but be sure to get the land owner's written permission first. So let's get out there and have fun!

*Jennifer is an avid Virginia rider and Sales Consultant at Wayne Cycle Shop in Waynesboro, VA*





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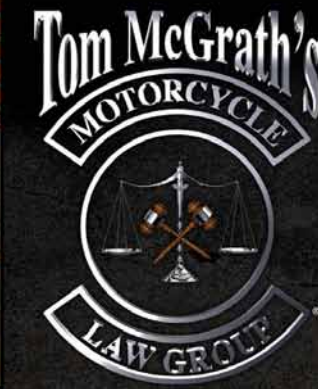
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## USING A GPS ON YOUR MOTORCYCLE

Beware. Your GPS may be collecting evidence against you. More and more motorcyclists today are using GPS (Global Positioning Systems) to plan trips, get directions, and keep track of miles traveled. However, keep in mind that, if you are in a motorcycle accident, you may be collecting evidence that could be used against you in both a criminal and civil trial.

### What GPS systems track on vehicles

Most GPS systems allow you to keep track of your speed. As such, they can be used as evidence in court. I have come across jurisdictions which, at the scene of an accident when speed is a question, will seize a crash victim's GPS, get a search warrant, and download the information pertaining to speed.

Such action does more than subject the crash victim to a speeding ticket. It can, if the injured party was speeding, put their ability to collect damages for their injuries at risk. Virginia is a contributory negligence state (as are both North Carolina and Maryland). That means that if the party that injured you can show that you were in some way at fault in causing the accident, then your claim can be denied.

Speed can be used as a contributing factor to deny an injury claim, even if the other party is more at fault than you. Even in other states which are comparative negligence states, speed can be used to reduce the amount of your claim if another person injures you.

### Should you use a GPS on your motorcycle?

Now keep in mind that I am in no way suggesting that you should not use a GPS on your motorcycle. I am merely suggesting that if you do, keep in mind that, depending on the system and how you use it, you could be collecting evidence that could eventually be used by the party that injures you to avoid paying for the injuries that they caused.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, or any other matters affecting motorcycling, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, ride safe and ride free.

Matt Danielson  
McGrath, Danielson, Sorrell & Fuller  
The Motorcycle Law Group  
1-800-321-8968  
[Motorcyclelawgroup.com](http://Motorcyclelawgroup.com)





# RIDGE RIDER CABINS



Ridge Rider cabins offers comfortable and affordable lodging for motorcyclists traveling through the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding areas. The love of motorcycle exploring, ( especially off the beaten path ) coupled with a passion for meeting fellow riders, created the desire to build a quaint set of four " low-occupancy " cabins on their property.

The cabins are cozy, inviting and built for two. We know all too well that after a long day of riding, it's nice to return to comfort. You will have that here with amenities like air conditioning, private bath with endless hot water showers, mini fridge, coffee pot with coffee and a comfortable queen bed. Charge your phone and your body for the next day's adventure in the wind.

These cabins are situated on a small rise overlooking a creek and a neighboring pasture that may yield wildlife picture opportunities in the fall.

You can stroll down the property to a picturesque shaded place by the creek and dip your feet while you sip your favorite cool beverage.

Ride it here or trailer it. We can accommodate both. Each cabin has a concrete pad for motorcycle parking. If you trailer your bike we have a designated parking area for vehicles with trailers at the entrance to cabins.

Once you're settled in, you can take advantage of the numerous twisty motorcycle routes in the area that will keep you in the wind for a day or a week! We will be happy to suggest some great day rides or visit the "Attractions " page on our

website, [ridgeridercabins.com](http://ridgeridercabins.com), and blaze your own.

RESERVE A CABIN TODAY! STAY WITH US FOR JUST \$75/NIGHT (\$7 Service fee when using a credit card)  
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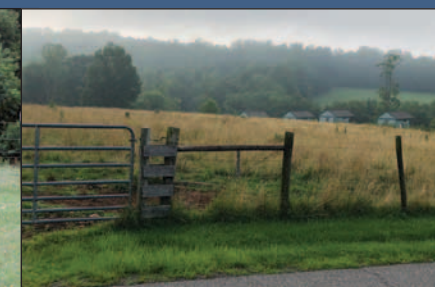
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| MOUNTAIN SPRING-FED WATER              | ♦ GAS & FOOD WITHIN 7 MILES            |
| SEATING NEXT TO NEAR-BY CREEK          | ♦ SNACKS & DRINKS FOR SALE IN LOUNGE   |



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Blue  
Ridge  
PARKWAY

Claw  
OF THE DRAGON

BACK  
OF THE  
DRAGON

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**Spotting a  
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on the  
road can  
be just  
as hard  
as finding  
one in  
this picture.**

Keep an eye out  
for motorcycles.



*Share the road with motorcycles*

