



The Richmond Rider

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A publication of the Richmond Rider's Motorcycle Club ... all makes and models since 1993.

A charter chapter of the Honda Rider's Club of America

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Vermont Has You Covered

Rider Magazine

Growing up in New England, my dad taught me many useful lessons about exploring back roads. For example, the fact that you don't know where a road goes is a good reason to take it. "We can always turn around," he would say.

Dad recommended investigating roads with the prefix Old, like Old Stage Road or Old Highway 28. Such roads tend to meet up with the main road again, and take you off the beaten path through a world the new road has left behind.



Roads including Ferry or Point in the name often stop at the water, Dad told me, but if it's called River Road it probably bends and curves along a river and won't likely dead end. Riding along a River Road also improves your chances of happening upon a covered bridge.

North America is home to about 1,000 covered bridges, close to 75 percent of the world's total. Pennsylvania claims the most with 231. I've found them in New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts, and there are many more in states throughout the East, South, Midwest and Northwest. But the highest concentration of covered bridges is found in the small state of Vermont, which has 114. Covered bridges are synonymous with Vermont, but are much more than quaint pieces of history. They are widely recognized as cultural, economic, educational, aesthetic and historic resources, and an active network of scholars and citizens is working to document and preserve the significant ones. Most covered bridges in Vermont still do the job for which they were originally intended—getting you to the other side.

Though the structural designs vary, all covered bridges share the roof that makes them instantly recognizable. So

why are covered bridges covered? It's not to keep travelers dry. And it's not to protect the deck, which is easily replaced. These bridges are covered to protect the most crucial and costly structural members, the wooden trusses.

Timothy Palmer is believed to be the first American bridge builder to advocate roofing bridges in the late 1700s. Palmer estimated that the life of a wooden bridge would be extended by as much as 40 years simply by keeping the trusses dry and shaded. Vermont's covered bridges are an enduring example of New England's well-earned reputation for thrift.

One hundred years ago there were more than 600 covered bridges in Vermont. The devastating flood of 1927 destroyed all but about 200. Fire and development have claimed more, but the remaining 114 include some of the nation's finest examples.

Riding a motorcycle across a covered bridge is a short trip into history. Although Pulp Mill Bridge in Middlebury has two lanes, few covered bridges are wider than one lane, so you may have to wait your turn. Stay alert, too, as the wooden decks can be slick and approach angles are often sharp.

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Even if you don't find covered bridges fascinating, Vermont is a great place to ride a motorcycle. Glacial activity

scoured the long valleys that run mostly north and south, and along these valleys are many byways and back roads. Roads running across the valleys and through mountain passes usually have tighter curves and more elevation changes. Either way, Vermont roads are this motorcyclist's candy store, and there are more than a hundred covered bridges along the way.

My route is doable in two days, but allowing three will give you time to stop and explore. Begin in Brattleboro, in the southeast corner of Vermont. Head north on Route 30 and in six miles you'll see West Dummerston Covered Bridge (c. 1872) on your right. You can ride across this 280-foot twin span over the West River.

Three miles farther along Route 30, take the left turn toward Williamsville, where you'll find the oldest covered bridge in the region (c. 1869), a 120-foot span crossing Stony Brook. You can ride across this bridge as well. Enjoy the loop from East Dover back to Route 30 in Newfane which is pretty, though not all paved.

Continue north on Route 30 and beyond the town of Townshend is Scott Bridge (c. 1870). At 277 feet, it's the longest single wooden span in Vermont. Scott Bridge crosses the West River but you'll have to walk across as motorized traffic is no longer allowed. A few miles farther north stop for breakfast or lunch at the Townshend Dam Diner, a local institution with good grub and colorful patrons. Look through the illustrations of New England diners while you're waiting.

In East Jamaica, 30 joins Route 100, the quintessential Vermont byway. This two-lane blacktop runs practically the entire length of the state, for long stretches along the eastern slopes of Green Mountain National Forest. It's on as many "best ride" lists as any road in New England. You won't find much in the way of covered bridges until you reach Waitsfield, but you will find farms, villages, some of the East's premier ski resorts, and a great road for motorcycling.

Back on Route 100, consider two options. The first is to stay on 100 and enjoy the twists and turns along this more rural stretch of road. Or second, head north at Stowe on Route 108 to enjoy different twists and turns and more covered bridges. Route 108 takes the serpentine route through Smuggler's Notch. At Jeffersonville, turn north on Route 109. There are five covered bridges in the short stretch between Waterville and Belvedere Center. Keep an eye peeled for small, numbered covered bridge signs pointing the way. At Belvedere Corners, head north on Route 118 and you'll pass six more before you reach East Berkshire 15 miles later.

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In East Berkshire, head east on Route 105, which meanders just south of the Canadian border. Routes 105 and 100 intersect not far from Newport and your two route options come back together. Stay on 105 to Island Pond then head north on Route 114. In this region of Vermont—the Northeast Kingdom—there is little except you, the road and the unspoiled outdoors. Moose are abundant, so stay alert, particularly in autumn when the urge to procreate makes them even more unpredictable.

Just before the New Hampshire border, head south on Route 102, which parallels the Connecticut River. You'll find a covered bridge in Lemington, but this stretch of 102 is for savoring the ride. This winding river road always gets me singing inside my helmet.

The Connecticut River forms the border between Vermont and New Hampshire. This far north, upstream of the first dam, the river is narrow enough to be crossed by covered bridges. After Route 102 feeds into U.S. 2, look on the left for River Road (imagine that!) and cross over the Connecticut River on Lancaster Bridge (c. 1911). This is a good place to pull over if you want to walk down and examine the design and construction of a covered bridge's trusses from underneath.

Immediately past the bridge, turn south on New Hampshire Route 135. (OK, so it's not Vermont, but the ride along the river is better from the New Hampshire side through this stretch.) At Woodsville, head back into Vermont on U.S. 302 west. The P&H Truck Stop at the junction of Interstate 91 has fuel and stick-to-your-ribs fare. At East Barre, turn south on Route 110 toward the town of Tunbridge (population 1,325). This tidy hamlet is home to five covered bridges: Mill (an exact duplicate of the original destroyed by flood in 2000), Cilley, Howe, Flint and Larkin.

By this point in the ride you surely will have developed an interest in bridges, so make the short side trip to Brookfield. When 110 intersects 14 in South Royalton, head north on 14, then west on 65 to the center of Brookfield. There you'll find the famous Floating Bridge. Yes, it actually floats and vehicles drive across. However, riding a motorcycle across the Floating Bridge requires a combination of bravery, skill and foolhardiness. The wooden deck is mostly submerged, covered in slimy green algae, and peppered with raised nail heads. It's definitely worth a visit, but opt for a U-turn, and instead check out Ariel's for supper and retrace your route to Royalton. From here there are many good options to complete your Vermont circuit. I like Route 107 west past

Bethel, 12 south to Woodstock, 106 south to Downers, 131 west to Proctorsville, 103 south to Bellows Falls and U.S. 5 south back to the start/finish line in Brattleboro.

As I look back at those childhood weekends spent exploring back roads and small New England towns, I am thankful that my dad taught me to make exploring part of the ride.



Long Way Down

Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman's new motorcycle adventure rides into movie theatres for one night only!

On **July 31st at 7:30pm local time**, Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman embark on the motorcycle adventure of a lifetime, riding 15,000 miles through 20 countries from Scotland to South Africa in "Long Way Down", created from more than 1,200 hours of footage for a one-night-only event shown in High Definition in more than 430 select movie theatres nationwide. Exclusively cut for NCM Fathom, "Long Way Down" delivers a unique theatre experience following McGregor and Boorman as they face many challenges from the unknown and unforgiving terrain that test their endurance, driving skills and push their friendship to the limit.

"Long Way Down" is the highly anticipated follow-up to "Long Way Round," an epic journey the duo took in 2004 circumnavigating the world from London to New York, riding East, via Eurasia and North America. It became an instant television series hit in Europe and the United States and has since sold over one million DVDs and 900,000 books worldwide. McGregor and Boorman returned to the open road in May 2007 for the making of "Long Way Down," an amazing journey through Western Europe and Africa.

Tickets for this special one-time-only event are available at presenting theatre box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com. For a complete list of presenting theatre locations and prices please visit the website (theatres are subject to change).

Click the below link to find where this one night only event will be presented in your area:

<http://www.fathomevents.com/details.aspx?eventid=725>

Great Rides Web Tool

Harley-Davidson Motor Company has announced that its new Great Roads interactive Web tool is now live in the Experience section of www.harley-davidson.com. The Great Roads tool encourages riders to explore the country on their motorcycles, and enables enthusiasts to rate and review 20 of the nation's scenic byways.

Riders have the capability to expand their motorcycle experiences with the aid of the Great Roads web tool by finding new routes and reading personal reviews from fellow enthusiasts who have ridden and rated the areas.

Each Great Road listing includes types of scenery and road characteristics – whether the roads are twisty, or if the area is flat or mountainous. It also provides essential travel information for motorcyclists, such as whether there are adequate gas stops, how much traffic to expect and the best time of year to ride the route.

Maps of the Great Roads can be customized for a rider's individual needs using a convenient link to the Harley-Davidson Ride Planner. Great Roads included in the web tool also offer details on local Harley-Davidson dealers in that area, and several offer suggestions for lodging that can be booked through a travel specialist.

The Great Roads web tool provides links to other enthusiast services including Authorized Rentals and Tours and Harley-Davidson Shipping. These services help riders overcome constraints such as time and weather to expand their riding and touring opportunities.

To rate and review a Great Road, enthusiasts need to create a Harley-Davidson user profile at www.harley-davidson.com, and then link to Great Roads page under the Experience section.

Skilled Rider Course

The Skilled Rider Course is a six to seven hour course held entirely on the range over one or two days. The course uses the proven curriculum of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation® (MSF) Experienced *RiderCourseSM* Suite, with some enhancements developed by Harley-Davidson enthusiasts. Participants use their own motorcycles, or rentals, to enhance the following skills: control at low speeds, risk management, limited space maneuvers, cornering judgment, stopping quickly in a curve, swerving and stopping quickly, multiple curve maneuvers and surmounting objects.

Upon completion of the course, students will earn a Skilled Rider Course pin and patch set, as well as a completion card from the MSF that may assist you in getting possible discounts on insurance.

The Rider's Edge Skilled Rider Course is offered at select Harley-Davidson/Buell dealerships that run the Rider's Edge program, where you get the added support of a knowledgeable staff and a complete motorcycling facility. Class times vary by dealership. Check with your nearest dealer for a Rider's Edge Skilled Rider Course class schedule.

Rider's Edge

Skilled Rider Course instructors are dedicated enthusiasts who have received certification from the MSF, as well as additional training from Harley-Davidson.

What you will need:

- street-ready motorcycle
- Endorsement, permit or license (check with a dealer for your state's requirements)
- Proof of valid motorcycle insurance
- A helmet manufactured to meet DOT requirements
- Protective eyewear
- Motorcycling gloves
- A long-sleeve shirt or jacket
- Over-the-ankle boots
- Jeans or motorcycling pants

Schwantz School Moves To Barber

Birmingham, Alabama (January 8, 2009) - The Kevin Schwantz Suzuki School is moving from Road Atlanta to Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama.

Since its inception in 2001, the Kevin Schwantz Suzuki School has been based in the rolling hills of northeast Georgia at Road Atlanta. This year, the school with its all-star staff of instructors is moving its comprehensive, two-day riding program designed for motorcyclists of all skill levels to the 16-turn, 2.38-mile Barber facility. In addition, 1993 500cc World Champion Kevin Schwantz has created a new program, the Kevin Schwantz Super School, with backing from the Motorcycle Industry Council, Suzuki and Honda.

"We at Barber Motorsports Park are pleased to add the Kevin Schwantz Suzuki School and the Super School program to the park lineup. We now have two world class schools here in Birmingham" Park representative Jeff Ray said. "Kevin's program and the Porsche Sport Driving School make for first class factory supported two and four wheel operator education programs making Barber their home.

Advertisement "Barber is recognized as the motorcycling Mecca of the United States," Schwantz said. "It's more than a racetrack; it's a destination. The museum has the largest collection of motorcycles anywhere in the world and the largest motorcycle library. Students will not only become better motorcycle riders, they will learn more about the sport, as well.

"Barber has a lot of different types of corners with decreasing radii and blind approaches," he added. "Top speed is lower than on the back straightaway at Road Atlanta, and I think that's going to make Barber an even better learning environment."

"I want to thank Road Atlanta and its entire staff for eight great years," Schwantz said. "It's been an awesome place to conduct schools, and I have many friends there. My thanks go out to all who have been involved and supported us." www.schwantzschool.com. Details on Barber Motorsports Park can be found at www.barbermotorsports.com.

U.S. Senate May Shut Off-Highway Vehicles Out of Public Lands

Pickerington, Ohio (January 9, 2009) - The U.S. Senate is poised to act as early as Sunday on a massive package of public lands bills that would shut motorcyclists out of more than 1 million acres without adequate public comment, the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) reports.

The last-minute move just as the newly elected Congress takes over has raised the ire of the AMA and at least one congressman, who believe the proposal and process deserve more public participation.

“Those who say things get better with time obviously never encountered the public lands omnibus bill,” said U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah). “This bill was a bad idea last Congress, and it’s only gotten worse over the past month.”

Advertisement Ed Moreland, AMA vice president for government relations, agreed. “It makes little sense to lump together more than 160 very important public lands bills into one package that is nearly 1,300 pages long, and then expect the public to digest it all — and to rush a vote through the Senate on a weekend,” Moreland said.

More than 160 public lands bills have been grouped together by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. The package would create more than 1 million acres of designated Wilderness land, which would shut out all motorized vehicles.

The last-minute congressional maneuver would also make the National Landscape Conservation System permanent. This system creates an additional level of bureaucracy for the National System of Public Lands and would remove much of the authority of the existing agency in managing those lands.

“Congress should put together a new package and pass it through committee rather than debate legislation carried over from the previous Congress,” Rep. Bishop said. “Poor process produces poor product, and this is an example of congressional process at its worst. Parts of this bill are good, and parts are very bad. Each part deserves to be discussed and voted on its own merits.”

“Continued responsible access to public lands is a vitally important right for current and future generations,” added Moreland. “This measure deserves to be fully analyzed and thoughtfully debated in the next Congress prior to a final vote.”

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LoJack Reveals 2008 Top Recoveries of Stolen Motorcycles

Westwood, Massachusetts (December 18, 2008) - LoJack Corporation unveiled its annual wrap-up of the top recoveries for 2008 involving the LoJack For Motorcycles and LoJack Early Warning For Motorcycles recovery systems. These stories underscore that chop shops and organized crime continue to fuel the growing problem of motorcycle theft. The recovery stories of 2008 also revealed that today's thieves continue to profit from this lucrative crime and are doing so in part by leveraging the Internet to sell stolen bikes and bike parts.

"This year's top recovery stories continue to show that professional thieves and organized crime are behind most motorcycle theft, which means that bike owners need to take extra precautions to ensure they're protected from these sophisticated criminals," said Patrick Clancy, Vice President of Law Enforcement, LoJack Corporation. "Owners should park in a well-lit area and in view of a security camera if possible; avoid parking between large vehicles because it provides 'cover' for thieves; and lock the bike to a secure, immovable object or to another bike. Lastly, use theft deterrents such as alarms or kill switches to deter amateur thieves and to ensure it's protected from the professionals, equip bikes with a recovery system so it can be recovered if stolen."

Below are LoJack's top motorcycle recoveries for 2008:

Advertisement "Most Arrests Made in Recoveries" – In less than 48 hours, LoJack For Motorcycles helped Las Vegas police and the Southern Nevada Auto Theft Task Force break up two theft rings, which led to the recovery of four Honda motorcycles, a Yamaha ATV and the arrest of 10 suspects.

"Fastest Motorcycle Recovery Leads to Big Chop Shop" – In this recovery, a Yamaha YZR was stolen and recovered in only eight minutes after the system was activated. Through this recovery, Los

Angeles Police Department and LAPD Burglary Auto Division also found seven other stolen bikes and bike parts, valued at a total of more than \$100,000.

"Best Bust Reflecting the Trend of Selling Stolen Bikes Online" – In this recovery, thieves advertised a bike online and, as soon as they got an interested buyer, stole a bike matching the one they had advertised. The thieves then delivered the stolen bike to the buyer, thus limiting the time they were in possession of the stolen item. Fortunately, the bike had LoJack For Motorcycles and its signal was picked up only 10 minutes after system activation – 75 miles away from where it was stolen.

"Bike Stolen – and Recovered – Four Times in Nine Months" – A Tucson resident discovered his 2007 Suzuki GSX-R 600 missing from his apartment, reported it stolen to police and just 14 minutes later, a police helicopter and ground vehicle tracked down the bike. This was the fourth time since August 2007 that the owner's bike was stolen and recovered with LoJack For Motorcycles.

"Best LoJack Early Warning Recovery" – LoJack Early Warning notified the owner of a Yamaha YZF-R6 that his bike was moved without permission from the parking lot of his apartment. Police activated the system and within 20 minutes received the silent signal from the bike, which indicated it was on the move on a local interstate highway. Police then picked up a strong signal and did not see a bike, but rather a Chevrolet cargo van driving nearby. As the police passed the van, the signal's directional arrow reversed, which indicated that the bike was inside the van. The police stopped the van, discovered the bike (plus two other stolen motorcycles) and arrested two suspects.

Registration Open for Harley-Davidson's 2nd Annual Daytona Women's Ride

Milwaukee, Wisconsin (December 18, 2008) – Last year in Daytona, hundreds of women riders joined together on the Harley-Davidson Daytona Women's Day Ride and raised \$67,000 for MDA. Registration for the 2009 ride on Tuesday, March 3, is now open with a limited number of spots available for women riders.

The Women's Day Ride, designed to celebrate women riders, as well as generate funds for the MDA, is open to the first 500 eligible female Harley-Davidson or Buell riders who register at www.harley-davidson.com/womenriders before Friday, February 13, 2009. Aside from riding together through the streets of Daytona, participating women riders are also encouraged to secure pledges and donations from their families and friends, which will be used to support the MDA's Summer Camp programs across the country. For nearly 30 years, the Harley-Davidson family of dealers, employees, riders and suppliers has helped raise more than \$65 million for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

"Last year the Women's Day Ride was a huge success," said Leslie Previsch, Women's Outreach Manager, Harley-Davidson Motor Company. "Riding down the road with hundreds of women riders was truly inspirational, and more importantly, we raised \$67,000 for MDA. Hopefully this year, with the support of our generous female riders, as well as their friends and family, we'll easily eclipse that mark."

Advertisement All participating riders will receive a 2009 MDA pin, as well as an MDA/Harley-Davidson bike flag. The top three fundraisers among the group will receive a Harley-Davidson jacket, and every rider who raises at least \$600 will receive a special 2009 MDA Women's Day Ride sterling silver charm.

Daytona Women's Booth

Women have increasingly embraced the sport of motorcycling – seeking the freedom and control associated with the open road, polished chrome and a sweet sounding engine. In fact today, the Motorcycle Industry Council estimates that more than 12% of U.S. motorcyclists are women.

To help fuel that trend and encourage women to meet and talk about their experiences, the Motor Company is also hosting a Women's Booth at the Ocean Center throughout Daytona Bike Week where experienced women riders or those just looking for information on how to get started can learn more about the sport. The booth will include bike lift seminars as well as information about learning to ride, "helmet hair" tips, healthy living while on the road and more.

Women that visit the booth will also have the chance to meet Karen Davidson, the great grand-daughter of one of the Motor Company founders, and are invited to share their riding stories or dreams of getting behind the handlebars by signing a banner featured at the booth.

What Else Harley's Doing to Inspire Women to Ride

Harley-Davidson's We Ride is a basic overview on what a new rider or a woman interested in riding needs to know about getting into the sport. It features information on how and where women can learn to ride with details on the Rider's Edge New Rider Course and the best way to fit a motorcycle for a woman's ergonomic and functional needs. It also includes tips on getting involved and staying active with riding groups, as well as inspirational stories from real women who have answered the call of the open road. The special 48-page riding guide is available for free download at www.harley-davidson.com/womenriders or for free shipment when you order online and can also be picked up at any local Harley-Davidson dealership.

Harley-Davidson dealerships across the country are hosting free women-only Garage Parties to encourage them to get involved in motorcycling. The Harley-Davidson Garage Party event provides a non-intimidating environment for women to learn more about motorcycling and to meet other women who are interested in riding.