

# THE RIDER'S WORKSHOP

## A FULL PLATE: MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA INVISIBLE ROADS TO THE ALPINE LODGE



Much of the most beautiful and challenging motorcycling on the East coast can be found in western Maryland, northeast West Virginia and Virginia. My three-day workshop features the best of this tri-state area.

Separate regions like Savage River, Canaan Valley, Stemple Ridge, Seneca Rocks, Judy Gap, Upper Tract, Dry Fork Creek, Smoke Hole, and the Bluegrass Valley may not sound familiar yet, but after my workshop they'll be unforgettable.

Several weekends ago I was riding these areas, polishing my route—it's nearly a thousand miles long. Saturday was a clear autumn day and hundreds of motorcycles were streaming over the major routes outside Washington DC—herds of Harleys, schools of multi-colored sport bikes, and gaggles of gliding Gold Wings; collectively relishing the day, blithely enjoying their rides. It seemed not to matter to these riders that they dealt with suffocating congestion and had to contend with all the other traffic on the road.

Here's the irony: with one simple turn off the mainstream (Virginia's Route 211), I disappeared onto "invisible roads." From that point, I counted on one hand the motorcycles I saw for the rest of that day!

Truly, it's as though the roads I am so excited to share are out of mind for the great majority of today's motorcyclists—they don't exist; they're invisible.

I'll introduce you to finding invisible roads yourselves. I'll try to prove that mapping out a "flight plan" does wonders to improve the quality of whatever riding time you have. Then we'll don headsets and leave the mainstream behind, spending the rest of the day riding the folds and forests of the Appalachians on our way to Davis, West Virginia.

We'll spend Friday night in Davis at the rustic Alpine Lodge. A short walk away is the Blackwater Brewery Company and several excellent West Virginia



Smoke Hole Lake

restaurants. There are usually lots of young and old folks alike partying-up a good-time weekend. We'll blend right in!

The next day's route is the "piece de resistance" of our weekend. Over years of trial and error, I've stitched together a special combination, a full plate, of roads through the regions previously mentioned. The Smoke Hole Road is my "Deal's Gap" north of Deal's Gap. Along Dry Fork Creek, if it's warm enough, there is a cool swimming hole to splash in.

On the most magnificent spring, summer or autumn days when you'd naturally think "Ugh, congestion..." we will own these roads! There will be no traffic besides an infrequent pickup or tractor. Your riding will forever be changed once you experience this route; as a buddy once proclaimed, "Dude, THIS is a magic carpet ride!"

The next morning, we can linger over breakfast—there's no hurry. While the workshop is officially over, people are certainly welcome to ride along with me or free to wander on home whenever.

Total mileage is just over 560 miles; each one selected for your motorcycling pleasure.



West Virginia countryside