

For breathtaking ride, try N.H.

One of the advantages that New England motorcyclists have is the vast diversity of areas in which to ride.

Recently I became reconnected to New Hampshire's White Mountains after many years of not going any further north than Laconia. The riding offered in northern New Hampshire could best be described as breathtaking and visually exciting, and I believe it would rival any mountain riding in the country.

If you are planning a trip to the White Mountains, a good starting point would be North Woodstock. It's about 60 miles north of Concord up Interstate 93.

Situated right at the junction of Interstate 93 and Routes 3 and 112 (the Kancamagus Highway), North Woodstock is a perfect base of operations for riding. There are many biker-friendly hotels and motels there and in neighboring Lincoln, and the prices are amazingly low.

Head north up Route 3 (Route 3 and I-93 overlap at various points) and into the White Mountain National Forest. You will soon pass through Franconia Notch, one of the jewels of the White Mountains.

All the while on the ride, you will be passing many majestic mountains and scenic views. From here the sky's the limit as to which way to go or what to see.

You can bear right on Route 302 and drop down through Crawford Notch to Route 16 north. This will bring you past the Mount Washington Auto Road in Pinkham Notch.

Mount Washington is the highest point in New England and also is where the

highest recorded wind speed in the world (231 mph) was measured. If you are so inclined, and for a fee, you can ride to the top. The road is very curvy and narrow. It turns to dirt at about 5,000 feet, and believe me when I tell you that if you do not like insane heights (I do not) then this is not something you want to attempt.

At some point in your trip, you must get on Route 112,



On two wheels

Be forewarned: There are many moose warning signs along these roads I have described, and the moose hits are numerous. You may want to limit your riding to the daylight hours.

The number of other sights to see would take longer to describe than I have space for here. I recommend you pick up one of those local maps that are free for the taking at most of the hotels and restaurants. I also highly recommend the Sunny Day Diner (Eat to ride; ride to eat!) in North Woodstock for perhaps the best breakfast in all of New Hampshire.

So for some of the best and most spectacular riding anywhere, try the White Mountains.

Ladies: There has been renewed interest in getting an all-woman riding group together – not necessarily as an organized group but as more

the Kancamagus Highway. Once you get outside of the little touristy areas, you will be treated to one of the most stunning stretches of road anywhere.

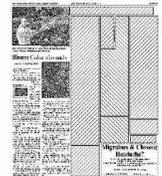
of a social outing. Many of the women I talk to want no more than to find others to ride with but without the constraints of, say, a poker run situation or a group specific to a certain make of motorcycle.

If you would like to be put in contact with other women riders, I would be more than happy to pass along e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and other contact information. So drop me an e-mail and I will act post-haste.

Online: Forums? What forums? I have also been questioned as to whether a biker's forum could be a possibility on MassLive.com or some other venue. This would allow more up-to-date info or news of last-minute rides to be shared. If this is something that could be of interest, contact me at travelintim@hotmail.com

Goings on: It's not too early to plan for the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association's annual fall roundup, set for Sept. 7 through 9. This always-entertaining event will be held at the Heath Fairgrounds in Heath. Gates open at 9 a.m. on Sept. 7. There will be food vendors, motorcycle games, camping and two nights of music by Full Circle. A fee of \$30 gets you in. For more information and tickets, call Chuck Shaver at (413) 289-2307, Brian Clark at (413) 596-8378 or Bruce Arsenault at (413) 250-8539. You can also log on to www.massmotorcycle.org

On Sept. 8, Tibby's Harley-Davidson will hold its national open house and bike show at its Berkshire Avenue facility in Springfield. Bike show registration is from 10 a.m. until noon. There will be prizes in eight categories at 2 p.m. A registration fee of \$5 will be donated to charity. There will be free lunch, entertainment and great sales



to be had. For more info,
click on [www.tibbys
harley.com](http://www.tibbys
harley.com)

Enjoy the rest of a quickly
dwindling summer, and, until
next time, ride safe and ride
smart.

*Tim Aloisio of Monson has
been a motorcycle rider for
more than 30 years.*