

Station's Inn On The Parkway

BY BUSTER MOLDENHAUER



RIDE, EAT, SLEEP, REPEAT—a simple statement that is the mantra of most touring and sport-touring motorcyclists. Great roads are required for great riding. Good food in plentiful quantities, conveniently available and served in pleasant surroundings adds some zest to any motorcycle adventure. For those who don't bring a tent and sleeping bag, a clean, comfortable motel room to rest up for the next day's ride is also a necessary ingredient. Put all of this together in one package and it can be credibly called a Great Destination.

Those of us familiar with the area will agree that western North Carolina has some of the best roads in America and that the Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the best of the best. There seems to be a giant magnet buried somewhere up in those hills which has a very strong attraction for iron horses, especially of the breed that enjoys galloping through tight curves at greater than trotting pace. A lack of traffic in the more sparsely populated areas adds to the enjoyment of carefully pitting our skills and the capabilities of our machines against the winding pavement and the laws of physics. When we throw in the magnificent natural scenery that permeates this corner of our small blue planet, there emerges a picture of exhilarating satisfaction.

Station's Inn Motorcycle Resort is located in the heart of this magnificent riding area and lays down the lines that connect the dots to complete the picture of a great destination.

Built in the 1950's, the Station's Inn Motel & Country Store has been restored with modern amenities but retains the nostalgic look of that bygone era. Not a typical country "meat & 3" place, the restaurant and bar are decorated with a variety of gas station and motor oil signs from the golden days of motoring. The menu includes pizza, classic Carolina Bar-B-Q, grilled chicken, spicy wings, burgers and homemade macadamia cookies. A variety of soft drinks are available in the bottle—just like "back when"—as well as beer and wine. The wait staff in the restaurant is friendly and competent and the prices are reasonable.

The two-story motel houses 17 clean and comfortable rooms that provide good quality basic accommodations, including TV and air conditioning. A suite with two bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen and a gas log fireplace is available for a larger group. Outside the door to all the ground floor rooms is a covered space to park that motorcycle that doesn't like to sleep under the stars.

The adjacent country store stocks many of the convenience items that might be needed away from home as well as a variety of gift items and souvenirs. Need another T-shirt or ball cap from a memorable ride? Yep, they have that, too.

Perhaps the best feature of the Station's Inn is that it not only tolerates, but welcomes and embraces motorcyclists. The feeling soon flows over the two-wheel visitor that; "this place is being operated for my benefit and welcomes my business."

There's even an outdoor movie screen that features old motorcycle movies like *Thunder Road* and *Easy Rider*. And on many Sunday afternoons in the summer months, a band dishes out live entertainment to large gatherings of bikers. Pictures on the website indicate that these events are popular and take on the aura of a real "happening."

So, the "Ride, Eat, Sleep, Repeat" ethos comes together well at a little town called Laurel Springs, NC—great roads, good food, and a clean, comfortable bed. Literally a stone's throw from the "Mother Road," Blue Ridge Parkway, is a facility that provides many of the services motorcyclists require and enjoy, and is, indeed, worthy of a visit. The location is mile marker 248 on the BRP, where NC Highway 18 crosses the parkway, not far south of the NC/VA border. Check the website for more details and dates for the live bands. 🍷

STATION'S INN Motorcycle Resort & More

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