

## **SKYLINE DRIVE EUROMANIA; Sat-Sun May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> (limited to eight riders)**

It's funny how certain personality traits seem endemic to particular countries. In European Heaven, the British are the police, the Germans are the engineers, and the Italians are the lovers. In European Hell, the British are the cooks, the Germans are the police, and the Italians organize everything. Motorcycles also have certain characteristics that match their country of origin. Join this ride to examine and compare the best of 1970's Eurotrash: British, German and Italian bikes will be ready and waiting to take you on an epic adventure to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Besides being a gateway to the Shenandoah Mountains, and having a checkered history back to British pre-Revolutionary War times, Front Royal, Virginia is also the northern terminus of *Skyline Drive* which melds into the Blue Ridge Parkway. The entire 600-mile length of this roadway is designated as National Parklands. The Army Corps of Engineers built it to follow the Eastern Continental Divide, staying at elevation its entire length. No lights, no pedestrians, no cross roads; it is famous for spectacular scenery, it is very curvy, of course, and it is especially uplifting on a motorcycle. It is a *'bucket list'* ride.

The ride from Kennett Square to Front Royal ain't too shabby either. We follow 150 miles of unused back roads, including an obscure cable-drawn ferry across the Potomac River, enjoying the best of European sport/touring bikes of the past. At our relaxed pace, the all-day ride brings us to our motel in Front Royal. We can walk around a bit to get a feel for this historic burg, seeking the best European cuisine; so many excellent choices.

We should get to sleep early; the best time to climb up to Skyline is sunrise. After a light breakfast and a cuppa, we'll hit Skyline Drive way before the tourists in their motorhomes break camp. We'll sample the first 35 miles or so, then we must turn north. Our scenic-byways route home will be a fun ride, with curves, natural splendor, and a back country feel that takes us back to simpler times. We'll stop every 50 or



75 miles for a break, a snack, and some camaraderie. You will be able to switch bikes at will.

Sunday's ride is long, maybe 250 miles. You will experience the full-on vintage bike experience and gain a better appreciation for the riders of the 60's and 70' who regularly made long trips on these bikes. *Those were real men!*

We aim to be back before sundown on Sunday where Lynn will have a hot meal and cold adult beverages on the table. We get to eat and drink, and in our best European accents, lie about how fast we were. Monday is a holiday which can be used to sleep in, to return home, and to recuperate.

