



The Dragon's Roar!

Dear Boaters and Bikers!

Ready to unleash the beast within?

We are VERY excited to announce dates and plans for the **2019 Boaterz 'n Bikerz of America: Hull of a Tour**, which we have aptly dubbed **"The Dragon's Roar!"** This year – our FIFTH – we will explore the magical motorcycling mecca of America ... the Dragon!

EVENT DATES:

- **Check in: Sunday, May 5**
(2 pm check in; Captain's Meeting/Group Welcome Dinner time TBA)
- **Organized Group Tour Ride Dates: Monday, May 6 – Friday, May 10**

Unlike trips of the past, we are headquartering this year in a single location, opting to do exciting day trips from our hub location since there are boundless outstanding rides all around the area! Our event headquarters location is the popular **Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge & Resort** in Robbinsville, a 39-acre resort on Stecoah Creek, just a short ride from the famed Tail of the Dragon at Deal's Gap in the Great Smokey

Mountains. It caters to the motorcycling community and offers a great gathering spot and comfortable lodging at reasonable rates. <http://ironhorsenc.com/>

We are currently holding all of the available block of rooms under the “Boaterz n Bikerz of America” group name, available on a first-come first serve basis. It includes a mix of 11 semi-private Mountain and Creekside rooms (king with twin bedding option - \$79.95-\$85.99 per night – NO TVs in bedrooms and a shared bathroom), one two-story cabin with four-bedrooms/four baths and garage (\$560 per night), one RV site (\$45 per night) and tent camping (\$20 - \$25 per night). Please review the onsite accommodations information for complete details:

<http://ironhorsenc.com/accommodations/cabins/homestead/> There is a terrific clubhouse and will make for fun group events in the evenings. Optional meals including breakfast is served daily on-site and evening meals are available Wednesday – Sunday. More on this to come in a later communication.

To secure your reservations please call (828) 479-3864 ASAP and speak with Pam. Note, the lodge is closed at this time so you may have to leave a message and she will call you back. You can also go to the website and enter your reservation information there, but I would recommend calling at your earliest convenience to reserve your accommodations. Our block is available for a one-week period (May 5/Sunday – May 12/Sunday) if you wish to stay the second weekend and ride on your own/enjoy the area, but note our planned events kick off Sunday May 5 and conclude Friday night, May 6. There are discounts on the cabins available for 7-day stays, but those do incur a cleaning fee. FYI: We were unable to reserve the Friday and Saturday nights May 3 and 4 due to a major “Mini Coopers on the Mountain” event ...which we frankly do not want to ride around! We will slay the Dragon mid-week when the crazy weekend crowds are minimized.

I have also researched a second overflow or alternative lodging option about a 35-minute ride away at the **Tapoco Lodge** in Robbinsville that is a popular pick among motorcyclists. Riders who are part of our organized group may reserve at this facility and still join the group at the Iron Horse for meals or any group functions we may host on site. For information on the Tapoco Lodge, visit the website. Their group manager Connie Bailey advised me today that they have 18 rooms including lodge and cabin rooms available, ranging between \$149 - \$249 weekdays and \$189-\$299 during the weekends. We do not have a group rate available here. You can call directly from 9-5 daily, or make reservations on the website: <https://tapoco.com/>

Another popular lodge is the **Fontana Village Resort** which is about 15-20 minutes away. <https://www.fontanavillage.com/> In addition, you can also check out VRBO for cabins in the area, just be sure to clearly understand the bike parking and roadways to access as this can be problematic. There is a **Quality Inn** in Robbinsville (used to be a Microtel) if you prefer standard hotel accommodations. There are many options you can feel free to explore on your own in the nearby area. A great resource is the Tail of the Dragon website that includes additional lodging options and lots of interesting

information about the area: <https://tailofthedragon.com/> I do encourage you to review and book soon as the area is popular in the Spring months; it is challenging to find rooms the closer you get to the date.

In addition ... we are very excited to also announce that our 2017 sponsor Evinrude/BRP is back and will serve as our TITLE SPONSOR this year! Thank you, **Andy Lindstrom**, for your support and we look forward to another awesome trip with you aboard! **Soundings Trade Only** returns as our media partner and I will be blogging before, during and after the trip for readers to follow. My company, **Kenton Smith Marketing**, returns as the event producer/publicist, and **Jim Krueger Photography** will also be aboard this year and snapping up plenty of great shots! Additional sponsors are also being finalized!

My riding buddy and partner in crime on this event, **Jim Krueger**, is hard at work following his retirement from Regal Boats and is planning a spectacular ride agenda for our group! He is consulting with folks who know the area well and also studying a variety of biker resources to deliver an amazing adventure for all involved! If you have suggestions for Jim regarding specific rides or have event suggestions or dining stops to recommend, feel free to email him asap: kruegerjim09@gmail.com

If you are planning to participate in the ride, please email me and I will follow up with agenda and required documentation for all riders as soon as we have information finalized.

It's going to be an awesome event and I'm so excited to reconnect with our rider pals! You are free to invite your friends and colleagues to join us!

It's going to be one ... HULL of a TOUR!

Best,

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