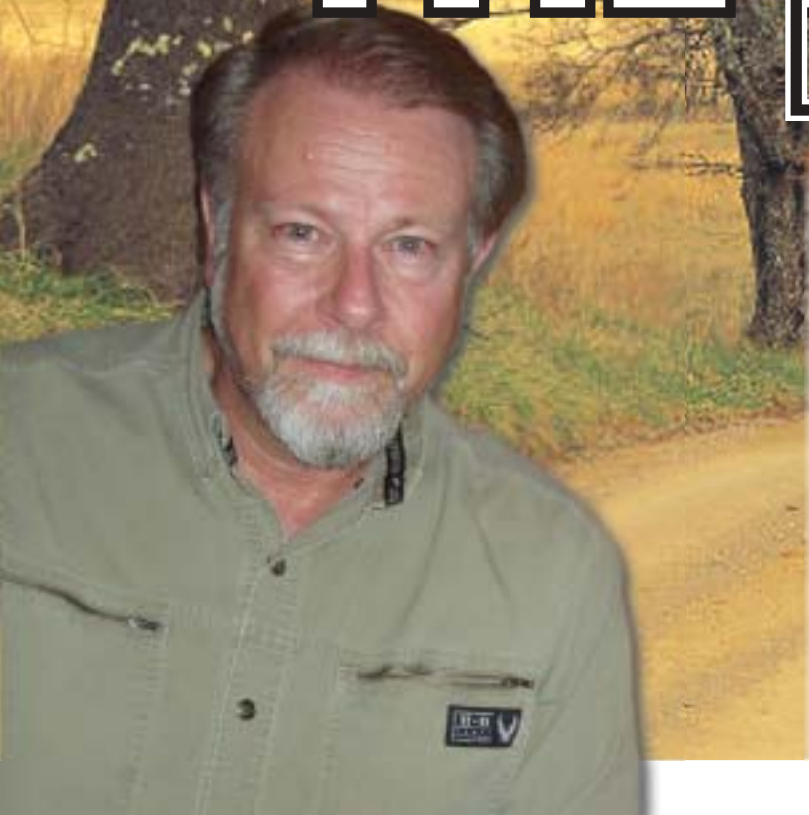


THE ROAD Less Traveled



The gas tank is filled, the tires are aired up and you have cash in your pocket. It's time to take the first ride of the season. This ride is going to take us over to Calhoun County Illinois to a place called Cedar Hill Resort. Now don't get on Highway 30 and head west thinking your' going to find it. It's no where near that. This has to be one of the best secret finds I have made in the last couple of years. Two years ago, I was riding around Calhoun County looking for the Whitmore Hotel which is located in the town of Brussels. Since none of the roads in this area have names, I started to get a little turned around and disoriented and gave up on finding the Whitmore. While traveling down one unmarked road, I noticed about 5 bikes turning out of a side gravel road. Thinking that there must have been a reason for them to be coming off the gravel, I took a chance to see where they might have been. This is how I discovered the Cedar Hill Resort and it has since become one of my favorite destinations for a day ride. From St. Louis County, it's about an hours ride. To find it, we are going to take Highway 270 to Highway 370 west. You can use Hwy 70 as an alternate route but Hwy 370 has a lot less traffic to deal with. Take Hwy 370 to Hwy 70 west. We'll only be on Hwy 70 for about 3 miles till we exit on to Hwy 79 north. Hwy 79 will take us through the low lying farm lands which border the Missouri River. Continue north on Hwy 79 to the town of Winfield. If you are low on gas, this will be your last chance to refuel for quite a while. If you are unsure about your fuel, don't pass it up. Right after you ride over the bridge in Winfield, turn right and follow the signs to the Winfield Ferry. The ferry is about 3 miles down the road and is poorly marked. The signs pointing the way are hidden in trees. Once you have found the ferry, be sure to purchase the round trip ticket. This will cost you \$5.00 and can be used on the Golden Eagle ferry for the trip back. Now, sit back and enjoy the ferry ride over to Calhoun County. After getting off the ferry, follow the road until it T's. Remember, the roads here have no names. At the T, turn right

and continue on this road for about 2 miles. On your left, you will see a large sign indicating the Cedar Hill Resort. Turn right at this sign and continue for about 2 to 3 miles on this unnamed road. The road will start to flatten out but don't get your speed up. There will be a small sign telling you to turn right when the road turns into serious gravel. Chances are, your' liable to miss this next turn. Turn right and head down the gravel hill. It's not as bad as it sounds. Wind down this road for another 2 to 3 miles. There will be a creek on the left. If you don't see the creek, well, give up. You're lost. All others continue on. Look for another Cedar Hill sign telling you where to turn. You will cross a wooden bridge. Follow the gravel road until you see the sign that says Bike Parking Only. Congratulations. You found it. Welcome to the Cedar Hill Resort. The main building is 100 years old and was recently restored. Next to the building is one of the finest decks I've seen anywhere. There is a Tiki Hut style bar which serves food and beverages. There is also a 30 foot wooden cabin cruiser built into the deck. The deck opens on Memorial Day. The Cedar Hill Resort operates from Easter weekend until Halloween when it then closes for the winter. The Cedar Hill is open during the regular season from Thursdays through Sundays. The food menu inside the building is a little more upscale than the menu on the deck. Check them both out. Most of the visitors to the Cedar Hill make their way there by the river. They also have one well known regular who has his own boat dock for tying off his water landing equipped airplane. If you get there early enough, you might be able to see him do his water landing around 11:30 am most weekends. For your return trip, head back to the road which has the large Cedar Hill sign. Turn right and continue on this road. Stay straight until it T's with a road which has yellow paint markings. This is how the locals refer to it. Turn right and head into the town of Brussels. Here you will pass by the Whitmore Hotel. Be sure to stop and check out the bar. Continue on until you see the signs for the Golden Eagle Ferry. This will take you back to St. Charles County. You will also find signs for the Brussels Ferry which will take you over to Hwy 100 just north of Grafton, IL. Either way, you're on your own from here. Did I mention it never hurts to have you own Missouri and Illinois maps with you on these rides?

Now for what's happening on the local scene. There is a new sports bar opening soon on Clayton Rd near Hwy 40. The name is Lester's and it's located in Ladue. I have always thought what Ladue needs is a good biker bar. With all the uppity Italian and French sounding names of the Ladue restaurants, wouldn't it have been fitting to call this new bar "Del Fuegos"....just a thought.

Some of the best stops might be right under your nose. If you haven't been to Joe Clark's in Fenton, it's about time you stop in for a visit. It's located on Old Gravois at Old Hwy 141 near old town Fenton. Don't let the outside deceive you. The inside is large and spacious. The owner, Mark, is very biker friendly and welcomes groups of all sizes. Try out one of the strip steaks. They are excellent. The riding season is finally here. Get out there and find some place new. Until next month, I'll be holding court at That One Place.

Ride Safe,
Doug