

Damon Bradshaw, Team Yamaha's main man, described the riding in his home state of North Carolina with typical Southern pride: "The things I like most here you don't find everywhere. There's not much in the way of public riding areas, but the people who have land are good about letting you ride on it. We've got really good dirt, too—good red clay and damp sandy soil. You can turn and accelerate on that kind."

Considering that Bradshaw can do both well on tracks that offer less grip than polished marble, he should be something to see at the May 12 Camel AMA Supercross at Grady Cole Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, his hometown. "I've been looking forward to riding a National event in my home state since I saw Marty Smith race here years ago. I can't wait! The track's only five minutes from my house!"

There's more than motocross available in North Carolina. A 14-event North Carolina

Hare Scrambles series, two Wiseco Grand National Hare Scrambles and a South East Trail Riding Association enduro let woods riders sample the state's full variety of terrain: the mountainous, forested west, the rocky, hilly central portion and the swampy coastal plains.

You don't have to compete to ride a dirt bike in North Carolina, but many of the hare scrambles courses are open on an event-only basis. Riding opportunities for dirt bikes exist in three of the state's four national forests. Remember to phone the Ranger District(s) you plan to visit and that spark arresters are required on national forest property. Street-legal motorcycles may travel unimproved national forest roads called "four-wheel-drive ways" by the rangers there. These exist in all of North Carolina's national forests but are usually short, so you'd need to explore several to put together a worthwhile ride. Motorcycles will need a headlight, tail-

light, brakelight, horn and a valid license plate to be legal for road use, and riders must wear helmets.

KEEP OUT ('CEPT DIRT BIKES)

Another option is privately owned land. Some of the landowners associated with the North Carolina Hare Scrambles series allow dirt bikes on their property during the summer months. Winter riding is usually not permitted due to the muddy conditions and the potential for rutting the hare scrambles courses. You must ask permission to use these sites and finding them can be confusing without detailed directions, so we suggest phoning the president of the North Carolina Hare Scrambles series, Buren Hamrick, for information at (704) 937-9177. Please observe the time difference if you are calling from a Midwestern or Western state, and the fact that Mr. Hamrick provides this information as a favor to other dirt bikers on his own time. □

NORTH CAROLINA

Damon's kind of dirt

NORTH CAROLINA RIDING AREAS

1. Ashbury MX Park, Westfield (919) 871-2050*
2. Beechnut Park, Mt. Airy (919) 320-2220
3. Cheoah Ranger District (704) 479-6431
4. Croatan Ranger District (919) 638-5628
5. Devil's Ridge MX, Sanford (919) 776-2412*
6. East Bend Speedway,
East Bend (919) 699-3629
7. French Broad Ranger District (704) 822-3202
8. Grandfather Ranger District (704) 652-2144 +
9. Highlands Ranger District (704) 526-3765
10. Montrose MX, Raeford (919) 875-3805*
11. Pisgah Ranger District (704) 877-3350
12. Rolling Hills Cycle Park,
Reidsville (919) 342-4492*
13. Silver Creek Knob MX Park,
Morganton (704) 584-2808*
14. Toecane Ranger District (704) 682-6146
15. Top Gun MX, Lincolnton (704) 735-3051*
16. Tusquite Ranger District (704) 837-5152 +
17. Uwharrie Ranger District (919) 576-6391 +
18. Wayah Ranger District (704) 524-4410
19. Wilkes County MX Park,
Lenoir (704) 758-4342*

* Motocross track
+ National Forest Ranger District with off-road motorcycle trail system.

CLUBS

- Capitol Area Touring Assn.,
Raleigh (919) 772-5929
- Cross-Country Riders Assn.,
Anderson (919) 563-9071
- Devil's Ridge MC, Sanford (919) 776-1767
- Elizabeth City MC, Elizabeth City (919) 330-4195
- Four B's, Grove (704) 487-4333
- Rocky Mount MC, Rocky Mount (919) 823-3426
- Unifour Trail Bike Club, Lenoir (704) 728-4049



North Carolina's fastest resident relies on his neighbors' Southern hospitality to provide an area to ride, an option available to many dirt bikers there. A fair selection of public riding opportunities also exists.

Danny Morris