

**DIRECTION WIDE OPEN**

**ROAMING**

# QUICK CHARTS FOR SUCCESSFUL RIDES

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY LUCINDA BELDEN

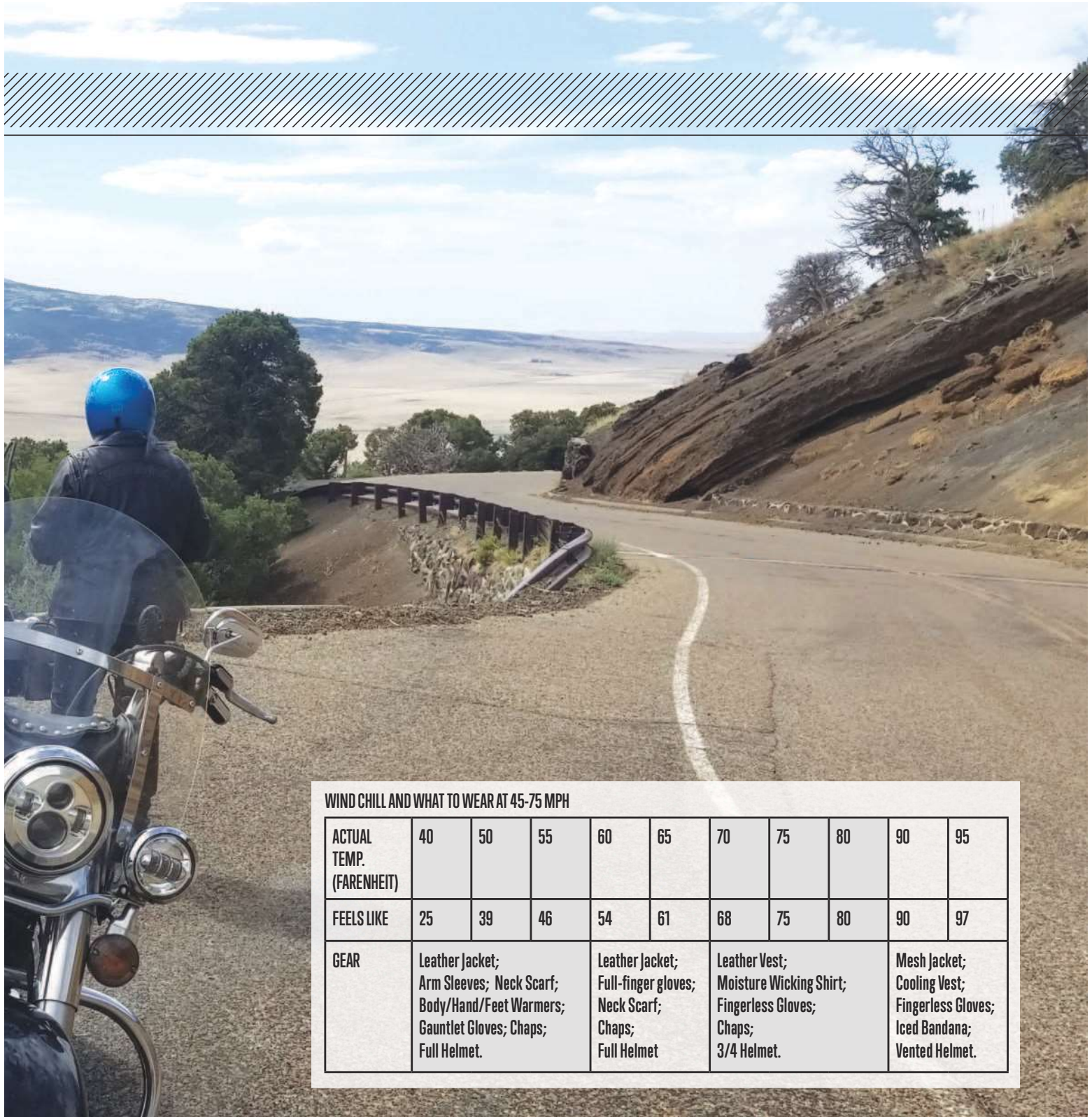


Elevation will affect the temperature on your rides.

## OUR EXPERT ON RVING WITH MOTORCYCLES SHARES HER PLANNING TIPS.

**O**ver the years, I have developed a few quick charts and formulas that make planning RV-motorcycle trips simple. Because I'm traveling the United States and living out of an RV, I may not be as prepared for local weather fluctuations as I would be if I were living in one place. Also, on a day-long ride, the weather ahead can be unexpected. A personalized version of the charts and formulas I use may help you get a jump start on preparing for long rides in new areas.





WIND CHILL AND WHAT TO WEAR AT 45-75 MPH

ACTUAL TEMP. (FARENHIT)	40	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	90	95
FEELS LIKE	25	39	46	54	61	68	75	80	90	97
GEAR	Leather Jacket; Arm Sleeves; Neck Scarf; Body/Hand/Foot Warmers; Gauntlet Gloves; Chaps; Full Helmet.			Leather Jacket; Full-finger gloves; Neck Scarf; Chaps; Full Helmet		Leather Vest; Moisture Wicking Shirt; Fingerless Gloves; Chaps; 3/4 Helmet.			Mesh Jacket; Cooling Vest; Fingerless Gloves; Iced Bandana; Vented Helmet.	

#### WHAT GEAR DO I NEED?

Online calculators help determine wind chill factor at speed while riding your motorcycle. (I use the chart available on Cycle Fish: [cyclefish.com/blogs/72/768/motorcycle-wind-chill-chart](http://cyclefish.com/blogs/72/768/motorcycle-wind-chill-chart).) The degree to which you feel the chill will also be affected by the gear you wear, the humidity, rain in the forecast, and even how much you sweat.

I have taken wind chill charts one step further to integrate what gear I plan to wear at a given temperature range. I know what riding gear to grab based on the predicted temperatures throughout the day.

In the above chart, I include this temperature range (40 to 95 degrees) because I don't plan to ride when there is a potential for frostbite or heat exhaustion. I'm also an All-The-Gear-All-The-Time rider (ATGATT), so I always wear a helmet, boots, chaps, gloves, and leather vest or protective jacket. You can adapt this chart to your personal requirements.

As a quick rule of thumb, you can subtract eight (8) from the current temperature and that will usually get you in the range of windchill temperatures. Keep in mind that

the “feels like” temperature drops as the speed of the wind (ahem) increases. So, if the actual outside temperature is 60 degrees, you can expect it to feel 52-ish while you ride at 65 to 70 mph. There’s virtually no windchill factor at 75 degrees and above. Humidity, on the other hand, makes warm temperatures feel hotter.

### HOW LONG SHOULD I RIDE?

The second formula I like to use is a guideline. In the RV world, it is very common for us to use the rule of 3-3-3 when we are planning our RV trip. The 3-3-3 rule means don’t drive more than three hours or 300 miles in a day (whichever comes first) and plan to arrive at your destination by 3:00 p.m. My spouse and I tend to use the rule more like 4-4-4. (We drive four hours at a time or 400 miles in a day and arrive before 4:00 p.m.) Choose the number that works best for you.

I haven’t come across a formula like this used in the motorcycle world. But, if you are planning long rides, it may be a good idea to try similar parameters. Getting to a location before rush hour and before dark can minimize riding during times of increased risk. And limiting the number of hours that I ride at a time helps me stop before I get too tired and start making mistakes. Bonus: if I arrive by 4:00 p.m., then I can enjoy the local entertainment and activities before retiring for the day.

### HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED?

I use another formula to determine how long a ride will really take. Knowing your total trip time, including your stops, is helpful when you are trying to get to an end point before dark or before bad weather shows up.

Just because Google Maps says the drive time is four (4) hours doesn’t mean the trip duration will calculate the same for motorcycle riders. We stop more often for gas than cars do, for example. Second, we may need time at each stop to do a once-over on the motorcycle, change gear, and check maps.

Here is the formula I use to estimate a total trip time including stops:

Total Trip Hours:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 4.0 & \text{hours of ride time per Google Maps} & \\ \div 1.5 & \text{divided by the number of hours I can ride before refueling} & \\ = 2.66 & \text{equals the number of stops I will need} & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2.66 & \text{number of planned gas stops} & \\ \times 30 & \text{multiplied by the average number of minutes I spend at a stop} & \\ = 80 & \text{equals the expected number of minutes to be spent at all stops} & \end{array}$$

Total Trip Time:

$$4 \text{ hours (ride time)} + 80 \text{ minutes (stop time)} = 5 \text{ hours and 20 minutes.}$$

RVing with motorcycles requires special planning and preparation.



Note that the average stop time I’m using is 30 minutes. If I plan an additional half-hour for lunch at one stop and an extra hour for exploring a location at another stop, I will need to factor another 1.5 hours into my expected stop time. The total trip time, then, would amount to seven (7) hours when counting the extra time for lunch and exploring.

These tools and guidelines reduce planning time, get me on the road more quickly, and help ensure a safer and more comfortable ride. I hope you find these resources as helpful as I have. Ride On! 🏍️



Lucinda Belden is a motorcyclist with a sidecar, travel writer, and agent. She travels with her husband Will, two motorcycles, and dog Cozy in a 44-foot RV. Follow them at [facebook.com/DirectionWideOpen](https://facebook.com/DirectionWideOpen) or [MyRVRadio.com](https://MyRVRadio.com).





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