



# Spoke 'N Word

Page 1

Page 2

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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Issue 005

Website: [PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org](http://PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org)

August 2009

## The Mid-Summer Mark

Well, here we are at the mid-summer mark of 2009. I don't know about you, but summer has certainly been a busy one for me thus far. Outside of riding, my wife and I have finally completed the full transition to life with a foundation once again. We lived on the road, in our RV for 4 years (without a motorcycle) from 2004—2008. When we came off the road last summer we quickly found an apartment and a few months later, purchased a motorcycle. Now, exactly one year to the day, we moved into our new home with space in my two-car garage for my Goldwing. It's great to be back!!

I so enjoyed the Return to Endless Mountain tour with fellow PARR members and the few Sunday rides I was able to attend. Now that I'm fully settled in once again, I can focus more on the sport I love — motorcycling. With all the tours and day-rides PARR has on its agenda, I see my motorcycling calendar filling up fast. How about you? Have you been busy? Think its time to stop and smell the roses and leather. Don't let the summer slip by without taking advantage of a good PARR ride or two or three. Give yourself a break. See you on the road.

## September Sunday Ride Graves Mountain Lodge

We haven't given up on a ride to Graves Mountain Lodge to enjoy their fabulous Sunday buffet. Our two previous scheduled rides were cancelled due to rain. Our next chance at it will be Sunday **September 6th** (Labor Day weekend).

Graves Mtn Lodge is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Syria, Virginia near Old Rag Mountain. This family-owned and operated rustic retreat (in business for 135 years) is know for its down home hospitality, not to mention all the home cooked food you can eat and unrivaled natural beauty of the area.

The ride will begin at the IHOP in Ashburn, VA located near the intersection of Ashburn Village Blvd and Farmwell Road. The ride will leave this location at 9:30. Riders can still take advantage of the buffet breakfast at our normal Sunday Ride meeting location at the Masonic Lodge in McLean, VA. Breakfast there begins at 8:00 and riders need to leave McLean promptly at 9:00 for the ride to Ashburn.

Cost of the fried chicken buffet at Graves is \$16.75 per person plus tax and gratuity. The buffet also includes beverages and dessert.

Reservations are needed. If you plan to attend, contact Mike at 703-963-1860.

## Upcoming Overnight Rides

It's now August and if you missed out on our most successful June and July multi-day tours, you still have several chances to join in on some great touring rides. Here's what lies ahead:

**August 22-24 West Virginia and the Appalachia Mtns** PARR Secretary Paul Flynn will take us into the beautiful west side of the Appalachia Mountains. We will enjoy the areas of Senecca Rock and other West Virginia scenery. One of the highlights will be the New River Gorge Bridge. Contact Paul Flynn at [flynn11@cox.net](mailto:flynn11@cox.net)

### **September 18-20 Lancaster, PA Covered Bridge Tour**

We'll be enjoying a short ride to a long-ago world — the Amish countryside of Lancaster which will include rides across covered bridges and Amish buffets. Please note that the dates for this tour has been moved to a later week in September. Contact Mike Wascak at [smichaelwascak@aol.com](mailto:smichaelwascak@aol.com)

### **October 10-11 Fall Foliage Tour thru the Piedmonts**

Enjoy a ride south into the Piedmonts where we'll admire the beautiful reds, yellows, purples and greens of the change of season in our area.

Contact Tom Southard at [tsouthard@verizon.net](mailto:tsouthard@verizon.net)

## August PARR Picnic

Have you heard? There's a PARR picnic planned for August 15, at Accotink Park in Springfield, VA. This is FREE to all PARR members and family. You can also bring a non-family friend at a cost of \$15. PARR is furnishing the main course — delicious BBQ with side dishes, drinks (non-alcoholic) and dessert. You may bring a side dish to share if you want. Obviously we need a head count quick so that we can order the right quantities of food for our hungry group. Joe Peralta is in charge of the activity. Please email him at [jperalta@vno.com](mailto:jperalta@vno.com) for further details and to let him know you will be attending. Don't miss out on this fun activity!

## PARR MEETINGS AND RIDES

**Monthly Meeting:** Second Tuesday of each month

**Location:** JCC 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA.

**Note:** Go to front desk to sign in and you will be directed to the location of the meeting room. Meeting time is 7:30 pm

**1st Sunday Ride:** Breakfast Buffet between 8-9:00

**Location:** Masonic Lodge 999 Balls Hill Rd  
McLean, Virginia

**3rd Saturday Ride:** Meet for Coffee at Starbucks at 9:00

**Location:** Colonnade Shopping Center  
5722 Union Mills Road, Cifton, VA

**Contact Info:** PARR President, Ed Bugash  
Phone: 301-948-1014

Virginia Highlands Tour — July 2009 Ride Report — by Chet Phillips

In mid-July PARR completed a three day tour to the highlands area of southwestern Virginia. This area features the highest elevations in Virginia including Mount Rogers, the tallest mountain peak in the state, at over 1 mile in elevation.

We began our tour in Warrenton, VA with seven bikes and nine riders participating. It was cool and sunny, a rare combination for Virginia in July. The leisurely morning ride took us through a combination of primary and secondary roads in the foothills east of the Shenandoah Mountains, including SR 810 through the towns of Dyke, White Hall, and Crozet. From there we headed west, joining the Blue Ridge Parkway at its northern terminus taking in the mountain vistas, exiting in Buena Vista where we had lunch.



After a short detour along the Maury River south of Buena Vista, we continued south and west toward Christiansburg, where our overnight accommodations were located. We stopped to take pictures in the mountains overlooking picturesque New Castle. On the way, we passed through the town of "Parr" without even seeing it. The weather remained cool and sunny throughout the day, especially in the mountains.

Day 2 began in a similar fashion, with cool temperatures (in the 50s) and clear conditions. The day's plan was to loop through the mountains in the southwestern corner of the state, returning to Christiansburg for dinner. The first part of the ride consisted mostly of gently curving roads which became progressively twistier and



more challenging as the morning progressed. Scraping floorboards several bikes back could be clearly heard. Temperatures dropped as we climbed in elevation and it was definitely sweatshirt temperature at the higher elevations. We finally reached our morning's destination, Grayson Highlands State Park. At the visitor's center, we changed into our hiking shoes for the climb to the peak. Rated one of the top 20 hiking trails in the country, the moderately difficult 1.7 mile Twin Pinnacles trail offers 360 degree vistas of the Virginia and West Virginia mountains. (Almost) all of us made it to the top.

From there, we headed north through the mountains to Marion for lunch, making a few unplanned turns (tour adjustments) on the way. The final leg of the day's ride consisted of secondary roads through the highland valley, with views of the mountains on all sides. After a relaxing dinner (where our server took a particular liking to "grandpa") we prepared for day 3.

We awoke to a surprise on day three. The weather was not cooperating, with rain coming down hard. We delayed our departure a bit while the day's ride was rerouted. Due to the conditions, the mountain twisties scheduled for the ride back were scrapped and replaced by some less challenging primary and secondary roads. The morning was spent riding through alternating downpours, light rain and overcast conditions, with US 15 as our route for most of the ride home north of

Appomatox. The rain finally started to break as we neared the DC metro area and everyone made it home safely.

I appreciated having been given the opportunity to lead this ride. The PARR riders who participated continue to demonstrate to me that it's not just about the roads. Having a dedicated and experienced (and did I mention fun to be with) group of riders to share the experience makes all the difference. Nobody complained, even though at times we experienced less than ideal conditions. The most difficult part of the whole trip was deciding where to eat! Yes, we missed a few roads and stopoff points, but that just leaves more places for the next trip. Any members who have never done so should consider planning a PARR overnight. It is something you will not regret. I'm already looking forward to scheduling Highlands Ride II at some point in the future to ride some of the roads we missed in VA as well as neighboring states (Cumberland Gap anyone?).



### PARR Tours

If you haven't had a chance to experience a PARR Tour, you are missing out on a fantastic experience. Our tours are loaded with the best of the back roads and scenic byways. But it's not just about riding. We stop and enjoy unique attractions, we learn about the area, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow riders. We overnight at places off the beaten path that are often considered "rare" finds. And of course, we love to find the out of the way places to enjoy great food.