



Spoke 'N Word

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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Issue 009

Website: PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org

December 2009

Happy Holidays!!

Happy Holidays to one and all! I hope you can look back on a very enjoyable and prosperous year. Lynn and I have had a fantastic year to say the least. We purchased a new house; we returned to active participation in motorcycling after settling down in Ashburn, VA and purchasing a Honda Goldwing; we got to lead two multiple day riding tours; and we made some new friends in motorcycling. It's great to be back!

We're looking forward to the new year. Great rides are now scheduled and in the "fine tuning" stages. Those will be advertised soon so that you can plan your riding calendar for 2010.

As you probably know already, I'll be assuming the duties as PARR President in the new year and look forward to working with all the newly elected officers. I hope I can do as well as Ed Bugash has done in serving as PARR President. His hard work and enthusiasm helped make the past few years most successful and enjoyable to PARR members.

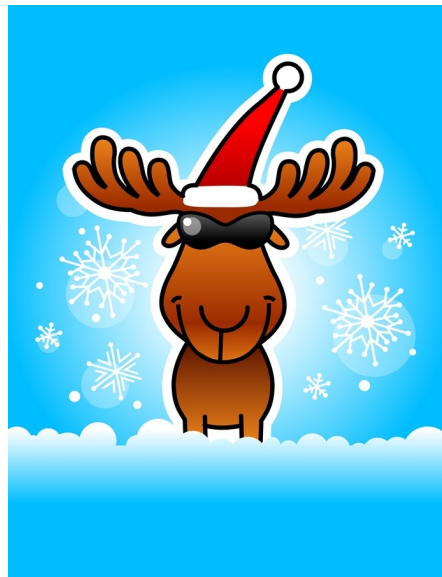
Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a most prosperous and Happy New Year. Hope to see you all at the January party.

PARR Officers Elected for 2010

PARR Officer for 2010 were elected during the November monthly meeting. The new officers are as follows:

President — Mike Wascak
Vice President — Ron Perlik
Secretary — Joe Smith
Treasurer — Phyllis Kotwicki
Sergeant-at-Arms — Joe Kotwicki
Road Captain — Tom Southard

The transition to the new officers will take place at the PARR Holiday Party on January 9, 2010.



PARR Holiday Party

Just a heads-up: The PARR Holiday Party has been planned. The party will begin at 6:00 pm Saturday, January 9th at the (same location as last year) Hamburger Hamlet Restaurant in Crystal City (Arlington), Virginia. The cost is a mere \$20 per person which covers the buffet, taxes, and gratuity. What a deal! If you remember the food and celebration last year, you'll not want to miss this one.

The buffet includes: Chicken Scampi, Baked Ziti, Sliced Sirloin, Buttered Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Green Beans, Baked Salmon with dill sauce, Rice Pilaf, Caesar Salad, and Warm Apple Crisp.

We'll also be playing the (always fun) "Greed" game after dinner. If you want to join in on the fun and laughter, just bring a wrapped gift (one per person NOT per couple). Make it anonymous. The gift should be something **new (not used)** that you've been given in the past that you'd like to give away. If you have nothing that meets that criteria, you may purchase a small gift of your own choosing. Whatever you choose, try to make it interesting enough that someone (and maybe more than one person) would want it. You get to watch what happens when someone thinks your "junk" is a treasure.

Planning / Riding a Great Trip

The December issue of Cycle world had an article entitled "Tips on Planning a Great Big Trip" by Peter Egan that can be applied to our tours. The 8 tips include: (1) Find a date for the ride and protect it; (2) Skip all Yellow Zones on the map (large towns/cities); (3) Choose the smallest possible roads; (4) Use the "never a dull moment principle"; (5) Stop for the night at towns in bold type; (6) Stay Flexible; (7) Don't plan too large a day; (8) Don't blow off the last day. Every day on the road should be a good one. Don't get homing instinct on the last day and do several hundred miles of interstate riding. Everything at home will keep and so will your email messages.

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

Your New Officers

President — Mike Wascak:

Mike has been a member of PARR for 20 years and has been riding since 1979 when he “convinced” his wife that he needed to purchase a 1978 Honda Hawk 400. Ten years later, he moved up to a Yamaha Virago 1100. And ten years after that he moved up to a full dress cruiser, a Yamaha Royal Star Venture. Today he rides a Honda Goldwing.

Mike has served in every PARR officer position (including President) at least once and some more than once. He has created a number of Poker Run Routes and also created the infamous Endless Mountain Tours

Mike retired from the CIA in 2004. His field of expertise was Information Technology and Communications. After he retired, he and his wife, Lynn, toured the United States for four years (full-time) in a motorhome. He and Lynn arrived back home in Virginia in the summer of 2008 after seeing all they wanted to see and bought a new home in Ashburn, Virginia. Mike now drives a school bus part-time for Loudoun County Public Schools.

Vice President — Ron Perlik:

Ron's interest in back road riding developed from years of bicycling as a youth along the then rural byways of northern Virginia. A buddy introduced him to dirt bikes at the nearby gravel pits (now Tysons II shopping mall). When old enough to get his license, an enduro bike (also called "dual sport") mechanized his wanderlust. His first two motorcycles were kept at friends' houses since his parents did not share the same enthusiasm for this activity. Ron rode motorcycles throughout high school and college, enjoying the exploration of back roads and trails in North Carolina, New York and in New Hampshire.

It wasn't until he had reached his mid-thirties that Ron discovered the pleasures of dedicated street motorcycles. His 550 Yamaha opened new vistas in VA and WVA. The next street bike was a Harley Dynaglide. Trips on this bike convinced Ron

and his wife, Barbara, that motorcycle touring was something they wanted to take more seriously. The Harley was sold the next year and replaced by the Goldwing that they still enjoy today. It shares the garage with a 350 Suzuki dual sport, an antique 1973 Yamaha RD350 two stroke and Ron's third motorcycle, a 1971 185 Suzuki dual sport. His current road riding activities include year-round commuting, day trips, multi-day rides, touring rallies such as Americade and long distance endurance riding/rallies. Ron has been a member of PARR since 2000.

Secretary—Joe Smith:

Joe joined PARR in 1999 after serving 10 years overseas with the Department of State Foreign Service. He served a Secretary in his second year with PARR. He has laid out several poker runs and lead many rides for PARR before again departing for distance shores and a 3-year-tour of Vietnam in 2003. After three years he did not return directly to PARR but continued his government service with two years at the Florida Regional Center. It was at the time that Joe switched from his 1999 Honda VFR sportsbike to his current ride, a 2005 Goldwing. Joe says the comfort of the Goldwing is more suited for the PARR overnight rides. Since his return to the PARR area Joe's riding has included several grand tours and an Iron Butt Saddle Sore 1000K. He and fellow PARR member Ron Perlik recently completed the VA Grand Tour by completing visits to 58 different locations spread throughout Virginia.

Treasurer — Phyllis Kotwicki:

Phyllis has been “on pillion” since 1976 when she met her future husband, Joe, at the end of high school and rode on the back of his Suzuki GS 250. In 1996, she was inspired to learn to ride on her own. Phyllis purchased a 1996 Honda Shadow VLX 600 and registered for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Rider Course. She has ridden solo on various PARR rides over the years, although her preference is to ride comfortably on the back of her 2001 Honda Gold Wing GL1800 while

Joe pilots. In 2002, Phyllis purchased a 2002 Harley Davidson Fat Boy. .

A corporate accountant for over 20 years, Phyllis hung out her own shingle in 1998 providing accounting services to small businesses. In 2005, Phyllis passed the CPA exam, became licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and expanded her business. In 2007, she was joined by her husband and together, they provide accounting services to over 20 small businesses in the greater Washington, DC Metropolitan area. Phyllis has volunteered her accounting skills to PARR on multiple occasions, having served a couple of terms as Treasurer and always serving as an advisor to other Treasurers.

Phyllis and Joe are the proud parents of two young men, one who is a teacher in Prince William County and the other who is finishing up his college degree.

Joe Kotwicki—Sergeant-at-Arms:

Joe has been an avid motorcycle rider since 1974. At 16, he was given his father's hand-me-down, a 1974 Suzuki GT 250 and was hooked. For the next 30+ years, Joe has always had at least one scoot in his garage: a 1984 Suzuki GS 850 G in the mid to late 80's, a 1990 Kawasaki ZX-11 C through the mid-90's and a 1996 Kawasaki Vulcan 1500 Classic. In 2001, Joe joined PARR at the urging of his good friend and client, the late Glenn Braswell. Wanting to enjoy the greatest benefit of being a PARR member and participate in the overnight rides, he purchased a 2001 Honda Gold Wing GL 1800 to join his beloved Vulcan in the garage. Joe has subsequently added more scoots to his stable, which now includes a 2002 totally customized Harley Davidson Fat Boy 1550, a 2003 Triumph Sprint ST, and a 2004 Honda Rune. In 2006, Joe retired from his CPA firm, having been a partner in a local accounting firm for 17 years. His retirement lasted five months, when in February 2007 he joined his wife, Phyllis, in her business. Together, they provide accounting services to small businesses in the greater Washington, DC Metropolitan area.