



# Spoke 'N Word

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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Issue 004

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

July 2009

## June Sunday Ride

It was quite a rainy day when God inspired man to build the Ark. But it was weather like we had on June 7th that inspired man to build the motorcycle. PARR's June Sunday ride had the perfect weather! The sun was bright in the sky, the temperature hovered around the 80 degree mark, the humidity was low, there was barely a breeze, and there was 0% chance of rain. It doesn't get any better!!

Seven PARR members turned out to enjoy the all-you-can-eat breakfast at the Masonic Lodge in McLean, VA. By 9:00 we were ready to ride. Today was to be the Scavenger Hunt that Ron Perlik and Joe Smith worked many hours to create but we decided to postpone the hunt until we had more riders to enjoy it. Our alternate plan was a ride to High Rock, a high scenic overlook located at the Maryland/Pennsylvania line near Pen Mar.

Our fearless leader, Ed Bugash, took the helm and led our group on a series of scenic, less-than-straight, back country roads as we made our way to our first stop, Thurmont, Maryland. After a short rest, Mike Wascak took the lead and lead the group to High Rock.

After parking the bikes under the trees nearby, our group enjoyed a breath-taking view of the valley far below. If you visit High Rock at the right time, you might have the opportunity to watch hand glider enthusiasts jump off the ledge and sail through the air on their journey to reach the bottom. Today there weren't any hand gliders, but there were a number of large birds imitating gliders as they soared effortlessly around the ledges with wings motionless.

The view at High Rock is always worth the ride. You can reach High Rock from Thurmont, MD via state scenic route 550 North to Pen Mar near Fort Richie. It's just a short ride up High Rock Road to the top of the mountain from Pen Mar Park.

After enjoying the view and chatting with others admiring the beauty of the area, we headed back down the mountain to our lunch stop across from Fort Richie. I don't recall the name but it was a pizza shop that served up short-order foods. Like most motorcycle clubs, PARR loves to find good places to eat — and this qualifies as one of them. It's just right across from Fort Richie on Route 550.

After a hearty repast, we all headed south via route 15 to our various home destinations. After all the rain and chilly weather we had been having, it was quite a change to have the perfect day for a perfect ride.

## Upcoming Overnight Rides

PARR's first overnight ride, the Return to Endless Mountain, was a big success (see complete story on page two), but there is still more to come. Here's the rundown of the next three:

**July 18-20 Grayson Highlands of Southwest Virginia.** This tour will include a mixture of primary and secondary roads through the mountains and countryside with the primary destination being Grayson Highlands State Park. We'll enjoy parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway and also enjoy some short hikes (bring comfortable shoes). Contact Chet Phillips at [Phil4255@aol.com](mailto:Phil4255@aol.com)

**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 Seneca 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 12-14 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. Contact Mike Wascak at [smichaelwascak@aol.com](mailto:smichaelwascak@aol.com)



A View from High Rock

## 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

## *The Return to Endless Mountain — June 2009 — Ride Report*

On the morning of June 26th, 14 PARR riders left Thurmont, MD (aka Gateway to the Mountains) and headed north for the first Endless Mountain Tour since 2004. This was a return to the original Endless Mountain Tour held in 1996. We headed out of Thurmont under slightly overcast skies with the temperature in the 70's.

We superslabbbed it to Harrisburg where we picked up Route 443 along Fishing Creek and thru Fort Indiantown Gap. At it's end, we stopped for lunch at Buddy's Log Cabin restaurant in Pine Grove (fantastic milkshakes!).

Back on the road, we headed out on Route 125, the highlight motorcycling road of the day. It takes you up and over 4 mountain ranges. The road is loaded with scenic views, hairpin turns, and twisting blacktop. What a great road!



We were really enjoying the roads and scenery when we noticed dark clouds in the distance. It looked like we were heading into a storm but good fortune was with us. We arrived at our hotel in Mifflinville, checked in, unloaded our bikes (even parking them under the second floor balcony overhang) before it began raining.

The rain was short and the sun was able to dry the roads before we headed to Bandits Restaurant for dinner — a great place to eat and biker friendly. It rained again while we enjoyed our meal. But again, the sun came out, and dried the highway for the ride back to the hotel.

On Saturday we woke to Sunny skies and comfortable temperatures. After enjoying our continental



breakfast, our group headed west for our next destination. We enjoyed River Road in Nescopeck, Route 29, back roads around Harvey's Lake, and Route 92 on our morning ride to Nicholson to see the Tunkhannock Viaduct (photo above). This railroad bridge was built in 1913 and was considered the 8th Wonder of the World and the largest concrete structure ever built. It rises 240 feet above the town of Nicholson and is 2375 feet long.

From there we headed north to Susquehanna for lunch, then to the next attraction, the Starrucca Viaduct in Lanesboro. This viaduct was built in 1848 and is the oldest stone railroad bridge in use today. It is 1040 feet long and 100 feet high.

From there we headed out of town via back roads. Rain began to come down and we quickly located a safe pull-off. We no sooner got on our rain gear when the rain stopped, the sun came out and in just a few short miles we were on dry highways and were able to enjoy some great sweepers as we made our way to our hotel.

The Inn at Lackawaxen was our hotel for both Saturday and Sunday nights. The Inn is located adjacent to the Roebing Bridge (see photo at the left) linking PA and NY over the Delaware River. The Roebing Bridge is the oldest wire suspension bridge in the USA. It was built in 1847. It's designer, John Roebing, went on to design and build the Brooklyn Bridge 20 years later.

The Inn at Lackawaxen is a 160 year old building with a recent

facelift. It has a full service restaurant with food to suit the most selective taste buds; a newly renovated pub that has the feel of a classic Irish bar; and a large deck overlooking the Roebing Bridge. We occupied 7 of the 8 rooms. We all agreed that the Inn deserved a return visit.

After a relaxing night, we gathered in the morning ready to ride. We spent the morning on a slow ride through some of the most scenic, winding roads in the Poconos. Along the way we saw deer, rabbits, and a turtle crossing the roads. After our morning ride we headed into the Catskills and to Bethel to enjoy the revamped site of the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival. What an amazing transition! It's now a center for the performing arts and a Woodstock museum. It took us by surprise. We planned an hour tour but really needed 2-3 hours to really take in all it has to offer. The original field remains pretty much untouched (see group photo below).

We had an enjoyable dinner on the deck of the Inn to celebrate the end of a great Endless Mountain Tour.

In the morning we awoke to a mix of clouds and sun which would soon turn to all sunny skies as we made our way back to our homes in the Washington, D. C. area. We had 4 days of great riding, wonderful sights, good food and great people. It was a tour worth repeating sometime in the future.



The PARR Group Photo at Woodstock