



# Spoke 'N Word

Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Issue 003

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

June 2009

## New Members

PARR is very pleased to welcome three new members to the club. We all look forward to not only getting to know these individuals but also getting to ride with them.

### Lou and Artilissa Dunn

Lou and Artilissa have been married for thirteen years and live in Centerville, Virginia. Although he was born in New Jersey, Lou considers himself a D. C. boy having spent the majority of his life in Washington. He is the National Maintenance Manager for the Navy Federal Credit Unions. Artilissa is a Mississippi girl and the Director of Contracts for the Apptis Corporation. Lou rides a BMW K12LT and has been riding for 20 years. Artilissa is a relatively new motorcyclist riding a Kawasaki Vulcan 1500 and has been riding for three years.

### Mike Critchfield

Mike retired from the federal work force as a Steam Plant Manager. He lives in Vienna with his wife, Tomie, who retired from her position with Bank of America. Mike has been a motorcyclist for over 40 years and currently rides a Honda ST1300.

## Age Not a Factor

by Mike Wascak

I bowl on a league every Monday night. My four teammates know that I'm am a motorcyclist and enjoy my stories about weekend rides and overnight motorcycling adventures. They all wish that they were able to participate in the sport, but because of their personal situations (age, finances, family, etc.) they feel they can't at this point in their lives.

One of the guys, Steve, does own a motorcycle, or I should say "many motorcycle parts" that he hopes to put together soon to create one operating motorcycle. One night he wore a shirt with a phrase on the back that I thought answered the question why many motorcyclists keep riding even when they become senior citizens. The words were: *"You don't stop riding because you get old; you get old when you stop riding."*

I'm not a young man any more, nor am I an old geezer, except maybe to my kids. I do feel that motorcycling keeps me young in many respects. It's a hard feeling to describe. Only those who ride really know the feeling.

I cherish these years of prosperity and good health that enables me to enjoy the sport to its fullest. I enjoy the friendships that I have with my motorcycle club members. What a great bunch of people who love to ride!

On one of the Endless Mountain Tours that I led a while back, one of the guys said, "These are the good old days and these are the days we'll be talking about. Isn't it great to enjoy them now?" He's right. Hopefully all of us are appreciating these days as they happen.

Our day trips and overnight adventures over the past several years have probably been the best that we have ever experienced. The points of interest we've seen, the variety of roads we've ridden, the beauty of the areas we've traveled have added immensely to our enjoyment of motorcycling. During these road trips, not only have there been skills developed and enhanced, but also friendships created. This is what keeps us young. Age is not a factor in the enjoyment of motorcycling.

So when someone asks me: "Does your motorcycle club have any "old" members?" My response is: "Not really."

## Graves Mtn Lodge Ride

The Graves Mtn Lodge Ride was rained out in May and will be rescheduled for a later date. An email will be sent to all when the date has been decided. The date may not necessarily coincide with our normal Sunday or Saturday ride.

## Annual Dues Now Overdue

Your annual PARR dues came due in April and are now overdue. To those who are paid up, we say "thank you" for your continued support of the club and the sport we love so much. Dues not paid by the end of June result in your name being purged from the PARR membership roster beginning July. Ouch!

On a related subject, if you have been an applicant for more than 6 months, your name will also be purged from our roster in July. Making the transition is easy. For further info, you can call PARR President, Ed Bugash on 301-948-1014 or myself at 703-963-1860.

## PARR MEETINGS AND RIDES

**Monthly Meeting:** Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

**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.

**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 Cell: 240-793-2991

## Overnight Rides—2009 —Update

June begins our season of overnight adventures. PARR has two great ones now under way. You'll need to make your plans soon.

### Cherohala Skyway, Tennessee — June 12-21

Tom Southard will lead this 7-9 day tour into the south. (Originally this was to be a ride into the New England states but the plan has changed.) Two days will be used to get riders to the great state of Tennessee. Over the next few days, the ride will take you on the Cherohala Skyway, a national scenic byway completed in 1996 after 34 years of construction. It crosses through the Cherokee and Nantohala National Forests. Riders will also experience Dolly Parton land in Gatlinburg and a ride thru the "Dragon" in Deals Gap. You can't leave Tennessee without experiencing the Jack Daniels distillery—if you haven't seen it, it's a must see. Then it will be on to Ashville, North Carolina before the two-day ride back home. Daily mileage will vary with no predetermined stops. There's still time to join in on this exciting ride. Contact Tom for further details at: [Tssouthard@verizon.net](mailto:Tssouthard@verizon.net).

### Endless Mountain Tour — June 26-29

Response to this tour has been great! This 4-day, 750-mile ride through parts of the Poconos and the Catskill Mountains of New York **is now closed**. We'll have 14 riders (11 bikes) on the tour. The first night of the tour will find our group in Mifflinville, PA located in the Valleys of the Susquehanna. Our home base for the 2nd and 3rd nights will be in the Poconos. Most riders have decided to take a room at the Cozy Inn in Thurmont on Thursday night, June 25th), the night before the tour actually starts. Those who have been confirmed for the trip will meet at the Mountain Gate Family Restaurant in Thurmont, MD (located just off Route 15) at 8:00 on the morning of June 26 for a buffet breakfast. Participants will be emailed final details and instructions for this Endless Mountain Tour.

## Still to Come—More Overnight Rides

### 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 be using parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway and we'll 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. 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)

## First Bike Story

*By Ed Bugash*

It was springtime, 1962, I was 18 years young with money in the bank. Honda was covering all bases with its "You meet the nicest people on a Honda" advertising blitz. Their biggest selling model at that time was the Honda Dream, white with flared fenders, duel exhaust, about 250cc's and always pictured with a rider, a clean cut guy, and a beautiful blond girl as his passenger. It didn't take much. I was hooked! I headed over to the local Honda dealer to check it out and decided on a Honda Super 90 (S-90) with a price tag of around \$400. I picked out a blue one with chrome fenders.

The salesman was thrilled to make a sale in record time. As he shook my hand and wished me luck, I said, "One more thing: can you show me how to start it and shift gears and anything else, please? You see I've never even sat on a motorcycle before". Before he could regain his composure, I added, "and if you don't mind, I'd like to learn on a demo unit, not on mine" I lost him again.

After a 15-minute, 3-times around the block CRASH course, I mounted my bike and rode home on a major crosstown highway during PM rush hour wearing the normal new bikers attire of the day, sneakers, shorts, tee shirt, sun glasses and no helmet.

I must have stalled out at every stop at least twice and flooded the engine a dozen times while trying to rekick start it, but oh how I loved the ride!

Unfortunately, it only took about 3 weeks for me to realize I wanted a bigger bike. I rode that bike all summer and sold it to my brother in the fall. Then late that fall, I borrowed it for an end-of-season quick ride. As luck would have it, while approaching a light controlled intersection I was T-boned by a Mercury station wagon. For an instant, time slowed down and I saw myself flying over the entire length of the big wagon, removing quite a bit of his roof paint with my left leg. The only thing I was thinking about at that time was breaking my landing by rolling and hoping I wouldn't get run over by other vehicles if I survived. I ended up with only minor bruises and a cycle with a "V" shaped bent frame. I was mighty lucky I guess.

That ended my bike riding until May of 1998 when I purchased a pristine 1983 Honda Night Hawk 650. I've taken the Motorcycle Safety Driving course and I ride as often as possible. A few years later I bought a used 1999 Suzuki Marauder 800, and took the Experienced Riders Course. A few short weeks ago, I purchased a HD 2004 Heritage Soft Tail Classic. And you know what else? Today, I feel 18 again only safer and wiser.

### 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)