

Spoke 'N Word

Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Issue 002

Website: PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org

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Member vs Applicant *There is a difference*

In looking over PARR's roster of members and applicants, I found we have 35 members and 17 applicants. To become a member of PARR, one must attend two meetings and one ride significant enough to assess the individual's riding skills. Sounds easy enough. Once you're in, you become eligible for all PARR activities including the overnight, multi-day tours as well as our annual banquet and summer picnic.

Currently there seems to be a slow transition of our applicants. Some have been on the roster longer than our bylaws allow them to be. If you are an applicant who has not yet completed the process, we highly encourage you to complete the necessary steps and become a full-fledged member. Applicants cannot go on overnight rides or attend the annual banquet. Also beginning in June, if you have been an applicant for longer than 6 months, you'll be required to start the process again to get your name back on our roster.

PARR has begun its season of great planned day rides and overnight adventures. This is sure to be a banner year for those who love to ride — and we all do love to ride!

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 17-21

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. 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 Asheville, North Carolina before the two-day ride back home. Daily mileage will vary with no predetermined stops. Contact Tom for further details at: Tssouthard@verizon.net.

Endless Mountain Tour — June 26-29

Response to this tour has been great! This 4-day, 750-mile ride will take you through parts of the Poconos and the Catskill Mountains of New York. The purpose of this tour (besides riding great roads) will be to visit 3 famous bridges and one famous nostalgic site known as Woodstock. Our first night will be spent in Mifflinville, PA as we prepare ourselves for the "3-bridges" ride on Saturday. Saturday and Sunday nights we'll be staying at the Inn at Lackawaxen in the Poconos which also contains a lovely restaurant. (BYOB for the party night.) On Sunday, we'll ride some of the delightful 4-digits roads in the area and visit the famous site of the 1969 Woodstock Music and Arts festival. This year marks its 40-year anniversary. Fourteen riders have signed up for the tour so far but there's still time for you to get in. The cut-off date is May 15th at which time the ride will be closed. Contact Mike on 703-963-1860 for more information.

Check the PARR Website for future summertime overnight tours. We'll keep you updated here next month.

Annual Dues Now Over Due

Oops! Did you forget? Your annual PARR dues came due last month (April). The fee for continuing your membership in one of the best motorcycling clubs in the Washington, Maryland, and Virginia area is \$24. What a bargain! For this small fee you get to be associated with some of the finest motorcycling men and women around and be eligible to experience some of the best motorcycle rides one can imagine. So don't delay! Send in your personal check or you can pay online through PayPal. You can also come to the monthly meeting with check in hand. Dues not paid by the end of June results in your name being purged from the PARR membership roster. Ouch!

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.

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 9:00

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

WEBSITE: PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org

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

RIDE REPORT **April Saturday Ride** *by Mike Wascak*

Sunny, clear skies, with the temperature reaching into the 70's and no rain in sight. Can there be a more perfect day for a springtime ride? I say not. Our ride was a 160 mile route beginning in Clifton, VA and ending in Purcelville, VA. One would think the distance between Clifton and Purcelville is not that great. Well, it isn't. But we took the long, scenic route getting there. The destination and highlight of the day was our ride up the Great North Mountain on Route 600 in Frederick County, VA near the West Virginia border.

After the ceremonial ride briefing and signing of the waivers, ten bikes with 11 riders headed out of the Colonade Shopping Center eager for the adventure. Road Captain, Tom Southard, led the way on the first leg of the journey taking back roads away from the hustle bustle of annoying traffic and into Middleburg where we took a brief rest stop. From there, yours truly, Mike Wascak, took the helm for the rest of the day leading our group on a ride known as Day Ride #10 in my book of Day Rides yet to be published.

We headed into Clarke County using Howellsville Road known for its unique, "low to the water" bridge that floods often. Today the road was dry as we crossed the narrow, cement path only inches above the fast moving currents of the Howellsville River. We enjoyed more backroads as we made our way to Middletown, Virginia to our second rest stop.

The third leg of our journey was the best of the four parts as we enjoyed more than 30 miles of mountain and rural country roads. The highlight was, of course, Route 600. We experienced a heart stopper at one point. As we made our way up the steep, twisting, narrow mountain road, a huge logging truck took us by surprise as it came around a corner taking up 3/4's of the road on his way down the mountain. Our experienced riders adjusted quickly and I'm pleased to report that no one fell off the mountain that day. Our third rest stop at a Sheetz gas station in Winchester was a welcome sight. Fuel, refreshments, and conversations reminiscing the experience were the order as we all got to know each other better.

The final leg of the journey was pretty much a fast paced ride to our ending destination of Purcelville. After a few back country roads and one deadend (progress changed a few roads since I was last up that way) we decided to head east on Rout 7. Even though Route 7 is a major artery, the

mountain and rural countryside in the early spring was most enjoyable to see.

Once in Purcelville, we said our good-byes as some riders headed for home while others enjoyed the delicacies of Al's Pizza restaurant, an establishment that has been around for years and serves great food!

For me this ride was a most significant event—my return to motorcycling! My wife and I had been traveling full-time in an RV for four years and I had purchased a



Freddy Castillon showing off his new ride. He remarked that it was great on down hills but a little less stable around corners.

Goldwing just a few short weeks ago. This was my first official ride with the club since 2004. It's great to be back!

Requirements for Riding A PARR Overnight Tour

Yes, there are requirements for riding PARR overnight tours. Unlike our Sunday and Saturday rides that are open to all interested riders, our overnight tours are reserved for PARR members only. But just being a member will not automatically get you on one of our tours. Although this list is not all inclusive, here's what you'll find at the top of the list:

- > You will be required to sign a ride waiver.
- > You must have a valid motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license.
- > Your motorcycle must be able to pass valid safety inspection, be road worthy and legal for riding on all state highways.
- > Do not expect to learn how to ride a motorcycle on a PARR Tour. You should have at least 5,000 miles of riding experience.
- > You must have the ability to ride safely at highway speeds and be able to ride in a group environment.
- > You will be required to obey standard AMA and PARR group riding rules.
- > You must be experienced and able to ride safely in the rain. Mandatory riding apparel includes: DOT approved helmets, gloves and riding boots that cover the ankles. Appropriate riding pants and tops are also required. Shorts, halter tops, sandals, sneakers, bare arms and legs while riding is not allowed.
- > All tour riders are responsible for providing their own protective gear. Layered clothes and good quality rain gear are highly recommended.
- > Participants must be prepared for a variety of riding conditions on all tours. Rain, cold weather in higher elevations, and heat in the summer are very common.