



Spoke 'N Word

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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

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November 2009

The Worst Is Yet to Come

Okay, so the weather wasn't the best it could have been during the past month (October). We had a little rain; the temperatures dipped a bit; and our Fall Foliage Day Ride was a little on the "nippy" side, which caused us to cut our 160-mile route down to 100 miles.

On the good news side, the temperatures were still hitting the 50's and 60's — good riding weather all things considered. Just for a moment, think ahead a bit and picture yourself in the dead of winter when all of a sudden, the thermometer climbs to 50 degrees! I'm sure most of us would try and get our bikes out for a ride. In February a temperature hitting 50 would seem like a heat wave.

For the most part, we can expect November to be much like October — perhaps not so many days of 60 and above temperatures. But we'll still have a lot of good riding days available to us. I for one will be out there, probably solo riding given my time availability schedule.

So if 50-degree weather is not quite to your liking, think again. The worst is yet to come. Enjoy! See you on the road.

PARR Officer Elections for 2010

November is PARR Officer Election Month. Nominations thus far include:

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

At the November monthly meeting, your nominations will be discussed and voted on. For those who have no desire to be on the board but still want to make a contribution to the club, there are other "non-board" positions that you can volunteer for from time-to-time.

PARR is a busy club and needs its members support in more ways than one. So plan on coming to the November monthly meeting to make your vote count and to congratulate the winners.

Ride Planning Meeting

A 2010 Ride Planning Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 14th at 2:00 pm at Joe Smith's home. Overnight rides and day rides will be discussed and planned for the upcoming year. This will give members ample time to plan their "2010 Ride Calendar". If you have an idea for a ride or wish to attend, contact Joe Smith or send us your ideas via email.

PARR Holiday Party

Just a heads-up: The PARR Holiday Party is now being 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 would want it. You get to watch what happens when more than one person thinks your "junk" is a treasure.

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

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PARR members enjoying dinner at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant during the Amish Country Covered Bridge Tour held in September.



Why I Ride **A continuing saga.....**

By Ed Bugash

I've always loved the great outdoors, riding, driving, traveling hither and yon, exploring, and finding new places and scenery along the way.

I was born and raised in Washington D.C. Except for a few weeks each summer in Atlantic City N.J. or away at Camp Airy in Thurmont MD, the city was my playground.

As a child from around 8 or 9 years of age I'd spend my summer days exploring the surrounding neighborhoods. As I aged, the area would spread out further and further. The thing I loved to do the most was to pack a lunch and along with a friend or two we'd go out on our bicycles for an excursion. Where?? That way!! Let's see where that road goes??

This was during the wonderful 1950's when President Eisenhower had started building America's new Interstate Highway System. Everybody seemed to be traveling, discovering where a particular road led or how it connected up with another. A road would bring us to a section of the city we either had never been, or to a somewhat familiar area via a different route. It always amazed me! We never really got lost, disoriented maybe, but never to the point of worrying about how we'd get back home. At least not for me anyway.

This desire and attitude carried through when I started driving. I seemed to have a knack for always finding my way. Remembering structures, signs, unusual landmarks, etc. has always assisted me. I have a very good sense of direction.

All of the above has now come to full bloom since I've taken to the wonderful sport, hobby, activity (whatever you want to call it) of motorcycling.

As a motorcyclist and belonging to this wonderful, premier touring club, the Potomac Area Road Riders, I get to further my wanderlust with like-minded individuals. Whenever I get together with one or more of the club members for an outing, you can be

sure someone in the group will lead the rest of us along roads that may seem familiar, though how we arrived at a given point, usually for lunch, is many times bewildering. I'm constantly amazed by the fact that even though I lived here in the Washington, D. C. Metro area and explored many, many areas, there are still many wonderful roads I have not traveled. This is why I ride!!

October Ride Review

Our fall riding season started off with the Sunday Ride to Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia. This ride was scheduled twice prior to the actual ride in October but it got rained out both times. The third time was a charm as we had a perfect fall day with warm temperatures and sunshine galore!

The ride started in Ashburn, VA. We took a very scenic ride through Loudoun and Fauquier counties passing through Middleburg, The Plains and Warrenton. Part 2 of the ride found us winding our way through Fauquier, Rappahannock, and Madison Counties and finally arriving in Syria near Old Rag Mountain. Our group enjoyed an all-you-could eat buffet complete with desert and refreshment.

After dinner we meandered through more beguiling byways passing through parts of Madison, Boston, and Castleton, Virginia. After a brief stop at an old country store in Woodville, we made our way to Marshall where the ride officially ended. It was a great day and a great ride!

On the last Sunday of the month, PARR enjoyed a Fall Foliage Day Ride. Although a bit on the chilly side, with temperatures in the 50's, the sunshine helped to bring out the brilliant fall colors. The ride began in Leesburg where we headed across the Potomac via the Jubal A Early Ferry. Our plan was to ride around the Sugarloaf Mountain area. It was a good plan since the fall colors were simply spectacular!

The route we followed had

Fall Foliage Day Ride



everything a motorcyclist would enjoy. Of course it had the ferry ride; it had scenic overlooks from the high hilltops; beautiful country roads around farm lands and horse country; we enjoyed a short ride through an unusual tunnel under Route 15; it had very narrow (but well-paved) roads through some very rural (almost in the middle of nowhere) areas; it had rides along rivers and streams; and it took us over old narrow bridges, through parklands and through old small towns.

We had to cut the ride short because of the chilly air but agreed that the route would be worth repeating on a warmer day

Lastly, PARR enjoyed its final overnight adventure of the 2009 riding season. The ride was led by Tom Southard. At this writing, the details were lacking but needless to say the routes lived up to PARR standards which is to say they were scenic and fun to ride. The route led the group to beautiful Kingwood, West Virginia and took in parts of the Shenandoah National Park, the George Washington National Forest and the Monogahela National Forest.



Riding on the Ferry