



Spoke 'N Word

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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

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Riding the Colors

Here we are in one of my favorite months for motorcycling where the weather is not-to-hot, not-to-cold, there's no humidity, and the beautiful fall colors begin appearing all over the place. What a month!!

PARR kicks off the month with some really exciting riding events. The first is the ride to Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia using a vintage (but oh so wonderful) PARR Poker Run Route. Then there's the October Fall Foliage Overnight Ride led by Tom Southard to Kingwood, (wild-wonderful) West Virginia.

If you miss the Graves Mountain Lodge Ride and can't spare two consecutive days for the Overnight Tour, you can get in on the Fall Foliage Day Ride (see article below) later in the month. Don't forget the 3rd Saturday Ride which will also take in some more of the Autumn décor.

It's hard to believe but we haven't seen some of you on any rides this year. Here's the chance to redeem yourselves. Join the group; come to the meeting; meet your long-time friends; and of course, enjoy some great fall riding.

See you on the road!

PARR Officer Elections for 2010

Nominations for the PARR Board of Directors for 2010 are currently being accepted. Nominations thus far include:

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

At the October 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. Although you can also make your nominations in the PARR Website, you have to attend the October meeting to make the vote count and to participate in the election discussion.

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. More details will be announced next month.

Upcoming Overnight Ride

October 10-11 Fall Foliage Tour

This year's Fall Foliage Ride will be to beautiful Kingwood, West Virginia. The ride will depart from the Sheetz in Haymarket at 8:30 a.m. We will take in parts of the Shenandoah National Park, the George Washington National Forest and the Monogahela National Forest.

Our group will be staying at the Heldreth Motel in Kingwood, WV. The motel boasts a restaurant and a tavern within walking distance. The motel also has rooms with three double beds which would be useful if we have an uneven number of people. Six rooms are on hold.

Contact Tom Southard at tsouthard@verizon.net

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.

October Fall Foliage Day Ride

Mark your calendar now for the Annual PARR Fall Foliage Day Ride which is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th. If rain is forecast for that day, the ride will be postponed until the following Sunday, October 25th. The starting location will be the IHOP Restaurant in Leesburg, Virginia at 8:00 am. The route will be around 160 miles in length and will also include a ride across Whites Ferry. A classic PARR Poker Run Route from yesteryear will be used. Don't miss the perfect time of the year for riding a great route. For further info, contact Mike Wascak at 703-963-1860.

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

Lancaster Covered Bridge Tour — September Ride Report by Mike Wasca

They say you can't go back. What they mean is that things will have changed so dramatically from what you remember, that very little if anything will be the same. But **not so** when you're touring the beautiful Amish countryside of Lancaster, PA. Things pretty much remain consistent year after year. Thank Heavens!

Nine riders (7 bikes) enjoyed this year's Tour of the Amish Country. After meeting for breakfast at the Leesburg IHOP, Jack Moar lead the group north via Route 15 to Thurmont, Maryland. In Maryland, the group rode across two of the remaining 9 covered bridges in the state (Utica and Loys Station). After a stop for photos, it was eastward using a number of beguiling byways featured in past issues of the *Winding Road Motorcycle Times* magazine.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Delta Family Restaurant just across the PA state line in Delta. More byways and scenic country roads continued after lunch. Crossing the Susquehanna on Route 372 is always a treat!

The first evidence of Amish country appeared when the group reached May Post Office Road and headed north into the heart of Lancaster county. Once in Intercourse, PA, the group headed to Kitchen Kettle Village for some free sampling of Amish delicacies.

We used the Cherry Lane Motor Inn in Ronks nearby for our overnight accommodations. The hotel was simple but in a convenient location away from traffic. After a little relaxation, it was off to the Family Cupboard Restaurant where a great buffet for an economical price was served.

Saturday dawned a beautiful Fall day for our Covered Bridge Tour. Still feeling stuffed from the previous night's repast, the group opted for the motel's free continental breakfast.

Our 100-mile covered bridge route began at a gas station at the intersection of Routes 30 and 340. Dick Merrill had an opportunity to pre-ride the route earlier this summer and



Sunday morning greeted us with sunny skies and cool temperatures that would hit the 70's by noon. Another perfect day! Again we opted for the lite continental breakfast. Our route out was mainly a northeasterly route using Newport Road which led us through more rural scenic countryside. From Newport Road, we turned off onto SR-4008 (one of PA's premium 4-digit back roads).

Our route took us into Elizabethtown where riders immediately noticed the smell of chocolate filling the air courtesy of the local Mars/M&M factory. At first we thought the sweet smells had drifted in from Hershey 15 minutes away. After polling our group at a rest stop in town, I found that

cautioned our group about some minor changes we would encounter.

The route did not disappoint as we meandered through peaceful, scenic rural roads and Amish farmlands. By the end of the route we had crossed 8 covered bridges. The 9th was closed for rebuilding and the 10th had been replaced by a concrete/steel open bridge. But add those to yesterdays and the group had ridden across 11 covered bridges!

After the route, there was some free time left for each to explore as they wished. Some returned to Kitchen Kettle Village; two checked out the railroad museum in Strasburg; a beer run was accomplished for a later group celebration; and a visit to a doll house was also enjoyed.

That night, the group enjoyed another Amish Buffet at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant where Dick and Gail Merrill joined us, having arrived via auto.



no one (sans leader and wife) had ever visited the town of Hershey.

The opportunity couldn't have come at a better time. A unanimous decision was made to detour the group into Hershey. Less than 20 minutes later we were parking our bikes at Chocolate World.

By now members of our group were desperate for a taste of chocolate. After our brief ride through the simulated chocolate factory on roller coaster style cars, we were all rewarded with complimentary chocolate kisses. Then it was off to the Hershey food court down the hall where we enjoyed lunch.

Back on the bikes we headed out of town via Route 322 and I-83 across the Susquehanna in Harrisburg. From then it was a quick trip down Route 15 to Thurmont where we stopped for a short break and to say our good-byes.

Another successful PARR Tour had come to an end. Everyone agreed the conditions for the ride could not have been more perfect! What a great time of the year to visit the Amish country!