



Spoke 'N Word

Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Editor: Mike Wascak

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April 2010

Spring has Sprung!

What a difference a month makes! After snowstorms, freezing temperatures and rain, it's so fantastic to see this beautiful weather! The last few weeks of March and certainly the beginning of April has been a dream come true for area motorcyclists! I hope you all had the chance to get out there and ride. I've taken advantage of the nice days and not only did some day rides on my own, but I've also been riding my Wing to work.

There have been two PARR rides in March and both are described on page 2.

April is sure to be a busy month for PARR rides, particularly if this weather keeps up (watch for announcements on the Website). PARR is also involved in the Club Day Open House at Loudoun Motorsports in Leesburg, VA. Lastly but not leastly, we're gearing up for the touring season as we announced our first overnight tour of 2010: **West Virginia Back Roads and By-Ways**.

Not only does April bring sunshine, flowers, and great riding opportunities, it also comes with tax filing and PARR dues. Every detail is in this month's issue of the SPOKE.

New Meeting Location for 1st Sunday Rides

As mentioned in last month's SPOKE, the breakfasts at the McLean Masonic Lodge have been discontinued. We were sad to see that happen because the folks there have been so hospitable to us for more than 10 years. We had a good run there but as they say, all good things must come to an end.

During our March business meeting, it was agreed upon that McLean is still a good meeting location and that we should find a suitable place close to the Masonic Lodge since our distributed trifold still advertises that location as our meeting spot. After some scouting through areas of McLean, it was determined that the **McDonalds Restaurant at the intersection of Route 123 (Dolly Madison Blvd) and Old Dominion Drive (just behind J. Gilbert's Restaurant)** would meet our needs. (NOTE: There are 2 McDonalds in McLean. Make sure you don't go to the other one.) Since J. Gilberts Restaurant parking lot connects to McDonalds parking lot, we'll have plenty of room to organize ourselves. There's also easy access onto Old Dominion Drive from there and we'll be able to swing by the Masonic Lodge (one mile away) to pick up anyone who may have shown up there.

PARR Annual Dues

It's that time of the year again. Your PARR yearly dues (\$24) is due as of April 1st. You can pay with cash, check, or paypal. By coming to the monthly meeting you can give your dues to the Treasurer directly. If you mail your dues, make your check payable to PARR and send it to Mike Wascak, 44358 Maltese Falcon Square, Ashburn, VA. 20147. If you're paying by paypal, log onto our website and follow the instructions there.

Loudoun MotorSports Open House / Club Day

Loudoun Motorsports in Leesburg, Virginia is holding their third annual Open House / Club day on Saturday April 17th from 9:00 to 4:00. There will be cash prizes for the club with the largest attendance and free food and live music.

Tom Southard and I will be hosting a PARR table displaying our banner and promoting membership in PARR. We sure could use a few more PARR members to help out so please, if you're not busy, come and help out and see our display. Since that particular Saturday is our normally scheduled Saturday Ride, we encourage you to ride to Loudoun MotorSports and join in on the fun and activities — and of course support your club.

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: Meet at McDonalds Restaurant

Location: At the corner of Route 123 and Old Dominion, 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, **Mike Wascak** — Phone: 571-223-2527

Vice President, **Ron Perlik** — Phone: 540-635-6165

Secretary, **Joe Smith** — Phone: 703-543-2305

Treasurer, **Phyllis Kotwicki** — Phone: 703-239-1290

Sergeant-at-Arms — **Joe Kotwicki** — Phone: 703-239-1290

Road Captain — **Tom Southard** — Phone: 703-878-6784



Loudoun MotorSports, Leesburg, VA

Highland County Maple Fest Ride Review

by Ron Perlik

On the morning of **March 20**, PARR riders Chet Phillips, Barbara and Ron Perlik met up with four members of the Warrenton Area Street Riders Association. Their objective was dining and other activities associated with the annual Highland County Maple Festival about 40 miles west of Staunton, Va. Although the pre-spring air was chilly, coffee consumed at Denny's prepared the troops for the trek out Route 211 and its exhilarating traverse of Shenandoah National Park. Traffic was light and the road surface was thankfully clear of any significant abrasives which may have been applied to counter the previous months' snowfalls.

Two other WASRA members fell in line at the first rest break in Luray. Ron was practicing 10-minute stops with a timer on his handlebars and got the group moving again in short order. 211 lead to Timberville and then Route 42 into Harrisonburg for the next break. From there Route 33 weaved through the George Washington National Forest to Franklin, WV where Route 220 traveled south back into Virginia and Highland County.

The Maple Festival is the highlight of the year in this community of 3000 residents, Virginia's least densely populated county. Multiple dining sites offer traditional and buckwheat pancakes with fresh maple syrup produced among the five local sugar bushes (maple groves). This year we opted to avoid the large crowds at the high school and ate at the Ruritan Building in Blue Grass, Va. While waiting in line we observed latent snow fields on the nearby mountainsides and noted the popularity of this destination among other motorcyclists. A tasty and filling meal prepared us for the sightseeing portion of this trip. The group stopped at a nearby sugar bush where four of us explored the facility while the other riders departed for home. Two other farms were visited that afternoon for comparison. As it turned out, this was a short sugaring

season and none of the facilities was producing any more syrup. Nonetheless, there was plenty of syrup, candy and maple donuts to purchase and enjoy on site or take home. The PARR members present made a full day of it, riding about 300 miles round trip from Warrenton.

The Highland County Maple Festival (www.highlandcounty.org/maple.htm) is held annually on the 2nd and 3rd weekends of March and Ron has led this ride for the past seven years. Pencil it in your 2011 calendar and find out what all the talk is about.

In Search of The Apple Blossom Trail

by Mike Wascak

Back in the early 90's, I had the privilege of riding a Poker Run sponsored by the Blue Ridge Road Riders of Maryland. The route started in Frederick, MD and ended in Hallam, PA. I loved the route to say the least. There were miles of back roads that went through apple orchard country. The blossoms were on the trees and it looked spectacular! I called the route "the apple blossom trail". Sadly, I had lost the documented route when my computer was stolen while visiting Las Vegas. I wanted to find the route and document it for future rides. Since the route started in Maryland, I called on my good friend and PARR member, Ed Bugash, to join me.

On the morning of March 20th, Ed and I met for breakfast at the Mountain View Diner in Frederick. It was my first visit to this diner and I'm happy to report that it's a "keeper". After a satisfying breakfast, we headed north through the Catocin Mountain via some twisty byways. I was in search of a particular portion of the route which began in Waynesboro, PA. Once in Waynesboro, we headed north on Old Forge Road and through portions of the Michaux State Forest. To my surprise I was remembering the roads and making all the right turns. Nothing had changed in the past 15 years except for the South Mountain Store (a planned rest stop) which had

closed. Strong evidence indicated that it has been closed for quite a while, possibly a few years. After a brief stop we continued on.

I used MS Streets and Trips to do my preplanning for this ride. I was impressed by how accurate the mileages were compared with my odometer.

We used Route 233 through Michaux Forest then headed eastward, beginning with Shippensburg Road. This is where the meat of the route started but that doesn't mean roads up to this point were not scenic. They were! All the routes were great motorcycling roads! But now we hit apple tree country. Wenksville Road, Coon Road, Cloverdale Road, Mill Road were just a few of the outstanding back country roads through the apple orchards. Still heading eastward, we crossed Route 15 which came as a surprise to Ed. The rather familiar Route 15 seemed to pop out of nowhere. I was happy to show Ed roads that he had not ridden previously. More back roads such as Latimore Valley Road, Lake Meade Road and Germany Road, eventually led us into East Berlin. the end of the Apple Blossom Trail.

Satisfied that we had found all the right routes, we celebrated with a late lunch at Rocco's before heading back. The lateness of the day prevented us from trying some unfamiliar, less traveled, routes back to Frederick. That will be another project for another nice day. I'm looking forward to riding the Apple Blossom Trail when the blossoms arrive. It would be a great PARR ride!



End of the Apple Blossom Trail
Rocco's Pizza, East Berlin, PA