



Spoke 'N Word

Page 1

Page 2

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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Issue 010

Website: PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org

January 2010

A New Year!

A very Happy New Year to one and all!! I hope that all of you had a most memorable holiday season filled with good times and good feelings. That has certainly been the case for me and my lovely wife, Lynn. The snow was quite a surprise and it was nice to have a white Christmas for a change. Legend has it that a white Christmas ensures a prosperous New Year. Let's hope there is some truth to that.

Now that the winter solstice has passed, we can take comfort in the fact that the days (daylight hours) will begin to get longer. We only need to wait out January and February before the spring thaw begins in March. Before you know it, the riding season will be upon us once again. But don't waste the days. There's a lot you can do to enjoy motorcycling during the winter doldrums. I'd like to mention a few ways I enjoy motorcycling while not exactly motorcycling.

I subscribe to several motorcycle magazines. I usually browse through them except during the winter months when I read them from cover to cover while sitting at Starbucks sipping my favorite latte.

Another thing I enjoy is a little



"wrenching" on my bike. Winter is the time to do those needed repairs along with cleaning and polishing those not-too-easy-to-get-at places where the sun don't shine. Changing the brake fluid and the contents of the radiator is a good thing to do every year or so. How about just going over your bike with a fine tooth comb (not literally but you know what I mean). Check all the lights, tighten all those loose bolts, check the condition of all the exposed belts, hoses, chains, etc. and don't forget to check for leaks. Spending time on your motorcycle during the winter months will ensure a good start of your riding season.

PARR Holiday Party

DON'T FORGET: The PARR Holiday Party is this month. The party will begin at 6:00 pm Saturday, January 9th at the Hamburger Hamlet Restaurant in Crystal City (Arlington), Virginia. The cost is a mere \$20 per person which covers the buffet, taxes, and gratuity. 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 "Greed" game after dinner. If you want to join in on the fun and laughter, just bring a wrapped gift (one per person). 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 (and maybe more than one person) would want it. You get to watch what happens when someone thinks your "gift" is a treasure.

If you haven't made your reservation, contact Mike Wascak at 571-223-2527.

Motorcycle Show

Maryland State Fairgrounds — Timonium, Maryland
February 12-14, 2010

www.cycleshow.net

[facebook.com/timoniumcycleshow](https://www.facebook.com/timoniumcycleshow)

Phone: (410) 561-7323

Admission Price \$15.00 Adults.

NOTE: \$5.00 off admission coupon available on cycle show website

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, Mike Wascak
Phone: 571-223-2527

Looking Ahead The PARR Riding Season

PARR Board Members have been very busy planning the 2010 riding season. We know our members lead busy lives and getting a heads-up on the ride dates makes planning a little easier. The 2009 riding season was filled with some awesome rides! It's a hard act to follow but we think we put together a great riding season with rides that everyone will enjoy. Here's a sampling:

DAY RIDES

As in the past, our day rides will continue to occur the first Sunday of the month and the third Saturday of each month except in the winter months when unpredictable and unseasonable weather conditions preside. During those months (December thru March), we suggest that you watch the PARR website for rides that will be announced when we hit some good riding weather.

This year we have organized most of our day rides with specific destinations. Here are a few examples:

April 4 — Jamestown, VA
 May 4 — Paw Paw Tunnel
 May 15 — GW Birthplace
 June 6 — Orbisonia, PA
 July 17 — Rte 11 Buffet Lunch
 August 1 — Flying Circus
 August 21 — New Market
 Sept 18 — Richmond, VA
 October 3 — Capt Jack's Seafood
 October 16 — Fall Foliage Ride
 Nov 7 — Loudoun County Tour
 Nov 20 — Open Ride

PARR TOURS (Multi-day rides)

May 29—June 1

Wild, Wonderful West Virginia

This ride will take you on some of the best back country roads that West Virginia has to offer. Overnights will be in Morgantown and Monterey.

June 25—28

Endless Mountain Tour

This year's annual Endless Mountain Tour will lead us to Garret

County, Maryland, the resort town of Deep Creek Lake. We'll also explore some of the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. Highlights will include Wisp, Seven Springs Resort, Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Falling Water, and the Flight 93 National Memorial.

July 16—18 Prison Ride

The July tour will be an interesting and unique ride as we are led into West Virginia for a three day tour of an abandoned incarceration facility.

Aug 20—23 Niagara Falls, Canada

This 4-day ride will take us on some great back roads in Pennsylvania as we make our way to the famous Niagara Falls on the Canadian side. You will get to see the Falls up close as we ride the "Maid of the Mist" at the bottom of the falls.

Sept 24—26 Cass, West Virginia

Participants on this ride will enjoy the back roads and twisties through Virginia and West Virginia. Riders will get the chance to ride one of the last of the famous Shay Locomotive trains to the top of Bald Mountain.

Oct 16—17 Fall Foliage Ride

The Fall Foliage Ride is one of the hallmarks of the PARR riding season. Our ride leader will take the group through the hills and mountains of Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia to enjoy the splendor of this colorful time of the year.

NOTE: *PARR overnight ride tours consist of two-to-four day rides of anywhere between 400-1200 miles per tour. These rides are limited to PARR members only. PARR's ultimate goal is to provide a safe, enjoyable riding experience. In an effort to ensure the safety of participants on our overnight rides, additional standards must be met. These standards will be addressed in the near future in the PARR website and in the next issue of the Spoke 'N Word.*

Club Officer Profile

This month we highlight our **Road Captain, Tom Southard**. As the Road Captain some of Tom's responsibilities include overseeing all club riding activities and ensuring all standing and perspective members are instructed in club riding rules and formations.

Tom began riding motorcycles at the age of 15. The first bike he rode was his mother's (that's right, his mother's) 1970 Honda CL100. Over the years he rode many different bikes until in 1981 when he purchased a Honda GL500 Silver Wing.

In 1983 while he was riding his CX500 to Cape May, NJ, he was traveling over a Humpback Bridge and struck a car that was left abandoned just over the crest of the bridge. He shattered his right arm, left ankle, left leg and had a double concussion (even while wearing a helmet). This began an 18 year hiatus from motorcycles (brought on by strong suggestions from his wife and the birth of his first daughter).

In the spring of 2002 Tom was approaching his 30-year retirement from the military, as a present to himself he bought a new Kawasaki Vulcan Nomad 1500. He took three weeks leave, and then proceeded to fulfill a lifelong dream of riding to California and back.

Tom enjoys finding different roads to ride, some members of the club say that he has a GPS in his head. He has lead rides to Pittsburg, PA, Cleveland, OH, several to upstate Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia., and Birmingham, Ala. During the summer of 2010 he plans on a week long trip to New England.

Tom has made a considerable contribution to the club over the past several years. Many of our club members have had first hand experience of Tom's expertise in locating new and exciting roads for the club. Being the Road Captain is not an easy task. PARR has been most fortunate to have Tom leading the way on many of our rides.