



# Spoke 'N Word

Newsletter of the Potomac Area Road Riders

Editor: Mike Wascak

Issue 014

Website: [PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org](http://PotomacAreaRoadRiders.org)

May 2010

## It All Begins This Month

**PARR is the "premier touring club of the greater Washington, D. C. area.** That's how we advertise our motorcycle club. After many years of hosting Poker Runs for the motorcycling population in our area, we are now focused on club riding, particularly overnight rides (aka Endless Mountain Tours). This month we begin our touring adventures for the 2010 motorcycling season. Deadlines are approaching for the first three tours.

Our first tour, **Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia** departs on May 29th and returns on June 1st. Time is running short to get in on this tour.

The deadline for our second tour, the **Laurel Highlands of PA and Garrett County, Maryland** is May 16th.

Out August ride, the **Moundsville State Prison and the TransAtlantic Lunatic Asylum** in West Virginia has a deadline of June 16th.

Don't miss out on these fantastic, low-cost tours. All have been carefully planned and pack maximum fun and exceptional riding.

## PARR Annual Dues

Just a reminder, if you haven't already done so, please pay your yearly dues of \$24. You can pay with cash, check, or paypal. By attending 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.

## Reminder: 1st Sunday Ride Meeting Location

This is a reminder that we have a new meeting place for the 1st Sunday Rides. The location is **McDonald's Restaurant at the intersection of Route 123 (Dolly Madison Blvd) and Old Dominion Drive (just behind J. Gilbert's Restaurant)**. Please keep in mind that there will be times when the meeting location will not be ideal for where the ride is going. It is always a good idea to check the PARR website for any changes that may occur. We try and post the changes at least several days prior to the ride. You can also contact any club officer for details.

The third Saturday Ride meeting place remains unchanged.

## New Member Spotlight — Ted Blofeld —

We'd like to extend a hearty welcome to our newest member of PARR, Ted Blofeld, who was voted in during the April business meeting. Ted is originally from Woodbridge, Virginia. He loves his home town so much that he still lives there where he owns a small auto repair shop and also works on motorcycles as a side line. Ted began riding dirt bikes at a young age and has been riding every since. Today he rides a Harley Streetglide and also owns a 2003 Screamin Eagle Duce that he rides occasionally. Before joining PARR Ted was the planner for most day trips with his riding friends and he also planned week-long trips for the past six years with his wife. They've ridden to Yosemite, Yellowstone, Lake Tahoe, Grand Canyon, the Grand Tetons, and the New England area. He joined PARR to meet new riding friends and hopefully to find more back roads to ride. When asked about the style of riding he prefers, Ted stated that he enjoys the mountains and crooked roads – no superslabs. Looks like he joined the right club. Welcome Ted!

## Multi-Day Ride Tours

**Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia**  
May 29—June 1

**Laurel Highlands, PA / Garrett Co. MD**  
June 25—28

**Moundsville State Prison and the TransAtlantic Lunatic Asylum, WV**  
July 16—18

**Poconos / Mohonk Mtn Resort**  
August 20—23

**Cass, West Virginia**  
September 24—26

**Fall Foliage (VA, MD, WV)**  
October 16—17

See PARR Website for details or contact any club officer for information.

## 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 McDonald's 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

### Motorcycling Tidbits

(NOTE: The following info comes from the Washington Post, April 22, 2010.)

After rising steadily for nearly a dozen years to set a record in 2008, the number of people killed nationally in motorcycle accidents dropped dramatically last year. There was no ready explanation for the drop. The speculation included that the economy was keeping motorcyclists off the road, that 42% drop in new motorcycle sales last year resulted in fewer novice riders and the publicity about deaths had heightened the awareness of both motorcyclists and motorists.

The number of fatalities dropped 38% in the District, 26% in Maryland, and 13% in Virginia.

In soliciting data for the report, GHSA asked state and safety agencies to articulate the reasons for the decline.

Several responses pointed to the economy and underscored that a significant portion of motorcycling is for recreation rather than transportation.

There us a finite supply of potential motorcyclists and many of those jumped on the bandwagon in the last five years. There just aren't as many potential new riders as there were.

Another suggested greater awareness by other drivers. Motorcyclists came to be an expected part of the daily traffic mix.

The profile of motorcyclists and the machines they are riding has changed markedly in recent decades. The boomer generation embraced motorcycling in the 1960's until it came time to settle down and raise families, but they have returned to their bikes now that their children are grown.

The average motorcyclist is a little more affluent than the average American. In 1985, the median age of a motorcyclist was 27. By 2003 that age had risen to 41. The average machine has grown more powerful. In just one five-year period, 1998 to 2003, the number of cycles with engines rated at 750CC or above increased 54% to almost 5 million.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Jamestown, VA April Ride Report by Tom Southard

Chet Phillips led a ride to Historic Jamestown, VA . Riders included Chet, Paul Flynn, Ted Blofeld and myself. The ride left from "Toms Diner" in Manassas, VA. We traveled familiar roads to Fredericksburg, where we picked up Route 301. While 301 has some gentle ups and downs, Paul commented on how straight it was.

Upon arriving at Historic Jamestown, Chet was able to use his National Parks pass to get everyone into the park. We were too late to go on a guided tour, but were able to link up with one in progress. After leaving Jamestown we proceeded to the well - known **Pierces BBQ** for lunch.

The return trip took us up route 64 and route 33 to West Point, VA, where we crossed the York River. The next turn was highway 14 in Shacklesford, VA. A lot of people feel that there are not any good motorcycle roads east of route 95 in Virginia, but our riders were pleasantly surprised to find beautiful, easy twisties through the rolling hills of this portion of eastern Virginia. We continued this route to Fredericksburg, and Route 1 where the riders broke off in Woodbridge.

### The Apple Blossom Trail May 2nd Ride Report by Mike Wascak

Last month, Ed Bugash and I successfully mapped out what we dubbed as the Apple Blossom Trail. It began in Thurmont, MD and meandered into Pennsylvania through apple orchard country. It became the official **1st Sunday in May** Ride.

Our 7-member group began our ride at Eunice's Restaurant located on route 15 just north of Frederick, MD. We began the ride under sunny skies with temps in the 70's.

After enjoying a wonderful breakfast, even meeting the owner, we headed north to Pen Mar.

A survey of our group surfaced the

fact the our newest PARR member, Ted Blofeld, had never been to High Rock. Since we were headed in that direction anyway, we treated him to one of the greatest views in the area.

As we headed northeast via winding roads, clouds began to roll in and raindrops began to fall. We experienced this very light rain all the way to East Berlin, PA. Thankfully, the rain **was not** enough to bother putting on rain suits.

We missed the apple blossoms by about 2 weeks but the roads through the apple blossom territories were still very enjoyable. Since we last rode the trail, PA decided to make some minor repairs to the road. Our ride soon became a **"skills building"** ride as we dodged around wet surfaces and loose, graveled pothole repairs. I am happy to say that our group passed the skills test with flying colors.

Once in East Berlin sunny skies prevailed once more and we stopped and enjoyed the outdoor eating facility of **Hog Wild** restaurant. A great stop!!

As we headed back home, sans rain, our progress was impeded by a truck parade along route 30. Not sure what it was about but it seemed to attract a lot of lookers lined up along the highway.

Once in Frederick, we enjoyed Italian Ices at Rita's Ice Cream Stand. We owe this little "sure to be revisited by PARR" find to Ed Bugash who visits the establishment often. We can all see why. After that, it was an easy ride back home. What an enjoyable day!



The Apple Blossom Trail Riders high above the valley at High Rock