



N.J. RETREADS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March / April 2021



EMERGING FROM COVID

RIDE TIMES / PLACES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Regional restaurants are open for dining but remain at restricted capacity. Rules should ease as we move along. This newsletter contains a normal Sunday / Wednesday schedule . It is tentative, based on our current knowledge. It could change any time.

WATCH FOR POP-UPS

Weather from late winter thru spring can swing wild. To maximize riding opportunities we utilize the POP-UP RIDE. Remain flexible, and monitor our email blasts and Facebook posts for last-minute changes and riding opportunities.

THINK SPRING !

IN THIS ISSUE

- Emerging from COVID
- Winter Riding with Steve
- Membership Renewal Time
- March & April Birthdays
- Welcome New Members
- Expectations in Riding
- Membership Milestones
- Sharing a Painful Lesson
- Our Latest Schedule
- Handy Stuff

Let's ride!

**R. Denny Blew
NJ State Director**



2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2021 ARE OVERDUE

Renew your Retreads membership now. SEE PAGE 3 for your printable membership form. We thank you for getting it done!



WINTER RIDING

It may be
Burrrrrific,
but
It might be
Terrific!

STEVE ASKS



HOW ABOUT A WINTER RIDE?

I've always ridden in the cold as I feel as if I'm missing out during the coldest months. Truth be told I really enjoy it!

Maybe it's that you feel like you have a little more soul than those people in their cars, or who winterize. There's something fun about waddling into a diner or store in all your gear and seeing the looks you get from strangers. Most have that *You must be nuts!* look.

Truth is that in reality, proper dress and simple no nonsense precautions are ninety percent of what you need. Good warm gear and self-awareness of your situation go a long way. Most of us have been out there and suffered the debilitating effects of cold. This can be very dangerous as it's much like hypoxia from altitude sickness.

Although many of us use heated gear, I wear many layers, and good quality gear to keep me warm and safe. Writing this on 1-30-21, I was out today with three other Retreads and had a great time. When we stopped after an hour for our comfort stop I made sure to check the other riders for any signs that the 25 degree temps were causing issues with their possible safety. Road conditions are always a concern in freezing temps also.

The bottom line for me is with proper precautions and an eye for safety there's little reason not to go out and have a good day. I'm not the type to winterize or be overly concerned about road salts etc. It washes off. I'm trying to keep my fun/work ratio in good standing, after all. For those of us who hate staring out the window I often suggest a winter beater bike for when roads are salty. You may be surprised what you can find for little investment. A great winter ride followed by a warm beverage in my favorite chair at home is a really satisfying day to me.

Hope to see you out there!

Steve

Steve Gallagher

NJ Retreads Assistant State Director

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856-297-4141

Steve and
Claudine



SUNDAY BREAKFASTS**February 28**

Elmer Diner, Rt. 40, Elmer

March 7

Point 40 Diner, Rt. 40 & Rt. 77, Pole Tavern

March 14 (Daylight Savings Time)

Bridgeton Family Diner, 825 N. Pearl St.

March 21

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

March 28 (Palm Sunday)

Elmer Diner, Rt. 40, Elmer

WEDNESDAY BREAKFASTS**March 3**

Elmer Diner, Rt. 40, Elmer

March 10

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

March 17 (St. Patrick's Day)

Point 40 Diner, Rt. 40 & Rt. 77, Pole Tavern

March 24

Elmer Diner, Rt. 40, Elmer

March 31

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

Ride Schedules —Weather Permitting , Rides Leave After All Breakfasts

Sunday - 8:00AM (Ride leaves at 9:00 am) Wednesday - 8:00 AM (Ride leaves at 9:00 am)

SUNDAY BREAKFASTS**April 4** (Easter Sunday)

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

April 11

Point 40 Diner, Rt. 40 & Rt. 77, Pole Tavern

April 18

Bridgeton Family Diner, 825 N. Pearl St.

April 25

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

May 2

Elmer Diner, Rt. 40, Elmer

WEDNESDAY BREAKFASTS**April 7**

Elmer Diner, Rt. 40, Elmer

April 14

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

April 21

Silver Coin Diner, Rt. 30 & 54, Hammonton

April 28

Point 40 Diner, Rt. 40 & Rt. 77, Pole Tavern

May 5

Pegasus Diner, Rt. 40 & 47, Malaga

Southern New Jersey Retreads Application / Renewal

Retreads Motorcycle Club International, Inc., AMA Charter 3233

[Please Print Clearly]

Date _____ Renewal or New Member? _____ Sponsored By _____

Applicant (print) _____ Co-Applicant _____

IMPORTANT: MUST BE SIGNED BY APPLICANT AND CO-APPLICANT, IF ANY

By voluntarily applying for membership, I understand that the Retreads cannot assume responsibility for any aspect of my safety. I understand the sport of motorcycle riding has an inherent safety hazard. I also understand that my participation in any Retread activity is strictly voluntary, and further, I release and hold harmless the Retreads from any loss to my person or property.

Applicant (sign): _____ **Co-Applicant:** _____

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE COMPLETE

(not necessary for renewing a memberships except for reason of making changes)

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phones _____ Email _____

Applicant Birthday ____/____/____ Co-Applicant ____/____/____

If you're an AMA member give number: Applicant _____ Co-Applicant _____

Occupation _____ Co-Applicant _____

Make of Motorcycle(s) _____

Other MC club affiliations _____

Please return application and remittance to:

Jim Dougherty — 244 Clarkstown Road, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

\$25 couple or \$20 single amount enclosed —> \$ _____

Please make check payable to: New Jersey Retreads MC

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Without question, our one and only strength is our Retread members. We wish to say thank you to all our members: present and past officers, ride leaders, helpers and our participants, and to acknowledge those with upcoming birthdays, that they enjoy a today, and many, many more!

MARCH

3 Robert Merriel
5 Sandy Lisicki
7 Millie Josephsen
7 Carolyn Kohl
11 Dale Beloff
15 Millie Rance
16 Howard Abbot
19 James Wells
20 Roy Earp
20 Bill Robb
27 Hector Vasquez
29 Patricia Moore

MARCH

29 Ernest Phillips
31 Keith Silva

APRIL

3 Ed Fox
5 Shirley Owens
5 Gavin Webster
10 Martha Okler
13 David Bye
19 Alice Dougherty
20 Carol Capua
22 Michael Darraugh

APRIL

25 Alice Guinta
26 Marc Williams
27 Bruce Anderson
27 Dolores Seeger
27 Ray Weise
28 Bernard Guido
29 James Dougherty





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marc Williams of
Whitting, NJ

Steve Stepp Sr.
of Pitman, NJ

Dennis Fariello of
Philadelphia, PA



Old school,
New school
Everyone is
Welcome!

RIDE DEPARTURES

In addition to this newsletter, our Facebook page, "Retreads of South Jersey" carries our most recent schedule of ride departure points and dates.

COOL TIP

Use your digital phone to take a snapshot of the schedule. That way you've always got it close at hand.

NEW MEMBER RIDERS what to expect

SCHEDULED RIDES: Rides are scheduled to run every Wednesday and Sunday, year round, weather pending. These depart from pre-designated diners across south Jersey. A copy of dates and departure points can be found in this newsletter.

RIDE LEADERS: We have a number of experienced ride leaders. On any given day, between one and three different planned routes may be available from which to choose.

TYPICAL DAY RIDES: Are within region (NJ,PA,DE,MD), on average a 75 mile radius from departure point. We shoot for a pleasurable ride plus comfort and a lunch stops, then head homeward in the afternoon. A typical ride day is about 150 miles round trip; some a little longer, some a little shorter.

RIDING STYLE: Motorcycling has risks. We respect the protocols established by the NJ State Police MotorCops. That is *staggered formation* and the *two-second rule*. This means no side-by-side riding, and allowing a two second gap between you and the bike in front. Please request an explanation.

YOU DECIDE: At all times for any reason, you are free to bow out from a ride. No pressure. You are never locked into participating in or finishing any ride. You are responsible for your ride, your abilities, your protective wear, your comfort level and the condition of your gear and bike.

DEPARTURE TIME: A 9am departure time is strictly followed because ride leaders have planned specific comfort and lunch stops. It's KSU (Kick Stands Up) at 9am. That means you are geared up, gassed up, dressed up, and your engine fired up at 9am sharp.

PRE-RIDE BREAKFASTS: You are welcome to enjoy a pre-ride breakfast and good conversation at your departure point. While there is no set time, most find that 8am affords enough of a window to eat and prepare for the 9am start. If you choose to skip breakfast, that's cool: just arrive no later than 8:45am.

POP-UP RIDES: Our primary determining factor for riding is weather. In order to work around extreme temperatures or precipitation we may choose to ride on days additionally to (or other than) a Wednesday or Sunday. Any member at any time is free to plan and call for a Pop-Up Ride of his/her own making. Please inquire if you are interested in doing a Pop-Up Ride. Officer names and numbers are listed in this newsletter.

RALLIES and OVERNIGHT EXCURSIONS: We also participate in rallies for our Retreads organization in other states, as well as other independent motorcycle events. Numerous long distance rides ranging from one to seven overnights may be available throughout the year. These will be announced in advance.

WE ARE ABOUT RIDING, FUN & FRIENDSHIP

WE WELCOME YOU !

Denny Blew and all the staff congratulate those members who have supported the Southern New Jersey Retreads Motorcycle Club for so many years. Thank You !



Membership Milestones - 2021



5 Years plus

Gary and Jeanette Jones
George Jr. and Judy Robinson
Steve Black
Jeff and Cindy DiStefano
Doug and Rosemary Meeker
Scott and Katie Rink

- * Dominique Shterban and Yardley Costa
- * Myron and Alma Fegley
- * Fred Jennings
- * Manuel Lugo
- * Frank Patterson
- * Bill and Mary Platania

10 Years plus

Larry Innis/ Connie Frie
Al and Candace Swiger
Wayne Mullin
Tom Meinke
Carl Murphy
Danny and Dot Pinto
Ron Caporale
Frank and Diane Impagliazzo
Ernie and Kimberly Phillips

- * Bruce Bermel and Pam Jurga
- * Frank Panetta

15 Years plus

Gordon and Pat Moore
Bob(Curley) and Gail Pearson
Jim and MaryAnn Blymer
Jim and Alice Dougherty
John Stampa
Robert and Linda Hullfish

- * Bob and Diana Easterday
- * Candy Kohl

20 Years plus

Gavin and Nancy webster
Sam and Dale Beloff
Ray Gangluff
Fred and Millie Josephsen
Jim and Andi Wells
Paul and Alice Giunta
Paul 'Rit' Ritter

- * Joe Galante

25 Years plus

Stan and Sigrid Ware
Ray and Carol White
Al and Sandy Lisicki
Tom and Lois Murray
* Bud Hughes and Martha Okler

30 Years plus

Pat Moore

- * Bob and Chris Bennett
- * Gary and Barb Jones

35 Years plus

Tom Keller
Tom Davies
John Lex Jr.
Robert and Nancy Merriel

- * Bruce and Clare Anderson
- * Millie Rance

NOTES:

An (*) asterisk indicates a change in category.

Many members fall into the 'plus' portion in each Milestone category. (i.e. A member with 19 years membership will fall into the 15 + category until the 20th year.)

40 Years plus

Spy and Maggie Voutsinas
(Currently 44 years)

NOTE: This accomplishment is only achieved by a handful of members throughout the Retreads Organization ! *Congratulations*

About the time I turned 50, I learned a painful lesson about growing older. While this experience wasn't pleasant, it taught me that I had been foolish to put-off doing the things I dreamed of (such as riding a motorcycle). This is the story of that experience.



The Year of the Knife

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The Chinese have a word for it. *Hu nian cai dao* the Year of the Knife. We already had the *Year of the Dog* and the *Year of the Dragon* and the *Year of the Fish* and the ear of the corn. But this year was to be ***The Year of the Knife.***

It was in spring, as the babbling brook cascaded in rivulets over smooth brown stones while flowers lusted to push forth their heady fragrance to drape once more like a lover over lush green banks as robins sang sweet stanzas that I found myself strewn across an examination table, doing a bit of noise-making myself. She prodded my body, when, as her soft hands descended beneath my groin, finally, yes, finally reaching the point of her ultimate destination, she squealed

"Mmmmm, that's a big one!"

I'm like, "Huh?"

"Yup, a mighty big hernia down there. And it's gotta be repaired. Pronto!"

"But won't that *hurt*, Doc?"

"Nahh, I've seen bigger hernias. This one's only about the size of a grapefruit."

"A *grapefruit*?" I yelled.

"Yeah you know, a grapefruit. Like a Florida, ruby red, November vintage."



Next thing I knew I lay on hospital bed staring south of my belly button at a dozen staples zippering an 8" scar. I spent the next month in an easy chair, (not that there was anything easy about it). My wife kept checking on me.

"Don't you have to go to the bathroom yet?"

"Nahh." I said. "I'm waiting for the pain to plummet to excruciating levels."

Such would set the tone of the annum, thereby establishing this slice of history as ***The Year of the Knife.***

Boating season arrived and although I generally avoid boats, except banana boats which I enjoy weekly at Tubby's Corner Custard, I was on the receiving end of an experience that *rocked* my boat. My ears had plugged up. The specialist suggested *lancing* as a means of getting my ears to drain.

"Lancing? Doesn't that *hurt*, Doc?"



"No, not to worry, my vunderful man. It eeez not like I am going to jam any-ting big as a grapefruit into your ear. Besides, it vill be over in just a few seconds."

Turned out he was right. It was reminiscent of the San Francisco earthquake, which also was over in a few seconds. He bayoneted that barbed scalpel through my eardrum and I registered a 10.7 on the Richter scale. My brain heaved, buckled, and crumbled to a mass of jellied debris. Two weeks later the same problem reoccurred and I returned to him. He pondered for a moment. Then, his eyes threw open wild, and with a sadistic blood-lusting snicker *a la* Bela Lugosi, he toothed in his Transylvanian dialect,

"Oh vell, ve'll just have to implant tubes into your ears."

"Tubes? Won't they *hurt*, Doc?"

"Don't worry, my beautiful friend. "Za tubes are smaller dan grapefruits."

He and his assistant, Igor, tied me down to a stretcher, stabbed my forearm with an enormous needle. Then the doctor said,

“Ahh, there you go, my sanguine friend, this eez a little formula I brewed up to help you relax. Relax. Yes, that’s it. Relaxxxxx. Now I vunt you to count back-vards from one hundr “

Next thing I knew I awoke with stuff stuffed in my ears and more time to spend with my new buddy, the easy chair. He and I were beginning to bond.

Then in late summer my back problems flared up to a point just slightly hotter than fire. The neurosurgeon said I had multiple herniated disks. And that there was so much compression on my spine that one quick move could kill me. I assured him I hadn’t made a quick move since the Carter Administration and wasn’t planning any additional quick moves for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, he insisted they remove the vertebrae, then fill the gap by harvesting a chunk of bone from my hip, carving it up and inserting it through the aforementioned slice in my neck.

“A *double* operation? Won’t that *hurt*, Doc?”

“Relax.” He said compassionately. (*Relax* seems to be a favored phrase, employed by the medical industry to gull a person who is about to receive an extremely large dose of pain into thinking that it really won’t hurt until it does.)

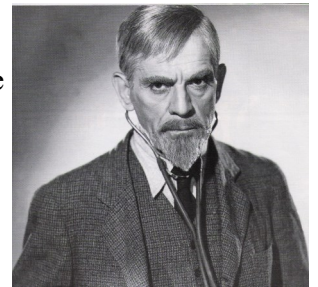
“Relax.” He said. “The bone we chop outta your hip and cram in through your throat isn’t much larger than a grapefruit.”

Once having comforted me, they wheeled me into an operating room. Looking about me I noted a plethora of strange looking contraptions that would serve fittingly as stage props for a Frankenstein movie. I can see it now in lights on the marquee

‘Frankenstein Gets Back Surgery’

‘Frankenstein versus the Insurance Giant’

‘Abbott and Costello Meet The Neurosurgeon’



I jested as much to the Doc. He hid his monstrous appreciation of my humor under his academy award winning impression of a Boris Karloff hypnosis-stare.

Actually there was a delightful part to the experience. It was the initial morphine haze my first day home. I took a walk. Boasted about the office. And informed everyone that my operation was a breeze. They were all so proud of how I handled it.

Then the morphine wore off.

I went crying back to my old pal, the easy chair.

“Where have you and your butt been lately?” The chair said to me. “When you were here before, you left such a huge impression.”

(I tell you, this easy chair was more of a conversationalist than most members of my family.)

But all said and done, I recovered, and it was nice to see closure to *The Year of the Knife*. I give credit to my wife who took care of me through it all, barring her occasional doses of psychological abuse. She got up each morning to fix the invalid something to eat.

“What’s for breakfast, Babe?”

“Grapefruit!” She said, with a devilish look in her eye.

I will forgive her someday.

Always laugh when you can. It’s cheap medicine.

HANDY STUFF

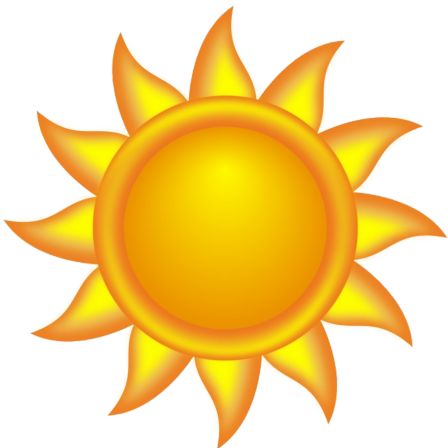
COMMUNICATE !

CB Radio is our means of road-communications. We use CBs to report mechanical problems, need of a stop, road hazards ahead, a separation of the group, and you might even hear a good joke. A CB provides safety, comfort, information, geniality, and an all-around better experience. It's not required but it makes your trip more pleasurable. By the way, you'll find us on channel 32.



E Z PASS

This is another handy tool for motorcycle riders. It saves time, helps keep the group together at tolls, and beats having to dig money out of your pocket at the booth. An EZ Pass is not required for riding with the Retreads, but it sure can make your ride a little easier.



SUNSHINE CLUB

Jim and Andi Wells will graciously send well-wishes to any member or member family experiencing illness or hardship. But you must notify them by email : jrw31948@aol.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

"Retreads of South Jersey"

CLUB OFFICERS

R. Denny Blew, State Director
Steve Gallagher, Asst. State Director
Jim Dougherty, Membership Officer
James Wells, Past State Director
Sam Beloff, Past Asst. State Director

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