



NJ Retreads Motorcycle Club

Newsletter for **NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2023**

Early Winter 2023

FRESH RIDE SCHEDULE, page 2

!!! All rides now depart 9am !!! ----->



HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY PARTY, page 3
Reserve Now - space is limited

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, page 4 ----->

We need your John Hancock



<-- VESPAS TO WINGS, page 6 -->
Steve says size doesn't matter



SMILES & SMILES TO GO, page 7 -->

Everywhere you go, take a smile along



To Prospective Members

We are an easy-going group of motorcyclists who do day rides throughout the local tri-state areas. We ride Wednesdays and Sundays, year round, as long as roads are dry. All brands are welcome. We ask little more than your good company and a nominal annual dues. If you are age 40 and above, we invite you to join us. Read the contents herein to see the simplicity of what we are about.

Nov-Dec
Ride Schedule
all rides depart 9am

SUNDAY

November

5 Point 40

12 Vincentown

19 Harrison House

26 Elmer

December

3 Point 40

10 Pegasus

17 Malaga

24 Mays Landing

WEDNESDAY

November

1 Point 40

8 Pegasus

15 Malaga

22 Mays Landing

29 Point 40

December

6 Vincentown

13 Harrison House

20 Elmer

HANDY TIP - Take a screen shot with your phone

BREAKFAST - Arrive an hour prior to departure

FUEL - Fuel up prior to departure time

BIRTHDAYS

November

11/2 Frank Patterson

11/4 Larry Innis

11/7 Jack Nestor

11/11 Alma Fegley

11/12 Gordon Moore

11/15 Joann Theiss

11/17 Diane Impagliazzo

11/17 Rosemary Meeker

11/29 Bruce Levinthal

11/30 Cindy Brining

11/30 Robert Visconti

December

12/3 Gary Jones

12/4 Lisa Kolb

12/11 Bill Platania

12/14 Carl Kuni

12/14 Dorothy Pinto

12/18 Phil Bitter

12/19 JoAnn Becker

12/22 Roger Anderson

12/22 George Robinson Jr

12/22 Carol White

12/23 Gary Grzyb

12/28 Steve Gallagher

12/30 Kevin Kolb

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Rob Brining, Burlington
Cindy Brining, Burlington

Wayne Sikorski, Mt. Laurel

2023 New Jersey Retreads Holiday Party sign-up form

A great day with fellow Retreads and friends to be enjoyed on Saturday, December 2nd in a private room at Vineland's premier restaurant, Maplewood III. Ken Esposito and staff are well-respected for serving fine Italian food. Several choices will be available.

This is a sit-down, three-course, full dinner at \$34 per person.
Cash bar open at 12:30pm / dinner served 1-2pm.



Seating limited to room capacity of 54

Verbal reservations not accepted

Name attending _____

Name attending _____

Enclosed \$ _____ *[# in party x \$34]*

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM - DO NOT HAND CARRY

Make check payable to NJ Retreads, include remittance then mail to our membership officer:

David Somers — 35 N. Smith Bowen Rd, Galloway, NJ 08205

NJ Retreads 2024 — Renewal for EXISTING MEMBER

Retreads Motorcycle Club International, Inc. - AMA Charter 3233

Join now and get it done

Member _____ Co-Member _____ Date ____/____/____

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED - 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: _____

(Note—We have your contact info on file. If anything has changed, make note on reverse side.)

Return application / payment to: David Somers - 35 N. Smith Bowen Road, Galloway, NJ 08205
\$25 couple / \$20 single amount enclosed → \$_____ Please make payable to: NJ Retreads MC

NJ Retreads 2024 — NEW APPLICANT

Retreads Motorcycle Club International, Inc. - AMA Charter 3233

New Applicant _____ Co-Applicant _____ Date ____/____/____

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phones _____ Email _____

Applicant Birthdate ____/____/____ Co-Applicant ____/____/____ AMA Member?#s? _____

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED - 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: _____

Return application / payment to: David Somers - 35 N. Smith Bowen Road, Galloway, NJ 08205
\$25 couple / \$20 single amount enclosed → \$_____ Please make payable to: NJ Retreads MC

Administration Use Only

App Card # Issued _____ Date: ____/____/____ Co-App Card # Issued _____ Date: ____/____/____

TIPS FOR NEW (and all) MEMBERS

SCHEDULES: Rides scheduled every Wed & Sun, year round. In case of bad weather we may do 'pop-up' rides on alternative days. *Stay tuned to social media* for up-to-the-minute news.

KICK STANDS UP (KSU): KSU - Departure times are strictly adhered because of planned routes and stops. Gear up, gas up, and get your engine fired up by the designated departure time. Be advised *we do not waver* from KSU time.

BREAKFASTS: Enjoy an optional pre-ride breakfast at the designated location. Allow an hour extra prior to KSU. Otherwise, arrive 15 minutes prior to KSU time.

RIDE LEADERS: On any day, 1-3 routes may be available. Routes will be announced *following breakfast*. Everyone is free to lead a ride. Choose a route or destination and take us there. We encourage more ride leaders. Speak with an officer or a ride leader to learn more.

COMMON RIDE PROTOCOLS: Motorcycling has risks. Respect the established protocols of the NJ State Police MotorCops. That is *staggered formation* and the *two-second rule*. No side-by-side riding; no passing while in motion; allow a two second time-gap between you and the bike in front. If you do not understand these, we are happy to offer our best explanation.

RIDING WITH YOUR RIDE LEADER and MAKING EVERY RIDE YOUR RIDE: Each ride leader has a style and focus, which could be: scenic, relaxed, destination, twisty, lively, etc. Each has a planned route and destination point in mind. In order to hold the group together, it is requested that riders keep up, and *move as a unit*. If you are uncomfortable with route conditions or a ride-style, exit the ride! It's your right! Then find a ride leader whose style or focus suits you. Or lead a ride yourself. If you're uncomfortable for any reason, there's no pressure, nor need to explain. *At any time for any reason you may bow out of a ride*. Assume responsibility for *your* ride, *your* abilities, *your* protective wear, *your* comfort level and the condition of *your* bike. Make every ride *your* ride. Also, even if you're only available a portion of the day, come ride, and peel off when you want.

*"Sometimes, you find yourself in the middle of nowhere.
And sometimes, in the middle of nowhere, you find yourself." - Unknown*

From Vespas to Wings

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Is a big bike really less fun?

Many people see the big touring bike as a wallowing behemoth that's too big, too heavy Blah Blah Blah. As a man who has had dirt bikes, classic bikes, an antique bike, and who owns 2 full touring bikes, I feel somewhat qualified to have a relevant opinion.



First of all, I love all bikes from the moped to my two full-touring bikes. And most all in-between! And I can't overlook sidecars and trikes because a couple years ago my friend gave me a nice ride in his Polaris Slingshot. It was lots of fun!

Having said all this I've come to the not surprising conclusion that small bikes are just as much fun as big bikes, and vice versa. While lighter bikes are the best bikes to learn on (as they are easier to handle and more forgiving if you make a small mistake), I find the big behemoth bikes more rewarding to ride. Piloting a 900 pound-plus bike loaded with two adults and all our touring gear is a handful to maneuver in tight places. And not so easy to move quickly if a road hazard appears: the more luxury amenities the more weight. On the other hand, they've got more stability over potholes, or in crosswinds. While light bikes flick quickly from side to side, their smaller tires provide less contact patch with the road. I personally find the girth and weight of my touring bikes more comforting. The feeling of heavy weight when asking the big front brake to take you through a 90 degree turn gives a secure feeling of traction, whereas a lighter bike always feels a bit more questionable.

Last Sunday the weather looked both humid and warm, and also threatening thunderstorms. I found myself in New Jersey on that Sunday so I reached out on FB to see if any other riders were willing to dare the iffy forecast. Luckily for me one of our newer members, Serge Kovalev was all in. We met at Pegasus Diner and I (on my Harley) led an easy ride out through Medford, Vincentown, Chatsworth and Wharton State Forest, before getting caught in a small rain cell. Unfortunately for me, most all my summer gear was at my Pennsylvania camper. I'd been made wary of weather all the previous week, having spent a rainy time at the American Voyager Association Rally in New Hampshire. Then, I returned to my Pennsylvania camper and had left my rain gear there before heading back to Jersey. Thus, this left me with only my winter gear back home in Jersey. As it turns out, winter gear keeps you pretty dry in light rain! Honestly I was wishing my old 82 Honda CB900C (currently getting serviced) had been available, as I love that bike on a solo ride. But considering the weather, the Harley really delivered.

So when you're out in questionable weather and just can't stay home, your 800 pound bike handles wet roads well and still delivers a pleasant ride. I think the idea that fun can only be had on a light nimble bike is completely absurd. Trying to master the heavy bike is a challenge but it's also a reward. As a member of Senior Motorcyclists on FB, it pains me to see how many riders consider themselves too old or feeble to keep riding their heavy bikes. I'm not one to judge their decision, and I only wish them well. I hope that for me, that day is yet a very long time away. I'm not afraid to admit that I'll likely end up on a Can Am Spyder someday, but I will do so begrudgingly. Or maybe, as the Spyder won't fall over, I'll buy one of them for the longer tours, while holding onto my big Voyager for day trips.

My advice is to be careful and know that all bikes are fun from Vespas to Gold Wings. Get the training you need, and enjoy your years before you just *wish* you had.

Hope to see you out there
Steve G

SMILES AND SMILES TO GO



2023 OFFICERS

R. Denny Blew, State Director— 856 498 9208 Steve Gallagher, Asst State Director — 856 297 4141
David Somers, Membership Officer — 609 226 2330 Claudine Gallagher, Club Photographer