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Riding Chai BRIEFS FROM AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Columbia resident Michael Blumenfeld and Chris Madairy of Parkton love to ride motorcycles. In fact, they belong to a Jewish cycling club called The Tribe, but they tired of schlepping to the D. C. area to ride with other enthusiasts.

So last March, they decided to form a Baltimore-based riding group, and Baltimore **Yehudim** Riders is now all revved up - and fueled by Judaism.

"We're a knock-off from The Tribe," said Mr. Blumenfeld, a 15-year cyclist. "I liked everything there is about The Tribe, except the drive to D. C. I liked the friendship and focus on Judaism and riding with other Jewish people."

Said Mr. Madairy: "We wanted a riding group that encourages Jewish traditions, values, respect and Torah within the motorcycling environment." He said the group will become involved in the community and perform charitable work through rides, special events and promotion of motorcycle safety.

(Another Jewish motorcycle club, Semites On Bikes, operates in the Baltimore area.) The organization's Web site (BaltimoreYehudimRiders.com) reveals that money is being raised for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Baltimore **Yehudim** Riders also has a link on the Web site of the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore (associated.org).

Currently, the group convenes at Java Mama's in Reisterstown, where they schmooze over coffee before beginning their treks. "Next year, we hope to do the ride to New York" (for the Jewish Motorcycle Alliance "Ride To Remember" fund-raiser for Holocaust education), said Mr. Madairy.

The club's founders are confident their membership will increase as word spreads about the group and its philosophy, said Mr. Madairy, a rider of 23 years. Currently, there are no membership dues.

"I am quite optimistic," he said. "The options in Baltimore have been limited for Jewish motorcyclists."

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