



The Kickstand

July 2006

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

Newsletter Editor: John Fiske (706) 561-3543, email: jfiske1941@bellsouth.net

Business Meeting:

July 10th at 7:00
Piccadilly's in Peachtree
Mall
Eat at 6:30 or earlier.

Board Meeting
To Be Schedule
As needed

Cell: (706) 575-6761

Presidents Message

We would like to have some rain to cool things down a little bit, but not necessarily on our dinner rides. (chuckle) With grandkids out of school some club members are becoming more active on their bikes and we are glad of that case.

Honda Hoot is over, heard it was very hot there, maybe we can get a report from the club members that went to Knoxville. I am sure there was lots of activities for everyone.

Read about our June club ride to West Virginia, we had a blast and found some great roads to tour! We can look forward to our cool breakfast rides and our Full Moon ride coming up soon. Any other ideas for rides at this time of year let someone know so we can get it on the schedule. I am sure there are some fairs we have not attended in years that would be interesting to attend again. Looking forward to seeing more of you on the next rides.

Enjoy, Bob Smith

Announcements

July Birthdays

5th – Donna Murphy
15th – Sonja Boyd
27th – Fred Manzer

July Anniversaries

26th – Larry & Faith Mack
28th – Cornelius & Leslie Smith

Officers:

President: Bob Smith
Tel: (706) 660-8524
Cell: (706) 575-7932

Vice-President: Clete Richardson
Tel: (334) 291-0055
Cell: (706) 289-0055

Ride Chairman: (OPEN)

Treasurer: Mary Fiske
(706) 561-3543

Secretary: Joan Kaplan
Tel: (229) 649-9282
Cell: (706) 392-9282

Public Relations: Earl Cheal
Tel: (706) 563-5677

Deadline for articles to be included in the August Newsletter is Monday, July 31st. Please email articles to: jfiske1941@bellsouth.net

Meeting Presentation

Chris will speak at the August meeting. He has ridden in several different countries and will talk about overseas travel and how you can arrange to ride motorcycles on your trips.

Editors Comment

This month you will notice changes in Newsletter layout from three columns to two. Uneven columns on the first two pages and even sizes where there are only ride descriptions. I would love to have your comment on this layout. Please email me @ jfiske1941@bellsouth.net

July & August Ride Calendar



July 9:

Ride to Cheetah Mt. Excellent day ride to mountains of AL with lunch at the Inn. Leave Phenix City Wal-Mart at 10:00 AM. George will lead.

July 15th – Breakfast in Albany. George will lead this ride departing Miller Rd Burger King at 7:00 A.M.

July 20th – White House Dinner. Susan will lead departing Phenix City Wal Mart at 6:30 P.M.

July 23rd – Picnic Ride. To Providence Canyon departing the Popeye's on Victory Drive at 10:00 A.M.

July 28 - 30 –Camp-in at Curso's Blueridge Motorcycle Campground. Make your reservations now. Contact Clete.

August 2nd – Ice Cream Social at the Carter's. Meet at their house at 7:00 P.M.

August 12 – Mid-night Ride Clete to lead, beginning at TBD & destination TBD.

Long Term Planning Dates

September ??th – 29 Dreams Motorcycle Resort

September 21st–23rd – Wings Over the Smokies

October 1st – Membership Cookout.

October 21st & 22nd – Shrimp Peel.

December 2nd – Christmas Party

Biker's Wisdom

- Sometimes the fastest way to get there is to stop for the night.
- A motorcycle can not sing on the streets of a city.
- People are like motorcycles: each customized a bit differently.

July Safety Message

Environmental Hazards

Riding into the sun may seem scenic in movies, but can be hazardous for a motorcyclist. The glare makes it hard for all motorists to see one another. This might be a good time to plan a break as these conditions increase rider fatigue. But if you must ride into the sun, reduce speed and increase your space cushion. Remember it may be more difficult to see roadway hazards.

Make extra precautions when riding at night. Be visible. Consider wearing a retro-reflective vest. Make sure that all lights are working and your headlight is adjusted properly. Reduce speed and increase your space cushion. Remember that roadway hazards will be more difficult to see at night.

(Copied from MSF handbook)

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Multi-State Ride

Day 1

The wonderfully cool weather with no humidity made great riding through the northern states. We found good bike roads in each state; those little black lines on the map can be spectacular back roads. One was a gray line – still pretty good.

But I must agree with the others the squiggly line (goat trail) under the bridge over the New River Gorge was my worst choice since Eureka Springs!! Better not do that three times in one year or I may get fired.

Wednesday morning we headed to the Lookout Mountain area with 51 degrees and most to put on heavier jackets. We crossed over I-59 and headed up 25 miles west of Chattanooga to connect with #28 and then taking #127 clear up across Tenn. There was hang gliding from some of the ridges along this section, lots of advertising for this.

We stopped at a museum dedicated to the first community built with CCC help during the Depression. Most workers settled in this new town. A beautiful stone tower is at the center of the town. The museum was pretty neat but the State Park was very small. The first night we stayed by Lake Cumberland in

Monticello, KY on #90 with John leading. John & Mary took over the lead while looking for a hotel. After eating supper at a nice family restaurant we explored the area. Found a freshly paved curvy country road. Real nice ride. Then turned left and rode 7-miles to the south side of Lake Cumberland. What a marina & what a lake. Never seen so many large houseboats in one place.

Day 2

Thursday morning, after bypassing Somerset, we took route 39 north, 150 and then 643 to Mary's hometown of Ottenheim, KY. Stopped in to visit with Mary's sister for a

couple of hours. Ate fresh ripe red cherries from the tree as well as picking some raspberries. Went on to Stanford where we had lunch at an old soda fountain drugstore. Met a lady working there who graduated from Baker HS in Columbus.

It was then on to Lancaster and to Berea where Cleto took over the lead. Through the whole trip we saw seven (7) outdoor movie theatres. In fact at one the cars were already lined up in the street waiting entrance and it was only about 6:00 P.M. Beautiful weather the whole trip. What a ride!!

(On a personal note; this was John & Mary's longest ride yet (1771 miles) but lookout in July when we head to New England and New York State.)

After an enjoyable visit with Mary Fiske's Sister, John led us East to Berea, KY, which is on I-75. There I took the lead and continued on Southeast on highway 421. This was a winding mountain road that led to Manchester. There we turned East on Hal Rogers Parkway (formerly Daniel Boone Parkway). This highway is also very scenic with a cruising speed of 60 MPH and continued to lead us deeper into the Appalachian Mountains for about 80 miles, to Prestonsburg (my home town). Along this area we saw many strip mines in various stages. (I am sure most of you are aware of strip mining procedures, which is taking off the top layer of a mountain down to a 'vein' of coal. This would be similar to a two-layer cake, and removing the top cake to expose the icing between the layers.)

Some of these mines were in full production, exposing the top of the mountain that was just torn totally apart as if it had exploded. Also along this area we saw many 'reclaimed' mines. The Government requires that once the mining process is completed that the entire area be reshaped and smoothed. Then the area must be planted to prevent erosion. Many of these reclaimed mines are then used for subdivisions, mobile home parks, even shopping centers. In Hazard one of these reclaimed mines is now the site of a Super Wal-Mart. I also explained the procedure of 'boring' coal. This is similar to using a large drill bit (36 inch??) and drilling horizontal into the side of the mountain. The coal comes out similar to wood shavings when a piece of wood is drilled. There are several of these in the mountain behind my Mothers house.

Soon we arrived at my Mothers and were eager for a rest. We sat on the front porch, talked and rested for approximately 60-90 minutes. While there both Mary Fiske and Faith Mack purchased an oil painting from my Mother. She is a well known local artist but has many paintings scattered throughout the United States. When it was time to leave it was difficult for me to do so after such a short visit.

From there I led us to Pikeville and chose a motel that was under new ownership. (bad decision). Bob enjoyed the stay as the owner had two award winning 57 Chevys. The next morning it was up and 'on the road again' with Bob as the leader.

Day 3

We headed into W. Va. on #119 to right downtown Charleston, picking up #60 going around the

gold domed capitol building – no traffic. This is a very scenic hwy crossing the state running beside a river. At a wide section we came to a 4-foot falls that stretched across the entire river. Wow, what a view. Then crossed the Gauley Bridge. Saw a nice waterfall and took some



pictures with our group. It had rained some in this area the night before so there was quite a flow.

We were running along the New River to the famous bridge over the Gorge.

Ate lunch at the Hawk's Nest SP, very similar to Cheetah SP in Alabama. Great view while you eat. Apparently it sprinkled while we were in the dining room but that is all we saw on the whole trip.

Took in the visitor's center at the longest bridge east of the Mississippi, climbed down the 178 steps to enjoy the view under the bridge. No one knew this would not be the only time we were able to see the foundation of the 980-ft. high bridge. Remember that goat trail?



When we finally got back on a real road we came back across the big bridge and took a county road to get back on scenic #60. Only this is the first time I ever saw a one-lane road accommodating 2-way

traffic. Just a little scary. Chris says it is like that in Ireland. Turned toward Virginia on #20 zigzagging slightly west to Bluefield where we stayed.

Day 4

Found a great road out of Tazewell (#16) which is just as good as Deal's Gap but with no crotch rockets zooming by you. This went by the Hungry Mother SP where we checked out the visitor center. Left there going toward the Mouth of Wisdom – such names in Virginia. Took one of those grey lines (#603) to Damascus where we found a bakery/ ice cream stop, time for coffee and cinnamon rolls.

Then headed for Pigeon Forge for some special shopping, of course even I get lost now and again. Found I was leading our group toward Asheville instead. Oops, had to backtrack on little roads so it turned out to be a nice detour. Cleto lost his alternator on the way to a motel so he & I swapped batteries. Spent the night in Lenoir City.

Day 5

To make a long story short, on the way home we only traded batteries one more time in Cartersville (168 miles later) then came on home on the last charge. Pretty lucky, but did unplug all the fuses except ignition and brake lights, then kept a bike in front and behind him. He couldn't chat on the CB, which was terrible. Ha

Bob, John, Mary, Faith, Larry, Cleto, Gerry

Ride to Work Day

Ride your motorcycle. National Ride to Work Day, which is celebrating its 15th year, is July 19. And it's more than just a way to loosen up before and after your daily grind. It's a way to spread the two-wheeled message.

By riding our motorcycles to work en masse, we can demonstrate our numbers to the public and politicians. And we can show that motorcyclists from all walks of life can reduce traffic and parking congestion.

For more information about Ride to Word Day in general, visit www.ridetowork.org.

Wing Fling

On the way to the meeting place, Welcome Center, I asked Mary "If we are the only ones to show up do you still want to go" and the reply was Yes. To our surprise there were four other bikes waiting on us. At seven o'clock sharp we rode off followed by Jim, Earl, Gerry and the Mack's. Up route 27 to Franklin where we stopped for breakfast, which was well needed by that time. Upon leaving Earl returned home due to family commitments.

The remaining four bikes continued to Rome. I knew that the rally was at the Holiday Inn but not sure just where the Inn was. We turned onto 411 north looking for the Inn. At the first stop light there was an accident in the opposite lane involving a motorcycle. Appeared that the rider was sitting up on the pavement and was put in the ambulance. Appearances can be deceiving, but it looked as though he rear-ended a vehicle. Well, traffic allowed us to finally get through the intersection still looking for the Inn. A short ways down the road it became apparent we missed it so a U-turn was made. Back at the intersection of the accident we spotted the Holiday on the hill to the left but we could not turn left. So it was turn right, make U-turn and then straight through the light.

At the Inn it was park where you could find a spot with no directions or signs pointing to the vendor entrance. Well we found our way and paid our \$10 fee. I was happy to see that there were about twice as many vendors as there was at last years rally. But as someone else pointed out, not sufficient numbers to create any competition among them.

Due to the heat & lack of vendors it did not take long before everyone was ready to leave. We all went in separate directions due to various needs while Mary & I rode home by ourselves.
John F

River Bend

Five o'clock on a hot summer afternoon what else can be expected but thunder showers. Well this past Saturday was no exception. But the hardy assembled at Burger King and at departure time it was raining. Earl had his phone radar on so we waited a few minutes for the heavy part to pass by as well as the arrival of one bike we were advised was on the way.

About 5:30 seven bikes, and two cars departed in a light rain. Some donned rain suits some opting not to. Jumping onto Rt. 85 the rain picked up and we saw two accidents before the four-lane ended. One westbound car had had come across the median ending up on the right shoulder of the east bound lane. The other was also in the westbound lane. All we could see was the car up on the embankment rear-end up perpendicular to the highway. The further east we went the heavier the rain came down.

By the time we reached River Bend by 6:30 the rain had subsided to sprinkles. Everyone parked where they could find the closest spot. We were kept waiting lest than fifteen minutes before being seated. Food was served promptly and everyone had sufficient quantities.



Leaving the restaurant the rain had ended. The return trip was west on route 74 and down 85 through Manchester to Columbus. The rain did not spoil good food and good company.

OH. Failed to mention that we went to River Bend because early that morning it was found out that Sherrano's was closed causing change of plans. Leaving the restaurant we rode past the establishment and it commented that it looked like it was being renovated. Maybe next time.

John

BUSINESS FRIENDS OF VMTA

10% Discount on the **total ticket** to VMTA members with proof of membership.

Sales tax will not be included in the discount. If you need a membership card please contact Mary.

<p style="text-align: center;">Tire King Manchester Expressway</p> <p>Tires/ Alignments/ brakes/ shocks/ struts/ oil service/ wheels/ AC service</p> <p>Ask for Jeremy Hancock or Steve Crenshaw. (Sales tax will not be included in the discount)</p> <p>(706) 324-0444 Manchester Expressway, Columbus</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Get Noticed! Get Lit !!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Express Lites</p> <p>Custom LEDs, Spark Plug Wires & Neons For Motorcycles In Red, Amber, Purple, Blue, Green, white, & Orange <u>Bo Prytula</u> Cell: (706) 563-3085 Email: bo@expresslites.com Web: www.expresslites.com Licensed & Insured</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JVC and Sons Enterprises</p> <p>Jared & Valerie are offering VMTA members a 10% off regular embroidery prices. Email or visit their web site.</p> <p>Email : jvcandsons@mchsi.com Web site: jvcandsons.com</p>	

VMTA Calendar of Events July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthstone: Ruby Flower: Larkspur						1 Holiday Weekend
2 Holiday Weekend	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9 Cheetah Mtn. Leave P.C. Wal-Wart at 10:00	10 Business Meeting @ Piccadilly's 7:00 PM	11	12	13	14	15 Breakfast in Albany. Depart Miller Rd Burger King @ 7:00 A.M.
16	17	18	19 National Ride to Work Day	20 White House Dinner Depart Wal Mart @ 6:30	21	22
23 Picnic Ride to Providence Caynon 10:00 Popeyes on Victory Dr	24	25	26	27	28 Camp-in at Curso's Blueridge Motorcycle Campground	29 Camp-in at Curso's Blueridge Motorcycle Campground
30 Camp-in at Curso's Blueridge MC Campground	31					

VMTA Calendar of Events August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthstone: Peridot Flower: Gladiolus		1	2 Ice Cream Social at the Carter's Meet there @ 7:00	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 O Full Moon	10	11	12 Mid-Night Ride Departure time TBD
13	14 Business Meeting @ Piccadilly's 7:00 PM	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 New Moon	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		