



# The Kickstand

April 2004



WWW.VMTAColumbusGA.Org

**Attention:** This is the last month that the newsletter will be physically distributed to all club members. The newsletter is now available online at the club web site in both web format and PDF for easy downloading and printing.

If you require a printed newsletter please contact Mary Fiske at (706) 561-3543 and we will be happy accommodate you.

Chris Aycock

## ***New Meeting Day and Location***

We have changed our meeting day to the first Monday of the month at 7:00. We are now holding our meetings at Shoney's on Airport Throughway in Columbus (in front of the Wal-Mart).

## ***Meeting Minutes Online***

Peggy Martin has graciously agreed to supply the meeting minutes to the VMTA web site for posting after every meeting.

Hopefully this will be of use to those who miss a meeting.

The March minutes are online now.

## ***The President's Letter***

GREETINGS! And what a GREAT riding month we had in March! The practically zero rain we had this month translated into some gorgeous weather to enjoy our sport. We had a great turnout for the Dublin Rally, which Susan and I went to for the first time. I actually put on over 600 miles that weekend as we headed up to

Athens after the rally and then up to Gainesville to see the grandchildren. Then there were plenty of conflicts the weekend of the Cherry Blossom Festival, which did not pan out, but instead we had a good group that took a short ride to Eufaula to see a car show. And, of course, the annual Iron Butt Ride which also had a great turnout with around 15 bikes. All in all, a very good start to the riding season! With all that good weather in March maybe y'all have got the yard behind you too and can enjoy riding even more.

April looks like it will be equally active as we have the Westville Wedding Festival, RiverFest, Sasser Flea Festival, and the Membership Drive for starters. I would like to discuss the Membership Drive again at the meeting because we have come up with another alternative that may be more effective. Again, let's together think about ways we can promote our Club and get some new members. And don't forget to start planning for the annual Fish Fry on May 1! It will be upon us before you know it.

We are still struggling to get member pictures for the website.

How about making a point to come to the meeting on Monday (remember it's at Shoney's!) prepared to take your picture. I'll bring the camera.

Speaking of the website, this will be the last month for printed hardcopy newsletters **unless specifically requested**. As you all know one of the main purposes of the website was to conduct our Club communication via this facility thereby relieving the expense (and effort by someone) of printing, copying and mailing the newsletters. If you haven't used the website already, Chris has done a great job of organizing it and making it easy to use.

Hope to see you at the meeting, RIDE ON!

Roger

## ***A Special Thank You***

Dear Friends,

I am rapidly approaching the end of my prescribed odyssey with cancer and chemotherapy, and I want to tell you that I have been blessed with the ease of my

treatment. I have truly been without energy, but that is truly the only major side effect I've experienced. The minor side effects do not bear mentioning!

Sid and I want to tell you that we are most grateful for all the support you've shown us throughout this time. We have absolutely been overwhelmed with your cards, calls, visits, flowers, and especially your love. Thank you so much for every thought. I know that you and my family have made this very easy for me, and I appreciate you all.

Peggy

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## **Announcements**

Mary Fiske is working to update the club contact list. We are also looking to collect member's cell phone numbers for use during club rides. These will only be used in emergencies or if the club loses contact with a club member who has a cell phone.

If your address or telephone number has changed in the past 18 months or you have a cell phone number you want to share please contact Mary at (706) 561-3543 or send an email to [contact@vmtacolumbusga.org](mailto:contact@vmtacolumbusga.org).

For privacy reasons the club contact list will not be placed on the club web site.

## **Ladies Night**

Ladies it's been awhile since we've been for an outing at night so here we go. Supper is at the Peachtree Mall, April 23rd, 6:P.M. and then a movie of our choice at 7 P.M. at Peachtree 8.

## **Biloxi Turnaround**

Leaving July 10th, 9 AM from behind Dennys on Macon Rd. (Office Max parking lot) Arrive at Boomtown 3:00 P.M. Receive \$10.00 in free play, play 5 hours,

depart from Boomtown at 8 P.M. Arrive at Beau Rivage at 8:30 P.M. Receive \$15.00 in free play, play 4 hours, depart from Beau Rivage at 12:30 A.M. Arrive at Palace Casino 12:45 A.M., play 4 hours. Bus departs for Columbus at 4:45 A.M. Arrive back in Columbus approximately 10:30 A.M. Sunday morning. Get your reservations & \$30.00 by June 1, 2004 to Mary Fiske, 3951 Biltmore Dr., Columbus 706-561-3543.

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## **The Editor's Note**

Chris Aycock

I was rummaging through my desk the other day and saw my old British Driver's License. Since we lived over there for more than a year both Meitra and I had to take the tests for driving and obtain a UK License, as our US licenses were only good for one year.

In order to obtain a driver's license in the UK you had to take a written and driving test, similar to a US test. From there the similarities ended. The normal failure rate for UK driving tests is 50-60% and 30-40% for motorcycles. Lessons are a must.

British driving is a totally different process than driving in the US. In fact, driving on the left-hand side of the road was the easiest part to get. A good deal of UK car and motorcycle operation depends on observation of your surroundings.

This concept is a most valuable lesson. According to British rules, before you make any direction change on the road such as a lane change (or even a change in your position in your current lane!) or a turn into a side street you must observe, signal, and maneuver.

The observation part was two-fold. First, you check your mirrors. Second, you take a quick look over your shoulder, a technique the British call "The Lifesaver." It makes sense to check your blind spot in all circumstances if you sit

down and think about it.

Here's the second, more surprising rule; you should observe behind you, doing both the mirror check and the 'lifesaver' before you accelerate or slow!

The rationale behind this is if you are accelerating a car or another bike may be trying to pass you. If you accelerate you will trap the other driver or rider in the face of oncoming traffic.

As for slowing, the explanation is looking for the possibility of a vehicle bearing down on you from behind with no chance of stopping or slowing in time prevent a rear-end collision.

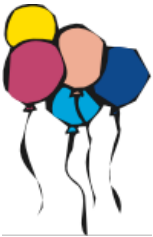
It left an impression on me as I now do a 'lifesaver' as a matter of instinct now.

It must work. The bikers in the UK are sport bike crazy so you would expect a high rate of single-vehicle motorcycle crashes but car on bike crashes are much more rare than here.

Thinking back on it the British enforce a type of 360-degree awareness where you as a rider are aware of everything around you and its possible threat. This is what people here in the US spend hundreds of dollars on for ERC courses and custom street riding courses.

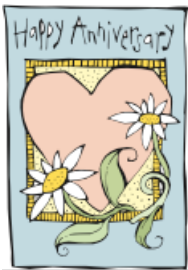
*Next month:* Lane positioning.





## **April Birthdays**

12<sup>th</sup> – Faith Mack  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Howell



## **April Anniversaries**

28<sup>th</sup> – Roger and Susan Miller

## **Ride Reports**

### **Eufaula**

*Bob Smith*

John Fiske and I did not expect anyone at the meeting place for the ride to the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival Ride. Most had cancelled during the bowling games on Thursday evening. But just in case, we were there before 8am.

By 11am a lot of bikes were waiting to leave for a pleasant day in Eufaula. We had Clete, John, Larry & Faith, Bob, Gerry, Roger & Susan and Jeff Howell for a total of nine diverse bikes. Weather was spectacular with a high temp of 87 deg. We passed the big Bass

Tournament at Lake Point Park on the way down.

Old Creek town Park is on a point with lots of water at the edge of town, where quite a few cars came from Fla., Al., and Ga. This is the second get together of the year for the local car clubs. They had a singer for a while in the afternoon, some food and lots of hot rods to look at. Some very rare cars were presented along with a couple of clones of rare cars. Big engines were the topic of the day of this group. There were some great 50s & 60s Mopars, Chevies & Fords restored to impressive condition. All the cars were being decorated with fresh pine pollen – soft yellow!! (cough, cough)

Larry helped me pass out flyers of the upcoming River Fest Car Show in April. Of course, our club loves to eat, so we stopped at the Cherwalla buffet for a pretty good meal. The deserts and fresh fruit were especially welcome. We did not stay long as everyone had evening commitments to get back to, so we headed back up #165 and thru Phenix City to J R Allen Parkway. I think it was a good day to chat with friends and reminisce about the old daily drivers we had way back when.



## **Bowling Night**

*Mary Fiske*

We all had great expectations but reality set in. It was fun and learning how to play poker hands on strikes & spares which is normal to see at the bowling alley now. We are all gamblers each day.

Winners: Men's High Average: Jake Kaplan  
Women's High Average: Mary Fiske  
Men's High Game with Handicap: Johnny McRae  
Women's High Game with Handicap: Connie McRae  
Women's Low Games Scratch: Gwen Carter  
Men's Low Game Scratch: Can't remember

It was nice to see everyone there. Some just ate supper and some came for the support of our event.

VMTA Calendar of Events April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Westville Wedding Victory Dr. BK 9:30
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Membership Drive Extreme Powersports 10:00-2:00
25 Sasser Flea Festival Victory Dr BK 9:00	26 Board Mtg. 1030 1 <sup>st</sup> Av 6:30	27	28	29	30	

VMTA Calendar of Events May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 May	31 May Memorial Day					1 Fish Fry Florence Marina
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Garage Sale 8- 11
9	10 Club Mtg. Shoney's 7:00	11	12	13	14	15 Georgia Renaissance Festival Welcome Ctr 8:00
16	17	18	19	20	21 Rivertown Rally	22 Rivertown Rally
23	24 Board Mtg 1030 1 <sup>st</sup> Av 6:30	25	26	27	28	29