



The Kickstand

December 2004

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

December Business

Meeting:

The VMTA Christmas Party serves as the December club meeting.

January Business Meeting:

January 10th 7:00 Shoney's on Airport Throughway, eat at 6:30

Officer Contacts:

President: Roger Miller
(706) 327-7999

Vice-President: John McRae
(706) 628-4486

Ride Chairman: Barry Cowall
(334) 448-4905

Treasurer: Mary Fiske
(706) 561-3543

Secretary: Peggy Martin
(706) 324-0775

Public Relations: Bob Smith
(706) 660-8524

The President's Letter

Greetings, again! Well, the riding season is finally winding down for another year as we approach the holidays. Thanksgiving is already behind us and the leaves have left the trees. November was still an active month of riding for the Millers and for some of you as well. One highlight that Susan and I experienced was a ride that was one of those impromptu Sunday rides with some new friends we met at the Peanut Festival in Dothan. It was the weekend before Thanksgiving and these folks, Bill and Joyce Smith, had come to visit us from Birmingham. We decided to take them on one of our favorite tours up to Pine Mountain, across the ridge on 190 and then on GA 18 to West Point. After crossing the West Point dam we headed back to GA 18, turned south on 103 and then on to Lake Skillet Road. Waved in the direction of Don and Peggy as we passed Mountain Road and then on to the house. Bill and Joyce said they could not remember when they have been on a better ride. The leaves were about as colorful as it gets in this part of the country and I'll admit, it doesn't get a lot better than this little fall ride. We sent them home to Birmingham with smiles on their faces and a wish they could ride more with VMTA. I guess that's what it is all about isn't it.

I just wanted to comment on the Peanut Festival for those of you that missed it. Susan and I would definitely recommend this event for

next year. We had a very good time and actually never even went to the Festival itself. The weather had a little to do with that but the Rally itself was well organized and we just hung with the bikers. All types of bikes were well represented by this Southern Cruiser sponsored event and the auction they had for the Children's Hospital was absolutely hilarious.

Many thanks to the ladies, Joan, Connie and Peggy, for another successful Christmas party. Well done. It was a very nice kickoff to the Christmas season. We had a good turnout the next day for the Toys for Tots run and thanks for your support to this important event. Just a reminder during this season of "giving thanks" that we remember and appreciate the freedoms we enjoy and those that fought to keep them. On the recent Veteran's Day I gave special tribute to my father who is now 80 and fought in WWII by just giving him a call. I am sure some of you also had a father or relative who we should thank as well for whatever conflict they were involved with in the name of freedom. And freedom to "ride" is one of those not to be taken for granted. Just try taking a ride on the back roads of Iraq these days. But we're workin' on that.

While we are on the subject of "thanks", I would give special thanks to John Fiske for "stepping up" and becoming our new Newsletter Editor. In the same breath I want to thank Chris for his

efforts in getting our website established this year and integrating the Newsletter into it. VMTA has entered the 21st century!

Ride safe and may you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless!

Roger

Deadline for January Newsletter: Wednesday Jan 5th. Email articles to: Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Announcements

Looking Ahead

The next club yard sale will be April 1 & 2 at 3951 Biltmore Dr. (John & Mary Fiske). Get your items ready to bring to meeting after New Years. Items can be put in Mary's car at any meeting Jan., Feb. and March. Mary will clean and tag items for sale.

December Birthdays

10th – Meitra Aycock
23rd – Richard Parker
28th – George Carter
28th – Jacob Kaplan
29th – Travis Garner
30th – Cornelius Smith

December Anniversaries

21st – Jacob and Joan Kaplan
23rd – Chris and Meitra Aycock
29th – Denny and Sandy Reid

Around the Bend: Future Rides & Event Schedule

Sat Jan 15th – Renate's 6:00 PM meet there

Sat Jan 22nd El Vaquero – 5:30 meet there. This is the new one next to Extreme Power Sports.

On The Road: Events in and around the Columbus Area

Jan 7 – 9th Cycle World International Motorcycle Show at Cobb Galleria off Cobb Parkway in Atl. Contact Bob Smith or John Fiske

Safety Tip of the Month:

With more and more gas stations using single hose pumps be sure to select your desired grade. Also pay attention that you have not stopped at a diesel pump.

Ride Reports

Peanut Festival

Well, what an interesting trip this turned out to be. We were scheduled to meet Art Murphy and another group of bikers on Victory Drive at 2:00 on Friday afternoon. Susan and I both worked half days and had made most of the preparations the night before.

As I came home and opened the garage doors, I noticed something a little "funny" looking on the back tire of the 'Wing. After changing clothes I went back out to discover a spot on the tire about six inches long that had worn through the first cords on the tire! Now I had just done a thorough tire inspection exactly one week earlier and this tire looked fine, tread getting down there, but still nothing like this. I had just ordered a new set of Metzlers two days before.

Well, it is now 12:30 and this obviously has to be taken care of before the long trip to Dothan. I gave Dan a panic call at

Advantage and he rounded up a Dunlop for me and put it on. Thank you Dan!

Back to riding status at 2:45, so we missed the group. Mildred and Bert were going with us on the trike so we needed to get going to make it before dark. So we pack up and head out, but not very far! About a block from the house, Susan's bike suddenly quits. I immediately could tell it was an electrical problem and we fiddled with it for a while but without time-consuming diagnostics, it was a futile effort. So, grumbling all the way, my better half climbs on the back of the 'Wing and off we go again. I am thinking "Thank God that didn't happen about half way to Dothan in the middle of nowhere".

By this time it is around 4:00 and the sun is beginning to set. We took a pit stop in Eufaula to layer up and hit the head, but it was getting dark fast by then. As we headed south, darkness set in and about halfway to Dothan I look in my rear view mirror and Bert has no headlight, just running lights. I radio him to pull over. When he switched to high beam he had headlights so we pushed on wondering what in the world was going to happen next. Deer certainly entered my mind but there were no further 'events'.

We pulled into the Dothan Country Club hotel at about 8:00 after eating and were glad to be there. The hotel was near the Festival but not near the bike rally so we called over and luckily they still had some rooms so we moved the next day.

The next morning was the Peanut Festival parade and I mean PARADE. This was no two marching bands, a couple of horses, and the American Legion affair! For starters about 400 bikes led off the parade through downtown Dothan. I do not know what the population of Dothan is but most of them had to be there.

We had Precious and Tilly strapped to our chests and they

were a big hit! Next we went on the Dice Run sponsored by the Southern Cruisers and had a nice ride of about 80 miles through AL including Ft. McCellan. We didn't win but we came close! That afternoon they held an auction and door prize event at the hotel. The "auctioneer" was the President of the Mississippi chapter and he was hilarious. He was the best entertainment of the trip. That boy was not right. That night we joined the Columbus folks in the bar where there was a DJ and danced into the night.

The next morning we leisurely got ourselves going, did some bike reviewing and headed to IHOP for breakfast. The sun came out and we had a very nice and uneventful ride home which was truly appreciated. GREAT EVENT...we highly recommend it and fun was had by all.

Roger & Susan

Hunter's Pub

On a very rain threatening evening a small group began forming at the Shell station. First there was John & Mary in their SUV. Then the brave one, Earl showed up on his Silverwing. While discussing what to do in drives Barry & Linda in the van. John & Earl parked their rides and we all piled into the van for the short trips up River Road the Hunter's.

Upon arriving, there we find George & Gwen as well as Sid & Peggy. We were to find out at the end of the evening that Sid & Peggy were the only one to ride their bike. Congratulations to them.

Hunters' is real small establishment but even on a Thursday night the patrons were plentiful. The place was full and noisy. The service was excellent and the food was good. After plenty of talk we went about our separate ways as we did getting there. Everyone had a good time.

John Fiske

Pat's Backwater

Again on Thursday night a group assembled at the Shell station, but this time the weather was very pleasant for the middle of November. Therefore the number of participants were many. We had seven bikes, with Mary in the SUV with a guest for a total of 12. Great group.

Off we when again up River Rd but quite as far. Pat's is a larger place than Hunters and the ambiance is better. Everyone enjoyed the food. One note of caution, the small Hushpuppies have hot peppers in them.

I had to return to the bike a one point and got talking to the owner. He was very interested in Susan's bike. When I told him it was for sale he lit up like a newly decorated Christmas tree. Told him that I would have Susan speak to him on the way out. Well, they talked, he sat on the bike, but no money exchanged hands. Susan said that he was really interested.

The return home was pleasant with the temperature at 55 degrees. Another night of great company and good food.

John Fiske

Christmas Party 2004

This years' Christmas party again saw VTMA changing its gathering place. To the Magnolia Café we went. It was nice to see members dressed up and socializing. The food was good and plentiful. The desserts were sweet. After everyone was finished eating, Roger had a few year ending remarks and handed out the awards. John Fiske won the John Delay Award for the second straight year. This award is for making the most scheduled club rides during the year. Peggy Martin, Mary Fiske and John Fiske were tied for the perfect attendance award of \$50. Rather than splitting the money 3-ways, it was decided to draw for the

winner. That resulted in Mary winning for the year.

Then it was time for the wives to find their husbands. The men removed their shoes and socks and stood behind a curtain with only they're lower legs & feet showing. After many remarks about the different feet, most mates were found. I knew Johns' feet. I should after 34 years.

Then there was the gift-wrapping contest. Four pairs of male/female were bound together at one wrist so as to provide only three appendages. Talk about teamwork. Surprisingly the packages ended up being wrapped quite well.

Door prizes were had by all and the night ended early. Fun was had by all. Toys for Tots were loaded in to Peggys' truck for delivery on Sunday.

Joan, Peggy, Connie and Bob did a super job in getting this years party together. Thanks gang. Those members unable to attend missed a great evening. Hope to see everyone next year.

Mary Fiske

Toys for Tots

Sunday morning we met at Denny's on Macon Rd at 9:30. After eating our fair share and drinking to much coffee off we went to Extreme Sports. There we joined up with a large group from the Blue Knights, Southern Cruisers, and local GWRRA. Not sure of the number of bikes but it was an impressive site going down I185, looking in the mirror and seeing all those lights. It was great and the highlight of my day.

We rode into the Civic Center parking lot and lined up next to a long line of HDs. The lot continued to fill up for the next hour. It is fun walking around looking at all the different makes, models and the various equipment added to these machines. I sure spotted the dirtiest bike in the lot. There was a

tan 1200 Wing with AL plates that had not been cleaned since the turn of the century, maybe longer. But the event of the day brought them out and that is all that matters.

The 1:00 blast of the air horn was the "start you engines" signal. The ride was much shorter than past years. It mirrored the ride taken during the Support Ft. Benning Ride. I am sure the reasons were sound but it sure was a disappointment.

Mary & I did not stop at the Farmers Market as needed to get home for other issues. Looking into the trucks and the toy-laden motorcycles there are going to be a lot of happy kids on Christmas due to the generosity of BIKERS.

John Fiske

For Sale by Member

Nothing this month

If you have anything for sale that you would like to advertise in the newsletter please email the details to:

Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

VMTA Calendar of Events December 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Christmas Party Magnolia Café, 6:30
5 Toys for Tots 10:30 Denny's Macon Road	6	7	8 First Day of Chanukah	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24	25 Christmas
26 Full Moon Kwanza Begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

VMTA Calendar of Events January 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Cycle World International Motorcycle Show in Atl.	8 Cycle World International Motorcycle Show in Atl.
9 Cycle World International Motorcycle Show in Atl.	10 Business Meeting 7:00 Shoney's Airport Throughway	11	12	13	14	15 Renate's 6:00 Meet there
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 El Vaquero 5:30 Meet there – next to Extreme Sports
23	24 Board Meeting 6:30 1030 1 st Ave.	25	26	27	28	29