

The Kickstand



June 2004

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Chris Aycock (706) 507-1839

June Business Meeting:

June 14th 7:00 Shoney's on Airport Throughway, eat at 6:30.

July Business Meeting:

July 12th 7:00 Shoney's on Airport Throughway, eat at 6:30.

Officer Contacts

President: Roger Miller
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The President's Letter

Well... since my last message, SUMMER has ARRIVED!! Yes, indeed, we saw quite a few 90-degree days in May that was a little unusual this early in the year. But for the most part, still some great riding weather. The day of our garage sale was one of those 90-degree days and with Mary's direction and great help from Barry, Linda and Susan, the event was a success and a considerable improvement last year's yard sale. A big thanks to Chris - his donations brought in the most money for the club.

The highlight of the month had to be the Rivertown Rally. To organize a big event like this for the first time requires a Herculean effort and that's exactly what they got from our new club member Art Murphy and his wife Donna. We should all offer a special thanks to Art and Donna for a job well done and for helping to bring such an event to Columbus. Our club participation was good and as a group we were well rewarded with prizes. I cringed a little when a Harley group, Southern Cruisers, won best club participation at a GWRRA event, but that gives us a goal for next year.

I would like to personally and formally welcome our new members who were voted in at our last meeting: Art & Donna Murphy, Terry Jones & Faye Sawyer, and Ray & Betty Arredondo. Let's all take them under wing and make sure they feel welcome in our

family. We still have one application pending and should be voting on this applicant at the next meeting.

June is another busy month with the Peach Festival, Hiawassee Rally, Honda Hoot and annual ride to Cheaha Mountain being a few of the highlighted events from which to choose. One concern I have is the general decline in participation at our club rides this year. It seems to be a trend and I need your input on how we can reverse it. A good example is the last two Thursday night dinner rides, one to Good Ole Boys that had excellent participation the last two years, and the latest ride to Milano's. Those events had two and three bikes respectively show up for the rides. Even our weekend rides are showing a significant decline in number of bikes participating. How can we make our rides more attractive to the club members? Think about it and let's talk.

Roger

**Deadline for July Newsletter:
Tuesday 6 July. Email
articles to:**

**Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org
Note: The club website will
remain static from June 28th
to July 15th.**

Announcements

Sandy Reid sent a note to say that a former club member, Brice Blumhoefer, had been called to active duty with the Army Reserves for a year.

For those of you who remember Bruce keep him in your thoughts.

Honda Hoot – 2004

Roger Miller

This event will take place in Knoxville again this year from Tuesday, June 22, through Saturday, June 26. See www.hondahoot.com for all the details. If you have never experienced this event you should. It's size rivals Wing Ding, it takes place in one of the most beautiful riding areas in this country, and has events for every taste. You can be as involved with this event as you want.

The Hoot and vendor complex is at Chilhowee Park next to the Knoxville Zoo on the east side. The vendor participation is as big as any you will see in our area. Several motorcycle manufacturers offer demo rides with your registration. The Hoot sponsors numerous entertainment events including fireworks, street parties, and Pigeon Forge stage performances. Registration includes several free events and many prize give-aways including a new Honda motorcycle of your choice.

Susan and I love this event so much it has become a permanent spot on our calendar. We leave for Boone, N.C. on the 22nd to meet our friends, Dick & Vickie, from Milwaukee who are riding the entire Blue Ridge Parkway after their trek from WI. **Anyone is welcome to join.** We end up at the Hampton Inn – Airport on the evening of the 23rd and will enjoy the rest of the Hoot activities through Saturday.

Note: To go the full route on this event requires planning and registration months in advance and costs in the neighborhood of \$200 per couple for heavy participation. Just registration is \$55 per person but gives you unlimited time at vendors and still many activities at no additional charge. Most motels that are close to the event are also sold out by this time but you should have no trouble finding a room in Seiverville/Pigeon Forge area. Many rides are already sold out but tickets can still be had at the message center.

The Editor's Note

Moans and Groans

Chris Aycock

It's pretty weather these days so the less 'committed' motorcycle riders have come out, if only to ride three miles to Hooter's to spend the afternoon.

With that in mind it's time for a partial publication of my substantial list of motorcycling pet peeves.

1) People who buy the H-D edition F-150s and \$5000 trailers to haul around their four-year old FXDWGD Wide Glide that has 400 miles on it. Ever hear of actually riding the bike?

2) People on sportbikes (with race pipes of course) popping wheelies at 100 mph in residential or other built up areas. Why not try to be a real racer and take it to the track where that stuff belongs? Of course they won't. They're punks.

3) People riding around wearing tank tops, shorts, and flip-flops. When they go down do they really think that anybody wants to see the epidermis peeled from their body?

4) People who ride after drinking. What could be more stupid?

5) People who have a Ninjabusa that boast of riding 150 mph down

I-185 but can't maintain 50 mph on GA 190 over Pine Mountain. Any idiot can twist a throttle and hang on right?

6) People who don't wave back. Are they really too good?

7) Stuffed animals on bikes. What's up with that?

8) People who are way too serious about riding bikes. See Ducati, BMW, ST1300s, etc. It has stopped being fun for them. They see it as a test of man/womanhood to see who can ride the farthest, fastest, or whatever. Boring!

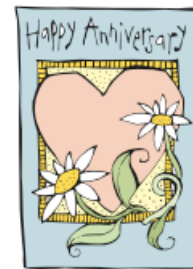
9) People who spend hundreds if not thousands on pipes, chrome, lights, etc. but pitch a fit when they have to spend \$100 for a new tire. Puleeze!

10) And finally, my biggest pet peeve: People who think that those who don't rode the exact same bike as theirs is an idiot who doesn't deserve to breathe the same air as they do. They need to get over themselves! Everybody else has.



June Birthdays

23rd – Chris Aycock



June Anniversaries

18th – Travis and Margie Garner

Around the Bend: Barry's Bulletin Board and Ride Schedule

June 3rd: Milano's In Valley, 6:30 Wal-Mart Phenix City

June 5th: Blackbeard's in Albany, Jackie Hancock, 11:00 Victory Drive Burger King. There's is going to be a bike show at the Albany dragway so after the show it's Blackbeard's for dinner

June 12th: Fort Valley Peach Festival, Miller Road B.K. 8:30. This Festival is home to the world's largest peach cobbler and is Georgia's official food fest, with live entertainment, kid's rides, and a parade.

For more information got to <http://www.gapeachfestival.com/index.htm>

June 17th: Pepper Mill Grill, Roger Miller, 6:30 Phenix City Wal-Mart. Another summer evening ride for some really good food.

June 19th: GWRRA Wing Fling Hiawasse. We will probably be camping at the Bald Mountain Campground. People will be leaving for this event at different times. Some will probably leave Friday evening and some will probably leave Saturday morning, and some lucky folks might be able to stay a little longer. If you are interested please contact me so I can get this coordinated and get you riding with some friends.

The web site to visit is <http://www.gocampingamerica.com/directory/georgia.html>, click on Bald Mountain. This will give you prices and all information needed.

June 19th: Taste Of Country, Johnny McRae, 5:00 Miller Road Burger King. A new eatery!

June 26th: Cheaha Mountain, George Carter, 8:00 Phenix City Wal-Mart. ALWAYS a great ride!

July 1st: Mellow Mushroom Meet there 6:30

July 10th: Biloxi Turn Around, Mary Fiske, 9 AM from behind Denny's 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.

July 15th: The Saloon, 6:30 Meet There. This restaurant was formerly Crystal Valley Oyster Bar. A Great place to eat and socialize.

July 18th: Pine Mountain Country Store for Breakfast, 8:30 Burger King Veterans Parkway in front of Extreme Sports. Lets have breakfast overlooking beautiful Callaway Gardens. After Breakfast have a nice ride over the mountains.

July 24-25: Weekend Ride to the North Georgia Mountains, 8:00 Saturday 24th, Krispy Kreme on Veterans Parkway. Chris has graciously decided to lead us into the mountains for a summer ride, leaving Saturday morning, staying in Dahlonega or Blue Ridge on Saturday night, and returning on Sunday. Total distance should be 600-700 miles. Beat the heat on some great roads.

July 31st: Midnight Ride To Albany, Clete Richardson, 9:00 Burger King Miller Road. This has always been one of the favorite rides of the summer.

August 7th: Yoder's, 5:00 Burger King Victory Drive. The turnout has always been great for this event and the food has always been superb.

August 14th: Roger & Susan's River Party. This has always been a great event, and there are no better hosts. More forthcoming.

On The Road: Events in and around the Columbus Area

Car Cruise: June 12th Car Cruise. Experience the beauty of many restored antique and hot rod cars Home Depot in Newnan from 5-9PM.770-253-8283.

www.coweta.ga.us

Honda Hoot: June 23rd-26th More information forthcoming

Thunder on the Hooch: July 4th

55th Annual Cordele Watermelon Festival: July 10th For those of you who are not going to Biloxi this weekend Cordele is having their Watermelon Festival. This was scheduled last year and Denny and Sandy went. They mentioned it was really good and something to see. Fun for the whole family. Seed spitting, watermelon eating, big melon and decorating contests. Entertainment, arts & crafts and rides for the kids. Gospel sing, pageant, car & truck show, fishing rodeo, baseball and softball tournaments, and parade.

<http://www.cordele-crisp-chamber.com>

Safety Tip of the Month:

With the roads heating up for the summer so is the frequency of truck retreads leaving their home. Stay away from trucks and watch out for 'road gators'!!

Ride Reports

Membership Drive

Roger Miller

On Saturday April 24 we held our membership drive at Extreme Power Sports. It was a very busy morning for the Millers because I wanted to support Bob Smith's car show at Riverfest so I brought the Camaro downtown as soon as I could get in and then raced back to help set up for the Drive. We had a very good turnout of club members and better than normal traffic than past years even with the Riverfest competition. We took in two applications, one for Earl Cheal who had purchased our Silver Wing and James Jones who is with the Army at Ft. Benning and rides a Valkyrie. We had several others that did show serious interest so we may be hearing from some more folks in the near future. Later in the afternoon, Southern Cruisers were sponsoring a poker run for Miracle Ride, so Susan and I decided to join in. We had a very pleasant ride up the back roads to Greenville and back. On the next to last stop Susan and I talked to three more people that were very interested in our club and we gave them our club cards. They were riding a Gold Wing, a Venture and a Shadow.

In summary I felt it was a successful Membership Drive.

Thanks to Bob and Barry for the pre-promotional activity and setting it up with Extreme. Having been more involved this year than in the past I noticed something that will help us be more effective in the future for this event. Just setting up shop and hoping the people will come talk to us while we socialize amongst ourselves will always provide very limited results. We have to put on our "sales person" caps and go to the people who are passing by and *talk to them*. We need to all be active in putting our hangers on bikes and passing out our literature along with the "treats". Let's all keep this in mind for next year.

Yard Sale

Mary Fiske

Yes! Your junk was people's treasure. We netted \$164.00. Thanks go out to all who contributed to this cause and especially Roger & Susan for hosting our event. For you non-early birds, you missed a wonderful breakfast cooked by Roger. We had planned to stay open until 2 pm but the heat got to us by 11 am. By noon we packed up, took a lot to Goodwill and Mary has the rest stored for her next yard sale. We threw away a lot of junk and broken things. Thanks also to Barry & Linda for working. Let's try for an early spring or fall time yard sale next time. Think cooler weather

Sasser Flea Festival

Barry Cowall

There were three bikes that left out for the great Sasser Flea Festival. There were John & Mary, Bob, and Linda and I. I think most were worn out by the previous days events. It was a really nice day for a ride, a little cool leaving, however we ended up in short sleeves by the end of the day.

This ride was originally scheduled for Saturday in which there was a

car and motorcycle show. Sunday at the Flea Market was very uneventful. However the ride home was great. We stopped at this restaurant called Chinaberry Café in Parrott Georgia. The food was excellent.

Renaissance Festival

Barry Cowall

With the support of the VMTA we left out two bikes strong. The group consisted of Larry, Faith, Linda, and myself. We met Joan and Jake at the meeting place, however they had other plans for the day. The weather could not have been more perfect. We stopped at a Waffle House on the way for breakfast. Upon our arrival at the Renaissance they parked all us right up front, however with such a large group there was some difficulty finding a place for all of us to fit.

If you've never been to the Renaissance Festival before it is something you have to see, or for a better explanation, experience to appreciate. Came back the two lane roads and stopped at a great Mexican Restaurant in Pine Mountain on the way home. We celebrated Linda's birthday there. I know I'm supposed to keep these articles short, so, we had a blast, ask Larry and Faith about the trip. Check out the pictures.

Good Ole Boys

Roger Miller

Only Roger, Susan, and Clete showed up for this event. Ride was cancelled. A big ride last year, what's up folks?

Milano's

Roger Miller

Just three bikes showed up for the ride to Milano's in the Valley this

past Thursday night. The weather to the north and east of Columbus was a little wet and in fact, Larry and Faith were caught in a shower on their way to Wally World in Phenix City. But everywhere else the weather was fine and it turned out to be a gorgeous evening.

Johnnie and Connie joined in as well as we headed up 280 and turned on to Lee County 379 at "The Mall" (flea market). Our bikes almost took a right turn into Peppermill Grill as we passed by but I reminded everyone over the CB that we would be visiting them later this month. Lake Harding was it's usual beautiful self as we crossed the Long Bridge and before you knew it we were at Milano's, which is about a mile east of the interstate at exit 77. We had a great meal and the portions were hearty as a couple of us took doggie bags home with us.

For the return ride I guided the group north on I85 and after we crossed The Hooch we exited on GA18 and then right on GA108 to Hunter's Pub. Rather than getting on the Interstate we took a right on Whitesville Road and headed south to 315. When we got back to the Interstate I split up with the Cataula folks and headed home. A very pleasant evening indeed.

Rivertown Rally

Susan Miller

How exciting to have a GWRRA Rally come to Columbus! As is often the case with first-time events, vendor participation was a little weak, but that will grow with each passing year. It was terrific to see so many club members come out for the event with most of us making the South Loop Poker Run.

A brand-new-to-riding friend of mine, Chalet Kossey, made her inaugural Poker Run ride with us on her 250cc. She was white-knuckled, but had the best time ever! Our club members were so kind and supportive offering advice

and encouragement. At the end of the event, many of us had faired well in the prize category. Jackie and Altheia won the \$500 cash pot and Roger and I won a set of River Road Gold Wing Side and Trunk Case Liners as well as a trailer from Larry's Trailers.

John and Mary Fiske won the \$100 pre-registration prize, but unfortunately had to leave to be with family and were unable to claim it. At the final wrap-up at the Firehouse Grill, Jackie and Altheia also won a lamp. Jackie's still trying to figure out where to mount it on their Gold Wing.

Thanks, VMTA, for supporting this event. We received a lot of club acknowledgement and recognition that should go a long way in keeping VMTA going strong for years to come.

Goodwill Poker Run

Susan Miller

Though not a club event, my community service obligations landed me on the first annual Goodwill Poker Run committee. It was a lot of fun to plan, and it also gave me the opportunity to spread the word about VMTA. Other than Roger and me, John & Mary Fiske participated and lucky John went away a winner! Even though his poker hands stunk, luck was still on his side when he won a free consultation with a cosmetic surgeon!



For Sale by Member

2002 MZ Skorpion Traveller: 5K miles, \$3000.00. Call Chris Aycock at (706) 507-1839

Sony Stereo, DVD player and speakers. About ten years old, free to good home. Call Chris Aycock at (706) 507-1839

(2) Joe Rocket Ballistic summer mesh jackets w/ full armor. Size L & S. Used one year. Both for \$100. See Roger or Susan Miller.

*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 June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Milano's Valley, AL	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Peach Festival 8:30 Miller Rd. Burger King
13	14 Club Mtg, Shoney's 7:00	15	16	17 Pepper Mill Grill 6:30 Wal-Mart Phenix City	18	19 Wing Fling Also Taste of Country 5:00 Miller Rd Burger King
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Cheaha Mountain 8:00 Phenix City Wal-Mart
27	28 Board Mtg 1030 1 st Av 6:30	29	30			

VMTA Calendar of Events July 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mellow Mushroom 6:30	2	3
	5 Independence Day Holiday	6	7	8	9	10 Biloxi Turn Around 9:00 AM Denny's Macon Rd.
11	12 Club Meeting Shoney's 7:00	13	14	15 The Saloon 6:30	16	17
18 Pine Mtn. Breakfast 8:30 B.K. Veteran's Pkwy	19	20	21	22	23	24 North Georgia Ride 8:00 Krispy Kreme Veterans Pkwy.
25 North Georgia Ride	26 Board Meeting 1 st Ave 6:30	27	28	29	30	31 Midnight Ride to Albany 9:00 PM Miller Rd. B.K.