



The Kickstand

May 2004



WWW.VMTAColumbusGA.Org

The President's Letter

GREETINGS! April/May. My favorite time of year. The world, it seems, is "refreshed" with new life. Nature explodes with greenery and new fragrances from millions of fresh flowers and buds. And what better way to sense these pleasures than on the seat of a motorcycle. Again, we were blessed with some gorgeous riding weather this month and we tried to consume every minute we could on our iron horses. Unfortunately, spring also brings yard chores, which must be taken care of, so there were the usual conflicts that limited riding for some of us. I know by living most of my life in the Upper Midwest that Southern springs are a true blessing, but even with that it is hard to remember better spring weather than what we have enjoyed the past two months. And it just keeps coming.

Our Membership Drive was a success as we got two applications and several others that were very interested. With the Riverfest that weekend we still had very good traffic and later in the afternoon the Southern Cruisers sponsored a poker run that brought in even more visits.

Travis did his usual terrific job with the Fish Fry and despite the soggy weather for the campers the event

was a big success once again. I especially enjoyed the trash talking cooks and Shack's jokes. A tradition unlike any other. Thanks to all for the great turnout despite the weather threat. Never ceases to amaze me what you campers will go through. But I guess it's like riding a motorcycle, it goes with the territory!

May promises to be another active month with the Fish Fry already under our belts and now our garage sale this weekend. How about some more donations and bring them to our house by Friday evening. This can be a significant revenue generator for us if we can get everyone to pitch in. Rounding out the month will be the Renaissance Festival ride, another evening ride to Good Ole Boys, and the Rivertown Rally. Please do not forget to give your support to the Goodwill Poker Run if you are not going to the Renaissance Festival.

Unfortunately I will be on a business trip and will not be at this month's meeting. We will have a relatively light agenda with the most important item to review our new applicants. Hope you all can make the meeting.

NOTE: Please remember the **Rivertown Rally coming up and get your registration in. I am urging each of you to support this important new event for motorcycling and Columbus.**

And also, our club needs to have strong representation and visibility for our future. Susan will have registration forms at the meeting and we also have the tickets for the Gold Wing Giveaway. If you don't want a Gold Wing then think of it as 15 Grand in your pocket! Trust us, it can happen to you!

RIDE ON!!
Roger

Announcements

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.

The Editor's Note

Your horn is a crutch!

Chris Aycock

I was talking to some guys at a club ride when one of them displayed his quite loud aftermarket horn, which I had always lumped into biker 'fetish' status, alongside stuffed animals and gas tank murals. I was surprised to find out that they were actually used as the principal device to communicate with car drivers violating their right of way.

A slight disagreement ensued when I told them that if they had to rely on a horn constantly they were practicing poor lane placement. Not to brag, but my horn is so seldom used that I occasionally test it in the middle of nowhere to make sure it still works.

Balderdash you say! It's true, and this includes a weekly commute through downtown Atlanta on the bike. You see, I consciously place myself in the road to be seen by other drivers and also look for positions that will give me a little extra room for maneuvering in the unlikely event a car does violate my right of way.

There are two lane placement strategies, the first is placement within your lane and the second is placement in relation to other road users.

On a normal two-lane road you have three possible positions to take in your lane; the left-hand, the center, and the right-hand of the lane. Let's go ahead and discard the notion of using the center of the lane. It is not where you want to be what with the accumulation of drippings from cars and trucks. It's also where most debris comes to rest.

The left of the lane should be your default position. This places you in a position to be more easily seen by drivers and gives you a buffer in the case of someone entering the road in your path of travel. The

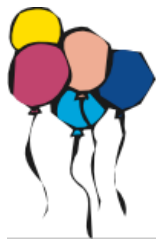
right of the lane is a good spot to go when you are meeting oncoming traffic. It gives you some buffer in case the car drifts into your lane. The movement also helps you be noticed by the oncoming driver.

Positioning in relationship to other road users is critical. Invariably the worst offence you can commit in this area is to follow too closely. This ends up putting you in a position of being concealed to oncoming and incoming traffic. Giving up a couple of car lengths and you will be more easily seen.

Finally we come to that most classic bonehead move that we do, riding in another driver's blind spot.

This one is easy. If you are in a lane adjacent to and not in front of a car or truck and you cannot see the driver's face in their side-view mirrors you are in their blind spot. Either fall back or pass them as soon as possible. The bigger the vehicle, the larger the blind spot, which is why you want to avoid semi tractor-trailers at all costs.

So the lesson is that if you think about your position on the road other users of the road can better see you and are less likely to violate your right of way. If you are constantly sounding your horn to get other's attention then you are the one in the wrong.



May Birthdays

9th – Lucy Manzer

17th – Linda Cowall

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

May 8th: Garage Sale Volunteers Needed. Last year we had a lot of people contribute to this worthy cause. This year we're working it a little different. Mary Fiske is spear heading this event and Roger and Susan has volunteered to have it at their home. Just get some of those things that you don't use anymore, donate them to the club. We'll try to sell these at the garage sale for club event expenses

May 15th: Georgia Renaissance Festival, Barry Cowall Welcome Center Shell 8:30. The plan is ride to the I-Hop and have breakfast. The festival hours are from 10:30 till 6:00. The price for admission is \$15.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children.

Bored with the 21st Century? Travel back in time and experience our daylong adventure of fun! Before you know it you'll be caught up in the merriment of the renaissance! Thrill to the jousting knights and let your spirits soar at the magnificent Birds of Prey Show! Feast like a king on a massive roasted turkey leg and shop like a Queen in our sprawling artist market. Kids of all ages will love the excitement of the rides in our medieval amusement park. Jugglers, magicians, strolling minstrels and action packed swordplay await you at the Georgia Renaissance Festival!

You can visit the website at www.georgiarenaissancefestival.com

May 20th: Good Old Boys, 6:30 Phenix City Wal-Mart. It's that time of year again when it's warm enough for these wonderful evening night rides. We've had very good success with service and the food has always been excellent.

May 21st & 22nd: Rivertown Rally & Bikes on the Hooch

Sponsored by the GWRRA

May 29th through 31st: Memorial Day Weekend Go out and have a blast!!!

June 3rd: Milano's, Valley, AL, Roger and Susan, Wal-Mart, Phenix City 6:30. I heard the food was superb here and it would make a nice evening ride.

June 5th: Old Time Rock & Roll Classic Car Show, Ride Captain needed, Welcome Center Shell 9:00. Car Truck, motorcycle show, cash prizes, car coral, 50's, 60's 70's entertainment. Rock and Roll Era. The "Grass Roots in concert on Saturday, Call for details, 884-2500. Plus 100+ specialty vendors, and festival food vendors near beautiful Callaway Gardens.

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, 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.c>

om/directory/georgia.html, then go to bald mountain and click on it. 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, Veterans Parkway, 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.

On The Road: Events in and around the Columbus Area

Car Cruise: 12th Car Cruise. Experience the beauty of many restored antique and hot rod cars downtown Historic Newnan Square from 5-9PM.770-253-8283 www.coweta.ga.us

Annual Hot Air Balloon Race: June 3rd to 5th: Helen GA. Watch the balloons soar over the mountains of our alpine village and then take in the weekend festivities! www.helenga.org

Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival: June 4th to 6th: Fort Walton Beach. If you would like to view this on the web go to search, "Billy Bowlegs" and it will bring you right to the web page or you can go to: http://www.tripsmarter.com/destin/archives/events/billybowlegs_gen.htm.

The notorious scoundrel and pirate Billy Bowlegs has vowed to take the city on June 6th from the Mayor. As he's been successful the last forty-five times he's invaded the city, expect to see the pirate krewe and their followers reveling in the streets!

The festivities begin Friday night at around 7:00pm as Billy Bowlegs and his krewe make their first attempt to take the city. Ft. Walton Beach responds with a dazzling pyrotechnical display... fireworks will light up the night sky, and the pirates, if everything goes according to plan (and tradition) will make their escape.

If they are successful in routing the pirates, the city of Ft. Walton Beach has a full night of entertainment lined up for the event. Live music, food vendors, arts & crafts, and a children's area should help ease the city's nervousness of another pirate invasion... one which is certain to happen the next day.

And so it will. While the party continues, the pirate and his minions will be plotting their revenge... and sometime Saturday afternoon, expect them to come sailing into town with vengeance on their minds!

Honda Hoot: June 23rd to 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. It promises to be fun for the whole family. Seed spitting, watermelon eating, big melon and decorating contests. Also, entertainment, arts & crafts, and rides for the kids as well as a gospel sing, pageant, car & truck show, fishing rodeo, baseball and softball tournaments, and a parade. <http://www.cordele-crisp-chamber.com>

Ride Reports

Westville

Chris Aycock

The morning was clear and cool as a fair group of bikes headed out for the short ride to Westville, a 1850s style village near Lumpkin.

That particular day Westville was having a reenactment of two 19th century weddings, one for a couple from the village aristocracy and one for a couple of losers from the working class.

If you have never been to Westville it's probably worth a look as they have well over a dozen period buildings as well as some interesting agricultural equipment. The cotton gin and cotton press are most interesting, at least when compared to the wedding activities.

At any rate the 'villagers' were dressed in period costume and assumed a period character, which was cute, the first ten times I heard it.

We viewed the wedding procession from the mansion to the church and attended the ceremony as well. We decided not to stay for the next wedding for the working class Methodist couple. I had heard that she HAD to get married anyway.

All in all it was a good day to spend a Saturday morning,

although I would have rather seen a more realistic depiction of 19th century Southern life, say a cholera epidemic or, even more exciting, seeing the village 'liberated' by General Sherman and his band of blue devils. Of course I guess you could only reenact that once although I'm sure that the fires would be spectacular.

Continuation of the Westville Ride

Bob Smith

As John, Smitty and I returned to my house, we passed Larry Mack on his red Wing. He called us on the CB wanting to know where we were heading. We had just agreed to go by his house while escorting Smitty back toward Atlanta, so this worked out perfectly.

First off, Smitty wanted a picture of the big deer at the entrance to Green Island Preserve, so we headed over to the lake to look for this deer. He has joined an online biker club that stores pictures of animal-named towns, parks or statues of animals. The name is: www.roadkillsafari.com Not finding this housing addition, we headed up to the Mack's by way of River Rd and #315. From there we crossed Pine Mountain to Warm Springs where we went up alt. #27 to Newnan. Now this takes you thru Greenville where the road circles the courthouse. I heartell Clete just leads round and round this courthouse, so I did one lap too. Then on to I-85. Smitty zoomed on up the interstate and I mean Zoomed, whereas we stopped to eat supper while joking with the waitress.

It was still light out so we headed down #29 toward LaGrange. Just before town we meandered East around the mall and the big WalMart distribution area, to pick up pick up #27 back toward Pine Mountain. The Macks took a side road to their garage and John & I came on into town.

I had let my antique car be used in a wedding that day so had to go get it at 9:30 in the evening. I did remember this before I opened my garage door and found the car missing!! They were sure wondering where I had gotten to, so late in the day. Everything turned out well, what with the wedding, the long ride and such good companions all day long.

John and I took off again on Sunday, northeast toward Thomaston. Had a break there for fuel & drink. Then went north on #41 a short ways before turning west on Jefferson Davis Rd. This is a nice county road going toward Greenville. There is a neat road out of Greenville going to Stoval, down toward Pine Mt., but I had trouble finding it. We wandered some pretty bad areas of town before I came back to the courthouse on a side road that requires you to circle the courthouse to get back on #74. Needless to say I heard about this from John. Clete will not have the only bad reputation in the club with this courthouse. We did find the road to Stoval and enjoyed to ride down thru the hills till we could not find #27. Stopped to read the county map and drink some water by a sign that said "end of pavement" (I don't think it meant a gravel road, either). The map showed us a way out of there and back to known roads.

We had planned on picking up Larry & Faith after their Sunday lunch. Now we were a little late, but off we went for another ride to the West Point Dam. Another fuel stop and more food, then we headed down #29 to the Bean Grist Mill. Turns out Faith grew up around that mill area. As evening was upon us we came home by way of Beulah and the long bridge road. Staying off the 4-lane we detoured past the Goat Rock Power plant to come out on Summerville Rd. Then it was a quick ride back to Columbus and our respected garages. I think everyone had a good time, even with the map reading.

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.

VMTA Calendar of Events May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 May	31 May 					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Garage Sale 8-11
9 Mother's Day	10 Club Mtg. Shoney's 7:00	11	12	13	14	15 Georgia Renaissance Festival Welcome Ctr 8:30
16	17	18	19	20 Good Old Boys, 6:30 Phenix City Wal-Mart	21 Rivertown Rally	22 Rivertown Rally
23	24 Board Mtg 1030 1 st Av 6:30	25	26	27	28	29

VMTA Calendar of Events June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Milano's Valley, AL	4	5 Old Time Rock & Roll Car Show 9:00 Welcome Center
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
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