



# The Kickstand

April 2005

[WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org](http://WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org)

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

## April Business Meeting:

April 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00 Shoney's on Airport Throughway, eat at 6:30 or earlier.

## April Board Meeting

April 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30 1500 Second Avenue 6:30 PM

## **Officer Contacts:**

*President: Roger Miller  
(706) 327-7999*

*Vice-President: Bob Smith  
(706) 660-8524*

*Ride Chairman: Chris Aycock  
(706) 507-1839*

*Treasurer: Mary Fiske  
(706) 561-3543*

*Secretary: Joan Kaplan  
(229) 649-9282*

*Public Relations: Jackie Hancock  
(706) 323-8368*

## **Ride Survey Results**

Thanks to all who participated in the VMTA Ride and Events Survey. We had 26 members respond, which consisted of 19 riders and seven passengers. This totals about half of the membership.

While the entire survey results are available on the VMTA website, here are some general results:

- 88% of respondents plan to be as active or more active in club activities this year (50% planning to be more active).
- Most people preferred between four and five events per month during peak riding season.
- Some of the most popular rides and events were the Shrimp Peel, the Christmas Party, the Progressive Dinner, Toys for Tots, and the Fish Fry. Close behind were the Florida One-Day Ride, the Membership Ride, Wings Over the Smokies, and the Honda Hoot.
- Some less popular rides included the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival, Wing Flings, and the Fort Valley Peach Festival.
- Most people wanted to hold the Fish Fry at Lake Point Resort Park in Alabama. That's why we are holding it at Florence Marina again (more on that later).
- 74% wanted to keep the Shrimp Peel at The Sandpiper Beacon.
- The most popular types of rides are Saturday Dinner Rides, one-day rides to festivals and events, and Country Rides.
- The least popular rides are Poker Runs and weekend-long general touring rides.
- Club events on holidays or holiday weekends were not popular, nor were non-riding events.
- Most people preferred rides on Saturday or had no preference between Saturday and Sunday.
- The average preferred round-trip mileage for one-day rides is 150-200 miles, preferably spent on two-lane U.S. or state highways.
- There was quite a bit of variation in the number of bikes on one ride that people likes, anywhere from five to fifteen.
- 35% of respondents led a ride last year but 65% are willing to lead a ride.
- Popular restaurants included Good Ole Boys and Cock of the Walk. The only really unpopular restaurant was Coyote Grill, which has gone out of business.

So what does this mean? More Saturday rides, a picnic ride or two, more Saturday dinner rides, and more country rides. We will attend less Wing Flings and will skip the Cherry Blossom and

Peach festivals. Ride captains should try to avoid four-lane highways. We will work to provide people who want to lead rides the information needed to do this in a confident manner. There will be more on this soon.

Final thanks goes to Susan Miller who worked to get the survey on-line, which no doubt greatly increased overall participation.

## Announcements

### New Event

On May 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Pot Luck Supper at the Fiske home @ 6:30 PM. Bring what you want, dress casual for the weather. Come have a good time and maybe enjoy some different foods. Please tell John or Mary (561-3543) that your coming and what you may be bringing. Hope to see you there. Put this on your calendar now.

### April Birthdays

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

### April Anniversaries

17<sup>th</sup> – Jared and Valerie Cohen  
28<sup>th</sup> – Roger and Susan Miller

**Deadline for the May Newsletter is : Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Email articles to: Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org**

### Upcoming Rides and Events

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>:** Wild Fish on Gentian Blvd. Meet there at 6:30.

**Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Buckner's Leave Miller Dr Burger King at

9:00 AM. George is ride captain.

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>:** Fantails in Prattville – Leave Wal-Mart, P.C. at 6:00 PM Jackie is ride captain.

**Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Milano's in Valley Leave Wal-Mart P.C. at 6:30 PM. John Fiske is ride captain.

**Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>:** Concord Café in Concord. Leave Miller Rd Burger King at 10:00 AM. Bob is ride captain.

**Friday-Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Georgia Mountain Rally, BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia. Bald Mountain Campground, Hiawasse, GA. Information available at <http://www.bmwoga.org>. Contact Chris Aycock for departure details.

**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Sadie's Flea Market In Dothan, AL. Leave Victory Dr Burger King at 9:00 AM.

**Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>:** Cock of the Walk, Opelika, AL. Depart Phenix City Wal-Mart at 6:00 PM.

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>:** Charity Poker Run, Chattahoochee Harley-Davidson

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Fish Fry at Florence Marina State Park near Omaha, GA. **Please note this date and location change.**

**Friday-Saturday, May 20th & 21<sup>st</sup>:** RiverTown Rally at Extreme Powersports.

**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>:** Pot Luck Dinner at John and Mary Fiske's house 6:30. Please RSVP to Mary Fiske and let her know what dish you would like to provide.

**Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>:** Country Ride, 9:30 AM Welcome Center Shell Station.

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>:** Picnic Ride to High Falls State Park. Pack a lunch and join us for a picnic at beautiful High Falls near Jackson, GA. Leave Miller Rd. Burger King at 9:00.

## Events Around the Area

**April 9<sup>th</sup>:** WTVM Auto Fest on the South Commons, Columbus.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:** Naval Museum Car Show. Naval Museum on Victory Drive, Columbus.

**April 30<sup>th</sup> –** Thunder on the Beach.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>:** Rocket City Rally, Huntsville, AL, BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama. Information available at <http://www.bmwmoal.org>.

**Jun 4<sup>th</sup> –** Hot Rod Power Tour will pass through Columbus. More info to follow.

## 2005 TRADITIONAL EVENTS AND RIDES –

**Jun 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> –** Honda Hoot in Knoxville

**Jul 29 – 31<sup>st</sup> –** Camp Out & Mountain Ride - Blue Ridge MC Campground in Cruso, NC

**Sep 22 - 24<sup>th</sup> -** Wings Over the Smokies.

**Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> –** Shimp Peel.

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> –** Christmas Party.

### Daytona by way of Key West

John and Bob left out on a Friday morning to tour all day to Gainesville, FL. There was a Regional Antique Car Show, with a couple hundred cars at the University of Fla. Campus. We did ride 4 lanes to Thomasville, then moved to 2 lanes from there across Georgia and south into Florida. It was a nice 6-hour drive with a few stops and one detour in Quitman. I had written down the routes from the Florida map. Of course, couldn't find them in Ga.



The car show was great for me, but John and Clete, who rode down with some show attendees,

were bored out of their minds. It was a long day but finally we hit the road again. Took I-75 for 30 miles to Ocala, then dropped onto back roads going toward Titusville. We were to meet Larry & Faith near Susan's brother's home that evening.

I got us a little lost around Eustis and Mount Dora; the route took a turn onto a bigger road. As I looked for a spot to turn around, I figured this was the old road and stayed on it into Mount Dora. Took us right into the old part of town with big old homes overlooking a large lake. Actually had some nice hills in this part of town. Lucked out on picking up the next route out of town

As it started to get dark we were only passing I-4 and all the signs to Daytona. The temps were cooling down so we pulled over to dress a bit warmer. Lots of sport bikes shot by us with no windshields and the drivers were in short sleeves. We still put on gloves and warm clothes. Somewhere along here John asked me how long my masking tape was. You see I put all the directions on a strip of tape so I can read them.

Got into Titusville and called Roger & Susan, who were just leaving for supper. We declined riding along and ate at the motel where Larry & Faith were staying. They had yet to arrive but had called to let them know they would be a little late. Our young waitress lived very near Steve's so we got some good directions. Finally arrived in time to put the bikes in a neighbor's garage. Nice!

Sunday headed south to Key West on another sunny day. One of our last ones!!

*Bob Smith*

## **Key West – The rest of the story**

Wondered about the bridges going to the islands, but there is only one 7 mile bridge, the rest are very short. No warning signs to check your gas, like up at Clearwater. But up there you might get stuck in a traffic jam and run out of fuel.

The last 2 bikes of the group did get caught at a lift bridge. A traffic signal came on before the crossing gate dropped, so we had to stop. The lift went up from the other side so we could not ramp the span like in the movies. Turned out to be a learning experience on how the drawbridge works. Of course saw two sail boats go through, too. Hwy #1 traffic sure backed up in a hurry.

The guided tour of Key West was really neat; lots of interesting things went on down there over the years, besides Hemmingway writing there. Some of us toured the old cemetery on our own. Lots of history. Since we could get off the trolley any time, it made for a full day and we still missed lots of stuff. Now I guess I do not need to go into the food!! There will be some pictures on the Web page of our trip, soon.

Was never very warm there till the morning we were to leave. Very humid like it should be all the time, then we started north and the temps fell quickly. Most of the ride north to near Daytona was with our winter riding suits. Brrr. Never too bad for riding, just a steady rain. Got north of Miami and moved from the Turnpike to Hwy 1, now a new 4-lane that could be anywhere USA. No motels to speak of, so wondered what we would do that evening. Finally just south of Canaveral, found rooms.

Wasn't supposed to rain till afternoon in Daytona so we cleaned the bikes. Motel was nice about giving us some old towels. Was raining at 7 AM. Stayed in the mid 40s all day with light rain. We did the Honda Rally and met a fellow we had met in Dawson on the way down. He recognized

John's Grumpy hat and wanted to chat. Interestingly, he had been to El Vaquero restaurant with the club.

We went out to the beach, Main Street of Bike Week. Actually could ride down it as everyone was staying in his or her rooms. Parking was still at a premium.

We already had the place in Titusville, but some were ready to head north, so late in the day we headed inland. Rain let up about sunset in Ocala. I knew of an antique car dealer so I rode over there to look at some neat ole cars. Took the long way around to get back to the motel, sure saw some big horse farms - neat.

Finally the sun came out and we had a great ride home on dirty bikes. After we got home learned of the Atlas rocket launch for Wed evening (which got delayed), but would have been neat to see up close, like in Titusville. Can not do everything but can have fun at what we get to do, right?

*Bob Smith*

## **Talisi Hotel 3/13**

With so many in Daytona we still had eight bikes make our brunch ride to Tallassee. Was a great day for riding, much warmer than Key West! Taking Rt. 80 out of Phenix City, we saw lots of new shops out by Ladonia. It is really growing in that area finally.

There was not much traffic on the 2 lane and the interstate was okay. We made it to the hotel before any crowds got there. Food was delicious as usual. I do not remember anyone going upstairs to see all the nice antique furniture. We told anyone that had not been there before to see all the old stuff in the hotel rooms. It is really something to see.

Jackie found out the Viet Nam Memorial Wall was visiting in Alex City, but as most of us had seen it

somewhere we elected to ride, instead. We went north to Lake Martin Dam then small roads back to Opelika. Normally I take the old road from south of town back to Smiths area but there is a bridge out and you have to get on rt.431 anyway, so we just came all the way on the four lane. Saw lots of bikes out enjoying the roads like we were, their drivers too.

*Bob*

### **Tidbit of Tire Information**

I guess it was about the middle of last year when I found a nail in my rear tire. I took the tire to Dan and had him install a plug to get me back on the road. I never had any trouble with the tire however it was always on my mind how I was riding with a plug. How much was the chance I was taking with Linda and I riding on a tire that was plugged when a new tire was only around \$200. What was our lives worth and how much would that be off of my mind.

Two weekends ago I trailered my wing to Honda of Montgomery and bought new tire thinking this would bring me peace of mind. I know that most of you get your tires in Montgomery and no one's ever had a problem; until now. That's right, leave it to me to be the first.

I had talked to Bob last year and we were talking about changing brake fluid and of course that's another thing playing on the mind. When I got back from having the tire changed I pulled off the saddlebag to change the fluid and noticed my brake pads were much worn. This kind of got to me for I know they had to have noticed this and didn't even notify me.

I had another set of pads so I went ahead replaced them with no problem and just kind of muttered to myself. I also decided to change the rear end fluid and removed the right saddlebag. That's when I noticed the plastic dust guard on the hub broken.

Honda of Montgomery is closed on Monday so I had to wait until Tuesday to get in touch with David the service manager. He informed us that this had never happened before and he would order a new one and have it by the next weekend. We informed him we drove from Phenix City and he mentioned he would compensate us.

We called David that Friday and he informed us the part had not come in. I questioned why, for it had been four days since we called it in and I know that you can have a part expedited over night if needed. He said he was at the mercy of Honda for it was a Honda part and could only order it from Honda. However since it was just a dust cover I could in fact ride the bike like that with the broken part.

After waiting another week with out hearing from them Linda called Honda to see if the part was in and it was. Note, I said we called them, they never called us. We made the appointment to take it back there Saturday. So we loaded it back on the trailer and away to Montgomery we went. When we arrived they were quick to take it in and had it changed in no time.

The service manager was nice enough to say it was done and there would be no charge. Linda asked about the compensation they mentioned. He said "Well if the pads were worn we would have put new ones on." That was it.

So I wasted two Saturdays, wasted the gas in my van, tied the bike down four times and it was all to save a couple dollars on a new tire. I guarantee you I will never take my bike back to Montgomery again. From now on I'm going to buy my tires on Bayview in the Wing World and let Dan change it for me. I don't know how much he'll charge but it won't be as bad as Honda of Montgomery.

This is just a tidbit of information I thought I would pass along with

sincere hopes this won't happen to you.

*Barry Cowall*

### **Safety Tip of the Month:**

When riding, you must keep a position on the road that will let you see and yet make you more obvious to other drivers.

This means that sometimes you will be in the left tire track and other times in the right tire track. For example, in order to make an upcoming left turn, if traveling in the left lane of a 4-lane highway, you should be in the right tire track so the autos will see you and not crowd into what they think is an empty space. (A few years ago, a local rider got a broken leg when, maybe, he did not do this at Airport Thruway.) When in the group, you are relying on your wingman to mark the lane for you.

On curves you need to be on the outside of the curve to see around better, to be prepared for what might be just out of sight around the curve. And yes you will transit to the inside of the curve as you reach the apex to better corner.

When in a group, more than likely, you will be closer to single file through curves and can do this.

*Bob Smith*

### **Talisi Hotel**

One could not have asked for a better day to do that most joyful activity (RIDE A MOTORCYCLE) of course. Jake and I were very anxious to ride, and ride we did. We met several other members at Wal-Mart in Phenix City and after a little socializing; we headed out just a little past 11:00, following one of our great leaders, Clete. Now, of course, Clete likes to play loop-de-loop, so we turned right out of the parking lot onto 280 and then immediately back left and turned around and headed in the

direction he had intended. It was a beautiful day and a great ride to our destination.

Jake and I had never been to this place before, so it was a treat for us. We really enjoyed everything about it. The food was great and by being a buffet, it was fast. Jake missed out though; right after eating he went outside to enjoy his after meal habit (cigar) and missed his dessert.

After all were finished eating, Sandy, Connie and I went shopping, of course, and as we were browsing through this antique store, we heard a horn and thought we were being summoned, so we left and mounted up. No one bought anything, so I am sure the men were happy. I know Jake was.

Now upon leaving I decided to ride the Vulcan and give Jake a break and let him ride a REAL motorcycle. Of course the first thing I had to do was get some gas. Everyone was kind enough to wait patiently for us at the gas station. Finally we headed out to enjoy a great ride back home. Oh yes, upon leaving the restaurant our leader changed and we were now following another great club leader, Bob Smith.

There we were, just riding down a nice country road, and all of a sudden our leader realized he missed a turn so here we go, doing that one thing that I usually dread, TURN AROUND. Picture it, my wonderful husband was behind me on my beautiful red baby, and as I was making my turn I heard him say "Whoa" and I immediately responded with "don't you drop my bike". Well just as I got the words out of my mouth I put my foot down to balance myself and it slipped on some gravel, and guess what? I almost dropped HIS bike. Fortunately, someone was watching over me, and I managed to get control and get turned around without going down. My big red baby made it also. Thanks for the cheers from some of the riders that witnessed our

turnaround. After all were safely going in the right direction, we headed on down the road.

From this point, the ride home REALLY became fun. The road we were on was a windy, twisty road and I really enjoyed all those curves. I was staying up with the leader pretty good, but my honey was having a little trouble with big red behind me and a few times he was lagging back. At the first chance I had, I told Bob I was ready to go ride Deals Gap. Ha!

Needless to say, it was a very beautiful day, a great ride, good food, and as usual, wonderful socializing with the club. Can't wait to ride again!!!!

*Joan Kaplan*

#### **Participation – 2005 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.**

The first quarter of the year has already come to a close and we have certainly been blessed with some excellent riding weather for the time of year. I thought I would take this opportunity to give ya' all a look at the participation we have experienced thus far. For those of us who have been lucky to make many of the rides/events know full well how great it has been. Ten events during coldest time of the year. Wow. Is it great.

<u>Ride/Event</u>	<u>#</u>
Renate's	6
El Vaquero	19
Ezell's	19
Bullock House	14
Chinaberry Café	15
Mello Mushroom	12
Pat's Backwater	20
Tallisi Hotel	12
Iron Butt Ride	12
Peppermill Grill	18

These numbers do not include guests.

Is this great participation or what? In my 2+ years I have not experienced this kind of consistent turn out. It sure shows how much VMTA members like to ride, and of course eat and enjoy good company.  
*John Fiske*

#### **Iron Butt Ride 2005**

Again this year the VMTA had what we call the "Iron Butt Ride". This ride has always been planned in March and this year it was on Sunday the 20th. This ride is to Panama City for lunch and return the same day, which is 400 miles and would not really be considered as a serious Iron Butt Ride, but it our first long ride of the year.

We left the Waffle King on 431 South at 8:00 a.m. with nine (9) bikes and four (4) passengers. (Larry & Faith, John, Johnny & Connie, Clete & Linda, Mickey & Laura, Jackie, Denny, Bob, and Smitty from Atlanta). The weather was crisp but everyone was dressed appropriately for the occasion.

Once we were out and rolling the temperature dropped a few degrees even though we were heading South. There was lots of fog and the visibility was greatly reduced as we traveled down highway 165 through Fort Mitchell and continued on toward Eufaula.

Once in Eufaula the fog disappeared and our first stop was at "Mickey Dee's" for breakfast and hot coffee to warm the insides. After the food and coffee we walked outside realized the temperature had moved up slightly and that meant it was time to start removing some of the heavy riding gear. We continued on South with the CB's continually chattering as everyone was enjoying the early morning air and the first long ride of the season.

The sun continued to emerge and the temperature continued to climb as we reached Dothan and proceeded around the West side, encountering very few red lights and very little traffic. Once we had completed the Circle, it was time for gasoline and the removal of more clothes. There we spent a few minutes then continued our Southward journey down the four lane for lunch.

We rolled on into Panama City and reached our destination of the Montego Bay Restaurant at 12:20. Upon entering we were immediately seated and served some of the City's finest. Everyone enjoyed the food immensely and felt that a short walk on the beach was in demand prior to starting our journey back home.

We returned back to Dothan on the two-lane highway 17 through Graceville. There we stopped at Sadie's Flea Market for a few minutes and were joined by Roger and Susan on their bikes. From there it was to the next stop just North of Dothan at Spanish Acres for ice cream. The remainder of the ride toward home was very pleasant with lots of CB conversations. Once we reached the South side of Columbus at approximately 5:00 p.m. everyone started saying their good byes and departing toward home.

Again this year we had a safe ride to Panama City and everyone stated it was a great ride and the food was excellent.

*Clete*

### ***For Sale by Member***

For Sale: Cobra Road Trip 40-Channel Handheld CB Radio with motorcycle mounting accessories. Includes car kit (roof mount magnetic antenna), all accessories included for mounting on motorcycle to include handlebar mount PTT kit button, handlebar mount kit for the CB and Direct To Handlebar mount CB Patch Cable. Paid \$199 plus tax. This is a great CB set-up, which offers the communication flexibility for use in a vehicle while traveling with motorcycles. \$100 Call Roger or Susan Miller @ 327-7999

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

[Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org](mailto:Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org)

## VMTA Calendar of Events April 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 GWRRA Baywatch in Mobile <b>April Fools Day</b>	2 GWRRA Baywatch in Mobile
3 <b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b>	4	5	6	7 Wild Fish Meet there @ 6:30 PM	8 <b>New Moon</b>	9 WTVM Auto Fest @ South Commons 9AM – 9 PM
10 Buckners Lv Miller Rd Burger King @ 9:00 AM Geo. Carter Captain	11 Business Meeting 7:00 Shoney's Airport Thwy	12	13	14	15	16 Fantails Leave Wal-Mart PC @ 6:00 PM Jackie is ride captain
17	18	19	20	21 Milano's Lv Wal-Mart PC @ 6:30 PM John F is ride captain	22	23
24 Concord Café Lv Miller Rd Burger King @ 10:00 Bob is captain	25 Board Meeting 1500 Second Ave 6:30 pm	26	27	28	29 GA Mtn Rally, BMW owners of GA in Hiawassee	30 GA Mtn Rally, BMW owners of GA in Hiawassee

## VMTA Calendar of Events May 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sadies Flea Market Lv Victory Dr B.K. @ 9:00	2	3	4	5 Cock of the Walk, Opelika Lv P.C. Wal-Mart @ 6:00	6	7 Charity Poker Run at Chattahoochee H.D.
8 <b>Mothers Day</b>	9 Business Meeting 7:00 Shoney's Airport Thwy	10	11	12	13	14 Fish Fry @ Florence Marina State Park
15	16	17	18	19	20 RiverTown Rally @ Extreme Power Sports	21 RiverTown Rally @ Extreme Power Sports
22	23 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	24	25	26 Pot Luck Supper 6:30 @ John & Mary's house.	27	28
29 Country Ride, 9:30 AM Welcome Center Shell Station	30 <b>Memorial Day</b>	31				