



The Kickstand

July 2005

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

July Business Meeting:

July 11th 7:00 Buffet City
2301 Airport Thruway,
(between Applebee's and
Steve B's Pizza)
Eat at 6:30 or earlier.

July Board Meeting

July 25th 6:30 1500 Second
Avenue 6:30 PM

Officer Contacts:

President: Roger Miller
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The President's Message

Summertime and livin' is eaaasy.....and sometimes unpredictable if you happen to be riding a motorcycle! June weather raised some havoc with our riding plans this month but did little to dampen the enthusiasm. Besides diverting the Picnic Ride to High Falls to Buckner's and causing the cancellation of the Yoder's Ride, we did have an excellent string of days for Honda Hoot (see my Hoot write-up) and some of our other events. If you had attended the Hoot last year this was a very pleasant change of weather venue. Such is the life of a biker. Remember to drink plenty of fluids this time of year.

As we approach the warmest two months of the year our activity will be somewhat limited until the fall winds bring cooler temps. One event this month that can 'beat the heat' is the ride to the motorcycle campground at Cruso. Clete will talk about this again at our next meeting and all considering this event need to sign up and make arrangements. I understand Richard and Linda are planning on riding over to join us. I know some of us are not campers but they do have cabins and I am sure there are motels not too far from the campground. If you plan on going, be sure that your bikes are in top condition to handle the hotter temperatures.

July is one of my favorite months with the emphasis on patriotism and my traditional trek to 'Sconsin

to sit in the boat and fish with ol' Dad. You betcha! He's 81 this year and I fear our years are limited, but we're going to pump it to the last drop. It's a special event each year to the point that I really don't care if we catch fish, just being there in the boat with Dad is enough if ya know what I mean. I still remember well him teaching me to fish on the banks of the Chippewa River as a young boy. Some of you have probably had the same experience on the Hooch.

One more plug. We have the Accident Scene Management class coming up the end of August. Let's give some strong support to this important safety-training seminar. Details are in the Newsletter and we will discuss again at the upcoming meeting.

Ride on.....

Roger

Announcements

Motorcycle Accident Management Program 8/27.

This important program will take place on August 27th. Please see the write up in the Upcoming Rides & Events section. Included in this Newsletter is a registration form that can be mailed in. Feel free to visit their Web site

"www.accidentscene.net"

July Birthdays

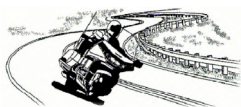
5th – Donna Murphy
15th – Sonja Boyd
27th – Fred Manzer

July Anniversaries

26th – Larry and Faith Mack
28th – Cornelius and Leslie Smith

Deadline for the August Newsletter is Wednesday 4th. Email articles to: Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Upcoming Rides and Events



Saturday July 9th: Sherrano's for dinner. Depart Miller Road Burger King at 5:00.

Thursday July 14th: Johnny Carino's, a new Italian restaurant between Best Buy and Peachtree Mall. Meet there at 6:30.

Sunday July 17th: Breakfast ride. Depart Welcome Center Shell Station 8:00.

Saturday July 23rd: DeSoto Caverns, Childersburg, AL. about 100 miles from Columbus. Escape the summer heat underground. DeSoto Caverns Park has one of the most concentrated collections of cavern structured in the U.S. The main room is twelve stories high and larger than a football field. The cavern tour costs \$12.99. Depart Wal-Mart Phenix City 9:00. More information here: <http://www.desotocavernspark.com/main/index.html>

July 29-31st: Campout Weekend: Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground, Cruso, NC. Enjoy a great weekend in the idyllic settings of the Appalachian

Mountains. You can look forward to great riding, great views, and much cooler conditions than Columbus. See the campground web site here: <http://www.blueridgemotorcyclecamp.com/>

July 30th – Ride to Cheeha Mountain for those not going to the Cruso Camp Grounds. Cheeha has always been one of the favorite rides. Leave Wal Mart in Phenix City at 9:00 AM.

August 6th – Still Pond Winery in Arlington, Ga, 30 miles south of Albany. Grape stomping festival, wine tasting. Admission is free. Lv. Victory Dr Burger King at 9:00 AM.

August 11th – Good Old Boys - Good ride, good food. Don't need anything else. Leave P.C. Wal Mart at 6:30 PM

August 20th – Mid-night Ride to Albany Will leave Miller Rd. Burger King @ 9:30 PM

August 25th – Milano's in Valley, AL Leave P.C. Wal Mart at 6:30

August 27th – Motorcycle Accident Management Program at Pierce Chapel Methodist Fellowship Hall, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The purpose of the Bystander Assistance Program "A Crash Course for the Motorcyclist" is to enhance survival rates and reduce severity of injuries for the injured riders of motorcycles. We expect to decrease the chance of rescuer injury due to inappropriate actions at the crash scene as well as treat the injured cyclist. We also expect to educate the rescuer how to protect themselves and their loved ones legally and financially should a crash occur. Fee is \$35.00 per person. Sign up today at "www.accidentscene.net"

Events Around the Area

July 4th- 7th: GWRRR National Wing Ding, Ft. Wayne, IN. Information available at <http://www.wing-ding.org/>.

July 20th – Ride To Work Day; 14th Annual. Ride your motorcycle on this day to demonstrate the use of motorcycles for transportation.

July 28th – 30th – Honda Homecoming in Marysville, OH.

October 9th Bikes and Badges Ride to support the Georgia Sheriff's Boys Ranch

2005 Traditional Events & Rides

Sept. (early) Progressive Dinner – Connie will once again coordinate.

Sept 22nd - 24th Wings Over the Smokies

Oct 22nd – Shimp Peel at the Sandpiper Beacon.

Dec 3rd – Christmas Party

Safety Tip of the Month:

The batteries on these motorcycles tend to last only 3 to 4 years. During the hot summer it will start losing water and that lets you know it is getting old. Only sometimes it dies anyway.

Mine just died on this trip to Ohio, with plenty of water in it. Luckily friends came to my assistance and off to Wally World we went. Then an evening charge, which should give me lasting service.

Bob Smith

West Virginia via Blue Ridge Parkway

Recently 3 of us tried to ride the length of the Parkway. John Fiske, Gerry Boyd and Bob Smith started from Cherokee, staying at the Riverlet Motel in Maggie Valley. It is as nice as when the club stayed there every year for "Wings over the Smokey's Rally"

Mother Nature had her way causing an 8-foot drop to the roadway near Mt. Mitchell, so after we rode to the top of Mitchell we back tracked to the detour. This is where we had our first encounter with fate. Another biker barely missed us as he locked his rear tire coming into a curve. He sure slid a long way, when just a quick grab of his front brake would have solved his problem. Luckily he missed all 3 bikes and did not drop his either. Gerry had the quickest reaction time and saved his bike.

Actually there were 2 detours, the other up by the Linville Falls area. Not much traffic during the week on the Parkway, which made for a pleasant ride. We met several interesting bikers at the overlooks. John loaned me his 1800 to ride in the curves at one rest stop where we met a young man heading to California on a small bike. Boy those were the days when we were young and dumb and would have made that kind of trip on such a small bike.

At the end of the Parkway in Virginia we decided to skip the Skyline Drive but did drive up the valley toward the other end of it. There we headed into West Virginia. This is the ski area of the state so the roads are spectacular. You can ride for an hour or more and not see a town nor any traffic to speak of, though you might see a bear!

The weather was near perfect with a cool front dropping the humidity from our usual smothering climate down here. There were some sprinkles at the highest elevation of West Virginia but not enough to put on rain gear.

We crisscrossed the southern part of the state where poverty is still prevalent; we did hear that the coalmines are picking up production but are having a hard time finding workers. No wonder, after seeing their grandparents with black lung disease.

We came back by way of Virginia and Tennessee; one scenic road has become a 4-lane in Tenn. Running between the mountains and route I-81. Still that was about the only 4-lane we used on this trip beside Rt.27 to Rome. It was late when we got to Ga. so we stayed over in Calhoun at a nice family owned motel next to the big Outlet Mall; each room had different a décor. More like a bed and breakfast than a motel – nice.

The last morning I made a detour to Gadsden, Al. for a Moultrie-like car flea market, it was pretty good as usual. Nice ending to a 2000+ mile ride.

Bob Smith

Quotes of the Month

Riding faster than everyone else only guarantees you'll ride alone.

Unknown

Two-lane blacktop isn't a highway; it's an attitude.

Also unknown

Well-trained reflexes are quicker than luck.

Also unknown

HONDA HOOT

The gathering of Honda riders in Knoxville was once again an outstanding experience. Each year the participation reaches new heights, yet the variety and superb organization of events and rides does not leave you feeling 'crowded'. And for the first time, the Hoot had a VMTA member vendor! Jared and Valerie had their booth at the event and understand they did well!

The VMTA turnout for this event was sparse and you really missed a special time. The weather was a little warm but not a drop of rain for the entire 3 ½ days. Susan, Bob and I left about noon on Wednesday from the Lafayette Inn in LaGrange where we dropped the 'doggies' off with Susan's folks. This doggie drop-off plus the concern over our intense work schedule the week following the

event caused us to trailer our bikes up to Knoxville and concentrate on the many rides in some of the most beautiful country this nation has to offer a biker. As it turned out it was a wise decision because as the week went on the temps' rose and on the final day we were tired enough from full participation in the event. Bob stayed with us in Knoxville one day before heading north to Pennsylvania to visit some folks.

Our first event was Bike Night in Old City, which was reminiscent of Bike Week in Daytona minus about 100,000 bikes. Very casual and enjoyable as we cruised the main drag and looked at the bikes. On Thursday we targeted the vendors since besides Daytona, this is the biggest vendor event of the year for us. Several new items to look at but no great deals so spending was limited. That evening the Hoot puts on an event downtown called Hula Hoot with a live band and fireworks at dark. Well done!

On Friday we went on the Cumberland Gap ride and that is where it got interesting. We ran into two photographers from the Associated Press who were covering the event. Susan and her charm quickly lured them in and we learned these guys were a couple of characters. Honda had given them two VTX1300's to ride for the event and it wasn't long before I saw my wife riding around town on one of them. Yea, I think you know the routine by now. It was all I could do to keep her from buying it on the spot. These guys had the tools but little sense of direction.

So along with a couple of other guys we met at the Gap I led them to the next event, the BBQ at the Museum of Appalachia. If you have never seen this event it is quite awesome. The "parking lot" is a 120-acre field that fills end to end with two-wheeled chariots. Probably 5000+ bikes. All registrants of the Hoot are offered this free of charge and besides an excellent BBQ meal with ICE CREAM, there is the Museum

itself. Homes, schools, churches, livery stables, etc. from the mid-1800's have been reconstructed here exactly as they were back then. Unbelievable what those people went through to move west in this country.

Saturday was our favorite event, the Best Dam Fish Fry. This event is held at the Norris Lake Dam and again a wonderful meal of fried catfish with all the trimmings and some of the most beautiful scenery of the trip.

We then took the back roads to the vendor area for one more quick pass before heading over to the closing ceremonies. We had already brought the truck and trailer down to the Civic Center so I loaded the bikes while Susan went in for the proceedings. It was especially hot that afternoon so the air conditioning of the truck felt wonderful when we left the event.

Nope, no winners this year on the drawings! We drove straight home that night to Bert and Mildred's reminiscing all the way about the great time we had. Needless to say, there was not a problem with sleep that night!

Roger

Ride Captain Lottery

So far this year the following members have their names in the pot for the 2005 Ride Captain Lottery. If you remember, those members participating as ride

captain have their name placed in the pot for the Lottery drawing.

George	1
Jackie	1
John F	2
Mary F	1
Mickey	1
Roger	4
Clete	4
Earl	1
Chris	2

For Sale by Member

Honda Scooter, 80 cc, red in color, slight cosmetic damage, new tires, tubes & brakes, elec start, runs good. \$350.00, Call George at 706-561-4175

Honda Scooter, 50 cc, Blue in color, new battery, looks & runs good. \$400.00, Call George at 706-561-4175

If you have anything for sale that you would like to advertise in the newsletter please email the details to:
Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Cock of the Walk

The evening was muggy with the temperature hovering at 85 degrees. Departure time of 6:30 from Wally World found only 5 people and one bike. There was Mick & Laura Avirett on their blue BMW and John & Mary in the SUV with Jim Ingram as a passenger. Why John and Jim were not riding their Wings is well known.

After waiting till 6:45 for any possible late shows the parade of one bike and one SUV proceeded towards Opelika. During the ride the temperature dropped 4 degrees. Arriving at the restaurant there was a short wait due to what appeared to be a shortage of staff.

We were seated just inside the porch over looking the pond. Starting with the corn bread & slaw was a big mistake. I for one ate too much of those not leaving sufficient room for the delicious catfish meal that came latter. Everyone enjoyed their meal and the conversation never slowed down.

The return trip was just as uneventful. John stopped at Wally World so that Jim could get his truck. It was a very pleasant evening with great people. You all missed a fine time.

John

VMTA Calendar of Events July 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Sherrano's Lv. Burger King on Miller Rd @ 5:00 PM
10	11 Business Meeting 7:00 PM	12	13	14 Johnny Carino's Italian Meet there 6:30 PM	15	16
17 Breakfast Ride (TBD) Welcome Ctr Shell St. 8:00	18	19	20 Ride To Work Day	21	22	23 DeSoto Caverns Lv Wal Mart P.C. @ 9:00
24 <hr/> 31 Camp out in Cruso	25 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	26	27	28	29 Camp out in Cruso	30 Camp out in Cruso ----- Cheeha Mt. 9:00 PC Wal Mart

VMTA Calendar of Events August 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Still Pond Winery Lv. Victory DR B. K. @ 9:00
7	8 Business Meeting 7:00 PM	9	10	11 Good Old Boys 6:30 PM P.C. Wal Mart	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Mid-night Ride to Albany Miller Rd BK @ 9:30
21	22 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	23	24	25 Milano's in Valley. Lv P.C. Wal Mart @ 6:30 PM	26	27 Motorcycle Accident Management Program, Pierce Chapel Rd Methodist Church
28	29	30	31			