



The Kickstand

June 2005

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

June Business Meeting:

June 13th 7:00 Buffet City
2401 10th Street Phenix
City, eat at 6:30 or earlier.

June Board Meeting

June 27th 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

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Secretary: Joan Kaplan
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(706) 323-8368

The President's Message

Well, how 'bout that! Mother Nature turned off the faucet and we had one of the driest May's on record (well, except for the last three days!). Which meant, of course, an outstanding riding month! For those who did actively ride, I am sure you will agree that May was pretty hard to beat from a weather standpoint. Now on to summer and that 30% chance of rain nearly every afternoon. Of course, an old biker once said, if you don't ride in the rain, you don't ride.

I wanted to mention how much I enjoyed the MSF Advanced Course Susan and I and several other Club members took this month. It was the first formal motorcycle training that I have ever had and it was worth every penny. Most of us were very experienced riders and yet the course challenged each and every one of us. I was particularly impressed with the 1500 riders who could consistently perform some of the tightest maneuvers. Having had a 1500 for a short time, there is no way I could have completed some of those exercises without a spill.

Rob Johns did an excellent job teaching the course despite nearly being run over by a 1500. See Clete for details. Overall, Rob was apparently impressed by our abilities on those big bikes and was very complimentary throughout the course and in his summary. I would highly recommend this course to

everyone and I am strongly considering taking it on a yearly basis just to keep refreshed on my skills and the safety topics.

Well, we have a full slate of activity in June and we sure hope you can participate. Susan and my favorite, Honda Hoot, is now only three weeks away and we can't wait. We hope some of you will join us and come to this great event. Besides the Hoot we are highlighting the Picnic Ride to High Falls State Park, another great dinner ride to Yoder's and a trip to our original state capital of Milledgeville. Sounds like fun to me!

So point your knees to the breeze, and let's RIDE!!

Roger

SPECIAL THANKS!

Our recent annual Fish Fry was once again a major hit for our Club members. While we consider it "a tradition unlike any other" the festivities and fine food do not just fall out of the wild blue yonder! It takes a lot of hard work and preparation. Once again, our event chairman, Travis, did an outstanding job of organizing and overseeing the program accompanied by his cast of cooks; Jackie, Johnnie, George, Bobby, Clete and Linda. Also, thanks to the ladies who organized the desserts and got the food line organized so we could all enjoy. From all of us, GREAT JOB!

Roger

Emails from Terry Jones

(received by George & Gwen)

Greetings from Iraq. Just wanted to drop you guys a line to let ya know that I'd thought about ya. Things continue to move along over here; we're about one-third through our tour of duty. I'm sure that you guys have been burning up the highway. Sorry I never got around to doing any rides with ya. Anyway, I hope that all is going well for you guys. Ride safely,

2ND EMAIL

Hello again. Really glad to have heard from you guys. My mailing address is listed below. Additionally, our company has a website that shows most of us gathered around our guidon for a company photo (I'm in the middle holding the guidon). Please tell me this, how is the Victory Hammer selling and what do folks think of its performance and capabilities. I had stopped by their dealership several times in hopes of seeing one checking it out but they never got one in before we deployed. I'm not sure if I'd buy one because I still haven't forgotten what you guys said about the 1800 Goldwing. I've already got my Harley 883 spoken for when we return (it was really wa-a-a-ay too slow/anemic for me anyway, ya know?). Well, I'll close now and thanks for thinking of us over here. While I'm sure that this place isn't quite as bad as Vietnam nor Korea, it still isn't the good ol' US of A, ya know? My mailing address and company website are listed below:

1SG JT JONES
www.cobraoif3.com
C CO, 2-69 ARMOR
OIF III, FOB Scunion
APO AE 09397

Announcements

Advanced Motorcycle Training

This class is still available to anyone interested on July 17th, all day; also as a two-night class on June 22/23, starting at 5 PM till dark each evening. Really quite informative with a very good teacher. Never a dull moment. Contact Name is Rob Johns phone: 334-855-2122.
Bob Smith

June Birthdays

NONE

June Anniversaries

18th – Travis and Margie Garner

VMTA Impromptu Ride Standing Meeting Place

Suppose you wake up one fine weekend day and want to go riding with someone. Unfortunately there is no club ride scheduled that day and you neglected to call anyone the night before. You are stuck riding by yourself, right?

Not anymore.

The board has decided to declare standing meeting place and time for those who want to ride with other club members on weekend days when no club ride is planned. The initial meeting location is the Cracker Barrel on Bradley Park Drive and the initial meeting time is 9:00 AM.

Here's how it works; on any weekend day or holiday when no official club ride is scheduled you can show up at the Cracker Barrel at 9:00 and see if anyone else is interested in riding. Where you go and what you do is up to the people present.

For example, there is a club ride planned on Sunday but you want to ride on Saturday. Get yourself down to Cracker Barrel by 9:00

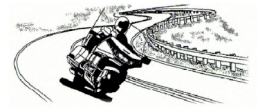
and see if anyone else shows. If one or more people do show you guys decide then where you want to go. It's all up to you.

Although the time and location is set and sanctioned by the club, the resulting rides are not official club events and do not count as club rides. It is up to those present to decide if they want to follow standard club riding procedures or not. While not sanctioned rides, a write-up for the Newsletter will always be welcomed.

This is a new concept for the club so the details may change as we see how things work out. Your input on this is most appreciated.

Deadline for the July Newsletter is Wednesday 2nd. Email articles to: Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Upcoming Rides and Events



Saturday, June 4th: Picnic Ride to High Falls State Park. (App. 125 miles from Columbus) Chris Aycock is the Ride Captain. Pack a lunch and join us for a picnic at beautiful High Falls near Jackson, GA. Leave Miller Rd. Burger King at 9:00.

Saturday, June 11th: Yoder's Deitsch Haus Montezuma, GA. (app. 70 miles from Columbus) Clete Richardson is the Ride Captain. For the uninitiated Yoder's is a bakery and restaurant owned by local Mennonites. Everyone agrees that the food is excellent and the staff is always friendly. Leave Victory Drive Burger King at 5:00.

Thursday June 16th: Chucks BBQ, Opelika, AL. Listed as "one of the ten places to eat before you die" by the first lady of Alabama. Depart Phenix City Wal-Mart 6:30.

Thursday June 21st to Saturday June 25th: The Twelfth Annual Honda Hoot™ Knoxville, TN. If you want to go with the club see Roger Miller for details. Several groups usually leave Columbus on different days.

Saturday June 25th: Milledgeville, GA (app. 130 miles from Columbus) For those who don't give a hoot about the other activities of the weekend see Georgia's former capitol city. Milledgeville is a scenic town with plenty of nice shops and (hopefully) a nice restaurant or two. Leave from Miller Rd Burger King @ 8:00 AM

Thursday June 30th: Cock of the Walk, Opelika, AL. Depart Phenix City Wal-Mart at 6:30.

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/>

Events Around the Area

Jun 4th - Hot Rod Power Tour will pass through Birmingham & Montgomery. More info to follow.

July 4th- 7th: GWRRA 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 28 – 30th – Honda Homecoming in Marysville, OH.

August 27th – Motorcycle Accident Management Program at Pierce Chapel Methodist Fellowship Hall.

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

2005 Traditional Events & Rides

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

Sept 22nd - 24th Wings Over the Smokies

Oct 22nd – Shimp Peel at the Sandpiper Beacon.

Dec 3rd – Christmas Party

Harris County Sheriffs' Office 5th Annual Bikes and Badges Ride

All money raised will benefit the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Home

In our June board meeting for Bikes and Badges Board we were able to make several decisions on the upcoming event. The date will be Sunday October 9th.

As I have previously noted the event will start from Chattahoochee Harley Davidson in Columbus. We will leave at 9:30 AM (*rain or shine*) as one large group and our first stop will be at the Sheriff's Office Dawson, Georgia. We will then travel to the High School ballpark in Sylvester, Georgia to rally with a group from South Georgia. After a short pit stop we will make our way back to Flint River Harley Davidson in Albany.

Pre-registration will be held on Saturday October 8th at Chattahoochee Harley Davidson from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM. (*All who pre register will receive a free tee shirt, complements of Sheriff Mike Jolley and Georgia Sheriffs' Association.*) Poker hands will be 3 for \$20.00 or \$10.00 each. First place will be \$500.00, Second place \$300.00, and third place \$200.00. All hands will be drawn at registration.

We will be selling 50/50 tickets at all stops. We will discontinue selling tickets just prior to the drawing. There will be 1 winning ticket. (*Last years winner took home \$1,500.00*)

Tickets are now available for the custom 2005 Harley Davidson Fat Boy. The tickets are selling for \$20.00 for 15 tickets or \$3.00 each. The drawing will take place on December 17th. (*You do not have to be present to win.*) I will have tickets if you wish to purchase.

We will also have a number of very nice door prizes. For those who are holding the winning tickets these prizes will be super nice.

Country's BBQ will be cooking again this year at Flint River Harley in Albany. Pork plates will be sold for \$5.00 each. Sorry, chicken will not be served this year. Country's will donate all sales to the Sheriff's Youth Home.

Flyers will soon start appearing around town with all the sponsoring clubs listed. We will be asking for help to do registration on Saturday and Sunday. If you can help please let me know.

Our next meeting will be held in July at the annual Georgia Sheriff's Association Conference, which is being hosted by the Harris County Sheriff's Office. This is a large event in which the Governor and Sheriffs from all over Georgia will attend. Each sponsoring club will be recognized as a member of this board.

More information will be published as meetings take place.

**To make a tax-deductible donation, make checks payable to:
The Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Home**

Jackie

Driver Training

The first 8 club members showed up for the Advanced Training Class. We assembled bright and early at Cracker Barrel to make sure we had sustenance for the arduous day. We had Earl, Mickey, Clete, Denny, Roger, Susan, John Fiske and Bob.

We then rode over to Phenix City, down Brickyard Rd to the State Docks area. Rob Johns is a very interesting teacher, keeps the class very upbeat. Riding these big Wings takes some riding skills. Rob put us through some paces all day long; making U-turns, panic stops, weaving thru pylons, etc.

As we practiced weaving he chuckled that all the aeriels were really swaying with symmetry. He had never taught a course of 'touring' bikes before so this was new. At one point he had us do quick stops on his signal. Clete was first up and tried to get his attention by almost running into him before he stopped. That got quite a reaction. Later in the training, Rob said one person would not be getting a certificate. Whoa, did we all wonder who it would be? Then Rob said, of course he would not be getting one, since he had already passed the course. We all relaxed.

The panic stop on a curve is always hard to survive unless you do it right; we all knew this from the basic training course. That was last up for the day and we did fine.

Then it came time to pass out our certificates. He called each name and really congratulated each of us till he got to Clete. Then he slowly tore the certificate up right in front of all of us. If we only had a camera on Clete's face!! After a couple seconds he laughed and brought another certificate to give to Clete. What a hoot!

Anyone else wanting to take this course should sign up soon. It is well worth the time and you will really enjoy the day.

Bob Smith

Safety Tip of the Month:

It has been proven time and time again that ear plugs will make a daylong ride much easier to do by keeping the driver less distracted and more alert.

Hopefully we all have used earplugs from time to time during the years. Maybe it seemed more important when we were on sport bikes but I think it is still just as noticeable when riding on long trips. There is room with the headphones in the helmets too. And you can listen to the radio while wearing earplugs. They only cut out the loud distracting roar, not the voice range we all hear.

Bob Smith

Tips for the Month

GL1800 Aftermarket Oil Filters. Purolator ML16817, Napa gold 1358, Carquest 85358, Wix 51358, AC Delco, PF2135, Fram PH6017A and K&N KN 204, STP SMO17

GL1500 Aftermarket Oil Filters. Napa 1358, AC PF2135, Castrol 73117 or Purlalator ML 16817

*GL1500 Timing Belts. From May 2001, Gates have been supplying the T275 timing belt for the GL1500. Also available is the Napa 250275
Source: Gold Wing Tips by Steve Saunders*

Pot Luck Supper

It was early one fine Thursday evening when the cars and Wings

gathered on Biltmore Drive for the first and maybe annual 'Pot Luck Supper'. As people gathered the conversation and smiles were plenty, including discussion about Bob's entrance into the 20th century. Seventeen members and one guest provided and consumed some very good food. The food ranged from home made chicken noodle soup, ham & potato casserole, & macaroni cheese, crock-pot beef stew, fruit salad, breads, soft drinks and ice tea.

After the eating was finished the conversation again picked up, subjects ranging from Wing maintenance to new cars to Welsh ponies. Everything was eaten except tidbits of desserts. Good byes were said as cars drove away and the bright taillights of the Wings went down the driveway.

Thanks to everyone for making this evening a great gathering.

Mary

Quotes of the Month

Only riders understand why dogs love to stick their heads out car windows.

Unknown

A good long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of gas.

Also unknown

River Town Rally

The morning started early for Laura and I. "Honey, we've got to be there no later than 8:30 so we can help set up", "Okay" with a big yawn was the soft reply. So we saddled up on the bummer and headed into town. Arriving at Extreme Power Sports Roger had beaten us to the punch. Everything was set up and ready to go. The booth looked really good, now the club is ready for a big day.

The morning was cloudy and cold not a good sign for the Rally. As other club members starting arriving we began to discuss the weather and how unusually cold it

was, and the wind did not seem to be letting up.

As the morning moved on more and more club members arrived. We had a number of conversations going on. I know my ears were burning! Just kidding. Denny and Sandy were sharing a recent copy of a motorcycle magazine in which their son and his custom motorcycle were featured. Old friends and other club riders moseyed over to the booth. Big hello's and hardy handshakes were in order. A lot of good friends and other motorcycle enthusiast sharing the day all wishing the weather would break.

Well, by mid-morning things were looking better. The weather started cooperating. More and more riders were showing up to the rally. Still not a big crowd we discussed, maybe the weather scared off some.

Roger, Susan, Laura and I decided to go on the dice run around noon. Roger and Susan leading the way we headed out of Columbus up highway 85 with our first stop at Luke's Pub in Waverly Hall. A quick roll of the dice and were off to the next stop at Xtreme Lather in Warm Springs. Another quick roll of the dice and off – no wait a minute Laura and Susan got to look around. Okay I did too! But I drew the line at the pink chaps and vest, "Honey, they will clash with the blue on the bummer", escaped with only a minimum purchase of a leather bag. Off we go through Pine Mountain on highway 190 through the curves to the Callaway Country Store overlook for another roll of the dice. We arrived back at Extreme for the last roll of the dice and just in time for the motorcycle contest.

Roger, John and I entered our bikes into the touring class while Susan entered hers into the Cruiser Class. Trophies all around: Roger – First Place, Mickey – Second Place, John – Third Place and finally Susan – First Place. Now for a little

competitive competition and skill riding, Susan was in the lot. All of us had fun watching her slow ride to winning!

It was time for the raffle tickets to be called out. You had to be there to win the door prizes. And the winner is Roger, Susan, Roger, Susan, Roger well it seemed that way. Everybody was commenting how they always win the prize. Well I think most everybody there won at least one door prize.

"Let's have a quick dinner at El Vaquero", for the few of us still hanging around waiting on the night ride. The first order was Margaritas all around; Laura stated that "there are priorities in life you know." Everyone ordered their favorite dinner and dug in. After a few bites Laura and Bob decided that they would exchange dishes, they forgot what they had ordered! That's after only a few sips of margarita! Man, what's up with that?

We all headed back over to the booth awaiting the Grand Prize drawing and the night ride. We had several other VMTA members start arriving around dark. In fact it looks like a VMTA rally! None of the VMTA members won any of the Grand Prizes or the 50/50 money. A lot of darns were in order but we all remember that it was for a good cause.

Saddle UP! It's time for the night ride. So we headed to Down Town aka Up Town. We rode down J R Allen Parkway taking the Second Avenue exit down Second Avenue turning onto 9th Street then over to Broadway. We ran the short loop a couple of times around Broadway. Some riders parked while others headed home after a long day.

A few folks did stop by the booth during the day to inquire about the club. Some of them said they would visit us at our next meeting. A lot of members supported and contributed to the Rally and we want to thank all of you who came out for a good cause. Members

that we recall seeing were George & Gwen, Denny & Sandy, John & Mary, Roger & Susan, Larry & Faith, Johnnie & Connie, Bob, Clete, and Chris. We would also want to thank Jackie, Roger, and Joan for the equipment donations and Denny & Sandy for the VMTA pencils.

In closing I feel that I can speak for all of us from the VMTA and we would like to extend a special thanks to Art Murphy for all of his hard work. It was a very long but rewarding day. Art obviously had his heart and spirit in this event along with many others. So thanks can go around to everyone who help made the River Town Rally a success.

Mickey

Country Ride

The best laid plans of mice and men are sometimes not the plan for the day. I had laid out a nice back road trail to and from Peachtree City for this ride but Mother Nature, as she will often do to us bikers, forced us to play another hand. With a slim turnout for this event we had all checked the Weather Channel prior to the ride and did see that it looked a bit "iffy" especially to the North. But we are bikers and the possibility of one of those delicious hamburgers at Fuddruckers was still too tempting. But seeing the weather approach from the northwest we decided to reverse our course and go up the west side first to minimize the risk.

So Bob, John, Mary, Susan and I left the Welcome Center Shell at about 9:40, temperature 76F. Made our way up to River Road, cut through on Lake Skillet to 103 and into West Point. By this time you could feel the temperature start to drop and the dark clouds were closing in. When we got to LaGrange the temperature had dropped 15 DEGREES to 61F and it had started to rain lightly.

It was decision time and after a couple of glances to the north, we reluctantly decided that it was not in our best riding interest to continue that way. So we headed east on 109, stopped briefly at a convenience store to put our rain duds on, and motored into Greeneville. After rounding the square we headed east again for a short distance on 109 before splitting off on 74 and into Thomaston.

Our country restaurant connoisseur, Mr. Bob Smith, saved the day once again as he took us to a great family buffet restaurant that I never would have found and we had lunch. Great food and a few more laughs.

We then jumped on hwy 36 heading southwest out of town and what a great road to ride. We took a short detour into Sprewell Bluff State Park and stopped at an overlook above the Flint River that was fantastic. Back onto 36 we passed River Bend Restaurant and more great riding until 36 ended at 208. By this time the weather was clearing again and the temperature was rising rapidly. We crossed over 27 Alt at Waverly Hall and then hit 27 for the rest of the ride home. When we got back to Columbus the temp had bounced back to the high 70's and we were all getting a bit uncomfortable in our layers put on earlier.

So even though we had to scuttle the original plan, we still made it into a great ride and were only rained on briefly and very lightly. All returned to our homes safe and sound with a smile and a few more miles under our belt. Wish we would have had more of you!

Roger

VMTA Calendar of Events June 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Picnic Ride to High Falls Park Miller Rd BK @ 9:00 AM
5	6	7	8	9	12	11 Yoder's Victory Dr BK @ 5:00 PM Clete to lead
12	13 Business Meeting 7:00 PM Buffet City in P.C.	14 Flag Day	15	16 Chuck's BBQ Opelika Lv Wal Mart PC @ 6:30 PM	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22 Honda Hoot Knoxville, TN	23 Honda Hoot Knoxville, TN	24 Honda Hoot Knoxville, TN	25 Milledgeville Lv. Miller Rd Burger King 8:00 AM
26	27 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	28	29	30 Cock of the Walk Lv. 6:30 @ Wal Mart in Phenix City		

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	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

