



The Kickstand

March 2005

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

March Business Meeting:

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

March Board Meeting

March 28th 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

The President's Message

Well, with March coming in like a LION our topsy-turvy winter continues! I saw the explanation on the Weather Channel last week and "did you know" that the reason for our recent cold spell is actually a WARM air mass pushing northward in the central Atlantic and forcing this huge bubble of cold air down on us from Canada! Go figure! Oh well, before you know it we will be sitting home because it's too HOT to ride.

By the time you read this hopefully we will be back to normal in the weather department. Since I started this article we have had yet another cold BLAST that reached all the way to Key West (trust me, it did!)

This month is officially the start of the "riding season" and we kick it off with one of our traditional favorites, the Iron Butt Ride to Panama City. See the schedule for details but Sunday, March 20 is the date and hope you all can make it as it is always a great time. Susan and I will not be able to ride on the way down because we will be visiting my sister's family in Destin that weekend but do hope to catch up with the gang for the ride back.

I see that Art and his crew at GWRRA have officially announced their 2nd Annual Bikes on the Hooch for May. Last year's inaugural event was a big success and I have once again pledged

VMTA's support to him. Let's start thinking on how we can help these fine folks with the festivities and be a part of a leading annual motorcycle event for Columbus. I would like this to be a point of discussion for our meeting Monday night so please all of you think about it.

Speaking of the meeting on Monday night, I wanted to let you know a couple of things; first of all, I send my regrets due to business travel. I leave for Vegas on Monday for a conference (someone HAS to do it!) but I leave you in the trusted hands of Mr. Smith. Secondly, I apologize for the mix-up in communication that resulted in the poor conditions for last month's meeting. The manager at Shoney's "assumed" we were not having a meeting that night due to Valentine's Day. I guess I should have confirmed. We did get through it with a great turnout and, hopefully, all will be back to normal at this meeting.

The nice weather WILL come so let's fire up the bikes RIDE!

Roger

Membership Dues:

2005 Club dues are due before March 31st. \$20 for single membership & \$30 for two. Send checks to VTMA c/o Mary @ 3951 Biltmore Dr, Columbus 31909.

Announcements

Guest Speaker

At our March business meeting Mr. Kenny Hopkins, owner of American Eye Care will be our guest speaker.

Looking Ahead

The next club yard sale will be April 1 & 2 at 3951 Biltmore Dr. (John & Mary's house). Get your items together. Items can be given to Mary any time during March. Mary will clean and tag items for sale.

March Birthdays

14th – Joan Kaplan
17th – Clete Richardson
24th – Janet Howell
31st – Mary Fiske

March Anniversaries

7th – Bobby and Carolyn Shackelford

Deadline for the April Newsletter is : Wednesday April 6th. Email articles to: Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Upcoming Rides and Events

Sun. Mar 13th – Talisi Hotel
Leave Wal-Mart, Phenix City @ 11:00 AM Clete is ride captain

Sun. Mar. 20th – Iron Butt Ride to Panama City. Lv P.C. Waffle King at 8:00 AM. Ride captain is Clete. Please wear your green Club shirts.

Thu. Mar 24th - Peppermill Grill
Leave P.C. Wal-Mart @ 6:00 or meet there @ 6:30 PM

Thu. Apr 7th – Wild Fish on Gentian Blvd. Meet there @ 6:30.

Sun. Apr 10th – Buckners Leave
Miller Dr Burger King @ 9:30 AM

Sat. Apr 16th – Fantails in
Prattville – Leave Wal-Mart, P.C. @ 6:00 PM Jackie is ride captain.

Thu. Apr. 21st – Milano's in Valley
Leave Wal-Mart P.C. @ 6:30 PM John F. is ride captain

Sun. Apr 24th – Concord Café in
Concord. Leave Miller Rd Burger King @ 10:00 AM.

Sun. May 1st – Sadies Flea Market
In Dothan. Leave Victory Dr Burger King @ 9:00 AM

May 14th – Annual Fish Fry @
Buff Creek. **Please note this date change.**

May 20th & 21st – RiverTown Rally
@ Extreme Power Sports

Events Around the Area

Mar. 19th – Rally for the Troops
Chattahoochee Harley-Davidson Shop

Mar 31 – Apr 2 – Baywatch 2005
GWRRA Rally in Mobile

April 30th – Thunder on the Beach

Jun 4th – Hot Rod Power Tour will pass through Columbus. More info to follow.

2005 TRADITIONAL EVENTS AND RIDES –

Jun 22th – 25th – Honda Hoot in
Knoxville

July 29 – 31st – Camp Out & Mountain Ride - Blue Ridge MC
Campground in Cruso, NC

Sept 22 - 24th - Wings Over the
Smokies.

Oct 22nd – Shimp Peel.

Dec 3rd – Christmas Party.

EZELL'S 2/10

If there is Fish on the menu you can expect a good turnout from VMTA. There was the usual hugs and hello's that we do so well as everyone arrived. We stood around in the lobby and chatted while we waited for arrivals and our table to be set up. It was a little chilly that night and there is a huge fireplace in the lobby however, there was no fire, which would have been great. Well, we had a good turn out and although the fish were great I personally love their hush puppies. I understand the hush puppy name originated from throwing them to the dogs so they would be quiet. You can bet if you throw me one I will be quiet only long enough to eat it and then beg for another. I can never eat all of my meal because I eat too many hush puppies. The fish and slaw is not bad either. I usually have shrimp, which I personally think are about the best in town. I think we should try to get their recipe for the hush puppies for the fish fry. What do you think are our chances of that happening?

We had 19 people to attend. We were not the only group in attendance. Thursday night must be group night for the back room was full with three different parties. We were happy to see Brad and Stephanie and Faye Delay, who has been absent for awhile and several other new faces.

George and I had the pleasure of sitting across from Mickey and Laura Averitt, new to the club, and making their acquaintance. We found out they live in Marion County not far from our daughter Cathy. Laura works for Acute Care and they handle the drug screening and work comp for my place of business. In fact, when I went back to work and was sorting my business cards, guess whose card I found, you guessed it- Laura's. It is a small world and you meet and make friends in unexpected places.

I know everyone had a great time, service and food was good, the

decimal level of noise was high until the food arrived and then it became quiet, everyone was busy eating.

George and I have not been as active recently due to his surgery and the holidays but we are looking forward to spring and nice weather. Our bike has been idle too long.

Hope to see you on the next one.

Gwen Carter

Safety Tip of the Month:

Speed and Distance Judgment

Timing is a well known casualty of aging, but like endurance losses it can be greatly mitigated with training. It doesn't take sweat for hours, only seconds. If you have not ridden in awhile you should practice the time it takes for a vehicle to approach your bike at 60 miles per hour.

If you count 1 Mississippi for each second you can keep in mind how quickly another vehicle will intersect your position. This is good for passing, turning, or following another bike.

We know the 2 second rule for riding in a group. How about getting ready to pass another vehicle, remember that an approaching car will be cutting your time in half. So you must be thinking ahead on the 2 lane roads we ride all the time. 5 to 6 seconds is good for checking the mirrors on open stretches of road. 10 seconds is a good count before pulling out onto a busy highway. Try this on your next ride.

Bob Smith

Chinaberry Café 2/20

This ride was well attended like the last four events have been. We left Burger King at 11:00 AM with 10 bikes and 15 members. Wanting to be there as close to 12:00 as possible we proceeded directly to Parrott on Rt. 520. The weather was pleasant with mild temperature with a little crosswind at times.

Shortly after leaving Columbus someone asked, "where's Clete" (he was to be ride captain that day). John explained that Clete wished to go ATV camping with the boys and asked him to lead. Well the next comment was that Clete did not want to lead due the forecast for possible rain and he did not want to be blamed if it did.

Roger had phoned the Café before leaving so they had a large table set up for us. We timed it very well. No sooner had all of us sat down with our food and the 'church' crowd stated to come in. The food was very good, as I did not hear any complaints but many compliments. Once outside, Roger took a group picture in front of the Café. Will be nice to see it on the Web Site.

After saying goodbye to Joan & Jake, who returned home via Rt. 41, we continued down Rt. 520 to Dawson. There we turned West on Rt.82 This route was not too curvy and permitted us the opportunity to look at some very nice old homes and Susan noted a couple of real old cemeteries. Upon reaching Georgetown we turned north on 39. After passing Florence Marina we crossed the river and turned north on Rt. 165.

We arrived back in Columbus around 3:00 PM. The afternoon gave us nice weather and never a hint of rain.

John Fiske

The Bullock House 2/12

It all started on a cool brisk Saturday morning in mid February. The air was heavy with the morning dew and the anticipation of a motorcycle ride had me looking forward to hitting the road. The day had started out as many others so why would I think this one would turn out any different. Upon arriving at the Burger King on Miller Road I could see others had the same eager twitch to the throttle hand.

Our departure time was at 11:00 AM and off we went with 8 bikes and a Chevy Van. Some were new, some were old, some were dirty and others were so clean you could comb your hair in their glossy finish. Just like little ducks we headed down Manchester Expressway where we picked up Roger and Susan. It wasn't long Denny and Sandy also joined our two wheeled convoy after they stopped to top off with fuel. The chatter on the CB radio was alive with all the good mornings and well wishes that we have grown to expect in this family of riders and friends. (Which if I may say makes the ride twice as enjoyable.)

Once we arrived at the restaurant we parked in formation on the main road, along with the CMA bikes. Warm Springs could feel the presence of Columbus' motorcycle riders in this small community of gift shops and restaurants.

As always we stopped to look at the bikes to compare what our bikes did not have installed and tried to figure a way to expand the credit limits on our charge cards. After the reality of the money it takes to keep up our habit, lunch was the next item at hand. The food was as good as always right up to the point where you had to pay the bill. The meal as tasty as it was could have been a little less costly. But then it is "only money" or "only plastic" in today's world.

Some wanted to take in the sights of the shops, others wanted just to

sit and soak up the afternoon sun and Denny wanted everyone to think his wife was on a spending spree again. After he misled several of us in thinking he was going to retrieve his checkbook for Sandy he came back with a leather coat for himself.

We hit the road back to Columbus taking the path across the mountain or partly across the mountain I should say. As many of you know I tend to take roads that I have no idea where we will wind up. But in this group of riders I never fear, someone will always be able to tell you where to go or where to get off. As it worked out we took a few back roads to test Earl out on his new Wing and found ourselves back in Hamilton. After a brief fuel stop for Earl we were back on the road home.

This is the most regrettable time to a rider as all the fun is about end and the pony is headed back to the barn for a good brushing and cover for the next outing.

As always “keep the muddy side to the highway and the shiny side pointing to the stars”.

Jackie Hancock- Ride Captain

For Sale by Member

03 Silver Wing, 2700 miles, throttle lock & extra trunk. Always garaged
Contact Earl @ (706) 563-5677 or
email: aec177a1@aol.com

2003 CandyApple Orange Gold
Wing 1800 Less than 4K miles.
Equipped with Honda CB radio.
First \$15,000 gets this beautiful
bike. Call Dave Ledbetter @
(706) 221-8661.

*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 March 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ride and Event Survey due	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 March Newsletter Submission Deadline	10	11	12
13 Talisi Hotel Leave Wal-Mart PC @ 11:00 AM	14 Business Meeting 7:00 Shoney's Airport Thwy	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Rally for the Troops
20 Iron Butt Ride Lv Waffle King in P.C. @ 8:00 AM Green shirts	21	22	23	24 Peppermill Grill Lv P.C. Wal-Mart @ 6:00 or meet there 6:30.	25	26
27 Easter	28 Board Meeting 1500 Second Ave 6:30 pm	29	30	31 GWRRA Baywatch in Mobile begins		

VMTA Calendar of Events April 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 GWRRA Baywatch in Mobile April Fools Day	2 GWRRA Baywatch in Mobile
3 Daylight Saving Time begins	4	5	6	7 Wild Fish Meet there @ 6:30 PM	8 New Moon	9
10 Buckners Lv Miller Rd Burger King @ 9:30 AM	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	30 Thunder on the Beach