



The Kickstand

May 2005

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

May Business Meeting:

May 9th 7:00 B Merrell's,
7600 Veterans Pkwy, eat at
6:30 or earlier.

May Board Meeting

May 23th 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

As we near our summer season, I remember Mom saying on or around 'May Day' every year "April showers bring May flowers". Gee, I wonder what April monsoons bring! A muddy 'Hooch for one.....! Oh well, fortunately it didn't mess up our riding too much as it stayed away from the weekends for the most part. If you throw in the March rains, I think the drought in the South might finally be over. But some nice riding weather we did have especially for one of our favorite's, the Iron Butt. Great time of the year to ride!

As we mapped out the months of May and June at last week's Board meeting, I got excited about the upcoming rides and events so I hope you do too and put some rubber on the road. The big-ticket items are the annual Fish Fry, once again headed up by Travis, the Bikes on the Hooch Rally with Art and his gang, and Honda Hoot in late June. Be sure and plan ahead for these events and let's see strong club participation as we have in the past. I have once again volunteered our help to Art for the Rally so be prepared to help out if you can. We also are planning to have a booth at the Rally and use it to expose our club to the participants. See Jackie if you can help.

The Board is also continuing to strengthen our educational and safety programs and I do hope you take these very important programs to heart and participate.

At the next meeting we will have a MSF instructor talk to us about group riding so we can refresh ourselves on that important aspect. We have lined up the Advanced MSF course for the 22nd and I think it is already full so thanks for the strong interest in that program. And in August we hope to sponsor a Motorcycle Accident Scene Management seminar for Columbus. To my knowledge our area has never had one of these seminars. This is something you hope you never have to use, but you could help save someone's life with this training. There is never too much of these programs to keep us on our toes and make us better motorcyclists.

So sharpen your pencils, bring your catfish appetite and let's ROLL.

Roger

May Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker will be Rob Johns from Biker2biker motorcycle training. He will be lecturing on Group Riding. Should be quite interesting.

Cycle Training Class

We will have an advanced cycle training class this summer; anyone interested can join. The first VMTA only class is full, but let me know when you can attend another class.

Bob Smith

Announcements

May Birthdays

9th – Lucy Manzer
10th – Valerie Cohen
17th – Linda Cowall

Deadline for the June Newsletter is Wednesday June 8th. Email articles to: Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Upcoming Rides and Events



Thursday, May 5th: Cock of the Walk, Opelika, AL. Depart Phenix City Wal-Mart at 6:30 PM.

Saturday, May 7th: Charity Poker Run, Columbus Customs on Milgen Rd. 10:00 AM

Saturday, May 14th: Annual Fish Fry at Florence Marina State Park near Omaha, GA.

Friday-Saturday, May 20th & 21st: RiverTown Rally at Extreme Powersports.

Thursday, May 26th: PotLuck 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.

Friday, May 27th – Ladies night out. Eat at Peachtree Mall & then a movie 6:00 PM Call Mary.

Sunday, May 29th: Country Ride, 9:30 AM Welcome Center Shell Station.

Saturday, June 4th: Picnic Ride to High Falls State Park. (App. 125 miles from Columbus) 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) 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.

Events Around the Area

May 13th -22nd: Myrtle Beach Spring Bike Week, Myrtle Beach, SC.

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

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/>.

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

2005 Traditional Events & Rides

July 29th - 31st – Camp out & Mountain Ride. Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground in Cruso, NC.

Sept 22nd - 24th Wings Over the Smokies

Oct 22nd – Shimp Peel at the Sandpiper Beacon.

Dec 3rd – Christmas Party

Quotes of the Month

The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rear view mirror.

Unknown

Pie and coffee is as important as gas.

Also unknown

Bikes and Badges Meeting April 26, 2005

We have made progress in setting the stage for this years **Bikes and Badges Ride** to support the **Georgia Sheriff's Boys Ranch**. The ride will take place **Sunday October 9, 2005** and depart from **Chattahoochee Harley-Davidson** located at 7373 Fortson Road.

Like last year we will draw all your poker hands in Columbus, one hand will be \$10.00 or 3 hands for \$20.00. **We will leave Columbus as 1 large group** and make our way to Dawson, Georgia Sheriff's office for a short pit stop. Restrooms will be open this year.

We will then ride to Sylvester, Georgia to rally with the group from South Georgia. We will leave Sylvester as 1 very large group to ride back to the Harley shop in Albany, Georgia. We will have food and bands at this location.

This year we will be selling chances to win a **2005 Harley Fat Boy**. Tickets are \$3.00 each or 15 tickets for \$20.00. We also will be selling 50/50 tickets; the price has not been set at this time. **Last**

years winner was paid
\$1,500.00.

More information will be published each month as we meet.

Jackie

BUCKNER'S

At the beginning of the week George was not feeling well- the pollen was causing his allergies to flare up. He kept saying he didn't know if he would feel like going to Buckner's. Well, I went into the bedroom, got out my medicine woman outfit, put it on and danced in circles around him while shaking my rattle and chanting. He felt better right away. (I really went to the drug store and got allergy medicine)

Well, that was one problem solved, the next was the weather. We must have a nice spring day for the ride. I bet you didn't know I was also a fairy Godmother. I have a picture to prove it. Anyway, I had fairy dust left from my granddaughter Gretchen's party so I sprinkled some around and waved my magic wand and behold we had beautiful weather.

Enough foolishness- we had nine bikes to go on the ride, one of which was a first Time visitor. Everyone was confused about the time 9:00 or



9:30 was the question. We stayed until 9:30 in order to be certain no one was left behind. The route George took was thru Waverly Hall Woodland, Thomaston, Barnesville to Exit 33 on I-75 to Buckner's. We arrived before most of the Church group and had no problem being seated. If you have never been to Buckner's the food is served family style. The bowl's of food is placed on a lazy susan and you serve yourself. There was ham, fried melt in your mouth chicken, cream potatoes, stewed tomatoes, shoepeg corn, butter peas, sweet potato casserole, bread and peach cobbler. The trouble with the lazy susan was that if you weren't as fast as

George and Jake you were left holding a bowl waiting for the other food to come around again. I had forgotten how good the food tasted, as we haven't been on this ride in several years.

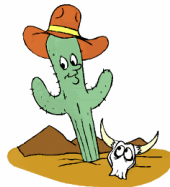
We left the restaurant sufficiently filled, as my father used to say after a meal. We returned thru Barnesville, Conners and Manchester where we stopped at McDonald's for an ice cream cone. We lost several of our group at Manchester but the rest of us rode over Pine Mountain and returned home.

It was a great ride. Good food, great weather and beautiful scenery. I would do it again. Sorry if you missed it but you can come next time.

Gwen

Texas Ride

That was a great 6 days on the road, faster than a couple of us like to travel but fun none the less. Traveling in this group was both Smittys, John Fiske, Clete, Gerry Boyd and our fearless leader Chris, who never found a gravel road.



Going out, we only had freeway across Mississippi and Louisiana. Near the Texas boarder got on a 2 lane, thinking we would slow down, but 30 miles later crossed into Texas and the speed limit became 70 mph again! To get anywhere out there you need to drive fast, even on 2 lanes!

We went to Killeen and Austin; both have grown tremendously in the last 10 years. That was the end of big cities for us. Headed for the hill country west of Austin, stayed in Fredricksburg, a big tourist area. Lots to do around there. Smitty went out to a bat cave at sunset but not many came out; missed the bridge in Austin, famous for bats,

as there was not a motel to be had within 75 miles.

Of course had to go to Luckenbach, TX. Met some other motorcycle riders there and got some good suggestions for county roads. Had several cycle books, with us, with local rides listed. All choices were good.

The bluebonnets were in full bloom all over this section of Texas. Turns out lots of locals as well as tourists make this area their destination. But never a traffic problem as it is wide open and speaking of open; it is all open range too! Watch out for the cattle on the road. HA! One scenic road went through 13 miles of private property -- really neat area. Lots of photographers and artists around this area. The cattle guards are slick and were at any fence line, usually in the apex of a corner. Luckily they were well marked so you could line up to go across at ninety degrees.

Stopped at a mini Stone Mountain, where no one was really interested in climbing to the top. The excuse was we had on the wrong shoes. (chuckle) Some roads were paved through creek beds, plus there were markers for high water levels. Interesting. There has to be a term for the ravines throughout the West, some of the streams were very wide but no water usually. It was dry while we were there. We rode 2500 miles in the 6 days.

Went south around San Antonio on county roads that were nice and curvy with some elevation to them too. Just spectacular after all the flat ground we covered. Then far north to College Station and Texas A & M University expecting to stay there. But it was parent's weekend; with 65,000 students there was not a room to be had for 100 miles. Still, we had a good day's ride, going easterly and getting ahead schedule.

So we decided to cross Southern Louisiana in bayou country along the coast. Small straight roads in

Cajun country. Neat to listen to the local accents wherever we stopped. Ate some great gumbo. Stayed in Biloxi the last night, then it was a short trip home on freeways.

Bob Smith

Safety Tip of the Month:

With the upcoming summer riding season near, we need to remember to keep hydrated while we are riding. Unfortunately, riders do not notice that they are having fuzzy thinking, but they may notice that they are getting dizzy, only not always. It is a good idea for us to stop more often on very hot days, even if we do not think we need a break.

With a very high heat index it does not take long for someone to become unable to ride. Of course you will not know the heat index has gotten high while you are riding, so just plan on hourly stops whenever the temps are well over ninety. This is very important.

Bob Smith

Fields of Blue Flowers

To those club members that could not or did not want to ride out to Texas to see the Bluebonnets in bloom, have I got a ride for you. On a past Sunday Larry, John Fiske & Bob Smith went for a country ride. Somewhere west of Laramie, oops, that is, Warm Springs we passed several acres of very blue wildflowers. This was one of several pastures that the wildflowers had taken over. One



field was part of a sod farm, so the soil must have been very fertile. This was north of Rt. #18 on John Wallace Rd near Stovall Rd. Paved, even.

You sure won't have to ride 2500 miles to enjoy some neat fields of blue. On our return from Texas as we came across old #80, Wire Road, from I-85 we saw some small fields of blue flowers and the comment was made "why had we ridden so far?"

This was great riding weather with only 17 per cent humidity. We were not the only people enjoying the day on a bike. As we got into Warm Springs the bikes were parked everywhere, so we stopped to peruse the different paint jobs, etc. Good place for a pit stop anyway, right? Only a few 1800 Honda's, mostly big ol Harley's!

We came across the mountain as usual and rode past Larry's then came down Fortson Road to Williams Road and split up. I had to go down to the Naval Museum and then went back to John's for some strawberry shortcake. Ummmmmm good.

Bob Smith

Tips for the Month

Unusual GL1800 Battery Charging Problem. Jim Sadler from Australia tipped about this. No charge was going to his battery, even though the alternator was giving full output and the regulator checked out okay. Turns out his cruise control fuse had blown and when this fuse blows the battery will not charge.

Spare Keys for GL1800. The Honda Accord key blank is the same and can be used as a backup key for emergencies. This applies to US G1800's only, the UK G1800's have the Honda HSS chip in them.

Source: Gold Wing Tips by Steve Saunders

Concord Cafe

It was a cool morning but we were dressed for it. After a short delay six bikes; Chris, Mickey & Laura, Susan, Roger, Sandy & Denny, John & Mary, were up onto Rt. 85 headed towards Manchester. After passing the former Meadows car lot our leader, Chris turned right onto a very nice country road taking us past the old Georgia Tech communication antennas. These are impressive in their size and sitting there in that valley. After another turn we came onto Rt. 74 headed towards Molena.

Time permitted so Chris navigated us to Rt. 109 and then left onto another country road. Only this one tuned to dirt at the top of a crest with the blacktop taking a 90° left turn. No problem. A U-turn for a few and off we went.

The Café had plenty of seating for us. Everyone was hungry and filled their plates, some more than once. It was also noted that we were not limited to just one desert, as everything was 'all you can eat'.

After small talk we made way for the bikes. A few went across the street to look over the headstones in an old cemetery. Once that was completed there was the need to jump start 'a bike'. But we were off.

A number of us indicated a desire to return to Columbus so Chris took us on Rt. 18 then 85 through Warm Springs. At the top of the hill Denny & Sandy continued on 85 while the rest of us went across Pine Mountain. It was commented that it was one of the best rides across there as not a single car held us up.

Down Rt. 27 we went and as we reached Columbus bikes began to peel-off heading for home. It was cool, but the sun was out. Good food and great company. Another great ride.

John Fiske

For Sale by Member

98 Gold Wing Aspencade Red, excel condition, 17K miles, C/B, reverse, tall windshield. Heel-toe shifter w/boards and standard windshield available. \$9,500 Call Jim at 334-298-9153

96 BMW R1100GS 54K miles, bags & trunk, engine guard, moto lights. \$5,500. Call Jim @ 334-298-9153

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 May 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Cock of the Walk, Opelika Lv P.C. Wal-Mart @ 6:30	6	7 Charity Poker Run Columbus Custom Milgen Rd 10:00
8 Mothers Day	9 Business Meeting 7:00 B Merrell's Veteran's Pwy	10	11	12	13	14 Fish Fry @ Florence Marina State Park Sign up by 5/9.
15	16	17	18	19	20 RiverTown Rally @ Extreme Power Sports	21 RiverTown Rally @ Extreme Power Sports
22 Advance Cycle Training Course.	23 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	24	25	26 Pot Luck Supper 6:30 @ John & Mary's house	27 Ladies Night Out. 6:00 PM Peachtree Mall	28
29 Country Ride, 9:30 AM Welcome Center Shell Station	30 Memorial Day	31				

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	10	11 Yoder's Victory Dr BK @ 5:00 PM
12	13 Business Meeting 7:00 Buffet City Phenix City	14	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 Georgia's Lv. Miller Rd Burger King 8:00 AM
26	27 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	28	29	30		