



The Kickstand

November 2005

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting:

November 14th 7:00 Buffet
City 2301 Airport Thruway,
(between Applebee's and
Steve B's Pizza)
Eat at 6:30 or earlier.

Board Meeting

November 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

Now tell me....could we have had a more beautiful month for riding than this past October! Not a chance. It was incredible. Susan and I had some long faces for most of the rides in October because our need to get us moved and settled at the lake when normally we would have been enjoying the rides with you folk.

However, all was not lost as we did take breaks to go on the Membership Picnic, Bikes and Badges, and the Shrimp Peel. Our move has progressed well, we are settled in at the cabin and learning the quirks of an electrical system meant for short stays during the summer! On the other hand it is small and therefore quite easy to heat we have found. An adventure for sure but they will be starting on our new house this week.

We had a great time at the Shrimp Peel again this year and it was the best turnout since we have been going to this event! The red tide effect was a little miserable Thursday and Friday but fortunately the cool front came through on Saturday and the winds switched blowing most of it out to sea. Great job by Clete and all his helpers, once again. Another great job by Chris setting up our first annual Membership Appreciation picnic! Also, a great turnout and an excellent base to grow on in future years, I hope.

Our next meeting is a most important one, as we will be electing new officers for 2006. So be sure and attend if you can. I

was pleased with our slate of nominees, which I think is a solid mixture of veterans and new blood. We should be in very capable hands. Thanks to all who stepped forward to volunteer their time to help run our club.

One last thing, we are hosting the putting together of our giant erector set (garage) this Saturday. So if you are not going on the Barber ride and can spare some time, even to coach, we will be happy to have you. Brats and beer will be the compensation of the day.

Ride on!

Roger

Editor's Comment

The November 14th meeting will see the election of officers for CY2006. The nominated slate is:

President – Bob Smith
Vice Pres. – Clete Richardson
Ride Chairman – Chris Aycock
Treasurer – Mary Fiske
Secretary – Jim Ingram
Public Relations – Earl Cheal

Everyone needs to support and help this club grow and continue to be the best riding club in Columbus. Exercise your vote. The elected slate will take office on January 1st.

Also, I wish to thank those of you who take the time and contribute to the content of this Newsletter. It makes it interesting to the whole membership and anyone looking at our web site. *John*

Announcements

November Birthdays

1st - Mickey Avirett
2nd - Connie McRae
2nd - Terry Jones
6th - Jared Cohen
9th - Jackie Hancock
10th - Cal Herring
23rd - Gwen Carter
25th - Bobby Shackelford
27th - Susan Miller
30th - Sara Lintymer

November Anniversaries

12th - Art and Donna Murphy
24th - Richard and Linda Parker
25th - John and Connie McRae

Deadline for the December Newsletter is Thursday 12/1. Email articles to: Jfiske1941@aol.com.

Upcoming Rides and Events



November 5th - Barber Motorsports Museum, Birmingham Alabama. Undoubtedly the finest collection of vintage motorcycles in the world. www.barbermuseum.org. Depart Phenix City Wal-Mart at 8:00.

November 10th - Cricket's Restaurant, Veteran's Parkway between Red Cross and Marvin's Market. Cricket's has been a long-standing restaurant in Pine Mountain. Now they are open in Columbus. Meet there at 6:30.

November 12th - Chinaberry Café, Parrott, Ga. This time we are going on Saturday in order to peruse the shops in the area.

Depart Victory Drive Burger King at 10:30.

November 19th - Fall gathering at the Kaplan's. Jake has completed his pavilion and is looking forward to entertaining. Soup to be served. Depart Victory Drive Burger King at 5:00.

December 3rd - **Christmas Party** 6:30 At Magnolia Café on Hamilton Road behind Ray's Rents.

December 4th - Toys for Tots

Events Around the Area

November 6th - Lineville Car Show

November 12th - Peanut Festival in Dothan.

November 19 & 20th - Moultrie Car Swap Meet.

Provino's- a Thursday evening ride.

Hello ya'll! Linda and I haven't been riding much this year, as a matter of fact; we've only been on the bike three times this whole year. It has been such a busy year for us, not traveling so much but enjoying the life of grand parenting and getting our home in shape.

It was so great to get out and riding our Wing again as we journeyed on into the evening with the very best of company, meaning the VMTA. There was John & Mary, Bob, Jim, Mickey and Laura taking in the pleasures of the pre-fall evening air. We rode with great expectations of a great meal, and were defiantly not disappointed.

We went to Provino's in Auburn and the food was excellent! Jim mentioned the Peppers and Sausage was really good and, it was! Linda had the Lasagna and we split each dish so we could try each other's, and it was ALL good.

However the hospitality that the VMTA members provide is more than enough to make the evening superb. It felt so great to be on two wheels again and to ride with the knowledge of being in that comfort zone when you're riding with friends. Talk through out the evening felt like we had just spoken with each other just yesterday.

I was having trouble with my helmet. I could hear but could not speak out of it. However, I could hear all that was being said and it sure was a pleasure to hear those familiar voices again. Thank you guys for such a great evening, it was good to be back!

Barry & Linda

The Invisible Motorcyclist

People in a study counting bouncing ball impacts didn't notice a gorilla walking through the film they are watching.

This relates to car v motorcycle accidents, since they aren't expecting to see us, they don't see us. The psychological researchers call it "inattentional blindness for dynamic events."

Fred Rau talked about this phenomena in his March Contact Patch article in Rider magazine. I've understood that cars don't see us for a long time. You see, I'm the Invisible Motorcyclist.

Many years ago I began noticing the large numbers of people who were dying at railroad crossings. It seems they just didn't notice trains and drove into their path. Howling horns screeching metal and Darwin was proven right again and again, and again.

That's when I realized that all that flashy lighting and ugly reflective stuff was a waste of my time. If they don't see a megaton machine with a giant bright light and legendary horn, they aren't gonna see me. Add the simple fact that a

train never swerves in front of ANYONE, and the fault is clearly in the 4-wheel drivers' perceptions. So I became invisible.

I have a magical helmet. When I strap it on, nobody can see me. I don't even consider that they should notice a 300-pound hulk on a John Deere green BMW K-bike. It's my job to look for them. When I see that car pulling out of the side street or driveway I never think "He'll see me and stop." I KNOW he can't see me. I know he won't stop. I'm invisible. I know the car will always turn left in front of me, I know that the driver beside me will move over into my lane. I'm invisible.

I admit that I ride long and hard sometimes. That old 1984 K-bike has just about 130,000 miles on it now. In thirty-two years of riding I have only been in one accident and that was my fault when I met the dreaded curve too sharp at speed too great.

The invisibility theory has kept me aware of my surroundings and bumper-free for over three decades. [Source unknown](#)

Sweet Potato Festival & Parade

When new bikes need pin-stripping or extra chrome added this is a good rally to get some work done. Or as it is considered the end of the season for the garments, there are good sales on most outfits.



Some new riders did not want to ride so far in one day, so we decided to stay in Tifton. Since it was pretty chilly this year, this turned out to be a great idea, brrrrr.

Lots of bikes at the motel were from Titusville, FL, they were planning a local rally but it was cancelled after the hurricane went thru. Their club acted a lot like ours, in that they really enjoy each other's company. They had not been to Oscilla before so did not

know of the Arts & Crafts displays or the big parade at 11AM. I know they enjoyed this year's, as it was bigger than ever, lasting over one hour. Lots of decked out bikes led the parade, some throwing candy. Then it was on to the bike rally.

They were on channel #1, so we chatted on our way out. Someone had a GPS and was comparing mph to the bike speedometer; most were off by 5 mph. I had used one the day before and my bike was off a bit too, good to know.

There were the usual vendors at the rally under the towering pine trees, great place for camping, too. My friends bought the color-keyed armor jackets with liners to match their Victory Vagas. Lots of trikes showing are up at these rallies, too. Of course



the parking area was a colorful array of all bikes. I searched for any of our club members as there was no way to meet up at the parade; had to have been several thousand people lining the parade route, which changed direction again this year. I knew of three that were going to meet up down there.

The return trip was made on some smaller county roads that appeared to shorten the route, but with our two breaks it took as long as usual. We had eaten some sweet potato pie earlier, so we did not stop to eat as it might get cool again that evening. But after unloading all we bought we jumped back on the bikes and rode to Crickets for a good dinner here in town, getting home a bit after dark.

Bob Smith

Shrimp Peeling Bonanza as enjoyed by Barry & Linda

Is this a great club or what! I mean do these people know how to have a good time! Yea, that's right, this is the VMTA coming at you and you better be prepared for some good food and the finest folks around. We have always looked so forward to the Shrimp Peel, and have never been disappointed.

There are just no words to explain how impressive it is to see this event come together every year. Thanks to the organization of the event as a whole and the people that volunteer their time; like Clete, Bobby & Caroline, Sid & Peggy, George & Gwen, Jackie & Althea, Roger & Susan and so many more there to support. Also we need to give thanks to Patrick and the Sandpiper Beacon for their assistance on such a great discount even though the Sandpiper was booked up with all their rooms.

As you probably know Linda and I haven't been riding much this year due to our interest in remodeling of our home. It was so wonderful to spend so much quality time back with our friends. It makes us realize what an honor it is to be a part of the VMTA.

We went to Montego Bay for dinner with the club. What a grand time we had. We had three tables going and kept the waitress very busy. I haven't laughed so hard in quite a while. Aside from the Red Tide blowing in off of the Gulf Friday evening the weather couldn't have been better. Thanks to our little tropical storm Wilma blowing in the waves was nothing less than spectacular. As I watched them work their way to the Tiki Bar through the evening I was quite sure it would be flooded out by morning. I watched as the people of the Sandpiper prepared to do battle with Mother Nature as they acquired their possessions from the bar and moved them to higher grounds. Then the pumps came as they prepared for the worst. In the morning the Tiki Bar was spared and the water had receded.

Saturday morning and we started to work on the Wing. Yes, won't you know we ran into a problem? When I tried to back into my space my reverse decided to quit on me. Well of course I'm with the folks that know the most about these bikes and I just knew I was in good hands. I discussed my problem with Bob (of course) and as he mounted the bike and turned on the key he noted the gas gauge and taillights were not working either. Roger came over and offered his help and soon many more offered their assistance. John (Harley John) went to the auto parts and purchased a test light for me. Make a long story short it turned out to be a faulty relay. Bob and Roger made a trip to the Honda Dealership and purchased a new relay. I installed it and was so glad to have my Wing back in one piece, especially with all those Harleys so close by. I think that's why my Wing has to act up some times, to make the Harley riders feel better.

Saturday afternoon Linda and I decided to take a ride down the strip. We saw some signs of an arts festival happening at St. Andrew's State Park. When we saw it was free, how could we resist? We parked in a lot next to the entrance and were shuttled to the camping area where the event was taking place. There were vendors of every sort through out the campground the weather was perfect.

We arrived back at the motel a little after 5 and I was exhausted. I took a nap and was awoken when Linda came back to the room and mentioned they were going to start the dinner. After waking from a sound sleep it took me a few minutes to get my bearings and get dressed. By the time we had made it back to the dinner the blessing was already said. I would like to thank Roger for the mention of our anniversary even though we didn't make it down there in time to hear it. I would also like to thank all the folks that came up to us and offered their congratulations. The dinner was great as it always is

and the desert spread was sensational.

Sunday turned to be another beautiful day. We packed up and headed to Brats and meet up with some of the members. After breakfast we rode with Larry & Faith, Johnny & Connie and Scott Starling (the Boss Hoss rider). Had a very great weekend but that was to be expected with the VMTA. It was really fantastic to see everyone again and spend some quality time. Thanks to everyone!

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Night Riding

With the time change, it will be dark much earlier and car lights are so bright that they can practically blind any driver coming the other way. Do you remember from Driver's Ed (from high school) that you should look toward the white line along the side of the road that is called the Fog Line? In this way your eyes do not take near so long to adjust to the darkness again after the car passes. This works in your car too. Drive safe.

Bob Smith

Return from Shrimp Peel

After a great weekend at the beach, no one wanted to start back home; therefore it was a late ride home. We ended up with 15



people leaving nearer noon, our time, with a red convertible and a pickup truck bringing up the rear of eight bikes.

Colorful group this line up of vehicles. Plus it took awhile to gas & air up with so many vehicles. Yes, several needed air for the return trip. Maybe a safety message in there somewhere?

We headed up to Ebro and points north on Rt. #79 out of Florida. Several new riders were along on this trip, first long ride down and back home. One wife wanted a ride on a Gold Wing so I volunteered her husband better watch out, as she will want one of these soft seats pretty soon! Be proud and keep riding with us.

On the new outer belt of Enterprise is the Po Folks Restaurant, where we have eaten before. Being early Sunday afternoon, it was crowded but everyone seemed to be done eating, so why it took so long no one figured out. Food was good as usual.

We fueled the small bikes and kept riding up to Rt. # 51 heading a bit closer to Georgia. It is very scenic with some mild curves around Clio and then we headed more easterly to Texasville and finally Eufaula, where the rest of us gassed up. Yes, it was time for a pit stop for everyone. Then up past the big lake turning onto Rt. #165. When we reach the edge of Columbus some turned east and west, the rest followed the main group up through town to Manchester Expressway. Then we all split into smaller groups to head back to home.

This was another very successful Shrimp Peel, weather wasn't the best until Saturday afternoon, but we lucked out on the actual cookout! Plus the hurricane stayed well south of the panhandle. Could have been a very wet ride home. Thanks.

Bob Smith

Membership Appreciation Picnic

Clete came up with the idea to have a cookout for the members, so he gets credit for the idea. Since he was unsure of his availability for the weekend in question I took over the planning and execution for the event.

FDR State Park had an available pavilion and it is one of my favorite parks in the area. We ended up at the pavilion under the dam at Lake Delano, which was created by the CCC in the 30's, as was most of the park.

The day was a pleasant early fall day, sunny, warm, and breezy. Bob led the group from Columbus on the short ride to the park. A few minutes after their arrival hot dogs were ready, grace was said, and everyone ate. There were right about thirty people present, with a few guests, who were warmly welcomed.

After eating Roger said a few words and then everybody stood around shooting the breeze for a while. Clete, who ended up being around that weekend, helped the cleanup effort. Others helped as well so I apologize if I can't remember who offered assistance.

All in all it was a pretty good time.

Chris

Update to Membership Info

Please make note of the following changes in the membership list.

Sandy & Denny Reid
4902 Timber Ridge Dr
Pace, FL 32571
Tel: (850) 995-2660
Email: sanden.reid@mchsi.com

Roger & Susan Miller
559 Lee Road 339
Salem, AL 36874
Tel: (334) 737-1849
Susan's cell# (706) 615-3355

Thursday's Dinner Ride to Italian Nirvana

Meeting up at Wally World in Phenix City we headed out for Auburn/Opelika. It was an absolutely wonderful evening for an easy cruise over to the restaurant. Mickey and Laura lead the ride with four other bikes in the

formation. Eight hungry folks were counting the miles and the minutes to PASTA!

Provino's restaurant is a family owned establishment and everyone was warmly greeted at the door. The restaurant is delightfully decorated (of course southern), Italian decor. The service was prompt and the food piping hot. Everyone was pleased with the flavor, service and pricing of our meals.

The ride home was a little slower since the bikes were weighted down more; well at least for me! A good bye on CB's from everyone leaves all with more enjoyable memories of good friends and great rides

Mickey

BUSINESS FRIENDS OF VMTA

10% Discount on the **total ticket** to VMTA members with proof of membership.

Sales tax will not be included in the discount. If you need a membership card please contact Mary.

<p style="text-align: center;">Tire King Manchester Expressway</p> <p>Tires/ Alignments/ brakes/ shocks/ struts/ oil service/ wheels/ AC service</p> <p>Ask for Jeremy Hancock or Steve Crenshaw. (Sales tax will not be included in the discount)</p> <p>(706) 324-0444 Manchester Expressway, Columbus</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Get Noticed! Get Lit !!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Express Lites</p> <p>Custom LEDs, Spark Plug Wires & Neons For Motorcycles In Red, Amber, Purple, Blue, Green, white, & Orange</p> <p><u>Bo Prytula</u> Cell: 706 563-3085 Email: bo@expresslites.com web: www.expresslites.com Licensed & Insured</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JVC and Sons Enterprises</p> <p>Jared & Valerie are offering VMTA members a 10% off regular embroidery prices. As an excellent Christmas gift, they are offering top-quality Fleece Blankets with embroidery at special prices. Email or visit their web site.</p> <p>Email : jvcandsons@mchsi.com Web site: jvcandsons.com</p>	

VMTA Calendar of Events November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"A picture is a poem without words." -----Horace		1	2	3	4	5 Barber Motorcycle Museum Lv. PC Wal Mart @ 8:00 AM
6	7	8 Election Day	9	10 Cricket's Restaurant Meet there at 6:30 PM	11 Veterans Day	12 Chinaberry Café in Parrott. Depart Victory Dr Burger King at 10:30
13	14 Business Meeting 7:00 PM Buffet City, Election of Officers	15	16	17	18	19 Fall Gathering at the Kaplan's. Lv. Victory Dr Burger King @ 5:00 PM
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28 Board Mtg. 1500 Second Ave. 6:30 PM	29	30			

VMTA Calendar of Events December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Annual Christmas Party 6:30 Magnolia Cafe
4 Toys For Tots Ride	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 No Business Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 No Board Meeting	27	28	29	30	31