



The Kickstand

August 2006

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting:

August 14th at 7:00
Piccadilly's in Peachtree
Mall
Eat at 6:30 or earlier.

Board Meeting

To Be Schedule
As needed

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Presidents Message

AUGUST



And we thought July was hot!! What will this month bring us?

In a way there has not been a lot of riding at these temps but lets not give up hope for some good times coming up. The camping weekend is just over and a good group of riders have their reservations in at the bike-only campground, so it should be a good weekend. The Parkway is always neat to ride any time of year.

Our ice cream social is this first week of the month hope to see everyone there. Gwen & George have invited us over again for homemade cream. There will be lots of laughter to go with the cool goodies. Don't miss out.

This months' meeting should be a good one with all the reports from recent trips different club members have been on. Our guest speaker will be Chris with an interesting program too.



Enjoy, Bob Smith

Announcements

August Birthdays

2nd – Peggy Martin
4th – Denny Reid
16th – Roger Miller
26th – Sandy Reid
26th – Donald Lamee
29th – Laura Avirett
31st – Larry Mack

August Anniversaries

22nd – Jerry and Sonja Boyd
22nd – Jeff and Janet Howell

Meeting Presentation

Chris will speak at the September meeting. He has ridden in several different countries and will talk about overseas travel and how you can arrange to ride motorcycles on your trips.

August & September Ride Calendar



August 2nd – Ice Cream

Social at the Carter's. Meet at their house at 7:00 P.M.

August 6th – Hotel Talisi Leave P.C. Wal-Mart at 11:00 AM

August 12 – Mid-night Ride to Albany Clete to lead. Depart Miller Rd Burger King at 9:00 PM.

August 19th - Breakfast at Pine Mtn. Country Store Leave Welcome Center Shell station at 7:30 AM.

August 24th – Pepper Mill Grill. Leave P.C. Wal-Mart at 6:30 PM

August 27th – River Party at The Miller's. Roger to lead the way from P.C. Wal-Mart at 2:00 PM

September 8 & 9 Bikes on Broadway. More to come

September 17th – 29 Dreams Motorcycle Resort Art Murphy will lead & provide details later.

September 21st–24th – Wings Over the Smokies GWRRA rally in Fletcher, NC

Long Term Planning Dates

October 1st – Membership Cookout.

October 8th - Bikes & Badges Ride

October 21st & 22nd – Shrimp Peel.

December 2nd – Christmas Party

Biker's Wisdom

- It takes more than love to share the saddle than it does to share the bed.
- Don't ride so late into the night that you sleep through the sunrise.
- The twisties – not the superslabs – separate the riders from the squids.

August Safety Message

Keeping the Group Together

The Lead rider should plan ahead for changes and signal early so the word "gets back" to the rest of the group in plenty of time.

Many groups put newer and less-experienced riders at the end of the group. This way, slower riders won't hold up the group, but the Sweep rider, who is an experienced rider, is behind them to ensure that there aren't any problems. Other groups prefer to put newer riders up front directly behind the Lead rider so that the entire group can keep an eye on them and no one rider falls too far behind. This decision rests with the group and particularly with the Lead rider who is aware of the demands of the chosen route and the skills of each rider in the group. Your group should determine the way that suits its needs the best. The only two positions that require the most experienced riders of the group are the Lead rider at the front of the group and the Sweep rider at the end of the group.

Of course, whenever the newer riders are placed, a good lead rider will set a pace that accommodates the skill level of all the riders in the group. Another good way to keep the group together is for each rider to periodically check on the following riders in their rearview mirrors. This way if a rider falls behind, the other riders can slow down to prevent the slower rider from falling too far behind. If all riders of the group use this technique the group will be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without the others feeling pressured to ride too fast to "catch up."

Copied from MSF Handbook

Note, there is no mention of using a CB to assist in group control. Many of today's riders do have and use CBs for group control, traffic information as well as the pleasure of talking to fellow riders.

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The White House – Beulah, AL

It's been more than 25 years since many of us had been to The White House in Beulah, and it was as good, if not better than any of us remembered. Six bikes carrying nine people cruised over the river and through the woods for a reward of angel biscuits with honey, hand battered onion rings, and the best-fried catfish you'll find in these parts. A brief shower during dinner got the bikes wet, but had stopped by the time we left.

The food and the company were both excellent – even Jackie was on his best behavior. It was good to have the Griffis' join us and we hope to see them more often. Also, my thanks to Clete for tag teaming with me as ride captain.

Susan Miller

Bikes and Badges 2006

Details of the 2006 Bikes and Badges Ride were decided at our first board meeting, yesterday.

Bikes will meet in the parking lot of the Welcome Center at exit 8 on Interstate 185 at 9:30 AM on Sunday October 8th. We will leave the Welcome Center at 9:30 AM as one large group with a police escort to the Dawson Sheriff's Department where we will take a short rest stop. The Sheriff has agreed to open the office for those who need to use the restrooms. We will then ride to Sylvester Georgia to rally with the group from the southern part of the state. Again after a short break we will ride as one very large group back to the Harley shop in Albany.

Poker hands and 50/50 tickets will be sold at the Welcome Center starting at 7:00 AM on Sunday. This year the fee for the poker hands will be a little different as they do include a BBQ lunch from Country's. You will receive 3 hands, 1 Georgia Boys Ranch do- rag and 1 Georgia Boys Ranch arm band good for a free lunch at the Country's BBQ booth located at the Harley shop, for a fee of \$25.00. Additional armbands will be sold for \$5.00 each. Do-rags also will be sold for \$5.00 each. You can pre-register at the Harris County Sheriff's office any time prior to Sunday October 8th. This will be the only pre-registration we will have this year.

We will be selling tickets again this year to win a Hand Made Custom Chopper with a value of \$70,000.00. The drawing will be held on November 4th 2006. This is a one of a kind custom motorcycle powered by a 96 cubic inch S&S motor. I will have a picture after the next board meeting. Tickets will sell for 1 ticket for \$2.00 or 15 tickets for \$20.00.

Door prizes will also be given away at the final stop in Albany.

More information will be furnished as decisions are made during the next board meeting.

Please mark your calendars for this date.

Jackie

Alaska Cruise

I have wanted to go on a cruise for at least 40 years and my wishes came true on June 23, 2006. There were ten of us in the group: Bobby and Carolyn (the ones that started this whole idea), John and Connie, and Jake and I from the bike club. Also traveling with us was Carolyn's sister Joan and her husband Gilbert, and good friends of Carolyn's and Bobby's, Hugh and Beverly. We all met at Groome Transportation at the grand time of 3:30 a.m. on Friday June 23rd. We were to have our very own mini bus and driver for the ten of us, so we planned on leaving early, stop for breakfast, and have plenty of time to check in at the Atlanta Airport. Well, first of all, our driver was sitting at the Atlanta Airport to pick us up. (Big mix up!!) Luckily they called in another driver and got us loaded up on this mini bus and here we go. Just a little delay, not bad. Then, the bus started skipping

and missing and we did make it off the interstate and off the road, and it died. So here we are, STRANDED!!!! Well, with all the happenings, the driver that was in Atlanta was on his way back so he stopped and they had dispatched one from Columbus, so between the two vans we split up and loaded all the luggage, and were off again. This time we made it all the way to the Airport. Thank goodness!!! Needless to say we didn't stop for breakfast.

So there we were, once again, all excited and geared up for our trip. The trip on the plane was good without any mishaps. Of course, (worry wort here), I was just a little nervous with the trip starting out with bus trouble. But the plane made it just fine. We all managed to get to Seattle just fine and yes, so did ALL of our luggage. May I say too that we were all maxed out with the number of bags we were allowed, (except for Connie). She is a light packer. We make it to the docks and get checked in with our pass cards for the ship, and start heading up the plank, when my cell phone started ringing. When I finally got a chance to check it out, it was none other than my son Billy, telling me that Karie was in labor. GREAT TIMING huh? Her due date was July 5, and I was really thinking she was going to have it while I was away, but I didn't think it would be the very moment I was boarding the ship! But, I managed to stay on board, try to not think about what was going on in Columbus Georgia, and once again, we were all excited and anxiously awaiting the departure.

All went well, no one got sea sick, my granddaughter made it into this world just fine, and the next 7 days were like heaven. Our ship (Vision of The Seas) was a very beautiful ship with a wonderful, friendly crew.

First of all we spent a day cruising, then we docked in Juneau Alaska for a few hours. Jake and I flew on a helicopter and landed on the Mendenhall Glacier. Got to walk around and really take in the view. It was just incredible. Cold, but incredible. Then I got to do some shopping in town. While Jake was waiting for me to do my shopping, he kept seeing a Gold Wing ride by with a dog sitting on the back seat. The man rode by several times. Then Jake went into the Harley Shop and there on the wall was a picture of the man and dog on the Gold Wing. It was a rainy cloudy day, but was still a great time. Oh yea, by the way, let me mention that we all went our separate ways, for the most part. We did meet each and every night at 8:30 in the main dining room for supper. That was just awesome. We were waited on like royalty. We were served some of the most tasteful food, and had some of the best service. The first night John mentioned how he liked a lot of black olives on his salads and every night after that, he had olives all over the top. We were served lobster tails one night and the headwaiter came around the table and cut the meat out of the shell for us. Just examples of how well we were treated.

The next stop was Skagway, and there we all managed to book the same shore excursion at the same time. We

all rode the White Pass Train ride. It was yet another great time. The scenery was so beautiful.

Our other ports were Hoonah, Alaska at Icy Strait Pointe, and then Victoria, British Columbia Canada. Victoria was really a beautiful town with all the different flowers, plants, and unique trees and shrubs. Joan and Gilbert went to the Butchart Gardens and said they were just gorgeous.

At Icy Strait Jake and I went on a bear hunt excursion, saw some in the far field, not close enough to really see good. In Victoria we took a bus tour of the city and wound up on a hill overlooking the city. It was awesome. Somewhere John and Connie went on a whale-watching excursion said they saw lots of whales. All did their own thing for the most part and then we would tell about it at dinner. It was hard to get us all together at one time, so some of us missed it, but I think the last night, Bobby and Carolyn renewed their vows. It was performed by Hugh, (a retired minister). Sorry we missed out on that very special event.

Oh, by the way, I failed to mention that at night after dinner, John, Connie and I would hit the Casino. Carolyn did a little, then went back one day and won a good amount. (Lucky Girl, and by the way, I won't say what she carries around for her lucky charm). Thanks to John and Connie, I can say I have played the craps table. Was fun, but didn't win anything. I also played in my first slot tournament. Again, I was ahead for about a minute, then the others left me and I didn't win. It was all fun and good experiences though.

Also, before dinner each night they had different shows for us to see. They were real good and had some really good actors and performers.

Upon our travels back home, everything went fairly smooth, UNTIL we got to Atlanta and were looking for Groome. Now you would think that after the fiasco that took place getting us there, they would be really on their toes to see that we made it back ok. WRONG!!! The mini bus was NOT there waiting for us, we just happen to catch one that they had there for backup. Getting TO that bus was another disaster. But, we all managed to make it and we made it back to Columbus by about 12:30. Even though it was late, my first stop was at my son's house to see my new granddaughter.

Cruising was everything I had dreamed it would be, (and more), and as for Alaska, well, words are just not enough to describe that place. It is really awesome, so remote, so untamed, and so peaceful. I HIGHLY recommend all to go there if you get a chance, and I sure hope I get another one. Oh yea, by the way, I failed to mention that at the airport in Atlanta when we had returned, we got the trolley car to pick up Bobby. Carolyn was in the restroom and Connie went into the MEN'S room by mistake, looking for her. Leave it to Connie to end our trip with a blooper like that! IT WAS A GREAT TRIP AND A VERY MEMORABLE ONE!!!!

Jake and I were planning on doing this one-day, but THANKS to Bobby and Carolyn, it happened quicker than originally planned, and it was great traveling with such a nice group of people. By the way, when we were flying over all those states with the mountainous terrain, I was thinking about how much I want to get on my motorcycle and head across country. Sure looked like some good riding country down below.

Joan Kaplan

Ride to New England

Mary and I just returned from a 3,500+ mile ride to New England states to visit family & friends. Great ride, some nice roads (and yes some not so nice), hot weather and some rain. Next month I will share with some of those events.

John

Blue Ridge Campground

This year our campout at Blue Ridge Campground (just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in NC) had only five participants, but that did not hinder our spirits or our fun.

Jackie Hancock and I left the Welcome Center on 185 at our scheduled time of 7:30 on Friday. Bob Smith and Jerry Boyd were scheduled to ride with us but decided to go a day early, Thursday, so they could get in an extra day of riding. We were to meet Curtis Adkins in LaGrange and eat there and continue on up I-85 to Atlanta.

We ate and left as planned and entered Atlanta and merged onto I-75 with me in front followed by Jackie and Curt in the rear. (Jackie was in the center due to his CB would not transmit, he could hear but not transmit.) Once on 75 we immediately started, individually, our movement left toward the HOV lane. Jackie and Curt were staying pretty much together in their moving efforts when an automobile traveling much faster than normal decided to cross two lanes to the right and go behind Jackie. The lady almost clipped the rear of Jackie's trailer, but Curt was not so lucky. She caught his left highway board just off the rear of her right rear door. Curt displaying excellent riding skills did not go down but the highway board immediately disappeared into the following traffic.

The three of us and the lady moved to the right emergency lane where she immediately and emphatically insisted that Curt had hit her. (In the rear door??) When he did not agree she stated she had his tag number and would just leave. At that time the police were called and she was given a citation and both must now appear in court in the near future.

After approximately 45 minutes of 'close' observation of the Atlanta traffic we nervously headed on North through and out of the City riding much more cautiously as we continued our journey. We stopped in Mountain City, ate and continued on to the campground

arriving at approximately 4:15 where Bob and Jerry were waiting. There with much talk we set up our tents and went over to the pavilion for our evening meal.

When daylight arrived it was raining (remember I was leading), but that did not prevent us from heading onto the parkway and going to Mt. Mitchell. It rained all the way there and when we arrived it stormed, I think there was some sleet mixed in, and the winds were very strong. We went inside to eat and when we returned to our bikes they were still there, and so was the heavy rain, and so were the high winds.

We then headed back South with Jackie leading. And since Jackie was leading, and as luck would have it, it stopped raining prior to our getting back to the starting point. We stopped at an overlook and called Richard and Linda Parker stating we would like to see them. They are spending the summer in Ela, NC. We visited them and admired their fantastic location in the campground and the pavilion Richard has built sitting on and overlooking the stream. We went to a local restaurant and ate our evening meal. After leaving there we briefly stopped at

Harrah's in Cherokee, with Curt being the only one that came away heavily laden.

After our last night in the campground we awoke at daylight and started the tear down and cleanup process. Bob and Jerry watched as they had slept in the cabins. Jerry could not wait as he needed to get home early and left ahead of us. We left at approximately 7:45 traveling West up the Nantahala river and on through Murphy N.C. We continued West skirting around Atlanta and turning South on 61 toward LaGrange.

Even with the encounter in Atlanta, and the wind, and the rain, it was a good ride, a good weekend, and lots of beautiful mountain scenery. The mileage for the three days was approximately 900, with some being scary, some wet, some windy, lots of them beautiful, but all were good as in the end, all of us put the kick stand down in our own garage.

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VMTA Calendar of Events August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthstone: Peridot Flower: Gladiolus		1	2 Ice Cream Social at the Carter's Meet there @ 7:00	3	4	5
6 Hotel Talisi Leave P.C. Wal-Mart at 11:00 AM	7	8	9 O Full Moon	10	11	12 Mid-Night Ride To Albany Depart Miller Rd Burger King @ 9:00 PM
13	14 Business Meeting @ Piccadilly's 7:00 PM	15	16	17	18	19 Breakfast @ Pine Mtn Country Store Depart Shell Station 7:30 AM
20	21	22	23 New Moon	24 Pepper Mill Grill. Leave P.C. Wal-Mart at 6:30 PM	25	26
27 River Party at The Miller's. Leave P.C. Wal-Mart at 2:00 PM	28	29	30	31		

VMTA Calendar of Events September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthstone: Sapphire Flower: Aster					1	2
3	4 Labor Day Honor Veterans. Fly the Flag	5	6	7 O Full Moon	8 Bikes on Broadway	9 Bikes on Broadway
10 Grandparents' Day	11 Business Meeting @ Piccadilly's 7:00 PM	12	13	14	15	16
17 29 Dreams in Biringham. Art to lead	18	19	20	21 Wings over the Smokies	22 Wings over the Smokies ● New Moon	23 Wings over the Smokies
24 Wings over the Smokies	25	26	27	28	29	30