

The Kickstand



February 2006

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting:

February 13th 7:00 Buffet
City 2301 Airport Thruway,
Eat at 6:30 or earlier.

Board Meeting

February 27th 6:30
Place T.B.A.

Officers:

President: Bob Smith
Tel: (706) 660-8524
Cell: (706) 575-7932

Vice-President: Clete Richardson
Tel: (334) 291-0055
Cell: (706) 289-0055

Ride Chairman: Chris Aycock
Tel: (706) 507-1839
Cell: (404) 606-0408

Treasurer: Mary Fiske
(706) 561-3543

Secretary:

Public Relations: Earl Cheal
Tel: (706) 563-5677
Cell: (706) 575-6761

Presidents Message

Old Man Winter is not hitting us too hard as I write this; in fact it has been rather nice for cycling in January. At the club meeting you all set up some good rides for the upcoming season. Only a few have volunteered as ride captains so far but we have been filling the calendar. Be thinking of somewhere to take the club.

As a riding club getting back to its roots, this year should be a good one. We are setting up some longer rides with enough notice for anyone wanting to go along to get the trip on their calendar at work. If you have not done so, give some thought to joining us on one of these tours.

We are taking nominations for Secretary at the next meeting; do I hear any volunteers? Call or bring a suggestion with you, we will sure appreciate your help.

Friends went to the Cleveland Ohio Bike Show, the new airbag equipped Gold Wing was displayed. (Something to see, all full of air) Be sure to plan the Atlanta Show next month into your weekend schedule.

Bob

Announcements

February Birthdays

7th – Barry Cowall

6th – Altheia Hancock

6th - Pierre Johnpeer

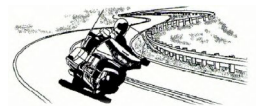
February Anniversaries

6th – Myra & John Delay

22nd – Ray & Betty Arrendondo

Deadline for the March Newsletter is Wednesday, Mar. 1st Email articles to: Jfiske1941@aol.com.

February and March Ride Calendar



4 February: Bonfire at Jake and Joan's.

Depart the Victory Drive Burger King at 10:00AM. Jake and Joan are kind enough to invite us again to their house near Buena Vista for a bonfire and food after a nice ride. If the weather doesn't cooperate, they may just take us to a local restaurant.

March 24th-25th: VMTA

Yard Sale. Mary Fiske is taking donations for the VMTA yard sale on Friday and Saturday. Bring your items to the February or March meetings or drop them off at John and Mary's before the 24th.

26 March: Florida Lunch

Ride. Depart Waffle King in Phenix City. Time TDA. Once again Clete Richardson will lead us down to Panama City and back for lunch. This ride has traditionally served to kick off the VMTA riding season so get your riding boots on and come on out for the Iron Butt!.

February and March Social Calendar

9 February: Pat's

Backwater Too. Meet there 6:30. We all know the original Pat's Backwater. Now there is a new one open on Bradley Park Drive beside the Publix.

3-12 March: Daytona Bike

Week. If you plan to go you know who you are. If you haven't planned yet, better take a tent.

17-19 March: Cycle World International Motorcycle

Show. Cobb Galleria. Bikes to look at, stuff to buy, usually some daring do by trail or stunt riders.

2006 Traditional Events

29 April: Fish Fry. This time we are tentatively scheduled at the R Schafer Heard Corps of Engineers Campground on West Point Lake.

15-17 June: Wing Fling.

Rome, GA.

21-24 June: Honda Hoot.

Knoxville, TN.

28-30 June: Cruso

Campout. Cruso, NC.

12 August: Full Moon Ride.

21-23 September: Wings over the Smokies.

21 October: Shrimp Peel.

2 December: Christmas Party.

Meeting Presentation

For our March meeting, Jake and Joan have graciously agreed to provide a summary of actions needed to be taken by non-medical personnel if they (we) are the first ones at the scene of a motorcycle (or other) accident.

It is likely that many of us have had this training in the past but it is always helpful to have it renewed in our minds.

Earl

Coast to Coast in North Florida

Give one of our club members a week off, even in January, and plans get made quickly. Mickey can take the blame for this trip, but John and Bob sure fell into line to go along.

Originally the destination was for Tupelo, Ms., now that is pretty far north, near the Tenn. line, so it was likely to be pretty cool up there.



Plan B, in case of rain, was to see some of central Fla. and that is where we headed. Not that it was all that much warmer the first day.

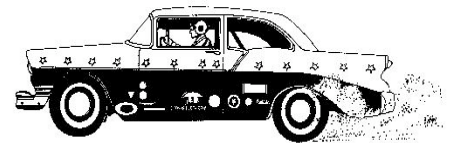
We left Columbus around 9:30am to meet Mickey down in Cusseta, then taking the four lanes as far south as Bainbridge, we then rode east on #84 thru Cairo to Thomasville going into town on the old road. It was very narrow, overhung with trees, with homes and businesses right next to the highway. No wonder they put a bypass around the north side of the city.

Found a fish diner for lunch after Granny's turned out to be only a gas quick-stop. This southern part of Ga. is called the

Wiregrass area with only rolling hills and straight roads. We turned south in Quitman on #221. That road took us straight down to Perry near the gulf coast. Now remember this is January, so it gets dark a lot earlier than on our summer rides. No riding till 9 pm. Lots of motels at this location, 2 had signs saying American Owned! One was where we stayed.

We thought this was **Florida**, warm Fla. The next morning was in the mid twenties, so we had many cups of coffee till deciding to head out. Wanting to see some of the scenery nearer the coast, it is 28 miles from the main road; we took a detour to the beaches along here. Most of the roads are dead-end but twice we took a tour that led us back to Alt Rt. #27. We saw Deckle Beach and Cedar Key, just fishing villages with small beaches. Had 3 hunting dogs run out from the woods and almost caused trouble, but those anti-lock brakes really work. The owners were sitting in their trucks, some distance away, waiting for the dogs to return. Hope they found them.

We continued down Alt #27 to Inglis, near Beverly Hills! Missed a special route to Rt #40, we headed east toward Ocala on #40, found the route later coming out onto #40. Oh well, guess we need a GPS, . . . naah. About now we decided to stop at the drag racing museum of Don Garlits.



Upon getting to the parking lot people were pointing to the sky. There was the contrail of the Pluto launch! Lucky us, it had been delayed one day so this was a surprise. The museum is in 2 parts; one - building is only early Ford V8s.

An hour or so later we headed toward Daytona on small back roads, as usual. Missed our route and ended up on some sort of detour but it took us to the route we were looking for, #42, going

across the center of the state. We went thru the Ocala National Forest, turning north on #19 for a short way, finding county road #445 east. On this road was some controlled burning, boy were we lucky, the wind was blowing the smoke away from the road. Rolling into Daytona Beach we turned north along the inter-coastal waterway for the scenic road I wrote about last December. Hope everyone enjoyed all the trees growing right up to the pavement.

After dinner we felt like riding on, so even though it was after dark we rode back across the state to Ocala to get a head start on the return trip. Was warm each day down there and no more cold nights, so we could take off early in the mornings. We came back up to Williston on #27 from Ocala. Went north to Hildreth turning north on county rd. #49 to SR #90 near Live Oak. On to Madison and Rt. #53, up to Quitman again, then on to Moultrie, Albany and home. Right at 1000 miles in January. Wow!

Bob

Biker's Wisdom

- Routine maintenance should never be neglected.
- When you look down the road, it seems to never end – but you better believe it does.
- Winter is Nature's way of telling you to polish.

Membership Dues

2006 Club dues are now due. \$20 for single & \$30 for member and spouse. Please pay Mary at any meeting or mail to VMTA c/o Mary @ 3951 Biltmore Drive, Columbus, GA 31909

Must be paid before March 31, 2006

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

This time of year our thoughts of riding are not as prominent as during the warmer months. We have a tendency to forget to safety check our bikes as closely as we should. During the colder months when the bikes aren't ridden as much the tires have a greater tendency to lose pressure. This loss of pressure, even though slight, could cause unnoticed damage to a tire. This damage could be greater to a tire that is old and/or worn. Before each and every ride the tire pressure should be checked as well as a visual inspection of the tire for wear, cuts, and any foreign objects that may have been picked up that could cause a loss pressure. Batteries are also affected by cold weather. When cold they have less power with which to turn over a cold engine with much thicker oil. During the colder periods batteries should be charged more often and visually checked to confirm that there has been no loss of water, which can often be caused by charging.

Clete

New Year's Day Ride

I figured that I would go ahead and get my ride in for 2006 as soon as possible and there wasn't anything sooner than January first. Given the mild temperatures that 2006 greeted us with this was certainly no Polar Bear Ride. It was, however, a nice 150-mile ride north of the Columbus area with a good crowd of folks. Art showed up with his new Harley bagger and Vito (the guy who runs the excellent hot dog stand at the corner of Williams and Fortson) visited us with his beautiful yellow Goldwing1800 trike.

The weather was quite warm and rain threatened but it held off until I was safely in my garage.

Afterwards several of us went to my house for collard greens and black-eyed peas, a traditional southern New Year's meal that supposedly brings luck for the New Year. Our brothers from the north had never heard of this before, which I reckon brought them the bad luck of being from up north!

Meitra made a killer jalapeno cornbread that was universally applauded. The black-eyed peas I cooked were uninspiring but the collards made up for it. Meitra had baked some brownies that our esteemed president had his eyes on the moment he walked through the door.

So, all in all, it was a pretty good way to start the New Year.

Chris

Gents Night Out

During the lesser riding season we see our friends and fellow riders much less often. During the month of January VMTA had a 'Gents Night Out'. It was felt that everyone that would attend should be called, as this was unannounced and on such short notice. There were nine of us that met at the Saloon & Oyster Bar on Macon Road. Most of us ate while there. The seafood was good as always. During the evening, which lasted for approximately two hours, many

things were discussed. As usual the discussion included upcoming rides for the year. Also during these conversations were many of the rides we had ridden over the past years. Naturally we all had to tell of some of our wettest, coldest, and most miserable rides we had encountered. Those seem to be the ones we remember the most, but remember "If the final put down of the kick stand was at home, it was a good ride".

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Three Days and 1000 Miles of Fun!

It all started when I called Bob, "Want to go for a long ride next week?" "Sure, sounds good to me". A few days later and a few phone calls John Fiske, Bob Smith and I started planning over lunch at McAlister's. We all agreed that going north probably was not a good idea this time of year. So we decided to go south to Florida with our destination to be determined on the fly.

Day 1: Wednesday morning around 10 AM I meet up with John and Bob outside of Cusseta. We headed down through the lazy country roads of South Georgia into Florida. It was an enjoyable ride however it was quite cold. So at sun down we were looking for a warm room and a hot meal to end up the day. We found both in Cross City Florida. Over dinner we discussed the next days ride and decided to check out some beach areas along the Gulf coast and then make it over to Ocala and try for Daytona.

Day 2: Thursday morning heading out at 9 AM it was quite cold. The lows over night were in the upper 20's. "We are in Florida aren't we"? But day two ended up being an absolutely glorious day for riding. It warmed up really nice into the mid 60's.

First we drove over to the coast to check out some areas like Horse Shoe Beach, and Cedar Key. We found both mainly

geared towards fishing and boating recreation. Cedar Key being the larger of the two appeared to be more touristy and had what appeared to be some nice restaurants and shops. But with a tight schedule we had plenty riding left for the rest of the day.

Off to Ocala to spend some time at Garlits Drag and Old Car Museum. We could have spent the rest of the day looking at some of the one of a kind and rare automobiles in the old car section. John and I really got our fill of Garlits collection of Dragsters, Rods, Funny cars and a rocket motorcycle in the racing building.

Again, on a tight schedule we made the decision to head off into Central Florida and Horse country on our way to Daytona. This was some beautiful riding, with sunny skies and painted fences and well manicured properties. Not to mention all of those exquisite horses grazing in the sweet grasses.

Arriving in Daytona late in the afternoon Bob took us through Tomoka State Park. The park was filled with wet sea marshes and palms galore. Then a quick zip over to the beach on Highway 1 with the smell the salt water in the air. We drove down Main Street Ground Zero for Bike week and many other festivals through out the year.

Stopping for a quick dinner we decided to head back to Ocala to spend the night. This would give us a jump start on the traffic heading for home.

Day 3: Much warmer this morning as we headed for home. Back up the lazy country roads of Florida back into Georgia. Arriving back home around 4PM. Everyone's back safely with lasting memories of a great ride with wonderful friends having good times. All I can say is; "I can't wait for the next one!"

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;"><i>Get Noticed!</i> <i>Get Lit !!</i></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 <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. Email or visit their web site.</p> <p>Email : jvcandsons@mchsi.com Web site: jvcandsons.com</p>	

VMTA Calendar of Events February 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Bon Fire at Kaplan's Victory Dr B.K. 10:00 AM
5	6	7	8	9 Pat's Backwater 2 Meet there at 6:30	10	11
12	13 Business Meeting 7:00 Buffet City	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Board Meeting	28				

VMTA Calendar of Events March 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Daytona Bike Week	4 Daytona Bike Week
5 Daytona Bike Week	6 Daytona Bike Week	7 Daytona Bike Week	8 Daytona Bike Week	9 Daytona Bike Week	10 Daytona Bike Week	11 Daytona Bike Week
12 Daytona Bike Week	13 Business Meeting 7:00 Buffet City	14	15	16	17 International Motorcycle Show in Atl. St. Patricks Day	18 International Motorcycle Show in Atl.
19 International Motorcycle Show in Atl.	20 Spring begins	21	22	23	24 Yard Sale at the Fiske's	25 Yard Sale at the Fiske's
26 Iron Butt Ride to Panama City – Clete will lead. 8:00 AM	27 Board Meeting	28	29	30	31	