



The Kickstand

August 2007

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting

August 13th at 7:00 PM
Piccadilly's in Peachtree
Mall
Eat at 6:30 or earlier

Board Meeting
To Be Schedule
As needed

Board of Directors

President: Sid Martin
Tel: (706) 324-0775
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Vice-President: Paul Lujan
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Cell: (706) 681-6030

Ride Chairpersons:
Roger & Susan Miller
Rogers Cell: (706) 402-7399
Susans Cell: (706) 615-3355

Treasurer: Mary Fiske
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Secretary: Laura Avirett
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Presidents Note

A message from Sid...

As the days go by, it seems that we are more and more realizing that we are aging, and with that fact, having more health issues. It is true with me and Peggy and with the entire membership. If that sounds depressing, don't let it, because none of us favor the alternative! In fact, we should all be proud of our every day and the things we've experienced or accomplished or enjoyed that day. Just think of all the pleasures that we as a club have had, and the wonderful relationships we've been able to foster. I look at us as individuals, and look at myself, and I can see what the years are doing to us. We've noticed that, as much as we enjoy our lives, the things we like to do most tire us more than in the past. At the end of the day, we're worn out! Several of our club have had severe health issues and have conquered those with dignity and grace and the good Lord's help. Several are presently dealing with challenges that they are bravely experiencing, and we want you to know that we are your friends and supporters, your cheerleaders, and we are willing to do anything we can to make your battle easier. As each day passes, you are closer to your personal victory, and we are with you all the way! What a blessing this club has been for us as we have had trials with family and health, and how we hope to always remember that, even though we formed as a motorcycle group, we are not reduced to just that. We are united as friends, we love one another, and we are grateful to belong to each other, sharing and caring.

Motorcycle Safety

Guide to Group Riding

According to the motorcycle safety foundation group riding is the epitome of the motorcycling experience, after all there is safety in numbers. To ensure a safe and fun group ride here are a few tips that may help.

1. **Arrive prepared:** always arrive on time and with a full tank of gas.
2. **Hold a Riders meeting:** Discuss things like the rout, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals. The leader and sweep or tail gunner should be an experienced rider who is well-versed in-group riding procedures.
3. **Keep the Group to a manageable size:** Ideally a group of five to seven riders.
4. **Ride in formation:** The staggered riding formation allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane. The rest of the group follows in the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other

August & September Ride Calendar



August 9th – Provino's –
Depart P.C. Home Depot at 6:30 PM.

August 10th – 12th – Curso Camp-out. Annual week end at Blueridge MC Campground. Leaving Welcome Center Shell at 7:00 AM.

August 23rd – Mello Mushroom- Meet there at 6:30 PM

August 25th – Mid-night Ride to Albany with poker run. Leave Miller Rd Burger King at 9:00 PM.

September 3rd – Labor Day Country Ride on two-lane roads. Leave Welcome Center Shell at 9:00 AM

September 20 – 22 - Wings Over The Smokies

Long Term Planning Dates

October 7th – Membership Cook-out

October 20 & 21 – Annual Shimp Peel in Panama City

October 27th – Ocillia Potato Festival

Other Motorcycle Events

August 18 - 11th Annual March of Dimes Ride to Panama City Beach, Florida sponsored by Chattahoochee Harley-Davidson

September 8th & 9th – Bikes on Broadway

December 8th - Christmas Party at Magnolia Cafe

situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.

5. **Avoid side-by-side formations:** as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so.
6. **Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror:** If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.
7. **If you're separated from the group:** don't panic. The group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.
8. **Group riding Hand Signals**
 - a. **Stop:** arm extended straight down, palm facing back.
 - b. **Single file:** arm and index finger extended straight up.
 - c. **Turn Signal on:** open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended.
 - d. **Slow down:** arm extended straight out palm facing down moving arm in a pumping motion down and up.
 - e. **Double file:** arm with index and middle finger extended straight up.
 - f. **Fuel:** arm out to the side pointing to the tank with finger extended.
 - g. **Speed Up:** arm extended straight out with palm up moving arm in a pumping motion up and down.
 - h. **Hazard in the road:** On the right point with right foot, On the left point with left hand.
 - i. **Refreshment stop:** Fingers closed and thumb to mouth.
 - j. **High beam:** tap on top of helmet with open palm down.
 - k. **Comfort stop:** forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion.
 - l. **Pull off:** arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder.-

Paul L.

Announcements

August Birthdays

2nd – Peggy Martin
3rd - James Dick
4th – Denny Reid
7th - Helen Kennedy 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

Concours Owners Group

On July 21st, I joined other members of the Concours Owners Group at the Horseshoe restaurant in Hawkinsville, GA.. Riders, and their bikes, came from Savanna, Valdosta and even North Carolina. This was my first time socializing with other "Connie" owners. I had a good ride in both directions, just a little hot on the way back; however, the ice cream at Lanes Packing did help cool me down. The restaurant's web site is www.hawkinsvillehorseshoe.com

Bob Lee

Camp Out in Cruso- Aug 10, 11 & 12th

The VMTA is planning a ride/camping trip to Blue Ridge Motorcycle Camp Ground in Cruso, North Carolina on August 10, 11, & 12. (Friday through Sunday) The Camp Ground is located deep in the Mountains just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Southeast of Waynesville. This area affords great riding on the Parkway, as well as lots of curvy mountain roads to be enjoyed by the cycle enthusiast. The Campground has a large area for tents (\$18.00 single and \$22.00 double) as well as several cabins, if you prefer not to camp. These cabins come with a bed (queen or double), linens, a light and a nail, not much more. There is a bathhouse in the center of the Campground. There are still cabins available for this weekend at \$45.00 per night. There are also two trailers available which come with a queen bed and a bathroom for \$65.00. The Campground has a pavilion and prepares two meals daily, on weekends. The food is good and reasonably priced. Waynesville is approximately 12/15 miles from the campground and has several fast foods as well as a few small restaurants. You may call the Campground (828-235-8350) and make reservations if you prefer a cabin or one of the two trailers.

The Club has used this campground, and ridden this area, many times and this has always been a great three-day weekend for us. We will be leaving the Welcome Center Shell Station at 7:00 a.m. on Friday the 10th. We will stop and eat breakfast prior to Atlanta. This stop will allow us to miss some of the early rush hour traffic, but of course there will still be heavy traffic on I 75 and I 85, which can be hazardous to your health. Many of our members have expressed their desire to go on this ride this year and I expect this to be another great ride for us.

Please, RSVP me if you plan on joining us on this ride. Remember that if you do not go, those of us that do will definitely talk about you, and it will not be nice, I will make sure of that.
'clete'

Picnic Ride

There I sat, holding tables for the club, listening to the birds, and far off hammering; while our motorcycles were rolling along toward West Point Dam. People were coming in, stopped and left. It was a busy morning.



The club arrived around 12:30 and everyone quickly sat down & ate. There were brownies served afterward.

We had a 'mystery prize'

which was won by Joan Kaplan. All gathered around

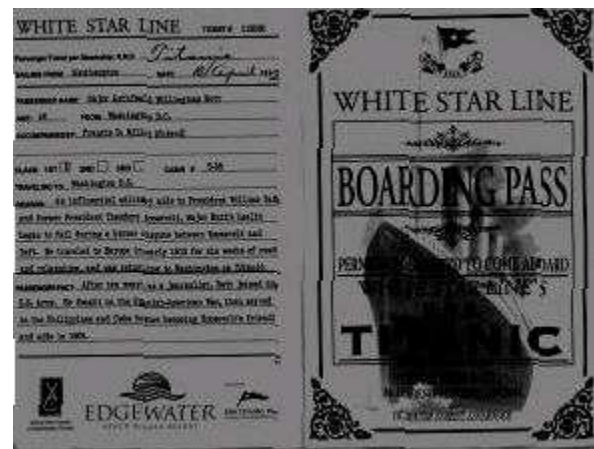


FDR statue for pictures. It was said that West Point should be next year's picnic ride. Someone needs to take charge & set it up.

We avoided afternoon showers as each headed home. Safe ride, wonderful friends.

Mary F.
(Thanks to Frank for the pictures)

The Titanic Exhibit



This is the Titanic Boarding Pass for Major Archibald Willingham Butt. He was traveling to Washington D.C. and boarded at Southampton on April 10, 1912. Major Butt was an influential military aide to President Taft and former President Roosevelt. He traveled to Europe in early 1912 for six weeks of rest. He fought in the Spanish-American War, then served in the Philippines and Cuba. He was traveling 1st class and was in Cabin B-38 (George's Boarding Pass). Another passenger was Mrs. James Warburton Martinez Cardeza (Gwen's Boarding Pass) and her son Thomas Cardeza and staff Anna Ward and Gustave Lesurer. She was also traveling 1st class in Cabin b-51/53/55. They were staying in the most expensive suite on Titanic featuring two bedrooms, a sitting room and a private fifty-foot promenade. Their entourage brought fourteen trunks, four suitcases and three crates of baggage. A first class suite cost \$2500, which is the equivalent of \$79,500 today. Also traveling was Unsinkable Molly Brown, whose Boarding pass

Peggy drew. Franks' Boarding Pass was for a millionaire, who was an older man and married to an eighteen-year-old and had a son. I can't remember details of Sue or Sid's passes. Unfortunately, none of the men survived but all the women were put in lifeboats and survived.

We enjoyed the exhibit and as you can tell from my description of passengers, we were each given a boarding pass when we entered and you checked a chart at the end of the exhibit to see if you survived. The artifacts were interesting and there were many pictures and facts related to passengers and the ship. It was not as large as I expected but very interesting.

We left at 7 AM on Saturday and had a pleasant trip down, as the weather was overcast and rather cool. Of course, I had my jacket on until we reached Panama City and the sun came out. We stopped in Eufaula for breakfast and our bikes automatically went in the McDonald's parking lot. We could see Clete's smiling face. We arrived in Panama City around 11 AM, which was too early to check into the motel so we went to the exhibit. Frank and Sue were very familiar with Panama City and took us on a scenic tour. We had lunch at Montego Bay (again Clete's smiling face) and then checked in the motel. After resting and taking a nap it was time to eat again and we went to the Black Angus and was joined by Frank and Sue's friend. The next morning we departed and stopped at the Flea Market at Dothan where we were joined by Bob Smith and John Fiske.

George and I enjoyed the trip for we haven't ridden much due to other commitments. I have to praise Sue for she is a real trooper. This was the first long ride she had been on and she hung in there with the best of us.
Gwen

West Virginia Mini Tour

The camping trip that got bigger; back in late June Chris wanted to go to the north Georgia mountains for a weekend trip, then we all decided to go to West Virginia with Gerald Boyd. We got off around middle of July.

Took several days to come up with somewhat of a plan that turned out well for all of us. Chris could only ride with us for a couple days, and then he headed back toward the TWO campground in Suches – the original plan. Ha.

John & Bob continued with Gerald toward Virginia route #16 by way of the Blue Ridge Parkway all the way to Sparta. Stayed in Independence, Va. at a really nice Grayson Inn – will find this place again. It is not far from Galax on I-77.

Then it was up around Mt. Rogers to the Hungry Mother State Park that we enjoyed last year. As was told by the group, Rt. # 16 is very similar to Deal's Gap but no traffic and no sport bikes whizzing around

anyone. Now as to hazards – this time we had a cow grazing on Kudzu at the top of one of the crests on this road. Fortunately it was on the left edge of the road and did not leap into our lane like a deer might have done! And one time a 4 wheeler seemed to be parked on the left side of the road. That was odd.

We crossed into southwestern W. Va. going up to Beckley and points north. Up this way was along the Monongahela National Forest going to Cumberland, Md. You pass in and out of the two states several times at the northern edge of W. Va. Roads are really well maintained and not many towns at all. There is pleasant riding on roads all over the state. Lots of bikers from different parts of the country were at each motel we stayed. So we got to chat with all sorts of folks and check out their rides and some tag along trailers. Some had been down at Hawk's Nest SP and the New River Gorge.

Heading south we came down the other side of the National Forest to John's famous Pocahontas County near Snowshoe Ski Resort. Then on to Roanoke for a room, as storms were brewing up along the Parkway and there would not be anywhere to stay for a while. That night we had our first rain but the next day on the Parkway Mother Nature really let us have it for an hour or so. There was only 53 miles of rain but at a very slow speed due to other bikers without windshields. Most days were calling for 60% of rain but we lucked out for almost the whole trip. Wanted some rain for the run down the west side of Atlanta but none was to be found. The only real heat we had was south of LaGrange to home.

Bob Smith

HARLEY WOOS WOMEN BIKERS

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

New York Times News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - At a recent convention of Harley-Davidson dealers here, Delia Passi, a marketing consultant, was sharing the finer points of selling to women with her audience of about 150, many of whom wore boots, jeans and tattoos. One wore a T-shirt that read, "Born to Party, Forced to Work."

Neatly groomed hair is a good start, she said. Always maintain eye contact. Keep those handshakes firm, but not too firm. Clean the bathrooms. Set up a play area for children. And don't forget the little things that can help draw in passers-by. "Put a plant out there to say you are female-friendly," she said.

Many of the dealers took notes, and for good reason. American women are the fastest-growing part of the motorcycle business, buying more than 100,000 of them a year. Even though aging baby-boomer men, with money to spend and time on their hands, have played a big role in expanding the market in recent years, motorcycle companies are trying hard to woo

women buyers.

So they are producing more motorcycles that are low to the ground - so women can plant their feet firmly at rest - with narrower seats and softer clutches, and adjusting handlebars and windshields to make bikes more comfortable for smaller riders.

Few companies, though, are doing more than Harley in reaching out to this group. Its dealers hold frequent garage parties for women, to let them learn about bikes.

The efforts are paying off, though slowly. About 12 percent of all Harley motorcycle sales are to women - roughly 32,000 new bikes in 2006, compared with 4 percent in 1990, 9 percent in 1998 and 10.6 percent in 2003. Women will spend about \$300 million on Harley bikes this year in the United States, not including accessories, riding gear and clothes. According to the Motorcycle Industry Council, the number of women in the country operating motorcycles increased 34 percent to 4.3 million in 2003 (its last owner survey), from 3.2 million 1998. The number for men rose a little more than 20 percent in that period.

Email note from The Cohen's

Please say hi to everyone for us at VMTA and let them know that we now live in White, Georgia (33 Harbor Lane) - just north of Atlanta. If anyone is in the area, please let us know and we would love to see - come over to our house or can meet them.

Thanks,
Jared & Valerie

VMTA Calendar of Events August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Provino's in Auburn Lv P.C. Home Depot at 6:30 PM	10 Curso Camp out. Lv Welcome Ctr Shell at 7:00 AM	11 Curso Camp out
12 Curso Camp out Return Ride	13 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Mello Mushroom Meet there at 6:30 PM	24	25 Mid Night Ride to Albany & poker run. 9:00 PM Miller Rd Burger King
26	27	28	29	30	31	

VMTA Calendar of Events September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day Country Ride on 2-lanes. Lv Welcome Ctr Shell at 9:00AM	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Wings Over the Smokies	21 Wings Over the Smokies	22 Wings Over the Smokies
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						