



The Kickstand

December 2007

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting

January 14th 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
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Secretary: Laura Avirett
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Presidents Note

A message from Sid...

We have fortunately come almost to the end of another year of VMTA rides and activities with a wonderful safety record. This is certainly a tribute to the conscientious members and their safety-conscious habits, and is a blessing we should not overlook as we approach the holidays and the new year. Thanks to all of you for your support and contributions to our club for making this such a successful year!

It is that time of the year when we recognize our friendships, celebrate good times with family and friends, and remember those children whose families may need a little help to make the holiday great for those youngsters. Lets remember our Toys for Tots drive and ride as we prepare to enjoy ourselves with our Christmas party on Saturday, December 8 at Magnolia Cafe, where we hope to see everyone. Following that event, we'll all be busy with the rush of the season, but let's remember to take the time to count our blessings and to pray for a healthy and safe new year. Happy holidays to one and all.

Announcements

December Birthdays

9th – Randolph Harchar
10th – Meitra Aycock
23rd – Richard Parker
28th – George Carter
28th - Jacob Kaplan
29th – Travis Garner
30th – Cornelius Smith

December Anniversaries

21st – Jacob and Joan Kaplan
23rd – Chris & Meitra Aycock
29th – Denny and Sandy Reid
29th - Mickey & Laura Avirett

[December & January Ride Calendar](#)



[December 2nd – Toys for Tots Ride](#)

Gather at Phenix City IHOP at 9:00 AM. Or meet us at Extreme Power Sports at 10:30 Will then go to the CC. Motorcade leaves Civic Center at 1:00 PM

[December 8th - Christmas Party](#) at Magnolia Cafe 7:00 PM

[January 1st 2008 – Annual Polar Bear Ride](#) 10:00 Shell station

[January 19 & 20th – International Motorcycle Show](#) in Atlanta World Congress Center. Details to follow.

[Long Term Planning Dates](#)

[Other Motorcycle Events](#)

[April 3rd – 4th GWRRA 26th Alabama District Rally](#) in Mobile, AL

[June 12 – 14th – GWRRA Georgia District Rally](#) in Athens, GA

Why helmets work-part 2

What You Should Know About Motorcycle Helmets

Choosing a Helmet

While color, design and price may be a part of your decision about which helmet to buy, think first about protection and comfort. A full face helmet gives the most protection since it covers more of your face. It usually has a moveable face shield that protects the eyes when it is closed. Racers prefer full-face helmets for the added protection and comfort. A three-quarter, open-face helmet is also a choice of some riders. It is constructed with the same basic components, but doesn't offer the face and chin protection of full-face helmets. If you use an open-face helmet, you should have a snap-on face shield in place when you ride, or buy a pair of goggles that can withstand the impact of a stone or other debris. Prescription eyeglasses or sunglasses are not sufficient protection, and they might move or fly off. Most modern helmets are made of lightweight, modern materials and are improved each year. Manufacturers are also working to make them less expensive, stronger and more comfortable. What you must know when choosing a helmet is that it meets minimum safety standards. The way to find a well-made, reliable helmet is to look for the DOT and/or Snell sticker on the inside or outside of the helmet. The sticker means the helmet meets the safety test standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation and/or the Snell Memorial Foundation. Each organization has rigid procedures for testing:

Impact, Penetration, Retention and Peripheral vision – the helmet must provide a minimum side vision of 105 degrees to each side. (Most people's usable peripheral vision is only about 90 degrees to each side.) Since 1980, ALL adult-sized helmets for on-highway use must meet DOT standards. Helmet dealers and distributors must ensure that all the helmets they sell bear the DOT sticker. Whatever your helmet choice, be sure it has this certification. Snell has been testing helmets since the 1950s. The use of Snell standards by helmet manufacturers is voluntary. Unlike DOT standards, Snell testing is revised (most recently in 2000) as helmet design and technology improve. Both agencies attempt to reproduce, under test conditions, the situations that are hazardous to motorcyclists. Their testing methods differ, but the intent is the same: to make certain any helmet they approve has life-saving, shock-absorbing minimums.

The Best Way to Try on Your Helmet

Hold it by the chin straps. The bottom of the helmet should face you with the front pointing down. Put your thumbs on the inside of the straps, balancing the helmet with your fingertips. Spread the sides of the helmet apart slightly and slip it down over your head using the chin straps. The helmet should fit snugly and may even feel a bit too tight until it is in place correctly. Be sure it sits squarely on your head. It shouldn't be tilted back on your head like a hat. Remember, if your helmet is too large, several things could happen: it will move around and up and down on your head when you least want it to; it can be noisy and let in wind; worst of all, it may come off in a crash! Once the helmet is on your head, make a few other fit checks before fastening the straps. The cheek pads should touch your cheeks without pressing uncomfortably. There should be no gaps between your temples and the brow pads. If the helmet has a neck roll, it shouldn't push the helmet away from the back of your neck. On full-face helmets, press on the chin piece. The helmet or face shield should not touch your nose or chin. If it does, it will surely do so at speed from wind pressure. With the helmet still on and the straps securely fastened, move it from side to side and up and down with your hands. If it fits right, your skin should move as the helmet is moved. You should feel as if a slight, even pressure is being exerted all over your head. Remember, too, that a helmet loosens up a bit as the comfort liner compresses through use. A new helmet should be as tight as you can comfortably wear it.

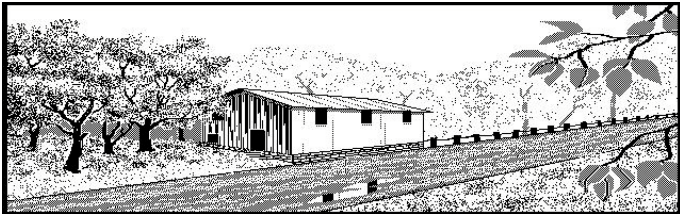
Now, with the chinstrap still securely fastened and your head straight, try rolling the helmet forward off your head. You shouldn't be able to pull it off. If you can, the helmet is too big. Take off the helmet. Does your head feel sore anywhere?

Are there any red spots on your forehead? Pressure points can be uncomfortable and can cause a headache after a long ride, so be sure your helmet isn't causing any. If it is, choose the next largest size or try a different brand of helmet. Human heads are not all the same shape, neither are helmets. If you are still unsure about the helmet's fit, wear it around the store for a while to see if it remains comfortable. A helmet is an important investment, no matter what its price. Be sure the one you choose is right for you.

This message courtesy of the American motorcycle safety foundation

Thank You and Ride safe this **HOLIDAY SEASON**
PAUL

Alabama Leaf Ride



Off the club went to the motorcycle haven of "29 Dreams" outside of Birmingham, it was a nice group of riders with great fall weather (in a drought) so no rain was possible. ha

Had a little battery problem on the way over there but it was handled quickly and we made good time to get the breakfast buffet and meet up with our friends out of Birmingham. 29 Dreams has 3 buildings and a big campground for bikers. There is a store for all kinds of bike stuff, the diner and a repair shop, all with very friendly workers.



Leaving there we headed north on Rt. 25 over some really pretty mountain roads with lots of switchbacks to get up on the ridges and down the other side. There was the Little Cahaba River running in the valleys till we picked up Rt. 411 to Odenville then it was Rt. 174 for a few miles going north past I-59 and Springville. Some confusion about the route, as we started using a county road for many miles, it was really pretty driving through here. Finally arrived at Rt. 231, taking it all the way to Cleveland, AL and then route #79 to Guntersville Lake along the Tennessee River. There was so much water around this area and yes it was quite low because of the shortage of rain. This put us very near the TN/ GA border and Rt. 35 which we took to an overlook that has small lots for sale, only one seems to have sold in the last year but what a VIEW! Back down to the river we took Rt. 40 due east back across I-59 to Rt. 11 and headed back south to Ft Payne and the motels for everyone. That was one fine day of riding.

The next morning we headed over to the Little River Canyon for the 20-mile scenic drive along the cliffs – finally was repaved and made for a spectacular ride. The overlooks are really something to see. Now some

were not easy to get into because of loose gravel but a few did go in and park. Instead of going the easier way back to a main road we took another scenic lane east to Rt. 273 then headed south to Cheetah Mt and all but Bob ate lunch. Then it was on to the Lineville car show down on Rt. 49. 750 cars were pre-registered.

At this point the group broke into two groups for the return down Rt. 77 to Valley, AL and either to Smiths or Columbus areas.



What a great weekend of riding.

That was pretty neat having such a diverse group of bikes for this ride. Harley V-Rod, 2 BMWs, 1100 Shadow, Fancy Trike and our Wings

Bob S.

North Alabama Leaf Ride

It was cool Saturday morning as eight bikes gathered in the Home Depot parking lot; Mickey, Laura, John & Mary, Bob, Paul, Larry & Faith, Barry & Linda, Clete & a guest. In spite of the cool temperature everyone was looking forward to the ride. Under the lead of Mickey we made our way to 29 Dreams just outside of Birmingham. On the way our newest members, Curtis & Miriam joined us. At the resort we were joined by four additional bikes, Roger & Susan plus their friends Joyce & Bill Smith. Maybe due to the cool temperature there, but VMTA almost had the food store to ourselves. Now, if you counted as I mentioned them there are 13 bikes. Great turn-out.

After a very filling 'brunch', we saddled up and headed for the shores of Guntersville Lake. Most everyone was astonished at the size of the lake. We were informed it



was about 75 miles in length. Crossing over to the East Side, Roger led us up the mountainside to a splendid overlook looking southwest. We then headed for Fort Payne, 'the long way', to spend the night.

After checking in, everyone gathered at Cracker Barrel where we were surprised by a visit from Valerie & Jared Cohen. They live about 75 miles east of Ft Payne and drove over to dine with us. It was a fun time and other patrons wished they could have some of the action.

Sunday morning we gathered at 8:00 in 33-degree temperature, gassed up and headed for Little River Canyon National Preserve. We rode Ala 176 (Canyon River Drive) and then 148 and 275 which follows the West rim. Man this place is gorgeous and the roads are great motorcycle roads. The leaves did not have the real blazing colors but were the best Mary & I have seen since leaving New England. After leaving the park we stopped at a gas/food outlet for coffee and chitchat.

Once again underway we headed for the Cheetah Skyway. Again, the colors were superb. On the ride up the mountain the general agreement was that we would have lunch at the Inn. We arrived just before opening time. They seated us in the upstairs conference room and with the exception of 6-other dinners VMTA was by itself. The view from the window was outstanding.

After lunch it was on to Lineville for the car show stop. Four bikes continued on home while the others entered the car show area. Mary & I want to thank Roger & Susan for planning this ride. We sure enjoyed the weekend, as I am sure everyone else did. 500+ miles of fall colors.

John

ADVANSTAR COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR THE 2007- 2008 CYCLE WORLD INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOWS® PRESENTED BY TOYOTA

World ' s Largest Powersports Tour Coming to a City Near You

The International Motorcycle Shows provide enthusiasts an up close look at more than 800 new model street bikes, dirt bikes, cruisers, ATVs and watercraft from major manufacturers, as well as new concept bikes, vintage bikes, OEM sponsored demo rides and more.

The 2007-2008 Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows ® Presented by Toyota schedule is

January 18-20 Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, GA

The 4th Annual Big Twin West custom bike trade show will be held in conjunction with the opening round of the International Motorcycle Shows providing a unique opportunity for the two shows to come together for the first time.

" For more than 25 years we have been bringing the world's largest motorcycle show series to enthusiasts

across the country, " said Group Show Director Jeff D ' Entremont. " Our commitment and ability to deliver a quality experience and to provide a platform to showcase the latest the industry has to offer is unparalleled and we ' re extremely excited about the upcoming season and what we have in store for our guests. "

For the 15th consecutive year, Cycle World, the world ' s most popular motorcycle magazine, is the title sponsor for the series and leading manufacturer Toyota will return for the tenth year as presenting sponsor. The Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows® presented by Toyota is the world ' s largest motorcycle show series. For more information, call 800/331-5706 or visit motorcycleshows.com .

HELP THE NEEDY

Can you help the needy this Christmas? At the VMTA Christmas party Mary will be collecting non-perishable food stuffs for the House of Mercy and/or St. Ann's Outreach. Please bring 1, 2, or 3 canned or non-perishable food item with you to the party. Your donations will help the needy in the Chattahoochee Valley area.

Thanking you in advance. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Chrome World Customer Alert

Caution for all Goldwing riders: In rare instances when the rear of the bike is facing the sun, the reflection from the sun can concentrate like a magnifying glass and will melt a line in the dash or speedometer area. A windshield cover, a T-shirt, parking in the shade, or any soft home made cover on hot days will prevent this from ever happening. So keep in mind where you park and keep your windshield covered when you think the sun's reflection might be too hot. None of the windshield manufacturers will cover damage to your bike because of sun damage.

'Taken from Chrome World winter 2007 catalog'

Bikes & Badges Thank You

Hello,
Sorry for the delayed information on the run. Wayne and I headed to Daytona after Bikes and Badges and I'm playing catch up now.
Please send this out to everyone in your group.

Sherry and Wayne
Special Thanks to everyone that participated in the Bikes and Badges 7th annual Harris County Sheriffs run this

year. The event wouldn't be possible without the support of the Motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the area.

We raised a little over \$13,000 dollars for the Georgia Sheriffs Youth Home.

Congrats to some of the Winners of the poker hands and door prizes....Richard Cheek, Pam Foucher and Benny Downs!

On Behalf of the Bikes and Badges Committee, The Harris County Sheriffs Office and The Georgia Sheriffs Youth Home.... We all Thank you Immensely

FOR SALE:

Chipper/mulcher. Like new. 5 HP Briggs & Stratton. Great for getting rid of branches and small trees around the yard and creating mulch. Very similar model sells for \$450 at HD. \$175 OBO. Contact Roger (706-402-7399) or Susan (706-615-3355) Miller.

North Alabama Ride



The North Alabama ride was a blast! The weather was absolutely perfect for riding, and we had an excellent turnout. Our friends, Bill and Joyce Smith from Birmingham, joined us for the two day ride. In total, we had 13 bikes and 18 people on the ride which began with the first stop at 29 Dreams Motorcycle Resort in Vandiver, AL. Then on up to Lake Guntersville where we rode the northern perimeter of the lake. After a night's rest in Fort Payne, where Jared and Valerie Cohen met us all for dinner, we started out the next morning by riding the Little River Canyon scenic drive and then found some roads that had me radioing to Roger, who was leading the group, "Oh, *hell* no!" Not only challenging twists and turns, but roads that seemed to go straight up and straight down. It was like riding a two-wheeled roller coaster. We had lunch at Cheaha State Park Lodge, then rode down to the Lineville Car Show where a few of us stopped for about an hour or so while others continued their journey back home.

North Alabama Leaf tour riders were (and I sure hope I didn't leave anyone out!!!): Curtis & Miriam Adkins, Mickey & Laura Avirett, Barry & Linda Cowall, John & Mary Fiske, Paul Lujan, Larry & Faith Mack, Roger & Susan Miller, Clete Richardson and guest. Bob Smith, and Bill and Joyce Smith (guests of Roger and Susan)

Susan Miller

Red Robin Restaurant Dinner Ride

Munching down and pigging out at Red Robin dinner ride last month were George & Gwen Carter, John & Mary Fiske, Wayne & Helen Kennedy, John & Connie McRae, Roger & Susan Miller, Jerry Morehouse, and Frank & Sue Sealy.

Jerry and DeEtta's son, Zack, works at The Robin and stopped by to say 'hi' to the group. What a handsome young man! Lucky for him that we were not in his section because I'm sure we would have given him a hard time.

Susan Miller

Scott's Antique Mall Ride

If you need an outhouse door with a fish painted on it, you can get it at Scott's Antique Mall. And if you just want to see one, come on over to our house because that's just what we bought at the Mall! Another lovely day of riding with a good group. John Fiske rode as far as Thomaston where he had breakfast with us. Curtis Adkins brought his daughter along, as well as a rider friend who had his daughter with him as well. We took nice back roads up and then parted ways for separate rides back. I think Roger and I were the last to leave. Scott's is something to see at least once. I've been twice and still haven't seen it all.

Susan Miller

God Bless Fort Benning Day Ride

Motorcycles were lined up for three city blocks for the God Bless Fort Benning Day motorcycle parade which was just a quick shot up Victory Drive, past Fort Benning and back to Broadway. Young soldiers filled the streets for the event, where lots of entertainment and appreciation events were taking place. The weather could not have been better. After meeting Bob Smith for breakfast at the IHOP, Roger and I rode downtown and were the only VMTA representatives at the event. Hopefully, VMTA will make a better showing next year.

Susan Miller

My fellow VMTA members,

As a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era, I am compelled to express my disappointment at our club's lack of representation at the God Bless Fort Benning Day event and ride. Motorcyclists and motorcycle clubs throughout this nation are traditionally very strong supporters of our troops, and the military in general. Many of us are veterans with first hand experience of the sacrifices that come from being a military service member, volunteer or not. My hope is that one day VMTA will join the ranks of our local motorcycle clubs, support this event and show your appreciation for choices these fine young people have made in their lives.

There may be some confusion about what God Bless Fort Benning Day is all about. It's not to show that we agree with any war/conflict occurring at present, and it is not meant to serve as any kind of political statement - left or right. It's not about a show of force against any protest, including the SOA. God Bless Fort Benning Day is a community festival to show local support for the troops at Fort Benning, and U.S. troops in general, as represented by our local military force. Any anti-war or anti-SOA events taking place on the same day are a distant consideration to the support of the young men and women who have volunteered their service – at the risk of losing life or limb - to defend and protect the sovereignty of our nation. Our troops don't decide whether or not we go to war, or how we fight those wars; they simply execute orders to the best of their abilities.

As Susan and I walked the downtown streets at the festival, we could not help but notice the handsome young men and women who have chosen to serve their country. It was reassuring and gratifying to thank them. Many were in basic training and had not been allowed to call family and friends in many weeks. People were giving them their cell phones to let them say "Hi" to Mom.

Next year, I would ask each of you to take a second look at this event, and please join us showing your support for these young men and women. I think you will find it quite gratifying.

Roger Miller

Few Pictures from Oct North GA Ride

A stop on Cherohola Skyway



TWO motorcycle resort on Rt. 60 in Suches, GA

VMTA Calendar of Events December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Toys For Tots Ride Gather at PC IHOP at 9:00 AM	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 Annual Christmas Party – Magnolia Café at 7:00 PM
9	10 No Business Meeting in Dec.	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 ----- 30	24 ----- 31	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29

VMTA Calendar of Events January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Annual Polar Bear Ride. Shell station 10:00 AM	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Business Meeting at 7:00 PM	15	16	17	18	19 Inter M/C Show in Atlanta
20 Inter M/C Show in Atlanta	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		