



# The Kickstand

February 2007

[WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org](http://WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org)

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

## Business Meeting

**February 12th** 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: Earl Cheal**  
Tel: (706) 563-5677  
Cell: (706) 575-6761

**Vice-President: Sid Martin**  
Tel: (706) 324-0775  
Cell: (706) 329-7555

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

**Treasurer: Mary Fiske**  
Tel: (706) 561-3543  
Cell: (706) 398-7147

**Secretary: Laurie Avirett**  
Tel: (229) 649-2584

**Public Relations: Art Murphy**  
Tel: (706) 569-6820  
Cell: (706) 681-8386

## Presidents Message

### How Old is Too Old

Airline Pilots have been faced with mandatory retirement at age 60 for many years, regardless of their ability to fly. They could continue to fly as corporate pilots, flight instructors, etc. but, they could not pilot a commercial passenger plane. It appears that this requirement may be changed. Other pilots are only restricted by their ability to pass a flight physical and take a bi-annual check flight.

What has that to do with riding a motorcycle? Not much except for a frame of reference. Once we have a drivers license with a motorcycle class added, we don't have to pass another exam or take a physical exam (there are exceptions). All we must do is to renew our drivers license and we can ride our two or three wheelers whenever or wherever we wish. When you have a physical exam your doctor is not likely to even talk to you about your ability to ride.

Therefore, we are faced with self monitoring and self restrictions on our riding. With a club like ours, with a high percentage of seniors, this is a topic that needs serious review by our members.

The February 2007 issue of **Wing World** featured an editorial "Two For The Road" by Nick Hoppner.

Mr. Hoppner's article is a pull-out-and-save kind of article and I hope you keep it in your motorcycle reference file. I have it in mine.

The points made are so important that I have made an extract from that editorial:

"...how do we know when our own skills are fading fast? What are some of the warning signs?..."

"1. You feel uncomfortable and nervous, or fearful, while riding.

"2. You have increasing numbers of dents and scrapes...

"3. You have difficulty staying in the lane of travel.

"4. You keep getting lost.

"5. You have trouble paying attention to signals, road signs and pavement markings.

"6. Your responses to unexpected situations are slower than they should be.

"7. Your medical conditions or medications are affecting your ability to handle your bike or trike safely.

"8. You're experiencing too many "close calls."

"9. You have trouble judging distances and/or closing speeds and gaps in traffic.

"10. Other drivers often honk their horns or gesture at you...

"11. Increasingly, your spouse or friends don't want to ride with you.

"12. You have difficulty seeing the sides of the road when looking straight ahead.

"13. You become distracted easily or have a hard time concentrating on your riding.

"14. You have a hard time twisting to check over your shoulder while backing up or changing lanes.

"15. You're getting more frequent traffic tickets or warnings...

"16. You're dropping your bike (and co-rider) much too often.

(continued next page)

## February & March Ride Calendar



### February 2 – 4th – Moultrie Auto Swap & Car Corral

Contact Bob S. or Gerry Boyd if interested.

### February 10 – Valentine Sweet Heart Dinner- BuckHead Grill on Armour Rd meet there at 6:30.

### February 24 – International Motorcycle Show in Atlanta – Will depart from the Welcome Center Shell station at 9:00 AM. Here is the web address for information about the show and most importantly you can purchase your tickets on line. <http://motorcycleshows.com/motorcycleshows/>

To get \$5 off each ticket when you order on-line, enter **WRIF** in the promotional code box. The show will charge between \$4.00 to \$5.00 for parking this year. So have some cash in your vest pocket to make it easier to enter the parking area.

### Long Term Planning Dates

### March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11th – Daytona Bike Week

### March 25<sup>th</sup> – Iron Butt Ride

### April 21<sup>st</sup> - Fish Fry

### May 19<sup>th</sup> – Pot Luck Supper

### June 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – GWRRA Wing Fling in Rome, GA

### June 20th – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Honda Hoot in Knoxville, TN.

### July 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> – Wing Ding 29 in Billings Montana

### September 20 – 22 - Wings Over The Smokies

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"If any, or all, of these warning signals seem to describe your riding, maybe it's time you had your riding abilities assessed..."

Hopefully, as we reach that point in our life, when we are no longer safe to be riding, either we, or someone we know, will recognize we are at that point and take action, so we can move on to the next phase of our life. To do otherwise may end in frightful consequences.

Just remember, when that time comes for you, the VMTA members will remain your friends.

A. Earl Cheal

## **Announcements**

### February Birthdays

7<sup>th</sup> – Barry Cowall  
6<sup>th</sup> – Altheia Hancock  
15<sup>th</sup> – Charlene Harchar  
20<sup>th</sup> – Bob Lee

### February Anniversaries

6<sup>th</sup> – Myra and John Delay

## **Motorcycle Safety from Sid Martin**

Maintain safe spacing: Leave plenty of space in front and in back and to the sides from all other vehicles. Be an island. Stay away from traffic as much as possible. This gives you more visibility and more time to react to situations.

## **2006 Most Miles Award**

At the January meeting Bob Smith was once again presented with the Most Miles Award for 2006. Bob rode 28,135 miles. Congratulation Bob.

While we started the year with 10 members giving the odometer readings, only five reported their odometer reading at year-end. The other four contenders were:

John Fiske	21,879 miles
Gerry Boyd	15,188
Cornelius Smith	12,360
Roger Miller	9,704

You can still get entered for the 2007 contest. E-mail your odometer reading as of January 1<sup>st</sup> (as close as possible) to [Susan.miller@mindspring.com](mailto:Susan.miller@mindspring.com)

## **THANK YOU!**

Susan and I would like to thank those who expressed their sympathy for the recent passing of my father. I wish you could have known him; he was a guy who always had a story and a great laugh. He loved life and lived it well for 82 years. He was a good example of "The Greatest Generation."

Roger & Susan

## Polar Bear Ride

The annual Polar Bear Ride on New Year's Day was hardly **Polar** as our group congregated at the Welcome Center Shell starting point. The temperature at 10:00 AM was already in the mid+ 50's as we discussed our route and gassed up. It was a beautiful clear morning after nearly 2 inches of rain the previous day, and a little surprising that only seven VMTA bikes showed, given the highly unusual and pleasant conditions for this mid-winter day. Just before we left, approximately 20 Southern Cruisers pulled out of the Welcome Center for a ride of their own.



Susan and I led our group north towards LaGrange making our way over to River Road. We took River Road to Lick Skillet Road, continuing to head north to 103. After a few miles on 103 we headed northeast on Pine Lake Road into Whitesville where we picked up Hopeful Church Road over to GA18. That sequence has always been a favorite local route with nice farmland and scenic estates.

We continued on 18 to Pine Mountain, but picked up GA354/116 to Shiloh where we headed south briefly on GA85 before continuing east on 116 - again, some very nice good ole Georgia country scenery. With grumbling stomachs, we picked up GA36 crossing the Flint River and headed into Thomaston not knowing what restaurants, if any, would be open on New Year's Day. Sure enough, our first choice was closed so we headed up the road a little farther to find another that was open and that advertised itself as "Country Home Cookin'". The pit stop was welcomed. I would rate the restaurant as a two-star which, in my book, means nobody got sick (at least that I know of as of this writing), and we'll leave it off the list for next time.

After leaving the restaurant, we headed south on 19 for a couple of miles before taking a back road shortcut down to US80 heading into Talbotton. We then we changed over to GA208 west in downtown Talbotton for a few miles before picking up GA315 to Ellerslie. We then headed down US 27 towards Columbus as bikes began splitting off heading for home.

It was a long ride - about 200 miles for Susan and me - but why not on such a beautiful day? We all made it home safely, the ultimate goal for a successful ride, and I parked in front of the TV for an afternoon and evening of FOOTBALL. Thanks to all who participated, and I'm looking forward to heading it up again next year.

Roger

Ride participants: Roger & Susan Miller  
John & Mary Fiske  
Jerry Morehouse  
Earl Cheals  
Bob Lee  
Bob Smith  
John Fink

## On the Funny Side (continued from last month)

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

11. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event if an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

12. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

13. And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

14. Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City the flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

15. Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

16. Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

17. An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the Passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

A few more next month.....

## Yard Sale



Once again Mary is planning another yard sale. It is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>. And once again VMTA is invited to donate items for sale to benefit the Club. OH; what a deal.

How easy can it get. Just give your items to Mary at any of the future meetings or drop them off at the house. Mary will handle the rest.

In 2006 the club made \$183.83. Let's make this one a bigger success.

## Reminder #2

Club dues are payable now through March. Please pay Mary Fiske at any meeting or mail to '3951 Biltmore Dr., Columbus'. Make checks payable to VMTA.

## New Members



If you missed the January meeting and missed reading the minutes on the Web Site we have new members, Helen and Wayne Kennedy. Wayne rides a 2006 Wing with navigation and heated grips & seat. We are told he has also installed about 145 LED lights. He should be a contender at the Bikes on Broadway event.

## Farm House Restaurant



On January 11th, four members (Bob Smith, John Fiske, Wayne Kennedy and Earl Cheal) with visitor Dick Hargett (on his Gold Wing Trike) rode to Farm House Restaurant in Ellerslie, GA for

lunch. It was a pleasant day with sunshine and when we started it was about 49 degrees. The food was good and we had a nice visit before splitting up for the ride home. Bob and John took off for Whitesville. Earl and Wayne rode south on County Line Road to Macon Road, then on home. Dick went directly home. For those of you who have not gone to the Farm House Restaurant, you should make an effort to go. However, check their schedule before showing up.

*Earl*



## Thursday at Jason's Deli

Jan 25, once again saw a group of VMTA members gathered for eats on a Thursday night. Thirteen members and two guests gathered some tables and the stories began.



The choices of food varied from soup to just ice cream and don't forget the deli sandwiches. The food was good and plenty. In fact, there were a few take home boxes also going out the door at the end of the night.



It was a great start to the '07 Thursday night cause.

Thanks Clete for calling this gathering.

## VMTA Calendar of Events February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Moultrie Auto Swap & Car Corral	3 Moultrie Auto Swap & Car Corral
4 Moultrie Auto Swap & Car Corral	5	6	7	8	9	10 <u>Sweet Heart Dinner</u> - BuckHead Grill on Armour Rd meet there at 6:30.
11	12 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 M/C Show in Atl. Depart Welcome Ctr Shell station @ 9:00 AM
25	26	27	28			

## VMTA Calendar of Events March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Daytona Bike Week	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 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Iron Butt Ride	26	27	28			