



The Kickstand

January 2007

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting

January 8th 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

Happy New Year to all.

Members attending our annual Christmas Party December 9th at the Magnolia Grill certainly had a head start on happiness for the New Year. Carolyn Shackelford, Connie McRae and Gwen Carter did a great job planning and executing the party. The food was very good and the games were "challenging" for some of the members. "Pass the Presents" kept us on our toes, to make sure we knew our right from our left.

Then during the holiday bingo, we had to resist eating the chips so we could holler out 'Ho Ho Ho' to claim our bingo prize. Everybody was a winner and everyone had a great time.

As this newsletter will likely be in your hands prior to January 1st, I want to remind you brave ones, with long underwear, to come ride with us on New Years Day, for the annual Polar Bear Ride. Actually, the way the weather changes, we have a good chance that it may be balmy that day. Either way, the ride will be a great way to usher in the New Year.

I want to thank the Officers from last year for their work in leading our club to another successful year: President Bob Smith, Vice President Clete Richardson, Secretary Joan Kaplan and Treasurer Mary Fiske. John Fiske has also done an outstanding job publishing the newsletter every month and sending us an email alerting us that it is on the web site.

Of course we must also thank many other members who helped out in many different ways. One of the things that make the VMTA so special is the way our members step up and volunteer to get things done.

Due to the normal cold weather in January, our ride schedule is light however, this would be a good time to perform some maintenance on your bike, so it is ready to go when the weather give us a break.

In 2007, I will continue the main focus on safe riding. I welcome comments from members about experiences they have had and the lessons they can pass along for the benefits of others.

Again, I wish you all Happy New Year and Happy and Safe Riding in 2007.

A. Earl Cheal

Announcements

January Birthdays

4th - Sidney Martin
5th - Linda Parker
11th - Jerry Morehouse
17th - Jerry Boyd
17th - James Ingram
23rd - Leslie Smith
26th - John Delay

January Anniversaries

6th - Jackie and Altheia Hancock
8th - George and Gwen Carter

January & February Ride Calendar



January 1st – Polar Bear Ride

– Annual ride to begin the New Year. Ride captain will choose route. Departs Welcome Center Shell station at 10:00 AM

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

February 24 – International Motorcycle Show in Atlanta -

Long Term Planning Dates

March 2nd – 11th – Daytona Bike Week

March 25th – Iron Butt Ride

April 21st - Fish Fry

May 19th – Pot Luck Supper

June 4th – 9th – Americade 2007 Lake George, NY

June 14th – 16th – GWRRA Wing Fling in Rome, GA

June 20th – 23rd – Honda Hoot in Knoxville, TN.

July 4 – 7th – Wing Ding 29 in Billings Montana

September 20 – 22 - Wings Over The Smokies

October 20 –21st – Shrimp Peel in Panama City

December 2nd –Toy for Tots

December 8th – Christmas Party

Safety Message

Assume Drivers Can't See You: Ride assuming that you and your motorcycle are totally invisible to motorists. That means you must never assume that drivers can see you. The odds are, they can't, so believe it yourself and always have an "out" for dangerous traffic situations.

Always wear protective clothing and a helmet. A tiny beanie helmet held on by a thin strap and affixed with a fake DOT sticker is not enough. Motorcycle Safety depends on you!

Marshmallow Butt

We have all heard about the 'Iron Butt' rides. That riding is not for everybody, so we have a ride for those of us who do not have the time or resources to be in the Iron Butt. It does not require massive work, a big budget, GPS, endless hours on the road, or even an Iron Butt.

We give you: The **Marshmallow Butt 235**

Rules:

1. This is a one-day event.
2. Minimum 235 mile trip with maximum of 300 miles.
3. No more than \$30 - \$35.
4. Pick a destination that will be less than 300 miles round trip.
5. Must be somewhere you have never been.
6. Mix familiar roads with at least 50% of roads you have never driven on.
7. Make a minimum of three stops in places you have never stopped.
 - One stop must involve lying on your back and sucking in the goodness of nature for at least 12 minutes.
8. Be courteous to every local you encounter – wave at all motorcycles.
9. There is no rule #9.
10. Must visit local dining establishments, not chains.
11. If a child is selling lemonade by the side of the road, must purchase.
12. Must bring back a souvenir for the SO left home.

All rules are subject to change and modification at one's discretion – especially positive ones.

Bonus Points:

1. Getting briefly lost: 235 points.
2. Taking a road that you didn't plan on: 235 points.
3. Taking a wrong turn on purpose: 470 points.
4. Lowering your blood pressure: 235 points.
5. One point will be awarded for each bug collected on your motorcycle, helmet, jacket or person.

(above reprinted from the "Rounders' web site)

On the Funny Side

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:

1. On a Southwest flight 245 (SW has no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people, we're not picking out furniture here; find a seat and get in it!"
2. On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."
3. On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."
4. "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only four ways out of this airplane"
5. "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
6. As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"
7. After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."
8. From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."
9. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."
10. "Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

(more next month)

Christmas Party



Oh what a neat Christmas party we had on that Saturday evening, the room was decorated very nicely and the food was great as usual. We had lots of club members in attendance, anyone missing this needs to get with the program for next year. You never know what kind of entertainment our great committee members will set up and they made the evening worthwhile.

The gift exchange was done very differently than other years, led by Johnny this time. We were pretty worried when he separated the men & women, but it all worked out okay. No tricks there, but you never know with this group. Door prizes took a while to pass out as almost everyone got one. Thanks for the nice supply of gifts from so many people.



Afterwards quite a few of us went up to the Mexican Restaurant to enjoy some holiday cheer, oops that was not Christmas cheer was it? Anyway we had a laughing good time. Somehow we got around to talking about up coming Rose Bowl game with the USC Trojan football team, wasn't that how that whole thing got started?

This club really does enjoy the camaraderie at our get togethers', whether it is a riding tour to the mountains, Daytona Beach, this Christmas party or the club meetings. I am glad so many continue to attend our events.

Past President,
Bob Smith

Yard Sale

Once again Mary is planning another yard sale. It is scheduled for March 31st. 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.

It's That Time Again

As a first reminder, 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.

Meeting Place

At the November meeting a suggestion was made that we may want to consider moving our meeting place other than Piccadilly's. Please give this some thought. The subject will be discussed at the January 8th meeting.

Ride Captain Lottery

The winner of the 2006 Ride Captain Lottery was Clete Richardson who won a free membership for 2007. Clete's name was drawn from 39 entries of 15 different ride captains. Will you be the winner for 07?

VMTA Calendar of Events January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Polar Bear Ride Departs Welcome Ctr. Shell @ 10:00 AM	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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
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 International M/C Show in Atlanta	24 International M/C Show in Atlanta
25 International M/C Show in Atlanta	26	27	28			