



The Kickstand

May 2007

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting

May 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: 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 Note

Fear

Do you recall being afraid of the dark or being afraid of other things, when you were a child? I recall, as a child, being afraid of the dark and there was no amount of talking by adults that would make that fear disappear. It was only after I had much exposure to the darkness that I found there was nothing about the dark to fear.

The dictionary defines fear as a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined. (Emphasis added.)

You may have experienced a certain amount of fear (or you might have called it apprehension), when you first got on your big motorcycle. That was normal because, we all have had similar feelings. Even seasoned riders may harbor a certain fear in the anticipation that a car or truck may unexpectedly pull out in front of them. Another typical time you may experience fear is when you are riding in the rain or in a strong gusting crosswind. Actually a certain amount of fear may be useful to help us be better prepared for the unexpected.

Generally, most of us are able to conquer our fears, so those fears do not have a negative impact on our lives. However, some people have not been able to conquer their fears or they have only been able to conquer some of their fears. People may also couple their fear with paranoia. The dictionary tells us paranoia is a condition characterized by baseless or excessive distrust of others.

When I considered purchasing both the Silver Wing scooter and the Gold Wing, I assumed that my wife Jeannine would ride with me. I made that assumption because; she had ridden on my two previous bikes, many years ago. As most of you may know, Jeannine has only ridden on my Goldwing a few times. She experiences much fear, anxiety and strong negative emotions leading up to a ride and during the ride. Unfortunately those feelings prevent her from having an enjoyable time when she has ridden with me. Of course, it didn't help things when I dropped the Goldwing, during a slow turn, with her riding with me. There were no injuries and no damage but, that incident added to the paranoia she experiences.

Although several other people and I have tried to reassure Jeannine that there is little need to be fearful about riding, logic cannot overcome her emotions. The fear about riding is not something she chooses and she has tried to overcome it, to no avail. I harbor no resentment towards her for emotions she cannot control.

After several years of trying to help her overcome her fear of riding with me, I realize that will not happen. For that reason, I have decided to end my motorcycle riding and move on to another phase of my life, without a bike.

(continued on page 2)

April & May Ride Calendar



May 3rd – Good Ole Boys for dinner. Leave Phenix City Home Depot at 6:00 PM

May 6th – Talisi Hotel for lunch. Depart from P.C. Home Depot at 10:00 AM.

May 19th – PotLuck Supper at the Fiske house. John will lead ride to the house from Welcome Ctr Shell station at 5:30 PM.

May 27th – 29 Dreams Resort & Barber M/C Museum Depart P.C. Home Depot at 8:30 AM.

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

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

June 26 – 28th –Honda Home Coming in Marysville, OH.

Long Term Planning Dates

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

July 21st – Picnic Ride

August 11th – Mid-night Ride to Albany.

September 8th & 9th – Bikes on Broadway

September 15th Progressive Dinner

September 20 – 22 - Wings Over The Smokies

October 7th – Membership Cook-out

October 20 & 21 – Annual Shimp Peel in Panama City

October 27th – Ocillia Potato Festival

(continued from page 1)

I plan to remain a VMTA member, as long as I have my Goldwing, and I offer to continue serving as President until that time or until replaced by the Board of Directors.

If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in purchasing a 2003 Honda Goldwing GL 1800 with ABS brakes, 8,900 miles, and lots of extra accessories, please ask them to contact me.

Earl

Announcements

May Birthdays

9th – Lucy Manzer
10th – Valerie Cohen
17th – Linda Cowall

May Anniversaries

(none)

Motorcycle Safety

Beware of oncoming motorists turning left in front of you at intersections. This is the leading cause of death of motorcycle riders. If you only remember one tip on safety, let this be the one. Slow down before you enter an intersection. Have an escape route planned. Stay visible. Don't travel too close to cars in front of you. Position your bike so it can be seen by the left turner. Eye contact is not enough! Be alert and anticipate every possible scenario.

Mossy Creek

Sunday morning April 22 was a real nice clear morning for a motorcycle ride as twelve bikes and 17 riders gather at Burger King. The ride took us due east on Rt. 96. After a brief stop in Fort Valley we were at the Festival. All agreed to meet back in 2-1/2 hours and everyone headed for the gate.

The site for this festival could not be nicer. All the vendors and activities are set-up within a pine grove, in the shade. There was about any vendor you could ask for spending your hard-earned dollar. There also was plenty of food and I can attest that it was good.

We all gathered at a spot just inside the gate before the set time, discussing the many things we saw: items for sale, food, people and the entertainment. Proceeding to the parking area we found a stray puppy that appeared to be lost & forgotten. This dog might have been as twin for Susan's "Precious". The debate ensued about the puppy's demise and it also received a ride on a motorcycle until a couple in a sporty convertible stopped and agreed to take the dog.

After a gas stop we went south in I-75 about 8 miles, exiting onto 224 west. As discussed at the gas stop, when we made the turn onto 127 Joan & Jake continued home on 224. We followed 127 until turning north on 41 to 80 onto Columbus.

Great day with good friends.

Atlanta Aquarium Trip

The weather forecast for the day of the event was for storms moving in mid-afternoon. So prior to the event it was decided to go in cars for safety reasons. With ten VMTA folks coming from three directions, we all convened at the IHOP in Newnan for a big breakfast before heading off to HOT-lanta for our very excellent 'fishy' adventure.

As planned, we parked at the College Park MARTA Station on the south side of Atlanta, and rode the train into downtown Atlanta, getting off just a few blocks from the aquarium. This was truly a case of "half the fun was getting there," as many of us had never ridden MARTA before. Since MARTA is mostly above ground and somewhat elevated, you get a good view of the Atlanta skyline as you come into the city from the south. I could kick myself for the dozens of times I've driven to and parked in downtown Atlanta for meetings and events. I will definitely be taking MARTA from now on. It was easy, fun, inexpensive, and felt entirely safe.

After getting to the aquarium, we agreed to go our separate ways and meet back in the main concourse in a couple of hours. Most of us finished our tour before the time allotted, and it felt good to just sit and look at all the people- some of whom were more entertaining than any fish I saw. The Atlanta Aquarium is a beautiful facility located across from Centennial Park in downtown Atlanta and is supposed to be the largest in the world. The new "Coca-Cola World" is currently under construction right next to the Aquarium.

We headed back to the vicinity of our downtown MARTA station, and had lunch at Atlanta's Hard Rock Café before riding back to the College Park Station. It was a very fun day, and everyone had a blast.

Those that went on the trip:

Sid and Peggy Martin
John and Connie McRae
Bob and Marie Lee
Randy and Charlene Harchar
Roger and Susan Miller

Susan and Roger Miller

For Sale

2001 Buell Blast 500 cc one cylinder engine
Scratched windshield, 3500 miles, runs well.
\$1650

Dick Noxon 706-322-6108

VMTA Calendar of Events May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Good Ole Boys Lv P.C. Home Depot at 6:00 PM	4	5
6 Talisi Hotel for lunch. Lv. P.C. Home Depot at 10:00 AM	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	15	16	17	18	19 Pot Luck Supper at the Fiske House 5:30 PM from Welcome Ctr Shell Station
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Barber Museum & 29 Dreams Resort Lv at 8:30 AM P.C. Home Depot	28	29	30	31		

VMTA Calendar of Events June 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	12	13	14 GWRRA Wing Fling in Rome	15 GWRRA Wing Fling in Rome	16 GWRRA Wing Fling in Rome
17	18	19	20 Honda Hoot in Knoxville	21 Honda Hoot in Knoxville	22 Honda Hoot in Knoxville	23 Honda Hoot in Knoxville
24	25	26 Honda Home Coming in Marysville OH	27 Honda Home Coming in Marysville OH	28 Honda Home Coming in Marysville OH	29	30