



The Kickstand

October 2007

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Business Meeting

October 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: Sid Martin
Tel: (706) 324-0775
Cell: (706) 329-7555

Vice-President: Paul Lujan
Tel: (706) 561-5445
Cell: (706) 681-6030

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: Laura Avirett
Tel: (706) 562-8608

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

Presidents Note

A message from Sid...

The Shrimp Peel is quickly coming, and this is one event I hope you're planning to attend. We've always had a good turnout, Panama City is beautiful this time of year (if the Red Tide isn't in evidence), and we have traditionally had a great time. I trust you've made your reservations and invited others to come along. We've seen several friends from other clubs and they've told me they are coming this year, as well. Whether you plan to go early, ride down with the club on Saturday morning, stay longer or whatever, let's plan on a great time visiting and enjoying a relaxing weekend.

The GA National Fair is happening in Perry beginning Oct. 4 through the 14. This is a ride that Peggy and I really enjoy and it's also our favorite fair. There are plenty of rides and food choices, but the craft, art, and cooking exhibits and the livestock make this a wonderful event. We've never even attended any of the several concerts offered during the fair, but many do and they say the shows are great. If you're looking for a good ride, I highly recommend this one.

Announcements

October Birthdays

1st – John Fiske
1st – Bob Smith
6th – Wayne Kennedy
24th – Carolyn Shackelford
29TH – Paul Lujan

October Anniversaries

8th – Sid and Peggy Martin
19th – Barry and Linda Cowall

Club Officers

At the October meeting the nominating committee will present a slate of officers for the CY2008. Nominations may also be may from the floor. Please attend and participate in this important aspect of our club. Election of officers will take place at the November meeting.

September & October Ride Calendar



October 7th – Membership Cookout at FDR State Park. Ride departs Shell station @ 11:00 AM.

October 11th – Dinner at Pats Backwater on River Rd. Departs Welcome Ctr. Shell at 6:30 PM.

October 13th – North GA Ride to the Apple Festival in Ellijay. Leaves Welcome Ctr. Shell at 8:00 AM.

October 14th – Bikes & Badges Ride – Leaving from Welcome Center at 8:30 AM. Arrive earlier to register.

October 20 & 21 – Annual Shrimp Peel in Panama City. Leaves P.C. Waffle King on 431 S at 8:00 AM.

October 25th – Movie at the Cunningham Center. Come see “Man of the Year” at 6:30 OM.

October 27th – Ocillia Potato Festival – Departs from Miller Rd Burger King at 8:00 AM

November 3rd & 4th – Fall Ride in North Alabama. Departs P.C. Home Depot Lot at 8:00 AM

November 10th - Antique Mall in Atl. Departs Welcome Center Shell at 8:00 AM

November 17th - God Bless Fort Benning Day Meet at P.C. IHOP at 9:00 AM

Long Term Planning Dates

December 2nd – Toys for Tots Ride Gather at the Columbus Civic Center

December 8th - Christmas Party at Magnolia Cafe

Monthly Safety Message

Tire Safety

How to handle a tire blow out while riding a motorcycle. With today's tubeless tires, actual blowouts are rare, but may still occur. When tires do fail, the most common cause is improper tire pressure — usually pressure that's too low. Checking the overall condition and pressure levels of your tires frequently can go a long way toward ensuring you'll never experience a blowout.

However, if one of your motorcycle's tires should fail while you're riding, you'll need to react quickly and decisively to avert a crash. So take a few minutes now to familiarize yourself with the following steps for successfully handling motorcycle tire blowouts:

1. Ease off the throttle and slow down gradually.
2. Do not use the brakes. Braking, especially braking hard, will only make keeping control of your motorcycle even more difficult. If you must use some brake, apply gradual force to the brake on the good tire and ease your motorcycle to a safe stop.

Caution: Using the brake on the wheel with the bad tire can cause the tire to separate from the rim, resulting in immediate loss of control. Be aware, however, that integrated braking systems don't permit “rear-brake-only” applications, while linked braking systems do not allow for single-brake operation. On motorcycles with either of these two systems, braking with the “good tire only” may not be possible. Any braking necessary should be done very lightly and with great care. Avoid downshifting too. Like braking, this will only make your bike less stable.

3. Firmly hold on to the handlebars while keeping your arms bent. Do not “fight” the steering to correct the wobble or weave that will likely develop. Focus instead on maintaining control by keeping your motorcycle directed in as straight a line as possible until it comes to a stop.
4. Remain seated until your motorcycle has come to a full stop.
5. Once stopped, push your motorcycle as far away from the travel lanes as possible.

While tire blowouts are not common, the absolute best way to “handle one” is to avert it before it happens.

Know Your Pressure Level and Load Limits

- Become familiar with your motorcycle manufacturer's inflation guidelines. Look in your motorcycle owner's manual to find the right PSI (pounds per square inch) of air pressure for your tires. Some bike manufacturers also list this formation on the bike itself. Common locations include the swing arm, front fork tubes, inside the trunk, and under the seat.
- Keep in mind that these recommendations are usually dependent upon the weight of you and your passenger, as well as any cargo. For instance, some manufacturers advise adding 3 or 4 PSI when carrying a heavy load. Know your vehicle weight and load, and follow the PSI recommendations specific to your motorcycle. Failure to do so can result in adverse motorcycle handling (wobble and weave) or tire failure, or both.
- Check your tire pressure often and adjust as necessary, using an accurate tire gauge. Motorcycle tire manufacturers recommend checking pressure

at least once a week. However, many motorcycle safety experts recommend checking tire pressure and tread wear every time you take your bike out. After all, you ask more of your motorcycle tires than you do your car tires. So it's wise to ensure they're roadworthy each time you ride.

Tire Wear and Care, and When to Buy Replacements

- Take the time to frequently inspect your tires for side wall and tread groove cracking, punctures, blisters, knots, cuts, excessive or irregular wear. As with tire pressure, it only takes a few minutes — every time you ride is not too often. If you do find any of these tread wear conditions, immediately replace the damaged tire. In addition, most tire safety experts recommend replacing rather than attempting to permanently patch a tire.
- When your tread is worn down to the level of the built-in tread wear bars on your tires, the tread won't provide good traction. This is yet another indication it's time for new tires.
- Check your tires for signs of aging, including dry rot and cracking. Even barely used tires become hard with time or exposure to the sun. When tire rubber gets hard and stiff, it tends to crack and cannot grip the road to provide proper traction. So it's wise to replace old or dried-out tires even if they still have plenty of tread on them.
- If you store your motorcycle during winter months, be sure to store it in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight — and away from ozone-producing appliances (anything with an electric motor, such as a refrigerator). Additionally, your tires should not come into sustained contact with gasoline or oil. Improper storage will rapidly accelerate the normal aging process, making your tires unsafe.

What to Consider Before You Tire-Shop

- Make sure you get a matching set of front and rear tires. Unlike car tires, you need to make sure that your motorcycle tires are a "matched" set. At a minimum, they should have complementary tread patterns; should both be either radial or bias ply, and ideally be the same make and model.
- Size matters. It's best to choose replacement tires of the same size as the motorcycle's original equipment tires.
- Remember that front and rear motorcycle tires are not designed to perform exactly the same functions — and are **not** interchangeable. You'll

need one front tire and one back tire of a complementary make, model and size.

Tire Safety on the Road

- Avoid riding on the shoulder or near medians where sharp objects and other tire-damaging debris tend to accumulate.
- Constantly monitor the way your motorcycle rides so you can detect any rapid air loss — and respond appropriately without delay.
- Carry a cell phone whenever you ride, in case of emergencies.

This message courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Paul

Annual Labor Day Ride

Much better turnout for this ride than the midnight ride, due to the weather I am sure! Nice cool temps for this time of year and no rain forecast after several days of much needed rain. We had eleven bikes along for this annual ride.

John took us toward West Point to meet Roger & Susan, and then we headed toward Greenville. Without circling the Court House we went on east a short way then picked up a scenic Georgia highway. All the roads he took us on were very scenic and narrow.



Some traffic reports were to watch out for dangerous drivers but we did not meet any this trip, even with the holiday.



Next stop was a break at a gas station, which looked open with the lights on but no one was home.

So we meandered on small back roads over Pine Mountain and into Cataula, then down to the IHOP for a nice lunch or breakfast — depending. Ha! Who showed up as we parked but our President, Sid Martin? Leaving there we stopped in the lobby of the Holiday Inn to check on a 750-gallon salt-water fish tank. It was very neat with some strange looking fish. Bet the desk clerk thought she was going to rent a nice group of rooms when we walked into the lobby.



And maybe because everyone had eaten too much and were getting sleepy!!

This was a great day for riding with the club members; too bad the rest of you were busy doing other things. We had a

fun day.

Bob Smith

FALL BROADWAY EVENT SERIES

The free concerts are 7-10 p.m., except where noted, and held on the stage at the 1100 block of Broadway. Admission is free. Details: 706-596-0111.

Oct. 5: Whisky Bent, Neal Lucas Trio
Oct. 12: The Fiddleworms, Galen Kipar Project
Oct. 19: Peggy Jenkins & the Rhythm Roosters, Kyle Shiver
Oct. 26: Old School Band, Marshall Ruffin
Nov. 2: Leah Randazzo, Ed Cox Trio
Nov. 9: ColourSlide, Every Day People, Matt Self
Nov. 16: Old School Band
Nov. 17: God Bless Fort Benning Day (all day)

Jerry

MIA-POW Ride



Saturday, September 22, Sid and I had breakfast at the Airport Thruway IHOP, hoping to meet up with others of our club. No one appeared, so we proceeded on to the parking lot between the Civic Center and Golden Park, where lots of bikes were gathering for the annual Freedom Ride, sponsored by the Sergeant's Major Association. We saw a number of friends from other clubs, who Sid invited to the Shrimp Peel (and they said they are coming!), had a safety and route briefing, and the parade began.

It turned out to be the nicest parade we've ever ridden in - just the right speed, great weather (overcast with peeks from the sun occasionally), just very pleasurable and moving.

We passed the MIA-POW memorials at the Columbus Government Center with the Hardaway Color Guard in attendance, crossed the river to see the proposed site of the memorial in Phenix City attended by the Russell County Color Guard, back into Georgia and on to Fort Benning where we passed many war

memorials, troops, and families as we made our way to the Infantry Museum.

It was a great morning and a memorable ride. Hope you'll put this on your calendar for next year if you're not otherwise committed.

Peggy

The White House

There were thundershowers around the area for hours prior to departure time, but the rain fell somewhere else. Three bikes and three vehicles made the ride to the White House. Temperature was pleasant and the roads were damp only in spots on the way up.

The food was excellent and the conversation topics varied widely. A lot of laughs while the other patrons around us wished they could join in.

Upon exiting, the dew had already begun to settle on the bikes. Other than a stray raccoon crossing the road it was a very nice, 73-degree ride home. Wish you could have joined us.

John

VMTA Calendar of Events October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Cook out at FDR State Park Leaves Shell Station at 11:00 AM	8 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	9	10	11 Pats Backwater Departs Shell Station at 6:30	12	13 North GA Ride to Ellijay Departs Shell Station 8:00 AM
14 Bikes & Badges Ride Lv. Welcome Center at 8:30 AM.	15	16	17	18	19 Grp leaves for Shrimp Peel at 10:00 Waffle King in P.C.	20 Shrimp Peel Departs PC Waffle King at 8:00 AM sharp.
21 Shrimp Peel Return from Panama City	22	23	24	25 Movie at Cunningham Center at 6:30 PM See Man of the Year	26	27 Ocillia Potato Festival Departs Miller Rd Burger King at 8:00 AM
28	29	30	31			

VMTA Calendar of Events November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1			1	2	3 Fall Ride to North AL. Departs P.C. Home Depot 8:00 AM
4 Return from Fall Ride to North AL.	5 Business Meeting 7:00 PM at Piccadilly's in the mall	6	7	8 Supper at Red Robin. Meet there at 6:30 PM	9	10 Antique Mall in Atl. Departs Welcome Center Shell at 8:00 AM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 God Bless Fort Benning Day Meet at IHOP in P.C. at 9:00 AM
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	28 Supper at Smokey Bones. Meet there at 6:30 PM	29	30