



# The Kickstand

February 2008

[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 11th** 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: Gwen Carter  
Tel: (706) 561-4175

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

## Presidents Note

### A message from Sid...

Another month has flown by, and here we are planning for better weather and exciting outings together! It was nice to see Frank and Sue at the International Motorcycle Show on the 19th and really great to see Smitty there! Several of us enjoyed Movie Night at Cunningham Center the other day, and Peggy's still snickering over Mary's dance, "Chicago style"! Isn't it great to enjoy our friends?

Don't forget to contact Susan about your Valentine reservation for dinner and a movie on the 14th, and on the 24th, crock pot dinner at the Millers' home. If you're interested in Bike Week, better finalize those plans quickly, then it's Iron Butt Ride and the Fish Fry. Spring's coming and we'll all be out, riding, eating, and having a great time. Let's remember to check our bikes for all safety points and practice safe VMTA riding.

**Sid**

## 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

27<sup>th</sup> – James & Lora Dick

## February & March Ride/ Event Calendar



**February 14 – Valentines Day Party at the Cunningham Center.** Catered dinner and movie. \$30 per couple.

**February 24<sup>th</sup> – Crock Pot Feast at the Lake.** Will be hosted at the home of Susan & Roger Miller at 2:00 PM. Will meet there.

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Lunch at Niffers on Lake Martin** in Dadeville. Ride will depart P.C. Home Depot at 10:45

**March 29 – Annual Yard Sale** at the Fiske house. Get you unwanted items to Mary before March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> – Iron Butt Ride to Panama City** and return. Departs 8:00 AM from the Waffle King in P.C. on Hwy 431-S.

### Long Term Planning Dates

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – Annual Fish Fry** – Details to follow.

**May 17<sup>th</sup> – Pot Luck Supper.**

**July 25 - 27 – Curso Campout.** Get your reservations made early  
Tel: 828-235-8350 or  
[www.blueridgemotorcyclecamp.com/](http://www.blueridgemotorcyclecamp.com/)

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mid-night ride.** History says we will leave at 9:00 PM.

**September 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> – Wings Over The Smokies.**

**October 25 – 26 Annual Shrimp Peel**

### Other Motorcycle Events

**February 29 – March 9<sup>th</sup> – Daytona Bike week.**

**June 12 – 14<sup>th</sup> – GWRRA Georgia District Rally** in Athens, GA

**June 25 – 28<sup>th</sup> – Honda Hoot** in Knoxville TN.

## Safety Message

### **Loading a Motorcycle**

Whether it is a carton of milk from the convenience store, or camping gear for a three-week trip, you will end up carrying more than people on your motorcycle. All loads should be tied to the machine. Do not balance a bag of groceries between your legs for a short ride home. Strap it to the back seat with bungee cords or an elasticized cargo net. A great carrying device is the tank bag. It puts the weight where it should be - near the bike's center of gravity.

Make sure it is properly secured and remember never to carry anything on the gas tank or inside the fairing that might interfere with the steering of the bike. Just imagine what happens if the bars won't turn far enough - big trouble.

There are appropriate places to carry loads on a motorcycle, but they do not include your front forks or fenders. If your machine comes with saddlebags a travel trunk, you're set. If you have none of this, you can always buy a luggage rack or throw-over bags; they are very useful items. When you load saddlebags, keep equal weight on both sides. This is even more important when you are using soft throw-over bags, as an imbalance can cause one side to drop down and rest on the muffler. A blazing saddlebag is no joke. Keep the weight relatively light in your travel trunk or on your luggage rack. Being aft of the rear axle, this is the worst place on the motorcycle to carry much weight. It can turn a well-handling motorcycle into a poor-handling terror. Sleeping bags go great back there; a 50-pound sack of dog food does not. Check the security of the load frequently, and make sure nothing is dangling. It is one thing to lose part of your luggage, quite another to get it tangled up in a wheel. **Above all, DO NOT EXCEED THE GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) of your motorcycle!** You might find that figure on the plate attached to the steering head; sometimes it is found on the frame; but the best place to look is in the owner's manual. It is written in pounds, and it includes the weight of the motorcycle, all gasoline, oil and coolant, the rider(s), and the luggage.

This message brought to you from the **American Motorcycle Safety Foundation.**

Remember we all want to see your smiling face at the next meeting.

*Paul L*

### Information

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be free pancakes at three local IHOPs for making a donation to the Children's Miracle Network. Make this date on your calendars. Good food, good cause – good combination.

## New Years Day Ride



Oh yes we finally got a chilly Polar Bear ride, been several years since that happened. Shaking hands at the starting point one could sure tell who had heated grips on

their bike!! Barely 43 degrees to start out that morning.

We had four guests riding that day, all seemed to enjoy the ride, especially Jennifer (as a co-rider); her bike is being delivered this next week. Paul and Doug had nice Indian and Victory bikes, really stylish rides. Ed's was nice with a windshield that I am sure was appreciated over the one without any wind blockage. Brrr . . .

Believe there were 15 bikes along, so it was a really good turnout for Jan first. Roger took us on a nice back road route around the lake and over to the Cracker Barrel for lunch. 5 club members and a guest were waiting there with a table after driving over in a SUV. So we filled several tables and had good food and coffee to brace us for the ride home. Twenty-three attended this ride.

Roger and Susan had already made a big loop to come get us, then lead us around the country side, so they and another couple took a short cut to home and football, while some others decided to ride with Jake & Joan down past Buena Vista to their house then back to Columbus. That put our daily mileage close to 200 miles like the Kaplan's rode that day. On this leg of the trip Mr. Fiske somehow broke the spring on the center stand driving along a narrow deserted county road south of Ft. Benning. He tied it up for the return trip, always something on a tour. Ha

The temps stayed in the 40s for the day, I did see 50 for a little while around 3-4 PM. There was a strong wind the whole day, but the sun was nice and bright.

Even some busboys mentioned as we did, that what you do on New Years you do all year long. We sure hope so.

*Bob Smith*

## Juliette & Museum (non-club ride)

On Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Bob and I rode over to Juliette with a couple of guys that had joined us on the Polar Bear ride. There were five bikes making the ride. It was a cool start to the day but I was dressed for it and it warmed up nicely in the afternoon.

Arriving in Juliette at noon, the first order of business was to visit the Whistle Stop Café, famous for being the movie set of "Fried Green Tomatoes". After we had ordered our long lost member from Atlanta, "Smitty", walked in and joined the group. It has been about 4-years since Mary & I made our first trip to Juliette and the food is still very good.

Once our bellies were full we rode the bikes across the tracks to visit the "Old Mill Motorcycle Museum". The building was purchased in 2000 by Les White who loves to rebuild Indian motorcycles. He has 22 vintage cycles of various brands on two floors. Les was very accommodating. He even started up one of the Indians and later rode it outside so that a member of our group could take pictures of his 'new' Indian along with the old one. Some of my pictures are available at [http://s274.photobucket.com/albums/jj279/bearhunter\\_photos/Juliette/?action=view&current=f0644d5d.pbw](http://s274.photobucket.com/albums/jj279/bearhunter_photos/Juliette/?action=view&current=f0644d5d.pbw)

During the return ride we stopped for a photo shoot at the Auchumkee Creek covered bridge on Rt.19 in Upson. This 1892 bridge was destroyed by floods in 94 and rebuilt in 1997. Arrived home at 4:30. It was a great day for a ride. Wish more of you could have joined us.

*John F*

## Florida Ride – part one.

It was 8:00 AM Friday morning and the temperature was around 27 degrees. I was scheduled to meet Bob and Mickey for our 3-day ride to Florida. Maybe one of us will call it off. No call by 9:00, so off I go to the meeting spot. I was early but after a short time the others show up and it is 'off we go'. Planned route is to take 2-lane roads southeast through Georgia to Waycross.

After going through Montezuma, took 90 to Vienna, 215 to Rochelle. In Fitzgerald we stop for lunch at Aunt Mary's Kitchen. Found by accident while looking for another place but it always seems like those are the best. A young man even moved an SUV so we could park on the only concrete pad in the driveway. Leaving there it was thru Douglas via 206 and 158 to Waycross.

From Waycross we took 4 into Homeland and headed south into Florida on Rt. 121 to Starke then Hwy 16 to Green Cove on the St. Johns River. It was getting late in the day so we headed to St. Augustine and a Best Western. I asked for lower level so as to keep an eye on the bikes. Well, she puts us on the poolside and instructs us to ride thru the breezeway to the courtyard and park the bikes on the sidewalk outside the rooms. This was great because it put the bikes under the roof overhang.

*John*

(pictures??Clickhere:

[http://s274.photobucket.com/albums/jj279/bearhunter\\_photos/?action=view&current=32f059cc.pbw](http://s274.photobucket.com/albums/jj279/bearhunter_photos/?action=view&current=32f059cc.pbw)

## Florida Ride – part two.



The continuation of our 3 day trip to Florida last month was waking up to more sprinkles than were expected in St. Augustine. We headed to the historic downtown area before following old highway #1 down to Flagler Beach and a scenic road leading right down to Daytona Beach.

Had to stop at the Honda shop to look around, lots of neat used bikes sitting there. The real reason for stopping was to undress a bit, as it was warmer than we thought even with the light rain. Continuing past the Speedway, where time trials were going on for the big race, we headed west toward Mt. Dora and all the scenic lakes around this area.

Lots of old homes and small towns in the center of the state. Stopped for lunch near a grassy airport runway and had a great meal. Then went south past Plant City to find some sunshine and warmer weather.



Did not stay too long down there as we had a lot of back road riding to do on the way home Sunday. Took a county road back past Plant City then zigzagged up to Zephyrhills, Brookville, and Crescent City to Chiefland on the Gulf Coast for the

night.

Sunday was sunny but not very warm as we came straight north on #129 to Live Oak, took #90 west to Monticello which was a nice quiet 2 lane. Just out of town found a small county road up into Georgia and back roads up to Moultrie. Then over to Albany for lunch, up to Americus and home. All told it was an 1100-mile weekend with mostly mid forty's temps and pretty cool nights. Lots of sprinkles all day Saturday but nothing we were not dressed for – no surprises. Heated outfits sure made it more enjoyable but were not necessary.

*Bob Smith*

## 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.

## VMTA Calendar of Events February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <b>Business Meeting at 7:00 PM</b>	12	13	14 <b>Valentine's Day Dinner– Movie at Cunningham Center</b>	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <b>Crock Pot Feast at the Miller's Meet there @ 2:00 PM</b>	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Start Daytona Bike Week</b>	

## VMTA Calendar of Events March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <b>End Daytona Bike Week</b>	10 <b>Business Meeting at 7:00 PM</b>	11	12	13	14	15 <b>Niffers in Dadeville. Depart Home Depot at 10:45</b>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Annual Yard Sale. Get stuff to Mary by 3/23</b>
30 <b>Iron Butt Waffle King @ 8:00 AM</b>	31					