



The Kickstand

August 2009

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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

Next Business Meeting

August 10th, 2009 at 7:00 PM
Piccadilly's in Peachtree Mall
Eat at 6:30 or earlier

Board Meeting

To Be Scheduled
As needed

Board of Directors

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Presidents Note

Summer is in full swing. Days are longer and HOTTER! Great riding weather, if you can stand the heat. Late evening rides are great. If you missed the ride to Pat's Backwater Restaurant, you missed some great food and a late evening ride home that was enjoyed by all present. We had a good crowd and our own room. Maybe that was because we were having such a good time. :)

Keep you calendars up to date to make sure that you don't miss any of the great rides that Roger and Susan have planned for the club. Lots of fun and good times with your friends!

If you are reading this and not a member of our Great Riding Club, but looking for a group to ride with, come join us and ride with us. I think you will find a great place to find friends and great place to enjoy riding your motorcycle. If you have any questions about our club, send us an email or call me, 706 5273023.

Don't forget our monthly meeting where you can meet the members and discover how easy it is to find others that enjoy riding as much as you do.

Hope to see you soon, "... On the Road Again.."

John McRae, President VMTA

Announcements

August Birthdays

2nd – Peggy Martin
4th – Denny Reid
7th - Helen Kennedy
16th – Roger Miller
26th – Sandy Reid
26th – Donald Lamee
29th – Laura Avirett
31st – Larry Mack

August Anniversaries

22nd – Jerry and Sonja Boyd

July & August Ride/Event Calendar



July 16th - IMAX Theater at Infantry Museum - to watch the NASCAR movie. Gather there at 6:30. or meet at the Victory Dr Burger King at 6:00 PM for group ride there. This is the last day for this showing.

July 17th - 19th - Cruso Camp Out - Three day event staying at the Blue Ridge MC Campground. Ride will depart from Miller Rd Burger King at 7:00 AM Friday 7/17. Look at web site and get your reservations made.
<http://www.blueridgemotorcyclecamp.com/>

July 26th - Red Neck Yacht Party - Come join other members and guests for some fun time on the water of Lake Harding. Participants will gather at the Miller home on Lake Harding at 12:00 noon. Will proceed to Sea Island by what ever means will float. Return later for ice cream and fixings.

July 30th - Movie Night - Feature film will be "Bringing Down The House", with Steve Martin, showing at the Cunningham Center. Doors open at 6:00 for those bringing supper (drinks will be available for \$.50) and the movie begins at 6:30.

August 1st - Breakfast Ride - Departs the Williams Rd Shell station at 8:30 AM for the Country Store on Rt. 27 & 190.

August 8th - Pizza, Movie & Poker Night - at the Cunningham Center. Doors will open at 6:30. If you want, pizza will be ordered in. Then you may join in either event: movie or try your luck at the poker table.

August 13th - Supper at The White House - This is a favorite dinning place for the club located on Rt. 29 in Valley, AL. Ride will leave from Phenix City Home Depot lot at 6:30 PM.

August 22nd - Mid-night Ride - Just a great time each year. Depart Miller Rd Burger King at 9:00 PM. Will ride two lane roads to Albany, stopping for mid-night eats and then return via the four-lane. Ride will include a poker run.

August 27th - Dinner at the Shiloh Grill. Ride will depart from Miller Rd Burger King at 6:30 PM.

Long Term 'Planning' Dates

Sept 7th - Annual Country Ride

Sept 13th - Bikes on Broadway.

Sept 20th - Membership Picnic - at Heath Lake Park off Weems Rd.

Sept 24 - 26th - Wings Over The Smokies

Oct 10th - North Georgia Ride

Oct 17th - Shrimp Peel

Oct 24th - Sweet Potato Festival

Nov 7th - North Alabama Ride

December 5th - Christmas Party - at Elks Club on Warn Springs Rd, Columbus.

Dec 6th - Toys For Tots Ride

Safety Message

Elbows

In addition to the shock absorbers you are already familiar with (front wheel, rear wheel and steering damper), there are two more that are very important to you as a motorcycle rider - your elbows.

In order to allow these shock absorbers to work you must not lock them. That is, you must droop your elbows while you ride. By drooping them you accomplish the following:

- They remove pressure from the wrists and allow a longer more comfortable ride
- They stop the transfer of front-end instability to the rest of the bike
- They minimize the transfer of load to the front-end during hard braking (leaves it lower and farther to the back of the bike)

Touring riders sit on their saddles in a generally erect posture, often with a backrest that they lean into while riding. If that backrest is too far back they will be forced to ride with their elbows essentially locked in order to reach their grips. If so, they will suffer the same numbness and aches after a long ride - it's not the posture so much as the stiff elbows.

If you have ever had your front-end wobble on you after hitting something in the road, or if that front-end is generally unstable (weak or badly adjusted steering damper), or if you have ever ridden over 'rain grooves', you know that if your elbows were locked you transmitted the instability of the front-end to the rest of your bike and made the entire motorcycle unstable. Drooped elbows absorbs all of that instability and leaves you in more control of your motorcycle.

You also know that braking causes a load transfer towards the front wheel. With the phenomenally powerful brakes we have today coupled with the newer tire rubber compounds, it is now possible for many bikes to literally raise their rear wheel off the ground in a panic stop. This is called doing a 'stoppie'. Drooped elbows will almost certainly prevent a stoppie from happening.

Assume that your elbows are locked solid and that your upper body is held in place relative to the handlebars

when you apply the brakes. The momentum of your body transfers load to the front wheel during the panic stop. Your body, because of the locked elbows, does not move forward (relative to the rest of the bike) at all.

On the other hand, if your elbows are drooped, your upper body moves forward (bending at the waist and elbows) during the stop. Any such displacement of your body 'absorbs' the load transfer and keeps it local - the front wheel does not get immediately loaded (with a shifting of your upper body weight) as a result.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but the real difference is in how much and WHEN the load transfer (from momentum) takes place -- how fast it happens. Rather than exaggerating a panic stop and dramatically compressing your front springs, your drooped elbows allows a smaller part of your upper body momentum to be 'felt' in the front-end gradually. For the purist, the way you determine weight transfer is to calculate the ratio of the height of your Center of Gravity (CG) to your wheelbase and multiply that by your braking force. Because your CG lowers when you lean forward, there is less weight transfer at any given deceleration rate. See the tip later on entitled Weight Transfer for a complete discussion

By: James R. Davis

Smokie Mt. Ride-In Bryson City, NC

One year of planning really paid off for these two dedicated riders, Gary & John, who had never met till the weekend of the rally. They phoned and emailed all plans and really got Bryson City behind a rally. We gave them a big THANKS for their effort. Think of the work to put on a Honda Hoot!!

John Fiske made reservations at the Ridge Top Motel many months ago for this event. What a nice old motel it was, nice clean rooms with new tile, windows & A/C units, plus a clean pool. There was an RV campground and tent camping, too. They offered to have a bonfire and weenie roast but it was too hot!

Rob & Betty, Rene and John Fiske went to LaGrange to meet Roger & Susan; John dropped off and they rode on to meet Don. Bob, Gerry and Mickey had left at the crack of dawn to miss the heat. Everyone had a good trip up around Atlanta. The early birds arrived just before an afternoon shower popped up; the others had a 30-minute ride in light rain that cooled things off.

The Microtel had taken over the Western Sizzler next door, so offered to feed everyone on Thursday evening. Since lots of our group was staying there, we joined them but did not eat. There is always a group party in the motel parking lot at one of these events. Meet old friends and make some new ones, which is what we did. Then after eating a late snack we did the same at the Ridge Top. There are lots of photos on the web of these get togethers.

Friday we all rode to Deals Gap, everyone but Mickey & Bob rode this twisty ride with lots of crotch-rockets shooting by. Bob & Mickey rode up to the Cheraholla Skyway riding both ways. Saw Gerry heading to Tellico Plains to meet the scooter group at noon. He had done Deals Gap both ways. Then we went on to Franklin by way of Wayah Rd – a neat twisty in itself. We dined at a discount gas station with a fantastic French restaurant in Franklin. Oh, the food is so good.

There was a fish fry on Friday evening at a park near downtown Bryson City, most of the 200 people showed up to a good meal sponsored by the local riding club. Then there were horseshoe games to watch. Back to the parking lots for a gabfest.

Saturday we met the scooter group for an hour at the Cherokee welcome center, and then left ahead of them on the Parkway to the Pisgah Inn for lunch. (Gerry rode with them on Fri and they were very slow and unorganized) Next stop was the Folk Arts Center just east of Asheville, a really neat shopping spot. Taking the Parkway back to go by Cruso campground, we met Don & Rene, Roger & Susan and Rob & Becky; they were taking a break too. What a neat road (#215) down from the Parkway to Waynesville, lots of waterfalls with plenty of people enjoying the coolness.

The Saturday evening banquet was not far from the Microtel, a BBQ restaurant that was for our riding club only!! Did they ever put on a feed for all of us! Soon there will be a picture on the web of all the bikes, trikes & scooters around the parking lot. What a sight with all the different colors and all. Each night after dinner, awards were given out to certain people for all sorts of reasons--ha. Then it was back to the motels for our chats and music that went on till after 1am, bet they did not leave out at 6am like we did - to beat the heat coming back down to Columbus. All in all it was a great 4-day weekend.

Check out these views from the ride to the Smokies
<http://gl1800riders.com/forums/showthread.php?t=217570>
<http://w1ngin1tsrides.blogspot.com/>
<http://gl1800riders.com/forums/showthread.php?t=217677>

Bob Smith

Bryson City Smoky Mountain Ride-In

With Honda Hoot's cancellation, a few guys from the GL1800 Riders forum decided to pull together the Bryson City Smoky Mountain Ride-In. VMTA-ers who participated in this great riding event were Jerry Boyd, Bob Smith, Mickey Averitt, Don Lamee, and Roger and Susan Miller. Don's guest was Renee Moon and newbie guests Rob and Becky Butler made the 950+ mile trek as well. The only rain we had was the last 15 miles arriving on Thursday and the first 15 miles leaving on Sunday morning. It was hot, but in the higher elevations weather was pleasant. The group rode Deal's Gap/Tail

of the Dragon on Friday morning and frankly, it was a big disappointment to me. After all the hype, I expected some challenges. But we've been on more challenging roads than this before! Saturday's ride included the Blue Ridge Parkway and lunch at the Pisgah Inn. We met some great folks hanging out at the host hotel in Bryson City. This is a ride we'll put on our calendar next year for sure.

Susan

Yoder's Restaurant/Shreno's Dinner Ride

Plans on Saturday, June 27 were for Yoder's Restaurant in Montezuma. But Bob Smith called ahead and learned they were closed, so plans quickly changed and our new destination was Shreno's Restaurant in Thomaston. Not much to look at on the outside, but good eats inside. We had 11 bikes and 13 people on the ride. John and Connie McRae, Larry and Faith Mack, Jerry and DeEtta Morehouse, Bob Smith, Don Lamee and friend Renee Moon, Clete Richardson, Roger and Susan Miller, and guest Rob Butler, who had joined us on the Smokey Mountain Ride In, too. Guess we didn't scare him away from the group. Wife Becky had to work, or she would have been along as well. It was a warm ride over, but pleasant on the way back, as summer nights can be.

Susan

Movie Night at the Cunningham Center – Ghost Town

The group laughed when it was announced that Ghost Town was recommended by AARP, but if the orthopedic shoe fits, we may as well wear it. Our mostly AARP crowd thoroughly enjoyed this 2008 movie which was a sleeper at the box office last year. We were back in the big banquet hall where we always enjoy the theater sized screens for our private movie showings. Attendees were John and Connie McRae, Barry and Linda Cowall, Mickey and Laura Averitt, Mary Fiske, Bob Smith, David & Linda Register, and guest couple Peggy and Richard Fenner. By the way, suggestions are always welcome for movie night selections!

Susan

2008 Honda Gold Wing Long Term Test - Report #10

Excuse me, does this motorcycle make me look old?

By Basem Wasef, About.com

There are so many types of bikes out there, it's almost impossible not to find a motorcycle that's right for you. That said, it's easy—almost inevitable, in fact—to get pigeonholed into a stereotype when you commit to a specific make and model.

I put my fate into your hands when I published a MotoPoll to determine which Honda I'd acquire as a long term test subject, and nearly a year after taking delivery of a 2008 Honda Gold Wing ABS, I've been on the receiving end of a (not exactly surprising) series of reactions. When considering joining a group of sportbikers for a Sunday ride, a buddy remarked via email that the pace "...might be faster than your two-wheeled lorry." (Yep, he's a cheeky Brit.) "That bike doesn't look like your speed," exclaimed another acquaintance. On top of all that, countless colleagues have suggested that riding the Gold Wing might automatically qualify me for AARP membership.

Is this what the general population thinks about Honda's grand tourer? Perhaps the GL's perception problem was best summed up by a female friend's feedback when she recently saw my garage, which happened to be housing the 'Wing, a Ducati Monster 1100S, and a Harley-Davidson Iron 883. "That looks too sporty," she said, pointing to the red Monster. "That looks sexy," she swooned over the Hog. "And that," she proclaimed about the Gold Wing, "looks comfortable and all, but it just doesn't get me excited."

So maybe that's the common thread: most people think of the Gold Wing as sofa-like touring machine, but not much else-- which is interesting, because I had a hoot (pun intended) riding the 'Wing like a sportbike, rocking out while racking up the miles, and canyon carving my way through Angeles Crest Highway. The bike's copious storage even encouraged me to pick up groceries and run to the gym on the thing, functions far removed from the bike's reputation as a transcontinental tourer.

When all is said and done, I'll readily admit that the Gold Wing's image problem isn't entirely unjustified; after all, this baby is a big, honking machine that looks about as maneuverable as an anvil. But therein lies the rub, and the inevitable reality that the 'Wing's personality is far more user friendly than it looks.

Have I ever been self-conscious riding the GL? I'd love to give an emphatic "No," but fact is that being a 37 year-old guy aboard this Jumbo Jet of a bike does sometimes feel a little weird. But once in motion with a view of the instrumentation array ahead of you and the flat-six humming beneath like a hot-rod sewing machine, it's almost impossible not to have a good time while riding the 'Wing—and after a while, it even becomes easy to forget what kind of bike you're on and simply enjoy it for what it is.

For any true motorcyclist, that feeling you get from riding will trump outside opinions about your steed of choice. If you're not into touring bikes, the Gold Wing isn't for you... and if you're on the fence, it still may not be an ideal choice. But if you know what you want and you don't mind being labeled a geezer every now and then

for riding this Barcalounger on two wheels, all I can say is ride on, man. Ride on.

July 4th NC Ride

John & Bob agreed to leave Thursday @ 6 AM. As I waited for Bob to top off his tank I attempted to start the bike. It was in gear but no-doing. After trying a few things it was determined that the side stand switch was bad. After a little wiggling, it failed to work at all and allowed the bike to start in gear even if it was down. Not good but it allowed me to continue with the ride.

We traveled up Rt. 27 & 100 to Rome, over to Ellijay on 5, 515/76 to Blairsville & Young Harris. 17 north onto MC 69. East 64 to Franklin then Wayah Rd back NW to 19 into Bryson City. Then it was 23/74 to Waynesville. I remember there were some new, neat roads thrown in there but can't name them.

Friday AM Bob went to car swap meet in Fletcher while I rode the BRP north. When I went past the highest point marker it was 48 degrees. Stopping at MT. Pisgah resort at 9:30 it was a breezy and cool. Turned south off the Parkway just past the Resort in order to meet Bob for lunch in Fletcher. Enjoyed a nice lunch at the cafeteria. We then returned to the BRP continuing north turning off at Little Switzerland going west on RT 226A weaving our way NW of Ashville returning to Waynesville by way of Hot Springs.

Saturday we headed south on 215 across BRP to 64 & west to Franklin. Then riding Rt. 28 north all the way to Deals Gap store. (many of you remember that



road) The parking lot was just jammed full. Turning south on 129 to towards Robbinsville stopping for a late lunch at intersection of 143 before proceeding across the Cherohala Skyway. Deals Gap

and Skyway were full of motorcycles out for the holiday weekend. Then it was SW over 39/30, onto 411 south to Chatsworth for bed time.

Sunday morning greeted us with light rain at 6 o'clock for the first hour going down 411, 61 then onto 27; arriving home at 10:00 AM.

It was a great ride for 1175 miles. Bob continues to show me the good. fun motorcycle friendly roads. Wish I could remember where they are so I could someday find them on my own.

John F

VMTA Calendar of Events July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly. Anonymous</p>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	<p>13 Business Meeting 7:00PM Piccadilly's in Mall</p>	14	15	<p>16 IMAX Theater Movie "NASCAR" gather there at 6:30</p>	<p>17 Cruso Campout</p>	<p>18 Cruso Campout</p>
<p>19 Cruso Campout</p>	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>26 Red Neck Yacht Club Party Miller home at 12 noon</p>	27	28	29	<p>30 Movie Night "Bringing the House Down" @ 6:30 PM</p>	31	

VMTA Calendar of Events August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones. Phillip Brooks, U.S. Clergyman & author</p>						<p>1 Country Store for Breakfast Leave Shell station at 8:30</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	<p>8 Pizza/Movie /Poker – Cunningham Ctr. 6:30 PM</p>
9	<p>10 Business Meeting 7:00PM Piccadilly's in Mall</p>	11	12	<p>13 The White House – PC Home Depot at 6:30 PM</p>	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	<p>22 Mid-night Ride departs Miller Rd BK at 9:00 PM</p>
23	24	25	26	<p>27 Shiloh Grill – Departs Miller Rd BK at 6:30 PM</p>	28	29
30	31					