



# The Kickstand

June 2009

[WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org](http://WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org)

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

## Next Business Meeting

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

President: Johnny McRae

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Tel: (706) 561-3543

Cell: (706) 392-6868

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Roger & Susan Miller

Roger Cell: (706) 402-7399

Susan Cell: (706) 615-3355

Treasurer: Sue Sealy

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Cell: (706) 575-1284

Secretary: Jerry Morehouse

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Public Relations: Art Murphy

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## Presidents Note

‡ Greetings Fellow Bikers,

May is a month of transition for many people and for those with school children, you know what I mean. I hope the transition into Summer will find us all enjoying our motorcycles and the warm, HOT, weather.

Our monthly meeting had another good turn out, although, we missed a lot of regular members who are normally there to support their club. NOT THAT I AM TRYING TO MAKE THEM FEEL BAD BECAUSE THEY MISSED THE MEETING, NEVER!!!!

Come and support your club and enjoy talking and eating with your friends.

We had a great turn out for the Annual Fish Fry, if you missed it, .... SORRY!!! Susan and Roger have done an excellent job in planning our upcoming rides and club events. Please check your calendar, along with the newsletter, for all the planned events. Get you bike checked out, fill your tires with air (President Obama would agree) and plan to come spend some time on the open road with your friends.

I hope to see you, "On the Road Again....".

Have a great Month!

John McRae, President VMTA

## Announcements

### June Birthdays

NONE

### June Anniversaries

18<sup>th</sup> – Travis and Margie Garner  
29<sup>th</sup> - Wayne & Helen Kennedy

## May & June Ride/Event Calendar



**May 14<sup>th</sup> – Good Ol Boys** in Auburn – Departs PC Home Depot at 6:30 PM.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> – Oscars** – Departs Miller Rd Burger King at 3:00PM for a Pine Mt. ride before dinner.

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – Shakey's Pizza** in Auburn. Departs from P.C. Home Depot at 11:30 AM

**May 28<sup>th</sup> – Luke's Pub** – Leaves Miller Rd Burger King at 6:30 PM.

**May 29<sup>th</sup> – River Walk Ride** benefit Children's Miracle Network. Oxbow Meadows before 6 PM.

**May 30<sup>th</sup> - Infantry Museum & IMAC Theater.** Depart Victory Dr Burger King at 11:30 AM. Eat at Four Winds Burger, then movie, "Monsters & Aliens" begins at 3:00. There is a \$10 charge.

**June 6<sup>th</sup> – Oasis Casino** in Shorter. Departs P.C. Home Depot at 10:45 AM

**June 13<sup>th</sup> – Sam Shortline** train ride in Cordele. Depart Victory Drive Burger King at 7:00 AM.

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual Ride to Work Day**

**June 18 – 21<sup>th</sup> – Smokey Mt Ride-In Bryson City N.C.** Group plans – Check with others who are going.

**Jun 20<sup>th</sup> – Fort Valley Peach Festival**

**June 25<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night** at Cunningham Center. Doors open at 6, movie at 6:30 PM

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – Dinner ride** to either Yoder's or Blackbeards's. Depart Victory Drive Burger King at 5:00 PM.

### Long Term 'Planning' Dates

**July 11<sup>th</sup> – Watermelon Festival**

**July 18<sup>th</sup> – Redneck Yacht Club Party**

**July 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> –Camp-out at Curso, NC**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mid-Night Ride**

**Sept 5<sup>th</sup> – Bikes & Badges Ride**

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup> – Bikes on Broadway.**

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – Membership Picnic**

**Sept 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> – Wings Over The Smokies**

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – North Georgia Ride**

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup> – Shrimp Peel**

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – Sweet Potato Festival**

**Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – North Alabama Ride**

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Toys For Tots Ride**

## **Safety Message**

### **Lighting is a threat to Motorcyclists**

The weekend of 4/18, lighting struck and killed a Kansas motorcyclist. While a permanent structure or hard-top vehicle offers the best shelter, there are a few options for cyclists that are marginally safer than being out in the open.

1. Unlike being in a car, which offers a metallic shell that conducts electricity around the passengers, cyclists are exposed to the elements.
2. If a storm is within 5 miles, stop riding, move at least 50 feet away from the cycle and sit in a ditch or low spot.
3. Parking under high-tension wires offers some protection. If lighting strikes wires or towers, it is channeled safely deep into the ground.

*National Weather Service in 4/27 USA TODAY*

## **Mossycreek Barnyard Festival Ride Uh-ho Change Michele's Lunch Ride Georgetown**

With only two bikes showing and a total of three riders John, Mary and I decided to make a lunch ride to the famous Michele's Restaurant in Georgetown. Departing Burger King at 9:05AM we had to take the long way around so we would arrive for the lunch buffet and not breakfast.

Heading through downtown Columbus taking the Dillingham Street Bridge into Phenix City going south on Hwy 431 to south Hwy 165. We turned south on Lee Road 39 taking the show easy ride crossing Uchee Creek enjoying the east Alabama countryside. Wait a minute John, watch out for the black calf running on the side of the road. It was a perfect setup for Ms. Mary to bulldog that sucker, go for it Mary. Not this time. Turning East on Lee Road 4 crossing back into Georgia on Hwy 208 we turned south on Hwy 39 stopping for a leg stretch and a break at Florence Marina. Taking our time we continued south on 39 into Georgetown .

### **Time to EAT!**

Oh my – now my belly is full. John suggested going to riverbend to catch a quick nap, it was mighty temping but the clouds were getting darker. We are off again heading north on 27 towards Lumpkin. We continue to follow north 27 to US280 / 520 West.

Entering Fort Benning we noticed a few pine trees twisted off. The must have had some strong winds. Driving further it started to look like a bomb had gone off and then total destruction 100 of trees twisted off and up-rooted. Mary said that the damage had happened the weekend the sirens went off in Columbus a few weeks back. I had not realize that the local area was so hard hit. Taking I-185 north we both headed home.

It was another fun and safe ride with good friends; such a wonderful way to wrap up the weekend.

*Mickey*

## **2009 Annual Fish Fry**

I would like to start by thanking everyone who pitched in to make this year's Fish Fry an overwhelming success. A special thanks to George Ingalls and his wife for providing the cookers and the hard work cooking. Thanks to Sid, Frank, Bobby and others who pitched in to help out. Big thanks to all for the side dishes and deserts brought to share with the group.

We had a final head count on the sign in sheet of 56 members, guests and friends. If you're like me I can wait till next spring to do it again.

*Mickey*

## **Cotton Picken Fair**

Five bikes gathered to ride to the Cotton Picken Fair. After a quick reminder of where Gay Georgia was, Clete took the lead followed by Barry and Linda, Jerry and DeEtta and bring up the rear was Frank and Sue. The sky was cloudy but the weather was pleasant. When we got to Gay we were able to find parking on the street for all of the bikes. We decided to meet back at 2:00 and if you wanted to stay longer you were on your own. Frank and Sue meet up with Clete, no one else showed up so we pulled out about 2:10. We arrived home safe and sound with a wonderful ride and wonderful day completed.

*S Sealy*

## **June 15th Annual Ride To Work Day**

### ***Motorcycle and Scooter Day Turnout Expected to Increase***

This year's eighteenth commuting demonstration event, to be held on Monday June 15th, is expected to double the number of riders on the road, according to Ride to Work, a non-profit advocacy organization.

According to the United States Census Bureau and the Department of Transportation, over eighty million cars and light trucks are used for daily commuting on American roads, and about 200,000 motorcycles and scooters are a regular part of this mix. On Ride To Work Day, the practical side of riding becomes more visible as a larger number of America's 8,000,000 cycles and scooters are ridden to work.

"Riding to work on this day shows the positive value of motorcycles and scooters for transportation. For several hundred thousand commuters, riding is an economical, efficient and socially responsible form of mobility that saves energy, helps the environment and provides a broad range of other public benefits," states Andy Goldfine, the event organizer. Motorcycle and scooter clubs and organizations in many countries encourage their members to ride to work on this day.

Ride to Work Day shows how riding makes parking easier and help traffic flow better. Motorcycles and scooters consume less resources per mile than automobiles, and they take up less space in parking areas and on roads. Riders seek employer support for this form of transportation, and increased government and public awareness about riding's many benefits

## Looking for ways to cut Costs Not Trips

Looking for ways to cut our vacation and excursion cost this summer Laura and I have been kicking around the idea of Motorcycle camping for a few weeks. I found this article from RoadRUNNER magazine I thought might be interesting for other members that may be kicking around the same idea. *Mickey*

[RoadRUNNER](#) » [March/April 2007](#) »  
[Is Motorcycle Camping For You?](#)

Text: James T. Parks

Photography: James T. Parks and Karen Parks

### **Is Motorcycle Camping For You?**

Having covered a number of the "do's and don'ts" novice campers should be aware of in the last issue, we focus in this installment on 10 topics worth considering to enhance all of your motorcycle camping experiences.

#### **Step 1 – Start Out Modestly**

You've decided to try motorcycle camping, but please don't go overboard by spending a lot of money on all of the latest camping equipment and planning a seven-day excursion for your first trip. On that first trip: (1) travel light – buy or borrow just enough equipment for a one-night outing at a location familiar to you; (2) reduce trip complexity by not cooking, and eat your meals at restaurants; and (3) don't venture too far from home, just in case your first camping experience goes badly and you want to make a quick return. This strategy keeps you from investing too much money in gear before learning whether motorcycle camping is for you. On future trips, develop your knowledge and skills, and gradually increase the length, duration, and complexity of camping trips.

#### **Step 2 – Plan Carefully**

Because a motorcycle has limited carrying capacity, take everything you will need but nothing more. Motorcycle camping is essentially backpacking on two wheels; so going through a carefully thought out checklist is essential. Several websites for checklists are included below, but some of those lists are much too extensive. For example, do you really need, or even want, to take your laptop computer or PDA on a camping trip if your goal is to get away from it all? To refine your checklist during your trip, make a note of the things you needed, but didn't bring, and the things you brought but didn't really need.

Before setting out on a motorcycle camping trip, it's advisable to check the extended weather forecast. If persistent rain or severe conditions are likely, reschedule.

#### **Step 3 – Check Your Gear Before Leaving Home**

To avoid becoming the primary source of entertainment at the campground, familiarize yourself with how all of your camping equipment works before leaving home. Set up your tent in the backyard; figure out how the stove works and cook something on it; try out your sleeping pad and sleeping bag; and, using your checklist, assemble and inventory all of your gear to see if anything is missing.

#### **Step 4 – Packing**

Don't overload the motorcycle. It's a good idea to pack your camping equipment and other travel items first in hard saddlebags and a top case, if you have them. Additional items should be packed in a single waterproof bag tightly secured to the motorcycle. For items that absolutely have to stay dry, like camera equipment, encase them in zip-lock freezer bags. As a rule, heavier items should be stored as low as possible and forward of the rear wheel. The day before you're scheduled to leave, pack the bike, and take a local test ride to make sure the bike handles safely and that all items are well secured.

#### **Step 5 – Match the Campsite to Your Needs**

Motorcycle campers should know in advance where they plan on staying each night of the trip. Reservations, when available, assure a place to camp, especially if there's a possibility of arriving late in the day. Recommended campgrounds for beginners should have running water, preferably at the campsite, toilets, and showers. Gain more experience if you want to do some "rough" camping, without any campsite amenities. Refer to the list below for motorcycle-only and motorcycle-friendly campgrounds you might try. But be careful when entering the mixed-use campgrounds, because roads easily negotiated by a four-wheeled vehicle may be treacherous for a heavily loaded street bike.

Good site selection is also important. The intended location of your tent should be as level and smooth as possible, and it should be free of any obvious pests (ants or any other small carnivorous critters). To help ensure a good night's sleep, try to locate as far away as possible from potential sources of light and noise. Camping close to the bathrooms may seem like a good idea, but they are usually lighted and a source of pedestrian traffic throughout the night. And, finally, if other campers have passed up a site that seems too good to be true, there is probably a good reason – choose carefully!

### **Step 6 – Clothing**

The type of clothing brought will depend on your planned off-bike activities, like hiking, or eating at a nice restaurant, and the range of temperatures expected during your trip. You should bring shower shoes or rubber booties for showering, and having a light windbreaker is always a good idea. Garments made of synthetic materials are generally better for camping and riding than those made from cotton. Light synthetic materials dry quickly, compress easily for packing, keep you cooler on hot days, and can be layered for warmth when the weather turns cold. Motorcycle rain gear is usually sufficient protection for rainy weather in camp, but some type of waterproof hat might be added to your wet weather ensemble.

### **Step 7 – Don't Skimp on Shelter**

I've read about minimalist motorcycle campers who sleep under an old shower curtain or with no shelter at all. I don't see the point, particularly when reasonably priced, lightweight tents are available. The rule of thumb on tents for motorcycle camping is to buy one with the capacity to hold one person more than will be sleeping in it. A two-person tent, for example, allows a lone camper to stow his or her gear safely inside and out of the weather. My preference is to have a side-entry dome tent with a waterproof bottom and separate rain fly. And, don't forget to protect the bottom of your tent with some type of ground cover. Investing in a good tent helps ensure that you'll be dry and not snuggling up with any uninvited, squiggly guests.

### **Step 8 – Comfortable Bedding**

If others tell you that real bikers sleep on the ground, just say you're happy for them and then go buy a quality sleeping pad. My favorite is the Therm-a-Rest® brand that self inflates. Because I'm a side sleeper, I bought the thickest, full-length model I could find, which takes up a little more space than the thinner ones – but for me it's worth it.

Carrying a sleeping bag, even in warm weather, is a smart strategy because an unexpected cold front can cause temperatures to plummet and there is nothing worse than shivering through a long, cold night in your tent. A good down or synthetic mummy bag rolls up, packs to the size of a Butterball® turkey, and provides warmth down to 20 degrees.

Although you have a dry and comfortable place to spend the night, sleep, sometimes, may not come easily. To mute any disturbing noises from man or Mother Nature, just insert your earplugs and close your eyes.

### **Step 9 – Meal Planning**

Portable meals have come a long way since the days when I was wandering in the woods with the Army. Now we just add water to a freeze-dried meal package and, voila, even I can fix a gourmet meal on a camping trip. Before leaving home, though, it's smart to plan which meals you expect to prepare versus those you'll eat in a restaurant. Although there's no need to pack the trip's complete food supply before first setting out, anticipating and bringing the cooking equipment, condiments, and other related items needed is good planning. It's also wise to pack water-purification tablets in case you have doubts about the potable quality of any campground water.

### **Step 10 – Relax, Have Fun**

If your first few trips aren't all you thought they would be, relax and know that, with more experience, all aspects of motorcycle camping eventually become second nature and more enjoyable. You will learn new strategies and techniques on every trip that will enhance your camping skills for future trips. Remember, part of the fun is being prepared for, and experiencing, the unexpected, and then recounting your adventures with other motorcycle campers.

Good luck and safe travels. I hope to share a campfire with you somewhere down the road.

## VMTA Calendar of Events May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
It is neither wealth nor splendor; but tranquility and occupation which give you happiness. Thomas Jefferson, 3 <sup>rd</sup> President					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <b>Business Meeting</b> 7:00PM Piccadilly's in Mall	12	13	14 <b>Good Ol Boys</b> – Depart PC Home Depot at 6:30 PM	15	16 <b>Oscars</b> – Lvs Miller Rd Burger King at 3:00 to ride Pine Mt.before dinner
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <b>Shakey's Pizza</b> in Auburn. Leave Home Depot at 11:30 AM	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26	27	28 <b>Luke's Pub</b> – Lvs Miller Rd Burger King at 6:30 PM	29 <b>River Walk Ride</b> before 6 PM at Oxbow Meadows. Benefit Childrens Miracle Network	30 <b>Infantry Museum &amp; IMAC Theater.</b> Depart Victory Dr Burger King at 11:30 AM. Eat at Four Winds first
31						

## VMTA Calendar of Events June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Oasis Casino</b> Home Depot @10:45 AM
7	8 <b>Business Meeting</b> 7:00PM Piccadilly's in Mall	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Sam Shortline</b> in Cordele Victory Dr BK @ 7:AM
14	15 <b>Annual Ride to Work Day</b>	16	17	18 <b>Smoky Mt Ride-in</b> (4-days)	19	20 <b>Fort Valley Peach Festival</b>
21 <b>Fathers Day</b>	22	23	24	25 <b>Movie Night</b> @ Cunningham Center 6:30 PM	26	27 Dinner Ride Leaves Victory Dr BK @ 5:00 PM
28	29	30	Out of the clutter find simplicity; From discord find harmony; In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity. Elbert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist			