

The Kickstand



June 2010 Issue

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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Presidents Message

Next Business Meeting

June 14th, 2010 at 7:00 PM
Piccadilly's in Peach Tree Mall
Eat at 6:30 or earlier

Board Meeting

To Be Scheduled
As needed

Board of Directors

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Greetings!

We had a great monthly business meeting Monday night, wish you could have been there to participate. Lots of members and a few guest, including a couple joined our club, Steven & Karen Tennant. We have been fortunate to have new members join our club, lately. It proves we have a great group of members that enjoy riding and meeting new friends!

We had a great turn out at our Annual Fish fry, despite the bad weather. We moved it to Sunday afternoon and had a great time. Everyone enjoyed having the meal in the middle of the afternoon so much that the club voted to change next year's event time to eating at 3:00 PM instead of 6:00 PM. This makes it easier for those who are not camping to get home before dark. I hope this is a good change for the event.

The weather is getting great for riding and we hope to see more of you out at our scheduled rides. Check the calendar for the planned rides and come join your friends for great fun and riding (which usually includes.....FOOD!)

May the wind be at you back and safe riding, always!

John McRae, President

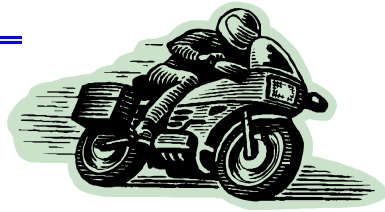
Announcements

June Birthdays

June Anniversaries

21st - Steven & Karen Tennant 18th - Travis and Margie Garner

Ride/Event Calendar



May

May 15 & 16th – Falls Creek Falls State Park – in Pikeville TN located on the Cumberland Plateau. It has one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rockies. This will be another 2-day ride. Some members are planning to leave Friday for a 3-day outing. Call Barry if interested.

May 20th – Pot Luck Supper at the Fiske's – Dinner will be served around 6:30 PM. Meat & drinks will be provided. Email or call Mary (706-561-3543) to advise her what you will be bringing to share with fellow bikers & friends. John will lead a ride to the house from the Williams Rd Shell station at 6:15. There will be plenty of room to park bikes up in the drive way.

May 22th – Yoders Deitsch Haus – in Montezuma - This has always been one of the favorite eating establishments for VMTA. Join us for this Saturday supper ride. Departs Miller Rd. Burger King at 5:00 PM.

May 27th – Movie Night – at the Cunningham Center. Doors will open at 6 PM. Bring your own eats. Drinks will be available @ \$0.50 each. Movie will start about 6:30 PM. Come join us for a fun, inexpensive evening. Feature film TBD.

May 28th - Ride the Riverwalk with Scott Ressmeyer - 7:00 PM at the Infantry Museum. Ride will end at the Iron Works downtown. Cost is a \$20 donation to Children's Miracle Network.

June

June 5th – Jarrell Plantation & Whistle Stop Café Visit this GA historical site in Juliette located 18 miles east of I-75 (see <http://www.gastateparks.org/jarrell>). Then have lunch at café, home of the Fried Green Tomatoes. Before heading home, tour motorcycle museum if group desires. Departs Miller Rd. Burger King at 9:30 AM.

June 10th – Good Ol Boys - in Auburn for supper. Departs Phenix City Home Depot lot at 6:30 PM.

June 13th – Buckner's Family Restaurant – in Jackson right next to I-75. Family style means that you sit around a Lazy Susan Table & enjoy huge spread while enjoying company and conversation with friends. (see <http://www.buckners-restaurant.com/menu.html> for menu) Departs Miller Rd Burger King at 10:00 AM.

June 17th – 19th – Smokey Mountain Ride-in – This is a 4-day event in Bryson City NC. Make your reservations early. See <http://jkgraphics.com/Eagle/smoky.html> Four days of riding, socializing, and fun.

June 19th – Fort Valley Peach Festival – For those members not going to the above ride-in. (See <http://www.worldslargestpeachcobbler.com/>) Road Race, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Arts & Crafts, Parade, Historical Society Luncheon, Worlds Largest Peach Cobbler, Music & Fireworks.

June 20th – National Ride To Work Day – Advocate and support the use of motorcycles and scooters for transportation everyday.

June 27th - Concord Cafe - in Pike County for lunch. Depart Miller Rd Burger King at 10:15 PM.

July

July 1st -3rd – GWRRR National Rally "Wing Ding" – Not a club ride/event, but list as information only.

July 16 -18th – NC Camp-out – Under discussion.

Safety Message

Tire Failure

The tires on our motorcycles are something that we tend to take entirely too much for granted. Many times we fail to check the air pressure, check for foreign objects as well as checking the amount of tread we may or may not have. With modern tubeless tires, actual blowouts are rare, but they can occur. The most common cause of tire failure is riding with the tire pressure too low. Check tires frequently and keep them inflated to the manufacturer's specifications.

If a puncture should occur, maintain a firm hold on the handgrips, but do not fight the steering to correct any wobble or weave that can develop. Avoid downshifting and braking until speed is low and under control. If traffic permits, slow gradually and move off to the side of the road. If braking is necessary, use the brake on the wheel with the good tire. Using the brake on the wheel with the bad tire can cause the tire to separate from the rim, and this can cause immediate loss of control. Be aware that integrated braking systems don't allow "rear brake only" application and linked braking systems do not allow any single-brake operation. On motorcycles equipped with either of these systems, braking with the "good tire only" may not be possible and any braking should be done as lightly as possible.

Clete

Mammoth Cave

I saw John working on routes a month before hand on our computer. Finally we took off on a most beautiful day on Friday, April 30th. We ambled up Fortson Rd with John & Mary, Bob Smith, Clete, Gerry Boyd, and Terry & Marsha. Picked up Larry & Faith at the 315 intersection.

McDonalds was on our radar for easy & fast stops. It was a cloudless day going over Signal Mountain (a first for me). One road turned into dirt part way through TN. Getting into TN, a few stray clouds and Mary said "If that is all the clouds we see" and Clete said "Dream on!!!" For supper most walked for Mexican while John & I went to Shoney's. Then it was time for chit-chat outside the motel rooms until we retired for the night.

During the night the rain started & never let up for 24 hours. Over 8 inches. We rode through rain to get to the Cave but the trip was well worth the trouble getting there. After walking in the caves, ducking while letting people behind you know to "duck" & squat". The test began after that walking up the stairs and entrance hill. We had a good lunch with some having blackberry cobbler. We then donned the rain gear and headed back to the motel. There we played 'Screw Your Neighbor'. Gerry got the Ace 7 out of 9 times but he still said he had fun. We did some hearty laughing.

Sunday morning John said "Let's go" and we rode in heavy rain for about 45 miles. Then all the way home we out ran the 5-inches of rain we received on Monday.

Bob stayed behind the friends, Larry & Rita from Ohio, for two additional days of riding. They found some flooded roads not far from the motel on Monday.

Thanks John for a safe trip.

Mary F

Mammoth Cave Venture

VMTA recently made their first ever ride to Mammoth Cave, which is in the Southwestern part of Kentucky. There was six bikes (John and Mary Fiske, Jerry Boyd, Larry and Faith Mack, Bob Smith, Terry and Marsha Glisson and myself) We were joined at the motel by Bob Smith's friend Larry Smode and his wife Rita from Ohio. They had made the journey down the previous day and were waiting for our arrival at the motel.

I will pickup and start with the second day of this ride. We had made reservations at a motel in Glasgow, Kentucky, and all had gone well up to the second day. Sometime during the night the rain began. This was the storm that had been so devastating to Tennessee and the area Southwest of where we were. We were just North of Nashville and I am sure you are aware of what was also received by Music City. This was Saturday, the day we were to visit the cave which was approximately 20 miles from the Motel. Well, when we awoke it was a hard steady rain and the forecast was that there would be no change for the next 36 to 48 hours, and there wasn't. Not only did it rain continuously but some lightning and thunder was added just to keep thing interesting. Even with all the rain we did not consider staying in. We all 'suited up' and off we went just like little ducks in a row, 20 miles, rain, non-stop, until we arrived at our destination, the cave. We received our tickets and stood under the shelter until our guide told us it was time for us to go in out of the rain. There are several tours available and we chose the 'historic' tour. The cave was beautiful and just huge inside. We saw and were informed of the cave use by the Indians of the area and the part the cave played in the Civil War. One of the things that intrigued me the most was the names and dates that had been put on the ceilings using smoke from candles and torches. Some of these dates were as far back as 1837 and 1839. That is almost 175 years, and these are still just as vivid as they were then. The tour was about 2 hours and very interesting and informative.

Once the tour was over and we were back outside, the weather had not changed, only worse if anything. Bob and his friend Larry and his Wife stayed for another tour. Again it was a wet ride back to the Motel. After some dry clothes and conversation we 'ordered in'

pizza. Then off to bed with a planned departure time of 8:00 a.m. the next morning, Sunday. It rained all night and I was brought out of a deep slumber several times by the continuous rumble of thunder. Sunday morning it was up, eat and get dressed for the ride south. All the info we were getting from the weather channel and guest at the motel was many of the roads in and around Nashville and Lebanon (30 miles East) were flooded and closed.

The rain and thunder stayed and 8:00 came. We left with the rain being very heavy at times and with the lightning and thunder keeping us jittery. Here we are riding with all this lightning flashing and thunder crashing and the highest thing sticking up being our little 'bobble heads'. Kind of a sobering thought, isn't it? After about 40 or 50 miles we began to run out of the rain and traveled through Tennessee into Georgia under clouds. We came down highway 127 out of Kentucky all the way to Georgia. Highway 127 is a very beautiful, scenic highway, with lots of gentle curves which makes for great motorcycle riding. As we came closer to home the temperature went up as well as the wind. This brought to an end a great three day ride, another one that will forever be remembered.

'clete'

Cave Tour

A continuation of the trip around Kentucky, three of us decided to wait out the rain there in Glasgow on that wet Sunday; we visited other guests eating breakfast after they asked where those nuts were going in the storm?

Two couples were going to the Cave Tour on Sunday and later that night we asked how it went - too wet for the Historic Tour so the money was refunded and a different tour was taken. They were told the water was coming up a foot an hour in one of the rooms we had toured on Saturday.

We left on Monday morning in fog and damp roads but no rain, heading due west to get to the Mississippi River, but 12 miles west the road was flooded. After a short detour we were back on track to go to Bowling Green, then south to TN and across the bridge to Cairo, after crossing the TN River, Ohio River and then the Mississippi River. Went up the west side to Cape Girardeau, a scenic river town we had been to before.

Nice bridge back across to Illinois and up to Carbondale on small back roads. Each town we went thru had had 5 inches of rain on the weekend.

We toured some State Parks in southern IL and went south to Owensboro, Ky. From there we tried to get to Danville for the night, but kept running into flooded roads. Had to backtrack a few times but finally made it to our motel. Now this is Tuesday afternoon and lots of places were still under a lot of water. Plus where it had gone down was very impressive with how high it had been.

We split up there, with Larry & Rita heading back to Ohio

and me heading toward Chattanooga. I took the same route the club did down to Ala. And across Lookout Mt. to Rome, only I came back down old #100 all the way to Franklin, then to Columbus.

Bob Smith

Ashburn & Blackbeards

Arriving at the meeting spot there was that shiny 'blue' 1800 of the Cowell's. Joining shortly was David and then Steven Tennant on his new, pretty 2010 Voyager. We waited a few extra minutes but no one else showed so it was off for a fun day.

It was down 520 to Dawson then over to Plains. Barry stated that he has never been to Plains, but we did not stop. Then it was down 309 to 19 towards Leesburg.



About half way & seeking a break, we turned off into one of those small southern towns where 5 streets meet at the railroad tracks. It was Smithville. I spotted shade in front of the

county Public Service Building, so there we parked. So happened it was also the police department. Being dry, Mary went in search of water. The one lone officer just happened to be there and showed us the bottled water cooler, Note: I asked him how big the town was and he stated that population was about 1,000.

Then it was down to Leesburg where we turned east on



32 to Ashburn. Trusty GPS located a Mickey D's for a lunch and cool down. Then it was off to the Museum. We were shown a 20 minute video of GA punishment history

and that of the Ashburn jail. The last sheriff to occupy the jail had just died that past week. The jail cells are on the second floor and all building walls including interior were reinforced concrete. If you saw the cell construction you would understand the need to support 'weight'. It was very interesting history.

Then it was off to Albany and Blackbeards. When the GPS told me to turn onto Slappy Blvd from 82. I thought it was wrong. But no way. There it was, right down the street. Mary & I were the only repeat patrons of the group. Everyone enjoyed the food and conversation.

It was getting late so we cranked them up and headed up 520 for home. It was an interesting and enjoyable day with some great friends.

John F

Fish Fry 2010

The whole weekend was just incredible for us. We arrived at the campground with our popup in tow and reservations made. Found what seemed to be a nice spot, started to set up and Travis walked over. It was really great to see him again, and to find I had picked the spot right next to him and Margie could not have been better. Got set up and Denny and Sandy pulled up. Found they had rented a cabin and Jackie and Althea were there at the cabin.

Saturday came and big threats of thundershowers. While we were enjoying the day riding bikes and fishing I received a call stating it was best to move the Fish Fry until the next day due to the severe weather that was supposed to be imminent, I agreed. I gave Roger the list of folks that signed up and he made the calls.

Saturday late afternoon rolled around and we decided to have our own fish fry. Since Denny and Sandy could not stay another night in the cabin also Jackie and Althea, and Jim Ingram could not make it Sunday. Johnny and Connie were working in Ft Mitchell and they took a ride and joined us that evening. So we set up tarps as in the old days, Travis and Margie cooked fish, fries, and hushpuppies, had some slaw, some cake; and just let it rain. It turned out such a special time I'll never forget. Before dinner we had a hot and heavy game of pass the trash.

Sunday arrived, the weather was gorgeous, and the Fish Fry was on! The cooks were some of the first to arrive and started to set up and get their cookers hot. The women started on the tables and it looked like a fine tuned orchestra. Every single instrument calibrated and in sync, everybody knew what they had to do and was getting it done.

This is one of the premier events of the year, and it turned out spectacular! I just don't know how it could have been better. We originally had 53 people confirmed to come, bought 51 pounds of fish and had all the hushpuppies, fries, coleslaw, beans, onion rings, deserts and drinks we could handle.

Your cooks were George, Sid, Bobby Shack, Bobby Bowden, Johnny McRae, and back again this year was Travis. Now can these people cook some fish or what? The fish turned out golden brown on the outside and nice and moist on the inside; they were perfect! The fries, hushpuppies, and onion rings could not have been better. These folks have got this down to a science and we are so lucky to have them in our club.

Now I'm just getting started; there was Carolyn that called and said not to worry about the sides, she had my back and was going to take care of that. Gwen jumped right in as always; Gwen is one of the first ones in line if something needs to be done. Also another that was right there as always was Connie. Never has there been a need that she hasn't risen to the call and been there to help in any way she could. Then there was Margie, Linda, Martha, and Peggy helping to prepare the sides and get the food ready. Now how could you not notice the deserts? What a lay out!

Also in the sidelines lines were Jake and Joan Kaplan. How were we going to cook the fish without the oil? It seems like such a little thing, but that peanut oil is very expensive. I am proud to say they donated 6 gals of oil and she said it was her donation to the club. That is very commendable.

Time we all waited for, time to eat! The spread was unequivocal; there was fish, chicken, fries, hushpuppies, and hushpuppies with jalapeños, slaw, beans, onion rings, and a whole lot of deserts. A spread fit for a king and his merry men.

It was so good to see some of the folks we hadn't seen in quite a while. I'm really at a loss for words as a description, its one of those things in life you have to experience. This is such a great club to be associated with, a lot of really fine people.

We ate till we could not eat any more, and then we ate more. This is the eatingest bunch of folks I've ever encountered. However there was plenty of food and no one went hungry.



It was my pleasure to host this year's Fish Fry. You would not believe how easy it turned out due to the fact there were so many people to jump in and donate their time and skills to this worthy cause. I want to add a lot of food was donated by a lot of folks. This is a great example of fellowship and cooperation from a solid club like the VMTA.

Barry

VMTA Calendar of Events May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 Mothers Day	10 Business Meeting 7:00PM at Piccadilly's	11	12	13 Homestyle County Kitchen – PC Home Depot 6:30 PM	14	15 Falls Creek Falls State Park, TN - Contact Barry or Linda if interested
16 RETURN	17	18	19	20 Pot Luck Supper- @ Fiske's Served at 6:30	21	22 Yoder's – Miller Rd BK at 5:00 PM
23	24	25	26	27 Movie Night – Feature TBA	28 Ride the Riverwalk with Scott – 7:00 PM Infantry Museum	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

VMTA Calendar of Events June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Jarrell Plantation & Whistle Stop Café 9am Miller Rd Burger King
6	7	8	9	10 Good Ole Boys -6:30 PC HD lot	11	12
13 Buckner's 10 AM Miller Rd Burger King	14 Business Meeting 7:00PM at Piccadilly's	15	16	17 Smoky Mountain Ride-in This is a 4-day event of riding, socializing, and having fun in Bryson City NC	18	19 Bryson City, NC
20	21 National Ride to Work Day	22	23	24 Movie Night	25	26
27 Concord Café – Miller Rd BK at 10:15 AM	28	29	30			

VMTA Calendar of Events July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GWRRA Wing Ding	2 National Rally	3 Holiday week end
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Business Meeting 7:00PM at Piccadilly's	13	14	15 NC Camp-out – Under discussion	16	17