

The Kickstand



March 2010 Issue

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

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Next Business Meeting

March 8th, 2010 at 7:00 PM
Piccadilly's in Peach Tree Mall
Eat at 6:30 or earlier

Board Meeting

To Be Scheduled
As needed

Presidents Message

It was great to see everyone at the February business meeting. The club really needs for its members to be present at as many business meetings as possible. We need YOUR input. Don't sit at home and get confused about issues, come and make your thoughts known.

Susan has prepared a budget for this year and after some discussion and fine tuning, I think it is a reasonable outline for the club to use this year. She will be emailing everyone another copy of the final budget and we will be voting next month for its passage. If you have any questions or considerations, please call me or Susan.

I know the weather is cold and rainy, but John Fiske has some really good rides in store for the club. Check the ride calendar and make as many as you can.

We are looking forward to a great Valentines party again this year. I hope you have made you reservation and plan to give you SWEETHEART a really nice time.

The Annual Fish Fry is coming up fast. Barry Cowall will be standing in this year as Master of Ceremonies. Please let him know if you are interested in helping out. I am always proud of our club members in time of need. Everyone is always helpful and understanding. THANK YOU!

Hope to see you at the Valentine party. May the road be smooth and curvy!

"...on the road again..."

John McRae, President VMTA

Announcements

March Birthdays

12th – Marie Lee
14th – Joan Kaplan
17th – Clete Richardson
31st – Mary Fiske

March Anniversaries

7th – Bobby and Carolyn Shackelford

Board of Directors

President: Johnny McRae

Tel: (706) 628-4486

Cell: (706) 527-3023

Vice-President: Clete Richardson

Tel: (334) 291-0055

Cell: (706) 289-0055

Ride Chairman: John Fiske

Tel: (706) 561-3543

Cell: (706) 392-6868

Treasurer: Susan Miller

Cell: (706) 615-3355

Secretary: Linda Cowell

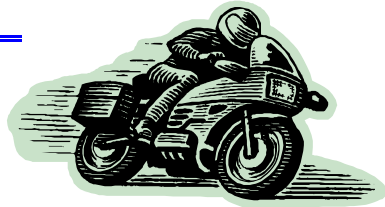
Tel: (334) 448-4905

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Tel: (706) 569-6820

Cell: (706) 681-8336

Ride/Event Calendar



February

February 13th – Valentines Day Dinner & Movie – at the Cunningham Center. Enjoy a catered dinner and the movie “UP”. Doors open at 6PM dinner serves at 6:30 and movie to begin at 7:15.

February 18th – Pat’s Back Waters – This has always been one of the clubs favorite eating places. It is a short ride for those chilly winter evenings. Come & join us. Ride will leave Williams Rd. Shell station at 6:30 PM.

February 20th Ride to Donaldsonville, Fl. – We will ride south on the east side of the river and return on the west side. Total ride about 250 miles. Ride will depart from Victory Dr. Burger King at 9:30 AM.

February 26th - March 7th – Daytona Bike Week – This is not a scheduled club ride. But if you are going, check with other members who may be going down.

February 28th – Niffer’s – at Lake Martin. Ride will depart Phenix City Home Depot lot at 10:30 AM. About a one-hour ride.

March

March 6th – Cheaha Mountain – Has always been one of the clubs favorite rides. Ride will take us on some new roads. We will stop in Lineville for lunch at the BBQ restaurant before riding up the mountain. Total ride about 230 miles. Depart from P.C. Home Depot lot at 10:00 AM. (Note: time change).

March 13th & 14th – St Augustine FL – This will be our first multi-day ride of the year and will visit the city Spanish explorer Menendez founded in 1565 on the feast day of St. Augustine, August 28th, he sailed through the inlet and named the area after the saint. Ride will depart from Victory Rd. Burger King at 8:30. Total ride will be around 675 miles.

March 18th – Shiloh Grill – Ride departs Miller Rd Burger King at 6:30 PM.

March 21 – Iron Butt Ride – This is an annual ride that always attracts 10 – 12 members. Ride will leave from Phenix City Waffle King at 8:00 AM. Travel to Panama City for lunch and return.

March 26th – Daytona Bike Week Begins - This is not a scheduled club ride. But if you are going, check with other members who may be going down.

April

April 1st – 3rd – GWRRA Alabama Rally – Event. “Goldwing Odyssey”, being held in Huntsville. This is not a planned VMATA ride, but listed for informational only if members which to attend.

April 10th – Concord Café – Another one of VMATA’s favorite eatery’s. Ride will depart Miller Rd Burger King at 10:00 AM.

Long Range Planning Dates for You Calendar

April 24th – Fish Fry
May 20th - Pot Luck Supper

June 17 – 20 – Smokey Mountain Ride-in
July 16-18 – Cruso Camp-in
August 21st – Mid-night Ride

September 19th - Picnic
October 16-17 – Shrimp Peel
December 4th – Xmas Party

Safety Message

IT'S YOUR LIFE!!---- HELMET FACTS

HELMETS ARE NOT FOREVER. The elements of a helmet are subject to aging. The shell materials get brittle. Liner foam becomes compressed. Experts recommend that the best helmets should be replaced after three or four riding seasons.

THE TEST STANDARDS. Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) and Snell Foundation sets the standard for helmet safety. Don't buy any helmet that does not have a D.O.T. or Snell sticker.

FULL FACE OR OPEN The chin bar on a full face helmet gives your jaw and face the protection you just can't get in an open face model. If you wear contacts, the full face shield keeps the wind from drying out your contacts.

A LOOSE FIT IS A LOUSY FIT. A new helmet should be very tight when first tried on. It will conform to your head after a few wearings. It should still be snug after it is broken in. Most helmets will loosen up one full size after about 8 - 10 hours of wearing.

IT ONLY WORKS ONCE. Once a helmet has taken an impact, it has done its job. A single impact reshapes the non resilient foam helmet liner. When that happens your protection is greatly reduced from that single impact. When it has saved your head once, do your head a favor and get a new helmet.

FIBERGLASS OR MOLDED. It's a matter of personal choice. It seems that all the better helmets are fiberglass and if you wish, can be repainted. Some molded ones deteriorate with painting. Whatever your choice, look for quality to protect your head. You may only need it once, but one time may save your life.

TIPS ON HELMET CARE. Follow the manufacturer's directions on caring for your helmet. Use only the mildest soap recommended. Avoid any petroleum-based cleaning fluids, especially if you own a polycarbonate helmet. Exposure to strong cleaning agents can cause the polycarbonate helmet to decompose and lose protective value.

NEVER HANG YOUR HELMET ON THE MOTORCYCLE'S MIRRORS OR TURN SIGNALS.

The liner can easily be damaged from such handling and may lose its protective qualities. In fact, avoid carrying a spare helmet on your cycle, unless it's carefully protected or on your passenger's head. Even the bumps and jarring from normal riding can easily damage a spare helmet carried on your cycle.

PRIOR TO HELMET DECORATING. When decorating your helmet such as painting, pin striping or applying decals, check the manufacturer's recommendations and follow them closely.

WHEN USING INTERNAL SPEAKERS. When installing internal speakers in your helmet, find a model that doesn't necessitate drilling speaker holes or mounts in the helmet. Even a tiny hole can spread and weaken the helmet's structure. Before you purchase or install speakers, check the laws in your state regulating their use in helmets. Some states prohibit them altogether.

GOT A \$20.00 HEAD?? BUY A \$20.00 HELMET!! It just means, if you value your head then protect it with a quality product. If you are intent on saving money, you may do just that but you may lose your life and have that money left in your estate. Good products are not cheap. Please shop wisely and buy smart!!

Thoughts on past rides

Ezell's Catfish House

As a club we have not been the Ezell's in a few years. Well Thursday night showed that it can be a favorite. Fourteen members and one guest sat down at the extended table and began devouring hushpuppies and coleslaw while discussing the issues of the day.

It became very quiet when the food began to be served. When finished there was not one 'go box' being requested. With full stomachs we all gladly paid our bills, said good nights and went about our way

Elvis Night

What a fantastic evening. I thought I was going to see was a movie of Elvis, what I saw was Elvis come back! We saw Elvis himself putting on an unforgettable performance on three large screens. There was Elvis performing with his band; which something I had never seen the likes of. What the musicians looked like performing with Elvis then; and performing with Elvis now. We saw the original back up singers performing how they were then; and now.

If you missed this you missed the most incredible performance of Elvis ever captured on the screen. This is by far the most dynamic use of cutting, splicing, timing and just plain ingenious scenes of Elvis controlling the band and captivating the audience both then and now. This concert made you actually feel you were right there and hanging onto your seat the whole time.

Susan, thank you so much for sharing with us, you have really outdone yourself this time. Thank you from all of us who were there. You have given us an unforgettable evening!

Barry & Linda

Norcross Bike Show

There were three that met at the Shell station that morning. It was John Fiske, Jerry Boyd and I. We headed north on I 185 and as we approached 315 there was a Goldwing up on the bridge. As we approached he headed for the entrance ramp and fell in behind us. It turned out to be Rad which was a VMTA member from years back. He drove a black wing with THE BEATLES on his truck PINK FLOYD on one side and the other side eludes me now.

This is about the first article I am really having difficulty writing. We basically rode up to the show, saw what there was to see, and came back. While at the show the only thing that really caught my eye was the Hooters Girls, I'm just not going to tell Linda. There were a lot of things for Harleys but none for Goldwing. However there were a few Goldwing trikes on display.

When were leaving Jerry met his friend from Chattanooga and ended up staying there with him. So it was John, Rad and I rode back together on an uneventful ride back. Although it was an unremarkable ride, it was still great to get the Wing out and ride with friends from the VMTA. Hey John, keep it rollin!!

After thinking about this ride I would like to add a few comments of my personal feelings. I had to go my Granddaughters 4th birthday that Saturday and as I arrived my son-in-law's father made a mention about the weather being so cold and there were not many people that would be out in that weather on a motorcycle.

I bet a lot of people would think we were really crazy to ride in this kind of weather. In my opinion this is the time of year to ride. I started to think about skiing and comparing the two, I mean a LOT of people go skiing. I was thinking about being up on that mountain and looking over the vast valleys below with their entire splendor. Also how cold it had to be to have all that snow and how warm I was.

What I came up with is you never get cold if you dress properly and in layers. Being experienced in cold weather I can tell you, you would NEVER see someone skiing in leathers. When I'm riding in cold weather I wear my ski bibs and if it's really cold I'll put on my ski coat and gloves. I prefer warmth to looking the part of the biker. I'm not implying everyone ride in our fashion, but I do know how I like to make our ride more enjoyable.

We also purchased some hand warmers and foot warmers which work very well from Wal-Mart which you can purchase at a very nominal fee. I really haven't used them however Linda has when we went skiing last and at the bottom of the mountain it was 9*. She mentioned they kept her hands very toasty.

Just like skiing down that mountain, while touring the roads on our Wing and riding with our friends from the VMTA is just something you really can't put into words. That crisp weather on your face making all of your senses come to life. The feeling you can't get from sitting on the couch at home watching it on TV. It's kind of like the old saying, "If you have to ask, you really won't understand anyway."

Barry

Motorcycle Show

Well maybe it was the cool weather that kept some of the others from riding. It was 45° at departure time with John, Jerry and Barry suited up for the run up the 4-lane. As we approached the 315 overpass I noticed a lone biker parked on it. He came off the exit ramp and joined us. After I located him on channel 2 found it was Rad Delaroderie. He had received our email about the ride. The temperature dipped to a low of 43° on the way up. Two hours later we found the place and the parking lot was rather full. I guess it was a 50/50 mix of bikes and cages.

After two+ hours of wandering the isles looking at all the vendor items, custom bikes, and new ones we met up at the previously agreed upon location. Surprisingly there were no purchases made. Vendors were of the generic nature and nothing just for the Wing.

When we exited for the parking lot the temperature was still 45°. Reaching the bikes we found Jerry's 'ST' riding buddy from Chattanooga just taking his gear off. Jerry decided to stay behind with him and look some more.

Coming down through the city the taller buildings were in a fog, and this was 2:00 PM. Down the 4-lane for home. Good day, good ride, but it would have been much better if the sun had shown itself for a little while.

John

For Sale

The seller is an Army Ranger instructor. Between his schedule and preparing for a wedding, he doesn't have a lot of time to ride.



2007 Harley Davidson Fat Boy FLSTF
Completely Stock w/ matching saddle bags
Less than 3,000 miles
Transferrable Extended Warranty
Like New - Asking \$14,000

Call Jeremiah: Home: 334-297-5392
Cell: 815-908-1568

VMTA Calendar of Events February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Valentines Day Dinner & Movie 6 PM at Cunningham Ctr
14	15	16	17	18 Pats Back Water Shell station 6:30 PM	19	20 Ride to <u>Donaldsonville</u> KSU at 9:30 AM Victory Dr B.K.
21	22	23	24	25	26 Daytona Bike Week begins	27
28 Niffer's PC HD at 10:30 AM						

VMTA Calendar of Events March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Cheaha Mountain – PC Home Depot @10:00
7 Daytona Bike Week ends	8 Business Meeting 7:00PM at Piccadilly's	9	10	11.	12	13 St. Augustine – 2-day ride details to follow
14	15	16	17	18 Shiloh Grill Departs Miller Rd BK at 6:30	19	20 Macon Cherry Blossom Festival
21 Iron Butt Ride – Departs PC Waffle King 431S at 8 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

VMTA Calendar of Events April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GWRRA AL Rally in Huntsville	2 GWRRA AL Rally in Huntsville	3 GWRRA AL in Huntsville Rally
4 Easter Day light savings begins	5	6	7	8	9	10 Concord Café – Miller Rd BK – departs 10:00 AM