



The Kickstand

July 2004

WWW.VMTAColumbusga.org

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Chris Aycock (706) 507-1839

July Business Meeting:

July 12th 7:00 Shoney's on Airport Throughway, eat at 6:30.

August Business Meeting:

August 9th 7:00 Shoney's on Airport Throughway, eat at 6:30.

Officer Contacts

President: Roger Miller
(706) 327-7999

Vice-President: John McRae
(706) 628-4486

Ride Chairman: Barry Cowall
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Treasurer: Mary Fiske
(706) 561-3543

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The President's Letter

Greetings. Well, June certainly proved to be a challenging month for riding! The month started out unusually hot and dry and ended cooler but with rain almost every day! If you got out at all in the past three weeks, chances are your rain suits were tested! But that's summer here in the South, folks, as most of you know better than I. At least we didn't catch a chill!

The highlight of the month for the Miller family had to be Honda Hoot. We met our friends, Dick & Vickie, on the Parkway midweek and made our way to the event. They surprised us having driven all the way from Milwaukee, AND the entire Parkway, on a brand new titanium Goldwing! Unlike the past two years where the weather was near perfect, we did, as I said earlier, test our rain suits on a couple of occasions. My better half was a little under the weather, but a "trooper" she was and the event and the mountain riding were certainly not a disappointment. The Cheeseheads ended up putting 2290 miles on that new 'Wing!

On my ride back from Hoot, my mind wondered to getting back home. Back home to Georgia. With "Georgia on my mind" I thought of the great loss we had this month. Ray Charles, a musical genius despite being blind, is no longer with us but his famous songs will always be. Imagine becoming a musical genius without the ability to read a single note!

Ray never forgot his home.....Georgia.....and we all know why.

July is vacation time and that includes the Miller family. We make our annual trek to Cheeseland to visit my family and do a little fishin' with ole Dad. It's one of those special occasions where you don't even care if the fish bite, if you know what I mean. As a boy we lived near a big river very similar to the Hooch and Dad taught me to fish at a very early age. We have spent many hours fishing together even though we have had great distance between us for the past 25 years. He just turned 80 last month and God willing we have a few more hours left. Just wished we still had ole 'Andy', our English setter, to go with us.

Because of our vacation I must send my regrets for the upcoming meeting. The only unusual business will be the review of the updated By-Laws. The Board, and those that attended the last Board meeting crunched out the details and it should be ready for the club to review and vote on at the meeting.

Hope you all had good summer vacations wherever you ended up and we will see you at the next ride. .

Roger

Deadline for August Newsletter:
Tuesday 3 August. Email articles to:
Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org

Announcements

Dear VMTA members,

Jeannine and I were very pleased with the warm welcome given to us when we attended our first VMTA meeting on June 14th. The subjects of the meeting were interesting and the discussion was constructive.

Thanks for the opportunity to join your distinguished organization. We look forward to a great association with all of you.

Earl Cheal.

The Editor's Note

Road Food

Chris Aycock

I have found that eating well on the road is a matter of skill and intuition. Relying in luck usually results in either going hungry or eating something that you would rather not.

In an effort to keep you, gentle reader, from choking down another mass-produced burger or staring in horror at the dish given you in some far-away restaurant, I submit the following advice:

- 1) Don't eat on the interstate. Riding on the interstate is the epitome of boring so it follows that interstate exit food will be the same. Take a US highway (or even a state highway) and opportunities for good eats will present themselves.
- 2) Eat the local food. I have learned this overseas,

where a good old American hamburger cannot be found. In our context this translates, for example, in not ordering shrimp in the mountains or barbeque on the coast.

- 3) Ask the locals where to eat. Bob Smith taught me this one, which is good especially for breakfast and dinner. The people who live there know the good places as well as the dumps and tourist traps.
- 4) You can gauge the quality of a place by the vehicles parked outside. Places with pickup trucks and small cars only can be questionable. Places with pickup trucks and police cars are a much better bet. If the establishment in question has pickup trucks, police cars, and Cadillacs all parked outside it almost invariably will be good.
- 5) The bigger, gaudier, and flashier the sign, the worse the food will be. Establishments that boast modest signage and a full parking lot are using their food to pull in customers, not signage.
- 6) Accept that food is different in different regions. Being from eastern North Carolina, the first time I tasted Georgia barbeque I gagged. I have learned to celebrate the difference and appreciate the opportunity to try different things. For example, in western Kentucky the barbecue is made of mutton. And it's pretty darned good.
- 7) If an establishment has a tour bus parked outside it avoid it at all costs. This should be self-explanatory.
- 8) All other things being equal choose a full-service restaurant over a buffet. Buffets vary in quality wildly and invite you to eat

too much, which can make you drowsy when riding.

- 9) When choosing an ethnic restaurant make sure that the people running it are of the same ethnicity as the food. Another self-explanatory one.
- 10) Never, ever, eat at a restaurant attached to a hotel or motel. Trust me on this one.

Eat to ride, ride to eat.

July Birthdays

15th – Sonja Boyd
27th – Fred Manzer

July Anniversaries

26th – Larry and Faith Mack
28th – Cornelius and Leslie Smith

Around the Bend: Barry's Bulletin Board and Ride Schedule

July 1st: Mellow Mushroom Meet there 6:30

July 10th: Biloxi Turn Around, Mary Fiske, 9 AM from behind Denny's on Macon Rd (Office Max parking lot). Arrive at Boomtown 3:00 P.M. Receive \$10.00 in free play, play 5 hours, depart from Boomtown at 8 P.M. Arrive at Beau Rivage at 8:30 P.M. Receive \$15.00 in free play, play 4 hours, depart from Beau Rivage at 12:30 A.M. Arrive at Palace Casino 12:45 A.M., play 4 hours. Bus departs for Columbus at 4:45 A.M. Arrive back in Columbus approximately 10:30 A.M. Sunday morning. Get your reservations & \$30.00 by June 1, 2004 to Mary Fiske, 3951 Biltmore Dr., Columbus 706-561-3543.

July 15th: The Saloon, 6:30 Meet There. This restaurant was formerly Crystal Valley Oyster Bar. A Great place to eat and socialize.

July 18th: Pine Mountain Country Store for Breakfast, 8:30 Burger King Veterans Parkway in front of Extreme Sports. Lets have breakfast overlooking beautiful Callaway Gardens. After Breakfast have a nice ride over the mountains.

July 24-25: Weekend Ride to the North Georgia Mountains, 8:00 Saturday 24th, Krispy Kreme on Veterans Parkway. Chris has graciously decided to lead us into the mountains for a summer ride, leaving Saturday morning, staying in Dahlonega or Blue Ridge on Saturday night, and returning on Sunday. Total distance should be 600-700 miles. Beat the heat on some great roads.

July 31st: Midnight Ride To Albany, Clete Richardson, 9:00 Burger King Miller Road. This has always been one of the favorite rides of the summer.

August 7th: Yoder's, 5:00 Burger King Victory Drive. The turnout has always been great for this event and the food has always been superb.

August 14th: Roger & Susan's River Party. This has always been a great event, and there are no better hosts. More forthcoming.

On The Road: Events in and around the Columbus Area

Thunder on the Hooch: July 4th

55th Annual Cordele Watermelon Festival: July 10th. For those of you who are not going to Biloxi this weekend Cordele is having their Watermelon Festival. This was scheduled last year and Denny and Sandy went. They mentioned it was really good and something to see. Fun for the whole family. Seed spitting, watermelon eating, big melon and decorating contests. Entertainment, arts & crafts and rides for the kids. Gospel sing, pageant, car & truck show, fishing rodeo, baseball and softball tournaments, and parade.

<http://www.cordele-crisp-chamber.com>

Safety Tip of the Month:

This time of year asphalt is nothing more than highly viscous liquid. Nothing is worse than parking your bike and returning to see it on its side. Crush an empty can or use a 'bigfoot' side stand plate to ensure it doesn't happen to you.

Ride Reports

Georgia Peach Festival

While surfing the web Linda came across this little tidbit of information, Worlds Largest Peach Cobbler, FREE!! I had an idea, instead of riding to Lane for Peach ice cream; we could attend a Peach Festival, with free cobbler. So this new ride was born.

The Parade was short and the day was hot! There wasn't any relief from the sun except for a shade tree or two. There were quite a few vendors there; however it only took about an hour to fully see everything going on.

We decided not to wait for the Cobbler to get done before we headed to Perry and some lunch.

Don't you know, the Italian Restaurant was closed, so we headed to the Holiday Inn and a buffet, with air conditioning.

After lunch we took the long way home all two-lane roads with Chris in the lead. That was the highlight and the most enjoyable part of the whole ride. I would not recommend this ride again, however, I am personally glad I didn't miss it; I spent quality time with some of the finest folks I know, the VMTA!

Cheaha Mountain

What a great time we had, except for a mishap on an old goat road. We started at the Wal Mart in P.C. and headed down 280. I thought we would get off the beaten path and take in a little site seeing. We headed west on 50 and took a tour of the scenic view of Lake Martin. Then we proceeded up 63 all the way to 9.

However that's where the goat road comes in, on the map 63 parallels with 9. I missed our turn in Hackney, so I thought I would take the next paved road to the left and it should take us to 9. When I turned on the road there was no dividing line and it was very narrow. We road it to the stop sign, made a right and ran into a dirt road. Well everyone got turned around all right and we headed back to the road we came in on.

I thought I could keep following this road but alas it turned into a dirt road too. This is the bad part, as we were turning around Ray dropped his bike. Clete & Bob rushed to help him pick it up and by the time I got there he was on two wheels. There were some scratches on his side bag and a dimple on his exhaust cover. There is always that sickening feeling when you drop your bike (as we all have done) but there is also that sense of security when there is someone there to support you when bad things happen. We

got back on the road within minutes.

We arrived at Cheaha and as true to form someone always drops their bike in the parking lot, this time it was me. Ray and Bob helped me get it back on two wheels; and again, there was someone there that helped me. After a good lunch we headed to our bikes and just as we got there, it started raining. Linda said she was going to put her rain suit on however as I looked at the clouds and I stated we could out run this if we got a fast start; we did both.

We headed east on I20 and ended on 100 south. Stopped at D.Q. in LaGrange and headed home. This was a great ride (except for the dropping incident) the clouds were threading all day but never rained on us except to get our windshield wet. We seemed to ride behind the rain a lot; you know where the road is wet like it had just got done raining. The cloud cover kept us cool and made for the perfect riding weather. There's just nothing as good as the support and riding with the VMTA!

For Sale by Member

(2) Joe Rocket Ballistic summer mesh jackets w/ full armor. Size L & S. Used one year. Both for \$100. See Roger or Susan Miller.

If you have anything for sale that you would like to advertise in the newsletter please email the details to:
Newsletter@VMTAColumbusga.org.

VMTA Calendar of Events July 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mellow Mushroom 6:30	2	3
	5 Independence Day Holiday	6	7	8	9	10 Biloxi Turn Around 9:00 AM Denny's Macon Rd.
11	12 Club Meeting Shoney's 7:00	13	14	15 The Saloon 6:30	16	17
18 18 Pine Mtn. Breakfast 8:30 B.K. Veteran's Pkwy	19	20	21	22	23	24 North Georgia Ride 8:00 Krispy Kreme Veterans Pkwy.
25 North Georgia Ride	26 Board Meeting 1 st Ave 6:30	27	28	29	30	31 Midnight Ride to Albany 9:00 PM Miller Rd. B.K.

VMTA Calendar of Events August 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Yoder's 5:00 Victory Drive Burger King
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Roger and Susan's River Party
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				