

## VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Springfield, IL Motorcycle Club - Vintage Iron Riders  
OCTOBER, 2004

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**REGULAR MEETING:** October 20, 2004, at 7:00 P.M. at Top Cats Chill & Grill on Stevenson Drive

**NEW MEMBERS:** **Oren Lowder**, 3881 Mizeur Lane, Spfld., IL 62707; Phone: 528-1349 (H), 524-3100 (O), and 622-0170 (M). **Barrett Geoghegan**, 5465 E. Rte. 36, Decatur, IL 62521. Phone: 864-5712, 864-3747 and 519-0832. Email: barrett@easterncycleinc.com

### PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

At the Davenport swap meet this past Labor Day Weekend, Tom Cotton (Liberty Cycle in Lacon, IL) opined that "all old motorcycles should be destroyed – one mile at a time!" Maybe he is right: motorcycles are made to run, and running causes wear. That is why our bikes need us as much as we need them. Kinda makes you feel useful, doesn't it?

Using these bikes is the one true test of how well they are restored – or at least how well they are maintained. The Guggenheim's "The Art of the Motorcycle" exhibit notwithstanding, motorcycles were never intended to be stationary art. They were designed and built to fulfill a function, and that function is to move. As a well known philosopher has often said, "It's all about the ride!"

If the purpose of a motorcycle really is to move, then why are show bikes not judged, in part, on how well they function? How tough would it be to see if the horn and lights work on a show bike – or how easily it starts? By listening to a motorcycle run, a judge can better tell if it is in good shape or just a worn-out, empty hulk with fresh paint and chrome.

I had a chance to discuss this concept with colleagues at the AMA Hall of Fame induction ceremonies on October 9<sup>th</sup> and at the AMA motorcycle museum on the 10<sup>th</sup>. It was pointed out that AMA usually starts the best in show after the judging is complete. I wonder if the status of the winning bike would change if it would not start – or if the engine was frozen.

Let me know what you think. We might just change the way antique/vintage motorcycles are judged!

### "Vintage Wisdom"

Always have at least one chase vehicle on a group vintage bike ride!

Happiness is found along the way, not at the end of the road.

### MEMBER PROFILE

This month's member profile is **Secretary Carol Edwards (but this mostly about husband, Alvin)**.

**Age:** It's not nice to ask a woman her age! But Alvin is 66 (hard to believe, isn't it!) **Profession:** Secretary (but Alvin is a retired heavy equipment mechanic. **Residence:** South of Southern View in a square block that's in the County, but a Springfield address.

**OVERALL MOTORCYCLE INTERESTS:** The only interest I have in motorcycles themselves is listening to Alvin talk about them, helping him order parts and being with him in the club. However, Alvin has been riding motorcycles since he was a young teen. Actually, I'm surprised he's still around after listening to him tell about some of his antics that should have killed him!

**VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE INTEREST:** Alvin has had numerous bikes – a few of which he wishes he still had because they now are classics. He has had 1963 BSA Spitfire Scrambler, T-110 Triumph (2), 1955 BSA Clubman Gold Star, 1954 BSA Road Rocket, 1948 Harley 125, various motor scooters, 1950 (?) BSA B-31, and 1948 Cushman. In recent years he has rebuilt a 1967 Triumph Bonneville, which he sold. At present, however, he is working on his much-longed-for Ariel. It is a 1953 Ariel Square Four that we purchased from a dealer in England, and one of three Ariels that had been in a museum in Hungary for about 20 years. For a 50-year-old piece, it's in pretty good shape. If our calculations are correct, it has around 47,000 miles on it.

**OTHER MOTORHEAD INTERESTS:** Alvin really loves antique tractors. He has mentioned buying one to restore, but hasn't found just the right one. It probably will have to be a John Deere, however. He also likes drag races, sprint cars, some NASCAR.

**WHY I LIKE THE VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE CLUB:** We like the people we have met, and have formed some new friendships. Everyone seems fiercely loyal to their particular brand of cycle, yet very interested in what everyone else has. There are good discussions, helpful advice and good camaraderie.



### **MEMBER REPORTS**

The "Ride to Ron's" was absolutely fantastic. Those who went were George Tinkham, Lew and Allison Fehring, Bob and Kathy Tapscott, Alvin and Carol Edwards, Don Cramer, and a friend of the Edwards', Chris Karcut. We met at George Embry's building on Governor. It was a beautiful, crisp fall day – perfect. Because of our late start we did not follow the exact planned route, but enjoyed the scenery anyway on the way to the farm in the Monmouth area. Fortunately, we had chase vehicles, because it seemed like we would go a few miles and have a breakdown; then we would go a couple of cornfields and have a breakdown. Lew's Indian/Sidecar lost a gasket, but he found one and was on his way again. Then a bolt came out and he was forced to ride with Alvin in the pickup.

We stopped at Bill Bayne's shop and looked over his fantastic collection. Then it was on to Ron's. What a GREAT place. And he is a great cook, too! He has a cabin in the woods by a stream beyond a stand of Christmas trees, a rambunctious mixed breed puppy, and vertically-stored wood for the bonfire. We cooked hot dogs and brats, and baked potatoes over the fire, solved world problems, sang songs and had a wonderful evening.

The wimps among us went to a motel in Monmouth for the night and returned Sunday morning for a HUGE breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, and fried potatoes. After consuming too much food, we had a tour of Ron's shop and viewed his collection. Then we headed out on a little more direct route, stopping to see the herd of elks (beautiful), and for home, tired, but with wonderful memories. Even the ladies had a great time! Thanks, George, for putting it together! Let's do it again!



### **INSIGNIA**

Remember – the insignia will be voted on at the October meeting. Please try to attend!



### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

According to the By-Laws, the nomination for officers is to be held in October, with the election in November. So, please be thinking of who you want for officers next year and be prepared to nominate them. You also may nominate prior to the meeting, so if you can't attend, contact either George or Carol. The By-Laws also call for an elections committee to help coordinate the election. This should be fairly light duty, but we do need volunteers. Let George know at the meeting if you can help with the election.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Springfield (IL) Vintage Motorcycle Club**  
**Top Cat's Chill & Grill**  
**September 15, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 7:15 P.M. President George Tinkham wished everyone a Happy Anniversary, as it was the third Wednesday in September, 2003, that the first meeting of the Vintage Iron Motorcycle Club was held.

George pointed out that an Agenda for the meeting had been distributed to the tables, and asked that we try to stick to the order so we can finish quickly and get back to socializing!

Motion made and seconded that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as sent out. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tapscott reported that we have \$304.81 in the treasury, and a new member paid his dues tonight, bring the total to \$314.81.

Events: George Embry gave a report on Davenport. Leroy Solomon reported on the Springfield Mile. Bob Tapscott reported on the Secretary of State's Car Show. Jim Trader took the "Best Vintage Vehicle of the Show" award. This is the first time this award has been given to a motorcycle! (Congratulations, Jim!) It was also mentioned that there is a car show in Havana down on the river. The final race of the season at Petersburg is Saturday night. Track opens at 5:00 P.M. The show at Lexington, OH, was mentioned as well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Insignia: Mike Irwin is going to meet with the artist on Monday. A vote will be taken next month on the insignia.

Events: Question was asked if we were going to participate in the Route 66 Show at the end of September. Bob Tapscott said that if we want to do something as a club, the Route 66 committee would accommodate us. The members did not express much interest in participating as a club.

George Tinkham distributed fliers on the Fall Run to Ron's. Reservations are due no later than Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be \$15 per person. Maps will be given to riders, and a pre-ride meeting will be held after reservations are in.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike Irwin reported on his '48 Indian Chief catching on fire.

George T. asked for someone to lead a survey on insurance costs. Tony Jones said he would put together some information that assist members in getting the best coverage.

Question was raised about dues. Dues will be due in December for 2005.

Bob T. brought an anniversary cake for the membership and urged everyone to partake.

Lisa Casson's brother-in-law has a bike for sale. Contact Lisa for details.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Carol J. Edwards, Secretary

## OCTOBER, 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Ride to Ron's 10:00 A.M.
3 Ride from Ron's	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 VMC Board Meeting	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16 Motocross Casey, IL ARHMA Birmingham
17 Nat'l. Cross Country Casey, IL ABATE Toy Run	18	19	20 VMC Regular Meeting	21	22	23 Nat'l./MW Reg. Vintage Trials Jonesboro, IL
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Daylight Savings Time Ends Halloween						

## NOVEMBER, 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12	13
14	15	16	17 VMC Regular Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30				