

VINTAGE IRON RIDERS
C/O C. J. EDWARDS
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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders
AUGUST, 2008

www.virmc.com

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Regular Meeting – August 20, 2008 – Funny Bone – 7:00 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24 – AHRMA – Vintage Bikes at Peoria TT, Peoria, IL

August 28-31 – Chief Blackhawk Chapter, Davenport, IA

August 31 – Springfield Mile – Fairgrounds – Vintage/Antique Motorcycle Display, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

September 6 – Secretary of State Antique Vehicle Show and Swap Meet

September 20 – VIR Road Ride

October 4-5 – Ride to Ron's – Start making plans now to participate in this fun event – great ride, food, campfire, fun!

For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at
<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL0908.pdf>

Cruizin' Illinois

Check out this Web site for interviews on Cruizin' Illinois – we have a few TV stars among our members:

http://www.cruisinillinoistv.com/players/clips/vid_53.shtml

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

One Man's Influence

This month, I want to try something a little different. Rather than write about the late Dave Yost, I am telling about his brother, J.B. Norris. J.B. started the Springfield Milers BMW MC and started me down the path of motorcycle organizations and motorcyclists' rights. I am inspired with how one person can make a difference. This is just one example.

The Influence of J.B. Norris

For the past 25 or so years, I have been active in motorcycling organizations and in riders' rights. That sounds pretty good until you consider that I have been riding well over 45 years.

Something happened to me in the early 80's that brought me in from the cold world of an outlier to the fellowship of other riders. What happened was a young woman named Grace Norris, a coworker at the Department of Agriculture, approached me to say that her husband was starting a BMW club. She noticed that I rode my 64 R69S to work, and asked if I would be interested in joining.

I knew the fine things that large motorcycling organizations like AMA and A.B.A.T.E. were doing and had wondered if joining a local club might make motorcycling more fun. Out of curiosity, I attended the formation meeting of the Springfield Milers BMW MC in the Norris' basement. There, I met J.B. for the first time as well as other enthusiasts including Gary McCray, Steve Degler, and ... (Here, my memory starts to fade!).

In the spring of 1984, J.B. suggested the Milers take on the Springfield Park District's ban on motorcycles on their otherwise public highways. I had been bothered by this unfair law for years even though the park police had never ticketed me. I would have attacked it before, but, like I said, I was never bothered. Also, it is no fun tilting at a windmill all by oneself. After all, even Don Quixote had his sidekick Sancho Panza.

When we addressed our concerns to the Park Board, we found Riverton Harley Riders and United Motorcyclists of Illinois (UMI) were also there asking that motorcycles be allowed on public highways under the Park District's jurisdiction. The Park Board's obstinate refusal to recognize their obligation to be fair to all park drive users caused these three organizations to join the "Right to Ride Coalition."

After we convinced the Appellate Court to nullify the Park District's ban (the 1st time a court had ever done this!), the Right to Ride experience and contacts were useful in developing A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois. Illinois' A.B.A.T.E. has been the premier state motorcyclists' rights organization for decades and is responsible for protecting cycle rider training funds, off-road riding, and riders' right to choose what to wear whilst riding.

Yes, motorcycling and motorcycling organizations have come a long way in the past 20 or 30 years, and I am pleased to be part of that progress. As much as I have done and as far as I have come, I shall always remember that doggone J.B. Norris who got me going in the first place.

NOTICES

Sec. of State Antique Vehicle Show and Swap meet, don't forget to register your antique vehicle, motorcycle, car, truck, tractor, race car what have you, Saturday, Sept. 6, downtown Springfield, registration form can be gotten from Donna at 557-5581 or email to autoshow@ilsos.net, swap area are \$20. And if VIR wants a FREE display, call Donna

"Vintage Visdom"

What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.

MINUTES OF MEETING
Vintage Iron Riders
Funny Bone/Break Time
July 16, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:15 P.M. by President George Tinkham. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The members observed a moment of silence in memory of the three members, Joann Charles, Jeff White and Dave Yost, who passed away since last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Irwin reported that we have \$1,239.57 in the treasury, plus tonight's business.

Events: There were only 4-5 bikes at Lincoln Land Community College show. Because of the weather, Hall's Thunder Night has been postponed until sometime in mid-September. July 18-20 is the AMCA Meet at Wauseon, OH. The following weekend (July 25th-27th) is the Mid-Ohio bike show. July 26th is the cancer benefit show at the Fieldhouse. There will be a poker run and bike show. Roy Sims is coordinating this event. August 8-9 is the Havana Car/Bike Show. There will be 12 classes this year. Jim Trader asked that we have good attendance so we can win the \$250 that we use for our Christmas Party.

Other upcoming events are the Downed Rider benefit in Athens on July 27 from 1:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.. Food will be available and prizes given out, including VIP tickets for an upcoming race. The Peoria TT Vintage Race is August 24th. There will be a special event at the Springfield Mile in September: Motorcyclists can ride the mile for a fee of \$10. The Secretary of State Antique Car/Bike Show and Swap Meet is September 6. Members were encouraged to register early.

There will be two Mile races on Labor Day Weekend – one on Sunday and the rain day for the May race on Monday. Motion was made and seconded to purchase Lap 13 for the Sunday race at a cost of \$100. Motion carried. Our display will be on Sunday.

Products: Bob Tapscott has one cap, one T-shirt and one sweatshirt left.

Old Business: Mike Irwin is still collecting photos to put in next year's calendar and asked that members send him a photo of their bike if they want it on the calendar. We need to get photos of the new members. George mentioned the Muni Opera production that featured one of his bikes. The photo was on the cover of the Arts & Entertainment Section in *The State Journal-Register*.

Bob reported on the State Fair Float. The application has been sent in and we are awaiting approval. The float is a work in progress and Bob asked for volunteers to contact him if they wish to participate. He explained how the float is being constructed.

New Business: Applicants for membership tonight were Mike Fuiten, who was present, and Dave Swanson from Rockford. Guests were friends of Dan and Carol Woodward, and Lisa Casson's sister, Shannon.

George reported that the Executive Board approved contributions in the amount of \$100 each to charities designated by the families of the recently-deceased members. The members approved this action.

George asked how many members rode their bikes to work today. He sent his photo to the AMCA magazine.

After a further report on the Havana Bike Show, George suggested that members volunteer to transport other members' bikes to events when the owner cannot attend.

Lisa mentioned that Dave Yost wanted to do a run to the Ronald McDonald House to deliver the can tabs he has been collecting. George asked Lisa to set a date for this run.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Carol J. Edwards, Secretary

September, 2008

	1 Labor Day	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Sec. of St. Antique Show
7 Grandparents' Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14	15	16	17 Regular Meeting Citizenship Day	18	19	20 VIR Road Ride
21	22 Autumn Begins	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Rosh Hashanah				

October, 2008

			1 Board Meeting	2	3 Ride to Ron's	4 Ride to Ron's
5	6	7	8	9 Yom Kippur	10	11
12 Columbus Day	13	14	15 Regular Meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Haloween	