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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders
MAY, 2007

www.virmc.com

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Regular Meeting – May 16, 2007 – Break Time/Funny Bone 7:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

How Does Your Bike Measure Up?

In April, I let a buddy use my '66 Honda 150 to take his motorcycle driver's license test. As it turned out, the bike was tested as much as the rider. The purpose of the test was to determine if the rider could execute maneuvers that might be expected in traffic conditions. The test essentially presumed that the motorcycle being ridden was capable of executing those basic stop-turn-stop actions.

After running through the test course several times myself, the little Honda seemed a bit marginal on the stopping part of the test. Although the bike is safe enough for ordinary traffic conditions, its lackluster performance tells me it might be worthwhile to look at the front brake.

Maybe it would make sense for us to give our machines a "performance test" every year or so. Rather than do this testing on public highways, I like using the marked testing area at the Secretary of State's facility on south Dirksen Parkway. I doubt if permission is needed because this is a publicly owned area specifically used for testing motorcyclists. When my Chief is ready, I plan to take it there.

By the way, May is "Motorcycle Awareness Month." The Vintage Iron Riders is doing its part to make people aware of our members and their machines. A couple of weeks ago, we did our second cable access television show. If things go well, we should have DVDs of that show at our next meeting.

By the time you read this, the A.B.A.T.E. Freedom Rally will have been held. Hopefully, there will be a good representation of vintage/antique motorcycles in that event. If we want people to be aware of motorcycles – especially antique/vintage motorcycles, our motorcycles need to be seen. There are few better ways to be seen than participating in motorcycling events.

May looks like a good month for motorcycling; so, all we have to do to enjoy it is to be seen and be safe!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19th - Club Picnic. 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. – Lincoln Park, Shelter 1. Please make plans to attend and bring your bikes! More at the meeting! Be prepared to have a show of hands for attendance.

May 26th – Blessing of the Rides Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at St. John's Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John St., Sherman, IL. Check the web site for more information.

May 27th – Ride to the Mile – Ride and display bikes at the Springfield Mile. More on this at the May meeting.

June 16th – Vintage Road Ride – Details to come.



**"Ode to the Cold and Old"
By Diamond Dave "The Dude" Yost**

Isn't it amazing how life's chronological time warp affects you and the seasons profoundly? How Winter works on an aging biker? No more full year, two-wheel escapades daily - before electric heated grips, vests and butt-warming seats were invented - just long-johns and stiff, cold leathers, 2 pair of big socks (if the boots would hold them), icy tears forming into icicles on the sides of your head. Miles down the road, pulling into a Pub - through the door - past the bar that can wait, to the pot belly stove or fireplace to just stop the can't-control body shakes and tremors, which is the next step to rigor mortis. Oh, body warm!!

I may still be living, but my ice-dirt-salt-covered Thunder Steed outside as in itself wants to enter, but being its true, hopefully trusting, steed, well, just sits out there and you can hear its cooling off pings and cracks - enough time for a whiskey for the man and beer for the horses.

Always remembering the ice-butt winter ride to Kinney, IL, to summa-ya-no- where - in January, but dreary winter days in my older age quells the need for winter's speed and in reality, just speed in general. Now far down the aging path, past the no fear 20's, 30's & 40's, I am just almost depressed because of winter. So in my ebbing years, why am I building an early 70's Road Racer?

Maybe in the beautiful radiant sunshine of May or June, perhaps I will be riding down the straight Black Diamond road with a glimmer an' twinkle in the faded ole blue eyes and the No Fear Younger Years Aura will surround me, and if you pull up to challenge - as the Toby Keith song states, "I ain't as good as I once was, but I'm as good once as I ever was." The ole shaking throttle hand may just show ya what back country road racin' is about.

But being 60 plus, I'm just dreaming - oh well, just try me!

MINUTES OF MEETING
Vintage Iron Riders
Break Time – Funny Bone
April 18, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:20 P.M. by Vice President Jim Trader. President Tinkham has a family emergency out of town.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as sent with the newsletter and posted on the web site.

Events: The first vintage ride of the season will be this coming Saturday. We will meet at Denny's Restaurant on Wabash & Veteran's at 9:30. Bob has routed two rides – a 50-mile ride and a 100-mile ride. Riders will decide on Saturday which one to take. The next Access Cable show will be filmed Tuesday, April 24. ABATE ride from IDOT to Capitol Building will be on May 6, starting at 10:00 A.M. for sign-up. The picnic is May 19th at Lincoln Park from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Members are encouraged to bring their bikes. Bob brought more flyers on the International Motorcycle Festival in St. Louis, April 27-29. This is also on our web site. Roy Sims reported that he is trying to get more information on the Mid-Ohio Vintage Days event. Jim Trader is working on flyers for the Cruise for Charity. Motorcycles may be given away as the prizes for the raffle and for the poker run. More information is on our web site. Leroy Solomon mentioned the May 11th practice for TT races, which will be held on May 26th at the State Fairgrounds.

Products: Bob Tapscott asked that anyone who wants to order clothing items do so tonight, as an order is ready to go in. We have 3 hats left at \$12.50 each.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mike Irwin was ill so there was no Treasurer's report tonight.

Old Business: Carol asked if there were any comments, suggestions or problems on the web site. Gene Beenenga is requesting an Owner's Manual for a Honda Passport C-70 and asked if it could be included on the web. We will put on a "Wanted" section as well.

New Business: Applicant Dean Orr was voted on and approved for membership. Dave Yost reported on the bike he is building (1971 Yamaha 650) and humorously thanked the people who have helped him in this endeavor, then presented himself with an award!

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Carol J. Edwards, Secretary

"Vintage Visdom"

The Constitution guarantees free speech; it does not guarantee listeners.

May, 2007

		1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5
6 ABATE Freedom Ride	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Regular Meeting	17	18	19 Club Picnic Red Knights Benefit Dice —Run— Armed Forces Day
20	21	22 Maritime Day	23	24	25	26 Blessing of the Rides
27 Ride to the Mile — Springfield Mile	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

June, 2007

					1	2
3	4	5	6 Board Meeting D-Day	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16 VIR Road Ride
17 Father's Day	18	19	20 Regular Meeting 7:00	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30