

VINTAGE IRON RIDERS

C/o Tommy Knox
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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders

October, 2012
www.virmc.com

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October 17 – Monthly VIR Meeting at Dave Reischauer's **6:00 pm**

For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at
<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL1012.pdf>

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

George Tinkham – President's Prattle

Bert Munro and Me

The thing that binds Vintage Iron Riders together is their fascination with older motorcycles. That fascination is expressed in various ways: Some like to preserve the original paint, scratches, etc. (Gus Miller has historical mud on one of his race cars!) Some like to polish and perfect their bikes until they dazzle the show judges. Others prefer to maintain the essence of the original while “improving” on the looks or mechanics of their bike.

Ever since I was a kid on the farm, I was fascinated about how mechanical things worked – and how they could be improved. When I became interested in motorcycles, the desire to improve designs stayed with me.

My first bike ('56 Harley KHK) had been modified somewhat like Emerson's “Special K” 1956 H-D KH. It had a Harley CH tank and headlight with the rear shocks set solid. It had been campaigned hard on flat tracks and could still pull its front wheel off the ground in top gear. Sensibly, I did nothing to modify this beast, although replacement parts were usually KR or Sportster pieces because true KHK parts were hard to find. The only modification (so far) on my current KHK is an electronic voltage regulator – which makes a world of difference.

The first modification on my next bike ('48 Chief) was to convert the throttle from the left to the right. Even though I learned to ride on my brother's '47 Chief with left hand throttle, I had become used to the standard right hand throttle. A low speed crash into my dad's aircraft hangar convinced me that it was safer to have my handlebar controls as standard as possible. Recently, I made the same modification on my World War II Indian model 841.

Vintage Iron Riders has several other members who alter their bikes to suit their tastes. When the stock '50s Harley KH is compared to what Mike Scarborough has created, one realizes how much more Harley could have done if they had only beefed up the cases,

used a CV carburetor, put in hotter cams, removed metal that was not needed, etc. Kenny Miller seems to be constantly tweaking his '47 Chief to increase power, reliable starting, etc. Harvey Tapscott's K model Harley is about as close to a street legal antique dirt tracker as one can get. It is fun to see what modern improvements can be made to an old design like the flathead engine.

The most impressive upgrade to a flathead was done by New Zealander Burt Munro when he turned his 1920 Indian Scout into "The World's Fastest Indian." He not only punched out the original 600cc engine to 950cc, but fabricated a set of overhead valve heads for it and added other modifications that enabled it to run way over 200mph.

There is no way my minor modifications equate to what Bert Munro (or Mike S., Kenny, Harvey, Emerson, etc.) have done with their motorcycles. The concept, however, is the same: take a fine old machine and make it better. Whenever, I remove an original piece, it is carefully stored – and no permanent changes (welding, cutting, etc.) are done to the bike itself. This preserves history and makes a historic artifact more accessible to the public. After all, a motorcycle is a creature best observed in its natural environment, whether carving up back roads or pulling into a "bike night" gathering at a local business. Whether you "like to keep it pure" or you want your bike to be all that modern technology will let it be, the important thing is that you enjoy it, and – while you are at it – show it to the world every now and then.

ACTIVITIES

- Oct. 17** **Regular Monthly Meeting (Wiener Roast @ Dave Reischauer's)**
Nov. 18 Swap Meet in Boone County, IN (European & Jap Bikes) Contact M. Morrison
Nov. 25 Sid Wood Memorial Run, Springfield, IL
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Ride to Ron's

The 2012 Ride to Ron's (R2R) will go down in the books as one of the best weekends of our riding season. Fifteen riders left Denny's parking lot on a pleasant Saturday morn to a blue sky, light winds, and the smell of motor oil. We stopped off at Harvey Tapscott's where we were hospitably treated to refreshments and Harvey's amazing collection of vintage motorcycles and all things motorized.

Our next stop, for lunch, was Lewiston and a pork tenderloin sandwich so big, most people shared. Back on the bikes with the temperature now a pleasant 74 degrees, we wound through twisty blacktops to Roseville, IL where we saw a wonderful collection of Harley-Davidsons owned by Bill Bayne. Fifteen miles later, we rolled onto Ron Tinkham's farm road where we set up camp and enjoyed a few cocktails and a few black powder explosives. Ron Tinkham served up chili, bratwurst, baked beans, and a great breakfast. Touring his unbelievable collection of motorcycles Sunday morning was a hi-light for many of the riders.

Heading home on Sunday morning, we stopped at a scenic overlook on the Spoon River for the group photo below. It was a great weekend.



Duncan Point



L-R: George Tinkham, Tommy Knox, Chris Karkut, Ron Cassen, John Anderson, Greg Butler, Cuyler Coleman, Joe Pitchford, and Frank Darnell

Wiener Roast

Our October monthly meeting will be at Dave and Patty Reischauer's property, south of Virden, IL on Wed. October 17 at 6:30 pm. Spouses are invited to attend.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm. The club is providing meat and Goog's "world-famous" chili. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share and utensils to cook their hotdogs. Bring your own beverage.

From Springfield, take Route 4 to Virden. Go about 1 1/2 miles out of Virden on route 4 (south) and make 1st right (west) Finney road. You will be going west and take second left which is Seifert road. You are now going south, drive about 2 miles and you will come to a corner that turns west. Property is on that corner, there is a wood fence there and bushes drive back there. A sign will be up. Dave Reischauer [217-414-5359](tel:217-414-5359)

A group of members who are riding their motorcycles are meeting at the Route 66 Conference Center at 5:00 pm.

VIR Annual Christmas Party

Plans are being formulated for our annual Christmas party that will be held on December 19. Once again we will have motorcycle-themed gifts with an expanded social time before a less complicated dining experience this year. More info as it becomes available.

You Are Invited

Club member, Joe Millburg, is throwing himself a 60th birthday party on Friday, October 26 in Morrisonville, IL. Details: time 6:00, place Bullard Building, 311 S. 6th Morrisonville Illinois 52346. Cash bar, eating at 6:30, band starts at 8:00, costume contest with cash prizes. RSVP 494-8993.

For Sale

1968 Yamaha AS1 125 cc street bike.
2,200 miles.
Contact Donna Yost 529-2736
\$2,300.00

**Minutes of Meeting
Vintage Iron Riders
Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center
Sept. 18, 2012**

Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was taken. Cell phones silenced. The Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Activities:

Mark Morrison reported on a Vintage Swap Meet in Indiana. Flyers were made available. Joe Pitchford says he has access to a 15-passenger van for club events. A report was given by Mark on the Hooter's Bike Show. We mentioned that more club members need to be involved in the Hooter's show. There will be a vintage race at Barber Speedway.

Ride to Ron's:

Sign-up sheet was passed around.

Treasurer's Report

We have a balance of \$4,193.42 total of which \$2,144.22 is the balance of the Jeff White Memorial Fund.

Old Business:

Calendars: Cuyler suggested using pictures of activities along with motorcycles as a means of keeping the calendar interesting as there is a shortage of unphotographed motorcycles.

Motion made an approved to move Oct. meeting to Dave Reischauer's with a group ride to leave Route 66 Hotel at 5:00 pm.

Visitors:

Individuals who showed up expressing an interest in joining the club included: Mike Cherry, Frank Darnell, George Hurst, Darren Turner, Greg Butler, Jack Briere, and John Kren.

New Projects:

- John Anderson reported his purchase of a 1963 Deneptor with sidecar.
- Talked about holding technical seminars on a regular basis for monthly meetings.
- Bob Durmont reported that Dave Yost's widow has a 1968 Yamaha for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42. The 50/50 drawing in the amount of \$35.00 was won by John Anderson. Respectfully Submitted, Tommy Knox

November 2012

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7Board Meeting 5:30	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 VIR Meeting 7:00	22	23	24
25 Sid Wood Memorial Run	26	27	28	29	30	