



Merry Christmas!!

VINTAGE IRON

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

DECEMBER, 2005

www.SpringVinMoto.com

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REGULAR MEETING: December 13, 2005, at 6:00 P.M. at Shakey's.

Upcoming Events

- February – ABATE Swap Meet and Show at the Convention Center.
- February – Motorcycle Show at the Douglas County Museum in Tuscola (more on that in the January newsletter)

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE MERRY CHRISTMAS!

If you do not have your Christmas lists finished, look at your motorcycle and workshop. There, you might just find a thing or two that you absolutely *have* to have. Santa would understand. After all, he has a workshop too.

For those of us that have enough tools and parts to accomplish something: let's go make ourselves useful. This is absolutely my favorite time of the year to work on my motorcycle and sports car. After all, it's not likely that I would want to take any of them out in the cold, snow, and road salt. Instead, I can prepare for next season and dream of things to come.

Right now, I don't feel like writing. Instead, I want to go into my warming workshop and tend to my "new" Indian that I acquired in Ohio this week. This winter and spring, I hope to show it at the A.B.A.T.E. Swap Meeting here in Springfield in February, to exhibit it in the Douglas County Museum in Tuscola, and to display it at the Illinois State Moto Guzzi Rally in May. First, though, I should stop typing and start cleaning the bike. [I'll tell you what I bought at the meeting.]

I look forward to seeing you all (or most of you) and your significant others at the club party this coming Tuesday, December 13th, at Shakey's on South MacArthur here in Springfield. We have more room and more prizes; so, we just gotta have more fun!

MEMBER REPORTS

Vintage Iron Rider members Gary "Goog" Underfanger and Leroy Solomon once again did a fine job organizing the 22nd Annual Sid Wood Memorial Toy Run to Contact Ministries on Sunday, November 27th. Another VIR member participating was Anthony Jones. If I missed anyone -- sorry. Goog appeared on TV wearing his V.I.R. shirt. Even George Tinkham's Chief and he got a little TV time.

The weather cooperated with a rain-free afternoon. According to the newspaper, there were 89 motorcyclists and passengers participating. Over \$1,200 in toys and \$788 in cash were donated. George Tinkham presented a \$300 check from the Springfield Milers to Rita Tarr, Director of Contact Ministries. Freebird Tavern at Amos and Jefferson offered *apre'* toy run food.

Check out George's photo on the website! www.SpringVinMoto.com Then go to Galleries, VinMoto Garages, SpringVinMoto Garages, and VIR Garages

Speaking of George, following is a report on the acquisition of his new "baby."

Finally: My Dream Bike!

When I first became interested in motorcycles as a farm kid in the late '50s – early '60s, it bothered me that Harley and Indian had air cooled V-twin engines with the front cylinder blocking the cooling air flow to the rear cylinder. I reasoned that, if the idea was to have air cool the cylinders, why weren't they stuck out into the air flow where they would be cooled?

Later, I found that BMW had been building bikes for years with the cylinders where they belonged. As practical and timeless as the BMW boxer may be, it still did not have the V-twin design that I loved. Then in 1967, Moto Guzzi produced the "V 700" with a transverse V-twin engine and shaft drive. Wow, my dream bike was finally being made!

You can imagine my surprise when I found that Indian made a limited run of transverse V, shaft drive motorcycles during WW II. This gorgeous bike had Indian's girder front fork, foot shift, and hand clutch. Except for its flat head engine and weak brakes, it was essentially a modern bike.

For years I have dreamed of owning this rare and exotic Indian model 841. Finally this fall, three (yes, **3**) Indian 841s were auctioned separately on eBay. I didn't bid on the first because I couldn't justify getting another antique when my '48 Chief was not roadworthy. The second one sold for more than I would pay for a non-running bike. The third one, however, seemed just right.

When I placed my bid maximum for that third machine, I worried about losing it by a few cents to someone else who had the same maximum in mind. To play it safe, I gave a maximum of \$1.52 over my earlier, pre-determined max bid. As it turned out, I won by that \$1.52!!

Last week, a buddy drove with me to Oberlin, Ohio (just this side of Cleveland) to get the bike. It is now being prepared for showing at the Douglas County Museum, the A.B.A.T.E. Swap Meet bike show, and the Illinois Moto Guzzi Rally. Mike Irwin helped me find this bike on eBay. Hound Dog Cramer loaned his truck to me to get it. Brian "Hop Sing" Oliver shared driving chores with me to bring it back to Illinois. Rod Taylor provided a much-needed place to stay in Indianapolis on the way back.

Yes, thanks to these good friends – and the \$1.52 – I now have my dream motorcycle.

"Vintage Visdom"

It is more blessed to give than to receive!

← DUES →

The 2005 club dues will be collected at the **January 18th meeting**. Remember, **dues for 2006 are \$15.00**. For those members unable to attend the January meeting, please mail the dues to Robert Tapscott, 19531 Hunt Road, Petersburg, IL 62675. Of course, you can send them any time prior to that time.

← ADVERTISING →

ADVERTISING

Do you have a business (at home or away from home)? Want to do some **cheap inexpensive** advertising? The VIR Board has lowered our advertising price from \$2.50 per month to **\$12.00 per year**. Where else can you get such a bargain???

Even if you don't have a business, if you are looking for an item, or have items for sale (motorcycle related, of course), let us know.

MINUTES OF MEETING
Springfield (IL) Vintage Motorcycle Club
Top Cat's Chill & Grill
November 16, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:15 P.M. by President George Tinkham.

V. P. Mike Irwin is in Chicago so he was not present at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tapscott reported that we have \$491.71 in the treasury.

Product Report: Bob Tapscott reported that we got only 13 orders and, even though we did not meet the minimum, Ace accepted the order, which should be ready in the next couple of weeks. He requested that the orders be paid for tonight and he will try to get them delivered. However, he will have the orders at the Christmas Party. The decals were not ordered because we did not reach the minimum order on those either. He made a motion, seconded by Walter Ade, that the club go ahead and purchase 250 at a cost of \$1.50 each for future sales. Motion carried.

Events Report: Carol Edwards reported on plans for the Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:00 P.M. at Shakey's. She has shopped for prizes and hopes to have something for everyone. A show of hands indicated approximately 30-35 people planning to attend.

Dave Yost reported on the car/bike show in Auburn put on by the Auburn Rescue Squad. VIR members who won Best of Class were Jim Trader, Jeff Christy, Emerson Roderick, Lou Kerlikar, and Dave Yost (two classes). Bill Follis won the Ice Cream Cone Award for his Sears Puch. Congratulations to all!

Dan Woodward reported that sponsorship of a lap at the Springfield Mile is \$100. This had previously been approved and a check will be given to Leroy Solomon to deliver to the proper place for sponsorship at the Memorial Day event.

Leroy Solomon reported on the Sid Wood Toy Run to Contact Ministries on November 27th. Everyone participating should bring a toy or cash donation.

Old Business: Calendars are ready for printing. Mike is still working on photo membership directory.

Membership applications of Carole Woodward and Frank Selvaggio were reviewed by the Board with a recommendation that they be accepted. Membership voted to accept both of them as new members.

New Business: Carol Edwards inquired about photo web link in email to members with the newsletter. Comments were requested concerning content of newsletter. General feeling was that it was fine the way it is, but the President's Prattle possibly will be dropped. Most members read the newsletter and use the calendars.

Walter Ade reported that he recently had visited Germany and gave our membership roster to some residents of a German town. So if we suddenly start getting emails or letters from Germany, we'll know why. He also gave one of them our patch.

Nominations of Officers: Nominations were closed after nomination of current slate of officers. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to elect the current slate.

Miscellaneous: George Tinkham spoke on motorcycle winterization, including various products and where to purchase them. He also had available a written summary of this information.

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

Carol J. Edwards, Secretary

December, 2005

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13 Christmas Party 6:00 P.M.	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 First Day of Hanukkah	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

January, 2006

1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18 Regular Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				