

VINTAGE IRON RIDERS
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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders

April 2011

www.virmc.com

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April 20th-Monthly VIR Meeting at the "Dog House."

For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at
<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL0411.pdf>

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

George Tinkham - President

April, 2011

Spring Break

Before you start thinking about empty bottles and bikinis on a crowded warm beach – or before Bill Follis gets his Speedo wax, remember this is about motorcycling. Let me explain: On the farm, our horses would lose their "people skills" over the winter and were reluctant to be ridden in the spring. This meant that we had to re-educate them each spring. We referred to this as "Spring breaking the horses."

Pretty much the same goes for bikers who have not ridden much over the winter. Our riding skills may be a bit rusty, and we might benefit from taking it easy until we get fully back into that good ridin' groove.

It is also a good idea to take a cycle safety training course [call: (800) 322-7619] to refresh the skills that will keep you well and happy. Let's face it: motorcycling is a lot more fun without road rash or broken parts (either personal or mechanical). When Les Eastep & I took the experienced rider course here in Springfield a couple of years ago this month, I used my '48 Chief because the course needed to challenge me on my most demanding motorcycle. That old bike did great, even in the tight handling areas. You may want to try the same thing this year. Just call the number above and sign up. You will have a good time – and be a bit safer.

Now that the safety spiel is done, let's think about how we can get our bikes out in the wind – or at least out in the open. At the beginning of the month, WICS-TV (Springfield Channel 20) had a video shoot of members and their machines at Lincoln Park. The show with that footage may be on before you read this, but you may be able to find the video on <http://www.illinoiscentral.tv/> by hitting the "videos" link.

On Palm Sunday (April 17th), the local A.B.A.T.E. chapter will have its annual Easter Basket run to Hope Institute. On May 1st, the annual "Awareness Rally" will proceed from IDOT at 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway to the State Capitol. Both of these events are excellent opportunities to share our joy of our antique/vintage motorcycles with others who can appreciate them. Motorcycles are a dynamic creation. They were designed and were made to be ridden. There is no better way to show them than to show them in motion.

Having said how important to participate in events, it might be a good idea for me to get my bikes road-ready. Winter is over. Spring is here. It's time to do less writing and more riding!

Activities

Harvey Tapscott

AREA MOTORCYCLE EVENTS FOR 2011

We want to thank all those members who participated in the Channel 20 filming for ILLINOIS CENTRAL PROGRAM (the Crusin' Illinois portion). We had a total of 15 motorcycles. The Channel 20 fellow spent a lot of time filming the bikes and interviewing the owners. He said a portion of the film he took will probably be on this weeks program (Saturday night at 10:35pm on Channel 20). He said more than likely he would use the remainder bikes/owners in future program. So tune in or tivo it. Tapscott will provide additional info at the monthly meeting concerning future filmings, etc.

VIR EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2011

May 21-VIR Club Picnic at Lincoln Park #7, Springfield.

May 29 - VIR Park and Display at the Springfield Mile, Illinois Fairgrounds, Springfield.

MOTOR CYCLE EVENTS

April 16 – Grand National Indoor Flatrack at DuQuion Fairgrounds. Entry permitted at 3PM; races at 7:30PM.

April 16 – Auto & Bike Swap meet at Altamont, Il, fairgrounds.

May 27 – Amateur TT races at Spfld fairgrounds.

May 28 – Grand National TT races at Spfld fairgrounds.

June 18 – Virden Car & Motorcycle show.

June 26 – Ashland Summer Days Car & Bike show.

July 19 – Lincoln Land Motor Sports Club Show (at LLCC campus).

August 13 – Havana Car, Bike & Tractor show.

THANKS, CALL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...

VIR Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2011

The club acknowledged a respect and love of our country by participating in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting called to order at 7:00.

Bob Tapscott reviewed upcoming events.

Treasurer Underfanger said that as o March 3, 2011, VIR had \$3041.07 in club funds.

Club members were reminded that membership fees are due at the January meeting of each year. If you have not submitted you annual dues please do so as soon as possible. As of March 16, 2011, 15 members have not paid their renewal dues.

Old Business: None

New Business: VIR had one new membership application submitted by Rodney Delay. Rodney has a 1978 Honda, 550-4K.

Products: Roy is currently handling all VIR apparel orders. Tickets for the VIP package for Labor Day weekend are now available.

"Vintage Visdom"

"There is no such crime as a crime of thought; there are only crimes of action."

Clarence Darrow



FROM THE EDITOR

Tall Tales – The Future

Are you happy we have the internet and thereon literally multitudes of purchase capabilities? A couple of weeks back I arrived home to find 4 car tires on my front porch. Yep, UPS delivery. Goodness, from EBay to Google to infinitum... Sadly enough this apparent wonder of the internet has brought exceedingly difficult times for the small businesses that made this great country. Then again as of recently, I was not able to easily purchase my favorite trombone slide lubricant, Trombotine, at local establishments.

Seems just yesterday I had a small tape recorder hooked up to my telephone to accept messages while I was away. It was not long before that that Texas instruments placed the TX36 physics calculator on the market and therein forever making the slide rule an artifact future generations will find interesting. And speaking of future generations, please take care when you are defrosting my head. Although warm water and soothing music would be my choice, a micro wave may be quicker but set the power to low and rotate occasionally. Remember to thaw according to weight and no meat thermometer please.

But the future is upon us and some say that evolution is ongoing. Our future may well be ruined by "damned dirty apes" to quote Charlton Heston. One might well be elected as president and it is rumored some are in the congress right now, well at least ape sympathizers. Then again some say that Darwin simply made up his theory we evolved. Yes story is he had sex with a monkey on Galapagos Island and to justify the act, brought forth his theory to save face. Come on, its sex with a distant cousin and who hasn't done that... And please do not thaw my head until this ape thing passes.

So the future is now. In the next few months we have several fine events and we hope to see you there. One thing our club has is character and lot of characters. Our group was designed to have fun and by God we are trying.

Cheers-Tommy

APRIL 2011

					1	2
3	4	5	6 OFFICERS MEETING	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 A.B.A.T.E. EASTER BASKET RUN	18	19	20 MONTHLY VIR MEETING	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2011

1 A.B.A.T.E. AWARENESS RALLY	2	3	4 OFFICERS MEETING	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 MONTHLY VIR MEETING	19	20	21 VIR Club Picnic at Lincoln Park Lot #7
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 VIR Park and Display at the Springfield Mile	30	31				