

VINTAGE IRON RIDERS
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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders
December 2009

www.virmc.com

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Upcoming Events

Dec 16th—VIR Christmas party at Diamonds

For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at
<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL1209.pdf>

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

December '09

I guess it's winter....

Just last month, we were enjoying shirtsleeve riding weather, and now I am putting logs on the fire just to be comfortable in the workshop. Fortunately, the workshop duties are not pressing because most of my bikes sorta, kinda run. Now that I no longer participate in judged shows, all I worry about is how the bike runs and if it is safe and reasonably comfortable.

For years I have preached that the best way to display an antique is *in action*. Fortune smiled on me this year by allowing both my Indians to participate in toy runs and special events at Hope School. We probably should consider the Sid Wood Toy Run as a club event because it was founded by Goog and Leroy Solomon. This year, Harvey, Zoo Dave, and I joined Leroy and Goog in braving a few rain drops as we delivered toys and cash to Contact Ministeries. My '48 Chief *almost* got to get a truck ride home because it did not want start once I got there. Fortunately, it still responds to bump start.

2009 was also a good year for displaying our bikes and enjoying each other's company. Whether on "Cruzin' Illinois" on TV or in small towns like Ashland and Havana or at major events like the Springfield Mile and AMA's Vintage Motorcycle Days in Ohio, I had a good time with fellow V.I.R. club members whilst sharing my motorcycles with others.

My law practice has been interfering with my motorcycling; so, I am doing the only reasonable thing: I shutting it down – the law practice, that is. I'm holding on to my license and my office, but I'm concentrating on motorcycle riding, restoration, and lobbying. I'll still be there for friends, family, and old clients; but 2010 should be more focused on motorcycling than serving clients.

I hope your Christmas lists have all the tools, parts, books, etc. that will make you and your machines happy this coming year. Certainly, we have all been good boys and girls this year; so, if your piece of the economy is doing OK, at least *some* of the things on your list should find their way to your stocking. Somehow, I don't dream of sugarplums – a nice Harley air filter cover is more my style.

Well, enough of my rambling. It is time (2 AM) to lock up my office and to head home. I hope this finds you well and I hope to see you at the club party on the 16th. Whatever else you do, please have a Merry Christmas!

George Tinkham

"Vintage Wisdom"

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stuck up for something, sometime in your life."

Winston Churchill

MINUTES OF MEETING

Vintage Iron Riders

Comedy Club

Nov 18, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:01PM by President Tinkham.

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

Goog advised:

VIR gear that was ordered has not been delivered.

The Toy run would occur on Nov 29, 2009.

The VIR Christmas party will be held on Dec 16, 2009, at Diamonds.

Announced that because of personal commitments, he will resign as the Activities Director.

Mike Irwin:

Reported the club had \$3584.86 in club funds.

Thanked Carol for her kind assistance in the production of the VIR calendar.

New Business

New member applicant Grant Sims received an affirmative vote from club members.

Former and returning member Chris Karkut was also affirmed as club member.

George has acquired a new bike trailer. Members are advised their use thereof is welcome.

George Emory is going to raffle a "Pan Head."

Mario advises he has a building worthy of consideration for the VIR museum.

Long time member Bob Tapscott will become the Activities Director as of Jan 2010.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Tommy Garber, Secretary/Editor

VIR Activities Report Dec 2009

Christmas Party on Dec. 16th at 6:30pm at Diamonds cafe in the Town & Country Shopping Center.

VIR apparel is ready and will be available at the Christmas party.

I would like to thank everyone for their help & support this past year. I hope everyone has a happy and joyous Christmas and New Year. I will be looking forward to be working with Bob next year on Events.

See all of you at the Christmas Party.

Goog.



Tall Tales

First allow me to wish all members of this fine club, the very Merriest of Christmas.

And now we await the apparition of that “jolly old elf.” Well I am anyway. I do not know the magic that will allow the delivery of that new Ducati down my chimney, but as I have been a pretty good guy this year and my letter to you know who was in the mail early, my fingers are crossed. I know our St. Nick is for real you see... I see the spirit of quality and goodness in each VIR member at each monthly meeting and every event.

Hope you have opportunity to see all friends and family and the best of life and health to you...

Now back to my “Tall Tales.” I initially proposed this portion of the newsletter to learn a bit more about our members and hopefully, their “tall tales.” I think the entries we have had this far have been great and just what I hoped to hear from members about events, issues and personal experiences with motorcycles. All of we iron butt types who have ridden and loved motorcycles as a life style, certainly have something to share.

Here is another great example of what I am looking for and is presented by VIR member, Leroy Soloman.

Fall Ride to Winchester

By Leroy Solomon

Two riders (Russ Anders and Jim Endres) and I rode to Winchester to meet a fourth rider, Mike Mohr for breakfast. Then we went down Route 100, along the bluffs, headed for Pere Marquette State Park and Grafton, IL.

As we got into tighter turns approaching the Park, we came up to a truck pulling a flatbed trailer hauling an older Mercedes Benz, which was missing its windshield. The first rider was Mike on an older KAW Concourse, then me on a Concourse, then Russ and Jim. Unbeknown to the truck driver, air pressure (we presume) blowing in through the front window caused the rear window to blow out in a million pieces on the trunk and road in front of Mike and me. Multitudes of small glass particles pelted the group. There was nothing we could do but ride through it and hope for the best. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Full fairings, windshields, helmets and leather coats really helped. I'm glad we all were prepared for any situation – and this was one of them. I'm also very glad Mike's girlfriend, who is a nurse, wasn't on his bike this time. (We didn't tell her about the situation.)

The moral of the story is to be prepared for any situation on the road: weather change, deer, small animals, people on phones, distracted drivers that don't see you on the bike – or just don't care.

With 54 years of riding experience, I consider myself very lucky to have only hit and killed 3 dogs and missed countless deer. WOW!

Leroy

Dec 2009

		1	2 Officers Meeting	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 VIR Christmas Dinner at Diamonds	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 2010

					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6 Officers Meeting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Monthly Meeting @ Funny Bone	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30