

VINTAGE IRON RIDERS  
C/O C. Tommy Garber  
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Virden, IL 62690



# VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders  
March, 2009

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## *Upcoming Events*

**March 18--Monthly meeting at the Funny Bone building on W. White Oaks Dr, Spfld, IL .**

For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at  
<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL109.pdf>

## PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

### Antique – Not Extinct

Vintage Iron Riders has members with varying interests in motorcycling. Some want to ride the daylight out of their elderly machines, while others are more interested in restoring their bikes to perfection. Still others want to preserve a precious part of their (or their family's) past. We all, however, truly love these old machines.

We appreciate motorcycles in general because of how they look, how they perform, and how they make us feel. A motorcycle is a dynamic art form: It is meant to move. Ultimately, the true value of a motorcycle is how capable it is to perform its role as transportation device.

While we celebrate the past of motorcycling, let us not ignore the present and future. Right now, legislation (SB1351 & HB925) is being pushed through the General Assembly that would require every motorcycle (including motor driven cycles and pedacycles) rider to wear a federally approved helmet. So what? We are a vintage/antique motorcycle club, not a bikers' rights organization, right?

If these bills become law, we will no longer be allowed to ride old motorcycles in period dress, including the well-known "Harley hat" or egg shell helmets of the early '50s. "Then Came Bronson" wannabes couldn't wear their knit watch caps as they ride their Sportsters. I couldn't even wear my World War II steel helmet when riding my Indian war bike. Well, you get the idea.

There is a bigger picture here also: When laws restrict motorcycling, there is a chilling effect on those who would otherwise ride or, at least, ride more often. When I was ticketed in 1968 for riding my friend's Super 90 without a helmet, I did not sell my Harley. Instead, I parked it, got a grant, and bought a sports car. Multiply this type of reaction by a hundred thousand or so, and the half billion-dollar motorcycle business in this state will feel the pinch. (continued)

People like us love motorcycling and do not want to see this vibrant industry diminished by restrictive laws. We don't mind seeing motorcycles turn into antiques, but we would hate to see them become extinct. We realize that, for the past of motorcycling to be relevant, there must be a present and future.

Don't worry Emerson: I do not suggest that Vintage Iron Riders adopt a political agenda. What I suggest is that every member join and participate in a motorcyclists' rights organization. AMA does a good job on the national scene, but A.B.A.T.E. is our best bet for Illinois legislation. When it comes to political influence, size really does matter. A 15 thousand-member organization speaks a lot louder than an organization with 10 thousand members. We need your voice – and we need it now.

George Tinkham  
Springfield, Illinois

**"Vintage Wisdom"**

*"A democracy ceases to exist when the government takes from those who will work and provides for those who will not." Thomas Jefferson*



***Activities***

**So I've only got a few things. But remember if anyone hears of something going on that would interest the rest of our members, let me know and I will include it in my Activates article. My phone numbers are Home 217-528-9905 and Cell 217-341-5550.**

**Up Coming Events:**

**Walneck's Motorcycle Show & Swap 2009 Schedule.**

**March 29- Springfield, Oh.**

**April 19- Woodstock, Il.**

**April 26- Marshall, Mi.**

**This is just a few of Walneck's for now I'll post more next month. Contact Number 630-985-2097 or [www.walneckswap.com](http://www.walneckswap.com)**

**April 5- L.L.A.B.A.T.E. Easter Basket Run to Hope School Springfield Il.**

**April 26- Lincoln Circuit Ride starting in Springfield Il.**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> A.B.A.T.E Freedom Rally Staging at IDOT lot on Dirksen Parkway Springfield, Il. 10:30A.M.**

**May 24 Springfield Mile Springfield Il.**

**June 5-7 AMA Pro Racing Super bikes at Road America.**

**June 20- Vintage M/C Show at Marshal Il.**

**June 13-14 AHARMA at Road America**

**October 10-11 AHARMA Races at The Barber Vintage**

**Festival in Alabama. Also home of the Barber Motorcycle Museum. (We need to talk about this on at our meeting this month)**

**I think this is enough for now, I'll see ya at the meeting.**

**GooG.**

## FROM THE EDITOR- MOTORCYCLE HISTORY

### First commercial products

In 1903 William S. Harley, at age 21, completes a blueprint drawing of an engine designed to fit into a bicycle.

In 1903, William S. Harley and Arthur Davidson make available to the public, the first production Harley-Davidson® motorcycle. The bike was built to be a racer, with a 3-1/8 inch bore and 3-1/2 inch stroke. The factory in which they worked was a 10 x 15-foot wooden shed with the words "Harley-Davidson Motor Company" crudely scrawled on the door. Within a short time, Arthur's brother Walter later joins their efforts.



*By 1908*, Walter Davidson scores a perfect 1,000 points at the 7th Annual Federation of American Motorcyclists Endurance and Reliability Contest. Three days after the contest, Walter sets the FAM economy record at 188.234 miles per gallon. Word of Harley-Davidson's extremely tough motorcycle spreads rapidly.



*Harley Davidson company employed 18 individuals by 1908.*

*Final thoughts: Hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.*

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
Vintage Iron Riders  
Monthly meeting  
Feb 18, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM by president Tinkham.

Gary provided additional specific detail related to the upcoming ABATE swap meet, and reminded club members that the "Walnecks" festival would be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

George discussed the potential of the exhibition of several of VIR's classic bike on Mario Ingoglia's Comcast television broadcast scheduled for March 3, 2009. George stated that he believed club participation would enlighten viewers to the variety of motorcycles owned by VIR. George reiterated that at most, five bikes could be exhibited.

George suggested club exploration of an event at Elkhart Lake's, Road America track. The event is sponsored by the AMA and will be held from July 24<sup>th</sup> through the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

George introduced new club members Barry Denardo and Mario Ingoglia. Both appear to be quite afflicted with the dysfunctional addiction to our beloved machines and lifestyle.

Activities Director – Gary Underfanger, discussed member participation in the creation and oversight of events located within their towns. The thought is that many of our personal settings/towns and villages, have warm weather events within their centralized squares, which are might be perfect for the Vintage Iron Riders display of our beautiful machines.

Treasurer Mike Irwin, indicated VIR coffers contained \$4000.00 greenbacks. Mike stated that as of Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, members had paid their annual dues.

Club member Lisa Casson stated that she and her husband had worked on and hoped to display her fathers beloved 1973 BMW in the upcoming season. We certainly look forward to the appearance/display of our fallen brother's bike. I'm sure he would be proud to have Lisa on the bike at our events.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Tommy Garber, Secretary

**DUES ARE DUE FOR 2009.  
PLEASE PAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN UPDATE THE ROSTER!**

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# March, 2009

1	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Pats Day	18 Regular Meeting	19	20 Vernal Equinox	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# April, 2009

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