

VINTAGE IRON RIDERS
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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders

MAY, 2008

www.virmc.com

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Regular Meeting – May 21, 2008 – Funny Bone – 7:00 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17 - VIR Picnic/Ride. This will be held at the pavilion at New Salem where it was before. Meat and drinks will be furnished by the club. **Please bring a covered dish.** We will meet at Lincoln Park at 10:00 and ride to New Salem.

May 25 – Springfield Mile/Vintage-Antique Motorcycle Display, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL. This is another good chance to show off your bike. We will be at the same area as last year. Display will from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Please let Bob Tapscott know if you are displaying your bike(s).

June 14 – VIR Road Ride – More details later.

June 21 - Antique Bike & Car Show - Lowe's, Springfield, IL. Display only, no judging.

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Dodging Rain Drops

My '84 Guzzi, '66 Honda 150, and '48 Chief have carried me several hundreds of miles during the past 30 days. The weather this time of year is about a 50/50 proposition as far as decent riding conditions are concerned. Waiting for perfect weather for riding is like what my wife says about waiting for the perfect spouse: If you do that, you'll never get married!

What the heck, May is officially *Motorcycle Awareness Month*; so, we need to get out, even if we get a little wet every now and then.

Vintage Iron Riders members participated in two major events so far this spring. Goog's Harley sidecar rig was piloted by Lew Fehring in the Lincoln Circuit Ride on Saturday, April 26th. A movie production company spent most of the day with us, shooting a documentary. The camera person shot from the sidecar and, later, from an airplane piloted by Don "Hound Dog" Cramer. Probably the coolest bike (and rider) in the bunch was Harvey Tapscott on his Harley KH replicacer. I was even there, leading the tour at times, on my '84 Moto Guzzi.

The next weekend saw a bunch of V.I.R. riders in A.B.A.T.E.'s Freedom Rally. One of the best ways to show an antique motorcycle is to ride it in an event like this. Fortunately, my Chief did not let me down. It was a great day to ride with fellow members* like Oren Lowder, Dave Nichols, Leroy Solomon, "Zoo" Dave Culbertson, and Roy Sims. Next time we do this, maybe we can have a club flag or banner to fly.

Getting back to the weather, next Saturday is looking pretty good for our picnic. Hopefully, this wet spring will give way to clear days and smooth roads. Now, if the gasoline retailers would only give us a break in what they charge at the pump, this could be a pretty good year for riding and showing bikes.

* I hope I didn't miss anyone.

And speaking of rain.....

Riding In The Rain

Les Eastep, Vintage Rider

As every sensible person knows, the best time to ride a motorcycle is when the sun shines. Of course, one will also check the weather forecasts, look at the sky and test the wind. That being said, and done, and all things being positive, the next thing is to have a destination. As it happened, there was a time when the Sangamon county fair was on and there was a chilli cook-off at the fair. Nothing to it; nice ride, visit friends, have good time. Now that cook-off was not limited to just chilli, they also had a salsa entry. But I don't make salsa. Don't even have a recipe for salsa. Hey, no problem. The rules were simple: there were no rules !! I'd found a jar of salsa on the shelf at Sam's that looked interesting: peaches and mango and other ingredients. And it tasted great. I'd also found a pretty good salsa at Wal-Mart. I could pack everything in the back of the motorcycle, ride to New Berlin for the County Fair and make a day of it. And the sky was clear with nary a cloud in sight.

After arriving at the fair, paying my entry fee and sharing a table with one of the other cooks, I laid out my two bottles of salsa, mixing spoon and a long neck (it was a warm day). Three parts of one and one part of the other; taste and adjust then taste again. Shared with one of the other cooks. He thought it was ok so that was what was turned in for judging. Now this was about 12:30 in the afternoon and they still had the chilli cook-off and judging of everything before announcing the winners and awarding prizes. Three to four hours to visit and enjoy the day. What a life.

Now, I do need to tell you, much of the activities of the day were under cover; under a pavilion on the fairgrounds. All the chillis had been turned in for judging and the cooks were just milling around, visiting and waiting. It was about 4 pm when fellow cook Shelby asked me if I had seen the clouds moving in from the south. Being under cover, I hadn't been paying much attention to the sky. But he was right. To the south the sky was beginning to look pretty dark, like moisture coming in. Slow moving, I thought. Besides the rain most always comes in from the west. Why worry. Five minutes later, Shelby asked if I planned to stay for the awards since rain was looking more imminent by the minute. It didn't take long to realize the weather might get nasty and soon.

Since I had no gear to pack up, it was only a few minutes later and I was on the road. A little west, a little north then east on the Interstate. Twenty-25 minutes drive and I'd be home. But within a mile on the four lane, I began to feel the little droplets of wet stuff. Not a motorcyclist's friend.

Fortunately, there are many overpasses on Interstate highways; you'd almost think they were installed for people riding motorcycles in the rain. And sure enough, there on the other side of the highway, at the first overpass, were a group of riders, waiting it out. But I have a windshield and was wearing a helmet and the rain was more of a mist at that time. Ride on cowboy, ride on! Next overpass was five miles down the road but the rain was making better time than I was. There comes a time when a rider realizes that even with a windshield, you can get very wet in a heavy rain. Next overpass, with my shoes still relatively dry, I stopped to dawn my rain suit (never leave home without it). With snaps at the legs and sleeves and a hood tucked under the helmet, I continued on. So did the rain but with an intensity of a summer storm. Normally, I'd pull off in such a rain but on the interstate that could be dangerous, just being on a shoulder. Better to reach the next overpass. But the next overpass wasn't there. There was an exit, though and had to be businesses with shelter from the rain.

But by the time I reached the exit, the rain had nearly stopped. So I continued on home, another 10 miles. By the time I pulled into the driveway, the sun was beginning to come out and the pavement drying. Not so for me. Although I was fairly dry, my shoes had about a half-inch of water in them.

I had no sooner got both me and the bike dried off that the phone began to ring. It was the chairman of the chilli cook-off calling to inform me that they had been looking for me at the awards ceremony. My "no rules" salsa, two bottles and a mixing spoon, had been declared in first place and they had a plaque and a check with my name on it. Not too bad for a rainy day ride.

There was, of course, a lesson to be learned that day: (1) Pay more attention to the weather forecast and do check the map; and (2) Pack a couple of plastic bags with the rain suit, to cover the shoes, just in case.

MINUTES OF MEETING
Vintage Iron Riders
Funny Bone/Break Time
April 16, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:15 P.M. by President George Tinkham. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Minutes of previous meeting as sent out in newsletter.

Products: Bob Tapscott brought order forms so we can order caps, T-shirts, mechanics' shirts, etc.

Events: May 17th is the VIR Picnic at New Salem State Park. After a discussion of whether to have the event at New Salem or Lincoln Park, the membership voted for New Salem. We will meet at Lincoln Park and those who care to will ride to New Salem. Members attending should bring a covered dish. There will be a chase vehicle to transport the food for those riding bikes. We will have our regular spot at the Springfield Mile to display our bikes and park other vintage bikes and will be sponsoring Lap 13. April 26 is the Cruise-In from 5-9. April 26 & 27 is the Lincoln Circuit Ride, part of which will be filmed. May 4th is the ABATE Freedom Rally. They will gather at the site of the old Heritage House on South 6th St. Frontage Road. On May 6th at 6:00 P.M. there will be a get together and ride-in bike show at the Fieldhouse on Sangamon Ave. Hall's Harley-Davidson has asked if we would be interested in putting on a display on the Wednesday before the Mile. The manager of Lowe's on Dirksen called and wants us to participate in their antique car/vintage bike show on June 21st. This will be display only – no judging. July 12 is the show at Lincoln Land Community College. Registration forms were sent in the mail. LLCC has contacted us to be a sponsor again this year. Motion made by Jim Trader, seconded by Dave Nichols, to be a \$100 sponsor. Motion carried. Gene Beenenga talked about the Secretary of State Antique Vehicle Show on September 6th at the Old State Capitol. Special license plates are available.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$1,610.02 in the treasury, not counting what was taken in tonight.

Old Business: Mike Irwin is still waiting until the grass is green to collect photos to put in next year's calendar. Jim Trader reported that there will be 12 classes of bikes at the Havana Bike Show, as well as a Best of Show and People's Choice awards. The committee is also talking about selling votes for the People's Choice with the proceeds going to veterans in Havana.

New Business: Applicant for membership tonight was Neal Savage. He talked about his bike. Bob Tapscott reported on the AMCA using Club funds to create a "Foundation." George Tinkham reported on the latest development in the lawsuit against the Governor to protect the motorcycle training and safety funds. The judge basically said that a trial was not necessary, but after both sides submitted their briefs, he would look at them and make his ruling on a permanent injunction.

Leroy Solomon reported that the Daytona Motorsports Group will be running the Springfield Mile, but that IMDA is still involved. The National TT races will be on May 23 and on May 22 the amateurs and vintage bikes will race. Charge is \$10.

George T. reported that member Dave Lefferts' nephew died. Our condolences go to Dave and his family.

American Motorcyclist sent a response to George Tinkham's letter (see newsletter) and may publish it in their June issue.

There was an open discussion about the AMA changes and selling their rights to NASCAR. Also, the Indy Mile is on Sept. 13th.

Jim Trader's bike was on the internet on the Motorcycle Magazine.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Carol J. Edwards, Secretary

"Vintage Visdom"

Life consists not in holding good cards, but in playing well those you do hold.

May, 2008

				1	2	3
4 ABATE Freedom Rally	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8 V-E Day	9	10
11 Mothers' Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 VIR Picnic Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21 Regular Meeting	22	23	24
25 Spfld Mile <hr/> Vintage MC Display	26 Memorial Day (Observed)	27	28	29	30 Memorial Day	31

June, 2008

1	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6 D-Day Invasiom	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 VIR Ride Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18 Regular Meeting	19	20 Summer Begins	21 Lowe's Antique Car/Bike Show
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					