



VINTAGE IRON

**The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders
July 2009**

www.virmc.com

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Upcoming Events

July 17th--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/milerNL0709.pdf>

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

George Tinkham - President

Insurance

“Life is a crap shoot. All you can do is work on the odds.” When it comes to motorcycles, there quite a few things we can do to increase the odds in our favor. Riders tend to have fewer accidents when their machinery is in good shape and when the rider is experienced and trained. Safety gear (crash bars, helmets, gloves, boots, leather jackets, etc.) tend to reduce the injury / damage done to rider and machine if a mishap does occur.

Protecting our machines from the elements can slow their deterioration due to rust, UV damage, and rot. That is why we wax exposed metal, treat gasoline, and store our bikes indoors.

No matter how carefully we ride or how sturdy the area in which the bike is stored may be, there will be losses. Recognizing this, Illinois requires that every licensed motor vehicle (including antique motorcycles) driven on public highways be covered by at least \$25,000 liability insurance. Many owners of rare or expensive motorcycles also carry significant comprehensive (fire, theft, storm damage) insurance.

OK, so we all know about insurance, but what we may not know is which insurance company offers the best price for coverage. After years of talking about it, we are finally surveying

insurance companies to get representative quotes on various antique motorcycles. By “we,” I mean Carol Edwards.

I have suggested that Carol ask for quotes on a 1948 Indian Chief (1200cc), a 1956 KHK (889cc), and a 1966 BSA Lightning (650cc). I also suggested that she seek quotes from the following companies:

Allstate	American Collectors	AARP Motorcycle Insurance Program
Berglund Insurance Ag.	Bluebonnet Insurance	BikelinE (Markel American Insurance Company)
Condon & Skelly	Country Companies	California Services Motorcycle Insurance
CycleInsure Agency	Geico Cycle-Guard	Gourley Insurance Inc.
Progressive	Heacock Classic	J.C. Taylor
McGraw Insurance	Nationwide	Mike Felder Insurance
Sentry Insurance	Hagerty	

Feel free to suggest any other companies that we should include. Also, please share your experiences (good and bad) with insurance companies so that others in the club might benefit from what you have learned.

I have suggested that we do an insurance study since September, 2004. I am thrilled that Carol agreed to take on this chore. To the best of my knowledge, no other motorcycle organization has done this. Who knows? Maybe AMCA (Antique Motorcycle Club of America) will publish our study and report in their magazine. We may be a local club, but we can render a service benefiting antique motorcycle owners throughout the country.

George Tinkham

“Vintage Visdom”

My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.

Thomas Jefferson

Activities
Goog Underfanger

VIR Activities Report July 2009

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 Activities article. My phone numbers are:

(217)-528-9905 (home) (217)-341-5550 (cell)

First, I would like to thank everyone that came to the Ashland Summer Days. We had 14 members and 11 Motorcycles show up. There was a good showing from VIR. We had a lot of people looking around and asking about the VIR.

As a surprise, Judy had a Ballot Box where the spectators could vote for their choice of there favorite machine. As a total surprise I won with my 65 FLH. Alvin and Todd were very close with 2nd and 3rd.
Good Job Guys. Thank you all for showing up.

Upcoming Events

July 11, 2009	Lincoln Land College Show
July 12, 2009	Lincoln Circuit Ride - Carle Park in Urbana to Coles/Shelby County Line
July 24, 2009 July 25, 2009 July 26, 2009	Vintage Motorcycle Days @ Mid Ohio Raceway
July 26, 2009	LL ABATE Down Rider Fundraiser @ Longbranch Tavern in Athens from Noon to 5:00
August 8, 2009	Havana Riverfront Car & Bike Show
September 6, 2009	Springfield Short Track Motorcycle Races
September 7, 2009	Springfield Mile @ IL State Fairgrounds Grandstand
September 20, 2009	Last Leg of Lincoln Circuit Ride - Shelbyville to Taylorville
October 3, 2009 October 4, 2009	Run to Ron's
October 10, 2009 October 11, 2009	AHARMA Races @ The Barber M/C Festival in Alabama
November 29, 2009	26th Annual Sid Wood Memorial Toy Run for Contact Ministries

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



FROM THE EDITOR-
MOTORCYCLE HISTORY

BMW Motorcycles

Heavens, it approaches mid July... Hope you have been out there riding your bikes. Actually the weather has been reasonably cool for bike riding. I think this month we switch our topic of interest to Triumph motorcycles. The beauty of the brand was of course their 650 twin.

The company began in 1885 when [Siegfried Bettmann](#) emigrated to [Coventry](#) in [England](#) from [Nuremberg](#), part of the [German Empire](#). In 1884 aged 20, Bettmann founded his own company, the S. Bettmann & Co. Import Export Agency, in [London](#). Bettmann's original products were [bicycles](#), which the company bought and then sold under its own brand name. Bettmann also distributed sewing machines imported from [Germany](#). In 1898, Triumph decided to extend its own production to include motorcycles and by 1902, the company had produced its first motorcycle - a bicycle fitted with a Belgian [Minerva](#) engine.^[2] Triumph opened motorcycle production at its unit in Germany and in 1903, its motorcycle sales topped 500.



1924 Triumph Ricardo

“ Triumph”



1929 OHC Triumph Prototype



Triumph Speed Twin-Approx 1946

The the 500 cc 5T [Speed Twin](#) would not appear until September 1937. The twin format eventually increased to the infamous 650, was the basis for all Triumph twins until the 1980s. Yes, the bike and the story is legendary and a phenomnan.

I am wishing you and family a safe and fun filled summer. Make the most of it and smile a lot. You live but once.

Welcome new club members Sara Hudgins and Joel Stuemke, (1978 Honda 754), and Josh Winters (1974 Honda Saber).

*Lastly and speaking of “phenomenon,” my first wife drown in a wishing well while we were on holiday in Europe. “Who knew those things worked so well.” *(Our beloved Henny Youngman).

Tommy G

**MINUTES OF
MEETING
Vintage Iron Riders
Comedy Club
June 2009**

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

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

George requests a vote on the vacant VP post and nominates Roy Sims. Club affirms the motion. Welcome Roy and what a wonderful addition and asset to our club you are.

Goog states all VIR items that had been ordered had been delivered and paid for. Good said the Halls Harley event drew some 10 VIR members...

Bob Tapscott provided some additional information on the July 24 through July 26, 2009, Vintage Motorcycle Days @ Mid Ohio Raceway. George reiterates he has attended this event and suggests it is well worth the experience.

Club member Dave Reischauer, announced the "Virden Car Show." Specifically he stated that VIR bikes were welcome and provided some addition articulation of event specifics.

Mike Irwin, Treasurer, confirmed the club had \$4239.00... Mike confirmed that no loans were being provided to "newsletter editors" for want of their new Ducati... Additionally, Mike states he was in the recent past given a "Honda 305 Dream." Mike states that of recently, he had turned over ownership to our very own Mario Ingolia. Perhaps we will think about fall weekend events surrounding the restoration of this beauty.

President Tinkham states that club member Tony Jones was hit by a car. George asks that flowers be sent to Tony.

Officers suggested VIR reimbursement for members who participated in and incurred costs related to the Spfld Mile.

President Tinkham indicated that VIR participation in the Lincoln Land Car Show event was a potential liability of \$250.00. Club members thought and agreed a \$100.00 contribution would be sufficient.

Long time member and former newsletter editor Carol Edwards ask about the status of the Jeff White fund that had been donated to VIR subsequent to his departure. Pres Tinkham states that nothing definitive has occurred but in agreement with Bob Tapscott, suggested officers consider appointing several club members who might give thought to the use of those funds.

Present at the June meeting and voted as new members were, Sara Hudgins and Joel Stuemke (1978 Honda 754), Josh Winters (1974 Honda Saber). Present at our meeting and providing application to our fine group were potential new members: John Anderson of Dawson, a Harley and Ducati lover.: James Davis of Spfld, a potential wonderful asset resultant of his interest and expertise in mechanics associated with internal combustion theory and Jeff Beierman, 1977 XLCR Harley. Welcome new applicants.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.



JULY, 2009

			1 BOARD MEETING	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 CLUB MEETING	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE DAYS @ MID OHIO RACEWAY	25 VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE DAYS @ MID OHIO RACEWAY
26 ABATE DOWN RIDER FUNDRAISER	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST, 2009

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2	3	4	5 BOARD MEETING	6	7	8 HAVANA RIVERFRONT CAR & BIKE SHOW
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 CLUB MEETING	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

30	31					
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