VINTAGE IRON RIDERS
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VINTAGE IRON

The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders
MARCH, 2008

www.virmc.com

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Regular Meeting – March 19, 2008 – Funny Bone – 7:00 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26 - Cruise-In. The Railsplitter Antique Auto Club will once again be hosting their monthly classic car cruise-ins on the downtown Lincoln square. They will be held from 5 P.M. to 9 P.M. on the fourth Saturday of the month, starting in April and ending in September. For more information & for registration, please call 217-732-3519.

April 26-27 - Lincoln Circuit Ride.

May 4 - **ABATE Freedom Rally**

May 17 - **VIR Picnic/Ride**. We are trying for the pavilion at New Salem where we had it before, and incorporate a ride out there.

"Vintage Visdom"

Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do.

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Sometimes You Gotta Get Involved

This time of the year, I usually write about the groundhog having seen his shadow and the need to finish those winter projects before riding / show season is here. This year, however, politics has stuck its ugly nose into antique motorcycling's business. As we notified those with e-mail last month, legislation has been proposed that threatens ownership of motorcycles by persons without "M" classification on their driver's licenses.

Rep. Paul Froehlich (D-56) from Schaumburg, IL is sponsoring House Bill 5185 which would amend the Illinois Vehicle Code. This amendment would mandate that the Secretary of State shall not register, renew the registration of, or issue a title for a motorcycle intended for highway use unless its owner possesses a valid driver's license with the proper classification. §3-101 of the Illinois Vehicle Code already requires most owners (not dealers) to title the vehicles they own. HB 5185 would, therefore, prevent a person without an "M" classification on their driver's license from acquiring a motorcycle. This means a non-rider could neither buy nor inherit a motorcycle.

I do not suggest that Vintage Iron Riders be politically active on all motorcycling issues. The reasons for this club are social and technical assistance – not lobbying government. What I do suggest is that we do become actively involved when our interest in antique/vintage motorcycling is threatened. Toward that end, the Executive Board of V.I.R. has directed me to oppose HB 5185 as written. I shall work with A.B.A.T.E. to do that.

Speaking of A.B.A.T.E., we owe them a big "thank you" for letting us know about HB 5185. We can also be thankful that they will join with us in opposing that bill. We cannot, however, expect A.B.A.T.E. to do our job for us when it comes to protecting antique motorcycling. There is no honor in letting others do your work for you.

Several of our members are already members of A.B.A.T.E. and of AMA. For example, Tony Jones is president of the local A.B.A.T.E. chapter. As good a job as A.B.A.T.E. does, it would do even better if it had more members. At future meetings, we will have A.B.A.T.E. application forms and newsletters. Please consider joining.

Just in: HB 5185 **has been tabled**, but it is still alive. Hopefully, we can stop this foolishness **for good** so that we can get back to what we really want to do: have fun with our motorcycles.

Captured Danish armored Harley used by the Germans WWII

MINUTES OF MEETING
Vintage Iron Riders
Funny Bone/Break Time
February 20, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:20 P.M. by Vice President Jim Trader, as the President is ill. *Unfortunately, this situation led to V. P. Trader conducting the meeting without a gavel, resulting in the use of a mustard bottle as a replacement*. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Treasurer's Report: We have $1,394.52 in the treasury, not counting what was taken in tonight in dues and clothing orders.

Products: Calendars were being reprinted for the third and last time, and we had two calendars left from that order, which were sold at this meeting. Mike Irwin has a list of bikes he would like to see put in next year's calendar, but needs photos.

Old Business: Photo will be taken of members who are not in directory. Dues for 2008 are late and anyone who has not paid by the end of February will be removed from the roster.

New Business: Guests and applicants for membership were Jay Bishop, Hank Charles and Jason Roberts. Photos will be taken of them tonight.

Events: Bob Tapscott talked about the ABATE show this weekend. He is looking for volunteers. This year VIR will coordinate the motorcycle show at Havana the August 8-9. We will determine the classes, set up and do the judging. Jim Trader has a meeting tomorrow with the organizers and there is a possibility that the prize money will be doubled. In order to win again this year, we need a huge number of bikes participating. We will be needing judges.

Bob distributed a list of the 2008 events, both for VIR and outside events. He asked if anyone would be interested in bringing their bike to the Havana Airport for their Fly-In on June 28th. He suggested we tie in a ride to the event, but we need to let him know.

One of the guests asked what kind of bikes were wanted for the shows. Bob explained and Jim Trader elaborated on the purpose of this club, which is to promote vintage bikes, not necessarily show bikes.

Gary Underfanger reported that their Downed Rider Fund Raiser will be a hotel/ticket/T-shirt package for the September Mile worth $240 that they will be raffling for $5 per ticket and has tickets available tonight.

It was noted that the meeting time is not stated on the web site. Carol will fix this.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Carol J. Edwards, Secretary

Bob Tapscott is still looking for ideas for our own Vintage Iron Show in conjunction with the Memorial Day Springfield Mile Races.

What do you think of having a separate function – perhaps not in conjunction with any other outside function? Let's see if we can come up with a catchy name (that doesn't involve Abe Lincoln), get sponsors, advertise, and draw a crowd of vintage fans. Maybe we can have a contest for the best name of the function with the winner getting a nice prize (to be determined later). We know you have some ideas – *the crazier the better*. We want to be unique! More to come…..

March, 2008

						1
2	3	4	5 **Board Meeting**	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Palm Sunday	17	18	19 **Regular Meeting**	20 Spring Begins	21 Good Friday	22
23 Easter Sunday	24	25	26	27	28	29 Vietnam Veterans' Day
30	31					

April, 2008

		1 April Fool's Day	2 **Board Meeting**	3	4	5
6 Army Day	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Federal Income Tax Due	16 **Regular Meeting**	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Administrative Professional's Day	24	25	26 Antique Auto Club Cruise-In / Lincoln Circuit Ride
27 Lincoln Circuit Ride / Orthodox Easter	28	29	30			