

## VINTAGE IRON RIDERS

C/o Tommy Knox  
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# VINTAGE IRON

## The Newsletter of the Vintage Iron Riders

April, 2013

[www.virmc.com](http://www.virmc.com)

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## April 17 – Monthly VIR Meeting at Rt. 66 Hotel & Conference Center

For more non-VIR events, please check out the Springfield Miler's newsletter at  
<http://www.springfieldmilers.com/milerNL0413.pdf>

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### PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

George Tinkham – President's Prattle

Where did the time go?

Last December, I wrote about “get ready, get set, ...” Now that warm weather has returned, we can know for sure if we really are ready (and set) for the new riding/show season. Try as I might, it is rare that all my maintenance plans for the winter are completed by spring.

For example, my World War II Indian Model 841 has been languishing in a mechanic's shop in Pennsylvania for well over a year now. The mechanic told me at the end of last year that the parts needed for my rare carburetor setup were being repopped and would be available by end of January. Here it is Spring, and the parts have not arrived from the shop that was supposed to make them, *and* there is a concern that not all the needed parts have been made. I am beginning to doubt if the bike will be ready by the promised date of May. **That** is my horror story of a machine that is definitely not ready.

As I ride my other motorcycles more and more, I find that there are a few things that are not aging well and need replacement or repair. That is to be expected. The important thing is to go through the bike the best you can and find what is wrong before the harsh reality of mechanical frailty manifests itself on the open road. It is fairly easy to see if the bike looks good. It is a bit trickier to make sure it is going to run good. Tricky, yes, but worth the effort.

Many of us do not have the time, tools, or skill to take care of everything on our motorcycles. That is where Vintage Iron Riders can be a huge blessing. We have skilled members, some of whom have their own

motorcycle repair businesses, who are available to help us keep our bikes safe and fun. If all you need is advice, our members are friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful. Like I used to say before I got my face slapped, "It doesn't hurt to ask."\*

Once your motorcycle(s) is running and looking good, please join us in the upcoming events. The next item on the agenda is A.B.A.T.E.'s "Awareness Rally" on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We leave IDOT's Hanley Building (2300 S. Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield) at 1 P.M. for the Capitol. This is an excellent opportunity to see bikes and riders from throughout the State and to show the world that there are still some cool, older motorcycles that keep up with the whippersnappers. At the end of May, we have our "Park & Display" at the Springfield Mile. Again, this is a great chance to see and be seen – and to socialize with fellow Vintage Iron Riders.

Here's hoping that you and your motorcycles are up and running and eager to enjoy Spring's warm embrace. We are fortunate to have our machines and events – and each other to help us appreciate both. I can't wait to get started!

\* Apparently, it matters *what* you ask – and *who* you ask....

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### **ABATE Motorcycle Awareness Rally**

The annual rally to remind the state lawmakers that motorcyclists in Illinois have rights is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at the IDOT Building on Dirksen Parkway. We encourage all Vintage Iron Riders to consider joining ABATE since motorcyclists' rights we will leave the IDOT Building around Capitol Building. We should be able to group up. There will be food and

Also on Saturday, May 4, there is an the north end VFW. The rockabilly band interested in partnering with the VIR will Plan on attending to check them out.



are a priority. If you can make the rally, 1pm to ride in formation to the State find each other in the parking area to vendors at the IDOT Building.

ABATE sponsored pre-rally and party at "Suicide Shifters" who are very much be performing at this party from 8-11pm.

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### **Easter Basket Run to Hope Institute**

A few of our club members were involved in this annual "good deeds" run to make Easter a little better for the children at Hope Institute. The beautiful weather on that day helped to bring out several dozen motorcyclist's. These are great events to get involved in and serve the community.

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### **Welcome to New Members**

Ross Ely and John Langheim were voted in as members at our regular meeting on March 3, 2013. Great to have you both aboard!

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### **Vintage Park and Display Reminder**

The purpose of the Park and Display at the Springfield Mile is to provide a place for motorcycles 25 years or older. This is a reminder that no matter how cool or unique your bike is, if it doesn't make the age requirement, you should not park at the display. There is plenty of parking along the front on the road.

## VIR Picnic/Membership Recruitment

We had such a good time last year that we are once again going to have our annual picnic at the Lake Springfield setting of Tommy and Tracy Knox's home on June 8 at 11:00 am. Tommy is planning on barbecuing some quality ribs accompanied by member's side dishes and BYOB. You're encouraged to ride your motorcycle and go on the group ride at 2pm. LeRoy Solomon will take us on another exciting excursion through central Illinois.

We also want to invite any prospective members that you might know to attend the picnic and enjoy our common fellowship around motorcycles. More details later on.

Minutes of Meeting  
Vintage Iron Riders  
Rt. 66 Hotel & Conference Center  
March 20, 2013

Social time from 7:00-7:18 pm, pledge taken and meeting called to order. Cell phones turned off and minutes from February 2013 approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** there is \$2,032.00 in the Jeff White Memorial Fund and \$2,179.50 in the General Fund, which gives us a balance of \$4,211.50.

**Anamosa Report:** Howie Thornley gave a report on JP Cycles and the great time of fellowship. Jim Davis commented that he appreciated the opportunity to be with club members.

**Picnic and Membership Drive:** Members selected Tommy Knox's house for the summer picnic June 8, 2013. Members will bring covered dishes and invitation for prospective members. LeRoy will lead a ride after the picnic.

**Tech Night:** To be held at CCMS (Capitol City Motorsports) on August 21, 2013. Members will chip in for pizza and BYOB. Cuyler to give a class on maintenance.

**Springfield Mile Giveaway:** Members approved the design and cost of band aid dispenser for 2013 Mile.

**Products:** Sims displayed tee-shirts and hats from stock and will put in an order as soon as there are 13 new orders.

**Prospective Member:** Harold Glick has a 1979 BMC, sponsored by LeRoy Solomon. Voted into club were Ross Ealey and John Langheim.

**Non-Police Traffic Control:** George Tinkham informed club of ongoing efforts to secure the ability to have volunteers stop traffic on motorcycle processions.

**Rock-A-Billy Band:** Knox gave a report on the possibility of doing a club activity with the Suicide Shifters. The club expressed a serious desire to pursue an event.

LeRoy reported that Woody is status quo and still at Lewis Memorial Christian Village.

John Anderson donated a tee-shirt and a poster from Daytona week and Mark Morrison donated a Route 66 Plaque to be raffled. Thank you John and Mark.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05. Mick LaRue won the 50/50 of \$47.00.

Respectfully Submitted, Tommy Knox, Secretary

May 2013

|                                    |    |    |                              |    |    |  |
|------------------------------------|----|----|------------------------------|----|----|--|
|                                    |    |    | 1<br>Board Meeting<br>5:30pm | 2  | 3  | 4<br>North end VFW<br>Suicide Shifters<br>8-11pm |
| 5 ABATE Rally<br>IDOT Bldg.<br>1pm | 6  | 7  | 8                            | 9  | 10 | 11   |
| 12                                 | 13 | 14 | 15<br>VIR Meeting<br>7pm     | 16 | 17 | 18   |
| 19                                 | 20 | 21 | 22                           | 23 | 24 | 25   |
| 26 Spfld. Mile<br>Park & Display   | 27 | 29 | 29                           | 30 | 31 |  |

**2013 Motorcycle Events**

- **VIR Regular Meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 625 E. Saint Joseph St. Springfield, IL 62703**
- **Quaker Steak & Lube has a Bike Night every Thursday Night (in season), Springfield**

Dates TBD:

- Quaker Steak & Lube Bike Show, Springfield
- McLean County Car & Motorcycle Show, McLean County Antique Car Club, David Davis Museum, Bloomington
- **Annual Britenstine Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show, Virden, IL**
- **Riverfront Car Show and Cruise In Return, Havana**
- Hooter's/VIR Bike Show
- Mods vs. Rockers, Chicago, IL

**Bold** = VIR Events