

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. - Illinois Chapter 1 general membership meeting.

May 3, 2006 **39 of 69 members were in attendance**

President Don Pugh called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.
No visitors or guests were present.

President - Don Pugh

Don has Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter One patches available. Patches are \$5.00 each.

Don again presented some info packets for the Rolling Thunder DC run. The packet included Rolling Thunder National scheduled activities and a listing of nearby lodging. Much of this same information can be found on the National website at <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/rt-2006-dc-run-xix/rt-run-dc-2006-info-index.htm>

Don also has a petition he is taking to DC regarding the name/designation change from POW/MIA to Missing Captured. See Don for details.

Big Thunder Run volunteer sign up sheets were available at the meeting. Volunteers are needed throughout the event in all areas as raffle, run stops, parking, security, registration, Saturday set up and Sunday afternoon clean up. We have a job for everyone. Contact Doug at roofmedic@msn.com or Rhonda at rockinrandi2@msn.com to secure your preferred position. Our 5th Annual Big Thunder Run takes place on Sunday October 1, 2006.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek- \$ in the bank. A bike raffle partial payment is being made this month.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

Our two visitors from last month became the newest members of Illinois Chapter One this month. We welcomed Boz (Robert Hall of Winfield) and RJ (Richard Johnson of Rochelle) to our Rolling Thunder chapter and look forward to their participation.

Snipe inquired as to how many patch sets we have recovered from former members. Artie's list from last December had 12 names on it. So far I have recovered 7 patch sets and convinced Artie to forgive us one patch set for a total of 8 resolutions. The current names on my most wanted list are:

Michael Minor of West Chicago

William Terrill of Sandwich

Richard Foland of St. Charles

David Schiedler of Chippewa Falls, WI

Contact me directly if you have current phone numbers or contact info for any of these people.

We receive run fliers at our post office box announcing various events in the area. These were mentioned and displayed at the meeting. These dates and events will be listed and linked at the end of these minutes. Contact me directly if you need a .pdf version of a specific flier.

Old Business

The trailer. Despite the interest in a new trailer described in last months meeting minutes the board has decided a used trailer would be more appropriate and so that savings could then be spent on helping veterans. During the meeting discussion evolved regarding a 6 x 10 enclosed used trailer with a ramp door and a 2" ball hitch. A motion to purchase such a used trailer, up to \$ in cost, was made and **passed**. Members were asked to watch for an available used trailer and contact a board member when they find one. Timeliness of the opportunity to purchase a used trailer is of the essence. It was further agreed the trailer could be purchased, before or between monthly meetings, without further review by the general membership

Curley has Big Thunder Run bike raffle tickets available.

New Business

Several members rode with the Patriot Guard Riders <http://patriotguard.org/> on their recent mission. Popeye said the wacko protestors disappeared as soon as the TV cameras were put away. He said if it were not for the TV cameras the protestors probably would not be there. Snipe rode with the PGR to show respect. LT accompanied the funeral procession to the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery in Elwood, IL. Local police and fire departments had every intersection blocked to outside traffic for forty miles and the procession continued without stop.

Our chapter has been invited to do the Warrenville 4th of July parade and we have accepted. **This will be a chapter event.** The parade is scheduled for 6 pm on July 3 (yes, July 3). We will meet at the Warrenville VFW at 4:30 pm for assembly.

Kriss obtained a “Hines Hospital Veterans Needs List” which details many of the unbudgeted and therefore un-provided needs of their patients. Much good discussion followed, some of the points mentioned were: Hines Volunteer Services sells memorial bricks as their fund raiser. Three sizes and cost are available. John Strunewitz said the phone cards and coupon books people have donated to vets turned into “black market chips” used to purchase contraband items. Peabody, a lifetime member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, would strongly recommend furnishing one room off the list. Dominic Ruggerio noted that this war and it’s IED’s have resulted in a plethora of spinal cord injuries. One member noted that the VA hospitals are performing better care than the military hospitals especially in the area of spinal cord injuries.

Copies of the needs list were distributed at the meeting. I will scan the list, convert the pages to PDF’s and send them to Irit for posting on our website.

Popeye made the motion that we furnish one of the single patient rooms (from Kriss's Hines Needs list) in the Spinal Cord Injury Service area at a cost of \$. I am proud to report this **motion passed quickly and unanimously** by all the members present at this monthly meeting.

Discussion continued and evolved to what else the Chapter can do for the vets and another visit to Hines Hospital is planned for Sunday August 6th. This will be a **chapter event** and will be a mini version of our December Christmas visit. Brad and John will again head up the visit and the collection of items to donate. Toiletries are the preferred donations. We will not be giving away sweatshirts, socks, phone cards or coupon books during this visit.

Members going to Washington, DC for Rolling Thunder XIX, the Ride for Freedom are asked to gather at the Best Western Falls Church, VA on Highway 50 at 7 pm on Friday May 26. We will then proceed to the 9pm Candlelight Vigil at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial on the Mall.

Don is looking for volunteers to attend Walnecks Swap Meet in Sandwich on June 4. We will be selling merchandise, BTR bike raffle tickets and displaying the Street Bob. Chris Hellman recommends adding POW/MIA baseball hats and ladies visors to our merchandise selection.

Upcoming Events

Chapter Events

- July 3** **Warrenville 4th of July Parade, line up at Warrenville VFW, 4:30pm**
- June 4** **IL Chap 1 at Walneck's Swap, Sandwich, IL to sell BTR raffle tickets and merchandise**
- Aug. 6** **IL Chap 1, visit to Hines Hospital**
- Aug. 13** **IL Chap 1 at Walneck's Swap, Woodstock, IL to sell BTR raffle tickets and merchandise**

Other Events

- May 7 Utica Ride in Motorcycle Show, info at www.utica-il.gov
- May 7 Moosehart Blessing of the Bikes, contact Peabody, 708 562-0451
- Until May 13 Motorcycle Madness II, Tuscola, IL at the Douglas County Museum,
217-253-2535
- May 13 Kneez in the Breeze, DuKane Abate, www.abate-il.org/DuKane
- May 21 Big Bikes Big Hearts, www.parklawn.com
- May 21 Bike Blessing, Westgate Abate, 708 749-4730
- June 3 Ride4Life, Manteno Cancer Run,
www.ride4life.net
- June 10 Green Ribbon Motorcycle Ride and Rally,
www.greenribbonrally.org
- June 17 4th Annual Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run,
www.ilfreedomrun.org
- June 17 Plainfield Hog Night
- June 23, 24 Midwest Motorcycle AA, www.mmaac.org
- June 24 National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum Awareness Run
leaves from
Windwalkers at noon, www.nvvam.org
- July 29 Plainfield Hog Night
- Aug. 26 Plainfield Hog Night

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
bill_hoteling@hotmail.com