

Minutes of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Illinois Chapter One General Membership Meeting

June 6, 2007

26 of 72 members were in attendance

Chapter President Howard “Weebles” Bushnell called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

Howard led the group with the Rolling Thunder Prayer from IL Ch 2.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Visitor present was Chuck Kimber. Many of us met Chuck in Washington, DC during Rolling Thunder XX as he rode out with Bill Sharpness.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Important note!! Our July meeting date has changed due to the 4th of July Holiday. Our IL Chapter 1 meeting will take place on **Thursday night July 12.**

Howard described the meeting with Illinois Director of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth as a meeting of kindred souls. Items of mutual interest, POW/MIA issues and veterans assistance, were discussed during a visit to her downtown Chicago office.

Watch the website for updates with Howard’s photos from the DC trip.

Howard was very pleased the membership of our Chapter as more than 50% of the members were participating in Memorial Day activities such as Rolling Thunder XX in Washington, DC or the Remembrance Table Ceremony at the Darien VFW.

Chapter patches and the Rolling Thunder patch are available from Howard at a nominal cost.

Rolling Thunder will be featured at the Rt.66 Drag Races this weekend. Torco Fuels has sponsored a car without sponsor designation to promote POW/MIA awareness and issues. Howard has 4 tickets for Viet Nam vets for Saturday and 10 tickets for Rolling Thunder members on Sunday.

The Illinois Freedom Run is coming up on Saturday June 16. Our Chapter is having a booth at this event to promote POW/MIA awareness and to sell tickets to our Big Thunder Run bike raffle in October. Snipe is leading a group to set up the booth. They will depart the Warrenville VFW on Saturday morning at 6:30 am. The bike will be on display if we are able to borrow an enclosed trailer to transport the bike.

Our Chapter participates in the Proffit Family/Viet Now Lunch run on the Sunday following every monthly meeting. 1200 lunches are prepared in Lombard. Only two hours of volunteer time is required.

Artie Mueller, Rolling Thunder National Director and Founder, passed on to our chapter that National is aware of Illinois Chapter 1's efforts and good work.

Also Artie acknowledged receiving many complaints about the Star Touring group mishandling of the Gold Star moms, the mishandling of the Gold Star escort in general and especially the lack of communication or provision to drop off these respected gallant ladies and their family members for the rally at the Lincoln Memorial.

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek John was unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek Kriss was unable to attend the meeting but relayed the treasury has \$ on hand.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.

Member Bill Sharpness received his boot patch.

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans is hosting the annual golf outing on July 22nd. Info can be found at <http://helpaveteran.org/>

The Freedom Run on June 16 could be one of our biggest BTR bike raffle ticket sale opportunities this year. We will have a booth featuring POW/MIA merchandise, POW/MIA issues and awareness information and especially BTR bike raffle tickets. The booth is an all day event and will have 110v power. At least two volunteers are needed at the booth at all times. This is a huge event. Last year 44,000 bikes ran the Freedom Run to the town of Marseilles. Raffle tickets with run fliers can be offered throughout the event. The booth will remain our primary raffle ticket and merchandise site. If you are riding the Freedom Run Bring your tickets to sell at the line up before the run starts.

Chairman of the Board - Doug "Skippy" Mahar

Doug spoke about DC, the ride back home, the overnight in Athens, OH with IN 1 and IN 5. Dominic earned the new nick name of Hard Core by riding 750 miles with a broken collar bone. Mo cruised through Bowling Green, KY and visited the Corvette manufacturing plant and the nearby Corvette Museum. Howard and Carol traveled to Camp Lejune to visit her son in the Marines. They also rode the Tail of the Dragon at Deals Gap. Andy made the trip back home in one day.

Old Business and New Business

New and Old came out in a varying sequence so they are presented in the order given.

Snipe reported on BTR bike raffle ticket sales to date. 1400 tickets are unassigned, 1025 are assigned to members and 75 tickets are sold with the money turned in. \$ has been brought in so far. The Illinois Freedom Run is a great opportunity for us. Great success is expected.

Dominic talked about Operation Support Our Troops and Gary Sinise with the Lt. Dan Band who will be playing at Cantigny on July 21st. We hope to have a Rolling Thunder booth as an application has been submitted. Last year attendance was 8,000 to 10,000. We hope to sell BTR bike raffle tickets.

<http://www.osotil.org/rockin2007.html>

Howard mentioned today is the anniversary of D Day and that we honor those lost. Also, Cantigny has a great D Day exhibit.

Doug talked about the Lt. Dan Band contract with Operation Support Our Troops that prevents the band from playing at the AT&T Pioneers Bike Run on July 28 at Zylstra's in St. Charles. Although Gary Sinise will not play, he will attend the event to honor the troops. IL Chap 2 will lead a group from Round Lake to the event. IL Chap 1 will lead a group from Morris to the event as well as perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony around 7 pm. We will have a booth for POW/MIA awareness, BTR raffle ticket sales and merchandise sales. The Pioneers group has asked for large quantity of our raffle tickets to sell prior to the event. They want to sell out our bike raffle at the Zylstra's event. Their cause and proceeds are going to fund the Disabled Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Next year they want to support Rolling Thunder. They are seeking our guidance and input. They want to make this an annual bike event. This Chapter covers five states. We were told to look for a RT link on their website. AT&T Pioneers is the nation's largest volunteer service group. AT&T donates \$ annually to the Pioneers.

<http://www.zylstrahd.com/SupportUSTroops/>

Cutter reported on the Remembrance Table Ceremony at the Darien VFW. Fifteen members attended and were well received. The event went very well. RT members wore white POW/MIA t-shirts and black POW/MIA hats. Cutter thanked all members for their participation. Cutter was commended for a job well done.

Roy Yeager mentioned the Elizabeth Riley Memorial Ride sponsored by the Blue Knights and the Make a Wish Foundation on June 23. http://www.bkilxix.org/poker_run2.htm

Howard mentioned the National POW/MIA Remembrance Day observance at the Rock Island Arsenal on September 16th.

Also, BTR Corporate Sponsorships are available.

A motion to adjourn was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
billhotaling@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in **Bold**)

June 14-17 Hog Rock River Rally, Cave in the Rock, IL
<http://www.hogrock.com>.

June 16 Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run
<http://ilfreedomrun.org/index1.html>

June 23 Ride to Remember, IL Police & Fire Motorcycle Assoc.,
www.honorguardtraining.org

June 23 Beth Riley Memorial Run, Blue Knights, & Make A Wish
http://www.bkilxix.org/poker_run2.htm

June 24 Grayslake Swap Meet

June 30 Hog Night, Plainfield

June 30 IL Chap 2, Motorcycle Accident Site Management at Lambs Farm.

July 3 Warrenville Fourth of July Parade, meet at VFW,
kick stands up at 4:45pm

July 7 Paul Salley Memorial Ride, www.rubriders.com

July 15 Ride for Kids,
<http://www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2007/chicagoland07.html>

July 22 Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Golf Outing,
www.helpaveteran.org

July 28 Gary Sinise, Zylstra HD in St. Charles, Remembrance
Table Ceremony
<http://www.zylstrahd.com/SupportUSTroops/>

Aug. 19 IL Chap 1 Remembrance Table at Glendale Heights VFW

Aug. 25 Hog Night, Plainfield

Sept. 5-9 Moving Wall, Lisle VFW, RT Escort and Remembrance
Table

Sept. 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day at Rock Island Arsenal

Oct. 7 Big Thunder Run
<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com>

Oct. 14 Never Forget Thunder Run,
<http://rollingthunderilch2.org>