

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

November 3, 2010

**26 of 74 members were in attendance**

President Bill “Hawk” Sharpness and Secretary Tony “Clutch” Leone were unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was conducted by Vice-President Dominic “Hard Core” Ruggeri.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made. Snipe read the Rolling Thunder Mission Statement. A moment of silence was observed for the POW/MIA’s.

Command Sergeant Major Knut Wick was a guest at the meeting. Many of you probably remember Knut and his bike that won Best of Show at the BTR last month.

**Vice-President - Dominic “Hard Core” Ruggeri**

On behalf of Hawk, Hard Core spoke on several topics:

As a Chapter, we are at a decision point regarding whether or not to conduct a bike raffle next year at the Big Thunder Run. The job has become too large for one person who has other duties as well. We need to form a committee to handle this raffle process from the beginning with the purchase of the bike and going through the printing and distributing of tickets, tracking the tickets sales and monies, and conducting the raffle. Snipe will be available to the committee for advice and guidance throughout the year. The Raffle Committee will have the full support and assistance of the Board.

So in order for the Chapter to have a bike raffle (our largest fund raiser of the year), the Board has concurred that we need a bike Raffle Committee. Our ability to raise these funds is contingent upon the membership stepping up to be part of this committee.

A project the Board has envisioned is a POW/MIA Memorial in some very public location in order to foster POW/MIA publicity and remembrance. This is at the core of our RT mission. This project may take several years to design, fund and develop. Therefore the Board is asking the membership to participate by joining in this project. LT has volunteered to chair this committee.

**Treasurer - Jim “Snipe” Murray**

Snipe addressed an upcoming event in Taylorville, IL (25 miles se of Springfield). A gentleman and Ex-POW named Roy Ziegler was unable to travel to the

Ride Home in Andersonville, GA to participate in the National POW/MIA Remembrance Day ceremonies. IL Chap 2 and IL Chap2 will be presenting a Presidential Proclamation and POW/MIA dog tags at American Legion Post 73 in Taylorville on Saturday November 13th. IL Chap 1 will be performing the Remembrance Table Ceremony. (Thirteen members have signed up to go). LT will lead the Remembrance Table Ceremony. Don Ross has volunteered to lead the "convoy of cars" down to Taylorville. Not all details are known at this point so please watch our website calendar for updates and current info. It is expected to be a one day trip/event with the presentation around 1 pm.

The Treasurers' report showed \$ in October and \$ in November. Snipe has full details and breakdowns for anyone interested in the details. Snipe and Hard Core said the \$ in grant monies has been fully distributed from Rolling Thunder Charities. Dominic has full details for anyone interested.

Snipe went to Honor Flight Chicago last Tuesday, Oct. 26, and presented Honor Flight with a check for \$.

Former member Steve "Rage" Witmer died last week of an apparent heart attack during a bike rally in Georgia. Steve's wife does not yet have a date and time for a memorial service. Mo passed the hat to help the family. Additionally, a motion was made and passed to provide a Chapter veteran's donation (\$ x 74 members) to Steve's family.

## **New and Old Business**

BB spoke about events on our website calendar.

- Sunday November 7 Manteno Veterans Ride
- Thursday November 11 Flowers for Heroes and Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
- Saturday November 13 Proclamation and Dog tags to Roy Ziegler, Taylorville, IL
- Wednesday December 1 Monthly meeting and Christmas Party
- Saturday December 11 Wreaths Across America, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

As always watch the website calendar for the most current information and updates.

Snipe spoke about "The Parade," a 1986 event in which the City of Chicago welcomed home all Viet Nam Veterans. A 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade is being planned for Veterans Day 2011. Rolling Thunder has been asked to participate in the kick off announcement on this Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. Much media attention is expected. Any member who would like to partake in this announcement should contact Snipe. Watch your TV news on Veterans Day.

Skippy took orders for Rolling Thunder long sleeve t-shirts. Rolling Thunder is embroidered on the neck. Expected cost is around \$.

Dominic spoke about the Christmas party after our December meeting. Bring an appetizer or dessert to pass. Contact Kriss so we don't have too many duplications. The Chapter will provide the main courses.

LT spoke in his very "diplomatic" manner about the need for member participation and the need for members to step up and help out on committees.

Phil Ferrer spoke about how he is using the Rolling Thunder name in seeking and providing assistance to a St. Charles vet with a special needs child. The vet has lost his job and being put out. Hard Core and our guest (and hopefully newest member) Command Sergeant Major Knut Wick spoke privately with Phil about military and civilian services available.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, for

Tony Leone, Secretary  
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1  
[Tonytuna56@comcast.net](mailto:Tonytuna56@comcast.net)