

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Gary Vandembos (Names)	President
Yes	Al Miller (Shadow)	Vice-President
Yes	Rick Herr (Cosmo)	Treasurer
Yes	Jim "Snipe" Murray	Secretary
Yes	Richard Montgomery (Popeye)	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Kandice Jacobs (PG)	Director
Yes	Knute Weick	Director
Yes	Don Gaylord (Stone Cold)	Director
Yes	Greg Messler	Director
Yes	Wendy "Dragonfly" Vach	Director

The meeting was called to order at 1930. President Vandembos began with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the Illinois MIAs lost during the month of February from the Viet Nam and Korean Wars. Chappy gave an opening prayer.

Reports from the Board

President Gary "Names" Vandembos welcomed the membership and thank them for coming. There will be GRASS education offered to all members of our chapter. This Group Riding and Safety Seminar will be classroom instruction only and available at three different times. Please see the last pages of the minutes for further information if you are interested.

Presentation of the "Rocker and Eagle patch was presented to Joe "Doghouse" Peterburs. – Congratulations Doghouse!



Vice President Al “Shadow” reported that the chapter had assisted four Veterans so far this year. A note from BB stated that we have helped 286 Veterans since conception of the program and spent \$253,292.94 on their behalf.

COB Rick “Popeye” Montgomery shared with the membership that due to BTR ratio of expenses to revenue, we cannot afford to continue with the program. This year will consist of our GunBash and other less expensive opportunities for revenue. We welcome suggestions from the membership. Popeye also thanked the membership for turning in their dues in a timely fashion. Although there are still some outliers, we are in a better place than last year at this time. He will send out an email regarding those that are still delinquent.

Treasurer Rick “Cosmo” Herr presented the chapter finance report. Although money for our major programs of POW/MIA awareness and our Veterans Assistance Program have been allocated, the balance of the account is tight. The chapter needs the success of our GunBash and another state grant in our third quarter to keep us financially capable of continuing our programs and donations.

Director Kandice “PG” Jacobs mentioned the plans of doing a table ceremony at the Kankakee museum in DeKalb County on the 21st of May. This is the first permanent memorial from our new POW/MIA committee. We will continue to practice our table ceremony at our meetings to improve our presentation of the Remembrance Table Ceremony. Also, Kandice asked the membership to come up with ideas for the chapter to bring in extra income during the year. She suggested something like a Round-Up event. We would also need someone to step up and lead a committee to pursue fundraising for the chapter.

Director Knute Weick reported that the Sandwich Bowling tournament was a success. Our chapter will be the recipient of monies realized as a result of that event. Knute also relayed that the board agrees with holding the GunBash at the Villa Park VFW. Information regarding the May Demonstration Ride was also passed along. The ride will be held on 28-May-23. National picked T-Shirt design number 1. We will look into getting it modified with our state name. This year’s route maybe modified, Names is working that issue. All three chapters will be involved this year.

Chaplain Philip “Chappy” Ferrer talked with the chapter regarding his YouTube channel StandByMyHeroes (sbmh). He asked the chapter to go to YouTube and search for sbmh. This will lead you to a page with two options. Select the option with the orange background and click on some or all of his videos. This will allow more support from YouTube and help Chappy get the message of Veteran Suicide out to a wider audience. Additionally if you go to our chapter’s website and click on sbmh videos on the sidebar, it will also direct you to some of Chappy’s earlier videos.

Reports from the Floor

It was a chilly evening and membership attendance was low. We did not have enough to practice our performance of the Remembrance Table. While members interacted with conversation earlier in the meeting there were not any old or new business reports brought up.

Don’t forget that your dues are due at the end of the month. Watch for Popeye’s email and if you see your name, react accordingly.

All errors are mine – let me know

Jim “Snipe” Murray – Secretary

“Don’t just join, Be involved”

Calendar

March 1 – Meeting night at the Warrenville VFW @ 1930

March 5 – Save a Joe Bowling for Veterans @1130 – St Charles Bowl

All,

At the recent Posse meeting, there was interest in the Group Riding and Safety Seminar (GRASS) that Top Cats-IL developed and has used for many years. Many other local clubs and clubs in PA, VA, SC, and OH have attended GRASS, received copies of the lesson plans and PowerPoint presentation for their own use and modified the GRASS to reflect their club. Either way, it contributes to MC safety throughout our local area. Top Cats has invited all riders from all clubs to attend a GRASS presentation this year. Note that it is free and does not require any practical exercises, simply classroom presentation / discussion.

Following are the dates, locations, and details of the GRASS presentation. While all riders, or club representatives are invited to attend, please let Mike Bradbury, the Top Cats contact listed below, know if you're attending any of the GRASS presentations so he has enough doughnuts and coffee for everyone.

Hope to see many of you there.....

Wayne Kirkpatrick
Coordinator
Posse

G.R.A.S.S will be presented on 3 dates this year; March 26th, July 22nd and October 22nd, at the locations below. This is a great way to learn how to group ride as safely as possible. GRASS does not teach riders how to ride, it simply teaches riders how the club rides.

26 March 2023, Sunday, 9:00 am,
Keller Williams Realty
[600 Hart Rd. Suite 105](#)
[Barrington IL](#)

22 July 2023, Saturday, 9:00 am
American Legion Post 911
[515 S. Main St.](#)
[Wauconda, IL](#)

22 October 2023, Sunday, 9:00 am
Keller Williams Realty
[600 Hart Rd. Suite 105](#)
[Barrington IL](#)

G.R.A.S.S. consists of discussion and video presentations for the following five modules. The 5th module is presented optionally if anyone is interested in the skills required to become a road captain.

- 1. Group Riding Protocol** – this includes proper hand signals, formations, passing, parking, etc.
- 2. Riding with a co-rider (passenger)** – this module also explains motorcycle dynamics, adjustments, duties, and responsibilities when riding two - up.
- 3. Road Captain Responsibilities** – What riders can expect from planning to ride execution and follow-up. Also addresses what riders need to do before a group ride.
- 4. Accident Scene Organization** – Although we hope we never, ever need to put this into practice, this module starts with the incident and includes necessary skills, requirements, and responsibilities, including hand-off to

emergency personnel. (NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT COURSE TAUGHT BY VICKI SANFELIPO AND THE PROFESSIONALS AT ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT. ALL ATTENDEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION OF ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT PRESENTED BY ROAD GUARDIANS AND MAINTAIN THEIR CERTIFICATION. (www.roadguardians.org))

5. Road Captain Training – (OPTIONAL) Considerations for a road captain from activity planning, organization, safety briefing, to the logistics of the actual ride. It includes instruction on ride day responsibilities and mentoring future Road Captains as well as detailed planning and execution techniques for day rides and multi-day rides.

All riders, co-riders, non-riders are invited and all motorcyclists from our local community are welcome! If we can share safe riding techniques with other riders, we all ride safer and....longer! Reach out to your motorcycle friends and everyone else in the motorcycle community and invite them to come!

Doors are open at 8:30 am, presentation starts at 9:00 and will end at the latest by or before 12:00.

Please send R.S.V.P. to:

Michael Bradbury
Director of Safety
Senior Road Captain
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