

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

June 4, 2008

24 of 66 members were in attendance

Chapter President Doug “Skippy” Mahar was out of town on business. The meeting was conducted by Secretary Bill Houghtaling. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made. We had no visitors or guest this month

President - Doug “Skippy” Mahar

Out of town on business.

Vice-President - John “Cupcake” Sedlacek

John and Kriss were attending to their sick son and were not at the meeting.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek There was no Treasury Report.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

Our Chapter received a thank you letter from Elaine Muller, Rolling Thunder National, for our participation in the National Bike raffle held in Washington, DC. Our members individually purchased \$ in tickets and the Chapter purchased \$ of left over tickets.

The membership for our Chapter now stands at 66 paid members versus 74 members last year.

We are still looking for a member(s) to write a short article for Quick Throttle magazine

http://www.quickthrottle.com/Editions/MW/directory_MW.html

featuring Hinks in Sycamore and the Big Thunder Run and our POW/MIA

accountability mission. Timeliness is of the essence, as we hope to have the article published just prior to the 2008 Big Thunder Run. After the meeting member Philip Ferrer volunteered to write the article. Now we need a couple of BTR photos featuring the bikes at Hinks in Sycamore. Please check your photos and contact me for any that may be used.

Chairman of the Board - Steve Pletzke

The Warrenville VFW Vice Commander passed away Sunday night. The VFW will provide funeral information. Patriot Guard will be providing an escort. Steve asked that any Chapter members available join the escort on Friday to show our respect.

Old Business and New Business

Snipe gave us an update on BTR raffle ticket sales. \$ was turned in at the meeting and our goal of 500 tickets this month was not met. We are looking for people to staff the booth at the Illinois Freedom Run in Marseilles on June 21st. This was a great ticket selling opportunity last year as well as being a lot of fun. The bike will be at the booth. Harley Steve has volunteered to transport the bike in his new enclosed construction trailer. (ed. Thank you Steve, this is a big deal as we always sell more tickets when we show the bike). We have a standing invitation from Wildfire HD and City Limits HD to set up a table and sell raffle tickets on every weekend. The bike is at Wildfire can it can be brought out for display and ticket sales.

Please contact Snipe if you can volunteer a couple hours time at the Illinois Freedom Run Booth on June 21st.

<http://ilfreedomrun.org/>

Also the Operation Support Our Troops event at Cantigny <http://www.osotil.org/rockin2008.html> on July 19th is another raffle ticket sales opportunity for us. Ticket sales are not allowed from a booth but we did a great job selling tickets from our vest pockets.

Dominic continues his pursuit and negotiations for the services of a paid web site designer/updater for our Chapter web site.

LT mentioned that Top Holland is having rally in Washington, DC on National POW/MIA Awareness Day on September 19, 20 and 21st. If you are interested in attending let Hawk or LT know.

Also John Steer, who has made a career of helping veterans, is very sick and hospitalized. A motion was made to do a Veterans Donation (\$5 per member) to his cause <http://www.angelfire.com/fl4/jlsteer/lvwd.html> John has received the support of our Chapter for several years.

Boz has a couple recent high school graduates who have joined the Air Force. He wants to provide an escort/ride to their hotel in Chicago on June 30, a Monday. Meet at the VFW at 11:30, provide the escort to Chicago and return to Boz's house for an after party. Contact Boz for full details.

Bill Houghtaling reminded us of the Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 2 Challenge Run on June 8th. <http://rollingthunderilch2.org/Events/challenge2008.htm> Please support our brothers and sisters at Chapter 2.

Dave "Sparky" Rudolph will be riding four days in support of the Susan B Komen Race for the Cure <http://08.the3day.org/site/PageServer> A motion was made and passed to do a non-veterans donation (\$3 per member) to this cause.

Howard hosted a Big Thunder Run planning session immediately following the meeting. Many members have stepped up to take responsibility for many of the jobs at BTR such as registration, parking, bike show, door prizes, run stops, run route, etc. Many more positions are available. Contact Howard to see what is available. Feel free to try job, we will not let you fail.

Howard also received a letter from Senator Obama who does not have time for Rolling Thunder or the POW/MIA accountability issue. (ed. I will send a pdf copy of this letter to our membership. Interesting, as his letterhead notes, he is on the Veteran's Affairs Committee).

Big Thunder Run fliers are printed and available.

Thanks and much appreciation goes out to Beth Pletzke who took excellent notes during the meeting so I could create these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
billhotel@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in Bold)

- June 8 **Illinois Chapter 2 Challenge Run**
<http://rollingthunderilch2.org/Events/challenge2008.htm>
- June 21 **Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run,**
<http://ilfreedomrun.org/>
We will have a ticket sale and POW/MIA information booth
- July 19 **Operations Support Our Troops at Cantigny, Wheaton, IL**
BTR raffle ticket sales
<http://www.osotil.org/rockin2008.html>
- Aug. 3 **Midwest Homeless Shelter at Batavia VFW,**
<http://www.helpaveteran.org/>
- Aug. 10 **Remembrance Table at the Glendale Heights VFW**
- Aug. 24 **Ride for Kurtie, West Chicago,**
www.rideforkurtie.org
- Sept. 14 **Ride to Remember 9-11, Springfield, IL**
www.ridetoremember911.com
- Oct. 4 Saturday morning set up for Big Thunder Run
- Oct. 5 **Big Thunder Run**