

Cpl. Jimi Wilson

Jimi will arrive at the Dayton International Airport on Saturday May 12, 2007 at 8:08AM.

Cpl. Michael P. Long

Michael will arrive in Columbus, OH the week of May 13.

Edited by Gail (Brain) Camerino
(Gail54@fuse.net)



May 19, 2007

Operation Recruiter Appreciation
(Sponsored by the Gathering of Eagles)

May 24, 2007

POW/MIA Flag Raising
Loveland High School

May 27, 2007

Rolling Thunder XX
Washington DC

June 16, 2007

Ohio State Flag Run

June 16, 2007

Morrow, Ohio Parade

June 17, 2007

8th Annual Norwood Awareness Run



Save the Dates!



May 12, 2007 (Rescheduled)
Matt Maupin Scholarship Run
Glen Este High School

June 23, 2007
Morrow Run

September 29, 2007
2nd Annual Blue Ash – Honor our Troops
Ride
Raymond Walters College

If you know of other Rides or activities of interest, please email the information, including date, time and contact information to Gail54@fuse.net

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Matt Maupin Scholarship Ride
April 14, 2007

"Neither snow nor rain not heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." ...

April 14, 2007 didn't give us snow, heat or gloom of night, but the rain was cold and plentiful enough to keep us from our planned run. The decision to cancel was made late in the week and since no one was sure who was notified, a handful spent the morning at GEHS to notify anyone who was brave – or foolish – enough to think it was a go. Thanks to those who sat in the rain for hours.

The rain and cold didn't stop about 250 supporters from showing up at the American Legion Post 72 to enjoy the Gold Star chili generously donated by the Withamsville location. Keith and Carolyn Maupin were presented with a declaration signed by Governor Stickland declaring April 9 as Matt Maupin Day. We also had the pleasure to hear from a young man back from Iraq whose troops received a steady supply of care packages from the Maupins and the Yellow Ribbon Support Center.

At the Maupin's request the ride was rescheduled for May 12, 2007 to coincide

with the dedication of the Matt Maupin Pavilion at East Fork State Park.

Registration will begin at 10:15 and it will be kickstands up at 1:00.



While you're waiting for the ride to begin, find Pappy and shake his hand for putting this ride together not once, but twice in 5 weeks. We all need to recognize the work that goes into coordinating our runs.



Thanks for what will prove to be a great, safe run, Pappy!



Volunteer Corner

A lot of hands are going to be needed for the Morrow Run on June 23. Registration will be at Aces and Eights in Mason and the ride will end at River Time Canoes in Morrow.

The call for volunteers will go out at the May meeting.



Safety First!

Riding in a pack

Safety is the primary concern -- Each rider must ride his own bike. Don't let pack riding cause you to do something outside your abilities.

1. The Ride Captain/ Run Coordinator is in charge. He sets the route, he sets the pace and he sets the road guards. That does not mean he is a dictator and that the chapter membership cannot have input prior to the ride. But on the day of the ride he is in charge. Follow his lead. (There is a universal rule with no exceptions – **YOU CANNOT LEAD IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING.**

2. The most important person on the run is the “tail gunner.” He sees every thing in front of him and makes sure every one gets to the next location. When the tail gunner shows up, the leader knows every one has arrived. If there is a problem, the tail gunner has to deal with it: out of gas, need a tow, need a cell phone, etc. If the tail gunner has to break off and deal with a broken down bike, then the second bike to the end becomes the tail gunner. For that reason, it’s a good idea to have a couple of tail gunners. When the tail gunner gets to an intersection, he blows his horn, waves his arms or yells for the road guards to go ahead. The tail gunner is always the last bike. The road guards fall in ahead of the tail gunner. If you are acting as the tail gunner, you stay as the tail gunner until the next location. You don’t move up to the front just because you are bored or to go get a sandwich. Report to the next location and let the leader know every thing is okay, then break off to run your personal errands.

3. Road guards need to position themselves to block traffic and protect the pack. You want to be pointed in the direction you will need to go once the tail gunner shows up, but you also need to be visible to the traffic. If there is a curve or a hill, you need to position yourself in such a way that you will be visible to traffic approaching the curve or the hill yet still be within eye sight of the pack so you will be able to see the tail gunner. The Ride Captain / Run Coordinator

puts up the number of fingers that he thinks he needs to cover an intersection: 1, 2, 3 or 4. If the first and second bikes don’t stop and cover the intersection, then the third and fourth bikes should. If you have volunteered to be a road guard and an intersection is not being blocked, block it. It is not the first twenty bikes through the intersection that is the problem; it is the last twenty. If traffic is stopped at an intersection, guarding that intersection is no problem. The problem arises when there is no stopped traffic at an intersection and some car comes barreling towards the intersection thinking he has a green light not realizing that a pack of motorcycles is going through. Get their attention, make eye contact, wave your arms if need be. Don’t be shy, but be polite. We have no authority; we are just taking it.

4. The two most dangerous places for motorcycles are intersections and changing lanes. **YOU NEVER PASS ON A TURN.** If the pack is making a ninety degree turn at an intersection, let the person in front of you make their turn, then make yours. Some people go wide on a turn and some people cut the corner short. You have to give the rider in front of you room to make his turn (especially if it is someone you do not know).

By the same token, **WHEN CHANGING LANES, YOU DON’T PASS BIKES IN FRONT OF YOU.** You get over then back off and make room for the bikes in front of you to get over. If you get cut off by other traffic, you just have to make your own way over. You have to pay attention for potential lane changes when riding in a pack formation.

5. Staggered formation is the safest way to ride. That way you’ve got plenty of stopping room in front of you, but the pack is staying close together. You want to keep the pack together to get through intersections, but still keep a safe stopping distance between you

and the bike in front of you. Hold your line. If you have to switch from the left side of the lane to the right side of the lane or vice versa, let the guy behind you know of your intention. A hand signal is probably better in this instance. Remember the “slinky phenomenon” The pack spreads out when it first starts up. When leaving a location, go slow until the entire pack is in motion, then gradually come up to speed

6. The leader needs to signal his intentions well in advance of a lane change or a turn and especially when there’s a lane change and a turn.

(Thanks to Woodman for this very timely reminder.)

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*Gathering of Eagles Update – May, 2007
By: Bob “Trav” Camerino, GoE Liaison
Rolling Thunder® Chapter 9 OH*



May is here and the Gathering of Eagles is alive and well. In April we successfully countered Cindy Sheehan in Indiana and North Carolina and sent a strong message to the defeatist in this country that we will not let our service men and women down. The link between GoE and Rolling Thunder® national grows with each passing week, while state GoE captains are working with local RT members in bridging the cultural gap between riders and non riders.

Up coming GoE events:

Operation Recruiter Appreciation Day:

On Armed Forces Day **Saturday May 19, 2007** Eagles are asked to set up appreciation

demonstrations outside your hometown military recruiting offices. Activities may include signs and flags showing support or just stopping in with some cookies or pizza during lunch time.

[Editor’s note: If you want to make a sign to show support, a free download is available at PosteRazor.]

Our newsletter editor as already contacted the local offices and they are looking forward to our visits. Gail and I will be taking some baked goods and soft drinks to the locations on the west side of town and are asking for a few volunteers to help with the east side and the other tri-state locations.

Army Recruiters

COLERAIN
9369 Colerain Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45251
513 - 522-5914

CIN WESTERN HLS
4995 Glenway ave
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513 - 471-2769

FLORENCE
8001 connector drive
Suite d
Florence, KY 41042
859 - 371-1060

Marines Recruiters
9369 Colerain Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-245-9600

8210 Hamilton Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45231
513-931-3349

525 W 5th St, Suite 119
Covington, KY 41011
859-491-7350

Navy Recruiters
4995 Glenway Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-471-2364

8212 Hamilton Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45231
513-931-7740

17 Carothers Dr
Newport, KY 41071

Air Force Recruiters
9369 Colerain Ave
Colerain, OH 45251
513-741-8401

2 Crown Point, Ste 150
Cincinnati, OH 45241
513-772-5810

Coast Guard Recruiters
7255 Dixie Highway
Fairfield, OH 45014
513-942-3145

If anyone knows any young adult groups that would be interested in participating it would be a great show of support for our recruiters.

I do ask that all participants try to connect their shows of support with both the Gathering of Eagles and Rolling Thunder®. It's a nice way for our local recruiters to find out about our missions, and it will be the perfect excuse for you to share with them that others across our nation are conducting similar shows of support and appreciation

USCG Academy Graduation Protest:

The Gathering of Eagles has requested a permit for a rally to be held at the **Coast Guard Academy on May 23, 2007**, during their graduation ceremony.

This rally is being held to counter the left-wing, Communist group A.N.S.W.E.R. event being held on the same day.

The graduation of some of America's finest citizens from one of our most prestigious academies should not be marred by the vocal outrage of what is a minority in our country.

The Gathering of Eagles requests that all concerned parties make an effort to be at the Coast Guard Academy on May 23, 2007, at 8 AM to rally in support of our men and women who are graduating from this fine institution. It is requested that all interested people attend with signs showing their love of the men and women who serve and to our country that these men and women may have to give their lives in defense of. Signs are welcome with appropriate slogans to support our Coast Guard personnel and our nation.

Contact information:
GATHERING OF EAGLES, CT
CHAPTER
Jim Bancroft
860-516-8912

Gathering of Eagles II:

The next Gathering will be held on the **Mall in Washington, DC, on May 26th**. We are teaming with Rolling Thunder® to put on one of the biggest "Support the Troops" rally ever seen in this nation. We will join Rolling Thunder® on their stage at the Reflecting Pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday, May 26th, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

GI Film Festival:

Looking for something to do in D.C. after the GoE II rally is over?

Look no further.

The GI Film Festival (GIFF) is the first film festival in the nation to exclusively celebrate the successes and sacrifices of the American military through the medium of film. The three-day festival will be held on **May 26-28, 2007, Memorial Day Weekend, in Washington, DC, at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center**. The GIFF will present films from new and established international and domestic filmmakers that honor the heroic stories of the American Armed Forces and the worldwide struggle for freedom and liberty. Some of the films screened will be fan favorites. Others will be screened for the first time. All will in some way express the courage and selflessness of our fighting men and women and the value of their work.

The GI Film Festival is open to filmmakers of every experience level, from first-timers to veteran directors and producers. Prizes will be awarded to winners of three main categories: feature, documentary, and film shorts.

Sounds like a great time to me and a great way to honor our men and women in uniform

That's it for this month; I hope to see you in D.C.

Eagles up,

Trav

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Support is More Than Words

For many Americans, “supporting the troops” is an abstract concept, a broad statement referring to a vague obligation that is easily fulfilled with a \$2.99 magnetic ribbon from the corner gas station. Slap it on the back of your vehicle, and you’re an official troop supporter—whatever that is, and minus the decoder ring. It doesn’t require any kind of real commitment, no debate skills, no standing up and taking fire from your liberal neighbors. Above all, it doesn’t require you to see or hear anything that might disturb the relatively pleasant rat race that is life in America: going to the mall, talking on your cell phone while impatiently waiting for the light to change, or grilling steaks and hoisting a beer with friends.

This is not support.

A select few Americans truly understand what “supporting the troops” means—and most of them have paid for it themselves in some form or another. Behind the bumper stickers and patriotic shirts, past taking off your hat at the start of a baseball game or going to the Memorial Day parade, there is an ethos, a mentality, a code of conduct. Supporting the troops means understanding the incredible gift you were given, the beautiful ideal that was offered you on the flag-draped casket of a man who you will never meet—who chose to die for you.

It is more than complaining to the television during the news—it is holding your legislators responsible for foolish decisions and laws that tie the hands of the troops and cost lives.

It is more than parroting the words “Thanks for your service” to a veteran while trying not to look at the place where his arm or leg once was.

It is more than words. It is a *way of life*.

Supporting the troops means living your life in a manner that is worthy of their death. It means ensuring, every minute of every day, that the words you speak, the actions you take, the beliefs you hold, are ones that honor them and honor the freedom they have provided to you. It means carrying yourself proudly, ethically, and with purpose.

It means never backing down, never giving up, never quitting. It means taking the time to make a difference in someone's life—after all, did a soldier not make a difference in yours?

It means teaching your children that places like Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Bastogne are sacred, almost holy phrases that encompass all that we are and all that we **must** remain. It means *getting off your chair and doing your part*—whether that be reading to a double amputee fresh from the dusty hell of Iraq, packing granola bars into a box to be sent to the front, or just not ignoring those who are ignorant any longer. How many times have we all just sighed and rolled our eyes when we hear “I support the troops but not the war?”

Evil triumphs when good men do nothing...*or say nothing*.

Supporting the troops means loving your country enough to live for her, to be willing to do whatever, wherever, and for however long it takes to ensure that the Marines whose blood stained an enemy's bayonet at Belleau Wood died for something more than your next Starbucks latte. We owe them that.

At least.

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Special Thanks

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Special thanks to **Gold Star Chili** for their generous donation on April 14 at the Matt Maupin Scholarship lunch.

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Flags support for Iraq

We all know that the flags were requested and sent, but sometimes we miss the thanks from our troops.

From Steve in Iraq:

“...please know that the flags are coming in more than I ever expected and there will be a lot to hand over to our replacements when they get here...I want to thank you all for everything you have done.”

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Please support our supporters!!

Thanks to all who collect the donations.

One Person's Opinion

[Editors note: I'm taking the floor this month, because this has been on my mind quite a lot lately. There are a number of variations of this story, but they all have the same ending.]

Stone Soup

A weary traveler, in the depths of winter, came into a dark village. His feet were sore and his stomach was empty. He walked, door to door, with nothing but a single copper coin to his name, and asked the villagers if he could buy some of their food. At each door, a gaunt villager told him that they were starving, unable to spare even a morsel of their winter stores.

Finally, the young man sat down in the center of the square, aware of the eyes peeking at him from shuttered windows. He reached down, brushed some snow from a small rock beneath his feet, and lifted it. With a start, he leapt to his feet, looked up to the shuttered windows, cleared his throat and made an announcement.

"You silly, starving people! How can you hide behind your walls, desperate for food when you have perfectly good stones like this laying all around you?"

Does but one of the women here have a good kettle she can loan me? I promise enough stone soup to feed her whole family if she loans it to me for the day!"

The washerwoman had a kettle frozen behind her house, a large kettle last used for stew at Christmastime, too large to use for her family's meager meals and too small for laundry. She volunteered it, and the young man dragged it, full of snow, from the outdoor hearth it had occupied for a month to the center of the square. Villagers, bored in the dark winter, gathered around to help the man start a fire and melt the snow and ice in the pot. They were all convinced he was nuts, but helped him nonetheless. It was a sleepy village, and his obvious lunacy was worth a few cold feet to observe.

Once the snow had melted, he lifted the stone high for all of the villagers to see and plopped it into the pot. "Stewus blueus magic rock," he chanted, "give us soup within this crock!" He walked three times around the pot and took a spoon someone handed him and dipped it in. Ever the diligent cook, he tasted the water and its mild aftertaste of Christmas stew and shook his head. "It's bland," he told them, "If only I had a bit of salt."

The butcher told him he had salt sitting in his salting pot, the remnants of salting the midwinter's catch, which had run out the week before. It was brown and hardened into one lump, but he'd give it to the man for free.

The man took his offer gladly, and added the brown lump to the pot. He again took a sip. "The magic is working" he told his audience, and, indeed, there was a faint smell of food coming from the pot. He sipped the soup again, and made a face. "It's too sweet!" he said. "If only I had the

ends of some turnips, or some radishes to give it some bite!"

Two women looked about and then went into their houses, coming out with half-rotten vegetables. The man carefully cut the rotted parts away and added the vegetables, greens and all.

There was no mistaking that it smelled like food now. The man tasted the soup, and said "It's missing something" and handed the spoon to the brewman's wife, who nodded, then scurried into the closed tavern, returning with a small burlap bag of barley. As she dumped it in, the wife of the mayor objected. "You can't have barley in soup without parsnips!" she declared, and produced a bunch of limp, graying parsnips, which she handed to the man, who skinned them, chopped them and plopped them in.

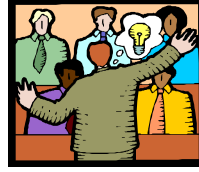
Another woman objected as well, adding a fat, dry onion to the broth, and another, and still another, each adding the small secret ingredient that made the soups they made at home "perfect."

Within an hour, the smell of the soup filled the square, and the people came from every crevice and corner with a bowl. The mayor of the town hailed the wanderer as their savior and put him up in his own house after he and the villagers had filled their bellies with delicious, if odd tasting stone soup.

Every day, no matter what where we work or how we spend our time, we're all always adding to the stone soup, because each of us can bring something that someone else can't.

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Suggestion Box



Ideas for articles? Suggestions?
Let me know! Gail54@fuse.net