

The welcome home parties were a great success!!



Jimi and Michael are again in Iraq. Please keep them in your thoughts.

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



June 2, 2007

VVA#97 4th Annual Poker Run June 2, 2007 (Rain Date June 23, 2007)
(Sponsored by Chapter 11)



June 2, 2007

Welcome Home in Eastgate
(Contact Swump for details)



Save the Dates!



June 2, 2007

Moving Wall escort meeting 12:30 at the Golden Corral Restaurant at Huston Road, Florence Kentucky
(Contact Spy for details)

June 23, 2007

Ohio Veterans River Run (Morrow Run)
(Contact Trav for details)

July 21, 2007

Veterans Awareness Ride
(Sponsored by Chapter 11)

August 21, 2007

Moving Wall Escort

September 15, 2007

Bravo Co. 2-5 reunion
(Details to come)

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
May 12, 2007

By Mike (Pappy) Sepi

As you know, the **Matt Maupin Scholarship Run** was originally scheduled for 14 April and due to bad weather, it was re-scheduled for 12 May, 2007. There were changes after change, weather, road closings, and a last minute decision (48 hours from the run) not to allow all the bikes to do a “Pass By” for the Matt Maupin Pavilion Dedication, which caused yet another route change. With that said, the

Matt Maupin run was a success; not due to the hard work of any one individual, but due to the hard work and dedication of an organization, various Law Enforcement Agencies, Booster Clubs, 4-H Clubs and the use of a County Fairground. Let us not forget the all the riders that made it possible as well. I would be remiss if I did not give a huge thank you to Trav, Gladiator, Patches, and P-Town for their help the day of the run.

Special thanks goes to the **CMA** for their help parking the bikes at the staging area.

The reaction from the community was quite positive. We received an e-mail from the spouse of a World War II Veteran who said her husband watched from his front porch as the parade of motorcycles passed by. She said he stood up and saluted as he was unable to hold back the tears. Another e-mail told the story of people getting out of their cars on Highway 32 as the traffic was stopped to allow the motorcycles to cross over, clapping and cheering as they saw the motorcycles and flags pass by.

There were over 400 riders and we raised a total of \$7,631.00; this included the money raised by the luncheon held at the American Legion Post 72 on 14 April. I look forward to next years run, making it even better than this year. With the success of this event, it is now time that we as a chapter, build from this and come together. It takes the efforts of all for an event to be successful.

Again, I thank all that helped make this a success.





Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are still needed for the festival at River Time Canoe after the Morrow run on June 23.

Volunteers are also needed for the clean up crew on Sunday, June 24.

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



It's June and time for my third GoE update. I have to say that Ohio is lagging in participants and I am looking for suggestions in mobilizing support.

Now for the news:

Operation Recruiter Appreciation Day:

On Armed Forces Day Saturday May 19, 2007 Eagles were asked to show support for our troops by stopping by our local military recruiting offices to let them know we appreciate what they are doing for us.

Gail and I stopped by the recruiting offices on Colerain and Ridge Avenues to deliver some of Gail's baked goods. Everyone we met with was receptive and thankful for our support and expressed interested in both GoE and Rolling Thunder®.

We left information about our Ohio Veterans River Run on June 23rd and hope to get some new riders.



Colerain Av. Marine Office - Left to right
New Recruit, Gail, SSgt. Ben W. Thornton



Colerain Av. Army Office - Left to right
Trav, Sgt First Class James L. Ford, Jr.



Ridge Av. Marine Office - Left to right
Gail, Sergeant Major Michael S. Kurtzweil

Note: the Navy and Air Force offices were closed for the day.

Gathering of Eagles II:

The GoE II was held in conjunction with Rolling Thunder® on the Mall in Washington, DC, on Saturday May 26th.

I have to say that it was not the event that GoE I was. It was hard to distinguish between the two events and while the numbers far exceeded the estimated 30,000 who attended in March, the atmosphere was no where near as emotionally charged. It is safe to say that without the Moonbats present it was hard for the organizers to get us excited. There is real nice slide show available at the following link that includes pictures of both events:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/335529@N25/pool/show/>

Up coming events:

Operation America Rising is a new group that is organizing a national event on July 7th. They are planning events in each State and are looking for help.

More information can be found at:

<http://operationamericarising.com/index.html>

The Ohio State Coordinator has asked if anyone would be interested in speaking at their event in Columbus. This would be a great opportunity to present the mission of Rolling Thunder® to a new audience. If anyone is interested please let me know.

That's it for this month.

Eagles up,

Trav

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Run for the Wall

By W.G. (Woodman) Claytor
Chairman Chapter 9 OH

Five Days in the Saddle

The weekend began with the POW flag raising at Loveland High School on Thursday morning. The ceremony was a huge success and was very well received by the seniors at the high school. We received a standing ovation when we walked up to the flagpole. The teacher who invited us, Dave Volkman, spoke quite eloquently on the meaning of Memorial Day. Spy spoke briefly on Rolling Thunder but Keith Maupin was the star of the show when he said "I tell you what I always told my boys whenever they competed at anything 'Do your best and when this is all over, we're going to get something to eat'".

The seniors were provided with Matt Maupin's picture and a flag pin provided by the chapter. Trav, Gail, Spy and Woodman were there to begin their ride to the wall. Shorty and Ditzzy were there, even though they could not make it to the wall this year. Tina was there even though her husband was home deathly ill. A special thanks goes out to former members Tiny and Special K who showed up to add their bikes to the presentation. There were a few folks in cages from the Gathering of Eagles who showed up as well. *(Editor's note: One of the cagers at the flag raising, Joe Luster [Bravo Co., 2-5] was awarded a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam. Thank you for all you did, Joe.)*

The American flag was lowered, the POW flag was attached and raised and the crowd said the pledge of allegiance. Trav, Gail, Spy and Woodman set off for the trip, but not before Trav gave the principal a ride once around the parking lot. She got on his bike in her high heels and her long dress

flapping in the breeze much to the delight of the crowd.

The ride was cool but pleasant to Clarksburg where Trav and Gail stayed for the night. Spy and Woodman went on to Hancock, remembering the hotel from the previous year. The next morning, it was on to the Dulles Hampton, where we met up with Chapter 11. Gladiator showed up at the Hampton Friday night, having made the trip in one day with a group that grew like a cancer as the day wore on. Friday night Chapter 11 cooked a chicken dinner on the grill and Saturday night they cooked a steak dinner. Both were delicious! Saturday was the mandatory trip to Thunder Alley and a visit to the wall.

Sunday morning it was kick stands up at 5:15 a.m. and we rode with Chapter 11 to the Pentagon, arriving at 6:10 a.m. The hotel had provided a sack breakfast to go, which was very nice to have. After six hours of parking bikes in the broiling heat, the parade kicked off at noon and it was as good as always. That twenty minutes makes the whole weekend worthwhile.

The plan was to get out of Dodge after the parade and hit the road. A hook up spot in Falls Church was picked in case we got separated. Spy and Woodman were back in Falls Church by 1:00 p.m. Gladiator, who is now known as "Circle Rider" rode around in a circle three times before the cops would finally let him out of town, only to send him in the wrong direction to Maryland. We finally hooked up at I-270 and I-495 and headed home. We made it to Morgantown on Sunday night and rode the rest of the way home on Monday, arriving by 1:30 p.m. We were exhausted after five days in the saddle but were extremely proud that we made it one more year without being trailer sissies.

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There and Back Again

By Gail (Brain) Camerino

The Run for the Wall is like the Grand Canyon; pictures don't do it justice.

As Woodman said above, Trav and I parted ways with him and Spy on Thursday in Clarksburg, WV. We had the good fortune to meet up with some **National Veterans Awareness Ride** participants who'd come from the west coast. They started in Sacramento on May 15 and made their way across the country, stopping to visit with veterans all along the way. For details of their ride, visit their website at www.nvra.us. We were invited to join them for dinner at the Clarksburg WV **VFW Post #573**, where we were met with a very warm welcome and enjoyed their rider appreciation ceremony.

Friday's highlight was dealing with DC area traffic. It quickly became apparent that the old phrase 'you can't get there from here' is true.

Saturday was Thunder Alley, a visit to the Wall and other memorials, and then on to an open house at the **American Legion Post 177** in Fairfax, VA. The food was great, the drinks were cold and the hospitality was fantastic.

On Sunday, we arrived at the Pentagon parking lot at 5:55 and felt like we were late. There were already hundreds of bikes!

Finding the person with the staff arm bands was like chasing smoke, but we finally got ours and jumped in with NJ Chapter 2 and started directing bikes. Parking large groups of bikes is like herding cats – it's almost

impossible. It was hot and miserable, but still 30 degrees cooler than it is in Iraq.



Trav and I spent Memorial Day at **Manassas** National Battlefield. After a walking tour of the First Manassas battle we attended a memorial service.

Representatives of the 14th Brooklyn (north) and 41st Virginia (south) rededicated the Confederate cemetery (over 250 unknown buried in a mass grave) and the Union memorial. It was a sobering reminder of the 618,000 Americans that lost their lives during our nation's greatest challenge.



I was surprised to learn that even before the Civil War ended, southern women were decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. Until 1967, this day of remembrance was called Decoration Day. Whether you're on your way home from DC next year or staying at home, please make some time for an observance on Memorial Day. Trav and

I are considering attending the memorial services and parade at Gettysburg next year.



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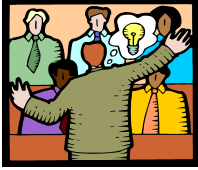
Hey! Where'd you get that handle?

(Editor's note: A number of people have asked me about the "Brain" part of my name, and that got me to thinking about the other nicknames people have. So I decided to find out. This month is the story behind Ptown.)

"When I was in the service, I was pegged with the moniker, Ptown Willy. This was because there were 7 guys named Bill in my company and because I graduated from Princeton High School (where a very unique dialect is spoken called Ptown). For some reason the name stuck. I must say it's better than Bill Douglas from Detroit who was pegged with 'Snufftown Willy' because of the high murder rate in his hometown. So as goofy as it sounds, when asked to give a nickname upon joining RT, it's the first thing that came to mind."

Thanks for the input, Ptown!

Suggestion Box



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