



# Vision Riders



**Chapter 1038**

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**November 2009**

## Local Chapter News

As the weather cools and there are less bikes on the road, we move from bike nights at local eateries to a bible study on Tuesdays. Although we did have a cool period during October, it warmed back up in early November, giving us more time to ride before the snow flies. I hope you took advantage of the nice weather.

At the last meeting, we gained more members, making the membership grow to around 45. We also held our first election since the chapter has been formed. The results of the election from the last meeting are:

- President: Richard Durham
- Vice President: Keith Morris
- Chaplin: Mitch Collings
- Secretary: Jamie Morris
- Road Captain: Jon Nesbitt
- Treasurer: Angie Watkins
- R.F.S. Secretary: Anita Durham

## Observations From Our Road Captain



## Learning Curves

The past three years have been amazing for our chapter. With just a small core group that met the criteria for a "forming chapter", to over forty ACTIVE members, God has blessed us tremendously.

So many miles were ridden and so many memories were made, it is no wonder we are such a close knit group of people. It seems that the more we do, the more we realize we could be doing. We have not only ridden, we have been effective witnesses when we rode. We are blessed with the presence of some our witnessing results within our chapter. We have had the opportunities to attend the baptism of some of our members and two weddings of our members. Praise God for these events.

But something I consider as one of the biggest blessings, is what we have learned about being an effective witness. Witnessing is not always easy by nature. We often think we need to feel comfortable to be an effective witness when sometimes the way we handle the situation is the witness. Our demeanor and response toward a particular situation is what earns the respect of the person we are trying to witness to. This is something that you learn by being out there among the masses.

We have learned that there are witnessing opportunities everywhere we go, whether we were on a ride, at a biker event, a car show or just a trip to Walmart, we have had many opportunities. Even though we may not recognize every opportunity, we are still a witness. We have all heard stories about one of our members being somewhere and a total stranger approaches them because they are wearing the CMA patch. God is great.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your willingness to be an active part of our ministry and the support you have given to the chapter. With the recent election of officers, I am sure we will all learn even more this next year. It will be up to each one of us to grow by what we learn. This is what makes life exciting, learning and growing, both as individuals and as a chapter.

May God bless each one of you  
Darrell Smith, Road Captain

## Youth Movement/Fast Lane



Hello everyone !

Again we had another slow month and the reason was my surgery on the ankles. I'm glad to say everything went well and I'm recovering just fine.

During my down time I have had plenty of time to just sit back and think. When I was a child, about the only thing there was to do was ride a bike. I'm talking about a real pedal type bike, the old Western Auto brand that was called a Western Flyer. I know most of you know what I'm talking about; you're not that young, well maybe some of you are but very few. ☺

Anyway I would get on my bike and just ride trying to find something to do or better said, something to get into. I lived in a small town and there was just not much to do for a kid my age, but man, hasn't that changed? I wish there had been something like Youth Movement around then.

I'm so glad our YM is growing and I hope it continues, if it be God's will. We have some outstanding young men in our YM that attend church on a regular basis and do it because they want to, not because they are pushed.

At our last chapter meeting we talked about the chapter funding a trip to Hatfield Arkansas, at the last of the year for a youth rally. Before it was voted on one of our newer members that really hasn't

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been around any of the boys yet made a very important point. That was, what do these young men do to earn money for any of these trips—or do we just pay their way?

Some people may have taken that the wrong way but I thought it was a very good point to be brought out. As most of you know, we as a chapter are very blessed to have a group of youth that will help us do anything they can to help anyone out and enjoy themselves while doing it. Again, we as adults need to make sure the youth earn their keep, so to say, because as they grow into young adults it just keeps getting harder and harder.

I feel very blessed to be able to work with the youth and pray I might be an influence for the next kid riding around on their bike trying to find something to do or get into.

To God be the glory,  
Tommy

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Joe Jolly: 11/8  
Delores Mack: 11/13  
Zack Bowen: 11/16  
Harry Mack: 11/17  
Herbie Goff: 11/28  
Shane Moore: 11/28

### **Coming Up In December:**

Vann & Valerie Lantz: 12/12  
Tommy & Angie Watkins: 12/31



I write this article reflecting on this past riding season and how at the end of last year we discussed how our 20 or so members and done over 20 events as well as many bike nights. We talked about how in 2009 we would probably cut back on the number of activities we would participate in so no one would get burned out.

Well, God had other plans for our chapter. This year our membership has doubled to over 40, we participated in 50+ events and the year is not over yet. We added a third bike night to the weekly schedule, and amazingly no one seems the worse for it.

We have begun our off season ministry study on Tuesday evenings. Pray we can live a life that is the imitation of Jesus as we study on how to make Him famous.

We need to take time to reflect on what God has done for us, how blessed we are. Our chapter began by saying everything we did was for it to be all about Him. I believe with all my heart that this is

what has drawn people to us, to be of service to Him, and to give only Him the glory for whatever happens.

I'm thankful to God for each and every one of you and the various talents and ways of ministry you bring to this chapter, and for the mission you have chosen to be a part of.

I hope and pray that as we sit down this month to observe Thanksgiving day that we remember to thank Him for each other and His love that flows through us. Remember, thanks be to God for by His hand are we led.

Oh, one more thing: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Dan Hayes

### **From Our VP**



### **Transitions**

We experience a lot of transitions in our lives. Some are major and only happen rarely. Some are reoccurring and have to be dealt with each time.

It seems like I have been paying more attention to the different transitions of life over the last year or two. I have a new granddaughter, have passed the big "5-0" and my body is not the indestructible machine I once thought it once was. I certainly look at things a bit different now than I did in my younger years. You can say it is wisdom, experience or as some would think, the onset of senility.

What I have learned is that transitions and changes are inevitable. That nothing stays the same. Our job as Christians to embrace the transitions and use our resources to get the job done we are here to do.

As we move from the riding season to the off-season, it does not mean that we can no longer be a witness to the biking community world. Yeah we might not be on as many rides, or bless as many bikes, but we can continue to be a beacon and a light for others.

We can continue our fellowship and improve our skills by attending our weekly study sessions. Use these opportunities to become stronger in our witness and to look at different ways today's society requires us to witness. We also need to use the down season to visit more churches and groups to make presentations or to provide information about who we are and what we do. The winter season is also a great time for planning out events both old and new that are coming up in the riding season.

Our chapter is also going through transitions. We recently had our first election and there will be a pretty new slate of people who are entrusted with the leadership of the chapter. Some things may be different. Not better, not worse, just different. Another transition we have seen as a chapter is that we are moving from a small group dynamic, to a larger group. At one time communications and

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decision-making were easy. A couple of phone calls and things were taken care of. As we grow into a larger group, things become a bit more complicated. Not worse though. Now we have a lot more resources and skills in our group to accomplish even more than we have in the past. Many chapters have trouble with changes and transitions. Praises to God for our chapter's unity and willingness to serve.

Our society has also gone through major transitions. No longer do we live in the same society our parents did. A society where church was a lot more important to people. Today's society is a lot less focused on the church. The good part though is that most people are still seeking spiritual guidance. The bad part is that they want to make it up as they go. We can no longer witness as it was done in the past. Today we have to show the unchurched that we Christians do have something that the rest of society lacks. We have to embrace those who have fallen or have no knowledge of our Lord and Savior. CMA recognized years ago that the "church" was overlooking the biking community and had written them off so to speak. We have to get out of the church building and actively reach out to others. We can't sit in the pews and expect them to come to us.

Another word for transitions is change. A lot of people fear change and have the "that's the way we have always done it" attitude. As a Christian, as a church, and as a chapter we have to face the changes, work with them and continue in the work of our Lord.

In this way we can "change the world, one heart at a time". The decision on how to deal with transitions is up to you.

Richard

### Chaplin's Corner



#### All Is One

While searching for an inspiring devotional to shake your souls and hearts, one struck me. I was reading thru my emails and from other conversations about recent events in the last few weeks. When our chapter was first formed, there was only a handful of us but we were a devoted group. We tried to make a strong presence of Jesus Christ whenever we rode out in force (all 5 or 6 of us). If there were more than 1 ride going on we usually tried to all ride together as one group or at the most maybe we could do different rides, and on some of those rides we were the largest ride in group. I had never imagined that our chapter would grow with so many devoted and faithful members, that would allow us to attend several functions in one day. The weekend of the bike show, wedding, and the 2 different toy runs is just an example, and it just wasn't 1 rider here and there, we were EVERYWHERE, witnessing to others thru Jesus Christ.

There were times in the Old Testament that the numbers of the Israelites were too many and God told the leaders to take just few and were successful in their endeavors. This only showed that a

nation empowered by faith can do wonders but it also a testimony to what God can do when we have that faith.

Such is our chapter. We have grown not only in numbers but also in faith and love. We are able to split off into different directions (or events) knowing that through our faith God will take care of us. In 1 Corinthians 12:20-27, Peter is telling the church how to hang tough through difficult times. In verse 20 he states "But now are they many members, but yet one body." Verses 21-24 goes on to say that no one part of the body is more important than the others. It says that even the feeblest parts and the uncomely parts are just as important to the body. All the parts are need for the body to function properly, just ask Tommy or Theresa for an example, or even Bigguns toe. Verse 25 and 26 state, "that there should be no schism in the body: but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or if one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." Such I believe is our chapter. Through the Grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ thru faith, our little group has grown not only in members but also in love and willingness to witness to others in Christ's name. And as we function together then the verse 27 rings true "Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular."

Thanks for allowing me to a humble member of such a blessed and wonderful chapter, and may God heap blessings unto you all as you continue to do his work. Your friend and chaplain, Mitch

Congrats to the newlyweds Joe and Rhonda, my prayers are out there for you, especially Rhonda, she's going to need some help. Just kidding, you two will be great., but I am wondering if Biggun is hanging up his leathers for an apron?

Mitch Collings, Chaplain

### Upcoming Events

**Tuesdays @ 6 pm ET:** Bible study at the Hayes' home. The meal begins at 6 and the study starts a 7.

**December 10 @ 6 pm ET:** Christmas party & meeting at the Saloma Baptist Church.

### Prayer Requests

*Theresa Collings:* Pray for her continued recovery.

*Our chapter:* Pray for the new officers elected. Ask the Lord to provide them with the wisdom needed to perform their leadership tasks.



A wheelchair didn't stop Tommy from making the last ride.

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## From the C.M.A. Handbook: C.M.A. Applications

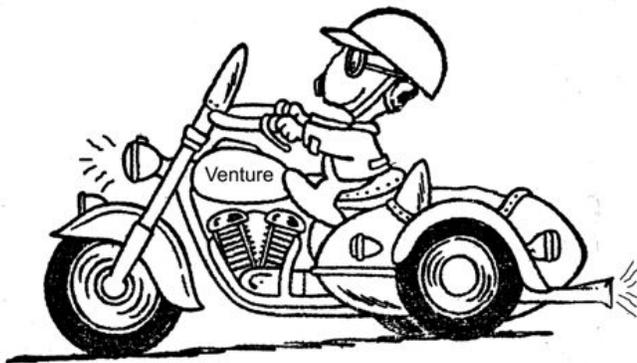
CMA's membership is open to any born-again Christian who agrees with the doctrinal statement of CMA as stated on page I:1. When witnessing, pass out tracts, not applications. If a person professing to be a Christian asks about membership, explain that CMA is a ministry, not a club, and if possible provide them with a CMA Information Brochure. This brochure provides key information on several aspects of the ministry. If they are still interested, then give them an application. These are available through the Toolbox section of the *HeartBeat* or online at [shop.cmausa.org](http://shop.cmausa.org). Please do not reprint or duplicate the applications – only original versions of applications are accepted.

### Tech Tips



From Tommy Watkins:

With the cold weather returning soon and your riding slows down, keep your fuel tank full of gas and add some Stabil. Run the engine long enough to get the mixture into the hoses and floats, for those of you that have carbureted bikes. This will prevent moisture build up that comes with the temperature changes. Water doesn't do an engine any good unless it is in the cooling system.



How observant are you? If you are a Vision Riders member and can spot the basic error depicted in this cartoon, send an e-mail to the editor at the address listed elsewhere in this issue. There is no prize except the first person to get it right will have their name mentioned in the next issue.



Dad! Can I get this one?



Shane with some of our youth group at the 14 Nov. ride.

### What's your favorite Bible verse?

I'll publish a favorite verse of a Vision Rider member that is not a regular contributor to the newsletter each month. Send me your favorite verse from any English translation (Greek fonts don't work too well on my computer) and you can share it with everyone that reads the newsletter. I'll get it started with mine: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28 NIV)

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