



Vision Riders

Riders



Chapter 1038

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Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD. Lev. 19:32 (NIV)

Local Chapter Happenings

What a great time your editor had on the 21st. For those of you that missed it, you missed a good one. We had a bike show for the residents of The Grandview rest home. This gave the folks there a chance to have some excitement in their otherwise boring lives. They had an opportunity to get outside and view the bikes brought there for them to see. They also had an opportunity to get a bike ride. Their ride was in the sidecar, but that is exciting enough for them. It also gave your editor a chance to ride his bike when he couldn't do it otherwise.

The seniors got to go around the parking lot in first gear. Some of them had music from my tape player to move to while they rode. You could see the excitement on their faces and on the faces of those that were watching them. Many of them waved and put their hands in the air as we rode. As with most cases of giving, whether it is money or something else, if it is for the Lord, the giver is just as blessed, if not more, than the one receiving the gift. I wrote a longer article about this experience and will submit it to the CMA Heartbeat. Of course, it is up to them if it gets published. If it does get published, our chapter will get some national attention. Give it several months before we hear anything. I will send out an email notifying all if it gets published or not.



Who is having more fun here?

Elsewhere in this issue is a belated, but still interesting, article by Tommy Watkins about a trip he and others went on in July.

We also had some members attend the State Rally; they reported that attendance was poor.



Mitch at the Harley Drags. Photo by Theresa

Officer Listing for 2014

Keith Morris, President:

keithmorris1022@yahoo.com, 270-465-3822

Dan Hayes, VP: dnlhayes@windstream.net,
270-403-4380

Harry Mack, Secretary & Newsletter Editor:
wa3ugw@hotmail.com,
270-469-1279

Jamie Morris, Treasurer:
kkydispatcher@windstream.net, 270-465-3822



Mitch Collings, Chaplin:

mhcollings@yahoo.com, 270-405-1163

Tommy Cundiff, Road Captain:
tommyandchris@windstream.net,
270-769-8462

R.F.S. Secretary: Linda Hayes
linda224@windstream.net

Mileage Award for August

Mitch got the mileage award for August with 4585 miles. Going to Sturgis helps a lot!



Photo by Ron Mardis

Our July Trip

By Tommy Watkins

Well July 18th we started out on a Friday morning from the 5 Star in Campbellsville with 8 bikes and got about fifty yards before we lost 2 of them! Tommy C. had two friends from Radcliff that were going with us. After almost 2 hours of trying everything, we could not get his bike to crank; we went on while they had to go back and make repairs. After a trip to the bike shop and \$400 later, they were back on the road. By the time they got it repaired they decided to go west to St. Louis on their trip and stayed dry!

We finally rolled out and made it as far as Columbia before the first pit stop to change into something more comfortable, rain gear! Then we went on to Somerset for a late breakfast at Cracker Barrel. When we pulled into the parking lot I looked over at Ron and his rain pants looked like a 70's disco star; they were in ripped all over! We filled our bellies then fueled the bikes and headed down dry roads at that time. We made it about 50 miles thru the twisty roads of highway 27 before hitting light rain again. When we hit I-40 it started really pouring down, then lightened up as we rolled into Maryville, TN. When we finally rolled into our destination (Dragon Pitt Inn & BBQ), I think most of us were ready for a break from the wet riding. We got our rooms, ate some good smoked barbeque and 4 of us hit the "wet" Dragon. The good thing about it is when it's wet the traffic is slim. We soon made our way back to the Pitt and kicked back for a while in the peaceful outside and just relaxed, before calling it a night.

Saturday morning, yep! It was wet again! A steady rain was falling, but still it was so peaceful and quite. We had been watching the radar to see when a break in the rain was coming. It didn't really look very promising. After a good breakfast at the Pitt we suited up and headed out to hit the wet dragon once more. After making it about half way thru the Tail of the Dragon, we came up on an accident that had just happened. A Mazda Miada had Toyota Tundra with a bass

boat in tow that was parked on top of it. Ouch! Yeah, it left a mark! The best way to say it would be: "Somebody zigged when they should've zagged." It was a good thing was no one was hurt other than some nice vehicles were damaged. But it sure did mess up that guys fishing trip! After a brief stay at Deal's Gap Resort, Tommy C took us on about a 80 mile journey thru the mountains to Maggie Valley to see the Wheels Through Time Museum, an awesome place and a sack full of history. After that, Tommy C took us across the **very foggy** Smokey Mountains into Gatlinburg and we went to The Peddler for supper. It's a dang good place to eat and they have some good yeast rolls too! They were good enough that I went over and stole Dan's, Ron's and Mitch's rolls from their table. They had put us at two different tables; they knew it would be impossible to handle us all at one table! We went in hungry and came out stuffed! We left there and headed to Pigeon Forge; while going down the main drag Dan took us on a short cut, so he said! Here we were, riding around in empty parking lots trying to find a way out! You just had to be there to understand. We made a stop at a station for a restroom break and my phone started ringing, it was Keith Bricken from Campbellsville; he had ridden all the way from Michigan straight thru and was just 10 miles away from us in Sevierville, so we waited for him. It was getting late we so headed back to the Pitt thru Townsend and the Foothills Parkway. When we went thru the Foothills Parkway it was pitch dark. We stopped at one of those overlooks and one could see all of the lights of Maryville and Knoxville for many miles away. It was just "slap dab" pretty! When we stopped there it was so quite and peaceful we could have taken a nap. Keith Bricken said we ain't taken a nap; let's go I'm hungry. I haven't eaten all day. So if you know, Shane and I brought some of those rolls with us from the Peddler, so that held him over. He started eating like a starving coonhound! We made it back to the Pitt and helped Keith get unpacked and a bed fixed and we just kicked back by the fire for a while before turning in around midnight.

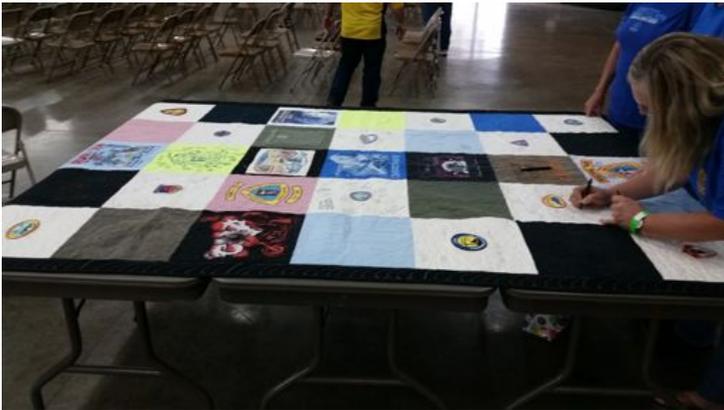
It's now early Sunday morning and guess what? It's raining! We went outside and, man it felt awesome! Ron and Mitch were sitting outside talking; I walked up whistling and said: "man ain't this a nice morning?" Ron says in his **deep** voice "You are way too chipper this morning." I don't think he is the morning person that I am. Ha Ha! Anyway, after we finally got Shane, 'Rip Van Winkle' up, we loaded up and headed out in the dry. We made a stop at Shoney's for a buffet breakfast then headed home. Well, we figured it would happen; we had to get wet one more time and it did at Oak Ridge, TN for another 7 or 8 miles. Then, that was it, dry roads the rest of the way home. Many more stories could be told about the weekend but this story is already long enough! It was a dang good-awesome weekend with some good ole Christian friends!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September	Doris Moore	Sept. 11
	Darrell Smith	Sept. 18
	Keith & Jamie Morris	Sept. 14
October	Keith Morris	Oct. 22
	Jamie Morris	Oct. 31
	Mitch & Theresa Collings	Oct. 23



Here's Tommy Watkins trying to get close enough during the games at the State Rally. Photo by Ron Mardis.



Here is the quilt at the State Rally. You can see our chapter logo on the end. Photo by Tommy Watkins.

Mitch & Theresa's Activities

Mitch and I got to participate on one ride during the month of Sept. We did the KY State Police fundraising ride for Trooper Island. The state police really know the back roads in KY. There were some sections that none of us knew where we were at. We started out in Columbia and after an hour and a half of riding we made our first stop, and found out we were only 5 minutes out of Columbia! We all said we felt like celebrities because we had a state police escort in front and

back of the pack during the entire ride and they did all of the road blocking.



State Police ride. Photo by Mitch and Theresa

Last weekend, our chapter was the host chapter of the Fall Harley Drags. Keith and Mitch went down the Sunday before and set up our campsite. I went down Thursday night and worked with them the rest of the weekend. Mitch conducted the Sunday morning service with the help of Jimmy Gray leading us in song. I want to send out a big thank you to our area reps Rod and Rochelle, Vette City disciples, and Riders of the Word, for all of their help. We couldn't have done it without you. We ministered to a great number of people and you wonder if you're making a difference, but campers were thanking us all weekend for what we do. I got to minister to an atheist. His sister brought him over to get coffee and he said to her please don't tell me you're taking me over here to these Christian people. They sat and talked to me for quite awhile and before they left, he was smiling and glad that she brought him over. One woman told me that our presence made some of them feel very safe and kept them grounded. If you have never worked the Drags before I encourage you to give it a try. It's truly a blessing.

Always his servant,
Theresa Collings



Vision Riders campsite at Harley Drags. Photo by Mitch & Theresa.

C.M.A. Contact Information:

Area Representative, Rod Hoffman: acdwrench@aol.com, 270-563-9983

Area Representative, Chris Wallace: baldpaw@gmail.com, 270-382-2688

State Coord. James Collins: getrealjim@juno.com, 270-382-2688



Regional Evangelist, Rick Steffy: rick@cmausa.org

CMA Hq.: www.cmausa.org, 870-389-6196

What does it take to survive and thrive in ministry?

By Dan Hayes

Why is this question important? Because many things point to the fact that staying in ministry for the long haul can be tough going. There are a few areas that we need to look at:

1. Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth involves both growing as a person and as a follower of Jesus. Most people assume people involved in ministry take ample time to nurture the gospel in their souls, and maintain accountable relationships with other followers of Jesus. But in truth how many of us try to manage jobs that are trying, fast-paced, and ultra-demanding? Could it be that this will lead to substituting church work for increasing in spiritual growth? Could it be that our devotional practices directly relate to our ability to face difficult situations and trials?

2. Self-Care

Proper self-care is responsible stewardship of the life we have to serve others—could be what Paul meant by running the race in such a way as to win the prize. This includes taking

care of ourselves mentally, emotionally, socially and physically. An area of self-care in ministry is being able to identify safe, trustworthy relationships. As one pastor put it, “Whom can I talk to without any fear of how it might affect me or others?”

3. Emotional and Cultural Intelligence

Emotional and cultural intelligence reflects the ability to understand oneself and others. This reflects EQ (understanding and responding to emotion) and CQ (the ability to understand and adapt to cultural conditions). How do we respond to crisis with thoughtfulness and action or with callousness and judgment? Our capacity to manage our feelings and responses in such challenging contexts shapes and forms our ministries as well as the message we send to a watching world.

4. Marriage and Family

There can be a tendency among members to make an idol of ministry success. Many of the members will end up talking about the need to place boundaries on the demands of ministry in order to responsibly care for their families. As one pastor said, “I’m challenged to minister to my spouse in the same ways that I minister to my flock. My family gets the scraps.”

5. Leadership and Management

Servant ministry demands a wide variety of varying job responsibilities. However, studies dating back to the 1950s show the number of leadership and management tasks involved in ministry. One of the most important things we must learn under this area is to manage conflict. While conflict fits into leadership and management, it involves all of the other areas. Remember research shows a direct correlation between devotional lives and how we handled difficulties. Conflict is natural and normal in relationships. How that conflict is handled makes all the difference.

Where do we go with all of this information? I’d recommend beginning a conversation with a friend or two. Talk about how these areas affect you. And what you plan to do about it.



Here is Trooper Island. Photo by Mitch & Theresa