

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

July 14, 2007

22 of 73 members were in attendance

Chapter President Howard “Weebles” Bushnell called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

Howard led the group with the Rolling Thunder Prayer from IL Ch 2.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Visitors present were Tom Lonze, founding member and former President of Illinois Chapter 2 and George Padilla from the AT&T Pioneers. Also in attendance was “Harley Steve” Pletski from the Lisle VFW Post. Steve, a former RT IL CH. 1 member, re-joined after the meeting.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard spoke about ad sales for the Big Thunder Run program. There are only two meetings left before the BTR. Ad prices will be available at the next meeting.

Our chapter has several POW/MIA activities occurring the next couple months. On July 21 there is Operation Support Our Troops with the Lt. Dan Band at Cantigny and on July 28 there is motorcycle run & concert supporting injured U.S. troops. Then on Sept. 14 & 15 there is the National POW/MIA Remembrance Day activities at Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, IL. This last event will include IA Ch. 2, WI Ch. 1, and IL Ch. 1 featuring the Remembrance Table. Also scheduled to be there are the Patriot Guard, American Legion Riders, and the Rock Island Honor Guard. An event lodging rate has been negotiated to \$ at Jumer’s Castle Lodge in Bettendorf, IA.

Cutter is unable to participate and head up the Remembrance Table for the time being. Richy “Fr. Guido,” Zayat has stepped up to lead our Remembrance Table activities in the interim.

Vice-President - John “Cupcake” Sedlacek John had nothing to report.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek We have \$ on hand in the treasury. Wildfire was given a check for \$ as the first payment on the bike being raffled at the BTR.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.

The Board has decided to order some Iraq/Afghanistan patches created by IN Ch. 5. These patches are intended to recognize the recent veterans, honor their efforts and hopefully interest them in Rolling Thunder. Our cost on these patches is \$ each and IN #5 is asking that we sell them for \$ each as a fund raiser for our Chapter. Their recommended placement of the patch on the vest is just below the RT rocker and eagle.

This Sunday, July 15th, is the Ride for Kids, an effort we at Chapter 1 have supported for years. See all the info and directions at www.rideforkids.org . Members making donations should mention Rolling Thunder as group affiliation is tallied. A motion to make a donation to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation was made and passed. The donation amount is \$ per member.

Old Business and New Business

Ozzie is leaving for Iraq on August 3. A spontaneous and sincere round of applause erupted in appreciation and in thanks to Ozzie. Snipe made a motion that we adopt Ozzie and his group to make sure they get everything they need. The motion was passed unanimously.

Snipe reported on BTR bike raffle ticket sales to date: 897 tickets are unassigned, 1173 assigned. \$ has been paid on the bike. Upcoming sales opportunities are a booth on July 14 at Ozzie's City Limits Harley Davidson in Palatine and at the July 28 concert and bike run at Zylstra's in St. Charles.

"Rock Hard" Dominic Ruggerio is leading our POW/MIA informational and awareness booth efforts at the Operation Support Our Troops Lt. Dan concert at Cantigny on July 21st. Our IL Chap1 will have a booth at this event. Booth set up is after 8am. We have to pay for our own parking and pay for our own concert tickets (concert is \$/person). Last year 8,000 to 10,000 people showed up, 20,000 are expected this year. Dom needs booth volunteers from early afternoon thru end of the event. The purpose of this booth is POW/MIA publicity and awareness, one of Rolling Thunder's primary functions. We are not allowed to sell bike raffle tickets at the booth. We are not allowed to display the bike. The concerts begin at 5 pm and the Lt. Dan Band performs at 8 pm. Additionally Dom is seeking volunteers to assist with offsite parking in Wheaton and Warrenville. Eight volunteers are needed starting at 4 pm for the duration of the event. Bring your own flashlight. Contact Dom to sign up or get further details.

Snipe inquired about volunteers to staff a booth at City Limits Harley on July 14 during their sales event. No one at the meeting was available. We have a standing offer from Ozzie to have a booth at either dealership during any of their events. Remember, the bike is already at Wildfire. All we need are a couple volunteers.

Skippy and George Padilla of AT&T talked about the motorcycle run & concert supporting injured U.S. troops on July 28th. Illinois Ch. 1 is an integral part to this event culminating with our info and BTR raffle sales booth at Zylstra's.

<http://www.zylstrahd.com/supportustroops> There will be two starting points for this run. The northern start from Island Lake will be led by Illinois Ch. 2. The southern group led by Illinois Ch. 1 will start from Morris. Tom Dertz and Wolfman will lead the southern contingent to Zylstra's in St. Charles. Tom and Wolf have completed a trail run. Snipe and others will be doing another dry run on July 14 ending at George's house for hot dogs, brats and beer. George said a

number of Hines vets will also be attending the concert at Zylstra's. George said the Pioneers have 2500 volunteers in their local chapter. We will be performing the Remembrance Table at the event.

“Harley Steve” Pletzke, (a current member of Ch. 1), spoke about the Traveling Wall visit to Lisle on Labor Day weekend. We, as a chapter, have committed to escort the wall from Heritage Harley to downtown Lisle tentatively at 2pm on Wednesday Sept 5th and to perform the Remembrance Table on Saturday Sept. 8th. The Wall visit is being sponsored by the Ross Bishop VFW Post 5696 in Lisle. The visit is called the Cost of Freedom and full details can be seen at <http://www.avtt.org/index.htm> The event is receiving much local interest and municipal participation. A sign up sheet was available. Contact Steve at bowhunter1962@sbcglobal.net

Weebles reminded us that Chapter elections are held in September. Nominations can be made tonight, in August and at the September meeting prior to the election. Expiring terms are the President and Secretary. Expiring Board terms are LT, Peabody and Cutter. Nominations accepted during the meeting are:

President: John “Cupcake” Sedlacek
Doug “Skippy” Mahar
Secretary: Bill Houghtaling
Board Members: Mike Morias
Mario Giovannini
Jim “Snipe” Murray
Tom Dertz

A motion to adjourn was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
billhoteling@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in **Bold**)

- July 15 Ride for Kids,
<http://www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2007/chicagoland07.html>
- July 22 Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Golf Outing,
www.helpaveteran.org
- July 28 Gary Sinise, Zylstra HD in St. Charles, Remembrance Table Ceremony
<http://www.zylstrahd.com/SupportUSTroops/>
- Aug. 19 IL Chap 1 Remembrance Table at Glendale Heights VFW
- Aug. 25 Hog Night, Plainfield
- Sept. 5 Moving Wall, Lisle VFW, RT Escort , 2 pm
<http://www.avtt.org/index.htm>
- Sept. 9 Moving Wall, Lisle VFW, Remembrance Table,
<http://www.avtt.org/index.htm>
- Sept. 15, 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day at Rock Island Arsenal
http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/pow_rec_day_00.htm
- Sept. 23 Fox Valley HOG, Ovarian Cancer Run,
<http://www.fvhog.com>
- Oct. 7 Big Thunder Run
<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com>
- Oct. 14 Never Forget Thunder Run,
<http://rollingthunderilch2.org>