

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

April 3, 2008

22 of 79 members were in attendance

Chapter President Doug "Skippy" Mahar called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Jason "LT" of Glen Ellyn celebrated his birthday by attending our April meeting.

### President - Doug "Skippy" Mahar

Those planning to attend Rolling Thunder XXI in Washington, DC are encouraged to contact Doug for any information needed for routes, lodging or attending the event. RT National seems better organized for the event this year as they have provided detailed row parking layout for the Pentagon north lot. See the National website for the agenda and further information. In past years, IL Chap 1 has primarily stayed at the Best Western Falls Church which is about 5 miles south of DC on Hwy. 50.

The Warrenville VFW is hosting a VFW Loyalty Day at the Post on May 3 at 2pm. Our Chapter will be attending to show our support (as they donate their hall and support us). The post will provide food so a headcount is needed. A sign up sheet was passed around so we can notify the VFW of the number of members attending. Contact Doug if you plan to attend. 73% of the members attending the meeting signed the sign up sheet.

RT National is raffling a motorcycle at Rolling Thunder XXI. <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/> Our Chapter has received a book of 50 tickets to sell locally. So please buy a ticket to support National and our Chapter. Our treasury will be buying the balance of unsold tickets. We receive a \$1 for every ticket we sell.

Doug had a chance to talk to Artie Muller and asked about the Patriot Guard. The situation with RT National remains the same. Some local factions of PGR have formed as a MC separately from the national PGR. Do not combine Rolling Thunder and Patriot Guard Rider on the same vest.

A Veterans Benefit Fair will be held at the College of DuPage on April 16 & 17. Please inform any veteran you know who is interested in veteran benefit services.

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans will be holding an event August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Batavia VFW. They have asked if we want to get involved or maybe do a poker a run. Discussion evolved as to how we can help. Should we do a POW/MIA display? A poker run would probably cut into our Big Thunder Run 8 weeks later. A pig roast was suggested and liked by many at the meeting.

Doug mentioned Weebles is currently working on Corporate Sponsorships. Additionally, Rolling Thunder Charities (as discussed several months ago) is up and running. Literature is not available yet. This charity is designed to accept fully tax deductible donations. Contact Doug or Weebles for further information.

**Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek**

John was unable to attend the meeting.

**Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek** Kriss was unable to attend the meeting. Johnny has been sick and members are asked to keep Johnny in their thoughts and prayers.

**Secretary - Bill Houghtaling**

This is last call for 2008 dues. February was the renewal month. I will shortly be sending a current roster and a check for memberships to Rolling Thunder National. Next month we will be seeking patches from members not renewing.

Thank you letters were received for our \$ donation to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and for our March 9<sup>th</sup> visit to Hines Hospital.

Al Preseren was awarded his rocker and eagle. Congratulations to Al.

## **Old Business**

Wolfman is having a birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business**

There will be a BTR raffle ticket sales incentive this year:

\$ to the person who sells the most tickets

\$ to the person who sells the winning ticket.

Rolling Thunder National has a policy not charging active military members current membership dues (they do however require the chapter pay that member's dues). Our chapter has a long standing policy of not charging active duty members annual dues. Additionally the board has voted to pay the membership dues for members who have attained retired military status. The cost

to the Chapter for this is \$ per retired military member. When a chapter member pays their \$ dues \$ is retained by the Chapter and \$ is forwarded on to National.

Doug heard from Ozzie via email. Ozzie is alive and well in Afganistan and apologized about not being here to pay his dues on time. Ozzie will be back for Big Thunder Run in October. It was voted that Ozzie would be the Grand Marshal of the BTR.

Harley Steve received a request from the Village of Lisle asking the Rolling Thunder join them in their Memorial Day Parade. A sign up sheet was passed around. Contact Steve if you are interested. IL Chap 2 will also be invited to ride along with us.

Tina Foulkes, our Purple Heart vet from last years Wall Escort in Lisle, is hospitalized at Ft. Hood, Texas. We are sending flowers. Yours thoughts and prayers are requested.

Harley Steve told us about a blind vet he met during the March 9 visit to Hines Hospital. This gentleman is 87 and looking for someone to help publish his book about being in the OSS in Oman, Algeria at the beginning of WW2 and the northern Africa campaign. Steve has a copy of the manuscript and it has been a great honor to help him.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary  
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1  
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**Upcoming Events:** (Chapter events in **Bold**)  
**May 3** Warrenville VFW Loyalty Day, Saturday, 2pm  
**May 25** Lisle Memorial Day Parade  
June 1 Moose Ride, Mooseheart,  
<http://batavia.mooserider.com/genedavis.pdf>  
Aug. 3 Midwest Homeless Shelter at Batavia VFW,  
<http://www.helpaveteran.org/>  
Oct. 5 Big Thunder Run