

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

**May 7, 2008**

27 of 64 members were in attendance

Chapter President Doug “Skippy” Mahar was out of town on business. The meeting was conducted by our Vice-President John Sedlacek. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Jason Ledbetter, son of Ralph, was present at the meeting and later joined our Chapter. Jason, who is home on leave from Iraq, was the guest of honor at our welcome home ride two weeks ago.

### **President - Doug “Skippy” Mahar**

Out of town on business.

### **Vice-President - John “Cupcake” Sedlacek**

“Harley Steve” Pletzke was introduced and welcomed as our new Chairman of the Board for Illinois Chapter One. Our former CoB Mike Morias moved out of town. The board considered possible candidates and selected Steve as our new CoB. Steve graciously accepted the position and we are pleased to have him on the Board.

Raffle tickets are available to the bike drawing in Washington, DC during Rolling Thunder XXI on Memorial Day weekend. Tickets are \$10 each which includes 3 stubs to be entered into the raffle. This is a major fund raiser for National during the Rolling Thunder weekend event. Our chapter accepted a book of 50 tickets to sell locally. \$ in tickets were sold during the meeting. Any unsold tickets will be purchased by the chapter in support of our national organization.

We now have special patches for Junior Members of Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1. These are intended for those under 18 years of age who often join us and assist with our activities. Patches are \$3 each. There is no application or dues required or National RT involvement required.

**Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek** The treasury is currently at \$

**Secretary - Bill Houghtaling**

In a recent conversation with Mike Henke at Hinks in Sycamore he suggested he could assist Rolling Thunder in receiving publication for our Big Thunder Run in Quick Throttle magazine.

<http://www.quickthrottle.com/> What we need is an article about Rolling Thunder, our POW/MIA efforts, the Big Thunder Run and the run stop at Hinks in Sycamore. This could be really timely if we respond now and have it published in the September or October issues just before our BTR. All we need is someone to write 4 to 8 paragraphs about us and Hinks, provide a few photos from last year and Mike will take care of the rest. Mike loves being part of the BTR. It is without a doubt the biggest Hinks event of the year.

Please contact me with any ideas or article you can put together. We can assist with the finishing touches if needed. Also, I am looking for any photos of Hinks during the event.

Rocker and Eagle were presented to Bill Sharpness.  
Congratulations Bill.

The sign up sheet has been updated to show those who have paid dues for 2008. If you are not on the sign up sheet that means your dues are in arrears and you need to see me. We now have 64 current members of the chapter.

Howard "Weebles" Bushnell who is out of town on business asked me to convey the following:

1. He will schedule a Big Thunder Run planning session before Memorial Day.
2. Email Howard if you are able to chair a committee or job at BTR. These activities are items such as Parking, Registration, Door Prizes, Bike Show, Run Route, etc.
3. Howard is also looking for someone to handle the BTR program and ad sales. Howard will assist with guidance and POW/MIA content for the program.

Rolling Thunder National has been sending quite a bit of information regarding Rolling Thunder XXI on Memorial Day weekend. In order to make this info available to all members making the trip I have scanned the information into several PDF files which I will send out to members via email. The info will arrive in 6 emails from me totaling about 9mb of scanned files. It is not necessary to download these files if you are not attending Rolling Thunder XXI.

#### **Chairman of the Board - Steve Pletzke**

Tina Foulkes of Lisle, our active duty Purple Heart recipient and person of honor during last year's wall escort in Lisle is doing well. Tina is out of the hospital and doing much better. She is very appreciative of the flowers and best wishes we sent. In January Tina will be back in Iraq.

Steve is putting on a pig roast at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans event at the Batavia VFW on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A motion was passed to spend up to \$ to cover the expenses of this endeavor. It has not been determined if we will be selling tickets for food to the general group attending or just trying to provide for the homeless veterans attending.

(ed. FYI, the MSHV has been given a Harley for which they are selling 3000 tickets at \$20 each. The cycle will be raffled at the event). Steve is looking for volunteers who can help with the roast.

## Old Business and New Business

Dominic mentioned an Aug. 24 benefit run for an autistic child. A link is provided below.

Snipe now has tickets available for the BTR bike raffle. We will be selling 2500 tickets at \$10 each. Our goal is to sell 500 tickets a month for the next five months. Yes, we only have 5 months to sell our tickets. Please take a book of tickets tonight, sell it and get another book next month. We hope to sell tickets at events taking place at Wildfire HD, City Limits HD, the Freedom Run, Cantigny and Plainfield Hog Nights. So far Steve, Beth, Al and Ralph have committed to working these events. Many more volunteers are needed.

Ralph Ledbetter thanked everyone for the Welcome Home escort for his son Jason. The turn out and enthusiasm were fantastic. Jason was warmly welcomed home and has since become a member of our Chapter. Ralph also thanked the Chapter for assistance with the food bill.

Bring your vest and patches to the June meeting. Laurie is inviting her sewing friend to sew patches during the meeting.

Our website is down. The service providing the hosting was sold. Fred tells us the site will be up again in a day or two with the same look, content and web address. Out sourcing the website is being seriously considered by the board. We expect resolution within a couple weeks. Fred received a round of applause and thanks for all his work on the site.

LT reported that Operation Support Our Troops has not yet responded to our request to have Top Holland speak at the Cantigny event. As an alternate we may invite Top Holland to attend the MWHS event at the Batavia VFW with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary  
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1  
[billhotaling@gmail.com](mailto:billhotaling@gmail.com)

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

- May 17 Hogs for Frogs, Wildfire HD, Villa Park, to benefit Navy Seal families,  
[http://www.wildfirehd.com/event\\_calendar.asp](http://www.wildfirehd.com/event_calendar.asp)
- May 25 **Lisle Memorial Day Parade**
- June 1 Moose Ride, Mooseheart,  
<http://batavia.mooserider.com/genedavis.pdf>
- June 21 **Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run,**  
<http://ilfreedomrun.org/>  
We will have a ticket sale and POW/MIA information booth
- Aug. 3 **Midwest Homeless Shelter at Batavia VFW,**  
<http://www.helpaveteran.org/>
- Aug. 24 **Ride for Kurtie, West Chicago,**  
[www.rideforkurtie.org](http://www.rideforkurtie.org)
- Oct. 5 **Big Thunder Run**