

**Illinois Chapter One**  
**Rolling Thunder**  
**General Meeting Minutes**

**Aug 3, 2011**

Hawk started the meeting started at 1930 hours with a quorum of 25 members present.

The membership began by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Hard Core read the Rolling Thunder Mission Statement. The names of Viet Nam MIA's lost during month of August were read as well as our two current live POW's. A moment of silence was observed.

**President - Bill "Hawk" Sharpness**

Hawk presented the POW Bowe Bergdahl bumper stickers we had printed. On the bumper sticker is the phone number to the Congressional Office where you can leave a message with your Senator or Representative asking what they have done today to bring home our two live POW's. A bumper sticker will be included with each program distributed at the BTR.

**Vice-President Dominic "Hard Core" Ruggiero.**

Dom spoke about the great event we had at the DeKalb Vet Fest on Sunday where the Remembrance Table was performed. The Table was the feature of the Vet Fest and received very well.

Hawk spoke about attendance of members at chapter events. We need more the just the regular single digit group of members to perform the ceremony. We did not know if we would have enough participation to perform the ceremony until the "11<sup>th</sup> hour." Literally, it was 11 am when the group arrived at LT's that we knew we had enough members present for a table. Future table ceremonies will be conducted only when 15 or more members commit to attending. Members asked about participating and a table training ceremony will be held during the September meeting. It is an easy ceremony to do. New participants can be "put in the middle of the pack" so they can follow the lead of the person in front of them. An additional reader/announcer needs to be trained. Any member of IL 1 can participate in the table ceremony; man or woman, veteran or non-veteran. Future tables will only be scheduled if enough members sign up ahead of time.

### **Treasurer Jim “Snipe” Murray**

The current treasury balance was presented.

Regarding the bike raffle, we have only one more meeting until the BTR X. Currently we do have enough tickets sold to cover the cost of the bike. Please turn in any books you have sold.

### **Chairman of the Board Rich “Popeye” Montgomery**

Popeye passed around a thank you note from Don Pugh’s wife. We had passed the hat during the July meeting and collected about \$ (which included the winners half of the 50/50 drawing). John Mikuski then added another \$ to make it an even thousand for Don Pugh.

Popeye thanked all that participated in the Ride for Kids. It was another successful event with over 800 bikes and \$ raised for pediatric brain tumor research.

Annual elections are held during the September meeting. Nominations will be accepted now and also during the September meeting. Positions and nominees are as follows:

President	Hawk
Secretary	Tony Leone, Rob Leskovar
Chairman of the Board	Popeye
Board Member (3 open)	Fallout, BB, Chuck “Boatsides” Kimber, John Mikuski

Nominations will also be accepted during the September meeting prior to voting.

### **New and Old Business**

LT spoke about the upcoming Remembrance Table Ceremony at Glendale Heights VFW on Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>. Their run is at 9 am and table will occur between noon and 1 pm. Requested attire for table participants is a white T shirt and black jeans. Full details and map are posted on our website calendar. <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?height=600&wkst=1&bgcolor=%23FFFFFF&src=rollingthunderil1@gmail.com&color=%23A32929&ctz=America/Chicago&gsessionid=OK> Twelve members signed up. Contact LT to sign up.

BB reviewed the calendar activities for August

Snipe had a list from Weebles detailing vendors who will be attending BTR X. The deadline for program ads and material is August 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Weebles or Guido with any program material you may have.

Kriss reviewed BTR plans for this year. New additions for this year will include a POW in a cage re-enactment and a visit from the POW/MIA 18 wheeler. Contact Kriss [kristina.sedlacek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kristina.sedlacek@sbcglobal.net) with any BTR questions or concerns. There is only one more meeting prior to BTR X.

Hawk would like the Chapter to focus their efforts on presenting the Table Ceremony to groups such as we did in Downers Grove. This will present our mission to folks who were previously unaware of POW/MIA's.

Meeting Adjourned

Bill "BB" Houghtaling  
for  
Tony Leone, Secretary  
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