

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

September 5, 2007

30 of 75 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 opened meeting with a prayer from IL Ch.2.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Visitors present were Ralph Ledbetter from Batavia. Ralph’s oldest son has been in Iraq and Afghanistan and will be returning to Afghanistan. Ralph’s youngest son is presently in Ramadi. Also visiting were Danny McKenzie, who is Carol’s son and Marine veteran as well as John Huber of Naperville.

### President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard began the meeting by reviewing the nominations for election and by asking for any further nominations. There were no further nominations and nominations were closed. Popeye distributed the prepared ballots and voting commenced. Popeye and Snipe tabulated the results while the meeting proceeded.

On Saturday September 8 we will perform the Remembrance Table ceremony at the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall in downtown Lisle at 3 pm. A sign up sheet was passed around. Howard is leading this ceremony and can be contacted at [fanfold@gmail.com](mailto:fanfold@gmail.com)

On Saturday September 22 we will be performing the Remembrance Table at the Rock Island Arsenal ceremony commemorating the National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. Also attending will be IL Ch 2, IA Ch 1, the Patriot Guard, the American Legion Riders as well as military groups from the Arsenal <http://www.ria.army.mil/sites/local/> and JPAC

<http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/> . Last year 100+ Patriot Guard Riders lined the parade route. Some of our members are staying at the Isle of Capri Casino hotel which is nearby. A Remembrance Table sign up sheet was passed around. Again contact Howard if you missed the sign up sheet. The Arsenal has suspended their cyclist helmet requirement for this event. (ed. for those interested the arsenal has one of the most extensive firearm museums I have ever seen).

The Big Thunder Run will take place on Oct.7. We can expect another planning session before the Oct. 3 meeting.

Howard has initiated email contact with the offices of Senators Obama and Durbin regarding POW/MIA issues and helping veterans.

Howard spoke about the power of an individual and the success that could be had by taking the initiative. Steve Pletzke and his wife Beth were complimented and thanked for getting Rolling Thunder involved in Lisle with the Traveling Tribute Wall. They received a spontaneous round of applause. Our chapter had at least 25% of our membership present for this escort in the middle of the day in the middle of the week.

The American Knights will be having a run Sept. 15 for an officer killed in the line of duty. See their site at <http://www.akmc.netfirms.com/>

Election results for two year terms are as follows:

President	Doug Mahar
Secretary	Bill Houghtaling
Board Members	Robert "Boz" Hall
	Tom Dertz
	Dennis "LT" Reiter

The retiring board members are Cutter and Peabody. LT was re-elected.

**Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek**  
to report.

John had nothing

**Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek** We have \$ on hand in the treasury.

**Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.**

We are now 75 members strong. Two new applications were picked up at the meeting.

Most members are online and able to received minutes and other communications via email. For those not online I would be happy to mail the minutes if they want to provide SASEs.

Rockers and Eagles are watched and counted very closely by our National director/founder Artie. When members join boot patches are awarded almost automatically in the first couple of months. The requirement to obtain a rocker and eagle is based on completing 12 months of membership and participation **AFTER** receiving the boot patch. This is all spelled out the National Constitution <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/PDFs/constiution-2005-03-31-06.pdf> .

Artie periodically sends me a list demanding return of rockers and eagles from those members who have not renewed their membership. The issue can be resolved in one of four ways:

1. Return of the rocker and eagle to the chapter.
2. Have the past member again become a participating dues paying member of IL Ch 1. (Best alternative).
3. IL Ch 1 pays National \$ per missing rocker and eagle set.
4. IL Ch 1 initiates legal action for return of rocker/eagle sets

We all work pretty hard to raise money to assist local veterans. I would much rather spend the money on local veterans than send to National in the form of a fine or on legal expenses. So on Arties current hit list there are 14 names. I would like to enlist the help of our members in contacting those they know on the list and ask for the return of our rockers and eagles. The names of the list are:

David W. Schiedler  
William L. Terrill  
Steve J. Auer  
John C. Augustynowycz  
Martin E. Bohdel

Bonnie B. Bradlee  
Rick L. Gruber  
Jimmy Holub  
Martin E. Johnson  
Theodore B. Sorenson  
Dean M. Welch  
Robert J. Wilkins  
John Strunewitz  
Chris M. Twarowski

**Chairman of the Board - Doug “Skippy” Mahar** No report.

### **Old Business and New Business**

Howard expressed his warm thoughts for Cutter and Kathy. The chapter wishes them the best.

Big Thunder Run. Rhonda will be running registration at the event. At least 15 volunteers will be needed for registration. The heavy time for registration is from 7 am to 9:30 am and is the time when the most volunteers are needed. Many jobs, such as bike show and various run stops do not even start until later in the day. These people and others are needed at registration. Contact Rhonda at [rockinrandi2@msn.com](mailto:rockinrandi2@msn.com) to sign up. Set up for BTR will be on Saturday Oct. 6. We will also have access to the VFW hall on Saturday. Watch for an email regarding another BTR planning session.

Snipe reported that we have only sold \$ in tickets for the bike raffle. This is only 900 tickets reported as sold. This leaves us far short of just meeting our expense for the bike and any possibility of making a profit. There is a maximum of 2500 tickets with a potential of \$. Snipe is still holding 400 tickets that are not assigned to any members. This means there are 1100 tickets presently being held by members.

The sale status of these tickets is unknown. Please contact Snipe with the status of your tickets and, most importantly, turn into Snipe the monies you have collected.

The members in attendance concurred and passed a motion to donate \$ to the Ladies Auxiliary at the Glendale Heights VFW. We attended a rainy run (2 bikes) there in August and did a Remembrance Table ceremony.

On this Saturday October 8 we will be doing a Remembrance Table in Lisle at the American Veterans Traveling Tribute at 3:00pm. We will meet at the Lisle VFW, Rt. 53 and the train tracks, at noon. Various other groups will be riding to the tribute. We will ride to the tribute at 2:00pm. The Lisle VFW has extended an open invitation to Rolling Thunder to stop by anytime.

Harley Steve has honored us by having a 22 year old wounded Iraqi veteran, Tina Folweks, carry a flag at the Remembrance Table Ceremony on Saturday. Tina will be carrying the Army flag.

Popeye thanked Howard for his leadership and accomplishments during his tenure as President. The Chapter joined in expressing gratitude for a job well done.

A motion to adjourn was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary  
[billhoteling@gmail.com](mailto:billhoteling@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events:** (Chapter events in **Bold**)  
**Sept.8** **Traveling Tribute, Lisle VFW, Remembrance Table at 3:00 pm** <http://www.avtt.org/index.htm>

- Sept. 9 Ride to Remember 9-11, Springfield, IL,  
<http://ridetoremember911.com/>
- Sept. 16 Cpl. Kevin Clarke Memorial Run, Oak Lawn Harley
- Sept. 22 POW/MIA Recognition Day at Rock Island Arsenal  
[http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/pow\\_rec\\_day\\_00.htm](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/pow_rec_day_00.htm)
- <http://www.ria.army.mil/sites/local/>
- 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>