

**Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter 1  
Meeting Minutes**

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

June 3, 2009                      39 of 76 members were in attendance

President Doug Mahar called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Visiting this month were:

Rob Leskovar from Naperville, Tom Zignich from Carol Stream, Bill Atkinson from Carol Stream, Chuck from West Chicago, John Mikuski from Aurora, Gary Stengler from Crete, Eugene LaBelle from Chicago Heights.

Additionally, renewing their membership this month were Frank and Irit Battaglia, Bo and Julie Augello, and Laurie Velasquez.

**President - Doug "Skippy" Mahar**

Doug talked about our "blessed opportunity" to apply for a grant from the Mark Morton Foundation. We thank Brian Provis and his mother for getting us involved in this "application by invitation only" process. That is, the foundation selected us to apply for a grant.

This week Doug received a positive notification call from the Foundation with the news that our application had been approved.

Thanks were expressed to Dominic "Hard Core" Ruggerio and his committee for their work on the grant application. Dominic explained the grant monies will be used for Hines Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Unit, the Blind Re-Hab Unit at Hines and patient lift and transport equipment at the Manteno Veterans Home. The funds will be deposited into and disbursed from Rolling Thunder Charities, Inc. a 501 C (3) charity.

Cutter asked if we can do a presentation check award at the Manteno Veterans Run.

Our friends at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans are having a Golf Outing (fundraiser) on September

Tickets can be purchased on line at <http://helpaveteran.org/>

Doug displayed a cool little chromed V Twin shaped battery charger from Deltran. We received 24 of these units for free. Each can charge two bikes at a time. A few of these units will be used in the BTR raffle.

The Winfield Good Old Days Parade is Sept. 13.

"Harley" Steve Pletzke has resigned from the Vice-Presidents position. A new vice president will be elected during the September chapter elections.

#### **Treasurer - Jim "Snipe" Murray**

Our treasury report was read and accepted. We have spent more money to date this year than we have brought in. A spreadsheet was presented which detailed all our financial activities year to date.

We received a refund check from our former storage unit company. We have moved out of the storage unit and into the trailer donated by Joe Feze. Thank you again Joe!!

The grant money was discussed. We will not handle any of these monies directly as they will be deposited into Rolling Thunder Charities, Inc. account for IL Ch 1. We will direct the disbursements direct to the vendors supplying the equipment specified in our grant application. We are not clear if we are liable for sales tax on the equipment. Sales tax money was not included in our grant application.

Jess asked if we are still on the Heritage Fest. The answer is yes. It is a chapter event. Downers Grove has not yet detailed layout and booth locations.

#### **Secretary - Bill Houghtaling**

We received the Second Place Military award from the Batavia Overseas VFW Post for our participation in their Loyalty Days Parade. A plaque and a framed certificate were passed around the meeting.

Bob Shuttleworth was awarded his boot patch. Congratulations Bob.

Since the first of the year we have been using Sign In Sheets at our events. It is incumbent upon the members participating at events to find the sign in sheet and note their presence. A Sign In sheet for those who attended Rolling Thunder XXII in DC was passed around the meeting.

#### **Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery**

Popeye thanked Harley Steve and Cutter for setting up the Lisle Memorial Day Parade. There were 70 bikes in attendance ( 31 from IL CH 1) along a contingent from

the American Knights. Cutter led the Remembrance Table Ceremony. It was one of our best renditions with members wearing white t shirts, black hats, black jeans and vests. The local DJ accommodated us with a microphone and by playing the CD.

Also the May 31 Remembrance Table at the Wheaton VFW went very well with 16 members attending.

### **Board Members -**

Hard Core asked that all return any Remembrance Table t-shirts and hats.

Beth is working on a new issue of the Thunder 411. She also sent a thank you note to Stacy Bacca of Channel 7 and has started a dialogue with Stacy about IL Ch 1.

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

ZZ noted two runs: the Chapter 2 Challenge Run this weekend and the Paul Salley Memorial Ride July 5 in Naperville. Paul Salley was a Navy Seal who died from cancer related to Agent Orange exposure. Watch the email for run flyers. Contact ZZ at Harold.Huston@abbott.com for full details

ZZ also spoke about Beyond Tribute. See this website [http://www.beyondtribute.org/get\\_involved/sign\\_the\\_pledge\\_interstitial\\_v2.php](http://www.beyondtribute.org/get_involved/sign_the_pledge_interstitial_v2.php) for details. The goal is raise funds for PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries.

Cutter asked if we could provide an escort for member Ed French's daughter on July 2nd. Contact Ed at [efrench@oandkamerican.com](mailto:efrench@oandkamerican.com) Watch email for updates. Tentative time is July 2, 8:15 pm at the Hinsdale Oasis, then to Ed's in Plainfield.

Popeye's son Mark's rugby coach asked if we can escort a unit home. Details to follow.

Ozzie asked about our relationship with Operation Support Our Troops. WFHD is a primary sponsor. Dominic and Ozzie will confer.

Kriss reminded us about the Warrenville 4th July Parade on July 3rd. We will meet at the Warrenville VFW at 5 pm.

Weebles confirmed with Chris at Cantigny that the Big Red One Traveling Muesum will attend the BTR. Also Jim Marshall Leatherworks will be in attendance.

Illinois Freedom Run. If you are doing the run see Tom Dertz for VIP parking at the Grundy County Fairgrounds.

Rob Wilkins has a friend to escort. Watch for date and details.

ZZ talked about the Warriors Watch Riders. Here is a link <http://www.warriorwatch.org/>

Meeting Adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Houghtaling, Secretary  
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1  
billhoteling@gmail.com

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

June 7	<b>IL Ch 2 Challenge</b>
Run,	<a href="mailto:rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com">rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com</a>
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	<b>Illinois Freedom Run</b>
June 26,27,28	<b>Heritage Fest, Downers Grove</b>
July 3	<b>Warrenville 4th July parade, 5 pm line up</b>
July 5	Paul Salley Memorial Charity Ride, Naperville, Chris 937 608-6599
July 18	Special Olympics Poker Run, Kendall County Deb @630 553-5833
July 19	Ride for Kids, <a href="http://www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2009/chicagoland.html">http://www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2009/chicagoland.html</a>
Aug. 16	Ride for Veterans, Glendale Heights VFW, 9am, 630 894-1358
Sept. 13	<b>Winfield Good Old Days Parade</b>
Sept. 13	MSHV Golf Outing, <a href="http://helpaveteran.org/">http://helpaveteran.org/</a>
Sept. 18 & 19	The Ride Home, <a href="http://powridehome.org/">http://powridehome.org/</a> Andersonville, GA
Sept. 18	National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sept. 27	Gold Star Mother Day
Oct. 3	<b>Big Thunder Run</b>
Oct. 11	<b>IL Ch 2 Never Forget Thunder Run and Toys for Tots</b>
Parade,	<a href="mailto:rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com">rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com</a>
Nov.	Manteno Veterans Ride