Commander’s Column

Bill Dolan, commander@gapost233.com

Spring is finally here! We may not have had a terrible winter but the cold, damp, darkness kept many people inside their houses. One of the most severe flu seasons on record didn’t help either. Spring is our time to get out and enjoy the sunshine, smell the flowers, and reconnect with our friends. We would love for you to come out to the Post as well. We have Bingo four days a week, a very nice Happy Hour on Friday nights, and live music for our Dance every Saturday. We have many activities ready to go that you can attend or assist with so please come on over to the Post and see what we are doing that may interest you.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Veteran’s Information Workshop on March 23rd. We hope this was of value to you and you were able to get some of your questions answered. Please let us know what we did right and if there is anything we can do to improve this important event. Our Veterans are why we are here, we want to ensure that we are providing a service that will benefit you.

We are having our First Responders Dinner on Friday April 12th in the Main Hall. This is our opportunity to thank the brave Men and Women who rush in to assist us when everything goes wrong. We have some excellent speakers lined up, Congressman Jody Hice, Walton County Commissioner Chairman Kevin Little and our Mayor of Loganville and Post Member, His Honor Rey Martinez.

On Saturday April 13th, we are having a Flea Market along with the ALR Country Breakfast that is open to everyone. If you want to be a vendor, please come by the post to get the form or you can find it on our website http://gapost233.com. This event will have tables inside and outside for purchase. The Country Breakfast will be modified a bit to make it quicker for you to get your food, but it will be delicious as usual. Our Boy Scouts will be selling lunch consisting of a hot dog, chips, and a drink for just $5.00. They will also be selling Pine Straw at the Scout Building, so you folks looking to spruce up your yards for spring, head on over and buy several bales from them. All of the sales will help the Boy Scouts pay for their gear and go on their campouts. If you are not interested in selling, come on by and find that unique gift or item you have been looking for. If you would like to assist with the event, please contact Mary Dolan at mdolan2804@gmail to volunteer.

Don’t forget Ride For America (RFA) on Memorial Day, May 27th at the Post! The American Legion Riders have been working hard since November to ensure this year’s ride is a success. The funds raised by this event are used to support the American Legion Legacy Fund which pays College costs for children of Military members who died or were severely disabled since 9-11. The Commanders Corner article in May will have more details, but if you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Thom Williams at 770-313-5348 to volunteer.

Don’t ever question the value of volunteers. Noah’s Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals………………..Dave Gynn
Jim Carmona is the Chairman of the Election Committee and if you are interested in running for an office, please see Jim. The Election Committee will officially report the nomination of candidates for the seven officer positions at our Monthly Post meeting on May 7th. We will have the election for the Post Officers for the July 2019 – June 2020 year at our Monthly Post meeting on June 4th. Please see the detailed article below with specifics about the elected positions and some of their responsibilities.

**Upcoming Elections**

We are preparing to elect our Post Officer’s for the 2019 – 2020 Legion year. We elect our Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Finance Officer, and 3 Executive Committee Members. These 7 elected officer positions make up the Executive Committee for the Post. Their primary duty is to be good stewards of the Post funds and ensure that we are directing our efforts toward the Four Pillars of the American Legion. The Four Pillars are Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompass a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, their families, the youth of America and our communities citizens. If you are paid up for 2019 you are eligible to run for any of these positions. That being said, there is a commitment needed if you are willing to accept an Officer position. The Post is looking to each of the Executive Committee members to do their best and be available to address issues as they come up.

The Commander is responsible for ensuring the Post is managed in a businesslike manner which includes ensuring that the multitude of licenses required from the City, County, and State are all applied for on time so they remain in effect for the following year. He/she is responsible for the efficient operation of the Post and coordinating the efforts of the Executive Committee to ensure we get the most value from every decision and activity. The Senior Vice Commander is the back up to the Commander and assists as necessary to complete the licensing requirements, run the meetings when the Commander is unavailable, assist with scheduling Duty Officers, work with the Junior Vice Commander to arrange the Bands for our Saturday Night Dances, and any additional duties as needed.

The Junior Vice Commander helps the Senior Vice Commander and the Commander as needed. He/she is also responsible for booking the bands for our Saturday Night Dance, ensuring they each have a contract and the appropriate tax documents are completed each year. The Finance Officer is responsible for collecting the funds of the post, depositing them as appropriate, and ensuring that our bills are paid on time. This position also requires the Finance Officer to arrange to meet with the Lottery service representative to collect the funds from the Lottery machines, ensure the counts are correct and make the deposits to our bank. The Finance Officer is also responsible for working with our tax person to ensure our taxes are filed on time so we avoid any penalties.

The 3 Executive Committee Members assist the Executive Committee with reviewing requests for donations, requests for assistance, and other matters that involve spending the funds of the Post. Individually, each member of the Executive Committee takes a day of the week to be the Post Duty Officer. Four will be the Duty Officer for Bingo sessions and they make sure that the Post is secure and our customers are treated respectfully. They address questions from customers, handle issues with the Lottery Machines, assist individuals who come to the post looking for help with their rent, utilities, gas, or a place to stay the night.

As I mentioned earlier, this is a major commitment of time and energy to keep the Post Operating efficiently. Please consider running for one of these positions, we need your help to keep our Post the “best Little Post in Georgia”.
Sr. Vice Commander’s Report
Thom Williams, seniorvice@gapost233.com

This March marks 100 years since the founding of the American Legion, a successful hundred years by all accounts and it is worth wondering just how that happened. What sets apart those organizations that survive and thrive across generations from those who wither and die?

Visionaries who lay out solid core principles – Those few days in Paris did not just happen, they were orchestrated by men who had just come through terrible trials together. Men who knew that beyond the trenches that lay behind them, there would be more efforts ahead of them. Men who knew that no group of people was more conditioned to fraternity than those who served in the armed forces. Men who knew about working on multiple fronts and so laid out four pillars on which to build programs: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Commitment to just causes in line with those principles – The work we do in the American Legion gets done because our membership is committed to those four pillars. With a broad array of programs, almost everyone can find an area of interest that supports the mission. Our programs are built to be fair, to be accessible, to be evident and executed in the open, in view of our communities, so they can see the benefit of our organization.

Building support from outside the organization- That sense of open, visible, service to community, state, and nation has helped us build allegiances with other organizations that serve similar but different purposes, with municipalities, with government at every level. From the creation of the “post” as a local entity, serving in a community, to that initial chartering by congress and the annual reports of the National Commander to congress has allowed our lobbying arms access to reach across the aisle and get things accomplished even in times of deadlock.

Administrative Excellence – We all know that with the National Commander changing, each year, for one hundred years, it actually takes a core staff of committed folks who keep things running year after year. We don’t think much about these folks, and we may even grumble from time to time about the way they go about a thing or two, but without them things would have fallen apart years ago. The work of putting on the National Convention each year is daunting enough to think about, add in national membership, lobbying, publishing a magazine… the list goes on and on. The fact that the average member does not think much about all this speaks highly of the efficiency with which it is done.

Flexibility- The world has been a much different place, several times over, in the last hundred years as waves of veterans have served in times of conflict both on our soil and abroad. Through it all, the American Legion has adapted to the needs of each generation of veterans but also to the needs of our communities. We have influenced policy, we provided for our communities as they have grown and changed, and we have welcomed new ideas, sometimes begrudgingly, to keep our work in the four pillars relevant and current.

An eye on the future, an eye on the past- it is that commitment to those principles laid out in Paris in 1919 combined with a clear understanding that the future will be different but not that different that has kept us around for all this time. We are still more conditioned to fraternity, to camaraderie, to supporting each other as we were then, and now there is the internet, to help us keep in touch with those with whom we served and so we are going to have to try extra hard to sell ourselves to a new generation, we can do it, we have done it before.

As we stand on one hundred years of laurels, I hope it gives us a vantage point from which to launch another hundred years of service to God and Country.
There is a common saying these days about siblings in the same house, I have seen it on shirts, on coffee cups, on the internet, it goes something like this: “I am the OLDEST, I Make the Rules. – I am the MIDDLE, I am the reason we have rules. – I am the YOUNGEST, the Rules don’t apply to me!” As one of the youngest programs in the American Legion and the youngest part of the Legion Family the Riders know that this is fun, but not true for us. To start with, we are all members of one of the elder organizations before we can be members of the riders. The Legion and Auxiliary are centenarians now, and the S.A.L. is no spring chicken, so the rules of those OLD organizations ARE our rules. On top of that, we have our own sets of rules, how to dress for missions, how to hold the flag when honoring a deceased veteran, how to ride in formation, etc. The funny thing is, for following all the rules what we get is an incredible sense of freedom! Just like when we grew up, we all like to ride bikes until someone turns on the porch light. We are the YOUNGEST and we follow the rules (mostly) and we make the rules fun!

Spring is here! Everyone will be busy with outdoor activities and spring cleaning. Our ladies are cleaning out their closets and donating clothing to the women’s shelter as part of our Project Renewal Program again this year. We are asking for clothing that is not torn or soiled that could be worn for a job interview along with other clothes you may have and no longer need.

Our Sweetheart Dance was a great success! The decorating committee did a fantastic job decorating the legion hall. The winners of the door prizes were Glen Criswell, Libba Gruba and Barbara Wade. A night full of laughter and fun enjoyed by all.

The 10th District Auxiliary Fundraiser was a great success! We raised a total of $1,486.00. Thank you to everyone that donated items for the “Entertainment Wagon” and purchased tickets for a chance to win. Congratulations to Deon Robinson, who was the winner of the wagon. A Special thanks to Jean Kelly for selling the tickets.

Our Spring Conference/College is March 21-24, 2019. There will be a lot of good information from the Department Officers and guest speakers on our Organization and the importance of what we do and why we do it.

For God and Country
Our post is financially stable and 2018 taxes have been filed. There remains an outstanding long-term debt for the post renovations and the new roofs. We can pay our bills, as well as assist those veterans and citizens who are in need. Improvements being made are quite noticeable since completion of the renovations of 2014.

Our mainstay of support remains to be Bingo. Raffles generally yield an average of over $400 per night. The game machines are kept in good working order, and the clientele enjoy the atmosphere. There are usually at least 80 Bingo players per session.

The dances on Saturdays are breaking even. This is a service for the folks who enjoy a safe place to have fun dancing and socializing. Mike Burwell has done a good job of mixing up the bands.

The Patriot Grill is used primarily on Friday nights. If you haven’t been lately, please come in and check out what is new. There are drink specials, dart games, TV’s, and food from the kitchen. Thom Williams and crew have done a great job with the décor. The Grill is user-friendly for vets, families and the community.

Remember: The best way for the post to have the funds needed to support our donations to the community and veterans is to have active member participation. Attendance at our social experiences equals revenue as well as a good time.

Rentals have become a monetary force. We plan to perpetuate and promote renting our facilities. The floor in the Meeting Room (Riders and 40&8) has been professionally stripped and waxed. We are looking into costs for round tables for special gatherings. We host weddings, all kinds of receptions, real estate meetings, civic meetings, and voting at our post. See the website www.gapost233.com

The once a month country breakfast buffet continues to be the best deal in town. The food is great and there is plenty of it. Again, our participation ensures revenue for the post. A busy post is a useful post.

Our main costs continue to be payroll. We pay the Bingo workers, the bartenders, and the cooks. We meet all tax requirements with our employees. I invite you to attend a Post meeting for the details of each month’s monetary summations, as well as a detailed Profit & Loss printed report that is made available to satisfy inquiries.

As the Legion turns 100 this month the Sons of the Legion can, rightfully, take pride in the accomplishments of our parent organization, but we can also acknowledge our part in this past hundred years and look forward to helping carry this Legion Family forward into the next hundred years. The S.A.L. is a dynamic force across the nation, providing support to many Legion and Auxiliary programs but especially those programs that fall under the Children and Youth pillar. Our own post is well on establishing a legacy of supporting Children and Youth programs in our community. We house and support Scouts, Naval Cadets, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, Baseball, Oratorical, Boys State, Girls State, CHAMPS, and others. As the Legion goes through these next few years with the expected membership pinch, it will be on the Auxiliary and the S.A.L. to keep these programs growing and providing valuable services to future generations of veterans, members, and Sons of the American Legion.
BUSY DAYS…..HAPPY REWARDS

GUN TALK 2019
“RUN HIDE FIGHT”

Stan Mauldin, Events Steering Committee Chairman

As you know our American Legion’s Event Steering Committee has strived to give our community and members alike a monthly event that we think you all might enjoy. January’s Special Day was Saturday the 19th. The day was rainy and cold but the coffee, doughnuts and the informative and very knowledgeable speakers made Gun Talk 2019 a very successful event.

Loganville’s Chief of Police, Mike McHugh started our program and took quite a few questions. Mike was very patient and professional in answering all questions. This man is a true friend of our American Legion.

Next up was Major Scott Whisnant from the Walton County Sheriff’s Department. Scott is currently assigned as the Uniform Patrol Division Commander and the Sherriff’s Emergency Response Team Commander. He has also lead training for the Sheriff’s Office Active Shooters program. So, as you can imagine, he too was extremely interesting and captured all attendees attention. Major Whisnant is a retired U S Army Master Sergeant with over twenty-three years of service to our nation and is a member of our Legion. One of Scott’s questions, after speaking, was “how well are the Walton County Schools protected?” We were proud to hear his answer. Walton County has a uniform deputy sheriff assigned to all county schools to make sure our young Americans stay safe. That alone made me feel great!

Lastly, Lieutenant Todd Hood spoke. Some of you may recognize that last name. Todd Hood is the son of one of our members, past Senior Vice Commander, Mr. Marcie Hood. He has attended many national classes on the Active Shooter Program. Todd has traveled all over the southeast speaking to other police departments, churches, schools and many civic groups. His main assignment is Lieutenant of Uniform Patrol at the John’s Creek Police Department. Todd has taught many classes on Active Shooters Programs so you can guess it is easy for him to capture your imagination. On occasion he will throw in a crazy story that may make you laugh but he has also had tough decisions to make that makes being in his position difficult. He has been with only two PD (Alpharetta and Johns Creek) departments in his twenty-one years of service, fifteen of which he was a member or was team leader of SWAT teams. He served our country in the U S Marine Corp and was President Security at the White House.

Members if you were not at this event YOU MISSED A VERY INFORMATIVE MORNING just ask anyone that attended. Thanks to our Commander for wanting to hold at least one event a month for our Legion. Thanks also goes out to the Event Steering Committee for their time and hard work in putting together these events.
BUSY DAYS……HAPPY REWARDS

Post 233 held their Oratorical Contest on Sunday January 20th. There were two contestants and it was the most highly competitive oratorical in recent memory with a scant difference of only 2 points out of a possible 400 points separating first and second place. The post winner Jesse Kronen competed at the 10th District competition on January 27th and it was, again a great contest with a very close finish with Jesse coming in second this time. Jesse is an energetic 10th grader with political aspirations and he is already looking forward to competing again next year and also to attending Boy’s State.

Love was in the air at the Sweetheart Dance put on by the Ladies Auxiliary on February 16th. Nothing could be better than dance, drink and best of all chocolate. The decorations were beautiful and the night made us want to fall in love all over again.

Caravan Trip to Georgia War Veterans Home Milledgeville, GA-March 16, 2019

As Legion Riders we spend so much time honoring the recently departed that it is easy to lose sight of how meaningful it is to spend a day honoring our living veterans, to sit with them, to serve them. As much as it is about the lunch and the well stuffed goodie bags, it is a day to listen to stories, mostly true and otherwise. To tell stories and share a common love of God and Country with a group of folks who don’t get around much anymore. There were many smiles but also tears. For some the only family they have are “us” their fellow veterans. A lot has changed in our organization since the last time we went, but not our commitment to serving our brothers and sisters in arms. We are smaller than we were, but still mighty. Thanks go out to all who helped with preparation, it is a labor of love, but still labor.

The Flag Line honors the veteran who have departed by allowing friends and family to pass through the flags of honor. When requested by the family the American Legion Riders provide the Flag Line and will also escort the family to their destination after the proceedings. This is but one of many services that the Riders of Post 233 provide.

“Honoring Veterans on the Journey to Their Final Assignment.”
# April 2019

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**May 2019 Calendar**

- **Sunday, May 5th**: 2:00 pm Bingo
- **Monday, May 6th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Tuesday, May 7th**: 7:00 pm Post 233 Meeting, SAL Meeting
- **Wednesday, May 8th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Thursday, May 9th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Friday, May 10th**: Happy Hour Patriots Grill
- **Saturday, May 11th**: ALR Country Breakfast 8-11 am, 8:00 pm Dance & Live Music

- **Sunday, May 12th**: 2:00 pm Bingo
- **Monday, May 13th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Tuesday, May 14th**: 40/8 Meeting
- **Wednesday, May 15th**: ALR Lunch Brunch, 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Thursday, May 16th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Friday, May 17th**: Happy Hour Patriots Grill
- **Saturday, May 18th**: 8:00 pm Dance & Live Music

- **Sunday, May 19th**: 2:00 pm Bingo
- **Monday, May 20th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Tuesday, May 21st**: ALR Meeting, Shriners Meeting
- **Wednesday, May 22nd**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Thursday, May 23rd**: 8:00 am-4:00 pm Blood Drive, 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Friday, May 24th**: Happy Hour Patriots Grill
- **Saturday, May 25th**: 8:00 pm Dance & Live Music

- **Sunday, May 26th**: 2:00 pm Bingo
- **Monday, May 27th**: Memorial Day
- **Tuesday, May 28th**: CLOSED
- **Wednesday, May 29th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Thursday, May 30th**: 7:30 pm Bingo
- **Friday, May 31st**: Happy Hour Patriots Grill
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<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm Bingo</td>
<td>7:30 pm Bingo</td>
<td>ALR Meeting</td>
<td>7:30 pm Bingo</td>
<td>7:30 pm Bingo</td>
<td>Post Officer Installation Dinner</td>
<td>8:00 pm Dance &amp; Live Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm Bingo</td>
<td>7:30 pm Bingo</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>7:30 pm Bingo</td>
<td>7:30 pm Bingo</td>
<td>Happy Hour Patriots Grill</td>
<td>8:00 pm Dance &amp; Live Music</td>
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<td>2:00 pm Bingo</td>
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</table>
• On April Fools Day in 1989, billionaire Richard Branson designed a hot air balloon to look like a UFO and hired a dwarf in an E.T. costume to come out and scare whoever was near it when it landed.
• In 1966, as an April Fools Day prank, the Taco Bell Corporation took out a full-page ad that appeared in six major newspapers saying that it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell.
• On April Fools Day, 1976, the BBC convinced many listeners that a special alignment of the planets would temporarily decrease gravity on Earth. Phone lines were flooded with callers who claimed they felt the effects.
• On April Fools Day 1974, a man hauled 70 tires into the crater of a dormant volcano in Alaska and set them on fire, terrifying nearby residents into thinking the volcano was erupting again.
• Gmail first launched on April 1, 2004. It was widely assumed the service was an April Fools Day joke!
• For April Fools Day in 1998, Burger King took out a full-page ad in the USA, introducing a Whopper designed especially for lefties. The new burger would contain the same ingredients as the original but rotated 180 degrees. Thousands of customers swarmed BK restaurants requesting the “lefty” Whopper.
• On April Fools Day, 2002 NASA posted a picture that proved the moon was made of cheese including expiration date.
• The Gremlin, considered one of the worst cars ever built was first introduced on April Fools Day.

COMING SOON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fourth of July Picnic</td>
<td>Thurs, Jul 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sock Hop Dance</td>
<td>Sat, Jul 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Drive</td>
<td>Thurs, Aug 22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Remember to check the Event/Information table at the Post for Additional Functions and Events.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY AND FATHER’S DAY

A GOOD WAY TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR PARENTHOOD IS TO TALK TO ROCKS BECAUSE THEY HAVE SIMILAR LISTENING HABITS
**Patriots Grill**

**Hours**

- Monday, (Closed Tuesday), Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 5:00 pm — 9:30 pm
- Saturday: 6:00 pm — 11:30 pm
- Sunday: 12:00 pm — 4:30 pm

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**American Legion Post 233**

- **Breakfast Buffet**
  - 2nd Saturday every month
  - From 8:00 until 11:00 AM

- **Rental Hall Information**
  - American Legion Post 233 is the optimal venue for weddings, receptions, meetings and parties of all types.
  - **Main Hall**
    - 600 Guests or 400 with Dance Floor
  - **Meeting Room**
    - 100 Guests
  - **Pavilion**
    - 100 Guests

- **Rental Director**
  - 770-466-4728 or marketing@gapost233.com

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**I'M NOT OLD**

- I woke up,
- I lifted my arms,
- I moved my knees,
- I turned my neck....
- Everything made the same noise:
  'Crrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!' 
- ....I came to a conclusion:
  - I am not old,
  - I am crispy!

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**Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think, “That can’t be right!”**

---

**Patriots Grill**

**Hours**

- Monday, (Closed Tuesday), Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 5:00 pm — 9:30 pm
- Saturday: 6:00 pm — 11:30 pm
- Sunday: 12:00 pm — 4:30 pm

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**$7.00 Adults**

**$4.00 Kids**

3-12
American Legion Post 233 Loganville

FLEA MARKET

See.....Sell.....Buy

SATURDAY APRIL 13
8:00 AM—3:00 PM 4635 HIGHWAY 78

Bargains…….Bargains…..Bargains

Indoor and Outdoor Space Rentals
Table and Space Registration Starting at $25.00

Available for Purchase
Country Breakfast 8:00 am—11:00 am
Lunch 11:30—3:00 pm

To Request a Vendor Registration Form or ask a question contact:
mdolan2804@gmail.com or leave a message at 770-466-4728. Calls will be
returned during normal post hours. Registration forms available at Post 233.
RFA 2019
“Worth Remembering”

RIDE FOR AMERICA
(Rain or Shine)
MEMORIAL DAY MAY 27TH, 2019
ALL PAVED LOT FOR STAGING
Ride will leave from the American Legion Post #233,
4635 (Hwy 78) Atlanta highway, Loganville, GA
and return after a ceremony in Madison GA
Following the Ride there will be Food, Beverages, Music,
Raffles, Etc.
Awesome raffle prizes!!!
$10.00 RIDER—$5.00 PASSENGER
KSU at 9:30 AM SHARP
For more info contact Stan Mauldin 770-978-1739
Or visit our web site at: www.rideforamerica.org

Thanks to our generous sponsors:

Tim Stewart

Akins

Army & Navy Outfitters 678-344-5578