

FORT SUTTER NEWS

FORT SUTTER CHAPTER, AMCA

JULY–AUGUST 2011

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From the President

The Dixon swap meet is over and all the work it took to put it on was well worth it. This meet had more vendors than any other meet we have ever had. The Harley-Davidson Knucklehead, our marque, had a very good showing we had over thirty-five of them. There were a lot of the other brands of motorcycle there and that made an interesting and good display for the spectators to enjoy. Everyone enjoyed the Thursday night BBQ, that was put on by the Yerba Buena Chapter. I want to thank them for helping out at our swap meet. Our Friday night dinner was a big success, we sold out, and every one enjoyed the dinner, auction and raffle. Richard Ostrander made a special trophy for Marie Moore for all the work she has done for the club over the years and presented it to her.

I am still using crutches so I was not able to do my share of the work and I want to thank Jim Moore, Dave Kafton, and Richard Ostrander for doing my share of the president's duties.

Dave was getting worried before the meet because he did not get many calls from the members offering to work at the meet but, as usual, people showed up before and during the meet to help and all the work was done on time.

I want to thank all the members that helped at the meet, you all worked hard and did a very good job. Without our members helping we would not have had such a successful event.

I'm sorry to report that we will not be having a picnic this year because Rancho Seco is all booked up and, due to the economy and related budget problems, the cost of securing other locations has become so high that a picnic just doesn't seem like a good fit right now.

As is usual after the meet the FSMC board got together to discuss the swap meet. We discussed what went well and what went wrong and what needed to be changed or modified, we will go over these items at the next meeting.

Your President,
Richard Hardmeyer

2010 OFFICERS

President *Rich Hardmeyer*
Vice Pres. *Dave Kafton*
Secretary *Tom Green*
Treasurer *Marie Moore*
Director *Rich Kinney*
Director *Rich Ostrander*
Director *Mark Wiebens*

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CLUB WEB SITE
www.amcafortsutter.org

Our Next Meeting Will Be
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

At Sam's Hof Brau
Watt and El Camino Avenues

Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of the General Meeting

June 4, 2011

The meeting, held at Sam's Hof Brau, was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by president, Rich Hardmeyer. There were twenty-one members in attendance.

Minutes: A motion was made (Green/Kinney) to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the April 2 meeting. Motion passed, the minutes will stand as written.

Treasurer's Report: Marie Moore reported that our bank account remains solid and we now have a total of 128 members. With regard to the Dixon meet, swap spaces are selling faster than expected so we're looking good in that area.

Old Business: Rich Hardmeyer, reporting on the El Dorado Show, said that we only had three members show up bringing a total of five bikes. Rich said that from now on before we commit to put on any sort of display we must get a firm commitment from our members that they will indeed show up.

Also on the subject of motorcycle shows, Bob Pratt said that although a few of our members did turn out but, due to rain, hail, and wind, Motorcycle Awareness day was a complete wash out.

Dixon Report: Dave Kafton said that, from the response we're getting, it looks like we may have our biggest meet yet and because of that he would like to have some way for the public to identify Fort Sutter Chapter members. After some discussion, Marie Moore suggested we purchase some vests with "Staff" printed on them. A motion (Ostrander/Kinney) was made to purchase twenty light weight vests. Marie Moore will take care of purchasing them.

Because our theme this year is "Knuckleheads" Dave wants to be sure they are all grouped together. After some discussion of the logistic problems, it was decided to line them all up on the front row. Tom Green will make up some signs indicating that the front row is for Knuckleheads only.

It was decided to have two technical seminars on Friday – George Hood in the morning and judging in the afternoon. On Saturday we will only have the judging seminar.

Our new caterer for the Friday evening banquet requires a head count by the Wednesday prior to the event so it was decided to gamble and print up 140 tickets.

New Business: It was pointed out that we need someone to volunteer to take over Jack Gormley's duties. Rich Ostrander volunteered to take care of scheduling the annual dinner and arranging for the meet pins. Tom Green and Dick Borchert will meet with the manager of the Hof Brau to be sure he has us scheduled for the rest of the year as well as next.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

TOM GREEN
Secretary

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Steven Bishop – Antioch, CA
Michael Cornwell – Fairfield, CA
Ralph Finley – Vallejo, CA
Mark Lowen – Carmichael, CA
Perry Owen – Valencia, CA

AND WELCOME BACK TO:

Kay Eggers – Arnold, CA
Bob Ruth – Fair Oaks, CA

THE 2011 FORT SUTTER CHAPTER AMCA DIXON NATIONAL MEET

Reported by Rich Ostrander

It came and went like the wind but it sure was something for a couple of days. Next year will be our thirtieth annual swap meet with the last twelve held in Dixon being Nationals. It's a small meet compared to most of the ones back east but big enough and laid back enough for those of us here on the left coast.

This year's meet started with a great Thursday night barbeque for the Fort Sutter staff and the many early arrivals and long haulers which was hosted by our next-door neighbors, the Yerba Buena Chapter. Friday morning found the entire field filled out with all the swap spaces sold and swapping going hot and heavy. George Hood gave another of his well-received technical seminars, this time on motorcycle modification and, later in the day, Red Fred Johansen conducted a seminar on national judging. We ended Friday's activities with our usual banquet which included a Power Point presentation by Pete Young recalling his experiences on the Cannonball Run. Following Pete's presentation, a special award was presented to our treasurer, Marie Moore for her many contributions to the meet and our club. We finished off with a raffle and auction.

Saturday always brings in the spectators but this year the grounds were swamped. The morning activities started off with the old-fashioned field meet, then chapter awards were given out and the national judging began.



Friday night's program included Pete Young's well received and very interesting talk about his experiences during the Cannonball Run.

That was the nuts and bolts of the affair, now a little about the main draw. This year's meet honored the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Knucklehead and almost every year, style, color, and configuration of Knucklehead was in there. From a great 1936 restoration to Todd Bertrang's fabulous, original paint, completely equipped, Seattle Washington police bike. Needles to say it won the award for most unique.

Not only were close to forty of Harley-Davidson's finest on display including bob jobs and choppers but there were also some great Japanese, European, and British bike as well. Some of the more unusual models included an original paint 1910 Pierce Four, Dave Bettencourt's unrestored 1911 Harley-Davidson, and Wes Allen's beautifully restored 1911 Yale Twin which took the "Best American Bike" trophy.

The chapter award for best Knucklehead went to Mike Boehlke for his immaculate early 1946 model. The award for "Best Rat" went, for the second year in a row, to Greg Wood for his well ridden 1944 E model. Paul Wheeler with his 1939 EL named "Becca" which was built by a Lockheed aircraft engineer back in the day captured "Best Accessorized". You name it and it has it with enough bells and whistles to stock a store. Dave



AMCA President, Richard Spagnolli addressed the guests at Friday night's banquet

Mull and Rich Cromer rode their 1960 and 1948 Panheads close to 400 mile from Independence, California, which is near Death Valley, to garner the first and second place in the longest distance ridden category.

Don Harrell (great to see him back after a long absence) had the “Best British” bike with a sweet 1939 BSA M20. Mike Maloney’s 1974 BMW 90/S took home the trophy for “Best European” while John Malarkey’s 1965 Yamaha YDS3C Big Bear took the “Best Japanese” prize. “Best Competition” honors went to Blair Beck’s super clean 1972 Penton.

Jim Inman’s early 1946 Knucklehead took first place in the in the “Period Modified” category. Second place for “Period Modified was a surprise when Bill Bartlett’s beautiful 1971 Honda CB750 (an original period piece in excellent “as found” condition) took the prize. Third place when to “Uncle” Lenny Miller for his 1927 OHV. In the field meet, as odds makers predicted, D’Nell Parker (nee, Kafton) took first place. Next year we may have to give her a handicap. Finally the “People’s Choice” award was announced and the trophy, was presented to Mike Fischer for his 1946 Kucklehead with sidecar.

We would like to thank the Harley-Davidson Hummer Club, the BSA Club and the Ariel Owners Club for their participation as well as all four of California’s other AMCA Chapters who set up booths and added to the over all success of the meet.

Jim Inman did an outstanding job designing this year’s meet T-shirt—the fact that we almost completely sold out of shirts proves it. Marie Moore and her staff did their usual great job of handling sign-ins. Bob Pratt and crew took care of Thursday’s field set up while Sharie Pratt handled merchandise sales. Jim Moore took care of organizing the national judging crew. And, as usual, Tom Green took care awards and announcing duties. As our meet grows, so do the manpower requirements and we would not be able to function without the help of chapter member who pitched in and helped with banquet set up, the judges luncheon, sanitation, and clean up. Special recognition goes to Ken and Joyce Heuser for doing double – make that triple – duty on the front gate.

If you missed this one, show up next year when we do it all over again. This time we going to be honoring the “fatheads. . . errr, “flatheads” and that’s a bunch!



Rich Ostrander and Dave Kafton auctioning off one of the two albums of memorabilia donated by Gaylene Tompkins. The two albums raised over \$300.00



At Friday’s banquet, Rich Ostrander presented cub treasurer, Marie Moore with one of his specially created awards thanking her for her years of service to the club both as treasurer and as an indispensable member of the swap meet staff.



Every year we hear the question, "I wonder what he's going to come up with this time?" And every year the question is answered when Rich Ostrander reveals the trophies he has designed and built for the winners of the Special Club and National Recognition Awards. Once again, he didn't disappoint.



George Hood's "slightly modified" 1928 JDH.

A Trophy for the Trophies. . .

It's reached the point that when you win a trophy at Dixon for one of the National Recognition or Special Club Awards you have not just collected a trophy, you've won yourself an Ostrander original. For the last few— not really sure how many—years, Rich Ostrander has been designing and building the awards and trophies we give out and each year he manages to come up with something even more creative than the year before.



Thanks to Rich, we're not only getting a reputation for hosting a great national meet, we're getting a reputation for giving out amazingly creative trophies as well.

This year (pictured on the left) Rich came up with a very special and extremely imaginative award which he presented to our club treasurer, Marie Moore at the Friday night banquet.

Here's the problem: If anybody deserves an award for his service to the club it's Rich but who are we going to get to make him one? Who's going to paint Michelangelo's ceiling? Who to you get to stripe Von Dutch's motorcycle? So, until we find someone with your talents, Rich, we hope you'll be satisfied with a big **THANK YOU** for a job that has been, and continues to be, **WELL DONE!**



Jim Inman's knucklehead took home the blue ribbon for best "Period Modified". Jim also deserves credit for designing this year's meet T-shirt.



Rich Ostrander awards the "People's Choice" trophy to Mike Fischer.



AMCA President, Richard Spagnolli presents the award for "Most Unique" to Todd Bertrang.



Although continuing to suffer from the effects of the recent chain saw incident, President Hardmeyer still managed to direct traffic.



AMCA President, Richard Spagnolli and Jim Moore spent Saturday morning working on National Judging registration,



Among the other AMCA chapters helping to make the meet a success was the Yerba Buena Chapter. . .



. . . as well as the Southern California Chapter.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND CLUB AWARDS

MOST UNIQUE

Todd Bertrang.1940 Harley-Davidson EL Police

PERIOD MODIFIED

1. Jim Inman.Early 1946 Knucklehead
2. Bill Bartlett.1971 Honda CB750
3. Leonard Miller.1947 Knucklehead

OLDEST MOTORCYCLE

Dave Bentencourt.1911 Harley-Davidson

BEST ACCESSORIZED

Paul Wheeler.1939 Harley-Davidson EL

BEST AMERICAN MOTORCYCLE

Wes Allen.1912 Yale Model 25

BEST BRITISH MOTORCYCLE

Don Harrell.1939 BSA M20

BEST EUROPEAN MOTORCYCLE

Mike Maloney.1974 BMW 90/6

BEST JAPANESE MOTORCYCLE

John Markley.1965 Yamaha YDS3C Big Bear

BEST RAT BIKE

Greg Wood.1944 Harley-Davidson E

BEST KNUCKLEHEAD

Mike Boehlke.1946 Knucklehead

BEST COMPETITION MOTORCYCLE

Blair Beck.1972 Penton

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Mike Fischer.1946 Knucklehead With Sidecar

LONGEST DISTANCE RIDDEN

1. Dave Mull. . . .390.4 Miles. . . .1960 Harley-Davidson FLH
2. Richard Cromer. . . .390.3 Miles. . . .1948 Harley-Davidson FLH
3. Frank Deshle. . . .117 Miles. . . .1967 Harley-Davidson FL

FIELD MEET

1. D'Nell Parker
2. Gary Stark
3. Bob Pratt

National judging results will appear in the national magazine later this year.



The "People's Choice" winner: Mike Fischer's 1946 Knucklehead with sidecar.



Another beautifully restored Knucklehead was Chuck Sherman's 1936 EL.



Best European trophy went to Mike Maloney for his 1974 BMW.

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Final Thoughts. . .

Hello Members,

Well, Dixon 2011 is now behind us. As I'm sure most of you know it was our most well attended event ever! We had more swap spaces sold than ever before, more tickets sold for the banquet dinner and more people through the front gate than ever before. The theme of 75th year of the Knucklehead was a complete success with somewhere around 35 of them in attendance in the beautiful California sunshine. Our event has truly evolved into the best lil meet west of the Mississippi. Good friends, bikes, parts, weather, food, what else can you ask for? We even had Richard Spagnolli, our national president in attendance.

I want to personally thank all of our members who volunteered their time to help make this the most successful event ever. I want to thank the Yurba Buena club for stepping up and taking care of the "early comers dinner" on Thursday night. The food was great, Thank you all. This meet has steadily grown and it could not have been achieved without our volunteers. I almost hate to bring it up, but the meet keeps growing and only the same few members keep volunteering . This subject will be discussed at the next meeting. For the most part, it came off with only a few hiccups.

Just so you all know, next year our theme is going to be "The year of the Flathead". So be warned, you have a year to finish up that flathead project that you have lying around.

Thank you,

DAVE KAFTON

Event Coordinator