

FORT SUTTER NEWS

FORT SUTTER CHAPTER, AMCA

MARCH-APRIL 2015

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 2

2015 OFFICERS

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Vice Pres. *Mark Wiebens*
Secretary *Tom Green*
Treasurer *Marie Moore*
Director *Rich Hardmeyer*
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www.amcafortsutter.org

From the President

Greetings to all,

Well, it's hard to believe it's March already and June is just a blink of an eye away, especially when we are still thinking about what a great annual dinner we had. Thanks Tracey and Marie for your hard work and planning. I think we had a great turn out, thanks to all of you who came together for a good time with friends. There was good food, good service, some cool prizes and some surprise cash—that's hard to not like. I enjoyed getting to know those of you I didn't know before and visiting with those of you I've always known. It was a full evening, I wish I had more time so I could have visited with everyone. If you missed, your loss, make sure you come next time! I believe our new location was a success. Cattlemans was happy to help us with anything to make our party enjoyable, so thanks to them and let's remember that when we plan our next dinner.

Like the wonderful dinner turnout our last meeting had great attendance which is good to see, there is strength in numbers and it takes participating members to make a great club. I know our membership numbers are up and I encourage members, new and old, to come to a meeting and voice your ideas or concerns.

We are doing a good job of spreading the word of the AMCA, and being listed as the most referred to club for new members joining the AMCA. We were recognized in the March/ April issue of the national magazine, page 17, and given 10 memberships to giveaway as we decide. I think it's pretty awesome when our club, or a member is mentioned or featured in the AMCA magazine.

OK, back to a blink of an eye. June and our Dixon meet is almost here, our next meeting will be important, kind of our last chance to try to iron out any issues pertaining to Dixon and having another great event, I encourage everyone to come.

I hope you all are dusting off your bikes and parts and getting ready for another year of rides and events, just looking through the magazine I see some cool rides this year that are not very far away, like Yerba Buena's Yosemite road run and they have there King City ride that's going to be here real soon. Get out and ride and show off those cool old bikes that I know you all have, see you on the road.

Your President
Mark Loewen

Our Next Meeting Will Be
SATURDAY, APRIL 4
At Sam's Hof Brau
Watt and El Camino Avenues
Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of the General Meeting

February 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by president, Mark Loewen. There were twenty-nine members in attendance plus guests, Lorin and Steffen Guy who were there to promote the Quail Motorcycle Gathering in Carmel and Cory Stahlman, the son of Kim and Tracey Stahlman.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting will stand as written.

Treasurer's Report: Marie Moore reported that our bank account remains healthy. With regard to twenty-seven members who have yet to pay their dues, membership chairman, Karie Schenken will send out E-mail reminder notices.

Old Business: Tracey Kleber reports that everything is set for the annual dinner at Cattlemans on February 28th, all we need now is for people to make their reservations.

Dixon: Meet chairman, Jim Moore, with help from the sub-chairs, reported on what has been accomplished so far this year: Publicity chairman, Mark Wiebens said we are planning on spending some money this year to buy some advertising in various magazines such as *City Bike* and *Thunder Press*.

We haven't lined up a speaker for the dinner yet. If anyone has an idea please contact Jim.

Regarding meet clean up during and after the meet, Greg Wood and Mark Wiebens said they have been trying to locate a group or company to hire for the job but so far have not been able to locate anyone. Greg also said he will start lining up a crew to help with the set up of Denverton Hall for the Friday evening dinner. While on the subject of the dinner Marie Moore made a motion (seconded by Rick Kinney) to advance Karie Schenken, who will be taking care of the decorations, \$100.00 to work with. Motion passed.

The Yerba Buena Chapter will, once gain, split the cost of the Thursday night dinner with us. They will take care of getting a food vendor and, at least for now, are planning on Mexican food. For the Friday night banquet we will be using Buckhorn again but this year we will provide servers to prevent people from taking too much—a problem we ran into last year.

We're still working on getting food vendors for lunch. This year the Yerba Buena Chapter will be providing (for a donation) coffee and donuts early in the morning.

Dave Kafton brought samples of plaques that he would like to have made for the special and national awards the club is responsible for providing. He further suggested we present the same kind and size of plaque for all the awards from Best of Show to Longest Distance Ridden. A motion was made and passed (J. Moore/ Kinney) to approve Dave's plan.

In the hope of getting some of the "trailer queens" out in the open so the public will have a chance to view them it was suggested, and later agreed to, that we require all bikes that are entered in National Judging be placed in the judging area by noon. In other words, one hour prior to the start of the actual judging. The judging area would then be open to the public for viewing until it is closed at 1:00 p.m.

Jim Schenken showed Ed Schenkin's proposed design for the meet T-shirt. The design was approved but before any final decision—quantity, color, etc.—can be made we need to get together with Bob and Shari Pratt to go over the history of T-shirt sales. However, it was the feeling of the membership the shirts should have pockets.

Rich Ostrander will take care of ordering 200 meet pins

New Business: Guest Lorin and Steffen Guy, event promoters, put on a presentation explaining what will be going on at the 7th Annual Quail Motorcycle Gathering which will be held Saturday, May 16 in Carmel.

Regarding our website, Jim Schenken said he has found a person who will update and maintain the site for an initial expense of \$400.00. As we need to move immediately to bring our website up to date a motion was made (Green/Wiebens) to authorize Jim to spend the \$400.00. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

TOM GREEN
Secretary

7th Annual

Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet



MAY 24, 2015
7 AM - 2 PM

Free Ride in Bike Show

Best of Show Awarded Open to All

CHICO

Elks Lodge #423

1705 Manzanita Ave.

Chico, California 95926

For more information:

Rick Haner (707) 292-3033 knuck39@yahoo.com or

More info at Ishiamca.org

VENDORS

20'X20' SPACE \$30

(Any vendor coming from 100+ miles away \$25)

Vendor set up starts 6 AM

NO HOST BAR BY THE ELKS

Like us on Facebook at Ishi Chapter, Antique Motorcycle Club of America *17-5*

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The Fort Sutter Chapter Annual Dinner Held Saturday, February 28 at Cattlemans

If this year's dinner had been given a theme it would have been, *New Venue, New Menu*. Tracey Kleber, back for her second year as chair of our annual dinner, did (with a little help from Marie Moore) another outstanding job.

Encouraged to find a new location for this year's dinner, Tracey came up with the idea of going to Cattlemans Restaurant in Rancho Cordova, giving us not only a new location but a new selection of dinner choices as well. And as a little added bonus, to keep prices in line with what we were used to, the club decided to offer a \$5.00 per person discount to all paid up members and associate members. Coupling that with a better selection of raffle prizes plus a 50-50 drawing (worth \$108.00 to the winner) the evening was a total success.



Incoming president Mark Loewen presented Rich Hardmeyer a plaque in appreciation of his eight years (2006–2014) serving as club president.



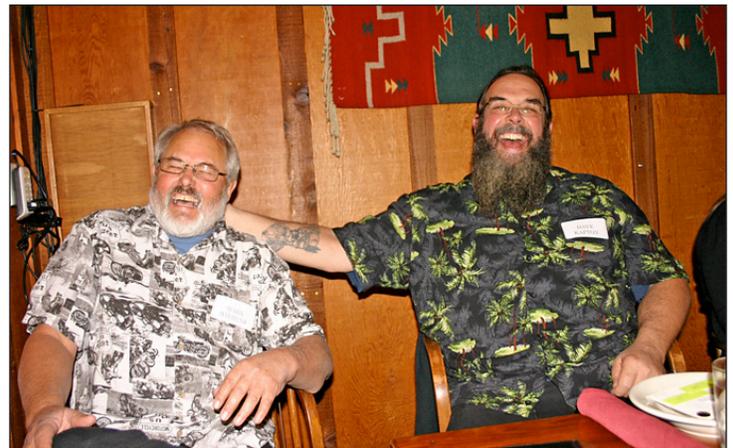
Tracey Kleber and her husband, Andy ready to greet the guests.



Some of the over thirty people who enjoyed the new location and menu at Cattlemans in Rancho Cordova.



When his number was called, Jim Moore thought he had won an electric drill but, due to a little mix up, he ended up with a wicker basket full of towels. . . .



. . . which Mark and Dave thought was hilarious. Well, not really but we can't let facts get in the way of good story.

WE NEVER THOUGH IT WOULD HAPPEN

After 60 years Dan is going to put the Black Prince up For Sale!

There are still a few of us around who remember the day in September of 1955 when Dan Bienfang rolled into town riding his brand new Vincent Black Prince. A motorcycle none of had seen before. Most of us hadn't even seen a picture of it. But there it was, all shiny and black and . . .well we weren't quite sure what it was but we knew we were looking at something special.

Dan Bienfang (better know in those days as Beanie) was a long time Sacramento resident, motorcycle rider and dirt track racer. Shortly after the Fort Sutter Chapter, AMCA was formed, Dan applied for membership but, as he tells it, "Jack Gormley wouldn't let me in because my bike wasn't old enough. Had to wait another eight years or so to join."

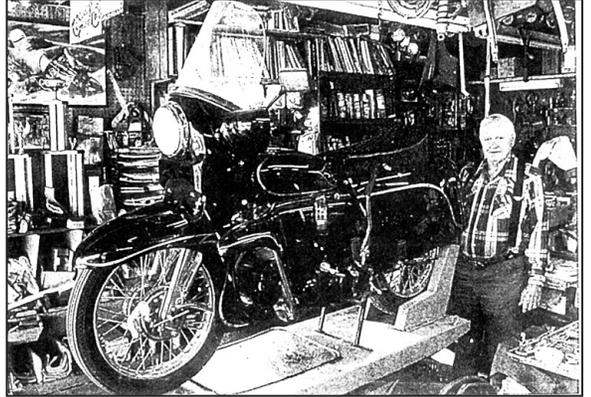
While still in Sacramento, Dan acquired another very rare bike, a Matchless G80RR, and started flat track racing all over Northern California. Eventually he moved to Porterville but when we'd see him from time to time the question was always the same, "Do you still have the Prince?" And, as the years went by, the answer was always the same: A resounding YES! You might as well have asked if he'd sold his right arm. Mutt and Jeff, Yin and Yang, Dan and the Prince, one just doesn't sound right without the other.

Recently Dan sent me a copy of a letter he had written to, and was published in, *M·P·H* the journal of the Vincent H.R.D. owners club which briefly tells the story:

In June 1955 I purchased a 1950 Series 'C' from Glen McGill, Indian Dealer in Stockton, California [while] living in Sacramento at the time. I never owned an automobile after I purchased the Black Prince on 1st September, 1955. When I saw a picture of it I went to Stockton and ordered the Prince, When the bike arrived I uncrated it myself and rode it home, To this day no one ever worked on it but me. Now it has 135,000 on it and the engine has never been opened up except when I installed Stellite cams in it at 110,000 miles. In 2006 I enquired about the history of my Black Prince and found it was the first one built and seventh off the production line

In 1953 I started racing flat track on a Matchless at Belmont, CA, the world's fastest ¼ mile.–the same year Dick Mann started racing. the West Coast program. I quit racing in 1965 at the Sacramento Mile at the original old fairgrounds

In 1967 I purchased a 1955 Series 'D' Black Shadow that only had 3,000 mile on it. At this date it has been sold in the last month. I still own the Black Prince and that will be sold in the future.



A Xerox copy of the photo published in the Vincent owners publication showing Dan in his shop with the Prince.



The picture at the top of the page is not very clear so for those of you who don't recall exactly what the Vincent Black Prince looks like here is a much better picture. The rear fending and seat are hinged to fold up giving access to the engine and rear wheel.



If you're thinking you might like to talk to Dan about buying the Black Prince when it goes on the market, you might want to look into a second mortgage first.

In 2014 at the Bonhams auction in England the Black Prince above–yes, it was in pieces–went for a record breaking £91,100 or \$134,395 at today's exchange rate.

No mention if that included the basket.



Fort Sutter Chapter
Antique Motorcycle Club of America
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COMING UP

March 28

28th Annual Clubman's All British Show
Santa Clara Country Fairgrounds, San Jose • Entries & Info: www.bsacno.org

April 23-25

Yerba Buena Chapter's King City Run
Contacts: Chris Carter (650) 207-0769 - E-mail: chris@motionpro.com
Victor Boocock (650) 704-3929 - E-mail: Anglzarke@aol.com

May 24

Ishi Chapter's Swap Meet & Show in Chico
See Page 3 for All the Details

May 30

The Sacramento Mile

June 19 & 20

— DIXON —

September 21-23

Yerba Buena Chapter's National Road Run
In and Around Yosemite
See the Yerba Buena Website for Details and Registration Form
yerbabuenaamca.org