

# FORT SUTTER NEWS

FORT SUTTER CHAPTER, AMCA

MARCH-APRIL 2011

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## From the President

Well this is a new one for me, writing the president's message in a hospital bed. I wanted to cut some fire wood for my house fire place so Barbara and I went over to a neighbor's house and helped them clean up their downed trees and get some fire wood for our home. I was cutting a log about 15 feet long by 10 inches in diameter when the log rolled and moved the end of the chain saw near my left leg. The saw caught my pants near my ankle and pulled the saw into the calf of my leg, the neighbor called 911 and the ambulance came out notifying the helicopter paramedics before they arrived. Barbara and the neighbor wrapped my leg real tight so I didn't lose too much blood. I was taken to the hospital in the ambulance. The first night there I had it operated on and tomorrow they will unwrap it and decide where to go from there. I will let you know in next newsletter what the doctor decides to do, but so far things look good.

I'm sure you all know by now of the passing of one of our founding members, Jack Gormley. I could write more about him but I think Tom Green is helping me out by taking care of that elsewhere in the newsletter. Let me just say we offer our sincere condolences to Jack's family and especially to Sara; we are always here to help in anyway we can.

Last week the FSMC, with the help of the Antique Ford Club, put on a bike and car show at the El Dorado Hills Holidays Express Hotel. It was to get donations for the Suicide prevention charity (SPEAR). There were other bike and car events in the area so we only had five bikes and five cars. The club members that helped out where Wes Allen, Tom Pettibone, and myself. Thanks for the help guys.

Last week, Jim and Marie Moore with the help of Bob Pratt got all of our equipment out of Bob Kergels place, sorted it all out, took what was worn out or no longer needed to the dump, and then moved the rest into our new storage facility in Dixon. We owe Bob Kergel a big THANK YOU for letting us store our stuff on his property for the last eight years.

Finally, please try to attend our next meeting on June 4. It will be our last chance to get together and go over the details of the upcoming Dixon meet.

Your President,  
*Richard Hardmeyer*



Our Next Meeting Will Be  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 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

## April 2, 2011

The April 2 meeting, held at Sam's Hof Brau, was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President, Rich Hardmeyer. There were sixteen members plus new member Lars Elvik in attendance.

**Minutes:** The usual motion was made (Kinney/Green) to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed, the minutes will stand as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marie Moore reported that we have 123 paid up members so far this year and our bank account remains in good shape.

**Old Business:** Jim Moore and Rich Hardmeyer announced that there will be a car show to benefit the suicide prevention group to be held April 30 in El Dorado Hills and they are asking us to display our bikes. Rich will be calling members to see what we can put together. The only problem is that the BSA Club's "Mother Load" ride is the same day.

Also coming up is "Motorcycle Awareness Day" May 15 at Sierra College and the A&S BWM show on Saturday, September 17.

Regarding the Dixon Meet and our storage situation, Jim Moore has been in contact with Joey Kergel and hopes to set a date when we can go out to Bob Kergel's to collect our equipment, take what we want to get rid of to the dump and put the rest in the new storage facility in Dixon.

**The Dixon Meet:** Dave Kafton says he has things fairly well under control. Dave contacted Sam of Greene's Backpoarch Bar-b-que to explain our concerns about his service. Sam and Dave have come to an understanding so Sam will be back this year after all.

The club has purchased two box seat tickets (a \$130.00 value) to the Sacramento Mile to be used as raffle or door prize at the Friday night banquet.

Starklite will provide the inflatable movie screen again this year.

Pete Young has been contacted and has agreed to do a Power Point presentation on the Cannonball Run. Now what is needed is the Power Point projection equipment and a screen.

Barbara Hardmeyer will take care of the judge's luncheon again this year.

George Hood has agreed to put on two technical seminars and Red Fred Johansen will put on two judging seminars.

Dave has arranged for Cracchiolo's Catering to take care of the Friday night banquet this year, The cost will be just about what we have paid the last few years so banquet tickets will remain at \$18.00.

Rich Ostrander said this year he expects some representative of the national to present the recognition awards for Longest Distance Ridden, Period Modified, Oldest, and Most Unique while we will still be handing out our special club awards. Rich said he would like to present the trophies for Best Knucklehead, Best Rat, and Best Accessorized himself. The club unanimously agreed to his request.

**New Business:** Dave Kafton brought up the question of how to best keep our website current. Shari Pratt suggested she contact her son in law to see if he could figure out the best way to make our website more user friendly, both for the webmaster and public. She will report back at the next meeting.

**TOM GREEN**  
Secretary

### ***From Shari Pratt Our New Merchandise Manager***

**I now have all our club merchandise such as caps, T-shirts (old and new), sweat shirts, etc., and can bring any item to the meeting that you may wish to purchase. My E-mail is [spboomer@aol.com](mailto:spboomer@aol.com) or phone (530) 219-1568. I can also mail anything, charging for postage of course. Just let me know.**

***Shari***

# A Couple of Important Messages Regarding Our Upcoming Dixon Meet and it's only four weeks away!

Hi All,

Well here we are once again sitting on the thresh hold of the Dixon 2011 event. We have been real busy behind the scenes here to put on an interesting and successful event. I like to have something new and interesting every year to help keep every ones interest.

This year, along with all of our regular swap meet, bike show, food vendors, seminars and field events, we have a new caterer for the Friday night banquet dinner along with a power point presentation of the Motorcycle Cannonball Run put on by Pete Young. The Yerba Buena club has graciously volunteered to host the Thursday night early commers dinner (Thank you Yerba Buena). In addition, the club has purchased a pair of front row box seat tickets to the Sacramento mile that we will be raffling off at the banquet! We have some wonderful T-shirts honoring seventy-five years of the Knucklehead by Jim Inman, and custom made, one of a kind, trophies by Rich Ostrander, outdoor movies and free popcorn Thursday and Friday nights and much more. All is progressing well and judging by the amount of calls and pre-registrations, this looks as if it may be our biggest event ever.

Come one come all and bring your family. As usual, we need all hands on deck! Please contact me to let me know what you are willing to volunteer for to help make this the most successful event ever.

**DAVE KAFTON**

Event Coordinator

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## NATIONAL JUDGING PROGRAM AT DIXON

As you know, a major part of our annual Show and Swap Meet has always been the National Judging Program. Our Meet is the only AMCA event west of Mississippi where members can have their motorcycles judged to AMCA standards, so it is important that we assure a solid judging program.

Over the past year, a National Judging Committee has been appointed and has updated and revised the Judging Guidelines Manual. We are planning to hold two Judging Seminars at our 2011 Dixon Meet, one on Friday, June 17 and another on Saturday, June 18 prior to the judging program. I urge all judges and anyone who might wish to become a judge to attend these meetings, in order to pick up on these program changes.

I ask all our current judges to again serve so that we can continue to provide a top quality judging program. I also encourage owners to consider participating in this program and present your motorcycle for judging. This can only help to assure we have more and more beautifully restored or well preserved motorcycles for all to enjoy.

*JIM MOORE,*

Chapter Deputy Judge

# In Memory of Jack Gormley

August 2, 1934 – May 2, 2011

Where to begin? Jack's life and interests took on so many aspects that it is impossible to focus on one certain area. Of course we all know of his love for motorcycles but what about his interest in airplanes, guns, tether cars, model airplane engines, swords, outboard motors and just about anything mechanical? Or even his love for animals. Or the fact that while in his late sixties he decided to start taking banjo lessons.

As most know, Jack's family founded the Gormley Mortuary business in 1897. The family continued the business which it still has to this day. Jack's father passed away while Jack was still in grammar school and it wasn't long before young Jack was spending his free time helping out around the funeral home cleaning up and arranging the flowers. Somehow, between school and work, he managed to find time for U-control model airplanes and tether cars. This was the beginning of a life long fascination with the internal combustion engine.

After his graduation from Christian Brothers High School in 1952, Jack went to work at the mortuary but eventually was called up in the draft and his life was put on hold for a couple of years. Following his discharge from the army, Jack went back to work at the mortuary where he would spend the rest of his working career.

About this time there were a number of young men about Jack's age, most still living with their parents in the Land Park Area not far from Jack's home, who were tearing up the neighborhood on motorcycles and spending their evenings at Stan's, Swan's, or Mel's Drive-In. Jack knew most of them from the drive-in and while his main interest at the time revolved around hot rods, motorcycles soon became another interest and, as we know, when Jack got interested in something he didn't let go.



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Jack competed as a speedway rider but eventually became Mike Rooney's sponsor and mechanic. In the 50s if you had a hot rod you had to join a club and Jack decided on the Thunderbolts where he met Harold "Baggy" Bagdasarian. In 1950 Bagdasarian, who was then president of the Thunderbolts, persuaded his fellow club members to put on a car show and although it got off to a rather shaky start the first few years, the Sacramento Autorama was born. Jack started working with Bagdasarian and eventually became the Autorama's floor and selection manager, by this time a well regarded and profitable show. All cars entered had to pass Jack's selection. If he didn't think your car was up to Autorama standards you didn't get in.

As time went by, Jack began supplementing his collection of cars by acquiring a number of motorcycles including a JAP powered speedway bike which he actually raced a few times. By the early 70s Jack had decided that, when it came to speedway, it was better to be a sponsor than a racer so he asked Mike Rooney, a local upcoming rider if he would like to ride for him. After agreeing on a 40/60 split, the team of Gormley and Rooney began campaigning around Northern California competing at Napa, Sears Point, Reno, San Jose, and Sacramento. Mike said that Jack was a great guy to ride for. Jack did a lot of the tuning himself and even managed to come up with a genuine Alf Hagon frame to put the JAP engine in. "We spent about four years together," said Mike, "and with that engine and frame we really cleaned house."

In the mid 1960s, although heavily into cars and motorcycles, something else was about to catch his inter-

est—flying. Jack had been attending air shows and had his eye on a WWII Ryan PT22, a two seat mono-plane with a five cylinder radial engine that the Army Air Corps had used as a trainer. If you're going to buy a plane you really should be able to fly so in 1967 Jack started taking flying lessons and in July of 1969 received his pilot's license. He bought the Ryan and, after doing some restoration, took it for its first flight in June of 1970. Soon he and Sara were taking it up and down the coast to various "fly ins."

In 1981 Jack was involved in a very serious motorcycle vs. car accident that left him bent but far from broken. Although his condition meant the loss of his pilots license and curtailed his riding, he put the time spent recuperating to good use. In 1982 Jack, along with eleven others, most members of the original but now disbanded Fort Sutter Motorcycle Club, applied for membership in the Antique Motorcycle Club of America.



Jack on his front lawn in 1978 with his newly acquired Crocker.

As usual, when Jack got an interest in something there was no holding back. Besides being a founding member of the Fort Sutter Chapter in 1982, by 1983 Jack had become a National Director of the AMCA, a position he held until 2007.

Some who didn't know Jack well thought of him as a hoarder but his good friends will be quick to tell you he was a *collector* and there is a vast difference. Hoarders collect anything, junk included. Jack only collected the best. If he bought a motorcycle or a car, a gun or a model airplane engine then he searched out, found, and bought the manuals and literature to go with it. His fascination with guns went further than just collecting, he enjoyed shooting as well. He became such a regular at the local shooting range that when they were short handed they would let Jack run the place.

You would think that maintaining a collections of cars, motorcycles, guns, knives, tether cars, model airplane engines, outboard motors, and all the manuals, and advertising literature that goes with them would be enough, but no. While in his sixties, Jack began taking banjo lessons perhaps as a nod to his softer side, something not many of us knew he had. Sara said that Jack had an amazing love of animals. He enjoyed going out duck hunting but got to the point where he couldn't bring himself to shoot a duck. When she and Jack would go for evening walks around the neighborhood Jack

would know the name of every pet dog or cat they came across.

Jack had a history of being a survivor. Besides the motorcycle accident, which nearly cost him his life, he had suffered serious heart attacks in 1981, 1991, and 2003 but this year was different. Not feeling well, he entered the hospital on March 30, 2011 for some tests. Those tests showed that he had colon cancer and, as a result, he underwent surgery on April 6 but because of the damage done to his abdominal wall when he had the motorcycle accident the surgery became more complicated than it normally would have been; his weakened heart was just not up to the strain.

At the time of his death Jack was a member of the Smith and Wesson Gun Owners Club, The experimental Aircraft Association, a life member of the AMA and the NRA and an honorary Sacramento Deputy Sheriff. In 2009 he was presented with an honorary membership in the AMCA in recognition of his quarter century of service to the club as a national director. At the service which was held Friday May 6, there was a beautiful arrangement of spring flowers sent by the Antique Motorcycle Club of America.

Our heart-felt condolences to go to the members of the Gormley family but especially to you, Sara. The entire club membership stands by, ready to help in anyway we can.



Antique, Vintage, Classic  
**Motorcycle Swap Meet & Show**

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August 19 & 20 - Tenino City Park, Tenino, WA  
[www.evergreenamca.org](http://www.evergreenamca.org). Info: 360-264-4210

31st Annual Tenino Meet. FREE Admission, Camping \$5, Vendor Spaces \$30

Fort Sutter Chapter  
Antique Motorcycle Club of America  
C/O 4520 Francis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95822



**Yerba Buena Chapter's  
2011 National  
Road Run**

**September 26,27,28  
Santa Rosa, CA**

**Detailed information and the  
registration form is now on-line  
at [www.yerbabuenaamca.org](http://www.yerbabuenaamca.org)**