

# FORT SUTTER NEWS

FORT SUTTER CHAPTER, AMCA

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## From the President

It's been one year since I cut my leg with a chain saw. It happened on May 5, 2011, and I haven't ridden a bike in the dirt since but now I'm ready to ride vintage trials again. I went out to start my Triumph Cub and it wouldn't start. It was running real good when I put it in the shop. I checked it out and it didn't have any spark. I had an ARD magneto on it which was always very reliable. The company does not make bike magnetos anymore so I can't get any replacement parts. There is a company in England that makes magnetos for Cubs so I'll send for one. I can't wait to ride in the next trials.

I called Ken Heuser who, as you all know, had an automobile accident a few months ago. I talked to his wife, Joyce, and she said he's in a care facility in Granite Bay and getting better. He is in a wheel chair and they are doing therapy to help him walk. Joyce said it has been a long and slow recovery but he is getting better.

We went to the San Jose swap meet and they had a very big turn out, lots of bikes and a lot of people. We took the last of Whitie Tompkin's British bikes and parts, a lot of my parts and a few of my bikes. Gaylene and I both sold a lot of parts and bikes. We both did very well. For me, it was kind of hard selling items that I collected for forty years but I'm getting old and I don't want Barbara and the kids left with the task of selling the bike parts. I have done a few estate sales for friends and I know how much work is involved in selling parts.

On June 9, 2012 at EL Dorado Hills, in the Town Center the Fallen Warriors Organization will have a car and bike show. This is an annual event to raise money and awareness for those high schools that have lost alumni to any war. The FWMO buys memorial plaques and provides scholarships at the schools in memory of those alumni who have been killed in action. If you would like to show your bike at this event please call me at 209-748-5126.

Your President  
*Richard Hardmeyer*

Our Next Meeting Will Be  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 2**

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 7, 2012

The meeting, was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by vice president, Dave Kafton there were nineteen member in attendance plus guests Rick Haner and George Gilmore both from the Ishi Chapter.

**Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February 4 meeting. The minutes will stand as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marie Moore reported that we now have a total of 118 members plus about eighteen old members who have yet to pay their 2012 dues.

**Old Business:** Shari Pratt was not in attendance so no report on the status of our website was available. Jim Moore submitted our application for the dates of September 22 through 25, 2013 for our National Road run. The application was approved. Rich Ostrander then presented his proposed ideas for the run, this time centering around the Sacramento Valley area and including rides into the Capay Valley, the Delta region, and finally the foothills, each day's ride being anywhere from 150 to 200 miles. The meet headquarters would be the Woodlake Inn (formerly the Radisson). Following his presentation, Rich asked for the club's permission to chair the event and it was unanimously granted.

**Dixon:** Meet chairman, Dave Kafton said he has decided that, unless something or someone comes up at he last minute, not to have a guest speaker at this year's banquet. Dave has been in contact with chief judge Carl Olsen who will be at Dixon and will be willing to put on a judging seminar. While on the subject of seminars, it was decided to have two judging seminars on Friday and no seminar on Saturday.

The caterer for the Friday dinner will be the same as last year with the same menu and the same price the question that still has to be answered is what number of dinners to order. Dave will check with the caterer to find out just how flexible they are and then we will decide on how many tickets to print up. We have arrange for the same "hot dog vendor" as we had last year and Rich Ostrander will look for an ice cream vendor. After some discussion it was agreed that we would ask the vendors for only a 10% "kick back" this year, The Yerba Buena Chapter has agreed to split the cost if the Thursday night "early comers" dinner with us. This year each vendor will receive one dinner ticket in the vendor packet, all others will have to pay for their dinner—the price for the dinner yet to be determined.

Dave brought up the idea of having a band to provide live music after the Friday banquet but the membership felt the cost was excessive. Rich Ostrander said he knew of another group that might be available and would be cheaper. Because a decision needs to be reached before the next meeting it was decided that Rich will report his findings to Dave Kafton and then we will ask for the board of directors to make a final decision on the matter.

Dave asked for \$400.00 for banquet table decorations and raffle prizes. His wish was granted.

**New Business:** Dave Kafton is going to have D'Nell design a hand out with our club information on it which can be used at our various displays. Dave will bring the layout to the next meeting and, if it is approved, we will order 2,000 of them.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**TOM GREEN**  
Secretary

**Welcome to our two newest members**  
**Both who are movers and shakers in the Ishi Chapter**  
**Rick Haner**  
**and**  
**Gordon Matthews**

# The L.A. Chapter's 2012 National Road Run

*Story and photos by Rich Ostrander*

John Crawford drove down from British Columbia to join me and close to another fifty riders in Buellton, California, just above Santa Barbara, for three days of good weather and great roads and scenic vistas. I've ridden all over California for some forty-five years but I spent three days on the roads I've never laid a wheel to.

A big shout out to Craig and Judi Taylor, John and Marie Von Karvaly, and Byron and Shanon Salzborn for the great job they did on the organization of this event. Killer T-shirts, maps, a poker run,



Hakan Martensoon '47 HD, Larry Doane VL/UL HD, Rich Ostrander's '40 EL HD on top of the Harris grade.

banquet, lunches and over-the-top refreshments. They set a new standard. Riders from Washington, Oregon, Arizona and all over California were in attendance.

Sunday's ride of 125 riders took us through canyons, mountain passes, and agricultural valleys, and a great lunch stop. Fred and Becky Lang open up their ranch and Fred's restoration shop to us plus they served us a great western barbecue. Fred's collection of four and two wheeled vehicles is a treat to view, the shop lacks nothing. Thanks to both of them for making our day so special.

Oh, and let's not forget Jim Moser who came from



Clara Baker's nicely done up 1965 HD Topper with sidecar.



Jeff Moore's beautiful 1950 BMW.

New Mexico just to show us his Super Chief and his street legal, dual engined Indian Scout monster cycle. It sounded like a top fuel dragster—Whoa! The ride back to the hotel on Santa Rosa Road was a great way to finish the day.

Monday saw us riding more local valleys, canyons, and passes. The lunch stop was a Jamala Beach which is a cool, laid-back surfer hangout and food shack. After lunch we road past Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch and up a forest service road to the top of Figueroa Peak. The view from this hang glider launch site was unbelievable! What a ride up and down and back to the hotel. Another 160 miles on the old odometer.

Day three, Tuesday, saw us head down to Santa Barbara for lunch on the pier at Moby Dick's. It was neat being able to ride out and park on this old wooden pier while we ate. The tourists loved the old motorcycles and couldn't keep their cameras off them. After lunch we rode over to the Cold Springs Tavern atop San Marcos Pass. Over 100 years ago it was the middle stop for the stage coaches to change horses and refresh their passengers, Many riders took the shorter route but a few hardy souls took the twenty mile ride up and over 3,995 foot high La Cumbre Peak with it's crumbling, narrow laned, twisting road. We were rewarded with an outstanding view of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding area. A great 100 mile ride.

Back at the hotel we proceeded to freshen up and then walk over to the banquet a mere block away. It was held at Mendenhall's Museum of gas pumps and "Petroliana". You had to see it to believe it! Tom Mendenhall's father used to have a wrecking yard and a Richfield gas station on the property. The gas station turned into a church which, in turn, became a bar—Go figure. There are over 20,000 large and small porcelain signs if there is one. Tom's father collected them over some fifty years. Gas pumps, cars, gas and automotive collectables, non signs. . .the works! The *American Pickers* would have a coronary. Now it's the site of the annual Salt Flats Hall of Fame Dinner. Both Tom and his father are in the 200 mph club.

We had a great barbecue, raffle prizes and the special awards were handed out. A great ending to a fabulous road run. Well done L.A. Chapter!!



Todd Bertram's original Seattle, Washington '40 ELHD police bike.



The Cold Springs Tavern atop San Marcos Pass a 100 year old stage coach stop.



A small portion of the rider's machines at rest on the Santa Barbara pier.



A small sampling of the porcelain signs on display at the Mendenhall museum.



The banquet room.

### Special Awards

- Pete Peterson ..... Oldest Rider
- Mike Kane ..... Hard Luck
- John Crawford ..... Longest Distance Hauled
- Jim Brehio ..... Longest Distance Ridden
- John Von Karvaly ..... Oldest Bike
- Byron Salzborn ..... Youngest Rider
- Mike Gorrone ..... Poker Run Winner
- Mike Gorrone ..... Special "Winner" Award

# ***Dixon is less that four weeks away and Dave Kafton needs our help. . .***

Hello fellow members,

As you all know, Dixon is upon us once again. The meet has progressively gotten bigger and bigger each year and we still have the same dozen or so worker bee's that we have had for years. It appears that this year it will be the largest that we have ever had. Will you please give me a call and let me know what you are willing to do to give your fellow club members a helping hand. I'm only asking for an hour or two.

We especially need help this year with: Gate tenders, Set up on Thursday, clean up on Saturday, and maybe a person or two to help Shari Pratt with the T-shirt, pin, and hat sales.

Thank you,  
Dave Kafton, Meet Chairman

## ***Motorcycle Awareness Day, May 20th***



**Not quite your usual motorcycle picture but interesting. Bob Pratt is trying his hand at one of the (fund raising) games that were offered: *Helmet Bowling*. Maybe this is something we should try at Dixon. Bowl a 300 game (at \$1 a throw) and win Dave Kafton's JD — I kinda like it. . .**

Again this year Bob Pratt and Bill Cruz, as part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) National Motorcycle Awareness Month hosted Motorcycle Awareness Day at Sierra College in Rocklin. Their part of the program went off without a hitch with rider safety training, demonstrations, a small swap meet, and a number of vendors. As for us, well, there was a problem. . . actually quite a few.

On Friday the 18th, Bob and Bill made a special pre-show set up so Channel 31 TV could do a live broadcast promoting the event; we were supposed to get a little air time to plug our national meet in Dixon.

Problem number 1: The powers that be back at the station told the TV crew they could only allow us about three minutes because they were going to devote the bulk of morning show to covering Facebook's public stock offering. Hello Facebook. Good bye Dixon promo.

We were supposed to have our booth set up so we could hand out flyers. Problem number 2: To set up a booth you need a booth and we didn't have one. Even though we sent out an e-mail asking for someone to run over to Dixon and get the pop-up and club banner out of storage it didn't happen. To save the day Rich Kinney just wandered through the crowd handing out flyers left and right.

We were going to have a display of old motorcycles. Problem number 3: Hardly anyone showed up. An hour after the show started only Bob Pratt, Bill Cruz, and Rich Ostrander had come with old bikes. There may have been more later but I had to leave because this newsletter has a tight deadline.

The bottom line is that Bob and Bill deserve a lot of credit for promoting a great cause. As for us. . . well, as Pogo once said, "We has met the enemy and they is us."

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# *Save The Date!*

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**

We will be having our (almost) annual Fort Sutter picnic.

**This year it will be at Micke Grove in Lodi**

The club will provide the food and soft drinks  
and it will be free to paid up members and their families  
the only cost will a \$5.00 per car load park entrance fee.

Complete details in the next newsletter.