

FORT SUTTER NEWS

FORT SUTTER CHAPTER, AMCA

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From the President

Last week I went to a open house similar to the one I have at our house at Christmas time. It was at Dave Brant's shop. His Business is Brant Engineering in Woodland. He builds racing bikes: Speedway, Rotax and street rods. His main interest is in Bonneville bikes. His streamliner turned 218 miles per hour at Bonneville salt flats. There were at least twenty-five to thirty motorcycle at his event and about ten hot rods The bike that had the most pictures taken was my 1928 Douglas. Dave has a big machine shop full of lathes, mills, boring bars, grinders and everything else needed to build engines and make frames.

In the last news letter I wrote about Ken Fielding 1969 Triumph T100R. It received a senior rating in 2010 and after some cleaning due to about two years of storage it was still in senior rating condition. We sold it. Jeff Moore handled the sale. It brought a good price for a 500cc triumph at \$7,250.00.

Jeff Serick told me he went to the National BSA ride in Santa Rosa. There were about 400 bikes for the five day event . He said it was a fun ride but crowded on the road with all those bikes. Riders came from all over the world for this ride. See you June 7, our last meeting before Dixon!

Your President,
Richard Hardmeyer



The Dave Brant Streamliner and shop.



Pictures from the Brant photo album showing the streamliner at Bonneville.

Our Next Meeting Will Be **SATURDAY, JUNE 7**

At Sam's Hof Brau Watt and El Camino Avenues

Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Remember! If you have lunch, take your food into our meeting room.

Minutes of the General Meeting

April 5, 2014

In the absence of president, Hardmeyer and the reluctance of vice president, Kafton the meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Secretary, Tom Green. There were twenty-five members plus two guests in attendance.

The first order of business, even before the traditional non-reading of the minutes, was meet chairman Jim Moore's introduction of our new Dixon caterer, Dannie Lewis. Dannie gave a very promising over view of how he operates and what his plans are for Dixon. If all goes as planned, this looks to be a nice change. He even promised coffee by 6:00 a.m.!

Minutes: The acting president said the minutes of the February 1 meeting were, once again, transcribed with pinpoint accuracy and would be approved as written. . . it's good to be king.

Treasurer's Report: Marie Moore reported that our bank account is still in good shape and to date we have a total of 104 paid members. She also passed along the unwelcome news that the Sacramento Mile has been canceled probably because the race promoters were unable to come to an agreement with the Harness Racing Association.

Old Business: Tracey Kleber reported that we had thirty-six people at the annual dinner. She also asked if we might be interested in finding a new location for next year's dinner. The general feeling was that it might not be a bad idea to look into other possibilities.

Jim Moore, reporting on the Dixon meet said the volunteer/work assignment list is beginning to fill in but he is looking for someone to take care of decorating Denverton Hall for Friday evening's banquet. Karie Schenken volunteered. Jim is also looking for volunteers to man the front gate. Jim Inman has completed the meet pins and has donated 100 of them to the club.

This year, rather than sending the campers to the fair grounds office to pay, we will be collecting \$10.00 per night for camping. Hopefully, this will offset the cost of keeping the showers open.

New Business: Concerning our website, Marie Moore said she had been in contact with a person who professionally sets up and maintains websites but it was obvious that we could not afford it. After some discussion, however, it was the general feeling of the membership that as more and more people are depending on the internet to find the information they're looking for, that the money we used to spend printing and mailing newsletters (now, thanks to the internet we only mail nineteen) would be well spent on improving our website. Jim Schenken said he knew of someone who might be able to help us at more reasonable rate and will look into it.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

TOM GREEN
Secretary

In Memory of Stephen Wright

Steve left us a few weeks ago and we are the sadder for it. He was well known for his writing of three of the best books on early American motorcycling history at a time when only Dr. Harry Sucher and Col. Jerry Hatfield entertained such ideas.



His first book the *American Racer 1900-1939* with long forgotten photos and personal interviews with Maldwyn Jones and Jim Davis set the standard. He followed that book with the *American Racer 1940-1980* and then Vol.1 *The American Motorcycle*.

Steve also restored several early teen's racers but his favorite was his fabulous 2 cam JDH cutdown which he rode at speed. Several years ago he started a ride near his home on the Central California Coast to honor his friend Bud Ekins.

He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him and by the many who come to know him through his great books.

A Kenny Heuser Sighting. . . **Explained in an E-mail received from Jerry Bland**

Hi Tom,

I went to race the opener at Lodi Saturday and was quite surprised to see Ken there. He said he had only been out of hospice care since December but decided he wanted to race once more. He brought out a street legal on/off road Triumph and ran it in the vintage twins class with me and 6 other 40 inchers. His bike was definitely not race legal but District 36 officials were kind enough to turn a blind eye and let him run. He had a friend riding his old Trackmaster framed 500 Triumph in the same race. Ken laid it over in the main but I think he was O.K. as he low sided (running knobbies). It was good to see him out there and he wanted to tell everyone hello, he is alive and well. I will send a few other pictures of him. (None racing) Thought you might want to put these in the news letter.

Jerry



Ken, with friends, all suited up and ready to roll.



Running the Lodi Cycle Bowl with knobbies is not approved of by the AMA—That's the American *MEDICAL* Association.

*Congratulations to
President, Hardmeyer
and First Lady
Barbara who recently
celebrated their 50th
wedding anniversary.*



*Ah, those were the days,
big races,
big cars,
big hair.*



The Cherokee Chapter's National Road Run

a report from Rich Ostrander

Mark Wiebens and I joined up with Craig Taylor and Hokan Martensson in Riverside for the long haul to Kerrville, Texas for the Cherokee Chapter's National Road Run. Three days on the road and we pulled into the Yo Ranch Hotel just west and centered between Austin and San Antonio. Rolling limestone hills, rivers and streams, plus trees make this the best part of Texas. Mark's wife, Cathy flew into Austin so she could partake in the adventure. Also on hand was Rick Najera and long time friend



Left to right: Rich, Craig, Mark, Cathy, Hokan, and Joe outside the Texas Motorcycle Club museum.

Mike Kane and his gal Jerri. We awoke Monday morning to rolling thunder, a torrential downpour, followed by an intense hail storm. Needless to say we were a little late getting started till the weather cleared. Monday's ride of 130 miles took us north to Fredricksburg with a stop in Luckenbach for lunch then back to Kerrville. As our group always has to be different we opted for lunch at a small cafe in the town of Comfort.

Tuesday morning was 32 degrees instead of the promised 50 but was my favorite with a distance of 180 miles over hill and dale with plenty of twisties. Oh, yah! All four legs of this ride were very cool but the middle two were the best with great scenic vistas from atop large rolling hills. An unintended stop by me saved the day for Craig's 1963 Panhead as he had an oil line spring a leak that had lost him two quarts of lubricant and he would have surely lost a motor. Repaired, re-oiled, and we proceeded to roll. Whew! Close one.

Wednesday saw 25 mph winds and our distance was 139 miles with a visit to the Texas Motorcycle Museum just north of Vanderpool. An ex-Aussie racer has a great collection of at least a 100 motorcycles of varied manufacturers and countries of origin.

I saw an original paint Brough SS80, three Vincents, one being a rare Black Prince. A Manx Norton



Ricky viewing a Matchless twin.



A couple hit this wild pig and Stanley Miller retrieved it for the barbecue!

story and photos continued on the next page.

The Cherokee National Contiued

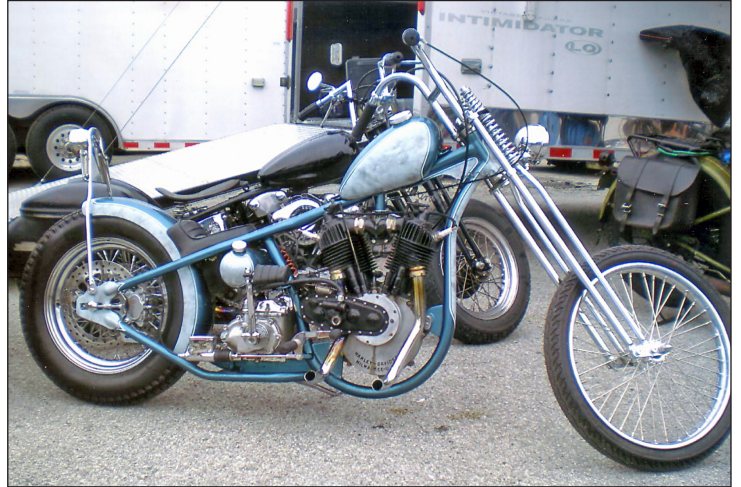
racer, a Hailwood Ducati racer, a Seely racer, an early rare French machine, plus quite a few original paint English pre-16 models. There were also a few early H-D's and Indians sprinkled here and there.

After the museum our group stopped in the small town of Utopia at another neat rural cafe for a great lunch. Sweet tea and buttermilk pie, oh my! Upon arrival back at the hotel we loaded up for the return trip and attended the evenings closing banquet. Over 175 people were in attendance with most of them riders. A good time was had by all.

The next day we drove close to 1,000 miles so we would be close to Mike Kane's place where we would spend the next day and night before finishing up back at home via Las Vegas. Mike and Jerri's hospitality was exceptional. They took us to a bar (with no back wall) in their small town that held a nightly full on rodeo out back. Strangest thing I ever saw and there was three of them in town. Go figure. Great run, great people, a super variety of hardware (two Scott flying Squirrel's and six Nimbus's), spectacular scenery, and great food. Time well spent. Oh, and I might add that the new electric leg on my '40EL works GREAT!



Have you ever seen six Danish Nimbuses on one road run? They all ran great.



Kirk Sharp, a SoCal transplant to Texas brought this "fresh" JD chopper with four speed transmission. You know us kids loved it. It ran so goooood!



A representative of the "New" Indian Company drove in this 1938 Ford pickup with an early 283 Chevrolet engine under the hood. (That's not his 1930 101 Scout.)



A sweet VL bobjob owned by Texan Elton Morris.

**FAST IRON IN DIXON
JUNE 20 AND 21
IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**

Coming Full Circle. . .

I'll start out by saying, it's not the destination, it's the journey and this journey began sometime last March when Mr. Russ Baxter of Fowler, California, which is about five miles south of Fresno, was going through some odds and ends and came across a nicely framed, but somewhat yellowed, photograph. There was only one person in the photo he recognized—a relative—Ed Thaddeus. It seems Thad was his father's first cousin and somehow the photo had ended up in the Baxter family collection.

Now Russ was faced with that same problem we all have from time to time. You've sorted through all your stuff and you end up with two piles: Pile one goes in the trash and pile two goes into a box of stuff you're not really sure what to do with, it eventually, finds its way into the garage where it sits until it's time to start the whole sorting and tossing routine over again.

But Russ took a third option—the road less (if ever) traveled. On the back of the picture was a neatly typed caption indicating that the group in the photo was the 1935 Fort Sutter Motorcycle Club of Sacramento, California and it even listed all the members. So Russ got on the internet and looked up the Fort Sutter Motorcycle Club. After a bit of searching, he found our Fort Sutter, AMCA website which listed Rich Hardmeyer as president and included his phone

number so Russ gave Rich a call to tell him about the picture and Rich, in turn, suggested he phone me.

When Russ called me we had a very nice conversation in which he explained, as best he could, how the picture came into his possession. He said that, if we were interested, he'd be happy to send us the photo. I assured him we were indeed interested. I had a hunch the picture was the same one we have on our website as part of the short film Scott Davidson put together using pictures from Chuck Otises' collection but what really piqued my interest was the mention of a list of members on the back. This might be a chance to finally identify everyone.

On April 10 a box labeled "Priority Mail" arrived and, sure enough, there it was, all carefully packed, the 1935 picture. Not only were the club members identified but there was also, pasted on the back, a poem titled, *The Man in the Iron Shoe* by Emmett Moore.

I called Russ to thank him for taking the time to go the extra mile. He said he was happy to have done it and all he wanted in return was for us to publish the picture in the memory of Ed Thaddeus one of the twelve founding members of our club, the Fort Sutter Chapter, Antique Motorcycle Club of America.

Now the journey is complete. The picture has come full circle. What a journey it has been!

The Man in the Iron Shoe

by Emmett Moore

You have often heard the tale of the Casey's mighty swat
And you've read of football heroes old and new,
But seldom have you ever heard the praises sung,
Of the man in the Iron Shoe.

Now his is a hard and rugged game,
Its players picked and few,
The fait of heart will have no part
Of this Man in the Iron Shoe.

His arena is an earthen track,
His opponents a reckless crew,
Whose ambition is to beat,
Other men with an Iron Shoe.

His creed is simple—ride to win,
His method—dare and do.
His nerves are strands of tempered steel,
The Man in the Iron Shoe.

Dust, and sun, and clamor
Are part of the entrance cue,
Of this Gladiator of the track,
Our Man in the Iron Shoe.

He strives against the hand of Time,
Hearts skip a beat or two,
As he slides a turn at 90
This Man in the Iron Shoe.

He rides a steed with a brazen heart
That drinks of a devil's brew,
It's pulse drums high as it hurtles by
With the man in the Iron Shoe.

Win—lose—or draw it's all the same,
When the race is run and through,
What matters is the stirring game.
To the Man in the Iron Shoe.

True, he may not win, but he'll try again,
As all real sportsmen do,
Till someday he will lay aside
A battered Iron Shoe.

He may grow old and gray like me
But till his life is through,
He'll never lose the memory of,
His days in the Iron Shore!

The 1935 Photograph of the Fort Sutter Motorcycle Club Donated to Our Club by Russ Baxter in Memory of Ed Thaddeus

The typewritten caption, duplicated below, was carefully pasted to the back of the framed picture along with the poem, "The Man in the Iron Shoe."



FORT SUTTER MOTORCYCLE CLUB MEMBERS taken at club room,
Marionette Cafe, 13th & K Streets, Sacramento in 1935

TOP ROW: (Left to right) JOE BIANCHI, MARIO BERTOLUCCI, RODNEY JOHNSON, MAURICE BIGGS, RICHARD FAIRCLOW

SECOND ROW: MURL STANSBURY, BRUNO BENEDETTI, JOHN CORDANO, CLYDE MARTIN, DANNY DIAS, WALTER STAHLMAN, GEROG BRAZIL, STANLEY BENNETT, CHUCK SWEENEY, JOE YORG

THIRD ROW: ED "SPIDER" HAWTREY, HENRY "HANK" SEBASTIAN. HENRY "HANK" VOGHT, AL LAUER, ED DUENSING, ED THADDEUS

FOURTH ROW: FRANK MURRAY, WEB TRIMBLE, MAX HOFFMAN, "SONNY" DUFF, EV BURNS

BOTTOM ROW: "BUD" LAUGHLIN, K.C. "CASEY" CATLETT

NOTE: 3 members visible by feet only who are holding Fort Sutter Motorcycle Club banner: JOE SARKEES, DORMAN "JONSEY" JONES, "LAMMY" LAMEREAUX, & EDWARD "BUD" CATLETT

[Checking a 1935 phone book revealed that the Marionette Cafe was actually located at 1226 K Street]



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

Messages From The Moores

Regarding Dixon–Jim says: As everyone knows by now, the Fort Sutter Dixon Meet will be featuring competition motorcycles from the past. We expect a good sampling of "Old Fast Iron" If you know of someone who is hiding an interesting example, encourage them to bring it out so others can enjoy seeing it.

On a suggestion by Ed Schenken, I have invited Larry Deshong, son of Stan Deshong, to be our featured speaker at the banquet Friday evening. Larry will give us a historic overview of his famous father and plans to bring a couple of example motorcycles.

We're just about a month away and there is still time to sign up for any of our special detail teams. Let me know or show up at the meeting at the Hof Brau on June 7th. We need your help.



Also Regarding Dixon–Marie says: We are getting lots of reservations for spaces and it would help me if our club members who have spaces would get their money in as soon as possible so I know what spots are available to sell to others. If multiple people are sharing multiple spots and one person is paying for them all-**PLEASE PUT ALL NAMES ON THE REGISTRATION FORM.**



Still on the Subject of Dixon–Both Jim and Marie say, Power Point Anyone? As mentioned above, we have a guest speaker for the banquet but need to find a Power Point projector and screen. If you have one we could borrow, please give Marie or Jim a call at 530-622-6531.



Regarding the Sacramento Mile–Marie says: We have been notified that the "Sacramento Mile" is back on and anyone interested in box seats should call me ASAP **but, before you decide**, be warned that this year the **price has gone from \$65.00 to \$77.00 per ticket**. If you're still interested give Marie a call 530-622-6531. She must have your money by the June 7 meeting.