

FORT SUTTER NEWS

FORT SUTTER CHAPTER, AMCA

MAY-JUNE 2015

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From the President

Howdy Do Everybody,

Poof! Another two months has magically disappeared, and the mess in the shop is still there. The faucet is still leaking, and the cars need washing and maintenance, but for some reason there's time to work on the bike or go to a swap meet, bike or car show, or go riding. Well, priorities you know, and I'm trying to lead by example. So, if you haven't done any of these things lately get up and go, there's lots to do and see every weekend and all that other crap can keep, plus the weather is great.

So here we are, *JUNE* and this is the final leg of our preparation for our Dixon meet. It's time to make sure everything is done and accounted for because there are so many events happening every weekend we need to make sure that our event is not only a great time but the best time. Our national director Keith Kizer will be attending the Dixon meet, say hello to him, let him know what you do or don't like with the AMCA.

Remember we are the leading chapter for new AMCA members, look in the new issue of the magazine there are referral cards, put some in a bike bag, hand them out when your with your bike at a show or when someone asks how to find out more about our old bikes, help them and us and yourself. The AMCA is giving out prizes for referrals. Help keep our passion alive and growing.

While I was working on my bike and looking at those 100 year old parts I was thinking how amazing it must have been to see these bikes in their day, but then I also realized that Harley-Davidson is working on an electric bike and I saw on the news the first flying cars are ready for production. It makes you wonder what will be precious in another 100 years. I hope it's 200 year old bikes. Ride 'em don't hide em.

Mark Loewen
President,
Fort Sutter Chapter

Our Next Meeting Will Be
SATURDAY, JUNE 6

At Sam's Hof Brau
Watt and El Camino Avenues
Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
Our Last Meeting Before Dixon

Minutes of the General Meeting

April 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by president, Mark Loewen. There were nineteen members in attendance.

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

Treasurer's Report: Marie Moore reported that even after paying out in excess of \$ 4,000.00 in pre-swap meet expenses (fair grounds rental, sound system, etc.) our bank account remains healthy. Presently we have 110 paid up members.

We were notified by the AMCA we were being awarded ten free memberships as the prize for signing up the most new members last year. It was suggested that we use some of them as prizes at Dixon perhaps in some way that would encourage younger people to join.

Old Business: President Loewen thanked Tracey Kleber for the great job she did organizing the annual dinner. Tracey responded by reporting that she had received a letter from Cattlemens Restaurant thanking us for our business and offering us the same menu with no increase in price if we book a reservation for next year now. As everyone was happy with Cattlemens it was decided to book the room for March 19, 2016 with an option to change the date if something comes up later.

Dixon: Mark Weibens has been working on all the usual publicity sources. Ed Schenken will see if he can get us, along with some bikes, on Walt Gray's Channel 10 news report.

John Murphy, who wants to supply our T-shirts this year, put on a presentation showing the various options of colors and methods of printing. Following the presentation it was decided to go with John's company. We will order three colors: black, light gray and white. We will also order a woman's version of the shirt in appropriate colors. Marie will let merchandise chairman, Sharrie Pratt know what was decided so she can place the order after determining, based on last year's sales, the various sizes and quantities of each required.

There still seems to be some confusion regarding the handling of the Thursday night dinner and exactly who is going to be responsible for what. Marie Moore will contact Rick Najera of the Yerba Buena Chapter to get things straightened out.

Carl Grone, Rich Hardmeyer, and Mark Milton, and Eric Olsen will help Jim Moore get the supplies and equipment from the storage unit in Dixon on Thursday morning and take it back on Saturday afternoon.

Greg Wood is still trying to find somebody to hire for rest room clean up during and after the meet. Andy and Tracey Kleber will see if they can find a company in Vacaville or Davis who could do the job.**

Mark Wiebens will take care of the updating the large sign board in front of the fairgrounds.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

TOM GREEN
Secretary

****NOTE:** Since the April 4th meeting, Greg Wood, with approval from the board of directors, has contracted with Mike's Janitorial Service to provide cleaning service during the day on both Friday and Saturday as well as at the end of the meet for \$600.00.

John Schaefer

March 5, 1925 – May 9, 2015

The Last of Our Founding Members

A remembrance by Rich Ostrander

This is an appreciation and acknowledgement of John Schaefer's life. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and World War II European Theater veteran. Also a master machinist and motorcycle engine builder, he was my good friend and mentor for forty years. He was the last living member of the group of twelve who founded the Fort Sutter Chapter of the AMCA. He was also our second president.

John told me that when he was a young man in Southern California he and his friends would ride their bob-jobs to the drive in movies then sit on their bikes and watch the show from the back row. He would also go on runs and attend field meets with the "LA 45s", a local motorcycle club of which Paul Brigsby of Crocker fame was the president.

John worked as a mechanic for Jack and Cordy Milne and "Lammy" Lamoreux, all well known speedway racers of the late thirties. Their shop,

was when Willie G. Davidson was a student there. Willie's father was too frugal (cheap) to give him enough for a food allowance so Willie's uncle would send John money to see that his nephew had enough to eat.

While John lived in Southern California he worked for a large importer and distributor of English motorcycles who had customers all over the United States. John would travel to the various dealers and instruct their mechanics on the new model's maintenance and repair.

Eventually, John, and his wife Jean, relocated to Sacramento. He had a very successful machine shop downtown, just north of C Street that he later moved closer to Arden Way and Del Paso Blvd. Eventually, he moved his equipment to the new shop he built at his home off Arden Way.

John built the Norton motors that powered Alex Jorgenson's successful flat tracker that was one of the last British machines to contest the Harley. John's favorite machines though were Harleys—especially the JDH "twin cam" model. He built and rode a brute of a "stroked" version, which his son, "Little John" enjoys today.

He completed several precision military projects for Raytheon, projects for Custom Chrome, repair work for the Sacramento Harley dealership, and many more private customers' work—all from his home shop.

My favorite memories are the weekly meetings on his kitchen table with Chuck Otis, Jerry Cordy, "Benny The Dentist," and whoever else dropped by. We won old battles, solved old mysteries, and exchanged several life time's of mechanical knowledge. A testament to his motor building was the Indian "101" Scout engine he built for me. I rode it hard for fifteen years and couldn't kill it. It still lives in New Jersey with an "Oiler Club" member at the controls. Possibly to ride on the 2015 "Race of Gentlemen." John would be pleased.

We all have a limited amount of time on this small orb. John used his well as his family and many, many friends will attest to. A finer gentleman I have yet to meet and I will miss his wisdom and knowledge. Rest in peace old friend, your work here is done.



From the cover of the July 1985 newsletter (Rich Ostrander, editor): John hitchhikes a ride with Joe Sarkees on Joe's '37 Triumph. The balloon has John saying, *Meet us at the show and get an eye full!* Which was an advertisement for the upcoming (under the freeway) swap meet.

in Glendale, was just around the corner from Max Bubeck and his brother's saw sharpening shop. Max and John had gone to school together.

John also worked with racer Dick Milligan when Dick had a bike shop across the street from Hughes Aircraft in Culver City. Joe Petrali would bring the brakes from Howard Hughes' personal aircraft over to them to reline.

In addition, John was an instructor at L.A. Technical Institute. His favorite story of that time



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Antique **MOTORCYCLE SHOW & SWAP MEET**

★ **Dixon Fairgrounds** ★ **June 19 — 20** ★

Just a little less than a month to go and things are falling nicely into place but we can still use the one thing we're always looking for—man (or woman) power. If you can lend a hand please contact Jim Moore and let him know you'll be available.

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You're safe—the clean up is being hired out this year!

