

Fort Sutter Chapter Newsletter

August-September 2020 Vol 39, Number 4

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www.fortsutteramca.org

Hello to the Fort Sutter Chapter membership.

Well here we are 9 months into the year, and we have only had one real meeting and one attempt at a virtual meeting, which wasn't to bad. Those of you who managed to learn a new way to communicate, zoom meeting, and participated had a chance for some nice raffle prizes. Thanks to Eric Olson. If the virus hangs on this is what we will have to do for a while so we can keep everyone safe and healthy.

If you haven't heard the news, the Cal expo auto show in October has been canceled. Thank you to those of you who offered up help and bikes. Next year.

I hope everyone is making progress on there motorcycle projects and getting out and putting some miles on those machines, exercise is important, that's what they telling me.

Some of the swap meets are coming back for those of you on the hunt, and some car shows are popping up again. Just a matter of time. Hang in there everyone. I'm sure we will start having events and meetings soon, but until then try to come to a computer meeting. It will give you chance to see faces and talk. Maybe win a cool prize.

Stay healthy everyone and get out and ride.

Mark Loewen
Fort Sutter President

**Our Next Meeting has been
"Postponed"
Please be safe - stay tuned for
further updates**

Minutes of the General Meeting August 18, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President, Mark Loewen. There were 14 members in attendance. This meeting was held in a Video chat format and represented our first Club meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic began in late February 2020. Although a relatively low turnout we all felt that the number of attendees to a Zoom meeting format will increase in the future as everyone becomes comfortable using Zoom. Our Club membership totals are as follows: Honorary Memberships = 10, Full Memberships = 104, Associate Memberships = 27, Junior Memberships = 2 for a total of 143.

Minutes: No prior meeting was held.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Loewen provided an update to the financial status and states the Club is in good order.

Old Business:

- **NorCal Cycle Swap Meet:** Mark Wiebens reported the July 12th swap meet was another good opportunity to help promote Fort Sutter to the attendees who attended. To achieve a good vendor spot Mark W. had to arrive very early – 4:30 a.m. to get in line. The spots are selected on a first come first served basis. Also in attendance was Rich Ostrander who provided his own booth helping sell fellow Fort Sutter Club member, Leonard “Lenny” Miller huge selection of antique motorcycle parts. Two other Fort Sutter Members, John Markley and Greg Wood were also in attendance.

New Business:

- **Tom Green health update:** As of our meeting date Tom's condition remains the same with him comfortable and in the care facility, however, Tom cannot have visitors at this time. We wish Tom the best!
- **2021 Road Run:** Fort Sutter was asked by AMCA National to postpone our 2021 Road to 2022. Any Road Runs that were postponed in 2020 will occur in 2021. Our Road Run will be based out of the North Lake Tahoe area, which is always a favorite for riders who come from other Chapters. Although we have at least 6-8 months to begin planning, if you would like to volunteer your help, please contact Mark Wiebens at (925) 288-0174, or by email: mark.wiebens@pacbell.net
- **Dixon 2021:** Although cancelled in 2020 planning is now in progress for next years Dixon National Show and Swap meet to be held on June 18 & 19, 2021.
- **The International Car Show at Cal Expo** scheduled in October 2020 has been canceled. The new date is October 15-17, 2021.
- **August 18, 2021 Zoom Meeting:** Fort Sutter held it's first video chat meeting. In attendance were Mark & Julie Loewen, Mark Wiebens, John & Phyllis Markley, Stan Randall, Karie & Jim Schenken, Joe & Jan Manns, Bob Henry, Tom Myers, Joe Giammona, Eric Olson, Margie Siegal, Bob Turek, and Dennis Peterson a new member from Granite Bay. At the conclusion of the meeting a raffle was held for three prizes. The winners will select their gift at the next face to face meeting from a pool of nice prizes as follows: First person to choose is Dennis Peterson, second is Jim Schenken, and third is Bob Turek.

John Markley
Secretary

AMCA Fort Sutter - "Let's get to know our fellow Members"

Name: [Chris Carey](#)

City where you live? Sacramento

A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member?

Several years (since about 2016)

B. What do/did you do for a living?

Pulmonary & Cardiovascular technologist (40 years), now retired

C. When did you first start riding motorcycles or what is your earliest motorcycle memory?

Got my first bike in 1962, a new Honda C-110 Supersport (50ccs).

D. Please provide any pictures of your first motorcycle. If none, include pictures of your current bike(s) with notation of year, make and model.

Pictures attached – see next page

E. What do you currently own/ride?

Two bikes: 1.) 1983 Yamaha XJ900R 'Seca'; 2.) 2000 Kawasaki XJ900E-1 'Ninja'

F. What bike(s) would you most like to own? Why?

Always wanted a BMW R69, but felt I couldn't afford one

G. What is something interesting about you that others might not already know?

I've flown at Mach 2.1 and reached an altitude of 60,000 feet (Convair F-106A 'Delta Dart').

H. Who inspires (or inspired) you, past or present? Why or How?

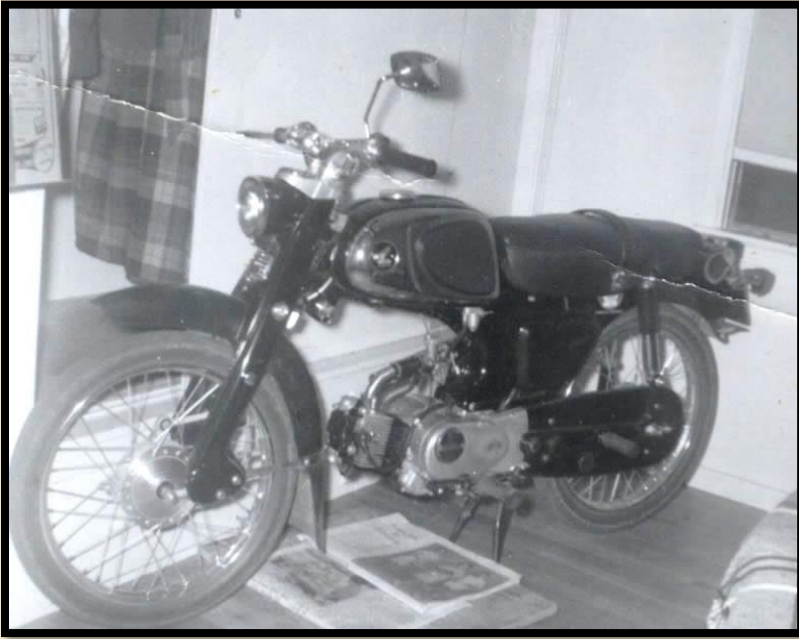
Some of my heroes include Antonius Marcus Aurelius, Dr. Prof. Wehrner von Braun, Hubertus Strughold (father of aerospace medicine), Chas. Lindberg, & Bgen. James Doolittle

I. What is one thing you would still like to do in your life that you have not done yet?

Take a nice long visit to my father's home in County Meath, Ireland

AMCA Fort Sutter
"Let's get to know our fellow Members"

Name: [Chris Carey](#)
City where you live? Sacramento



*My very first bike, a new
1962 Honda C-110
Supersport (50ccs)*

*L to R
2000 Kawasaki
XJ900E-1 'Ninja'
1983 Yamaha
XJ900R 'Seca'*



I've always been a Japanese sports bike person

AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: **Rich Ostrander**

City where you live? Sacramento



A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member?

Since 1982

B. What do/did you do for a living?

Equipment mechanic, metal fabricator, work control specialist

C. When did you first start riding motorcycles or what is your earliest motorcycle memory?

Full time 1970. Early memory pre-70 first ride friend’s new 1967 BSA 650 twin full throttle twist almost ripped bars out of my hands. Yah man! That was it!

D. Please provide any pictures of your first motorcycle. If none, include pictures of your current bike(s) with notation of year, make and model.

1965 Panhead Harley-Davidson FLH Chopper of course!

E. What do you currently own/ride?

1940 EL Harley-Davidson – 1981 FXB Harley-Davidson

F. What bike(s) would you most like to own? Why?

I already do!

G. What is something interesting about you that others might not already know?

I’m pretty much an open book. I do take pride in some 30 articles I’ve penned for Greasy Kulture Magazine published in Britain over the last 10 years. M/C History

H. Who inspires (or inspired) you, past or present? Why or How?

Besides myself? My Grandmother Zelah. Everything good about me, values, mindset, motivation, work ethic, kindness, love, the whole ball of wax came from her.

I. What is one thing you would still like to do in your life that you have not done yet?

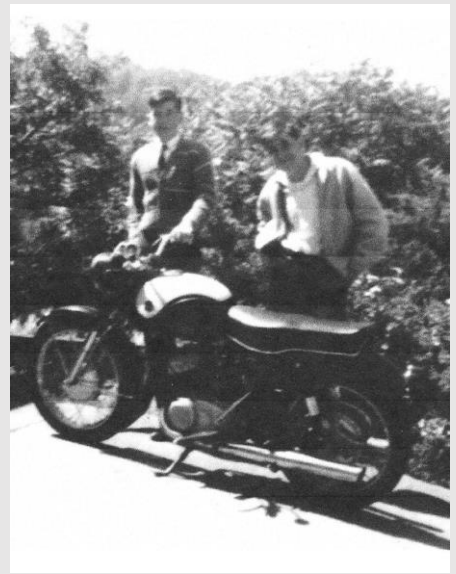
I have always lived my life like tomorrow isn’t promised. This is it! Not a rehearsal. I’ve done all I’ve ever wanted to do in real time. Everything on the table. I could go tomorrow with no regrets.

AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: **Tom Myers**

City where you live? **Petaluma**



A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member?

Since 2019

B. What do/did you do for a living?

Retired environmental scientist

C. When did you first start riding motorcycles or what is your earliest motorcycle memory?

Although I don’t remember it, my dad used to take my brother and I for short rides on his Harley EL in about 1952 or so. The first actual memory I have related to motorcycles is going with my Dad to visit his friend in Washington who was a Harley dealer. My brother and I used to ogle those cast metal scale models of Harleys (never got one). Dad’s friend later became a Honda dealer and my brother, and I would argue about which ones to get.

D. Please provide any pictures of your first motorcycle. If none, include pictures of your current bike(s) with notation of year, make and model.

First bike was a 1963 Yamaha YDS2. See picture above right, with a couple of clean-cut young fellows ready to go on a national ad campaign.

E. What do you currently own/ride?

1969 Harley Sportster XLCH – 1986 Yamaha FZX700 – 1989 Honda Goldwing GL 1500 with Hannigan sidecar – 2008 Yamaha FJR 1300 – 1978 Yamaha SR500 – 1979 Yamaha XS750F (not currently operational).

F. What bike(s) would you most like to own? Why?

Indian FTR1200, because they got a factory street tracker right. (guess all it really takes is money)

G. What is something interesting about you that others might not already know?

I used to road race a Yamaha RD200 back in the late 70’s/early 80’s

H. Who inspires (or inspired) you, past or present? Why or How?

My Dad: He raced cars and rode motorcycles in the 1930’s. He used to go trail riding with his buddies on Harley Els and 45s and stuff like that. He was a pilot with multi-engine, instrument and night ratings and was a flight instructor. He worked on B-17’s in WWII. He continue to ride motorcycles into his 90’s. Oh, and Jay Springsteen: it used to be awesome watching him ride the cushion on the mile ovals.

I. What is one thing you would still like to do in your life that you have not done yet?

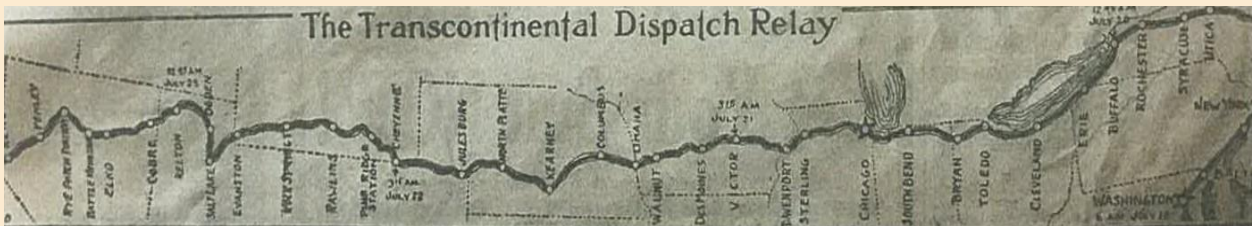
Ride to Alaska and take the ferry back through the inside passage.

Standing Up for Sacramento's Unknown Heroes

Mystery in Capitol Park

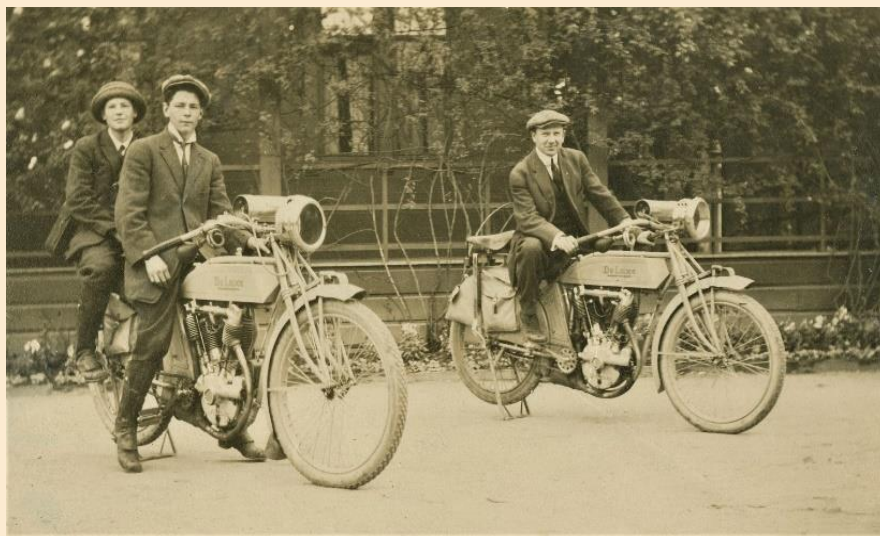
By Kimberly A. (Reed) Edwards (Fort Sutter Member)

The year was 1915 and Sacramento was hosting the National Motorcycle Convention. As 8,000 delegates mingled at the downtown Traveler's Hotel, a coast-to-coast transcontinental motorcycle relay zoomed toward Sacramento. This carefully planned effort, months in the making, aimed to prove the potential of two-wheelers in military service. A tight schedule, starting on the East Coast, would call for 117 riders, three to a shift. Every 90 miles, a fresh trio would pick up the rotation, following the sun by day and continuing the westward momentum at night over five days.



The Transcontinental Dispatch Relay held in July 1915

The riding teams consisted of a lead rider and two back-ups in case the lead bike broke down. Traveling with the team was a leather pouch, passed from lead to lead as each stint ended and a new one began, flying uninterrupted across meadows, valleys and mountains. Tucked in the pouch: a letter from U.S. President Wilson to officials of the Panama–Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Every leg of the route was appointed a coordinator. Sacramento's E.O. Putzman of Putzman-Hoffman Sporting Goods on 10th Street was appointed to manage the team in this area. Putzman in 1915 was handling Excelsior and may have still had Deluxe.



E.O. Putzman (r.) of Putzman-Hoffman Sporting Goods served as coordinator of the relay team expected in Sacramento.

Assigned to ride from Colfax to Sacramento was 17-year-old Sacramentan Emil Fabian. A prolific rider, he once showed up at an event with a Pope, an Indian and a Jefferson. Riding each bike in a different race, he grabbed a First and two Seconds at the same event. He had joined the Pope team for a short Midwest tour. Now back in Sacramento, he planned to participate in the cross-country relay. But when the riders ran 23 hours late, Fabian backed out to prepare for an upcoming race. J. Tarbell of San Francisco was announced as his replacement.

Standing Up for Sacramento's Unknown Heroes

Mystery in Capitol Park

Story continued



(Fabian w Pope motorcycle)

Sacramento star Emil Fabian was scheduled to deliver the pouch to Sacramento, but because the relay ran late, he stayed back to prepare for a race.

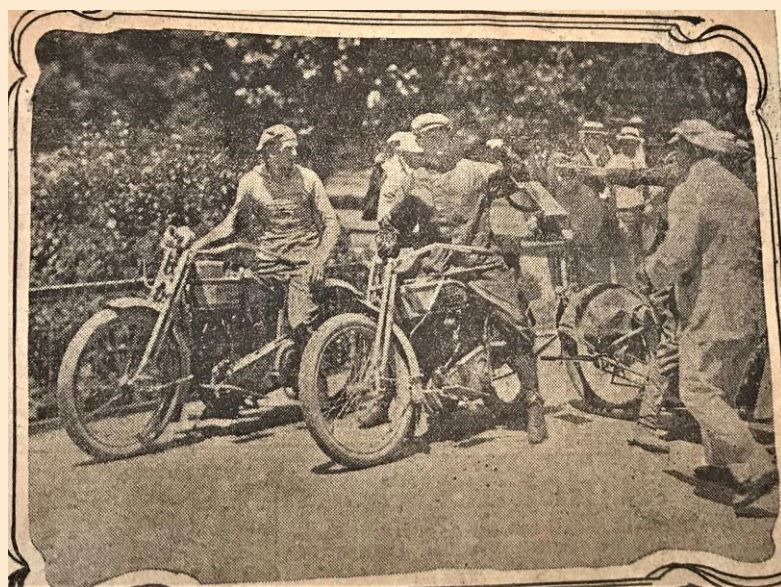
On the afternoon of the expected arrival in Sacramento, a crowd gathered at Capitol Park. San Francisco's Dudley Perkins, the designated recipient of the arriving pouch, waited with two back-up riders. As the speeding team headed towards Sacramento, the lead cycle blew a tire, calling on a back-up rider to take over the lead.

Meanwhile, local boy Leo McCarthy, having participated in an earlier segment of the relay, battled mountainous terrain on a Harley to return to Sacramento in time to compete in an upcoming race. After traveling 400 miles day and night, he arrived too late to be accepted into the event.

But this didn't deter the relay nor the leather pouch. Maneuvering some 90 minutes out of Colfax, the team came down the foothills with Sacramento in view. As they neared the city, fire whistles blew. Traffic ordinances were suspended. Members of the Capital City Motorcycle Club mounted their bikes to scour the streets for hazards.

As the lead rider burst into Sacramento at 12th Street at 40 mph, he crossed to 13th before an audience of 200 people waving and cheering on M Street. There he cut through Capitol Park to hand the pouch to Perkins to continue into the next leg of the route. In a flash, Perkins tore out 13th to P, headed westward.

The pouch exchange in Capitol Park was caught on camera, with the rider handing over the pouch identified as H. Heft.



"...Carried across the continent by motorcycle riders, at Sacramento, H. Heft, Colfax to Sacramento rider...has just tossed the packet to Dudley Perkins, who carried the message from Sacramento to Tracy." Also pictured, John L. Donovan, Federation of American Motorcyclists.

H. Heft? No H. Heft appears in records of the local motorcycle community at that time. Yet a review of track events lists an S.F. Heft as a local contestant in numerous races. He was, in fact, a state amateur champ. Initials were often wrong in early newspapers, so it's possible the photographer mixed up H. and S.F.

S. F., or Schubert Ferdinand Heft, was born in 1897. His father from Switzerland served as a Sacramento music director. Schubert would have been eighteen at the time of the relay. He worked as an auto mechanic in a Sacramento garage. Later, he served in the Army as an "engineer" in France. His wife was named Nellie and his daughter Mildred. After WWI, he opened his own downtown garage. But there the trail ends. Heft disappeared, until a record surfaced that he died in 1925. Deceased at age 28 after winning races and serving in war. His daughter Mildred was five.

Standing Up for Sacramento's Unknown Heroes

Mystery in Capitol Park

Story continued



Born in 1897, Schubert Ferdinand Heft would have been 18 at the time of the cross-country run.

Official WWI Army photo; Source: Ancestry.com

What happened to Heft? An *Oakland Tribune* headline tells us: "3 dead, 1 dying from bad liquor at Sacramento. Woman and two men are poison booze victims." Schubert Heft and a nurse were among the poisoned. According to the article, so bad was the poisoning that one of the victims fell down the stairs. The coroner suspected canned heat and denatured alcohol, which was not surprising, since these were the days of Prohibition.

Curiously, 13 years after this poisoning event, a Mildred Heft – Schubert's daughter's name - signed in at a Sacramento Cyclettes' Open House, attended by many motorcyclists of Heft's generation.

Was S.F. Heft the hero cheered as he rode into Sacramento on that July day in 1915? He raced motorcycles, worked as a mechanic, and would have known Putzman, who coordinated the local leg of the trip. Why does it matter? Because Heft, like so many others, is lost to history, eclipsed by those who scored big runs or garnered media attention. This doesn't mean that he played less of a role in Sacramento motorcycling history. It's probable that he played a part in helping the military to see the value of cycles in dispatch service. More likely than not, he handed over a U.S. president's letter in Capitol Park.



2020 AMCA National Meets & Road Run Schedule

*Refer to AMCA website for further
cancellations or postponements*

The remaining 2020 events are still on the calendar!

September 7-10

Detroit Lakes, MN * Roosevelt Chapter *National Road Run*
RESCHEDULED TO 2021

October 2-3

Upperco, MD * Chesapeake Chapter National Meet

Oct 16-18

Southern National Meet – tentative
Denton, NC

October 25-28

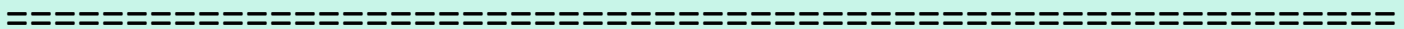
Fallbrook, CA * Los Angeles Chapter *National Road Run*

**Margie Siegal – Fort Sutter Member
asks:
Small motorcycle needs a lift**

"If you are trailering bikes to the
Fallbrook Road Run in October and
have room for a 350 Aermacchi, please
contact Margie Siegal at (510) 654-
1933 or msnorton@yahoo.com. Will pay
fair share of gas and expenses. Plan to
ride my modern bike to event"



Visit www.AntiqueMotorcycle.org for links to each event and Event Details.



FORT SUTTER NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW AND SWAP MEET Friday & Saturday June 18 and 19, 2021



**AMCA Judging
Pre-Registration Only**

E-mail: AMCAprereg@gmail.com
Or online:
www.antiquemotorcycle.org

Friday - Swap Meet, Vending, Display of Antique
Motorcycles
Saturday - Swap Meet, Vending, Display of Antique
Motorcycles, National Judging and Awards

**Dixon Fairgrounds–Dixon, California
25 Miles West of Sacramento
Just South of Interstate 80**