

Fort Sutter Chapter Newsletter

October_November 2020 Vol 39, Number 5

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President's Comments

Howdy ya all.

Well fall is in the air and we still are not able to function as normal. This year has left us all spinning in circles trying to figure out how to deal with not being able to have a normal club meeting. Our outstanding club secretary, John Markley, has been putting together meetings by phone and on the computer in the form of Zoom meetings. The Zoom meetings are working out pretty good, we just need more of the club to join in. It's not hard and you don't even have to have a camera on your computer to participate, you can listen and talk like a group phone call. Johns has been putting on test runs to help members learn. I encourage everyone to give it a try and join us for the next meeting. The next meeting is election time for the club. I hope you all try to be apart of the next meeting, and vote. We still have a raffle at the end of the meeting, some nice prizes are being won.

There is still a lot of interest in the club and our Dixon event, I get calls from people all over the country asking about Dixon. Folks are dying to get out to a Fort Sutter event.

Hope to see you all soon. Stay well and ride those motorcycles.

Fort Sutter President
Mark Loewen

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

Wear your masks and Social distance
Wear a Helmet and riding your bike works!

Minutes of the General Meeting

October 3, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President, Mark Loewen. There were 14 members in attendance. This meeting was held again in a Video chat format and represented our second Club meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic began in late February 2020. Our Club membership totals are as follows: Honorary Memberships = 5, Full Memberships = 104, Associate Memberships = 27, Junior Memberships = 2 for a total of 138.

Minutes: The prior meeting minutes were accepted as written.

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

Old Business:

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!
- **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.
- **2022 Road Run:** The Fort Sutter Road Run has been scheduled for September 26-28, 2022. 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. Please contact Mark Wiebens at (925) 288-0174, or by email: mark.wiebens@pacbell.net if you would like to help with logistics etc.
- **In Memory of George Hood:** With profound sadness we announce the passing of George Hood on September 12, 2020. George was a long tenured AMCA and Fort Sutter member. A tribute to George is included later in this newsletter.
- **October 3, 2020 Zoom Meeting:** Fort Sutter held it's **second** video chat meeting. In attendance were Mark & Julie Loewen, Mark Wiebens, John & Phyllis Markley, Stan Randall, Jim & Karie Schenken, Joe & Jan Manns, Tom Myers, Joe Giammona, Eric Olson, and Tracey Kleber. The meeting was held on Saturday October 3rd at 1:00 p.m. to align with our regularly scheduled meeting day and time. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board members agreed to hold the next Club meeting at night and during the week to allow more members the ability to attend. In addition, to attract more Fort Sutter members, a practice session will be held before our December meeting. Like our first Zoom meeting a raffle was held at the conclusion of the meeting. The winners from this drawing were Tom Myers (4th), John Markley (5th), and Tracey Kleber (6th). All winners will draw prizes in numerical order when we have our next face to face meeting. Note: There are two remaining gifts to be drawn at the conclusion of the December meeting.
- **Fort Sutter Banquet:** Tracey Kleber, banquet coordinator, announced that the annual Fort Sutter banquet will be held possibly in late April or May 2021 and be a catered lunch at an outdoor location. Details to follow for date and time.
- **Charitable Donation:** Eric Olson asked, "Have we donated the full amount of the charity budget this year?" If not, I would like to suggest we donate to Camp Okizu, <http://okizu.org/> whose mission is to help all members of families affected by childhood cancer to heal through peer support, respite, mentoring, and recreational programs at a camp setting. A motion was made by Mark Wiebens to donate \$300 (remaining 2020 funds) and seconded by Karie Schenken. The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Fort Sutter Board of Director positions:** As a reminder all Fort Sutter Board of Director positions are held for a two-year term. For 2020 there are three Board of Directors whose terms are expiring 12/31/2020. They are Mark Loewen, Eric Olson, and Jim Schenken. Note: All three outgoing Board of Directors were asked, if nominated and elected for the 2021-2022 they are willing to serve. We will nominate and vote at our next virtual meeting. If you would like to nominate anyone else, make sure to contact this person in advance of our next meeting to verify that they would be willing to serve if elected. Only Fort Sutter members in attendance during our December 2020 meeting will be eligible to nominate and vote. Please attend our Club meetings and vote.

John Markley
Secretary



L to R

George Hood and Rich Ostrander

Years ago at Born Free in SoCal enjoying each other's company and conversation as old friends tend to do

In Memoriam
George F. Hood
2/27/1951 – 9/12/2020

By Rich Ostrander

On September 12, my world got a whole lot smaller. My friend George F. Hood laid down his burden and left the building. He's now enjoying a much-deserved rest and is at peace and no longer dealing with serious health issues. He leaves behind us who hold many great memories of the times spent over the years solving ours and the world's many problems which thankfully most of ours were mechanical and George always had the answer.

When I thought of George just after his passing, I mostly thought of how we had spent our mid to late twenties discovering the wonderful world of old two wheeled relics at Frank Conley's early CAMA (Classic Antique Motorcycle Association) meets starting in the late sixties and early seventies, the founding of the AMC SoCal Chapter and their meets at the La Mirada shopping center.

There we saw our first JDH cutdowns, Cyclones, Crocker's, and a lot of pre-sixteen orphans like Pope's, Thor's, Yale's, Merkle's, etc. We rubbed elbows with the guys that brought those great machines out for all of us to see and hear. Dewey Bonkurd who had worked for Jud Carriker, the Indian dealer in Orange who oversaw the Indian factory eight valve board track bikes in the teens. Ernie Skelton, the Looper brothers, and late twenties national hill climb champion Gene Rhyne who all worked for Al Crocker, John Cameron and original Boozefighters, and Bud Ekins, Triumph Dealer and Hollywood stuntman and champion racer. No wonder George, myself, Rotten Richard Morris, Huggy Bear "Dave Hansen", Hobo John, Tom Lovejoy and others went over to the dark side.

We also had Dr. Sucher then still a practicing dentist, Col. Jerry Hatfield still in the USAF, and ex-brit Steve Wright following those guys and their machines around recording them for future generations.

George was working for Thomas Cadillac in these days working on their collection of V-12 and V-16 machines. He also worked in a large machine shop before ending up employed by Jerry Greer Indian when it was still SoCal.

In Memoriam George F. Hood (Continued)

He finally started his own restoration business when he moved to Pinto Lane next door to Hank, his landlord and a major gearhead like himself. Early on George would drive his model T Ford over to Bob Ross's "Motorcycles Only" shop in Gardena to get parts. Bob had acquired tons of parts for his shop when San Pedro Harley Davidson dealer, Eddy Ryan, had to move his business because of redevelopment and closed his doors and gave it all to Bob his good friend. Eventually Bob closed his doors due to his retirement and in turn gave most of his shop to George his good friend. Bikes, lots of parts, Eddy Ryan's full historical filled file cabinets and his famous frame straightening table.

Georges mechanical knowledge knew no bounds, but his true loves were flathead 45's, V and J models with a particular fondness for the JDH's. He could also cure the factory induced i11's of the fabulous Crocker. He wasn't a big Indian or OHV fan. George was a skilled master machinist, a good welder, fabricator and painter. He was also a master motor and transmission builder. And a lover of Henry Ford's Model T. The older the better preferably with a brass radiator.

He was always free with all the knowledge he had acquired over the years and all one had to do was ask. He never refused to help us at our Dixon National meet when we needed someone to present a technical seminar. He always came prepared and with props. If you listened and observed, you always learned a lot.

The oldest photo of George I have is him in short pants crawling over his dad's ice cream rig he made of a Harley 45" trike. The apple didn't fall far from the tree. I would like to than Jim Latin, Craig Taylor, Chuck Vogel and Tom Lovejoy for helping George these last couple of rough years. George was an original and didn't suffer fools. I doubt he realized how much he will be missed by the many he helped and especially his close circle of friends.

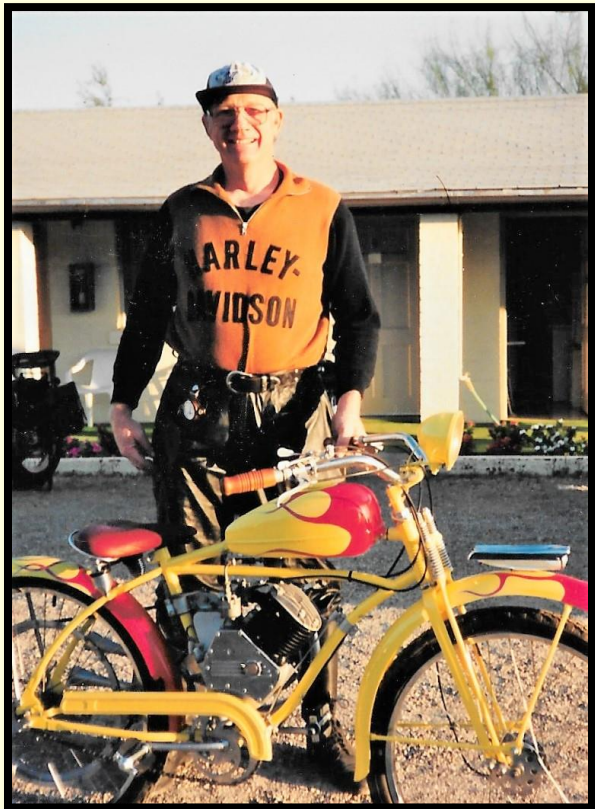
Down the road George.

Rich

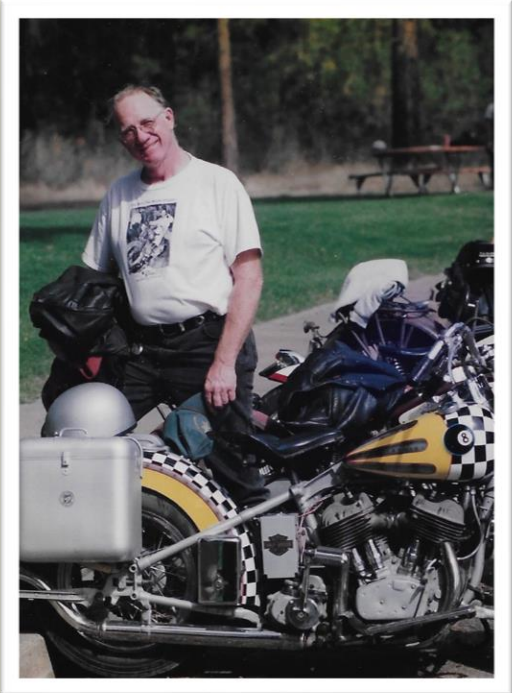


In Memoriam
George F. Hood
(Continued)

Photo Memories



George never refused to help us at our Dixon National Meets by offering to hold technical seminars.



AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: **Eric Olson**

City where you live? Citrus Heights

A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member? *I first joined in 2011.*

B. What do/did you do for a living? *I work for Cummins Inc. (diesel engine manufacturer) as a Mechanical Engineer.*

C. When did you first start riding motorcycles or what is your earliest motorcycle memory? *I first started riding around the age of 30, but my earliest memory is from when I was about 8 years old. My neighbor was in high school and had a minibike. He showed me how to ride it and I went up and down the street for at least an hour having a blast. Unfortunately, my older sister came out and decided she wanted to give it a try too. She jumped on the bike with the front wheel pointed at the curb, opened it up full throttle, and dropped the clutch. The bike soared up the curb and into the air, dropping her on her back and almost landing on her when it came down. She ran in the house crying to my mom who already thought motorcycles were too dangerous, and for the rest of my childhood I never got to sit on another bike.*

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. *My first bike was a 1975 Honda CB550. It had been sitting outside for a several years and I knew it would take a bit of work to get back on the road, but I was good with my hands and thought I might be up to the task. After a few months I got the engine running reliably, and I took it out on short trips through the neighborhood while I sorted through the remaining issues. I worked on almost every part of that bike while going on increasingly longer rides, but unfortunately it had an oil leak I just could not get rid of. Every time I took the bike out on the road oil would seep out of the engine and coat the back tire. I finally decided it was not safe to ride like that, and I bought another bike that did not cover the back tire with oil on every trip out of the garage. I still have the Honda, but the engine is currently out waiting to be rebuilt. Hopefully, I’ll be able to put many more miles on it once it’s back on the road (and not leaking oil).*

My first bike was a 1975 Honda CB550!

Story and pictures continued next page(s)

AMCA Fort Sutter
“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”
Name: Eric Olson



The 1975 CB550 the day I went to pick it up



How it finally looked just before I pulled the engine

AMCA Fort Sutter
“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”
Name: Eric Olson

E. What do you currently own/ride? *Along with the CB550 that is waiting to have the engine rebuilt, I have a 1995 BMW R1100GS, a 1977 BMW R75/7, and a 1940 Harley Davidson UA 80” Flathead. Both BMW’s are in good running order and I ride them whenever I have a chance, though not nearly as often as I would like. The Harley is a work in progress, but I hope to see it back on the road soon.*

1995 BMW R1100GS



1977 BMW R75/7

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

There are quite a few bikes I would like to own and ride. For sure I will own a Knucklehead and a Panhead at some point, and maybe even a V or J model Harley. I would like to own a military bike, most likely a WLA. I would also love to own another early American bike, like an Indian, Excelsior, or possibly even something a little rarer. In addition, I would like to have something nice from across the pond, like a Vincent or maybe even a Brough Superior. Who knows how much of it will actually happen given the prices of some of these bikes, but it is nice to dream!



*1940 Harley Davidson UA
80” Flathead*

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

Getting into motorcycles changed the course of my life. When I bought the Honda, I knew it had issues to be sorted out, but I figured I was capable of researching and working through anything that needed to be done. After working on it for over 2 years I had eliminated all its issues, except for that persistent oil leak that just would not go away. During this same time, I also started attending community college and taking some general education courses. I had a good job that paid well, but it was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and I felt like it was time to make a change. Unfortunately, although I was thinking about starting over in a new career, I really did not know what I might actually want to do. I bounced from business administration to real estate to computer programming, but none of these were something I could picture doing for the rest of my life. One semester I was browsing through the course catalog for Sac City College when I noticed they had a program for motorcycle maintenance. The classes were in the evenings and would fit my schedule, so I decided to enroll in the hopes that maybe I would learn enough to help me track down the oil leak in my Honda.

Throughout the courses we not only discussed how to service a motorcycle, but we went into the history of the components and how they evolved over time. We discussed things like brakes (from early mechanical brake drums to floating hydraulic disk brakes), suspension (from rigid front forks to progressive spring rates and minimizing unsprung weight), fuel systems (from early carburetors to modern fuel injection systems), and all the other parts of the bike. Learning how all these components developed was fascinating to me. I thought about the men who made these advances and what a great job that would be, and then it occurred to me – maybe that is what I should do for a living! I decided right then and there that I would work towards a Mechanical Engineering degree.

It took a long time to finish all the required courses and it wasn't easy graduating college at 40 years old, especially when almost all my classmates were half my age, but in the end I got my Engineering degree and for over 5 years now I have been working around engines and enjoying my job. I can honestly say I am happy to think about doing this for the rest of my life, and I have working on my first motorcycle to thank for that.



Walking the stage at 40, feeling both young and old at the same time



My wife and I celebrating on graduation day – lots of work, but well worth it!

Eric Olson

H. Who inspires (or inspired) you, past or present? Why or how? Ever since I rode that first motorcycle when I was 8 years old I held onto the thought I might like to do it again someday, but it wasn't until I was 30 that I actually made it happen, and the reason I finally decided to act was because of a book I read. The book was called "Ghost Rider" and it was written by **Neil Peart**. Neil was the drummer and lyricist for the rock band Rush, and I really liked them growing up. When I learned that he was also an author and had recently published a book, I decided I would give it a read. The story is about the journey he took after his only daughter and his wife both died within a short period of time. He struggled to deal with the loss, and his coping mechanism was to get on his bike and ride. He rode all around North and South America, and the book discussed in vivid detail what traveling on a motorcycle could be like and also how therapeutic it was for him on his mental road to recovery. By the end of the book I felt inspired to get my own bike and start seeing the world this way. Thanks to Neil I will always have a motorcycle in the garage.



Neil Peart

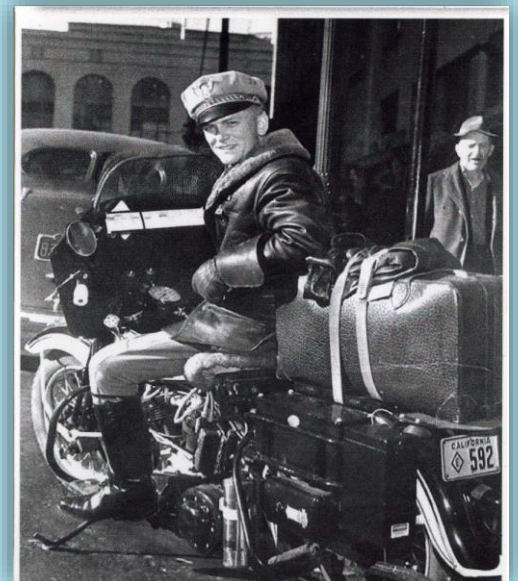
I. What is one thing you would still like to do in your life that you have not done yet?

I have several items on my "bucket list" to do in this life, but one that stands out is to get my 1953 Packard Patrician 400 back on the road. The car originally belonged to my grandfather, William Cowan, who is another person that inspires me. He was a Highway Patrol Motorcycle Officer early in life before joining the Army Air Corps before WW2. Decades later he retired as a Colonel from the Air Force and spent the rest of his life researching and collecting old cars. He owned many cars including a 20 Cadillac, a 28 Dodge, and a 20's Rolls-Royce just to name a few. He gave the 28 Dodge to my parents as a wedding gift, and it is the car they brought me home from the hospital in. He also worked for Bill Harrah when Harrah was putting together his car collection. Unfortunately, my Grandfather died when I was pretty young so I did not get to know him very well, but after hearing stories and seeing pictures I know he and I would have had a lot in common. Although the Packard was not really part of his collection, it is the last remaining car of his that is still in the family, and I will have it back on the road someday as a tribute to him.



The Packard at my Aunt and Uncles house, where it sat for over 30 years waiting for someone to resurrect it

My folks bringing me home from the hospital in the 28 Dodge my grandfather gave them as a wedding gift



William Cowan on his CHP bike

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

Name: **Stan Randall**

City where you live? **Galt**

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

7 years.

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

I was an electrician (USCG), heavy equipment mechanic (Case & Cat), Automotive Inspector and Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Calif. DWR) before retiring.

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

The summer I turned 16 (1964) I had a choice between going to Florida and visiting my sister's family and purchasing a motorcycle, so I did the obvious, I couldn't afford a Harley, so I bought a used Honda CA110. The next three years I rode it until it quit and traded it in on a used Honda CA77 305cc Dream. That is what prompted me to purchase and restore the Dream I had when I joined Ft. Sutter.

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.

Unfortunately, no pictures of the CA110 exist.

E. What do you currently own/ride?

1984 XLX Sportster, my first Harley motorcycle

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

An Indian 4 (or, one of its predecessors), I love the look and sound.

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

I spent 3 years as Coxswain on USCG search and rescue boats in the Sacramento Delta. I stayed after being discharged.

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

My father, who always said he was "a jack of all trades, master of none." He was an independent handyman and small farmer who worked hard and showed me not to be afraid to tackle any task.

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

Create something memorable, just have not figured out what that is yet.

AMCA Fort Sutter
“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: **Stan Randall**

City where you live? Galt



Stan says I currently own and ride – 1984 XLX Sportster My first Harley Motorcycle



If you haven’t sent in your “Let’s get to know our fellow Members” information – why not share? We all love our motorcycling history and bikes.....what say you? Thanks go out to all who have shared so far!





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!

Oct 16-18
Southern National Meet – tentative
Denton, NC

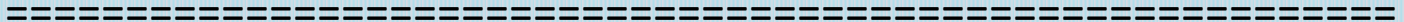
October 26-28
Fallbrook, CA * Los Angeles Chapter *National Road Run*

**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**

Fort Sutter Chapter

Visit our website: www.fortsutteramca.org