Fort Sutter Chapter Newsletter

December 2020 Vol 39, Number 6

2020 OFFICERS

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Vice Pres. Mark Wiebens
Secretary John Markley
Treasurer Julie Loewen
Director Eric Olson
Director Stan Randall
Director Jim Schenken

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> Rich Ostrander Club Historian Emeritus

Ride Captain, Tracy Stahlman (916) 479-4972 stahlman@surewest.net

www.fortsutteramca.org

President's Comments

Greetings to all.

I hope you all, and your families, are well and have made it thru 2020 relatively unscathed. I know it's been a hard year for us all. There appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel though, and great hope for a more normal 2021.

I'm sad to report that we lost our friend and the long-time voice of the Dixon meet, Tom Green. He is a giant piece of Fort Sutter history and his devotion and enthusiasm will be missed. The Fort Sutter family extends it condolences to Tom's family and friends. Tom was a good guy.

It's been strange not having any, in person Fort Sutter meetings this year. We have tried zoom, and teleconference call meetings, but very few of you have attended. With that being said our membership is still growing and interest in the club remains high and we are now up to a 146 members. Which I can only contribute to our club's history and reputation and the growing antique motorcycle interest from the younger crowd. It's great to see. Welcome to all our new members. Our last club meeting was on the phone. It was our election meeting. The board had put another board position up for nomination and vote, along with voting for three existing directors, including myself. I want to thank the individuals that stepped up to fill the position and the eagerness to participate. That's very encouraging for the club's operation and existence.

So, the result of the election was voted to keep Eric Olson, Jim Schenken, and Mark Loewen in place on the board and Karie Schenken will now be a voting board member.

She has always been like a board member because of her high level of participation in club affairs and key role in the Dixon meet. Congratulations Karie. There has also been discussion of adding two more positions, for a total of ten directors. But at this time, I think we should hold off until we get back to normal meetings and discussions on topics. We will also be going back to our original charter to review our history of procedure and revising to reflect current times for club operation. All thoughts and comments are welcomed and encouraged. We have a very strong club history that precedes all of us, but we have some members that are very versed in the past and that knowledge is what keeps our club's history strong and true. When I became president, I believe that one of my main duties was to keep and honor our traditions. Fort Sutter Motorcycle club was just that at first. It didn't say AMCA chapter for a long time. I'm still continually learning our past. I don't know nearly as much as some members, but I always try to honor the past and keep us moving forward to our future. I also believe that is the goal of our dedicated board of directors. So hopefully, the board and I can keep the club making history for many more years.

So, we are down to about 20 days left of this absolutely, totally screwed up year. I hope you all finish the year happy and healthy and carry it on to next year.

Happy Holidays to all of you and may your 2021 be filled with joy...and motorcycles.

Fort Sutter President Mark Loewen Our In-Person Meetings are now Zoom or Conference Call.

Minutes of the General Meeting December 3, 2020

The Conference call meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Mark Loewen. There were 16 members in attendance. Club membership total is 146.

Minutes: Previous minutes from our last meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Loewen provided an update to the financial status and states the Club is in good order. John Markley asked if the 2019 Club tax returns were completed and filed. Julie stated all required tax returns filed on time.

Old Business:

- Rich Ostrander: Rich was recognized for his farewell letter honoring for George F. Hood included in the AMCA Magazine. In addition, Rich gave a memorial tribute to George while attending the L.A. Chapter's National Road Run.
- L.A. Chapter Road Run: Fort Sutter V.P. Mark Wiebens stated the Road Run was very successful with great weather and excellent planned routes each day. Mark said there at least 5 Fort Sutter Members, along with many Yerba Buena members, travelling to Fallbrook (North San Diego County) to attend the Road Run. Rich Ostrander said there were 60 riders and 10 passengers. George Giammona, Fort Sutter, mentioned the rides each day were very good.
- Health Update Tom Green: John M. learned that Tom Green passed away on November 29, 2020. His family announced that with Covid-19 underway there will be no services at this time. His love for motorcycling brought him to the AMCA and Fort Sutter many years ago. Tom's contributions to Fort Sutter over the years were tremendous. If you were lucky enough to know Tom and work with him at a Fort Sutter event, he was a friend from the beginning. In our upcoming Newsletter we will have a tribute to him highlighting remembrances and pictures. If you have a personal story and/or pictures, please send to me for inclusion in our newsletter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Green family.
- New Business:
- **Dixon 2021:** Update from Mark L. stated we are still planning the Dixon event if allowed by the State of California. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mark Wiebens at (925) 288-0174, or by email: mark.wiebens@pacbell.net
- Fort Sutter Annual Banquet: Tracey Kleber (banquet coordinator) provided an update on planning for the 2021. She is looking for a place to hold the banquet but finding it difficult. Many locations were discussed but with Covid-19 restrictions she was not able to book any future dates. Dennis Peterson, Fort Sutter member, offered his home in Granite Bay to hold the event. He said he has a large backyard, BBQ kitchen outside, and even knows a Chef who would be able to cater the event. John M. said he will connect with Dennis and Tracey soon to talk more about Dennis's offer.
- **2021 Fort Sutter Rides**: Tracy Stahlman, Ride Coordinator, mentioned that all members should visit the Fort Sutter Facebook page to learn of upcoming rides and events. Currently there are two upcoming events: 1.) NorCal Swap Meet this Sunday December 6, 2020. 2.) Annual Nevada County Toy Run will be held on Saturday December 12th. John M. to send details to all Fort Sutter Members.
- Dave Kafton Achieves "Honorary Status" The Fort Sutter Board of Directors received a nomination letter from Rich Ostrander asking the Board to approve Dave Kafton for honorary status for all the contributions that he has provided throughout the years to both the AMCA and specially to Fort Sutter. The Board has approved the request and extends a sincere "Thank You" to Dave for all that he has done for the betterment of Fort Sutter and the AMCA.
- **Fort Sutter Board of Directors:** The Fort Sutter Board of Directors, at our most recent meeting, approved the request to add one additional Board Member. The additional member will be included in the election process detailed below.
- Fort Sutter Board of Director election: Three of the board members 2-year terms are expiring on 12/31/2020. The addition of one new board member will take place at the same time. Voting ballots will be sent out via email to all Fort Sutter members who attended the 12//3/2020 club meeting detailing the process. The election results will be announced inside the mid-month December 2020 Newsletter.
- **2022 Road Run:** The planning for the 2022 Fort Sutter National Road Run is in the beginning stages and will be held in North Lake Tahoe. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mark Wiebens at (925) 288-0174.
- Fort Sutter "Get to know your fellow members": To date there have been nine submissions from our fellow members. If you haven't sent in your questionnaire, please consider taking the time to complete and send to John Markley, Secretary jmark1142@aol.com
- Raffle: Eric Olson held the last raffle for 2020 for two remaining prizes. Karie Schenken's name was drawn first then Tracey Kleber's. During our first in-person Club Meeting (future) prize winners will select in this order: First to draw: Dennis Peterson, Second: Jim Schenken, Third: Bob Turek, Fourth: Tom Myers, Fifth: John Markley, Sixth: Tracey Kleber, Seventh: Karie Schenken, Eight: Tracey Kleber.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



In Memoriam Tom Green

1938 - 2020

Passed away at the age of 82

Tom Green was a very close friend of mine. I knew him for more than 50 years. Tom's son, Jeff, went to St. Robert school with my daughter Kim and we lived in the same neighborhood. Tom helped the school and church by cutting the lawn every week for about a year. Barbara told me that when the mothers took their children to school, they would go up to Tom, when he was cutting the lawn and talk to him because he was so good looking. We hit it off right away because both of us liked motorcycles. He belonged to the first and second Fort Sutter Motorcycle Clubs and he was part of the group that split off from FSMC and started the Polka Dots motorcycle club. Tom raced and road Matchless and BSA motorcycles. Like most of the FSMC members Tom worked on his own bikes and had a nice collection and was always ready and willing to help other people. He did more than his share in running the club as secretary and other duties. I will miss going over to his house and talking about motorcycles. Richard Hardmeyer



Tom on his Matchless "in the air"

Fort Sutter
Dixon National Meet
announcer – Club
Secretary, Newsletter
Editor, are a few of
Tom's duties and
volunteering during his
many years with the
AMCA and the
Fort Sutter Chapter

Tom became the Fort Sutter newsletter editor and club secretary after both Ric Smith and myself filled that slot for several years. He brought us from the printed and mailed copies into the electronic mailed ones and in doing so he saved the chapter lots of money in stamps and printing costs. Tom made up and printed our meet flyers, posters, programs, and like items for almost of the length of our chapter's existence. I never saw Tom on a motorcycle, but I know he had several in his garage. He followed his lifelong friend and fellow Polka Dot club member J.R. Hackley as our chapter meet announcer and became our second ever honorary member after Hack. I remember Tom most for meeting me at the counter of his print shop to accept my newly created newsletter paste up for printing and for coming by my house in later years to pickup articles I prepared for his newsletters. He taught me a lot about Sacramento's motorcycling history. As his son stated in his dad's 12/7/2020, Sacrament Bee obituary - we will be missing Tom's very, very, dry sense of humor. I will miss it most and I will miss him. He was a good man. Richard Ostrander

I met Tom back in 2006 when I joined the AMCA and Fort Sutter. Over the next several years we became friends and during the Dixon Meets I would help him at the announcer's booth because his voice was perfect for announcing. When he began to have health issues in 2016, Marie Moore asked if I would step in and help prepare the Club Newsletter. With Tom's guidance and patience, we didn't miss a single bi-monthly issue. Looking back, I can remember making several trips to his home in Sacramento to gain background history of the Club. With his printing background, he provided me with tips on printing and how to write our Club Newsletter. I am blessed to have known Tom and will miss our talks.





L/R Marie Moore and Tom at one of our Club picnics

In Memoriam Tom Green















Name: James 'Jim' Sadilek

City where you live? Carson City, NV

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

I first joined Fort Sutter M.C. long before it was an AMCA chapter. The year escapes me, but in was in the early sixties, I decided to drop my "outlaw" ways and become a "straight up" citizen. (3)

In 1966 I left Sacramento and moved to Eureka to for work the then California Division of Highways, now Caltrans. In 1969 I was transferred to Los Angeles. Then in 1972, tiring of living in SoCal, I quit the job and moved to Hawaii to be a "hippie"

After years of adventures, I ended up in Carson City in 1988. Again, memory fails regarding exact years, but I reconnected with an old friend and Fort Sutter AMCA member, John Smith, who encouraged me to join Fort Sutter AMCA.

I am also a charter member of the Comstock Chapter AMCA – Reno, Carson City, Minden, Gardnerville area.

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

How much space do I get? Bicycle messenger, dish washer, motorcycle delivery rider, sheet metal worker, motorcycle mechanic, heavy equipment mechanic, carpenter, building contractor, cam grinder, tool maker and several other occupations that I've neglected to list. Currently, a watchmaker specializing in vintage wristwatch restoration. My late wife accused me of having a short attention span.

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

My older brother had a motorcycle. Anyone who's had an older brother, knows the lure of following in an older brother's footsteps, or in this instance, tire tracks. My first motorcycle, at age 15, was a 1947 British made Excelsior with at 125cc Villiers two-stroke engine. It had a three-speed transmission with a hand clutch on the left bar and a hand shift in the middle of the tank. Certainly, this was a unique configuration. Curiously, my mother believed the Excelsior was a wonderful motorcycle because, as she later told me, I spent more time in the garage working on it than I did riding it.

James 'Jim' Sadilek

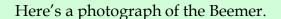
D. Please provide any pictures of your first motorcycle. If none, include pictures of your current bikes(s) with notation of year, make and model.

No pictures of the first bike, and only a few pictures of the 40+ that I've owned since. Here's a favorite I owned in the sixties, a '48 Harley 74" rescued from Al Lauer, Sr.'s horse barn and lovingly rebuilt.



E. What do you currently own/ride?

Currently own a 1972 BMW R60/5 and a 1983 Yamaha XJ650, a four-cylinder cruiser bike. Both bikes are now sufficiently aged to qualify under AMCA rules as antiques.





James 'Jim' Sadilek

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

Currently completing the purchase of a 2014 BMW F800 GT parallel twin. Why? Certainly, it is a much newer design than the two antiques currently in the garage. It has excellent reviews, plenty of power at 90 HP, and all sorts of bells and whistles; perhaps most importantly, considering my advanced age, ABS and BMW's ASC (Automatic Stability Control). So, no burn outs, no wheelies and no stoppies.

While F800 GT doesn't have the shaft drive of my two older bikes, it does use a toothed belt final drive. The belt, with a 24K mile replacement schedule, requires no maintenance.

In my racing days, I lusted after an AJS 7R, a SOHC single cylinder 350cc road racer. The forerunner of the Matchless G50 500cc single SOHC road racer.

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

In the sixties, I road raced. First in the 350 class with a Triumph 350 twin that I had considerably modified. It had increased compression, much work on the valve gear to lighten the moving parts, flat tappets (faster opening and closing compared to the standard slightly radiused tappets). Also, it was fitted with a pair of Triumph 650 Bonneville carburetors. It would barely run below 3,000 rpm but was magical between 5,000 and 10,000 rpm. The shift point was 10,000. I recall telling this once to Joe Sarkees; he said I was a liar. Are Smith's chronometric tachometers accurate? Once missed a shift and saw 11,000. Rode to a lot of 2nd place finishes. There was a 305 Honda that I could never beat.

In my third year of racing the Triumph, I got off really hard, end over end about 85 mph. Walked away with only a stiff neck, landing fortunately on my head. Spent about a year not racing, then AFM, the road racing sanctioning body before AMA finally embraces road racing, decided to start a sidecar class. I had been riding a 1961 big twin Harley with a sidecar as my street bike. The idea of racing a sidecar was simply too compelling to pass up. Using the '61 Harley as a base, Mark Strong, my passenger in our racing adventures, and I, built a full-on road racing sidecar rig. In 1966, we were the AFM Sidecar National Champions.



James 'Jim' Sadilek

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

Inspires? Certainly, many. Definitely a person who was both a good friend and mentor, and who the older Fort Sutter members will recall, was John Smith. I helped him set up his motorcycle shop on the corner of Fruitridge and Franklin Blvd. The shop was sometimes known as "Junky John's Jawa Joint". John was a dealer for Jawa/CZ and Suzuki. I worked for him as a mechanic, and he helped me with my racing endeavors.

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

I only get one thing? Here's one of many. I am an avid bicyclist, and usually put more miles per year on the bicycle than the motorcycle. Like many golfers who hope someday to match their golf score to their age, I told my doctor that when I am 100 years old, I like to ride my bicycle 100 miles. The plan would be to start at Echo Summit and ride to Sacramento, which is about 100 miles with lots of downhill. Ambitious? Yeah, probably, but then what's the point of a goal if not ambitious?

The doctor, who is also a bicyclist, said he'd go with me and have his wife follow us in his motorhome fitted out as an ambulance. Still a few years to go before fulfilling this goal.

If you haven't sent in your "Let's get to know our fellow Members" information – why not share? We all would like to learn more about your passion for motorcycling

Thanks go out to all who have shared so far!







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AMCA L.A. Chapter National Road Run October 25-28, 2020 Fallbrook, CA By Rich Ostrander



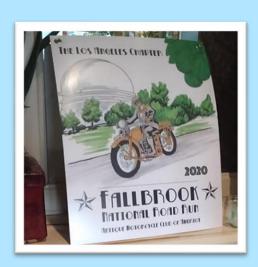
Congratulations to the L.A. Chapter for pulling off an excellent Road Run, one of only two held this year due to Covid-19. A daunting task indeed. Sixty riders and ten passengers enjoyed three days of great rural roads, fine furnished lunches, and excellent evening meals on the host chapter at each end of the event plus great accommodations at the Pala Mesa Resort just thirty or forty miles north of the border.

Half a dozen Fort Sutter members joined a dozen Yerba Buena members along with other riders from as far away as Texas, Arizona, South Dakota, Nevada and Oregon to enjoy the L.A. Chapter's Hospitality.

Every stripe of machine was put through their paces including three rare 1936 EL's which were ridden hard with disregard to their cost and collectability. It was cool to see them in their natural habitat.

The end of the events banquet was excellent with handmade awards give out, great prizes won, and tasty foods served. It was also time to remember a lost founding member of the L.A. Chapter George F. Hood. An assortment of photos of George throughout the years were on display. A toast by all in attendance to George was provided by his good friend Uncle Lenny Miller, and another old and dear friend talked about their Road Run misadventures over the years. It was a fitting end to a well-done event and the near end of the 2020 riding season.

Rich - Fort Sutter Chapter







AMCA L.A. Chapter National Road Run October 25-28, 2020









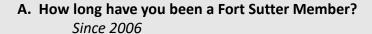






Name: John Markley

City where you live? Roseville





Yes, that is me....on the fastest little Yamaha 100 twin! Well, at least it was for me at the time....

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

40 years in Insurance Sales (Personal Lines – Auto/Home/Life/Health, Also Sales Management including Sales Manager, Trainer, and Regional V.P. for AAA

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

Age 16 – purchased a Yamaha 100cc twin. Yamaha called it the YL1 – twin jet because it had two carbs and dual exhaust. My job back then after school was delivering newspapers with my trusty 10 speed bicycle. With my new Yamaha I was something else throwing those papers from my huge motorcycle. Back in the '60s we lived in Southern California and had the Yamaha serviced at Yamaha of Riverside. One day I was lucky enough to meet Malcolm Smith (On any Sunday) who helped one of his mechanics tune the carbs on my little Yamaha twin.

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.

I have Included a picture of my first motorcycle while visiting my girlfriend at her parents' house – above

E. What do you currently own/ride?

1965 Yamaha Big Bear 250cc YDS3C – 1979 Honda CB750F – 1984 Honda Magna V65 (1300cc) – 1986 Suzuki DR350 – 2001 Suzuki DRZ400 - 2007 Yamaha FJR 1300

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

I haven't owned a Harley, Triumph or BSA – there is still time......!

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

In college I received my Associate of Science degree in Aeronautics. My goal was to obtain an Airframe and Powerplant license to work on Aircraft. However, once I graduated and obtained my license, I was offered a full-time job at Sears. After a few years I discovered my calling was in insurance. After retiring in 2012 I met the restoration manager at the Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center. Long story short I began volunteering and led the restoration of a 1968 Cessna 02A (Vietnam era observation plane) while living in Vacaville. The project took five years to complete. In March 2018 I joined the Board of Directors at the Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center (Museum) in Fairfield CA. I have included a picture of the aircraft currently on display at the Museum.

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

Early on I was inspired by Pete Rogers, Farmers Insurance Regional Manager who discovered I was a salesperson trying to find his career calling. Without his encouragement I wouldn't have had a tremendous career in insurance as I have had.

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

Own additional motorcycles and continue to discover new roads to travel.

Name: John Markley

City where you live? Roseville

1965 Yamaha YDS3C "Big Bear" 250cc



1984 Honda Magna V65





2007 Yamaha FJR 1300

1979 Honda CB750F



1986 Suzuki DR350 Dual Sport





2001 Suzuki DRZ400 Dual Sport



Restored 1968 Cessna 02A Vietnam era observation plane on display at the Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center

Name: Kevin Rogers

City where you live? Clarksburg, CA

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

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

I am a Department Chair of the Automotive Program at Cosumnes River College. I have been an Automotive instructor for 38 years specializing in Electrical, Engine Performance and Wheel alignment. I am planning to retire in May of 2022.

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

I first started riding motorcycles when I was about 12 years old on my grandfather's cattle ranch in Montana. He had got rid of his horse and bought a Honda trail 90 that he let me ride.

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.

E. What do you currently own/Ride?

I am currently riding a 1983 Honda FT 500 Ascot. Past bike was a Honda Interceptor that I sold 30 years ago to buy my wife's wedding ring, (it turned out to be a great deal) and we are still married today. I ride the Ascot because it is not fast, it will vibrate you off if you push it to hard. It works well for riding in the Delta where I live.



Name: Kevin Rogers

City where you live? Clarksburg, CA

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

Not sure, I need bikes that don't need a lot work. I have enough car projects.

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

I spent 24 years preparing and driving open wheel road race cars. I still run a road racing school for the Sports Car Club of America.

H. Who inspires (or inspired you, past or present? Why or how? My wife, she is one of the hardest working and most supportive person I know.

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

My wife and I operate a boat in the Delta and SF Bay. We plan to take it up the coast to the San Juan Islands in Washington State, spend 2 seasons there and then head for San Diego.

I live in Clarksburg on the edge of the Delta. It has great roads for riding and my wife, and I have a houses that is set up for outdoor entertaining. It would be great to host a barbeque for the club this summer.











NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW AND SWAP MEET Friday & Saturday Our 20th Year! 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 RV Camping with HOOKUP AVAILABLE \$35.00 night - or, \$15.00 without hookups

FOR VENDING PRE-REGISTRATION CALL:

Karie Schenken (916) 803-7732

AND FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

CALL:

Mark Wiebens (925) 288-0174

Fort Sutter Chapter

Visit our website: www.fortsutteramca.org

Name: Sean Kohmescher

City where you live? Coloma, CA

- A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member? One week
- **B. What do/did you do for a living?** In the Coffee Business Temple Coffee located at 2829 "S" St. Sacramento, CA
- C. When did you first start riding motorcycles or what is your earliest motorcycle memory? Age 17
- 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.

That was a long time ago. A 1992 Harley 883 Sportster

E. What do you currently own/Ride?

2008 Big Dog K9 - 2007 Springer Classic – 1941 Indian Chief – 1948 Harley FL – 1965 Harley FL

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

1953 Indian Chief, 1936 Indian Chief, 1934 VL, 1936 EL, Indian 1010. A wish list could go on and on. With that being said its what you find and have a relationship is sometimes different.

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

I race bicycles, primarily mountain bikes.

- H. Who inspires (or inspired) you, past or present? Why or how? Not sure about this one. Anyone who is capable of balancing life well.
- I. What is one thing you would still like to do in your life that you have not done yet?

Ride by bike and motorcycle crossing the U.S. back and forth.

Name: Sean Kohmescher



1948 Indian



1965 Harley

1948 Harley