

2021 OFFICERS

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

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Rich Ostrander
Club Historian Emeritus

Ride Captain, Tracy Stahlman
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www.fortsutteramca.org

President's Comments

Hi you all,

Well, the pandemic continues on and continues to frustrate our planning abilities. At the moment there is no clear path to having a normal Dixon event.

The board and I will be reviewing our options in the coming weeks to see what will be possible to accomplish with the restrictions that are in place at the fairgrounds at this time. I, as I'm sure all of you are hoping that the virus will slow down, and vaccines will catch up and restrictions will start to go away.

So all that I can report to you is our annual dinner is on hold until a later date. Dixon is a big question mark. Now the better, our National road run is still a go and being planned for September 2022. We have some club rides being planned, a good way to still see each other and do something fun. Try to make it.

We also have some new club shirts to offer our club members, another custom art work design of Jim Inman, order one or two, put your club spirit on.

Thanks to Jim Schenken for putting this together and making it happen. We are still having meetings and I encourage everyone to try and join one. I am also very sorry to have to report that my, and the clubs good friend Joe Manns has passed. He always had a kind word for me and would always show up when you least expected. He was a good guy, and my friend. He will be missed.

So far 2021 isn't doing much better than 2020. So, for now let's do our best and carry on.

Hope to see you all soon.

Fort Sutter President
Mark Loewen

**Our In-Person Meetings are now Zoom or
Conference Call. In-person meetings are not far
off! Until then let's get out and go on a Club Ride**

Minutes of the General Meeting

February 6, 2021

The Zoom Conference call meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President, Mark Loewen. There were 14 members in attendance. Club membership totals are currently 54 primary, 13 associates and 11 honorary. January is the month to renew your yearly Chapter dues. If you haven't renewed, please send in your dues to Karie Schenken in care of: Fort Sutter, AMCA, P.O. Box 1994, Elk Grove, CA 95759. Any questions regarding your membership, please contact her by phone: (916) 686-3874 or by email: karrots66@hotmail.com

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.

Old Business:

- **Tracy Stahlman: Ride Captain:** Tracy reported on Club rides in December 2020. 1.) The NorCal Swap Meet was held on December 6th and with weather being cool but clear riders were glad to get out and enjoy the chance to find a special part at the swap meet. 2.) Tracy stated that the Nevada County Toy Run to Grass Valley in December was attended by only two Fort Sutter members, Tracy and his wife Kim, along with a few of their friends. With the Covid-19 pandemic limiting attendance participation to only 577 bikes they still served 990 children with toys and food. The 2021 event should see a major increase in riders!

New Business

- **Fort Sutter Annual Banquet: Tracey Kleber, Banquet Coordinator:** Tracey reports that she has not been successful in finding a suitable location due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Many locations including restaurants, parks and campgrounds were discussed but none would offer the services needed. Club member Dennis Peterson would like to offer his home in Granite Bay for the banquet, but he is having his kitchen redone at this time and the work wouldn't be completed until August 2021. Tracey stated she will report back at our next meeting with hopefully a location.
- **2021 Fort Sutter Rides: Tracy Stahlman, Ride Captain:** Tracy mentioned that all members should visit the Fort Sutter Facebook page to learn of upcoming rides and events. For February he has scheduled a Sacramento River Run for Saturday, February 20th. The Delta area provides excellent riding and should be a great outing to begin the New Year. Ride details are included in this newsletter. He is also planning a March 21st ride – stay tuned for more updates. Remember to reference both the Fort Sutter Facebook page and the Fort Sutter website: www.footsutteramca.org for daily and weekly updates on club events.
- **2021 Dixon National Show & Swap Meet:** Mark Loewen reports he contacted the Dixon Fairgrounds for an update on whether the event can proceed as planned for June 18-19, 2021. The Fairgrounds reported that a COVID-19 Prevention Plan must be prepared and submitted to the Fairgrounds who then will submit it to the County, CHP and Fire Marshall. The plan requirements are currently being reviewed by the Fort Sutter Board with more information to follow.
- **New Fort Sutter T-Shirt:** Jim Schenken highlighted a new T-Shirt available now for Fort Sutter Members to order. Since 2020's National Meet was postponed it is called the "Dixon 2020 The National Meet that Never Was" T-shirt. The shirt is available in both Men's and Women's sizes. Additional information and T-Shirt order form is attached for members to order.
- **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
- **Dale Walksler:** (From his Obituary) Founder of the Dale's Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum, former Harley Davidson Motorcycle Dealer, and member of the American Motorcycle Association and Sturgis Motorcycle Hall of Fame, who devoted his life to the advancement of antique motorcycles and their history, died in Maggie Valley, N. Carolina on February 3, 2021, at 68 years of age, with his wife by his side, after a courageous four-year battle with cancer.
- **Joe Manns Health Update:** it was announced that Joe Manns (Long term Fort Sutter Member) is experiencing health issues. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe and his family during this difficult time. **Update on Joe.....just received a call from Rich Ostrander that Joe passed on Tuesday February 9th. More about Joe and his love for motorcycles in the next newsletter.
- **Terry Pugsley (45's Unlimited Long term Dixon vendor):** We received the sad news that Terry Pugsley has passed away after from a long illness and that Terry's partner, Patrick from the 45's will be keeping the vendor spots.
- **Raffle:** Eric Olson held a raffle for those in attendance during the Zoom call. At our first in-person meeting for 2021 the following individuals will draw raffle prizes from the table in this order. As with the previous raffle prize winners these will be drawn in order. Our latest raffle prize winners are: Tom Myers, Tracy Stahlman, Gary Kubodera. Together, these winners will join the list of previous winners and draw in this order: 1.) Dennis Peterson, 2.) Jim Schenken 3.) Bob Turek, 4.) Tom Myers, 5.) John Markley, 6.) Tracey Kleber, 7.) Karie Schenken, 8.) Tracey Kleber, 9.) Tom Myers, 10.) Tracy Stahlman, 11.) Gary Kubodera.
- Meeting adjourned at 13:30 a.m. and all left for Georgia

John Markley
Secretary

Note: Order Form is attached to this newsletter

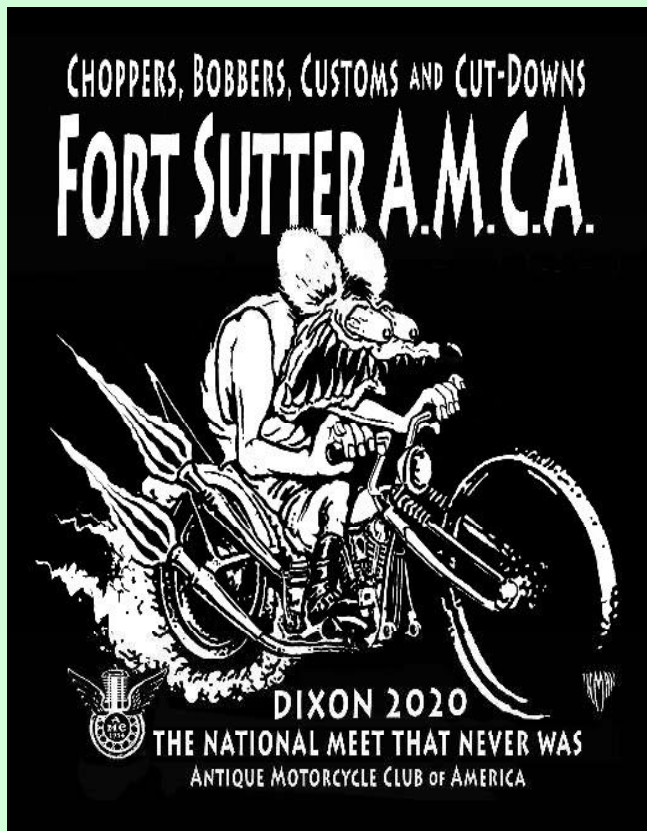


We are proud to present the **Dixon 2020 National Meet That Never Was** T-Shirt. These shirts are an exclusive offer to our Fort Sutter Members.

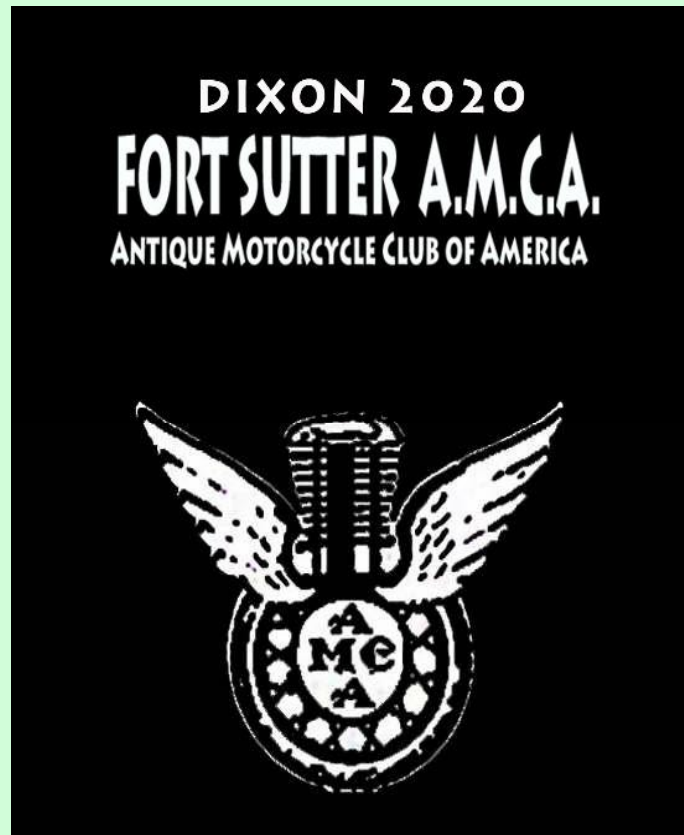
Please select the sizes, quantities and enter the total cost on the provided order form.

Make Checks payable to: Fort Sutter Chapter Inc.

Send to: Fort Sutter Chapter, P.O. Box 1994, Elk Grove, CA 95759



Back of Shirt



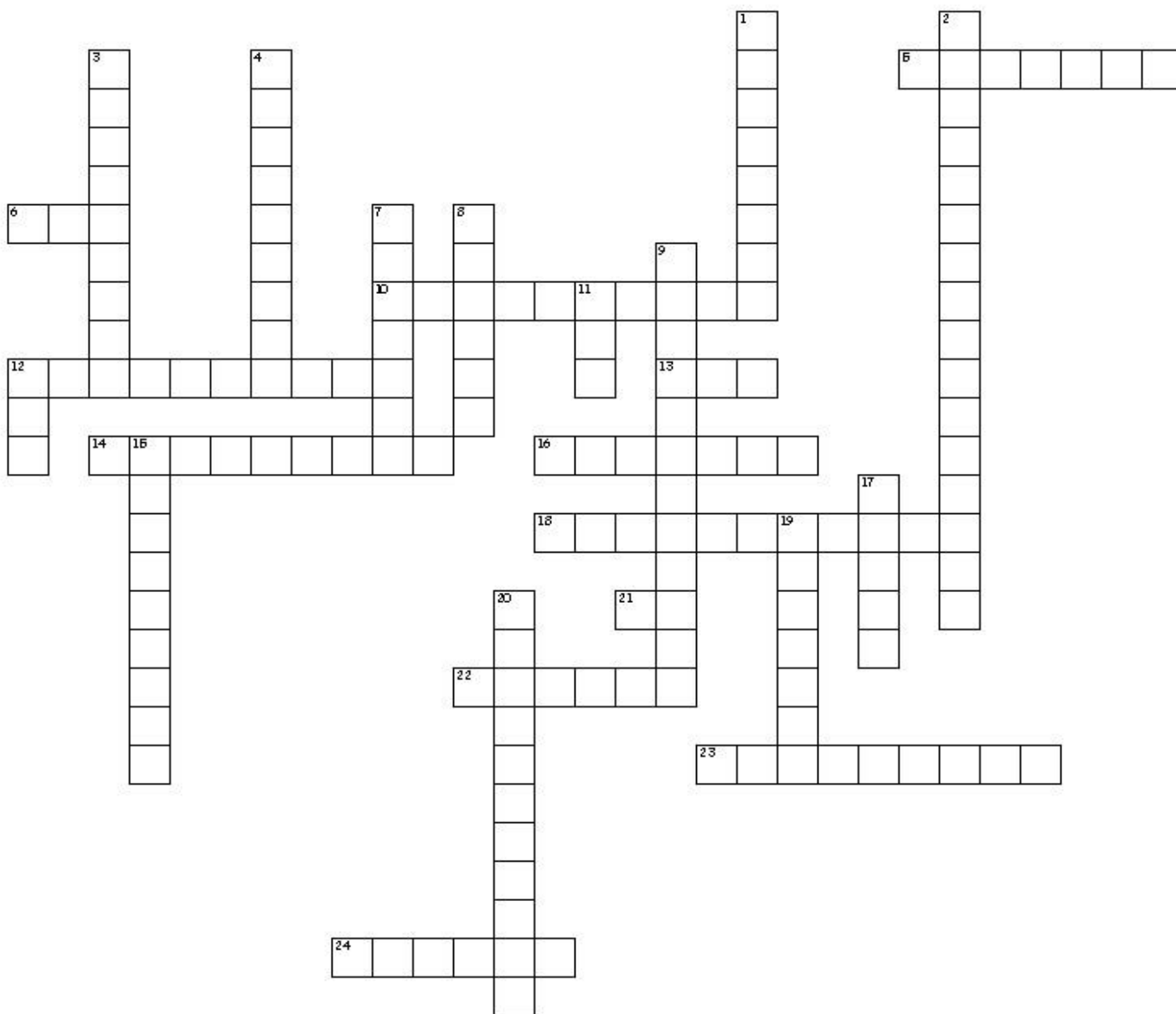
Front of Shirt

Note: Order Form is attached to this newsletter

Time for a Motorcycle Cross Word Puzzle

Brought to you by Tom Myers

Fort Sutter Member



Across

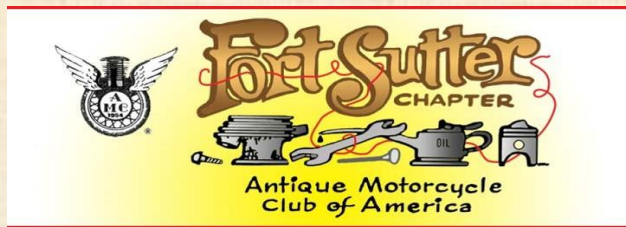
- 5. 1917
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Each clue is the year a brand or model was introduced. The answer may be the brand, the model, the brand and model, or a well known nickname. Numbers that may be part of a model name are represented by roman numerals, even though that may not be how the numbers actually appear in the model name.

Also: This is just for fun as you shelter at home getting ready to finally ride your motorcycles
Answers are included elsewhere in this newsletter



NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW AND SWAP MEET
Friday & Saturday
Our 20th Year!
June 18 and 19, 2021



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

AMCA Judging
Pre-Registration Only

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

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.footsutteramca.org

Fort Sutter December 2020 Club Rides

Tracy Stahlman

Ride Captain



Nevada County
Toy Run
Toys for the
Children



Tracy Stahlman Ride Captain:

Kim and myself were the only Club members to meet up for the ride. I had 3 other friends show up so in all 4 bikes rode up. We had wet weather on the way to Rocklin, not rain just wet roads and fog. We left Rocklin and took our time enjoying the back roads into Grass Valley / Nevada City. With the current COVID restrictions in place things ran a little different this year but was still a great turnout. Several hundred bikes showed up with food and toys. After the drop off we hit a local restaurant to eat lunch then ran back down the hill to the valley. The weather dried up the sun shined but was still a little cold. Nevada County Food and Toy Run is one of my favorites. Hope to see more Fort Sutter members for next years Toy Run. Tracy



Looks like
we missed a
Great ride
to Grass
Valley



AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: Tracy Stahlman

City where you live? Elk Grove

A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member? Several years, not sure when I joined

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

UPS (29 yrs.) retired 4 years. Feeder driver (Big Rig / Semi Truck)

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

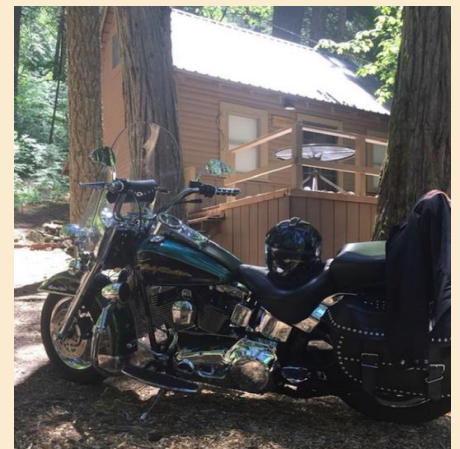
Early 70’s had an old lawn mower engine powered mini-bike I ripped around the neighborhood on, then Hodaka Ace 100 in a bonanza frame. In high school bought a brand-new Yamaha Special 50cc two stroke street bike, a ‘72 Honda SL 175, then a ‘82 Honda CB900Fss, Had a ‘69 Yamaha L5T 100cc, BSA Bantam 125, and a ‘37 BMW 500.



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. See above

E. What do you currently own/ride?

Currently own ‘76 HD FXE modified, ‘76 Honda CB400Fss (restoring) and an ‘06 HD Heritage Softail.



AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: Tracy Stahlman

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

I would like to add an HD flathead bobber/chopper (not show bike) to my fleet, and a vintage trail bike, too.

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

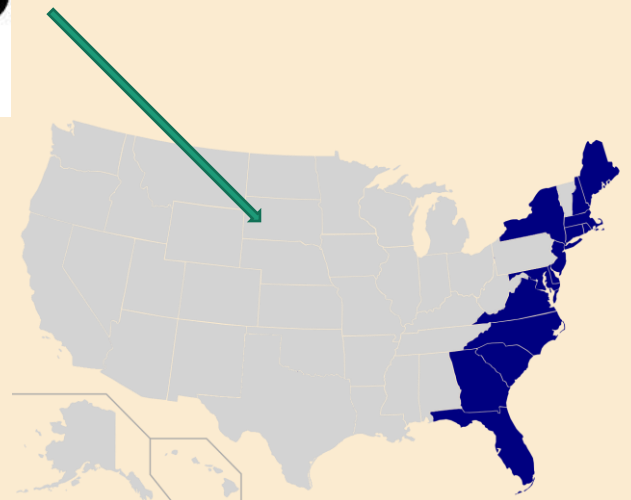
I am 3rd generation Fort Sutter member preceded by my Grandfather and Dad both Walter L. Stahlman Sr. and Jr. Grandfather was a Sac PD motor cop, and Dad was a local racer back in the day with Jimmy Jones, Tom Pettibone, and Rich Hardmeyer. Both worked for various local shops including Sarkees, Magri and Lauer.

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

Far too many people inspire me to mention. Anybody that continues to work to better their craft or passion and can find ways to make it work or make something out of nothing inspire me.

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

I would like to take an epic motorcycle road trip. Left coast to right and border to border. I would also like to do Sturgis and a couple other big m/c rallies.





A Remembrance
Dale Walksler
1952-2021
By Rich Ostrander



I first met Dale when I was traveling south on Hwy 395 to SoCal to pickup some Super X parts in October 1991 on my 1988 Sportster. I came up on him sitting on a rock, looking down into the Panamint Valley just west of Death Valley. He was wearing a bomber jacket, mirrored aviator shades and smoking a cigarette. Next to him stood an original 1957 blue and white Panhead. It looked like a Marlboro cigarette commercial. He got up and came over and shook my hand and while using his other hand to give me his business card, he said "Hi" Dale Walksler, Walksler Harley Davidson, Mount Vernon, Illinois. We were the best of friends from then forward. If you knew him well it was a pure Dale moment.

In 2002, Dale called knowing I was writing AMCA related articles for a now defunct vintage motorcycle related magazine and wanted me to pen an article about his newly opened Wheels Through Time Museum in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. I asked if I could visit and bring a friend, Lenny Miller. Years before, Lenny had traveled with me to Dale's HD dealership and museum in Mount Vernon, so I thought that he should be included in this one, too. Dale flew us into Charlotte and had a rental car waiting and a trailer for us to stay in just across the stream from his museum.

We had dinner across the street with Dale's father a couple of nights in a row and talked about how he loaned Dale \$10K when he was just 21 to open his Harley Davison dealership in an old tractor dealership in Mount Vernon 275 miles south of Chicago where he was born. He ended up living in an old three story abandoned hospital he bought from the town for a dollar and made it into his house. I had stayed there in the late '90's when I traveled back on my sportster to Pennsylvania to visit my dad. I spent a couple of days visiting with Dale.

The night I arrived he rushed out to greet me and said, "Come on, I want to test drive the car after rebuilding the motor – I have been waiting for you." I grabbed a bottle of wine, that I had in my saddle bag. I had won it that year in the Sonoma AMA Vintage Days West meet for my old 101 Scout and I had saved it to share with Dale. Off we went around midnight in his 1931 Cadillac coupe with a fresh V-16 under the hood drinking wine while driving through corn fields for about a hundred miles. It would start running on one bank of only eight cylinders and Dale would stop and crawl under and smack one of two fuel pumps and the other bank of eight would kick back in. You can't make this stuff up!

The happiest I ever seen Dale was the day his son Matt won his first dirt track race at the Wauseon meet in 2011. I thought he would burst. Dale and I rode many miles, enjoyed many conversations, and enjoyed each others company over the past thirty years outside the spotlight that he was usually under. I will miss my friend dearly.

Rich Ostrander



I will miss my friend dearly.

photos next page >>>>

Dale enjoyed fixing and restoring



*Rich Ostrander and Lenny Miller visit Dale in Maggie Valley, NC
Personal Photos provided by Rich Ostrander*



Lenny Miller proudly inside Wheels Through Time Museum standing next to Dale's hillclimber



Dale & Rich back to the Museum after driving around Maggie Valley, NC in Dale's Duesenberg. The Cadillac to the left was driven the night before to go listen to bluegrass music.

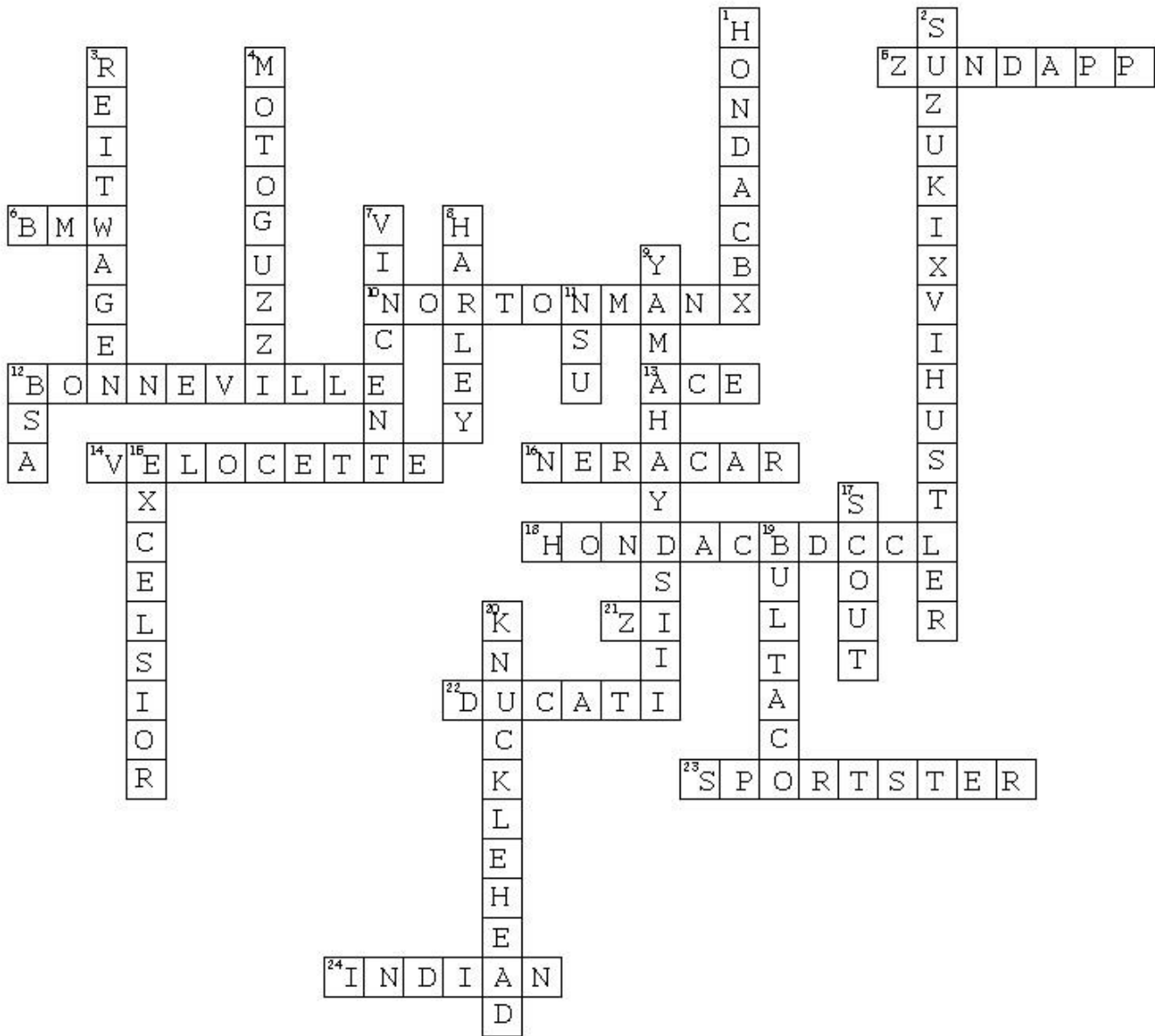


Shorty Thompkin's (Fort Sutter) Henderson 4 powered midget that Dale bought from Shorty.



Dale watching us leave to head home

Answers to Motorcycle Puzzle



Across

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Thanks go out to Tom Myers for creating this puzzle.

Note:

There could be some ambiguity due to different sources, production year vs. model year etc. Any corrections are encouraged. Again, the puzzle is for educational fun

Remembrance Section for Fort Sutter Members who have passed away

Note: If you would like to provide your comments please send to John Markley >> Newsletter Editor

**Tom
Green**
1938 – 2020



Tom Green was one reason I decided to write a book about the early days of Sacramento motorcycling. My dad left files of photos from Selby Stables races, and Colfax, as well as of people and bikes outside his tiny motorcycle shop near railroad tracks on 16th Street in the early 1950s. My cousin found a two-part series online from 1914 Ft. Sutter newsletters after Harold Ball died. The articles covered history about early dealers and riders whose names I'd heard growing up. I wondered, who knew this history from the 1950s and where did he learn to write so clearly? I found Rich Hardmeyer's name on the newsletters in which the articles ran and called him. Rich said that Tom Green wrote the articles. He gave me his telephone number. I left a message but didn't hear back. One day I picked up the phone and heard, "This is Tom Green." I felt I'd struck gold. Several months later, I visited Tom at his Land Park home. He went through my pictures and a few old Al Lauer invoices. He was very alert and recalled details clearly. Shortly thereafter, he became sick. I'll never forget when he said, "I bought my first motorcycle from your dad. When other dealers wouldn't sell me a bike because of my age, your dad did." Oh, no, I thought to myself, wondering what my dad had done. But Tom seemed grateful, and that was good enough for me. I am glad I got to meet him and hope to someday write as clearly as he did.

Kimberley Edwards

**Tom
Green**
1938 – 2020

I remember Tom's comment to me years ago that only a few members read page 2 of the newsletter – the minutes for the meeting just held by the Club. To prove the point, he inserted a line from his typing class in high school that read: "now is the time for all men to come to the aid of their country" and no one mentioned it to him why that sentence was included? Today, while typing the newsletter I remembered Tom's comment and decided to see if someone would catch something. If you find it reply to me – who will be the first?

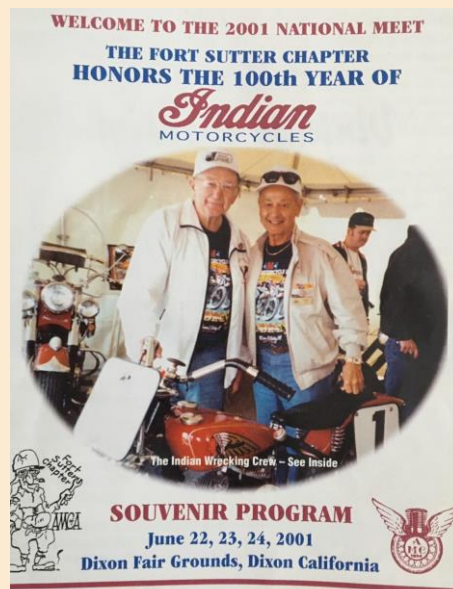
John Markley

Photos from the Past



2008

Jim (right) and Marie Moore's son, Jeff (left) restored this 1956 BMW R60 which they took to the Half Moon Bay Concours d' Elegance. It scored 99.9 points winning first in class. In addition, it was nominated for, but did not win, best of show



2001 – 1st Dixon
National Show &
Swap Meet T-Shirt



The Collection

Leonard “Lenny” Miller

Story and photo by Rich Ostrander, Fort Sutter Historian, Emeritus

Collect; To bring, or come together in a group, gather, to accumulate. A year ago, my good friend and long-time riding buddy was experiencing some health concerns and it was agreed that the time had finally come to disperse his forty odd year collection of old motorcycles and related parts.

For him to finally reach that moment was a major change for him, but the right choice. It fell upon me to take on tasking. With some fifty plus years of experience in old motorcycles, and a lot of friends with special make and model knowledge I developed a plan. Lenny and I did not want a lot of pickers involved but persons that would assemble the parts into rideable machines or to complete one(s) they already had.

Lenny had moved these parts several times over the years to various locations and none were joined together to form a machine. They were stored in two forty-foot semi-trailers, a four-car garage (half with overhead storage) and a large shed. Our friend Carl hauled many truck loads to the dump of stuff stored in the garage just so I would have a place to process parts and assemble basket cases. Loose parts went into a trailer to haul to swap meets and the rest made up the baskets.

I am happy to report that after a year’s work the tasking is just about finished. Six major swap meets and thirty basket cases later the plan worked. Over the next couple years, it will be nice to see these motorcycles which were just piles of discarded bits and pieces assembled, polished, painted, and coming back to life. That is rewarding enough. It also means Lenny’s and Marna’s future caretaking, if needed, is provided for. I would like to thank all who helped me bring this tasking to a successful conclusion on their behalf. Listed below are the baskets that Lenny’s collection of parts helped make it possible. An impressive gathering of models and makes to be sure.

1911 Pope H single	1940 HD WLD
1911 Yale twin	1941 Indian 741 Scout
1913 Excelsior twin	1941 HD XA
1914 Excelsior twin	1946 HD FL
1920 HD 61” twin (electric)	1948 HD WL
1925 HD JD	1949 HD FL
1927 HD JD	1956 HD KH
1927 Indian 45” Police Scout	1956 HD KR
1928 HD JDH	1968 HD XLCH
1929 HD JDH	* 6 each: semi-complete vintage racing machines
1930 Indian 101 Scout	* 3 rare Maely’s including #2, and an early JAP
1940 Indian 4	
1940 Indian Sport Scout	
1931 HD VL	

The Collection

Leonard “Lenny” Miller

Story and photo by Rich Ostrander, Fort Sutter Historian, Emeritus

GKM readers will find just as impressive the names of some of the builders who now have some of these rolling baskets or parts in their possession like Grant Peterson, Mx Schaaf, Justin Walls, Jeff Leighton, Ran Grossman, Craig “Two Cam” Taylor, and the “Howie” Zechner, L.A. Speedway Museum just to name a few.

They not only stood tall for many cool pieces of two-wheeled history but because they were “Uncle” Lenny’s as us old farts call him and the stories of him and his fabulous original paint “26 JD with the prosthetic leg equipped with a tan Converse shoe with the H-D laces (didn’t know they made them huh?) attached to its rear rack. He and that bike rode over mountains, down valleys and everywhere in between. His Bobjob ’47 FL which was featured in past pages of GKM and the only other bike Lenny rode now resides in the stable of an ex-Brit living in Hollywood who rides it hard and loves it dearly. What goes round comes round, And all is well that ends well. *Down the Road!*

Rich



AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: **Jim Schenken**

City where you live: **Elk Grove**

A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member? 16 years, currently handle the Fort Sutter Website

B. What do/did you do for a living? I have been in the HVAC Industry for 32 Years, 10 as a Union Sheetmetal/Service Technician and the last 22 years as a Sales Service/Project Engineer for commercial heating and air conditioning.

C. When did you first start riding motorcycles or what is your earliest motorcycle memory? My first bike was an Ohlsson & Rice 1 hp custom Mini Bike my dad built around 1968-1969. He procured bike parts from the local dump and utilized a Campbell’s Tomato Soup Can for a gas tank. At the time I was only 7 or 8, so it had plenty of power to propel me down the side walk a quite high speed at full throttle. I later road the mini bike as halftime entertainment for the Super Modified Races at West Capitol Raceway in West Sacramento and we got to watch the races for free. I was only to go around the track one time, but when the flag man started waving his hand, I thought he wanted me to go around again. I passed him by and as I started around the track the cars were there waiting to get back to racing, revving their engines as I went by which was a little scary. The crowd gasped as I nearly fell taking the last turn when my feet came off the pegs. When I did not fall, they erupted in applause, my 15 minutes of fame. I could have ridden around that track 100 times.



1970 – 8 Years Old in my driveway

1969 West Capitol
Raceway
Sacramento



Mini Bike 53 years
later. Too bad I
weigh too much to
ride it now.



AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: **Jim Schenken**

D. Pictures of past motorcycles. My next bike had to wait until I was out of the house and 19 years old. It was an early 70’s Kawasaki 250 street legal Enduro which I bought from an ad in the local newspaper. My friends had a Yamaha 650, a Honda 250 Enduro and a 78 Harley low rider, needless to say, I was always the last to get to where we were going. By the time I caught up they were rested and wanted to get back on the road. I always thought what’s the hurry, but fast and furious was how they rode.

My next bike was a 1977 Kawasaki 750 Twin which I bought around 1984. It was a super reliable bike and great fun to ride. The starter never worked but it kicked really easy and was much cooler than pushing a button. It was the first engine I ever attempted to work on. It was not running well and needed the upper end rebuilt. I bought a manual for the bike and started in, new pistons, rings, bored cylinders and rebuilt heads. Once back together the motor barley ran. I took it to the Kawasaki shop and for a hundred bucks or so they properly shimmed the valves, tuned it up and it ran like a top.



Kawasaki 1977 750 Twin

It was about 1986 when I bought my next Kawasaki which was a 1978 Z1R 1000, the first bike I owned that I wish I did not sell. Had this bike for a few years and decided to sell for \$1200.00 as I wanted the money for something else. Now they are selling for as high as \$15,000.00.



Kawasaki 1978 Z1R 1000



AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: [Jim Schenken](#)

Around 2002 my wife and I purchased our 1987 Harley Soft tail. I learned a lot more working on this bike, replaced a stator, clutches, new pulley and belt to get more top end on the freeway. Also learned how to tune a S&S Carburetor. Sold the bike about 5 years later.



My wife and I had a 1973 Sportster that we bought from a friend, but I was not a fan of the left side brake. After I cleaned up the tank, repaired the brakes and rebuilt the carburetor, got it running, we sold the bike. We had a 1927 Harley J for a short period of time but decided to sell it as we wanted a bike that my wife and I could ride on together for Fort Sutter events and just getting out for a ride. We sold the bike to a young guy from back East who had a tattoo of a model J on his arm which looked like a bike you would see at the vintage races. He sent us a photo a year later and the bike looked fantastic. He was taking part in vintage races at the beach and also ice racing. We realized then it was meant to be and that the bike had gone to the right person.



1973 Harley Davidson Sportster



1927 Harley Davidson Model J

AMCA Fort Sutter

“Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: [Jim Schenken](#)

E. What do you currently own/ride? We currently have a 1946 FL Knucklehead which I started building in 2006 and finished up in 2009. I started with a set of heads and some parts I purchased from Jack Gormley who was a founding member of the Fort Sutter Club. I bought a basket case engine from a guy back East and then started the process of building a motor with my dad’s help as he has built many over the years. I line honed the case races manually at home with a hone I borrowed from Larry at the Harley shop. Larry also set up my cylinders. John Schaffer a founding member of Fort Sutter performed the valve job on my heads. John showed me how to seat the valves with cutting compound at his home shop off of Arden way in Sacramento. I ended up narrowing the front fender for a 21” wheel and then added 3” to the back fender. I wired the bike, installed the electric starter and did my best at the body work before sending it out to get it painted.



1946 Harley Davidson – FL Model



Dad (Ed Schenken) on his 1947 Knuckle and me on my 1946

AMCA Fort Sutter

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We bought a 1975 Harley Davidson Shovelhead about 5 years ago. The bike came with old drum brakes, 40 spoke wheels and the original front end. I installed early 2000 front tubes, 60 spoke wheels, dual disc brakes, new bars with controls, rewired the bike, installed a new rear brake and we rode it on the 2017 Fort Sutter AMCA National Road run in Lake Tahoe.

Soon after the top end was passing oil, so I pulled it apart and removed the high compression pistons someone else had installed and went back closer to stock. I replaced the 40 over cylinders, had the heads rebuilt, put new rocker arms and shafts in and installed a new AB grind Cam and gears.

I decided to pull the transmission out and see what the previous owner had done which turned out to be a good idea as I found many issues. The case leaked badly so I sealed everything up, installed new parts and pieces, installed new 1st and 3rd Andrews close ratio gears and changed the shift pattern to 1 down and 4 up which I am more accustomed to. I am just finishing the last prime of the tins and then I am going to paint. I am now ready to start the break in of the motor and transmission. I also added a speedo drive gear to the transmission with help from my dad, we built a fixture off an old Knuckle case, drilled out my shovelhead case and it actually worked.



1975 Harley Shovelhead



Before and After



AMCA Fort Sutter

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Name: **Jim Schenken**



Shovelhead Ready to start and break in.



Parts in prime, just about paint time.



My wife Karie (on the left) handles membership for the club and registration for the Fort Sutter Swap Meet in Dixon.

Picture of Karie and her mentor, our dear friend Marie Moore from the 2016 Dixon Swap Meet.



Fun Fact – when 3 of 4 fender bolts come out, you may stop suddenly. Luckily, I got down to about 10 MPH before it threw me in a soft pile of hay along the road. Fellow Club Members Tracy Stahlman and Jim Moore helping me out after my learning lesson, only have to learn that one once.

After the fender was secure, we started off again down Jefferson Boulevard toward the river and less than 10 seconds later, a honey bee flew into my helmet and stung me on the side of my head. Quick pit stop, remove the stinger, and on the road once again.

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

I would like to own another 1970’s Kawasaki, I just like those bikes a lot and fun to ride and look cool. Maybe a 70’s Yamaha 650 twin or an old bone stock Flathead, 60’s Panhead or maybe a Generator Shovel from the 60’s, too many to choose from.

Why? Because Motorcycles are Cool, fun to work on and you can never have too many!

G. What is something interesting about you that others might not already know? I can ride a unicycle. I learned when I was a kid and was part of the Sacramento Unicycle Club in the 70’s. I rode in many parades throughout the Sacramento region on my unicycle and also on 6ft tall ones which my Dad built for my sister and myself. Picture below from square dance practice on our unicycles, Do-si-do and away we go.



Sacramento State Fair



My 1937 Chevy Rumble Seat Coupe Project

H. Who inspires (or inspired) you. Past or present?

Many people have inspired me throughout my life for one reason or another. My parents, grandparents, my wonderful, smart and beautiful wife, our two great kids Jake and Madeline and the many friends and acquaintance’s over the years.

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

Not sure I can pick just one, but maybe build a cabin on a few acres up in the mountains near a lake or river with a nice big wood burning fireplace.

Willow our Cattle Dog
Can’t leave her out.

