

2021 OFFICERS

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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> Treasurer, Julie Loewen (916) 698-7867 jloewen@sbcglobal.net

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Web Master, Jim Schenken (916) 686-3874 jschenken@msn.com

Club Historian, Tracy Stahlman (916) 479-4972 stahlman4@yahoo.com

> Rich Ostrander Club Historian Emeritus

Ride Captain, Tracy Stahlman (916) 479-4972 stahlman4@yahoo.com

www.fortsutteramca.org





April 2021 Vol 40, Number 2

President's Comments

Hello to all,

It was nice to see so many of you make it to our first real meeting, it's been such a long time. Also, nice to see a parking lot filled with motorcycles. Things are starting to get back to normal and hopefully our club will also get back to normal. I'm sad we aren't able to put together a meet this year that would resemble anything we are used to, but that gives us time to plan a super 2022 meet that I believe could be one of our best. Until then, the club has been meeting for monthly rides, thanks to Tracy, if you haven't come to a ride yet you're missing out. In October, the Sacramento Auto show will be happening, and we are invited as usual. Starting getting those bikes ready to show off. So, I hope you all are doing well, and I see you at a meeting or a ride very soon.

Fort Sutter President Mark Loewen

The next Fort Sutter meeting will be held on Saturday June 5, 2021. Location to be announced soon!



The AMCA was founded in 1954 by a group of antique-bike fans in the New England area (pictured from left are T.A. Hodgdon, Emmett Moore, Henry Wing Sr., and Henry Wing Jr.). In the decades since, the AMCA has grown to become one of the largest organizations of the antique motorcycle enthusiasts in the world, with 12,000 members worldwide.

Minutes of the General Meeting April 3, 2021

The first In-Person meeting for 2021 was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President, Mark Loewen. The meeting was held at Mark's business shop in South Sacramento. There were 28 members in attendance. Club membership totals are currently 48 primary, 15 associates and 11 honorary. 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: A motion to approve the minutes as written for the February 2021 zoom meeting was made by Rich Ostrander and seconded by Margie Siegal.

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

Old Business:

- 2021 Fort Sutter Rides: Tracy Stahlman, Ride Captain: Tracy reported on Club rides in February and March 2021. See ride report and photos on additional page(s) in the newsletter. The April ride is scheduled for April 24, 2021 and includes meeting in West Sacramento and traveling to Woodland Esparto Williams Colusa Meridian Knights Landing and returning to West Sacramento. Tracy is asking everyone to RSVP ahead of the ride and provide contact information for you and another person should you become delayed along the route. As always make sure to fuel up and be ready to go at the designated time. Remember to reference both the Fort Sutter Facebook page and the Fort Sutter website: www.fortsutteramca.org for daily and weekly updates on club events.
- 2021 Dixon National Show & Swap Meet: Mark Loewen reviewed the decision to postpone the 2021 event until 2022. After weighing all the Covid-19 restrictions, the Fort Sutter Board decided to postpone this year's event and get ready for a fantastic Dixon National Show & Swap Meet on June 17-18, 2022. Please volunteer your time to help with all the various duties necessary to put on a National Meet.
- Fort Sutter Annual Banquet: Tracey Kleber reports that she is continuing to look for a suitable place for the scheduled banquet on August 21, 2021. More information to follow at our next meeting.
- New Business
- New Fort Sutter T-Shirt: Jim Schenken announced that the new T-Shirts are here and provided all those with their shirt order at the meeting. The shirts look great in person Thanks go out to Jim Inman for designing and Jim Schenken for his help in providing the "Dixon 2020 The National Meet that Never Was" T-shirt. The shirt is available in both Men's and Women's sizes. After the meeting, an inventory of remaining shirts will be sent out to everyone for purchase.
- Fort Sutter "Get to know your fellow members": We are still at nine submissions from our fellow members don't worry about making the form look perfect. If necessary, you can use a pen or pencil and send with actual photos and I will prepare it for insertion into our newsletter. Send to John Markley, Secretary – <u>imark1142@aol.com</u>
- Fort Sutter 2022 Road Run: Mark Wiebens, Road Run coordinator, stated he is unable to locate a suitable hotel in North Lake Tahoe due to the Covid-19 restrictions. He will continue to research the area and is open to suggestions. Volunteers are needed to help plan and work with the Road Run committee. Contact Mark Wiebens at mark.wiebens@pacbell.net or by phone: (925) 288-0174
- Health Update
- Don Harrell: AMCA member, BSA Club member, and for many years a Dixon vendor passed away on January 30, 2021. Don raced dirt track motorcycles throughout the valley and started collecting vintage British motorcycles in the late 70's. The BSA Club has provided us a memorial tribute to Don that is included within this newsletter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Don's family during this difficult time.
- Leonard "Lenny" Miller: Rich Ostrander reports Lenny is currently doing OK We are thinking of you Lenny!
- Raffle: Eric Olson held a raffle for those in attendance at the conclusion of our meeting. However, as promised, he began by allowing the previous conference call and Zoom meeting winners to select their choice of prizes on the table. For those not in attendance, they will be able to draw at the next in-person meeting. The individuals who were in attendance drew from the table in the following order.

 Dennis Peterson not in attendance.
 Jim Schenken 3.) Bob Turek not in attendance.
 Tracey Kleber not intendance, 7.) Karie Schenken, 8.) Tracey Kleber not in attendance.
 Tracey Kleber not in attendance. As usual all members who attend the bi-monthly meeting receive a raffle ticket for a drawing. There were six winning tickets drawn at the 4/4/2021 meeting and the following members were able to select from the table:
 John Markley 4.) Dick Crawford 5.) Bill Cruz.) In conclusion, all members who rode to the meeting were entered into a separate raffle and Tom Myers was the winner.

April Fort Sutter Club meeting held at Mark Loewen's large workshop with lots of room for members and all were treated to a dessert and Raffle prizes











Left Who is the young girl? First to email the editor with the right name, plus year, make and model of the MC will win – bragging rights and maybe a cookie





April Fort Sutter Club meeting in full swing.....many members rode to the meeting!















We all "Love" those antique motorcycles

Fort Sutter Club Ride Tracy Stahlman, Ride Captain February 2021 Story and photos courtesy of Tracy

Here's the route for Saturday. About 75 miles of flat country roads. (No freeways) I changed the route some but still headed the same direction.

We will stop a couple times to re-group, and make a fuel stop about the halfway mark. Great ride today. 11 bikes showed up. A couple Honda's, a Triumph, an Indian and several Harleys of different styles and years. Thank you all for coming out, look forward to riding again next month.







In Memory of James Donald "Don" Harrell Dixon Vendor & BSA Club Member Courtesy of the BSA Club

Don Harrell was born December 2, 1934, to Maxey and Clara (Copeland) Harrell in Tulare, CA. He grew up on the Visalia City Farm, which his dad managed, until graduating from Visalia Senior High in 1952. He worked for two years before enlisting in the US Army, stationed in Boston. He enrolled in the Building Trades program at COS and went on to obtain his contractor's license. He married Genevieve Janelli in 1957 and together they raised their five children. They celebrated 63 years to life on October 5 of last year.

Don was a precision craftsman in many ways. He was a general contractor for over 40 years, with cabinetry as his specialty. He hand selected the materials for each home to bring out the beauty of the wood in the many custom homes he built in the area. He also built commercial properties including just about every Circle K from here to Timbuktu.

In the early 70's Don raced dirt track motorcycles throughout the valley. His sons all inherited his love for motorcycles and continue to ride to this day. When Don quit racing, he continued to support the boys as a spectator and sponsor. The love for riding has passed on to his grandsons.

In the late '70s Don started collecting vintage British Motorcycles. This hobby transformed into a second business in retirement. He eventually started restoring bikes himself, taking a box of rusted parts, and breathing new life into them. His restorations are highly sought after due to his attention to detail and maintaining the integrity of the original bike. He has been featured in many news and magazine articles for his craftsmanship and knowledge of BSA's, Triumphs and other British models. He has won countless awards for his entries in motorcycle shows throughput the state. He drew a crowd and record prices at the annual Mid-America and Mecum Motorcycle auctions in Las Vegas for over 25 years. He eventually built his own paint booth and machined parts while he restored at least five bikes every year for the event. Coming together in Vegas in January became a family tradition.

Another well-known tradition was his British Motorcycle Works Annual Open House 'out at the shop'. It all started with about 10 friends, some hot dogs, chips and beer the night before the Hanford Swap Meet. The Open House grew each year and by the 25th Anniversary, there were over 400 people in attendance to check out the 50+ restorations and partake of the deep pit beef, Gen's chili beans and potato salad, and Texas Sheet cake. And beer. The highlight of the night was when Don would fire up a bike or two. Nothing brought a smile to his face like a one-kick start. Don was happiest when he was around his bikes and those who shared the same love for them. Don was a no-nonsense, to the point dad. He taught his kids to put in an honest day's work, keep their word, and show gratitude. He was proud of his 'rugrats' and how they eventually all turned out. He was happy to see they all made it past 30 considering some of the hair-raising escapades and mischief that occurred along the way. He used to say, "I don't care what they say about you, you're alright." His quick wit was also picked up by the kids. Don had a nickname for just about everyone he knew. You may know his family as Aunt Jim, Blue, Gordo, Y not, Donnie Brook, and Red. Ask the boys what yours is. Don had interests other than motorcycles. In 1965 he attained 1st KYU certification in Judo. He loved animals, especially dogs and had several border collies through the years that went to work with him each day. He treated his grand dog, Penny, to peanuts every time she visited him at the shop.

In Memory of

James Donald "Don" Harrell

Courtesy of the BSA Club

Page 2 of 2

He was a lifelong learner and stayed informed. He read the newspaper front to back every day, studied motorcycle manuals and read many books related to his-tory. He also went back to COS at the age of 76 to take a machining class so he could make his own parts. Don worked 7 days a week all his life. You could always find him at the shop building something and taking time to shoot the breeze with friends who dropped by for a beer. Recently his illness took away his energy and his time at the shop was limited. His desire to be active never left, and he fought to the end. He passed quickly and comfortably at home on the morning of January 30, 2021. Don is survived by his wife, Genevieve (Janelli), children Dana (Cindy) Harrell of Colorado Springs, CO, Becky (Gary) Turner of Boise, ID, Tony (Cecile) Harrell, Donnie Harrell and Charise (Danny) Brichta all of Visalia. He leaves eight grandchildren, Andrew, Matthew, Michael, Genna, Dawn, Haley, Jo-nah and Keenan, eight great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Maxey and Clara (Copeland) Harrell and siblings Clarise Ansell and Maxey Jr.

The Harrell family would like to thank the many family and friends who have looked in on Don and Gen these past few years. He was always grateful for the faithful friends who helped load bikes and sell parts throughout the years. He had a special place in his heart for the gentle care of his oncology nurse, Chastity, at Sequoia Regional.

Be ready to join us for one last "Open House" in late spring to celebrate Don's life his way.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite animal shelter. <u>https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/visalia-ca/don-harrell-10031709</u>



Fort Sutter Dixon Vendor for many years! You will be missed by all who knew Don!

Fort Sutter Club Ride Tracy Stahlman, Ride Captain March 2021 Story and photos courtesy of Tracy

Great club ride today! A little cool. About 10 bikes total . 140 miles round trip from home. Riders included Tracy & Kim Corderman-Stahlman, Jerry Bland, John Markley, Mark Loewen, Jeremy Loewen, Rich Ostrander, Mike Williams, Bill Cruz, Andrew Rzad, and Bobby Henry. Honda's, Harley's, BMW's, and Triumph were represented. The group met and The Cars and Coffee event in El Dorado Hills and met up with Fort Sutter member Jim Moore and his son Jeff. The Moore's drove from Placerville in Jim's classic car. The group left the event and rode to Plymouth, Drytown, Amador City, Sutter Creek, Jackson, and stopped for lunch in San Andreas. Then off to Valley Springs, Pardee Lake lookout, Ione, Rancho Murrieta, Sacramento, Elk Grove.



Fort Sutter Club Ride Tracy Stahlman, Ride Captain March 2021 Story and photos courtesy of Tracy



Fuel stop in Jackson



Lunch in San Andreas

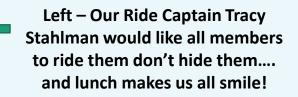


Time for lunch always makes you smile!





Great spot to view Pardee Lake and Dam from the Observation Point



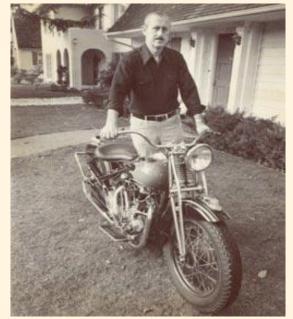


Charter Members of Fort Sutter Chapter AMCA

- 1. Jack Gormley (Digger)
- 2. Francis Thompkins (Shorty)
- 3. William Seadler (Bill)
- 4. Joseph Sarkees (Joe)
- 5. Edward Hawtrey (Spider)
- 6. John Schaefer (Big John)
- 7. Ross Thompkins (Whitey)
- 8. Armando Magri
- 9. Richard Fairclo (Rich)
- 10. Al Lauer
- 11. Edward Thaddeus (Ed)
- 12. Edward Catlett (Bud)

Honoring our Fort Sutter Charter Members..... Visit our Fort Sutter Website for more

history...www.fortsutteramca.org



Jack Gormley

The Motorcycle is a Crocker

Jack Gormley (Digger) was Fort Sutter's 1st founding member. He was a collector of old cars, motorcycles, guns, and tether cars. Jack was a member of the local Thunderbolts car club. Jack restored and flew a PT 22 Ryan aircraft. He was also a AMCA National Board Member for many years and became an honorary member.

Jack also served as President and Vice President for the Fort Sutter Chapter. He performed many duties during his tenure. For Dixon's National Show & Swap Meet he was responsible for securing the Club Awards and show "pins", as well as, helping when and where needed. Jack passed away in 2011.

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

Name: Mark Wiebens

City where you live? Martinez

- A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member? 12 years plus +
- B. What do/did you do for a living?

Currently retired. Was a biomedical engineer for Kaiser

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

In High School on a Yamaha 70 cc.

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 pictures below

E. What do you currently own/ride?

1942 XA, 1939 45 Chopper, 1983 FXRT, 1982 FXR, 1927 JD, 1946 FL, 1944U



1942 XA



1939 45 Chopper

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

Name: Mark Wiebens

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

Harley XA was my dream bike. I was able to purchase one two years ago. Wanted it because it was an experimental bike, it's rarity.

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

That I and my Flathead were extras in a movie.

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

Dave Kafton because of his broad knowledge of all antique bikes.

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

Tour America with my wife on a bike.



1983 FXRT



1982 FXR



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

Mark Wiebens Motorcycles currently owned





1942 U

1946 FL



The Champ Who Mentored a Champ

Born in Illinois in 1895, Archie Rife came to the West Coast after his parents divorced. In high school he played quarterback on his football team. By 1915 he lived in Sacramento and joined the Capital City Motorcycle Club. He participated in many runs and with Otto Link made the finals of a Whist tournament – a signature competition handed down from the Wheelmen. Working as a mechanic at Upson-Kimball Sporting Goods, Rife repaired Popes and Harleys, developing the skills to one day open his own repair shop. In 1918 he was elected club Captain.

In a 1917 Harley sidecar, Rife and fellow Sacramentan Carl Mankel broke a record traveling from Sacramento to Stockton. They arrived in 54 minutes, thrashing the existing record by 11 minutes. Mankel would later become a timer for AMA-sponsored races.



Excerpts from: Sacramento Motorcycling: A Capital City Tradition, by Kimberly Reed Edwards, to be published July 2021, by the History Press.

Archie Rife (I) and Carl Mankel, (center), reached Stockton in 54 minutes, smashing the previous record by 11 minutes. To the right, Sacramentan Frank Woodson, State Referee. *Pacific Motorcyclist and Western Wheelman Magazine*.

In October of 1919, a repair business "Rife and Zingg" advertised Harley expert mechanics at 518 I Street. The business offered for sale "one 1915 Harley fully equipped, \$275." Partner George Zingg, whose dad owned a tavern at 51st and Folsom, was a mechanic who would later be caught bootlegging alcohol during Prohibition and would also make headlines when he drank strychnine 4th and J over a failed love affair. Zingg's name lasted only a few months in Rife's ads and was quickly replaced by an eye-catching business name: The Harley Shop. Early ads boasted that the business was "successor to William A. Langley," Sacramento's Excelsior dealer when Balke raced here in 1911. Rife's ads stressed helping customers to save money. The ads said, *Do you know that we repair all makes of motorcycles? That we sell second-hand machines only? Harley with sidecar \$200 cash, good condition.*

It wasn't long before a young Joe Petrali began visiting Rife's shop, now located at 919 8th Street. Eventually Rife hired the teenager. Noting an unusual mechanical ability, Rife mentored him in building and repairing bikes. He allowed him to convert an Indian single to a racing bike. When the elder took Petrali to a Capital City Motorcycle Club meeting, the young mind entertained himself by doodling in pencil his name and the title "Historian" in club records.

Even as he mentored Petrali, Rife himself exhibited stellar performance in hill climbs. He beat Dudley Perkins at the 1920 "Vallejo Climbing Bee," as one newspaper termed the event. The Vallejo Motorcycle Club called Brownlie Hill as "A hill said to be impossible of being surmounted." A newspaper described "a long and gradual rise so that the very best of sport is promised." The following year, at an Auburn hill climb, Rife won First Place, 300 yards up in 12 seconds, a spectacular show on an Indian. Perkins at 14.4 couldn't beat Rife's score. At the San Juan Capistrano hill climb, Rife was the only competitor besides Perkins to go over the hill, but the Sacramentan swerved off course, leading to disqualification. Another time, Perkins himself went off course during the trials, but was announced as the winner. Rife, a close second, protested, and was declared the winner.

The Champ Who Mentored a Champ



Archie Rife fought snow on a Harley J in an early 1920's hill climb. Courtesy of *Marnie/Archie Rife Archives*

Rife also shined in endurance races. He set a world record after riding 77 hours in a local competition, exceeding the 70-hour 10-minute record. He and Petrali competed in several races together. A 24-hour run compelled riders to leave the Chamber of Commerce at 7th and H, running 12 miles along the Natomas Trestle. The purpose was to see how long an engine could run. Gas and oil were added while machines were running. Six hundred people stayed up all night outside the Chamber of Commerce building to witness the hourly completion of laps, totaling 600 miles. After 15 hours, Rife dropped out due to illness. Petrali's Indian ran out of gas. In a similar race, both riders rode until the club stopped them after 76 hours. Rife came in at 1 a.m. and Petrali 36 minutes later, two days after firing up their engines. In 1923 Rife served on the club committee to oversee the 620-mile endurance, to Reno, including two times around Lake Tahoe: 28 hours and three check-in stations, starting on a Saturday night.

Rife was recognized for his machine handling skills. A greyhound racing series at the California State Fair in 1920 found Rife as the rider who pulled the fake rabbit ahead of the dogs.

In 1922, Rife embarked on a unique investigation when an old vault, formerly used by railroad pioneers Huntington, Hopkins, Crocker and Stanford, was located on the second floor in the main office of the Central Pacific Railroad at 54 K Street. The safe was rumored to contain secrets, possibly money. Attempts to open the steel safe in the brick walls made any breach close to impossible. Rife and J. F. Jones, a safe expert, arrived with tools and an acetylene torch. For hours they toiled to breach the doors. As Rife and Jones got close to dislodging the locks, reporters leaned in with cameras to catch the first glimpse of a possible fortune. At last, the massive doors swung open. Every neck craned to get a look. To everyone's disappointment, the safe turned out to be empty.

On Sept 15, 23, *The Sacramento Bee* announced a change in Rife's business from the Harley Shop to, Indian Motorcycle Agency, promising the same "unexcelled service" after having " purchased the entire stock of parts and machines from former agent." It was unclear as to who the former agent was, since Hiram Holy Cameron, Sacramento's long-time Indian dealer, remained in business a t 4th and J.

The Champ Who Mentored a Champ

After adding radios to his inventory, Rife moved to 1217 J Street for "bigger and better facilities to make my service excelled anywhere." But confusion continued when Cameron asserted that he was distributor for Indian motorcycles. A 1923 *Sacramento Bee* listed ads for both dealers calling themselves Indian distributor. Regardless of how this worked out, it's likely that both men kept an eye on the celebrated new 74" Big Chief. A contest sponsored by the Bay Area Pacific Motor Supply offered a prize to the person who could guess how many parts the new model carried. The answer was purportedly revealed via telegram from the Indian factory, but it's unknown if the answer ever came to Rife or Cameron. Eventually Rife's ads clarified that his business was a repair shop. By 1924, as bicycle production increased in the U.S., Rife would be do what other motorcycle businesses did: add a line of bicycles to their inventory. "Doll up your bike," said one of Rife's ads. Twice the store was burglarized. Once, a box of platinum magneto points valued at \$100 was stolen. A few days later stamps and \$4 in pennies were stolen from the register.

By 1925, Petrali was named a starter at the newly-organized AMA's 100-mile championship in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He made history when his Indian didn't arrive and he ended up on Ralph Hepburn's Harley, exceeding 100 mph. A few days later, a letter to Rife in Sacramento arrived from the Indian Motorcycle Company:

...I suppose by this time you have learned that Joe Petrali won the big race. Was going to ride M-20 and in fact had already qualified on M-10 .However, M-20 did not get there and in order for Joe to get his appearance money he had to ride something, so he rode Hepburn's machine which blew up the day before the race. There did not seem to be a chance that this job would hang together, but it did, and Joe won the thousand dollars...

Very truly yours, (Mr.) Carey, Manager, Parts Department Indian Motorcycle Company

By 1929, as Petrali zoomed to stardom, Rife had closed his Indian business and joined the payroll of William Langley, who was now repairing motorcycles and serving as expert locksmith. By 1930, with three children, Rife became a theatre motion picture operator. He faced a devastating blow in 1934 when his youngest son Robert, age 12, died in a freak accident when he slipped off a ladder while playing "hangman" in his father's tool shed.

By 1937, while Rife continued serving as a projectionist, champion speeder and hill climber Petrali put a Harley racer over the one-mile Daytona Beach course at 136.183 mph, a record which stood for 11 years. After WWII, Rife worked at the News Reel Theater. He died in 1952 at age 58, after seeing his former student put a Sacramento stamp on motorcycle history. Rife outlived his wife by 21 years. He was buried at East Lawn. How proud he would be to see the Joe Petrali exhibit at the American Motorcycle Association.

Excerpts from: *Sacramento Motorcycling: A Capital City Tradition*, by Kimberly Reed Edwards, to be published July 2021, by the History Press.

Upcoming Rides and Events

Fort Sutter Ride – Here's the ride for Saturday April 24th. Meet at Ihop 779 IKEA ct. west Sacramento. Fuel and food are near. Kickstands up at 9:00 am sharp. This is in front of Walmart/ Home Depot/ America tire store. About 175 miles total round trip back to start. West Sac-Woodland- Esparto-Williams-Colusa—Meridian-Knights Landing-Woodland-Davis-West Sac. Lunch in Colusa.



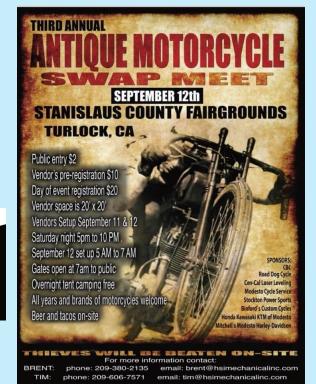


Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 Time: 7:00 am - 4:00 pm Location: Yolo County Fairgrounds

New Location!

Yolo County Fairgrounds 1250 Gum Avenue Woodland, CA 95776







https://www.hanfordcycleswap.com/2021