

### Fort Sutter Newsletter



February 2023 Vol 42, Number 1

#### 2023 OFFICERS

President Bob Henry
Vice Pres. Jim Schenken
Secretary John Markley
Treasurer Julie Loewen
Director Karie Schenken
Director Tracy Stahlman
Director Mark Loewen

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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

#### **President's Comments**

Hello Fort Sutter Family, If you believe in Chaos Theory, the moment I decided to load up and head out to the Bradshaw Cycle Swap on that rainy day three years ago, is the catalyst that has brought me to this exact point. It was raining cats and dogs and I almost didn't go, but I decided to go anyway and I'm glad I did. A chance encounter (and unsuccessful haggling) over a 74" flathead bottom end would be the start to a journey that has included meeting and riding with some of the nicest people, some of whom I can now call my friends.

As I settle into the role of President I am constantly reminded of the hard work and dedication individual members do to keep our Chapter running. Our Dixon national event is coming up in June and the groundwork already in place is 100% due to the volunteer efforts of key people involved. If you want to get more involved with the process at Dixon, don't be afraid to reach out to me or any of the Board members and see where your talents might be utilized.

We are going to start doing a bi-monthly Club breakfast (or brunch) meet up for the months in-between our meetings. It's a low-key, low-pressure way for members to get together and hang out and to enjoy the camaraderie of motorcycles. Riding to it is not required (but encouraged) but what we really want is just to see your smiling face there. Check your emails, the info should be out soon for the first meet up. Also, our Road Captain Tracy puts a lot of work into developing the monthly club rides, so it would be great to see more smiling faces there too.

I want to close with saying thank you all for the faith put in me to take the helm. I want to respect and keep continuity with the past, but also keep my eyes and the Chapter focused forward to the future. I'm very proud to be a part of this Chapter and want members at all levels to feel the same. There's a rich history and legacy of all the work of the past, but the real treasure lies right before our eyes. It's in each one of us, the members, who make the chapter what it is today and what it will be in the future.

Bob

Our Next Club Meeting will be Saturday, April 1, 2023

Mark Loewen's Business

6956 Florin Perkins Rd., Sacramento, CA

Barbeque at 12:00 pm – Meeting at 1:00 pm

#### Fort Sutter Meeting Minutes February 4, 2023

- Call to Order: The February 4, 2023, meeting was called to order at: 1:02 pm by Bob Henry, Fort Sutter President
- Welcome New Members: None Guests: None at the meeting
- **Membership**: Karie Schenken, Charmain reports there are: **68** Primary members, **20** Associates. **2** Junior members, and **11** Honorary members.
- **Treasury Report**: Julie Loewen update: Julie was absent but provided Mark Loewen with the report who stated the club treasury is in good standing.
- **Minutes**: A motion was made by Tracy Stahlman and seconded by Greg Wood to approve the December 3, 2023; minutes as written.

#### **Old Business**

- **Prior Club Rides:** Tracy provided a review of the Nevada County Toy Run held on December 10, 2022. It was cold rainy and windy but each year happens rain or shine. John M. joined Tracy and his co-pilot Scooter in the truck to deliver donated toys and a \$250 Sponsor donation. See newsletter for pictures.
- Uncle Lenny Miller Fort Sutter Member passed away on December 15, 2022. Rich Ostrander remembers Uncle Lenny with written story (highlighted in newsletter)

#### **New Business**

- AMCA National Update: John Markley, AMCA National Secretary provided an update regarding adding paid
  associates now to each National Primary membership. The AMCA benefits of membership are extended to
  an associate for only \$5.00 per year. The key benefit is the AMCA General Liability policy will extend to an
  associate at AMCA events. John stated more information will be provided soon to all AMCA members
  through email and in the National Magazine.
- **Upcoming Fort Sutter Rides**: Tracy Stahlman Ride Captain reviewed the ride schedule and said the only ride so far is scheduled for May: Sunday, 5/28 ride to attend the ISHI Chapter Swap Meet.
- Dixon discussion planning and organizing currently in progress? Bob H. reviewed the various Dixon Job
  Duty lists and distributed these to the members at the meeting for their help by signing up for a particular
  duty and where not taken asked would you like to lead that job duty? Bob finished by stating thank you to
  those who have helped in the past and look forward to everyone helping where needed.
- **Upcoming Fort Sutter Events (Not Dixon) Picnic:** Tracey Kleber, Banquet/Picnic coordinator was not present but the August 13, 2023, date is reserved. More information to follow.
- Upcoming Events, rides etc. announced by surrounding AMCA Chapters, or NorCal Swap meets, etc.
   \*NorCal Swap Meet on February 5, 2023 (day after Fort Sutter Meeting) and the \*AMCA SoCal Chapter March 2023 ride: Annual Borrego Springs ride and the \*2023 Ride the Line Bike Show March 25-26, 2023, Placerville, CA
- Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm







#### Meet Your 2023 Fort Sutter Board

Bob Henry President

Julie Loewen Treasurer Jim Schenken Vice President

Karie Schenken Director

Mark Lowen Director John Markley Secretary

Tracy Stahlman Director

#### Here's to a GREAT 2023!

Thank you goes out to all Fort Sutter Members for volunteering your time and help where needed.





# Fort Sutter Meeting February 4, 2023 Sam's Hof Brau – Sacramento

Pictures taken inside the banquet room during the meeting Courtesy of Joe Giammona – Fort Sutter Photographer







The Banquet Room was renovated in 2022 – Although a rainy day outside club members were warm and enjoyed a nice lunch before the meeting. Picture One (left) from Left to Right facing members: Tracy Stahlman – John Markley - Bob Henry – 2023 President Elect – Mark Loewen. Picture Right showing Club Members ---- Notice the three display boards behind Bob & Mark? These are the actual National Meet Flyers from 1983 forward courtesy of Rich Ostrander. These will help celebrate 40 years of Meets including both Local (under the freeway) and continuous National Motorcycle Show & Swap Meets in Dixon.

#### **UPDATE**

#### Fire Breaks out at Sam's Hof Brau early morning February 7th



Fire!
On February
7th to Sam's
Hof Brau

Fort Sutter to find alternate location during renovation

A fire caused major damage early Tuesday morning to Sam's Hof Brau, a longtime staple of Sacramento County's Arden Arcade neighborhood. Crews responded around 3:30 a.m. to a two-alarm fire at the restaurant, located at the corner of Watt and El Camino avenues, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District spokesman Capt. Parker Wilbourn said. "The majority of the damage was pretty extensive," Wilbourn said, including serious damage to the kitchen area and rear of the building.



## Fort Sutter December 2022 Ride

Words & Pictures from Tracy Stahlman FSMC ride captain.

John Markley and I drove up to Grass Valley/Nevada
City and delivered the toy, some food, and cash
donation. It wasn't horrible on the way up but was
coming down on the way home. Would've been a
miserable ride but there were a bunch of brave souls
that rode it out.

Thanks, Dan Henry for meeting us with donations.

The kids appreciate it!



At the Grass Valley Fairgrounds "Toy Run donation" bldg. Tracy presented the Fort Sutter sponsorship check and donated toys and food to help needy families in Nevada County

Below pictures show donated frozen turkeys being unloaded. Also, new bikes were among the many gifts.









Above: Toy donation table separated by age of children

Below: The kids created "thank you" cards as their way to say how much they appreciate the gifts.









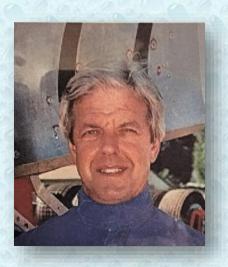


A cold and rainy day, with strong winds couldn't keep these brave souls from riding to NV/GV to donate their toys to the needy families



Arvil Leonard "Lenny" Miller 3/9/1951 – 12/15/2022 Words and pictures by Rich Ostrander

"Lenny was a lot of things, but my favorite was being my friend."



I can't tell you much of Lenny's youth, his parents, his younger brother, it just never came up in our conversations. He was always more interested in what I, or the people we were with, were doing, our history, etc. When I started to put this pen to paper, I realized I could only tell you about Lenny's second half of his life. If the first part was anything like the last half, it was a life well lived.

I write this for our club members and people who never had the chance to meet and enjoy Lenny's company. I don't have enough space here or quite frankly anywhere to capture what that was like. So just a few highlights should give you an idea.

When I met Lenny some 35 or more years ago, he was just finishing up his stint as a more than fair, speedway motorcycle racer, and was spending a couple of years crashing M/C four-cylinder powered sprint cars. He had started collecting vintage motorcycles and their bits and pieces a few years prior.

He had just switched from driving trucks loaded with sugar beets, tomatoes, etc. for a couple of Clarksburg trucking companies to the company he would retire from many years later, Chevron. In their employ, he was a gasoline plant operator and fireman.

He married Marna Nichols a few years before I met him, and they had settled in West Sacramento. Marna's father was Bob Nichols from SoCal who started racing flat track at Ascot in 1940. While he worked at different aircraft plants, he manufactured Indian racing motor parts from 1940 until his passing in 2018. His two "big base" Indian Scouts were campaigned at the SoCal dry lakes and AHMRA events. They went to Lenny with Bob's passing. Needless to say, Bob and Lenny spent a lot of time together. They also both belonged to the vintage motorcyclist Trailblazers organization.

Around 1985 Lenny acquired an original paint 1926 JD Harley sidecar rig at a NorCal Swap Meet. He took it home and separated the chair half and pushed it outside to be tempered by the elements. He did nothing with the two-wheeled half until about 1996 when he decided he wanted to join his fellow Doinksters, Jerry Bland, Carl Grone and yours truly, on the Evergreen Chapters White Pass, WA National road run. His J model never missed a beat on that run or for at least another fifteen National Road Runs. It's last was a revisit to White Pass in 2012. That was also Lenny's last motorcycle ride.



# Arvil Leonard "Lenny" Miller 3/9/1951 – 12/15/2022 Words and pictures by Rich Ostrander



Lenny's 1947 "Bobjob"

That J Model gave Lenny more than a few pucker up moments though. At the Republic, WAS (2202) and McMinnville, OR National Road Runs, it spit off its rear tire and only Lenny's speedway racing skills avoided disaster on both occasions.

I believe it was the 2004 Yerba Buena Chapters Santa Rosa National Road Run that found Lenny and I riding over a tight twisty coastal mountain road to the coast when I lost track of Lenny and the J. When I stopped my 1930 101 Scout on Hwy 1, I waited about a half hour viewing the Pacific Ocean in front of me when up beside me slides Lenny. I looked at him, he looked at me, he said "I would have been here sooner, but I lost my brakes about twenty miles back". A 1926 has only one rear band brake.

In the Spring of 2006, I went to SoCal and rode the LA Chapters Temecula National Road Run and while there met a pair of brothers, Dave and Larry Harris from Northwestern New Jersey. Little did I know then that Lenny had met them in 2004 when he and Rick Najera had hauled back and rode the Maggie Valley, NC National Road run. A small world indeed! Well, we all became fast friends and I traveled with Lenny and Rick back to the Seven Springs, PA National Road Run in the fall of 2006 to ride with the Harris boys. I'm still riding all over the country with Dave Harris to this day and I hope a bit longer.

When Lenny returned home from Seven Springs, he found out he had throat cancer. The treatment stopped the cancer, but the cure ended up taking his life sixteen years later. It was a trade off, but he got ten more good years in the middle. I built him the bike he always wanted, a 1947 Knucklehead bobjob out of his bits and pieces and I got to ride with him astride it on at least four National Road Runs during the ten years, Ky, NC, ME and Anacortes, WA.

My favorite moment involving Lenny and his Knucklehead was the 2009 Maine National Road Run. We rode from upper New Jersey with a stop at the Rhinebeck, NY National Meet and our favorite nearby, Red Hook Motel and Red Hook 1930's diner. The next evening, we rode into Belfast, ME. Three days later we headed south back down to Red Hook in a "frog strangler" rainstorm. Lenny's bike was a bobjob hence no front fender, so we tied a bandana across the forks above the tire to break up the rain spray. It was a tough 400-mile ride to the Red Hook diner for dinner late that evening with our rain gear dripping in the entryway. Lenny's bandana was shredded. Fueled with great diner food, it was only a couple miles more south to the motel. We pulled in but Lenny was so worn out and focused he rode right by us. We stood under the overhand with worried looks on all our faces. About a half hour later he pulls in and went directly to bed. Continued >>> Page 8

## Arvil Leonard "Lenny" Miller 3/9/1951 – 12/15/2022

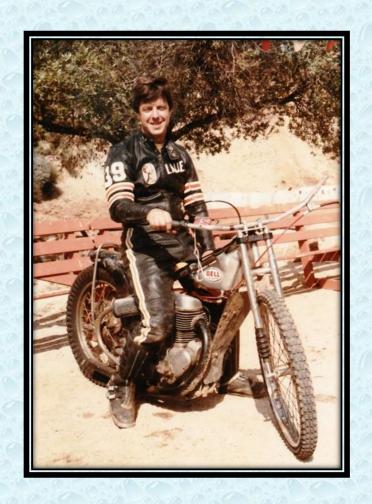
Words and pictures by Rich Ostrander

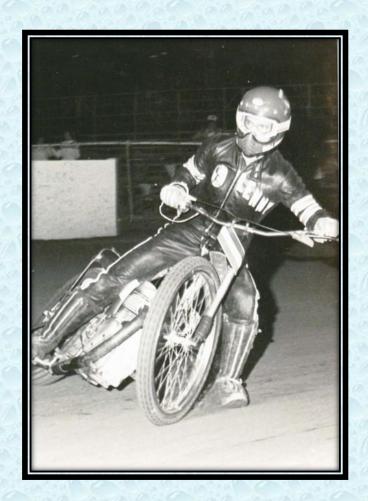
In the morning we would know if his cancer weakened body had failed him or not. He came out his room "bright eyed and bushy tailed" and exclaimed, "Shall we get on down the road gentlemen!" with 200 more miles to NJ, we knew Lenny was back! My reward for building that '47 for Lenny was the ear-to-ear grins it gave him whenever he rode it.

In 2019 he knew time was not on his side so to ensure Marna's well-being we decided it was time to make a lot vintage motorcyclist's dreams come true and so we broke up his 40-year collection of bikes, basket cases and bits and pieces. It was a lot of work, but it put his mind to rest.

Lenny was tight fisted with one hand but generous with the other. The toughest guy in the room but also the funniest. He worked hard and played just as hard. He was sharp minded and didn't suffer fools. Lenny was a lot of things, but my favorite was being my friend.

Rich



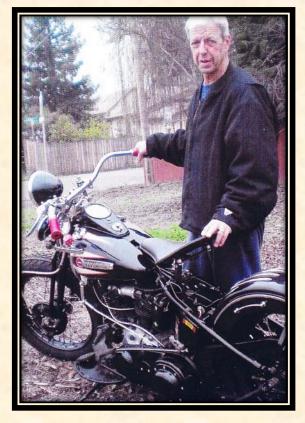


## Arvil Leonard "Lenny" Miller 3/9/1951 – 12/15/2022

Words and pictures by Rich Ostrander



Lenny's mid '80's Sprint Car – notice the damage



Lenny's 1947 "Bobjob"



CAKE PS A NORE

Lenny' at an early Fort Sutter Dixon Meet with a few new friends

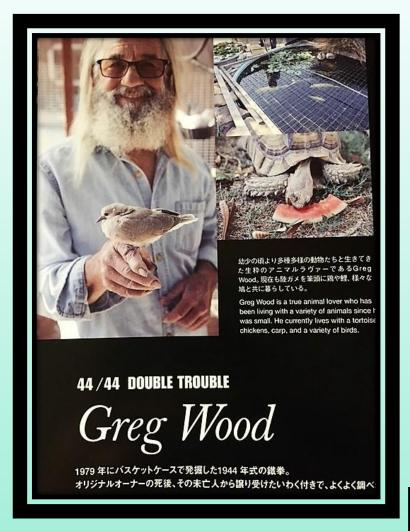
Lenny attending the Seven Springs, PA - AMCA National Road Run – July '06 on his 1926 JD Notice the prosthetic leg strapped on the rear.

#### 44/44 Double Trouble

Fort Sutter Members
Greg Wood & Mark Wiebens
Roller Magazine Winter issue
Reprinted with permission from Ken Nagahara



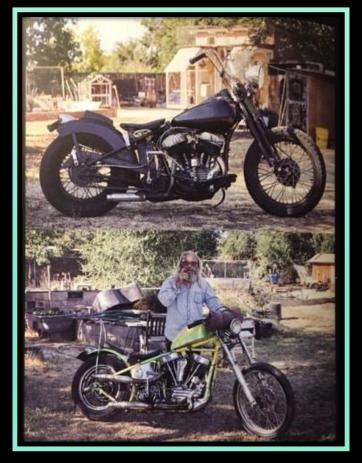
In 1979 two 1944 H-Ds were discovered in the basement of a house in the town of Martinez in Northern California, left behind by a legend with a prosthetic leg. Removing the layers of dust that had accumulated revealed two 1944 motorcycles. One a Knucklehead, went to Greg Wood, and the other, a Flathead, went to Mark Wiebens. The two bikers have been inseparable since the '60s and have continued riding the two-period H-Ds into this century. Ken Nagahara from our Bay Area branch got the scoop.



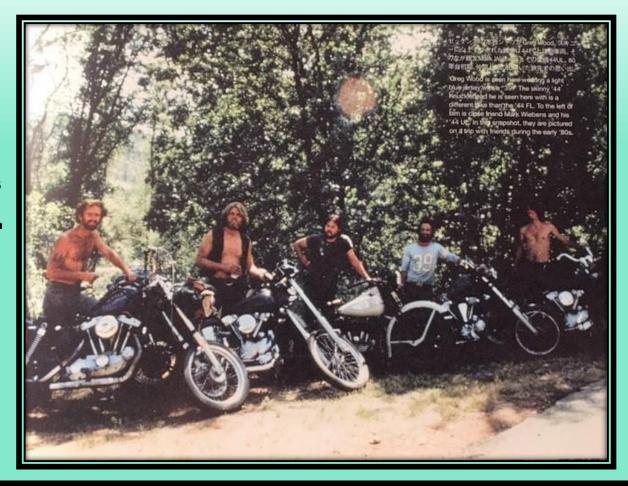
Though his favorite is this 44'L he also loves this chopper made from a bobbed made from a 46L and a 48' Panhead. He owns around ten motorcycles in total, and they are all vintage.

# 44/44 Double Trouble Greg Wood

Greg Wood is a true animal lover who has been living with a variety of animals since he was small. He currently lives with a tortoise, chickens, carp, and a variety of birds



#### 44/44 Double Trouble



Left to Right Mark Wiebens 3<sup>rd</sup> and Greg Wood 4<sup>th</sup>

Greg is seen here wearing a light blue jersey with a "39". The skinny 44' Knucklehead he is seen here with is a different bike than the '44FL. To the left of him is close friend Mark Wiebens and his 44' UL. In this snapshot they are pictured on a trip with close friends during the 1980's.

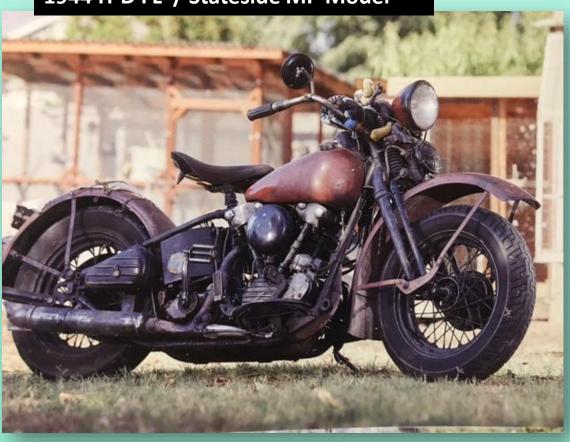


This picture was taken in the early 2,000's, just after the 20-year project to restore the 44' had been finished. He has put 30,000 miles on the bike up to the present. And has rebuilt the engine and transmission 3 times each.

# 44/44 Double Trouble Greg Wood

#### 1944 H-D FL / Stateside MP Model

This big twin is the rarest of the bikes H-D produced for the U.S. government during World War II. The government issue '44 FL seen here was delivered to military police who were stationed in the U.S.





Of the Knuckleheads Harley Davidson produced in 1944, near the end of World War II there were 172 FLs, 67 FSs, 116 ELs, and 180 ESs. Greg owns one of these 535 motorcycles that miraculously survived to the present. It was originally a special-order biked called an MP made for the military police stationed during the war. Its thin fenders and blacked-out accessories are evidence of its origins. It is assumed that the original owner obtained it from a military surplus sale.

# 44/44 Double Trouble Greg Wood

#### 1944 H-D FL / Stateside MP Model



## 44/44 Double Trouble *Mark Wiebens*



In Martinez, bikers in the know are familiar with the one-legged biker John Bacciglieri. After he passed away, this 1944 Model U was salvaged from the basement of his house. It is still in basically the same condition as when it was discovered in 1978 with a 1937 610VH engine mounted on it.

In addition to Greg Wood's MP '44 FL, a 1994 Model U was also salvaged from John Bacciglieri's basement. The original owner has preserved a piece of historical heritage – the documents accompanying his purchase of the motorcycle when it was new. (included at end)

#### History of Mark Wiebens '44 U

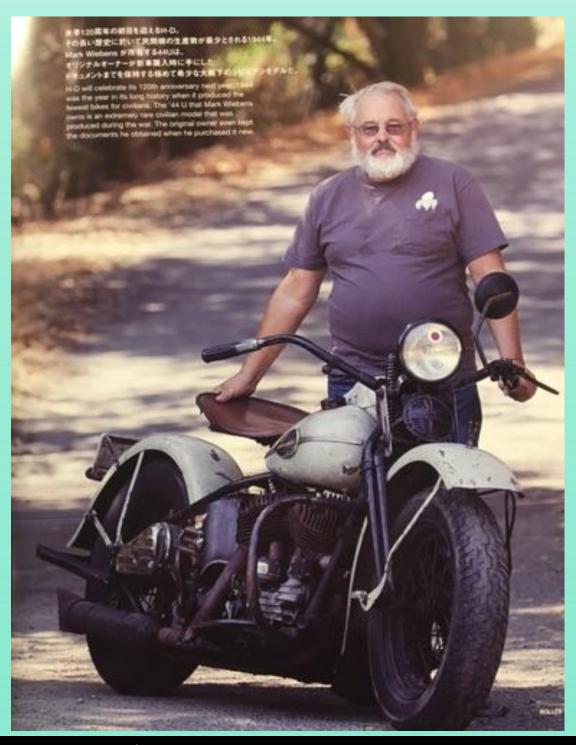
In the period at the end of WWII, when resources were running low, H-D was ordered to produce military motorcycles, primarily WLAs. While at war, the government had regulated sales of H-Ds from dealers, so how did John Bacciglieri manage to get this Flathead from 1944, made before the war had ended?

During the war, even for citizens living in rural areas, only those whose only mode of transportation was a motorcycle were permitted to order an H-D. The bike that was born from these conditions was the '44 U. We found out that when John Bacciglieri was a child, he lost his left leg below the knee in an accident, and he had used the H-D as his means of transportation. It is said that John was a tractor mechanic with a reputation for repairing magnetos. At the time, Martinez was an agricultural town, and John probably used his '44 to get from one farm to the next.

In 1978, when Mark Wiebens got the '44 U, the exterior was as it appears here, and it had a 1937 EL motor installed (the original U motor was found blown). The original owner had changed the clutch to a hand clutch, but Mark changed it back to what it had stock in 1944. By the way, Mark is an H-D fanatic who also owns a '27 JD, a '39 WL, a '42 XA, 2 Knuckleheads, an '82 FXR and a '83 FXR.

A 1944 motorcycle bought new by a local legend eventually passed into the hands of a biker from the area, who performed thorough maintenance. One day, it will be passed on to a bike from the next generation. This is the way culture is inherited.

# 44/44 Double Trouble Mark Wiebens 1944 H-D U/Solo 74 cu.in. Flathead



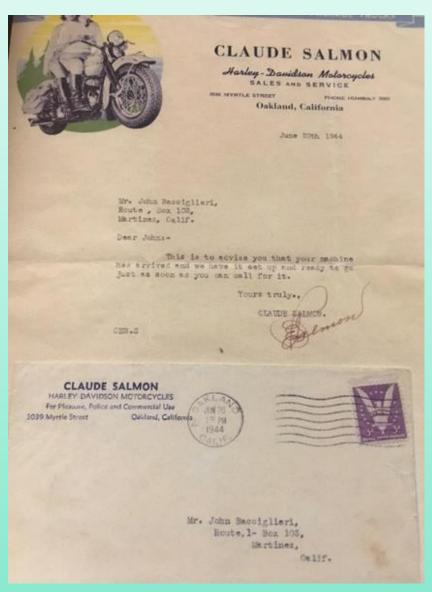
H-D will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. 1944 was the year in its long history when it produced the fewest bikes for civilians. The '44 U that Mark Wiebens owns is an extremely rate civilian model that was produced during the war. The original owner even kept the documents he obtained when he purchased it new.

# 44/44 Double Trouble Mark Wiebens 1944 H-D U/Solo 74 cu.in. Flathead



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# 44/44 Double Trouble *Mark Wiebens*1944 H-D U/Solo 74 cu.in. Flathead



In this letter from Oakland dealer Claude Salmon Harley-Davidson Motorcycles, dated July 20, 1944, it states, "this is to advise you that your machine has arrived, and we have it set up and ready to go just as soon as you can call for it. The price of the '44 U was \$385.00, but with the extra options and tax, it came to \$649.95.

Fort Sutter Members
Greg Wood & Mark Wiebens
Story and pictures courtesy of
Roller Magazine Winter issue
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#### **Motorcycle Events Upcoming**





BIKE SHOW & MOTO LOVE STORY

LIVE MUSIC - DT
INDOOR - OUTDOOR
BIKE GAMES - VENDORS
FULL BAR - FOOD TRUCKS

NEW FOR 2023
SOUND COMPETITION & PLAZA PARTY

SHOW INFO @ 41LIVE.COM

916-329-8980 @41LIVE.Facebook/INSTAGRAM
El Dorado County Fair & Event Center 100 Placerville Drive Placerville, CA

SoCal AMCA "2023" Borrego Spring
Winter Road Run
50th SoCal AMCA Borrego Springs
Winter Road Run
Thursday, March 2-5<sup>th</sup>

http://www.socalamca.com/events/2023/borregospring

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#### Fort Sutter "For Sale" Section

Each Newsletter all Fort Sutter Members are welcome to list "For Sale" Motorcycles or Parts Must send your information for inclusion into the Newsletter no later than 2 days after the most recent Club meeting to

John Markley Club Newsletter editor – email: <u>Jmark1142@aol.com</u>

#### 1975 Norton Commando Mark III



1975 Norton Roadster Mark III. See Hagerty Marketplace Classifieds for photos. Bike runs, general good condition, currently licensed and insured. Clean title. Shifts on left and starts on button - electric start works. Dual disc brakes, stops almost as well as modern bike. Will keep up with freeway traffic. Have too many projects.

> Margie msnorton@yahoo.com / (510) 654-1933 \$7000 or best offer

Hagerty Marketplace Classifieds to view 1975 Norton Roadster

Copy & Paste into your browser: https://www.hagerty.com/drivers-club/my-garage/yws6yg8r/margie-s/6ea0d2e4-8e85-4237-aad7-592b62cb7d36

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- AMCA National Update: John Markley, AMCA National Secretary provided an update regarding adding paid associates now to each National Primary membership. The AMCA benefits of membership are extended to an associate for only \$5.00 per year. The key benefit is the AMCA General Liability policy will extend to an associate at AMCA events. John stated more information will be provided soon to all AMCA members through email and in the National Magazine.
- Make sure to ADD your associate only \$5.00 per year at next renewal

### AMCA NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW AND SWAP MEET



### Celebrates 40 Years of Swap Meets & Shows 1983-2023

## Friday & Saturday June 16 and 17, 2023

Friday

Swap Meet, Vending,
Display of Antique Motorcycles, Banquet
Saturday

Swap Meet, Vending,
Display of Antique Motorcycles
AMCA National Judging and Awards
Local Chapter Judging Awards



## Dixon Fairgrounds, Dixon California

25 Miles West of Sacramento
Just south of Interstate 80
Vendor Spaces = 15'x30'
\$65.00 2 days = Pre-registered before the event
\$75.00 2 days = at the gate (if not pre-registered)
Gates open for Vendors at 12 NOON
On Thursday, June 15th
RV or Vehicle Camping with or without HOOKUPS
Available

For Vending PRE-REGISTRATION CALL: Karie Schenken (916) 803-7732

And for General Information Call Mark Weibens: (925) 288-0174



## **AMCA National Judging is PREREGISTRATION ONLY!**

\$45.00 per night or \$20.00 tent camping per night

Register online: www.antiquemotorcycle.org

**NO Onsite Registration** 

#### **Fort Sutter Chapter**

Visit our website: www.fortsutteramca.org