



**Antique Motorcycle
Club of America**

Fort Sutter Newsletter



April 2025, Vol 44, Number 2

2025 OFFICERS

President Tracy Stahlman
Vice Pres. Joe Giammona
Secretary Tom Myers
Treasurer Julie Loewen
Director Tunie Crawford
Director Bob Henry
Director Mark Loewen

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Vice Pres., Joe Giammona
(209)747-9419
jgiammona@jsgtrucking.com

Secretary/Newsletter, Tom Myers
(707) 758-8695
tttooommmccc@gmail.com

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

Membership, Karie Schenken
(916) 803-7732
karrots66@hotmail.com

Chapter Deputy Judge,
Gary Kubodera
(208)755-2011
Triumphtiger350@hotmail.com

Web Master, Jim Schenken
(916) 430-3922
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

President's Comments

April 2025

Spring has sprung!

First and foremost I want to say thank you to everyone that has helped in any way the last couple of months! Not just for Dixon but in all aspects of running the club.

Dixon prep. is in full swing right now. We are finishing up the formalities of contracts and vendor registration. Trophies are being assembled, shirts are being printed, and we are making contact with sponsors to make the event everything we know it can be. The biggest thing we still need is membership participation. Any job at Dixon no matter how small is appreciated and takes some of the load off others.

The meet is a lot of work for a few people but only a little work for a lot of people. It is your club, with your help we can make it great!

The weather is changing, giving us all the opportunity to get our bikes out and enjoy the highways. Joe G. put a ride together last Month through the foothills with a lunch stop at the end. It was nice to get a few members together enjoying the roads on our motorcycles that have been waiting patiently through the winter. I encourage all of you to put a ride together or at least attend one.

We as a club have been out meeting other groups, clubs, and riders at different events. Hopefully we will spark their interest in the antique motorcycle world.

My congratulations to our "Historian Emeritus" Rich Ostrander, aka Dr. Sprocket. More on that at a later date.

See you all in June at our meeting June 7th, or in Dixon the following week.

Until then, get out and ride!

Tracy

***Our next chapter meeting will be Saturday, June 7, 2025.
Location TBD***

In this Issue:

<u>President's Letter</u>	<u>Page 1</u>
<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page 2</u>
<u>Minutes of April 5, 2025 meeting</u>	<u>Page 3</u>
<u>Call for judges at Dixon 2025 meet</u>	<u>Page 5</u>
<u>Chapter ride, March 22, 2025</u>	<u>Page 6</u>
<u>Pics from April meeting</u>	<u>Page 11</u>
<u>Motorcycle lift for sale</u>	<u>Page 12</u>
<u>Rich Ostrander (aka Dr. Sprocket): Tom Sifton</u>	<u>Page 13</u>

Fort Sutter Meeting Minutes April 5, 2025

Call to Order: The April 5, 2025 meeting was called to order at 1:25 pm with approximately 25 members present.

- **Welcome New Members:** 2 new members at the meeting: Bobbo from Rocklin, and Clay who has a shop in Rancho Cordova; **Guests: none**
- **Membership:** (Karie Schenken, Charmain, not present) Based on last meetings numbers, there are: 85_ Primary members, _27_ Associates, 3_Junior members, and 11_Honorary members.
- **Treasury Report:** Dixon expenses: \$3,920 taken in, spent \$9,648 including paying fairgrounds. Savings balance: with a CD balance of \$21483, total assets are \$26,181.
- **Minutes:** A motion was made by Mark Milton and seconded by Richard Kinney to approve the minutes as written for the February 15, 2025 meeting.

Old Business

- **NORCAL Cycle Swap:** The NORCAL Cycle Swap will be April 13, 2025. This is often an opportunity to recruit new chapter members. Contact Bob Henry or Tracy Stahlman if you can help.

New Business

- **Dixon planning:**
 - Jobs list was available at the meeting for sign-ups. Help needed with announcing, and parking assistance (guiding vendors to their swap spaces).
 - Tracy has offers from other motorcycle groups (e.g., CMA) to offer manpower to help with Dixon. He feels that is probably not needed now, but good to know it's a possibility. Iron Steed HD events have been the source of some of these contacts with other groups.
 - Dixon status: contract done; insurance; pins done; local awards mostly done; shirt design done (yet to be ordered); Tunie reports 47 swap spaces paid for.
 - Russ Brown onboard as sponsor; more sponsors, including raffle prize donors, will be coming. We have a new sponsor, Refuge Medical, who makes motorcycle first aid kits. They will be at Dixon.
 - Banquet is arranged, the club will be charged \$15 per person. We are charging attendees \$15 each so the club must make up additional costs (e.g., gratuity for the caterer). It's expected that a sponsor will make up the difference.
 - Sound system will be handled by the same provider as last year.
 - Vendor BBQ preparations are being handled by Mark Milton.
- **National Road Run 2026:** Our application for a national road run in 2026 is not yet approved by AMCA National. Currently, locations in the gold country are still being considered. Base hotel with appropriate accommodations and available parking must be chosen. Threshold attendance must be decided.
- **National minute:** John Markley not present
- **Past events:**
 - Chapter ride 3/22 (Joe Giammona): Six or seven were on the ride and picked up more along the way. The ride went to Lone and by Lake Camanche. There was a stop at the 145 Club, which is owned by an old musician, who put on a little bit of a show for the group. It was an overcast day and chilly. Some riders encountered a little drizzle on the way home, but it was a good ride with no breakdowns.
 - Pro-rider series, Iron Steed HD: Joe and John were there. Joe reported that it was similar to the last Iron Steed event with a presentation from Andy Moriarty of Friction Zone (707 365-4452; www.frictionzone.pro), a provider of motorcycle instruction. This one was a ride-like-a-cop format with a demo in the parking lot after. The format at Iron Steed again allowed networking with other motorcycle organizations, each with a brief window to introduce themselves. Joe represented the Ft. Sutter AMCA chapter.

(continued on [page 4](#))

- **Volunteer needed for June 7 meeting:** to take notes for minutes since Tom will miss that meeting. Tracy will try to recruit John Markley.
- Rich Ostrander noted that since we lost our usual meeting place at Sam's (closed), it would be nice to find a new place with appropriate meeting space. His son's new restaurant comes online on May 1 which has a large patio area in back. Located near Fair Oaks and Arden Way. This could be a candidate for a new meeting place.
- Tracey Kleber told the club that Elk Grove Regional Park has Aug 2 available for the chapter picnic. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to have the picnic and meeting combined on Aug 2 at Elk Grove with it free to members. No opposition was expressed.
- Andy Kleber proposed having a group photo at the chapter meetings for club archives.
- Mark Wiebens mentioned that he went to a good, free swap meet at Hunter's Point on March 5th. He will try to let us know when the next one takes place.
- Tracy requests that if you use social media, like and share Ft. Sutter posts since it spreads the word.
- **Upcoming events and club rides**
 - Iron steed HD events: April 12, Tracy plans to go.
 - NorCal swap: April 13
 - Antique motorcycle swap new location: now in Modesto
 - Oregon Trail Nat'l Road Run June 18-20
 - Phoenix Road Runner Wild West run April 22-24
 - Next meetings 1st Saturday of even months: June 7th
 - Dixon show & swap: June 12 - 14
 - International Norton Owners Association Rally (open to all brands, see info at INOA site): June 16-21

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm

Call for judges at Dixon 2025.

Volunteers are needed to assist with national judging at the Dixon 2025 National Swap Meet and Show (June 13-14, 2025). You do not need to be a marque expert in order to help. If you are new to judging, you will be teamed with an experienced judge. If you can help, please contact Gary:

Gary Fleshman-Kubodera

Email triumphtiger350@hotmail.com

Cp#208-755-2011

Ft. Sutter Chapter ride March 22, 2025

(Photos by Joe Giammona, Tracy Stahlman, and John Markley)

Six club members headed out on a chilly Saturday morning from Elk Grove. Our ride took us through Wilton on a scenic route of beautiful country homes and green pastures up Hwy 104 into Lone with a quick pit stop outside Lake Camanche, where Tunie caught up with us. We then headed over Camanche Lake with some great views, then up to Pardee Lake with quick photo op stop at the lookout point, then over the Dam on more scenic roads into Valley Springs for lunch. Our lunch stop was at the 145 Club where Dick Crawford joined us. We enjoyed good food, socializing and a little entertainment. The owner of the place is an accomplished studio musician from the 60's with credits on several notable hits of the time. He stopped by our table and jammed a little Journey on the Ukulele for us 😊.

From there we rode back through Lone and started splitting up and heading home our own ways.

Overall, it was a good day with good people. Thanks to Tracy Stahlman, Bill Cruz, Tunie and Dick Crawford, John Markley, Sean Kohmescher, Mike Williams for making it out!

See more photos on the following pages.



(Chapter ride, continued)



(Chapter ride, continued)



(Chapter ride, continued)



(Chapter ride, continued)



Pics from April Chapter Meeting

April 5, 2025

(photos by Joe Giammona)



Motorcycle lift for sale

For sale:

Air/Hydraulic high rise motorcycle lift bench.

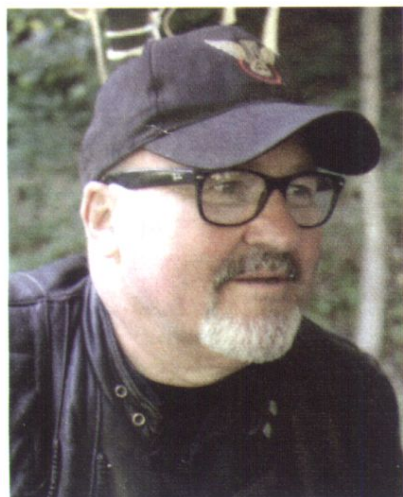
1,500 lbs capacity.

\$1,000.

Contact Louise Kollé at [kollé3@comcast.net](mailto:kolle3@comcast.net)

Dr Sprocket's Column

TOM SIFTON: MASTER MOTOR BUILDER



I've been a pretty lucky guy. Since high school I've had the good fortune to be in the right place at the right time more than once and I've met a lot of my motorcycle heroes because of it.

In 1984, NorCal legend Dick 'Bugsy' Mann held an event at Sandhill Ranch just west of Brentwood called The Annual Vintage Dirt Bike Rally. It only lasted five or six more years but it was a great place to view neat

old race bikes and watch them do their thing in vintage motocross, flat track and hill climb.

All around the event grounds you could meet and talk to many of the riders and builders, along with old motorcycle shop and factory dealership owners from the greatest days of motorcycling. It's where I met Sam Arena, Joe Leonard, Larry Headrick and Kenny Eggers, all now sadly passed. All these guys were motorcycle racers and big winners who rode motors for – and built by – Tom Sifton, who I also met at Sandhill Ranch.

Tom passed in 1990 but started messing with motorcycles full time in 1929 when he was in his mid-twenties and started running a Harley sub-dealership in San Francisco for Dudley Perkins. In 1933 he took over a full dealership in San Jose, which he turned over to Sam Arena in 1953.

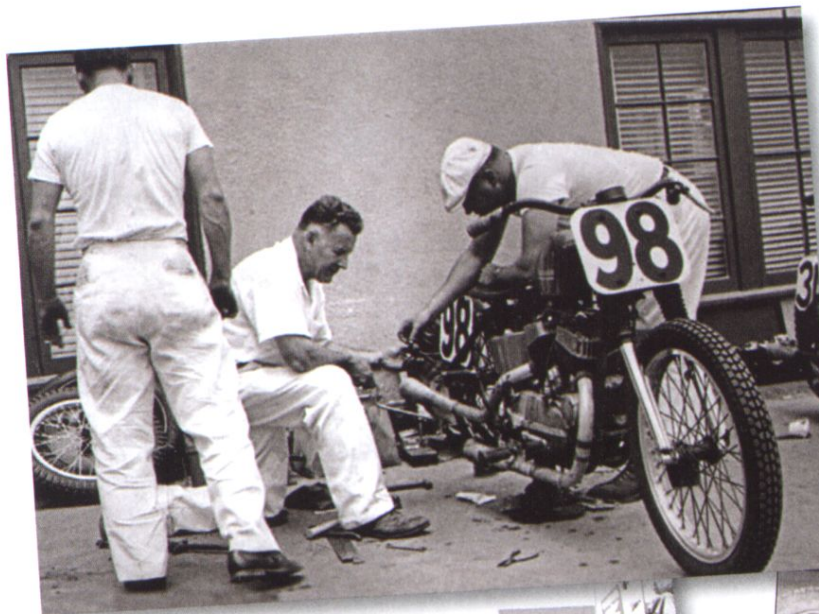
Tom dominated racing with the motors and bikes he built but never wanted any of the glory or fame that came with being the man behind his successful riders. He was famous for his quote "Keep me out of it". His attention to detail was extraordinary: he never liked radical motor work because more times than not it would

cause the motor to fail and let the rider down. His modifications were well thought out and his assembly was meticulous. The secret of his Harley WR motors' success was getting them to breathe so well. Getting it in, getting it out!

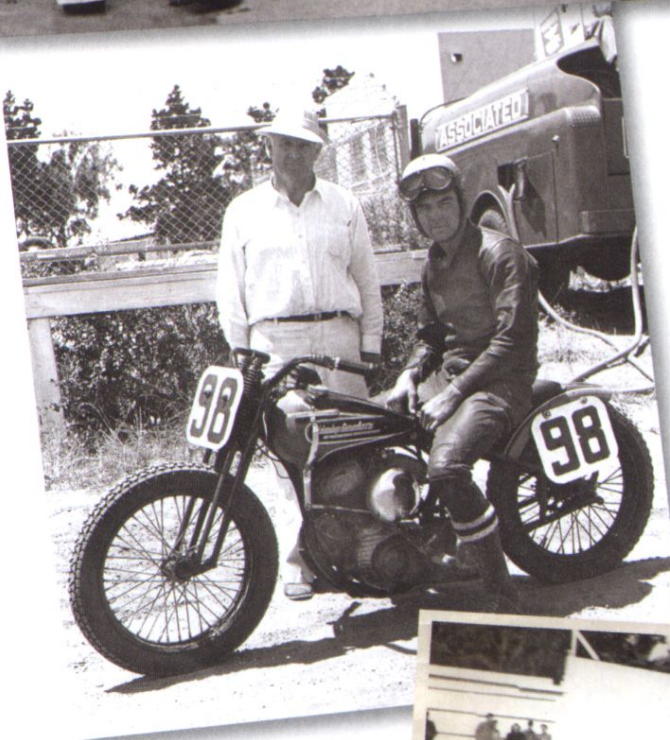
He built WRs for Sam Arena from 1938 until 1947 when Sam retired from flat track and Tom finally let the factory boys in on what he'd been up to. He had good reason to keep quiet about his methods and often said he wanted to keep his riders out front in clean air and not having to run back in the pack in the dirt and dust, scrambling to win. And out front is where they ran, again and again.

Tom was an ex-racer himself, and also a schooled and trained master machinist and tool and die maker, but it was winning races as a builder and tuner that got his name known ahead of many others. Later, after selling his dealerships, he began a new career manufacturing drivetrain components such as cams, pushrods and spring collars for Harleys, BSAs and Triumphs. Eventually this business was sold too to allow him to spend more time with his family

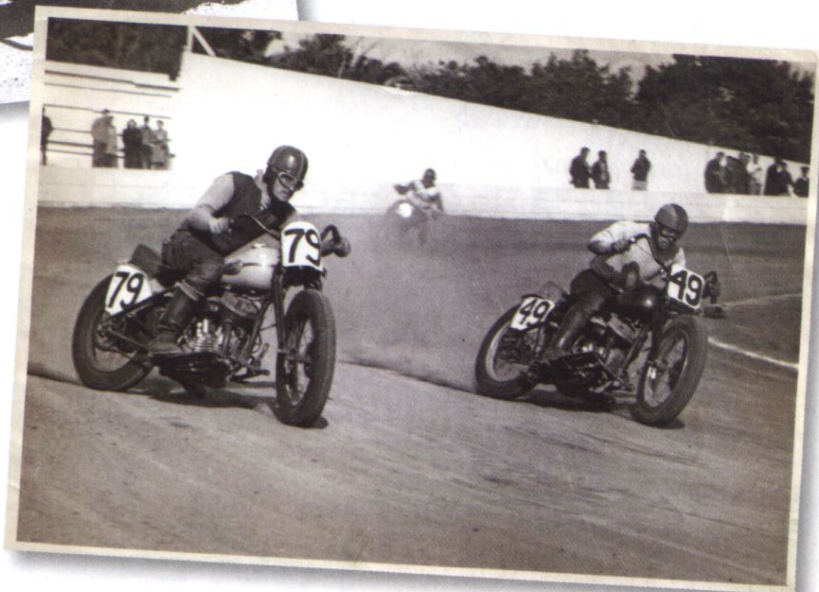
>



Left: Tom Sifton wrenches on Joe Leonard's KR race bike. **Below:** An early photo of Tom on a cool late '30s Knuck bob-job: check out the bars, straight pipe, plated tank and bobbed fenders.



Top: Above, Joe Leonard on his WR with Tom Sifton behind. Joe said of Tom: "He was more than just an engine builder. He was a coach, a scout of your competition and a fatherlike figure. He could read a track and tell you the best way to ride it and he was almost always right." **Right:** Sam Arena (#79) takes the outside...



and friends, who he visited at events all round the country, especially in northern California. Would you believe that Tedd's V-Twin now owns the Sifton product line.

Tom never took any credit for his success but always credited his riders; but it was he that recognised their talent and put them on the unbeatable motors that he'd built. Sam Arena (race number 79) was the first hot shoe to mount one of Tom's hot WRs and in 1938 he won the AMA Pacific Coast Championship. Same year, he won the Oakland 200 race – by 17 minutes.

Tom had set up Sam's motor to run 'wet', meaning he couldn't back off the throttle or it would foul the plugs with oil, so it was 200 miles with the throttle to the stop.

Tom maintained a machine for Sam that between 1945 and the end of

1947 didn't suffer a single loss. No flats, broken chains, mag failure or blown motors... for three solid years. When Sam retired from flat track in 1947, Tom retired his machine too. Sam then went on to win the AMA National Hillclimbing Championship from 1947 to 1950. One of the best racers to ever twist a throttle.

In 1950 Tom put Larry Headrick in the saddle and in his first year Larry won every mile race in the country and took home the 15, 20 and 25 mile National Championships. Unfortunately his career was cut short the following year when he was hit by a car on his motorcycle when riding to work.

Next up was Kenny Eggers (#59) in 1951 who won many races on a Sifton machine, including the first road race at Willow Springs in the SoCal desert. Next in line was 'big' Joe Leonard (#98). In 1954

Joe won eight Nationals on one of Tom's machines and became the first Grand National Champion; a title he won again in both 1956 and '57. He also won back-to-back Daytona 200s in 1957 and '58. He retired from motorcycle racing in 1961 to race cars and became the US AC Champion in 1971 and '72.

No wonder then, with his history of meticulously prepared machines and talented riders, that Tom's is always one of the first names mentioned whenever the best engine builder/tuners are discussed. As Sam Arena himself said of Tom in a Cycle Magazine article in 1950, "There just aren't any words. All I can say is, the man is great!".



One dealership, two great racing names. Sam Arena took over the San Jose H-D dealership from his friend and mentor Tom Sifton in 1953.