



2025 OFFICERS

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President's Comments

December 2025

Here we are as 2025 draws to an end, my first year serving as president is almost over.

I have one more year to go, and what a year it's gearing up to be. As for this year, I believe we have done very well. We have had our usual events; meetings, Dixon, banquet, rides, picnic, and more. We have new members that are willing to step in and help out as well as seasoned members getting more involved and handling tasks when needed.

We have experienced loss as well. Rich Ostrander will be missed for some time to come. His opinions, laugh, knowledge, and support were valued assets to us that cannot be replaced or duplicated.

Now for 2026....

As most of you know we have added another event into the mix, our national road run in September. Chapters get to host a "National Road Run" every 4-5 years. We had the option of 2026 or 2027 and our club voted to take it on this coming year. This extra event will take time and effort from the club as a whole. We still have to get Dixon planned and executed in June. We, as a team, need to plan both national events side by side because there's not much time between the end of one event and the start of the next. We are also planning the club banquet and picnic somewhere in there to boot!

We've had a few rides this year and I hope we can keep them up next year. The thing about planning a ride is we need participation in them. Somebody has put in the work and time mapping routes, thinking of meet spots, food stops, fuel stops, miles and time it takes to travel. It's disappointing when only a small number of riders show up. Having said

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**Our next chapter meeting will be Saturday, February 7, 2026
location TBD.**

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that, I encourage all of you to join us on a ride, or even plan one. Bring your idea up at a meeting so we can discuss it and put something on the calendar. It can be a ride to an event, destination, or just meet up for coffee or lunch.

I also encourage all of you to participate in a road run. If you haven't yet you should at least join us on ours. You don't need a large c.c. or cu. in. engine for the routes we will be running. Chapter road runs aren't all "national " some are just regional , or multi chapter get togethers. You will meet members of AMCA from all over the country and possibly other countries. It also shows our support to the other chapters as they do for us. By attending other chapters events you get to see how they run them. You may see something, good or bad, you can bring back to our club meeting and share to make our event better. I'm not above "borrowing" someone else's tricks to make us and our event look better.

All in all, I think we are in a good place as a chapter. We have strong relations with other promoters in the area to strengthen our visibility in the motorcycle community. We show support for them as well as other AMCA chapters. I hope to continue the trend and enlarge our club by being present. Wearing Fort Sutter and AMCA logos on shirts and hats helps us be seen, especially when we are in groups at events. If there's an event you might hear about where we can display our club tent and pass out membership info, please let me know.

Short story long, I hope you are happy with the job I've done this year and the direction I am trying to lead us in. It is your club! You have a voice in where it goes from here. I thank all who have contributed to the cause. Keep up the good work!

Merry Christmas ,Happy Holidays, and Cheers to a Happy New Year!

Your President
Tracy Stahlman

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Fort Sutter Meeting Minutes December 6, 2025

Call to Order: The December 6, 2025 meeting was called to order by President Tracy Stahlman at 1:00 pm with approximately 24 members in attendance.

- **Welcome New Members:** none; **Guests:** none at the meeting
- **Membership:** Karie Schenken, Membership Chair, reports there are: 98 Primary members, 30 Associates, 2 Junior members, and 6 Honorary members and 7 honorary past.
- **Treasury Report:** Received \$0.10 interest; \$130 spent for 2 mos. storage for trailer; bank account has \$12,401.61 balance; savings has a balance of \$21,490.45.
- **Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written for the October 4, 2025 meeting. No opposition was expressed, so minutes were approved.

Old Business

- No old business to cover.

New Business

- **National minute:** John Markley reported on national activities. 11 national meets were held. 11 planned for next year. 4 national road runs planned for 2026: 1 in March, 3 in September. Tracy mentioned that he talked to Keith about having a face-to-face with chapter presidents to grow AMCA presence. John talked about a program in Florida that is teaching motorcycle mechanical skills to youngsters. AMCA chapter has been providing assistance. John will provide more info to Tom for circulation to the membership.
- **Annual Banquet planning:** Tracey Kleber has contacted several possible venues for the banquet. She contacted Scott Ostrander about using one of his restaurants, her choice probably being Gami Burger. He would close the restaurant for our event. There are other sandwich options besides burgers, including chicken, pastrami, and ahi tuna: \$31, sandwich, fries and slaw. Other options are Chicago Fire Pizza (our venue last year) at \$32 with pizza, one pasta, and wings. If we drop the wings, since there weren't enough for everyone last year, cost would go down a little. Chevy's by the river: various food bar choices: Enchilada \$35; Tacos \$37; Fajitas \$40. Additional cost for more than an hour and a half. Cattleman's about \$35, salad, choice of probably 3 entrees, baked potato. After some discussion, membership decided on Gami Burger on either 2/21, 2/22 or 2/28. Tracy will verify availability and choose the date accordingly.
- **National Road Run 2026:** Tracy summarized the current status of the run, and showed a board listing tasks needed to complete for the road run. The host hotel is lined up, at the corner of Hwys 88 and 49 in Jackson. Rate is \$90 per night, includes breakfast. Tracy and Kim scouted some banquet locations near the hotel. At the hotel, there is a hall that rents for \$500, with no heat and no AC. They looked at the Elk's lodge and Vets hall, which are similar facilities. Based on a hotel recommendation, they also looked at Highway House about ¼ mile up the road. Price is about \$35 to \$40 per person, which includes the meal, ice tea soft drinks, and a dessert. Capacity is about 130 - 150 people, and a bartender could be available for about \$100, but attendees would pay for their own alcoholic drinks. The general opinion at the meeting seemed to be inclined toward the Highway House for the banquet. We will limit sign-ups to 130 people due to banquet capacity. Possibly, the limit might be made 100 *riders*, which would depend on whether that's easy to increase if the limit is reached. John will check with national about how hard the limit is to change. The gift will be a color photo of

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participants from the event which would cost about \$14 per person. It was put to a vote to the membership to hire Ken (Bob's contact) to do the photos which passed without opposition. After some discussion, fees of \$175 per ride and \$125 per passenger were selected. The name has been selected as the Ft. Sutter Strike It Rich run. Magazine ads are being worked up.

*[Jobs listed below are from Tracy's board with * next to jobs that already have volunteers or are handled.]*

Pre-registration	<u>Meals X 3</u>
Registration Packets	* Pizza party (Kim)
Final maps	* Banquet (Phyllis)
Registration booth @ event	Lunch on road
Chase vehicle	
Awards	* Ad for National mag. (Tracy/Bob)
Gift bags	
Club trailer transport	<u>Route planning X 3</u>
Parking supervision @ event	* Route(1), North - Coloma/Georgetown
* T-shirt design/order (Bob/Tracy)	Route(2), South - Sonora/Jamestown
* Post event report (Tracy)	Route(3), East - Markleeville/Bridgeport
* Photos (Bob)	
Advertisement design	
* Host hotel (Tunie)	

- **T-shirts:** Kim announced that she is planning to reorder club shirts and passed around a sign-up if people wanted to order specific size of style.
- **Dixon 2026:** Theme is the 90th anniversary of the Knucklehead. T-shirt design is done, ready to be ordered. Job sign-ups will be handled at the next meetings. Phyllis asked if we would do the same spaghetti feed for Dixon. If the caterer price is the same, we will do the same price and set up again.
- **Past events:**
 - Memorial ride for Rich Ostrander, Nov 14: There was an excellent turnout, and it was a great get together. Weather held for us. Good food at Al's.
- **Upcoming events and club rides**
 - NorCal swap: The NORCAL Cycle Swap will be December 7, 2025. This is often an opportunity to recruit new chapter members. Contact Bob Henry or Tracy Stahlman if you can help. Autos have been added to the swap, and swaps will now be monthly.
 - Nevada County Toy Run, December 13
 - 1st meetup: Mel's Diner, 3000 J St., Sacto, 8am
 - 2nd meetup: McDonalds, 4211 Sierra College Blvd., Rocklin, 9am.
 - 3rd meetup, at the event: Rood Center, 950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City. Parade starts at noon.
 - Next meeting February 7, 2026
- **Board elections:** Tracy Stahlman, Joe Giammona, Julie Loewen, and Tom Myers running for reelection. It was

noted that Julie would eventually like to transition out of the Treasurer position, so someone could volunteer to shadow Julie to learn the duties. The members present were asked if there were any nominations to run for the board positions other than the 4 members standing for reelection; there were none. John nominated the slate of 4 members named above. By voice vote, Tracy, Joe, Julie and Tom were reelected without opposition.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:42 pm

[After the club meeting, the board decided unanimously to retain the same officers for 2026 as 2025:

President Tracy Stahlman

Vice-president Joe Giammona

Secretary Tom Myers

Treasurer Julie Loewen

Board member Bob Henry

Board member Mark Loewen

Board member Tunie Crawford]

Scammer Alert!

Sorry to interrupt the newsletter with this warning, but:

The scammers never give up, and they are still at it.

Officers of AMCA or the chapter will not contact you asking for you to cover a club expense via text or email or anything else.

Emails may look sort of legit mentioning names of officers or members, but the scammers may have just gotten these names off of websites or other public sources. If they are asking you to cover an expense with a gift card or through Venmo, etc., and we'll pay you back later, it's a scam. Some can look pretty innocuous, saying something like, "Hey, do you have some time? I need your help with something." Then, if you respond, they know you're a contact they can try to exploit. If you have any doubt about *any* request, use a known contact method (not the one listed in the email/text) to check with the person supposedly sending the request.

Rich Ostrander Memorial Ride November 14, 2025

(photos by Tom Myers and John Markley)

On November 14, Ft. Sutter members and other friends of the late Rich Ostrander gathered for lunch to remember him at Al the Wop's in Locke, California. Some members met in Sacramento and rode as a group down River Road to the lunch, while many others arrived independently.



(Rich O ride, continued)

Toasts were made, stories were told. The dining area at Al's was filled with Rich's friends.



Dave Kafton, shown here with Tracy Stahlman and Mike Williams, led off the toasts.

(Rich O ride, continued)



Members showed up with three of Rich's former bikes: Bob with the '46 Knucklehead, Jeremy with the custom '87 Sportster, and Tracy with the ex-police Shovelhead.



Locke is a historic town with a collection of rustic, old buildings.



Rich's wife Kathy and son Scott were present, shown here with AMCA President John Markley.



Kathy O. and various FSMC members.

Chapter ride to the Nevada County Toy Run December 13, 2025

(photos by Tom & Jayne Myers, John Markley, Karie Schenken,
Tracy Stahlman)



The Nevada County Toy run began as a small event in the early nineties where a few motorcycles got together to provide some Christmas joy for a few hundred kids in the Head Start program. Since then, it has grown to an enormous event drawing as many as 2000 motorcyclists with donations of toys and food to support families in Nevada County. The Fort Sutter chapter of the AMCA is a perennial sponsor of the event, participating in the event for many years. Escaping the valley fog this year, about a dozen members rode up to the beautiful, sunny climate of the foothills of the Sierras to deliver a batch of toys.



Despite the cold, foggy weather, a good sized contingent of Ft. Sutter members showed up at the meet-up in Rocklin.

(Toy run, continued)



Not to be outdone by the Grinch, Ft. Sutter members came loaded for bear with toys.



By the time we reached the staging area for the parade, the weather was sunny and warming.



(Toy run, continued)

A cast of thousands gathered for the beginning of the parade.



(Toy run, continued)

Decorated motorcycles and costumes are common.



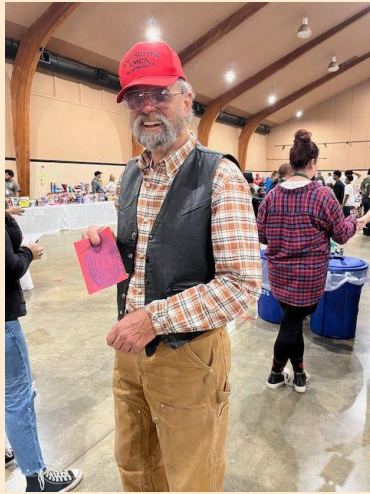
(Toy run, continued)

The mass of machinery wound its way through town in front of an appreciative audience.



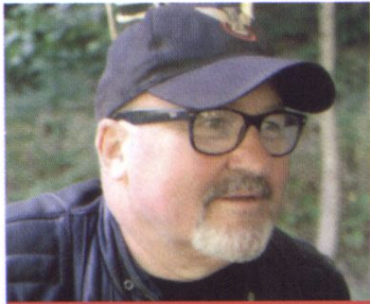
(Toy run, continued)

Volunteers showed their appreciation with thank you cards as the toys were delivered to the warehouse.



Ft. Sutter logo appears on the list of sponsors of the event.





DR SPROCKET'S COLUMN

KNUCKLEHEAD

After my 1965 Pan and '67 Shovel, my first Knucklehead showed up in the form of a rough basketcase for the princely sum of \$500. I had some ducats put away and decided to let Tom Burke and his crew at B&O Cycles on Alameda and Alamos in Long Beach have a go at it.

Tom's shop was a large brick building with huge glass windows in front. It had a small loft in the rear where we could usually be found sampling the newest local herbal remedies.

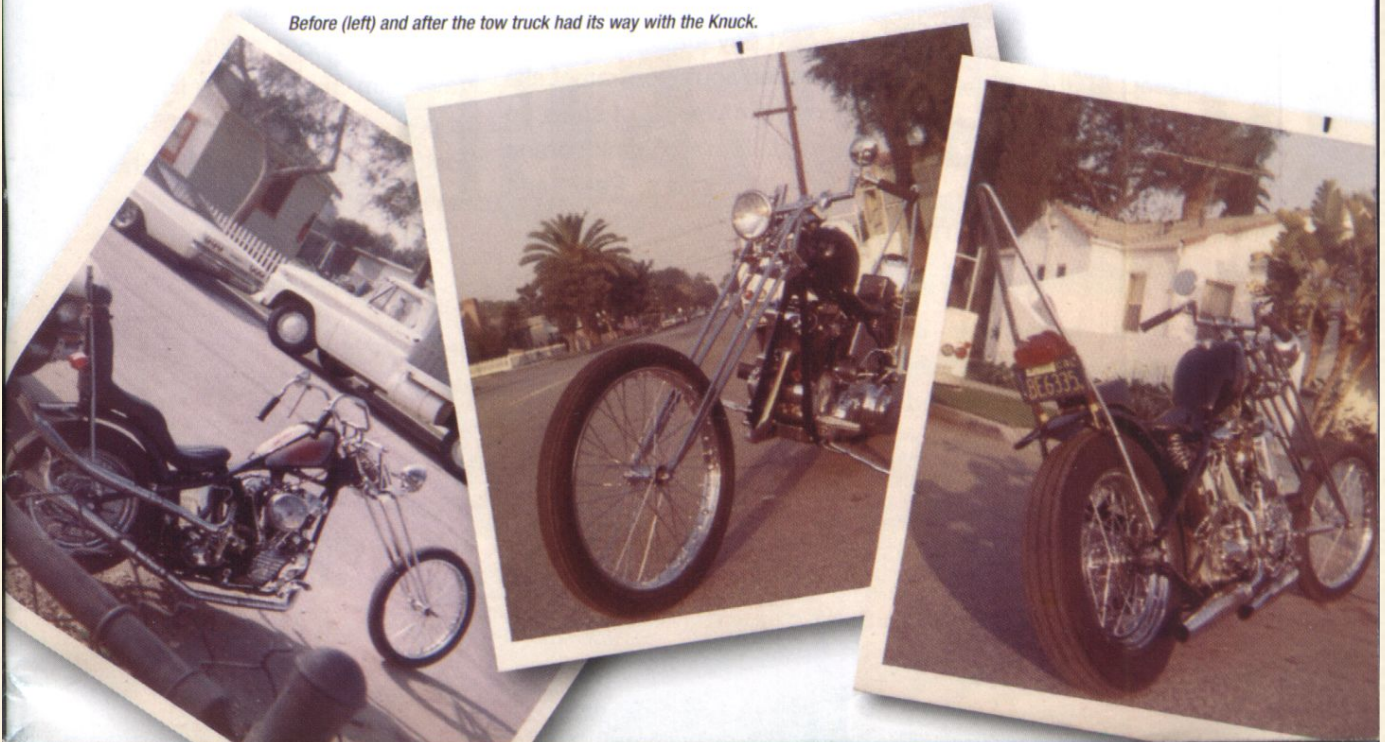
The "working" girls in the neighborhood would stick their heads in the door and check us out several times a day. Tom was good friends with Dick Allen and sold his spoke wheels, 2 into 1 exhaust, and springer forks. He also sold Wayne girders.

Tom had a motor man – besides Pat Leahy – who would build motors for him for a couple of months to get enough money to get back home to the east coast then save enough back there to come back west again. He built me a good motor and Tom had

his painter do the frame and tinware. It was the only machine I ever had built for me.

One night just after it was finished I left home in Hawaiian Gardens headed to Long Beach and a drunk tow truck driver swung a lefty right in front of me and left my Knuckle on his hook. When I bounced off the ground and reached him through his window he tried to put me into a car. I bailed and they found him two days later. The insurance paid like a slot machine and after I gave it a new mold and paint

Before (left) and after the tow truck had its way with the Knuck.



job it was back up and running. I liked it better the second time around and rode it many many miles before selling it to relocate in NorCal.

Tom and his crew used to have some great rides start from his shop. There's a couple that come to mind after all these years. A group of about twenty riders left B&O to ride through Ortega Canyon on Hwy 74 to Lake Elsinore to watch the Grand Prix with racers Bud Ekins and Steve McQueen competing.

Before we left most had a chew off my hash ball I always carried for medicinal purposes. Tom was riding Von Dutch's Volkswagen-powered C-cab trike. Some stopped at the Lookout Cafe from which you could look down on the town of Lake Elsinore. Some never made it that far. They ran the race right through the middle of town. Things got fuzzy after that but I do remember getting back home that evening. I wondered what happened to Tom so I rode back to the shop and found him "asleep at the wheel" so to speak with the trike wedged up against his back door in the alley. He had no idea how he got there. "Just a pinch between the cheek and gum."

Tom's friend, a member of "Brother Speed" in Florence, Oregon was getting married and wanted us to ride up for the occasion. Tom, Quida, another employee, myself and a youngster I'll call "Junior" hit the road north. Junior and I lost everyone just north of L.A.

at a gas stop and didn't see them again till we hit Florence. We were both riding Knuckles with 18" over girders, Wassell peanuts, and tall sissy bars... Long Beach style. There must have been at least 100 long bikes down by the river in front of a large saloon.

The next day after the wedding we headed south to Crater Lake where there was 6" of snow on the road. Tom's oil tank sprang a leak in Grant's Pass and we repaired it at a small H-D dealer's shop which was in his backyard garage. Junior spaced out at another gas stop and we watched him fly by us heading south. We found him a few miles down the road with a dropped valve. We pushed it into a chicken coop and he rode on my P-pad for the next 600 miles to Long Beach. We stopped in Solidaridad so Tom could visit C.J.

Junior never went back for his Knuckle. He sold it and hitchhiked to Alaska. He stumbled out on to the highway after being in the backcountry for close to a year and the first car took him straight back to Long Beach. You can't make this stuff up! P.S. My friend Greg seen Tom about 1980 and he gave him his driver's license to give to me. Last time I seen Tom was 1975, a year after his terrible accident, and I was headed north to live.

What a surprise it was after 37 years to see him and Quida show up on 'American Pickers' with the Von Dutch custom BMW-powered XA. I about fell out of my chair. To know that they were together and well made me smile so wide my ears hurt.



The wedding procession in Oregon (top), at Big Sur headed north (left) and Tom Burke's license.