



## 2026 OFFICERS

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[www.fortsutteramca.org](http://www.fortsutteramca.org)

## President's Comments

March 3, 2026

Here we are in March already!!

I only hope all of you have taken advantage of the breaks in the winter weather. When the rain rolls away we've been left with beautiful riding weather.

Club wise, we are currently planning our Dixon national meet in June, as well as the national road run in September.

We just had our club banquet/luncheon at "Gamiburger". The Food and service was top notch. Thanks go out to Scott Ostrander and staff for letting us overrun the restaurant for our event.

Thank you Tracey Kleber for chairing the banquet, again. Thank you all that came to the luncheon. We sold all the available seating so next year we may need to look for a bigger facility to have more members in attendance . It's nice to have an event with no other agenda. Just enjoy conversation and each others company.

We also had our 3rd 'Cycle Swap" of the year, The crowd was good with customers buying parts late into the morning. The club members showed up in force to represent! Mike Laird, Mike Williams, and myself had motorcycles out on display drawing in plenty of spectators. Bob brought out the Russ Brown/Fort Sutter/AMCA tent and Mike W. brought our club's blue one. We had back to back tents on two isles. Great club exposure!

Dixon is now in the driver seat as far as our efforts. Planning is about to get serious. We have already tackled some big items and now just tons of smaller tasks for the rest of it. If you know anyone that would be

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***Our next chapter meeting will be Saturday, April 4, 2026,  
location TBD.***

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interested in sponsoring parts of the event either monetarily or with products please contact me. We will do all we can in return to recognize the donations.

If you didn't get a chance to sign up for any jobs we will have the sign up sheet available at the meeting, April 4th, or contact me and I can write you in on the job or jobs you're interested in.  
We Need Your Help!

If you're interested in putting a ride together or any club activity please let me know. Have some details when/where/time so we can get the info to the members asap to have a good turnout.

That's about it from me for now.

Thank you all for your help and support!

See you soon,

May the wind be in your face and the sun on your backs! Ride Safe.

Tracy

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## Fort Sutter Meeting Minutes February 7, 2026

**Call to Order:** The February 7, 2026 meeting was called to order at: 1:00 pm

- **Welcome New Members: 1; Guests: 0** at the meeting. New member Daniel De La O introduced himself.
- **Membership:** Karie Schenken, Membership Chair, reports there are: 65 Primary members, 23 Associates, 3 Junior members, 5 Honorary members, 1 honorary associate member and 7 honorary past.
- **Treasury Report:** Road run income and membership dues have brought funds up to about \$24,000 in checking and about \$21,000 in savings. Limit for non-profit status is \$50,000 so we must keep that in mind for end of year.
- **Minutes:** A motion was made by Mark W. and seconded by multiple members to approve the minutes as written for the December 6, 2025 meeting, which were then approved.

### Old Business

- Kim had shirts for members who ordered shirts, and announced there is an additional stock if members want to purchase shirts.

### New Business

- **Annual Banquet:** To be held at Gami Burger on February 21, 2026. Due to a cancellation there are 2 seats available indoors. We are not selling outdoor seats at this point because we cannot count on the weather, but if the weather is good, we could expand. Tracey confirmed names of those whose payment has been received.
- **National Road Run 2026** Tunie reports 89 sign-ups (77 riders, 12 passengers). The banquet and 2 other meals are taken care of. A food vendor is still needed for Day 3. (Dinner for Day 1 is pizza at the hotel; dinner for Day 2 is the banquet.)
- **National minute:** John Markley is just back from the Mecum auction. There is another chapter coming onboard, and John is discussing the possibility of an Alaska with someone up there. National is working on getting more youth into the club. Karie noted that Eric Olsen's son has joined as a junior member. John says that Eric says hello to all of Ft. Sutter. Eric has been recruited to be event chief judge and will be out here for Dixon.
- **Dixon planning:** Phyllis says we have the same caterer set for Dixon: spaghetti feed for \$15. Tracy showed artwork with knucklehead theme for Dixon. Bob is liaising with Russ Brown about being sponsor for Dixon again. He might try to get a better deal with Russ Brown by hinting that we could switch to Law Tigers. Some other events have already switched to Law Tigers. If we go with Russ Brown, it will be, as usual, exclusive, so cannot also have any Law Tigers sponsorship. Tracy had fliers with talking points to use for soliciting potential sponsors. He noted that this is our 43rd year of the swap meet, so that point can be used as a "selling point" for sponsors. Tracy displayed a board listing Dixon jobs (see below). Bob moved that the chopper award be renamed the Dr. Sprocket award which passed without opposition. After some discussion about getting our own PA for Dixon (instead of hiring someone), Mark Wiebens moved that we allocate up to \$1000 for an amp and mike, whatever else for chapter use. Seconded by Mark Loewen, passed by voice vote. Volunteers for

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photos are welcome; please send them to Tom Myers and/or Tracy or Jim Schenken for newsletter, social media, website etc. We need to try to get a picture for the electronic billboard that appeals to more than just HD riders. Preferably multiple brands.

For all members info, a list of Dixon jobs to sign up for was displayed at the meeting:

Striping crew	Vendor space parking assistance
Event Setup	BBQ crew
Trailer equipment mgr. (tow to/from event)	Sound system set up
Registration booth	Photography
Ft. Sutter booth/announcing	Greeters, front gate
Merch. Booth	Town hall mtg set up
Judging, Ft. Sutter awards	Banquet set up/tear down and clean up

- **Past events:**

- Some members have been attending monthly swap meets. Attendance is ok for the most part.
- Nevada County Toy Run, December 13: About a dozen Ft. Sutter members attended. The ride started out in fog and ended in fog, but the weather was beautiful up by Nevada City. About 3500 motorcycles showed up.

- **Upcoming events and club rides**

- Next meeting April 4, 2026
- Joe will try to organize a chapter ride for March.
- Bill will try to organize ride(s) for March and/or April.

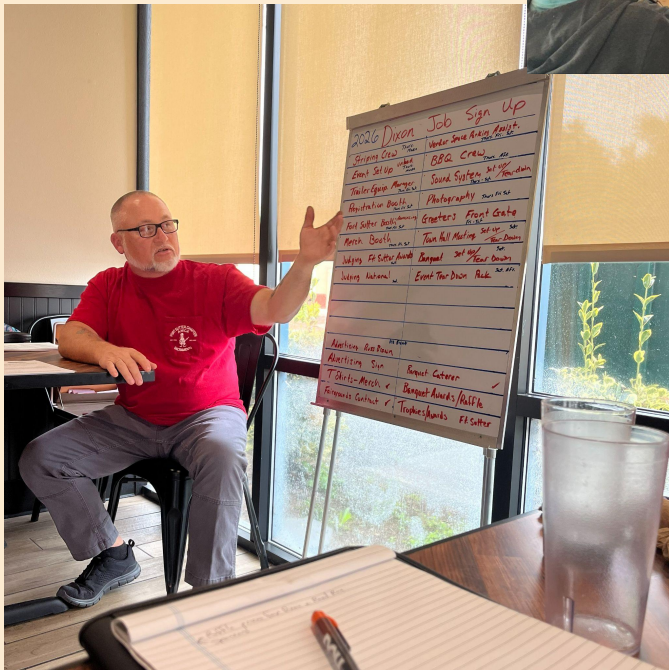
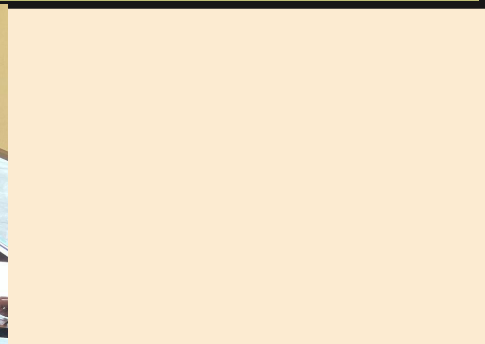
**Meeting adjourned at: 2:25 pm**

# Ft. Sutter Chapter Meeting

## February 7, 2026

(photos by Joe Giammona)

The February chapter meeting was held at a new location on February 7, 2026: Round Table Pizza on Elk Grove Florin Rd. in the (Calvine Corner Shopping Center. Meeting attendance was good with more than 25 members including 1 new member.



Chapter president Tracy Stahlman went over status of Dixon preparations. A summary of jobs handled and responsibilities yet to be assumed was presented to the members.

**Annual Ft. Sutter Chapter Banquet**  
**February 21, 2026**  
(photos by Tom & Jayne Myers, Joe Giammona, and Tracey Kleber)

The annual Ft. Sutter chapter banquet for 2026 was sold out. Some 38 members and guests gathered at Gami Burger, Scott Ostrander's restaurant in eastern Sacramento. The banquet honored Scott's father, Rich. We enjoyed the company of the other Ft. Sutter members, including some that we don't often have the opportunity to see. Here are some photos from the luncheon.



(Banquet, continued)



(Banquet, continued)



Dave Kafton showed a ratfink that his family had Rich Ostrander make for Dave's birthday a few years back.



(Banquet, continued)



(Banquet, continued)

Of course, there was a raffle with prizes donated by members and some from the club stores.



(Banquet, continued)

The group got together outside for this photo.



Scott poses in front of his restaurant with Rich's old knucklehead.

## Passing of Ft. Sutter and Comstock chapter member James Sadilek

In January 2026 we heard from the Comstock AMCA chapter of the passing of James Sadilek, a Ft. Sutter chapter member and a founding member of the Comstock chapter. James may not be familiar to some Ft. Sutter chapter members since he lived in Nevada, but he did occasionally attend the Dixon meet.

Here are some words about James from George Canavan:

“Jim is/was a member of Ft Sutter Chapter as well as the Comstock. He is an original. Grew up in San Francisco in the bike scene, road raced a HD powered side hack to a couple of FIM championships (if my memory is correct), was sponsored by none other than Dud Perkins, is one if not the oldest finisher of the Markleeville Death Ride, and more.”

You can hear about James in his own words from his response to the "Getting to Know Our Fellow Members" questionnaire on the following pages.

Following up on some of the information in James' questionnaire, I found that he was a skilled watchmaker. An interview with him on that subject can be found here:

[https://eternaltools.com/blogs/horology/watchmaker-and-repairer-jim-sadilek?srsltid=AfmBOooaqP\\_SNbaZn9LE85LOJFfFiaxKX3HEG0vuvim0zmZN2AcU8zml](https://eternaltools.com/blogs/horology/watchmaker-and-repairer-jim-sadilek?srsltid=AfmBOooaqP_SNbaZn9LE85LOJFfFiaxKX3HEG0vuvim0zmZN2AcU8zml)

I also found that he was still active on motorcycle forums, for instance posting advice on a Yamaha YZF-R3 forum in June of last year. He had himself recently acquired an R3, so he spoke from direct experience.

Our condolences go out to James' family and friends, and although we may not have known James personally, the community will regret the loss of his knowledge and experience.

## AMCA Fort Sutter “Let’s get to know our fellow Members”

Name: James ‘Jim’ Sadilek

City where you live? Carson City, NV

A. How long have you been a Fort Sutter Member?

I first joined Fort Sutter M.C. long before it was an AMCA chapter. The year escapes me, but in was in the early sixties, I decided to drop my “outlaw” ways and become a “straight up” citizen.

In 1966 I left Sacramento and moved to Eureka to for work the then California Division of Highways, now Caltrans. In 1969 I was transferred to Los Angeles. Then in 1972, tiring of living in SoCal, I quit the job and moved to Hawai’i to be a “hippie”. After years of adventures, I ended up in Carson City in 1988. Again, memory fails regarding exact years, but I reconnected with an old friend and Fort Sutter AMCA member, John Smith, who encouraged me to join Fort Sutter AMCA.

I am also a charter member of the Comstock Chapter AMCA – Reno, Carson City, Minden, Gardnerville area.

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

How much space do I get? Bicycle messenger, dish washer, motorcycle delivery rider, sheetmetal worker, motorcycle mechanic, heavy equipment mechanic, carpenter, building contractor, cam grinder, tool maker and several other occupations that I’ve neglected to list. Currently, a watchmaker specializing in vintage wristwatch restoration. My late wife accused me of having a short attention span.

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

My older brother had a motorcycle. Anyone who's had an older brother, knows the lure of following in an older brother's footsteps, or in this instance, tire tracks. My first motorcycle, at age 15, was a 1947 British made Excelsior with a 125cc Villiers two-stroke engine. It had a three-speed transmission with a hand clutch on the left bar and a hand shift in the middle of the tank. Certainly, this was a unique configuration. Curiously, my mother believed the Excelsior was a wonderful motorcycle because, as she later told me, I spent more time in the garage working on it than I did riding it.

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.

No pictures of the first bike, and only a few pictures of the 40+ that I've owned since. Here's a favorite I owned in the sixties, a '48 Harley 74" rescued from Al Lauer, Sr.'s horse barn and lovingly rebuilt.



E. What do you currently own/ride?

Currently own a 1972 BMW R60/5 and a 1983 Yamaha XJ650, a four-cylinder cruiser bike. Both bikes are now sufficiently aged to qualify under AMCA rules as antiques. Here's a photograph of the Beemer.



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

Currently completing the purchase of a 2014 BMW F800 GT parallel twin. Why? Certainly, it is a much newer design than the two antiques currently in the garage. It has excellent reviews, plenty of power at 90 HP, and all sorts of bells and whistles; perhaps most importantly, considering my advanced age, ABS and BMW's ASC (Automatic Stability Control). So, no burn outs, no wheelies and no stoppies. While F800 GT doesn't have the shaft drive of my two older bikes, it does use a toothed belt final drive. The belt, with a 24K mile replacement schedule, requires no maintenance.

In my racing days, I lusted after an AJS 7R, a SOHC single cylinder 350cc road racer. The forerunner of the Matchless G50 500cc single SOHC road racer.

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

In the sixties, I road raced. First in the 350 class with a Triumph 350 twin that I had considerably modified. It had increased compression, much work on the valve gear to lighten the moving parts, flat tappets (faster opening and closing compared to the standard slightly radiused tappets). Also, it was fitted with a pair of Triumph 650 Bonneville carburetors. It would barely run below 3,000 rpm, but was magical between 5,000 and 10,000 rpm. The shift point was 10,000. I recall telling this once to Joe Sarkees; he said I was a liar. Are Smith's chronometric tachometers accurate? Once missed a shift and saw 11,000. Rode to a lot of 2nd place finishes. There was a 305 Honda that I could never beat.

## James Sadilek, in his own words, continued

In my third year of racing the Triumph, I got off really hard, end over end about 85 mph. Walked away with only a stiff neck, landing fortunately on my head. Spent about a year not racing, then AFM, the road racing sanctioning body before AMA finally embraced road racing, decided to start a sidecar class. I had been riding a 1961 big twin Harley with a sidecar as my street bike. The idea of racing a sidecar was simply too compelling to pass up. Using the '61 Harley as a base, Mark Strong, my passenger in our racing adventures, and I, built a full-on road racing sidecar rig. In 1966, we were the AFM Sidecar National Champions.



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

Inspires? Certainly many. Definitely a person who was both a good friend and mentor, and who the older Fort Sutter members will recall, was John Smith. I helped him set up his motorcycle shop on the corner of Fruitridge and Franklin Blvd. The shop was sometimes known as “Junky John’s Jawa Joint”. John was a dealer for Jawa/CZ and Suzuki. I worked for him as a mechanic, and he helped me with my racing endeavors.

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

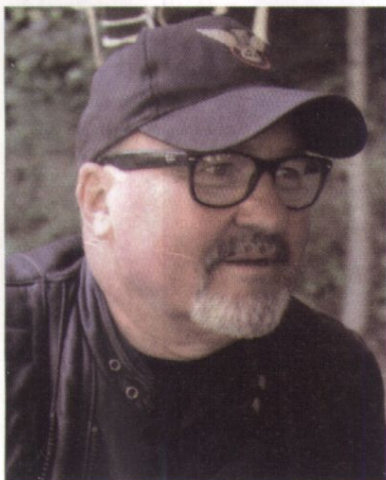
I only get one thing? Here's one of many. I am an avid bicyclist, and usually put more miles per year on the bicycle than the motorcycle. Like many golfers who hope someday to match their golf score to their age, I told my doctor that when I am 100 years old, I like to ride my bicycle 100 miles. The plan would be to start at Echo Summit and ride to Sacramento, which is about 100 miles with lots of downhill. Ambitious? Yeah, probably, but then what's the point of a goal if not ambitious? The doctor, who is also a bicyclist, said he'd go with me and have his wife follow us in his motorhome fitted out as an ambulance.

Still a few years to go before fulfilling this goal.

Jim Sadilek

# Dr Sprocket's Column

## THE MOVE



for \$500 was loaded and pointed north. We rented a small house, both found jobs, and I bought an old good running chopped '47 knuckle for \$500 in just the first couple of weeks.

It had a 12"-over glide with a purple Wassell peanut welded and molded to the top bar. It got me back and forth to work out in the country near the small town of Dixon at a farm implement repair shop for almost a year, rain or shine.

I then found a beater '52 Chevy pickup to drive and the Knuck came apart for some much needed work. I asked around and the only places that had any old motorcycle parts in the area were Betty Armour's place with a couple of buildings full of old bikes and parts and Stan Dishong's, a '40s and '50s motorcycle drag and dry lakes racer of much renown, located in Vallejo.

When the Knuck rolled out of the back bedroom a few months later it was sporting full fenders and three-and-a-half gallon tanks in an almost stock configuration and gray primer. I never touched the motor or transmission as they were fairly fresh. Around town it became known as the "Gray Ghost".

The local H-D dealer was Armando Magri who had come to Sacramento

in 1937 from Chico, 100 miles north. He worked for the first Sacramento H-D dealer Frank Murray (1919) till 1950 when Frank retired and Magri bought the shop. Armando was a really good racer in the late 1930s and 1940s.

We used to talk about old motorcycles in his office for hours and he knew a lot of the older riders and racers I had met when I lived in SoCal, like Ed Kertz "The Iron Man", Ernie Skelton (of Crocker fame) and "two-cam" John Cameron among a few.

He introduced me to many of his old motorcycle friends in Sacramento that he'd known since the thirties. Like Joe Sarkee who had one of the first Triumph dealerships on the west coast, "Shorty" Thompkins who was one of the best dirt trackers in California (one summer he had 60 firsts and 30 seconds and thirds out of 90 races), and Al Lauer who was once the Excelsior and Indian dealer in town and a championship hillclimber. In 1982 Armando and eleven friends founded the Fort Sutter Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America (AMCA) here in Sacramento of which I became a member.

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*1975 rolled around and Kathy and I looked north to relocate. She was from Sacramento and I liked the idea of trees, rivers and mountains. I could see the L.A. basin filling up.*

I sold my '47 Knuckle and a couple of stashed basket cases went to Joe Alphabet. Bills were paid off and an old '58 Chevy pickup I picked up at the Long Beach Drive In flea market



1 - 'Peanut', March 1970

2 - 4th July 1971, Lester headed to Lake Tahoe

3 - Bob and his Shovel, 1971, headed to the Angels Camp Frog Jump

Many of the founding members were original members of the AMA Fort Sutter Motorcycle Club which flourished from 1932 to 1972. It was the Indian Club in town. The AMA Capitol City Motorcycle Club was the Harley Club in town of which Armando was an early member. It still exists today and they still meet in its original club house not far from my home.

About 1980 I met Bob Wise who worked as a printer for the local newspaper and became our Chapter's first newsletter editor. He rode Harleys, restored old cars and was – and is – a great artist and modeler.

Time passed and a couple of years ago Bob called and invited me to join some of his friends he'd grown up with for breakfast; these were guys he'd been to school with, surfed, ridden motorcycles and grown old with. All the time I'd known Bob I'd never stumbled on to these guys. Now every couple of weeks we all meet for breakfast at a different cafe around town. Funny, at 65 I'm the youngest. A few still ride, most have old cars or real hot rods, and some still surf.

I'll cut the verbiage short this time to give up more space for some of their bikes from the late '60s and early '70s. Sacramento was happening then with shops like Whitley's, H & H (Holland and Harmon of girder fame), HA "Lonesome's" 16th St. Choppers, California Cycle Works (girders), and more. "Every picture tells a story don't it", Rod Stewart.



1 - The "gray ghost"

2 - Bob's cone Shovel in VL frame with extended JD forks

3 - John Harmon's Shovel, 4 July 1971

