

Early Swap Meet History – By Richard Ostrander (aka Dr. Sprocket)

This is for those members who weren't there. In 1982 we held a small swap meet, our very first, behind Macy's in Country club Mall. It was to raise some monies to help the funding of the founding of our Fort Sutter Chapter of the AMCA in Sacramento, CA.

The next year, 1983, we held our first regional AMCA swap meet in the parking lot of the DMV just south of Broadway, just east of 24th Street.

In 1984 we migrated under the freeway between 23rd and 24th Street and X and Y Streets, just north of Broadway behind Joe Sarkees shop.

John Schaefer would go borrow the serving trailer from the Coke distributor where his wife worked, on Stockton Blvd, just south of T Street.

Jerry Cordy would provide the hot dogs from MadeRite, just south of Magri's HD on Arden Way. The members spouses would sign up participants and distribute coffee, cokes and hot dogs from the trailer during our meet. We had a chapter owned generator for power. We would judge the show bikes and hold field events on the asphalt. Sunday we would have a Poker Run buy in ride down along the river to Al the Wops for lunch and then back to the meet site to see who won the pot.

On Saturday nights we would have an off-site banquet at either the Club Pheasant, the Bull Market or Posies across from the capital.

Back then we still handed out awards at the meet, sold meet T shirts etc. Some of the banquet speakers at Posie's were Floyd and Don Emde, the father and son duo that won the Daytona race.

In 1999 we lost access to the under the freeway site and relocated to Dixon Fairgrounds for our first chapter National meet in 2001.

When I relocated from Long Beach in SoCal in 1975 to Sacramento, Dixon is where I first found employment as a metal fabricator on farm equipment and cattle and sheep haulers. I thought it reminded me of the meets in Davenport, Iowa, John Deere dealer and all. During my employment in the area, the dealership used to put on tractor pull events for the farm community. It also reminded me of the old Gypsy tour sites where once a year people I rode with south and north could meet up and catch up on our lives lived. It was a central location and just felt right.

The first year's banquet speaker was Ray Wesser, the northern CA Harley dealer rep for many years and an AMCA referee for District 37. We had banquet speakers until just a few years ago. We had Bob McClean our club president in 2001 and our next president after him in 2002, Pete Gagan. We also had Gary Bang and Bob Stark for speakers. We had 50 guests for our first dinner. We had pennants and special theme ribbons made up to put on the bikes that were up for show. We had programs with meet ground maps in the middle and the history of our club in the front, and ad's in the back.

We would do the swap meet ride on Sunday morning and judge then too, less people and dealers, etc. stayed over. As time went by even less stayed for the banquet Saturday night so we moved the judging to Saturday afternoon along with the ride. We always had field games, like reach down and pull the straw from the bottle, pull the clothes pins off the clothes line, the slow race, or the run and start your bike. The games were discontinued because less and less people wanted to participate.

The meet started small but year by year it has grown into what it is today.