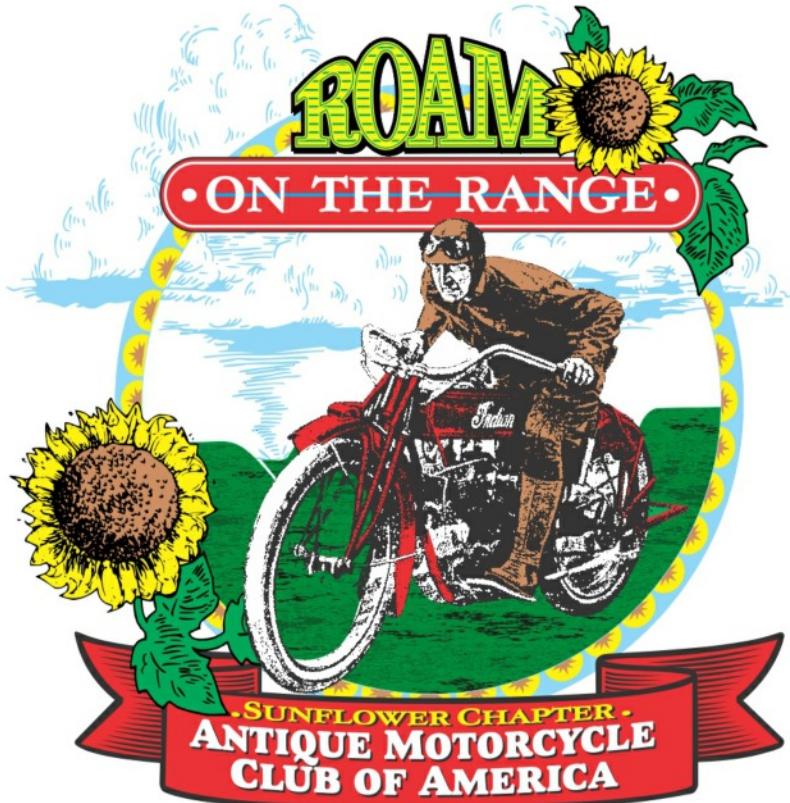


SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

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Antique Motorcycle Club of America ®

February, 2019



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

of the

Antique Motorcycle Club of America

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Jim Wellemeyer

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEETINGS

Monthly meetings of the Sunflower Chapter are held at 6:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month. The meeting site is Spears Restaurant at 4323 West Maple Street, Wichita, Kansas.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The Sunflower Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to Sunflower Chapter members, AMCA Chapters, AMCA Officers, Sunflower Sponsors, and Sunflower commercial advertisers.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Antique Motorcycle Club of America is required to be eligible for membership in the Sunflower Chapter of the AMCA. Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year, and membership is open to any member of the AMCA. Members of the Sunflower Chapter will receive four issues of the club newsletter, and a membership card,

SUNFLOWER SPONSORS

Sponsors will receive four issues of the Sunflower Chapter Newsletter in return for a \$20.00 annual donation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019 has started and the Sunflower Chapter was there on day one. We started with our usual New Years Day get together. I made a short appearance due to a bad head. Seems like my wife Robbie, son Jeff, and I, all rubbed up against the same bug and all came down with it at the same time.

January is not only a time for me to reflect on the past year's travels and events, but to start planning the new year. Last year the Chapter had lots of great chances to be involved in antique motorcycling. We had our local rides, and great time at our fall ride in Missouri. Some of us traveled to national events and rides. We had a good showing of members travel to South Dakota for the Black Hills Chapter Road Run, and then a rendezvous with 5 members who rode the Cannonball. Twisted Oz Bike Show and Swap Meet, our Vintage Bike Nights in Delano, were other opportunities to share our hobby with the public.

Plans for 2019 include much of the same. The Garage Tour with a very exclusive stop is planned for March 30th. There will great showing from our Chapter at the Texas Chapter Road Run in April, you may still be able to register for the event. If you have ideas for an interesting local ride let me know or come to a meeting and share. Check for details of upcoming events in this issue.

We added several new members during the past year. It is important that we continue to engage in activities where we meet the public and promote the Club. One suggestion is that the Chapter sponsor a project bike and sell raffle tickets to recover the costs. If you have a bike that you need get out of the way, let me know. Hopefully we could sell 200 hundred tickets at \$5, that gives you an idea of what our budget is.

Membership renewals were due January 1st, and I thank all of you who were prompt with your dues. You will find your 2019 membership card enclosed. Those who have not renewed; the renewal form was in the November issue and can be downloaded from our web page. Please take time to send it in now. Included with this issue is the 2019 Sunflower directory.

See ya on the road, Jim Wellemeyer

Sunflower Fall Ride

The annual fall ride for many years was held in the Flint Hills of central Kansas. Recently we have held the ride in other locations. Grove Oklahoma was the location for a couple of years and everyone enjoyed the Oklahoma and Arkansas routes. This year we traveled a little further for the ride, Clinton Missouri. John Wiley's brother, Dave, lives in Clinton and suggested we try the Clinton Lake area. After talking to Dave and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, I found out the Chamber sponsors a Cruise night once a month. Our ride would coincide with their October Cruise night in the to and they were inviting us as featured guests. So, John Wiley, Larry Burke, and I made a planning trip to Clinton and got the route set with the help of Dave.

Saturday October 12th was set as the date, and for a week before, the forecast showed good chances of rain and cold temps. Robbie and I arrived on Thursday along with several other members, including a frozen Caroline Kline who had ridden her Harley trike, all the way from Santa Fe New Mexico in the cold and rain. Friday plans were for a short afternoon ride, but the weather man's prediction was accurate, and it was rainy and cool. The Henry County Historical Museum turned out to be great place to spend a rainy day. The local high school homecoming was that night and the homecoming parade circled the town square at noon, they were a wet and cold looking bunch.



Sunflower Fall Ride



**Bart Grelinger gives Kelly a break
from kicking his Chief**



The weather forecast was poor but that didn't stop a great bunch from showing up for a cold ride.

Sunflower Fall Ride

Retuning to the hotel that afternoon, someone heard that there was a community theater performance that night. It sounded like something fun to do and I checked it out. We ended up with about 30 of us at their play, they were thrilled to have our motorcycle gang join them. The play was a typical small town performance, written and cast by local talents, it was an entertaining evening.

By Saturday morning we had riders show up for a group of 24 bikes, a great turnout considering the poor weather. When we left the hotel parking lot, it was in the upper 40's, but the clouds were clearing, and the sun was shining. I was hoping for a rapid warmup. We headed east towards Clinton Lake and our first stop, the small town of Iconium. By the time we arrived the skies had clouded over and looked threatening in the direction we were headed. Iconium is home of the "world famous" Peach Nehi float. Seems that they have cornered the market of all the available Peach Nehi production. The general store sold a few floats that morning, but mostly it was hot coffee.



Sunflower Fall Ride



Coffee break in Iconium

We left Iconium after the coffee had its warming affect, it was mostly psychological. The highway wandered around the lake and crossed several arms of water. The foliage on the rock bluffs above the lake was showing the colors of the coming Ozark fall season. We arrived at Warsaw about 11:30 at our planned lunch stop and lined up our bikes across from the R-Bar Roadhouse. The R-Bar sits on a bluff



Sunflower Fall Ride



overlooking the head waters of the Lake of the Ozarks, with a great view from the dining room. The staff was well prepared for our group of 40 plus, and got our meals served in a timely fashion. After a great lunch we all geared up and fired up to head to a gas stop. All but one, Kelly Modlin's 1927 Chief would not start. No matter how hard he kicked, or who kicked it, or who pushed it, all he could get was a sputter and a few seconds of running. After riding it 7000 plus miles on his Cannonball journey it had to go on the trailer.



Sunflower Fall Ride



After the gas stop, we headed to the Truman Dam Visitors Center. The visitors center has exhibits that explain the history of the lake and the settlement of the Osage River Valley. The observation deck provides a spectacular view of the dam and reservoir.



Sunflower Fall Ride

When I returned to the parking lot, there was Kelly up on the trailer, surrounded by a few encouraging riders, still trying to get the Chief started, but it never did. So we all mounted up and headed out, all but one. After running flawlessly all morning Tim Bell's BMW would not start, not even a sputter. Tim's bike joined Kelly's on the trailer for the short ride back to Clinton.



At the hotel we regrouped and prepared to meet at the Clinton town square for Cruise night and the car/bike show. There was great support from the town despite the cold weather. The event featured live entertainment, a very nice collection of cars and trucks, our antique bikes, food vendors and restaurants on the square. It was a great finish to our weekend.

Thanks to all the Sunflower members, and guests, which included folks from 4 states, you made it a memorable weekend. Special recognition to Caroline Kline, our newest Sunflower member, who made the trip from Santa Fe NM. Maybe she will regale us with the details of her cold, wet, snowy journey?

Sunflower Fall Ride



Cruisin in Clinton



Holiday Gatherings

Our end of the year traditions always include the Christmas Party and the New Years Day “finning party”. Many thanks to our hosts Kelly Modlin’s Twisted Oz for the Christmas Party and Roger Nelson for hosting New Year’s Day. If you are reading this in black and white print, see these and more, in color, on the web www.sunfloweramca.org/activities/2018-sunflower-holidays





The Old Sage 1924-2016



Bill Gordon Photo

This saga by the Old Sage is reprinted with the kind permission of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America. We thank them for allowing us to reprint these stories, because many of our Chapter members have never had a chance to read these entertaining articles

Bud Cox was one of the founding members of the Sunflower Chapter and an Honorary Member of the AMCA. He penned the “Old Sage” articles for more than thirteen years, with the first episode appearing in the 1994 Winter issue of the AMCA magazine. This “Old Sage” episode originally appeared in the 2001 Winter issue of “The Antique Motorcycle”

the Old Sage

This Pope is a beautiful machine. It was carefully restored by my friend Jerry Ottaway’s grandfather who was named Gerald Chance. It is difficult to determine the age of some Pope motorcycles. This one had double springs on the rear and an embossed tank. About a 1916 model, I would guess. The Pope had not been run for about twenty years or so. Jerry and his dad Herb thought they would polish it some, gas and air it adequately, and start it up and let it run for a while. This effort was to take place in Jerry’s workshop. This is a nice tight steel building that

Firing the Pope

houses several motorcycles, parts, tools and is equipped with a very good smoke alarm.

The Pope started easily and was soon blowing out huge clouds of dense smoke. Herb asked “Is the smoke alarm turned off?” Jerry answered “Yes, I am sure I turned it off.” Herb just grunted and said, “Well, I hear fire wagons, and they’re getting closer. As matter of fact, they’re here in your driveway! I think I am going over to Bud’s place for a visit.” As Herb walked out of the smoke and into the yard, he met a fireman who was dragging a big hose. The fireman asked

The Pope started easily and was soon blowing huge clouds of dense smoke. Herb asked, Is the smoke alarm turned off ?

“What is going on here?” Herb replied that we had just fired the old Pope. The astonished fireman said, “You just done what to who?”

Fortunately, nothing got wet, the firemen were understanding and left as soon as the smoke cleared and Jerry discovered a new method to see if the smoke alarm works!



Journey of the Cannonball 2018

By Bill Page

Well, the 2018 Motorcycle Cannonball is in the history books, and oh boy it was a good one. It definitely was a ride to remember with parts of it being truly amazing. Vermont was like riding thru a picture postcard, with houses built on the side of hills and smoke coming from woodburning fireplaces, and trees lining sides of roads full of ups, downs, and curves. Illinois and Iowa were like riding thru a giant corn maze. Corn stalks 10ft from both sides of road for miles. We rode thru the badlands of South Dakota, up and



Bill cutting the corn

around Mt Rushmore, thru Deadwood, and had an overnight day of rest in Sturgis. The most memorable for me was Glacier National Park, Montana. Riding the 150 mile route thru the park, and the mountains before and after, starting with sunshine, then rain, then snow, then sleet, and then rain again----it was beautiful and almost breath taking at times. If you haven't been there you need to put this on your bucket list. Finishing up riding along the Columbia river gorge was both scenic and one of the hardest days of riding. They don't call that river the wind surfing capitol for nothing, the wind blew so hard all day long that you literally had trouble

Journey of the Cannonball 2018

keeping your bike on the road. If you let your guard down for an instant, you were in the ditch. We were all glad that day was over.

All of us Kansas Sunflower members did an amazing job piloting these 100 year old machines from coast to coast. WE represented our chapter very well with all five of us finishing the cannonball, George and myself, having perfect scores, Billy only missing part of one day, Kelly receiving a spirit of the Cannonball award, and Terry earning the speedster nickname.

I put the ole Johnny Cash special, single cylinder on ice, and put together another 1916 twin, so that Billy and I would be in the same class, and able to ride together. AS it turned out a decision I will never regret, because we actually rode from coast to coast, side by side with 10-20ft of each other, the entire way. What a memory that was created for the both of us. Billy had a magneto problem the 2nd day, that lost him some miles but the other 15 days we started together, and finished together---priceless. Billy as a rookie cannonballer, was a tough rider that helped me many times get through this demanding event.



Bill and Billy Page

Journey of the Cannonball 2018

George Unruh as a rookie showed everyone how its done, achieving a perfect score also, on his 1924 Harley. He had a few close calls along the way though, that he had to overcome, fix and travel on. On one day two of the guys he was riding with crashed in a construction Zone, both bikes went down but George was able to keep his up and avoid any injury or damage. He was a happy biker at the finish with a smile from ear to ear.



George Unruh and his 1924 Harley

Journey of the Cannonball 2018

Terry Richardson was the speedster of the bunch. After finding a cracked head on his 1916 the day before the start, Terry, went on his back up bike, 1928 JD. Not having as many training miles on this one, Terry had a few problems that cost him some miles, but the days he ran, he was the first, or among the first riders in every day. He had that JD flying—thus Speedster.



The Speedster

Journey of the Cannonball 2018

Kelly embarked on the remarkable journey of riding to the start of the cannonball, riding the event, and then riding home. After making it to the start, and all the way into South Dakota, the Badlands grabbed him and he had an engine failure. Disappointment set in as he really wanted to ride into Sturgis to greet family and friends. He didn't let this discourage him though, as he worked all day and all night to re-build, and almost make the start after the day off, but his magneto bit him in the butt. Kelly did go on to finish the cannonball, and ride that 1928 Indian all the way back home.



Kelly on the road

This was truly an amazing adventure, one that will last forever in the memories of all of us, till next time, happy riding,

Bill Page



Bill and Billy in Sturgis



Kansasballers

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual Twisted Oz Vintage Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet

Saturday April 6, 10 AM – 5 PM
Registration & Setup 8AM–10AM

Free admission and bike registration

Parts & bikes must be 25 yrs and older

No vendor fees

Food available on site

Serving breakfast 8 AM

Bring your vintage bikes and parts
to: 601 W. 7th Augusta, KS 67010

Note:
Onsite parking is limited
due to construction

Contacts

Swap Meet: Jim Wellemeyer 316-461-1778

Bike Show: Bill Page 316-619-4736

Twisted Oz: Kelly Modlin 316-977-9257

Jerry Ottaway 316-644-4258

Paul Belt 316-239-9258

Forms & info at www.sunfloweramca.org

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Upcoming Events

**Sunflower Garage Tour ~ Saturday March 30th
Lawrence Smith Collection tour, 9 AM. Meet at
Creative Interiors, 11701 W Kellogg Dr.**



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SUNFLOWER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 30th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

February 22 & 23 Omaha Chapter National Swap Meet and Bike Show. Fremont Nebraska.

February 27th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

March 27th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

March 30 ~ **Sunflower Garage Tour.** Tour the Lawrence Smith Collection. Meet at Creative Interiors, 9 AM, 11701 W Kellogg Dr, Wichita, KS 67209.

April 6th ~ **Twisted Oz Bike Show and Swap Meet.** Twisted Oz Museum Augusta KS. 10AM - 5PM. See details on page 21

April 8-10 Cherokee Chapter Road Run. Kerrville TX.

April 24th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

Sunflower Website ~www.sunfloweramca.org



The Sunflower Chapter Newsletter will be published in February, May, August, and November. The deadline date for each issue will be the last day of the month preceding the month of publication. Please send articles, tips, humor, event dates, notices, personal ads, etc. to the editor as early as possible. Material submitted after the deadline will be published if page space is available.

AMCA 2019 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NATIONAL ROAD RUNS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| April 8-10 | Cherokee Chapter Road Run, Kerrville, TX |
| June 9-12 | Allegheny Mtn Chapter Road Run, Ligonier, PA |
| Sept 4-6 | Music City Chapter Road Run, Nashville, TN |
| Sept 23-25 | Yerba Buena Chapter Road Run, Monterey, CA |



NATIONAL MEETS

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Feb 23-24 | Omaha Chapter | Fremont, NE |
| Mar 8-9 | Sunshine Chapter | New Smyrna Beach, FL |
| Apr 26-27 | Perkiomen Chapter | Oley, PA |
| May 17-19 | Southern National | Denton, NC |
| May 24-25 | European Chapter | Raalte, Netherlands |
| June 14-15 | Viking Chapter | St. Paul, MN |
| June 14-15 | Fort Sutter Chapter | Dixon, CA |
| July 19-21 | Wauseon Meet | Wauseon, OH |
| Aug 2-3 | Yankee Chapter | Terryville, CT |
| Aug 24-25 | Australia Chapter | Bulli Australia |
| Sept 27-28 | Chesapeake Chapter | Jefferson, PA |