

# SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

Antique Motorcycle Club of America ®

November 2020



**SUNFLOWER CHAPTER**  
of the  
**Antique Motorcycle Club of America**

**President**

Jim Wellemeyer  
1718 N. Illinois  
Wichita, KS 67213  
(316) 942-0160

**Vice President**

John Wiley  
406 Circle Lake Cir.  
Wichita, KS 67209  
(316) 932-5577

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Kelly Wardell  
157 SW 200th Street  
Douglass, KS 67039  
(316) 747-3244

**Director**

Gram Pankratz  
10202 Sw. Pampas Rd  
Augusta, KS 67010  
(316) 734-0821

**Director**

Tim Bell  
129 S. Prescott Ct.  
Wichita, KS 67209  
(316)210-6094

**Tulsa Region Ambassador**

Joe Preston  
1909 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Perkins OK 74059  
405-714-8593

**Editor**

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 an advertisement in four issues of the Sunflower Chapter Newsletter in return for a \$25.00 annual donation.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2020, what a year. You already know all the bad stuff so let me tell you about the good. Sunflower Chapter membership is at an all time high. We have 96 paid memberships for 2020 and couple more delinquents. We added 7 new members this year. Up until now we managed to put on all our signature events, even though a couple were rescheduled. We have gotten together for rides, short trips, meals, and meetings. If you have forgotten about the good times, I would encourage you to look back through the issues of the newsletter. If you can't lay your hands on them around the house, check them out on our web page, <http://sunfloweramca.org/index/newsletter>. The best part is the photos are all in color.

2021, who knows? Plans will be made to keep everyone involved and have fun. No details yet but we are talking about a Spring Chapter Ride and a Fall Chapter Ride. Those who like the National Road Runs, Rocky Mountain Chapter at Buena Vista June 21-23 should be a great one. We had about a dozen people at their last Road Run. The Twisted Oz meet will be back and more of the usual events. I have listed a few dates on our calendar.

There will be adjustments to our calendar. I have contacted our board of directors and we believe having a sit-down dinner for 50 or more members is not a good idea. Current trends with the virus could put people at risk, so we will cancel the Christmas Party this year. Additionally, plans for our New Year's Day gathering are on hold.

I plan to publish a 2021 Sunflower roster, please make sure that you have updated us on any changes to addresses, emails, and phone numbers.

Stay safe with your travels and socializing during the holidays.

See you in 2021.

**Jim Wellemeier**

## 2020 Garage Tour

. This year's Garage Tour took a turn to the south and was delayed several months due to the pandemic. After being cancelled in May, on September 12 the traditional spring event was held. It was last year sometime that Stu Preston and, Associate Chapter Ambassador Joe Preston, asked if they could host the tour this year. Their address is Perkins Oklahoma, which is just south of Stillwater. Early on a very foggy morning Sunflower members left from several locations around Wichita and rode/drove to the Preston country estate. There were five of us who left from Twisted Oz, the 2 ½ hour trip was made longer by the fog and we got there about 10am.



## 2020 Garage Tour



Joe and Stu had the place looking good and there was hot coffee and snacks for us. They have a nice collection of antique bikes, Indians, Moto Guzzi, Ducati, and others, with Harley Davidsons being predominant. There were also two vintage Porches in the process of rejuvenation. Outside on the property there is a large collection of antique vehicles, pickups, cars, and machinery. A separate building is the shop area, with all the tools, equipment, lathe, mill, and more. Everyone was enjoying exploring the artifacts.



## 2020 Garage Tour



The next stop was an old bicycle and motorcycle shop. Stillwater's celebrated motocross champion, Guy Cooper took us to his father's old shop. Charles Cooper started the business in 1929 and over the years was involved with anything that had two wheels and a Coopers Cycle Center still exists in Stillwater. The dusty dark building we went to was testament to his father's obsession with two wheels. There were shelves full of bicycle and motorcycle parts, manuals, and promotional materials. Everywhere you looked there were remnants of old bicycles and motorcycles. Charles Cooper raced motorcycles, was a dealer and



**Searching for Treasure**

## 2020 Garage Tour



### Lunch, Fine Dining in Stillwater

service facility for motorcycles and bicycles, and what remains in that building would fill an encyclopedia with two wheeled tales.

Next up was the stop at the Bayles family compound, it was very interesting. Jack the patriarch lives with his wife in one house, their son and daughter in law live next door and other family members are nearby along with several outbuildings. Jack has a number of old cars including a very nice 1935 Chevrolet 2 dr sedan similar to his first car bought for \$10, a 1929 Model A Ford 2 door sedan similar to the one he learned to drive in and a 1929 Model A homemade "speedster" hot rod.



## 2020 Garage Tour

Daughter-in-law Jenny regaled us with the story of the 6 years she and husband Steve (who teaches motorcycle repair at a nearby vo-tech) spent getting her Hayabusa to achieve 200 mph. Jack and family have a number of old motorcycles but perhaps the most interesting story is of the 1929 JD he bought in 1960 Milwaukee while working at the Harley factory before entering military service.



### **Jenny Bayles, first woman to go 200 mph at the Arkansas Mile**

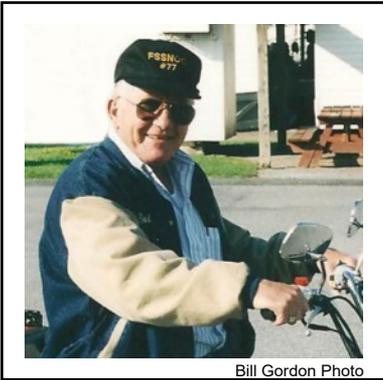
The final stop of the day was at Guy Coopers home outside of Stillwater. Guy is a Motocross legend, having won multiple championships including World Supercross Championship in 1993. On his property there is his home, an old motocross track, his shop area, and several large storage buildings. As we enter his museum building there is a collection of Indian TT Warrior bikes. Moving to the next room there is a historical display of bicycles that date back to the late 1800's. All are neatly displayed hanging from the wall and lined up on the floor. There are display cases full of parts and memorabilia. Every brand of bicycle you could think of and more. In the next room, hundreds more bicycles and motorcycles. They are hanging on the wall, from the ceiling, and lined up on the floor. These are more modern, mostly from the 60's and 70's. The final room was Guy's trophy room with trophies, bikes, jerseys, photographs, and articles from his racing career. Guy has put together a tremendous display of bikes, motorcycles, and memorabilia. He is happy to entertain tours.

Thanks to Stu and Joe Preston for putting together a great day.

# 2020 Garage Tour



## The Old Sage 1924-2016



Bill Gordon Photo

## The Old Sage

*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 2003 Winter issue of "The Antique Motorcycle"*

This tale has been related many times in the Midwest during the past, but it is always fun to expose new listeners to another experience from the Heartland of America.

Our good friend Herb, had been cleaning a very dirty motorcycle and had all of his shop rags soiled, quite nasty with a heavy layer of thick grease. It seemed like a good idea to clean these rags simply by laundering them in the new washing machine that his wife was so proud of. He ran the rags through the heavy cycle and they came out in very good condition.

Unfortunately, the washing machine had a thick layer of unsightly crud around the tub at the high water mark. Being resourceful and wanting to leave the machine clean, Herb took a few gasoline soaked rags and washed out the crud.

# The Big Boom

Everything was fine now, except for the strong odor of gasoline. Now, our hero decided to eliminate the odor by running the machine through a complete cycle of wash and rinse. After putting in the right amount of soap, Herb pushed the start button.

This is when the machine exploded! The top of the washer flew off, striking the light fixture with a mighty blow and proceeded upward wiping out a few ceiling panels. The window and door of the washroom were found out in the yard. The neighbors reported that all of their drains erupted and spewed out sewer water. Everyone in the area heard the boom except Herb.

---

---

***Herb pushed the start button!***

---

---

Indeed, he did not hear anything for about two months. He was not seriously injured, however he was at “Ground Zero” and did not escape entirely unscathed. About one half of his hair was vaporized, along with his eye-brows. A couple of days later his face was about the same color as a really crisp bacon strip. After a few more days, his face started peeling off, and he really looked frightful. When anyone would ask him “What happened to your face?” Herb would say, “I don’t know maybe I shaved too close.”



## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove

The annual Sunflower Chapter Fall Ride returned to the Flint Hills after several years hiatus. The tradition of the Council Grove fall ride started 30 years ago. Recently the Chapter started looking for different experiences for the ride, and we ventured to Oklahoma and Missouri for the event. At Council Grove the group was split between two hotels. In the past we always stayed at the Cottage House. I had heard good reviews of the cabins at Prairie Lodge Motel and wanted to try it. The rooms were small but very clean and well taken care of. Many of the members arrived on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>. We had a short ride scheduled to Cottonwood Falls and about 2 pm we left the motel and rode by Cottage House to pick up riders.



There was a strong head wind going to Cottonwood Falls. Local AMCA member Kevin Carrier arranged for us to visit Mark Robinsons antique shop. This building was originally a BSA motorcycle shop back in the day of local dirt track racing. Mark and Kevin welcomed us with cold drinks, and a few other locals were present with bikes and vintage cars.

## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove



The shop is filled with all types of antiques, furniture, bicycles, motorcycles, signs, posters, and much more. For years, Jerry Ottaway has had his eye on a couple of vintage Joyland calendars, and a partial Hoffman motorcycle, but no deals were made that day. Local resident Seth Schroer was on his 31 BSA single and offered to show us around his shop in Strong City.



## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove

The shop is an old Standard gas station, and there we found nice examples of British cycles, a 54 BSA, and a nice 750 Norton Commando. Seth also had a great wall of memorabilia, with pictures of hot rods, world war aircraft and vintage signage. Across the street from the gas station is Ad Astra Bar and Grill and



## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove

that sounded good for dinner. About half the group decided to return to Council Grove for dinner.

When I got up Saturday morning and looked out the window, I was surprised to see thick fog and everything was covered in heavy layer of dew. Breakfast was a short ride down Main Street to the Saddlerock Café. They have a great breakfast and are known for their homemade breads. Everyone gathered at the Cottage House for the group photo and riders meeting for 32 bikes. Fog was still hanging around as we headed north on K177 highway. At Alta Vista we turned east on K4, and would follow it all morning. The fog was clearing as we passed Lake



## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove



Wabaunsee. The road cuts through the Flint Hills with curves and as you crest a hill you can see miles of uninterrupted prairie. At Eskridge we stopped for a gas break. Just 10 miles down the road we turned off on Windy Hill Road, one mile of black top with more patches that you could possibly dodge. Left on Missile Base Road and we were almost to our destination, Subterra Castle.



**Mitzi, and Gram**



**John and Karen**

## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove

Subterra Castle is an Atlas E Missile Site which has been converted into a residence. The site is on 33 acres, Ed Peden and his wife spent 10 years recovering the abandoned facility and have been living there since 1993. The main entry door is huge weighing 47 tons, and would be opened to load the missile into the



launch bay. As visitors, we entered through a small personnel door, down a long tunnel, and into a large work shop room. Ed gave us a detailed tour and explained how the missile, which was stored horizontally, was loaded, erected, and fueled for launch from the missile bay. There were 27 Atlas E sites, operational from 1961-65. They were pretty much obsolete when they were built, because it took too long to erect, fuel, and prepare for launch.



## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove



The tour continued through the residence area and ended in a large room suitable for large group gatherings, weddings, seances, and who knows what else. The facility is available for Airbnb bookings and Ed is currently marketing the property at a price of 3.2 million dollars.

As we left Subterra I was thinking that was one of the most interesting and unusual places that the Chapter has visited. Lunch was the next stop, Wild Olives restaurant at Lake Wabaunsee Lodge had prepared a taco bar for us. Outside after



**Reinforced concrete ceiling retracts and the missile is erected.**

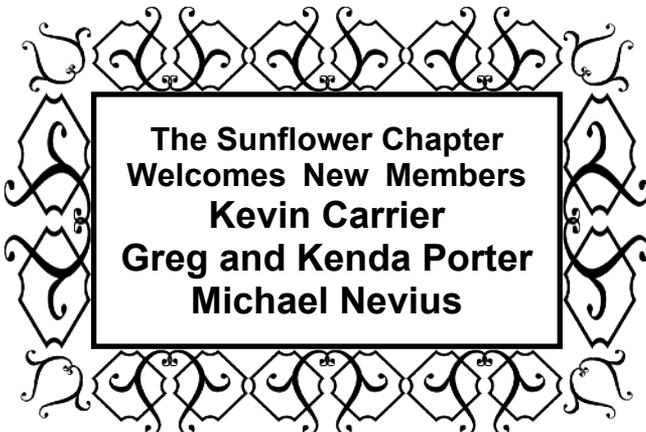
## Fall Ride Returns to Council Grove

lunch, a beautiful afternoon was waiting for us. We loaded up and rode north along the Native Stone Scenic Byway, one of the best stretches natural stone exhibits in the Flint Hills. At Alma there was a gas stop before continuing to a Sunflower favorite, Skyline Mill Creek Scenic Drive. This 17 mile ride leads into Alta Vista, and crosses beautiful farm land with the Skyline Ridge and Mill Creek framing the route.

The final leg of the ride took us back to Council Grove. A small number of members loaded up and returned home that afternoon. The rest of us stayed for dinner at the Hays House that night. It was another great weekend with Sunflower Friends gathered in our traditional fall location.



**The traditional banquet at Hays House.**



# COMMERCIAL ADS

9 - 6 pm Tues-Fri • 9-4 Sat.



**YAMAHA**

**Kawasaki**  
Let the good times roll.

***Dan's Cycle***

Big Dog & Hustler Raptor Mowers  
Sales - Service - Accessories

Kansas largest supply of parts & accessories for all makes

7901 N HOOVER RD.  
HESSTON, KS 67062

620-327-5001  
[www.danscycle.com](http://www.danscycle.com)  
[info@danscycle.com](mailto:info@danscycle.com)



**MOTORCYCLE**  
PARTS • APPAREL  
ACCESSORIES

3236 N. Rock Road Suite 140 Wichita, KS 67226, 316-854-1097



**ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. DRINK WISER.** Brewed by our original  
Choicest Hops, Rice and Barley



# COMMERCIAL ADS



**PURCHASE ANY TIRE AND RECEIVE A**  
**FREE**  
**TIRE INSTALL**

\*Tires must be purchased at Twister City Harley-Davidson

**DOES YOUR HARLEY  
NEED NEW TIRES?**

**WISTER CITY  
HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

**AMERICAN  
SERVICE**

## THE POWDER ROOM

Custom Powder Coating  
and Abrasive Blasting



Steve McHugh  
Owner  
(316) 500-5952



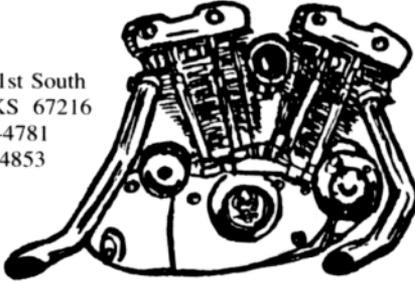
## Crown Custom

**Custom Fabrication**  
**Aluminum, Copper, Stainless Steel**  
**Corey Conyers 316.992.1332**  
**mercory@cox.net**

## COMMERCIAL ADS

### TRUETT & OSBORN CYCLE SERVICE

3345 E. 31st South  
Wichita, KS 67216  
(316) 682-4781  
FAX 682-4853



We Specialize  
In Speed Work  
& Parts

Paul Osborn  
Owner

*Mishelle Whitney*

mishelle@loracompany.com

624 E. Harry Street  
Wichita, KS 67211

316-263-2565 \* 1-800-554-0144

Fax 316-263-5181

www.loracompany.com

# Lorac Company, Inc.

*Basement Window Well Cover \* Powder Coating  
\* Custom Metal Fab \* Media Blasting*

### **B & B CYCLE RESTORATION**

*"No motorcycle should be without a home"*

Braided stainless steel brake lines, throttle, clutch & brake cables



Bill & Jo Ann Blue  
732 South Spruce  
Wichita, KS 67211



*Cylinders bored/Sleeved & Cranks Rebuilt*

(316) 265-1144 or 640-3629

b\_jblue@sbcglobal.net

# SUNFLOWER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**November Meeting is cancelled**

**December Chapter Christmas Party is cancelled.**

**New Years Day “finning party” plans on hold. TBA**

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

**Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ Santa Fe Chapter Bike Show and Swap Meet

**Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

**Feb 26-27<sup>th</sup>** ~ Omaha Chapter National Meet, Fremont NE

**Mar 31<sup>st</sup>** ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

**Apr 9-10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Cherokee Chapter Fandango, Fredericksburg TX

**Apr 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Twisted Oz Bike Show and Swap Meet.

**Sunflower Website** ~[www.sunfloweramca.org](http://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 2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## NATIONAL ROAD RUNS

June 1-3	Phoenix Chapter Road Run, Kanab UT
June 21-23	Rocky Mountain Chptr Road Run, Crested Butte, CO
July 21-23	Yellowstone Chapter Road Run, Billings, MT
Sept 7-9	Roosevelt Chapter Road Run, Detroit Lakes, MN
Sept 20-22	Blue Ridge Chapter Road Run, North Carolina



## NATIONAL MEETS

Feb 26-27	Omaha Chapter	Fremont, NE
Mar 4-6	Sunshine Chapter	New Smyrna Beach, FL
Apr 23-24	Perkiomen Chapter	Oley, PA
May 7-8	European Chapter	Raalte, Netherlands
May 14-16	Southern National	Denton, NC
June 4-6	Empire Chapter	Trumansburg, NY
June 11-12	Viking Chapter	St. Paul, MN
June 18-19	Fort Sutter Chapter	Dixon, CA
June 25-26	Colonial Chapter	Harmony, NJ
July 16-18	Wauseon Meet	Wauseon, OH
Aug 6-7	Yankee Chapter	Terryville, CT
Aug 28-29	Australia Chapter	Bulli Australia
Oct 1-2	Chesapeake Chapter	Upperco, MD