

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

Antique Motorcycle Club of America ®

February 2022



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

of the

Antique Motorcycle Club of America

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Editor

Jim Wellemeyer

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEETINGS

Monthly meetings of the Sunflower Chapter are held at 6:00 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

It's a new year and maybe not everything is new and different from 2021, but I will be working find a good year ahead and hope you will have the same. Since the last newsletter the Chapter has been busy. Board member elections resulted in Bart Grelinger added as Tim Bells term expired. Officers for 2022 were elected and the Board of Directors this year will be Jim Wellemeyer president, Gram Pankratz vice-president, Kelly Wardell secretary/treasurer, John Wiley director, and Bart Grelinger director.

Monthly Chapter meeting time changed to 6:00 pm.

The holidays provided us with opportunities for fellowship. There was a nice turnout for the Chapter Christmas party which was held at the Candle Club. The new year was welcomed by a small group of seven, riding from Bill Page's house promptly at midnight. The temp wasn't subzero but below freezing made it a brisk ride to Twisted Oz where cheered the 2022 with hot chocolate. The traditional "finning party" was held at Twisted Oz on New Year's Day. The temperature had dropped to single digits and the light snow that had threatened us the night before arrived and made slick roads. Demonstrations by Bill Page and Joe Preston were supervised by the original "finner" Buud Redmond.

Plans to host a 2023 National Road Run have been circulating for the last year. Recently the BOD met and reviewed the five sites proposed for the event. Keeping the event based in Kansas emerged as a priority. Eldorado Kansas provides all the needs to support the event and keeps it local with opportunities to give it unique Kansas flavor, it was unanimously approved. Our membership is strong, and you will be asked for your ideas and support. I will submit our application in next few days.

In this issue you will find articles of recent activities, several ads for upcoming local and regional AMCA events, and your 2022 membership card, (if we have received your 2022 dues. If you have not sent it in, we graciously accept past due payments.

I am looking forward to having a wonderful year riding and sharing our hobby with you.

Jim Wellemeyer

Ride-em Don't Hibernate-em

Submitted by Neil Havran

With late November temperatures forecasted to be in the upper 60's, a ride was hastily planned for Tuesday, November 23rd. Now it may be somewhat difficult for a working person to make a ride during the week but for the retired folks, Tuesday is just another Saturday. Be that as it may I decided to play hooky from work and tag along. That, and we will all be dead for a long, long time so we should endeavor to make the best of these opportunities as they arise.

The plan was to meet at Twisted Oz at 9:00 AM which means that we would depart around 9:30 or 10. While we were shooting the breeze, Kelly "Deals" Modlin had learned of a great deal on a brand new BMW located at a dealership in Chicago which as it turns out Vickie found very interesting. Could a deal be struck?



Stay tuned. Anyway, back to the ride. Seven souls would make the run. It was about 45 degrees out and it may be a coincident but as the temperature goes down it seems that so does the age of the bikes. I am pretty sure the oldest bike on the ride was my '77 Goldwing. For the record we had two Goldwings, two Yamaha cruisers, a Valkyrie, a Can-Am and a Kawasaki KLR. We rolled out about 9:45 with Dana in the lead on his modern Goldwing.

Ride-em Don't Hibernate-em



We headed south down through Latham and Cambridge and eventually stopped at Henry's Candy Store in Dexter. This was a good stop since I could finally buy some chocolate coconut clusters and not have them turn into a super-viscous liquid due to the heat. It was at Dexter that we called an audible; we originally planned to head back toward Winfield to grab some lunch but we decided to roll to Moline and explore a new motorcycle salvage operation and check out the Swinging Bridge Café.



No melted candy that day

Ride-em Don't Hibernate-em

Kelly was back on the phone, working the BMW deal for Vickie. We had a great lunch at the café and I am happy to report that we finally got Jerry Ottaway to behave himself in a restaurant due in no small part to the half dozen or so local law enforcement personal seated at the table next to us. More BMW phone calls were placed and I am happy to report that the deal was made. With Vickie now happier than a June bug at a porch light sale, she and Paul decided to cut out and start the trip to Chicago to pick up the bike while still getting back in time for Turkey Day celebrations. Now that is an adventure!



Vickie, very nice ride.

Thanks for the member contributions this month.
Neil Havran, article and photos
Bart Grelinger, article and photos

Ride-em Don't Hibernate-em

After lunch we headed to Vintage Cycles Salvage right along Hwy 160 in Moline. You can't miss it due to the enormous and quite impressive mural painted on the side of the building. Vintage Cycle Salvage is owned by father and son duo Max and Mason Lambly and while the business is relatively new they have a great deal of both new and used parts for American, European and Japanese motorcycles with more on the way. You can reach Max or Mason at 620-583-2133 or on their website www.vintagecyclessalvage.com. After our tour of the facility, I splurged on a 99 cent trinket for the GoldWing. With that we headed back towards Augusta where we eventually separated after another awesome day on the bikes.



Sunflower Holidays



A great crowd at the Sunflower Christmas Party



New Years Eve "frost bite ride"



New Years day "finning party"

Sunflower Holidays

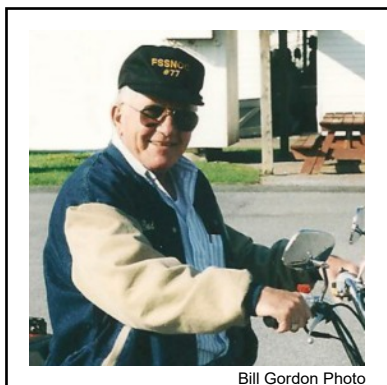


Bill Page demonstrates fin replacement



Joe Preston repairs a fin as the master, Buud Redmond looks on.

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 2005 Spring issue of “The Antique Motorcycle”

This tale actually happened many years ago. My friend, Jerry, and his Grandfather, Gerald, were actively collecting old motorcycles. Gerald had a lead on one about 100 miles east of Wichita, Kansas. The ad said it was a 1913 Harley-Davidson, two cylinder, single speed model.

The pair of collectors picked a nice day and took a leisurely drive to the site mentioned in the ad. The motorcycle was located at the given address and was rolled out into the daylight for a closer inspection. “Well! What is this,” Gerald was quoted as saying, “there is only one cylinder!” The housewife was distraught, thinking of the penalties for false advertising. Gerald was busy informing her that since it had only one cylinder,

Half Price Harley

it should be worth only one half as much as a twin cylinder. Well, the lady agreed and was quite anxious to sell, help load, and see the last of the fellows from Wichita!

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***“Well! What is this,” Gerald was quoted as saying,
“there is only one cylinder!”***

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Several of the Sunflower Chapter members have ridden this machine through the years. One instance happened when Garyl Turley was riding this Harley. Garyl was leading the group and we were heading out of town; the destination was a restaurant, of course. A police vehicle started whistling at us with instructions to “pull over.” Garyl had a license plate wired to the handle bars, since there was no place to bolt a tag on the rear fender. The police officer gave us a lecture and told Turley to take us home, by way of the back roads.

We stayed on the back roads for a few miles, then went on to the restaurant. I am sure we enjoyed a fine meal as that is a habit most of us developed early in life.



2021 Barn Guys Cannonball

Continuation from the November issue. Bart Grelinger tells of the Cannonball journey.

September 15th - Rain continued to plague the riders, but they pushed on, not real pleased but generally unscathed. After the first week the bikes began to require a little a little heavier maintenance with carburetor and clutch adjustments and more regular valve attention. New leaks were popping up but nothing that caused any real concerns.

Stage 6 ended in Myrtle Beach, SC it felt a little like halfway as we were to turn back west from here. That evening 25 to 30 Cannonballers gathered on the beach and in unison ran into the Atlantic Ocean, all screaming like college kids. That evening we closed down the local Tiki bar, pleased we were still full points and ticking up on the leader board.

On stage 8 Bill's bike developed a pocket valve issue and Bill was able to replace both on the side of the road on 15-20 minutes. Still making full points for the day. We ended at Matt Walksler's Wheels Through Time Museum in Maggie Valley NC. This was an incredible collection of bikes and memorabilia, and a



Myrtle Beach and a midnight swim

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball

bucket list must see for the enthusiast. Matt could not have been a better host. He opened his restoration shop up to the riders and many took advantage of his wonderful hospitality. While there, Bill was able to rebuild two pocket valves. Ready to put back in his saddlebags until they were needed again. Tom Banks was unable to repair his front cylinder and Matt quickly offered a whole rebuilt motor for that model that was sitting in the museum, and it was his if he wanted it. "Just send it back when you are done." As you might guess Matt was a previous Cannonballer and knew how much effort goes into this event by the riders and crew. His very generous offer was very graciously accepted. It's the kind of story that will go down in Cannonball history.



Pocket Valve Rebuild

Stage 9 started off without rain but that changed within 30 minutes. It rained hard most of the day. The kind of rain that slowed the trailer race to a crawl for 30-45 minutes at a time. It would have been beyond dangerous on an antique bike with very poor lighting, marginal brakes and limited ability to avoid obstacles. The race was finally called in the afternoon when the roads had become dangerously impassable from running water and debris. Jim Wellemeyer had joined me in Maggie Valley and we went out to pick up the guys in McMinnville TN, just 35 minutes from finishing the days scheduled ride. They looked tired and battered, but not beaten. There is no doubt they would have pushed through to the

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball

finish had the race not been called for the day. That night we were in Murfreesboro TN, their one and only rest day had arrived. The weather had pounded the riders and their bikes every day. It was a great time to get off the bikes get some much-needed rest and plan larger maintenance projects. That evening we had our largest tent revival yet. Lots of stories, lots of laughs and more than enough alcohol. The following afternoon I was to fly home. Bill had always said it was a mistake for me to go home early and he could not have been more right. For two weeks I had completely stepped out of my painful routine and had a taste of what retirement may hold, a new adventure every day! I felt a little younger, made great friends and had a blast. Can't wait to find the ways to engage these tendencies again. Thank you, Bill, Billy and Dave! **(Bart Grelinger)**

Two days earlier I, **(Jim Wellemeyer)**, had caught with the group in Maggie Valley and since then spent my time getting familiar with the routine. The scheduled day of rest and maintenance, in Murfreesboro was another wet one, we spent our time in the trailer or under the pop up working on the bikes. With the work finished up we walked to a nearby steak house for dinner and retired early. The next morning we woke up to familiar grey damp skies, and shortly word came from the race director that Stage 10 was cancelled due to flood warnings and closed roads on the route. After securing the bikes and gear we headed out on a wet drive to Birmingham.



Dave under the popup, next to a Murfreesboro stream

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball

Stage 11, my first day in command of the support truck. The riders left the start optimistic with a better forecast for the day. My first day in the trailer races was hampered by wet highways as late morning thunderstorms developed and the Barn Guys got pounded again. The bikes were performing well through the rain until an erratic red pickup cut across Bill's lane and forced him to lay down the bike. Billy was quickly at his side and helping him get up. Only minor scrapes and bumps, Bill was ok too. The hit and run was only a minor delay and everyone arrived in Tunica MS at the Horseshoe Casino on schedule. After a short rest there was routine maintenance and a thorough inspection of Bill's bike, which was in good shape.

For the first time in a week we were greeted by sunrise with a clear sky. It was a welcome forecast for the ride to Arkadelphia. I arrived at the hotel and got setup for laundry day as there was several days of wet riding gear to hang up and let dry in the sun. One of the Cannonball riders, Scott Byrd, is the mayor of Arkadelphia so the reception at the finish in downtown was tremendous. There was huge crowd and as each rider checked in, they were announced and greeted with cheers and applause. The reception from Kansans was great with Kelly Modlin, his brother

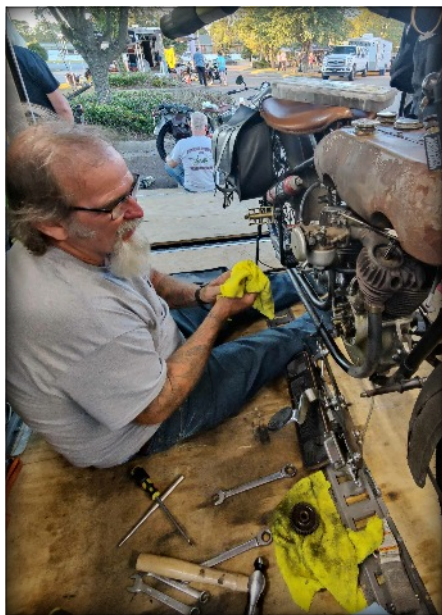


Laundry Day

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball



Big reception in Arkadelphia



Bill was quick to find the cam problem.



It was a late night before Bill was satisfied. Greg Porter assists, Kenda watching.

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball

Tracy, daughter Kelsey, Sunflower members Greg and Kenda Porter, all having made the trip to Arkadelphia. The Barn Guys arrived one by one, first Billy, then Dave, but Bill was nowhere to be seen. I soon found out that Bill had broke down and was riding the trailer in. All bikes remained on display until 5 pm, and the town served dinner for all. The guys were anxious to get the bikes back to the hotel, Bill was disappointed that his perfect score was ruined, but was determined he was going to finish the race and got right to work on the bike. It didn't take long to find the problem, a broken cam follower, which is a rare failure. Parts were no problem since Bill had a complete spare engine in the trailer. It wasn't long before the old Harley roared back to life, but it just didn't sound right. After short test ride, it was back in the trailer and more work. It was late night before Bill was ready to say good enough.

Stage 13 takes us to Nacogdoches Texas the bikes all arrived with full miles for the day, but Bill still was not satisfied with the way his was running. Another evening of trouble shooting and tweaking with the same results, it was running but not as strong as before.

Stage 14 was a long day, across hot Texas highways that were busy with traffic, before arriving in Victoria. The Cherokee Chapter hosted the arrival. Bigger in Texas? Yes. Another huge crowd welcomed us, with live music, a car show, and steak feed. Still frustrated with the way his bike was running, Bill continued to try and improve it.

Stage 15 looked to be much the same as the day before, long hot highways that were less than scenic. The Barn Guys all started on time, anxious to get this day behind them, and then prepare for the final day. I was fueling the truck and airing up a slow leaking tire that had been plaguing me for several days, then I got a call from Bill. Billy had broken a push rod, another fluke part failure. Dad was ready at his side and in no time had donated the push rod off his bike. Billy was on his way and I needed to go pick up Bill. They had only made it about 50 miles, so it didn't take me long to find Bill and get him loaded up. The sweep truck had come by to pick up Bill, but he told them to go on, that I was coming to take him in.

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball



**Bill donates a push rod to
Billy's bike**



**A big Texas reception by the
Cherokee Chapter**

At this point Bill was not concerned about points or penalties, he just wanted Billy to finish with full points and miles. We reached McAllen Texas, then set up to work on Bills bike and it wasn't long before Billy and Dave rode up. Bill was still not satisfied with how the bike was performing and although the final stage was a short ride he did not want to miss crossing the finish. Billy and Dave were only 90 miles from finishing with full miles and points, so everything was double checked.

Stage 16 and the grand finish. The excitement among all the riders was building and there were big smiles on all faces at the start of the final day. The end of this 3700 mile journey was within reach. The route to the Padre Island Convention Center crept through several miles of the main drag. About halfway I encountered a running event check point, the street was barricaded and all traffic routed thru a neighborhood. After 30 minutes, just as I got back to the main street, they opened it back up. At the finish line, anticipation was high with all the crews hoping to see their rider arrive in the next group that was being escorted though town. Finally all the Barn Guys arrived.

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball



The finish line reception in Padre Island.

The excitement, relief, and pride showed on all the riders faces. Billy and Dave finished with all miles and points. Dave placed 9th overall and Billy 11th. Bill placed 49th but was proud to have finished his 3rd Cannonball with his son alongside.

The 2021 Cannonball was capped off with by an evening banquet and awards at the Marriot Hotel. It was a relaxing evening next to the beach of the Gulf of Mexico. For me this trip was an opportunity that I felt couldn't be turned down. Thanks to Bill, Billy and Dave for allowing me to be part of their journey.



Time to unwind and celebrate a great accomplishment.

2021 Barn Guys Cannonball



Congratulations to Team Barn Guys



Upcoming Events

6th Annual Twisted Oz Vintage Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet

Saturday April 9th, 10 AM – 5 PM
Registration & Setup 8AM–10AM

Vintage Ride Friday April 8, 9AM
Swap Meet Saturday April 9, 10 AM

Free admission

Free Bike Show

Parts & bikes must be 25 yrs or older

Vendors \$10

Food available on site

Vintage Consignment Auction

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Auction starts at 2 PM

Contact: Kelly Modlin 316-977-9257

Bring your Vintage

Bikes and Parts to:

601 W. 7th Augusta, KS 67010

Contacts

Swap Meet: Jim Wellemeyer 316-461-1778

Bike Show: Bill Page 316-619-4736

Twisted Oz: Kelly Modlin 316-977-9257

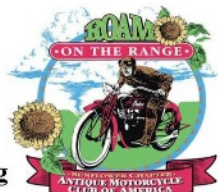
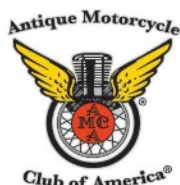
Jerry Ottaway 316-644-4258

Paul Belt 316-239-9258

Forms & info at www.sunfloweramca.org

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Sunflower Antique Motorcycle Club



Upcoming Events

**Sunday, Feb 6th 2022 - 12th Annual Santa Fe Trail
Antique Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet**

**Join the Santa Fe Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle
Club of America (AMCA) for one of the largest Antique
motorcycle gatherings in the Midwest!
2022 Theme: Bikes from the 60's and 70's**

**Location: 2120 Harper Street, Douglas County
Fairgrounds Building 21, Lawrence, Kansas 66046**

43rd Annual 2022 Lincoln Highway National Antique Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet

**Presented by Omaha Chapter Antique Motorcycle Club of America
Open to the Public ★ Admission \$6**

Friday, Feb. 25th 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 26th 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**★ Christensen Field ★
1710 W 16th Street
Fremont, NE 68025**

Dan's Cycle

**12th Annual Open House
Vintage Bike Show and Swap Meet
Saturday February 26th 9 – 3
7901 N Hoover Rd, Hesston, KS 67062**

Upcoming Events



The Sunflower Chapter will have a booth at this event.

We will be promoting our Chapter and the Twisted Oz Bike Show and Swap Meet.

Late Development

There are several members who have indicated they would be interested in meeting in Kerrville a couple of days before and ride the Texas Hill country. As soon as plans are firmed up, you will get an email.



This event donates to the Disabled American Veterans. AMCA member Pat Martin is one of the organizers. Make plans to attend or show a bike and support the DAV.

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9 - 6 pm Tues-Fri • 9-4 Sat.



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SUNFLOWER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

February 6th ~ Santa Fe Chapter Bike Show and Swap Meet

February 23th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

February 26th ~ Omaha Chapter Bike Show Swap Meet

March 30th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

April 27th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

April 1,2,3 ~ Cherokee Chapter Fandango

April 9th ~ Twisted Oz Swap Meet and Bike Show

May 25th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

**Please note that the monthly Chapter Meeting
time has been changed to 6:00 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 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NATIONAL ROAD RUNS

September 6-8	La Crosse, WI. Driftless Chapter
September 14-16	Dickson, TN. Music City Chapter
September 19-21	Republic, WA. Evergreen Chapter
September 26-28	Lake Tahoe, CA. Fort Sutter Chapter



NATIONAL MEETS

February 25-26	Fremont, NE. Omaha Chapter
March 3-5	New Smyrna Beach, FL. Sunshine Chapter
April 22-23	Oley, PA. Perkiomen Chapter Meet
May 27-28	Raalte, Netherlands. European Chapter
June 3-5	Trumansburg, NY. Empire Chapter Ntnl Meet
June 10-11	St. Paul, MN. Viking Chapter
June 17-18	Dixon, CA. Fort Sutter Chapter
June 24-25	Harmony, NJ. Colonial Chapter
July 15-17	Wauseon, OH. Wauseon National Meet
August 5-6	New England TBD Yankee Chapter
August 27-28	Bulli, Au, Australia Chapter Bulli Show Grnd
Sept 30-Oct 1	Upperco, MD. Chesapeake Chapter