

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

Antique Motorcycle Club of America ®

August 2022



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

of the

Antique Motorcycle Club of America

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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

August already, the year is just flying by. Members of the Chapter have been busy with rides and events. The spring ride in Missouri was great riding and a recent outing to Moline was a bigger event than we expected. These recent activities and more can be found in this issue.

In July, our members in the Hays area were busy with the Fort Hays Vintage Bike Show and Swap Meet. This event is a benefit for the Disabled American Veterans. Pat Martin, Sunflower Ambassador, did an excellent job of promoting, and organizing the event and with the help of the volunteers they raised over \$7000 for the DAV. Congratulations to all.

Plans are being made for a Fall Chapter Ride. The ride will be a rerun of a 2014 ride from Junction City, that year we had a rendezvous with the Cannonball. Details for accommodations and the weekend are in this issue.

Looking further to the future, in September 2023, we will host a National Road Run. There is much planning and many details to be worked out. Regular planning meetings will begin August 17 at Spears Restaurant, 6 PM. All members are encouraged to participate and bring your ideas.

The extreme heat we are having has discouraged some plans for getting together but if a cool forecast shows up you may get short notice by email for an evening ride.

I hope to see many of you in September for our Junction City Fall Ride.

Jim Wellemeyer



Moline Vintage Bike Show

June 25th Sunflower members, Kelly Wardell and Ellen Hittle, John Wiley, Bill Worthy, Gram Pankratz, Kevin Moore, Steve Spencer, Eric Erickson, Gary Lewis, and Jim Wellemeyer met at Twisted Oz to ride to Moline. In April on the Twisted Oz meet ride we stopped in Moline at Vintage Cycles Salvage and Max Lambky invited us to come to a motorcycle show and swap meet.

It was a beautiful morning with the temp about 80, a little wind, and scattered clouds. It was a very pleasant ride thru the southern Flint Hills and farmlands. Everything was as green as shamrocks. We rode south from Leon and while stopped for a break in Burden several other bikes passed through. At Cambridge we passed a group of Gold Wing trikes and some other bikes who were stopped for a break. By the time we arrived at Moline that group had caught up with us there were about 20 bikes total arriving.



A nice summer morning for a ride. Shaft drives were the ruling class of bikes.

Moline Vintage Bike Show



Welcome to Moline

It was a surprise to see that this event was more than just a bike show. It looked like the whole county showed up and was lining Main Street. There were bikes of all ages and vintage cars. Shortly after we arrived a parade came down the street with all the typical entries; Shriners, high school cheer team, cars, trucks, local law enforcement, volunteer fire department, highway patrol, and



Moline Vintage Bike Show

first responder vehicles, with flashing lights and sirens. They made their way to a vacant lot at the end of the street, regrouped and turned around then made a second pass.

I was looking over the bikes and cars entered in the show when I came to one I recognized. It was a black 1981 GoldWing, as I turned around, I looked up to see Dan Fox coming towards me and the bike. Dan had told me he was planning to ride down with us but was a little late getting to Augusta and our group left without him. Dan and his two sons took a faster route and made it to Moline before us. We all milled around till it was getting close to lunch time. Our return plan was to go back through Latham and have lunch at the Saloon. Dan told us to go on because he had his bike entered in the show. Turns out he stuck around to win Best Metric Bike award.



The parade consisted of high school cheer leaders, the Shiners riding team, every first responder, all the law enforcement and volunteer vehicles in the county.

Moline Vintage Bike Show

The remaining group rode to Latham for lunch and a cool down since the temperature was now about 95. After some lunch and cold drinks, we were refreshed and ready to head for home. What a great day.



Dan Fox, awarded Best Metric Bike



Dan and Theresa on the GoldWing in Neosho

(scary) Larry and the (snortin') Norton

Contributed by Neil Havran

You can read all about the Sunflower Chapter's Spring Ride in Neosho, MO elsewhere in this issue. Our hosts, Jerrod and Stacey Swartz put on a great program and made it pretty much impossible to not want to return in the future. However, as with most rides of this type, they seldom go off without drama of some kind. So we have the interesting tale of Larry Burke and his ride on a newly acquired Norton Electra 400.

Larry recently sold his very nice 1941 Indian 4 to Stu Preston and was in the market for a smaller, more maneuverable bike to ride. He had seen a restored version of a Norton Electra 400 at the recent Twisted Oz meet auction, but the bidding was out of his range. Enter Kiwi Mike (Tomas), the vintage Indian parts dealer, who hooked Larry up with the owner of one of these models out in California. A deal was struck and Kiwi Mike delivered the bike to Larry at the Neosho Spring Ride.

The Electra 400 was built between 1963 and 1965 and featured an electric starter, unusual for a Brit bike from that time period. Norton's parent group wanted to compete in America with



Everyone's ready on a beautiful Friday afternoon

(scary) **Larry** and the (snortin') **Norton**

the Honda 305 Superhawk. It didn't exactly pan out that way with only a few hundred getting sold. But on this day, it was Larry's privilege to ride a survivor starting with the initial Friday night ride. The ride was nice but a little on the long side for a Friday night deal. To the consternation of a few we "put a little gravel in our travel" on our trip to the way point – a place called Jolly Mill. The gravel road was also pretty rough causing bottomed out suspensions on a few of the bikes. After arriving at Jolly Mill, I saw Larry still sitting on the Norton. When I asked him how it was going, he replied "not so well". The ignition key had departed the switch on the rough road and even more disconcerting was the fact that the clutch cable broke. I don't know how Larry got the thing stopped without it but since he has been riding motorcycles since Admiral Dewey was a seaman....wait...what!?!....he managed to get it stopped safely. Now this little Norton ran well but the old girl had been previously enjoyed... a lot. In addition to the key and the broken clutch cable the kick stand was broken and could only be effectively deployed using two people: one to hold the bike up and the other to reach underneath it to pull the stand down. A "handstand" vs. a kickstand if you will.



Larry on the snortin Norton

(scary) Larry and the (snortin') Norton

As we triaged the bike it was obvious the priority was to fix the clutch cable, or the Norton was going on the stretcher and Larry's riding w/e would be over. The missing key situation was rectified with a screwdriver and there were plenty of folks around to help with the kickstand, eeerrr handstand. Now these clutch cable barrels are soldered on with flux, solder, and a solder pot by someone who knows what they are doing. I'm afraid we only had one of the four, so no Jolly at Jolly Mill. We did have a piece of separated solder and the cable was intact other than that. One of the guys got an electrical terminal out of his tool bag and with some time, trial and a little bit of OCD we were able crimp/jam all that stuff together and wedge enough material on the end of the cable to keep it from pulling through the barrel when the clutch was activated. But would it hold? I am happy to report that not only did it hold for the return trip Friday night but Larry successfully ran on the fix for the next day's entire ride – some 185 miles!

Until next time, keep the shiny/nickel plated/parkerized side up, Neil.



Roadside repair on the Norton

Hays Bike Show and Swap Meet

In March, the Sunflower Chapter added the Hays Associate Chapter. Pat Martin was the lead in getting the area Sunflower members together to form the Associate. Pat has spent the last year organizing the Fort Hays Vintage Bike Show and Swap Meet. This was the second year for the event which benefits the Disabled American Veterans. The Sunflower Chapter participated as a sponsor.

The Hays event was held at the Ellis County Fairgrounds. The bike show was inside an air conditioned building, and the swap meet outside in the heat but with some shade from trees. There was a beer garden set up with cold drinks. It was a Saturday and Sunday event with the awards on Sunday afternoon. The number of entries were down a little from the first year. There were Sunflower entries from Wichita by Steve Kirk, John Wiley, Mike Bahnmaier, and Jim Wellemeyer. Greg Porter brought his bike from Hoyt Kansas.

Sunday afternoon there was a blind auction with people bidding on merchandise that was displayed. The bidding was for one of 10 backpacks which contained a list of merchandise. The winning bid chose a backpack received the merchandise on the list. It was very lively bidding. Steve Kirk had a Harley roller and parts he had brought for the swap meet. It wasn't receiving much interest and he donated it to the auction, which brought \$825.



Hays Bike Show and Swap Meet



Opening ceremony



Swap meet and beer garden

Hays Bike Show and Swap Meet

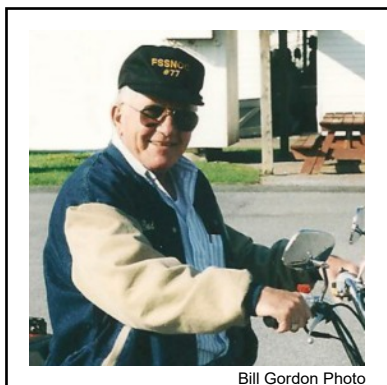


The meet wound up with bike awards which were custom made from old parts and they all resembled characters. John Wiley brought home two, Foreign Original, and Foreign Modified.

The Fort Hays Vintage Bike Show and Swap Meet, was a successful fund raiser for the Disabled American Veterans.

My congratulations to Pat Martin and his crew of volunteers.

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 Fallr issue of "The Antique Motorcycle"

The first antique motorcycle that I acquired was a 1914 single-speed Harley Twin. It was in a deplorable condition when I obtained it. However, one in the same condition now, as it was then, would be a very nice find. For example, the decals were good enough that an artist had no trouble whatsoever copying them so as to make new decals. At the time there were no decals available. Can you believe that? No decals available for a Harley? Well, whatever, I took great pains to restore the Harley. It looked very good, and it ran very well, too. Being a single speed, it accelerated a bit slow, and it was limited on the top end; however, I well remember reaching 50 miles per hour, but not over that. I made a cushion seat from a G.I. luggage rack, and

No Point Here

my son, Stan, would ride on the pad. He was about seven or eight years old, but the Harley did not mind.

Once, when we attended the “Trail of Tears” tour in northwest Oklahoma and were riding the Harley through the tour route, it started missing and progressively got worse. Finally, I had to stop. While checking the spark, I discovered the tip was gone from the adjustable point in the magneto. This caused a real wide gap between the points. After closing the gap and polishing the dab of solder that remained where the point tip had been, it started easily and ran pretty well. But not for long! The solder blob soon got smoked up and stopped working. I had to dismantle the magneto a bit, polish the solder with a convenient rock, reassemble the magneto and ride again. This happened many times, and several rocks were used and abandoned along the roadside. The caravan of motorcycles was well out of sight, but the trouble truck was staying with me, and we kept moving, but slowly. We finally made it, and we rushed to be ready for the banquet. There, I was presented with a tool kit that contained all of the rocks I had discarded! Each had a streak of lead across it where I had polished the points. Needless to say, we had fun.



2022 Spring Ride

When a return visit to Neosho Missouri for the Sunflower Spring Ride was suggested by Jerod Swartz, I thought some would say haven't we done this recently, and the answer of course was yes. Remember that great weekend last October, and with those memories we planned a trip the first weekend of June.

Jerod had a Friday afternoon ride for us and also Saturday route planned. Everyone met at Jerod's place Friday afternoon and after recounting our past few months the group was ready to ride. Just a couple of miles away we turned off on Old Ritchey Rd. This blacktop farm road was an incredible tree lined, curvy, hilly, five miles. We continued on to a county road for a few miles when the group came to a stop, then turned left on a dirt road. This seemed unusual, as our ride are almost always on pavement. "Dirt road" might be exaggerating the conditions. There were so many huge potholes I couldn't dodge them fast enough, and Larry Burke who I was following disappeared a couple of times until reemerging from the bottom. Well, this was obviously a wrong turn and the group ahead of a cautious Larry had disappeared into a cloud of dust. We came to a crossroad, and stopped to see which way to turn to follow the cloud of dust. There was no clue which way the



Old Ritchey Rd, what a great start for the ride

2022 Spring Ride



group went, finally Jerod rode up from the rear and we followed him down the dirt trail and eventually turned onto a county highway. We finally made it to our destination, Jolly Mill Park.

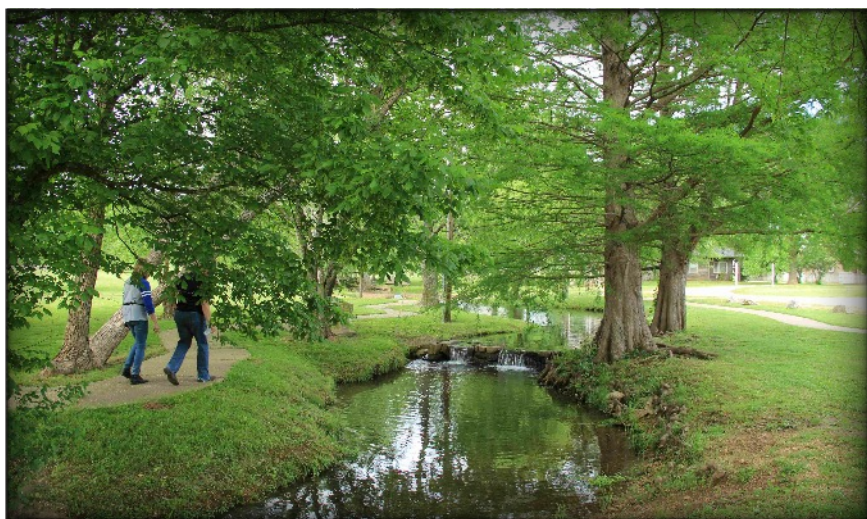
Jolly Mill is a grist mill from the 1840's on Capps Creek. Recent rains had the creek running at a rivers pace.



Jolly Mill

2022 Spring Ride

The old mill is still there but not operating or open for visitors, it's a very peaceful place with the water flowing over the dam. The group had gathered in the parking lot, checking over the bikes for loose or missing pieces. One bike was loaded on a trailer and there appeared to be some concern at Larry's bike. But that's a separate story you can also read in this issue.



Jolly Mill park grounds

2022 Spring Ride

It wasn't long and we were on the way back. Jerod and Stacy had invited everyone back to their place for supper. Grilled bratwurst from the Walnut Valley Meat Market in Augusta was the main course with the usual sides and refreshments. It was a great evening and start for the weekend.

Saturday started with breakfast at Angels Café in Neosho. We left there with 17 bikes riding into the Missouri countryside. The first of the route was familiar from the ride last fall before turning



2022 Spring Ride

south towards Shell Knob. We stopped at an overlook just before Shell Knob, a great place for a group picture. After a gas stop we continued towards Roaring River, our lunch stop. On the way we passed through Berryville Arkansas where we continued on AR Hwy 221. What a great road through the Ozarks and then north through Eureka Springs. The route thru Eureka was residential with many twists and turns, up and down hills.



A short break at Shell Knob overlook



We arrived at Roaring River State Park on time for lunch. Lunch reservation was at Emery Melton Inn and Convention Center, a very nice facility, however they did not seem well prepared to handle our group. So, after a leisurely 2 hour lunch we were ready for the ride to continue.

2022 Spring Ride



Paul Ryan's BMW had ridden the trailer for the last hour, so he had spent part of his lunch in the parking lot working on what he thought was a fuel problem. Now it seemed to be ready to continue and we were off, out of the parking lot, and up a hill where it crapped out again, a poor spot to load up.



Paul's BMW went back on the trailer

The delay around lunch caused us to cut short the ride back. I initially had the route mapped at 185 miles, by the time we got back to the hotel my odometer read 202, a long day for us antique riders, and a good thing we cut it a little short. We were all glad to get back and cool off with some cold ones before loading up bikes.

A pizza supper at Jerod's place was next on the agenda. Sitting around a fire with friends, reminiscing and ribbing each other about the day, enjoying Jerod and Stacy's little resort next to Shoal Creek, what more could you ask for?

Upcoming Events

Sunflower Fall Ride September 23,24,25th Junction City Kansas

Best Western Hotel

604 E Chestnut Street Junction City, KS 66441

785-210-1212

Sunflower Antique Motorcycle = \$89 plus tax

Friday ride to supper from hotel at 5:00 pm

Saturday ride from hotel 9:30 am

- Lunch in Wamego at Friendship House
- Supper Saturday @ Tyme-Out Steak House

Sunday Breakfast @ Stacy's Restaurant 10 am

I need your **RSVP** to secure meal reservations

Reply to: Jim Wellemeier 316-461-1778 or jwellemeier@cox.net



DRIFTLESS CHAPTER

National Road Run

La Crosse Wisconsin

**Sept. 6-7-8
2022**

Enjoy the scenic
Driftless Region
of

Wisconsin
Minnesota & Iowa

Join a group of Sunflower
members at this National
Road Run. Registration
closes soon at the
AMCA web site.
www.antiquemotorcycle.org

Breakfast Ride to Potwin
August 14th

Leaving Twisted Oz

At 8:00

The museum will be displaying
sidecars, if you have one bring it.

Member Classifieds



For Sale, 3 rail trailer \$950
Contact Jerry Ottaway, 316-644-4158



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- Wide Glide, includes CVO models: 1996-2017

Sportster

- Iron: 2009-
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- Roadster: 2018-
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- Custom: 1996-2019

Oil change kit, won't fit my Hondas.
Contact Jim Wellemeier 316-461-1778

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SUNFLOWER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Aug 14th Breakfast ride to Potwin. Leaving the Museum at 8:00

Aug 17th Road Run planning meeting. 6 pm Spears Restaurant

Aug 31st ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

Sept 23, 24, 25th ~ Chapter Fall Ride from Junction City

Sept 28th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

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

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

December 3rd Club Christmas Party, Details TBA

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	Empire Chapter Ntnl Meet (Cancelled)
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
July 30-31	New England TBD Yankee Chapter
August 27-28	Bulli, Au, Australia Chapter Bulli Show Grnd
Sept 30-Oct 1	Upperco, MD. Chesapeake Chapter