

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

Antique Motorcycle Club of America ®

February 2023



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

Happy New Year to all. 2023 will be a big year for the Sunflower Chapter. The board of directors met in December, officers this year are Jim Wellemeyer president, Gram Pankratz vice-president, Kelly Wardell secretary/treasurer, John Wiley director, and Bart Grelinger director. At the meeting, plans for the Sunflower Chapter National Road Run were reviewed, and a budget established.

The 1st of January the AMCA opened online registrations for all National Meets and Road Runs. Response for our event has been very good and it is sure to sell out. Early registration is recommended, there is a 100% refund if you have to cancel prior to 60 days. To register, go to www.antiquemotorcycle.org, Log-in, and find the Sunflower Road Run under the Events heading. If you have any problems registering, please feel free to contact me.

In this issue you will find articles of recent holiday activities, ads for upcoming local and regional AMCA events. Please support our neighboring Chapter events. In the back of each issue we have ads from local businesses who support our hobby. Anytime you visit one of them, let them know you are a member of the Club and appreciate their support.

I thank those of you who have promptly renewed your membership, your 2023 membership card is enclosed. If you have not sent your 2023 dues we graciously accept past due payments, and you will find a renewal form included, instead of a card.

The first Chapter events for the year will arrive before you know it. The Twisted Oz swap meet and bike show will be Saturday April 8th. Starting this year, the AMCA Board of Directors chooses one local Chapter event to visit. This year a member of the BOD will attend the Twisted Oz meet, nice to be recognized. A spring ride has been discussed with a date of May 13th, but no details have been decided.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our events, other chapter events, and riding with you throughout this year.

Jim Wellemeyer



Bill Gordon 1928 - 2023

Submitted by Larry Burke

Lost a great friend and business partner this week, 93 year old Bill Gordon.

First really began to know the man over 20 years ago. Bill was still dapper in his step, always had a good story and hearty laugh. Bill had showed up at Jerry Ottaway's helping with an electrical problem that Jerry was having with a wiring job on a 38 Indian4. After looking the situation over, I think Bill just basically scrapped everything Jerry had done and started building a new loom and harness from scratch. Neat and quick with a soldiering iron defined Bill's work, analyzing and explaining as he went how most people wired like this or trying to understand Indian Motorcycle manuals was a trick sometimes.

Bill readily saw while working with Jerry, the need in our hobby for wiring diagram explanations, or how various Indian models roller switches work, that he started publishing manuals to explain with ample redundancy what Indian Motorcycle Co. had designed with lack luster explanation. Basic manuals produced by Indian assume the mechanic had a broad background in the art of



**Bill with Jerry Ottaway, helping Larry
with his 28 Indian4**

Bill Gordon 1928 - 2023

motorcycle maintenance and this was a stumbling block for a lot of us new to the hobby of vintage motorcycles particularly Indian.

With his field experience for General Electric X-ray Medical sales and maintenance , Bill would explain, explain, and re-explain, for redundancies in accuracy we're Bill's forte's. He once reminded me that in some small community hospitals that were stuck out in fare away corners that even the janitor had to know how to adjust an X-ray machine. Bill carried this over into the various wiring and timing manuals he produced.

I last sat and visited with Bill in mid-November, I had just returned from Missouri where I helped a friend ignition time his 1925 Henderson Deluxe. I shared with him my experience using his new Henderson Timing Manual with great success. Bill and I rewrote a new section together....redundancy, redundancy, redundancy....

Larry Burke

I first met Bill Gordon in 2006 when I joined the Club. He always impressed me with his knowledge of the motorcycles and photography. I think he viewed me, the new comer, with a little skepticism as the only bike I owned was a Honda and Bill was a Harley-Davidson man through and through. Bill was the editor of this newsletter for many years. I took many photos at our events and Bill would ask me to contribute them for his articles. Typical of Bill, he had a specific format and size that I was to submit them in. That led to me writing some articles and eventually being coerced into editor. I still use the same layouts and format that Bill setup for the the newsletter. Bill was a great teacher through his technical publications and newsletter articles.

Jim Wellemeyer

Bill Gordon 1928 - 2023

From February 2010 Sunflower Newsletter

Sunflower Chapter AMCA Biography

By Bart Grelinger



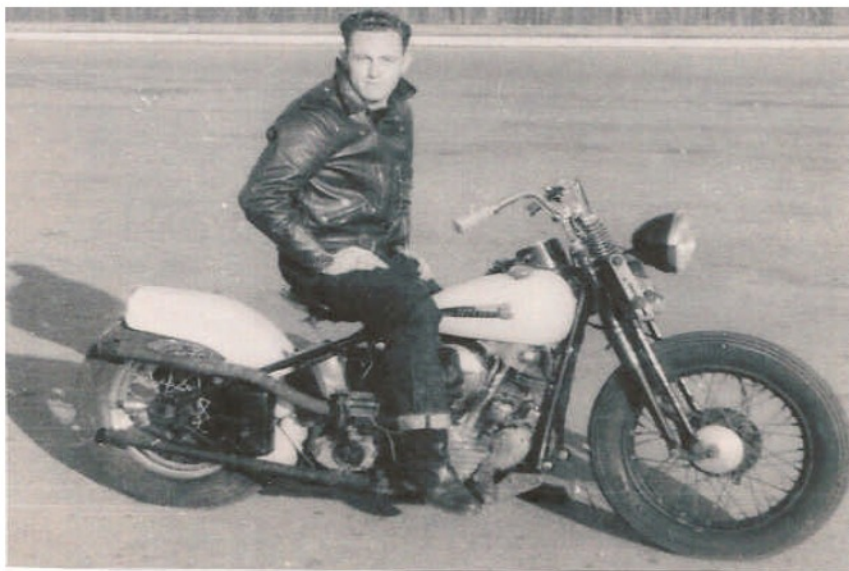
The “Joker” 1950 Panhead, Restored-2003

It was a magical day on May 1, 1940, Bill Gordon, who was eleven at the time, was with his family at a May Day celebration in McPherson, Kansas when he witnessed the owner of a local motorcycle shop performing a “trick riding” demonstration. Bill recalls this was the first time he really became aware of motorcycles, and it clearly changed the course of his future. He could hardly wait until he would have the chance to ride one of these machines himself.

Bill Gordon 1928 - 2023



October 1951, Fort Bliss, TX



April 1953, San Francisco, CA

Sunflower Holidays

Chapter Christmas Party

The annual Chapter Holiday festivities started on Saturday December 3rd with Christmas party and dinner. The activity was at a new location this year. Ellen Hittle suggested we could meet at her business, CGP Group Office. Their conference center provided a very nice room and supporting area. The available multimedia system was used for a slide show of the last two years of activities. A plentiful dinner was catered by Mediterranean Grill featuring middle eastern cuisine.

The venue features a balcony overlooking the Arkansas River. It was a little too cold to enjoy the tables and seating outside, but at about 7 pm the fire pots in front of the Keeper of the Plains statue were lit and could be seen.

Everyone enjoyed getting together and visiting with friends who live more remote and only make a few appearances each year. We closed the party wishing all the best Holidays and with plans for New Years activities. Thanks to Ellen for making the meeting arrangements and thanks to Gram Pankratz for arranging the meal.



The CGP Group venue was very nice

Sunflower Holidays



Holiday Greetings From Our Members



Sunflower Holidays



Holiday Greetings From Our Members



Sunflower Holidays



Holiday Greetings From Our Members



Sunflower Holidays



Holiday Greetings From Our Members



Sunflower Holidays

New Year's Eve 2023

This was the fifth year that members gathered on New Year's Eve to ride into the new year. Bill Page is the organizer of this event, and we met at his house. The temperature was tolerable and right around 40 degrees, much better than some rides that were down in the teens. Promptly at midnight we fired up and rode into the year 2023. A short ride through Bill's neighborhood and then on to Augusta Lake and ending at Twisted Oz Museum. Inside it was warm and we feasted on Little Debbie's cakes and hot chocolate. After a group picture we departed for a little rest before returning later that morning.



Quiet waiting before rumbling into the New Year

Sunflower Holidays



Toasting the New Year with hot chocolate.

Sunflower Holidays

2023 Sunflower Finning Party

New Years Day for the Sunflower Chapter has for many years been a traditional gathering. The “finning party”, was originated by Buud Redmond. Meeting at Buud’s shop on New Years Day would attract motorcycle enthusiasts, even from out of state, and they would bring parts that were wounded in action. Typically there were cylinders with missing or damaged cooling fins and sometimes other cast iron parts. Buud would demonstrate his cast iron welding skills, using a gas torch, and graft new fins on the cylinders.

On this day we again welcomed Buud to the party. He no longer flicks the flame of the torch but supervised the demonstrations. Over the years many have watched and learned, today Bill Page, Joe Preston, and George Unruh, demonstrated their skills. Buud enjoyed looking on and gave his approval of the welds. There was plenty of selection on the food tables including a traditional pot of black-eyed peas for good luck in the new year. Thanks to all who came and made the day a success.



Kelly and Buud with “Harley Bones”

Sunflower Holidays



Twisted Oz is a great place to gather and ring in the New Year

Sunflower Holidays



Bill, George and Joe demonstrate the art



FINTASTIC

2022 Fall Regional Ride



Buud casts a skeptical eye at the welds



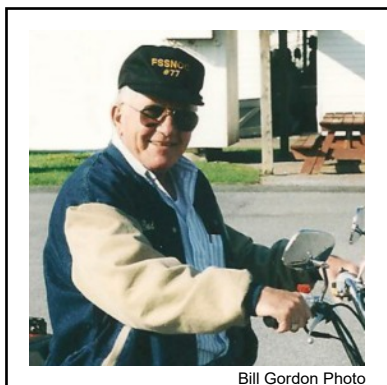
2022 Fall Regional Ride



Lots of selection and plenty of food for all



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 2006 Spring issue of "The Antique Motorcycle"

We have a cabin on a small lake about 75 miles east of Wichita. We go there for a weekend several times each year. As a rule, I will ride a motorcycle two or three times each year. My wife, Ruth Ann, follows in the van, hauling groceries, supplies, etc. This tale is about the return leg of one of these trips.

I was riding my 1937 Indian Scout. It was a really hot day, no wind, but quite pleasant while riding. At that time there was a four-way stop sign at the main intersection in Towanda, Kansas. Towanda is a small village about 20 miles east of Wichita. As I slowed to a stop at this four-way intersection, there arose from my Scout a huge cloud of gasoline vapor!

Another Lucky Day

I just knew that she was going to blow, and I would suffer dearly. As I bailed off, I turned the ignition off and backed away several feet. About this time my wife pulled up behind me.

**It was a really hot day,
no wind, but quite
pleasant while riding.**

I asked her to please find a fire station, and tell them that there was about to be a terrible fire at the stop sign. Please hurry! Several minutes passed. I ventured closer and the gasoline vapor had drifted away. I was able to inspect the machine and determine that the main tank had split the bottom seam and dumped the gasoline right on the hot engine. By opening the reserve valve, I was able to start the engine. About then my wife pulled up and gave me the news that she had never been able to find the fire station.

After an uneventful trip the rest of the way home, we learned that Towanda has a Volunteer Fire Department, and there was no one on duty at the unmarked building.

This was another lucky day for me.



Upcoming Events

Sunflower AMCA National Road Run

September 11- 13, 2023
El Dorado KS

Ride the Kansas Flint Hills

Rendezvous with the Cannonball
in Augusta KS September 14

Register at www.antiquemotorcycle.com
Details at www.sunfloweramca.org

13TH ANNUAL VINTAGE

1920's & 1930's

SANITA FE TRAIL CHAPTER
ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF AMERICA

**MOTORCYCLE SHOW
& SWAP MEET**

THE ART DECO YEARS

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
2120 HARPER ST.
LAWRENCE, KS

FEB 5, 2023

\$5 ENTRY FEE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN FEB. 9 AM TO 2 PM

Motorcycle entry fee: \$10 each for the first 2 bikes, additional entries are free.
Hot show times: 8 am to 5:30 pm. Vendor space is \$25.
All motorcycles must be at least 10 years old and appear maintainable. Visit SPTrail.org or call 913-266-8134.
Bike entry & vendor applications can be sent to: SP Trail Show, 2027 W. 30th St, Lawrence, KS 66049

TEXAS FANDANGO

GILLESPIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

TEXAS Fandango

TEXAS FANDANGO
CHEROKEE CHAPTER OF THE A.M.C.A.
MARCH 31 - APRIL 2, 2023

VINTAGE MOTORCYCLES
BIKE SHOW - PARTS SWAP MEET - CHOPPER SHOW
PRO & AMATEUR RACES
FLAT TRACK - CHOPPER DRAGS - MINI BIKES
GILLESPIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS
RACE DAY APRIL 1ST
MORE INFO AT THETEXASFANDANGO.COM

44th Annual
2023 Lincoln Highway National
Antique Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet

Presented by Omaha Chapter Antique Motorcycle Club of America

Open to the Public
Friday, Feb. 24th 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 25th 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Admission is \$10 Friday \$5 Saturday

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

Vendors only setup
Thursday Feb. 23rd 8 am - 6 pm.
Host Brian Brinkley for
124 Main, Cully Street, Fremont, NE
431-721-5200

Meeting information and questions
800 West 100 660 8833 or
briankess2@gmail.com

Vendor information and registration
Jeri Blum 402-505-2723 or
jblum@omahachapteramca.org
AMCA National Meeting
Kathy Kloss 405-994-8197
or kloss@antiquemotorcycle.org

OmahaChapterAMCA.org
[facebook.com/amcaomaha](https://www.facebook.com/amcaomaha)

Upcoming Events



Saturday April 8th 10 am – 5 pm

Registration begins at 8 am

601 W. 7th Augusta, KS 67010

**Vintage Ride Friday April 7th
Depart Twisted Oz 9 am**

Vintage Consignment Auction

Auction starts at 2 PM Saturday

Contact: Kelly Modlin 316-977-9257

Free admission &
Free Bike Show, Awards at 1 pm
Parts & bikes must be 25 yrs & older
Vendors booth space \$10
Food available on site

This year's Theme Category
award is "Vintage Chopper"



Contacts

Swap Meet: Jim Wellemeier 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 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Feb 5th ~ **Santa Fe Chapter Bike Show & Swap Meet, Lawrence KS**

Feb 22nd ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

Feb 24 - 25 Omaha Chapter Bike Show & Swap Meet, Fremont NE

Mar 29th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:00 PM)

Mar 31-April 2 Cherokee Chapter Fandango, Fredericksburg TX

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

Spring Ride / Garage Tour: May 19th & 20th Riding from Bartlesville Oklahoma on Saturday the 20th. I have rooms reserved please contact Jim Wellemeyer, 316-461-1778 for reservation details.

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

June 28th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (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 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NATIONAL ROAD RUNS

June 12-14	Wellsboro PA. Allegheny Chapter
July 31 -Aug 2	South Deerfield, MA Yankee Chapter
September 5-7	Deadwood, SD Black Hills Chapter
September 10-13	El Dorado, KS. Sunflower Chapter



NATIONAL MEETS

February 24-25	Fremont, NE. Omaha Chapter
March 2-4	New Smyrna Beach, FL. Sunshine Chapter
April 28-29	Oley, PA. Perkiomen Chapter Meet
May 19-20	Raalte, Netherlands. European Chapter
June 2-4	Trumansburg NY, Empire Chapter
June 9-10	St. Paul, MN. Viking Chapter
June 16-17	Dixon, CA. Fort Sutter Chapter
June 23-24	Harmony, NJ. Colonial Chapter
July 14-16	Wauseon, OH. Wauseon National Meet
July 28-30	Greenfield MA. Yankee Chapter
August 12-13	Bulli, Au, Australia Chapter Bulli Show Grnd
Sept 29-30	Upperco, MD. Chesapeake Chapter
October 13-15	Denton, NC. Southern National Meet