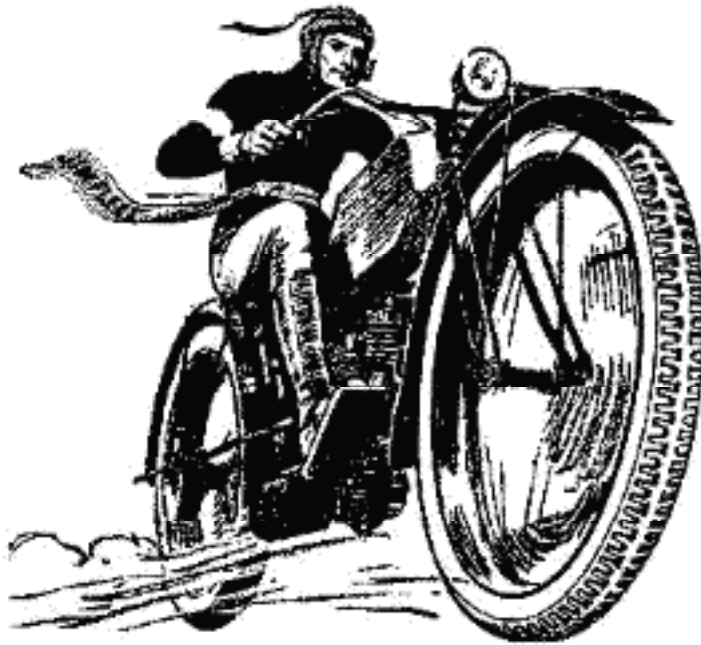


So Cal Chapter



***Antique Motorcycle
Club of America***

***Winter Newsletter
February 2008***

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The SoCal Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to Chapter members, Editors of other related Club publications, and the Directors and Officers of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America. Membership in the SoCal Chapter of the AMCA is open to all members in good standing with the National AMCA.

Local Chapter dues are \$15.00 per year for full membership, which includes a subscription to this quarterly newsletter, all Club announcements and a Club membership card. **Chapter Dues should be mailed directly to the Treasurer of the Club.** The Term of the Membership Dues is from January 1st until December 31st of each year.

The AMCA SoCal Chapter Is on the World Wide Web

Marc Gallin, Webmaster

You can view our SoCal Calendar, as well as a Special West Coast Calendar and the National AMCA Calendar. You can read updated reports on Runs & Meetings, send email to us, or link to other MC sites.

Visit Our Web Site: <http://www.socalamca.org>

Presidents Message

By Tim Graber

Hello and welcome to the Winter issue of the SoCal Newsletter. In the last issue, we announced a contest of sorts to name this newsletter. The response was overwhelming. At least three, maybe four names were submitted. Let's try it again. I am partial to the name Big Wheel, which is the name of our logo, but someone out there must have a name in mind that would be the envy of all who hear it. So, lets hear it. It seems that we have been so busy that SoCal club items have fallen to the wayside. We will try to catch up with this issue.

Check out the center insert calendar. It lays out most of the events sponsored by the club for the first 3/4ths of the year. There are some exciting things happening, so take a look and make your plans. If you decide to have a go for the Stevens Idaho Memorial run, you will not be disappointed! Make reservations ASAP because this is absolutely the height of the riding season and rooms are difficult to find.

Janis and I are working on Borrego right now and we look forward to seeing the majority of you there. It is shaping up to be another great event. We have announced the theme for the year "Knights of the Round Table" and there are jousting events scheduled (Tom Hart is looking for a pair of tights to wear with his chaps). Also there will be a Roast with the Roast event (We will roast a club member during the banquet!). Janis and I have a list of tasks that need to be handled, and we would be pleased to pass some of them on to volunteers, so step right up.

This issue of the newsletter, as usual, is lacking in heavy input from members. We try to get out 4 issues each year: Jan, April, July, and October. This issue is coming to you in February just to be different. We thank those of you who sent us a letter or two, and especially thank those who sent an entire word! Fear not, we do have a story or two to grace the glossy pages of this, your newsletter (a name, we need a name for this newsletter). Input or no input, the presses must roll. We will go with what we have. Thank you for reading this issue, and thank you in advance for the stories you will send us for the next issue.

Keep the rubber on the road and the leather dry!

Report on past Happenings

Dec 2 - Two events 1 day!

1. Gunther's yard meet. This was a brilliant sunshiny day in SoCal. Tom Lovejoy and his dad showed up with two bikes in the Old flat bed truck. Bob Boyd displayed a priceless stationary engine, and a few other SoCal members came in for a hot dog and coffee. George Gunther was spry and on his game, but I am saddened to report that George passed away suddenly in the middle of January while working on his machines in the yard. We will miss him.

2. The Bud Ekins memorial at the Warner Brothers Studios Burbank. This was a fantastic event attended by over 1000 friends, family members and fans of Bud. I counted at least 25 SoCalAMCA members.

Dec 9 - Christmas banquet: The banquet was held at an Italian restaurant in Seal Beach at 11:00am. We had about 30 people enjoying a wonderful 7 course meal with champagne. A grand time was had by all, including Tim & Janis, Chuck & Jeanie Vernon, Larry & Jen Ramos, Steve & Kealy Sorenson, Tom & Becky Hart, Bill & Cindy Harris, Whit and Elsie, Judy & Erhard Hirschfelder, Paul Venn, Hobo John, Mark Larsen, Vaughn Bandonian, Frank Colver, Hokan Mortenssen, and Grace McKean. The club picked up the tab at about \$20 each.

Dec 30 - Horseless Carriage Club Christmas ride in Pasadena. Great event attended by over 200 pre '32 automobiles. Louie & Bonnie Fisher in a sidecar (I forgot the marquee). The Harts in their '26 "T," Tom Lovejoy and dad in the '24 "T," Richard Morris and friend in a Packard, Bill and Cindy Harris in a "T" speedster, myself, Larry and Jen Ramos, Steve and Kealy Sorenson as lookie loo's and a few others I cannot remember. The day was clear and beautiful, but a little cold! This tour travels past some exquisite homes in the Pasadena area, and along the Rose Parade route.

The Flipped Side

Daytime TV programming is the best argument I know of for having a garage to play in and an antique bike to ride!

Jan 1 - New Years Day. Only Tom Hart was capable of showing up for the 11:00am. start of the ride. He and I did a 60 mile ride down the California coast to Dana Point for coffee and a beer. Craig Dillmann did not feel like removing his bike from the truck, and he fell to the influence of his lady friend and went home for a .. nap! Hobo John did show up with Jim Cameron in tow. We had a nice chat and caught up on old times whilst we waited for the no shows. Hobo took Jim back to the care home while we did our duty. Thanks Hobo for being so nice to others.

Jan 18/19 - Vegas Auction. John Eagles, Jeff Moore and many other members did a heck of a job pushing bikes on and off stage. Homer, Kiwi, Vaughn Bandonian, Bob Boyd and the Starks were in attendance among others.



Lovejoy's Excelsior on "the Truck" at Gunther's

Nothing New Comes Your Way

By Thomas Hart

The title of this piece is not entirely accurate. Lots of stuff has been going on, just not motorcycle stuff. I got a new truck (with my own money thank you very much), my daughter Becky got a new hip, my wife got some new shoes (surprise-surprise), I burned up the battery and cables on my Model "A," my sister Diane toasted the trans on her Model "T" and my wife's dogs have the run of the house. She has these little two-butt dogs called pugs. Some of you may remember them from last year at Borrego. I wonder if I could have the run of the place if I had two butts? On second thought, two butts might not be such a good idea because with my luck all I would gain is a second butt-kicking .. and I'm not particularly fond of the first one I usually get!

Enough about my life-riveting experiences. Borrego '08 is just around the corner and as your treasurer I'm hard at work spending your money .. on club stuff. I recently deposited over 5 grand for Borrego. Tim assures me that he has more money and that it's "in the mail." Don't anyone come crying to me next Spring when you still can't account for the check you sent to us that was "in the mail."

I'm responsible for recess .. or "THE GAMES" this year. I do this gladly and with no reservations as I am confident that everyone will behave in a trustworthy and honorable manner .. without cheating (Vic), or lying (Mark), or causing harm to a fellow human being (Homer), or riding while intoxicated (everyone else I know). I have already decided to award Tom Lovejoy the slow race trophy (like I really have trophies to give out) because he *IS* the Slow Crusin' King. How slow does Tom cruise? Glad you asked. Tom cruises so slow you can use an hour glass to time his shifts, and a calendar to measure the time it takes him to go around the block on his Scout. Now his Model "T" is a different story altogether. For some unknown reason, Tom has developed a "Devil-may-care" attitude when he pilots that machine. Thirty miles per hour means nothing to him; he's a maniac. I was justifiably impressed with Tom as he charged around Pasadena this last December with his dad, Dana, in the co-pilot seat. Dana looked just a little uncomfortable. His eyes were as big as cannon balls and he had a scream for help

lodged in his windpipe .. unable to be released due to the force of the oncoming wind! Dana is OK now, but he has taken up drinking and swears that Tom is out to kill him. Sound familiar Vic .. he who cleverly staged a sidecar roll-over and claimed it was an "accident." Horse pucky!

I'm thinking of bringing my '69 sometin' trike again because it's bigger than most bikes, and I can use it to punish rule breakers by running over them. Also, it's nice to bundle up behind the faring and windshield during those snow trips to Julian.

And finally, a word to the wise; Never raise a hand to your child; it leaves your midsection open.

The Ride That Didn't Happen

By Craig Dillmann

New Years .. The Ride That Didn't Happen! I loaded up my trusty Triumph and headed to Costa Mesa on the afternoon of the 31st .. figured to take in the annual New Years Run. New Years was fun at Tim and Janis' pad with the usual game of trivial pursuit, it was great to see Larry and Jen. Vic Sucker came in from Arizona with his new motor home! Tom Hart was present with virtually all his relatives! A great time indeed. Morning rolled around and the only bike that showed up was Tom Hart .. typical .. Tom is the most die hard rider in the world. He'd show up in a blizzard! Hobo John brought Jim Cameron over for a visit. Jim is one of the last of the original Boozefighters alive today. The reason I didn't ride was entirely Tims fault. The Graber fridge in the garage was overstocked .. and I mean overstocked! 12 o'clock rolls around .. 1 o'clock rolls around .. all of a sudden it's 2:15 in the morning and Tim is off to the jacuzzi. What the hell .. talk about a bad influence. Shame, shame. By 9:30, I'm usually sound asleep. Needless to say, by morning I was hung over and just flat exhausted. By the time I got home I had a fever 101! I think Tim rode with Tom back up to Long Beach, but I'm not sure as by this time I'd taken ill and was bedridden .. all brought on by the goings on at the Graber household! Shame .. shame .. shame

SoCal AMCA 2008 Calendar

- Jan 1** New Years day ride from Tim & Janis'
Ya missed it! Only Tim and Tom Hart made the ride, GREAT FUN!
- Jan18-20** Vegas Auction. Help push bikes
Thankx to SoCal members Eagles, Graber, Moore, Boyd, Bator, Knapp, Spaulding,
Kiwi, Stark
- Feb 3** Superbowl - No ride scheduled
- Feb 10** Special ride to the Official Opening of the Guy Webster-Mike Taggart Museum: in
Ojai, America's premier Italian bike collection. The SoCal ride will leave Dillmann's
shop at 09:30. Call Craig for details 818-347-6583 Please RSVP!
- Mar 6-8** Borrego Springs National Winter Road Run. Call Tim 949-642-9682 or the Borrego
Springs Resort 1-888-826-7734
- April 5,6** John Eagles High Desert Classic 29 Palms, CA Our group is staying at the el
Rancho Dolores Motel, 73352 29 Palms Hwy, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-3506 For more information, Email: tgraber@pacbell.net

- May 8-11** Sedona AZ ride. Arrive May 8, depart May 11. RSVP Bob & Carolyn Musgrove at: 602-237-2194 See the inserted flier for more details
- May 17** Hanford May 17, 2008 Motorcycle swap meet and show sponsored by Bator Intl
- June 1** Ride date is available, call Tim at: 949-642-9682 with your plan
- July 6** Ride date is available, call Tim at: 949-642-9682 with your plan
- Aug 3** Ride date is available, call Tim at: 949-642-9682 with your plan
- Aug 5-8** Stevens Idaho Memorial. Boise, Stanley, Cascade and back. A great experience. Very busy season, so plan early and RSVP Pat for details at: 208-344-0726
- Sept 7** SoCal Annual Chapter Elections and Meet.
- Sept 20** El Camino September 20, 2008 Motorcycle swap meet and show sponsored by Bator International



Triumph on display with Bud's jersey



Floral arrangement at the Bud Ekins memorial



Marquee at the Warner Brothers studio



Bob Boyd and his "Do Nothing" at Gunther's Yard



Christmas banquet Graber, Tom & Jill Hart, Max



George Gunther saying hi at his Yard, Dec 2 2007



Hobo, Grace and Lovejoy looking good at the International Cycle show in Long Beach

You Don't Want to Miss the
12th Annual SoCal AMCA
John M. Eagles High Desert Classic

What: Great two day ride through incomparable Joshua Tree Monument

When: First day's ride starts at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 5th
Second day's ride starts at 9:30 AM on Sunday, April 6th
(Early Birds can show up Friday, April 4th for an extra day of FUN)

Where: Ride Headquarters Start/Finish at the Rancho Dolores Motel,
73352 29 Palms Highway, in 29 Palms. Rooms have been reserved
under "SoCal AMCA" - Call (760) 367-3528
Ken says he has new king size beds and new furniture in many rooms!
Be sure to make your reservations early so you won't have to Sleep on
your scooter seat!

Why: To enjoy and share a great ride on our (mostly) healthy steeds on
good roads amid some of the most spectacular high desert scenery in
SoCal

How: Pay the measly \$5.00 Park entrance fee (good for both days) as
you enter the Park and Show up on time!
Trouble Truck, cold soft beverages and water during the rides, and
headier refreshments to accompany the bench racing and camaraderie
after Saturday's ride, will be available to So Cal AMCA Members at no
additional cost (guests \$15.00). Several dinner spots adorn this still rustic
town for dinner on your own.
For further info contact your Ride Captain, Tim Graber 949-642-9682

Motel 6 - (760) 367-2833

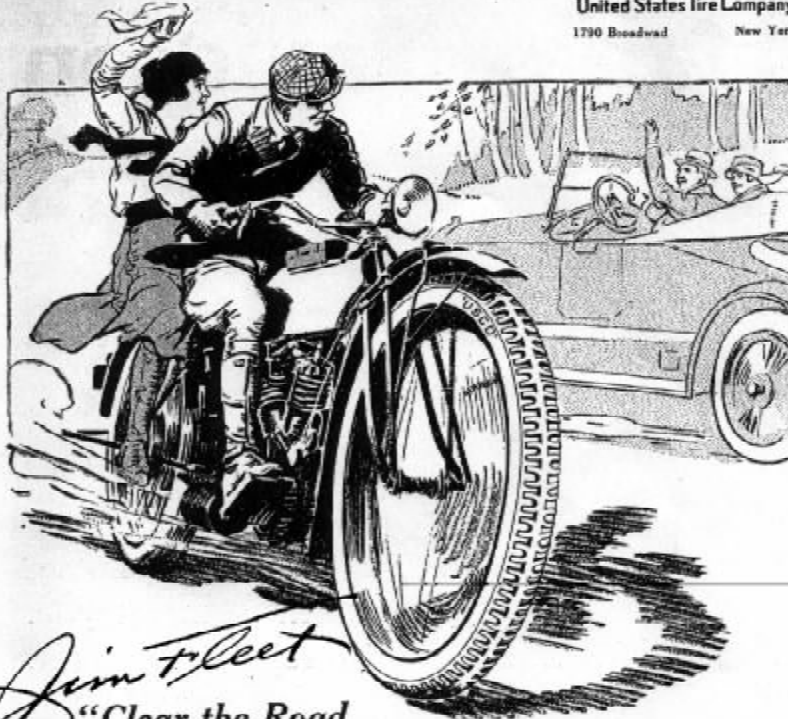
No reservations? No Problem .. there's always plenty of standing room
out by the edge of town, and if your bike and bottom can take it, we don't
mind if you ride around in circles all night while those with reservations
relax in warm (or air conditioned), soft, comfortable, plush King size beds
watching cable TV and sipping, dipping, talking, laughing, and happily
napping. It seems like getting your reservations in early is the way to go!

July 25, 1918

PACIFIC MOTORCYCLIST and WESTERN WHEELMAN

United States Tire Company

1790 Broadway New York



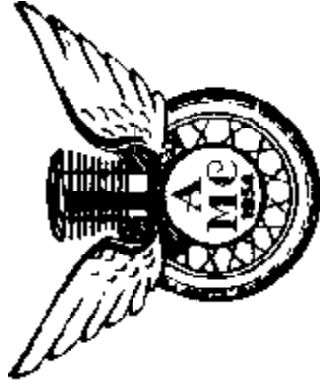
Jim Fleet

“Clear the Road

—to Happiness and Good Health!”

You have to put newspapers under that old bike to catch the oil it leaks, you have to prime it, choke it, retard the spark, get compression, turn it on then kick and kick and kick some more to get it to run, and when it is running it shakes the very ground it sits on and those pipes are so loud you can't hear your self think. You have to carry tools and spare parts with you everywhere you go in case it brakes down. It smokes, leaks, shakes, rattles your brain and empties your wallet. God, I wish I owned that bike!

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FIRST CLASS