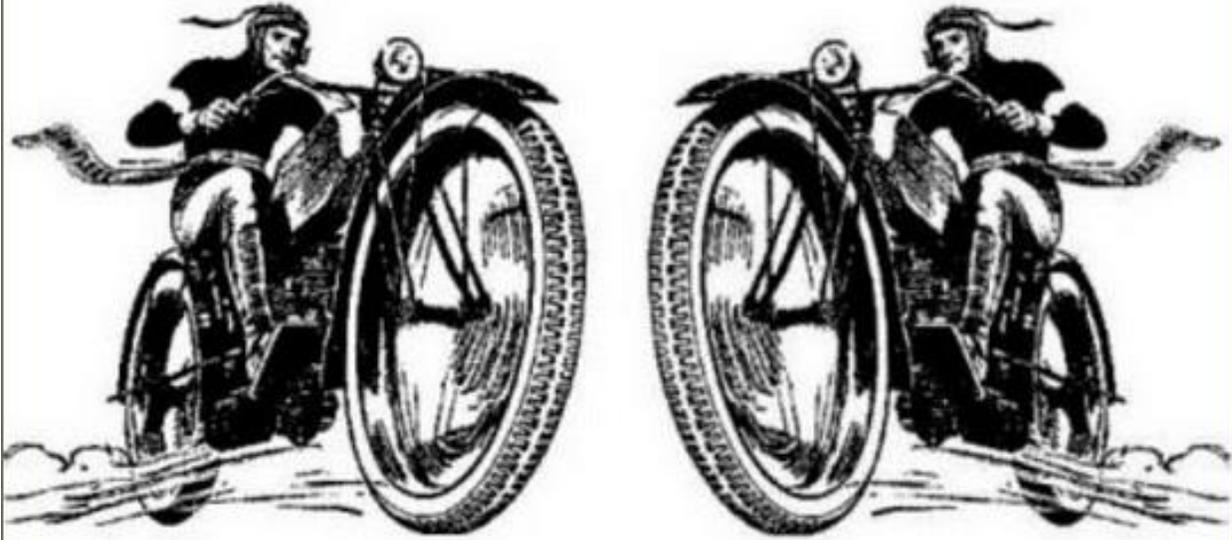


SoCal Antique Motorcycle Club of America

Fall Newsletter, 2014

SoCal Chapter of the AMCA



Visit us at SoCalAMCA.org or [Send us an Email](#)

SoCal Chapter of the AMCA
2058 Aliso Avenue
Costa Mesa, California 92627

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIM GRABER

Hello

SoCal AMCA chapter members and guests. This is the Fall 2014 newsletter and we are shaking things up a bit. As Tom Hart states, the usual 9 or so members showed up at his place for the annual meeting. This chapter is for the members that want to ride and shine, and talk about old motorcycle iron. We cover a large area and our members are an eclectic sort. We have been requesting help from outside of the faithful 9 and it looks like we will be getting some of the help requested. Our Arizona group has accepted the challenge and Carolyn Musgrove will take over the duties of the newsletter. She will get the letter out on time empty or full so we ask that you assist with all you can. Send her information! Steve Sorensen has done a great job of keeping the newsletter moving with his wife's help while they worked full time jobs. We did not give them a lot to work with. Carolyn is retired with nothing to do other than caring for Bob and the myriad of animals living on their property so she is going to give it a whirl! We hope you like and respond to the new look.

Marc Gallin has been socializing on Facebook for us and I encourage you to follow the SoCal AMCA group on Facebook. Let the group know what you are thinking about riding and where. Quite possible a few of us will show up and say hello. If Tom Hart reads your post and decides to show up one of his trusty steeds, he will buy coffee for the group.

Tom Hart says he rides all the time and remembers how he got in contact with the group. He was out riding and stopped at a car show to drool over the four wheelers. Low and behold (not low riders) he chatted up a few bikers and Voila. He became a member. So, let's do our best to learn to maximize social networks and promote biker camaraderie SoCal AMCA style!

Janis and I are still living the occasional vagabond life style so you never know when we will show for an event. We do hope that you will participate all you can on these wonderful motorcycles that we get to enjoy and with the people that have created such great camaraderie over the years.

Join the shake up and get the rubber on the ground and please, ink in the printer!

Cheers, Tim Graber.

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING AND TREASURY REPORT ---- 9/7/14**TOM HART**

The usual (9 or so) suspects attended the annual meeting and foolishly reinstated the current board members again. I was very pleased to see Grace again. Actually I didn't cry and moan so much this time around as I'm nearing retirement age as treasurer with nearly 18 years of unscrupulous service and questionable activity with your money which should net me some mighty fine retirement benefits. Having said that, please send in your dues as soon as possible. We only have 27 currently paid members of some possible 70 active members. The actual count of names on our roster is in the 150 range, but that's only because I do not remove names unless asked to do so, just in case someone decides to return to the fold. Also and besides we have around 5k in the bank. More like 5.9K but who's counting. Not me that's for sure.

At the annual meeting we discussed and agreed that maybe, just maybe, a sub-club meeting at Borrego this year would go a long way towards getting members (new and old) to attend or express their thoughts about this important club function and possibility spark someone's interest in getting new blood to the board. By new blood I mean I will stab anyone in the forehead who tries to take my job. This is a form of reverse psychology. Did it work? We discussed other things which I'll let Steve talk about because I can't remember them. Oh yeah, one thing I remember is that we discussed was how to get new members to join. I think that if you recall how you first got into this mess, I mean club, you soon realize how to get others to join. My own case involved just running into a few club members (Tim Graber included) who happened to be enjoying an unrelated car show event in Newport Beach. They were riding, I was riding, and that's about it. Soon thereafter I went to a club meeting at the former treasurer's shop in Huntington Beach and the rest is history. I took over his (treasurer) job and became a self-made millionaire, with your help of course. Thank you all very much for that. I still like riding to these car/motorcycle events on the weekends. At the meeting we discussed the possibility of having some semi regular club "garage type" get-togethers at various members homes or businesses and then proceed to show our stuff (by ride in) at any of the many shows put on in the area to attract new members, but mostly to just get together and do what we like...ride. I'm out there every weekend, well every weekday too, but I'm independently wealthy thanks to you all. The point is that I would like to hook up with some more members for around the town rides on weekdays or weekends. I'm sure there are more of you guys who would like to do the same.

After the meeting Grace, Bill Melvin, Tim Graber, Tom Lovejoy, Hakan, Walter Frey and myself took off on a short ride to Laguna Beach and then headed north. We stopped at Ruby's Diner in South Laguna for some fine diner food things and stuff before heading back home. I was astride my beautiful, powerful and loud '50 Chief bobber. It was a beautiful day and much cooler once we neared the coast. But it was still 100 degrees in Orange when I got back home at 4:30. This was just a prelude to the trip Tom Lovejoy, Walter Frey, myself and a couple of my brothers will be taking this week when we head for Utah on Saturday the 13th to watch the Cannon-balls go by on the 15th. We will return on the 20th. We expect to see the Musgroves while in the Prescott area as well as Frank Colver who will be visiting some of his favorite rocks in Utah at the same time we will be passing through. I plan to stop by Montezuma's castle just north of Prescott where I found a handmade knife in a wooden scabbard buried in the dirt almost 60 years ago. Remember that thing I said about stabbing someone in the forehead? I think that knife was cursed or something and that maybe I should put it back to appease the Indian sprits. But then again, it may be the reason I ride Indian motorcycles and like to stab things. Interesting, but not relevant to our trip.

Have fun out there and call me anytime if you have a local ride I can join you on. I promise to be on my best behavior, sort of.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY - SoCal ANNUAL MEETING 9-7-14

STEVE SORENSEN

The meeting started with coffee and donuts and was hosted by the Harts, thanks for the use of your home. Present were President Tim Graber, VP Larry Ramos, Treasurer Tom Hart, Secretary Steve



Sorensen, club historian Tom Lovejoy and members Frank Colver, Hokkon Mortenson, Walt Fry, Bill Melvin, and Grace McKean.

We started with officer reports. Tim talked about membership and how to increase it and said he would set up base camp at El Camino, so stop by.

Tom said there is around \$5k in the kitty and only a few registrations for Death Valley which led to more discussion about membership. Larry said he is working hard to get more vintage bikes back on the road.

Steve talked about the International Motorcycle Show in Long Beach. This year the dates are moved up to Nov.14-16. Call or e-mail me with your entries. We also talked about updating our e-mail list to send information to current and past members asking them to join us again, we are still here and having fun.

Larry agreed to sponsor the first garage day, a ride your bike to a member's shop or garage then ride to lunch. More rides and more opportunities to attract new members.

Tim also relayed that Carolyn Musgrove has volunteered to be the newsletter editor. There were no new nominations for the board, so the motion to re-elect the old board was given, seconded and passed.

Please check the calendar, Facebook page and call or e-mail any board member for upcoming events, participation is the key to fun and the future of our chapter.

OUR RIDE IN SEARCH OF THE CANNONBALLERS

TOM LOVEJOY

Once again we set out to catch the Cannonballers out on the road, in their cross-country adventure. This has become somewhat of a tradition for Tom Hart and myself and has always been a good time. I did it in 2010, Tom H and I in 2012 and here we were again in 2014. Eager for the chance to ride some new roads and see the sights along the way. Hopefully get to see the Cannonballers roar by too. I like seeing them out in the open road away from the crowds. So this year it looked like a good spot to catch them was in the Moab area of Utah and with that in mind we headed out.

Originally Tom and I had thought we would ride our Indians this time, instead of our modern machines. While we were at it, we thought why not open it up to more club members too. So we put the word out, we planned on camping most of the trip. I am a poor boy and Tom Hart puts up with it. Plans change though and Tom wanted to try it on his VW trike and I was too busy trying to make real progress on my TT truck, that I did not take time to prep my Scout. When it finally came time to go, I made a frantic effort to get the Scout ready. But the Scout had some issues I did not get squared away and I thought better of it. Not going to start a trip, if it's not running right at the beginning of the trip. So though I was disappointed, I pushed the Scout back in the garage and got the modern out. It was my own fault, too many projects.

Change the oil and a new front tire and the HD was ready to go. Meet up with Tom and Walt Frey at Tom's house early Saturday morning and we were off. We trailered through the hot desert to Prescott Arizona where we were put up for the night, at Deeana Cameron's place. It was great seeing Deeana again and she was a great gracious host. Deeana and her family are heavily involved in racing and that night we went to watch the local races. Not only did they race, they won their races. We found out later that Deeana's daughter, daughters husband and their son and daughter all race! They were in these cars called dwarf cars, very cool. Looked like small American cars and trucks from the 30's with 1,000 cc engines and they really moved on that track, broad sliding in the corners. It was a blast and a great way to end the day.

Sunday caught us in the saddle and headed to Montezuma's Castle, where Tom had picked up a



very impressive artifact when just a kid, which he still has today about 60 years later. From there we headed for Monument Valley, along the way we picked up two more riders. Two of Tom's brothers on modern machines, one a Suzuki and a HD. Walt Frey was on the only antique, his trusty 45. I believe it was a 42 model that he has had for more than 60 years! Right on Walt! At this point his 45 was in all its glory and purring good and Walt had a big grin as we started climbing in attitude.

We enjoyed fantastic views all along the way and they seemed to only get better as we went along. Monument Valley was awesome, though the campground was not as it said on the web site and we had trouble finding it. As we got there at dark and with my night vision or lack of I should say. It was a bit of a challenge for sure, but our group made the best of it. In the morning we retraced our steps and got breakfast in town and then rode through Monument Valley again in the light of day – fantastic! Then further north and higher in attitude into the Moab area of Utah. Utah is fast becoming one of my favorite states, very pretty. Fantastic scenery everywhere it seemed, about as good as riding gets I believe.

You had to pay attention to the road. The sights were such; you might miss a turn if not careful. Along



our route slowly Walt's 45 began to have issues, hardly noticeable at first. But slowly steadily getting worse as we rode along. We camped again this time in Moab, much better and we drank to it. We drank to that and about everything else and were up late into the night. Which seemed to make us a bit sluggish getting up the next morning.

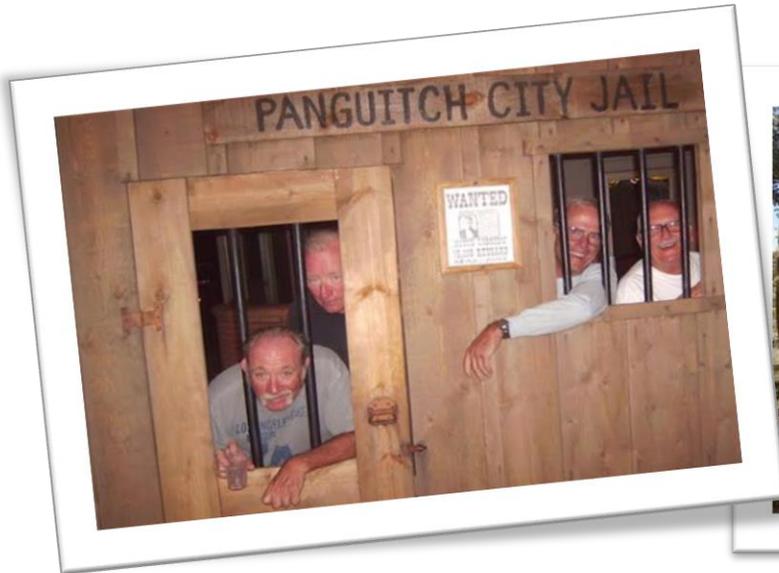
We headed out next morning for our rendezvous with the Cannonballers and just caught em as Walt's 45 seemed to tighten up and came to a stop. We feared the worse and thought his engine had seized up. This all happened right in front of Frank Colver who was already there filming the Cannonballers as they went by. Frank was in Utah rafting, something he has been doing more than 30 years! That is something I would like to try, looks like a lot of fun. Utah has lots of it to offer too. Right about now we seemed to enter the twilight zone, something just did not seem right with the world.

Walt's 45 was broke and we were hard pressed to get it to the closest town, Tom Hart was just about to try towing him with his trike. When the Cannonballers trouble truck drove up empty. We thought well since Walt's is an antique it did not seem out of line to ask for a tow, since at that time they were empty. The trouble team looked tired! But it still caught us off guard, when they said they could be of no assistance. They drove off and left us there, bikers leaving bikers stuck on the side of the road! Then it got even stranger – along comes a lone girl in a van, working with the rafting outfits in the area. I am sorry I don't remember her name, though we got her photo. We ask her is she could give us a lift, six bikers and just this one chick and she says sure, I will help! That really struck us as funny, but right as we were about to load up. Walt figured out the problem, his primary chain had jumped off a row of the sprocket and was jammed, an easy repair. We sent the young lady on her way with much thanks and Walt had the 45 back in action in short order. We had a nice lunch with Frank in Green River and watched some more of the Cannonballers go by and headed east.

Into the Arches and Capital Reef areas, again very impressive views everywhere you looked and great riding! Always getting higher in attitude and Walt's 45 was not liking it at all. Walt and the 45 gave it a valiant effort and despite many tries and lots and lots of kicking, finally the 45 would go no more. There we were in no man's land somewhere in Utah and it was getting near dark. Luckily there was a campground close by and Tom Hart towed Walt with his trike with the rest of us taken up the rear with flashers on. Right then one of the modern HD's let something go in the engine and was making scary noises, so now we were down two machines – within about 12 miles of each other! Twilight zone, I tell you ☺



Next morning Tom and I rode almost 500 miles back to get the trailer. Much to our surprise when we called Deena, she was more than willing to jump in the truck and come get our friends!! Those Cameron's – real motorcycle folks, Deena said she had done it many times with Dee and friends. We stayed the night and went to dinner with Deena and her sister and really enjoyed the time together.



Then next morning, off to get our stranded friends and we meet back up just before dark. Which led us to another night of drinking in the town of Panguitch. Next day we were off and riding through Zion before once again we trailered all machines and headed for home.



Throughout most of the ride, the scenery was fantastic. Utah is a hard act to beat and I am hopeful to make this ride again.



It was that impressive and so was the graciousness of Deena Cameron and our hats off to her! Hopefully next time I will be back on my Scout 😊

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIM GRABER

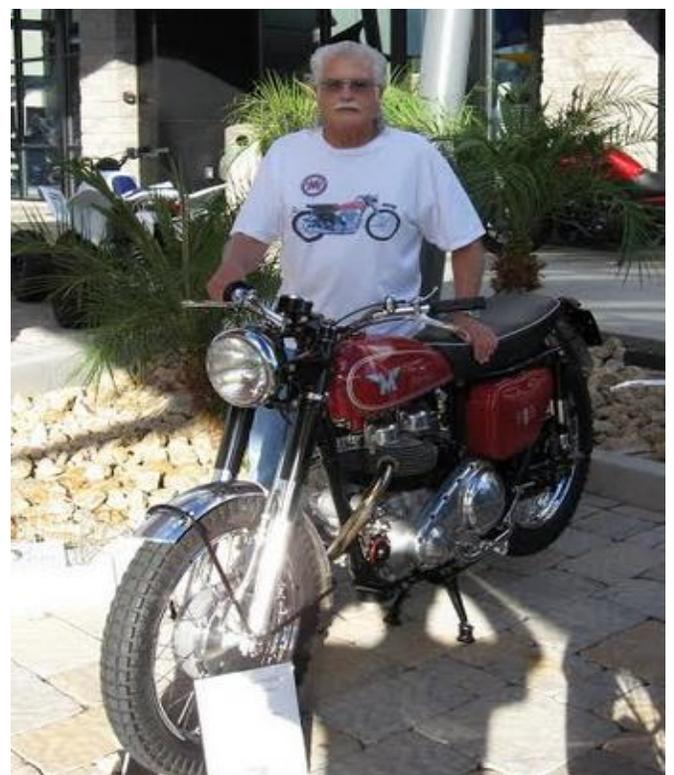
Been There; Done That

SoCal AMCA Summer 2014

- June** No events scheduled. Must have been too many weddings and graduations.
- JULY 6** **PALOS VERDES ROAD TOUR WITH TOM LOVEJOY.**
- Tom Lovejoy bought donuts and had coffee available. Tom Hart, Tim Graber, Marty Spalding showed up ready to ride. Paul Venn stopped by to watch and Hokan caught up with us at lunch. Weather was wonderful and the streets were rideable! I rode the Harry V. Sucher Chief and it did itself justice. Marty rode his 36 Norton which ran well after the push start. Great ride, fun day, Thanks Tom!
- AUGUST 2** **SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS RIDE.**
- Craig Dillmann did another great job in putting this all together. 17 riders left his shop. One made it about a mile and then called for the tow truck. Tough break for Tom Hart who already had 75 miles on the trike on the ride up. This is really a beautiful ride across the tops of the Santa Monica mountains with view up and down the coast and out to the Valley. The ride up the coast through Malibu was spectacular!
- SEPTEMBER 11 – 13** **PRE – 16 TOUR MINDEN NV.**
- Another great pre – 16 tour in the NV desert. John Eagles, Chuck Vernon, Tom Vernon, Vaughn Bandoian and a few others had a great ride on the early machines.
- SEPTEMBER 14** **ANNUAL CLUB MEETING AND ELECTIONS.**
- We had enough attendees to have a quorum. The existing Board was reelected with the addition of Carolyn Musgrove as newsletter editor. Communication is all important for the club, welcome aboard Carolyn.
- SEPT 14** **BEACH BURGERS VINTAGE SHOW**
- This monthly gathering is very strong with 100 or more attendees every month. Most are independent riders on real cool rides. SoCal members are pledging to gather with this group and there were 6 members in attendance this Sunday. The Sucher Velocette 1936, 350 was a pleasure to ride up and down the coast on a beautiful day.
- SEPTEMBER 19, 20** **EL CAMINO AT IRWINDALE SWAP:**
- The weather cooperated and the vendors came out. There were about 75% of the vendors and the gate on Saturday was pretty quick because of the expected high heat. The event was well attended by SoCal members and the SoCal Easy up was easy to see.

MEMBER NEWS SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Would you guess this is really a 1957 CS Matchless with Tea-cup engine?? SoCal member Barney Watson of Phoenix, Arizona rescued and restored this neglected and abused motorcycle to its days of glory.



Barney purchased this motorcycle in January of this year from the owner in New Mexico. Believe it or not, it turned over on the 3rd kick! The owner rode it occasionally as a dirt bike on the back roads around his property. Barney sent information on the bike to the Matchless Owners club in England to find out that the bike came off the production line around January 6, 1957 and was shipped to a dealer in California. Based on the frame and engine part numbers, the bike is all original as shipped from the factory. It is a CS model – only a few were produced for the US market as CS – not GS models (GS is the Hurricane.)

Barney and “the crew” refurbished or rebuilt all of the original parts. Tins were powder coated, the frame was straightened as it was a little “tweaked”, and the fenders are the original aluminum. Even the front wheel was polished, every spoke was straightened and chromed. Thanks to Barney, this bike has a whole new life!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FALL/WINTER 2014

OCTOBER 9TH - 11TH, THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

Annual Death Valley Road Run with its new headquarters in Beatty, Nevada at the Stagecoach Hotel and Casino. [Click here for a Registration Form](#)

NOVEMBER 2ND, SUNDAY

Annual [Hanson Dam British Club Ride](#). We are invited every year and over 800 bikes show up. Our group will have lunch at Don Cucos in Acton. We'll meet at Craig's house and ride in together. Contact Craig Dillmann: 818-347-6583 or 818-337-9934

NOVEMBER 14TH - 16TH, FRIDAY - SUNDAY

[International Motorcycle Show](#) in Long Beach – Contact Steve Sorensen: 562-577-9864

DECEMBER 8TH, SUNDAY

Gunther's Yard Meet Annual Celebration

LETTERS TO/FROM THE EDITOR

CAROLYN MUSGROVE

As you have heard by know, I am the new “victim” elected by our board as the newsletter editor. According to Tim, I have no life and nothing else to do?? So I will give it a go. Please be gentle, this is my first attempt!

I am sure every member has a “victory” like Barney to share. Send me your pictures of before and after with a short write up. We will feature it in the Member News section.

Already I have suggestions submitted by fellow SoCal members. Remember – “do not shoot the messenger”. We welcome any and all input. How to make the club better, how to improve rides and of course how to improve the quality of this newsletter. You can ask to remain anonymous (for a small fee to the editor ☺).

We are considering a Sale/Buy/Get it Outa Here section. Let us know what you think of that idea. Ads will be free to any paid member of SoCal.

I submit these as written without editing:

- **Letter to the editor:** It is time for others to step up and help this group. If you are unhappy with the group speak up and step up to help. SoCal is the longest running club and we want it to remain. Critiquing from afar and not attending is an anchor on the entire hobby. Tom Lovejoy.
- **On a SoCal related article:** About only 27 paid members out of 70. I suggest that the officers send out renewal notices, a second reminder, and thirdly a list in the next newsletter of those who have not paid! I'm serious! Barney Watson

PLEASE: Send your comments, suggestions, and articles – whatever you have to share – to me at bcmusgrove@dishmail.net. Of course I have Bob to interpret whatever I don't understand so technically I won't mess up what you submit. Thank heavens for Bob!

We all know that feeling well – don't we?

