Trail Gazette

Oct - Dec 2020

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Member Profile: Don Gabbert

By Tom Nielsen

Presenting a profile of OTC members was a common feature during the early tenure of your newsletter editor. The purpose is to share interests, information, and stories to help us get to know each other better.

This month's profile is of Don Gabbert. Don was born in 1929 in South Dakota. His family moved to Oregon in 1940 where he attended school in Gresham and met the late Jim Lancaster, a lifelong friend. When he was little, Don remembers coming home from church with his family and being fascinated with the motorcycle hill climbers on Grant Butte. Don's first experience riding a motorcycle was when a neighbor invited him to ride his 1929 Harley-Davidson JD - Don loved it, especially taking it fast into curves - he was hooked. Jim had purchased an Enfield in 1948, which Don rode and loved its size and handling. Don had been buying cars and fixing them up to sell for some extra cash. He had a 1936 Lincoln that he wasn't crazy about, so he put an ad in the paper offering to trade it for a motorcycle. Thus, Don obtained a 1939 Triumph T100 Tiger. Don rode



that bike hard and eventually blew the engine. He recalled going into a shop and saying he broke the crank pin and the mechanic says oh no, they never break. Well, Don did. Through that shop, Allied Motorcycle, Don met the late Roy Burke, one of the

owners and a charter member of OTC and the late Red Rice, of the Flying 15. Both Roy and Red were prominent racers of the day (see news clipping on next page).

Jim Lancaster was drafted into the US Army in

about 1951. Don was married in 1950, so was deferred, and when he was later drafted, Don had a broken leg and cast, so was deferred again. The Army finally got Don in 1955 at the age of 26. Jim had served at White Sands base in New Mexico and Don liked that field, so also served in missile and anti-aircraft missiles, and he taught at Fort Bliss, Texas.



Ad for racing at Sidewinder track

Over the years, Don overhauled quite a few English motorcycles, not to buy and sell, but just to keep up his bikes. He did continue to flip cars for extra cash. He and Jim both loved motorcycle racing and hill climbing. In the 40s and 50s, there were "skid rows" where loggers left slides where logs were slid down hills. These slides were a favorite place to practice hill climbing. Don and Jim raced frequently in backyard tracks. Don said Jim always seemed to have had a bit of an edge over him during racing. They spent a lot of Saturdays on dirt tracks and became "halfway decent" riders. Jim competed professionally at the Sidewinders track.

Early in their racing careers, in 1948, after Don got his first real motorcycle, the 1939 Triumph 500 cc, Jim and Don went to their friends back yard track over on Foster Rd. After an hour or so of racing with a half dozen others, Jim was on Don's

tail with his 350cc Enfield and determined to pass in the turn. This track circled a small lake. Well, naturally with too much speed, Jim over slid, which caused him to cut right in front of Don and into the lake clear up to the handlebars. This was Don's first memory of the pair of them transferring auto mechanical experience into motorcycle experience. They flushed all the bike's cavities plus disassembly, clean & lube generator and magneto.

Don's favorite motorcycle was the BSA Gold Star, followed by other BSAs and Triumphs from the 50s and 60s. Don lives with his wife Shirley in Gresham and has two children and five grandchildren.

Eugene 'Cyclers' Win At Gypsy Tour

FLORENCE, Sept. 5.— (Special) — Members of the Eugene Motorcycle club and the West Side Motorcycle club of Eugene walked off with major honors and prize money in the annual all-Oregon Gypsy Tour held at Heceta beach, north of here over the Labor Day holiday.

More than 300 cyclists from clubs in Oregon, Washington and northern California competed in the two-day event sponsored by the Florence Booster club.

Roy Burke of the Portland A.M.A., took individual honors by capturing firsts in seven of the 12 individual events.

The point totals of the Eugene clubs were gained in team events and in second and third places in individual races.

Results follow:

Forty-five cubic inch race—First place, Roy Burke of Portland (Portland A.M.A.); second, Bob Evans of Eugene (Eugene M.C.); third, Red Rice of Portland (Flying 15 M.C.).

Open dig-out race—First, Roy Burke, Portland (Portland A. M.

Open dig-out race—First, Roy Burke, Portland (Portland A. M. A.); second, "Wild" Bill Ellis, Eugene (Eugene M. C.); third, Bill Ansenberger, Portland (Portland A.M.A.).

String race — (Two men to a team)—First, Ray Wolf and Harold Beeson, Eugene (Eugene M. C.); second, Bill Ellis and Bob Evans, Eugene (West Side M.C.); third, Hubert Simons and Ray Hyland, Eugene (West Side M. C.).

Club relay race (four men to a team)—First, Eugene Motorcycle club, Eugene; second, Rose City Motorcycle club, Portland; third, West Side Motorcycle club, Eu-

Deep sand race—First Emil Kreofsky, Rose City M.C., Portland; second, "Wild" Bill Ellis, Eugene M.C., Eugene; third, Evans and W. Whittington (tied), Eugene M.C., Eugene.

Tourist trophy race (Forty five cubic inch race) — First, Roy Burke, Portland A.M.A., Portland; second, Emil Kreofsky, Rose City M. C., Portland; third, Red Rice, Flying 15 M.C., Portland.

Tourist trophy race (Eighty cubic inch)—First, Fred Emerson, Eugene M.C., Eugene;; second, Bill Boden, Rose City M.C., Portland; third, Donis Levenhagen, Eugene M.C., Eugene.

Courtesy of Newspaper.com, Eugene Guard, September 5, 1939. See link

Pursuit final race—First, Ro

Burke, Portland A.M.A., Portland; second, Red Rice, Flying 15, Portland; third, Bill Ansenberger, Portland A.M.A., Portland.

Balloon soccer—First Bill Ansenberger, Portland, A.M.A., Portland; second, Ray Hyland, West Side M.C., Eugene.

Barrell roll—First, Roy Burke, Portland A.M.A., Portland; second, Hubert Simons, West Side M.C., Eugene; third, Wilbur Hyland, West Side M.C., Eugene

Burke, Portland A.M.A., Portland; second, Ray Hyland, West Side M.C., Eugene; third, Bill Ansenberger, Portland A.M.A., Portland.

Forty five cubic inch mile race
—First Roy Burke, Portland A.
M. A., Portland; second Ray Hyland, West Side M. C., Eugene;
third, Bill Ansenberger, Portland
A.M.A., Portland.

Seventy-four cubic inch mile face—First, Bill Boden, Rose City M.C., Portland; second, Harold Beeson, Eugene M.C., Eugene; third, Ray Wolf, West Side M.C., Eugene.

Open mile race—First Red Rice, Flying 15, Portland; second, Ray Hyland, West Side M. C., Eugene; third, Roy Burke, A., Portland.

Official referee, A. E. Stamm. Official starter, O. Purcell.



The Pres Letter

Happy Holidays! Season's Greetings! Happy New Year!

Sitting here with a dog at my feet and looking out at the birds flitting into the feeders is one of my very favorite ways to spend Sundays. I have a book at the ready for reading after I finish up my letter to y'all and will probably make a pot of tea to sip while reading. Presents are wrapped and sent to kiddos and cookies are baked. Life is good.

November and December gave Tom and me several opportunities to ride our bikes. The sidecar is finally running dependably, and Tom did a great job aligning the sidecar, so it is so much more fun to ride. Gus and Quinn, the dogs, are probably happier than we are, as they now get to accompany us much more often! I have even become quite comfortable, and may I say proficient, at driving the sidecar. The dog's lives are good!

In this edition of the newsletter, please enjoy the motorcycle word search, the Christmas Carols puzzle, the interview with Don Gabbert, Tom Ruttan's article, and the fun historical tidbits our steadfast newsletter editor, Tom Nielsen, has included. We may not have been able to meet much this year, but we have endeavored to keep our club together through the newsletter.

As we move into 2021, the officers, wanting to keep the club connected, have decided to increase our social media presence by creating a more active Facebook page. Who knows what will be next? Instagram maybe?

The other officers join me in wishing you all holidays filled with wonder and a safe and happy new year!

May you and those you love be happy, be safe, be healthy, and be at peace!

Peace out Jen 503.522.3163 tomandjen@shadyapple.com

"Have love in your heart, Peace in your home, And a motorcycle in your garage." By Mikey

December and January Activities Cancelled due to COVID-19

Stay tuned for when we start club get togethers again. Officers continue to meet monthly for our business meeting by telephone conference. Feel free to join us.

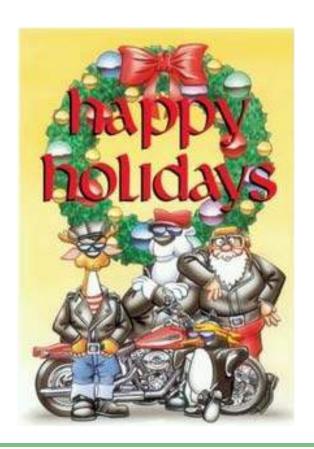
See schedule of events at end of newsletter for details.

Stay Safe

Post-Pandemic Motorcycle Trip

A husband and wife motorcyclists were discussing where to go riding after the pandemic. The husband got out a map of the U.S. and gave his wife a dart. "Honey, throw the dart at the map and we can go where ever it lands."

So, they'll be spending two weeks behind the refrigerator.



Motorcycle Word Search

Find the 61 motorcycle related words in the snow man. Hidden words are on page 9.

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Improve Your Brake Drums

By Tom Ruttan

We all love our old bikes (mostly) for their character, simplicity, mechanical design and the reminders of our misspent youth. It is a lot of fun to ride these old machines with all this character and the "adventure" they present to us. You all know the "character" I'm talking about: oil leaks, hard starting, electrical problems and marginal brakes. By the 1970's many of these "features" were bred out if motorcycles with electric start, improved electrics, hydraulic disc brakes and fewer oil leaks.

This article will focus on how to improve your brakes on machines from the drum brake era. A lot of bikes from this time go a lot faster than they stop. Early bikes only had half hub-width brakes with rather small diameters resulting in small braking area and marginal stopping power. In the mid-1950's and into the 1960's the brake drum diameter increased and full width drums were introduced, and that helped. Regardless of what vintage drum brake bike you have, you can improve the braking power by insuring the brakes are operating to the maximum level that the original designer intended. This means having good brake linings that fit the drums properly and the drums are round and have a good surface for the linings to bed into.

To do this you should enlist the services of the various brake shops in the area that cater to motorcycle drum brakes. You probably have your favorite but I have found (surprisingly enough) that at least one shop that caters to large trucks have the experience and equipment to handle this job. I have used FleetPride Truck and Trailer Parts in Portland, Oregon for this and I'm sure there are others. They can bond modern friction material on your brake shoes that will improve your brakes significantly, particularly if you request the softer brake lining material. The trade-off is that it doesn't last as long but gives better stopping power. We don't typically put that many miles on these old beasts so it's a good option. They will fit the shoes to your drums and can even turn your drums to get a fresh, smooth metal surface and perfectly round drum. They can do that with the wheel and tire in place; no need to disassemble the wheel. The only thing they require is to knock out the wheel bearings so it fits their lathe.

It's not the lowest cost way to rebuild your drum brakes but it will restore your brakes so they will work the best they are capable of for that particular design.

Whether you are doing a complete ground-up restoration or just doing maintenance & repair on the ol' trusty steed, this process should give you the best possible braking your old bike is designed for. It won't turn your 50's English, American or European motorcycle into a modern disc brake monster but it will remove some of the "adventure" in riding your old pride and joy.



Turning the Brake Drum Can Be Done Without Dismantling the Wheel

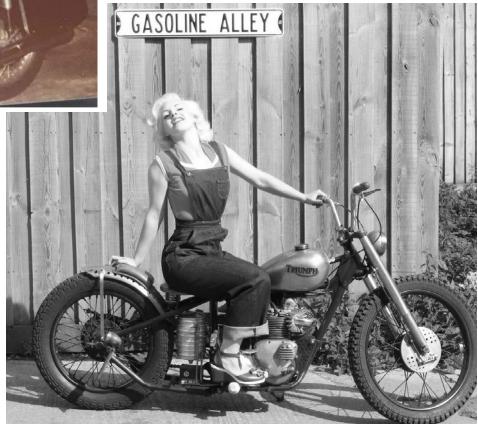


Celebrities on Motorcycles -

Who are these familiar faces on two wheels? Answers on page 8 (hint, middle pic is a club member)





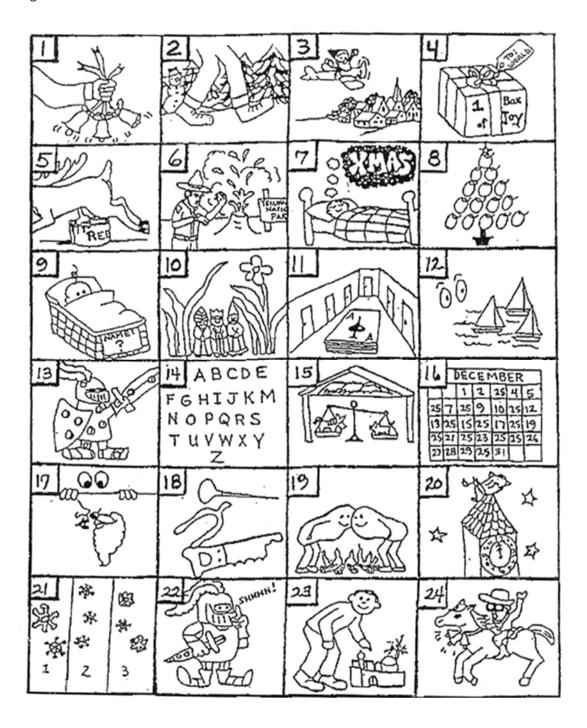




Guess the Christmas Carol

Answers on page 9.

WARNING: Some motorcycle purists may find it objectionable to have a non-motorcycle themed item in this newsletter; they should skip this page to avoid high-blood pressure and letters to the editor that they might later regret.



| 2020-2021 Meeting Calendar Oregon Trail Chapter, AMCA | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Month | Activity |
| Every | OTC Business Conference |
| Month | Call |
| 2 nd | All members welcome |
| Tuesday | Call 971-256-0996, then enter |
| | code 412341 |
| December | Cancelled |
| & January | |
| '21 | |
| Fohruany | Danding |
| February | Pending |
| '21 etc. | |

Looking for information

Does anyone in the group know the name George Bodenhamer? If the information I have is correct, he was a motorcycle dealer in the 1960's (+/-), possibly in Polk County.

I purchased several Dealer plates several years ago and I got a note with them giving me his name as the dealer they came from. The plates are for the years 1964, 1965, and 1966.

Bruce Lamont (541) 465-8174 lamontbl@juno.com

Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiast

Portland Chapter on the second Tuesday of Every Month at 6:00 PM at Yurs Bar and Grill, 717 NW 16th Ave., Portland, OR

http://www.vmemc.org

Oregon Vintage Motorcyclists

OVM monthly meetings are cancelled until further notice. There are officer meetings and pending "Meetups" – see website.

http://www.oregonvintage.org



"WELL, I GOT ONE...SO, THEN THE REINDEER WANTED THEM..."

1949 Triumph Factory Race Bike

See this video presentation that Mike Tyler did of Tom Ruttan's T100R 500cc Triumph GP factory race bike.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlg70tw XUGQ&feature=youtu.be

Celebrities on Motorcycles

From page 6

Upper Right: Keanu Reeves Center Left: Tom Ruttan Lower: Marilyn Monroe

SUBMISSIONS TO NEWSLETTER:

Please submit article contributions, classified advertisements, photos, trip reports, and suggestions by the second Thursday of each month. Prefer Word or Adobe PDF for text and .jpg or PDF for graphics to tomandjen@shadyapple.com

Thanks, Tom

Words for Motorcycle Word Search

Created by Jennifer Nielsen

CHASEVEHICLE **AIRCOOLED APEHANGER** CHASIS CHOKE **BAGGER** BASKETCASE CHOPPER BELTDRIVE CHROME BIKER CRANKSHAFT **BMW** CRUISER **BOBBER CURVES** BORE DIRTBIKE BSA DRESSER CAFERACER DUALSPORT CAGER DUCATI CAM EASYRIDER CARB **ENDURO** CC **EXCELSIOR** CHAIN **FAIRING**

FINS PEGS **FORKBAG PIPES FOURSTROKE POWERTRAIN** HARLEYDAVIDSON RACING HONDA RALLY INDIAN **ROYAL ENFIELD** INK SIDECAR **SPARKPLUGS IRONBUTT** KAWASAKI SUZUKI KICKSTART TRIALS **LEATHERS** TRIUMPH MOTORCYCLE **TWOSTROKE** OEM **YAMAHA** OIL OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER

PEACEOUT

Answers for Christmas Carols

1. Jingle Bells

2. Walking in a Winter Wonderland

3. Santa Claus is Coming to Town

4. Joy to the World

5. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

6. O Come All Ye Faithful

7. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas

8. O Christmas Tree

9. What Child Is This?

10. We Three Kings

11. Deck the Halls

12. I Saw Three Ships

13. Oh Holy Night

14. Noel

15. Away in a Manger

16. 12 Days of Christmas

17. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

18. All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth

19. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire (The Christmas Song)

20. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

21. Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

22. Silent Night

23. O Little Town of Bethlehem

24. Silver Bells

CLASSIFIEDS

From Tim Burns:

Looking to buy any pre-1970 Oregon or California motorcycle license plates.

Looking to buy any pre-1985 Harley motorcycles, basket cases, or parts piles.

Tim in Cottage Grove (408) 687-0635



Numbers in descriptions match numbers in following photos on pages 10 and 11.

- 01. 7ft of 7 mm cloth covered spark plug wire. Sourced from Greer or Starklite \$5
- 02. Pair of adjustable shocks from '78 Triumph Bonneville fair cond. \$25
- 03. One H-D panhead era star hub. Good condition. Bearings are free so would just need a little work to clean up and use. \$50
- 04. Mirror, 9.5" long stem, 0.395" dia. Decent chrome good glass. \$5
- 05. Two Indian chief gen belts, #4L210. \$5 ea
- 06. Outer primary cover off '47 Chief. Very good cond. Needs clutch worm nut. \$100
- 07. One set oil lines (feed and return) fits Indian Chief. New-never installed. Sourced from Jerry Greer. plated perfect cond. \$50
- 08. Engine sprocket off '47 Indian Chief. Approx.1,500 miles on it. Excellent cond. \$35

Not shown- contact James for more info or photos.

Seat for 78 triumph Bonnie. Good cond. \$50

Seat for '72 Electra Glide black / white with chrome hand rail. Very good cond. \$100

Tools

Van Norman cylinder Boring bar - call Motorcycle cylinder bar mount - call Kwik Way valve grinder - call Kalamazoo band saw roll around model - call James in Bend (425) 736-2015

Classifieds

OTC members get one free quarter-page ad with a photo for motorcycle related items each newsletter issue. Additional quarter-page ads and non-OTC members are \$10 each. Ads run for two issues.











More classified next page --→



CLASSIFIED (cont'd)



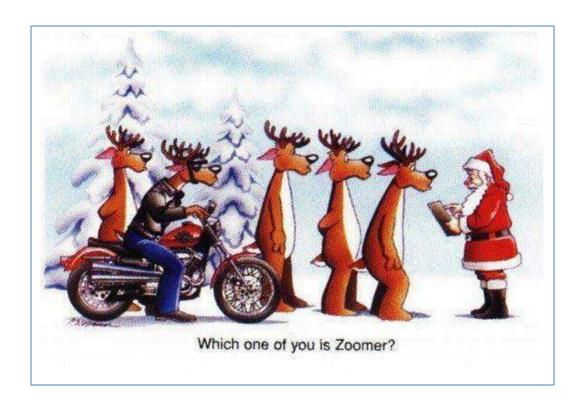












More classified next page --→

CLASSIFIED (cont'd)

From Martin Doerfler:

09. VL era (?) Sidecar fender. Pretty good. \$300 ish.

10. 125/165 fuel tank with switch and bezel. Minimum rust, several small dents, no creases. Perfect for period correct bobber. I don't really want to sell it price, \$400.

Not Shown

New unopened set of 45 crank thrust washers \$50.

Pair of 42 WLA cylinders complete. With a pair of new .020 over pistons. Offer.

Really nice (last time I looked) set of Honda/Suzuki forks with 19" diam wheel \$150.

Free good old days story with every purchase.

Call Martin in Keizer 503-999-5930 or email acegarage@gmail.com









Motorcycle Zen

Before you criticize someone's motorcycle, you should ride if for a mile. That way, when you criticize it, you're a mile away and you have their motorcycle.

If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of bike payments.

Experience with working on antique motorcycles is something you don't get until just after you need it.



Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America October 13, 2020

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM by conference call.

Officers in Attendance: Jen Nielsen Pres., Martin Doerfler, Vice-President, Tom Nielsen Secretary, John Davey Treasurer, Bill Quaccia Activities Coordinator.

Other Attendees: Tom Ruttan.

Treasurer's Report: Waive financial report.

Minutes: Reading of minutes were waived. See newsletter.

Correspondence: Tom N received an email from Matthew Kaufman who requested to be removed from mailing list. Tom N received an email from Oregon Pacific bank in response to our officer election mailing. Bank said that Melvin and Betty Gowman passed away in 2019. Jen received an email from Keith Keizer at AMCA that they would not be able to help or place any notices requesting help to fire victims that owned vintage motorcycles (none of individuals were AMCA members).

Old Business:

✓ John Day Ride. All agreed that we were glad we cancelled ride due to forest fires in area.

New Business:

- Upcoming Meetings and Activities. All events tentative based on COVID pandemic.
 - November meeting considering Marquam Inn in Mt Angel. They have outside seating and heaters. Martin will look into.
 Tentative for 11 AM on 14th.
 - Tim Burns place for December holiday party. Can we do with both his doors open and set up pop-ups? Jen will ask Tim.
 - o For 2021 Rally, plan on doing at John Day. AMCA sent a notice for us regarding a National in 2022. This was like an auto renewal since we did it in 2018. Year is tentative as they have many events rescheduled. Consensus was to do at Powerland, ONLY if we can get more support from general membership on the many tasks. Tom will update the "To-Do" list used for 2018 and get to officers for review. Then officers to divide up membership to call

- everyone and querry what tasks they would be willing to help with.
- Jen asked if there was interest in sending out a holiday card to membership. We have not any funds incoming since we had no rally this year, so consensus was not to do so.

Next business meeting/conference call – November 10th at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.

Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America November 10, 2020

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM by conference call.

Officers in Attendance: Jen Nielsen Pres., Tom Nielsen Secretary, Martin Doerfler, Vice-President, John Davey Treasurer, Bill Quaccia Activities Coordinator.

Other Attendees: Tom Ruttan and Bruce Reichelt.

Treasurer's Report: Club remains in the black.

Minutes: Reading of minutes were waived. See newsletter.

Correspondence: Jen received notice from Keith Kizer that the National board had approved an update on inclusivity wording in the National Bylaws. The bylaws now have some teeth (warning and consequences) regarding discrimination. Our club will automatically have those rules apply as we are part of national. Jen received email message from Thor Drake regarding the One Show in 2021. Don't have any details, hope to hear soon.

Old Business:

- Regarding OTC Facebook page, Bill needs to get with Tom Krise to work out some details.
- Martin confirmed November 14th at Marquam. We discussed current COVID outbreak, should we bag it?
- Tim cannot do the Holiday party in December. Too close quarters. Consensus was that we should cancel.
- ✓ Still plan for 2021 rally at John Day.
- Regarding National rally in 2022, need confirmation from AMCA National on the date

(year). To table further discussion and polling membership on help until we know more.

New Business:

- Jim Lancaster passed away. Will include an article in upcoming newsletter. Jen has been in touch with his wife Laverne and Tom talked to Don Gabbert, Jim's longtime friend.
- Club will purchase a brick at museum and inscribe Jim's name. Tom N made motion, Martin seconded, unanimous to purchase brick for \$125. Jen will contact Laverne to confirm inscription. John will get check to NWVMM.
- Tom R did receive some items from the recently closed World of Speed. Received some archived papers, articles on Roy Burke's racing news and other articles.
- ✓ OTC needs to renew membership at NW Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum. Tom N made motion, Martin seconded, unanimous to renew membership for \$100. John will get check to NWVMM.
- ✓ We need a schedule of activities for 2021. Bill will develop a draft for review at next meeting.
- ✓ Upcoming events.
- Tom N motioned to allow members to have a quarter page ad for classified in each newsletter, to run two issues. If members want more space, or for non-members, cost is \$10 per each quarter page. John seconded, unanimous to do so.
- As an FYI, Jason Momoa is doing a six-part TV series on Harley-Davidson "United we will ride."
- Also, Ewan McGregor (Star Wars fame) is doing a 13,000 ride from the southern tip of South America all the way to Los Angeles with his riding partner, Charlie Boorman, each on Harley-Davidson's new electric bikes. This is the third round-the-world bike trip for McGregor and Boorman. There was Long Way Round in 2004, from London east to New York City, followed by Long Way Down in 2007, from Scotland to Cape Town. The series is on Apple TV.

Next business meeting/conference call – December 8th at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.

Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America December 8, 2020

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM by conference call.

Officers in Attendance: Jen Nielsen Pres., Martin Doerfler, VP, Tom Nielsen Secretary, John Davey Treasurer, Bill Quaccia Activities Coordinator.

Other Attendees: Tom Ruttan.

Treasurer's Report: Club remains in the black.

Minutes: Reading of minutes waived. See newsletter.

Correspondence: Jen and Tom were at See See Moto Coffee and met briefly with Connor, manager in Newberg. One Show is considering doing rides between three See See shops. Looking into races. Martin said Salem is not having races because of COVID – thought unlikely See See can do them.

Old Business:

- Re: Facebook. Bill reported that not much progress being made. There are glitches.
 - Question: Do we want a FB page? Jen made a motion to set up a FB page, Martin seconded, unanimous to do so.
 - Bill agreed to take it on, he and Jen will work on setting up a new page. They scheduled a date/time to meet to get started.
 - ✓ Bill set up a rough schedule for 2021. He will send out to officers for review.
 - ✓ Regarding brick for Jim Lancaster, Tom R needs a form filled out for words on the brick. Jen to contact Laverne for input.

New Business:

- Upcoming Meetings and Activities. All events tentative based on COVID pandemic.
 - Have cancelled December holiday party.
 - Decided to cancel January gathering. We really cannot get together. We should focus on connecting through FaceBook.
 - Newsletter articles. Tom R has one on brakes, Jen will do some holiday/motorcycle themed puzzles.

Next business meeting/conference call – January 12th at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.