

# Trail Gazette

October 2016

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## Meeting Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, September 24, 2016

President Bruce Reichelt called the meeting to order at 11:16 am at the Old Gas Station at the Antique Powerland, Brooks, OR.

### **Officers in Attendance:**

*Officers attending were President Bruce, Treasurer Tom Ruttan, and your intrepid secretary, Tom Krise.*

### **Attendees:**

Newsletter Co-Editors Tom & Jen Nielsen, and Gene Walker.

### **Minutes:**

Tom K. read the last meeting minutes, with a minor correction as to who actually read the minutes (it was your Secretary, Tom K., not Tom N., who read them. Tom N. took them in my absence, printed them out and handed them to me).

### **Treasurer Report:**

Tom R. gave the financial report. The final numbers have been crunched on July's road run, and we posted a modest profit.

### **By-laws:**

As our by-laws require, motions were opened up this September meeting for proposed changes to the by-laws, as each proposal will be automatically tabled after discussion for the October meeting. The October business meeting is, again, according to bylaws, is currently the only month we can modify the by-laws.

Jen motioned, Tom K 2<sup>nd</sup>, that we change the by-laws to be open for changes October, February and May. After a brief discussion, Bruce tabled the motion to be voted on the October meeting.

Jen motioned, Tom K 2<sup>nd</sup>, that when making a motion proposing a change in the by-laws, the motion must be submitted in writing, and at a business meeting before a business meeting we can modify the by-laws. After a brief discussion, Bruce tabled the motion to be voted on the October meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 22, 2016 11 AM**

At The Old Texaco Gas Station, Antique Powerland,  
3995 Brooklake Road NE Brooks, Oregon  
(I-5 exit #263, ¼ mile west)

**Meeting followed by a ride-weather  
dependent.**

**Bring your favorite motorcycle photo, story,  
book, or magazine for discussion in case of  
inclement weather.**



### **Elections:**

Elections for officers were opened. Tom R. was nominated to the office of Treasurer by Tom K., and Tom R accepted. With no other challengers, a show of hands had Tom Ruttan continuing in the role of Treasurer.

Tom K. was nominated to the office of Secretary by Tom R., and Tom R accepted. With no other challengers, a show of hands had Tom Krise continuing in the role of Secretary.

Chuck was nominated to the office of Vice President by Tom N. Although Chuck was absent, it was stated on good authority that he's willing to serve another term. With no other challengers, a show of hands had Chuck Hodson continuing in the role of Vice President.

Bruce was nominated to the office of President by Tom K., and Jen was nominated to the office of President by Tom N.

*With paper ballots, and counted by Gene Walker, Jen Nielsen emerged as our new president of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the AMCA. Jen will begin to serve next meeting.*

### **Old Business:**

Under Old Business was a short discussion on the venue of our next road run and individual club members reaching out to road run participants for feedback and to keep them thinking about our next road run. Tom, Gene, Tom, Jen, and, of course, Tom all volunteered to form the Road Run 2017 Committee. Our road run is projected to be July 20-22, 2017.

### **New Business:**

- We held brief discussion on our participation in The One motorcycle show. Tom K. opined that perhaps we could bring more bikes to display.
- Our options for our annual Christmas party are either December 3rd or 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Tom K. distributed a map for a lovely backroad ride after the meeting.

### **Announcements:**

The next Club meeting is a week early, at 11 AM on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Brooks Powerland, the Old Gas Station.

**On that note, Tom K. motioned and Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup> we adjourn. Motion Passed.** Bruce pulled the plug at 12:38pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Krise, Secretary.



Halloween is Coming!!!

### **WORST DAY OF MY LIFE!**

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig.

"Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," I say.

"I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife with another man... and then my dog bit me."

"So, I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a drink. I drop a cyanide capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; and then you show up and drink the whole damn thing!"

"But, enough about me, how are you doing?"



## The Pres Letter-

Hello, I am Jennifer Nielsen, and I feel privileged to be your new President. Allow me to briefly introduce myself and talk about my goals for the next year. I am originally from Michigan, where my father introduced me to motorcycles by putting me on the gas tank and taking me for rides as a wee girl. Growing up in the country, as kids we rode mini-bikes and dirt bikes on the back roads around my small town. Fast forward to recent times. When my youngest daughter was off to college, my husband Tom and I each bought new Harley Sportsters. Tom saw the OTC on the Antique Powerland web site, and we came to our first meeting almost two years ago. We have both been so impressed with the club, the knowledge and graciousness of the members, and the diversity of all your cool bikes. Tom and I have each added an antique bike to our collection and are up to a stable of six!

Now to share my goals for this year. There are three areas where I would like to focus. The first, is getting our current members more active in the club. To do this, I need to find out **what** the Club can do help you become more active. I will be calling each of you to ask you just that. When I call, please be honest. When I see our membership at our Rally, I see people having fun. I see people enjoying the company of other members. We, the Board, want to see this happen more often, so again, please be honest when I call you.

My second goal is to create more activity. Let's ride when the weather is nice. When it's not-so-nice, let's share our projects, share our tips, share our ride memories. When I call, I will also ask about the time of day the meeting is held. We have recently been having meetings start at 11 AM, then head out for a ride and include a lunch along the way. Share with me if this is something that would work for you. Also, do we need to shift our meeting location every so often? We have members at different locations, should we come to you from time-to-time?

The third goal I have is to share our collective talents with other motorcycle groups, including those who are a bit younger. Tom and I met so many of the "younger" crowd who love bikes, old

bikes, and tinkering with bikes. They need and want info. They want venues to get involved. They want knowledge. Let's give them all of it!

I look forward to speaking with each of you. I also look forward to meeting you, so, I invite you all to participate in our Christmas get together on

Saturday, December 3 at the McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove. More details are in the newsletter. Mark your calendars and come enjoy an afternoon of appetizers and friendship. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Jennifer*

*People are like Motorcycles: each is customized a bit differently*

## Bobbers and Bowties: The Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride

By Tom Nielsen

Early on Sunday morning, September 25<sup>th</sup>, motorcyclists from around Portland had some fun dressing in "Sunday go to meeting" clothes and riding their vintage, custom, bobber, and many other types of motorcycles all around Portland.



Hundreds of riders met at See-See Coffee in support of a fundraiser to find a cure to men's prostate cancer and promote mental health. The ride happens concurrently in cities in 90 countries across the globe, including

Portland, Salem, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Denver, Savannah, Chicago, New York, Toronto, Mexico City, London, Bangkok, Sidney, and Bangkok, to name a few.



Nils and Sharon Olsen were on their 1967 Harley-Davidson FL sidecar rig. Jen and I rode two up on our Sportster. There were brands of every type and many vintage and antiques. It was quite a sight as the group toured through every quadrant of Portland, riding over 60 miles. Highlights included filling both west-bound lanes on NW Burnside with four motorcycles abreast, waves and cheers from onlookers, the mass of motorcycles crossing the St. Johns bridge, and the finely dressed individuals making a gentlemanly (and gentlewomanly) positive presence for motorcyclists and contributing to a great cause.



There were over 57,000 registered riders who raised \$3.5 million worldwide. Riders in the US raised \$1.1 million. Some notable DGR Ambassadors include 'Fast' Freddie Spencer (World Champion racer from '83 and '85 on 500 cc), Charley Boormman (*Long Way Round*), Maria Costello (Isle of Man TT racer), and Roland Sands. There were 187 registered riders in Portland; clearly more than that number participated. Running consecutive red lights is apparently a big draw.



You can still make a donation until October 31. Please consider doing do by following this link:  
<https://www.gentlemansride.com/rider/tomsan>

For more information on the DGR, see this link:  
<https://www.gentlemansride.com/about>



## The Ten Best Handling Motorcycles of All Time – excerpt from John Glimmerveen Classic Motorcycles Expert [classicmotorcycles.about.com](http://classicmotorcycles.about.com)



A Norton Featherbed with a Vincent engine.  
Photo Credit: John H Glimmerveen Licensed to  
About.com

### 1. Norton Featherbed

The way a motorcycle handles is determined by a number of factors. Some of these factors are within the control of the rider; for instance, riding style, [maintenance](#) of the chassis (engine tuning also plays a part), and location for riding (a touring bike is not the best for a [track day](#)).

However, one factor is not within the control of the rider: the design. If the engineers who designed the bike were restricted primarily by price, for instance, the handling may well suffer.

If the cost of the best shock/s were outside of the price range for a given design, then the handling will be adversely affected.

To come up with a list of the ten best [handling](#) classics of all time, it is necessary to select one considered the best. Most riders who have experienced a Norton Featherbed's (based on the famous [Manx Norton's](#) frame) handling will use this chassis to judge all others. It was a revelation in its day, and can still put to shame many [modern bikes](#).



A classic Triton outside the Ace Cafe in London.  
Photo Credit: Wallace [classicbikes.actieforum.com](http://classicbikes.actieforum.com)

### 2. Triton

Utilizing the Norton Featherbed slim-line [frame](#) and a [Bonneville](#) engine, these iconic [cafe racers](#) can still make their more modern cousins look bad. Originally developed for racing by Rex McCandless with the Manx Norton's, this frame is hard to beat for good [handling](#). The frame was a twin loop design with extra bracing around the headstock. Torsional rigidity was very strong with this design.



Yamaha's most successful racer, the TZ. This particular example (a 250E) is on display at the Barber Vintage Museum. Photo Credit: John H

### 3. TZ Yamaha

The TZ Yamaha racers (125, 250, 350, 500, 700, and 750) have won more road races than any other motorcycle range. Ironically, some of the bikes in this range (the 700 and 750 in particular) were considered some of the worst handling racers ever made. But a well set up and ridden Yamaha 250 or 350 was a match for most racers in their day.

**Final 10 Bikes according to Glimmerveen:** 4. Suzuki GSXR 750 5. Norton Commando  
6. Velocette Viper 7. Honda 400/4 8. Laverda Jota 9. BSA Goldstar 10. Ducati 750/SS



**OREGON TRAIL CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 12-3pm**

McMenamins Grand Lodge, Forest Grove

Please join us for our December meeting.  
Purely a social event!

We have reserved a block of rooms, should anyone want to spend the night. When reserving, let them know you are with the AMCA motorcycle group. Rooms will be let go on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to seeing you there.

3505 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove, OR 97116  
[www.mcmenamins.com](http://www.mcmenamins.com)  
(503) 992-9533

**Upcoming Events**

Date	Event
Nov 5	<b>ABATE of Oregon Fall Swap Meet</b> 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM <a href="mailto:swapmeet@abateoforegon.net">swapmeet@abateoforegon.net</a>
Nov 18 - 20	<b>Long Beach International Motorcycle Show</b> <a href="http://www.motorcycleshows.com/">http://www.motorcycleshows.com/</a>
Nov 26	<b>Oregon Trail Club Chapter Meeting</b> Tom Krise's Garage 11 AM
Dec 3	<b>Oregon Trail Club Holiday Party</b> 12-3 pm McMenamins Grand Lodge, Forest Grove
Dec 3	<b>37<sup>th</sup> Annual Shriners/ABATE Toy Ride</b> <a href="http://www.abatetoyrun.com">www.abatetoyrun.com</a>
Dec 11 8 am – 4 pm	<b>Dave Mann 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Chopperfest Show and Swap Meet</b> Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura, CA <a href="http://www.chopperfestival.com/">http://www.chopperfestival.com/</a>

***Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiast***

Portland Chapter on the second Tuesday of Every Month at 7:00 PM noon at the Rambler, 4205 N Mississippi Ave, Portland OR  
<http://www.vmemc.org/>

**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 [nielsents@comcast.net](mailto:nielsents@comcast.net)  
Thanks, Tom and Jen

***Oregon Vintage Motorcyclists***

OVM meets on the Second Saturday of Every Month at noon at Columbia River Brewing, 1728 NE 40th, Portland OR 97212 <http://www.oregonvintage.org/>

**Dues are due!!**

Please submit your dues. Dues are \$15 per year and expire in June of each year. Make check out to OTC AMCA and mail to Treasurer Tom Ruttan. Questions? Call Tom at 503-621-8943 or [tgruttan@gmail.com](mailto:tgruttan@gmail.com)  
Also online at [antiquemotorcycleoregon.com](http://antiquemotorcycleoregon.com)