

# Trail Gazette

Jun-Jul 2020

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## Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America June 9, 2020

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM by conference call.

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

**Other Attendees:** Tom Ruttan and Bruce Reichelt. o

**Minutes:** Reading of minutes were waived. See newsletter.

**Correspondence:** Martin received a call about the Tenino Swap meeting – it is still on [this has since changed, **Tenino Swap Meet is cancelled**].

**Treasurer's Report:** Club remains in the black. Have been receiving membership dues.

### Old Business:

- ✓ 2020 Rally Discussion:
  - o Rally is cancelled. AMCA website now show us as cancelled.
  - o We will hold OTC member only ride at John Day on September 12<sup>th</sup>. To meet at 9:30 AM at Grant County RV Park. Folks should plan on getting to John Day on Friday.
  - o Jen will contact Dreamer's Lodge and Grant County RV to cancel our group reservations.
- ✓ For the August ride in Eugene area, John will set date so have a 30 day break from the July event.

### New Business:

- ✓ Thanks Bill for a great article for newsletter.

- ✓ Upcoming Meetings and Activities. Reviewed schedule of events, however they are all tentative based on COVID pandemic (see event calendar in newsletter).
- ✓ The OTC website was updated with new schedule.
- ✓ Membership form was updated and PayPal enabled.
- ✓ Experienced conference call problems on this call. John will contact call company.

Next business meeting/conference call – July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.

## August 15<sup>th</sup> ACTIVITY Eugene Area Ride

Meet at 10:30 AM at home of John Davey for an approximate two-hour ride led by John.  
Kickstands up at 11 AM.  
Bring a lunch or plan to buy lunch individually  
Follow Oregon's social distancing and mask rules

See email transmittal with this newsletter for John's home address



## Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America July 14, 2020

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM by conference call.

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

**Other Attendees:** Tom Ruttan.

**Minutes:** Reading of minutes were waived. See newsletter.

**Correspondence:** Jen had several emails with Keith Kizer. Tom sent out an email notice (with some mailings) to club members with notice of rally cancellation. Ross Metcalfe, AMCA President, called Jen and said he wanted to come to our next rally. He also said that AMCA is promoting a National Antique Motorcycle Day in the US Congress.

**Treasurer's Report:** Club remains in the black. John talked to the accountant that does taxes for his business about our club's taxes. Two choices: do nothing, or file a form 899N with tax ID and answer 8 questions. All concurred to do latter. John will file 899N tomorrow. Question came up as to what our fiscal year is – decided it should coincide with officer's term of office – so October 1 to September 30.

### Old Business:

- ✓ 2020 Rally:
  - The website was updated with cancellation notice.
  - National posted cancellation notice on AMCA website.
  - Jen to hold onto hotel and RV reservations for a while. Jen cancelled the dinner reservations at John Day.
  - We will hold a club ride in John Day in September – club members only. Folks need to practice social-distancing as many of our members are in higher risk group.

### New Business:

- ✓ June 27<sup>th</sup> ride went very well. Had seven attendees including one from OVM. Some very nice riding – big thanks to Tom Ruttan for planning, mapping, and leading the ride. ○
- ✓ Upcoming events.

- July ride is to Michael Tillson's. To meet at 9:30 AM the 18<sup>th</sup> at Cornelius Pass Rd. Fred Meyers. Matt Presley will lead ride.
- August ride will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>, meet at John Davey's house. John planned a route.
- September 12<sup>th</sup> to have club ride in John Day. (See article and event schedule in this newsletter for details.)
- October to have a garage crawl at Tom Ruttan's (tentative).
- November to have no Turkey Tech day at Tom Krise's (tentative).
- December is holiday party (tentative).

✓ Tom N. requested items for newsletter. John has a technical article he will send.

### ✓ Officer Elections

- With our inability to hold full meetings, discussed alternatives for elections. All concurred that we will do nominations and elections by mail. Tom N will mail a notice to all members with a stamped pre-addressed post card for making officer nominations. After nominations are received, send out another mailing with pre-addressed postcard for elections.
- All current officers said they would stay on in current positions another term (assuming they are not voted out). So their names will appear as a nomination. (Subsequently contacted Martin, who did not attend call, and he confirmed he would remain VP if not voted out.)

✓ Discussed that non-discrimination language is in AMCA national policies and procedures (P&P). AMCA national is in process of updating their P&P. As members of AMCA, all OTC members must abide by these policies. With current national tensions about race relations, we need to be sensitive to this and emphasize inclusiveness.

✓ Jen described recent posts on her personal Facebook (FB) by a club member that were politically divisive and racially derogatory. This brings up the need for someone to regularly monitor our club FB account. There have been with infrequent postings to club FB. Bill volunteered to monitor our club FB page on weekly basis and do some postings. Jen will contact Tom Krise, current administrator, to add Bill as an administrator.

Next business meeting/conference call – August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.



## The Pres Letter-

Happy August folks!

I hope you all have been able to get out and ride. We have and it has been glorious! Our most recent outings have been ones of exploration. Have you been riding with the same 'ol faces and want to touch base with some club members? Come join some folks, socially distanced or masked (please and thank you), on Saturday the 15th.

Want some more club adventure? Join a bunch of us in John Day in September. We are not having our Regional Rally, but we are going to hold a club-only event--club members and spouses. Our official club ride is Saturday, September 12th, but many of us are arriving as early as Tuesday and staying through the weekend. A group of us scoped this out last year and had a blast!

You all should have received your letter describing how we will be holding club officer elections this year and a postcard showing who has been nominated to run for a position and a space for you to write-in candidates if you choose to. If you haven't already sent these back, please do so, as they are due the club secretary by August 10th.

On another, broader subject, we are experiencing unprecedented events and living in a time of national tensions about race relations. I believe it is our personal responsibility to be aware of and sensitive to the rights and feelings of others. There is no hard mark between where my rights end and yours begin—there is only an overlap. We need to be sensitive to this and emphasize inclusiveness. That said, I want to remind everyone that there is non-discrimination language in the AMCA national policies and procedures (P&P). The AMCA national is in the process of updating their P&P. And, as members of AMCA, all OTC members must abide by these policies. We all have so very much more in common than we have differences.

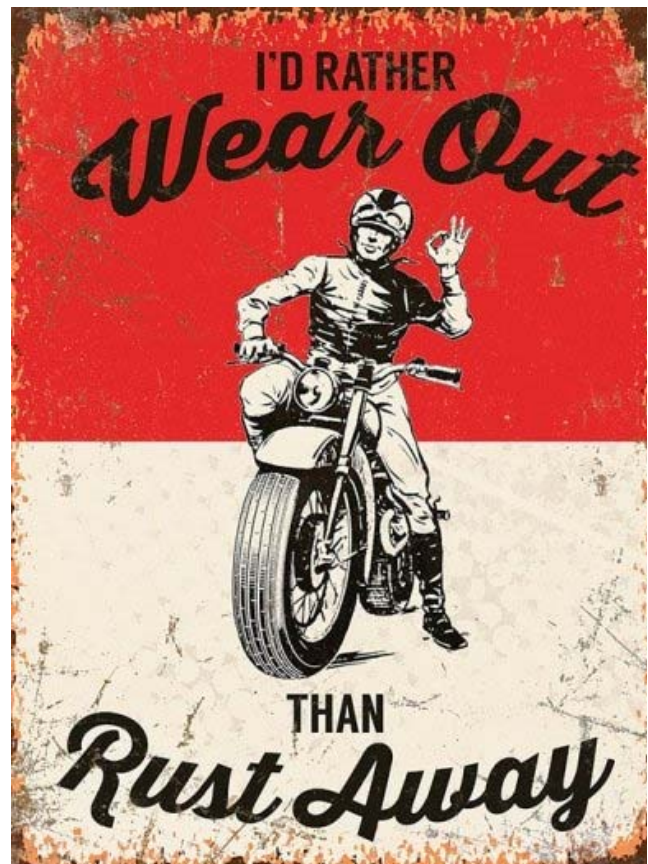
Take care of yourselves and of one another.

Peace out,  
Jen  
[tomandjen@shadyapple.com](mailto:tomandjen@shadyapple.com)  
503.522.3163

*"Sometimes you need a really crooked road to get your head straight."* — Anonymous



OTC members gather at Powerland for June 27<sup>th</sup> ride







## The Upcoming September 12<sup>th</sup> Rides in John Day - "STAY LOOSE"

Because of COVID-19, we cannot hold a typical road run or rally. So we are not inviting people outside of the club. The plan is for us to gather individually or in small "family" groups in John Day. The ride theme is "Stay Loose" because it will be informal, and folks are pretty much on their own for rides. Come out for whatever days you can.

The only club gathering is on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the Grant County RV park. This is the only "official" club gathering. Folks will depart in their own groups, depending on how long a ride they want. We will have maps for five routes of differing lengths. Everyone needs to comply with Oregon social distancing and mask requirements – thanks in advance.

Different club members are coming as early as Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> and leaving as late as Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Individuals can come earlier and stay later too. The John Day area is fantastic for motorcycle riding, and the intent is to have us all experience this area, but do so in your own small group.

Here are highlights:

- The club is gathering on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. There are five routes we have identified and mapped, and depending on how long a ride you want, pick a route and break into groups for that route. There will be no formal "OTC led ride."
- For other days, you can ride one of mapped routes or plan your own ride(s).
- We will have Google directions/maps of five different ride routes available at the Grant County RV Park. Rides are 78, 91, 129, 146, and 199 miles.
- There is also an "Eastern Oregon Motorcycle Map" of the region you can use to plan rides. This map shows roads and towns in the John Day Area, from Prineville to Baker City. Businesses in John Day have copies.
- Members need to make their own arrangements for lodging and meals.
- There will NOT be a recovery vehicle. Also, cell service is spotty. So, we recommend you ride in small groups. If someone has a break down, a rider can go for assistance.



OTC members crossing the Willamette River on the Wheatland Ferry, on June 27<sup>th</sup> ride





## Drive Chain Maintenance and Replacement

By John Davey

A most beautiful day, perfect temps, gassed up, oil and tires checked. Fired up the old '41 Knuckle and let it warm up. Put on jacket and sunglasses and..... Where'd that puddle come from? Shut everything down and push back in the garage. After close examination with a flashlight it was coming from the sprocket shaft at the gearbox. "This will not be cheap, nor will it be a quick fix."

The drive chain was adjusted correctly but the previous owner had an aftermarket enclosed chain guard installed. (See Pic) One small plate to remove so you could check adjustment and lube the chain. This was the first thing to go on the shelf. The previous owner had this bike for 20+ years and I have no idea how often that chain got checked or adjusted or replaced. The bushing and seal may have just worn out or my guess would be that either the chain was worn out or too tight at some point. It's asking for trouble to have stress on that sprocket and shaft when simple adjustments can keep things turning freely.



Bruce Palmer's book(s) *How to Restore your Harley-Davidson* has great advice and I'll just reference a small bit from his section on this subject. Remove the chain and layout in a straight line on a clean surface. Compress the chain by pushing the ends together and measure the length, now pull the chain to its full length and measure. If the difference between the two measurements is 5/8" or greater, the chain should be replaced. A new

chain will average a 1/8" difference. He also feels the sprocket should be replaced as well, as a stretched chain will have worn the teeth down to a sharp point or waved them (where one side has been worn in and not the other). My sprocket actually looked pretty good so I left it on.

I figured this was a good time to replace lots of things. Primary chain, clutch parts that were worn, hub, etc. Out came the gearbox for a complete rebuild. This was time consuming and expensive which is why I'm writing this article. Keeping your chain(s) properly lubed and adjusted will stave off expensive repair work. My brand new chain was \$89 dollars which is a small price to pay in relation to failed bushings and seals. I garnered a tip from a moto crosser on the master link. He puts a small dab of 'Gorilla Snot' or "3M yellow super weather strip and gasket adhesive" on the master link and believe me, it's not coming apart without a lot of scraping and prying. He said the spring clips can sometimes be a little weak and pop off leaving you in a possible precarious situation. He spoke from experience!

When adjusting the chain, at least on my bike, it is recommended that there be 1/2" to 5/8" freeplay. To set the adjustment, the chain's tightest spot must be found on the top side, midway between the sprockets. Rotate the wheel by hand until this spot is detected.

The chain should already have enough lubricant if new but you can always add a bit for good measure. Everyone seems to have their favorite, mine is "BelRay Super Clean chain lubricant". This doesn't splatter all over your rims, bags and everything else, a very nice product.



That's it folks, a simple topic but one I pay a lot of attention to. I almost always reach down and check my chain before a ride, I certainly don't want to replace things before their normal wear time! Here's to long trouble-free rides.





## 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.

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## 2020-2021 Officer Elections

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, club officers decided that we will do nominations and elections of officers by mail. Members should have received a letter describing how we will be holding club officer nominations and elections this year and a pre-stamped, pre-addressed postcard showing who has been nominated to run for a position and a space for you to write-in candidates if you choose to do so. The nominations are due to the club secretary by August 10th.

After nominations are received, another mailing will occur with pre-addressed postcards for voting of nominated individuals.

All current officers said they would stay on in current positions another term (assuming they are not voted out).

## Tenino Swap Meeting Cancelled

The Evergreen Chapter notified us on July 31<sup>st</sup> that the swap meet was cancelled.

They do plan to hold their next AMCA National in September 2022.

## Steve McQueen Indian Seat

I am trying verify the history of a Steve McQueen Indian seat that I purchased some years ago from a gentleman from Oregon. (See the attachment at end of this newsletter explaining the seat's history-ed).

Any information that you or your members could give me would be much appreciated.

Any ideas or suggestions that you have for me would be much appreciated.

I live in northern California. When I get the bike completed, I would love to take a trip up to you guys. Your club looks like fun.

Best regards,  
Doug Gjerde  
[dgjerde@comcast.net](mailto:dgjerde@comcast.net)  
Cell: 408 464 4727



OTC club members and OVM guests assembled for July 18<sup>th</sup>

## Celebrities on Motorcycles -

Who are these familiar faces on two wheels?  
Answers on page 8.





## 2020 Meeting Calendar Oregon Trail Chapter, AMCA

Month	Activity
Every Month 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	<b>OTC Business Conference Call</b> All members welcome Call 971-256-0996, then enter code 412341
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Eugene Area Ride</b> <i>Meet at 10:30 AM at home of John Davey for an approximate two-hour ride. Kickstands up at 11 AM. Bring a lunch or plan to stop individually. Follow Oregon rules for social distancing and masks.</i>
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John Day Ride(s)</b> <i>Meet at 9:30 AM. Because of distance to John Day, members should plan on arriving Friday evening. Some will be arriving days earlier and staying later. Members responsible for their own lodging and meals. There are multiple rides around John Day.</i>

## Scientific Study Shows Motorcycle Riding Decreases Stress

Science is now confirming what riders have known all along: getting on a motorcycle is good for your mood. In a 2019 University of California, Los Angeles study funded by Harley-Davidson, researchers recorded the brain activity and hormone levels of more than 50 riders. The scientists tracked brain activity before motorcycles hit the road, mid-ride and afterward—plus while they were driving a car and relaxing. The ride was 22 miles, in normal weather conditions, on somewhat rural roads with light traffic, and all participants rode their own motorcycles.

Here's what the researchers found: A motorcycle ride decreased the participants' stress biomarkers by almost 30%. Riding for 20 minutes boosted their heart rates by more than 10% and adrenaline by 27%—similar to the effect of getting light exercise. Meanwhile, the EEG detecting the riders' brain activity found that the ride did more good than just getting their cortisol under control—though that's pretty significant to begin with. Changes in brain activity showed that the riders were more alert and less likely to be distracted, similar to what happens when you drink a cup of coffee.

See also:

<http://www.donvaughn.com/motorcycle/>

<https://www.harley-davidson.com/us/en/about-us/hd-news/2019/Harley-Davidson-Riding-Study-Press-Release.html>

### Celebrities on Motorcycles

From page 7

Upper Left: Elvis Presley

Upper Right: Walter Matthau

Lower: Jillian Michaels

### Oregon Vintage Motorcyclists

OVM meets on the second Saturday of every month at noon at Horse Brass Pub, 4534 SE Belmont St., Portland, OR

<http://www.oregonvintage.org>

### Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiast

Portland Chapter on the second Tuesday of Every Month at 6:00 PM at Yurs Bar and Grill, 717 NW 16<sup>th</sup> 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 [tomandjen@shadyapple.com](mailto:tomandjen@shadyapple.com)

Thanks, Tom



## 1947 Steve McQueen Indian Chief Motorcycle Seat

We are two brothers who grew up in rural Minnesota in the 60's riding motorcycles. We have a love for old motorcycles and keeping history. We are in the process of restoring 1948 and 1947 Indian Chiefs. We have a 47 seat that we are attempting to document former ownership to Steve McQueen.

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Doug Gjerde [dgjerde@comcast.net](mailto:dgjerde@comcast.net)

### 1947 Indian Chum-Me-Seat

1947 Indian single seat purchased the seat off of eBay in 2003 or 2004.



### Original Owner of the 1947 seat

The person who sold us the seat was from Oregon. After we won the bid, the owner wrote me asking for the shipping address. In the email, the owner said that the seat was from Steve McQueen. He specifically said the seat was from a 47 Indian.

In his email he said he was always going to use the seat in a restoration. The reason he had held on to the seat was that it was owned by Steve McQueen. He was getting old and was down to only riding his Harley Knuckle. It sounded like he had other motorcycles. Once I found out that the seat was once owned by Steve McQueen, we tried to correspond with him, but he wouldn't return emails. The Oregon guy may not be living yet. But he may still have family or friends there.



Shortly after that, the pressures of business took over and we not able to devote any time on Indian projects. It is only within the last several months that the business was sold and the pressure of day to day business and payroll was reduced. We can now return to the project.

Our intent is not to restore the seat but rather we would like to make it useable and install it on a 47 Indian Chief motorcycle with as many original parts as possible. It seems fitting that we should gather parts together to assemble the bike rather than just replace the seat on an existing bike. This would be more appropriate for an "orphan" seat with this history. We have the majority of the parts already purchased.

### Riding partners of McQueen's

Riding partners of McQueen's were Bud and Dave Elkins. Perhaps there is connection here with the Oregon guy; we don't know.

We would like to find out who in Oregon once owned a 47 Indian seat that was owned by Steve McQueen and then document the history of ownership.

Trip to National Motorcycle Museum in Anamosa, IA <https://nationalmcmuseum.org>

The Executive Director is Bill Barber [bbarber@nationalmcmuseum.org](mailto:bbarber@nationalmcmuseum.org). Bill showed me the Steve McQueen 1947 Indian Motorcycle on display. It was a daily rider and favorite of Steve McQueen. The museum has owned the motorcycle for since about 2000. The 1947 Indian chopper was built by Douglas "JD" Cameron in Santa Ana, CA. for McQueen in the late 60's JD wouldn't sell his bike to Steve, so he made Steve a replica of his own bike. There may have some Starklite Indian Motorcycles (Parris, CA). It was modeled after another Indian that McQueen saw that he liked. Mr. Barber thought it was between built between 1967 and 1969.

