

Trail Gazette

Jan - Feb 2021

President Jennifer Nielsen
Lake Oswego, OR
503.522.3163
tomandjen@shadyapple.com

Vice President Martin Doerfler
Keizer, OR
503.999.5930
acegarage638@gmail.com



Treasurer John Davey
Eugene, OR
541.852.8023
john@riverroofing.com

Activities Coordinator Bill Quaccia
541.944.0491
kodiak_bill@hotmail.com

Secretary Tom Nielsen
Lake Oswego, OR
503.522.2124
tomandjen@shadyapple.com

In this issue

- Forgotten (Oregon) Racer Won Seven International Titles
- Presidents Letter
- Westside Motorcycle Club, Eugene 1938
- Cannonball Burns
- Elsbeth Beard Rides Around the World
- Tom Ruttan and the 1944 War Bike
- "New Bikes" for OTC members
- Celebrities on Motorcycles
- Classified Ads
- Minutes from Business Meetings

The Forgotten (Oregon) Racer Who Won Seven International Titles

By Mike Botan, reprinted from *Adventure Rider*
ADVRIDER.COM

<https://advrider.com/the-forgotten-racer-who-won-seven-international-motorcycle-titles/>

They say that fame is fleeting. And for one international champion, it unfortunately was. For seven times international dirt track motorcycle champion Ray Tauscher, it seems that the efforts of documentarian Ned Thanhouser and his son Michael are resurrecting his well-earned fame.

Ray Tauscher early years

If you've never heard of Ray Tauscher, you are not alone. Ray was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1905. He grew up on Portland's local streets. In high school, he was a multi-sport athlete. Ray competed in weightlifting, wrestling, and golf, ultimately becoming a weightlifting champion.

As an early 20th-century "thrill seeker," Ray and his brother Jack enjoyed attention from the media for



earnest. Inspired by the racing at a local 1/2-mile dirt track called the Gresham Speed Bowl, by 1923, Ray was entering local speedway races. That year, he went on to win the regional championship.

International racing championships

With that title under his belt, Ray was recruited in 1929 by the London Star newspaper to travel and race motorcycles in England. Once there, Ray set a new one-lap speed record at Wembley stadium of 36.81 mph.

In December of 1930, Ray won the World Dirt Track Derby in Brisbane, Australia, at the Davies Park Speedway. Then, in 1931, Ray went on a winning tear.

On February 14, 1931, he entered and won the Australian Solo Championship at the Wayville Showground in Adelaide, Australia. Returning to England, he stunned the speedway racing world by winning the Star Speedway Rider's Cup at Wembley stadium in front of 80,000 cheering fans.

stunts like skydiving and motorcycle polo. But in 1920, Ray began riding motorcycles in



Not to be stopped, Ray continued racing against Europe's best riders. That year he won the German, French, Danish, and Italian championships. By this time, Ray's accomplishments become well known. His skills are noted throughout the European press, which credits him with four international championship titles in a 12-month period.



Ray Tauscher.
Photo credit: Raytauscher.com

As the world's top rider of the time, Ray consistently drew huge crowds. His wins brought him the respect of sportswriters, often being called a well-rounded sportsman.

Tauscher – Entertainer?

But not too much later, Ray's English racing career was snatched from him. Unfortunately, English laws pertaining to "entertainers" banned him from the U.K. Not to be stopped, Ray raced on the European racing circuit and won additional championships across the continent.

By 1934, injuries had taken their toll, and Ray was forced to return to America. Upon returning to the U.S., Ray met with several successes, but nothing

like what he had accomplished overseas. In 1938, Ray retired from motorcycle racing.

Racing retirement

Although he retired from motorcycle racing himself, he still loved the sport. Wanting to stay within racing, Ray managed racetracks in California, New Jersey, and Toronto. In 1947, Ray took over the management of the local Portland, Oregon Jantzen Beach Area racetrack. While there, he supported new racers, promoted racing events, and hosted racers from Australia to the delight of local crowds. For 28 years, he was also a line supervisor at the Portland Meadows racetrack.

But racing and racing management didn't pay all the bills. So in 1934, Ray began working for the U.S. Postal Service as Chief Financial Examiner. He officially retired 38 years later.

Ray also excelled at golf and was a championship golfer carrying a six handicap. Although he had been a celebrity, it did not dim his view of helping others. He was a member of the Waverly Masonic Lodge, Portland Elks Club and represented Portland at Toastmaster events. In 1981, Ray passed away in his hometown of Portland, Oregon, at the age of 74 from brain cancer.

Ray's accomplishments not forgotten

Ray's accomplishments may have remained forgotten except for the efforts of Ned and Michael Thanouser. The duo has unearthed a box of memorabilia passed down through the local motorcycle club, "The Flying Fifteen."

Also, in 2020, the pair set about thoroughly researching Ray's racing career. Through their efforts, they were able to locate two of Ray's surviving family members from his second marriage, step-grandchildren Danita Hunter and Doug Stone. Both of whom to this day live in Gresham, Oregon.

Doug had inherited a box full of Ray's memorabilia containing Ray's personal scrapbook, photo album, race jerseys, and other items. Also uncovered were two original sheet music titles: My Speedway Hero and Speedway Racing For Me.

Weaving all this information together, the Ned and Michael Thanousers have created a [17-minute film](#)



[of Ray's world-wide travel, racing career, loves, and exploits titled America's Forgotten World Champion Motorcycle Racer.](#) Also of note are the two sets of sheet music about speedway racing that Ray saved. Thanks to the Thanousers, you'll hear both pieces. The film is a wonderful homage to an international racing champion who time had once forgotten but is now remembered.

Drubbed by the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame
Unfortunately, while this film beautifully gives Ray his due, apparently, the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame doesn't think he deserves recognition. According to the film, Ray has twice been submitted for recognition by the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. Once in 1997 and once in 2020. As of this writing, the organization still refuses to recognize Ray's accomplishments and give him the place of honor he deserves.

The fact that the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame has no motorcycle athletes speaks volumes about this particular Hall of Fame. While broadcasters, coaches, equestrians, officials, and table tennis all have inductees, the [Oregon Sports Hall of Fame](#) doesn't see the accomplishments of a 7-time international champion as fit for entry. And that's a shame.

If you believe that Ray should have a place, you can [contact the museum using their contact page](#). Please keep your messages on point, polite and respectful, and tell the Hall why you think Ray should be given a place with other Oregon sports greats.

In closing, thank you, Ned and Michael Thanouser, for giving Ray his due in an artfully and well-made film.

See also <https://raytauscher.com/>

The Pres Letter

Howdy Ho my fine motorcycle riding friends!

As I write this letter, I am looking out at trees starting to blossom and some of my flowers blooming. Hmmm, sounds like riding weather to me! I don't know about you, but I haven't been on my bike for far too long a time.

Your officers are stoked to announce that we are planning some club rides-hopefully as soon as June! Also, save the dates of September 8-11, for our rally in John Day! I cannot wait to see y'all's lovely smiling faces!

We are planning rides around Ashland, Michael Tillson's, and a jaunt to Portland or Newberg. We will also be having a Powerland, Northwest Car and Motorcycle Museum workday in November, and our holiday party in December. If anyone has a great ride or gathering place for us, please shoot me a text or email and let me know.

Peace out,
Jen
503.522.3163
tomandjen@shadyapple.com

"When you're riding lead, don't spit."
Anonymous





Westside Motorcycle Club, Eugene, 1938

Check out the video in this link to see some vintage stunt riding.

This is a clip from an old 8mm movie that these guys shot of stunt action on highway 99 between Eugene and Junction City, Oregon. Just in case anyone thinks that stunt riding in traffic is a new thing! This video is copyright Oregon Vintage Motorcyclists, and C.R. Saville. Mr. Saville is one of the riders in this clip, he passed away in 2007.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR0YFWROEI79yjB8Uixap0lc4GbyBfM57pmJQWrnWWInrbthQTm6KGUI67w&v=NHMxLCr2sfk&feature=youtu.be>



Above and Below, Screen Shots from the 1938 video



**The Oregon Trail Chapter
invites you to
SAVE THE DATE:
SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2021
Our 2021 Rally is in
John Day, Oregon:**

a slice of heaven in Eastern Oregon !

Match Officers to Fun Facts About Them

Officer Name	Fun Facts
1. Jennifer Nielsen	a. I lived and worked 2,672 miles due north of Hilo, Hawaii.
2. Martine Doerfler	b. I have my life insurance license.
3. John Davey	c. I am a graduate of clown college.
4. Tom Nielsen	d. I once lived in Baltimore and worked in the second largest government office building in the world.
5. Bill Kodiak Quaccia	e. In my youth, I raced my motorcycle at the quarter mile drag strip.
6. Tom Ruttan	f. I have 19 U.S. patents with my name on them, but not one is related to motorcycles.

Answers on page 10



Cannonball Burns

#105 TIM BURNS, 1925 Harley-Davidson JDCB

If you haven't heard, our own Tim Burns will participate in the 2021 Cannonball. Tim's bio for his entry is at right. The run starts September 9th in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and ends September 26th in South Padre Island, Texas. Cities along the route: Sault Sainte Marie, MI; Traverse City, MI; Dayton, OH; Myrtle Beach, SC; Maggie Valley, NC; Birmingham, AL; Arkadelphia, AR; Texarkana, TX; Nacogdoches, TX; Victoria, TX; Corpus Christi, TX; McAllen, TX; San Benito, TX; and finish in South Padre Island, TX. Entering those cities in GoogleMap makes the map below. The estimated distance is over 3,100 miles. See link below for more about Cannonball.

Hi, my name is Tim Burns, from Cottage Grove, Oregon and will be riding my 1925 Harley-Davidson 74" JDCB on the 2021 Motorcycle Cannonball.

I have been riding Harleys since buying my first motorcycle at 18, a 1969 sportster, in 1985. It blew up after a couple months and I bought a 84" stroker 62 pan-shovel. I bought my first antique Harley, a 1937 Knucklehead, in 1989, then a 38 UL that I restored in 1992, then a 16F, a 13 9-E, & a few others. I slowed down riding for a few years while I built & raced a blown alcohol 1940 Willy's coupe. That was a blast, but a huge expense, so I sold the racing operation and spent the next 10 years rock crawling a jeep Cherokee that I built up. At the same time I was aggressively buying and remodeling rental properties 538 miles from where I lived in San Jose, California in my spare time so I could retire from a job I hated, but stuck with for 32-1/2 years (commercial HVAC contracting) & get back to what I love doing, riding, buying, selling, & working on antique Harleys. I have had around 70 over the years & currently have around 3 dozen, all but 7 being pre-war, ranging from 1910 to 1982, with one lone 1960 Mustang and one 1912 Excelsior.

I want to thank my numerous friends involved with the Cannonball and antique motorcycles for giving me the encouragement to enter this event, as well as putting up with my endless questions and sharing their information and stories. I am forever in your debt.

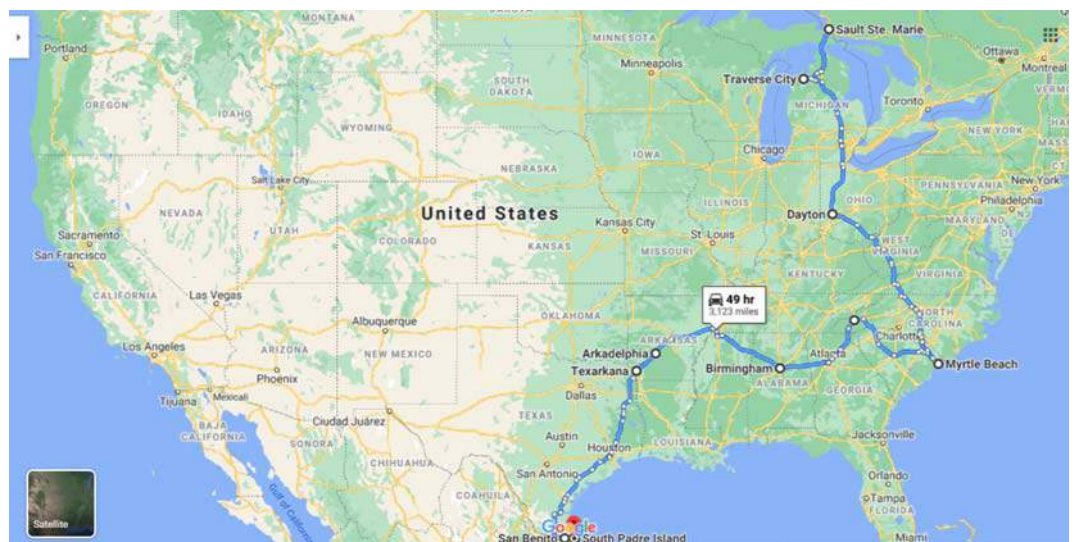
<https://motorcyclecannonball.com/>



Tim Burn's 1925 Harley-Davidson JDCB



Tim Burns



Approximate Route for the 2021 Cannonball

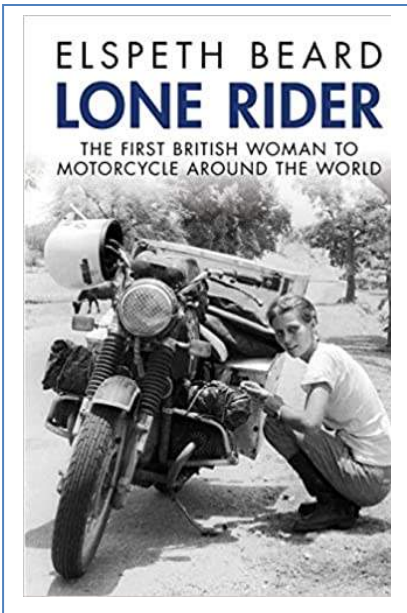


Elsbeth Beard Rides Around the World

In 1982, at the age of just twenty-three and halfway through her architecture studies, Elspeth Beard left her family and friends in London and set off on a 35,000-mile solo adventure around the world on her 1974 BMW R60/6. Reeling from a recent breakup and with only limited savings from her pub job, a tent, a few clothes and some tools, all packed on the back of her bike, she was determined to prove herself.

She had ridden bikes since her teens and was well travelled. But nothing could prepare her for what lay ahead. When she returned to London nearly two and a half years later she was stones lighter and decades wiser. She'd ridden through unforgiving landscapes and countries ravaged by war, witnessed civil uprisings that forced her to fake documents, and fended off sexual attacks, biker gangs and corrupt police convinced she was trafficking drugs.

She'd survived life-threatening illnesses, personal loss and brutal accidents that had left permanent scars and a black hole in her memory.



And she'd fallen in love with two very different men. In an age before email, the internet, mobile phones, satnavs and, in some parts of the world, readily available and reliable maps, Elspeth achieved something that would still seem remarkable today.

Told with honesty and wit, this is the extraordinary and moving story of a unique and life-changing adventure.



The Vespa 150 TAP is an anti-tank scooter with an M20 75 mm recoilless rifle made for French paratroopers.





Tom Ruttan and the 1944 War Bike

Here are some before, during, and after pictures of the 1944 Triumph 3HW.





"New Bikes" for OTC Members

Here are photos of our members newest additions.



Garrett Erickson's 1949 Harley-Davidson Panhead with Sidecar



Martin Doerfler's 1956 Harley-Davidson Model KHK



Roy Burke and Bill Ansenberger in 1936

March Activities Cancelled due to COVID-19

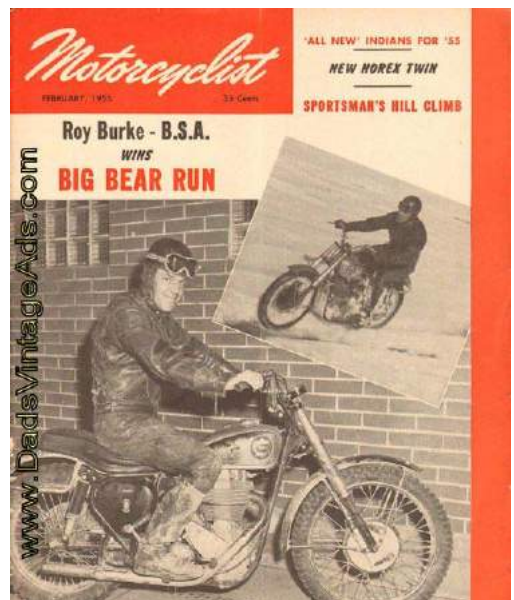
Stay tuned for when we start club get together again. Officers continue to meet monthly for our business meeting by telephone conference. Feel free to join us. See schedule of events at end of newsletter for details.

Stay Safe

It goes almost without saying that in the F. A. M. Endurance Contest THE HARLEY-DAVIDSON TEAM



L-R: W.S. Harley, W. Davidson, F. Ollerman, and A. Klein



Roy Burke on cover of 1955 *Motorcyclist*

Celebrities on Motorcycles -

Who are these familiar faces on two wheels?
Answers on page 10.





2020-2021 Meeting Calendar Oregon Trail Chapter, AMCA

Month	Activity
Every Month 2 nd Tuesday	OTC Business Conference Call All members welcome Call 971-256-0996, then enter code 412341
March	Cancelled
April and May	Pending



DISCOUNTS FOR AMCA & OTC

Lowbrow Customs gives a **10% discount** to all AMCA members. When ordering online, enter the code MWR4U2 in the top right corner of page when checking out where it says gift card or coupon code.

SEE SEE COFFEE gives **10% off** to all OTC/AMCA members. Just show them your AMCA member card. Good for beverages and food.

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

Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiast

Portland Chapter on the thirds Saturday of Every Month at noon at See See Coffee at 1642 Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR
<http://www.vmemc.org>

Oregon Vintage Motorcyclists

OVM monthly meetings starting up on April 10th at 11 AM at Horse Brass Pub in Portland.
<http://www.oregonvintage.org>

Answers to Club Officer Fun Facts

From page 4: 1C, 2D, 3B, 4E, 5A, 6F

Celebrities on Motorcycles

From page 9

Upper Right: Clint Eastwood

Center Left: Scarlett Johansson

Lower: Peter Sellers



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



From James McQuiston:

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

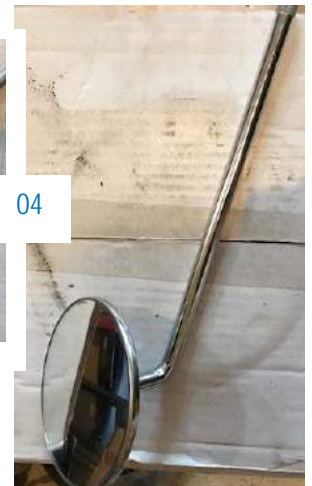
Kwik Way valve grinder - call

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)

05



06



07



08



From Tom Nielsen:

Short Ramps, 37-1/2" long, 9" wide
Galvanized steel. Pair \$20.00
Tom in Lake Oswego 503-522-2124



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**

09



09



10



10





Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America January 12, 2021

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Club remains in the black.

Minutes: Reading of minutes were waived. See newsletter.

Correspondence: Tom N had a call with Tim Burns regarding holding national at Powerland. Tim is in favor of it. Discussed distance to lodging and Tim said driving 5 to 10 miles to lodging is not unusual at national events he has attended.

Old Business:

- ✓ Our updated Facebook site is up. Still some work to do.
- ✓ Jennifer to call Laverne Lancaster regarding wording on memorial brick at the NWVCMM.
- ✓ Tom and Jen met with Thor Drake of See See and discussed upcoming One Moto Show. Thor has a warehouse and is considering April or May, depending on COVID situation.

New Business:

- ✓ Jennifer asked for ideas on ways to reach out to members.
- ✓ Martin volunteered to do a bike project for the club's Facebook.
- ✓ Jennifer asked each officer to come up with some fun facts about themselves and we would put out an email to membership as a game to match officer to the fun fact.
- ✓ Upcoming Meetings and Activities. All events tentative based on COVID pandemic.
- ✓ Tom Ruttan reported that one of the items the NWVCMM received from World of Speed was a turntable to display a motorcycle.

Next business meeting/conference call – February 9th at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.

Minutes of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America February 9, 2021

President Jen Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Club remains in the black. John researched Paypal account and updated credit card. Jen will set up the AMCA site to allow John to access the PayPal fee.

Minutes: Reading of minutes were waived. See newsletter.

Correspondence: Jen talked to Laverne Lancaster about the memorial brick for Jim. Learned that Jim and Laverne rode 30,000 miles and 8 states on their bike.

Old Business:

- ✓ Regarding OTC Facebook page, Bill discussed some issues with postings.
- ✓ John suggested we advertise the date for the 2021 rally at John Day. Reviewed some action items:
 - Confirmed register on eventing of September 8th, rides on 9-11th, banquet on Saturday the 11th.
 - Place a "Save the Date" ad in AMCA magazine.

New Business:

- ✓ Garrett got a 1949 HD panhead with sidecar.

Next business meeting/conference call – March 9th at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minutes by Tom Nielsen.