

Cherokee Chapter, AMCA



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Lead by Example, We Ride, & Proud to Be...Cherokee!

Proud to be Cherokee & We Ride are phrases that all Cherokee Chapter members are proud of. They represent **Who We Are** and **What We Believe**. Our Chapter is very active and we certainly are a Chapter that rides!

By active I mean we all enjoy getting together as a Club throughout each year regardless of how many miles it takes to get to a Cherokee Event. We start each year off with the **Oklahoma City Swap Meet & Bike Show** and our riders, RV's, trucks and trailers trek from all over Oklahoma and Texas to set up the largest display of antique motorcycles in Oklahoma each year. Now each spring we hold the **Cherokee / Pate Swap Meet** at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth TX. In 2016, our second year our goal is 500 vendor spaces. In conjunction with this very large regional event we hold the **Cherokee Concours d'Pate Bike Show**. In our inaugural year we had 182 classic motorcycles of with a very wide representation of types, manufacturers and models to appeal to the over 100,000+ general public that came through the front gate. This year we are working on adding a big tent to get at least the rarest of motorcycles under cover from weather and be able to attract even rarer machines. Our goal is to go over 200+ classic motorcycles this year.

Our summer season is

focused on local socials, members getting together to ride and work on bikes plus we always continue our **Reach-Out Program** efforts where we participate in non-AMCA events such as swap meets, hot rod shows and the like. By being visible at such events as **The Hand Built Show & Pistons and Paint** we allow the general public to know that there is an active Classic Motorcycle Club in their area and we sign up new members every single event.

Each fall we do a significant Chapter Road Run for our members and we rotate the location around Texas (and soon Oklahoma) so all our members do not have to always travel quite so far. An article on the recent Carson Classic Motors Road Run in East TX is in this issue and pictures are in the Photo Album on page 11-13. Almost as many riders attended this Chapter Run as attended our National Road Run last year. In fact we had riders representing 14 different AMCA Chapters from the East and West Coasts and all over America whom attended. Many riders traveled on bikes from 800 – 1,100 miles just to attend a Cherokee event. 😊

All of this is quite an accomplishment for an established small Chapter of around 30 members 3 short years ago that has grown to close to 300 now. I am extremely proud of the Cherokee Board Members and the many individuals whom have chaired projects and events along with a multitude of volunteers at every event. Now that we have grown to the size we are, we are ensuring that we manage this growth and share

the burden of volunteerism so no one becomes overwhelmed or burned out as is the case with many small AMCA Chapters. Even though the AMCA president has been personally vocal about his dislike for the Cherokee model of management, we know the big challenge small Chapters of 12-20 members have is manpower, and finding people to maintain a website, produce a newsletter and take turns being on the board. These are non-issues with a large Chapter as we get all the heavy work done so the majority of our members can just enjoy our events and ride their classic motorcycles with other Cherokee Members in their local area.

"It is far easier to keep a big wheel turning than the constant effort to turn a small one, plus a larger wheel covers far more ground as it moves forward."

As a Chapter we certainly always follow all rules of the AMCA in all we do, but we also do not have to listen to the beliefs of just one AMCA president who may know what works in heavily populated East Coast areas like Pittsburg PA, but does not know how members in the South want things done. National Board members do come and go. We agree with the AMCA Board that it is now time for this AMCA president to finish his last year quietly and go to the house.

"Proud To Be Cherokee" We Ride!

For The Love of the Sport;



Steve Klein

On the Road with Shelby with Cherokee Membership & Events....



Shelby Withrow, Director
Membership & Events
ShelbyinParadise@wccs.net

Hello Fellow Members...

As we finish up another Incredible Cherokee Year and as the holidays approach quickly, I cannot help but reflect on all our blessings. Soon it will be three years that I was invited to visit the Cherokee Chapter. What I found were great people with a common vision to promote the Sport of Vintage Motorcycling better than they had in the past. At my first Cherokee Annual Christmas Family Dinner and Meeting there were around 25-30 total members whom had one small annual Bike Show/ Swap Meet and a modest Winter Ride.

Today Cherokee has grown over 1,000% to over 280+ members, with an annual Pate Swap Meet that will have 500 booth spaces in 2016, and over 200 vintage motorcycles in the Bike Show. We also have set the AMCA bar high with the most talked about National Road Run in history and our Annual Chapter Road Run each fall is of a magnitude that most AMCA National Road Runs envy. The recent Carson Classic Road Run was nothing less than first class in all respects. Read more about it in this issue plus view photos.

In spite of all this achievement accomplished by you, as active members of our club, the AMCA National president continues to personally refer to Cherokee as an Internet Chapter? Apparently he has not visited our Chapter website and does not know we are known as the **"We Ride Chapter"** worldwide? Apparently he has not noticed that the Cherokee website is about the best site in the AMCA worldwide? So in 2016 we will expand even more on all the riding we do by enhancing all the riding members do in towns and cities of all sizes across Texas and Oklahoma.

even more by appointing **Cherokee Ambassadors in every city and region** to pre-plan at least 4 small social rides a year locally for all members in those regions in all parts of our territory. This is as simple as our members meeting at a local café or a member's home to depart on any Saturday or Sunday to ride across the scenic roads near their homes. In the process we know we will attract attention and sign up even more new Cherokee members.

Cherokee also has a very quality "Lead by Example" reputation and relationship with many other fine AMCA Chapters throughout America. The Diamond and Heritage Chapters in Arkansas and the Confederate Chapter from Tennessee all have great relationships with Cherokee. All were present at the Texas Fall Road Run with a total of 160+ riders representing 14 AMCA Chapters! Our goal is to hold the Cherokee Fall Road Run in 6 different Texas locations and then repeat. So far we have had Jefferson TX, (NE) Abilene TX, (NW) Kerrville TX, (SW) Livingston TX (E) and we are looking at Southern Oklahoma and The New Braunfels / San Antonio TX Areas to fill out the list. In this way we will have 6 pre-planned events that are all held on a rotational basis with all the planning done the first time and our members do not all have to always travel so far. Better is Always Better!

The Cherokee Pate Swap Meet will be held on April 28 – May 1, 2016 and the Cherokee Pate Management Team has been working hard since last May to make our second year even more impressive than 2015 was.

The Pate Swap Meet had over 8,700+ vendor booths in 2015. Cherokee was the largest organization there with 350 booth spaces and 182 motorcycles in the Bike Show. **In 2016 we will have 500 booth spaces** and are adding large tents to house at least the rarest of motorcycles from the weather and hope to reach 200 classic motorcycles in the Concours D'Pate Bike Show.

Now that just does not look like an Internet Club does it?

We will be seeking volunteer signup starting in January for key manager positions of these two large Cherokee shows as well as assistance with parking, registration, judging and a multitude of other tasks. As usual we will have a VIP Party for all national media publications and sponsors of our events plus the family style pot luck, BBQ meal each evening on the Texas Motor Speedway grounds for all Chapter members

If you know any shop, picker or vendor whom wishes to get a premium booth space now, please have them contact me soon. The booth spaces never last much past January 1st. My contact information is listed on this page and also on www.CherokeeAMCA.org

"Gloria and I look forward to seeing all our wonderful members at the Cherokee Annual Christmas Family Dinner at The Klein's Residence in Georgetown TX on December 5th. We have many exciting announcements plus our Annual Members Awards Ceremony as well."

**It is a great time to be active in our vintage motorcycle sport!
Please Invite a Friend to Join!**

From the Road!
Shelby

Your Cherokee Chapter Board of Directors ...

If any of our members have specific ideas or input for our Chapter... Please contact us below! We want to hear from you!

President	Steve Klein	Steve@SteveKlein.com	361.652.8300	Editor & Chptr. Marketing
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Director	Mike Carson	mwcarson3@yahoo.com	281.705.5634	East TX Region Director
The Future of Our Sport	Buck Carson	carsonclassicmotors@yahoo.com	936.239.6615	Future of Our Sport Direc.

Annual Cherokee Chapter Dues... It's Time to Renew!

2016 Cherokee Chapter Dues are due by all members by January 1, 2016. Exceptions to this rule are if you paid for multiple years previously or if you became a **NEW** member after July 1st 2015.

- ✓ Anyone whom became a **NEW Member after July 1, 2015** is automatically paid for 2016!
- ✓ To pay your Cherokee Chapter dues go online too www.CherokeeAMCA.org and pay \$16.00 using PayPal
- ✓ Or mail a personal check for \$15 made out to Cherokee Chapter, JoAnn Kugle, 8601 South View Road, Austin TX 78737

Renew now, tie a string on your finger, put up a Post-It Note or ask your Mother to remind you.... Because we are all too busy enjoying our motorcycles to chase you down. Thank You!

Local and Regional Events Calendar...

Dec 5 Cherokee Chapter Annual Meeting / Elections / Christmas Gathering

Where: The Klein's 201 Whitney Woods Circle, Georgetown TX 78633 Arrive anytime Saturday morning.

- 1 pm Catered Family Meal.
- 2 Annual Meeting / Elections
- 3 Coffee and Dessert
- 4 Stay and visit or head for home

Dec 6 9-10 Cherokee Board of Directors Coffee/Sunday Brunch

10-? Cherokee Board Of Directors Annual Year –End and New Year Planning Session

Feb. 13/14

The 19th Annual Oklahoma City Swap Meet and Bike Show. Jeff Williams Productions calls the Cherokee Chapter the VIP's of his show each year. In 2015 we had over 200 feet of the best space in the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds indoor pavillion. This is the biggest show in Oklahoma each year and we are a huge public crowd draw with our 200 ft long display of Classic Motorcycles! More in the January Newsletter! **Mark your calandars NOW!!**



OKC - Over 200 ft. of Classic Cherokee Iron on Display!



Cherokee Members Mop Up Big with Dozens of Trophies!!

Applause and Welcome to Our Newest Cherokee Chapter Members ...

Please make these 25 new members feel very welcome when you meet them on the road or at an event!

Rob and Beth Nussbaum	New Jersey	Randy and Audrey Braddock	Syracuse, KS
Brian and Angela Arteman	Bellflower, Ill	Morgan and Rhonda Williams	Athens WI.
Kelly & Theresa Modlin	Augusta KS.	Bill and Kathy Page	Augusta KS.
Jerry Ottaway	Wichita KS	Greg Allen	Marshall MI
Susan and Steve Baugh	Waco, TX.	Nathan and Chandra Brown	Austin, TX
Walter Levi Willis	Tulsa, OK.	Donald Davis	Willowpark TX
Bryan and Deanna Henke	Alvin, TX	Donald and Kellie Taglioli	Conroe, TX
Pat M. Maloy	Cashion, OK	Joe Counce	Georgetown, TX.
Cindy Arnold	Clifton, TX	Brad and Lori Johnson	Plantersville, TX
Donald and Susan Ellis	Youngsville, LA.	Bud and Keesha Blair	Chesnee SC.
Don Foltz	Magnolia, TX.	Mike and Denise Reynolds	Kingwood, TX
Cliff Waxman	Terrell, TX	Mark Ardolino & Rebecca Bradley	Ben Wheeler, TX
Jim and Shelley Maki	Floresville, TX		

(If you see any errors here, please email Steve Klein at Steve@SteveKlein.com so we may get it corrected properly.)

Carson Classic Motors Fall Road Run... Livingston TX.

Sponsored by the Cherokee and Confederate Chapters of the AMCA. . . "Dude...It was Epic!"



"Texas always does road runs right"

"Put me on your mailing list for next years Texas Road Run"

"I cannot wait till next year. Best Road Runs in America are always in Texas"

"Your Chapter always does it First Class. Texas BBQ, live music and awesome roads"

Thank You! Well worth the 1,100 mile ride on my Panhead to participate. I will spread the word about you guys"

This is just a sampling of the emails and the hundreds of Facebook Posts about the **Carson Classic Road Run** our Chapter just held in Livingston TX, on October 30 – Nov. 1st. Mike and Buck Carson are both on the Board of Directors of the Cherokee Chapter of the AMCA. Mike as Eastern TX Director and Buck as the Future of Our Sport Director. This Father/Son Vintage Motorcycle Dynamic Duo have also been long term Confederate Chapter Members. So when our club was seeking a Chairperson for the 2015 Annual Fall Road Run, The Carsons volunteered to host it in Livingston TX. And host it they did!

Over 140+ riders from all across America pre-registered online to attend. Another 30+ riders registered at the event. We had riders from the East Coast, West Coast, Canada, throughout the upper Midwest and everywhere in between. Over 200 people total in attendance...for a Chapter Road Run! Yes that's right folks...This was not an AMCA National Road Run with national support and advertising. Three days of riding a total of 320 miles was pre-planned on scenic back country East Texas Roads around Lakes and through Pine Forests. A Registration opened on Thursday afternoon before the Friday Opening Ride. Participants started arriving as early as the Tuesday before the event in their RV's, Motorhomes and even on their motorcycles and pitched tents. Our Chapter leased and entire section of The Lake Livingston State Campgrounds nestled in a forest of hardwood trees so every single camper was a rider in our event. Wake up and smell the coffee!

The Cherokee Chapter Semi – Race Rig was situated in a small parking lot between the State Park entrance and the Road Run reserved campground area. Throughout the event this mobile Cherokee Office always serves as a coffee stop, information center, Registration and First Aid Station. Each morning all riders attend a coffee and donut gathering from 8-9, hold a safety meeting, inspect all the motorcycles, hand out the daily route map and departure starts with the Road Captains in smaller groups at 9:00 am.

Unseasonal wet weather was a menace throughout the weekend but the Classic Motorcycle Road Gods split the massive weather system in half and it went North and South around us on Friday. From Austin to Houston this massive system dumped as many as 9 inches of rain in an hour and much of these areas of Texas were flooding. We were spared!

Friday evening all attendees and VIP Guests attended a huge hamburger feed replete with all fixin's on The Carson Ranch where big round tablecloth covered tables were spaced around the property under the giant graceful hardwood trees. Host Mike Carson, Confederate Chapter President Bob Kenney and Cherokee Chapter President Steve Klein took turns with the microphone welcoming all and sharing what was to be held in the next two days. A live Country Band played music during supper and then lit up the amplifiers and played Texas Swing, Old Country Standards, Classic Country and even some good ole motorcycle rock and roll road hits later into the evening. It was a huge Texas sky, a 30,000 star restaurant and top notch entertainment in the cool fall Texas night surrounded by hay bales and Halloween Pumpkins.

Saturday morning the skies drizzled until around 10:30 am allowing everyone to enjoy a longer coffee under their rv awnings or in their tents. As the sun came out so did all the riders, plus even more that arrived by truck and trailer on Friday to join us to ride the Saturday and Sunday rides. The event grew to even larger proportions. After a safety meeting riders enjoyed a 120 mile ride with scenic stops along lakes and many scenic photo opportunities. The oldest motorcycle on the road run was a 1915 HD. Many 2016 Cannonball Riders were in Texas to shake down their machines for next years Coast to Coast Cannonball Event. I quit trying to document how many brands and models of machines were present. Here is a sampling... BSA, Harley Davidson, Honda, Indian, Nimbus, Suzuki, Triumph and Yamaha come to memory as I write this article. **Yes the Cherokee and Confederate Chapters are certainly at the forefront in the AMCA for being inclusive of all classic motorcycle brands and their enthusiast owners.**

Saturday evening all attendees were treated to a private opening of the Carson Classic Motors Collection Building which showcases motorcycles from pre-teens through 80's and a wide variety of manufacturers and models. Rows of tables were situated in the woods in front of the shop, lanterns were lit and a full on Texas BBQ Spread of beef and pork was served with all the fixins.

The Awards Ceremony included over a dozen presentations. **Longest Trail Ridden** by motorcycle was Kurt Klokkenga doing 1,100 miles on his Panhead to arrive. **Longest Trail Traveled, Oldest Bike, Highest IQ Rider, The Young Buck, Future of Our Sport Award, The Highest Cool Motorcycle, The Hard Luck Award,** two separate **Honorary Texan Awards** and a special presentation to "Lady T" as **First Lady of Texas Motorcyclists** plus a large plaque to **Mike and Buck Carson for promoting the sport of Classic Motorcycling throughout the World** were just some of the awards. Door prizes also proceeded the awards.

Every event participant received an AMCA Sticker courtesy of AMCA Executive Director Keith Kizer who could not attend due to his son entering the hospital with pneumonia. AMCA Merchandise Director, Susan Brutus was on hand promoting the AMCA and many door prizes were given out from the AMCA. Wheels Through Time Museum also sponsored this event and provided many great door prizes. **Fourteen AMCA Chapters were represented** and to say the least this event was as good as, if not better than any National Road Run. I personally wish to thank all Cherokee and Confederate Chapter Members whom volunteered and all participants whom traveled very long distances from all parts of California, Florida, New Jersey, Canada and in-between for making the effort to allow us to extend our Texas Hospitality to all of you!



Proud to be...Cherokee!



Chuck has the Colorado Blues



Honorary Texans from NJ



Cherokee ... We Ride!

AMCA Members Voice Their Opinions Nationally... Is anyone Listening? By Steve Klein

The AMCA was first formed by a small group of passionate old bike enthusiasts 60+ years ago back in 1954. Their vision was to preserve and protect these wonderful old machines for future generations to be able to enjoy and keep the history of them alive. The first AMCA gathering of members numbered in the dozens and was more akin to a small family reunion with a potluck dinner.

Today the AMCA has over 11,000+ members in 65 Chapters throughout North America and Europe and also has over 20,000+ members on the Antique Motorcycle Club of America Facebook page. Yet the governing structure of the AMCA is relatively the same as in the early days of a far smaller nationwide membership. The AMCA is a separate closed corporation domiciled in Florida that has one full time paid employee, the Executive Director. Augmenting this management effort to try to effectively serve this 11,000+ member base are a small dedicated group of long term volunteers such as AMCA Merchandise Manager Susan Brutus. Others include a Chief Judge and group of volunteer Judges for motorcycle judging at national events, Also the AMCA has an Archivist to collect, assemble, and archive all manner of antique motorcycle literature to the AMCA library to allow current members and future generations to benefit and enjoy. An Advertising Manager, and a website Forum Moderator round out this small group of people responsible for keeping the AMCA Members serviced. ***"This editor applauds each and every one of these very dedicated AMCA individuals for their thousands of hours of volunteer service to all AMCA members and the unselfish role they each play in promoting the AMCA."***

The AMCA Board of Directors is currently made up of nine Board of Director Members. Of these nine, the board themselves vote four members to be officers. A president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. This leaves five at-large board members. One at large position is the Director of Chapters to serve as a liaison to communicate to all Chapter Presidents and offer assistance with knowledge, advice, insurance coverage on events and other benefits. Another Director at Large is the National Meet Coordinator which also oversees the selection and planning of the AMCA's Annual National Road Run(s) locations. As stated the AMCA is a separate closed corporation that has closed meetings and the only knowledge AMCA Members have of what is discussed and voted on within these meetings is what the board minutes reflect in our Antique Motorcycle Club of America Magazine. I am not stating that the minutes are inaccurate, but words can carefully be formed together to show a different picture than possibly did exist in the actual meeting environment. Especially when the AMCA president gets the final look at the Secretary's minutes for his personal revisions. **What.. you say does this mean?** Well for instance, the Board Members are sworn to secrecy that whatever gets discussed in the National Board Meeting stays in the board meeting and is not to be talked about outside the meeting. A confidentiality agreement. Another example is that no actual vote counts have been published for years. The Board Minutes state that the topic **was unanimously approved by the board**. Although most board agenda topics that actually have real intrinsic value added benefit to the membership at large should certainly have a unanimous vote, we know that not all topics do. The presidents responsibility is only supposed to be to conduct the meetings using Roberts Rules of Order and the president does not vote unless a tie vote is the result. There have been many controversial topics in recent years and our AMCA members are not stupid. They know that there has to be a 5-3 vote or a 6-2 vote or even a tie vote at times, yet the minutes do not reflect such ever? **Hmmm... makes one wonder now does it not?**

In recent years under the leadership of current sitting president Richard Spagnolli, the conspiracy theories throughout the AMCA Membership have in fact quelled some and then risen again. Let's be fair for a moment and look at some history. The last two AMCA presidents left office under very stressful circumstances. Under Peter Gagan's leadership the AMCA Membership grew exponentially, but the AMCA then split its organization into two entities, One is the AMCA as we now know it today and the other is the Antique Motorcycle Foundation. Yes we know that to stay ahead of the "good ole IRS" such things like this do need to happen, but the communication of such transition was far less than it should have been at the time, therefore not effective and a large number of AMCA members became very suspicious and/or mistrustful of the AMCA Board on the topics of **Why did this all happen** and **Where did all "our money" go?** Long time Massillon Ohio Indian Dealer, Swap Meet Vender and AMCA supporter Rocky Halter climbed into the presidents chair next amid all this former unrest and mistrust. To say the least he did not stand a fair chance from day one. After receiving death threats Rocky did not continue as president after two years. Richard Spagnolli (in his own words to me) said that at that date no one wanted the position, including himself, and he eventually volunteered to take the position. **"Someone had to do it" stated Spagnolli**. As an AMCA Chapter Secretary at that date and later as that same Chapters President I have certainly complimented Mr. Spagnolli on a number of things he has actually been successful in accomplishing in the AMCA during his presidency. Among these are protecting the AMCA registered brand name, licensing and website domain. Focusing on potential liability issues and proper insurance coverages is another. Essentially saving the AMCA Magazine may be a third initiative. He has been complimented.

But President Spagnolli somewhere along the line inherited the nickname "**King Richard**" and it stuck. AMCA Members nationally do vocally communicate openly and routinely that he runs the AMCA as a dictatorship and that he controls the AMCA Board. How you may ask? Common AMCA street talk is that because of Mr. Spagnollis past career as a Pittsburg Trial Lawyer is he is far too untrusting to the point of being paranoid about anyone whom does not agree with his views on any topic. He does talk quite a lot, but is just not an effective leadership minded communicator to the entire AMCA Membership. When in an conversation that he cannot maintain control over, he does quickly resort to cross examination tactics, attempted redefinition of words, telling others he was simply misunderstood or other similar redirecting tactics to change the topic at hand rather than respect it and thank that person for sharing their viewpoint.

In discussion situations where the topic gets far more emotional among the debators present, where emotions rise and things can and certainly have escalated quickly it has been found that Mr. Spagnolli does not play fair at all in these situations. He aggressively pursues his position even harder, even to the point of attempted discredit of his newfound opponent, whom he now simply views as an enemy adversary that he must try to conquer by any means necessary. When he has personally shouted out loud for security, (yes he has done that) he cares less. But when a Davenport Iowa police officer escorted him away from a meeting, then it is a different matter it seems? **Think about this for a minute.. An AMCA Pres. gets escorted away from an AMCA Meeting! How can a Board elected "leader" of our hobby sport organization be so careless in his decisions and verbalizations to end up in a situation like this?**

What does all this mean to our normal dues paying AMCA Members worldwide who just wish to enjoy their old motorcycle(s), go to a swap meet or two each year and ride whenever they can. To some it means nothing. To others...it sends a message that there is certainly discourse within our AMCA Board or at the very least a lack of viable leadership options to be our AMCA President for several successive presidential administrations in a row. It can and too often sends a strong message that all is not well in the AMCA at the very top? It also can send a message to some that the AMCA Board is above all and does not have to listen to its members? As long as more new members come into the AMCA that do not yet know (or care) about the past, then the president may try to simply sweep certain things under the rug or do nothing at all in hope that the problem at hand will just go away? I am certainly not stating here that all AMCA Board Members are not good Board Members or good honest people. We have had, and certainly do currently have some exceptional people on our AMCA Board. But we as AMCA Members can count to nine and know that a majority is 5 or with the presidents tie breaking vote a majority can be achieved with 4 votes and the fact that votes are not published "as counted" raises a red flag always. For all the good things Mr.Spagnolli has achieved in his position he will likely and unfortunately be remembered for all the unnecessary arguments, fights, and discourse he has personally projected, promoted & excessively prolonged due to his former career skillset and personality traits as a litigator. Just like Washington DC it seems, having an attorney elected as your representative is just not a good thing for the people all the time?

The Question many AMCA Chapters and Members have today is as follows...

- **What benefit do I receive by belonging to the AMCA?** The answer comes down to two large pieces real quick. For \$40 a year I get 6 magazines and if I want my motorcycle judged, I can get assistance from the Judges in what I have to do to improve my motorcycle. The AMCA Forum is antiquated at best and used (in generalality) by only a very small percentage of the AMCA members who are older and loathe new fangled formats and social media. There is also an online AMCA Store and an AMCA Library. But keep in mind that any non -AMCA member can in fact attend any AMCA Event nationally.
- **But what if I only wish to be a local Chapter Member and ride my old motorcycle(s) and enjoy the fraternity of my local club and I care less about the AMCA Magazine or ever getting my bike judged?** Well the answer remains that unless you belong to the AMCA, you cannot belong to an AMCA Chapter! The AMCA is now a "for profit" organization and even though it is a closed corporation, all AMCA Chapters whom are separate independent corporations in their home states must follow all rules of the AMCA including dropping our Chapter non-profit status to pay income taxes if we make any money.
- **Have any Chapters dropped their AMCA affiliation status? Yes some have.** The **Blackhawk Chapter** (Davenport Iowa) and one other upper West Coast Chapter have done just that. After powerful communication from the current AMCA president, both Chapters said they would take care of their own members and events and "*the hell with the AMCA*". Blackhawk even went as far as sending a letter from their attorney that stated until president Spagnolli is removed from the AMCA in entirety and until the AMCA Chapters could have an effective voice in the AMCA and vote on whom is on the AMCA Board they would not return. And they have not. And they are all doing just fine. The Davenport Swap Meet, Bike Show and Vintage Races remains the Grand Daddy of vintage motorcycle events in America in many AMCA Members opinion. 2015 was another record breaking year for this club at their meet. This Chapter President counted 4 AMCA Directors present in Davenport this year.

The AMCA Facebook page has become very popular but not that long ago over 2,000 posts by individuals, many stating less than positive comments about the AMCA (particularly its president) was downplayed significantly by this current sitting AMCA president (and some on the Board.) The discussion was suggested to be moved elsewhere. So the AMCA Executive Director then sent out a group email memo to all AMCA Presidents to resume the discussion. When certain aspects of the discussion were not in the AMCA presidents favor or control any longer and certain facts were coming to light the suggestion was then made to move the discussion once again to the AMCA Forum. This simply showed Spagnolli's constant personal quest for control. This AMCA Chapter President made one final statement in the Chapter Presidents Group Email that our Chapter was done with all this and everyone else could go to the Forum. The result was this AMCA Chapter President received a complaint filed against me (suspicious to this day) and the AMCA National president had the AMCA Attorney send a letter to me. The entire ensuing process was ridiculous at best and I was charged with "solicitation of more than 6 AMCA members on more than one occasion in one calendar year" under the AMCA Anti-Solicitation Policy. The AMCA's Anti-Solicitation Policy was set forth to prevent manufacturers, suppliers and retail sales entities from soliciting the printed AMCA Membership Roster. I did not solicit anyone. I replied all to an AMCA Executive Directors group email that was sent to all AMCA Chapter Presidents by the AMCA Executive Director with the knowledge and approval of the AMCA president for the purpose of ongoing discussion by all Chapter Presidents. How is that for stretching a policy to fit your intended use?

The end result was I spent \$3,200.00+ on legal representation (out of my own pocket, not Chapter money), to deal with this now 3 yr. long ongoing personal vendetta against the Cherokee Chapter by the AMCA president, whom now resorted to using a non-related

AMCA Anti-Solicitation Policy to fit his petty politics use against us. I ended up being put on "1 year probation" by the AMCA president against the advice of (some) AMCA Board Members and the AMCA Executive Director. All done by the AMCA president in a vindictive manner so I that would not say things the AMCA president did not wish to hear or for other AMCA Presidents to find out about.

In the end as you can see, all of this is just more unnecessary, self appointed, power motivated, smoke and mirrors from an AMCA president whom has been, and still is out of control with his self appointed power to try silence anyone he views as adversarial to his way of thinking and his intentions to leave his personal legacy for the AMCA. We believe he has already established his legacy and it is not a good one.

- **How many more lawsuits does the AMCA Board need to get before they finally unseat this president?**
- **How much more good could be accomplished within the AMCA Board by using the same amount of effort expended following this president around cleaning up his messes, if those efforts and energies were focused on worthwhile initiatives to benefit all in the AMCA instead?**

The Cherokee Chapter stated in writing to the AMCA National Board two months before the national board elections that **the AMCA Board should not re-elect Richard Spagnolli as AMCA National President at the October 2015 Board Meeting**. The minutes of that meeting will likely never reflect such but Mr. Spagnolli in fact played chess hard and through premeditated moves, unexpected by the Board, he is now elected to one more year. Based on his now well known paranoia based, controlling past performance of creating continued conflict and mistrust and having that black cloud of mistrust also cover all the Board Members unfairly, more behind the scenes changes to policies, procedures and bylaws should be expected in his last year. He will likely not leave until he can accomplish things the way he wishes them to be. This is extremely unfortunate for the 60+ year AMCA and it proves unequivocally once and for all that whether legal or not, proper or not, this AMCA National president will do whatever he deems necessary to maintain his excessive control over the AMCA Board and effect the changes he wants in documents & policies and procedures within the AMCA. His presidents column in the recent AMCA Magazine was as empty of content as ever. **Rather than report that the recent AMCA Membership Survey was poorly participated in**, he announces that the **"results are convincing."**

Rather than admit the ongoing failure with the AMCA Youth Program after three successive Youth Directors left the position, whom were not funded or helped properly, he now *"has appointed a committee to suggest to the Board what to do."* All words on a page that do not accurately reflect what the real deal is. And the average age of AMCA Members during his terms as president has risen from 59 – 62. The AMCA president and board are obviously out of touch with younger riders movements in America or unable to collectively formulate a plan to help dilute / lower the average age of our organization? Why not let the AMCA Executive Director appoint a nationwide panel of results orientated, strategic planning minded people whom are successful at this initiative already? The Cherokee Chapter is certainly successful in attracting the 20/30 something age group! But as long as Spagnolli is in the presidents chair, nothing the Cherokee Chapter ever does is worth looking at or offering praise for. Spag views us as his enemy. Rather than allow our Chapter to help him look good, or help the AMCA improve, we must be made out to look bad. Petty Politics!

During the outpouring of comments on Facebook, and the latter Presidents Group Email and the final resting place before death in the AMCA Forum it was suggested that A Presidents Council should be set up whereby all AMCA Members would at least have a collective voice through their respective Chapter Presidents. Two things came to light here. **First** this was not a new concept but a concept that had been done before. Unfortunately the former Presidents Council was essentially taken over by the AMCA Board and it ceased to exist. **Secondly** we presidents were told far too quickly and succinctly that allowing Presidents to have a vote would not be a good thing for the AMCA. After additional discussion the loud AMCA voice suggested that maybe we could vote for one board member perhaps? Anyone smell something rotten here? The AMCA mantra of **"that's not the way we have always done it"** is alive and well.

If there was any good place to groom and move leaders up to the national board level it would certainly be from the Chapter Presidents. These are people whom already volunteer large amounts of time and personal expense to devote to their local Chapter and the Sport of Classic Motorcycling. They already have exhibited leadership qualities and have taken on the tough decisions that affect the majority of their chapters. Yet each year the AMCA wishes for people to submit an application to be on the AMCA Board and only those on the national board are allowed to select the next board member. The current system has worked well at times and worked dismally at times. **Why?** When the current board is in fact a strong visionary, strategic minded, fiscally responsible team of people, they will attract a higher grade of applicants. When the board is made up of less quality individuals, they will not be able to attract the best the AMCA has to offer. **This Chapter President / Editor knows many very successful, business minded, entrepreneurial AMCA Members whom have been asked to consider being on the National Board. All have stated that there is no way they would devote the time it takes, since they felt they could not make a difference and improve the AMCA. We all lose!**

The Cherokee Chapter of The AMCA will be surveying its own Chapter members in Jan. Unlike the National, you do elect your own Chapter Board and your Chapter Board wants to know your personal opinion. Are you happy with your elected leadership? Is the AMCA important to you as a Chapter member or do you get more benefit from your Chapter first and the AMCA is secondary?

Stay tuned for Part Two in the next Newsletter. As always the Cherokee Chapter is a Members First Club!

Chapter Communication / Website / Facebook and The Cherokee Store...

From Greg McFarland, Cherokee Chapter Vice President, Webmaster & Merchandise Manager...

Our Website www.CherokeeAMCA.org is still one of the most exciting and successful Classic Motorcycle Websites in America. Our initial and repeat hits per month continue to rise and **viewers are from all over America and the World**. The total amount of time people spend on our site is extremely long as compared to normal data. This is cause to know we are doing something well.

CHEROKEE WEBSITE BLOG. Each and every week there is a new **Blog** topic (normally posted on a Sunday) for all our Chapter Members and worldwide internet guests interested in Classic Motorcycles to enjoy. Photo's are always a part of such Blog posting as well. I hope you all have enjoyed the wide variety of Blog Posts on our website. If you have information, photos, a story or restoration project you wish to share, please email me the information at gregory.mcfarland@sbcglobal.net and I will be glad to post and share this information with all our Cherokee Chapter Members and Classic Motorcycle Enthusiast Viewers Worldwide.

CHEROKEE WEBSITE SPONSORS. You will notice that we do have **Sponsors** listed on our website now. We thank each and every one of these companies and individuals whom have paid us from \$100 - \$300 to place their business logo on our website. Websites cost money monthly to maintain and also to update, add information and continue to keep us in top poitions on the internet page. These sponsorships help defray our annual website maintenance expenses greatly since we are still a non-profit club and will remain so.

If you are in need of goods or services for your motorcycle(s), please try to use the sponsors whom advertise on our website. If your business or you as an individual wish to have your name / logo displayed to enhance your motorcycle related business or you just wish to help us by making this nominal advertising fee to help maintain our website properly, please contact me to add your name/ logo to our Cherokee Chapter website. It is a good cause to support and we appreciate you for doing so.

CHEROKEE CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE. If you are a Facebook user you do need to join the **Cherokee Chapter Facebook Page** as well as the **Antique Motorcycle Club of America Facebook Page**.. It is easy to set up an account and you will certainly enjoy watching posts of Vintage and Classic Motorcycle Enthusiasts whom post photos of their machines, their rides, AMCA Events such as Swap Meets, and Road Runs etc.... The Cherokee Page is restricted for use only by Cherokee Club Members so you will find it a bit more "close to home" and you will certainly know a lot of the people whom post on our Facebook page. **It's Fun! Try It Soon!**

THE CHEROKEE CHAPTER STORE. We have new **T-Shirt and Cap designs for sale on our website now!** Please keep in mind that we cannot be competitive with keeping our prices \$5 cheaper since we cannot order massive quantities like the AMCA does. But the quality of these 100% cotton items is very high. And the shipping is included in the price of purchase. All these items are currently available on our website for your purchase and will be shipped directly to your home. **Now that saves gas & time while you look sharp supporting our Chapter!**

Order your Cherokee Merchandise Today at www.CherokeeAMCA.org and we will ship directly to your mailbox.



Cherokee Caps \$30



Cherokee Concours d'Pate Bike Show T in Olive or Blue \$25

We Ride" T. Black Only \$25

(All T's are available in all sizes shipping included)



"You know.... New Chapter T's and a Cap would sure sharpen up your appearance!"

Chapter Business ...

Elections will be held at the Annual Club Meeting / Christmas Gathering on December 5th.

Positions being elected this meeting include:

- **Director Position** – Expired two year term of Past President John Nixon
- **Director Position** – Expired two year term of Oklahoma Director Dwight Rinner
- **Director Position** - Director / Secretary (Emily Hudkins position.)

Nominations to date:

- **Mr. Lyle Henry – Nominated for Oklahoma Director.** Lyle has been a Cherokee Chapter Member for many years now. He has been instrumental alongside current Oklahoma Director Dwight Rinner in promoting and building the Classic Motorcycle presence at the largest Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet in Oklahoma annually. Through his efforts the vintage motorcycle presence has grown from one small booth with several classic bikes to over 200 ft long display. Lyle has pledged that he will continue to represent Cherokee very well and do his very best to bring as many new members to the club from Oklahoma as possible. Lyle owns and cares for a variety of vintage motorcycles including several Harley Davidson's and his well known Candy Apple Red four cylinder Indian. (Word has it a Cushman may have entered his garage as well?)
- **Mrs. Rose Sterling – Director at Large** “Rosie” and her husband Rodney “Rodman Pan” Sterling live in New Braunfels TX. The Sterlings are avid motorcyclists, own many old bikes and have a smouldering passion for old iron. They sold their oilfield services company approximately two years ago and are involved in various community service initiatives near their home. Rosie is an outgoing people person and has become well loved in our club in a short time. She is extremely organized and has a business and construction background. If elected to an At Large Directors position, it would be the intent of the current board of Directors to elect her as Secretary to fill the vacancy of Emily Hudkins the end of this year.
- **Nominations are now Open to any Cherokee Chapter Members** whom wish to be nominated to serve our Chapter. We need one additional **At Large Board of Director** as of the date of this newsletter. Nominations will be accepted up to and including Friday November 20th at which time Ballots will be printed and emailed to all members for their vote. Those Cherokee Chapter Members whom do not use computers will receive their ballots via US Postal Mail Service with a return address envelope to our Chapter so their vote may be counted as well.

Thank You; Your Officers and Directors of the Cherokee Chapter of the AMCA.



Opportunities for Our Members as our Chapter Continues to Grow by Steve Klein, President

Three short years ago our Chapter had approximately 35 members, a dedicated but small Board of Directors and a small handful of events to handle annually. Today the Cherokee Chapter has over 280+ members throughout a dozen or more states in America and even in Japan. Our annual **Cherokee Pate Swap Meet** will now have 500+ vending booths in 2016. Our **Cherokee D'Pate Bike Show** will have approximately 200 motorcycles this year. Rather than do a National Road Run only every 3-4 years we have elected to do a significant **Texas/Oklahoma Road Run** each and every year. We continue to do **Reach –Out Events** whereby our Chapter Members attend non-AMCA Events to raise the awareness of Classic Motorcycles and sign up additional enthusiasts as members wherever we go. Examples include but are not limited to **The Oklahoma City Swap Meet and Bike Show** (4 years now), **The Arlington TX Swap Meet** (3 years now) **Pistons and Paint Car Show**, Denton TX (3 years now) and many more smaller venues that our members attend, display a few classic motorcycles, set up a folding table and chairs and just talk to people who are interested in old bikes.

The existing **Board of Directors** whom had the vision and strategic planning ability to craft and carry out our initial Chapter growth plan will not be able to continue to shoulder all of the load of such a full annual calendar so your Board of Directors has set forth a plan to maintain our current ability to serve you as members, provide the types of events you wish to have, activate and retain our membership at its current level and facilitate our continued growth as more people continue to leave the North Country to move to the South. The Cherokee Chapter will remain Inclusive and not Exclusive of our members. Your Board of Directors is here to serve you.

The following positions are being made open **for any Cherokee Chapter Member** to volunteer for. Our Board will certainly provide all the knowledge, expertise and support to each and every position so those that accept these will have the pride associated with being successful in these positions. For further information on these please contact myself and I will get you in touch with the appropriate Board Member whom you will report to. **As follows as of this date:**

Cherokee Chapter Road Run Chairman - This individual will take over all Road Run files and be in charge of planning for and selecting an annual location for our Chapter Fall Road Run. All planning guides, checklists, forms, registration, hold harmless waiver forms and necessary Insurance coverages will be provided from our Chapter. Duties would include selection of the site annually, research as to area hotels/motels, restaurants, & campgrounds for RV's and tent campers etc... Also researching and determining the best daily road run routes and getting this information put on maps for all riders. The Cherokee Chapter will handle all marketing, advertising and insurance logistics. Keep in mind that 4 of the 6 road run events have already been pre-planned and are going to be repeated on a rotational basis. There are only two more regional locations to plan.

Cherokee Chapter Regional Ambassador Program. To better represent our Cherokee Chapter and to spread the word of Classic Motorcycling throughout Texas and Oklahoma, Membership Director Shelby Withrow has Design / Pioneered this program. Essentially Chapter Members from as many regions/city's as possible can all be an Ambassador to our Chapter and Sport, **What does it entail?** Just continue life as you already do day to day, except you carry a Cherokee Business Card with your name, phone number and an email on it. When you are riding your old bike or meet someone in daily life whom wishes to talk about old bikes, you have a professional card in your pocket to give them and invite them to ride or to become a member of our club. It is that easy. The City or Regional Ambassador would also be in charge of organizing local Saturday or Sunday Ride Groups from a private home or a café to enjoy a day of members in that area riding together. So far we have Ambassadors appointed for **Abilene, Austin, Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, & New Braunfels /San Antonio Regions.** Let us know if you are interested in being a local/regional Ambassador and also organize local day rides several times a year. We will provide you with all you need.

Membership Chair – Our Chapter Growth has added additional work load to both Membership Director, Shelby Withrow and Treasurer JoAnn Kugle. We are interested in finding an individual whom would assist Shelby and JoAnn with keeping the membership roster current and accurate relative to names, addresses, phone and email. This individual may also send out a Membership Card and Welcome Card to each new member. In the event our membership is to be reached this individual can send out email announcements, event updates, and special messages. With some experience the ultimate goal would be that this individual would become the Membership Director and allow Shelby to focus solely on our Cherokee / Pate Swap Meet and Concours d'Pate Bike Show. If interested please contact Shelby Withrow and discuss.

Newsletter Editor – OK Creative People.... Steve Klein needs help. For 3 years Steve has pounded the keyboards to provide the Cherokee Chapter Newsletter. Steve wishes to switch to a new Newsletter Program that is easy to use and cut and paste articles and photos in. Steve and all Cherokee officers will continue to write the articles.... We just need someone with good computer skills to cut and paste the newsletter together 4 times annually. Please contact Steve Klein if you would like to help here.

Cherokee Pate Swap Meet Positions – Cherokee / Pate Chairman Shelby Withrow has already assembled his Swap Meet / Bike Show Management Team. Jim Joyce, Jerry and Lecil Morgan, David and Jo Ann Kugle, Ed and Brenda Hazzard and many others make up this team at present. If the Swap Meet is of interest to you, please contact Shelby. 2016 Cherokee Pate efforts have been non-stop since last May and Shelby is gearing up now for May 1 2016.

Concours D'Pate Bike Show Positions – Steve Klein, Concours Chair always needs help in the areas of Registration, Setting up the Bike Show each year, placing signage and also VIP assistance to all our sponsors. If the Bike Show is very interesting to you personally, let Steve know. A few extra volunteers would sure help.



Fall Photo Album

As usual there are hundreds of more photos posted on our website www.CherokeeChapter.org



Barn Fresh 48 FL rides Road Run



Live Road Run Music Venue on 2 nights!



Happily surrounded by Bearded Men



Long Distance Riders and Buddies



Cowboy Up All Y'all



Elton Morris' Knucklehead



He did it!



Candy Store!



Diane P. and David L. – Oldest Bike



Cole Diesters High Cool Trash Boat



These Men Ride... The brand matters not!



Honorary Texans awarded to Steve & Rob by GLT



Another Row to Show



Two rows of Old Iron every morning for coffee & doughnuts



Lake Livingston TX



Green...Bad luck...Nah!



A Texas Size Spread of Food in a 50,000 Star restaurant!



Terrific Rides everywhere!



Carson Classic Motors Shop VIP parking all weekend.



Both are Legends & Peaches!



Joe Skaggs now famous rigid Pan Coast to Coast Rider



Pans, WLDR's, Knucks and J's. These Boys Rode Hard. Wet or dry!



Rose, Jo Ann, Joan and Liz



Twin Cam!



"Cuzin Trish", Lady T, Diane, & Susan B.



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We're on the Web 24/7!

Watch for the next Newsletter
and all Current Blogs at:

www.CherokeeAMCA.org



The Cherokee Website is Online 24/7/365

Thanks to Director, Greg McFarland our Chapter website is always online and available for all members and others on the worldwide web to use to find us.

www.CherokeeAMCA.org

Enjoy reading our newsletter now when you feel like it as it will always be online. We will simply send out a confidential email to all chapter members that it is posted

Who We Are . . .

The Cherokee Chapter of The Antique Motorcycle Club of America was formed for the purpose of enjoying old motorcycles. We accomplish this through local member organized events in and around Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Our members own, study, preserve, restore

online for viewing. Members without computers will still be sent their news-letters through US Postal Service as usual. Features of this site also allow you to view photos of recent events, see a list of our officers and directors along with their contact information and also be able to read the current **Blog** anytime you wish to.

We are all very proud of this website and know the value added convenience to our members will be appreciated.

We All Thank You Greg!



in learning more about these magnificent machines and the wonderful history of our great sport, please visit our website and also contact us about membership, road runs, bike shows and other club activities.

We Welcome You!



.....
Cut off here and Save

Cherokee Chapter Annual Christmas Dinner, Members Meeting and Elections

Where: Steve and Joan Klein, 201 Whitney Woods Circle, Georgetown TX 78633

When: Saturday December 5th Arrive anytime Saturday morning.

1:00 pm – CATERED Buffet Family Style Dinner

2:15 pm - Annual Club Meeting, Elections, Chapter Awards

3:15 pm – Coffee and Dessert

Members may remain and visit all afternoon or depart for home per their own schedules.

Hotels: The Kleins live approximately 6 miles straight West of Historic Downtown Georgetown TX. There are many new Hotels on I-35 near Williams Drive area. Holiday Inn Express, Best Western, & Comfort Suites are the most conveniently located near the Klein's

RSVP: Joan Klein 512.966.8601 or JoanKlein6@Hotmail.com by Wednesday December 2 so a proper head count can be achieved for tables and food. Normally 75-100 members attend. We hope you can make it this year.

Weather permitting we do a short 75 mile ride Saturday from 10am – 12. Bring an old bike if you trust the weather map and enjoy!
Need directions, info, or other, just email Steve. Steve@SteveKlein.com or call 361.652.8300 cell. Calls may take time to answer!