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## From The President

Jim Justice

Dear Santa Fe Antique M/C Club Members,

July was certainly a hot month which made it difficult to ride, but August so far seems more conducive for biking. I imagine like me many of you have stayed inside to work on the old iron.

On a sad note, Jim Koenig passed away on May 29<sup>th</sup>. He will be greatly missed by our Club members and the shirts for the 2024 Lawrence Show will include a "In memory of" message. His family is selling his motorcycles and if anyone is interested you can find additional information on our Club's website and Facebook.

As a point of interest, the Kansas City Auto Museum in Olathe has a KC Star newspaper article about Ralph Wayne Blackmore's 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Backyard National Motorcycles Show" which happened in 2002. In addition to Ralph, several other Club members were mentioned in the article including Dan Holman, Jim Lepisto, Kenny Howard and Lon McCroskey. The article also included several pictures and I think it is extremely interesting.

The Club trailer has been cleaned out and has been modified making it easier to load and unload supplies, thanks to Frank Sereno, Joe Madrid, Bernard Arnold and David Park who helped with this project. We will also need volunteers to add equipment for transporting motorcycles. This should only take one day, and an email will be sent when a date has been established.

I think all attendees of the meetings over the past several months would agree that the demonstrations done by Tom Binger, Jim Lepisto and Doug Rollert on various subjects were very informative and interesting. Frank Sereno has videoed each of the demos and posted them on Facebook and YouTube

Don't forget that the picnic will be on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Park, Shelter House #6 at 1:00. There will be a separate email with the details soon.

Stay safe and keep the old wheels turning.

Jim Justice  
President



# Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's report was given by Doug Rollert. Except for a couple of small amounts paid such as for rental of the shelter house for annual picnic, nothing else was spent since last month.

Jim J mentioned that AMCA is requiring our Club members to sign waivers limiting AMCA from liabilities during certain SFT Club activities. At the meeting, Club members signed the proper form and other members will also soon be required to do the same.

It had been brought up at a previous meeting that because our Club has a little extra money in the kitty, so to speak, that maybe we might want to donate some funds to a charitable organization. After some discussion, it seemed like the members at this meeting thought that we should either use the money for some things the Club could use such as new pots and pans for the Lawrence Show or possibly send some money to a charitable organization like the Know Norm, or a combination of the both. There are already plans to update the trailer and we will need to look at the finances after that job is done to see how much we may be able to give as a gift.

Jim Koenig's visitation and funeral service will be at St. Patrick's Parish on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am. Flowers will be sent from the Club.

Several SFT Club members attended the Know Norm ride and antique bike show on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Club members, Chris Treat won best of show for his Harley Davison JD and Rich Orth won the \$300.00 prize money for riding on the oldest bike, a 1936 Harley Davidson VLH.

Jack Larson who attended the Thunder on the Street gathering in Pleasanton, KS commented that there was a new trick riding event that was unique. Also, there was a large display of David Mann's paintings at the motorcycle museum

At the KCVJMC invitational show at Blip Coffeehouse held just before our meeting today, SFT had 5 cycles shown and all won awards. The rain unfortunately, held the participation down some.

At the July Club meeting, Tom Binger will have a seminar on hammer forming sheet metal.

On August 5<sup>th</sup> KCVJMC will have a show at New Century Airport in Gardner, KS. The theme this year is Japanese police motorcycles.

This year's Club picnic will be on **Saturday**, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in shelter house #6. The September meeting will be held there directly after the picnic.

**SPECIAL REQUEST! ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CLEAN UP AND MODIFY THE CLUB'S TRAILER. IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE ARRIVE AT DAVID PARK'S HOUSE (1920 N. 94<sup>TH</sup> ST; KCKS) AT 9:00 am.**

***Minutes recorded by Club Secretary Sharon Justice***

### ***Minutes of July 9, 2023 Meeting***

Doug Rollert gave the Treasurer's report, including expenses incurred in June, income and final balance.

Jack Larson gave information about Toby Gossett and his wife, Geri, being in a motorcycle accident and still having some residual health issues. A get-well card was circulated for those at the meeting to sign.

Jim J. advised that AMCA was going to increase the annual membership fee by \$5.00 if members were planning on having someone ride with them on their bike during any of the AMCA sanctioned events.

Although the club's trailer has been "gutted" and cleaned out, thanks to Frank Sereno, Joe Madrid, Bernard Arnold and David Park, there are a few more hours required to install all of the new items that have been recently purchased. An email will be sent when the date for the installation is established, hoping that several members will volunteer.

At the August meeting, the theme for the 2024 Lawrence Show needs to be decided. Don Lipsky needs this information by then for the design of the T-shirts and posters.

**NOTE THAT THE AUGUST MEETING WILL BE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> INSTEAD OF SUNDAY AT THE REQUEST OF K&M BBQ.**

Also at the August meeting, Doug Rollert and Tom Binger will talk about restoring a Harley Davidson JD front fork assembly.

After the meeting, Tom Binger gave another excellent demonstration. This time the demo was on hammer forming sheet metal into various parts. Several members said afterwards that it was one of the best and most informative they have seen. Great job, Tom!! As usual, Frank Sereno videoed the presentation and will post it on Facebook.

***Minutes recorded by Sharon Justice, SFT Secretary.***

### ***Minutes of August 12, 2023 Meeting***

First on the agenda, Sharon Justice (Secretary) had a sign-up sheet sent around for the upcoming picnic, explaining that it would be extremely helpful to her and Ibby Rollert to have a good estimate of how many will be coming on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, a text to Club members will be emailed soon with all the details and asking everyone to let us know if they will be attending.

The Treasurer's report was given by Doug Rollert.

After the meeting, Jim Sherman signed up as a new member. Thanks for joining our group and we hope to see you often.

We needed to select a theme for the 2024 Lawrence Show and after some discussion, it was decided that the theme of "Racers" will be used. This will include any bike used in racing and older than 35 years. A memorial of Jim Koenig will be included in the design of the shirts and Frank Sereno will develop a slide show of Jim's life. Jim J. interjected that Jim Koenig's family is selling his bike collection and this information is on Facebook and our website.

Jim J. passed around a copy of a newspaper article he saw at the KC Auto Museum in Olathe regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ralph Wayne Blackmore's Backyard National M/C Show. It included several members of the SFT Club. After the meeting, Frank Sereno told Jim that he would visit the museum and take a better picture of the article and bring it to the picnic.

For several of the Lawrence Shows, a metal, 2 ¾ x 4 inch plate was put on the seat of every motorcycle that was entered in the show. Jim asked if we should start doing that again and it was decided to check out the pricing. In addition, Jim will see how much magnets instead of just the metal plates would cost. We might want to also sell some of them if cost effective.

After the meeting, Doug Rollert and Tom Binger gave a presentation on repairing a Harley Davidson JD front fork assembly. It was extremely informative and interesting. Frank, as usual, videoed the presentation and will put it on Facebook and YouTube.

***Recorded by Sharon Justice, Club Secretary.***

Text by John Webb Photos by Frank Sereno, Jim Justice and John Webb



SFT Member Eric Schlossenberg organized this bike show and poker run for charity. Held at Worth HD in the Northland, the ride route followed winding roads through beautiful scenery along the Missouri River and the rolling hills north of Kansas City. I've lived in the KC area my whole life and didn't realize there were so many great motorcycling roads up in Clay County. The event includes an antique bike show and several SFT members were there to show their bikes. Chris Treat got top honors winning Best of Show with his newly finished 1928 JDL. Rich Orth got an award for the oldest bike in the ride, a '36 VL that he recently finished. Jim Justice showed his '46 Knucklehead and rode his '41 four cylinder Indian Chief. Frank Sereno came with 2 beautiful Hondas, riding his '76 CB550 and showing his '65 305 Dream. Steve Letcher rode and showed his '47 Indian Chief V-twin. Tom Binger also showed his restored '27 Indian Scout. I reached out to Eric to get some more details about this ride but as of the deadline had not heard back from him. Several thousand dollars were raised and will benefit school children. There was a band at the dealership when we returned from the ride. There were good food and drinks available. The ride is named for his father, Norm. It's a fun ride and a good time. This one should be on your calendar for next year.



Above; Some of the poker stops along the route.

Right; Frank's Hondas

Below; Jim's Knucklehead





Clockwise from top left; Chris' show winning 1928 JDL; Steve's 1947 Indian Chief, Tom's 1927 Indian Scout; Know Norm volunteers, Jim's '41 Indian Chief; Poker run participants rehydrate after a day in the sun; Rich's award winning '36 VL.



# Blip Invitational Show 8

Summer 2023

Photos by Frank Sereno, Jim Justice and John Webb



Hosted by Blip Coffee and VJMC, I had looked forward to this show for weeks, but the forecast for the day of the show called for scattered showers. I watched the weather, I checked my radar app and I called Mark Bayer, President of VJMC, to confirm the show was still on. I managed to ride all the way from my home in Lawrence to the West Bottoms of KC where Blip is located without getting wet, but the rain



caught up with me there and it was a very soggy event overall. In spite of the rain, and possibly aided by the bad weather for a low turnout, this was a fun event for me. I received 2 awards for my '58 FLH, Best V-Twin and Oldest Bike. Tom Gierum snagged the Best of Show for his '68 FLH with sidecar. Frank Sereno got the Best Honda award for his 305 Dream Machine. SFT President, Jim Justice was awarded Best Santa Fe Trail Motorcycle Club, a dubious honor since there is only one, but a nice gesture nonetheless. Thank you Frank and Jim for your photos. Thanks to Mark and Blip and VJMC for a good show. We will put in for better weather next year.





## KC Area Sidecar Meet



Also known as Bill Brown's Sidecar Show and Picnic, this was the ninth year for this event. Bill and his wife Joyce served up delicious pulled pork BBQ sandwiches and hot dogs while we said hello to old friends and got an eyeful of the variety of bikes on display. Bill is a busy guy, he's president of the KC BMW MC Club, V.P. of the KC Vintage Japanese MC Club, Kansas rep for the United Sidecar Assoc. and Kansas rep for the VJMC. At right is his beautiful restoration of a 1949 BMW R24 with sidecar.



'49 BMW R24



Bill opened up his shop for us to hang out in with all his bikes and projects on display. The shop is nicely decorated with motorcycles, scooters, photos, memorabilia and awards he's won over the years. He obviously has a passion for small displacement bikes as well as the bigger rigs. The Coke cooler sidecar rig he built got a lot of attention. The picnic is a really nice event. Thanks, Bill and Joyce! The black BMW below right is Joyce's personal ride.





At right are some of Bill and Joyce's Great Grandkids on their bikes, Stiles in the foreground, Isaac in the back with glasses, Logan is with Isaac and Chase is the little guy on the push car. Below is a little Excelsior with a Villiers motor that Bill plans to restore.



# Meetin' In The Middle



This event has been held in Iowa in the past but this year it was hosted by LCC Powersports in Liberty Mo and our local Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club. Since it was so close to home I couldn't pass up the opportunity to check it out. There is more to it than just the bike show. They have a meet and greet on Friday, a bike show and ride to dinner on Saturday, and a ride to Blip Coffee on Sunday.





Here are some of the awesome machines that showed up at our regular monthly meeting in July

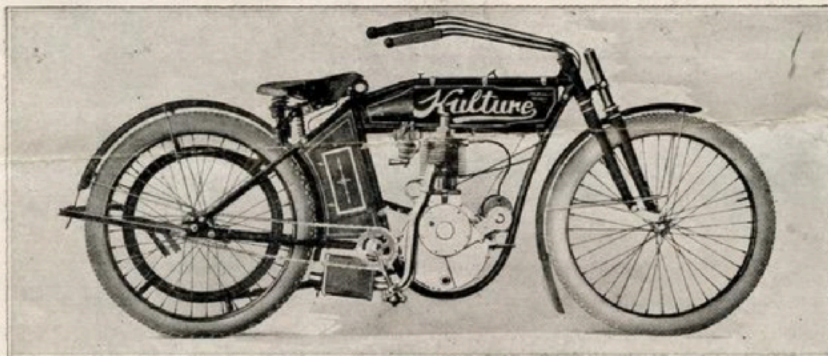
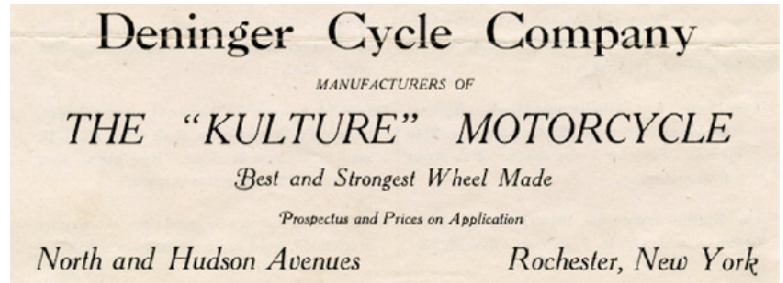


I was reminded to get to work on this issue's article about lost and forgotten motorcycles. I turned on my external hard drive and started to look through my collection of antique motorcycle ads. For some reason I opened a folder named 'Kulture' and looked at the ads, boy was that a mistake. So to go along with the few ads that I have, I gotta have a history of the motorcycle and it's company to accompany the pictures. I have 4 books on American motorcycle and only one had any information on Kulture. So on page 237 of the book 'American Motorcycle Manufactures' by Tod Rafferty it reads: Kulture (1909) Rochester, New York. That's it, even Tod didn't know any history of Kulture, but Tod did give me a clue where to look next. But first I did Google it and came up with this sentence from '[Totalmotorcycle.com](http://Totalmotorcycle.com)':

**Kulture** USA, 1909 – 1917, The Deninger Cycle Co. perhaps made their own motorcycles or just rebadged others such as Manson and Emblem with the Kulture badge. Again, not much. I have another book titled 'The Motorcycle Industry in New York State' by Geoffrey N. Stein. Success, Kulture

was listed and had a few short paragraphs on the company and motorcycle. I paraphrase the contents of that article; The Kulture motorcycle was a product, or rebranding of an existing motorcycle, by the Deninger Cycle Company (1908-1917). It was first sold in 1909 and it's questionable if it was sold after that year, even though ads suggested that it was. As stated above, the Kulture, may have been just a rebranding of a Manson or Emblem motorcycle. Comparisons between early Emblems and the Kulture show that frames were identical or very close to being the same and if there ever was any 'Truth in Advertising', the Kulture catalog read: The KULTURE is not manufactured by a company who look to a superintendent to shade quality so that a fat dissident may be declared, but is made by me, in my own shop, under my personal supervision, and I take an honest pride in tis manufacture.

Another minor footnote in the history of American motorcycles.



Seven horse power, free engine, run about five-hundred miles, long racing handle bars. Two can ride as easy as one. Five to fifty miles an hour. \$90.

One Kulture motorcycle, 1914 model, belt drive, five horse power, R. F. D. man's flyer, \$110.

One Kulture motorcycle, overhauled, one new tire, \$65.

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North and Hudson Avenues Rochester, New York

## SFT's "How To" Series



We've been treated to some great demonstrations this summer at our monthly meetings. In July Tom Binger gave us a look at hammer forming sheet metal to repair or replace worn out and rusty parts. At the August meeting, Tom and Doug Rollert showed us how they rebuilt a 1928 JD front fork. They were able to machine the down tubes out of the castings without heating the castings which could have destroyed them. Tom built some jigs with heavy channel steel to hold the front and rear legs securely and to hold the dimensions while Doug removed the damaged tubes and made new chromoly tubes on his milling machine. Doug explained the process and the math involved in cutting new threads on the tubes. The jigs made it easy for Tom to put all the parts of the forks back together using silver solder.

The process is time consuming but this is what these guys like to do and we all know that feeling of satisfaction you get when you've done it yourself. These talks have been inspiring and I am much more inclined to try some of this myself. When you see how a job is broken down into individual steps it seems less daunting. If you missed the meetings you can still watch the demonstrations, Frank Sereno has videotaped them all and posted them to our Facebook page and to his Youtube channel.





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**Upcoming Events**

- \* Annual SFT picnic- Sept. 9, 1pm at Heritage Park in Olathe, shelter house #6, meeting to follow.
- \* Sunflower Chapter Road Run- Sept. 11-13, El Dorado Ks
- \* Rendezvous with the Cannonball cross country endurance ride, Sept. 14, Augusta Ks
- \* SFT Meeting- Oct. 8, 2 pm, K&M BBQ, Spring Hill, KS
- \*
- \*

**On The Trail is a quarterly newsletter of past present and future SFT Chapter events. It's published during the months of February, May, August and November.**

**Chapter meetings are held at 2pm at K&M BBQ, 603 N Webster St. Spring Hill KS. 913 592 5145, on the second Sunday of every month unless otherwise stated.**

Visit us on our website; [sftrail.org](http://sftrail.org) or our facebook page; Santa Fe Trail Antique Motorcycle Club

*Special thanks to Don Lipsky for his series on bygone American Motorcycle brands and to Frank Sereno and Jim Justice for their photos.- ed.*

*SFT Chapter dues renew at the first of the year. You can send your dues to SFT, 15075 W 167th Ter. Olathe KS 66062. Please include your current address, phone # and email address.*

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