

December 2013 Newsletter

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Diamond Chapter Christmas Party & December Meeting Will be Saturday December 28th, 2:00 pm, at The Brick House (801 Central Ave.) down town Hot Springs. Please let me know if you are coming and how many. Please email me at safari100usa@yahoo.com by the 27th or before so we can give the restaurant a head count. If you would like to exchange gifts please bring a \$10 - \$15 dollar motorcycle related gift. The Chapter will pay for meals for all members who have paid their dues. You can pay your dues at the meeting. Please check on your national Dues. Hope to see you there.

Diamond Chapter Officers:

President: Michael Thomson safari100usa@yahoo.com

Vice President: Greg Bright thebrights@hotmail.com

Secretary: Elizabeth Plunkett faultless8@yahoo.com

Treasure: Linda Bright thebrights@hotmail.com

Sgt. at Arms: Russell Plunkett faultless8@yahoo.com

Director: Mike Parker mikethebike@cablelynx.com

Note: Elections of officers will be in February, make your nominations at the January meeting. We also need someone to take over the web site.

No minutes or treasure report for November, just a good time at the Toy Run.

[Click here](#) for The Back Straight:

December Birthdays:

Elizabeth Plunkett, Martin Brown, Gary Walker, and Kay Burns.

AMCA Winter Magazine:

The Antique Motorcycles in the Park Show made the AMCA National Magazine on page 14. Nice write up and picture, I have no idea who sent this into the National but I am glad someone did. Maybe we will get more bikes for next year's show. I am also sure the video Berry did made its way to the National as well. If you have not seen Berry's video let know and I will get it to you. This last show was the best yet and I hope it only gets bigger and better as time goes on.

Toy Run ABATE Dist.14

The ABATE Toy Run was a huge success. The weather was perfect and The Diamond Chapter had several members ride in the parade. Beth Bright took pictures and did a write up in the "On the Go" magazine. You can get a copy at the visitor's center downtown. She Wrote:

The 16th Annual District 14 A.B.A.T.E. Toy Drive, held Dec.1, brought in approximately 250 riders from all over Hot Spring and surrounding areas on motorcycles new and old, in an effort to donate to the Salvation Army Angle Tree program. Participants had to donate a toy in order to ride from the Hot Springs Convention Center through town to the VFW post 228. This is one of several large events the Salvation Army looks forward to each year.



My Texas Trip:

Well I decided to go to Texas to see family and friends Dec. 5-11. I left Hot Springs on Thursday heading to Fort Worth to see my friend Jackie and others. We all got together for Mexican food as the rain started to fall. By the time we got to Jackie's house it was snowing. The next morning everything was covered in sleet and ice. I tried to get my truck out but it just keep spinning as I tried to back up hill on the ice. I was beginning to think I would be stuck in Fort Worth until Tuesday. After watching TV until we were bored to death we moved his trailer and I did manage to get out.

I headed to Stanley's house in Dallas. That took over an hour and a half to go 30 miles. Trees were down everywhere and the roads were to freeze up again that night. The temperature never got above freezing. Stanley and I managed to get out of Dallas the next morning in his car and headed to Georgetown for the Cherokee Chapter Christmas Party. Traffic was terrible and the roads were slick until we got past Hillsboro. Nice roads after that but still very cold.

We went to Elton and Debbie's house where we stayed for the weekend. Georgetown is a quaint little town north of Austin. It is full of very old building and houses. Elton's house was built in the 1920's I think. Very cool house and his collection of motorcycles is fantastic. In his small museum he has about twenty vintage motorcycles, mostly Harley Davidsons and Indians. I was very impressed with his great display of vintage bikes.

We all headed over to Steve and Joan Klein's home. Steve is a developer and they live in a new modern home. The house was very nice but being a man I wanted to see his shop. Steve's shop / garage / museum was unbelievable. He had just purchased a Flying Merkel to add to the 30 bikes or so in his collection. He said the Flying Merkel was a hand me

down from a collector who bought a better one. It was hard for me to believe there could be a better Flying Merkel anywhere. Steve's collection starts with a 1908 Thor, several Harley's, Indians, and Excelsior's in the teens and on up through the years to some modern bikes. Just too many to list, better than some museums I have been to, and of course my 1917 Excelsior was sitting there. We talked a little like old friends.

Sunday was the Christmas party. I am guessing about 35 members were there. I am sure there would have been more if the weather had been better. I made some new friends and talked to some old friends I not seen in years. Of course we talked about motorcycles and upcoming events, like the road run in April. Appears there will be quite a few riders on the Road Run. I am looking forward to it. The party was catered by the local store and the food was great. The meeting started after lunch. They had elections and discussed future events. They also brought up their trip to Hot Springs and what a good time they had. Sure made me feel good. I had a great time at the Christmas Party and being in Georgetown for a couple of days.

I wish to Thank Elton and Debbie for their superb hospitality and for putting up with Stanley and me. They are great people to know. I also want to Thank Steve and Joan for their hospitably and friendship. They are also great people to know. I hope to see more of this wonderful group of people soon at the Road Run in April.

Stanley and I left Monday morning back to Dallas, The snow and ice was still everywhere. I got to spend a little time with some family and friends, but I had all I can stands, I can't stands no more bad weather so I came home a day early. I had a great time but I will pay better attention to the weather next time.

Mike

Mystery Motorcycle quiz Winner: Mario Caruso

Mystery motorcycle is a 1930 Henderson KJ streamliner, Art Deco. More info from Mario: Designed by O. Ray Courtney in the Art Deco style of the day and in the collection of Frank Westfall in Syracuse NY. 1200 cc in-line four 40 bhp only one made as a prototype that never took on. Was recently in a show in Nashville at the Frist Museum. The most beautiful collection of exotic cars I have ever seen all Art Deco cars many of them one off hand built. <http://fristcenter.org/calendar-exhibitions/detail/sensuous-steel>
Mario Caruso



Web Sites of Interest:

Cherokee Chapter <http://www.cherokeeamca.org/> Great reading and info on their Road Run next April.

What's in the Barn: <http://velocity.discovery.com/tv-shows/whats-in-the-barn/videos/100-year-old-indian.htm>

Antique Motorcycle Club Of America: <http://www.antiquemotorcycle.org/> check out the forum section sometime for events and comments, lots of info on this site.

Motorcycle quotes:

"Skillful riding is as much a matter of developing good judgment as good technique."

"....Loctite.... or kiss your nuts goodbye"

For Sale:

[Click here](#) for Thomson's collection of motorcycles for sale.

Honda, 1971 CL 175 Scrambler, restored, runs great, \$1,000 Call Eddie @501-760-1520

Suzuki, 1979 SP 370, like new, runs great, \$2,000 call Eddie @ 501-760-1520

American Iron Horse, Outlaw, S&S motor, \$16,000 call Eddie @ 501-760-1520

Honda, 2002 Shadow, 750cc, 8,000 miles, call 501-429-4338

Events:

Dec. 28 - Diamond Chapter Christmas Party and Meeting, Brick House, 2:00pm, Hot Springs.

Jan. - Las Vegas Auction

Jan. 26 - Diamond Chapter Meeting TBA. Nominations of new officers.

Feb. 15-16 ABATE Swap meet, Little Rock Fair Grounds. We will need members to help at the booth.

Feb. 23 - Diamond Chapter Club Meeting TBA. Election of officers

Apr. - Cherokee Chapter Road Run. <http://www.cherokeeamca.org/>

Closing Comments:

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. It has been a great year for the club, let's make 2014 even better. We need more members so talk to your friends. Be thinking of things to improve our calendar of events, more rides, more shows, more fun events, and doing joint events with other Chapters. Please let me know of any upcoming events in advance. See you at the Christmas Party.

Ride em, do not hide em.

Michael Thomson

President, Diamond Chapter of Arkansas

Antique Motorcycle Club of America