

Central California Classic Cycle Club



"We're stuck on old bikes"



Web Site: www.5csclub.net



April 2009



"Standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona"

April 15th meeting (7:30pm) The Dam Diner



Chuck's Sherpa 'T'

By Gary Rosa

It was the last half of 2007 when I had sold my Sachs Boondocker to the Barber Motorsports Museum and was looking for my next project. With Jon Martino we were visiting with Chuck Coffman when we stumbled into Chuck's garage and saw his last remaining motorcycle, a tired 1973 Bultaco 350cc Sherpa T. Chuck had planned to fix up before his health went south and now he was looking to find it a good home. Here is what it looked like.



After a brief conversation I scheduled to come back with my trailer and load up the Bultaco. What was I thinking? I knew absolutely nothing about the Mark! But what the hell it would make a good "beater" to ride around at the cabin. Now this would make the fifth bike that I thought would make a good "cabin bike". How many of those do I still own today you might ask? The answer is one...the Bultaco! I have a bad habit of restoring bikes to show condition and not wanting to get them dirty...so they get sold, a definite character flaw.

Before starting on the bike I did some research and found out that this particular model had some historic significance. In 1960 the then two year old company started by Francisco Bulto built their first off-road motorcycle, the Sherpa N. Four years later Sammy Miller came on board and in 12 days of intensive work the Sherpa T was born. The Sherpa T, conceived as a "real" trials competition bike, became the trials bike that most manufactures targeted and emulated for many years to come. Starting in 1973 the Sherpa T 350 went on to win two European championships, 5 World titles and seven Spanish championships. In addition it medaled in five Scottish Six day Trial competitions and won four English Championships. With a legacy like that I had to restore the Sherpa that sat in my garage.

I won't go into a blow by blow restoration discussion here but briefly: I completely disassembled the bike and restored all its parts then reassembled it. Easy as that! All the aluminum was polished by me excluding the wheels and fenders (Clovis Chrome). The fenders probably took most of my time. They are a soft aluminum and were pretty well dinged up. Lots of hours with a body hammer, dolly and file resulted in some decent but not perfect fenders (they are impossible to find in almost any condition). I polished the stainless steel spokes and re-laced the wheels with Wayne Sumner doing the final truing for me. I rebuilt the engine's top end. Since the bottom end was sound,

all I did was to replace the case gaskets and seals. It is interesting that the Sherpa two stroke has two flywheels to give it that needed grunt for trials competition.

Since I was to add the lighting option I built a new wire harness using an old Bultaco Alpina harness as a guide. All the silver "painted" parts were shipped out to Caps for powder coating.

The tank/seat combo was pressure tested, internally sealed and painted by a Bultaco specialty company in Kerrville Texas. The seat was restored by Hugh's Bultaco in New York State. As to parts sources for these bikes...there are two former Bultaco dealers still supporting the mark and they were a great help...Hugh's Bultaco in New York State and Lynn Mobley at Mobley's Bultaco Parts, Minden Nevada.

Bultaco's are still being aggressively competed throughout the Country, not only in vintage trials but motocross, road race and flat track as well. Just two weeks ago we watched three or four Bultaco Astros competing in the indoor short track races held in conjunction with the All British Clubman meet and the All European Moto Concoroso in San Jose, California.

Speaking of the San Jose Show...I was lucky enough to win first in class at the Moto Concoroso with the just finished Sherpa. It was displayed with many beautifully restored bikes...many of which were pretty exotic such as Ducati, MV Agusta, Laverda, Moto Guzi, BMW, etc. Imagine my great surprise at the end of the award presentation when they announced the "People's Choice" award and it was my little Sherpa! Next showing that I have planned for it is Willow Springs later this month then Hanford and maybe Bikes by the Sea held in Soquel around the first part of July. After that...???? I sure don't want to get it dirty so probably onto a new owner.

Watch the future editions of Clement Salvadori's "Retrospect" column in the back of Rider magazine for a story on the Sherpa with pictures of my Sherpa taken a few weeks ago.

Here are a few details on the bike as well as a couple of photos of the finished project: Wet weight 216lbs, 21hp two strokes, 5 speed, price in 1973 was \$895



Classifieds

FOR SALE

Yamaha Enduro, 2 stroke 175 single, monoshock frame, starts and runs well. Complete: tach, speedo, lights, turn signals. Has new chain and seat cover, almost new front tire, good rear, only fair paint. Can be registered, sold on a bill of sale. (Out of DMV computer) Going on craigslist for \$495, Will sell to any member for \$395. David Gearhart (559) 283-1007



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Auto – Motorcycle – Renters – Home – Business – Life – Retirement

EVENTS CALENDAR

The Fresno motorcycle Club
Presents
Short Track Racing
Caruthers Fairgrounds
Motorcycles – Quads – Karts
see flyer – last page

May 3rd
The Bill Quaid Memorial
Motorcycle Ride and Family
Picnic at Smalley Cove Park
see flyer in this issue.

The Garage Company
Presents
The 14th Annual
CorsaMotoClassica
Willow Springs Raceway
April 24, 25, 26.
Vintage Road Racing at its best
<http://garagecompany.com/>
(see flyer)

May 9th & 10th
Morro Bay Ride
This is a beautiful ride along the coast
and on the inland back roads.
This is a classic bike ride.
So if you have one, get it ready,
tune it up and bring it for the ride.
If not, ride what you have.
For more information call
Bob Duncan – (805) 462-1553

41st Annual Hanford Vintage Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet Saturday, May 16, 2009 Kings Fairground Hanford, California

This year, the event will be organized by Marshall Baker of Classic Cycle Events. The flyers for the event will be available in late March. There will be no changes to the format. This event is known as one of the best and oldest motorcycle shows and swap meets in California. Multiple classes of bikes will be judged. In 2008, over 150 vendors turned out and 1500 people came through the gates.

Look for or more information to come.

<http://www.batorinternational.com/batorEVENTS.htm>

Sunday, May 17th
The 18th Annual Open House
Dan & Kathy Rouit's Flat Track Museum
309 West Rialto Street, Clovis
For more info call 559 291-2242 between 11am - 7pm.
<http://www.vft.org/rouit.html>

Cover Photo – David Gearhart in Winslow, Arizona

To submit event, articles or information for the newsletter, you can send it by e-mail to squeegle@comcast.net or by snail mail to: T.J. Gilchrist 4444 W. Palo Alto Ave. Apt. 103 Fresno, CA 93722-9000 Phone # (559) 431- 0190

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2 DAYS OF
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EVENTS

CORSA MOTOCLASSICA

MOTORCYCLE



RACES

14TH ANNUAL AHRMA VINTAGE RACE

Motorcycle Show April 25
Swap Meet Both Days

April 25-26 2009

WILLOW SPRINGS
RACEWAY

6 miles west of Rosamond Near Lancaster General Admission \$10



FRESNO MOTORCYCLE CLUB PRESENTS

SHORT TRACK RACING AT ITS BEST

Garuthers Fairgrounds

MOTORCYCLES - QUADS - KARTS

**MARCH 21,
APRIL 4,
MAY 9,
MAY 30,
JUNE 20**

**CARUTHERS FAIR RACES
IN SEPTEMBER**

2009

RACE DATES

MARCH 21, APRIL 4, MAY 9, MAY 30, JUNE 20
CARUTHERS FAIR RACES IN SEPTEMBER

ALL SKILL LEVELS

OLD TIMER'S - VETS
VINTAGE 2 - 4 STROKE
NOVICE INTERMEDIATE EXPERT

GATE & ENTRY FEES

SPECTATORS \$6
UNDER 4 YEARS FREE
ENTRY FEE (BIKE OR ATV) \$30
ADDITIONAL BIKE OR CLASS (Over Road) \$25

PIT GATE

OPEN 2:00
PRACTICE 4:00
FIRST RACE 5:00

TROPHIES

30% EVENT TROPHIES

ATTENTION PARENTS: MINOR RELEASE FORMS ARE REQUIRED FROM EACH MINOR RACER (17 YEARS OLD AND UNDER.) IF A MINOR IS RACING WITHOUT A PARENT OR GUARDIAN A NOTARIZED NOTE ALLOWING THE MINOR TO PARTICIPATE IS REQUIRED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
AFF SALVAGE (559) 237-6875
WWW.FRESNOMOTORCYCLECLUB.COM



The Bill Quaid Memorial Motorcycle Ride And Family Picnic

Sunday May 3rd

Smalley Cove Park

At Kerckhoff Lake
between Auberry and
North Fork on Powerhouse Rd.



Vintage Motorcycles and Cars, All
Makes and Models Welcome

OAK BARREL BBQ

Tri Tip N Chicken Dinner with all the Fixens
Advanced Tickets....\$10 Adults \$5 kids
At the gate.....\$12 Adults \$6 kids



Advanced tickets available from:

Joe Perry.....846-9635

Joe Perry Jr. ...846-9655

Ron Quaid.....855-2823

**All Proceeds go to the Bill Quaid Memorial Scholarship
At Sierra High School**

**RIDE STARTS AT BASKIN-ROBBINS PARKING LOT AT CLOVIS AND SHAW AT 9:00 AM
OR JUST COME TO THE PARK**

Serving from 11:00 to 1:00