



# TrailBlazers

A social organization of Pioneer Motorcycling Enthusiasts meeting annually since 1940



2007 TrailBlazers Honorees

## 2008 TrailBlazers Banquet

Our annual banquet will again be held at the Carson Center on March 29th, 2008. This facility proved to be a great choice with ample room for the bike show and the sit down dinner. Look for the Sign Up form on the back page. For more info you can check out our website at [www.trailblazersmc.com](http://www.trailblazersmc.com).

Ticket sales are **ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY!** **No sales at the door!** Deadline is March 12. For more info call Irma at 562-425-5013.

Bike show (see page 2) kicks off at 3PM. Dinner Buffet at 6PM and Hall of Fame Awards at 8PM. If you're bringing a bike for the show, deliver it by 2PM.

For those of you needing overnight accommodations, there is a Double Tree Hotel right across the parking lot. You can book online at [www.carsondoubletree.com](http://www.carsondoubletree.com) or phone them at **800-222-TREE** or **310-830-9200**. \$109.00 plus 9% tax. Be sure to mention code TBL.

The TrailBlazers Board of Directors have selected the following individuals for recognition at this years banquet:

## 2008 TrailBlazers Hall of Fame

Russ Collins, Sparky Edmonston, Steve Hurd, Kim Kimball, Stu Peters, C.H. Wheat.

## Hammer Award

Dennis Mahan

## Lifetime Achievement

Gary Bryson

## In Memorium

## TrailBlazers & Friends

Anne Brokaw

Robert Craig "Evel" Knievel

Andy Kolbe

## **Tom Cates Memorial TrailBlazers Bike Show**

Hi Trailblazers! Any of you own a classic motorcycle, possibly more than one? How about a classic race bike, even one that hasn't been bathed since it last ripped the track? Last year's Trailblazers Banquet and Bike Show at the Carson Center was the best ever and this year's show promises to be even better. Over 8,000 sq ft of covered lobby right next to the huge Trailblazers banquet area and easy access from your toy haulers will make for a fantastic time enjoying awesome motorcycles and sharing stories of how great you were with your friends.

The "Tom Cates Memorial Trailblazers Bike Show" is sponsored by the "Early Years of Motocross Museum" and our goal is to have over 100 motorcycles. Bike show entries should arrive at 2:00PM and the show will open to all Trailblazers at 3:00PM on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Entry to the bike show is included in your banquet ticket purchase. Trophies for *Best in Show*, *Peoples Choice*, and *Coollest Race Bike* will be awarded by presenting sponsor, K&N Engineering.

The *Coollest Race Bike* category is new this year. What kind of race bikes qualify for this award? The judges will be looking for the most authentic race bike with history for this coveted award. If you think your bike is cool, even a newer classic and you would like to share the machine with a very discerning group of motorcyclist, please bring it! Dirt, street, track, custom, or memorabilia.....all good!

For more information, please call Tom White at the Early Years of Motocross Museum – 714-921-9137.



### **TrailBlazers Club of the Year**

The TrailBlazers board has chosen the Checkers Motorcycle club to be the first annual recipient of the "Club of the Year" award.

With input from the board and long time TrailBlazer and Checker member, Don Brown, the Checkers were selected to be the first "Club of the Year"

Checker club secretary, TrailBlazer and venerable desert racer Ken Newton has been the contact with the Checkers in collecting photos and background on the club and its members.

This years TrailBlazer Banquet on March 29th at the Carson Center will recognize the Checkers and its members who attend.

In addition, Tom White has put together a pre-banquet bike show that will feature some of the Checker's "Desert Sleds".

There will be a display of Checker's members photos and other Checker's club memorabilia.

Their markings are distinctive: a black and white checkerboard pattern, like that on the winning flag at the finish of a race. The checkered pattern is painted on their helmets, emblazoned on their jerseys and often even on the legs of their riding pants.

If any of our member TrailBlazers getting this newsletter have some photos or relative items featuring the Checkers history, please forward to Ken Newton @ 1851 Drummond Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 or contact him about bringing some of your Checker history to the bike show and banquet for display. Ken's phone # is (760)499-9291.



### **CALIFORNIA'S FAMOUS RACETRACKS**

In celebrating the theme of the 2008 Trailblazers banquet, your Board of Directors contacted Rick Weedon of Vintage Arte and had him print high quality images featuring race posters from nine of California's most famous tracks. The 18" x 24" images are mounted to rustic wood boards and are absolutely fabulous.

These beautiful images will be on display at the banquet and you will have an opportunity to take one home. Silent bidding will start with the opening of the bike show and end during the evening dinner. Minimum bid is just \$100.00. With a room full of legends available to sign

these works of art, you'll want to bring either cash or your check book and remember that the money generated helps your club – the TrailBlazers!

Tom White

### **More Famous Racetracks**

If your name is on this newsletter then you belong to a very special organization of promoters, racers and industry leaders.

Combined you have the talent and knowledge to put on the "Greatest Show on Earth". All you need is a stage.

The legendary TrailBlazers theme for this year is "Racetracks of the Past". Expect a huge dose of nostalgia and trailblazing memories from tracks that to this day cause goose bumps. On a sobering note re-visiting old racing haunts is a time for reflection. As some sports have prospered and built bigger arenas, motorcycling has lost venues never to be replaced. Some like Ascot, Lions, Riverside and Saddleback arguable of greater legend than those who raced there.

In two years Ascot Park will mark its twentieth anniversary since closing down. Ascot followed two other Gardena circuits into racing history and scrapbook memories, Carrell and Gardena Stadium. With rising land costs (although that maybe in reverse right now!) and creeping construction, racetracks that appear safe now, will one day be under threat of shutting their doors. The toughest job now and in the future will be trailblazing new venues, ones that will last to breed a whole new generation of, well TrailBlazers. You have to start somewhere so I have a name for a new facility. Bud Ekins Memorial Raceway Park. A place to blaze new trails, named after a TrailBlazer to create new TrailBlazers.

**Malcolm Roe**



Guess which one is a "10"?

### **Membership Update -Irma Vils**

Thank you to those of you who renewed your memberships. We had a very good response, over 115 to date. Keeping our memberships current strengthens our club and opens possibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who made donations as well as paying your membership dues:

**Bob Bakker, Bob Barnett, Pete Brown, Pat Connolly, Kelly Dunagan, John & Donna Mulrean, Gene Olson, Jim Rispane and Gordon Smith.**

### **New TrailBlazers EZ-UP**

Thanks to Tom White of the Early Years of Motocross Museum who has donated a EZ-UP with the TrailBlazers Logo to the club. This allows us to display our proud heritage at future events and "happenings".



You fill in the caption

# *2008 TrailBlazers 64th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet/Bike Show*

March 29, 2008

Carson Center, 801 E. Carson St, Carson, CA 90745 310-835-0212 800-222-TREE

[www.carsoncenter.com](http://www.carsoncenter.com)

..... cut here .....

Please provide the following information for each new membership or renewal:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets (\$70 each) \_\_\_\_\_ (Includes 2008 TrailBlazer membership)

Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

.....cut here.....

**Note: All ticket sales are ADVANCE SALES ONLY! No tickets will be available at the door!**

**Deadline to purchase tickets is March 12th. Ticket purchases are first come/first served.**

**No table reservations this year.**

**Mail to: TrailBlazers MC, 4208 Tulane Ave, Long Beach, CA 90808**

