



THE FIRST HUSSARS ASSOCIATION
SARNIA BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Thursday 09 May 2013

As recorded by
Gene Smith

In Attendance

Larry Jamieson	George Fortin	Ken Johnson
Gene Smith	Marc Hansen	Peter Wood
Jill Randall	Dennis Laker	Josh Christopher
Dick Lawrence	George Gander	Linda Smith
Sid McLean		

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. The Branch observed a Minute of Silence for Fallen comrades.
2. Sick Parade: John Tinsley called in sick for tonight.
3. Gene read the Minutes of the March meeting.
Moved by Marc. & seconded by Dennis that the minutes be adopted; **Carried.**
4. Treasurer's Report: Gene presented the report showing a total balance in our account \$1,947.46. Moved by Larry and seconded by Jill that the report be accepted as presented. Carried
5. City of Sarnia is requesting more pictures for their 100th Anniversary booklet. Ken will provide.
6. Gene volunteered to get the name plate for RSM Nutt's picture in the Mess.
7. Highway # 22 Designation: A delegation from the Sarnia Branch attended the London Branch's meeting and did a presentation on this project. Received very good support from fellow members. The number of signs required has now been set at 80 and they will probably have to be replaced every 15 years. The initial cost is approximately \$20,000 and this is definitely a long term project. Pat O'Hagan is having a demonstration sign made up.
8. George reported nothing new in the Kit Shop.
9. Ken donated the prize for tonight's raffle and the winner was Sue . \$26 raised.
10. A discussion occurred based on the CO's request that we start paying Mess Dues to keep our meetings legal. Gene will approach the Mess President regarding the amount of dues that would be acceptable to both parties. There will be a Pub Night next Thursday, 16th of May, but that will, in all probability, be the last time the CAV's Medusa Unit will be meeting at the Armouries.
11. Peter has had a contact with Buddy Kitchen from the Ansell Club in Chatham but no date has been set for our two groups to get together.
12. Peter called for ideas for the 2014 Reunion – none were forthcoming. HLCol Hogan will chair the committee and WO Elliott will be the Squadron representative.
13. George Fortin represented the Association at the Battle of Atlantic Service.



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14. George F. moved “that the Sarnia Branch donate \$100 to sponsor Gene on the Cushley-Poland Memorial Ride.” Seconded by Marc. Carried.
15. Petrolia Army Cadets will hold their Annual Review the 9th of June. Dennis will present the Association’s plaque.
16. Ken is looking at getting more 1H Grave Markers made up in time for the Decoration Day at Hillsdale cemetery.
17. Round the table:
 - Ken noted that the Government of Canada is sponsoring the Great Canadian War Project and thought it would be an opportunity to put in some of our Regiment’s history. Gene has a booklet on Maj. George Stirret that might be applicable. Will send to Ken.
 - Discussion on the cabinet in the Cpl and Men’s Mess which is bolted to the wall so cannot be removed. Names were suggested of folks who might be able to repair/refinish it and put lockable plexiglass doors on it.
 - Jill has a basketball set which she will donate to the Squadron for a tax receipt of \$75. Gene to follow up with Mike Steele.
 - Linda informed the members that the Military Family Support Group has donated \$1,000 towards the Smoker at the end of June.
 - Moved by Gene that the Branch donate \$50 towards the Squadron’s entry in the Big Bike Ride for cancer. Seconded by Josh. Carried
18. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 June, 2013, at the Sr. NCO’s Mess at 1900 hrs.
16. There being no further business,
Moved by Dennis and seconded by Dick; “that this meeting stand adjourned” **Carried**



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CVMG News - April 2013
Gord McLeod (Sarnia Section)

LAST RIDE - SPIKE ARCHER

In mid-February, Donald "Spike" Archer passed on. His death was expected, we knew he was dying, He had come to terms with this, and lived till he couldn't anymore. In January we held a party in his honour to celebrate his achievements and for some to say goodbye. To most anyone who got to know him he was called Spike. Heck, even the minister at his funeral service referred to him as Spike. He was 71.

Spike was one of the founders of the Sarnia section in 1982, holding meetings initially in his garage, then in his basement. For all the years back then, Spike was our president. When the membership outgrew his place, we moved to the Naval Association Hall. Spike was not only a CVMG guy but was also a member of numerous local motorcycle fraternities. Motorcycling was always a big part of spike's life. He always looked forward to the Paris Rally and became a regular at Daytona Bike week and Wauseon as well as numerous rallies in Michigan.

Spike was a proud Boilermaker and a member of the First Hussars. His duties in the militia allowed him to drive a tank on occasion. Spike's specialty was welding and was always willing to help others with their project. In the early eighties Spike started making motorcycle hydraulic lifts and must have sold a hundred of them.

Spike's world always revolved around motorcycling, it started when he was young and, on his last days, Terry Forrest visited him in the Hospice and, on arrival, Spike was holding court showing motorcycle photos he had in an album and telling motorcycle stories to other residents.

Spike loved to travel with his Harley 45 and sidecar, so about twelve years ago he and his wife Barb road to Alaska and stayed on the road for two months. It's safe to say Spike was a Harley guy, oh he had other bikes but his first love was HD. While at a Michigan rally he crashed his beloved 45, and while the bike's damage was minimal, Spike's damage was more so. He never rode the 45 anymore, didn't make any repairs, just put a cover over it and parked it in a corner. He replaced it with a newer Harley combination.

More recently Spike was finishing up a Triumph Thunderbird he had for a long time. Next he took the cover off the old 45 that had been there for decades and put the bike on one of his lifts. He was now feeling weaker from his sickness, but he started to work on his favourite old paint. He soon put down his wrench and locked the door to his garage.

Rest in peace Spike.