

## **History of the Minnesota Cushman Club**

Richard Veness from Two Harbors, Minnesota set up a meeting at Fort Snelling State Park in St. Paul for September 29, 1985 to establish the Minnesota Cushman Club and discuss ideas. (Not sure if the meeting took place or who attended.) Richard Veness then set up another meeting in Richfield, MN for Saturday, May 17, 1986 to get together to discuss the Minnesota Cushman Club and what kind of activities the club would want to do. Richard and Betty Veness scheduled the 1<sup>st</sup> Ride for September 20, 1986 at Sturgeon Lake, MN. It was a cold, damp day but that didn't stop the hardy riders from getting their cushmans unloaded and doing a short ride. That was just the beginning of many rides to come.

In the Spring of 1990 Richard Veness contacted Don Swenson, Jr. about taking over the operation of the Minnesota Cushman Club as it was getting to be too much for him. Not wanting the club to fall apart, Don Swenson, Jr. and Joan decided to take over the operation of the MN Cushman Club in the Summer of 1990, Don as President and Joan as Secretary/Treasurer. This was announced at the Fall Ride in Walnut Grove, MN. Sadly on November 28, 1990 Richard Veness passed away from a heart attack at the age of 56.

Charter members of the Minnesota Cushman Club include current club members Don Swenson, Jr., Dale Domeier and Dean Hansen all from Sleepy Eye, MN along with a few other people. Since not all states have clubs established we also have members from Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota. The great part about this is that we have been able to do some Minnesota Club Meets in neighboring states along with all the rides we do in Minnesota. For 2023 the Minnesota Cushman Club has 93 members. This number does not include spouses and families so our group is much larger.