



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

"Having fun with old motorcycles"

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time we conclude Swedish member Thorbjörn Sandkvist's report on a five year 1919 Excelsior twin restoration project, report on our Chapter annual meeting, and welcome four new members from four different countries.

Restoring a 1919 Excelsior twin

Among the last things to be done was to bend and shape all the pipes for oil and petrol at all different angles. A number of solder nipples were purchased to recreate the original assembly. Nowadays, solder nipples for fuel and oil pipes are made with a single large nipple head but with different internal hole sizes. Of course, it is easy nowadays to have only one kind of mounting nut and pipe coupling, but this was not typical of the time. After researching and buying several sets of solder nipples, the bend and shape of pipes could finally take place, to later become nickel-plated before mounting. Now what "only" remained was to make all copper gaskets in inches.



The kick starter could finally be mounted with all its springs, kick stop, movable rod function etc.

In May 2019, two renovated Carbide lamp were installed with the Swedish make AGA's large lantern at the front and a British make Motex small lamp with side lights at the rear. The Carbide generator had previously been tested and worked, but I do not know if it should be used as it is risky with Carbide gas handling. I will later apply for an exemption for Carbide lighting. The lanterns were tested one evening in the workshop with welding gas and shone surprisingly well! After the installation of the lighting, the Excelsior could finally be taken out into the fresh air and photographed before we were off to Skellefteå a few days later to take part in an exhibition for vintage vehicles, where we received an award as one of the TOP 10.



The long-awaited test start was approaching and about 120 kick start attempts later with trying several times to adjust magneto spark and carburettor. We took down the carburettor and, according to Schebler's instructions in a book from the 1920s, tried to adjust the fuel level on a work bench and discovered that the brass float was too heavy and could not keep up with the flexible throttle, and a new float in today's petrol-resistant material was ordered. When the new float was mounted, suddenly the fuel level in the carburettor could be adjusted. Now, after five years and nine months, the Excelsior could finally be started on two to four kick start attempts and then run with working gears and brakes.

When this was finished, paperwork was prepared and a new origin control application was sent to the Swedish Transport Agency. The registration number was a small summary of events and quirks, SSX 27G, the letter S is number 19 in the alphabet so then S and S should be 1919 and X an abbreviation of Excelsior.



Finally, the Excelsior could be driven on the road, which was done based on the weather with sufficient heat and without precipitation on September 26, 2019. The test ride was 13 km long, and what a great feeling it was to be able to drive what had been renovated for several years. The driving position resembled a comfortable upright position on a chair with one's hands on one's thighs, the sound was an even chug-chug-chug-chug. The motorcycle felt very stable and the difficulty of shifting as feared, turned out surprisingly quickly to be that only minimal throttle was needed, but that the gears had to be distinctly engaged in position, which was done by trampling the clutch down until the motorcycle began to brake, because then a shifting movement could take place. All in all, it was an enormously nice feeling and with an admiring thought to those who produced this vehicle in 1919, what a job! Thank you for what you accomplished and the traces of motorcycle history you left behind.

[Thank you Thorbjorn for a great story – do we have more from our members?]

Chapter Annual Meeting

This was held as a Zoom video meeting on 27 March. For the President's Report, I said we now had 325 members in 22 European countries, a bit up from my last report at Raalte in 2019 and a bit down from my planned 2020 report. Well done all the Country Ambassadors in holding our membership together in these difficult times. As a note, about half of our membership is in Netherlands, Germany and Great Britain, down from about two thirds ten years ago, which I take to mean that interest in our Club is spreading across Europe. Treasurer Martin van Kuijk reported 4247 euros remaining, about a thousand down on last time because of the lack of Meets. This has been filed in our accounts as a UK limited company. Brexit means our .eu Website is now held by a nominee, but it is still OK to have non-UK Directors.

For election of Directors, Vice President Chris Bastiaansen proposed Dave van der Linden and Cees Visser, there were no other candidates, and they were elected unanimously. You will have seen their pictures and motorcycle interests in an earlier newsletter. That gives us four Dutch Directors, one Belgian, two Germans and two British.

As to the date of next meeting, Raalte 2022 has provisionally been arranged for 27 May 2022. For this year, the Dutch government are not presently allowing permits for any Meets, but I am hopeful this may change over the summer and we might just get an October/November Meet together. More news next time.

Raalte Swap Meet

The American Motorcycle Museum (AMM) in Raalte is holding a one-day Swap Meet on 08 May 2021. With travel restrictions it is likely that only Dutch members can attend, so have fun guys and please send me a couple of pictures and a short report.

New Members

We have four new members from four different countries, great news as always:

On the next page is Ralf Moormann from the Niedersachsen region of Germany, standing behind his 1941 Harley knucklehead bobber.



And here is Peter Johansson from Sweden on his 1948 first year Harley Panhead:



And top of the next column is Stefan van der Wekken from the Netherlands showing us his 1970 Harley shovelhead:



And here is Jan Eichenberger from Switzerland riding his Indian Chout, with a 1947 Chief engine in a 1931 Scout frame:



Welcome to our great Club guys, and we hope to see you out on the road soon!

Harley Pocket Valve Twins

I'm writing a book on the 1915-29 Harley Big Twins, to come out in mid-year at about 170 pages in three sections. First the general business environment, production figures and models; then pictures of good bikes for each year; and then a discussion of each major component such as forks, frames and transmissions to show major changes and give restoration tips. I'm still looking for pictures of good bikes, restored or unrestored. If you think you have one, please contact me. There is no money in the project, but all contributions will be credited and this is a good way to get the knowledge of the older guys out to the next generation.

Bikes for Sale

Long time AMCA member Ferdy van Rijn is hanging up his riding boots and has two bikes for sale. A first year 1929 Harley C 500 cc model:



and a 1930 DL model 750 cc:



Both are said to be good riding bikes with Dutch papers. Email him at ferijn@gmail.com if interested.

2021 Events

Below is our latest timetable for the year. The AMCA events are firm, but many of the others are provisional, and will be updated as more information is received. Please advise me of any corrections, or additional events you would like to see included. Any events cancelled or postponed are marked with an asterisk (*). Please check with the organisers before travelling any distance.

2021 AMCA National Meets

February 26-27, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE
March 04-06, Sunshine Meet, New Smyrna Beach, FL
April 23-24, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA

May 07-08, European Meet, Raalte, NL*
May 14-16, Southern Meet, Denton, NC
May 28-30, Empire Chapter, Trumansburg, NY*
June 11-12, Viking Chapter, St Paul, MN*
June 18-19, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA*
June 25-26, Colonial Chapter, Harmony, NJ*
July 16-18, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH
August 06-07, Yankee Chapter, Terryville, CT
August 28-29, Australian Chapter, Sydney, AUS
October 02-03, Chesapeake Chapter, Upperco, MD

2021 AMCA National Road Runs

June 01-03, Phoenix Chapter, Zion National Park, UT
June 21-23, Rocky Mountain, Crested Butte, CO*
July 21-23, Yellowstone Chapter, Billings, MT
September 07-09, Roosevelt Chapter, Detroit Lakes, MN

Other 2021 Events

Austria

September 07-12 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com (provisional)

Belgium

Feb 21 Ruilbeurs Oude Motoren, www.earlyriders.be
(provisional)

Aug 14 Where is Anna? 85 km run near Newport for pre-1931 bikes. whereisanna1418@gmail.com (provisional)

Denmark

May 21-23, 21st Skagen Run, this time Skagen to Copenhagen, for pre-1935 bikes. (provisional)

July 16-18 Windmill Rally, Hasbro for pre-1940 bikes.
www.windmillrally.eu (provisional)

Aug 29 Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying www.romomotorfestival.dk (provisional)

Finland

Jan 10 Jyväskylä swap meet at the Pavlijonki hotel. Mostly mopeds, Japanese, Eastern European and British bikes. About 250 km from Helsinki. *(provisional)*

France

24-26 September, beach racing pre-1947 cars and bikes in Ouistreham, Normandy
www.normandybeachrace.com *(provisional)*

Croatia/Slovenia/Italy

to be announced FIVA World Motorcycle Run,
www.fiva.org

Germany

Jan 17 Winter Classic Bike Show, Im Alten Opel-Werk, 65428 Rüsselheim

Jan 22-24 Motorrad Bodensee www.motorradwelt-bodensee.de *(provisional)*

Feb 25-27 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de *(provisional)*

Apr 23-25 Veterama, Hockenheim www.veterama.de *

May 01-02 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de *(provisional)*

June 11-13 Oldgeraffeltreffen, Vogelsberg.

August (date to follow) 10th Kaiserzeitausfahrt, 85410 Haag an der Amper (Munich area). *(provisional)*
www.kaiserzeitausfahrt.de

Sep 11-12, vintage dirt track racing Hindenberg,
www.hindenberg-dirt-track.com *(provisional)*

Oct 08-10 Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de. Our AMCA stand is open to all members who want to sell their own parts.

Greece

May 20-24 Harley Super Rally, Igoumenitsa
<https://superrally.com/>*

Italy

Jan 16-18 Motorbike Expo Verona
www.motorbikeexpo.it *(provisional)*

Mar 14-16 Harley and Snow Hillclimb, Rio Pusteria-Alto Adige www.harley.bz.it/de/harley-snow *(provisional)*

May 7-9 ASI Moto Show, Parma race track
www.asifed.it *(provisional)*

Sep 04-05 Roll'n Flat Beach Race, Caorle
www.venicebeachrace.com *provisional*

Netherlands

Jan 09-10 Oldtimerbeurs Autotron, Rosmalen
www.oldtimerbeurs.net *(provisional)*

Feb 14 Oldtimer+Tweewielerbeurs Eurohal Zuidbroek,
www.1up25.nl *(provisional)*

Feb 14. Swap Meet, Hengelo, www.alemite-motoren.nl *(provisional)*

June 04-06 Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Oosterhout. 16th meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Aug 06-08, Old Timers Run, Den Haag. Pre-1966 American bikes for the 42nd time.
www.hdctheoldtimers.nl *(provisional)*

Sep 04-05, Alemite Run, Twente. www.alemite-motoren.nl. *(provisional)*

October 31. Silent Gray Fellows swap meet, Chaam.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl *(provisional)*

Norway

August 06-08 Indian International Rally*
www.indianmotorcycle.co.uk/events.html

Poland

June 11-13 Old Timer Club summer rally,
www.oldtimerclub.com.pl *(provisional)*

June 27-28 Antique motorcycle swap meet, Lodz*
www.motoweteranbazar.com *(provisional)*

Slovenia

June 10-13, HOG International Rally, Portoroz
www.harley-davidson.com/.../european-hog-rally.html

Sweden

Jan 24 Eskiltuna swap meet, Harleys/bobbers 1940s up
provisional

Feb 07 Enköping Indianmarknaden. Indian/early Harley
provisional

Switzerland

Feb 19-21 Swiss Moto/Custom Zürich www.swiss-moto.ch (*provisional*)

March 20-21 Swap Meet Fribourg www.oldtimer-teilemarkt.ch (*provisional*)

April 24-25 Historic vehicle days www.shvf.ch
provisional

April 25 GP Mutschellen www.gpmutschellen.ch
provisional

May 1-2 Arbon Classics www.arbon-classics.ch
provisional

May 15-16 Art and Wheels Pratteln
www.artandwheelsbasel.com (*provisional*)

May 22-23 Rock this Town, Solothurn
www.rockthistownsolothurn.com/oldtimer

May 23-24 Swiss Classic World, Luzern (*provisional*)
www.swissclassicworld.ch

June 05-07 Lenzerheide Motor Classics
www.lenzerheide-motorclassics.ch (*provisional*)

July 03-05 Swiss Harley Days, Lugano (*provisional*)

United Kingdom

April 24/5 Stafford classic bike show and auction
provisional

June 01 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 450 pre-1931 bikes
www.vmcc.net (*provisional*)*

July 29-Aug 01 International West Kent Run, 310
runners at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX
*provisional**)

September 3-5 Beaulieu International Autojumble/Netley
Marsh motorcycle jumble

Oct 03. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs
to Brighton.

Oct 09-10 Stafford classic bike show and auction
provisional)

European Chapter Directors 2021

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Cees Visser, Director, ceesvisser57@hotmail.com

Dave van der Linden, Director, davelind74@hotmail.com

Country Ambassadors

In addition to those Directors marked with asterisks (*)
above, we also have the following country ambassadors:

Denmark. Michael Pedersen, elleham07@gmail.com

Finland. Fiskis Ekman, fiskis@kolumbus.fi

France. Stuart Graham, harleyman3@wanadoo.fr

Latvia. Juris Ramba, ramoto1992@gmail.com

Norway. Sverre Gerber, sveger@online.no

Poland. Krzysztof Pedryc, indian56@wp.pl

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Sweden. Stefan Olovsson, stefan.indian@telia.com

Switzerland. Sandra Froehlich, sandra@mcsands.ch

Bobbers. Paul Jung, pjung@wwag.com

Please volunteer if you would like to be representative
for a country not mentioned. You just need to know what

bike-related events take place in your country, and answer occasional Email questions.

Don't forget to renew your subscriptions at
www.antiquemotorcycle.org

And keep me up to date if you change Email address.

The next newsletter will probably be in July, so please keep sending me articles and photos on bike related items, and safe riding until then.

Stay safe, wishing you safe and happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter

