

August 2018

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time I mention a local meet in June, then report on two more European Meets and Wauseon.

Lydden Hill Vintage Race Meet

Lydden Hill is the smallest UK race track, just a couple of kilometers around, and only a dozen miles from where I live. I visited 23/24 June for a leg of the British Historic Racing championships, with BHR being a branch of the VMCC, the British old bike club. With the modest length of the track, and the slopes, I was able to set up near the pits with a view of the entire track. For two days I saw a well organised programme of old bike racing in numerous classes. Here's a view of the start line, showing how close you can get to the action:



Oldest bike in competition was probably this well sorted 1930s Rudge, which did well:



And we all like to see classic Velocettes being raced:



But Japanese bikes were there too:



And competitors hadn't forgotten the old dodge of having two race bikes with the same numbers:



Some of the scooter racers had come a long way, and were serious judging by the tyre warmers on this bike:



The sidecar racing was exciting, with the Morgans and other three wheelers right up there in the action:



But inspirational was this sight:



Many of the sidecars used the BMW 'breeze block' K-series motors:



This was a local club for junior trials bike riding, with many on these lithium battery bikes. Watching a five year old, in proper safety gear, riding his trials bike over a stationary car was a lesson in how to get young people interested in our hobby.

Wauseon Meet July 20/22

Chris Bastiaansen, our Vice President, represented the European Chapter at the Presidents Meeting at Wauseon. Thirty three Chapters were there, with discussion of parking at Oley, insurance, plastic membership cards, three year memberships and the next go-round for the Policy and Procedures manual. Keith Kizer will circulate a note later, but we have seen most of these topics before. Rain on Friday scared off



While the Vincent outfits apparently enjoyed 1200 cc engines.

some of the vendors. Chris recognised many of the parts from last year, no doubt to appear again at Davenport in a few weeks time. Damp weather shortened the race program, but this was still exciting. Chris was amused by this Servicar lawnmower:



Jim Price also enjoyed the Meet, then travelled on to Auburn, Indiana to visit the Auburn, Cord, Deussenberg car museum with 120 examples of these fabulous 1930s vehicles. Recommended.

West Kent Run 2-6 August

This was the 34th time for this popular VMCC event. It is held at the Friars in Aylesford, near Maidstone, about 40 miles from the Channel Ports and so attracting about a quarter of European visitors amongst its 326 entries this year. The Friars is a 13th Century Carmelite Priory and grounds, set in Kent countryside full of lanes and good riding roads. There are social runs on Thursday, Friday and Monday, a swap meet and show on Sunday, with the main event being a 68 mile run on Saturday, with good mapping and well organised signs. As this is England, there is a 10.30 stop for coffee, a lunch break, and then back in time for afternoon tea at 15.30.

All sorts of machinery was being ridden. I saw three Dutch guys together, all riding Norton twins, and this attractive pair of old Triumphs:



Some of the older guys were riding small Japanese bikes and, with the temperature in the eighties, I could see why. We found four AMCA members with four cylinder bikes and posed this picture in serial number order:



That's Steve Marks at the front with the 1920 Henderson, then Nick Roud with the 1922 ACE, Simon Roud with the 1928 Henderson and me at the back with the 1929 KJ. Steve promised to finish his 17 year ACE restoration in time for Raalte next year, so that's us at least half way towards our target of ten... Steve Marks runs The Magneto Guys at www.themagnetoguys.co.uk and has done reliable work on the electrical items I've sent him.

While yarning, I mentioned how much I'd enjoyed reading 'Franklins Indians' following the positive book review in our magazine last month. Charles Franklin was born in 1880, the same year as William S. Harley, but died young in 1932. He made a name as a pioneer competitor in Ireland, was one of the three Indian riders making a clean sweep of the 1911 Isle of Man TT, then became Chief Engineer for Indian and did a lot of work on side valve technology and designed the Scout. Tim Raindle gets a mention in the book and there he was in our group! Tim splits his time between the UK and US, studied at the feet of George Yarocki when restoring his 101 Scout, and needs to remember to renew with the AMCA.

Old Timers Meet 9-12 August

Martin van Kuijk was at the fortieth running of this great Dutch Meet. After a long dry spell, Friday night rain scared off a few people but the enthusiasm of attendees remained undamped. Pre-1966 American bikes, grass and tents are the essence of this event as shown:



While the inventiveness of the attendees is something to behold:



More Stuff

I filed the **accounts for AMCA Europe** Ltd and we had total assets of 2500 euros at 01 April 18, all in cash held by our Treasurer, Martin van Kuijk. It has taken a lot of raffles and donations to build up this float, and thanks to all who have contributed. We reckon that is enough to tide us over a wet Meet where nobody comes, and we do not plan to make profits in future, but plough any extra money back into benefits for our members. I have already ordered the goody bag pens and mugs for our next Meet, with the money coming from writing UK dating certificates for old Harleys on behalf of the Chapter. For our UK members, leaving the EC next March probably means registration papers from the Continent will not be recognised, and US titles on imports are already not accepted. If you have unregistered American bikes act soon, and your Chapter can help!

I thought Dave van der Linden was our **youngest member**, but he must be 20 if he is a day. Claudia Krause sent me this picture of 16 year old Artur Fehrenbach in his Dad's shop with his Excelsior Super-X



Welcome Artur, you bring down the average age of our Chapter about a year in one shot...

2018 AMCA National Meets

February 23-24, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE

March 09-10, Sunshine Meet, New Smyrna Beach, FL

April 27-28, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA

May 18-20 Southern Meet, Denton, NC

May 25-26 European Meet, Raalte, NL

June 15-16, Viking Chapter, St. Paul, MN

June 15-16, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA

July 20-22, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH

August 03-04, Yankee Chapter, Terryville, CT

August 24-26, Australian Chapter, Sydney, AUS

September 28-29, Chesapeake, Jefferson, PA

2018 AMCA National Road Runs

March 05-07, Sunshine, DeLand, FL

June 10-13, Hudson Valley, Round Top, NY

July 26-28, Oregon Trail, Cottage Grove, OR

September 04-06, Driftless, Onalaska, WI

September 12-14, Black Hills, Deadwood, SD

Other 2018 Events

Finland

Jan 6 Jyväskylä swap meet

Germany

Jan 21 Winter Classic Bike Show, Im Alten Opel-Werk, 65428 Rüsselheim

Jan 26-28 Motorrad Bodensee www.motorradwelt-bodensee.de

Mar 22-25 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de

Apr 06-08, Veterama, Hockenheim www.veterama.de

Sep 08, Board Track racing at Bielefeld. Contact motoholic@web.de

Oct 12-14, Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de.

Hungary

June 21-24 FIVA World Motorcycle Run, Budapest www.mavamsz.hu

Italy

Jan 18-21 Motorbike Expo Verona www.motorbikeexpo.it

Mar 09-11 Harley and Snow Hillclimb, Ridnaun www.harley.bz.it/de/harley-snow

May 11-13 ASI Moto Show, Parma race track www.fiva.org www.asifed.it

Sep 08 Roll'n Flat Beach Race, Caorle www.venicebeachrace.com

Latvia

July 12-15, Kurland Rally. A 60 bike limit this year, so book early at www.kurlandround.lv.

Netherlands

Feb 18. Swap Meet, Hengelo, www.alemite-motoren.nl

June 8-10, Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Ulicoten. 15th meet for pre-1966 American bikes, www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Aug 12-14, Old Timers Run, Den Haag. Pre-1966 American bikes for the 52st time. www.hdctheoldtimers.nl

Sep 07-09, Alemite Run, Beuningen. www.alemite-motoren.nl.

Sweden

Jan 27 Eskiltuna swap meet, Harleys/bobbers 1940s up

Feb 10 Enköping Indianmarknaden. Indian/early Harley

Switzerland

Feb 22-25 Swiss Moto/Custom Zürich www.swiss-moto.ch

May 26-27 Swiss Classic World, Luzern www.swissclassicworld.ch

June 23-24 Oldtimermesse, Uster
Aug 26 Gran Prix Suisse Berne Memorial, Bern

Oct 28 Oldtimermesse, St. Gallen

United Kingdom

March 18. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton.

June 17 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 600 pre-1931 bikes

Oct 15-16. Stafford show and auction

European Chapter Directors 2018/19

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Country Ambassadors

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

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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 November, so please keep sending me articles and photos on bike related items.

Wishing you safe and happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter