



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

June 2019

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time we have coverage of our fabulous Raalte Meet, plus the Banbury Run from the UK Vintage Motorcycle Club.

Raalte Meet

An early start on Thursday 23 May, followed by the ferry to France then a 300 mile/500 km drive northeast through Belgium, brought me to Raalte in the Netherlands mid-afternoon. Our hard working Directors and volunteers had just about finished setting up the vendor spots, so there was little for me to do except unload my Henderson and Nimbus to add to the many four cylinder bikes assembling.



The weather was clear and dry for the next three days, with sunshine and warm temperatures. The big tent erected over the hotel courtyard made for a judging location and a good place to meet and talk in the evenings.

We had Doug Wothke and Kelly Modlin over from the USA, waiting for their WLA Harleys to be delivered in time for the 75th D-Day celebrations. Canadian Ron Lacey was also back again in uniform riding his WLC, having been with us earlier at Geldrop for the 70th anniversary. I was pleased to see we are now getting regular North American visitors as news spreads of this great location. A convivial meal, catching up with old friends, and a night in the on-site hotel brought me out to this sight on Friday morning:



That's about 35 Hendersons and Indians stacked up before we started pulling out the ACEs for the line-up. The day was spent shopping at the vendor spots, featuring essentially 100% American bike parts, and preparing bikes for judging the next morning. In the early evening we held our Chapter annual meeting, where I was able to report 313 European members in 22 countries. Of course we lost some members during the year, but gained 19 in Norway (thanks to the efforts of country ambassador Sverre Gerber), Portugal, Czechia and Slovenia. The existing slate of Directors was elected for another one year term, and the next meeting will be at the same location on 22/24 May 2020. Later in the evening I gave a 35 minute talk on Four Cylinder Motorcycles to 1960 which was well received, helped by having examples of most of the dozen named marques present on the floor. A live band then encouraged many to dance, with this sight greeting us the next morning:



Yes, our ambitious goal of setting up ten of the 1920s ACE four cylinder bikes was exceeded, with fourteen in the final and much photographed line-up. If recent auction values are any guide, that's a couple of million dollars worth of bikes put on for the delight of our members and visitors.

Meanwhile, we got on with the judging, and here are Michael Schneider and Frank Souren with Chief Judge Don Dzurick, helped by AMCA Executive Director Keith Kizer in the background doing the paperwork:



Steven Jongerden turned up with his grandfather's 1913 Thor and 1914 Harley, and was persuaded by Keith to rejoin the Club with his grandfather's old membership number. Don then presented the Century medallions:



At the judging presentation later, Century awards also went to Jan van der Werff for his 1919 Henderson, Nick Roud for the 1912 Triumph, Geert Versleyan for the 1912 Pierce and 1912 Williamson, Paul Schelvis for the 1914 Indian, Leon Koelewijn for the 1919 Excelsior, and Peter Reeves for his 1915 Henderson. The 1912 Pierce single is a rare bike and a contender for Most Unique:



But our theme was four cylinder bikes, so this beautiful 1928 Cleveland 4-61 Tornado from Jürgen Proven in Switzerland took the prize:



Oldest Bike went to the 1912 Pierce, and highest judging score to Frank Souren with his original paint 1935 Harley export VL coming in at 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ points.

The Chapter Period Modified award went to young Alex Gondard for his racing bobber based on a 1944 WL Harley. Another recent member Arkadiusz Zblewski took the long distance award with 801 km from Poznan, Poland on a 1947 WL, with his friend Włodzimirz Kulczynski taking second longest at 800 km on his 1965 Harley Electraglide from the same town.

For the National Awards, we had 19 bikes entered for judging, with numerous new entries receiving Junior First and Second awards. Jaap Hoekstra's 1937 Harley W small twin and Andrea Water's 1974 Honda XL100 made it through to Senior, with two original paint bikes receiving Winners Circle awards. Congratulations to Frank Souren with the 1935 Harley VL, and Kevin Waters with the 1966 Harley XLCH Sportster.

For thank-yous, we started with long time AMCA member Max Middelbosch for making the museum and site available to us for the Meet. Tina Reeves, Petra van der Werff, Claudia Krause, and Mika van Kuijk did a great job of encouraging donations for goody bags, and Andrea Waters ran the successful raffle of donated parts and goods. We had a record number of vendors, and visitors from twenty countries, to see a stunning collection of machines. Thanks to Jan van der Werff, our theme next time will be pre-1920 motorcycles, which means we shall need a bucket full of Century medallions.

After more mild partying, some sleep and breakfast, it was time to say our goodbyes on Sunday morning and head for home. What a great time we had!

VMCC

I drove back with Keith Kizer, and then again with him to the Burton-on-Trent headquarters of the British Vintage Motorcycle Club for three days of meetings to discuss the issues facing old bike clubs. Most of the time was spent with their President and Chairman, with other Board members met during our final presentation on comparisons between the two organisations. We agreed there were lessons to learn, and planned to stay in touch more closely in future. We were invited to a VMCC Section Meeting one evening, and saw bikes of all makes from say the 1920s to the 1990s in this pub car park.



It was interesting to meet another bunch of older guys trying to support our hobby for the long term, particularly as both clubs had been in touch since the 1950s.

Banbury Run

On Sunday 16 June I drove up to the VMCC Banbury Run to see how it had changed since I last rode in it. It is now at the National Motor Museum in Gaydon, rather than at Banbury School. This is a big purpose built location, with plenty of parking, paved level ground, and an £11 (say \$15) admission including the museum entry. There were 450 pre-1931 bikes entered, limited by traffic control concerns, said to be the largest gathering of veteran and vintage machines in the world. Four routes of 30-60 miles were available, timed for prizes or untimed, with the two longer runs including Sunrising Hill, a famous test hill from the early days now part of a public road. Fifty volunteers did the marshalling and timekeeping, and there was a well informed commentary at the start line as the riders set off at five per minute over an hour and a half. Four Brough Superiors took part in the run, with four more on display:



There were rows of Triumphs and BSAs on show, with these New Imperials lined up too:



I went to the start line and watched for an hour or so as the great cavalcade of early bikes went past. It was mostly British machines, with a few Harleys and Indians, plus continental makes such as Peugeot, Terrot,

Motosacoche and BMW. Among the lesser known British makes were Levis, Royal Ruby, Rex-Acme, Bradbury, Sun, Dunelt, OK, Coventry Eagle, Rudge, Calthorpe, Martynside, ABC, NUT, Kenilworth, Cedros, Sparkbrook, OEC, Dart, Blackburne, Zenith, Montgomery, Grindley Peerless and HRD. There were no trailer queens here, with all machines in operation for their earnest riders. What a spectacle! Maybe next year for me...

The car park had a swap meet with 100 small vendor spots carrying British bike parts and a few projects. Run sponsors Bonhams and Footman James insurance had signage and booths, so perhaps our Club can borrow this idea too.

Afterwards I went round the car museum, featuring all British makes of course, to find a well laid out and informative display from all years, with everyday transport from my youth mixed with prototypes, racers, and vehicles made for films. There is an on-site conference centre, and Jaguar-Land Rover headquarters next door, so I'm guessing they have good attendance every day of the week. Recommended.

More Stuff

Next time I hope we have reports from the International Harley and Indian rallies, both held in Finland this year.

2019 Events

Below is our latest timetable for the year. The AMCA events are firm, but some of the others may be provisional. Please advise me of any corrections, or additional events you would like to see included.

2019 AMCA National Meets

February 22-23, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE
March 08-09, Sunshine Meet, New Smyrna Beach, FL
April 26-27, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA
May 17-19, Southern Meet, Denton, NC
May 24-25, European Meet, Raalte, NL
June 14-15, Viking Chapter, St. Paul, MN
June 14-15, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA
July 05-07, Empire Chapter, Trumansburg, NY
July 19-21, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH
August 02-03, Yankee Chapter, Terryville, CT
August 24-25, Australian Chapter, Sydney, AUS
September 27-28, Chesapeake, Jefferson, PA

2019 AMCA National Road Runs

April 08-10, Cherokee Chapter Road Run, Kerrville, TX
June 09-12, Allegheny Chapter, Ligonier, PA
September 04-06, Music City Chapter, Nashville, TN
September 23-25, Yerba Buena Chapter, Monterey, CA

Other 2019 Events

Austria

September 03-08 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com

Belgium

Feb 23 Ruilbeurs Oude Motoren, www.earlyriders.be

Aug 15-18 Where is Anna? 85 km run near Newport for pre-1931 bikes. whereisanna1418@gmail.com

Denmark

Aug 31 Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying www.romomotorfestival.dk

Finland

Jan 12 Jyväskylä swap meet

June 05-09 Harley-Davidson Super Rally, Himos
www.superrally2019.fi

July 26-28 International Indian Rally, Sastamala
www.indianmotorcycle.fi

Croatia/Slovenia/Italy

June 27-30 FIVA World Motorcycle Run, www.fiva.org

Germany

Jan 20 Winter Classic Bike Show, Im Alten Opel-Werk, 65428 Rüsselheim

Jan 25-27 Motorrad Bodensee www.motorradwelt-bodensee.de

Mar 07-10 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de

Mar 16-17 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de

Apr 05-07, Veterama, Hockenheim www.veterama.de

June 20-23 Magic Bike, Rüdesheim, www.magic-bike-ruedesheim.com

Sep 07, Board Track racing at Bielefeld. Contact motoholic@web.de

Oct 11-13, Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de.

Italy

Jan 17-20 Motorbike Expo Verona
www.motorbikeexpo.it

Jan 11-12 Harley and Snow Hillclimb, Bolzano
www.harley.bz.it/de/harley-snow

May 10-12 ASI Moto Show, Parma race track
www.asifed.it *provisional*

Sep 07 Roll'n Flat Beach Race, Caorle
www.venicebeachrace.com *provisional*

Latvia

July 10-13, Kurland Rally. A 60 bike limit this year, so book early at www.kurlandround.lv. *provisional*

Netherlands

Jan 12-13 Oldtimerbeurs Autotron, Rosmalen
www.oldtimerbeurs.net

Feb 17. Swap Meet, Hengelo, www.alemite-motoren.nl *provisional*

Feb 23 Oldtimer+Tweewielerbeurs Eurohal Zuidbroek,
www.lup25.nl

June 21-23 Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Oosterhout. 16th meet for pre-1966 American bikes,
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Aug 09-11, Old Timers Run, Den Haag. Pre-1966 American bikes for the 41st time.
www.hdctheoldtimers.nl

Sep 06-08, Alemite Run, Beuningen. www.alemite-motoren.nl.

Poland

June 13-16 Old Timer Club summer rally, Bocheniec
www.oldtimerclub.com.pl

June 29-30 Antique motorcycle swap meet, Lodz
www.motoweteranbazar.com

Aug 21-24 75th D-Day anniversary, Hel
<https://www.facebook.com/DDAYHel>

Sweden

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

Feb 07 Enköping Indianmarknaden. Indian/early Harley
provisional

Switzerland

Feb 21-24 Swiss Moto/Custom Zürich www.swiss-moto.ch

May 25-26 Swiss Classic World, Luzern
www.swissclassicworld.ch

June 22-23 Oldtimermesse, Uster *provisional*

Aug 26 Gran Prix Suisse Berne Memorial, Bern
provisional

Oct 27 Oldtimermesse, St. Gallen *provisional*

United Kingdom

March 24. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton.

June 17 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 450 pre-1931 bikes

Oct 11-13 Stafford show and auction

European Chapter Directors 2019

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Country Ambassadors

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

Denmark. Michael Pedersen,
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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 October, 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