

May 2018

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This short report is mostly to remind you to bring your Export Green bikes to Raalte in a couple of weeks. We already have original paint knuckleheads from 1936, 1937 and 1938, so bring along all your green bikes so we can rack them up for the photographs! As light relief we have a presentation on Art Deco Harleys, showing the sometimes bizarre US colour schemes of the 1930s in contrast to those restrained export colours. But first we hear about Norwegian colour schemes, and then a short report on the Oley Meet.

Export Police Silver

Following my comments on Export Green last time, Kim Jarre from Norway has supplied the following report:

“Don’t forget there was a ”2nd export colour” – namely “Police Silver”. This was sold freely outside the U.S., at least in Norway; and was very popular here. I attach a few photos of an “Norwegian” OP H-D 37U. I believe that maybe 25% or more of the H-D 1937 models were delivered in this colour in Norway.



They were definitely civilian bikes, all of them.

I know of no bikes sold in Norway to the police whatsoever (couldn’t afford it I believe), and only of two 1938 E’s sold to the police in Gothenburg, Sweden. These E’s were NOT police rigged, and actually not even in Police Silver Colour! From the B/W photos they could have been Olive Green or perhaps the ugly ’37 only Bronze Brown colour.

(There is a photo documenting this, taken in ’38 when they were delivered to the Gothenburg Police. Two uniformed policemen are straddling the bikes clad in ordinary uniforms to my memory with no helmets or leather jackets. Bikes are 100% civilian spec. with no police equipment whatsoever).

So I believe that no police equipped bikes were ever sold in Scandinavia, and to the degree that the police bought any H-D at all they were civilian spec. bikes and colours. The marketing material distributed at that time by the importer in Norway was translated US material, so it showed the police equipment but they probably didn’t sell anything at all; it was the ’30s.

I spoke to a Norwegian Policeman about uniformed police bikes in the late ’30s and during WWII over the phone in the early 1980’s. At that time I owned a Olive Green ’37 U that had been “drafted” during the WWII for police service.

(Since Norway was occupied during the war the police came in a very squeezed position between the public and the nazi-friendly government. Many policemen didn’t like to talk about those times. Still most of them kept going on, if they hadn’t I believe that the alternative for the Norwegian civilian population had been worse; they would have been replaced by Norwegian nazis or perhaps Germans; that would have been harsher).

Anyway – when I interrogated the Policeman that had been riding bikes during WWII about what brands and types of MCs they used - and if they were police equipped - he stated that they had many brands of MC’s from different sources, and that none of them were equipped with sirens, red flashing lights or likewise. He said this was “not necessary”, the mere fact that a uniformed policeman was astride the motorcycle was enough:

“If I sat on my bike on “Mosseveien” (main southbound road from Oslo towards the town of Moss) and raised my hand - then the road would go silent as a pond!” So much authority did the police have in those days...

The speed limit in Norway outside build-up areas was 60 km/h (37 mph) at that time and roads were bad compared to today's standard. Outside Oslo it was dirt roads only, inside the city it was cobblestones and perhaps some kind of asphalt or "oil gravel" and even some concrete surfaces. So our national H-D importer "Sørensen & Balchen" wrote about the 1938 750cc models in the brochure that "they had power and speed that **exceeded any normal need**". Which was true at that time. It kind of implicated that if you bought an E-model you were something of a "speed fiend".

(And probably a wealthy one too. My 37E was bought by a wealthy sawmill owner that also had done MC-racing and was something of a speed-demon. He had modified his muffler so that it had a cover that could be opened like on his previous H-D's. I heard from an employee of my bikes owner: "When the womenfolk in the hamlet heard that Sæter'n came on his Harley, they gathered in their offspring from the road").

Those were the days!

Regards, Kim"

Oley Meet

Weather was not special this time, but our European Chapter visitors enjoyed the Meet. This original paint Crocker caught Jan van der Werff's eye:



And here is our Peter Kroon with Jean Davidson, selling copies of here book 'Growing Up Harley-Davidson' which is a good read:



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

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The next newsletter will probably be in June, 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



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.

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