



## AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*"Having fun with old motorcycles"*

May 2023

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time I report quickly on our fabulous European National Meet at Raalte, before heading off for the Italian Chapter Road Run next week.

### European Meet 19/20 May 2023

I followed my usual routine Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, with an early start, breakfast on the Dover ferry, then about 500 km north east from Calais through France and Belgium to Raalte in the Netherlands. Again as usual I arrived mid-afternoon to find most of the set-up work had been done by our team of volunteers, with Martin van Kuijk, Dave van der Linden and Manfred Krause in the thick of it.

As we unloaded, I met Club President Ross Metcalfe and wife Kris, here for the first time. Ross remarked later that our Raalte get-together reminded him of a US Meet 25 years ago, which I'm sure he meant as a compliment. As it turned out, the trade stands were filled with essentially 100% American bike parts, and if you needed a special piece it was almost certainly here somewhere. Our youngest bike in for judging was a 1947 knucklehead, so you can see we are distinctly old school.

Friday saw more arrivals and a busy day at the swap meet, with many visitors enjoying a beverage in the sunshine while enjoying the many military bikes present as our theme. The on-site hotel was booked out, the two restaurants were busy, and many enjoyed a visit to Max Middelbosch' American Motorcycle Museum.

Saturday was judging day, with 14 bikes reviewed, all Harleys and Indians except for my 1914 Douglas. This was not judged last year but this time we found judges and it received its Junior First award, but those pesky judges gave it a quarter point hit for incorrect

period friction tape holding down the rubber tubing for the acetylene lamps – pah!

Ross put in a shift judging the Canadian WLC Harley bikes entered for judging, plus the rare 42 ELC knuckle. He remarked on the high quality of the bikes entered, and the amazingly detailed knowledge of our European judges. Here's Pete Reeves' 42 ELC, the only bike to make Winners Circle this year:



From Sweden came this unrestored 1915 Eagle:



This used the Spacke engine, like the Dayton and Sears, with 1915 being their last year.

We had three Indians in for judging, an early little twin and two fours. Here's a beautiful 1940 four cylinder brought over from Germany.



Not in for judging, but another rare and beautiful bike, was the 1936 Harley 'Black Pearl' first year knucklehead, with owner Fritz Martin telling me an interesting story of its history, with photos of it in service over the years.



We finished the serious business around noon, so an hour later had time to assemble the military motorcycles for pictures and many social media postings. In the next column is me dressed as a WW1 dispatch rider on the 1914 Douglas, many of which were used in France. 1914 is the first year with no pedals, so the bikes are started by paddling along and then dropping the valve lifter.

Below that is a picture of some of the 50-100 bikes at the show, with our Club President in the white shirt, and me next to him still in the military uniform.

Our final piece of business on Saturday was our Annual General Meeting at 1600 h. This started with my Chapter Presidents report, showing 359 European members plus four signed up at the Meet, making a new record for us of 363 AMCA people in Europe, thanks to the hard work of our Country Ambassadors in recruiting and retaining members. Max Middelbosch was thanked once more for making us so welcome, with Claudia and Manfred, Martin and Mika, Jan and Petra, Tina and Claudia recognised for their hard work on administration which made everything go so smoothly.

I remarked that the 'fellowship of a common interest' in old motorcycles cuts across national barriers, and this year we set another new record with visitors from

22 different countries. If you know your abbreviations these were A, B, CAN, CZ, DK, EST, FIN, F, D, IS, IRL, I, NL, N, PL, P, SK, E, S, SZ, USA and UK.

We then had election of Directors, with those currently holding office prepared to stand for another year and being elected by acclamation.

Date of next meeting was set as Ascension Day weekend next year, being 11/12 May 2024, with our theme being Overhead Valves.

President Ross then said some very nice words about the Meet, followed by our judging awards. Most Unique went to Alex Gondrand from France with this 1959 Vespa military rocket launcher, yes, they really made them:



That is Ross Metcalfe in the white shirt looking suitably amazed.



Oldest bike went to this 1902 Werner from Hans Devos in Belgium:

And best restored went to Jaap Hoekstra for his immaculate 99.75 point 42WLA Type VI.



Longest distance driven was taken by Kurt Thru, who had driven 700 km from Holstebro in Denmark on his 1947 Harley knucklehead, while lady rider Buf Poelma was rewarded for coming 103 km from Utrecht on her 1943 WLC Harley.

After this we attended the hotel barbecue or the restaurant dinner next door, told lies, drank beer, and danced to the band until late. Next morning it was breakfast, book the hotel for next year, and head off back home. What a great time we had!

## 1919-23 Harley Sport Model

My final book is out as a completist project, so that all Harley models to 1965 are now documented by AMCA members. It benefits from many contributions from other members and has 74 pages including the covers with 55 of them in colour. Check out vlheaven.com if interested.

### 2023 Events

Below is our latest timetable for the year. The AMCA events are firm, but some 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.

#### 2023 AMCA National Meets

February 24-25, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE  
March 02-04, Sunshine Meet, Daytona Beach, FL  
April 28-29, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA  
May 19-20, European Meet, Raalte, NL  
June 02-04, Empire Chapter, Waddington, NY  
June 09-10, Viking Chapter, St Paul, MN  
June 16-17, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA  
June 23-24, Colonial Chapter, Harmony, NJ  
July 14-16, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH  
July 28-30, Yankee Chapter, Greenfield, MA  
August 12-13, Australian Chapter, Bulli, AUS  
September 29-30, Chesapeake Chapter, Upperco, MD  
October 13-15, Southern National, Denton, NC

#### 2023 AMCA National Road Runs

June 12-14, Allegheny Chapter, Wellsboro, PA  
July 31-August 02 Yankee Chapter, S Deerfield, MA  
September 5-7, Black Hills Chapter, Deadwood, SD  
September 11-13 Sunflower Chapter, El Dorado, KS

## European 2023 Events

### Austria

May 11-14 Tourist Trophy run 350 km. Brunn am Gebirge. [www.fiva.org](http://www.fiva.org)

September 05-10 European Bike Week, Faaker See [www.europeanbikeweek.com](http://www.europeanbikeweek.com)

### Belgium

August 20 Oude Klepper Parade, De Haan

### Denmark

May 18-20, Skagen Run, this time Skagen to Copenhagen, for pre-1935 bikes. Details from [elleham07@gmail.com](mailto:elleham07@gmail.com)

Aug 19-21 Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying [www.romomotorfestival.dk](http://www.romomotorfestival.dk)

### Finland

January 14 Swap (Rompepäivä) in Jyväskylä 250km north from Helsinki. Mostly Japanese and Eastern Europe bike parts, but some vendors of vintage American and British.

February 03-05 in Helsinki: MP 23 is said to be the largest motorcycle exhibition in Northern Europe. More info in English <https://mp.messukeskus.com/?lang=en>

March A medium size swap "Maalissaalis" in Tuulos 80 km north of Helsinki.

April Vintage bike swap "Rompe" in Tampere

May 06-07 Classic Motor Show, emphasis on vintage cars, but also some old bikes.

July 15-16 Flathead Rally, Lieto, near Turku in SW.

July 28-30 Veteraaniralli a big vintage m/c meeting in Raasepori, southern Finland, some 120 km west of Helsinki.

August is the "Pannuralli" meet for Panheads. 60+ km NW of Helsinki. Mostly customized bikes, but some restored, too.

November big Vintage bike swap in Forssa 130 km NW from Helsinki and the "Walkka Swap" in Helsinki, mostly chopper and later model Harley parts, but occasionally also old rust.

## France

Linkert Attacks – *cancelled for 2023\**

22-24 September, beach racing pre-1947 cars and bikes in Ouistreham, Normandy  
[www.normandybeachrace.com](http://www.normandybeachrace.com)

## Germany

January 15 Winter Classic Bike, Ruesselheim

February 23-26 Retro Classics Stuttgart [www.retro-classics.de](http://www.retro-classics.de)

March 25/26 Technorama Kassel [www.technorama.de](http://www.technorama.de)

April 22/23 Technorama Ulm [www.technorama.de](http://www.technorama.de)

April 14-16 Veterama Hockenheim [www.veterama.de](http://www.veterama.de)

April 23, 120 years of Harley-Davidson exhibition. Central Garage, Bad Homburg [www.central-garage.de](http://www.central-garage.de)

May 13/14 Technorama Hildesheim  
[www.technorama.de](http://www.technorama.de)

June 08-12 Magic Bike Week, Ruedesheim  
[magic-bike-ruedesheim.com](http://magic-bike-ruedesheim.com)

July 01 Velodrom Racetrack Darmstadt, board track racing [www.vollgas-rennspass.de](http://www.vollgas-rennspass.de)

August 11-13 Pre-66 Meet Mosel/Hunsrueck

[amca-europe@aol.de](mailto:amca-europe@aol.de)

08-09 September Hindenburg Dirt Track racing  
[hindenburg-dirt-track.com](http://hindenburg-dirt-track.com)

Oct 13-15 Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. [www.veterama.de](http://www.veterama.de) Our AMCA stand is open to all members who want to sell their own parts.

## Greece

May 24-28. Harley-Davidson Super Rally, Igoumenitsa [www.superrally.com](http://www.superrally.com)

## Italy

Jan 27-29 Motor Bike Expo Verona, custom bikes  
[www.motorbikeexpo.it](http://www.motorbikeexpo.it)

May 28-02 June Langhe Hills Chapter Road Run

[cristiano@patina-garage.com](mailto:cristiano@patina-garage.com)/  
[fabio@patina-garage.com](mailto:fabio@patina-garage.com)/[amca.europe@aol.de](mailto:amca.europe@aol.de)

October ASI Vintage Vehicle Day, to be announced  
[www.asifed.it](http://www.asifed.it)

## Netherlands

**May 19/20 AMCA European Meet – see you there**

June 09-11 Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Oosterhout. 18<sup>th</sup> meet for pre-1966 American bikes.  
[www.silentgrayfellows.nl](http://www.silentgrayfellows.nl)

August. No Old Timers Club International Rally this year.\*

05 November Silent Gray Fellows swap meet

## Norway

## Poland

All events pending

## Sweden

## Switzerland

April 30 GP Mutschellen [www.gpmutschellen.ch](http://www.gpmutschellen.ch)

May 05-07 Goudron Bike Days, Brig VS  
<https://www.goudron.ch>

May 07 Love Ride Switzerland Dübendorf ZH  
<https://loveride.ch>

May 07 US Cars & Bikes Meet AP café Aadorf TG  
<https://www.apcafe.ch>

May 21 The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (in different cities in Switzerland)  
<https://www.gentlemansride.com>

June 02-04 Swiss Classic World Luzern  
<https://www.swissclassicworld.ch>

June 02-04 Motor Classics Lenzerheide  
<https://www.lenzerheidemotorclassics.ch>

June 16-18 Harley Davidson Mountain 4StarWeekend Arosa <https://www.waldhotel.ch/de/harley-davidson-mountain-weekend>

June 30-July 01 Hangar Rocking in St. Stephan  
<https://www.hangarrockin.com>

## United Kingdom

April 22-23 Stafford classic bike show and auction  
[www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com](http://www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com)

June 18 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 250 pre-1931 bikes  
[www.vmcc.net](http://www.vmcc.net)

July 08-09 Festival of 1000 bikes, Mallory Park  
[www.vmcc.net](http://www.vmcc.net)

Aug 04-07 International West Kent Run, 250 runners at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX [www.vmcc.net](http://www.vmcc.net)

September 01-03 Beaulieu International Autojumble/Netley Marsh motorcycle jumble

Oct 08. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton. (*provisional*)

Oct 14-15 Stafford classic bike show and auction  
[www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com](http://www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com)

## European Chapter Directors 2023

Steve Slocombe (UK)\*, President,  
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Vice President, Chris Bastiaansen\*, (Belgium)  
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Martin van Kuijk, Treasurer, [amcaeurope@gmail.com](mailto:amcaeurope@gmail.com)

Peter Reeves, Assistant Chief Judge,  
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Dave van der Linden, Director,  
[davelind74@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:elleham07@gmail.com)

Finland. Fiskis Ekman, [fiskis@kolumbus.fi](mailto:fiskis@kolumbus.fi)

France. Stuart Graham, [harleyman3@wanadoo.fr](mailto:harleyman3@wanadoo.fr)

Italy. Claudia Krause, [amca.europe@aol.de](mailto:amca.europe@aol.de)

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Poland. Krzysztof Pedryc, [indian56@wp.pl](mailto:indian56@wp.pl)

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Sweden. Stefan Olovsson, [stefan.indian@telia.com](mailto:stefan.indian@telia.com)

Switzerland. Sandra Froehlich, [sandra@mcsands.ch](mailto:sandra@mcsands.ch)

Bobbers. Paul Jung, [pjung@wwag.com](mailto: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](http://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 happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,  
President AMCA European Chapter

