



## AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*"Having fun with old motorcycles"*

November 2023

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time we have reports on the Cannonball Run, beach racing in Normandy, the UK Pioneer Run, Denton AMCA Meet and a visit to Wheels Through Time museum.

### **Cannonball Run**

You will remember that last time, after the Black Hills Road Run, we left Olivier Blainville and Fritz Martin making a side trip to see the Cannonball Run coming through Wheels Through Time Museum. Fritz supplied this report:

This year the Cannonball Coast to Coast Endurance Race took place from September 7th to 24th 2023. The route was 3,800 miles from Virginia Beach, VA. to Oceanside, CA. . The Motorcycle Cannonball is the most difficult antique endurance run in the world since the 1900s, when Erwin "Cannonball" Baker crossed the country in the USA. This year 77 riders started in Virginia Beach with their bikes allowed only pre 1933! Many of them surely had only a vague idea of what challenges will lay ahead. So did our Italian friends from Patina Garage, Fabio Costamagna, Christiano Pelganta and Luca Geron. Two years of preparing were necessary to be at the starting line.

On September 10th the Stage #3 Route took the Cannonball Riders along curvy roads through the Chimney Rock State Park and Lake Lure in the Blue Ridge Mountains. They stopped for a lunch break at the Wheels through Time Museum in North Carolina, where a huge crowd awaited them. Among them were Olivier Blainville from France and Fritz Martin from Germany, both good friends of our Italian Riders. What a surprise for Fabio, Christiano and Luca to meet their European friends here in the USA during the Race!

At the end, they did a very good job, no penalty and a perfect score which brought them to position 24, 25 and 50 in Oceanside, CA. Congratulation guys, really well done for their first time!



Here is Fabio's 1930 Harley VL, which we last saw at the top of a mountain pass when I rode it in June on the Italy/France Road Run. These old flatheads are popular long distance mounts.

### **Normandy Beach Racing 22-24 September**

Again we have a report from Fritz Martin: Beach racing is one of the oldest disciplines in all of motorsports. Way back in 1902 motorcyclists took their bikes to the sand of Daytona Beach for racing in FL, USA. This was happening also in 2023, 22th to 24th September at the Normandy Beach Race on the legendary Sword Beach in Normandy, France. The Normandy Beach Race is open only to pre 1947 motorcycles and cars with 1/8 mile drag races. It's 4th edition this year again brought an incredible huge mass of enthusiasts to the beach, what a show! Racers from all over Europe joined the race. The 3 founders Jean-Marc, Jean and Thomas also welcome a racing star from the USA; Brittney Olsen came to the race with her husband Matt and son Lock. They had a really unique experience with a surprising 3 day program on the beach.

Spectacular races on Saturday and Sunday, even at night thrilled and infatuated the racers as well as the spectators. If you missed this, Normandy Beach Race will invite you again in 2025.

## UK Pioneer Run 01 October

This London to Brighton Run for pre-1915 motorcycles was held for the 83<sup>rd</sup> time, with 150 entries somewhat up on the rain-soaked 2022 event.

Here are Graham, Nick and Simon at the start on two 1912 Triumphs and the 1913 Thor. All our entrants made the run successfully.



## AMM Swap Meet 01 October

On the same day as the Pioneer Run, the American Motorcycle Museum in Raalte held a small swap meet. Martin van Kuijk reports brisk trading Saturday afternoon and Sunday, and here is a picture of visitors checking out trade stands packed with spare parts for American bikes.



## Mannheim Meet 13-15 October

This is the big meet in Germany which closes out our swap meet season. This time Martin van Kuijk and Claudia Krause reported our biggest ever AMCA stand at 30 metres, say 100 feet, with stand holders from France, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands.

Here is a typical trade stand full of American motorcycle parts:



This time the weather was good, hot and sunny Friday and Saturday with a little rain on Sunday. All our members are reported as having had a good time!

## Denton AMCA Meet 13-15 October

I was there to supervise the judging, and expected three fine days from my weather forecast. In the event, Thursday morning was damp and Saturday wet enough for indoor judging, but we put on a good

show on Friday. I had attended the first Denton Meet when it was in the spring, but now it closes out our season and is much larger. There are different parts and different people compared with the East Coast Meets, and the locals put on a good show of southern hospitality.

Our new Board member Mike Brusco organised the chopper show as theme of the Meet, and I saw thirty or forty ridden in and showing off awesome artistic and practical skills. Sponsors had provided cash prizes, and Luther Zimmerman took \$500 with this 1947 U Harley flathead chopper judged by peoples choice.



Our pal Rocky Halter was delighted to take second prize of \$250 with this tasteful 1937 Indian Chief:



Some of the milder entrants could have been entered as Period Modified for Chapter awards, but this was not to be. Meanwhile we were judging 39 entries from 12 different marques, with these ones catching my eye. This 1968 Indian Super Scout took most unique:



This is one of about 39 built by West Coast dealer Sammy Pierce with an eye-catching metalflake red fiberglass tank/seat over used Scout parts in a 1949 Warrior frame. Custom and cool!

Among the Harleys, this 1946 knuckle was entered by the daughter of the original owner and did well.



And this last year 1965 Topper looked good:



While this 1981 Laverda Jota shows that we are now judging a lot of 1970s and 1980s motorcycles:



At the Saturday banquet, I said a few words about European legislation encroaching on our rights to ride old motorcycles, and Keith Kizer put in some good words for FIVA who are lobbying on our behalf. Bruce Palmer, author of *How to Restore Your Harley-Davidson* was then given the 2024 Legend award by the Legends Chapter, part of the coalition sponsoring the Meet. Bruce then talked about his introduction to old bikes and answered questions. Here's me with Bruce and Debbie Palmer and Bruce Lindsay earlier in the show:



## Wheels Through Time 15/16 October

As I was already in North Carolina, I took an extra day to visit the WTT museum. Matt Walksler has done a lot to the place since my last visit, including a tasteful tribute to his Dad Dale. Floor managers Andy and Jake entertained me with a tour, which of course involved starting up some of the motorcycles. I was there to check up on my CHP 1936 VLH pursuit bike, which was being carefully looked after:



This will go to Mecum in Vegas early next year if not sold earlier. The next morning I had the pleasure of working with Mike Lange and Matt in stripping down a flooded 1939 UL filled with mud after a flood. We had the motor out and the cases split in two hours:



You might just see me in a WTT video but that was a lot of fun before leaving for Charlotte airport.

## Sidecar For Sale

A UK member has a left hand reproduction LS 29 Goulding single adult sidecar attached to his 1928/9 JDH and the sidecar is for sale for £2000:



Sounds like a good deal, so contact [jrandrew@talktalk.net](mailto:jrandrew@talktalk.net) if interested.

## 2023/24 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.

## 2024 AMCA National Meets

Feb 02-03 Music City Chapter, Lebanon TN  
Feb 29-Mar 02 Sunshine Meet, Daytona FL  
Mar 23-24 Omaha Meet, Fremont NE  
Apr 26-27 Perkiomen Chapter, Oley PA  
May 10-11 European Chapter, Raalte NL  
June 14-15 Viking Chapter, St. Paul MN  
June 14-15 Fort Sutter Meet, Dixon CA

June 21-23 Can-Am River, Waddington NY  
July 19-20 Wauseon Coalition, Wauseon OH  
July 26-28 Yankee Meet, Greenfield MA  
Aug 24-25 Australian Meet, Bulli NSW  
Sep 06-08 Colonial Meet, Harmony NJ  
Oct 04-06 Chesapeake Meet, Upperco MD  
Oct 11-12 Southern National, Denton NC

### 2024 National Road Runs

Feb 29-Mar 02 SoCal Chapter, Borrego Springs CA  
May 21-23 Cherokee/Diamond, Eureka Springs AR  
Aug 13-15 Badger Chapter, Eagle River WI  
Sep 23-25 Yerba Buena Chapter, Napa Valley CA  
Oct 07-09 Seaboard Chapter, Hamilton NJ

### 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  
[hindenbergdirttrack.com](http://hindenbergdirttrack.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**

June 18-20. HD Wolsztyn 2023

### **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.hangarrocker.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 01. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom  
Downs to Brighton.

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

### **European Chapter Directors 2023**

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### **Country Ambassadors**

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

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

The next newsletter will probably be in January, 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

