



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
"Having fun with old motorcycles"

October 2023

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time we have reports on the Oude Klepper Run in Belgium, the big Davenport show in the USA, the Anamosa Museum sale, and the Black Hills Road Run.

Oude Klepper 20 Aug 2023

This well-established run for pre-1921 motorcycles takes place on a Sunday, following a level triangular route around De Haan in Belgium.



Our English contingent show that dressing-up is an important part of the event, as are the several meal stops on the route.

Davenport Show 30 Aug-02 Sep 2023

I flew in to Chicago the previous Wednesday with European Chapter members David Loeb, Olivier Blainville and Fritz Martin, veterans of the previous Black Hills Road Run to which we were going. Thursday morning we were systematically going up and down the vendor booths looking for bargains – hah! I had not been to Davenport since it was an AMCA Meet, but its reputation for high prices was

undimmed. I saw a Harley knucklehead at \$125k, a civilianised 42XA at \$65k, a 1931 VL project at \$19.5k, a nos rear mudguard at \$3k+, risers at \$2k+, a VL dash at \$2k+ and so on. This 1913 Thor project looked almost reasonable at \$18k:



Weather was in the 80s in the afternoons, say 30C, with no rain, so good for the mid-west at that time of year. Matt Olsen, our host for the Road Run, was super thrilled to find this 1939 Harley tank in first paint:



On Friday we managed to wangle a short visit to Bob Wolfe's memorabilia shop in downtown Davenport:



He is star of the American Pickers TV show, and this large old building is no doubt packed with the spoils of many previous years successful hunting.

David (in yellow) managed to buy a 1947 Salsbury scooter at Davenport, seen here with Matt at the Olsen's later. I'm not sure if it is Art Deco styling a decade too late, or 1950s rocket ship styling a decade too early. Anyway, only a few were built in 1946/47.



Saturday morning the purchase was completed and, with the strength and ingenuity born of desperation, we crammed the long vehicle into the back of the rental car. We then set out for the National

Motorcycle Museum at Anamosa accompanied by a strong smell of gasoline.

Anamosa Museum 02 Sep 23

I'd been round the museum twice before, once in the old premises and once in the new. That day the parking lot was packed, and we joined many others either having a nostalgic last look round or eyeing up the lots for the Mecum auction in the following days, following the death of John Parham, previously of J&P Cycles and owner of the museum. This 1914 Yale looked a typical museum bike to me, with too thick paint and too bright nickel, but someone was happy to pay \$77k for it a few days later.



The collection was certainly eclectic but not comprehensive. I was looking for an early Indian Scout to photograph and did not find one. The motorcycles were of various quality, and my pals picked away at the knuckleheads while I critiqued the VL. Later I browsed the Mecum auction results, where I counted 1,389 lots. As well as the motorcycles, there were bicycles, mannequins, cast iron toys, kiddies rides, illuminated dealer signs, enamel signs, framed posters and photographs, gas pumps, display cases, nos parts and paint cans, a diner, a gas station, and in fact something for everyone interested in old stuff. The results show that everything was sold, with discerning buyers apparently knowing what everything was and bidding accordingly. The big surprise for me was someone paying nearly \$24k for a 1930 Indian outboard motor.

After lunch we drove another 500 miles to Aberdeen SD, arriving late and spending Sunday admiring the

Olsen's shop and stock. It was then I found out we were to drive four Harley knuckleheads and panheads the 340 miles to Deadwood for the Road Run, with me on a '46, David on a '47, Olivier on a '37, Fritz on a '49 plus Matt on a '53 sidecar outfit with son Lock in the chair. This was my first time on one of these newfangled overhead valve machines and I can report they weigh more than a VL, have a higher centre of gravity, and are heavier at the front with those 5.00 x 16 tyres. My pals gave me two tips, first to kick right through when starting to avoid backfires, which took two lessons, and second to mount from the left or the bike can fall on you, which took only one lesson to learn.

Monday morning we had a late start, with the sidecar outfit needing regular refuelling, so the second half of the journey was in the dark, with heavy rain forcing a midnight stop in Sturgis.

Black Hills Road Run 05-07 Sep 23

So we arrived in Deadwood Tuesday morning, wet and later than planned, and checked into the casino hotel. The run was out to Devil's Tower, familiar to viewers of Close Encounters, but I had been there before and rode back to Sturgis to do some wrenching with Matt on two bikes with electrical problems. The air looked rather misty, but it was smoke blowing all the way down from those Canadian wildfires, and I could even smell it a few times over the next couple of days. The evening meal was catered by kind local club members, and the Salsbury scooter was transferred to another pick-up for its ride to Florida and then France, by the simple expedient of backing the two trucks against each other with the tailgates down and wheeling it across. That was more kindness from helpful AMCA members.

Wednesday was a scenic run through the Black Hills, then Custer State Park, a visit to the giant Crazy Horse sculpture still in progress, a catered lunch stop, then along winding Route 16A with three single track tunnels with views over Mount Rushmore, followed by a visit to the memorial itself. This was beautiful riding country, with hills, bends, trees and lakes, with many other bikes, trikes and all-terrain vehicles sharing the roads. Here I am at South Dakota's

deepest lake, actually a 140 foot deep reservoir, after learning that this Harley will go round bends as well as in a straight line:



Wednesday evening we drove to downtown Deadwood to Jerry Greer's Indian shop, for a catered meal, and a visit to his showroom and well-equipped machine shop.

Thursday was a planned route with 12 miles of gravel roads, so I chose to go instead to Keystone with Matt and Brittney Olsen, she riding a 1936 knucklehead, for a less adventurous tour. Then back to Deadwood for the banquet, where Chapter President Carl Olsen told me they had 260 entrants for the run, surely among the largest seen. What a great time was had by all! Oldest rider went to an 84 year old, so there is inspiration for the rest of us.

Next morning it was time for the ride back to Aberdeen, this time with me driving the truck and trailer with Brittney riding the '36. After another late start we drove the rest of the day and into the night, with Brittney riding out a rear flat at 60 mph, loading the bike into the trailer, then continuing the last 20 miles home on the '49. She is a skilled rider, and surely I would have ended up in a ditch in the same situation. At 11 pm back at the Olsen's, David and I said our farewells and drove to Watertown as we were still 700 miles away from our Chicago flight the next day. A start the next morning at 0500, lightly travelled

roads, and 80 and 75 mile speed limits the next day saw us crossing South Dakota and Minnesota into Wisconsin, with enough time to spare to visit the Harley Davidson museum in Milwaukee.



Here's a picture of a 1920 Harley Sport model that I might include in the next printing of my new book. I've been round the museum three times before and said this is a family show rather than one for us hard core rivet counters. They still haven't put the spacer plates under the cylinders of that 1936VLH stoker, and David spotted a 1950 bike with the hydraulic steering damper installed back to front – schoolboy errors! However, a visit to the shop and restaurant left us satisfied, later turning in the rental car at Chicago airport with 1700 fresh miles on it, and me with 500 miles on the '46 knuck. What a great time!

Wheels Through Time/Cannonball

Meanwhile, Olivier and Fritz had peeled off to Maggie Valley NC to meet with Matt Walksler, who we'd seen already at Davenport, visit WTT Museum, and watch the Cannonball Run come through there. More next time.

Appointment

Stuart Graham has returned to the UK, so our new French Country Ambassador is Olivier Blainville. Thank you Stuart for your past efforts, and thank you Olivier for taking on this important role.

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.

2023 AMCA National Meets

October 13-15, Southern National, Denton, NC

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

September 05-10 European Bike Week, Faaker See 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

Aug 19-21 Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying 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

Germany

January 15 Winter Classic Bike, Ruesselheim

February 23-26 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de

March 25/26 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de

April 22/23 Technorama Ulm www.technorama.de

April 14-16 Veterama Hockenheim www.veterama.de

April 23, 120 years of Harley-Davidson exhibition. Central Garage, Bad Homburg www.central-garage.de

May 13/14 Technorama Hildesheim www.technorama.de

June 08-12 Magic Bike Week, Ruedesheim magic-bike-ruedesheim.com

July 01 Velodrom Racetrack Darmstadt, board track racing www.vollgas-rennspass.de

August 11-13 Pre-66 Meet Mosel/Hunsrueck
amca-europe@aol.de

08-09 September Hindenburg Dirt Track racing
hindenbergdirttrack.com

Oct 13-15 Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. 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

Italy

Jan 27-29 Motor Bike Expo Verona, custom bikes
www.motorbikeexpo.it

May 28-02 June Langhe Hills Chapter Road Run

cristiano@patina-garage.com/
fabio@patina-garage.com/amca.europe@aol.de

October ASI Vintage Vehicle Day, to be announced
www.asifed.it

Netherlands

May 19/20 AMCA European Meet – see you there

June 09-11 Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Oosterhout.
18th meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
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

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

June 18 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 250 pre-1931 bikes
www.vmcc.net

July 08-09 Festival of 1000 bikes, Mallory Park
www.vmcc.net

Aug 04-07 International West Kent Run, 250 runners at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX 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

European Chapter Directors 2023

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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, and safe riding until then.

Stay safe, wishing you happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter

