



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

"Having fun with old motorcycles"

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

The clouds are lifting here in Europe and we are finding motorcycle events to attend again. Travel between countries is still very limited, but we have reports from the UK, Germany and France this time.

The big Mannheim show in October has just been cancelled, but I've recently signed the contract with the AMCA National to hold our own International Meet next 27/28 May. Get your hotel booked in Raalte now, and note that the on-site hotel is under new ownership.

New Member

Here is Peter Reichert from Germany:



This is his 1971 Harley Boattail, and Peter is also working on a 1936 VL/UL bobber, welcome!

September 2021

A Grand Day Out

On 3rd August I went down to the Sammy Miller museum on the south coast as second reserve for a magazine article session. Well known rider, racer and reviewer Alan Cathcart was on hand to ride Simon Roud's 1913 Thor twin, and here are Simon and Sammy Miller with the bike in the car park at the start of the day.



Sammy is on the left and in his late 80s, but has recently put a new wing on his museum to house his 350 bike collection, mostly British and with an emphasis on competition machines. We then drove a little way away to a private driveway about one kilometer long and unloaded the various bikes. First came the Thor, a single speed machine geared for 90 mph with a weedy back pedal rear brake. Starting procedure was to prime both cylinders with raw fuel, put on rear stand, clutch engaged, pedal to start, clutch disengaged, apply rear brake, take off stand, slowly release clutch and wobble away. We all shook our heads as Alan departed away, thinking there was no way he would make the U-turn at the end of the driveway. But then he returned, and again, and again, each time going faster and with the bike sounding sweeter. By now photographer Kel Edge was lying in the grass verge taking pictures, and must have shot hundreds during the day.

Next was Nick Roud's 1922 ACE four cylinder, followed by Simon's 1928 Henderson DeLuxe, my 1929 Henderson KJ Streamline, and Chris Newbold's 1930 Indian 101 Scout. Alan had a good half hour or more on each machine, returning my KJ with 67 mph showing on the Corbin maximum speed recording speedometer.

Here are the two Hendersons posing:



For just one year apart there are a lot of technical differences. Both are 1301 cc fours, but the '28 on the left is side valve with a three bearing crankshaft and updraft carburettor, with the '29 having inlet over exhaust valves, a five bearing crankshaft, and side draft carb. The '28 has the squarish steel tanks between the frame tubes, while the '29 has the cast aluminium tanks popped out from the frame in a more modern style. The '29 also has first year drop centre wheel rims, a year ahead of Harley and Indian, to replace the earlier clincher rims. Henderson claimed 36 bhp out of the new KJ, possibly making it the first 100 mph production motorcycle and leading to many 1929 sales to the Highway Patrols. The secret seems to be the large inlet valves, maybe also the secret of the 1925 Super-X 750 cc small twin success. The Wall Street Crash of October 1929 meant sales took a nose dive for the 1930 model year, and early in 1931 owner Ignaz Schwinn stopped all Excelsior and Henderson motorcycle production and retrenched to his bicycle business.

We spent all day in great weather, getting back to the museum as it closed and so leaving this visit for another day. Alan Cathcart should get five articles out of this, so keep an eye on the classic bike magazines over the coming year.

Not the IWKR

The following Saturday 7th August was a contrast, with mostly British bikes in pouring rain. The International West Kent Run is an annual event for perhaps 350 entrants, with many continental riders of old bikes making the trip across the Channel to join. The 2020 event was cancelled because of Covid, and the VMCC organisers wanted to hold a stripped down event for 2021 to show continuity. Accordingly, about fifty riders assembled near Ashford for a 70+ mile ride around country lanes in Kent. I got soaked

to the skin just getting my bike out of the van and across the car park, so became a spectator for the rest of the day. Here are some bikes at the start:



That's a Norton in front, with a Velocette and then a Royal Enfield behind.



And here is a 1930s BSA V-twin parked up next to a Norman. All these bikes were ridden, and here is a group of soaked riders arriving at the lunch stop. Respect!



Local Swap Meet

On 12 September I drove to a local Meet and saw perhaps 300 ride-in bikes parked up to view the 80 stands. These two Ariels were fairly typical:



With this tricked-out Norton Atlas in front of an old favourite BSA B31 350 cc machine:



For sale was this 1960 Royal Enfield Constellation with sticker at £5000 The 700 cc Constellation was essentially made from two 350 cc Enfield Bullet engines stuck together, and was the largest capacity UK bike of the 1950s, developed from the 1953 Meteor and superseded by the 750 cc Interceptor. These models were shamelessly restyled and re-badged for the US market, where they were sold as Indian Chiefs and other models.



Thuringia Meet

Now over to Claudia Krause, our German Director, for news of three meets in continental Europe. First to August 06-08 in lovely Thuringia, where 49 old bikes turned up for a pre-1966 meet. This was first showing for French member Olivier Blainville's 1937 bronze Harley knucklehead:



And this must be a 1929 JD with the twin headlights and front brake:



Most of the bikes were Harleys, but here are our German Indian riders out having fun:



Darmstadt

Still in Germany, our crazier members assembled 21 August at the Velodrome for some board track racing. Thanks to Stefan Bund for the pictures. Here are Thomas Bund plus Eric and Thomas Trapp at the start:



And here is an action shot:



This tasty NSU racer was also seen at the meet:



Normandy Beach Racing

Claudia was also in Ouistreham, France, 10-12 September and reported 36,000 visitors on Saturday and 16,000 Sunday to watch the long delayed beach race. There were 44 each cars and bikes, all pre-1947, and we had Frank Souren from the Netherlands present, with Eric Mathieu from France and Norbert Mattis from Germany. The little town was packed with old machinery:



There were some hairy cars there as well as our old motorcycles:



The sand looked pretty soft:



But there was a big crowd there to watch from behind the hay bales:



And good fun was had by all. I had entered earlier events which were cancelled, and my 1934 bobber is now sold, so next time I shall be there just as a spectator.

Raalte Museum Meet

Our friends at the American Motorcycle Museum in Raalte are having a low key get together at the end of September, so contact them for details. It looks like only our Dutch and German members will be able to travel, so please take a picture and send me a photo for our other members entertainment.

The Raalte hotels are filling up quickly for our 27/28 May 2022 Meet, so make your reservations soon.

2022 Events Programme

I have left our 2021 schedule of European Meets below, even though many of them were cancelled. The AMCA Meets will be announced soon, and we expect many of the motorcycle events to come back to life for next year. Would our Country Ambassadors please let me know dates as they become available, as North American visitors need plenty of lead time to make travel arrangements.

2021 Events

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

2021 AMCA National Meets

February 26-27, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE
March 04-06, Sunshine Meet, New Smyrna Beach, FL
April 23-24, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA
May 07-08, European Meet, Raalte, NL*
May 14-16, Southern Meet, Denton, NC
May 28-30, Empire Chapter, Trumansburg, NY*
June 11-12, Viking Chapter, St Paul, MN*
June 18-19, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA*
June 25-26, Colonial Chapter, Harmony, NJ*
July 16-18, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH
August 06-07, Yankee Chapter, Terryville, CT
August 28-29, Australian Chapter, Sydney, AUS
October 02-03, Chesapeake Chapter, Upperco, MD

2021 AMCA National Road Runs

June 01-03, Phoenix Chapter, Zion National Park, UT
June 21-23, Rocky Mountain, Crested Butte, CO*
July 21-23, Yellowstone Chapter, Billings, MT
September 07-09, Roosevelt Chapter, Detroit Lakes, MN

Other 2021 Events

Austria

September 07-12 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com (provisional)

Belgium

Feb 21 Ruilbeurs Oude Motoren, www.earlyriders.be
(provisional)

Aug 14 Where is Anna? 85 km run near Newport for pre-1931 bikes. whereisanna1418@gmail.com (provisional)

Denmark

May 21-23, 21st Skagen Run, this time Skagen to Copenhagen, for pre-1935 bikes. (provisional)

July 16-18 Windmill Rally, Hasbro for pre-1940 bikes.
www.windmillrally.eu (provisional)

Aug 29 Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying www.romomotorfestival.dk (provisional)

Finland

Jan 10 Jyväskylä swap meet at the Paviljonki hotel. Mostly mopeds, Japanese, Eastern European and British bikes. About 250 km from Helsinki. (provisional)

France

24-26 September, beach racing pre-1947 cars and bikes in Ouistreham, Normandy
www.normandybeachrace.com (provisional)

Croatia/Slovenia/Italy

to be announced FIVA World Motorcycle Run,
www.fiva.org

Germany

Jan 17 Winter Classic Bike Show, Im Alten Opel-Werk, 65428 Rüsselheim

Jan 22-24 Motorrad Bodensee www.motorradwelt-bodensee.de (provisional)

Feb 25-27 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de (provisional)

Apr 23-25 Veterama, Hockenheim www.veterama.de *

May 01-02 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de
(provisional)

June 11-13 Oldgeraffeltreffen, Vogelsberg.

August (date to follow) 10th Kaiserzeitausfahrt, 85410 Haag an der Amper (Munich area). (provisional)
www.kaiserzeitausfahrt.de

Sep 11-12, vintage dirt track racing Hindenberg,
www.hindenberg-dirt-track.com (provisional)

Oct 08-10 Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de. Our AMCA stand is open to all members who want to sell their own parts. "cancelled"

Greece

May 20-24 Harley Super Rally, Igoumenitsa
<https://superrally.com/>*

Italy

Jan 16-18 Motorbike Expo Verona
www.motorbikeexpo.it (provisional)

Mar 14-16 Harley and Snow Hillclimb, Rio Pusteria-Alto Adige
www.harley.bz.it/de/harley-snow (provisional)

May 7-9 ASI Moto Show, Parma race track
www.asifed.it (provisional)

Sep 04-05 Roll'n Flat Beach Race, Caorle
www.venicebeachrace.com provisional

Netherlands

Jan 09-10 Oldtimerbeurs Autotron, Rosmalen
www.oldtimerbeurs.net (provisional)

Feb 14 Oldtimer+Tweewielerbeurs Eurohal Zuidbroek,
www.1up25.nl (provisional)

Feb 14. Swap Meet, Hengelo, www.alemite-motoren.nl
(provisional)

June 04-06 Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Oosterhout. 16th
meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Aug 06-08, Old Timers Run, Den Haag. Pre-1966
American bikes for the 42nd time.
www.hdctheoldtimers.nl (provisional)

Sep 04-05, Alemite Run, Twente. www.alemite-motoren.nl.
(provisional)

October 31. Silent Gray Fellows swap meet, Chaam.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl (provisional)

Norway

August 06-08 Indian International Rally*
www.indianmotorcycle.co.uk/events.html

Poland

June 11-13 Old Timer Club summer rally,
www.oldtimerclub.com.pl (provisional)

June 27-28 Antique motorcycle swap meet, Lodz*
www.motoweteranbazar.com (provisional)

Slovenia

June 10-13, HOG International Rally, Portoroz
www.harley-davidson.com/.../european-hog-rally.html

Sweden

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

Feb 07 Enköping Indianmarknaden. Indian/early Harley
provisional

Switzerland

Feb 19-21 Swiss Moto/Custom Zürich www.swiss-moto.ch (provisional)

March 20-21 Swap Meet Fribourg www.oldtimer-teilemarkt.ch (provisional)

April 24-25 Historic vehicle days www.shvf.ch
(provisional)

April 25 GP Mutschellen www.gpmutschellen.ch
(provisional)

May 1-2 Arbon Classics www.arbon-classics.ch
(provisional)

May 15-16 Art and Wheels Pratteln
www.artandwheelsbasel.com (provisional)

May 22-23 Rock this Town, Solothurn
www.rockthistownsolothurn.com/oldtimer

May 23-24 Swiss Classic World, Luzern (provisional)
www.swissclassicworld.ch

June 05-07 Lenzerheide Motor Classics www.lenzerheide-motorclassics.ch (provisional)

July 03-05 Swiss Harley Days, Lugano (provisional)

United Kingdom

April 24/5 Stafford classic bike show and auction
(provisional)

June 01 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 450 pre-1931 bikes
www.vmcc.net (provisional)*

July 29-Aug 01 International West Kent Run, 310 runners
at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX (provisional)*

September 3-5 Beaulieu International Autojumble/Netley Marsh motorcycle jumble

Oct 03. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton.

Oct 09-10 Stafford classic bike show and auction
(provisional)

European Chapter Directors 2021/22

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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, elleham07@gmail.com

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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 safe and happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter

