



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

September 2017

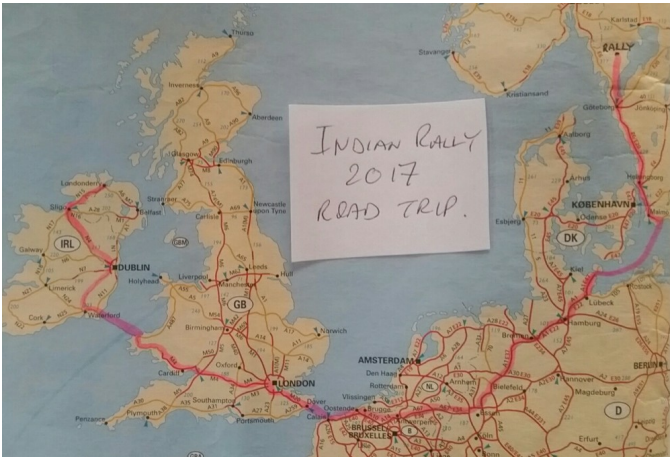
Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This month we have reports on the Swedish Indian Rally, and the the first Italian Chapter Meet.

Indian Super Rally, Sweden, July 2017

Jim Cuddihy, one of our members from Ireland, sent us this abridged report:

In Europe the annual Indian international rally is one of the main events for old Indian motorcycles and other American marques. It's an opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends, talk motorcycles, look at motorcycles and for one weekend, forget about the drudgery of everyday living and immerse yourself in a bygone world of old motorcycles. For us living in Ireland it was a particularly long trip which included seven countries (8 for my friend Sean as he had to go through Northern Ireland which is technically another country) three ferry crossings and an all-round eight day trip.



The rally site was on the bank of a beautiful fresh water lake with wooded areas and green pastures. We decided to set up camp in the lower car park as we had a large van with trailer and didn't want to risk going off road and getting stuck if it rained. Our traveling partners Kevin, Roy and Jake arrived shortly after, so we set up camp with both vans either side, community tent and bike tents in the middle. Fred Dufrene from France was camped next so a few beers and food with good friends and an early night as we had all done a lot of travelling to get there.

Next day which was Thursday we spent the morning taking a few short rides on the bikes while getting to know the area and calling up to see some of the vendors Tony/Henni Leenes, Jos Pelders and Chris from Oldtimer Services Poland. Incidentally I had to collect two saddles I had ordered from Chris a 32 and a 47 As usual they were superb and in my opinion Oldtimer Services Poland make the best saddles. Our friends from Aland arrived Martin, Hank, Kris, Marcus and Fredrick so we had to greet them. In the afternoon we had some running repairs to

do to the magneto rotor on the Henderson but as it was raining it became a focal point and you wouldn't believe the number of people dropped by to offer their expertise and help.



Friday was officially the start of the rally and the sun shone brightly all day and people were pouring in all day on every Indian motorcycle imaginable. The weather being so good and thankfully all the bikes were running well we decided to go on our own road trip to Norway!



This in fact was only 50 miles away to Korusjo which is just inside the Norwegian border. This trip turned out to be one of the highlights of the rally you know one of those days that everything goes just right. Good friends, good motorcycles with no breakdowns, beautiful weather and beautiful scenery. The road surface was great with plenty of turns to make it interesting going through woods and lakes. We stopped at a roadside café by the lake and enjoyed the day before our return journey back to the rally site. On Friday evening there was an official opening ceremony on the main stage which was complete with music, singing and a play, all in traditional Swedish costumes. After that we went up to the bar area and mingled with old friends Alan Forbes and Jimmy Lambert from Scotland and made some new friends along the way as well as well. Later we got the fire going friends gathered round to drink beer (for those who didn't drink beer Roy made English tea for them) laugh and tell stories until late in the night. For me this is what it's all about.

Saturday is the main day of the rally for this is the day of the ride out. The ride out is almost like a competition as such as everybody strives to have their motorcycle fit and able to take part. The atmosphere was electric, the sound of antique motorcycles music to our ears. Anybody not on a motorcycle was taking photos, wishing well and waving on the riders. We were off! I have to admit I felt proud to be part of such a great gathering of friends and riding my favourite motorcycle. It couldn't get any better than this.



I was near the rear of the group so when I got out onto the road there were motorcycles as far as the eye could see and when I looked in the mirror there was still more behind. It was about a 25 mile run to the lunch stop at the picturesque town of Haverud. The roads twisted through wooded areas, lakes, farmland and small villages with locals waving us on as we went. This made for a beautiful atmosphere. The lunch stop gave us all time to catch up on the morning's riding, swapping stories on how well or not so well our motorcycles were running, examining bikes we missed on the rally site and generally enjoying the day. The locals joined in the fun which made for a party atmosphere.



The trip back to the rally site was on great roads through beautiful countryside but it started to rain but luckily we got back before getting too wet. The next few hours was spent swapping stories about the ride out and welcoming more visitors to our camp: to mention a few, renowned 4 cylinder builder Jorgen Sundberg on a super rare 1933 Motoplane, his brother Stefan on his beautifully restored 32 Chief and a gentleman from Belgium on a really neat green scout hot rod. We rambled up to the main area before dinner stopping to watch a very talented gentleman balancing his wall of death 101 on rollers and another group of dedicated gentlemen firing up a beautiful early 8 valve Indian, what a sound!



Another look at the vendors wares before dinner which was of a high standard and all ate heartily. We must have missed the prize giving but there were some beautiful machines on site and I'm sure many more deserved prizes that actually got them. The prize for the longest ride to the rally went to renowned motorcycle traveller and travel writer "Lucky" Uwe Illgner from Germany who took a round trip of 6500 Km (4000 miles to our US friends) on his 1946 Indian Chief and sidecar! Uwe incidentally wrote a great motorcycle travel book on Enrique Pontolillo who had a Harley Davidson shop in Lima Peru from 1929 to 1982 a really good read if you manage to get your hands on a copy. The music was up next a great Rockabilly band called "Pitch Fork Five" accompanied by our own Indian rider Sean McCarron on sax. The rest of the night ended in a haze of beer laughter and party atmosphere followed up by late drinks at the Danish Indian Club's camp. Next morning after breakfast it was time to load up our beloved motorcycles and say our good byes to all friends old and new. What a brilliant weekend and brilliant road trip I have to say I enjoyed every minute. The event had 378 participants from 22 countries with 175 old Indians and 80 other makes. To me the motorcycles are secondary it's all about the people; a good friend of mine always says a rally is only as good as the people that attend it. The next Indian rally is in France next year 2018 so let's all make a special effort to support our French brothers and sisters who no doubt will put on a brilliant party for us all to enjoy. Plan that road trip, bring your friends and make some new friends but above all enjoy every minute.

Italian Chapter Meet

Our sister Italian Chapter held their first National Meet on 2nd September in Rimini. It was the same weekend as Davenport in the US, Beaulieu in England, and a big Italian race meeting at Monza, so we did not have a big

attendance. However, our hosts Sante Mazza and Claudia Ganzaroli made us very welcome, and we signed up a new member and judged two bikes. Here's Nino D'Onofrio with his 1941 Harley WL:



This one came out at 95 points first time out after a long restoration, while Francesco Zordan's 1973 Sportster scored 99 points, seen here from behind with period local license plate:



Well done guys, and bring them up to Raalte next May to get their Senior awards!

Italian National Motorcycle Museum

You can see above that the Italian Meet was held at the National Motorcycle Museum (www.museomotociclo.it), and this made for a fascinating couple of hours visit. The museum was put together from three private collections and is jammed with mostly Italian bikes, plus various outbuildings full of unfinished projects and parts.

The museum has a good collection of scooters on the ground floor, including this 1949 Lambretta which is where it all started:



Did you know that Ducati made a scooter too, as in this 1952 model?:



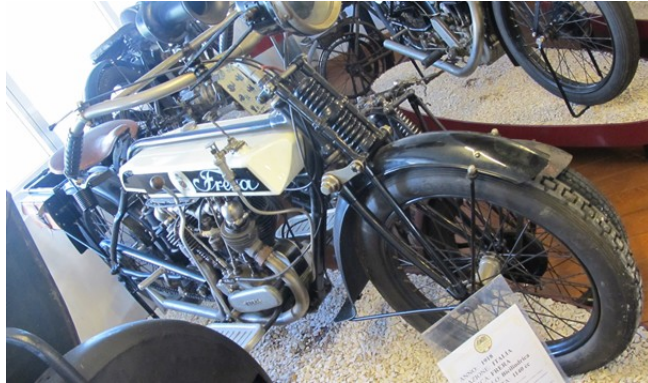
And this streamlined 1958 175 cc Aermacchi rebadged as a Harley caught my eye:



Upstairs we saw the competition bikes, including this tasty Benelli 1936 overhead cam model:



Italian road tax rules kept nearly all motorcycles under 500 cc, so this 1918 1000 cc Frera is nearly the only one of its kind:



A very interesting museum, and worth a visit. The next day was National Day in San Marino, the smallest independent republic in the world, located about 50 km west of Rimini on a hill, and proudly independent since 301 AD, but that's a story for another time.

More Stuff

Wasn't that a great article on **Early Harley Racing in the Netherlands** in the latest magazine, and well done to Johan Wijers for putting it together. If any others think they have an article inside them, please let me know and we'll try to get it published.

Our Director Pete Reeves went to the **Davenport** meet and reported good weather, and the acquisition of a set of handlebars for his 1949 rigid fork Panhead, yes they made a few. Maybe we'll see this event back as an AMCA National in the next couple of years. Geoff Skilton had a stand at **Beaulieu**, the biggest UK show, and said he sold little but scored some good bike parts from the car guys.

I was at a local show a couple of weekends ago and saw this original paint 1949 BSA Bantam for sale at £2600.



I thought it was all the money, but it sold at the show. This modernised Vincent was ridden in:



showing that they are not all standing in rich mens living rooms...

And finally best wishes for a speedy recovery to our Polish member Chris Pedryc, who hit a deer while out riding his Indian 101 Scout. Get well soon Chris.

2017 AMCA National Meets

September 29-Oct 01 Chesapeake, Jefferson, PA

2017 AMCA National Road Runs

September 20-23, Smoky Mountain, Chattanooga, TN

Other 2017 Events

Germany

Oct 06-08, Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de.

United Kingdom

Oct 14-15. Stafford show and auction

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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 at year end, with news on the big Mannheim Veterama show that closes the European season, and an update on my Henderson KJ restoration. Please keep sending me words and photos on bike related items.

Wishing you safe and happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter

