



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

"Having fun with old motorcycles"

January 2025

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

The New Year has started, the days are getting longer, and we are looking forward to another season of having fun with antique motorcycles. Our Country Ambassadors have supplied a list of European motorcycle events to interest you, plus we have a summary of the US Road Runs and National Meets for you to enjoy. In this quiet part of the season we start a feature on 'What's in the Garage?', welcome new members and say farewell to a longstanding one.

34 New Members Join

Club Express sends me membership changes and I'm pleased to see that everyone has renewed so far, thank you. Claudia Krause reports on new members in 2024:

Czech Republic

Zdenek Votipka

Denmark

Kurt Thruue

France

Pauline Aubert Mazin
Stephane Coppola
Thierry Rebert
Anthony "Titi" Sabard

Germany

Christoph Brunner
Denny Elvers
Rainer Graetz
Andreas Niehoff
Greg Polz
Clas Oliver Richter
Christoph "Tchisi" Schlundt
Stephan Schoening
Markus Wolf

Ireland

Michael Hutchinson

Luxembourg

Axel Vogt
Tapi Vogt
Nathalie Vogt

Netherlands

Ben Bakker
Karla Bosselaar
Willem Gast

Norway

Jon Bjerketvedt

Slovenia

John H Fry

Spain

David Saez Pascual
Aurora Ibanez
Ignacio Diago De La Presentacion

Sweden

Martin Kempe

Switzerland

Peter Haefliger

United Kingdom

Robert Hill
Roy A McHardy
Keith Mowatt
William N Sampson
Robert Edward A Topley

If new members would like to send a picture and a few words I'd be pleased to introduce them in the next newsletter.

An Older Member Leaves

In December I attended Chris Newbold's funeral, another long time UK member taken from us too soon. Two AMCA members were among the pall bearers and I stood at the back of a packed service. After kind words from his family, a montage of photos was shown, finishing with a video of Chris riding off into the sunset on his beloved 1930 Indian 101 Scout. Here is a similar photo.



European Meet

Next time we shall again be back at Raalte for the Ascension Day holiday, **this time 30/31 May 2025 and with the theme of Original Paint.** Please enter your bikes for judging by going through the AMCA Website. With just one opportunity a year it is hard to make Winners Circle so please bring those Junior and Senior award bikes back. We are an old school Chapter, with mostly older Harleys and Indians put in for judging, but we are an all-makes Club and we like to see any make of motorcycle 35 or more years old.

Last year we made no Period Modified awards, but every machine does not have to be in showroom condition, so please see what you might bring. I'm looking forward to another awesome gathering!

Indian Scout

I'm helping another Club member with a 1928 Indian 101 Scout restoration. Spoked bronze flywheels! Gear driven primary drive! UNF/UNC fixings! It's a change from the Harleys, and you can see from the picture that this will keep me out of trouble for a while, after eight months working on 'The Panhead Years'.



Movie Review

I missed 'The Bikeriders' at the cinema but was given the DVD as a Christmas present. It is based on a 1965-73 photo book with a story written around it. Tom Hardy plays the founder of a bike club in Chicago, with Austin Butler a bad boy biker married to Jodie Comer shortly after they meet. There is a brief bike racing scene, some biker groups parading through town, and Tom Hardy seems to be riding a nice '59 Panhead, but much of the film is Jodie Comer dictating her memories in a strange accent, and various conversations occurring in bars. Five out of ten from me.

What's In The Garage?

With few shows to report on, we start a new feature where members can show off new, old, interesting or unusual antique motorcycles in their collection. I get the first try with this pair of 1914 Douglases.



The more restored bike at the front is a Model U, with footboards and regular pulled-back handlebars, while the rear one is a Model V with the sportier straight handlebars and foot pegs, plus acetylene lighting. Both have the 348 cc fore-and-aft flat twin side valve engine, with outside flywheel, belt drive, Bosch magnetos, a two speed gearbox and no clutch. Oiling is with a spring loaded hand pump going through a needle valve to a sight glass and then directly to the crank pin. Both bikes have completed the Pioneer Run several times, and the shiny one the Irish Rally too.

Douglas started as a steel casting company, making the cylinders for Joseph Barter's Fée motorcycle in the first years of the 20th Century. When Barter's company went bust, Douglas took him and his ideas on and started their own production in 1907. A two speed gearbox in 1910 was a big hit, mechanical inlet valves in 1912, then a strengthened frame and abandonment of the bicycle pedals in 1914 meant the bikes were pushed or paddled then the valve lifter dropped to start the machine. You can see the valve lifter lever on the left handlebar of the front bike, with the magneto advance/retard lever on top. On the right bar are the controls for the two-cable Douglas-AMAC carburettor, one for the air and the other for the throttle, so there are no twist grip controls. A caliper brake is fitted at the front, with a wedge driven into the belt drive pulley at the rear, so anticipation when driving is of the essence.

Douglas was the second largest motorcycle manufacturer behind Triumph up to WW1, with 1914 being a good year with 7,000 built. Douglas started frame numbers at 100 and just kept going, with my bikes having numbers in the 16,000s. Engines were also numbered but do not match the frames exactly. The military took over war production and the bikes were much used for dispatch riding, being light for wading (75 kg/166 pounds), easy starting, and essentially vibrationless. They were surely an inspiration for the 1919-23 Harley Sport model, and frame numbers were up to 40,000 by 1918.

The bikes continued to be manufactured in peacetime, with 10,000 being sold in 1924 after a 1923 Senior Isle of Man TT win by Douglas. 1925 was the final year, now as a belt drive utility machine, with 78,000 examples sold over the model lifetime.

A Henderson in Moscow

Next time we have a story from Juris Ramba, our Country Ambassador for Latvia, about his adventures recovering a Henderson DeLuxe from a Moscow apartment. Stay tuned!

Winter Classics Show

Claudia Krause was at this show in Rüsselsheim Germany 26 January and sent some photos:



1930 Indian Scout 101
photo by owner Berthold Karpf, Germany

Verona Expo 24-26 January

Our Italian members Lucia Silva and Francesco Zordan were present and sent pictures from this show.



Swedish members were also there to admire the custom bikes:





2025 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.

2025 Special Italian Challenge

Pan American Highway In 2025 Patina Garage's crew, our members of Langhe Hills Italian Chapter and also other European friends, will start from Europe to run the longest American Highway on vintage motorcycles. (see our map).

The first stage will be from Prudhoe Bay in Alaska to Texas.

Very important: these guys have connected their challenge to raising funds for a pediatric hospital that cares for children suffering from terminal illnesses. VISAS - Assistenza ai Malati inguaribili. (Assistance to the incurably ill).

All the money raised will be for the hospital - try to be part of it !

We'll keep you updated.

Instagram: [#patinagarageitalyfrance](https://www.instagram.com/patinagarageitalyfrance)



2025 AMCA National Meets

Jan 31-Feb 01 Music City Chapter, Lebanon TN

Feb 27-Mar 01 Sunshine Meet, Daytona FL

Mar 22-23 Omaha Meet, Fremont NE

Apr 25-26 Perkiomen Chapter, Oley PA

May 30-31 European Chapter, Raalte NL

June 06-07 Viking Chapter, St. Paul MN

June 13-14 Fort Sutter Meet, Dixon CA

July 17-19 Wauseon Coalition, Wauseon OH

July 25-27 Yankee Meet, Greenfield MA

Aug 22-23 Australian Meet, Bulli NSW

Oct 03-04 Chesapeake Meet, Upperco MD

Oct 10-11 Southern National, Denton NC

2025 National Road Runs

Apr 22-24 Phoenix Road Runner Chapter, Sierra Vista AZ

May 20-22 Riveter Chapter, Berea KY

June 18-20 Oregon Trail Chapter, Cottage Grove OR

Sep 02-04 Roosevelt Chapter, Detroit Lakes MN

Sep 16-18 Blue Ridge Chapter, Maggie Valley NC

European 2025 Events

Austria

September 02-07 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com

Belgium

August 17 Oude Klepper Parade, De Haan

Croatia

June 12-15 European HOG Rally, Medulin
www.harley-davidson.com

Czech Republic

Denmark

May 29-31, Skagen Run, this time Skagen to Copenhagen, for pre-1935 bikes. Details from elleham07@gmail.com

Check. Aug tba Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying www.romomotorfestival.dk

Finland

January 11 Swap (Rompepäivä) in Jyväskylä 250km north from Helsinki. Mostly Japanese and Eastern Europe bike parts, but some vendors of vintage American and British. For 2026, second weekend in January.

Jan 31-Feb 02 in Helsinki: is said to be the largest motorcycle exhibition in Northern Europe. Some vintage bikes and choppers. More info in English <https://mp.messukeskus.com/?lang=en>

Apr 18-20 Helsinki American car show, with some custom, vintage and modified Harleys.

May 03-04 Classic Motor Show, Lahti, emphasis on vintage cars, but also some old bikes.

May 19. Walkka swap meet, mostly modern H-D and choppers, but some older stuff plus an evening party.

mid-July Flathead Rally, location and date to be confirmed

Late August is the "Pannuralli" meet for Panheads. 60+ km NW of Helsinki.

01 November. Walkka swap meet, mostly modern H-D and choppers, but some older stuff plus an evening party.

France

May 08-11 Euro Festival, Port Grimaud
www.harley-davidson.com

Beach racing pre-1947 cars and bikes in Ouistreham, Normandy. Next one is Sep 24-27 2025.
www.normandybeachrace.com

Germany

January 26 Winter Classic Bike, Ruesselsheim
www.diewerkhalle.de

Feb 27-Mar 02 Retro Classics Stuttgart
www.retroclassics.de

April 05-06 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de

April 25-27 Veterama Hockenheim www.veterama.de

May 03-04 Technorama Ulm www.technorama.de

April 25-28 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de

May 24-25 Technorama Hildesheim
www.technorama.de

June 19-22 Magic Bike Week, Ruedesheim
magic-bike-ruedesheim.com

June 22 Velodrom Racetrack Darmstadt, board track racing www.vollgas-rennspass.de to be confirmed

September 12-13 Hindenburg Dirt Track racing
hindenbergdirt-track.com

Oct 10-12 Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de Our AMCA stand is open to all members who want to sell their own parts.

Italy

Jan 24-26 Motor Bike Expo Verona, custom bikes
www.motorbikeexpo.it

May 09-11 ASI Vintage Vehicle Day www.asifed.it
to be confirmed

May 21-25 FIVA Italian Rally, Emilia Romana,
Tuscany www.fiva.org

Latvia

Sep 12-15 Kurland Rally. Details from Juris Rambe at
ramoto1992@gmail.com

Netherlands

May 30-31 AMCA European Meet – see you there
www.amca-europe.eu

June 06-08 Silent Gray Fellows International Meet,
Oosterhout. 21th meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Nov 02 Silent Gray Fellows swap meet, Chaam
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Norway

Feb 07-08 Enköping Market for Indian Parts
www.indianklubb.no

June 27-29 Kogsløpet 2025 (*this is the NVMC
Norwegian Vintage Motorcycle Club main event*)
Selbu Camping, arrangement hosts are Stjørdal Vete-
ran Motorsykkel Club. More info on the event;
www.nvmc.no/ekstra2/ekstra_00/

August 14-17 Indian Summer Rally, Hunderfossen
www.indianklubb.no (tbc)

Poland

Here are the proposed dates for Oldtime Club Poland
(OCP) events in 2025.

25-27 April 2025 season opening – Brzeg

15-18 May 2025 North East – Suwałki

04-08 June H-D Super Rally - Bydgoszcz
www.superrally.com

05-07 Sep 2025 Vintage Indian Days Rally

16-19, October 2025. End of the season Bieszczady
Mountains

Spain

January 24-26: 17th edition of Jabalinera; Location:
Noja, "Cantabria"; www.mcpiston.com

May 23-25: 3rd Centenary Rally for cars and
motorcycles up to 1925; Location: Salou (Tarragona);
Contact: motos@feva.es

May 30 - June 1: 25th edition of Vuelta Cantabria;
Location: "Cantabria" www.mcpiston.com

June 8-14: *Road Run Spain; Small locally organized
Road Run with daily tours in Northern
Spain/Pyrenees for a limited number of participants.*;
Contact: amcaspain@gmail.com

September 13-14: 5th National Meeting of Antique
Motorcycles; Location: El Burgo de Osma, Soria;
Limited number of participants (organized by FEVA);
Contact: motos@feva.es

September 11-14 40th edition Big Twin Club Spain
Catellón; Location: Grau de Castellón;
bigtwinclub@gmail.com

September 21-28: 38th edition of Pistón Rally;
Location: Santander and surrounding areas; Website:
www.mcpiston.com

Sweden

To be announced.

Switzerland

March 01 Sam's OTM Swap meet Vianco Arena
Brunegg, AG <https://www.samsotm.ch/>

March 22 Auction Oldtimer Galerie Toffen
<https://www.oldtimergalerie.ch/de/5/20163/?oid=10129&lang=de>

April 05 FAM Oldtimer-Markt swap meet Pratteln

April 05 „Einstellfahrt“ FAM Linthgebiet Airfield Mollis (ride on airfield for adjustment of vehicles without registration - not for flying)
<https://linthgebiet.fam-amv.ch/index.php/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen-2-blog/05-04-2025-einstellfahrten-mollis>

May 02-04 Goudron Bike Days, Brig VS
<https://www.goudron.ch>

May 03-04 Retromecanika swap meet Palexpo Geneve
<https://retromecanika.ch/>

May 04 Love Ride Switzerland Dübendorf ZH
<https://loveride.ch>

May 18 The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (in different cities in Switzerland)
<https://www.gentlemansride.com>

May 30-31 Rock this town Solothurn (rock'n roll weekend)
<https://www.rockthistownsolothurn.com/>

May 30-June 01 Swiss Classic World Luzern
<https://www.swissclassicworld.ch>

May 31 Swiss Classic World Rallye Luzern
<https://rallye.swissclassicworld.ch/details>

June 13-15 Motor Classics Lenzerheide
<https://www.lenzerheidemotorclassics.ch>

June 13-15 Harley Davidson Mountain 4StarWeekend Arosa
<https://www.waldhotel.ch/de/harley-davidson-mountain-weekend>

June 29 Oldtimertreff Schwaegalp
<https://www.oldtimertreff-schwaegalp.ch/index.htm>

July 04-05 Hangar Rocking in St. Stephan
<https://www.hangarrockin.com>

July 12-13 Rally Tremola 2025
<https://motoepocaticino.ch/>

August 23-24 Toefftraeff The valley & motorworld Kemptthal
<https://www.toefftraeff.ch/>

August 23-24 Bergsprint Walzenhausen-Lachen
<https://www.bergsprint.ch/>

October 26 Oldtimermesse swap meet St. Gallen
<http://www.oldtimermesse-ch.com/>

November 01 Sam's OTM Swap meet Vianco Arena Brunegg, AG
<https://www.samsotm.ch/>

United Kingdom

April 25-27 Stafford classic bike show and auction
www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com

June 08 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 250 pre-1931 bikes
www.vmcc.net

Aug 01-04 International West Kent Run, 250 runners at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX
www.vmcc.net

September 05-07 Beaulieu International Autojumble/Netley Marsh motorcycle jumble
www.beaulieu.co.uk/weekend-events/international-autojumble/

Oct 05. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton.
www.sunbeam-mcc.co.uk/events/the-pioneer-run

Oct 10-12 Stafford classic bike show and auction
www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com

European Chapter Directors 2025

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davelind74@hotmail.com

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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

Finland. Fiskis Ekman, fiskis@kolumbus.fi

France. Olivier Blainville, o.blainville@free.fr

Italy. Claudia Krause, amca.europe@aol.de

Latvia. Juris Ramba, ramoto1992@gmail.com

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Bobbers. Paul Jung, 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

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

The next newsletter will probably be in March, 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

