



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
"Having fun with old motorcycles"

July 2022

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This month we report on three UK events held within ten days of each other. Our German and Italian Meets will be reported next time.

Banbury Run June 19

This is the flagship event of the UK Vintage Motorcycle Club, back after Covid and earlier moved from Banbury School to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon. There were over 400 pre-1931 motorcycle entrants on the 30-60 mile A, B and C routes, with 125 hard core riders making the timed runs which were observed at various checkpoints. At signing-on you are given the route instructions, then are sent off in groups of five each minute. The event was well marshalled, with vehicle recovery and clear instructions, plus a museum visit ticket included. After the run I walked around the car park full of finishers and took some pictures for our US readers. By 1920 the number of US motorcycle manufacturers was down to single figures, but it took until around 1935 and the Depression for UK bike makers to be significantly thinned down, so you will see numerous unfamiliar marques coming up.

Here is a 1921 AJS 900 cc machine, with a 1922 Rover and a 1926 350 Velocette behind:



If you like the overhead cam Velos, here are 1929 and 1930 KTT 350s:



And here are a 1930 500 cc Sunbeam and a 680 cc New Imperial:



The two-stroke Scotts from the 1920s have a distinctive look



It wasn't all British bikes, with a blue French Terrot and a red Indian 4 seen here:



And here are a 1930 Raleigh 500 and a 350 Levis from the same year:



Also seen were a 1927 Harley J and a 1930D, with Indian Powerplus and Scout models also present.

A rare beast was a 1926 HRD 500 from engineer Howard Davies, later of Vincent fame:



That's my 1929 Henderson in the background, and I learnt that a quarter ton bike on a 61 inch wheelbase and geared for 100 mph is going to spend a lot of time in second gear on English country lanes. However, it romped up Sunrising Hill, a steep gradient used for test riding early UK machines, and stormed back to Gaydon on the straight main road.

If you like wicker sidecars, here is a 1922 Ivy with a 1926 BSA behind:



This 1921 Raleigh had the looks of the earlier Douglas flat twin, but twice the engine capacity at 700 cc:



Humber was another early British manufacturer of bicycles, and later cars, with a 1914 350 cc V-twin shown here:



Not all finishers were so pristine, with this 1929 Norton 600 showing much original paint:



This 1920 ABC was a way of Sopwith using post WW1 aircraft engineering skills on motorcycles:



And this 1929 Zenith is a typical British machine fitted with the 750 cc JAP V-twin.



I spoke to VMCC Chair Mario Costa-Sa and machine examiner Ken German about adapting the AMCA points-based judging system for their Club, and they were clearly interested. Mario wants to bring the two Clubs closer together, and the VMCC had racked up several of their own machines available as loaners to AMCA members. Some of these are Banbury Run or Pioneer Run machines, so if you don't want the hassle of shipping your own bike across the Atlantic, take advantage of this opportunity to borrow a running classic motorcycle next year.

Race the Waves, Bridlington, 18/19 June

UK member Mark Gale was at this event on the North East Yorkshire coast, with many from the 2021 Normandy beach racing event also present.



Here is Mark on his VL bobber with a 1937 UL engine, and with his 1946 knuckle bobber also in use.



Mark says about 150 cars and bikes were there, with the bikes going in pairs down the eighth mile run started by flag girls. He managed about 20 runs, with good weather and a great atmosphere among the like-minded runners and spectators. That will be one to put in the diary for next year.

Adventure Bike Rider Festival 24/26 June

The VMCC asked me to organise the first judging at this event. It was held in the extensive grounds of Ragley Hall, a few miles west of Stratford-on-Avon. First thing on entry was to sign a three page disclaimer, where I had to promise I would not let my ego outstrip my talent, always good advice. I was comped a £120 entry and £20 van parking, but the event was sold out with 10,000 tickets and trail riding at extra cost, with thousands of bikes running all day. I was told this was the riding-est UK event, and Harley-Davidson, Triumph, Ducati, BMW, Royal Enfield and other manufacturers had stands with 15-20 bikes each and queues for demonstration rides. I'm guessing they took a lot of deposits. I learned that Harley and Triumph motorcycles are now assembled in Thailand, and Harley model year coincides with calendar year since two years ago. I also found out that not all early off-road bikes have engine numbers.

There was a main stage with tribute bands playing afternoon and evening, and much beer was consumed in the adjacent marquees. There were plenty of seminars, movies, food vendors, toilets and hot showers, and I congratulated organiser and ABR Magazine editor Alun Davies on his work. At the VMCC stand this 1922 Brough SS 80 was an obvious draw:



For the judging we had three categories of Adventure, Trail/Trial and Touring for machines over 25 years old, then a free-for-all in the Iconic category. Here is Ted Simon's 1974 Triumph T100 which arguably started the whole adventure bike movement with a 50,000 mile, four year, round the world trip and a subsequent book.



For sheer mileage, Ian Coates has put 250,000 miles round the world on his 1991 Honda Africa 750:



With top prize for Adventure bike going to a very original 1986 BMW Dakar, and top trail bike to a matching numbers 1973 Yamaha 360.

And new kids on the block Matt Bishop and Reece Gilkes took the prize with this 2017 Honda SH300L Scooter with home made sidecar, which ran 34,000 miles through 35 countries on another round-the-world trip.

I have not seen so many bikes being ridden, and this is surely an event for your diary next year.

Raalte Century Medallions

Not everyone collected theirs, and we have Indians from 1910, 1911, and 1912 that may be eligible. If one of these bikes was yours, and you have not previously received a Century Medallion for it, please send me your AMCA number and I'll put one aside for you.

Jerry Hatfield

I was sorry to hear of Jerry's death, he was a fine author and an honorary member of our Club. I have several of Jerry's books, including a tattered copy of Inside Harley Davidson with much underlining, notes, highlighting and pages falling out, but signed by Jerry when he stayed here a few years back. This was probably the first of the properly researched technical histories, as opposed to the many coffee table books available on Harleys, and was an inspiration to my early efforts.



For the other classes we aimed for factory original, and this 1983 350 cc V-Twin Moto Morini did well:

AMCA Europe Accounts

You probably know that our Chapter is set up as a UK limited company, and I recently filed our accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022. These showed assets of £1,306, down from £3,447 the previous year as we geared up for our May Raalte Meet. We don't aim to make a profit, but like to break even with a reserve kept in case of a washed-out weekend. Thanks to all who helped by donating for goody bags or buying Tee-shirts at Raalte.

2022 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.

2022 AMCA National Meets

February 25-26, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE
March 3-5, Sunshine Meet, New Smyrna Beach, FL
April 22-23, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA
May 27-28, European Meet, Raalte, NL
*June 03-05, Empire Chapter, Trumansburg, NY
June 10-11, Viking Chapter, St Paul, MN
June 17-18, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA
June 24-25, Colonial Chapter, Harmony, NJ
July 15-17, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH
July 30-31, Yankee Chapter, Greenfield, MA
August 27-28, Australian Chapter, Sydney, AUS
October 01-02, Chesapeake Chapter, Upperco, MD
October 14-16, Southern National, Denton, NC

2022 AMCA National Road Runs

September 06-08 Driftless Chapter, La Crosse, WI
September 14-16 Music City Chapter, Dickson, TN
September 19-21 Evergreen Chapter, Colville, WA
September 26-28 Fort Sutter Chapter, Tahoe, CA

European 2022 Events

Austria

September 06-11 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com

Belgium

May 07. Tour for pre-1966 American Motorcycles.
Commijn 43A , B-1547 Bever 1-5 pm
acme.pajol@gmail.com

Denmark

May 26-28, Skagen Run, this time Copenhagen to Skagen, for pre-1935 bikes. Details from michael_pedersen76@hotmail.com
July 22-24 34th Windmill Rally, Hobro for pre-1941 bikes. www.windmillrally.eu

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

Finland

April 16 Oldtimer Swapmeet, Tampere, about 180 km from Helsinki

France

Linkert Attacks – *cancelled for 2022**

24-26 September, beach racing pre-1947 cars and bikes in Ouistreham, Normandy*
www.normandybeachrace.com moved to 2023

Croatia/Slovenia/Italy

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

Germany

March 12/13 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de

April 23/24 Technorama Ulm www.technorama.de

April 21-24 May Retro Classics Stuttgart
www.retro-classics.de

April 29-May 01 Veterama Hockenheim
www.veterama.de

May 21/22 Technorama Hildesheim
www.technorama.de

June 10-12 Pre-1966 Meet Thuringia
amca.europe@aol.de

June 18 Velodrom Racetrack Darmstadt, board track
racing www.vollgas-rennspess.de

Oct 07-09 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

Italy

March 11, Harley and Snow Hillclimb, VALS, Ski
Resort Gitschberg Jochtal
www.harley.bz.it/de/harley-snow

May 06-08 ASI Motorcycle Meet, Parma

June 24-26 Oil Leakers Party, Maria delle Surie.
Amca.europe@aol.de

Jan 26-29 2023 Motor Bike Expo Verona, custom
bikes www.motorbikeexpo.it

Netherlands

June 10-12 Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Oosterhout.
17th meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

August. No Old Timers Club International Rally this
year.*

July 29-31 International Indian Rally, Borculo.
[https://www.indian.nl/evenement-registratie/?
action=evrplusegister&event_id=37](https://www.indian.nl/evenement-registratie/?action=evrplusegister&event_id=37)

Norway

Poland

All events pending

Romania

July 14-18 FIVA World Motorcycle Rally, Bucharest
<https://retromobil.ro/fiva-moto-2022>

Slovenia

June 10-13, HOG International Rally, Portoroz
[Harley-Davidson HOG Rally, Portoroz, Slovenia,
2022 | Tour1](http://www.harley-davidson-hog-rally-portoroz-slovenia-2022-tour1)

Sweden

June 1-5 Harley Superrally, Oland. www.superrally.se

Switzerland

April 23/24 Swiss Historic Vehicle Days
<https://shvf.ch/de/>

April 29 – 01 May Goudron Bike Days
<https://www.goudron.ch>

May 01 GP Mutschellen www.gpmutschellen.ch

May 21/22 Arbon Classics www.arbon-classics.ch

May 27-29 Swiss Classic World
<https://www.swissclassicworld.ch>

June 10–12 Motor Classics Lenzerheide
www.lenzerheide-motorclassics.ch

June 10-12 Harley Davidson Mountain 4StarWeekend
Arosa <https://www.waldhotel.ch/de/harley-davidson-mountain-weekend>

June 17–19 Kerenzerberg Race Mollis
www.kerenzerbergrennen.ch

July 01/02 Hangar Rocking in St. Stephan
www.hangarroekin.com

August 06 Klausenmemorial
<https://www.diavolomotorclassic.ch>

United Kingdom

April 23-24 Stafford classic bike show and auction
www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com

June 19 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 450 pre-1931 bikes
www.vmcc.net

July 16-17 Festival of 1000 bikes, Mallory Park
www.vmcc.net

Aug 04-08 International West Kent Run, 310 runners
at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX www.vmcc.net

September 10-11 Beaulieu International
Autojumble/Netley Marsh motorcycle jumble

Oct 09. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom
Downs to Brighton.

Oct 15-16 Stafford classic bike show and auction
www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com

European Chapter Directors 2022

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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 September, 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

