



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This time I will expound at some length about our fabulous European Meet at Raalte, Netherlands, where our theme was 'Export Green'. We close with compliance to the recent European data protection laws.

Raalte International Meet

I thought it couldn't be better than last year, but it was. We had two days of clear blue skies, with almost constant sunshine and temperatures around 27 centigrade, say low eighties fahrenheit. Putting on sunblock before breakfast in Northern Europe in May is not something I am used to. It was standard operating procedure for me, an early start Thursday 24 May, drive to the Dover ferry, then about 500 km north and east from Calais through France, Belgium and Holland to Raalte (near Zwolle) and the American Motorcycle Museum. If you have not been there yet, the museum sits in the middle of a large block-paved area with a hotel to the left and a restaurant to the right. There is grass in front for parking, and vendor spots round the border. I arrived about 3.30 in the afternoon, just as our Dutch directors and members were finishing set-up. I unloaded my van and cranked up the two bikes – my vanity project 1929 Henderson KJ Streamline entered as Period Modified, and a 1936 Police Harley VL hoping for a Senior judging award.

After that it was time to meet and talk to friends old and new, tell stories over a meal, and rest up for the onslaught of old bikes that was to come. At 0700 Friday morning it was breakfast, then straight out to see bikes arriving and vendors setting up. We have some trailer queen bikes in Europe, but many old machines are ridden in to the Meet as well.

The site filled up during the day, the hotel served hot dogs and cold beer, and by the afternoon the place was rammed with old bikes and people having fun. At 17.30, I spent an hour giving my 35 minute talk on Art Deco Harleys to a packed house and rapturous applause (I made up that last bit, but people *were* taking pictures of the slides on their mobile phones). I'll try to have it available on our Website, but a few highlights stand out. First, Europeans were heavily involved in the development of the US motorcycle industry. William Harley was born to English parents, two of the

Davidsons were born in Scotland, Oscar Hedstrom was Swedish, and Ignaz Schwinn born in Germany.

Next, I had underestimated Henry Ford. By 1920 a Model T was the same price as a Harley Big Twin sidecar outfit, and by the late 1920s the car was the same price as a solo bike, so that the utility value of the bike had been eroded and 140 US cars were built in the 1929-40 period for every motorcycle!

Finally, even though Harley and Indian finished World War 1 and started World War 2 with olive/export green motorcycles, there were some outrageous paint schemes in the 1930s that we would now call Art Deco. A show of hands showed about 10% thought the first Art Deco Harley was the 1932 swirl tank option, 40% thought it was the 1933 'five colour options' models, and 50% thought it was the 1934 models with the airflow fenders and faired-in taillight.

I came out of the talk to find these bikes displayed outside:



As I've said before, our members are serious. That is 20+ bikes, mostly Harleys from the 1920s and 1930s, mostly first paint and in export green – wow. Thanks to all who brought a bike.

Then it was time to eat, drink and talk with friends until the small hours... But 0700 breakfast for the judges on Saturday morning and straight out onto the judging field, this time set up in the hotel courtyard. Peter Reeves was in charge, and 17 bikes arrived out of the two pre-registered, hmm. Here is an early line up:



That's a 1974 Honda XL100, 1912 Emblem, 1966 Sportster XLCH and 1912 Triumph, all original paint, at the front - so we are not completely obsessed with Harleys and Indians from the 1920s and 1930s. Thanks to our judges Fiskis Ekman, Robert Galezki, Jaap Hoekstra, Paul Jung, Dave van der Linden, Norbert Mattis, Kris Pedryc, Peter Reeves, Steve Slocombe, Frank Souren, Kevin Waters, Jan van der Werff and Johan Wijers for their help. If I have missed anyone, please let me know before we submit our Meet Report to the AMCA magazine.

I judged until 14.30, then came out to see a heaving throng of people having some serious fun with old motorcycles. We held our annual meeting at 17.30 to leave the evening free for further enjoyment. I started by thanking long time AMCA member Max Middelbosch for the use of the site once again. Olivier Blainville was thanked for the idea of Export Green as our theme. We had free entrance for our spectacular show, unusual for Europe, but Claudia Krause, Tina Reeves and Petra van der Werff did an excellent job of persuading visitors to donate for our goody bag. Tina also did the paperwork for our judging. W&W Cycles and Paul Jung were thanked for sponsoring two previous Meets without even getting their name on the flyer – we'll do better next time. I then said goodbye to Sante Mazza, one time President of the Italian Chapter, who died early in April from a heart attack. He and Claudia Ganzarola showed Keith Kizer and me a good time at their Meet last September, and we shall remember that fondly.

The business of the Annual Chapter Meeting was completed swiftly. I reported 285 European AMCA members in 20 countries, the existing Directors were elected by acclamation for another one year term, the next Meet will be at the same place, same weekend, 24/25 May 2019, and there was no further business. The theme next year will be Four Cylinder bikes, thanks to

Pete Reeves, and we have the ambitious plan to line up ten ACE motorcycles from the 1920s – get searching!

I always enjoy seeing people from different countries sharing 'the fellowship of a common interest', and this year we saw Doug Wothke from the USA on another epic trip, this time on a Sportster, with visitors from Australia and Thailand also seen. Among the Europeans I also counted visitors from the Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Czechia, Austria, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Portugal.

For our Chapter judging awards, Nick Roud took oldest bike with the 1912 Triumph:



The bike belonged to his grandfather, was sold, spent 50 years in the window of a Triumph shop, then was recently bought back at auction after the death of the owner. It also took a Century Medallion, and a Junior First judging award with 95 points as unrestored.

Period Modified went to Paul Rutter with the 1935 Indian Four:



Tasty! Best restored went to Robert Galezki for the 1953 Indian Chief, one of the last few hundred made by the company:



took a well earned second longest distance award, with 670 km on his 1939 Harley.

For the National Judging Awards, two bikes took Junior Seconds, eight made Junior First, five progressed to Senior, and Fiskis Ekman took our only Winners Circle award this year with his 1930 Harley BAF twin port, export only, 350 cc overhead valve Peashooter:



A well qualified Indian judging team could find only 'shiny spokes' after 40 minutes beating their heads against this bike. Most Unique went to Olivier Blainville for the 1937 Harley Knucklehead in original paint and with just 11,000 km on the odometer – awesome!



We then drew the raffle prizes – thanks to Peter Kroon for organising it and selling the tickets – then retired to the restaurants and gardens for some serious yarning. In the 'golden hour' before dark, I took about 80 pictures for our magazine of the three stunning original paint knucks:



Then came our longest distance awards, which Jan van der Werff had cleverly redesigned so they would fold up and fit in saddlebags for the trip home. First went to Florian Spaeth, who had driven in 850 km on his 1952 Harley Panhead from south of Munich in Germany and close to the Austrian border. Villy Thorup from Denmark

That's Norbert Mattis on the left on his '37, Pete Reeves in the middle on his '36, and Olivier Blainville on the right on his '37. And for our American friends, no, the bikes are not for sale.

The fun was not yet over. Brett Wright had brought his 1954 Indian Woodsman, a re-badged 500 cc Royal Enfield, over from England:



That night, Rob van Geffen and Frank Souren asked me who was the owner, and I happened to be standing next to Brett and introduced them. Our Dutch members had never seen one, and it was clear from their questions that they had spent half an hour on their hands and knees going over the bike in detail. Such interest, enthusiasm, and new friends is why we join the AMCA.

Sunday morning it was breakfast, loading up, farewells, a long trip home for many, memories of a great Meet, and thinking ahead to next time. Come and join us!

AMCA Europe and GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulations came into force on 25 May 2018. These improve the protection of personal data for all European citizens, and have fines of up to 20 million euros for non-compliance. This is aimed at large US companies harvesting our personal data, but small companies and even Clubs have to comply. I have written to the AMCA Chief Executive, and to Cornerstone Registration who run the membership database, and they are checking that the National is in compliance. Our Chapter is set up as a UK company, and I hold Email addresses of our European members so I can send them our newsletters.

There are no member personal addresses on my computer, no credit card details, telephone calls are not recorded, and we do not sell on personal details. Any hard copy records are stored securely and then destroyed after retention for legal purposes.

Informed consent is required to receive Emails, and we already have that through Cornerstone when members say it is OK to receive Emails as they join the National. All European Chapter members belong to the National AMCA, so there are no gaps here. For new members recruited at our Meets, I shall double check with them before adding their names to my newsletter circulation list. If anyone thinks they have not given informed consent to receive this newsletter, please

contact me to give that consent or to have your name removed. This may all sound a little picky, but the EU legislation is written broadly, potential fines are massive, and I want to make sure that we as AMCA Europe are clearly in compliance.

2018 AMCA National Meets

February 23-24, Omaha Chapter, Fremont, NE

March 09-10, Sunshine Meet, New Smyrna Beach, FL

April 27-28, Perkiomen Chapter, Oley, PA

May 18-20 Southern Meet, Denton, NC

May 25-26 European Meet, Raalte, NL

June 15-16, Viking Chapter, St. Paul, MN

June 15-16, Fort Sutter Chapter, Dixon, CA

July 20-22, Wauseon Meet, Wauseon, OH

August 03-04, Yankee Chapter, Terryville, CT

August 24-26, Australian Chapter, Sydney, AUS

September 28-29, Chesapeake, Jefferson, PA

2018 AMCA National Road Runs

March 05-07, Sunshine, DeLand, FL

June 10-13, Hudson Valley, Round Top, NY

July 26-28, Oregon Trail, Cottage Grove, OR

September 04-06, Driftless, Onalaska, WI

September 12-14, Black Hills, Deadwood, SD

Other 2018 Events

Finland

Jan 6 Jyväskylä swap meet

Germany

Jan 21 Winter Classic Bike Show, Im Alten Opel-Werk, 65428 Rüsselheim

Jan 26-28 Motorrad Bodensee www.motorradweltbodensee.de

Mar 22-25 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de

Apr 06-08, Veterama, Hockenheim www.veterama.de

Sep 08, Board Track racing at Bielefeld. Contact motoholic@web.de

Oct 12-14, Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de.

Hungary

June 21-24 FIVA World Motorcycle Run, Budapest www.mavamsz.hu

Italy

Jan 18-21 Motorbike Expo Verona www.motorbikeexpo.it

Mar 09-11 Harley and Snow Hillclimb, Ridnaun www.harley.bz.it/de/harley-snow

May 11-13 ASI Moto Show, Parma race track www.fiva.org www.asifed.it

Sep 08 Roll'n Flat Beach Race, Caorle www.venicebeachrace.com

Latvia

July 12-15, Kurland Rally. A 60 bike limit this year, so book early at www.kurlandround.lv.

Netherlands

Feb 18. Swap Meet, Hengelo, www.alemite-motoren.nl

June 8-10, Silent Gray Fellows Meet, Ulicoten. 15th meet for pre-1966 American bikes, www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Aug 12-14, Old Timers Run, Den Haag. Pre-1966 American bikes for the 52st time. www.hdctheoldtimers.nl

Sep 07-09, Alemite Run, Beuningen. www.alemite-motoren.nl.

Sweden

Jan 27 Eskiltuna swap meet, Harleys/bobbers 1940s up

Feb 10 Enköping Indianmarknaden. Indian/early Harley

Switzerland

Feb 22-25 Swiss Moto/Custom Zürich www.swiss-moto.ch

May 26-27 Swiss Classic World, Luzern www.swissclassicworld.ch

June 23-24 Oldtimermesse, Uster

Aug 26 Gran Prix Suisse Berne Memorial, Bern

Oct 28 Oldtimermesse, St. Gallen

United Kingdom

March 18. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton.

June 17 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 600 pre-1931 bikes

Oct 15-16. Stafford show and auction

European Chapter Directors 2018/19

Steve Slocombe (UK)*, President, amcaeuropa@aol.com 57 Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT19 6PU, England. +44.1303.256266.

Vice President, Chris Bastiaansen*, (Belgium) chrisbastiaansen@hotmail.com

Martin van Kuijk, Treasurer, amcaeuropa@gmail.com

Peter Reeves, Assistant Chief Judge, peter.reeves@virgin.net

Jan van der Werff*, (Netherlands) Director, jan.vander.werff@hetnet.nl

Paul Jung, Director, pjung@wwag.com

Claudia Krause* (Germany) Director, amcaeuropa@aol.de

Country Ambassadors

In addition to those Directors marked with asterisks (*) above, we also have the following country ambassadors:

Denmark. Michael Pedersen, michael_pedersen76@hotmail.com.

Finland. Fiskis Ekman, fiskis@kolumbus.fi

France. Stuart Graham, harleyman3@wanadoo.fr

Latvia. Juris Ramba, ramoto1992@gmail.com

Spain. Enrique Castells, e_castells@yahoo.es

Sweden. Stefan Olovsson, stefan.indian@telia.com

Switzerland. Sandra Froehlich, sandra@mcsands.ch

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 November, so please keep sending me articles and photos on bike related items.

Wishing you safe and happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter

