

March 2018

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

Spring has finally sprung, and we are looking forwards to our May International Meet in Raalte, about which there is more later, but first we have brief reports on the Florida meets earlier in the month and the UK Pioneer Run.

Florida Meets

Pete Reeves and Geoff Skilton provided a terse report on the Florida Meets this year. Pete says they visited both the AMCA and the Eustis Meets, didn't buy anything, and didn't take any photographs. Weather was 'average'. Then off to Amelia Island for the car auctions, with nothing bought this time, then the big J Wood auction where Geoff bought a BSA Gold Star project and Pete bid on a Triumph Hurricane. That's it from our experienced travellers...

Local Meet

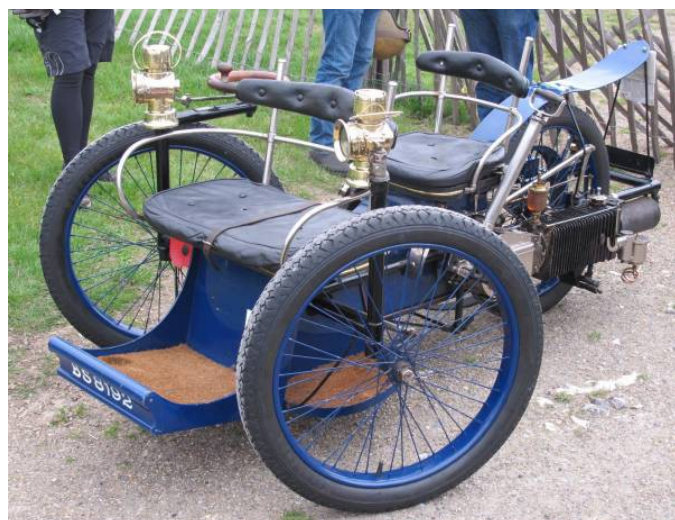
On Saturday 17 March I drove about 30 miles to a local VMCC Meet (the British old bike club) and took an outside stand in order to hand out flyers for our own AMCA Meet. After a couple of hours standing in a snowstorm, this was the view of the stand next door:



The parts were covered in snow, a blizzard was blowing into my van, and all my flyers were getting soggy. I crept back home with the gritter trucks and thought you need to be a little crazy to get into old motorcycles.

UK Pioneer Run

Next day, Sunday 18 March, was the Pioneer Run of 350 pre-1915 motorcycles from London to Brighton. I was up at 05.30 to drive to the start, only to hear warnings that there was danger to life in going out on the roads that day. As I was a spectator rather than an entrant, I decided discretion was the better part of valour and stayed in. I found out that the start at Epsom racecourse was snowed in, so about 100 brave souls on veteran belt drive machines started at the Pease Pottage lunch stop, about half way, and managed to make it safely to the finish. What was I saying about craziness? Here are couple of pictures from the 2017 run that I didn't use last time.



These 1897 French Leon Bollee three wheelers with the single cylinder horizontal hit-and-miss engine are true pioneer motorcycles.

And who doesn't like a 1914 Royal Enfield Vee twin with a wicker sidecar?



European Chapter International Meet

Yes, time is racing by, so let us all get ready for our own Meet at Raalte, Netherlands, on Friday and Saturday 25/26 May. We have an Export Green theme, and I can exclusively reveal that the National have done us proud and provided meet badges in a lovely dark green colour. We are expecting to see the two surviving export green Harley knuckleheads, the 1936 that we believe won the International Six Days Trial that year, and the 1937 that was the last American bike sold in Austria before WW2. These two original paint bikes have never been seen together before, so come and feast your eyes on this unrepeatable exhibition!

Details are on our Website at www.amca-europe.eu and you can be sure of a warm welcome. The on-site hotel is already full, but there are other hotels in town, and camping facilities not far away.

To our UK members, we had a very modest attendance last year, and Brexit may mean we need passports and border formalities next year, so please make the effort to soak yourself in American bikes and the company of like minded individuals early in the show season.

For our American friends, this is the time for that bucket list trip to visit the British Royal Wedding the weekend before, then come on to Raalte to bug out at those original paint export knuckles. I'm hoping we have a cover picture for the AMCA magazine, plus an interesting article, plus some great photos for the 2019 AMCA Calendar, so come along and be part of the event.

If you want to put a bike in for **judging**, there is still time to enter it on the main AMCA Website for \$10, but paying 20 euros on the day as a late entry is not a problem. If it is not a Harley or an Indian, then please let Pete Reeves know so that we can find qualified judges to give your bike the attention it deserves.

We shall be having a **raffle** again, to contribute to the cost of putting on this event, so please bring along unwanted parts, accessories, souvenirs etc to donate to our Chapter.

Once again we shall be having free entry, but again all visitors will be encouraged to donate for a **goody bag**, which will be even more full of good stuff than last time.

There is the American Motorcycle Museum on site, two restaurants, refreshments from the hotel, live music, a tented area even though I have been told the weather will be excellent, a ride out, a talk on older bikes, trade stands with practically 100% US bike parts, the chance to join judging teams with some real experts, and of course our **annual Chapter Meeting** at 17.30 on Friday. Agenda will be President's Report, election of officers, date of next meeting, and any other business. All our existing Directors have said they are prepared to serve another one year term, but we are always looking for fresh talent, so please let me know if you would like to help the European Chapter in some way. The Directors will arrive on Thursday to help set up, so I hope to see you there for another great event!

Tech Tip

Vice President Chris Bastiaansen gave me this great tip in a recent telephone call. If your four cylinder engine is tight after rebuild, slacken the engine mounting bolts and see if it get looser. If it does, you need to adjust the mounting bolt shims into the frame.

Country Ambassadors

The National is still looking for volunteers from Poland and the Czech republic, so please let me know if you would like to help.

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.motorradwelt-bodensee.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

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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 June, 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



Country Ambassadors

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

Denmark. Michael Pedersen,
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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.