



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

"Having fun with old motorcycles"

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

Dear All, this time we take the temperature of the antique motorcycle market with the big Mecum auction results from Las Vegas, report on an Italian and German show, check out my rustoration story on the Ariel Square Four, add another on a 1941 WR, then report on the UK Pioneer and Pioneer Plus runs for pre-1915 and pre-1930 motorcycles.

Mecum Las Vegas Auction

The big January 27-31 auction is useful for discovering the state of the motorcycle market. Prices include buyers premium and you can say a Euro is \$1.15.

I made it 1782 bikes over the auction block in five days, with about 10% unsold, or 'the bid goes on'. Most of the Indian Chiefs went around \$25k, with most of the later Harley knuckles under \$50k. A 2003 Arlen Ness custom went for \$16.5k and the undocumented board trackers sold for about what they cost to build. A 1944E was unsold at \$52k, a 45EL was unsold at \$35k and a 46EL unsold at \$35k, so it looks like the buyers are become more selective or taking good advice. The 1934 Harley CAC racer made \$203k but the 1934 Crocker speedway was unsold at \$115k. All the Vincents sold for decent money and the one 1938 Brough SS-80 went for \$66k. A 1924 Henderson 4 was unsold at \$55k and the one Henderson KJ sold for \$79k. There were five Captain America replicas. Two Excelsior Super-X bikes went for \$52k and \$60k. Two MV Augustas were unsold. Most of the Triumphs went \$7-9k and there were several Ariel Square 4s under \$10k. Two Honda CBX models made \$15k and \$26k. The 1914 Jefferson fetched \$66k but the 1907 Curtiss was unsold at \$150k. Many of the small Hondas made good money. Go figure. With a five day auction it depends who is in the room and for sure there were some bargains to be had. Download the results from

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mecum.com and spend half a day playing 'might have been' like I did. My view is that prices are well down from the million dollar 'every year knucklehead' sale, but up from what looks like a low point last year. Maybe this is the new normal, where good bikes sell to informed buyers for sensible money.

Motorbike Expo Italy 23-25 January 2026

This photo shows our member Luca Geron from Italy on a motorcycle that was special built from Samuele Reali at Abnormalcycles.



The base is a M.A.G. engine (Motosacoche Acacia Genève) C 2 from 1914 of 500 cc. M.A.G. motorcycles were once produced in Geneva as sporty touring machines and were known for high-quality

This bike, however, is very special. It is completely handmade and Samuele Reali used only original components, but taken from different motorcycles.

A unique treasure. Thank you Luca and Samuele for providing the picture and the information.

Neander Show to 8 February 2026

Claudia Krause reports:

These photos show parts of an Ernst Neumann Neander exhibition in Bad Homburg, Germany. Neander is known for pressed steel frames with lightness, stability, and a futuristic design. The frames were used by several companies and have differing engines. Thanks to Thomas Trapp for helping the exhibition show these treasures.



A Rustoration Story

You may remember the 1952 Ariel Square Four I picked up from an estate sale last July, still carrying a December 1963 tax disc. On 21st January it fired up for the first time in 62 years, sounding sweet and with good oil pressure. For those interested in the details and the costs, here's what I did. First I took the bike apart, leaving the engine complete but cleaning it up and scraping off lots of jointing compound. Everything was cleaned with degreaser, detergent and

high pressure water, then sprayed with WD 40. Chromed rims and exhaust were cleaned with a stainless pan scrub and WD 40. Forks were straightened, new headstock bearings, brakes relined, new tyres and tubes, new rear chain, new rear hub bearing. Gearbox was stripped and rebuilt with fresh oil/grease mixture.



I bought a new left silencer, battery carrier and side stand from specialists Draganfly, plus tank mounts, gaskets and fixings for £633, say \$860. Other expenditure came to £1195 (\$1625), mostly tyres and tubes, paintwork, forks, brakes, bearings plus the usual spark plugs, battery, acid, taillight and small stuff. I reckon there are 64 man-hours in there, so probably underwater as a commercial project but great fun to get another historic old bike back on the road. There is still wiring and fettling to do, but I hope to be riding the bike this season.

If you have recent, or older, restoration stories, please let me have a few words and pictures for our armchair readers. A great story follows from The Netherlands.

Restoration Report 1941 Harley-Davidson WR from Steven Gerrits

My father acquired this 1941 Harley-Davidson as a collection of parts in the mid 1980s, together with a number of additional H-D components from the United States. At the time, it was not clear what he exactly had, and the initial idea for me a few decades later was simply to build a straightforward rider.

As work progressed, it became apparent that the parts did not belong to a standard 750cc W-model, but to a

WR racing machine. Realizing this, I decided to change direction and approach the project as a careful restoration, with the aim of bringing the motorcycle back as close as possible to its original factory configuration. The restoration developed into a long-term project. Much of the effort went into researching correct details, such as casting numbers, finishes, and year-specific components. Books, period photographs, and discussions with knowledgeable people within the AMCA community were an important help in this process.



Where possible, original parts were retained and restored. Some components required considerable time to locate, particularly WR-specific items. Over the years, a number of correct parts were found, including proper cylinders and a suitable set of cylinder heads.

Attention was given to original finishes and assembly details, such as cadmium plating, parkerizing, and correct hardware. During the process it also became clear that the motorcycle had originally been finished in Harley-Davidson Brilliant Black, which was chosen for the final paintwork.

The project took many years to complete, but the intention throughout has been to present the motorcycle in a manner that reflects how it would have left the factory in 1941.

Local Autojumble 21 March 26

This Saturday dawned sunny and bright and there was another great turnout at this VMCC annual autojumble.



Many section members rode in, including this tasty Scott water-cooled two-stroke:



Money was raised for the Kent Air Ambulance and I can report that the bacon rolls were excellent. I started on a garage clear-out and was able to sell a 1952 BSA Bantam that I had earlier thought would be a restoration project for a grandson.

UK Pioneer/Plus Run 22 March 2026

The UK Sunbeam Club organised the 86th Pioneer Run for pre-1915 motorcycles, starting at Epsom racecourse at 0800, closely followed by the second Pioneer Plus Run for 1915-30 bikes starting at 0900 and running over the same route.

For your Editor on the big Henderson, many thanks to Simon Clark for stepping in at short notice to drive the back-up van. When we left early in the morning from the semi-tropical paradise that is Folkestone it was seven degrees Celsius, but by the time we arrived at Epsom for the start it was three degrees. With a US gallon of straight 50 weight oil the bike was reluctant to kick over, but friendly pushers got it bump started. On the other side of Reigate I opened it up and the throttle jammed, so some Motordrome work with the magneto cutout button was required for a mile or two until I found a safe space to pull up. Removing and replacing the carburetor got me to Brighton, but in retrospect maybe it was icing up. While I was stopped, three young ladies in jogging outfits stopped to take selfies on the bike, and again I regret telling you about it with no accompanying photograph.

With 207 bikes entered, it was a packed scene at Brighton Airport:



This claims to be the first commercial airport in Britain, dating from 1910, with that great 1936 Art Deco terminal building you can see in the background. Here I am leaving on the 1929 Henderson:



And here is my 1914 Douglas loaned to a first time rider:



There were a few American bikes and AMCA riders, with this 1912 Reading Standard taking a prize:



This London to Brighton run on an old motorcycle is a classic bucket list event and you should be able to organise a loaner bike – or bring your own – for the next running. Highly recommended.

PS. That big Henderson is getting heavier with each birthday. Let me know if you'd like to take it on.

Website Address Change

Don't forget that we have changed www.amca-europe.eu to www.amca-europe.com

Company Change

Now that our President and most of our Directors are Dutch, we have closed AMCA (Europe) Ltd in Great Britain and replaced it with Antique Motorcycle Club of America (Europe Chapter) registered in the Netherlands.

Raalte Meet 15/16 May

Don't forget our European National Meet is two weeks earlier than last time, as we follow the Ascension Day holiday.

Please dig out those Art Deco classics and we can look forward to another great time.

Harley History Book

That is a nice review of my 1915-65 Harley History book in the latest AMCA magazine. You can buy hardback copies from Amazon, or spiral bound ones from W&W Cycles or VL Heaven. I'll be bringing copies for signing to Raalte.

2026 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.

2026 AMCA National Meets

Feb 26-28 Sunshine Meet, Daytona FL
Mar 21-22 Omaha Meet, Fremont NE
Apr 24-25 Perkiomen Chapter, Oley PA
May 15-16 European Chapter, Raalte NL
June 12-13 Viking Chapter, St. Paul MN
June 19-20 Fort Sutter Meet, Dixon CA
July 16-18 Wauseon Coalition, Wauseon OH
July 24-25 Yankee Meet, Greenfield MA
Aug 28-29 Australian Meet, Bulli NSW
Oct 02-03 Chesapeake Meet, Upperco MD
Oct 09-10 Southern National, Denton NC

2026 National Road Runs

Mar 31-Apr 02, Cherokee Chapter, Kerrville TX
Sep 08-10 Black Hills Chapter, Deadwood SD
Sep 15-17 Music City Chapter, Dickson TN
Sep 21-22 Fort Sutter Chapter, Jackson CA

European 2026 Events

Austria

September 08-13 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com

Belgium

August 16 Oude Klepper Parade, De Haan
www.oudeklepperparade.be

Croatia

Czech Republic

Denmark

May 14-16, Skagen/Copenhagen Run, for pre-1935 bikes. Details from elleham07@gmail.com or www.dvm.dk

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

Finland

January 10. Swap (Rompepäivä) in Jyväskylä 250km north from Helsinki. Mostly Japanese and Eastern Europe bike parts, but some vendors of vintage American and British.

January 30-31. motorcycle exhibition in Helsinki is said to be the largest in Northern Europe. Some vintage bikes and choppers on club stands. More info in English at <https://mp.messukeskus.com/?lang=en>

Apr 3.-4. Helsinki American car show, with some custom, vintage and modified Harleys.

May 2-3. Classic Motor Show, Lahti, emphasis on vintage cars, but also some old bikes.

May 2. Walkka swap meet 1, mostly modern H-D and choppers, but some older stuff plus an evening party.
July 10.-12. Flathead Rally, Inkoo 50 km west of Helsinki.

Mid-August Pannuralli for Panheads, Loppi 60 km north of Helsinki.

October 30. Walkka swap meet 2, mostly modern H-D and choppers, but some older stuff plus an evening party.

Preliminary date November #3 Antique American Motorcycle Swap Meet. Small but intimate meeting for purists.

France

June 22-25, Small locally organized Road Run, Parc Du Morvan, Bourgogne, France by Langhe Hills Chapter, Italy. (limited number of participants) Participation fee and hotel booking to be paid in advance.

For more info contact Claudia Krause, amca.europe@aol.com or WhatsApp +491712668446

Germany

Jan 11, 2026 Winter Classic Bike, Ruesselsheim, Werkhalle www.diewerkhalle.de

20/21 March. Technorama Kassel
www.technorama.de

Apr 24 - 26, 2026 Veterama Hockenheim
www.veterama.de

2/3 May. Technorama Ulm
www.technorama.de

30/31 May Technorama Hildesheim
www.technorama.de

Jun 4 - 7, 2026 Magic Bike Ruedesheim
www.magic-bike-ruedesheim.com

Aug 2026 Velodrom Darmstadt *
has been cancelled due to unavailability of the racetrack

Oct 9 - 11, 2026 Veterama Mannheim
www.veterama.de

Italy

Apr 30-May 03. Harley Spring Rally, Senigallia, Ancona 60019 on Adriatic coast
www.Harley-Davidson.com

Jun 19 - 21, 2026 3rd Oil Leakers Party, Parc du Morvan, Camping les Soulines, France by Patina Garage, Italy (open to all pre '65 American Motorcycles) info: Fabio at www.patina-garage.com, Claudia: amca.europe@aol.com

May 8-10, ASI Motorshow
Circuit di Varano, 43040 Varano de' Melegari, Parma (for historic bikes and cars)
<https://asifed.it/event/asi-motoshow-2026/>

Sep 11-13, 48th edition of Imola Mostra Scambio organized by CRAME (Club Romagnolo Auto e Moto d'Epoca)
<https://www.autodromoimola.it/eventi/imola-mostra-scambio-crame/>

Latvia

Sep provisional Kurland Rally. Details from Juris Ramba at ramoto1992@gmail.com

Netherlands

May 15-16 AMCA European Meet – see you there at Raalte.

June 05-07 Silent Gray Fellows International Meet, Oosterhout. 22nd meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Nov 01 Silent Gray Fellows swap meet, Chaam
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Norway

June 13-16 Trondhjemsridtet, 1300kms this year,
<https://trondhjemsridtet.com/> for further info.

June 26-28 NVMC (Norwegian Vintage Motorcycle Club) "Skogsløpet" in Sirdal (near Stavanger),

https://www.nvmc.no/ekstra2/ekstra_00/

Aug 14-16 Indian Summer Meet welcomes all riders with US made Motorcycles, at Hunderfossen Motor Museum (near Lillehammer)

Poland

To follow

Portugal

June 18-21 European HOG Rally, Cascais
www.harley-davidson.com

Spain

June 5 to 7 XXVI Cantabria Tour

Website: www.mcpiston.com

June 13 to 15 4th Centenary Rally

1st International Meeting of Vehicles Manufactured up to 1926 Location: El Burgo de Osma (Soria)

Organized by: FEVA www.feva.es

Sept 10 to 13 41st Big Twin Club of Spain Motorcycle Meeting, Grau de Castellón (Castellón)
www.bigtwinspain.com

Sept 11 to 13 VI National Meeting of Antique Motorcycles, El Burgo de Osma (Soria)
Organized by: FEVA www.feva.es

Sept 20 to 23 Picos Tour. From the Bay of Biscay shore to the stunning lands of old "Castilla" across breathtaking mountain passes in Picos de Europa

Website: www.mcpiston.com

Sept 25 5000 Curves Rally, Picos de Europa

Website: www.mcpiston.com

September 24 to 27 39th Edition of Pistón Rally
Location: Santander and surrounding areas
Website: www.mcpiston.com

Sweden

February 7. Eskil Swap in Eskilstuna. Everything H-D from JD to Evo choppers

February 14. Indian Swap in Enköping. Mostly old Indian but also Harley stuff.

Switzerland

March 28-29 Retromecanika swap meet Palexpo Geneve <https://retromecanika.ch/>

April 11 „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>

May 01-03 Goudron Bike Days, Brig VS <https://www.goudron.ch>

May 03 Love Ride Switzerland Dübendorf ZH <https://loveride.ch>

May 17 The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (in different cities in Switzerland) <https://www.gentlemansride.com>

May 17 Harley-Meet Ace Café Luzern <https://www.acecafeluzern.ch/>

May 29-30 Rock this town Solothurn (rock'n roll weekend) <https://www.rockthistownsolothurn.com/>

May 29-31 Swiss Classic World Luzern <https://www.swissclassicworld.ch>

May 30 Swiss Classic World Rallye Luzern <https://rallye.swissclassicworld.ch/details>

May 29-31 Motor Classics Lenzerheide <https://www.lenzerheidemotorclassics.ch>

June 7 Oldtimertreff Schwaegalp <https://www.oldtimertreff-schwaegalp.ch/index.htm>

June 6-7 Bergrennen Hemberg (race) <https://bergrennen-hemberg.ch/>

June 27 Roll Call Chopper Show, Baden <https://rollcall.ch/>

July 03-04 Hangar Rocking, St. Stephan <https://www.hangarrockin.com>

August 8-9 Motorfestival, Affeltrangen <https://motorfestival.ch/>

October 25 Oldtimermesse swap meet St. Gallen <http://www.oldtimermesse-ch.com/>

United Kingdom

22 March. 86th Pioneer Run, pre-1915 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton, 0800 start

22 March. 2nd Pioneer Plus Run, 1915-29 bikes, Epsom Downs to Brighton, 0900 start

25/26 April Stafford Bike Show and Auction, ST18 0BD

07 June Banbury Run, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, CV35 0BJ pre-1931 motorcycles

30 July – 04 August International West Kent Run Aylesford Friars, ME20 7BX. Run on 01 August, show 02 August

11-13 September Beaulieu/Netley Marsh autojumble, Southampton

18-20 September Goodwood Revival. Old cars and bike races.

10-11 October Stafford Bike Show and Auction, ST18 0BD

European Chapter Directors 2026

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Country Ambassadors

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

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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 June, 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,
Newsletter Editor AMCA European Chapter

