



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
"Having fun with old motorcycles"

July 2025

Hello AMCA Europe Members,

This is a longer than usual newsletter as we are in the middle of the riding season. This time we feature three UK Meets, another episode of 'What's in the Garage' followed by news of some more of our new members. We then have reports on our Raalte Meet in the Netherlands, the Banbury Run in the UK, and our Spanish Road Run.

Stafford Bike Show 26/27 April

Our Latvian ambassador Juris Ramba was at the show and sent me these pictures. The theme of the Meet was Brough Superiors and engines were for sale at about £20,000 (say \$27k):



or how about a project bike for £60,000 (about \$80k):



Juris reported great weather for the event, with a big indoor and outdoor swap meet and a Wall of Death attraction. There was a lot of camaraderie from the attendees and the Sunbeam Club, particularly when Juris and his son Robert were awarded Best Military Bike for their 1917 Sunbeam:



The bike is one of a special order of a few hundred sent to the Russian Tsar (but not paid for) before his removal, which then saw service in the Latvian army after its formation in 1919. The bike has three tank filler caps, for oil, gasoline and paraffin, as it was intended to run on this low octane fuel after warming up. The engine is a 5 hp/654 cc JAP V-twin. The long lasting slate trophy was presented by UK personality Henry Cole, front man for the long-running The Motorcycle Show on TV. Well done!

Tiddler Run 15 May



This is my son and me, both on 1914 Douglases, getting started for this VMCC Sunday ride-out for low powered machines. We had great fun getting lost in the Kent by-ways on a dry sunny day.

What's in the Garage?

This time it is a 1935 Harley-Davidson VLDD 80 cubic inch flathead:



Just a few of these were made in the second half of 1935 and just nine survivors are recorded in the VL Register. The bike is a 'stroker' with the crankpin moved 1/8" outwards, so increasing capacity from a nominal 74 cubic inches (1207 cc) to 1283 cc and 80 cubic inches. With new higher compression cylinder heads giving a blistering 5.8 to 1 compression ratio and 38 bhp, the bikes can be seen tested at 100 mph by the California Highway Patrol in a September 1935 newsreel at www.vlheaven.com. The engine has

the last of the 7-bolt cylinders, but relieved/gas flowed, and like the production 1936 VLH eighties, can be recognised by the 0.1" spacer plates under the cylinders. The CHP also tested seven-bolt aluminium cylinder heads in 1935, but these did not go into production as the nine-bolt iron heads were an the way. The bike is restored as a CHP pursuit bike with a full suite of Police accessories including the first aid box, Pyrene fire extinguisher and 100 mph maximum speed recording Corbin speedometer. It has the full-on airflow styling, the impractical but pretty white hand grips, and the 50 cent per wheel optional cadmium plated rims.

European Meet 30/31 May

Once again we were at Raalte NL on the site of the American Motorcycle Museum and the adjacent Salland Hotel. I drove up on the Thursday, passing through the UK, France, Belgium and into the Netherlands by afternoon. We hold our Meet on the Ascension Day holiday weekend to get access to parking, so the roads were packed with holidaymakers going coast-wards in the opposite direction. I arrived just as all the hard work was finished by our crew of mostly Dutch and German Directors and volunteers. There were 60+ stands set up of essentially 100% American bikes and parts, so in this compact space there is a great atmosphere. The on-site hotel served meals and drinks all day, so many guests were able to sit out in the spring sunshine with temperatures for the next two days in the twenties Celsius or mid-70s Fahrenheit.

Marc Gallin, the AMCA Instagram Moderator had come over from California and was posting pictures over the whole weekend.



Here's his early general view of the site, with ridden-in bikes parked on the hard standing and original paint machines – our theme this year - starting to be parked against the hotel. Here are some more:



We had a great turnout, with some of these rarities put in for judging:



Here is Event Chief Judge Peter Reeves organising the orange vest crowd.

This 1912 Yale twin caught my eye:



It had been brought by our friends at Yesterdays, who also showed this 1932 Brough Superior 6-80 which later took our Most Unique trophy.



At our annual meeting on Saturday evening I was able to report 356 members from 23 European countries, a tripling of our membership in the 25 years since I have been Chapter President. We also had attendees from twenty countries and members from six US states, so our Meet is now large enough to be a destination as part of that European trip you've always wanted to make. Our next Meet will be 15/16 May 2026 with the theme of Art Deco, so start making plans. I then handed over to Cees Visser, our new President, Claudia Krause and Keith Kizer said some nice words, and I was presented with a framed attaboy certificate for my vanity wall. I shall continue as newsletter editor, so please keep sending me those motorcycle-related stories.

We had this (edited) report from a first time US visitor:

First time attending the AMCA European Chapter Meet in Raalte, Netherlands May 30th and 31st.

The meet was of great size and quality, of parts and people. Disappointed we could not bring all the great original finds available. Not enough luggage space for that. ;-)

There were great motorcycles on display for the swap meet and judging was intense.

We met Max, owner of the American Motorcycle Museum and Kim his daughter, now running the museum where the meet has been held since 2015. They have a wonderful collection of motorcycles and displays. You may visit their website at ammh.nl to check it out.

We have been blessed to have become well acquainted with many AMCA European chapter members. We got to meet more great people and make more friends this year. We got to put faces to names in Facebook and Instagram and learned of their deep love and knowledge of American Vintage. Some vendors have been to multiple swap meets in the states and some have already been to Texas Fandango too!

There is the host hotel right next door to the museum, Hotel Inn Salland. We enjoyed daily dinners and libations with great friendly service. I thoroughly enjoyed the white asparagus soup on multiple meals and even got singly delighted with it on our last banquet dinner.

We attended their members' banquet and meeting at the conclusion of the meet. Also present and recognized by Keith Kizer for her great and long dedication to AMCA Europe was Claudia Krause, Director representing Germany and Italy and always busy with the merchandise tent and keeping the Chapter in check. Spain's Ambassador Carolina Sales Martorell from Valencia, Spain, Cristiano Pelganta - President and Fabio Costamagna - Vice President of the Italian Langhe Hills Chapter and many other members were also in attendance.

We had a great group of AMCA members from America! Keith Kizer and his wife Debbie, Chris Tribbey, Rodney and I, Roger Green, Mark Gallin and wife Patty, and Alex Bernhardt.

We hope to make it again next year and hope you do too.

-Rosie Sterling, Cherokee Chapter, TEXAS



Chapter Deputy Judge Dave van der Linden then presented the National judging awards, followed by our Chapter awards. Best restored went to Jaap Hoekstra for his 99 point 1938 Harley-Davidson W model, Jos Gerrits took oldest bike with his 1911 Thor, most unique was the 1932 Brough 6-80 brought by Thijs Lempens, and Best in Show went to the 1914 Flying Merkel twin from István Nagy in Hungary. Well done everybody, these judging trophies are hard to get.

After breakfast on Sunday we made our trips home. See you next time!

New Members

We signed up six new members at Raalte, three from the Netherlands and three from Germany. Let me know if you would like a picture of you and/or your bikes in a forthcoming newsletter.

Banbury Run 08 June

This is the biggest event of the British VMCC and I was there to support their 75th run since 1949. It has been held at numerous locations including Banbury, but is now located at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon a dozen miles further north. I drove up the previous afternoon in heavy rain, but this cleared overnight to leave a cool clear morning.



That's the museum on the left, which is well worth a visit, with the run starting and finishing in the big car park in the grounds. There are timed and untimed entries, and A, B and C routes of 24-70 miles. I was doing the short untimed A route on the 1914 Douglas and given a start time of 10.08.36, wow! A starter with a stopwatch waved us off in serial number order, the national flag was waved, and I paddled away with two other riders on '14s and dropped the valve lifter to start the engine in front of a good crowd of spectators.

There was a good turnout of 309 entries of pre-1931 motorcycles and well chosen routes through country lanes in the surrounding countryside. Sammy Miller of the eponymous museum was there riding a 1925 996cc Grindlay-Peerless, and had loaned a 1930 350cc Ivory-Calthorpe to ex-racer and now author Alan Cathcart who is writing an article on the Run. Well known restorer Allen Millyard had been loaned the prize 1902 Dreadnought, a competition special built by 'Oily' Karlake who must have had very long legs judging by the height of the machine. I was signed off and back in the car park on my numbered spot in a couple of hours, with riders on the longer routes returning over the next hour or so. This is a good run for your bucket list, and I noted many first time riders, so the baton is slowly passing to the younger guys. Recommended.

Spanish Road Run 09-14 June

This was a big first effort from our Spanish friends, with 41 bikes from eight European countries, plus five US states. Some had travelled down from our European Meet to Figueres on the Costa Brava, by the Mediterranean and close to the Pyrenees and the French border. Over the next five days about 1000 km (620 miles) was covered in breathtaking scenery at

various altitudes. There will be a full report in the magazine but here are a few pictures from our Spanish country ambassador Carolina Martorell:



This is a group picture at a picnic stop at 1200 metres.

And here they are again at altitude eating a meal off the flatbed of the backup truck:



These night time repairs show the whole crew pulling together:



And it worked as everyone was back on the road the next day:



rejoined the pack as the back marker arrived. What this meant was that you slowly moved up the riders until it was your turn to show the direction at a turn, after which you rejoined the group. We travelled east to west through the country lanes across Romney Marsh in Kent, no-one got lost, we enjoyed an all-day English breakfast at midday, and I put 110 miles on the 1950 Sunbeam S8. A well-organised day out with borderline lyrical views.

And a local flavour was introduced by this flamenco dancing demonstration, with riders then invited to join in:



Hamstreet Show 29 June

Another local show on a Sunday with many ridden-in bikes. Here's an early Sun at the front:



In summary, a great time was had by all.

Midsummer Run

Wednesday 25 June I did the Midsummer Run with the British VMCC. As it was a weekday it was mostly retired riders with a few young'uns. There were 32 of us at the start with bikes from the 1930s up.

And three Vincents not yet in rich men's living rooms:



The marques were BSA, Triumph, Norton, Velocette, Sunbeam, Vincent, Royal Enfield, Moto Guzzi, Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki and Kawasaki. The interesting feature for me was the Closing Rider System. A leader and a back marker both wore blue tabards, then at every junction the rider behind the leader stopped to show the others where to go, then

And behind the Harley trike we can see that we still have quirky home builders with good skills and time on their hands:



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 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, Ruesselheim
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

August 23 Velodrom Racetrack Darmstadt, board track racing www.vollgas-rennspass.de

September 12-13 Hindenburg Dirt Track racing
hindenbergdirttrack.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 Ramba 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 Veteran 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>

European Chapter Directors 2025

June 29 Oldtimertreff

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

July 04-05 Hangar Rocking in St.

Stephan <https://www.hangarrokin.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

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

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

Latvia. Juris Ramba, ramoto1992@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 October, 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

