



# Yankee Chatter



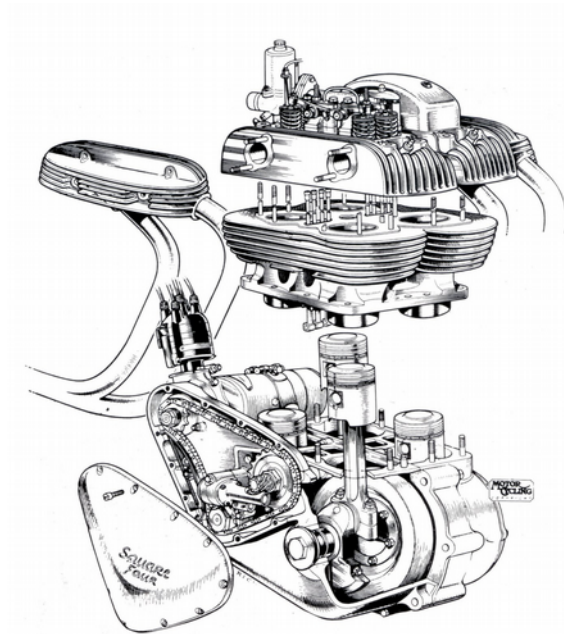
Fall 2018

[www.yankeechapter.org](http://www.yankeechapter.org)

Est. 1973

*Antique Motorcycle Club of America*  
*Yankee Chapter*

**Ride 'em, don't hide 'em!**



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2014 National at Hebron - courtesy of Bill Cawly

# Fall 2018 President's Message

What an amazing year we're having! There have been so many great things going on it's been difficult to decide what to do. One decision was easy, our Terryville National Meet. And what a meet it was. We had an unprecedented number of vendors. We had so many vendors Darryl and his crew had to continue to lay out new vending spots throughout Friday. Indoor vending spots were popular too, all but one indoor space was filled. Saturday morning brought on a deluge of rain. The rain and wind were so bad we had to cancel all activities for that day except our AMCA bike judging. The Terryville Lions Club provided us with a second indoor space so that went off very well also.

Plans for next year's events started the day after we left Terryville. You can help with next year's plans. Let us know what you enjoyed. Is there anything you would like us to do differently next year? Most importantly, think about how you can help. This year we asked way too much from way too few. In 2019, let's all contribute a little more and lighten the load on this small group of volunteers. For 2019, we will need volunteer teams and team leaders. Please sign up to help at this year's Christmas Party Our annual meeting/Christmas Party will be here shortly. In keeping with tradition, we will continue having a family style pot luck lunch event. Bring a pot luck dish. Bring anything you like and come to have some fun.

The business part of this year's meeting should be blissfully easy. Each of our nine directors serve a three-year term. Earlier this year Jen Goselin's professional and social life became too successful for her to continue in her positions. To fill this huge vacancy, we asked Greg Ravizza to take over as newsletter editor and Tom Covill, (Indian TomTom) to take over Jen's position as director #2 until our annual meeting.

The board of director positions that become open this year are:

**Position:**

**Present Officer:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Director #3  
Director #4

Darryl Cutter  
Diane Stoyanovich  
Chris Lenox

**Position:**

**BOD Appointed Officer:**

Director #2

Tom Covill (TomTom's term will be for 2018-2020)

If you'd like to serve on our Board of Directors, please let us know. If you know of someone that would make a good director, please nominate them. You can also re-nominate our existing Board members. The choice of who serves on our Board of Directors is yours.

If the responsibility of serving as a Director is more than you want to take on there are plenty of ways for you to contribute. Try helping as an Associate Director, a committee member, a volunteer, an area Ambassador, or.....

One last thing. It's time to nominate a Yankee for our annual and prestigious '***Spirit of the Yankees Award***'. More about this award later in this newsletter.

Till the Christmas Party,  
Ted

## Editor's Page

Well, it's September... For those who don't follow ATGATT (All The Gear, All The Time), which I think is most of us, the time for riding in tee shirts to keep cool on those hot summer days is over. Break out those leathers and textile jackets! Get those crusty gloves and soften them up by simply putting them on and taking a nice long putt on your favorite bike!

During the summer, I seek out the narrow country lanes that wind through forests and notches (mostly small and Connecticut sized, with the occasional grand New Hampshire sized notches) to escape the brutal heat of the midsummer sun. Now it's time to transition to wider roads where there's more sunshine to chase to squeeze the last bit of summer warmth into each ride. We soon will get to enjoy a brief explosion of color that each year marks the logical end of summer, juxtaposed against the ironic starkness of grey and white that awaits as winter approaches.

For myself, that means prepping the vintage bikes for storage. I do keep my '09 Vstrom in the garage with a battery tender so that when the seasonal cold that is late fall, winter and early spring present a opportunity to ride, even for an hour or so, it'll crank right up.

It's been an interesting and rewarding experience for me as editor of this now third publication of the Chatter. I've met lots of folks, heard lots of stories and taken a few rides in new and unfamiliar places, that are to many of you well known and, it seems, highly anticipated. I look forward to next year's riding season and the Chapter's Camp & Rides!

Greg

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Chris Lenox  
Ken Herschfield  
Dan Margolien



# A WORD ABOUT THE YANKEE SPIRIT AWARD

Dear Yanks,

Some years ago we created a "Yankee Chapter Member Award". I think it is nick named the "Yankee Spirit Award" because we take nominations from the chapter members who want to recognize a member that exemplifies the spirit of the Yankee Chapter.

You may define your own characteristics, but we have looked for helpful, sincere, committed chapter members that have done something special, or have had continual involvement with the chapter.

Any member may make a nomination. Simply write in 100 words or so "I nominate person X because...  
...

Send the nomination to our newsletter editor Greg Ravizza at [azzivar@gmail.com](mailto:azzivar@gmail.com).

Greg will compile all the nominations and publish them as a list including the persons name and the nomination write up. Along with that we will have a voting ballot system. Our Secretary, and past winner Diane Stoyanovich will tally the ballots secretly. The award will be presented at our December business meeting.

Please participate in the nomination and voting process.

Dan (Margolien)

Thanks, Dan! Here's the specifics for how it's going to work this year:

- Members can nominate any other member they choose, and can nominate more than one; please provide your perspective (in 100 words or less, please!) on the nominee and why you think they exemplify what being a Yankee Chapter AMCA Member is and means
- Submit your nomination(s) to me at [azzivar@gmail.com](mailto:azzivar@gmail.com), or if you prefer to use the USPS, send them to me at:

Greg Ravizza  
34 Patterson Lane  
Durham, CT 06422

- All nominations have to be received by me as of midnight, October 19 as cited by the time stamp when it arrives in my Inbox; postmarks on mailed submissions must not have a postmark later than October 19
- I will publish a Spirit Award Notice with the list of nominees, via electronic (eMail) and paper (USPS) deliveries, following the preferences I use for the Yankee Chatter Newsletter. Instructions on voting will be included in the Notice, including when voting ends so Diane can tally the results
- The winner will be presented the *Yankee Chapter Spirit Award* at the Yankee Chapter Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and General Meeting

I have already received one nomination, which turns out to be a fair example!

NOMINEE: Tim Gottier.

Tim is generous with his knowledge of all things mechanical, especially vehicles. Tim is always willing to lie down next to your problem and help you figure it out. He will give up his weekends to help you fix something or make something.

Tim has shared parts off his own bikes to help others get going.

Tim has been our Chapter Newsletter Editor and a participant in many of our club rides.

Finally, Tim brings the most delicious clam chowder to the business meeting pot luck!

I believe Tim demonstrates the Spirit of the Yankee Chapter!

# Summer Event Experiences

## ***Chester/Indian Camp & Ride***

By Greg Ravizza

On Thursday, July 19, I trailered my Honda (CB500T) up to Chester, MA from Durham, CT, and I was greeted by John Marcoulier, the sponsor of this C&R, and he directed me to a perfect campsite for my pickup and tent. After getting a much appreciated hand from Tom to get the bike off the trailer, I set up camp made myself at home.

Every C&R has been a bit different in mostly minor ways, but the major commonalities are the openness and helpfulness of all that host and attend.

On Friday, we took a ride for lunch at Liston's Pub, which was a nice ride out Rt 112 and then onto Route 9 to get gas when an Indian side car rig wouldn't start. After swapping out a battery, the collective input and analysis revealed a potentially bad wire. The group split up inadvertently when some headed off and the Indian died again. I stayed behind to ride with the group back, and we got right to Rt 20 when it went through a final die and revive cycle before getting back to camp.

The threat of rain on Sunday, put a cloud on expectations of attending the Indian Day rally in Springfield, but fortunately a nice ride on Saturday kept the blues at bay. Jim Seidell was to lead the ride to the Mohawk Park Campground for lunch, and a small group, prepped for a separate ride to meet there assembled. I thought we were simply getting gas ahead of Jim's group, so I went along. When we ended up at one of the group's cousin's house, I got a chance to meet some nice folks and see a '37 Chevy in mid-modification to a nice hot rod! After the stop, we headed to the Campground and met up with Jim's group, just as they were finishing their lunch. We all left together after gassing up for the ride home, which took us on portions of 8A and Rt 112.



That evening, we were entertained by a band playing a lot of Dead classics, and a collection of John & Julie's friends, also in attendance, and Yankees enjoyed the music and the bonfire.

With the certainty of rain of Sunday, I packed up, got hand from Gene and Bill to load the Honda onto the my trailer. Charlie, Sandy and Gene packed up their bikes as well, and headed for home. From what I heard, Sunday was indeed somewhat of a washout; I was hoping to get an update for this edition of the Chatter, but came up short. If anyone has an update from Indian Day, please send it to me!

## Fall Camp and Ride

by Chris Lenox

The weather was once again with the Yankees on September 14-16 this year as Jim Seidell hosted the annual Fall Camp and Ride in Charlemont Mass. Both ride days were sunny and in the 80's. Friday's ride included a tour of a private Museum featuring Ossa Motorcycles and others. I arrived Saturday so I missed Friday's ride. My 50 mile journey from my house started in heavy fog which was more like light rain, but soon the clouds broke and I had clear skies upon arrival in Charlemont. There were many folks camping and arriving, many familiar faces and always a few new ones.



We staged to leave around 10, approximately 40 bikes in all, taking pictures before our departure. The first stop would be Sherman's private collection of beautifully restored Indians in Hancock, Mass. All of these were restored by him alone, there must have been 20 plus all packed in a barn. He also has gotten into restoring Kubota tractors that had been burned out, and just like the bikes, they looked brand new!



From here we went over Mt. Greylock (the highest point in Mass) with steep hills up and down, hairpin turns and blind corners; this is somewhat of a challenge. We had to stop going down the back side after finding out there was two break downs. One bike had to be trailered due to brake problems. Another Indian quit running and our Treasurer Peter G and another rider rounded up some tools, spark plugs, etc. and went back up and over the Mountain to see what they could do. We continued on to a lunch stop at the bottom, The Freight Yard Pub.

Lunch was good, some went inside to the AC and some of us stayed out on the outdoor patio which despite the heat, was very nice, including some very good food. Peter and the crew who went back to save the broken down Indian came later and had success! Got it running! The plugs didn't fix it, but they figured out that the ignition condenser was bad and wouldn't you know, Peter had electronic ignition on his Chief but had left the condenser in place for looks, so he took it off his bike and got the other back on the road. Nice job Peter!

After lunch we had a gas stop and then it was onward back to the campground. Most would have dinner at the restaurant that night and one final night of camping. I had to get home so on I went back 50 miles. That ride was about 76 miles, Jim told me that day.

Looking forward to more rides next year. Thank you Jim for doing this each year. It's very well attended and appreciated!





## The Motorcycle Cannonball Begins!

By Ken Herschfield



By the time you read this, the 2018 Motorcycle Cannonball will likely be done and in the books. Most know about it already but if you don't, it is a 2+ week cross country riding competition featuring – what else? – antique motorcycles. This year's route began in Portland, Maine and stretches across the northern U.S. to the finish in Portland, Oregon. The Cannonball is not a race of speed, it's more of an endurance test for both rider and machine as organizer Jason Sims and his crew lay out daily routes of up to 250 miles in length with points awarded for those who complete each day's miles within the allotted time and points deducted for those who don't. This year's motorcycle entries had to be at least 90 years old – yes, 90 – and there are different classes depending on number of cylinders and transmission speeds. There is even a separate class for 100+ year old machines. There is a little more to it but you get the picture. Most points wins with varying tie-breaking criteria that can ultimately be decided by the age of the rider. Like the t-shirt says, Old Guys Rule!

While the riders and their support teams showed up in Portland on Thursday, September 6th, the big public meet and greet happened on Friday the 7th in Bug Light Park in South Portland, looking across the water towards the Portland waterfront on one side and the islands leading to the Atlantic on the other. The Men from Maine (a.k.a. Peter, Paul and Joel) were already there when I arrived with Tumbleweeds Bert and Catfish, but the competition bikes had yet to show. We walked around the park for a bit checking out the view and then the riders started to pull in. I don't know the official number of entries, but there had to be at least 100 Cannonballers that rolled up and parked along the water. Now, we might be a little jaded because we have seen and been part of large groups of old iron, but let me tell you – it was pretty impressive! Three single-cylinder Triumphs from the 1920's representing one team, eleven Hendersons, six Excelsiors, probably fifty Harleys, twenty or twenty-five Indian Chiefs, Scouts, 101's, four-cylinders and Power Plusses. Toss in a couple of BMW's, a few Thors, Nortons, two Brough Superiors and mix in an Ariel or two plus a Neracar with googly eyes drawn on the dual headlights and you have a good party going!



There was a large crowd of spectators there talking to the riders, taking pictures of the bikes and the asking questions about the event. Throw in at least two crew members for each rider and it really was a big gathering. At one point all the bikes were moved up to the top of a hilly, grassy area overlooking the lighthouse for a group photo with over 100 bikes lined up handlebar to handlebar for a panoramic shot. Oh – and there were a couple of definitely-not-antique drones flying overhead. After a couple of hours,

the bikes left and headed back to the home base at the Marriott hotel for some final adjustments and preparation before the rider's banquet. We did stop by to walk through the parking lots that were filled with motorcycles and their support vehicles. Some of these were just vans loaded with tools while others were modified school busses or utility trucks. There were plenty of trailers with mobile machine shops and spare parts and even spare motors. Then there was Godzilla – a 60-foot-long RV that could have been the tour bus for Neil Young, complete with a 25-foot, double decker motorcycle trailer.

I don't want to say that Saturday was the official start as the trip to Bug Light Park counted for points, but it was the beginning of the longer daily rides. The day started at Big Moose Harley Davidson in Portland just a short distance outside of the downtown area. There was already a crowd at 8am, and by 8:15 or so the Cannonball bikes began to roll in 15 or 20 at a time along with a steady flow of modern bikes and plenty of pedestrians that wanted to see them off. There were TV cameras and photographers and a ton of spectators, and you could really feel the excitement building as the 9:30 starting time approached. Finally, the Class I motors were fired up and who was first on the starting line and first one out of the lot? Our own Yankee Chapter member Dan Emerson, looking pretty sporty in his red riding jacket, smiling and chewing gum as he casually put his 1912 Excelsior into gear and hit the road. Yankee member Brian Pease left with the Class II group on his 1916 Henderson F model and New York-Yankee (get it?) member Steve DeCosa left with the Class III bikes on his 1915 Harley Davidson 11F. My fellow Tumbleweed MC and Yankee members Dave Neault and Bob Gamache also left, not as riders but as part of the crew for our friend Jody Perewitz, riding bike #79 - certainly the flashiest 1926 Harley JD, painted by Jody herself in candy apple red and gold metal flake. (Jody is not only happy doing 40mph across the country, she has also set a number of land speed records on the Bonneville Salt Flats, topping 211mph on an American V-twin powered motorcycle. She just likes to ride!)



So that was it, the beginning of a long journey for a lot of experienced riders and even more-experienced motorcycles. A lot of first timers will get shaken out and a number of veterans will take what they learned on previous failed attempts and get all the way across. You can prepare, prepare and prepare some more but at the end of the day, you just never know what can happen. Just point it straight, cross your fingers and go!



# Upcoming Events

## FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

- December 2, 2018 – Yankee Chapter Christmas Pot Luck/General Meeting at the Oxford, MA VFW

## OTHER EVENTS

- October 13-14, 2018: ROCKTOBER New England Motorcycle Museum Official Grand Opening with camping available at a nearby farm; 200 West Main St. Rockville CT.

**AMCA MEMBER CAMP OVER – Saturday Night**

**DRY CAMPING ONLY, NO FACILITIES JUST CAMPING SITE FOR SELF CONTAINED CAMPERS**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Saturday 10am - 6pm @ The NEMM, 200 West Main Street, Rockville, CT**

10-5 MOTORCYCLE TIME-LINE CIRCA 1897 to 2019 LINEUP

*Saturday's Bands & Activities*

10-11 Aura

11-11:30 Minibike Throwdown

11:30-12:30

12:30-1 Stunt Riders & Trike Racing in the Thunderdome

1-2 Down the Hatch

2-2:30 Harley stunt show & Minibike Throwdown

2:30-3:30 King Kuel

3:30-4 Stunt riding & Races

4-6 Screwed, Glued 'n' Tattooed

**Saturday Night Party 7pm-10pm @ The Kaplan Compound, 398 Grant Hill Road, Tolland CT 06084**

Lights Out at 11:00pm

**Sunday, 10am-6pm @ The NEMM, 200 West Main Street, Rockville, CT**

10-3 JUDGED MOTORCYCLE SHOW CLASSES:

- CAFÉ-RACER
- VINTAGE
- MX-OFFROAD/DUAL SPORT
- MOST UNIQUE
- BAGGERS
- PEOPLES CHOICE

3:30 Judged show trophies awarded

*Sunday's Band Lineup*

10-11 Escape the Same

1130-1230 Highwire

1-2 Hivebane

230-330 4 Eagles

4 to 6 The Dan Lawson band

PLEASE CALL KEN KAPLAN IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS @ 860-916-9784

Promotional Video Link on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/kN3J5y0MQ34>

NEW ENGLAND MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

PRESENTS THEIR

**GRAND OPENING EVENT**

# ROCKTOBER



**LARGEST MOTORCYCLE SHOW  
& BATTLE OF THE BANDS!**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2018**

EVENT STARTS AT 10:00AM TO 6:00PM BOTH DAYS!

AT THE

**New England Motorcycle Museum**

200 WEST MAIN STREET • ROCKVILLE • CT

**10 BANDS • FOOD • VENDORS**

**MINI TRIKE RACING • MINI BIKE THROW DOWN**

**HARLEY DAVIDSON STUNT RIDERS**

## ★★★THE LINE UP★★★

### SATURDAY

10:00am-11:00am Aura

11:30am-12:30pm Freakquency

1:00pm-2:00pm Down The Hatch

2:30pm-3:30pm King Kuel

4:00pm-6:00pm Screwd Glued  
n' Tattooed

### SUNDAY

10:00am-11:00am Escape The Same

11:30am-12:30pm Highwire

1:00pm-2:00pm Hivebane

2:30pm-3:30pm 4 Eagles

4:00pm-6:00pm The Dan Lawson  
Band

**ADMISSION: \$15.00 FOR 1 DAY • \$25.00 FOR 2 DAYS**

KIDS UNDER 10 FREE

*Admission gets you access to all events and entrance to view the museum!*

## Other Stuff

### FOR SALE

Contact Bill @ [www.brauchauto.com](http://www.brauchauto.com) or [wbrauch@charter.net](mailto:wbrauch@charter.net) for more information on these two bikes:

- 1982 Suzuki GS650GL in good running and good looking condition. New rear tire last year. 16,000 miles, shaft drive. More photos available. Located in Lebanon, CT



- 1984 Honda Magna 700. Excellent like new condition. New battery this year. Bought new and ridden by an old man. Always kept inside. Like showroom condition. Should win a trophy at next year's Yankee meet.\$1600. Located in Lebanon, CT.



### FOR SALE OR SWAP/WANTED, OTHER EVENT NOTICES, STORIES, ARTICLES OR PICS

Please send your requests and/or content to me

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