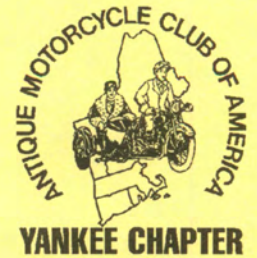




YANKEE CHATTER



SPRING / SUMMER 2001

No. 01 / 2

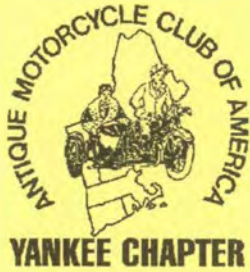
YANKEE CHAPTER
ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.
Chapter established in 1973



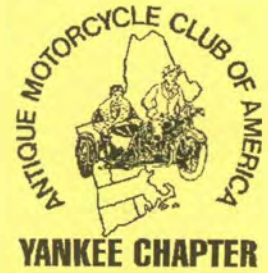
C.Gallo Photo

Family Fun

Don "Critter" Salisbury brought his 1941 civilianized 741 Indian Scout with Spirit Eagle sidecar to the Colonial Chapter Meet in Harmony, NJ. His daughter Cristina enjoys riding in the sidecar, which is decorated with shark jaws reminiscent of a P-40 Flying Tiger from WW II. Critter's wife, Barbara (not pictured), also enjoys riding in the sidecar and can often be seen hanging on for dear life as Critter flies the car.



Officers



Director
Jessie Aikman

Vice Director
James Friedlander

Vice Director
Steve Ciccalone

Secretary
Thomas Marston

Chapter Advisor
Frederick D. Hirsch

Treasurer / Membership Chair
Sandra Gallo

Vice Director
Will Paley

Editor
Charles Gallo

Chapter Judge
Randall Walker

SPRING / SUMMER 2001

No. 01 / 2

Contents

Director's Message.....3
 Upcoming Events.....3
 Director's Correspondence.....4,5
 Yanks Out And About.....6,7
 Once Upon A Time.....8,9
 Yankee Chapter National Meet.....10
 Yankee Chapter Autumn Meet.....11

Charitable Fund Update

Yankee's second recipient is the family of Tom Lehmann, a friend of Yankee Andy Bagas. Tom recently passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer, leaving a wife, Meg, and two sons, Jeff, age 16, and Keith, age 11. Meg was very gracious in her thanks for our grant.

All Yankee members are encouraged to bring people in need to the attention of any Board member. This is your chance to make a difference.



*Congratulations
to
Joan Kirdulis & Randy Walker
on their engagement*



*Congratulations
to
Jennifer Schedin & Daniel Horner
on the birth of their son
Daniel James Horner*

YANKEE CHATTER is the official newsletter of the YANKEE Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, and is published three times a year on a pseudo-seasonal basis (Winter/Spring, Spring/Summer, Summer/Autumn) or when information warrants. The YANKEE Chapter of the AMC of A was established April 8, 1973. Dues for the 2001 membership year are \$ 10.00 individual; \$ 12.50 with spouse. Membership is not transferable and dues are not refundable.

Applicants wishing to join the YANKEE Chapter must FIRST be members in good standing (paid up) of the National AMC of A; however, applicants may send membership applications to the Chapter Membership Chairperson at any time, and memberships received after October 31st of any year will be held over for the next membership (calendar) year.

Distribution of YANKEE CHATTER is to members of record in good standing (paid up), officers and directors of the AMC of A, and certain editors and other officers of the AMC of A Chapters. As a member of the National AMC of A, YANKEE Chapter is a non-profit organization.



Director's Message

It seems hard to believe that summer is well underway and that Hebron is just around the corner. All details are in place for our National Meet. All we need is some good weather. Keep your fingers crossed! As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help with gate duty, clean-up, etc. You can come and see me at the meet if you'd like to help out, or possibly "be volunteered" if we end up in a pinch.

If you have a "bobber", modified as they would have in the "olden days", be sure to bring it to Hebron. There will be special awards for this category at our meet.

I don't know how many of you read our national magazine and the letters to the editor section, but if you did you would have seen the letter that yours truly wrote regarding vendor fees. Your officers took a vote at Oley and decided to charge only \$35.00 per vendor space, the old rate, and to boycott the new rate of \$45.00. I hope that our actions prompt the national board to do something about this issue. I plan to write a letter to the national board in follow up to my letter to the editor, to be brought up for discussion at the annual board meeting in Davenport this September. Hopefully, they will reverse this decision.

In early June, an old time motorcycle enthusiast, Lucky Thibeault, king of the wall riders, passed away. He was a real character, one that I know I will never forget. He and Sparky, his wife of many years, owned and operated the wall of death for decades. Lucky last rode the wall in the early nineties at nearly 70 years young. When ever I saw him in the last few

years he would always have some sort of a story to tell me, then end the conversation by telling me that I needed to get a can of dark shoe polish to rub in my hair and get rid of the gray. Gray hair made me look way too old, he'd say. I would always reply, "Who am I trying to kid? No one!"

On that note, I hope to see many of you at Hebron. Until then, stay cool and be careful on our highways and byways, it's a cruel world out there.

Jessie

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3 - 5	Yankee National Meet Hebron, CT
August 11	Vintage Motorcycle Day Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Rhinebeck, NY (845) 752-3200
August 17 - 19	Empire National Meet Brookfield, NY
September 8 - 9	Yankee Chapter Meet Sturbridge, MA
September 23	By Land and By Sea Mystic Seaport Mystic, CT (888) SEAPORT
September 29	101 Association Road Run Torrington, CT (508) 867-8097
October 5 - 7	Chesapeake National Meet Jefferson, PA
October 13	Yankee Steam-Up East Greenwich, RI (401) 885-0545
October 21	Cherry Hill Swap Meet Brooklyn, CT (860) 974-3444
October 28	Viking Swap Meet Stafford Springs, CT (860) 871-2776
December 2	Yankee Chapter Christmas Party Oxford, MA

The following is a copy of a letter that Jessie sent to the national newsletter editor:

Letter to the editor

Having been an AMCA member for over 20 years I've seen our club grow and change. Reflecting back to when I first joined the club, I remember it seemed as though the main objective of the meets was to share in a common interest of antique motorcycles and the comraderie that went along with the hobby. The flea markets have always been a big draw for those looking for parts and as a good resource for information and knowledge.

I was very disheartened to see that the national board was petitioned by one of our chapters to raise the vendor fees by \$10.00. In many ways the vendors have been the backbone of these meets, drawing people from all over the world in search of parts and guidance for their projects. The friendships made have been lifelong. In these days of rising costs: fuel, parts, spare time and now vendor fees we should be looking for ways to draw vendors to the meets, not deter them. Being a vendor is a lot of work. We should try to make it easier for them, not harder. The thing I find most disturbing about this decision to raise the fees is the \$\$\$\$\$. Most chapters do not need this extra money in their treasuries. From talking with other chapter officers, most of us are trying to find ways to get rid of money by donating it to charities, not to get more of it. If a chapter is able to cover the expenses of hosting a meet, what more do you need? Let's not be greedy here, it is very unbecoming! There is nothing wrong with donating money to charities, but why put the squeeze on the vendor? Without them our meets would be nothing.

As the director of Yankee Chapter I am going to propose to my fellow officers that as a way to boycott this increased fee, we charge the old rate of \$35.00 send the national their cut of \$22.50 now required (50% of \$45.00) and take the hit ourselves at our national meet in August 2001. Actions speak louder than words. I find it hard to believe that the national needs this extra money or other chapters at this stage of the game. I remember the days when Yankee did not have the money to cover our expenses and we passed the hat, that is not the case any more. All chapters should take a good look at their treasuries and evaluate this decision to increase vending fees. Why do we need more money? We are supposed to be a non-profit organization. This may only be a \$10.00 increase now, but where and when does it end?

Respectfully,
Jessie Aikman

Treasurer's Note: The Yankee Chapter's Board of Directors met in April at the Oley Meet and voted to "hold the line" on vendor's fees at \$35.00. The national will receive \$22.50 (their half of the official \$45.00 fee) and the Chapter will receive the balance of \$12.50. In previous years, \$35.00 vendor's fees were split equally: \$17.50 each to the national and the chapter. This decision will cost the Yankee Chapter a few dollars, but should make it clear to the national board that we are serious about our support for the vendors and about our opposition to the fee increase.

The following is a copy of a letter which Jessie sent to the national board to be presented for discussion at their annual meeting in Davenport, this September:

To the National Board of Directors

As you know, I wrote a letter to the editor concerning the issue of vendor fees, which was printed in the last issue of our national magazine. Yankee Chapter did, in fact, vote to charge the old fee of \$35.00 and take a hit on our meet gross as a way to show our opposition on this issue: raising vendor fees to \$45.00.

Having spoken with many of my fellow chapter members as well as many other AMC members at Oley, I know that I am not alone in my feeling that the AMC of A chapters as a whole have plenty of money in their treasuries and that they are able to cover expenses with money to spare. Yankee is one of the smaller chapters and I know that our meet is also one of the smallest and that we pay more for our grounds than many of the other chapters do and we still manage to come out ahead. We are supposed to be a non-profit organization. It doesn't seem to me that we need to be so concerned about making money above and beyond our expenses. I know that for many years Yankee Chapter has tried to keep our T-shirt prices, banquet tickets, camping fees, etc. to a minimum. Everything costs so much these days, why be greedy? I personally find greed to be a very offensive trait! If the National AMC of A as a whole needed to generate some money to cover the costs of our magazine, meet insurance, trophies, etc., I would see raising membership dues by a few dollars as a much fairer way to generate some money, IF we needed it.

I believe in donating money to good causes, but I also believe that it should be a personal choice who to donate to and how much. I know that many chapters donate money to charities as a way to "get rid" of excess funds at this time. Whose pocketbooks are we trying to fatten at the expense of our vendors?

I wish that I could be there in Davenport in person to defend my stance on this issue, but it was not possible for me to make the trip. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

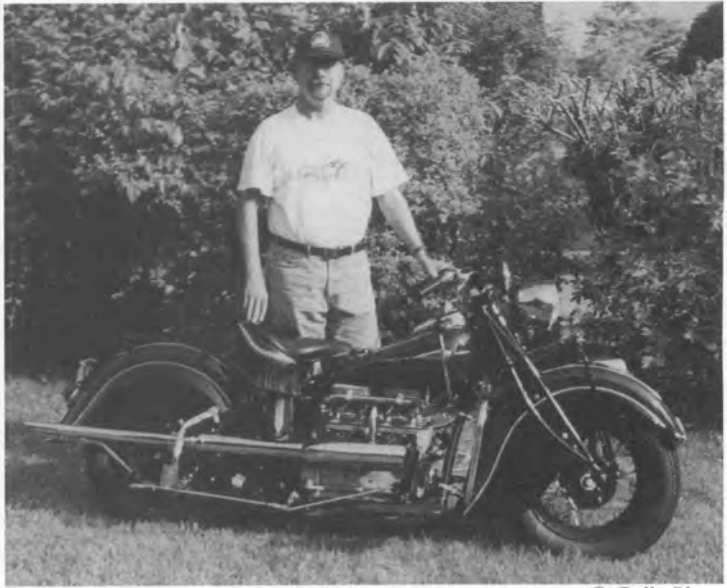
Respectfully submitted,
Jessie Aikman
Yankee Director



YANKEES

Out And About

Marty Hansen unveiled his 1941 Indian Four at the Perkiomen National Meet in Oley, PA. The restoration took five years, with untold hours spent on engine rebuilding, detailing and fit and finish. What a stunning machine!



C. Gallo Photo



S. Gallo Photo

In a Yankee Chapter recreation of the famous Life magazine photo (July 21, 1947 issue, taken in Hollister, CA), Jim Friedlander, Marty Hansen and Charlie Gallo wave blearily from in front of the empty ale kegs that they reportedly polished off at the Mystic Seaport "By Land and By Sea" event held on September 24, 2000.

Chris Atwood rode his 1934 Harley-Davidson VL to the Empire Chapter Meet in Rhinebeck, NY. As you can see, riding this silver and blue beauty really puts a smile on his face.



C. Gallo Photo



S. Gallo Photo

Paul Evans brought his 1928 Excelsior to the Colonial Chapter Meet in Harmony, NJ.

Critter (aka Don Salisbury) rode his daughter Cristina's 1967 125 cc Harley-Davidson in the Colonial Chapter's King of the Road Games at Harmony, NJ. In the Monte Carlo race his bike started quickly, but he found out that there is no substitute for cubic inches.



C. Gallo Photo

C. Gallo Photo



John and Lisa Hayes cruised into the Dutchess County Fairgrounds on Sunday morning, riding John's 1958 Harley-Davidson, in time to capture a taste of the Empire Chapter Meet held in Rhinebeck, NY. Belated congratulations to John and Lisa who were married on May 22, 1999.

Once Upon A Time,

LEON GRESKI'S INDIAN DEALERSHIP

As a lad of 18 years old or so, Leon bought a 1929 Indian "101" Scout for \$40.00, brought it up to his parents' apartment on the second floor, took it all apart and washed every nut, bolt, and screw, and put it all back together again. Then he found he needed to take the handlebars off to get it through the door and back downstairs. Was he HAPPY! . . . That was his only transportation all year long.

Shortly after Leon moved to Connecticut from Indiana, he took his Indian "101" out for a ride to the Chicago World's Fair. Along the way he got an idea that changed his life. He rode back up to the Indian Motorcycle factory in Springfield, Massachusetts and enrolled in their service school. He loved it and graduated with honors.

Next, he found a nice little shop at 34 Pleasant Street in Thompsonville, Connecticut, and opened up for business in the summer of 1939. About twice a week Leon would drive up to the State Street factory (about 20 miles away) and pick up a couple of new Indians to sell. Business was good and he stayed busy.

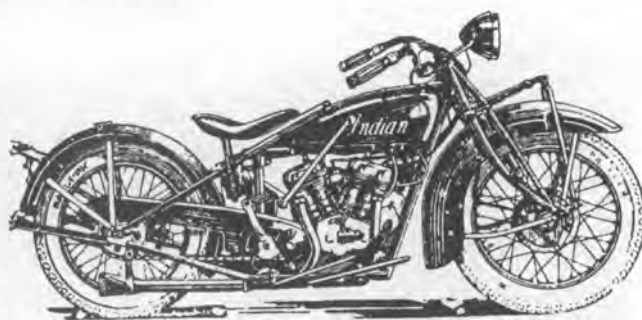
When the fellows from surrounding towns heard about the new dealership they all came to see him. Folks came from all over northern Connecticut and nearby Massachusetts. Some names were Gus and Fred Jasminski, Jacobson, Ray Schnieder, Mike Talnyck, John Skipper, Ken Adams, Red, Carson, Smally and more, I can't remember. To keep them all

together, Leon needed a club to organize their rides. He wanted to call them "Leon's Hell Riders" but the Indian factory took a dim view of his choice of names and they settled for "Leon's Ace Riders". Later in the 1940's they changed again to the A.M.A. sanctioned "New England Roamers" with about twenty members. Every Sunday, rain or shine, they would meet and ride to places like Laconia, New Hampshire for a few days. They also rode to Canada a few times, the Mohawk Trail, and many picnics at Babbs Beach, in Suffield, Connecticut

Sadly, when the Indian Factory closed, so did Leon's dealership. But many local Indians remained on New England roads and will run long into the future because of the parts provided by Leon. He was always free with advice and seemed to always have the parts needed.

Leon Greski passed away in November, 1990. He is sadly missed by his friends and family.

Written by Malvina, Barbara and Jay Greski



Editor's Note: Leon Greski was a long time member of the Yankee Chapter. He was one of the first Yankees to befriend me. Leon always had a few Harley parts for me, and at prices I could afford. He always had a smile, a story and a lopsided pair of sunglasses!



YANKEE CHAPTER NATIONAL MEET

AUGUST 3, 4 & 5, 2001
HEBRON FAIRGROUNDS
HEBRON, CT

Featuring a Saturday road run through scenic Eastern Connecticut starting at noon.

Approximately 50 miles
Bring your bikes and ride 'em.

Camping on grounds for A.M.C.A. members and guests
Must show valid A.M.C.A. card to camp or vend.

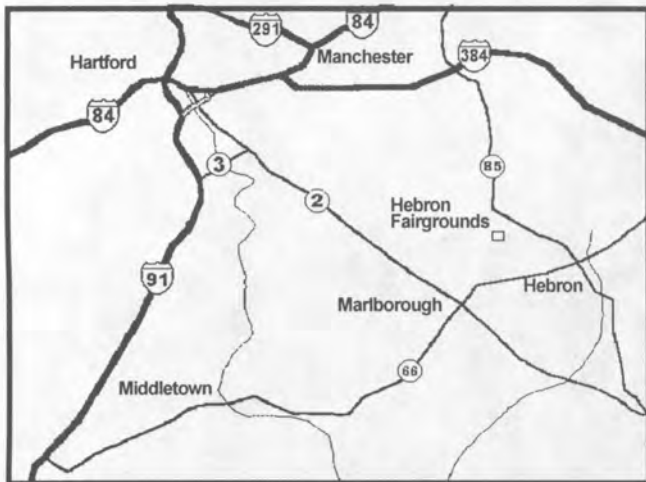
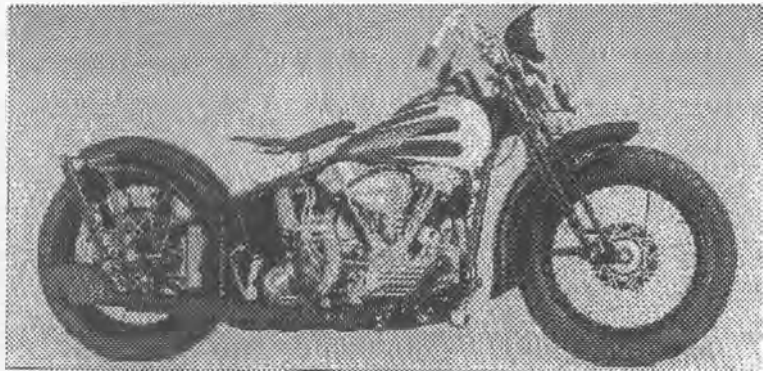
On site food available:
Friday noon - Sunday noon
On site banquet Saturday night

All motorcycle parts and related items for sale **MUST** be 35 years old or older

Questions, call:
Jessie Aikman
(603) 749-0450

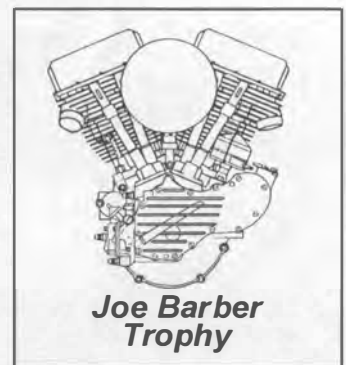


Special Awards for
Bobbers and Period Customs



Special Competition For
Chapter Members Only

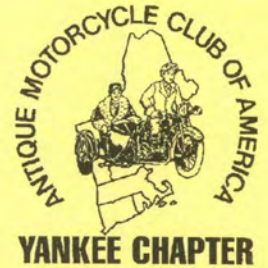
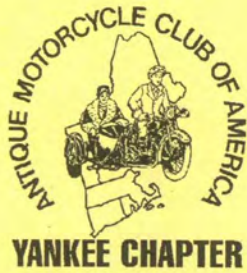
Bring your Panhead to compete for the
Joe Barber Trophy



Hours for all national meets are: Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Sunday 8:00 AM to Noon.

The host chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America may provide a facility for shelter only. The Antique Motorcycle Club of America and host chapter **DO NOT** assume Care, Custody or Control for vehicles or property stored within said facility

No one sixteen years old and younger without a valid driver's license will be allowed to operate a motorized vehicle on national meet grounds.

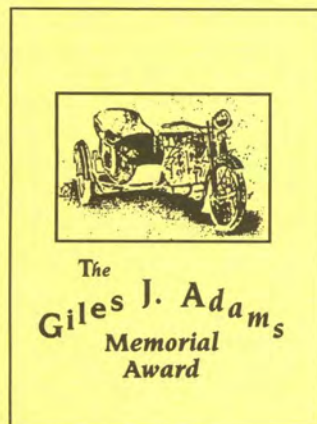


YANKEE CHAPTER

Antique Motorcycle Club of America
AUTUMN ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE MEET

September 8th and 9th
at the HAMILTON ROD and GUN CLUB
NEW BOSTON ROAD

(turn off of Route 20 at BEST WESTERN MOTEL)
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS



The Giles J. Adams
Memorial Award
will be presented to the
Yankee Chapter member
with the best running machine
in the Antique Class.

Questions: Contact Jessie

Refreshments on premises

Camping for AMCA members only

Judging starts at 9:30 AM
Sunday morning

Flea market both days

Vendor's fees:
AMCA Members - \$20.
Non-members - \$40.
(Includes membership)

Meet ends Sunday at noon



YANKEE CHAPTER

Charles Gallo

FIRST CLASS MAIL

