



Yankee Chapter – Est – 1973

YANKEE CHATTER – SUMMER 2025

Message from the Board of Directors

Hello Yankees! We hope you were able to make it to our National Meet in Greenfield last month. Thanks go out to all of our vendors - there is no meet without you! Huge thanks to all of the volunteers who put in some time at the meet and before the meet. Special recognition and thanks to Charlie Gallo for designing and managing the meet T-shirts!

How about that lineup of antique motorcycles on Saturday? Dick and Matt Thompson, Maine Smith and Brendon Romcke-Harber have a hit going with the Yankee Fun Judging of all of those bikes. This year we had students from the Franklin County Technical School's Vintage Motorcycle Club set up an information booth right in the middle of it all, and they even made the trophies! Thanks to Todd Weed for involving the FCTS students in our event.

Todd also brought former Cycle World editor and author Kevin Cameron to be our guest speaker at Saturday night's banquet. Kevin gave some inside dope on a number of top racers that he's known over the years, but he also gave everyone an important reminder - we are invisible to cars! Be careful out there!



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Stories from Greenfield – Our national AMCA meet

Friday – the chaos begins!

By Sue Pino

Friday July 25th kicked off the much-anticipated Greenfield 2025 event, bringing together vendors and us Yankees for a weekend filled with excitement. As always, the weather played its part—while the skies were clear and sunny, the heat was relentless, with temperatures soaring above 90 degrees! Everyone made the best of the heat, finding ways to stay cool and enjoy the meet no matter the weather.

Despite the sweltering conditions, the spirit of the event remained high. Vendors showcased their unique parts and treasures, and attendees mingled, creating a vibrant atmosphere.

As the sun set on a successful day, it was clear that Greenfield 2025 was not just about the heat!

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Saturday – much going on

By Sue Pino

Saturday dawned bright and early as the front gates opened at 8 AM, welcoming a steady stream of eager attendees. Once again, the weather played a role in the day's events, but the spirit of the crowd was unyielding as everyone embraced the heat and made the most of the festivities!

The afternoon highlight was the much-loved Fun Judging event, which drew an impressive turnout. Participants showcased their bikes and enthusiasm, making it a favorite among attendees.

Adding to the excitement, Jim Seidell led a special mystery ride in honor of Critter, who we sadly lost this year. The ride was a heartfelt tribute, taking participants on a scenic journey to Sugarloaf Frostie for a refreshing ice cream treat before returning to the fairgrounds. It was a beautiful way to celebrate our friend.

As the sun began to set, we gathered for the evening banquet, where BBQ was on the menu - a perfect way to refuel after a day of activities. The night featured speeches from Keith Keizer, along with our very own Todd Weed, an advisor at the Franklin County Technical School, and Kevin Cameron from Cycle World magazine. Their insights and stories added depth to the evening, fostering a sense of connection among all present.

The night wrapped up with exciting raffles, leaving everyone with a sense of anticipation and joy. All in all, Saturday at Greenfield 2025 was a fantastic day filled with outstanding bikes, remembrance, and community!

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Fun Judging

By Sue Pino

Fun Judging has always been a highlight of the Greenfield meet, and this year was no exception! We were thrilled to see students from Franklin County Technical School take part in crafting the trophies, under the guidance of AMCA Yankee member Todd Weed, who serves as an instructor and advisor at the school. It's truly inspiring to witness the emergence of an Antique Motorcycle Club within the tech school, showcasing the younger generation's growing interest in antique bikes!

The competition was fierce, and the creativity on display was remarkable. Here are the well-deserved winners of this year's Fun Judging:

****People's Choice:**** 1st Cindy Mesmer for her stunning 1938 Knuckle & 2nd Peter Sibley with his 1961 FLH DuoGlide

****Yankees Ingenuity:**** 1st Dick Thompson for his 1961 FLH DuoGlide & 2nd Charlie Gallo and his 1925 Harley

****That's Different:**** 1st David Block with his unique Cushman & 2nd Dick Thompson for his Yamaha XS 650

****Yankee Flyer:**** 1st Larry Clouse for his classic 1931 Indian 101 Scout & 2nd Barry Stemper with his 1968 Aermacchi

****Yankee Craftsmanship:**** Charlie Gallo with his beautiful 1925 Harley & 2nd Brad Willard and his Honda CB 750.

In addition to these categories, we also recognized a young gentleman win a trophy in an unofficial Youth category. Although I don't have his name, his pride in showcasing his Harley Davidson bicycle was evident and heartwarming.

A hearty congratulations to all the winners and participants! Fun Judging is all about celebrating passion.

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The Grand Finale: Judging of the bikes at our national meet

By Sue Pino

As is tradition, the Yankee Chapter's annual meet concluded with the highly anticipated judging of the bikes, showcasing the unparalleled beauty and craftsmanship of these remarkable machines. Each entry tells a story, but this year, two truly stood out.

First up is the stunning ****1974 Honda CL-200****, a bike with a heartwarming backstory. Nine-year-old Gavin Conley was gifted this incredible machine by his grandfather, Tom Quinn, when he was just six years old. Together, they meticulously went through the bike, which remains in its original condition and boasts an astonishing 3 original miles on the odometer! This remarkable piece of history scored an impressive ****99.75****, a testament to the love and care that went into preserving it.

The second noteworthy entry belongs to Peter Grace, who has dedicated countless hours to his ****1977 HD FLH****. After achieving accolades in the Junior First, Senior, and Winner's Circle categories, Peter decided to take on the challenge of the newer category, the Marque Excellence. This judging process is rigorous, requiring a score of 98 or higher. Peter rose to the occasion, successfully earning this prestigious honor and showcasing his hard work and dedication.

As we wrap up the Yankee Chapter AMCA National Meet 2025, we reflect on the incredible stories, connections, and passion that filled the event. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this year's meet unforgettable. Until next year, keep the spirit of antique motorcycles alive!

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FULL CIRCLE

By John Pierce (photo from Sue Pino)

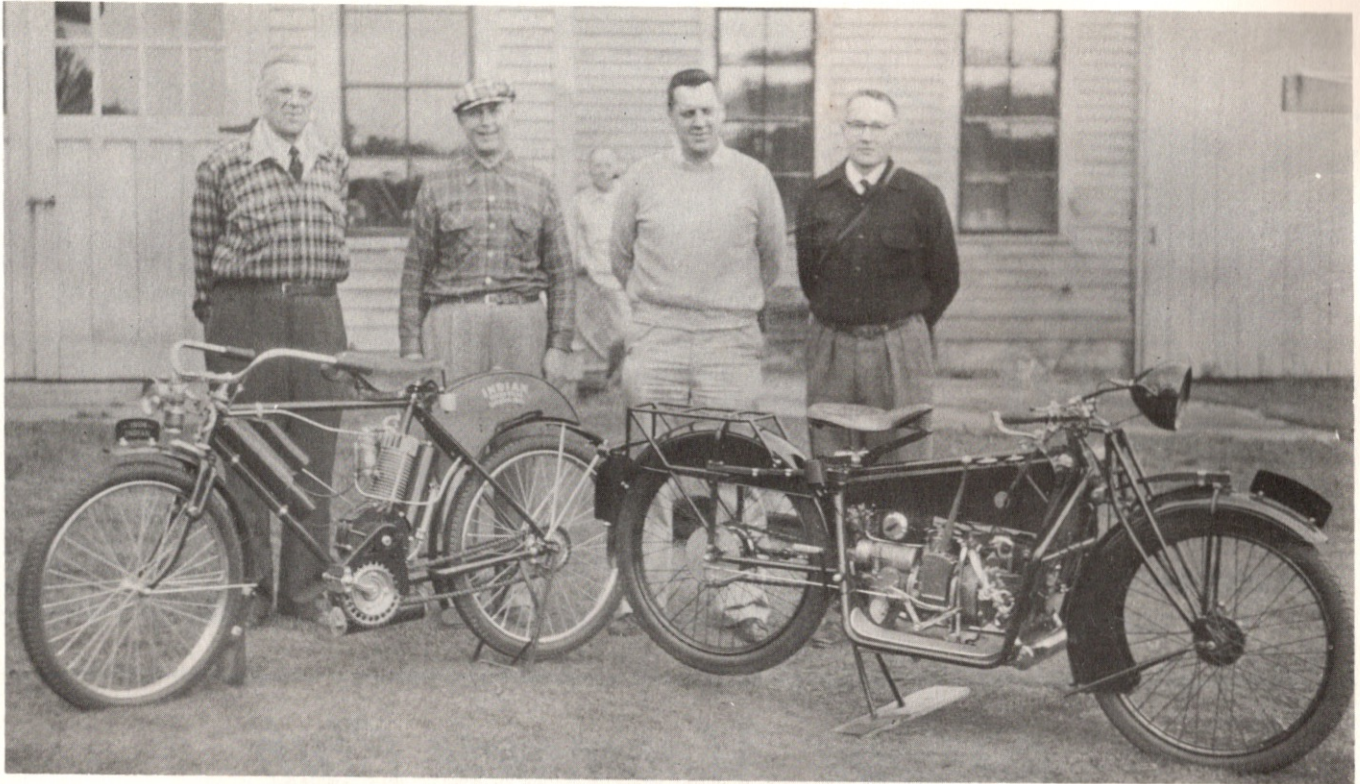
Numerous times over the years our AMCA Presidents message has reminded us of the club's promise is to bring antique motorcyclist's together and forge friendships. Here is an example of that from a personal experience. Set the way back machine for the year 1977 and the place "Lars Anderson Transportation Museum" Brookline, Ma. when Mary and I attended our second AMCA meet. The meets were small and afforded everyone time to talk, shake hands, and inspect all the machines. In the field came a 41 FL Harley Davidson Knucklehead, Flight Red and Black. The restorer/Owner was Wray Murdough of Swanzey, N.H. In the words of past President John (Doc) Patt, the V Twin engine fit that motorcycle like a hand fits a glove! Talk about a wealth of knowledge, and both ready to share it. Then as now those Knucklehead bikes were highly sought after. At some point I needed one, unfortunately so did a lot of other enthusiasts. I settled for a 41 UL Flathead 74, a few years later, mostly done it needed a lot more skill than I had so, Wray invited me to his shop for a few days to make it run and dial it in. This done, we and other enthusiasts rode to a lot of Yankee meets. I still needed a 74 C.I. Knuckle. I did eventually get one, Wray helped out on it, of course it was a 41. We rode to a lot of meets and one in 1982 stands out. Wray had taken the 41 and it now had a sidecar mounted on it. I'll explain the significance in a minute. Several of us were enjoying the meet and joking. Wray's 41 was about 150' away parked on a slight rise in the field. His youngest son Jimmy was on the bike pushing that kicker arm for all he was worth for a while. Earlier Wray had said if you can start it you can ride it. Now to put this into perspective Jimmy was about 95 LBS and 13. As luck would have it, the bike fired off, Jimmy looked at Dad who said, "I told you if you started it, you can ride it"! Well, he did not need to be told twice, he rode around the meet till he ran out of fuel, found more and rode more. Looking back, I don't know who was prouder, Jimmy or Wray. I got to see the first time Jimmy started and rode that bike. It was a grass field and no matter how tight or fast, that side car kept the bike upright. It is understood in our Sport; we are only care takers of history. Sometime back Wray gave the 41 to Jimmy for its next journey. Father time caught up to Wray and he passed in April 2021. The bike had sat for a few years, and Jimmy set to work making it road worthy. Fast forward another few years and the Greenfield, Ma. Yankee meet came around again, It is a relatively close meet for me living years Portsmouth N.H so I meet a couple of members in Bennington, N.H. for the company and what needs to be called a spirited ride on curvy roads with Dave Gauffin

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on his immaculate Triumph, a gentleman on a BMW brick, and me on the firm riding 41 H-D, talk about a motley crew. Dave had asked earlier if we wanted to stop in Keene to meet up with a few other riders, one also Had a Knucklehead. You guessed it, Jimmy was riding the 41, Alright!!! After 48 years I get to ride my 41 FL next to another 41FL with a Murdough as the pilot. At the stop signs and lights, we would joke. Hearing the beat of the engines and the exhaust tone was like going back in time. To sum it up: Wray's bike is in good hands. The Club fulfilled its promise of enjoying riding and being involved with our old bikes with good friends. However, Mary may have said it best, after looking at the pictures she commented "Looks like Two Knuckle Heads with Two Knuckle Heads". Laughs on her, I may not put up with her wit for another 53 years.



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The Founders and original Officers of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America: Left to right, Henry Wing Sr., Brier, Mass., President; T. A. Hodgdon, Nutley, N. J., Vice-President; Henry Wing Jr., Greenfield, Mass., Treasurer; Emmett Moore, Nutley, N. J., Secretary. Photo taken at first Meet, Brier, Mass., 1954 shows the Henry Wing Sr. 1906 Indian and 1918 A.B.C.