

Yankee Chatter

RIDE 'EM, DON'T HIDE 'EM!

2024 IS WAITING



LET'S RIDE!

Yankee Chapter National Meet

This year's Yankee Chapter National Meet will be held on July 26-28, 2024 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Coming Soon!

The Rhode Island AMCA Camp & Ride is scheduled for May 16-18th, at the Tavern On The Hill in W. Greenwich, RI

Adventures in Oley?

Did you make it to this year's Perkiomen Chapter National Meet in Oley, PA? Send in your pictures, stories, or neat finds for a feature in our next Yankee Chatter!

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MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



Mecum Auction - 2024

Submission From Ken Herschfield

“Vegas, baby! My very understanding wife wanted to go see a certain band in concert at a certain new circular venue on the Las Vegas Strip over the winter. She threw out a couple of dates, so we decided on a weekend, made our arrangements and bought the tickets. A few days later I came home from work and there at my dinner table seat was mail from Mecum announcing their annual Las Vegas motorcycle auction. “Now I know why you wanted to go on that weekend” she said. “I had no idea, but what a coincidence!!!” I replied.

We arrived in Sin City (not Lynn!) late-morning on Friday and headed over to the South Point Casino. Walking in the door we immediately came upon a few motorcycles and signs pointing us to the arena where the auction was held. After a quick bite and “refreshments”, we entered the venue and straight ahead was the highlight of the auction – a museum-quality 1911 Harley Twin, supposedly one of only four known to exist today. It sure was pretty, but the estimate was \$500K and more than I had budgeted for this weekend.



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Motorcycle auctions are kinda weird! Unless you are an expert in a particular machine, you are really taking a chance on buying something without really knowing what is “real” or “correct” or if it even runs! The competition of an auction can make people spend more than they really planned to, as well. With close to 2,000 motorcycles for sale (yes, you read that correctly), there were some deals to be had, and there was some big money thrown around, too. Top sale at the auction was an unrestored 1940 Brough Superior with sidecar that went for \$260K, followed by an immaculate 1928 Indian Ace with Henderson-designed four-cylinder engine that changed hands at \$220K. We walked around the hall, stopped by the AMCA table to chat with club President John Markley, and looked at enough bikes to make your head spin.



When all was said and done, my wife's favorite was a 1996 Gold Limited Edition Honda Z50J – go figure! That 1911 Twin did get bid up to \$200K but did not sell, so if you are in the market for one, it's still out there..."

-Ken H.

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THE SPAWN OF THE DEVIL

Submission by Maine "Ted" Smith

In the US there are very few vintage BMW importers. There were only 443 R17s built. Today there are fewer than 30 remaining. This R17 was imported and sold to me by a well-known aftermarket BMW dealer in Norcross, Georgia. In pictures, the bike looked solid and complete. The dealer had assured me that the bike was completely rebuilt by 'The leading BMW restorer in Germany's Black Forest.



The dealer told me he had personally ridden the bike around his parking lot to be certain it was ready for sale. And, as with almost all vintage bike sales, the bike was sold as-is....

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When the bike arrived, I couldn't start the engine because the German 'expert' had incorrectly installed the kick start ratchet. After I rebuilt the transmission, the engine started. Almost immediately after the engine started the right cylinder completely blew apart from its mounting flange.

I'm frequently asked how the bike became known as "The Spawn of the Devil". That's a long story that's best told around a camp fire with a couple of beers in hand. But for now, please take a look at what this bike had to offer.



A view of the cylinder before it's departure.



This particular motorcycle came with a surprise feature: a gas-tank mounted bullet-hole.

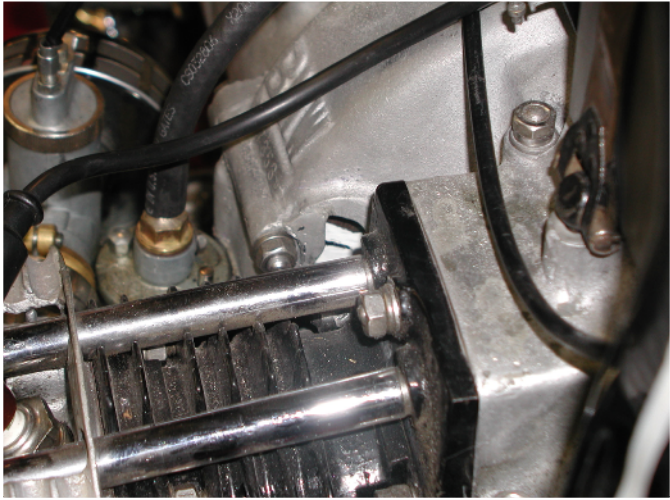


The unrestored original speedometer.

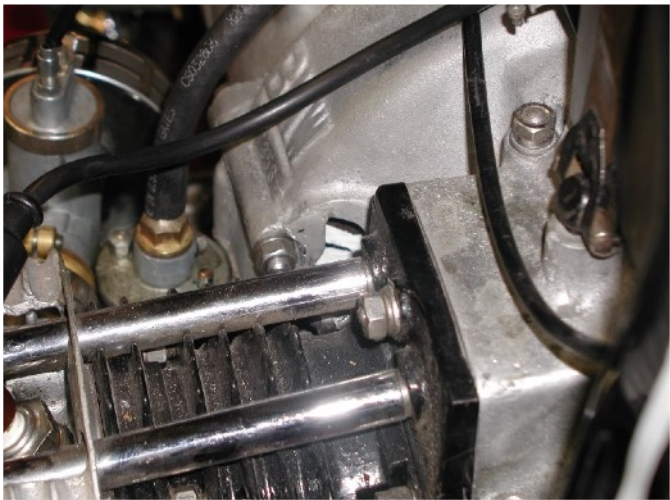


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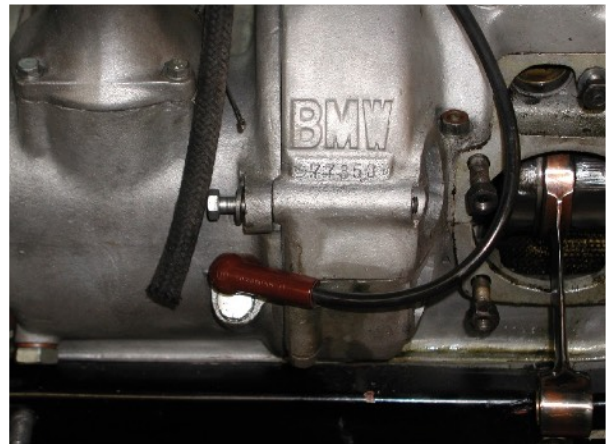
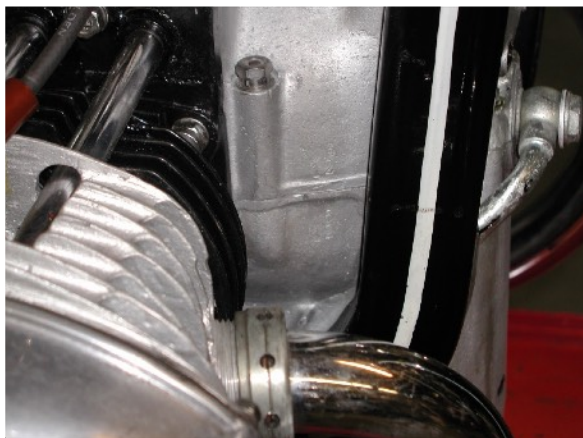
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A close-up view of the incorrect carb and pushrod tubes.



The frame number and a look at the new rear brake.

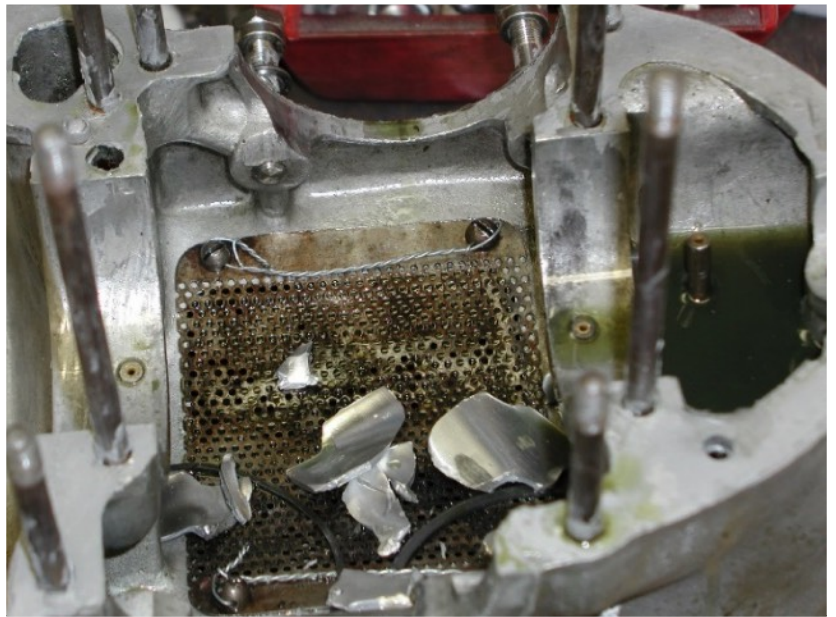


Fortunately, the engine's top and bottom case machining numbers match.

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This is what happens when the expert in 'The Black Forest' incorrectly sleeves the cylinders.



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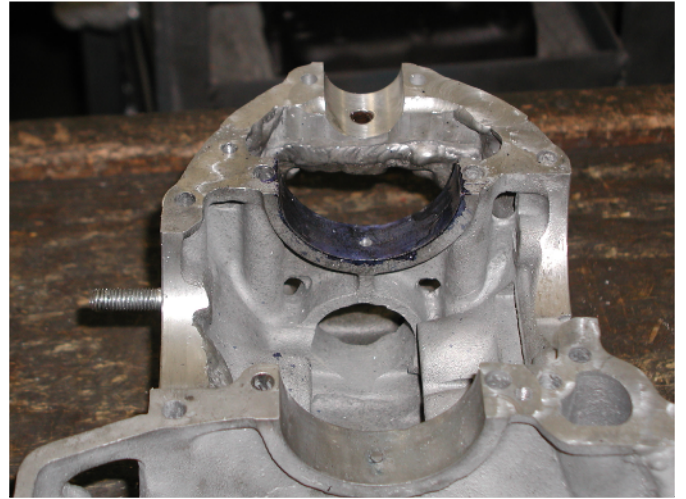
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Note the difference between the correct pistons (right) and the pistons that were in the bike (left).

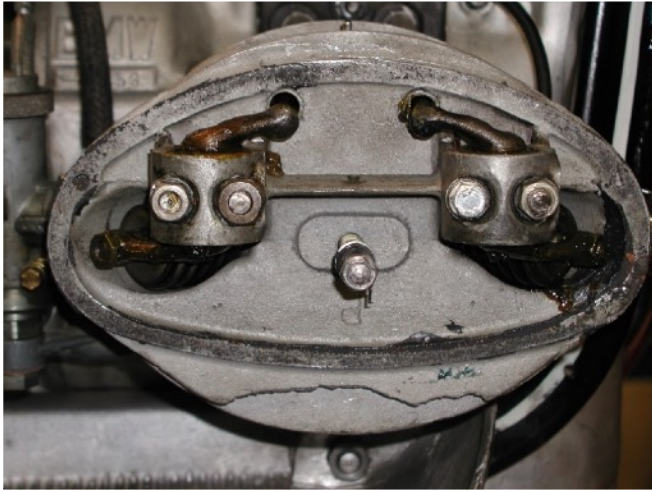


The pistons that came with the bike had valve pockets hand carved into them with a die grinder. The valve pockets had been cut completely through the top of the piston. The resulting hole was repaired with a mysterious epoxy or aluminum solder.



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Both cylinder heads were missing their rocker arm bridges. Notice the bottom fin was broken off.



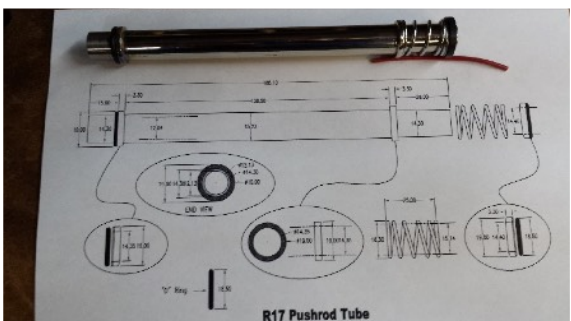
The badly worn rocker arms had stripped adjuster threads on two rockers and the bearing surfaces were corroded on three rockers. I replaced all them.



The refurbished right cylinder head with new rocker arms, a new rocker arm bridge, new pushrods, new pushrod tubes, new valves and new valve guides.



Here is the incorrect and repair welded R12 camshaft that came with the bike. It was replaced with a correct and freshly reground R17 camshaft.



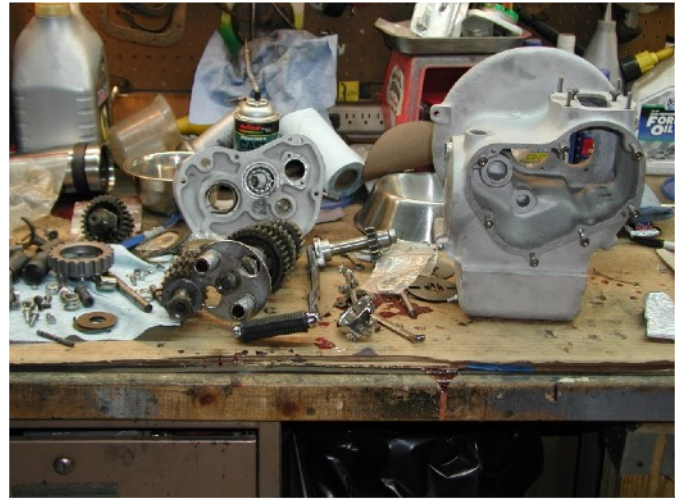
And see here my reverse-engineered drawing of the new pushrod tubes.

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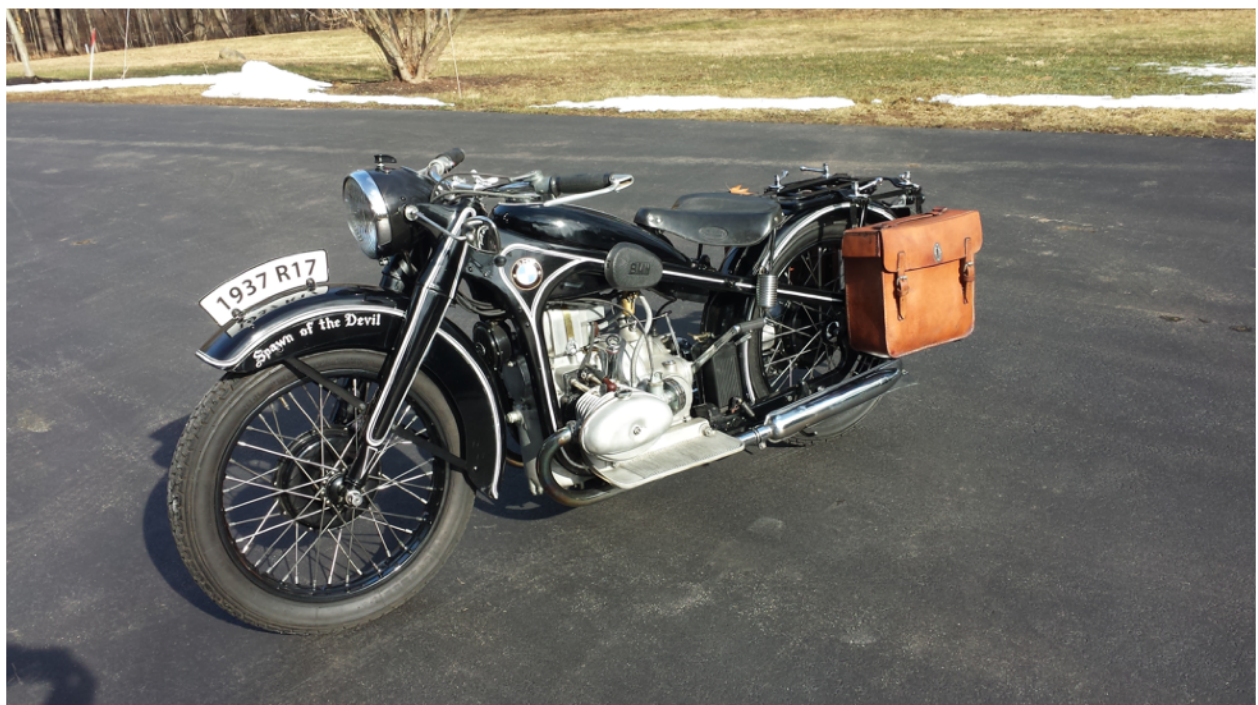


The newly completed right cylinder



It was a long but rewarding process. Here's me receiving the 'Speed and Excellence' awarded to Both my 1936 R12 and my 1937 R17 (behind the judge) at the 2022 Greenwich Concours D'Elegance

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The completed "Spawn of the Devil" - Built by Maine "Ted" Smith.



Animated Rides?

Here's something I don't think many of us would be familiar with. Seen to the right, we have none other than a... screenshot from a video game? Recently, a friend sent me this image from his recent play through of one of the Fallout video games. (For those of you looking for a show to binge, it was recently adapted into an Amazon series with relatively good reviews). While the show doesn't feature any of our beloved vintage bikes (to my knowledge), I'm reminded of how the younger generation is introduced to our hobby nowadays. I didn't chase down my own Ariel Square Four because it was in a game, but, apparently, that's the reason my friend likes it. I thought it strange, but then thought of all of the animated games and shows I've sat through with motorcycles that meant something to me. My favorite Crash Bandicoot 3 levels featured Crash's "hog." Kino's Journey, introduced me to a talking motorcycle based on the Brough Superior SS100. A Japanese cartoon inspired me to hunt down my Vespa S.S. 180. Every time I think of the BMW K1, I think of Akira. The only motorcycle memorabilia in my living room is a model of the Final Fantasy 7 Hardy-Daytona (an obvious homage to the Harley-Davidson brand).

As a test, I showed pictures of these animated motorcycles, and a few others, to several individuals below the age of 30, and *every* person knew at least one of the sources, and each person was excited about the "motorcycle" they recognized.

Do you have a favorite set of "fictional" motorcycles? Send in your favorites for us to share in our next Chatter!



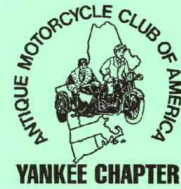
"I've wanted a motorcycle ever since we got to ride the hover bikes in Jak 2!" - A real quote from my test group.

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CHAPTER THROWBACK SHOWCASE



YANKEE CHATTER



WINTER / SPRING 2002

No. 02 / 1

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



C.Gallo Photo

Jim and Linda Casey

rode their 1945 Harley-Davidson Knucklehead to the Yankee Chapter Christmas party at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Oxford, MA on December 2, 2001. Jim is the Webmaster of the Yankee Chapter web site. He continues to improve the site and welcomes feedback from our members regarding enhancements and changes.

Check out his work at: www.yankeechapter.org

A photograph of a motorcycle rider in a brown leather suit, white helmet, and goggles, leaning into a turn on a vintage motorcycle. The background is a solid green color.

Antique Motorcycle Club Of America

Yankee Chapter

Antique Motorcycle Show And Swap Meet

Franklin County Fairgrounds Greenfield, MA

General info:
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Ken Herschfield
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"Ride 'Em, Don't Hide 'Em"

July 26 - 28, 2024

WE NEED YOU!!!

Send your contribution for :

For Sale, Wanted, or Trades, Other Event Notices, Stories, Articles, Ideas, or Pictures to:

David Block
78 Greystone Rd. Ext.
Plymouth, CT 06782

or

lockrii@icloud.com
(860)-329-6470

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UPCOMING EVENTS

YANKEE CHAPTER EVENTS

May

May 16-18th

Rhode Island AMCA Camp & Ride,
Tavern On The Hill, W. Greenwich, RI

July

July 28-30

Yankee National AMCA Meet
Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, MA

July 31-August 2

Yankee Summer National Road Run, South Deerfield, MA

August

Southeastern MA AMCA Camp & Ride
More Information to Follow

OTHER EVENTS

May 31 - June 4, 2023

Americade
Lake George, NY

June 10-18

Laconia Motorcycle Week
Laconia, NH

August 20, 2023

Brit Jam
Haddam Neck Fairgrounds, East Hampton, CT
