



Yankee Chatter

RIDE 'EM, DON'T HIDE 'EM!



SUMMER IS HERE! LET'S PUT ON THOSE MILES!

The Yankee National Meet is Coming!

Terryville is just a stone's throw away now. Get your vending spots secured, and your bikes in tip-top shape! Get your notebooks ready and your pencils sharpened! Most importantly, get those antique motorcycles out of the garage!

Photo Submissions

Don't forget to submit your photos from this year's rides! Submit photos from your rides for a feature in our next Chatter!



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SUMMER 2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year's Oley National Meet saw the greatest number of vendors and campers in its history. With the Harmony and Trumansburg National Meets canceled for 2021 our Terryville Meet may have the greatest number of vendors, campers and visitors it's ever had. While the thought of hosting our largest meet is exciting, I'm concerned our volunteers could be overwhelmed by the sheer number of people attending. This is where you can help. When you arrive at Terryville volunteer a couple of hours. There will be volunteer sign-up sheets at the main gate and in the Hospitality tent. Better yet, contact any of our directors well before our meet and let them know you can help. You can find contact information for all of our directors at the beginning of this newsletter. We can use help at the main gate with registration, guiding vendors and campers to their assigned spots, in the hospitality tent, with judging etc.

The Rhode Island Camp & Ride

What a spectacular weekend TomTom put together for us. The camp site was more than accommodating. The weather was three raindrops short of perfect. Friday afternoon's ride into Connecticut's quiet corner faced little traffic and included a great lunch. Saturday's events included a ride through several small RI communities and a state park on our way to the Audrian Auto Museum where we were treated like long lost family. We finished our visit to Newport with a leisurely lunch at our choice of several local restaurants. Saturday evening capped off the weekend with a bonfire and TomTom's tribute to our lost friend, Battery Bill, with their traditional burning of the Christmas tree.



SUMMER 2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Maine Camp & Ride

Jim Gorman put together one heck of a great Camp and Ride in Freeport Maine. Friday afternoon turned out to be chilly and slightly wet. Regardless, we enjoyed a short ride to a local members private collection. And what a collection it is. This collection is so large the Pickers included it in one of their episodes. Friday evening found most of us swapping stories around camp fires. Saturday's weather could not have been better. We rode down south to Bath Maine and toured the Maine Maritime Museum. On our return trip we stopped off at a hidden local sea food stand. Some of us pigged out on fresh off the boat Maine lobsters and other Maine delicacies. Saturday evening, Jim treated us to an old-fashioned Maine clam bake. I'm told the clams we had were dug that morning. I guess it's true that Yankees have equal passions for old bikes and excessive eating. Sunday morning, I woke up to the aromas of low tide mixed with the aroma of antique motorcycle exhaust. Can life get any better than that?



SUMMER 2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In January, I announced:

“Each BoD member has agreed to extend their term by one year. New BoD elections will be held at our 2021 annual Meeting/Christmas Party.

The three open 2022 BoD positions are:

- *President: That's me*
- *Director #1: That's Peter MacMurray*
- *Director #2: That's TomTom Covill*

Please give some thought to who you would like to serve on the 2022 BoD. You can make your recommendations to Diane, or any member of the BoD, any time before the Christmas Party. You can recommend members to serve in the open Directors' positions and members to join the BoD as Associate Directors. Have you considered nominating yourself? You should. We can use all the help we can get.”

By the time this issue of the Chatter reaches you Terryville will be just a short time away. This year Terryville has the potential to be our largest event, ever. The Lions have improved many areas of the fairgrounds. While these improvements have forced us to make substantial changes to our field arrangement, we will make every effort to reassign spaces to everyone that has requested their old spot back.

Till Terryville

—Ted

YANKEE SWAP & SELL

DON'T FORGET!!!

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

2021 YANKEE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
Chapter Ambassadors				
Maine	Jim Gorman	8 Lunt Road Freeport, ME	207-831-4183	101indianscout@comcast.net
Western MA	Chris Lenox	13 North Street Granby, MA 01033	413-531-3983	webmaster@yankeechapter.org
Eastern MA	George Kyller	P.O. Box 176 Plympton, MA 02367	781-583-1462	swampratgk@gmail.com
Vermont	Peter MacMurray	539 Masrhall St. Holliston, MA 01746	508-429-4592	pjmacmurray@gmail.com
New Hampshire	Dan Margolien	7A Glen Road Salem, NH	603-401-8851	pocketvalve@gmail.com
Western CT	Maine "Ted" Smith	805 Reservoir Rd. Cheshire, CT 06410	203-272-6606	oldbmws@yahoo.com
Operational Members				
Treasurer	Peter Grace	405 Main St. Bldg. #2 South Berwick, ME 03908	207-451-7375	phgrace@comcast.net
Membership Chair	Ken Herschfield	118 Captain Pierce Rd. Scituate, MA 02066	781-264-3245	kherschfield@hotmail.com
Webmeister	Chris Lenox	13 North Street Granby, MA 01033	413-531-3983	luckchris66@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	David Block	78 Greystone Rd. Ext. Plymouth, CT 06782	860-329-6470	lockrii@icloud.com
Chapter Judge	Peter MacMurray	539 Masrhall St. Holliston, MA 01746	508-429-4592	pjmacmurray@gmail.com
Honored Member	Jessie Aikman	259 Silgo Road Rollinsford, NH 03869	603-749-0450	canvascutter@gmail.com
Honored Member	Dan Margolien	7A Glen Road Salem, NH	603-401-8851	pocketvalve@gmail.com

EDITOR'S PAGE

It feels good to be out on the roads again. The days of riding to escape the heat are here. Cruises, Rides, and Shows litter my weekly schedule and most of my remaining projects are on the back-burner for the season. For this Issue, I'll keep it brief. (Less Reading, Less Writing = More Riding). In that spirit, I'd like to share a few of my go-to rides to keep me up on two wheels.

I'm from Plymouth, CT (the same town as Terryville) and I ride Connecticut's northwest corner the majority of the time. What can I say? I like hills and trees more than I like traffic. My favorite ride begins with a trip to Lime Rock Park (in lieu of the Toymaker's Cafe in Falls Village, which recently shut its doors), and takes me out into Millerton, NY before I continue to Hudson, where the Moto Coffee Machine shop awaits those who seek out a truly unique experience. The ride is beautiful, the food and coffee are good, and the place is full of motorcycles, gear, and memorabilia. The downtown area is full of unique stores and restaurants to peruse before circling back. But, perhaps my favorite thing about this particular trip is that there are ALWAYS unique motorcycles and their owners to meet along the way.

Then there's what I consider my usual routes— a series of cafes and vistas for me to “commute” to so that I may find a place to do school work a.k.a. get my riding fix. For those who are interested, the locations are usually broken between between the Oxford Baking Company, Rebel Dog, Birdhouse, Perkatory, The Granville Country Store, Toast & Co, and any handful of parks, pull-offs, farm-stands, or hiking trails along the way. Nowadays, especially with the work-from-home environments that are getting to be commonplace, if a place has Wifi, we now have an excuse to plan a ride and get out of the house, and go there.



EDITOR'S PAGE

Next, I like to occasionally take a break from the more leisurely rides to do a bit of traveling. A few years back I traveled from Westfield, Mass up north through Vermont and New Hampshire almost daily driving tractor-trailers. On those trips, I took a lot of notes of interesting places, nice riding roads, scenic areas, and good places to eat. Nowadays, whenever I'm in the mood for a bit of a longer ride, I saddle up with enough gear for a day or two, and hit the road to try to revisit some of these places and, hopefully, get lost along the way.

Have any excuses for riding, places to recommend, etc. anywhere in New England? Don't forget to share with your fellow Yankees!

MEMBER STORIES: SHORTY'S CHIEF

My name is Shorty Longvall and I've been riding the same old '48 chief since 1973. But, how I came to acquire it is a funny story in itself.



In 1973 I was 20 years old, riding Triumphs and BSA's and hanging out at Randy Wilson's Triumph shop in W. Boylston Ma. Randy's was no dealership of today. This was a real old school, old time motorcycle shop and to say Randy Wilson was eccentric would be the understatement of the century. He was a genuine old-time rider and as cranky and moody as you get. If he didn't like you he wouldn't serve you. He was known for walking away from the counter and not returning if a customer annoyed him and threw more than his share of paying customers out just on principal. His two mechanics at the time were Dick Niemi, a former racer, and Ed Wright (both of whom later left and opened Gardner Cycles). Why these much older guys tolerated this 20 year old is beyond me but we were all fast friends and stayed that way all their lives.

MEMBER STORIES: SHORTY'S CHIEF

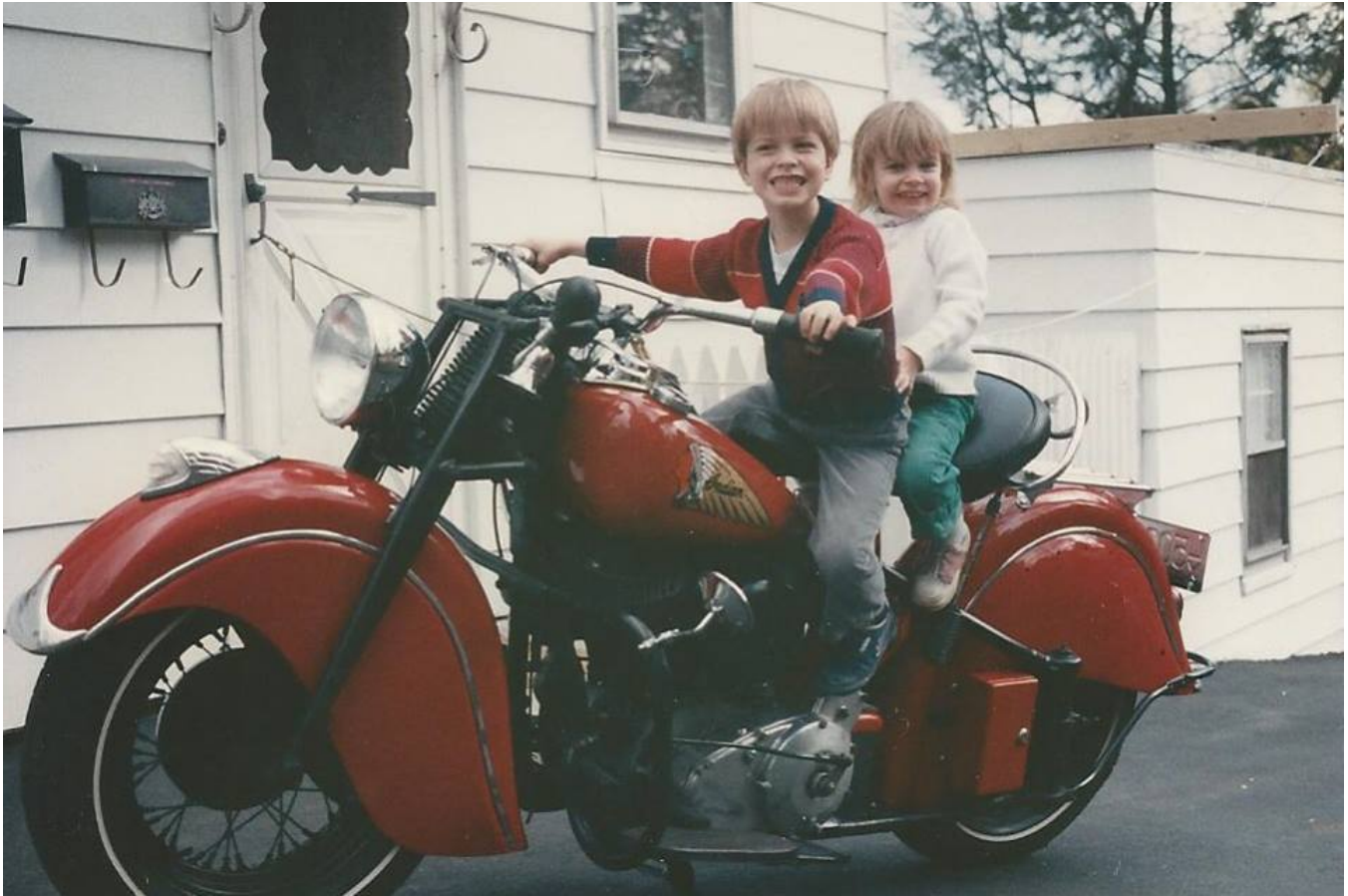
One day I walked into the shop to find an old Indian Chief jammed over in the corner of the 'showroom' with a bunch of stuff piled around it. It was rough but to me, it was the coolest thing I had ever seen. Randy said it wasn't for sale but Dick confided that it was there on consignment so I knew it was. I think Randy just liked having this old antique in his shop, shades of times gone past. But I had to have it, so the ritual began. I would get in line with the other customers and when my turn came I would say "hey how much is that old chief" at which point Randy would growl 'it's not for sale!' and huff off. It literally went on this way, on and off, for weeks, sometimes twice a day. It finally got to the point that he would react the minute he saw me get in line and at the end, all I had to do was stand outside looking in the window and hold two fingers up behind my head like feathers when he looked up to produce the response. Dick and Ed thought it was hysterical.

Finally, he started to relent because he thought he had a way to beat me. He knew I was young and had little disposable cash. He said he was pretty sure it didn't run and if I were to buy it, I had to take it just like that. He knew I couldn't gamble on a machine that might not be all there, so he thought that would be the end of it. But we had a plan of our own. Dick snuck the battery out of it and charged it up and one Saturday when Randy wasn't there, we pushed it out into the yard, hooked up the battery, Dick made a few adjustments, and— with fire extinguisher in hand— fired it up. It ran like a top!

Dick rode it around the yard a few times and pronounced it sound, we shut it down, pushed it back inside, piled the crap around it and it was like it never happened. The next Saturday I walked in and announced "OK, I'll take it, just like it is" he barked, "I don't think it runs!" "I know," I said, "I'll take it". When the paperwork was done, I said, "well it's mine, can we push it outside?" As we're moving it out, Randy's buzzing about, crabbing that it might not run and Chiefs have to have a good battery in them etc, etc. He kept magpieing right up to the second I gave it 2 primer kicks, hit the key and gave it one good boot, and it roared to life.

Randy stopped talking mid sentence. He was flabbergasted. It was excellent! We never did let him in on the joke and he told that story for years whenever I brought it by, with us grinning in the background like a couple of idiots, about how that old Chief from his shop, after sitting all that time fired up on the first kick.

MEMBER STORIES: SHORTY'S CHIEF



And how much did I pay for it? The bike was consigned by Henry Selmer, who snapped his leg backwards trying to start it when the ratchet slipped. He just wanted it gone and I gave him \$500.00 and a Studebaker Lark with a blown motor. Best \$500.00 I ever spent!

Yankee Chapter National Meet August 6 - 7, 2021

**Terryville Lions
Fairgrounds
Terryville, CT**

Maps and Motels
Use Google Maps
Town Hill Road
Terryville, CT

Camping on grounds for
A.M.C.A. members and guests
Must show valid A.M.C.A.
card to camp or vend.
Camping available
Thursday, Friday and
Saturday nights.

Judging Information:
Peter MacMurray
(508) 429-4592
pjmacmurray@gmail.com
On-site registration closes
at 10:00 AM Saturday
Judging to follow

**No admittance to
meet before Noon
Thursday August 5**

Early arrivals
Please see
Printable National Meet Vending,
Camping information and rules at
yankeechapter.org/terryvillernationalmeet.shtml

General Info:
www.yankeechapter.org
Still Have Questions:
Ted Smith
(203) 675-4894
oldbmws@yahoo.com

"Ride 'Em, Don't Hide 'Em"

Visit www.yankeechapter.org for schedule of events



EVENTS

2021 Events

Terryville, CT – Yankee Chapter National Meet

August 06-07, 2021

Spencer, MA – Rice-O-Rama

September 12, 2021

Wildwood, NJ – The Race of Gentlemen (TROG)

October 02-03, 2021

Lake George, NY – Americade Motorcycle Touring Rally

September 21-25, 2021 ***Moved from Usual Date in Early June***

East Hampton, CT – 35th Annual Brit Jam

August 15, 2021

WE NEED YOU!

Any events you think should make the list? Local bike nights, motorcycle shows, charity rides, etc.? Send any suggestions for the Fall Chatter's event section to:

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

or

lockrii@icloud.com

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