



Yankee Chatter

RIDE 'EM, DON'T HIDE 'EM!



**COLD WEATHER,
HOT BIKES**
GET READY FOR SPRING!

Same Meet, New Location

The 2022 Yankee Summer Nationals will be held at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, MA on July 30-31, 2022. Vendor access begins Friday July 29 at noon. The new facility is located just off of I-91 and offers plenty of parking, camping amenities, food, and more. We're excited for this to be our best location yet!

Check out the flier on Page 9 for more details!



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WELCOME TO THE BOARD - INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD DIRECTORS

Dick Thompson –

My motorcycle experience began Christmas of 1958 when I received a rusty, non-running Safticycle Mountaineer as a gift from my father. February thaw came during school vacation, and I was riding it. It is now restored, and has seen AMCA Winner's Circle & Most Unique awards. I still own and enjoy riding it. I like motorcycles in general and currently own bikes from 8 different manufacturers. Seven of my bikes have reached Winners Circle. This winter I have been finishing the restoration of two Norton Commandos.

I'm tackling the position with my son Matt. Matt has judged for 5 years. Matt has two antique motorcycles and many, many bicycles. He has both graphic and architectural design background.

Dick's Resume:

1968-1971 U.S. Army, Aircraft Mechanic with the First Air Cavalry, Project Transition, Motorcycle Mechanics

1971-1972 NHTI (New Hampshire Technical Institute) - Associates of Engineering, Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology

1973-1978 Rode, Raced and Repaired Motorcycles, & Service Manager in two large multi-franchise motorcycle dealerships

1978-2008 Project Engineer, Kingsbury Corp., Assembly Systems Division

1980 Nathaniel Hawthorne College - Bachelor's in Business Administration

2008-Present Retired – Ride, Restore and Repair Motorcycles



Yankee Chapter 2006 National Award Winners – Featuring Dick's Safticycle Mountaineer.



Cindy Mesmer –

I grew up & live on Cape Cod, MA. I commercial fished for several years & still do any chance I get, however my “real job” now is as a Nurse Practitioner.

I have loved motorcycles since I was a kid riding my brothers Rupp in the woods next to my house.

My passion is for antique Harleys, though I appreciate all other makes too. I love getting my hands dirty working on bikes and motors, digging through boxes at meets, looking for project parts and researching, listening & asking too many questions to learn more about these treasures! The best part is getting to know so many great people that I consider good friends through the AMCA.

I’m currently finishing up restoration on a 1938 UH Flathead & putting back together a 1959 FLH for this Spring. Cant wait!

I’m probably best known for riding my 1951 Panhead, “No Man’s Pan” everywhere! I am also a member of the Tumbleweeds MC out of Bridgewater, MA & am involved in putting on the Vintage MC Show held in Barnstable in September.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello Yankees! 2022 is here and we will be riding soon enough. Please reach out to anyone on the Board throughout the year if you know of any events happening in your area that you think other chapter members would want to attend. We will be happy to post these on our website and Facebook pages, along with dates for this year's Camp & Rides.

Don't forget that our AMCA National Meet has relocated to the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, MA. If you enjoyed setting up shop in the livestock stalls in Hebron years ago, well then this is the place for you - there are about 100 of them waiting for your vendor display. Since this is our first year at the new venue we are still working on the field setup, but the grounds are big enough to fit everyone we had at last year's event and then some. Look for an announcement on registration sometime towards the beginning of May. Vendors will not be allowed on the grounds prior to noon on Friday, July 29th. General public access will be on Saturday and Sunday. Judging will take place on Sunday July 31st and we plan to bring back the field games on Sunday as well.

More information to come.

Finally, please continue to send in items for the Yankee Chatter. Give us a product review, write up something about your trip to another AMCA meet, pictures and updates of your latest project, whatever - send something!

EDITOR'S PAGE

Planning Ahead

So far, my winter's involved a lot of ups and downs. What I mean to say is that I have two bikes on my motorcycle lifts at all times and the work never seems to stop. Between cleaning, fixing, or restoring I've got my hands full. 'Tis the season for tinkering, after all.

I'm setting aside collecting for this year and focusing more on the hobby. For 2022, that meant a new garage space. (You can never have enough!) I've decided to go ahead and build myself a "truck" to use to support my motorcycle addiction. So, in honor of the little red Hondas I've picked up along the way, I'm introducing a matching 1960 El Camino to the collection. Then there's Covid—its greatest impact on my life has been the drastic cut in seat-time that it's brought about. This year, I'll be making up for lost time.

**Sharing Stories**

It's been a year since my first Chatter. I wrote a story then about how I wanted to be a writer when I was a kid. There's just something about being able to share a good story. But, I've realized that there are other ways to share a story.

One of the best things I've got from growing up with all the old-timer gearheads of New England is a range of wonderful stories to listen to. And some people can really tell a good story! I'm talking about the stories that are *too good, too comical, too outlandish* to be true. They're the stories that you take with a grain of salt and the ones that you simply nod along to, only to later have the tale corroborated by witnesses, or photos, or souvenirs from the adventure.

Over the years, I've come to the conclusion that sometimes the best way to share a story isn't to *tell* it. Sometimes the best stories are the ones that we let others tell. I'm talking about the ones that get captured in a speeding ticket, or a photo, or a melted piston, or shared by your friends long after you've forgotten the tale yourself.

Most of us Yankees probably realize the stories that our motorcycles hold—the memories that they can evoke and the stories that they help us share.

THE STORY CONTINUES

In our last issue our member, Shorty Longvall, told the tale of the fateful encounter he had with a traveling Indian rider with a broken clutch lever. As a fellow Indian rider, Shorty did what any good Yankee would do and helped the fellow out. The two made fast friends as they made their repairs and then, after a long day of camaraderie our mystery stranger left Shorty with nary a name to remember him by..

But, it's funny how things come full circle in our little motorcycle community here in the Northeast. Life's full of little anecdotes. And so, we present to you the continuation of Shorty's tale:

"Twenty five years later, I was reading the *Motorcyclists Post* and I saw a picture of a guy and his Chief. I didn't recognize the rider, but I sure recognized that bike! I asked some other Yankees about it and it turns out everyone knows this guy but me, and apparently, he tells this story all the time! I hoped to run into him at Hebron that year with no luck. But the very next year, I was at Rhinebeck and was told he was there, so off I went in search of him.

Finally, I see this big guy sitting on that bike I know so well. I walk up to him and say "excuse me, are you the guy they call Battery Bill?"

"Yes I am" he says.

I said " Well you don't remember me, but do you remember your clutch breaking off in Worcester 25 years ago?"

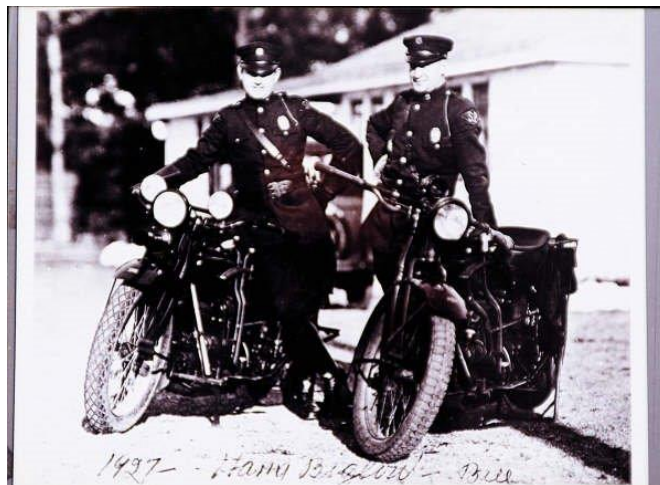
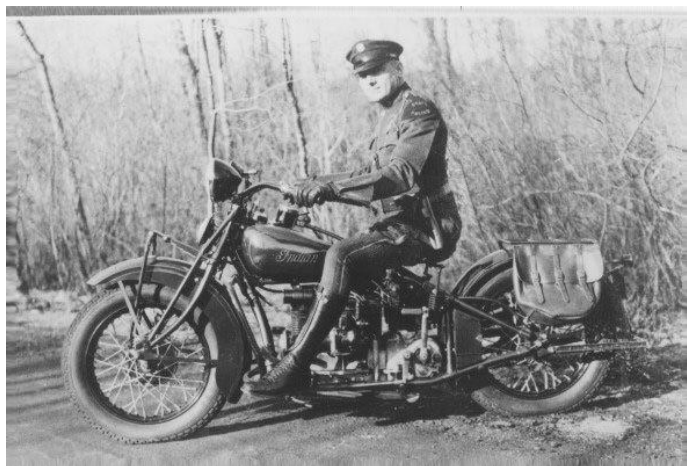
His eyes widened, he let out a big laugh and he thrust his hand out. "I remember you now" he hollered. "I'd get off the bike to shake your hand but my kickstand fell off somewhere and I've got no way to park it!"

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS



Attleboro, Mass. Circa 1915.

Connecticut State Police



**New
Location**
**Franklin County
Fairgrounds
Greenfield, MA**

Yankee Chapter

Antique Motorcycle Club Of America
**Antique Motorcycle Show
And
Swap Meet**

General info:
www.yankeechapter.org
Still Have Questions:
Ken Herschfield
781-264-3245
yankeenationalmeet@gmail.com

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

July 29 - 31, 2022

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

EVENTS

2022 Events

Naugatuck, CT – Connecticut Cabin Fever Custom Car & Motorcycle Show

April 2-3, 2022

Stafford Springs, CT – Spring Motorcycle Swap Meet

April 10, 2022

Oley, PA – Perkiomen Chapter National Meet

April 22-23, 2022

Laconia, NH – Laconia Motorcycle Week

June 11-19, 2022

Lake George, NY – Americade Motorcycle Touring Rally

June 7-11, 2022

Greenfield, MA – Yankee Chapter Nationals

July 29-31, 2022

East Hampton, CT – Brit Jam

August 21, 2022

Spencer, MA – Rice-O-Rama

Sept 11, 2022

Barnstable Village, MA – Cape Cod Vintage Motorcycle Show

Sept 25, 2022

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:

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78 Greystone Rd. Ext.
Plymouth, CT 06782

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