

Comstock Chapter News

Antique Motorcycle Club of America

Summer 2017

President's Message



Finally, the weather is cooperating, and just in time as the local vintage motorcycle scene is heating up. Man, there has been a lot of good stuff going on close to home, including antique motorcycle shows, road runs, swap meets, auctions, races, gatherings, and other special events. The Comstock Chapter has been well represented at many of these events, including but not limited to the following events:

- SoCal Chapter of the AMCA Borrego Springs Road Run
- BSA Owners Club of Northern California Clubman Show
- BSA Owner's Club Rides
- Comstock Chapter 100/100/100 Ride
- Comstock Chapter Fossil Fuel Run
- Quail Motorcycle Gathering
- The Great Race (Indian vs. Harley)
- Friendship Day
- Hanford Vintage Motorcycle Rally
- Sacramento Mile
- Sacramento Amateur Mile
- NV Cannonball
- D-36 Flattrack Reunion
- Mecum Las Vegas Spring Auction
- Street Vibrations Motorcycle Gathering

Although I was hoping to attend a majority of the events listed above, family and schedule conflicts limited my participation to a handful of the events. Reports of my recent antique motorcycle adventures, as well as those of other club members, are provided in the following pages of this newsletter. Thanks to all who contributed.

If you missed any of these events, don't worry because there are plenty of other great opportunities on the calendar, so get your bike ready to go. Upcoming events are listed on the back page of this newsletter and you can also check out the events calendar on the Comstock Chapter website for upcoming events in the area at comstock-amca.com.

Comstock Members attending any of the upcoming events are requested to snap some photos and/or prepare a small report on the event. Even the smallest contributions from events you have attended, or other interesting historic or current motorcycle news will ensure that the Comstock Chapter is able to produce a quarterly newsletter with good antique motorcycle content. Thank you in advance for your consideration and contributions. Let's keep the wheels rolling!

Rodd Lighthouse

Museums

By Rodd Lighthouse

Whenever I go to a new city, I typically check to see if there are any motorcycle museums in the area. Over the past couple of years, while attending conferences for work, working in other areas, or just goofing off, I have been fortunate enough to check out a few great museums.

Red Rock Harley-Davidson Museum Las Vegas, Nevada

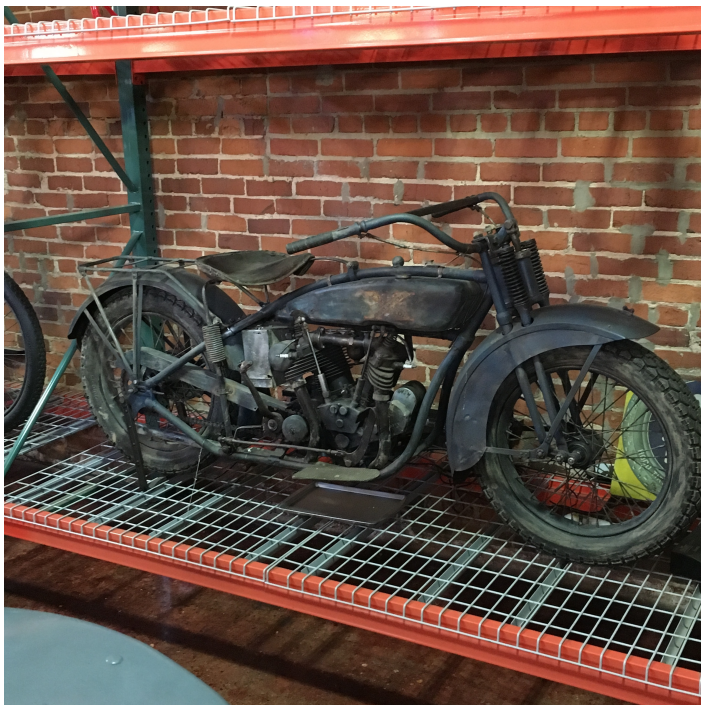
Approximately 10 years ago, my bride went to Las Vegas to visit her sister from Orlando, Florida, who was in town for a conference. As any good wife would do, they decided to visit the local H-D dealership to buy a t-shirt for their wonderful husbands. Yeah, right! They actually went to the dealership to fulfill their own shopping desires. While shopping away, my bride noticed some vintage bikes and had the wherewithal to snap some photos for my viewing pleasure. Intrigued by what I saw in the photos, I had to go and see for myself what I was missing.

Fast-forward approximately 8 years. In August of 2015, I was in Vegas for work. Completing my work earlier than I had planned, I decided to stop by Red Rock Harley-Davidson to have a look at the collection. With some great, historical racing machines and street bikes on display, the museum did not disappoint. One of my racing hero's, Jim Rice, amateur mount BSA Goldstar was on display. A Triumph triple road racer, Harley-Davidson dirt tracker, and factory Honda dirt trackers were also on the menu. In addition to the race bikes, a nice selection of street bikes was on display, including my all time favorite motorcycle, a 1974 Ducati 750 Super Sport.



Coker Tire Museum Chattanooga, Tennessee

Work forced me to Chattanooga, Tennessee in October 2016 to attend a boating conference. I don't really give a crap about boats and I'm not too fond of travelling, but the boating conference provided a little break from work and I was able to obtain a few professional development hours, so off I went. Arriving in Tennessee, I was surprised to see how beautiful the area was, in fact, I wouldn't mind going back and seeing more. Plus riding the Great Smoky Mountain's Tail of the Dragon is on my bucket list.



Registering late for the conference, I was not able to stay where the conference was held, which was actually very fortunate. While walking to my hotel from the conference the first day, I noticed an old brick building with a fancy, neon sign, Honest Charley Speed Shop. Out of the conference early the next day, I headed to Honest Charley, and on my way I noticed a Coker Tire sign on a brick building that appeared to be attached to the Honest Charley building. Inside the speed shop, I quizzed the gent running the place and asked about the Coker Tire sign. I was informed that Honest Charley was established in 1948 and that it is currently owned by Coker Tire. Talking with the gent, I told him I was a bike guy and he proceeded to tell me that Coker Tire has a museum with quite a selection of motorcycles. Off to Coker Tire I went.

The show room of Coker Tire is worth the visit alone, with rare automobiles and a pristine Morgan 3-wheeler occupying the area. Speaking with the cordial receptionist, she informed me of the museum tour times, which did not fit my schedule. The next day, during lunch, I headed over to Coker. As luck would have it, a private tour was scheduled, and I was allowed to tag along. Coker has a fantastic collection of automobiles and motorcycles, and is reported to have one of the largest collections of Excelsior motorcycles. In addition to the Excelsior, fine examples of, restored and unrestored Thor, Sears, Indian, and Harley-Davidson motorcycles were also on display. What a cool place!

Donelson Cycles Museum St. Ann, Missouri

March 15 to March 19, 2017, I attended the NCAA wrestling championships in St. Louis, Missouri. As luck would have it, there is a great museum near St. Louis in St. Ann, Donelson Cycles. Donelson's has been in business since 1962 and was a hub that the western riders worked out of who competed in the Grand National Championship, as well as the fair circuit. A big fan of the GNC, I had to check out the museum. During a break in the wrestling action, I made the trek to Donelson's. The museum has approximately 50 motorcycles on display, including factory machinery raced by my heroes, Jim Rice (BSA Rocket 3) and Mark Brelsford (H-D XR 750). In addition to the factory machines of Rice and Brelsford, Gene Romero's factory Triumph and David Aldana's factory Norton were also on display, as well as a complete stable of non-factory BSA Gold Stars ridden by the likes of Dan Haaby, Shorty Seaborne, Neil Keen, and Stu Morley. As a young boy, I got to see many of these machines race in their heyday at Ascot Park circa 1967.



Although it doesn't look like I remember, Dan Haaby's #22 BSA Gold Star was always one of the prettiest bikes in the pits.

100/100/100 Ride

By Rodd Lighthouse

Five Comstock Chapter members participated in the first Comstock Chapter 100/100/100 ride (100 year old bike and rider combo/100 miles/100th day of the year, almost) on April 9th. It was a cold day, too cold for my beat up body, but the group pulled the ride off anyway. Starting at Starbucks on Caughlin Parkway in Reno, and taking the back roads through Reno to Geiger Grade, we twisted our way to Virginia City to meet up with the gang from Carson City. Apparently the Carson City gang is smarter than the Reno gang, because nobody from Carson City/Gardnerville bothered to show up. Can't say that I blame them. Twenty-seven miles down and 73 to go, we headed to Genoa via Silver City to Carson City to Genoa via Jacks Valley Road, where we made our second stop. With fifty-seven miles down, we cruised along the base of the Sierra south to Dresslerville and then back to Reno via US 395 and old US 395. Although the weather was a bit chilly, it was a beautiful 115 mile plus ride.

When it was all over, four of the riders accomplished the 100/100/100:

Jim Meadows – 1974 Norton Commando and 67 years old = 110

Jeffrey Park – 1975 Norton Commando and 65 years old = 107

Charlie Stewart – 1963 BSA A-10 Super Rocket and 69 years old = 123

Rodd Lighthouse – 1969 Velocette Venom Clubman and 55 years old = 103

George Canavan rode his 2007 BMW, which did not allow him to meet the bike/rider age combo 100, but George may have accomplished a different kind of 100/100/100 on his 122 horsepower machine. Only George knows.



Start of the 100/100/100 Ride



100/100/100 Virginia City Stop