

Wolverine Tales

VOL. 12

OCTOBER 2020

NO. 4

Wolverine Chapter assists Gilmore Car Museum with “Summer Sundaze Starring Motorcycles”

It was a beautiful day, Sunday August 30th, 2020 when the first of few Motorcycle Shows of the year 2020 was to blossom into a gathering of spectacular specimens of vintage and antique motorcycles.

The annual Gilmore Vintage Weekend needed to be modified in 2020 to accommodate conditions dictated by the Covid 19 virus. The Saturday Vintage Ride and the 2 day Vintage Swap Meet both were dispensed with in the interest of public safety according to government dictates.



The usual format of the show with divisions according to country and engine displacements was dispensed with in favor of a greatly simplified “JUST PUT IT ON THE FIELD”. This arrangement allowed a significant reduction in the number of trophies to be presented. The museum presented “Top Five” plaques, Checkered Past of Galesburg sponsored a plaque and the grand prize was the Presidents Award plaque. Winners of the 2020 awards are shown on page 5 in this issue of Wolverine Tales.

The simplified format of the 2020 show was met with a great deal of satisfaction by most in participation, in part because the show allowed the vintage motorcycle culture to enjoy one of the few outings of the summer. With most municipal celebrations, most swap meets and most AMCA National Meets cancelled for the summer of 2020, few enthusiasts of the vintage motorcycle community were able to enjoy the excitement and brotherhood of the culture. The Gilmore Car Museum and its staff are to be congratulated on its ability to adapt to this ever changing climate and present a show of this quality. Wolverine chapter members worked the field parking show bikes and participated in the final judging of show entrants. The Wolverine Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America are proud to have participated in this event.

AMCA MOTTO: **RIDE'EM - DON'T HIDE'EM**

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Advisory Director: Newsletter Editor

MISSION STATEMENT

Our hopes are to make our forefathers of two wheels proud, to truly maintain the tradition, spirit, and integrity of the vintage motorcycle riding experience. Promote the preservation and share our restorations of the vintage motorcycle and it's social culture.

Chapter Website: <http://www.amcawolverine.com>

Chapter email: wolverineamca@yahoo.com

Newsletter editors: Barb & El Engelter (engelter80@gmail.com)

CHAPTER NEWS

Due to Covid 19 suggested social separation guidelines, the Wolverine Chapter has moved regular membership meetings to a large meeting room at the Delton VFW post located at 10353 Stoney Point Drive near the Delton High School. The October meeting will be held on Saturday, the 17th at 2:30 pm at which time discussion will be held concerning Saturday versus Wednesday evening meetings.

JOIN US

The AMCA Wolverine Chapter meets monthly on the third Wednesday at the Club Car Grille located at 6225 West D Avenue, 1 mile west of US131. Meet & greet at 6 PM and the gavel falls at 7 PM sharp. All welcome. **On hold until Covid 19 threat is under control because of room size.**

NATIONAL NEWS

The national Meet and Road Run Schedule has resumed for the fall. The remaining National Events are the Chesapeake National Meet in Upperco, MD on October 2nd & 3rd., the Southern National Meet in Denton, SC on October 16th thru 18th, and the Los Angeles Chapter National Road Run at Fallbrook, CA on October 26th thru 28th. 2021 National Meet & Road Run schedule is published on page 12 of your Sept./ Oct. issue of The Antique Motorcycle magazine.

MEMBER NEWS

2 new members have joined the Wolverine Chapter AMCA since July. Our new friends include. Colin Reed and Cassie Hoffman of Schoolcraft. New members bring new ideas to the chapter and your editors look forward to fresh "Tech and Travel" submissions to the Wolverine Tales newsletter. Classified ads are also free to all Wolverine Chapter members. We encourage all our members to become active in Chapter programs and attend membership meetings when possible. It's fun to trade stories.

Presidents Message

There may be light at the end of the tunnel, or at least some encouragement. As you might glean from the National news, the AMCA has taken a positive attitude in publishing a full calendar for National Meets and Road Runs for the 2021 calendar year. Let's all hope this positive attitude rolls true and we can resume a form of normal life in 2021.

We have all winter to get those show bikes and ready runners prepared for a resumption of normal life so get out there in the garage or shop and be ready for a great new year for the antique motorcycle culture.

El Engelter - President

Secretary's Message

2021 Wolverine Chapter Dues are due beginning November 1, 2020 thru January 31, 2021. Mail dues to Barbara Engelter, 1173 26th St. Allegan, MI 49010 or pay me at any monthly meeting. Make checks payable to Wolverine Chapter AMCA.

Dues are \$30.00 per family. Family means 2 members of the same household. Single membership is \$20.00. If your dues are not received before January 31, 2021 your name will be dropped from the roster and the newsletter mailing list, so renew early.

You must be a member of the AMCA National Organization to be a member of any chapter. Please sign up or renew your National Membership with them. Send your National dues to AMCA/Cornerstone Registration Ltd., P.O. Box 1715, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6715

Barbara Engelter, Secretary

AMCA Speedway Chapter Holds Inaugural Event

The newly formed Speedway Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America pulled out all stops and sponsored one of only a few of 2020 Motorcycle Swap Meets in the midwest on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of September 4, 5 & 6, 2020. An estimated 100 vendors from across the midwest and beyond crowded the field in Gas City, Indiana, presenting the perpetual array of motorcycles and related parts and accessories normally found throughout the nation in any normal year. The Speedway Chapter is to be congratulated on the success of this inaugural event in the inaugural year of the chapters' existence.

Wolverine Memorial Ride October 24, 2020 see page 4 for details

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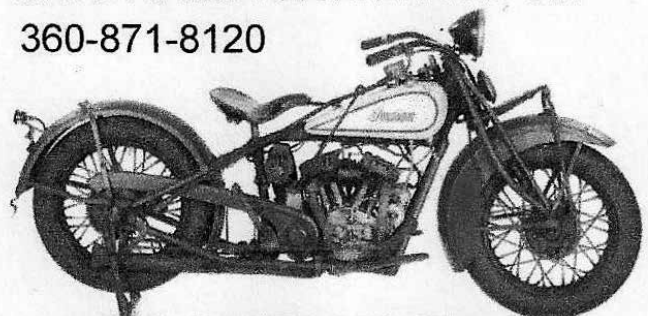
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Calendar of Events

October 17 Wolverine Chapter meeting, Delton VFW, Meet & Greet 2PM, Meeting at 2:30 PM
Important meeting with Election Of 2021 Officers

24 Wolverine Jon & Kathy Hornbeck Memorial Ride, D Avenue & 131 BP station, Departing
11:30In fond memory oam (See artical below)

Wolverine Jon & Kathy Hornbeck Memorial Ride

In fond memory of our dear departed friends and fellow Wolverines, Jon and Kathy Hornbeck, there will be a Wolverine sponsored ride in their memory to be held on October 24th, 2020.

Ride will depart from the BP station at D Ave. and US-131 (Riddermans), forming at 11am and departing at 11:30. The ride will be a total of 40 to 50 miles through mostly Van Buren County backroads with a picnic lunch provided at the end for parcipants. Members of Jon & Kathy's family will be in attendance. This ride should be a fall color tour (weather permitting) and a gracious way to pay tribute to a couple who participated extensively in Wolverine Chapter activities.

Election of 2021 Woloverine Officers in October

Be advised that election of Officers for the 2021 Wolverine Chapter will be held at the next meeting on October 17, 2020 at 2:30 pm in the large meeting room of the Delton VFW. Masks will be required for entering and social safe practices adhered to.

Offices open for nomination are for President, Secretary, and 3 directors. Preliminary nominations were opened at the September membership meeting, but nominations are held open until election voting at the October membership meeting.

Keep Your Chapter Information Up To Date

This is a reminder that as secretary it is my duty to keep all information on our members updated to our National Organization. Please remember that any changes in address, phone numbers (land line or cell) or Email address or changes in your National Number need to be documented by me.

The email address is quite important for getting out information on a timely basis or any last minute changes in activities that all members need to know about. I will not share this with anyone and we will not be sending any junk. Business only. Thank you.

Barbara Engelter, Secretary

Commercial Display Ad Rates for Wolverine Tales

	Per Issue	Per Year
1/8 Page	\$10	\$35
1/4 Page	15	50
1/2 Page	25	80
Full Page	40	140

Gilmore Summer Sundaze Starring Motorcycles Winners



Jimmy Hehir
1952 Triumph Speed Twin



Rick Bowman
1965 Harley Davidson
Sportster Chopper



David Sholton
1972 Kawasaki H2
750 Triple



Justin Hoges
1953 Harley Davidson
Panhead



Terry Sell
1964 Rockford
Silver Pigeon



Jerry Romano
1962 BSA
Spitfire Scrambler
Plaque Sponsord by
Checkered Past

Top 5 Winners of Show plus Sponsord Plaque
Presidents Award on page 6

2020 Gilmore Summer Sundaze With Motorcycles



Presidents Award
Dan Smith
1968 Triumph T120
Dan is original owner



Show bikes were lined up with no particular order.



Well, Kinda lined up.



Visiting bikers always give us a good show.



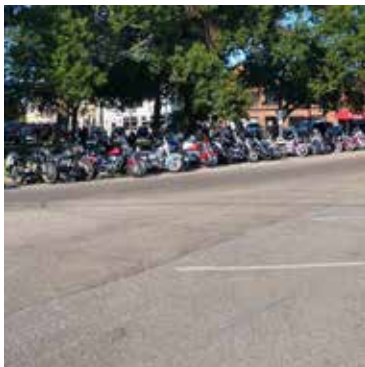
Safe distancing prevailed any where there was congregating.



Well, it was a warm day and thirsts prevailed.

Headline!! WOLVERINES attack BADGERS!!

Well, not actually. What happened was a group of 14 Wolverines made lemonade from lemons by making their way to the Badger Chapter National Road Run by way of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In the process of participating in the Badger Road Run, the Wolverine group managed to capture a total of 4 awards in the process. Stacy Noteboom captured the "Long Distance Rider - Female", Jim Gilfoyle was awarded "Long Distance Rider - Male", Russ Bailey captured "Oldest Rider/Bike Combined Age" (We don't even want to know that number), and the Wolverine group garnered the "Most Represented AMCA Chapter" award. The Wolverine contingency is to be congratulated for representing their chapter to this degree.





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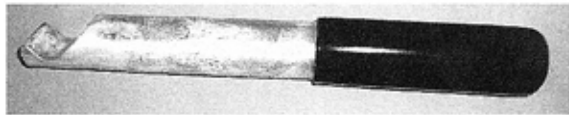
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Tracks of the Wolverine--- here goes !!!!!

Happy October! The time rushes by like my man on our Triumph chopper-fast and on edge! Hoping you've all had a Summer full of nice rides-we certainly have. It's quite natural to stay 6' away from others whilst on a motorcycle and if there is a passenger, you're already use to each other's germs anyway--a winning situation all around.

One of my favorite thoughts to truly follow is "Live deep, rich, true and hard". The man I'll be telling you about in this issue is someone who has, does and will live within this realm. I believe the majority of you fellow club members do also.

Pat Green and I enjoyed a 2 hour long interview. Born in 1954, he is now 66 years old. For the last 15 years, he has owned and ran Midwest Motor Bikes in Mason, MI. Pat is old-school, like you club members. While at the Centreville swap meet, we were looking for a part for our 1963 Triumph chopper, Ptera. Lowell didn't have the exact part needed along but saw one he thought was correct and picked it up to purchase. Pat quizzed him about it and stated it wasn't the correct part needed. He didn't have it along, though did have it at home. He could mail it to us and we could send him the money after we received it. Trust lives, my friends!

As a kid, knowledge and love of bikes came from his poring over cycle magazines. He didn't really have any biker influences prodding him on. Pat's parents actually forbade him to ride motorcycles after his Dad had a rough experience of almost breaking through ice while riding his Zundapp motorcycle on the frozen river.

Pat's very first bike was a mini bike which he built in shop class at school--he was 13 years old and in 8th grade. The wheels and motor came from a hand built go-kart. He bent pipes and welded pieces together for the frame. An award winning bike, it was put into residency in a hallway display showcase. A 9th grader broke into the school and stole the bike. The kid beat it up badly, including burning out the clutch. Pat did get the mini bike back, though the thief had no consequences.


His first motorcycle was a red Honda 350 SL. He gave rides to neighbor kids--the little ones having to sit on the tank so they didn't fall off of the back. At 15 years old, Pat traded his bicycle and some cash for his first Japanese motorcycle--a Hodaka Ace 100. With this little sweetie he could enjoy off-road, self made trails. He stated he and his buddy tried to avoid roadways due to lack of plates and no licenses. They were chased a few times but usually got away! At this age, he was heavily into working on British bikes. His dream bike became the Aerial SQ4 Square Four, an old British bike. The four cylinders are in a square rather than in line.

At 17, Pat had a hero in Evel Knieval and his jumping feats. New Year's Eve 1967 brought Evel's big crash at Caesar's Palace on his '67 Triumph Bonneville 650 T120 TT Special. Pat's personal jump story is as follows: He had a Honda 350 SL (Knieval jumped with one of these early on) which he would back up against the high school wall. He would then proceed to take off, cross the public road and launch the bike off of a nice bump that laid there. He did this for months, inclusive of audiences. His longest successful jump was 57 feet!!! He had a buddy, Joey, who would ride his mini bike underneath Pat while he jumped--that's some bravery, trust and stupidity there. Pat trashed that Honda 350 SL in 1 1/2 years. He did wheelies "all day long"--also while turning corners. In Pat's own words, he "usually landed OK....once in a while a foot peg broke off". As Knieval stated "you fall many times in life. You're never a failure until you refuse to get up."

Pat's favorite high school teacher owned the Triumph dealership in Lansing. The teacher would allow Pat to sneak his helmet into class and then let him sneak out to ride his motorcycle over lunchtime. Pat and this retired teacher are still good friends!

In 1975 he bought a new 1974 Triumph Trident T150V and took her out West. His buddy took his fully loaded Harley-Davidson Electra Glude. Being a no kick-starter bike and with a starter that hardly ever worked, Pat stated that he daily pushed that bike so his friend could get her started!!! They rode Michigan to Colorado where they ended up seeing snow 4' deep. They rode in a snowstorm in the vicinity of Cripple Creek, Co. They stayed at a campgrounds, getting their water from the ice cold river and riding into a bar in town to get chili and beer.

(continued on page 11)



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Google “Facebook”. Prompt will be Sign-in or sign-up. If you are a member-sign in, if not sign-up. Hit “enter” and put “wolverine chapter amca” in “find friends” box at top of page, Wolverine facebook page will pop up and you can now scroll down over the good stuff that Wolverines have submitted. Click on some things meant to expand.

Tracks of the Wolverine (continued)

In 1978, at 24 years of age, he was a set-up man for rock concerts at the Lansing Civic Center. As a stage hand, you either worked the “in” or the “out”, which was take down. He helped with Foreigner, Ted Nugent and ZZ Top. During the set-up for a ZZ Top Concert, one of the crew guys-the business manager-tripped over ZZ’s guitar. The IRS and police showed up at the show to “seize the gate” (the monetary proceeds) for money owed the IRS. This was a big concert--thousands of people. ZZ Tops business manager paid the stage crew’s business manager in cash and snuck out the back way where the ZZ Top crew was able to escape the IRS and police.

During the late 70’s through the 90’s, Pat ran a small airport in Mason. There was no control tower, but they were very busy. They provided maintenance on planes, gave flight lessons in a Piper Warrior and worked with incomming and outgoing flights. He used his trike to run around the airport grounds. He states he spent a lot of hours in a Cessna 172. At one point, he flew over to Drummond Island, where he lived off of caught walleye for breakfast, lunch and dinner--taking the boat into town to get worms and beer. Maybe he developed his love of air time from jumping time spent on his 350 Honda...He and his wife, Jan, were together almost 35 years--she liked his sense of adventure and thought he was brave in “the way he used to ride.”

When asked if he could have any bike...old, new, was, is...he stated the list would be 100 bikes long! One of his favorites, though, is the Triumph Bonneville 650 T120 TT Special. He took two years to restore one to almost perfect condition for a customer. He never got to ride it as the customer didn’t want to “blue” the exhaust chrome. Ouch...that one had to hurt the soul! The most unique bike he’d like to see running is a 1928 James, another British motorcycle he’s working on. He stated there is no info, parts or books on these bikes. This bike was guanteed to run 65 mph from the factory. Good luck, Pat!

Asked if he thinks the next generation will still ride, he states he’s hopeful. He’s found that vintage Triumphs seem to be popular with the Hollywood types. Vintage and antique motorcycle shows and swap meets are mostly made up of attendees our age. There does seem to be a good representation of younger people, Pat states, with maybe 1/4 to 1/3 of attendees being younger.

Pat reminiscences about motorcycles being everywhere in the 1970’s; the mid-1980’s showed a fade out. Harley Davidson rekindled interest in motorcycles and brought back the higher numbers of those riding. Vintaage Japanese bikes seem to be a bit back up in popularity now and vintage British is a bit down. Pat states that by the mid-to late1970’s Triumph, BSA and Norton were basically done with.

Though he did like road racing, Pat’s never really been big into bike racing. The Trident won a lot of those road racing prizes. (he happened to have his Trident with him when he saw the Daytona 200 in 1976. He managed to sneak up to the winners’ circle where he was able to get a picture of the winner.)

At his shop, he likes to keep himself busy with the vintage bikes. He still loves riding. Current restorations are on a 1968 Triumph, a 1969 & a 1970 Triumph Bonneville, a T100 C Tiger and a 1944 BSA WM20, which actually did serve in WWII. The last years he has enjoyed participating in the Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride. It’s a worldwide fundraiser by Triumph raising millions of dollars for mens’ health. It is still occurring this year on 27th September, though differently. Check it out!

One other similarity we possess is from childhood--that of punishment as kids--soap in the mouth and cherry sticks (or switch, as Lowell says)! We were all laughing quite heartily. My man says that’s how I learned how to dance so well--trying to evade the inevitable contact!! (To be fair to my Mother, I really didn’t get that many swats...I was a pretty well-behaved kid...)

Till next time fellow biker tribe members....LIVE DEEP, RICH, TRUE & hard. Safe journeys and may the Wind always be on your face---Leah Lichtenberger



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