

# **GASLINES & BACKFIRES**

## **EMPIRE CHAPTER A.M.C.A.**



Custom bikes and parts to be had at Syracuse Super Swap.  
Our coffee and doughnuts table in the center under our banner.

*Spring Issue 2011*

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## HONORARY MEMBERS

Charlie & Martha Darling  
Curt & Dot Bunce  
Al & Nancy Strobel  
Charlie Harshbarger  
Rose Harshbarger (deceased)  
Don Cole (deceased)  
Pauline Lichva (deceased)

## Presidents Message:

I must apologize to the Empire chapter members for being delinquent in my duties. No excuses for being delinquent, I just got caught up with family and holiday issues.

I need to say a prayer for the member and member's losses this fall and winter. Duane Powers, Karen's mother, Edna Preston and Sue White's mother, Elinor McGargle, all have died this past year. Then we had the loss of AMCA Treasurer and long standing member of Colonial Chapter, Ray Dhue in Jan 2011. To me the losses make me more aware of life that we live today. Today needs to be the best that we can make it be, because we never know what will happen. Lets all be grateful that we knew and loved those who have died.

Spring Meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2011, Saturday @ Quacks Diner. I CHALLENGE ALL MEMBERS-bring a new member to the meeting. Let's show the youngsters how us old folks have FUN. We need to get any and all motorcyclists to be involved because no matter what they are riding some day it will be an Antique.

Visit the Web site and make it work for us. Doug and Dave do a great job and the more we show others, the better it will be.

😊 KAREN THOMSON  
PRESIDENT OF EMPIRE CHAPTER AMCA



BRIGITTE BARDOT SUR UNE YAMAHA AT-1 - 1971

L'hebdomadaire du cinquantenaire sur [www.yamaha-motor.fr](http://www.yamaha-motor.fr)



*With the anticipation of Spring; here is a Fall story from "Curt's garage".*

We were hoping to get some good fall riding in to see the leaves, but the weather wasn't that great in October! We either had some appointment or it was rainy and cold.

It had rained again last night and I was working in the garage on a project this morning. The weather was warming good and drying things out.

I went in for lunch and asked dot if she wanted to go riding this afternoon because they predicted it to get to 70 degrees! After lunch we fired up the Indian "80" with sidecar and headed out with no predetermined route.

We took the back way to route 51 and Cedarville then to Columbia Center, Jordanville, and to Vanhornseshville, one of my favorite back roads rides! We then picked up route 80 south to Springfield Center.

The roads were still a little wet but the sun was out and about 70 degrees. This area is a very scenic area, but most all the leaves had fallen by now.

We continued south on route 80 to Cooperstown, going by Otsego lake. For some unknown reason a lot of leaves stayed on the trees along the lake, especially the red maples, which made it very beautiful. We stopped in Cooperstown to gas up and continued on rt80\rt28 north past Fly Creek and continued west to West Burlington and on route 51 north through Burlington Flats and West Exeter and back to West Winfield.

There are a lot of things to see on this route and a lot of places to stop, but today we just wanted to ride! One of the best parts of the trip was very little traffic encountered the whole distance!

*"Curt's garage" continued*

The sky was getting overcast as we reached home. With covering about 75 miles round trip, the bike ran smoothly the whole way, starting the first kick every time. If you keep these old bikes tuned, they will perform great.

After settling down, we had a late afternoon rain shower. I guess this late in the year in New York, we have to expect it!

This spur of the moment decision gave us a couple of hours of real riding pleasure, and the memories will be with us until the next time out!!

Keep Riding,

Curt Bunce, Curt's Garage



# Indian racer will commemorate 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of historic Isle of Man Tourist Trophy win

Barely 100 years have passed since a team of Indian motorcycles swept the first three places at the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy, and now another Indian entry is set to commemorate this historic victory of the first and only American brand to win a TT race.

A replica of the special 580 cc Indian TT model V-twin has been built by Canadian entrant Peter Gagan and on Friday, June 10, 2011 it will lead the centenary parade lap for historic machines. The rider will be Dave Roper, the first American ever to win an Isle of Man TT. Roper has a lifetime of achievement in vintage racing, including more than 20 AHRMA national championships as well as his win of the 1984 Senior Classic TT on a G50 Matchless.

Roper will be first of 26 starters in the "Milestones of the Mountain" parade lap, leading such legends as Giacomo Agostini, Phil Read and current TT star John McGuinness. They and their famous machines represent highlights in the history of the Tourist Trophy in the 100 years since its adoption of the full 37.73 mile Mountain Course. The TT was first held on a shorter course starting in 1907.

The Indian factory's star rider in the 1911 Senior Tourist Trophy race was Canadian-born board track legend Jacob DeRosier, supported by three local riders from England and Ireland. In the event, though, DeRosier suffered tire failure and was disqualified for accepting outside help while Oliver Godfrey, Charles Franklin and Arthur Moorhouse swept the first three places.

Their mounts were special machines built at the Indian factory in Springfield, Mass., to comply with TT rules. Single-cylinder machines were limited to 500 cc displacement while twins, which operated less efficiently with the atmospherically-opened inlet valves which were common at the time, were given an 80 cc advantage. Chief engineer Oscar Hedstrom adapted a 680 cc Indian "little twin" with a smaller cylinder bore and added a two-speed transmission from the company's 1,000 cc "big twin" to cope with the demands of the hilly Isle of Man course.

None of these special machines survived intact to the present day, but fortunately about 10 years ago Peter Gagan located a 580 cc Indian racing engine in England. It may have been from one of the original TT machines but the records that could verify it do not exist. Working from his home in White Rock, British Columbia, Gagan constructed a replica using a 1911 Indian frame and transmission. No drawings of the TT bikes exist, so the frame modifications and exhaust pipes had to be fabricated according to photographs of the originals. The machine bears Godfrey's race number 26.

Gagan has a lifetime of experience with early motorcycles, having been a member for more than 50 years of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, of which he is past president. He has also served as president of the Antique Motorcycle Foundation and was founder of the Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group.

Gagan and his team are eager to hear from potential sponsors of this historic return to the legendary Isle of Man. They can be reached at [petegagan@blaze.ca](mailto:petegagan@blaze.ca).



A message fro AMCA President Richard Spagnoli

Friends,

Much has happened since my last Newsletter to you. AMCA Treasurer Raymond Dhue's sudden and unexpected passing has not only left us with a deep sense of personal loss but the Club Membership has lost a truly dedicated member. His skills and devotion to the financial side of the Club's operations cannot easily be replaced. I attended Raymond's Memorial service in Lakeland Florida and comment on the service in "Your AMCA Board" below.

We have made temporary arrangements to continue the Club's financial operations until we find a new Treasurer. Finding a replacement will not be an easy chore. Raymond not only paid the bills for the Club but prepared all the Club's tax returns, financial statements, coordinated all the financial reports from the Chapters, attended the Chapter President's meeting in Davenport and advised the Board on the financial aspects of ideas the Board was contemplating.

I need your help to encourage qualified candidates to apply for this position by sending a resume to me at [rspagnoli@aol.com](mailto:rspagnoli@aol.com) Please see the job description for Treasurer at the end of this Newsletter. Applicants should have accounting or bookkeeping experience and although tax preparation experience would be a plus, it is not a necessary requirement for the position. If there are any questions, please call or E-Mail me. I can't emphasize enough the urgency of my request. If Chapter newsletter editors would advertise this position (with a special e mail for this purpose only) with the job description, we may reach members who may not know about the vacancy in this position. Thanks for your help.

The Board actions from the January 30 Board teleconference are listed below and are self explanatory.

The response to my first President's Newsletter was good. I received comments and questions on a variety of subjects, including Chapter insurance coverage, election of Club Board members, request for financial reports, a request to start a Face Book page for the Club, and criticisms about National Road Runs and about Club Board activities which occurred many years ago. I answered each e mail and hope we can continue the dialogue with comments, suggestions and of course, criticisms too.

The Board is discussing encouraging Chapters to place local Chapter events on the Club web site. The rationale behind this idea is to attract Club members and others, who are not Chapter members, to participate in local Chapter events and maybe join the Chapter in the process. Do you think this is a good idea? Would you submit your Chapter's events? Please comment.

I continue to emphasize the need for Club members to volunteer their time and energy for certain projects. We started the "Old Iron Volunteer Program" last year and continue to advertise it on the Club web site [www.antiquemotorcycle.org](http://www.antiquemotorcycle.org) and in the magazine (Winter 2010). I am asking Chapter newsletter editors to include a description of the program in their newsletters and encourage their members to volunteer. Please note that we are only asking volunteers to commit for short periods of time for projects. But the time devoted is very important to the efficient operation of the Club. Volunteering also gives a member an opportunity to demonstrate a needed skill and perhaps advance to leadership positions in the Club.

Eustis and the Sunshine Chapter National Meet are just three weeks away. For me, and I think those up North, I can't wait to feel the sun on my face. It's very cold here in Western Pennsylvania. But before I can feel the sun in Florida, I'm going to Fremont NE in two weeks and the Omaha Chapter National Meet. Scott Swaney! Can you do something about the weather in Nebraska? Maybe a little sun:>)

I plan on making as many National Meets and Road Runs as I can this year. See you then. Thanks for making this Newsletter an enjoyable experience. Please join the dialogue.

Sincerely,  
Richard

## **Your AMCA Board**

The Board held a teleconference meeting which lasted three and one half hours on Sunday January 30 with ten of our eleven Directors present. Here are the highlights:

### **Raymond Dhue**

Raymond passed away unexpectedly on January 23 after a brief illness. I reported on the moving memorial service held for Raymond at the First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland the previous day. The service was well attended by family and friends who filled the church to capacity. A group of motorcyclists from the local HOG Chapter and Harley Davidson dealership, where Raymond was employed as a mechanic/technician, rode to the service. The rumble of superbly turned motorcycles was a real tribute to Raymond as were the testimonials. The Board then observed a moment of silence for Raymond, and voted a \$500 donation in his memory to the Gideon Society.

I reported that Dennis Craig, former AMCA Treasurer, has offered to assist the Club while we search for a replacement. We had a lengthy discussion of the need for the Treasurer to be an accountant/book keeper and someone with real life experience in the bookkeeping field and who is also knowledgeable with bookkeeping computer software. A job description is being sent to Chapter Presidents and Newsletter Editors and will also be published on the Club Web site and in the Spring issue of the magazine. We are hopeful someone in the membership will step forward and volunteer for this most important position.

### **Judging**

Chief Judge Steve Dawdy presented the AMCA Judging Guidelines, and these were approved. This judging 'shop manual' will be made available to Club members through the Website. The Judging Guidelines will go a long way in making the judging of motorcycles between meets more uniform. Thanks to Steve Dawdy and the Judging Committee for a job well done.

### **British Magazines**

The winning bid for our "ton of magazines" that were being stored at the AACA Museum in Hershey was \$17,850, and this bid was accepted and approved by the Board.

### **Advertising Manager**

Bob Courboin has resigned, and a successor is being sought. The position will be advertised through the Chapter Presidents and the Club web site. There was discussion about whether this job should be assigned to a professional advertising person. The Board agreed to sell a five year old printer which originally cost \$160 to Bob for \$80. There was a brief discussion of whether the Board should authorize a short survey to National Meet vendors and magazine advertisers. Discussions will continue and this item will be placed on the Eustis agenda.

### **Magazine Page Increase**

The Board has been discussing an eight page increase in the magazine without additional cost to the Club. This can be accomplished by selling additional advertising for the eight pages. The concept was approved subject to the Club's ability to sell the additional advertising. It was agreed that a final decision would be made after the new Advertising Manager was hired and made an assessment of the situation.

### **Merchandise Manager**

It was reported that advertising manager, Susan Brutus, acquired inventory control and sales software to help with the ordering and accountability of merchandise for the Club. There was also

a discussion of establishing a budget for merchandise. Thanks Susan for taking the initiative in this area.

### **Old Iron Volunteers**

I reported that the Club's "Old Iron Volunteer" program has gotten off to a slow start. First published on the Club web site and then in the Winter issue of the magazine, we have had just one volunteer to date. We have to do better! We will continue to advertise the program and make sure that our members understand that we are not asking for long term commitments but just a little of their time.

### **Forum Moderator**

Gary Palombia, web master for the Allegheny Mountain Chapter, was appointed AMCA Forum Moderator, replacing long time Moderator, Kevin Valentine. Thanks for the long and dedicated service, Kevin.

### **Membership Survey**

Bill Wood addressed the preliminary results. A full report will be presented and discussed in Eustis. The report will then be presented by Bill and Greg Harrison to the membership in a later issue of the magazine.

### **Chapter Events**

Matt Olsen and Bill Wood will discuss starting a new page on the Club web site to advertise Chapter events and report to the Board in Eustis.

### **Board Meeting Webcasts**

The Board has been discussing the feasibility of broadcasting, in real and delayed time, the Board meetings in Eustis and Davenport. Bill Wood has been gathering information on this subject and the cost to the Club for web hosting and equipment. Further discussions will continue in Eustis as an agenda item.

### **Appointments and Committees 2011**

Fred Davis is Director of Chapters, and Steve Dawdy and Don Dzurick remain Chief and Deputy Judge respectively. Fred Johansen is Technical Editor; Rick Najera, National Meet Coordinator; Matt Olsen, Youth Director and I will continue for the time being as "Acting" Consumer Affairs person. Hint: This does not have to be a Board position. We need a volunteer! The New Chapter Development Committee will be led by Lonnie Campbell, with Fred Davis, Red Fred Johansen, Steve Slocombe and I contributing. This Committee has a very important task of persuading members in areas of the country and, yes, the world, to organize a group from their respective areas and start a new AMCA Chapter.

A new Operations Committee consisting of Trudi Johnson-Richards and myself will have oversight of the work of Bill Wood, our new Operations Manager. Other Committees retain existing members, with new ones to be added in due course.

### **AMCA Long Term Planning**

Steve Slocombe stated the Club needs to continue in its efforts to plan for the future. Such plans will be discussed in the Steering Committee and by the Board.

Our next Board meeting will be Friday March 4, 2011 at the Hampton Inn in Mt. Dora (Eustis).

Best regards,  
Richard Spagnolli

*Super Swap was February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>*

Once again Frank Westfall's Super Swap was a great success. Through Frank's generosity, our club was able raise \$518.00 in donations by using his donated vending spot. We ask local businesses to donate coffee and doughnuts which we offer to all for free. Of course our conveniently located donation jar allows for the deposition of any valid currency at the discretion of doughnut consumers. All donations will go to our chosen charity this year; Camp Good Days.

Empire members who volunteer to tend the table always makes for a good time.

Thanks again to Al Sorenson for use of his tables, coffee machine and accessories.

Photos from Super Swap:



Our happy volunteers.

A Future drag racer.



Charlie Hershberger's' granddaughter gets some new (old) wheels.



## Ads from members, Spring 2011 "Gaslines & Backfires"

Ads are free to Empire members. Submit ads to the Editor.

- FOR SALE: H-D Model #52 generator, 6 volt, good condition....\$250.00  
H-D Model # 48 generator, 6 volt, two-brush fan cooled....\$250.00
- TRADE: H-D p/n 4405-40 N.O.S. Battery Box ( no lid ), will trade for H-D p/n 4404-29 Battery Box ( fits 1929-52 solo 45's) in equal condition. 4405-40 fits 1940-1963 Servi-Car.
- WANTED: H-D p/n 2260-30 Gear Box Cover (starter side) for 1930-34, 45's.  
H/D p/n 2035-30 Countershaft Sprocket (16 teeth) for 1930-34, 45's.  
H-D p/n 2251-26 Gear Shifter detent plunger, for 1929-37, 45's  
H-D p/n 3502-30A Gas /oil tank (left side) for 1930-31, 45's  
H-D p/n 2300-32 Countershaft for 1932-36 (3-speed) 74 & 80's Prefer N.O.S. but excellent used would be acceptable.  
H-D p/n 3801-25 Primary Chain Cover, 1925-29, 61 & 74's  
H-D p/n 2653-30 Fork Top Triple Clamp for all 1930 Twin Cyl.  
H-D p/n 2653-29 Fork Top Triple Clamp for 1929, 61 & 74's  
Rear Stand for 1920-23 Indian Scout  
Chain Guard for 1928-31 Indian "101" Scout  
Chuck Darling, R.D.#1,Rte. 88, Sodus,N.Y. 14551
- FOR SALE: NYS motorcycle plate; 1963 good condition, \$150.00.  
Early chief trans. Case (bevel drive) with NOS shifter top \$400.00.  
1920 Indian scout trans. Complete with usable gears, main shaft, shifter top/shifter, inner and outer primary cases, make offer.  
1940+earlier sport scout trans. Case \$250.00.
- WANTED: NYS motorcycle dealer plates (plates have a D prefix): 1929 to 1947 must be in at least restorable condition, original paint preferred, good prices paid. Original AMCA magazines 1960-69.
- TRADE: My 1948 NY motorcycle dealer plate for a 1947 dealer plate.  
Al Strobel 315.429.9002 E-Mail: [kingkong@capitol.net](mailto:kingkong@capitol.net)
- FOR SALE: Indian tall head bolt kits for most models 1936 to 1953. Head bolts for Twins and Fours. King clutches for Twins, Fours and Hendersons.  
Electronic Ignitions for Twins. Easy installation \$150.00. Chief Overdrive Transmissions (call for price) Replace the felts in wheels and drums with modern seals Kit for 37-45 Chief (8) seals \$28.00. Kits for 46-53 (5) seals \$20.00. Ed Glasgow, Tully, NY (315)696-8076; ed53ind@aol.com
- FOR SALE: - AMCA Mags. 1974-1997 (94 consecutive issues 23 years) sold in one lot!  
- Odd AMCA mags. 1970-2007  
- AMCA Membership Rosters 1961-1994  
- AMA Mags. 1957-2007 Motorcyclist Post 70's,80's,90's

## Ads from members, Spring 2011 "Gaslines & Backfires"

(continued)

- Mixed Motorcycle Mags. 1950-2000
  - Automotive Tour Books 1915-1933
  - The Antique Automobile 1955-1986
- State Your Wishes!! Curt Bunce (315)822-5874 or Cell (315)525-2304  
email [curt50ind@yahoo.com](mailto:curt50ind@yahoo.com)

FOR SALE: -Velo Solex parts – BIG LOT \$200.  
-250cc Benelli OHV single engine \$250.  
-1960 Sears 125 ? cycle 808.895403 \$100.  
-50 Jap bikes. Mostly Hondas '69 to '80. Parting out or \$75 each or deal on lot.

WANTED: - Large lot of '76 Gold Wing parts \$200.  
- Harley 165-175 Hummer "as is".  
- 1972 harley sprint sx 350, \$400, 1972 yamaha yz 125 monoshock dirt bike. Ken Krauer (10 miles from Rhinebeck), 573 Clinton Hollow Road, Salt Point, NY 12578. 845.266.3363 joankrauer@yahoo.com

WANTED: Indian Princess sidecar frame. I've got the body.  
Al Sorenson 315.469.3420



Hill climber at Super Swap.

## DEADLINES FOR GASLINES AND BACKFIRES



ISSUE	DEADLINE	MAILING DATE
SPRING	Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
SUMMER	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
FALL	Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>
WINTER	Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>

## EMPIRE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2011

**April 23** - Spring Business Meeting - Quack's Diner, 7239 State Route 20, Madison, NY 11:00 a.m.

**May 29 & 29** - Norwich Car Show, Norwich, NY

**June 10, 11, 12** - Multi-chapter meet at Rhinebeck, NY, Dutchess County Fairgrounds just off Rt. 9 bewteen Rhinebeck & Redhook.

**August 6** - Curtis Museum - Hammondsport, NY

**August 19 & 20** - Empire Chapter Meet, Madison County Fairground, Brookfield, NY Info (315) 365-2639

**September 11** - Wampsville Car Show, Wampsville, NY (Look for our tent)

**GASLINES  
&  
BACKFIRES  
EMPIRE CHAPTER  
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Spring Issue 2011**

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