

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER

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Antique Motorcycle Club of America ®

August 2021



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER
of the
Antique Motorcycle Club of America

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Editor

Jim Wellemeyer

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEETINGS

Monthly meetings of the Sunflower Chapter are held at 6:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month. The meeting site is Spears Restaurant at 4323 West Maple Street, Wichita, Kansas.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The Sunflower Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to Sunflower Chapter members, AMCA Chapters, AMCA Officers, Sunflower Sponsors, and Sunflower commercial advertisers.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Antique Motorcycle Club of America is required to be eligible for membership in the Sunflower Chapter of the AMCA. Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year, and membership is open to any member of the AMCA. Members of the Sunflower Chapter will receive four issues of the club newsletter, and a membership card,

SUNFLOWER SPONSORS

Sponsors will an advertisement in four issues of the Sunflower Chapter Newsletter in return for a \$25.00 annual donation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Sunflower Chapter has had a busy spring. Early in the year Twisted Oz meet was attended by many, which included a local ride, and there have been several local rides for breakfast or supper since then. In May Chapter members met for a weekend gathering in Grove Oklahoma with a very good ride around the lake and into Missouri and Arkansas. Some members have taken their bikes to distant states for National Road Runs. Read about some of these activities in this issue. We are planning big fall ride in Missouri and there is more fellowship planned for the coming months so check the calendar of events.

AMCA member Patrick Martin lives in Hays Kansas. He is a member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Fort Hays Chapter. They host the Fort Hays Vintage Bike Show annually in July. Patrick has contacted me and is interested in organizing a Sunflower Associate Chapter. There are four Sunflower members in the immediate Hays area, this would be a great start for an Associate Chapter. He maintains the [Fort Hays Vintage Bike Show](#) Facebook page which has great content. Patrick will present the idea at the August DAV meeting and I will work with him to support his needs. If there are any other members that are in the Hays area that would be interested in being a part of the Associate Chapter, please contact me.

Ride safe,
Jim Wellemeier



Grove OK, 2021 Spring Ride

A few weeks before the ride planned for May 15th, Bob Christian, Jerry Ottaway, and myself went to Grove on a weekday to put the final details to the route for the Chapter ride. Bob already had ideas of where we could go this year. We looked over the map and made a couple of mental notes the night before. The morning was a crisp spring day, and we started the route following the road west around Grand Lake. Our plan to have breakfast at a marina on the lake, but it was closed, probably too early in the “lake life” season. We continued to Ketchum OK and saw a small restaurant that looked like it could be open, we were in luck and had a good breakfast. We continued the planned route south on highway 82, past Langley, through Spavinaw, stopping at Salina for gas. Next was Kenwood Rd. and south on a county road until we came to Kansas. No, we didn’t make a wrong turn, this was Kansas OK, not Kansas KS. Here we found the main thing we were looking for, a stop for lunch. I went inside the Harvest House to ask about our group stopping for lunch in a couple of weeks, they said they would be glad to have us. The next part of the route was new to us. Chewy road was recommended to us as a beautiful tree cover road. We followed it east towards Siloam Springs, where we ran into a problem. There was no good way to get around the city, without going through it, which included 15 miles of mostly 4 lane highway and many stop lights. The rest of the afternoon was spent rethinking our route as we continued the planned ride back toward Grove. At supper that night we discussed some options and Bob said he would check them out when he came back in a couple of weeks.



Friday afternoon ride to Southwest City

Grove OK, 2021 Spring Ride



Fast forward to Friday May 14th. Four couples, Dan and Teresa Fox, Gram and Mitzi Pankratz, Steve and Lori Spencer, Jim and Robbie Wellemeyer, all caravanned to Grove with a stop for lunch in Parsons at the Kitchen Pass Restaurant. We were all hoping the weather forecast would improve for Saturday. Weather that afternoon was great for a short ride to Southwest City before supper in Grove at the Parrot Lakeside Restaurant.

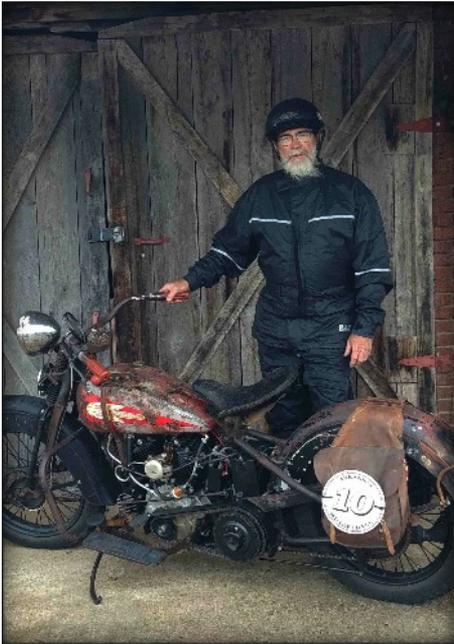


Grove OK, 2021 Spring Ride

Saturday morning was just as the weatherman forecast. A line of storms came through just as we got up and were having breakfast in the hotel. We watched the radar and about 10 o'clock it looked like it would be clear for the morning. We all got loaded up and 17 bikes started out. Scott and Austin Ottaway were following in the trouble truck. We were barely out of the parking lot when they had their first customer. Kelly Wardell's Harley had the oil light come on, so he got a short tow back to the hotel. Our ride followed the lake road around the north side of Grand Lake,



Grove OK, 2021 Spring Ride



Bill Page was riding his 36 VL and found the perfect backdrop

then south on highway 82. In Spavinaw we stopped for a group photo, Scott and Austin caught back up with us there. South of Spavinaw the road is great with hills, S turns, and a couple of one-eighties. We stopped at Salina for gas, the skies were still overcast but no threat of rain. The next stop was Kansas and lunch at the Harvest House. The food was good, especially the daily special, Indian Tacos.

After lunch we found Bill Page in the parking lot performing a routine of draining the oil in his 1936 Harley VL and then adding



Yellow Chiefs were popular that day. Scott Brower, thanks for bringing yours.

Grove OK, 2021 Spring Ride

back a specific quantity. While he was working, we gathered around finding loose nuts and bolts he needed to tighten up. With all that taken care of we stopped nearby for gas. When I looked around to see if everyone was ready to go, I saw Bill working on his bike again. Apparently, all our help before distracted Bill and he forgot to close the drain and now was adding back the oil again.

The next 40 miles was added to get us around Siloam Springs without traffic. Bob Christian had checked out roads the



Grove OK, 2021 Spring Ride

week before, they were very nice. Now we were in Arkansas passing through Decatur, Gentry, and Sulfur Springs before crossing into Missouri and riding past Noel and into Southwest City. From there it was just a short ride back into Grove Oklahoma, three states in about 30 minutes.

The weekend closed with a social hour at Glenda Page's lake house and supper at Shebang. The Sunflower Chapter has held rides from Grove Oklahoma numerous times, dating back to the 2002 National Road Run. This 155 miles was one of the best.



Relaxing at Glenda's lake house

The “Mother”

Submitted by Neil Havran

Recap of the AMCA Phoenix Chapter Road Run, or as they called it “The Mother of All Road Runs”

Starring: Jim and Robbie on his Goldwing, Jeff Wellemeyer on his Dad’s Honda CB500 and me on the Honda CB350 Bobber.



On the first day we met at the host hotel at 9:00 A.M. There were a lot of bikes and a lot of people in attendance. I was told there were 278 registered riders. After the brief rider’s meeting we headed out to Bryce Canyon National Park some 75 miles of wonderful riding away. We did note that the route map said 75 miles but in reality that was just to the park entrance; we had another of 20 miles or so of great riding within the park to our lunch destination at Rainbow Point. Lunch was OK but curiously the Chapter failed to tell the caterers to bring any kind of drinks to go with the meal. I guess even with three or four years of planning some things still got overlooked. Anyway, after choking down our lunch we set out for the return trip.

The “Mother”

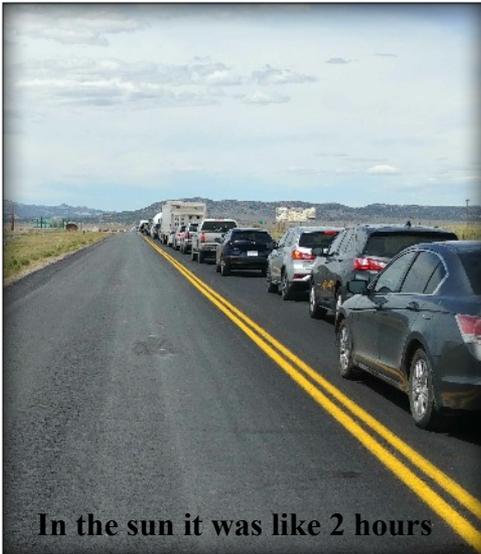


“Jeff these old bikes have what’s called a reserve tank”

It was here that we encountered our first incident. Jim was leading, Jeff was in the middle and I was in the rear. Suddenly, Jeff slowed and pulled to the side. I ran ahead and got Jim turned around. Apparently, Jeff was merely out of gas – or at least he thought he was. Jim took the opportunity to instruct Jeff on how the reserve system worked on his Honda. Jeff was a bit irritated by the roadside training session and seemed put off that this enlightenment did not occur at some earlier date. I threw what gas I could on the fire by telling Jeff: “Experience is a cruel teacher: first comes the test and then the lesson”. Ahhhhh, the infamous fuel petcock continues to flummox riders even today. With class dismissed, we were on our way once again and stopped outside the park for fuel. [Jeff, if you are reading this, don’t forget to take your petcock off reserve or you will be stranded when you run out of gas the next time. Ask Bob Christian about this].

The “Mother”

At this point in the return trip we encountered a significant delay. There was a construction project underway and to say the traffic flow around it was poorly managed would be an understatement. We all ended up in a very long line and after an hour or so some riders went rogue and took to the ditches and bicycle pathways to circumvent the whole affair. We were about ready to do the same when our turn to go finally came up.



In the sun it was like 2 hours

We returned to the RV park a little later than planned but all was well. We had dinner at a place called The Wild Horse. Great food but the wait was long due to staff shortages. This was something we encountered throughout our stay in the area. Establishments had slow service due to the lack of staff or closed entirely on certain days for the same reason. Total miles: 193



The “Mother”



Cooling off in the shade with cold beer & ice cream sandwiches

Day 2 was the shortest trip of the three days and this one was to Zion National Park. It was another quality ride; lunch was on our own. We chose a place called Blondies and again, the wait was long but the food was good. I think start to finish it was an hour and forty minutes. Jeff and Jim decided to try a local brew. I misunderstood what the server called it and I thought she said “Elk Yellow”. This sounded suspicious to me so I stuck to my diet Pepsi. Later I found out the name was “Ale Yellow” so I guess that was OK. All three days were pretty warm and on the return trip we tried to find a place to go inside and have a cold one. We parked the bikes in the shade and at this point I feel compelled to break into a Dan Fogleberg song lyric: “couldn’t find an open bar, so we bought a six pack at the liquor store and drank it” at a nearby closed restaurant patio. When we returned to where the bikes were parked we found a whole lot of folks had the same idea to park in the shade and take a break. Some kind fellow was passing out ice cream bars and we chatted with a few folks and eventually headed out.

On the return trip we ran into another minor problem. The rear fastener on my peanut tank came loose. At first I thought the bike was in the process of grenading due to the racket from the loose tank. I had not yet lost the acorn nut that secures the back of

The “Mother”

the tank so I was able to save it. I am a big fan of fixing your bike while you are riding it so I spent the next 20 minutes or so trying to tighten the nut enough to keep the tank reasonably secure. Due to the location of this mounting point I am sure the folks behind me thought I was doing something nefarious! At any rate, we eventually slowed down and I was able to stop long enough to tighten it up.

That night we enjoyed a very good buffet dinner and I was fortunate in two ways. I found an open table with Russell and Elizabeth from Arkansas. I had met these fine folks at the South Dakota Road run a couple of years ago. The other fortunate thing was that even though the facility was very crowded we were the first table released for the buffet line. I guess I should have bought some scratch off tickets that day as well. Jim, Jeff and Robbie stayed at camp to make something called smash burgers. I just ate but of course I had to have one just the same. Very good, indeed! Earlier the Chapter had a photographer taking pictures of each rider on our way to Bryce. They then put the pictures on a very nice plaque. I found all three of our pictures and managed to get them all back to the RV camp even though I was on the bobber. I won't say how I did that but hey, they were in plastic protective covers so it was all good! Total miles: 138



The wrap sandwiches were good, even with out a drink.

The “Mother”

Day 3 was a trip to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We were cautioned that there have been problems between the park officials and the Chapter riders in the past. We were advised to hide the AMCA logo and to not bum rush the gate but rather stagger ourselves in very small groups to minimize the onslaught. We had no problems whatsoever and had a nice trip to the welcome center at the rim. The Chapter provided lunch and they must have been trying to make up for the no drink problem from Day 1 since they gave us all the Cruise Ship of Lunches. The box was packed with stuff! Full as ticks, we did a little hiking for some great views and picture taking and then headed back to camp.



The closing banquet was scheduled for that evening and it was in a different location than the earlier dinner. The trouble was, they never published the location on any of the handout material. I guess they announced the location at the riders meeting that morning but if they did it went over all of our heads. “Look for the bikes”, they said. Anyway, we were eventually able to find it and had a great meal and a lot of fun watching other people win the door prizes. It is even more fun to watch one guy win three? How does that work? We came away empty handed. Total miles: 153.

So that concludes the Sunflower Chapter recap of the Phoenix Road Run. Despite a couple of minor hiccups, I would like to thank the Phoenix Chapter for putting on a great road run. I would also like to thank Jim, Robbie and Jeff for putting up with me and laughing at my jokes, even the ones that weren't funny.

The Old Sage 1924-2016



Bill Gordon Photo

Othe
Sld
Sage

This saga by the Old Sage is reprinted with the kind permission of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America. We thank them for allowing us to reprint these stories, because many of our Chapter members have never had a chance to read these entertaining articles

Bud Cox was one of the founding members of the Sunflower Chapter and an Honorary Member of the AMCA. He penned the "Old Sage" articles for more than thirteen years, with the first episode appearing in the 1994 Winter issue of the AMCA magazine. This "Old Sage" episode originally appeared in the 2004 issue of "The Antique Motorcycle"

The Clayton House in Davenport, Iowa, was the place to be on the eve of the big meet. Here the enthusiasts gathered for an evening of fun, renewing old acquaintances, making new friends, telling tall tales and searching for new leads on those elusive parts. It was during this activity that my son approached me with some great news. Very quietly he informed me that there was a man in the parking lot with a big trailer, loaded with old motorcycles to sell. My friend, Bob, and I slipped out of the room and soon found the man and his trailer.

He had about 6 motorcycles to sell, mostly Indians and Excelsiors. Bob picked out a 1913 Indian he wanted. I picked out an early 1912 Excelsior, with the understanding that I was to

The Ex

pay the balance the next day after viewing the machine in the daylight.

The next day was bright and crisp, and the action at the Davenport national meet was really rolling along. Vendors buying, selling, wheeling, dealing, and the crowd of antique fans was really doing their thing. Now during a good meet, not unlike the heat of battle, things happen which are not easy to explain. I cannot explain how I forgot about the Excelsior deal. Maybe I did not forget, but only remembered slowly!

=====
*All at once it struck me that it was
me they were talking about!*
=====

In any event, about noontime I overheard a couple of fellows talking about a man who was going to sell that old Excelsior real soon if the person who made the down payment on it didn't show up and pay the balance. All at once it struck me that it was me they were talking about!

I dropped everything and ran to the vendor's spot and closed the deal while several prospective buyers were standing in line. I really don't know if there is a moral to this story or not, but it might equate to a pet saying of my father who cautioned me thus, "Never get so busy working that you forget to make some money!"



Automobilia

The 2021 Wichita Automobilia car show was setup on Douglas street from the old train station and westward about a mile. This was a departure from past shows which were setup along 1st street and several blocks of adjacent side streets. Bart Grelinger, Neil Havran, and myself, went downtown to the registration point that Saturday afternoon. We waited along with several hundred others for over an hour before they started letting people on to Douglas. Bart found us a spot in the middle of the street, and we spread our rides out as much as we could, making space for other Chapter members to arrive later. The layout of the show along the length of Douglas was great, as the crowds could walk up one side and down the other, and we were right in the middle.

By the time everyone arrived we had four bikes, Bart's 1955 Ford pickup, Neil's 1972 Honda 500, and Kelly's Morgan. All afternoon and evening we drew many interested people. The Morgan and the Honda car were big hits, and Barts red 1951 Nimbus caught a lot of attention from the bike gearheads. The weather was great, warm but not scorching hot like July can be.



Automobilia

A front passed through that day and a few thunderstorms popped up east of Wichita, as the sun went down it was perfect. The crowds were huge, and the number of entries overwhelmed the promoters. They came by in one of their support ATV's and thanked us for coming and said they handed out all 1200 registration packets. While they were stopped, they also presented Bart with an award for his Nimbus.

There were food trucks, and individual vendors, in addition to a few restaurants along the street, but the crowds were more than a match for the food services. I lucked out because Robbie came down a little later and brought me a delicious hamburger. The crowds didn't start thinning out until after dark and then it was noticeable the younger generation was in attendance. Most of our group had left and we were packing things up when the promoters stopped by again. This time the lovely ladies presented Neil with an award for his Honda car.

It was a great afternoon and evening shared with Sunflower members. We met many people and answered hundreds of questions, the most common question was directed to Neil, "can you really fit in there?"



Neil and the award presenters, nice....the car

Automobilia



**The Morgan was popular with kids too.
Kelly let them get inside for photos.**



Automobilia



Upcoming Events

Sunflower Fall Ride October 8th & 9th

Riding from Neosho Missouri

Arrive Friday for afternoon ride. Leave for dinner and evening fellowship at 5 pm.

Saturday 9 am, from the hotel, riding to Heritage Indian Motorcycle for lunch, Rodgers AR

Rooms at: **Best Western Big Spring Lodge**

1810 Southern View Drive

Neosho, Missouri 64850

(417) 455-2300

"Sunflower AMCA" \$86 + tax

Must reserve by 9/23

Please RSVP so we can plan meals.

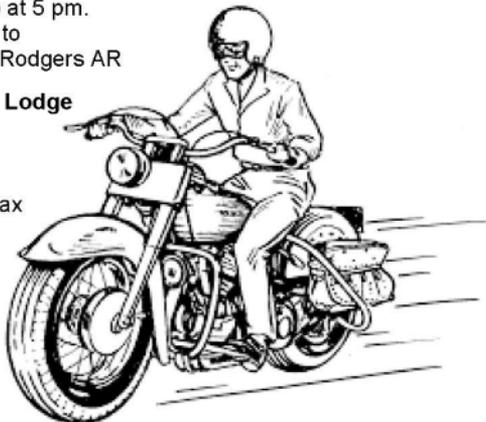
RSVP to Jim Wellemeyer

jwellemeyer@cox.net

316-461-1778

Camping: Jerod Swartz has several spaces with hookups at his place contact him at 417-850-7572

RV park: Stage Stop Campground (417)-455-1221, Blue Sky RV Park (417)-364-4080



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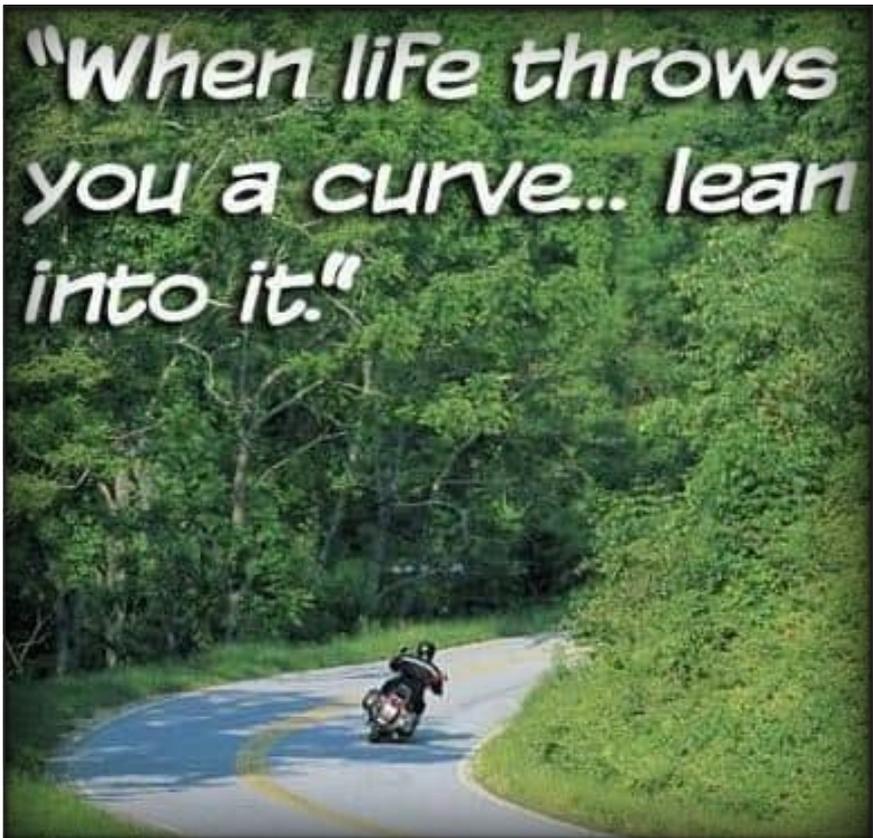
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Announcements

The Sunflower Chapter
Welcomes New Members

Scott and Paula Brower
Robert Schaefer
John and Cathy Byrnes



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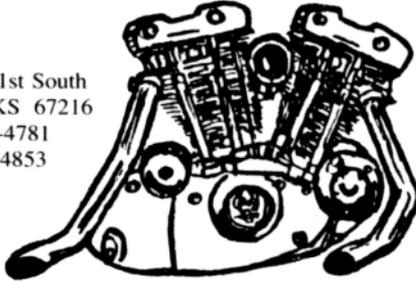


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SUNFLOWER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 28th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

August 25th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

September 9th ~ **Sunflower Chapter Vintage Bike Night.** Meet at Naftzger Park, Douglas and St. Francis. 6 - 8 pm.

September 29th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

October 27th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM) Board of Director elections.

November 24th ~ Sunflower Chapter monthly meeting at Spears Restaurant, 4323 West Maple (6:30 PM)

Saturday December 11th Chapter Christmas Party

Sunflower Website ~www.sunfloweramca.org



The Sunflower Chapter Newsletter will be published in February, May, August, and November. The deadline date for each issue will be the last day of the month preceding the month of publication. Please send articles, tips, humor, event dates, notices, personal ads, etc. to the editor as early as possible. Material submitted after the deadline will be published if page space is available.

AMCA 2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NATIONAL ROAD RUNS

June 1-3	Phoenix Chapter Road Run, Kanab UT
June 21-23	Rocky Mountain Chptr Road Run, Crested Butte, CO
July 21-23	Yellowstone Chapter Road Run, Billings, MT
Sept 7-9	Roosevelt Chapter Road Run, Detroit Lakes, MN
Sept 20-22	Blue Ridge Chapter Road Run, North Carolina



NATIONAL MEETS

Feb 26-27	Omaha Chapter	Fremont, NE
Mar 4-6	Sunshine Chapter	New Smyrna Beach, FL
Apr 23-24	Perkiomen Chapter	Oley, PA
May 7-8	European Chapter	Raalte, Netherlands
May 14-16	Southern National	Denton, NC
June 4-6	Empire Chapter	Trumansburg, NY
June 11-12	Viking Chapter	St. Paul, MN
June 18-19	Fort Sutter Chapter	Dixon, CA
June 25-26	Colonial Chapter	Harmony, NJ
July 16-18	Wauseon Meet	Wauseon, OH
Aug 6-7	Yankee Chapter	Terryville, CT
Aug 28-29	Australia Chapter	Bulli Australia
Oct 1-2	Chesapeake Chapter	Upperco, MD