

United Sidecar Association

Newsletter No. 4

January 1977

The New Year was welcomed in with the Polar Bear Run when a dozen or so brave souls descended upon the Hanes residence on January 1st. With temperatures below 8 degrees and chill factors between -30 and -50 degrees, only the bravest showed up. Hal and Lee Kendall were there on the 3C/Watsonian, Terry and Becky Strassenburg on the Honda, Rosco Alexander on an 850 Norton, Jeff Witkowsky on a BM, Tim Colburn on a BM/Ural, Marty Bachano on a Gold Wing - but David Connery came by car as did Ken Gibson and son. A very pleasant time was had by all. As we felt we had travelled far enough in sub-zero temperatures, the run was to the Hanes residence and return.

Do not forget that all U.S.A. members are welcome at the Hanes residence on Exchange Street (between Western and Monee) Monee, the FIRST FRIDAY EVENING of each month. This includes January.

The first scheduled meeting of the U.S.A. in 1977 is for Saturday, February 12, 1977, at the Plantation House on the corner of Rt. 54 and Court in Monee at 1:00 p.m. Please come prepared to discuss what runs you want to participate in beginning about the end of March/early April until mid October. If you can't attend, why don't you drop your Secretary a line (19201 Center Avenue, Homewood, 60430) and tell him what YOU want to do in 1977.

Membership Cards are in the making and should be ready soon. Cloth patches are in preparation. However, as you may know, you cannot order a few patches - a few hundred, yes - a few, no. In order to help finance the cost of the initial supply of patches (which should be ready in about three months), those of you who wish to pay your 1978 Dues at this time, will be given a patch at no cost. (These will sell for \$1.50 when available.) This method of financing has worked successfully in getting the International Laverda Owners Club off the ground and running in the UK.

We are exchanging Newsletters with the Florida Sidecar Association and also The 3rd Wheel. The 3rd Wheel is having its 3rd Annual Mid America Sidecar Rally on July 29 through 31 at Menomie, Wisconsin, with a pre-registration fee of \$12.00 per sidecar unit (\$14.00 at the gate). We would like the 3rd Wheel members of the U.S.A. to let us know if they are planning to attend. Additionally, any U.S.A. members who would like to go to this Rally, please drop me a line so we can possibly meet somewhere and go in convoy. Registration Forms can be obtained from Bill Espe, 1019 - 28th Avenue, N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We still need names and addresses of who can do what - such as welding, fibreglassing, sidecar alignment, electrical, and so forth. Also, what do you have for sale, swap, want to buy.

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From Terry Strassenburg, 18461 Martin Avenue, Homewood, Ill. 60430

As you have read in Newsletter No. 3, my HD/HD sidecar rig was removed from my garage. This is something that we all worry about, but really have no control over. Unless it happens to you, you can't believe the heart sickening feeling of seeing a big empty spot where you left your trusty steed the day before.

They were Pros and they seemed to have had the place pretty well staked out. It just so happened that it was the day after Thanksgiving; I was on the Midnight Shift and both my neighbors were out of town for the Holidays. The garage was locked, the bike's neck was locked and the sidecar wheel was chained. Being a HD/HD they didn't throw it in a van —and the battery wasn't in it, so they didn't drive it away.

Anyway, what I am working up to here is those alarms. Those little mystery boxes that just might save a bike one day. I had one on the bike, but without the battery, it wasn't working. What is needed is a self-contained unit that works from its own battery, but will be completely out of sight. Then when it goes off it takes the thief by surprise; or some fancy alarm system for the garage.

If you have any ideas or know of good systems on the market, drop us a line and we will print them. If it's a homebuilt job, send us a diagram and parts list. Remember to state if you don't want your name printed in the Newsletter. Anyone can get a copy of this Newsletter and with your address, you'll be in the same boat as me.

Keep the shinny side up Terry Strassenburg.

Safe riding,

Hal Kendall, Secretary