

United Sidecar Association

Newsletter No. 5

February 1977

DEALER NEWS

This will be a regular feature of the Newsletter if sufficient copy is available from dealers. Sidecar dealers and distributors from all over the U.S.A. will be invited to keep the United. Sidecar Association informed of their goodies - new models, features, used models and accessories.

Our local dealer (and a co-founder) needs your support. Ed Johnson who needs no introduction to many in this area and in surrounding counties, has two new sidecar rigs he would like to dispose of to make room for future developments. He has a white American Spirit, valued at \$850 which he will sell at half price while the ground is white. This is a middle-weight and suitable for machines up to the 650cc class.

He also has a Velorex with an extra heavy steel chassis, suitable for heavier machines such as BMW or whatever; substantial discount is also available. Ed can assist with fittings and installation. **His** winter hours are: Monday - Friday 4:00-8:00; Saturday 11:00-5:00. Phone: (312) 333-3500, George's Sport Cycle Center, 14401 Halstead, Harvey, Illinois. Ed can also assist you in obtaining your Insurance program. Incidentally, Ed handles Honda Service and Parts in his area.

Doug Bingham a personal acquaintance of many years (in the days of the Los Angeles Side Hack Association) introduces you to the Side Strider, the Globe, the fabulous Watsonian from England and also select CB equipment. He will sell to Club Members at Dealer price - you cannot get much better than that. Contact Doug at Side Strider, Inc., 15838 Arminta, Unit 25, Van Nuys, California 91406 or call (213),780-5542.

A partial list of his offerings follows (dealer cost).

1. Bingham MK-1 (160 lbs) \$499 (base) \$565 (deluxe)
2. Bingham MK-2 (160 lbs) \$499 (base) \$602 (deluxe)
3. Bingham Chassis \$275
4. Watsonian Monza (190 lbs) \$950 (single seater sports)
5. Watsonian Monaco (200 lbs) \$1,100 (single + trunk)
6. Watsonian Palma (215 lbs) \$1,175 (Adult/child)
7. Globe G.S.200 (165 lbs) \$750 (single seater sports) Place orders through Ed Johnson.

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Cost will be \$25.00 over Ed's invoice cost. Crating, shipping and insurance, extra. Details on these outfits will be carried in later Newsletters.

Doug is featuring the Beltek "Enduro 23" CB w/intercom which has been tested by various M/C magazines recently. 23 channels, 4 watts. Motorcycle package \$147.95; M/C antenna \$18.70; passenger headset for intercom \$23.23; mobile installation package \$10.00; truckers head set \$16.22. Order direct from Doug - but give your U.S.A. Membership number.

UPCOMING OUTSIDE EVENTS

(Please let the Secretary know if you plan to attend.) Sponsor: Florida Sidecar Association

2nd Annual Southeast Sidecar Rally - May 14 and 15.

Lake Waldena Safari Camp
8 miles East of Silver Springs on Fla. 40.
\$5.00 Solo; \$2.50/passenger; \$4.00/tent-site/night

Contact: B. A. Taylor, 12701 - 126th Ave. N., Lot 41, Largo Fla 33540 Sponsor: The 3rd Wheel

3rd Annual Sidecar Rally - July 29, 30, 31

Menomonie, Wisconsin
\$12.00 pre-registration; \$14.00 at gate.

Contact: B. Espe, 1019 - 28th Ave., N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

Pre-Registrants: T. Strassenberg (planning) J. Rubens
WHO ELSE?

Daytona 200 Motorcycle Classic (36th)

30,000 Dollars Prize to be shared by 750 racers at Daytona, Imola (Italy) and Circuit - Paul Richard (France) -

Sponsored by AGV - on March 13, 1977.

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Daytona Speed Week - March 7 to March 13, 1977.

Harley Davidson presents "H-D on Track" March 9 to March 12 (2:00 pm to 10:00 pm) at the Daytona Hilton Hotel, 2637 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach.

3rd Annual Swap Meet

Sunday, March 20th, at Ft. Wayne National Guard Armory, 330 S. Clinton Street, Ft. Wayne.

Contact: Rainbow City Cycle, 1416 Broadway, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, 46802. (219) 422-7790 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - \$1.25 Admission

Swap Meeting

April 20, 1977 - International Amphitheater = 43rd and Halstead, Chicago, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. - \$1.25 Admission

September 27, 28, 29, 30 - October 1, 2

Aspenade Motorcyclist Convention

Contact: Til Thompson, Box 970, Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345 May 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

International Retread Rally Lancaster, Pa.

Contact: Dick McCombs, R. D. #1, Paradise, Pa. 17562

FOR SALE - WANTED - EXCHANGE

L.H. Watsonian chassis in two sections - can be converted to R.H. Available for \$30.00 or would purchase a Watsonian body. - H. A. Kendall Phone: 799-4933

Terry Strassenberg is looking for a Steib sidecar for his '75 R90/6 BMW. Phone: 799-1289

Painters wanted. Who has a spray gun and can do fancy colors, especially Mother of Pearl with a blue/green tint. Please contact your Secretary

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NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

This will also be a regular feature of the Newsletter. To kick it off, a little about myself. (If you do not want me to monopolize this feature, tell us about yourself - where you have been - your last trip - your dog or cat - your outfit - etc.).

My first sidecar consisted of a Goulding frame attached to a '49 Triumph Thunderbird. A box was fabricated onto the frame. With this outfit I travelled from Melbourne, Victoria, to Perth, Western Australia. En route, the outfit spun out with a broken front axle and ploughed through a cattle gate upside down (at 10:00 pm with neither lights nor brakes). The 2400 mile trip took 4-1/2 days travel plus 3 days waiting for the axle. Later, the outfit plunged head-on into a car which turned across me'.. This tested a theory of mine that in an emergency, the sidecar can be slammed into the object that must be hit. The sidecar passenger also came out relatively unscathed.

In the U.S. I picked up a homemade outfit in Pittsburgh and attached it to a '69 Triumph 6T. Not a bad combo except that the sidecar axle kept snapping. The first time the wheel knocked down a cop after leaving the outfit. I drove home using a four wheel dolly to support the sidecar. The second time the outfit stopped by using a telephone pole - wedged between the bike and the sidecar. I finally turned down an axle from a solid steel bar and this problem ceased.

Next came a '72 Triumph T110 and a Steib. The lightness of the chair was offset by tying a 35 pound steel weight to the frame near the wheel. The T110 had not sufficient torque to slide the rear wheel in tight righthanders at speed.

In California, where I met Doug Bingham, I built an aluminum framed outfit with the body adapted from a Sabre Jet Pilot's canopy. A front Honda wheel was used in the sidecar in a U frame external support. A 750 Laverda American Eagle was used to pull this chair. Top speed was in the mid eighties. Unfortunately, this outfit was demolished by a friend in London, England. My friend tried to take a staggered junction and forgot which side the chair was on. After impacting a telephone pole, the body flew off intact like an escape capsule; the frame disintegrated as scrap in front of the pole while my friend continued down the road on his instant solo.

I now have a Laverda 3C with a Watsonian G.P. sidecar, not unlike the current Watsonian Monza super sports. Top speed is in the high nineties and over a ton with the high performance cam/piston kit. This machine has excellent low speed torque and will pull in top from speeds below 20 mph but is not too good in very heavy traffic. The minimum speed in low gear is about 12 mph without slipping the clutch. The alternator certainly is weak but a larger alternator has been developed. The double disk up front and 230mm twin leading shoe rear provide excellent stopping.

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An auxilliary sidecar brake is controlled by a right foot pedal. This helps fast right-hand bends by gently applying front brake and sidecar brake going into the bend, dropping down a gear or so then large amounts of throttle during the bend.

The Watsonian was originally a LH but was converted without much difficulty to RH. The original prototype Avon Fairing designed for the Laverda 3C provides excellent windbreakage. An ammeter and volt-meter were fitted to determine the source of the electrical gremlins. An additional fifth support from the top of the rear suspension rear-wards to the sidecar frame totally eliminates the normal low speed head shaking by providing a very rigid sidecar/cycle mounting. A friction steering dampner was added but is not necessary. Altogether, it is a very fine touring outfit and Lee and myself hope to enjoy many fine tours with our friends in the U.S.A.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Snow had cleared for February's meeting when a dozen "brave" cycling enthusiasts showed up at the "Plantation." Only three came on cycles.

Hal found that gas and water do not mix, just a half mile from the Plantation. Lee rode in with Paula while Hal dumped a can of Heet in the gas tank and topped up with Premium.

Paula shared a delicious cake with us (Valentine).

As many of the U.S.A. members are also members of the 3rd Wheel, we discussed being unable to have any vote in the election of officers. Many will write to Bill Espe giving him support and asking that all dues paying members be given the right to vote.

Paula suggested we hold a white elephant sale to aid our small treasury, building it up so we can purchase our badges. The problem is quite simple. If we order a small quantity, 50, it will cost about \$4.00 each or more. If we purchase a minimum of 225, the cost can be cut to less than \$1.00 each. But, this is a total of about \$150. to \$180. - more than we have in the kitty. Several have prepaid their 1978 dues and this is appreciated. But, we still need more support.

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USA Membership Roster

1. Edgar/Marilyn Johnson, 510 E. 162nd Street, South Holland 60473
2. Hal/Lee Kendall, 19201 Center Avenue, Homewood 60430
3. Terry/Becky Strassenberg, 18461 Martin, Homewood 60430
4. Larry Lydon, 12749 Winchester, Blue Island
5. Jeff Witkowsky, 217 Miami, Park Forest
6. Joseph/Alice Hanes, R.R. 3, Box 1033, Crete 60417
7. Paula Scheidler, 539 Hoffman Street, Hammond, Indiana
8. Lynn/Mary Beth Andersen, P. O. Box 186, Harvard 60033
9. Tim Colburn, 5046 So. Greenwood (Rear), Chicago 60615
10. Ercell/Joan Anderson, 327 S. Harvard, Villa Park 60181
11. Russell/Virginia Richey, 232 Early, Park Forest 60466
12. James/Rosalee Rubens, 503 Lavinia Lane, Joliet 60435 U.S.A. March Meeting

March 12th - Saturday - Fund Raising Meeting

Please bring any saleable items - whether for a motorcycle or not - but nothing too bulky. Lee will donate coffee and sandwiches. Hal will donate the beer. Proceeds from the sale of merchandise will go toward the club kitty. An honor tab will be kept for each person and the cost of refreshments will also go toward the club kitty. Ladies, please bring some cakes, pies or other dishes as your contribution. The meet-ing will begin as usual around 1:00 pm. Bring your friends but remember that we live in a square neighborhood - so no drag racing across rear lawns or revving up cycles in front.

Address: 19201 Center Avenue, Homewood. Center crosses 183rd and 187th and is between Halstead (Route 1) and Reigel Road (Chicago Road). Please call 799-4933 and let us know how many are coming so that we can prepare, refreshment-wise.