

United Sidecar Association

Newsletter No. 1

October 1976

ITEM:

This is the very first newsletter of the fledging United Sidecar Association. Here I will recount the brief incidents that led to the historic developments of the USA and introduce myself. I am a long time sidecarist and a dedicated motorcyclist. I have recently arrived in Chicago from the United Kingdom and currently drive a Laverda 3C 1000 with a Watsonian GP mounted on the left side. However, I also brought a right hand frame with me and plan to convert it one day.

I bought a home in the south side of Chicago, in Homewood. While searching for a reputable motorcycle insurance agent I stumbled across Ed Johnson late one evening just about when he was closing shop. I found this gentleman to be extremely courteous and very helpful. While he never did sell me insurance he did sell me himself. I found we had many things in common.

As we began to chat late into the night on that, and on many other days, weekends and evenings, we found a like spirit to wanting to help our fellow sidecarists in many ways - there was a definite need to develop safety and training programs as we fell between the cracks of the AMA programs. We were the outcasts. We felt that in order to gain recognition we had to band together for our own survival.

I brought to the table the proven leadership skills in already creating the International Laverda Owners Club in the United Kingdom several years earlier which had continued to grow and prosper after I left while Ed brought to the table the proven ability to run a very successful business in a competitive environment. We both had the same goals and we both had dogs in the hunt.

How were we to get the USA, as we first called organization off the ground with zero funds and zero influence? Firstly, I could make use of my company's Xerox machine after hours to run off the fliers and the newsletters, and we would have a breakfast and a whiparound to collect for the postage while Ed would use his contacts and influence to invite or cajole his friends and customers with sidecar rigs to join us at these breakfasts.

We also noted that there was another sidecar club a few states over that had started a few years earlier known as the 3rd Wheel and we invited their members to join us also.

ITEM:

A Poker run is scheduled for October 24th to be held at Kanakee State Park at 10:00 am checkin time. This will be led by Joe Hanes of Crete, IL

Treasury Funds: ZERO