

New mantle bearers for a stalwart tradition: rallies

If you're reading this, congratulations are in order. You survived 2017. And with the New Year comes a renewal of hope and aspirations, chief among them getting more time in the saddle and meeting more of those fresh-faced, tattooed, bearded individuals we consider part of our biker family. With that in mind, the best way to meet new people is to get out more often. Short of attending bingo nights weekly, we think you should seek out like-minded folks to stir the grease with, and what better way to do that than attending some rallies and events? We've picked just a handful of must-attend events for 2018, and we'll keep you updated on AIMag.com throughout of the year with announcements of events not listed here. We tried to focus on the up-and-coming events that you have surely heard about, but may not have had a chance to attend yet. We have high hopes for these events, and hopefully we'll see you out at one (or all! Ambitious!) of these events.

THE ONE MOTO SHOW

Portland, Oregon, Feb. 9-11, 2018

The ONE Moto Show humbly started as a low-key, no-frills affair where people brought that one motorcycle that had a unique story or held a special place in the owner's heart to share with other like-minded individuals. Stories were swapped over a few cold PBRs, and every now and then an indoor burn-out or two would break out before the night was over. Nine years later it has grown into one of the pre-eminent gatherings in the Pacific Northwest, a three-day-long party full of Portland funk and flair. Held in a huge 100-year-old factory building, hundreds of motorcycles are spread out over two floors, lining hallways and filling expansive chambers. Moto-themed artwork and photography grace the walls while local bands entertain the throngs nightly. Electric mini-bike races add a layer of mayhem to the already eclectic vibe. On Sunday, the action shifts to Salem Indoor Speedway for some bar-bangin' hooligan flat track action, with a pro purse thrown in for good measure. Thor Drake and See See Motorcycles created the show to "celebrate the weird, rare, unconventional bikes that we love, in a way that everyone could enjoy" and stay true to its roots. It's all of the above—weird, rare, and unconventional, and definitely an event anyone who loves motorcycles will enjoy.

SONS OF SPEED RACES

New Smyrna Speedway, Daytona, March 17, 2018

Billy Lane's zany idea of throwing 100-year-old bikes on a racetrack with lunatics commandeering them has become a thrilling reality. The fourth installment of Sons of Speed is set to take place March 17 at New Smyrna Speedway during Daytona Beach Bike Week. The event continues to grow both in popularity and classes as this time the race is going from one class of race bikes to three: Early 61s, Hot 61, and 45 Shoot-Out. The Early 61s will be the slower, pre-1929

boardtrackers, the Hot 61s will be the much faster pre-1929 hot rod boardtrackers, and the 45 Shootout will be 45" flathead race bikes, with or without brakes or transmissions, sort of like the old Class C race bikes of the past. It's a one-of-kind race taking place at least twice annually, and seeing these old-school racers tear up the track is a thrill in itself.

THE HANDBUILT SHOW

Austin, Texas, April 20-22

"The Handbuilt Motorcycle Show is an inspiring showcase of work from builders and craftsmen who combine knowledge, skill, and ingenuity to create one-of-a-kind hand-built machines." So says the show's web site. In a handful of years, the Handbuilt Motorcycle Show has established itself as one of the premiere motoevents in the South. The Handbuilt is exactly that, a showcase of craftsmen who still take pride in doing things the old-fashioned way, heralding originality and hand craftsmanship. You'll see a bit of everything in the show, from throwback choppers to resto-mods to one-off customs. Add artwork, photography, music, the Wall of Death thrill show, a Shiner Bock or two, and the always authentic Austin vibe to the mix, and you've got the recipe for a must-see show. The line to get into Fair Market will wrap around the block, but it's definitely worth the wait as the team from Revival Cycles throws one mean Texas-style soiree.

QUAIL MOTORCYCLE RIDE AND GATHERING

Carmel, California, May 4-5, 2018

The Quail Motorcycle Ride and Gathering celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. As The Vintagent Paul d'Orleans would say, "Motorcycles are made to be ridden," and on the first day this adage is celebrated. Motorcycles in the ride run the gamut, many of them vintage and antique bikes you don't see on the road every day. The Quail Ride takes a scenic 100-

mile spin through Steinbeck country and beautiful Carmel Valley, eventually stopping at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca for a couple of spirited parade laps topped off by a banquet at the lodge. The motorcycle concourse takes center stage the following day with bikes ranging from turn-of-the-century boardtrack racers to state-of-the-art electric motorcycles to GP-winning race bikes. It's the type of event where you'll see Vincents and Broughs next to Knuckles and Pans. It's a place where you can rub elbows with the likes of Mert Lawwill, Wayne Rainey, and Kenny "King" Kenny Roberts and share a casual conversation. This year one of the featured displays is the Arlen Ness Private Collection. Seeing how this is its 10th anniversary, we expect show founder Gordon McCall to have a surprise or two up his sleeve.

BORN FREE MOTORCYCLE SHOW **Silverado, California, June 23-24, 2018**

Similar to The ONE Moto Show, this little shindig started by Mike Davis and Grant Peterson 10 years ago has grown to epic proportions. Born Free Ten is sure to blow up Instagram this anniversary year as the show has evolved into one of the hippest events of the SoCal bike scene. The caliber of work in the show is always over-the-top, and the invited builders list is 30 strong this year, including Matt Olsen, Chase Stopnik, JP Rodman, Hawke Lashe, Duane Ballard, and a slew of other talented craftsmen. The bike giveaways at Born Free are always a popular attraction. Last year the list of giveaway bikes included a 1951 Panhead in mostly original state, an "All Killer, No Filler!" Knucklehead, and a brand-spanking-new Harley Low Rider S. This year the Hindes Brothers of Prism Supply Co. will be working their magic on a killer chopper. Born Free 10 will also see the second annual Stampede June 21, good old-fashioned dirt track races with vintage, tank shifter, chopper, and hooligan bike classes.

FUEL CLEVELAND **Cleveland, Ohio, July 28, 2018**

Another show on the growing list of upstart bike shows, Fuel Cleveland just hosted its third annual gathering in the heart of Cleveland, and it's safe to say this is going to be a mainstay. More than 4,000 people attended 2017's festivities and more are expected for this year's events. Fuel Cleveland is an invitational show featuring motorcycle builders, rare bikes, painters, and photographers. Last year, Lowbrow Customs, Gasbox, and Forever the Chaos Life bikes turned a gigantic warehouse on Cleveland's East Side into a motorcycle heaven for one day. Don't fret, as the presenters are careful not to gentrify the spectacle too much as it still retains the perfect urban, gritty setting for this Great Lakes-focused show. Oh, and guess what, it's free!

INDIAN LARRY BLOCK PARTY **Brooklyn Invitational, Motorcycle Film Festival, Brooklyn, New York, mid-September**

Wrapping up the riding season with an all-out week of motorcycles and partying in Brooklyn seems to benefit the direction the industry is headed. The Indian Larry Block Party, celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, is the perfect bookend to what is quickly becoming a bit of a Brooklyn Bike Week in the middle of September. Anyone familiar with the Brooklyn bike scene knows what to expect: plenty of ratty Shovelhead, Ironhead, and Evo choppers rolling through the congested streets on the Williamsburg/Greenpoint border, with thunderous bellows of exhaust pipes ricocheting off the tightly packed apartment buildings and two-family houses. The Block Party is hosted right outside the Indian Larry HQ, and merely finding room to walk proves difficult with rows upon rows of custom bikes occupying the street. Paired with the block party is the Brooklyn Invitational, usually the weekend prior, in which the Root building on N. 14 Street hosts some of the world's most talented builders and displays their work in a bare white room, perfectly lighted for Instagram posts. The International Motorcycle Film Festival takes place the same week within the same pie slice of Brooklyn and "celebrates the world's best dramatic, documentary, short, and experimental films created by the international motorcycling community," rounding out the perfect trifecta of must-see motorcycle events going down in the borough come September.

DAVID MANN CHOPPERFEST **Ventura, California, December 9, 2018**

David Mann captured the essence of the biker lifestyle with his paintbrush like few others. Though we lost the talented artist in September 2004, his legacy lives on, thanks to the annual celebration known as David Mann Chopperfest. The one-day event takes place in beautiful Ventura, California, about a 70-mile ride up 101 from Los Angeles. In true David Mann fashion, it's a grassroots event with a bike show centerstage flanked by a showcase of featured builders. Small treasures can be found if you root around long enough at the accompanying swap meet. Music, vendors, and roller derby girls add to the spectacle. Even though it takes place in December it's still usually sunny enough in SoCal that plenty of people make a day of it and ride to the show. Show founders state: "Chopperfest is forever dedicated to the design, function and art of the motorcycle through those talented enough to create and those creative enough to appreciate talent." Like The Quail and Born Free, it's an anniversary year for Chopperfest, which is celebrating its 15th, so we wouldn't be surprised to see a record turnout in 2018. **AIM**