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10th Anniversary Party September 10th

Antique Bikes on Main by Wally Werching

Every summer during the last weekend in July, the town of Chesnee, SC is the place to be if you love old motorcycles. This year was no exception. The 12th Annual "Antique Bikes on Main" was held in that small southern town on July 29th, 30th, and 31st. The last weekend in July is usually the hottest weekend of the summer but this year it was comfortable on Saturday because it was overcast with temps in the upper 80's. They had a small shower later in the day which cooled it off even more. Sunday was a different story. It was hot and humid with plenty of sunshine with temps in the mid 90's.

"Antique Bikes on Main" started as a one-day event with just the Sunday Antique Bike Show on Main Street (Rt 221). It has grown into a three-day event with the swap meet on Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday, and the bike show all day Sunday. The "Fun Fair" is held on all three days too. All rides are free!

Dennis Harris from Chesnee Classic Cycle is responsible for the growth and promotion of the event but the city of Chesnee is behind the project.

On Saturday, I arrived at about 10:30AM. I stopped to visit with Dennis. He was very busy making sure that everything ran smoothly.

I walked around the swap-meet field, and saw many interesting parts, and motorcycles - everything was for sale. As I passed each tent, I could hear the owner and customer talking about a specific part that the customer needed. It's hard to sell at a swap meet. If you sell early, you might be selling too cheap but if you wait til the end, you might just have to bring the stuff home again. The same dilemma is with the buyers. Do you buy early or wait til the end? If it's a rare part that you need to complete a project bike, how much will you spend? No matter what, it's always fun.

Later, I walked to the field down the street to see the amusement rides. All rides were free, and the kids loved it! It was like a mini carnival. The food vendors were ready to serve their delicious treats to every customer, and the clothing vendors were also ready to sell anything and everything. There was a fireworks display scheduled for 9:30PM that evening too.

In the afternoon, the local Legends Chapter of the AMCA (Antique Motorcycle Club of America) hosted a finale' dinner for the annual Kickstart Rally which started at the Wheels through Time Museum in Maggie Valley on Friday morning. Despite a little evening shower, everything went as scheduled, and a good time was had by all.

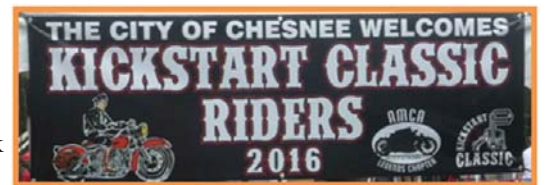
On Sunday, I went to Chesnee at about 10:30AM. The ride in was cool and comfortable but I could tell that it was going to be a 'Hot One' later.

When I arrived, Rev Mike of the Bare Bones Biker Ministry was holding his usual Sunday Service under the tent used by the Kickstart Rally the night before. There was an easy sounding guitarist singing. There were quite a few people at the service.

I walked down toward Main Street, and there was a bandstand erected in the middle of the street. It blocked any vehicle from getting onto Rt 221. They were just setting up when I passed.

I wanted to see the old bikes. I walked down Main Street a few times because there were bikes coming in a steady stream, and I didn't want to miss any. In the show, there were many Harley's - Flatheads, Knuckleheads, Panheads, and Shovelheads. It was like seeing old friends. There were many other makes in the show too like: Indian, Triumph, BSA, Norton, BMW, Servi-Cycle, Vespa, Allstate, Yamaha, Suzuki, Honda, and Kawasaki. There were as many unusual bikes across the street as in the show. It's a great destination for a Sunday ride no matter what you're riding.

I walked to the Sandy Run Cycle tent. Rick was there selling his stock
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