



National Motorcycle Museum
 PO Box 405 ★ Anamosa, Iowa 52205
 Phone: 319-462-3925 ★ Fax: 319-462-3982
www.nationalmcmuseum.org

**VISIT US
 AT OUR NEW
 LOCATION!**
 102 Chamber Drive
 Anamosa, IA 52205

We Have Moved! No longer on Main Street in downtown Anamosa, the Museum has more parking and is even easier to visit at its new location just off US 151 Exit 54 at Route 64. Go to www.nationalmcmuseum.org for hours and admission information.

Exhibits Can Thrill

As we have mentioned, the Museum is a work in progress. At this very moment, we are working on one section that is my favorite; the hill-climb display. The average hill-climb ascent is over in 10 seconds, but it's often a wild ride and we want to show that. I am working with sculptor Jeff Decker to create a real life get-off using a mannequin as rider and an Excelsior hill-climber from the collection hung from the roof structure. Even visitors who have never attended a hill-climb



Jeff Carstensen
 Museum Director

event will get to imagine what happens next. The bike is getting away from the rider. Will he save it, or let go, bike and rider, in your imagination, rolling back down the hill? This is one of several displays that will help visitors live motorcycling experiences they may not have ever been near. The "pictures" we create in the Museum will save you thousands of words, in this case showing that hill-climb is much closer to bull riding than an Electra-Glide Sunday ride!



As you read this note, or walk through the spanking new Museum for the first time, we are sure you'll have ideas for what you want to see in the Museum and we invite you to share them. If you want to email them the address is museum@nationalmcmuseum.org

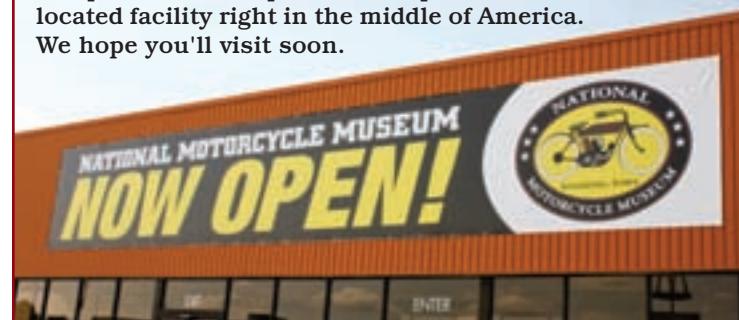


THE NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

PO Box 405 ★ Anamosa, IA 52205 ★ 319-462-3925 ★ Fax: 319-462-3982 ★ WWW.NATIONALMCMUSEUM.ORG
Museum & Gift Shop Hours: Mon.-Sun.: 9am-5pm

NOW OPEN!

The National Motorcycle Museum we have all been waiting for is open! Still a work in progress as not all exhibitions are complete, you can see what the monetary and material support many of you provide each year has built. More than twice the size of the previous building, the adaptive reuse of a 36,000 square foot 1980's structure was complicated and expensive, but provides a secure and well located facility right in the middle of America. We hope you'll visit soon.



The Making of An Excellent Museum Structure

With all the interesting bikes and art and toys and such to take in, you probably won't even notice what we did to create a solid safe shell; the Museum's building or edifice, but it cost over a million dollars to get the 36,000 square foot building into shape! Historic objects need a constant level of humidity and temperature control and they need Fort Knox level security at all times, especially after hours. We all need to be energy conscious so every wall and the roof are stacked with new insulation, and our roof-top HVAC units are all new energy efficient designs saving the Museum money in the long haul. Even our 450 track lights are very high efficiency LED (light emitting diode) designs which are long lasting, low in energy use and emit no ultraviolet light; a wave length of light very damaging to art, leather and fabrics. Thousands of wonderful pieces of motorcycle history have been lost to careless handling. Our heritage needs preserved and the National Motorcycle Museum is making a big investment to ensure that future generations can see what our motorcycling forbearers did!

Support the National Motorcycle Museum Experience

For years I have known that we needed a new bigger and better home for the National Motorcycle Museum, and now we have it! I've had just a few days at this point to take it in as this work in progress was opened semi-complete on June 25. Walking through the Museum, I love what some call "vistas"; what your eye frames much like a camera. Coming through the front doors, the lobby offers Jeff Decker's life-size "Land Speed" bronze with a fabulous bright blue Yale board track racer just beyond. As you pay admission and enter the exhibit floor you'll take in



John Parham
 Museum Board President

Evel Knievel's XR750, a superb grouping of VonDutch creations. Then you will be dazzled by the only authentic Captain America bike from Easy Rider framed by original theater posters. Walking on you can take in an all original 1908 "strap tank" Harley with a 25 foot wide like new original 1920's Harley-Davidson dealer billboard poster just beyond. But I guess my favorite might be the

special space we set aside for the best motorcycles and art in the collection, what we call Best of the Best. The bikes are elevated on platforms, the art beyond nicely spaced, and it all kind of gives me goosebumps! And then, well, I like the board track display, too! When you visit, and I hope it's soon, I'm betting the new Museum will make you smile. And I'm hoping you keep the Museum on your list of favorites to lend support to annually.



Go to www.nationalmcmuseum.org and see how you can support and help us do more at the Museum that will help you relive your motorcycling experiences.



Exhibition Technology

By 1911, American motorcycle racers were competing on dirt, brick and board tracks. Horse tracks then and now host what we call dirt track races. That year Indy opened its tri-oval with a motorcycle race won by Cannonball Baker and later blacktop covered the brick surface and it looks typical of a paved racetrack. But board tracks are gone. These 1/2 to two mile long constructions were short lived and it's hard to understand what they looked like, until now. Based on drawings of a Cincinnati Board Track built in 1915, we have recreated a section of curved and banked board track, turn four coming toward the home stretch and the pit area and set the collection of motorcycles on it as if a race is on. You can take in the 10x10, 4x14 rough sawn substructure and 2x4 on edge racing surface, as if you were in attendance at a race. And we've left a few boards off so that you can see just how these tracks were built about 100 years ago. Expensive and literally back breaking to construct, over time we'll build more simulations, reconstructions like this and support them with video because they will help you explain to your friends and family just what motorcycle racing used to look like.



Mark Mederski
Special Projects Director



Why We Have Two Changing Exhibitions Galleries

It costs a lot to research, design and construct museum exhibitions, so most museums share what they create. Usually called traveling exhibitions, the Art of the Motorcycle created by the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 1998 is a good example. Its tour lasted several years and hit six cities in the western hemisphere. The AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum created an exhibition of 11 of Arlen Ness's creations and called it AWESOME-NESS a few years back, but recently shipped it to the National Motorcycle Museum for installation in the special changing exhibitions gallery. There are so many interesting people in our sport, so many stories to tell we had to dedicate some space to get them told. We will strive to bring you a new story or two each time you visit. Thank you to the AMA Museum for allowing us to host this exhibit.



State of Iowa Supports Museum with \$13,500 Grant

The Museum has only been open a month at its new location, but its potential for impact on transportation history education is already being recognized. Through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its Historical Resource Development Program, the National Motorcycle Museum will be able to not only restore and install a wonderful 1920's steel modular Shell gasoline station, but just as important tell the story of how gasoline stations sprang up in America, and how they have served and evolved over time. We are grateful to the screening committee for making the decision to support this important story in American transportation and selecting the National Motorcycle Museum to tell it.

Going to Davenport?

If you attend the Antique Motorcycle Club's Blackhawk Chapter meet in Davenport, Iowa September 3, 4 and 5, you are only an hour from the new National Motorcycle Museum on U.S. 151 in Anamosa, Iowa. We hope you'll take some time during the weekend or traveling to or from Davenport to stop by. The Museum will again have a booth at the meet and brochures with maps to the Museum will be available.



The Museum Gift Shop is Open

Want to let people know you support the National Motorcycle Museum? Pick up a t-shirt, coffee mug, poster or other special item at the Museum Gift Shop. Everything is available online, and every purchase helps us continue our mission. A quick trip to www.nationalmcmuseum.org will let you find what you need for yourself or as a gift for a friend.



A Meeting & Banquet Center For Your Event

A designed in feature of the new National Motorcycle Museum is a 3200 square foot Banquet Hall. You can rent it for special events like wedding receptions and parties and it will seat up to 200 guests. Having a meeting with a dozen attendees? We can divide off a sound controlled smaller space for you. And we can support caterers with a brand new purpose-built prep kitchen!

Interpretive Exhibitions:

Building linkages between bikes and the real life experiences of the visitor

As you would expect of a motorcycle museum, the National Motorcycle Museum has about 275 great motorcycles. But our long term goal is to make each one speak to you in some way. While some would say they are "just machines," every bike has a story to tell. So when you view a motorcycle or other object at this Museum, we will make every effort to help you know its story, what it means to you and the world of motorcycling. It takes research and good design work to succeed at this work, but over time you'll be pleased to see this evolve.



Women on the Wall of Death

Unless you are an avid motorcycle historian or have read a copy of Cris Sommer Simmons book *The American Motorcycle Girls*, you may not know that quite a few women were thrill riders and even rode the wall of death. To get this story out to visitors, author Cris Sommer Simmons graciously donated her time to curate a special traveling exhibition and it's at the Museum now. Eleven female stunt riders are featured. The exhibit design which features great photo enlargements and simulates wall of death wall units was created by museum supporter Wil Hentges. And we thank Dale Walksler and the Wheels Through Time Museum in Maggie Valley North Carolina for loaning a wall of death Indian Scout motorcycle and its wonderful hand painted shipping crate.