
Harley Owners Group (HOG) – New South Wales Chapter

HOGS – The Official riding club of Harley-Davidson – Established 1983

78th Annual Daytona Beach Bike Week

March 8 – 17, 2019

Report on attendance – Part 2

I continue my story about my trip to Daytona for the 78th Annual Daytona Beach Bike Week. I am still checking out the place before hitting Main Street as there are plenty of interesting things to do. Today we visit the Daytona International Speedway and visit a Harley-Davidson dealership and an Indian motorcycle dealership.

This report contains downloaded images as well as images taken myself.



Image 1 – You would be living under a rock if you haven't heard of the Daytona International Speedway! Daytona Beach is best known for this speedway which hosts February's iconic and world famous Daytona 500 NASCAR race. Daytona Beach is also home to the headquarters of NASCAR.



Image 2 – Aerial view of the speedway located at West International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach. Since opening in 1959, it has been home to the world famous “Daytona 500”, the most prestigious race of NASCAR. The 447 acre parcel of land is adjacent to the Daytona Beach International Airport.



Image 3 – An image from a race day. Seating capacity is over 167,000 people and all NASCAR events are always a sell-out.



Image 4 – The turns are banked at 31° to allow higher speed cornering and to give spectators a better view of the cars. The circuit is 2.5 miles long and during a NASCAR event it takes less than a minute for cars to complete a lap.



Image 5 – The speed record set in 2013 is 358.837 km/hr which leaves very little room for error.



Image 6 – I join a guided tour of the Speedway. They take you out on this “open air tram” towed by a truck with commentary by the driver through speakers on the tram. It goes all over the place with frequent stops where you can get out and have a close look.



Image 7 – Heading down the track straightaway where NASCAR vehicles reach speeds of over 300 km/hr!!!



Image 8 – We walk up the very steep 31° incline of the corners and find it to be more difficult than expected.



Image 9 – That was an interesting experience walking up this banked track because it's more difficult than you expected it to be. Notice how we are standing way above the truck parked at left of image. Women wearing high heels are advised not to attempt this.



Image 10 – Victory Lane in the infield area where the winners stand to be interviewed.



Image 11 – The Press bunker in the infield area where reporters gather to view the race on the many TV screens while they lodge reports to their various media outlets.



Image 12 – Wider and more comfortable seating was recently installed. Note the steep pitch of the seating ensuring that no one's view is obstructed by those sitting in front.

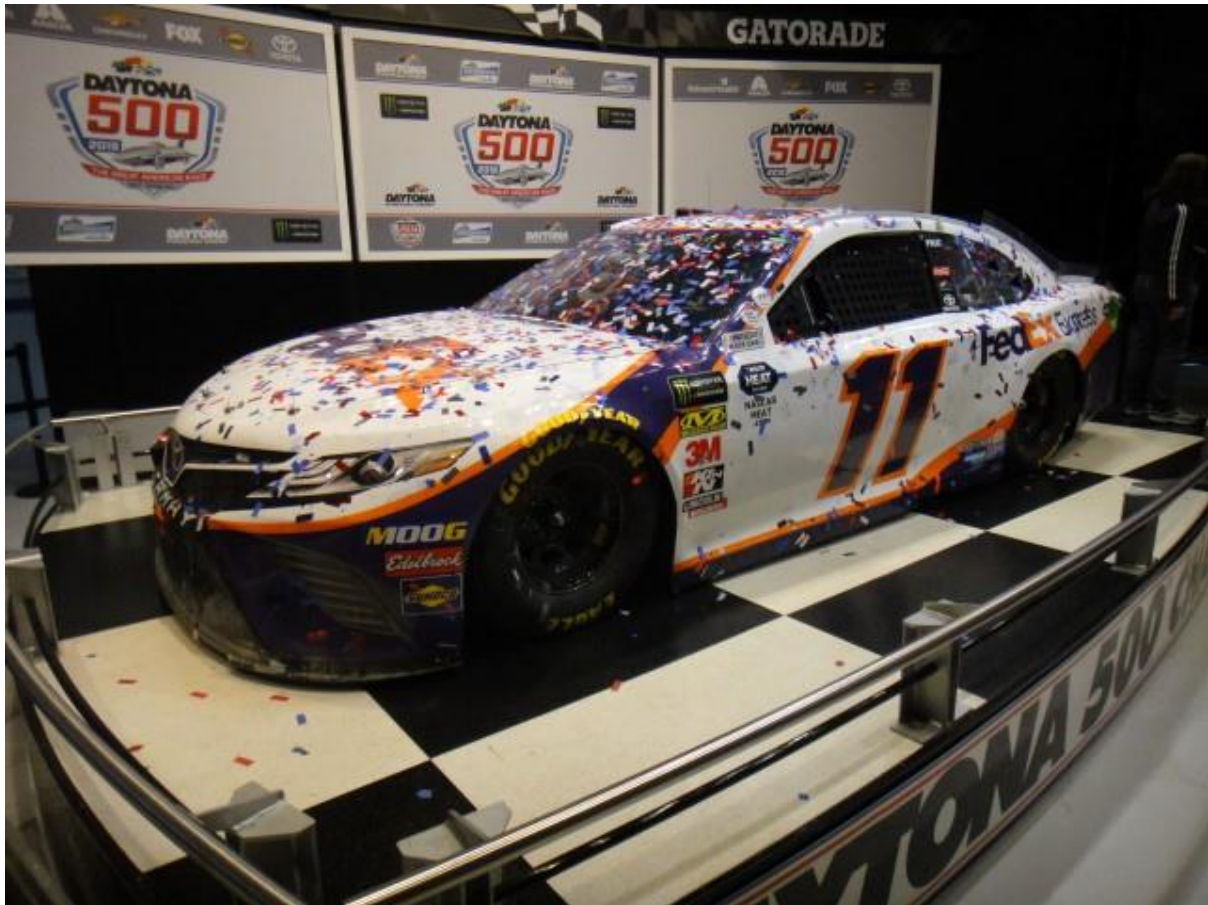


Image 13 – The winning car in the Daytona 500 race is confiscated and put on display for 12 months in the historical display section beneath the stands.



Image 14 – There is a Motorsport Museum / Hall of Fame beneath the stands which includes many classic racing vehicles of all types and includes exhibits exploring the lives and careers of the drivers who have been inducted into its Hall of Fame.



Image 15 – Housed here in the Motorsport Museum is this replica of Malcolm Campbell's "Bluebird". Campbell set 13 speed records between 1923 and 1939, breaking his own record 9 times. He set a speed record on Ormond Beach / Daytona Beach of 246 mph and became widely celebrated as the "fastest man on earth".



Image 16 – In the display there are stock cars, sports cars, open-wheelers, drag racers, power boats, motorcycles, and even aviation vehicles, whatever motorsport gets your heart racing. Of course there is a big gift shop located near the exit of the museum.



Image 17 – Straight after visiting Daytona International Speedway I go directly to Bruce Rossmeier's Harley-Davidson dealership in New Smyrna Beach which is south of Daytona Beach. During Bike Week all bike establishments are in party mode with displays and events going on to entertain the anticipated many visitors.



Image 18 – Upon entering the store you see many vintage Harley-Davidsons on display which is nice.



Image 19 – You just start thinking this store is huge when you see this sign! The Harley-Davidson dealerships in the U.S. are so much bigger than ours in Australia.



Image 20 – The escalator I am standing on is in the middle of the store giving you the idea of how big this dealership is.



Image 21 – No, one does not tire of seeing a line-up of new Harleys!



Image 22 – Also note the Harleys mounted high up on the walls throughout the store which are models from various eras which are for display purposes only.

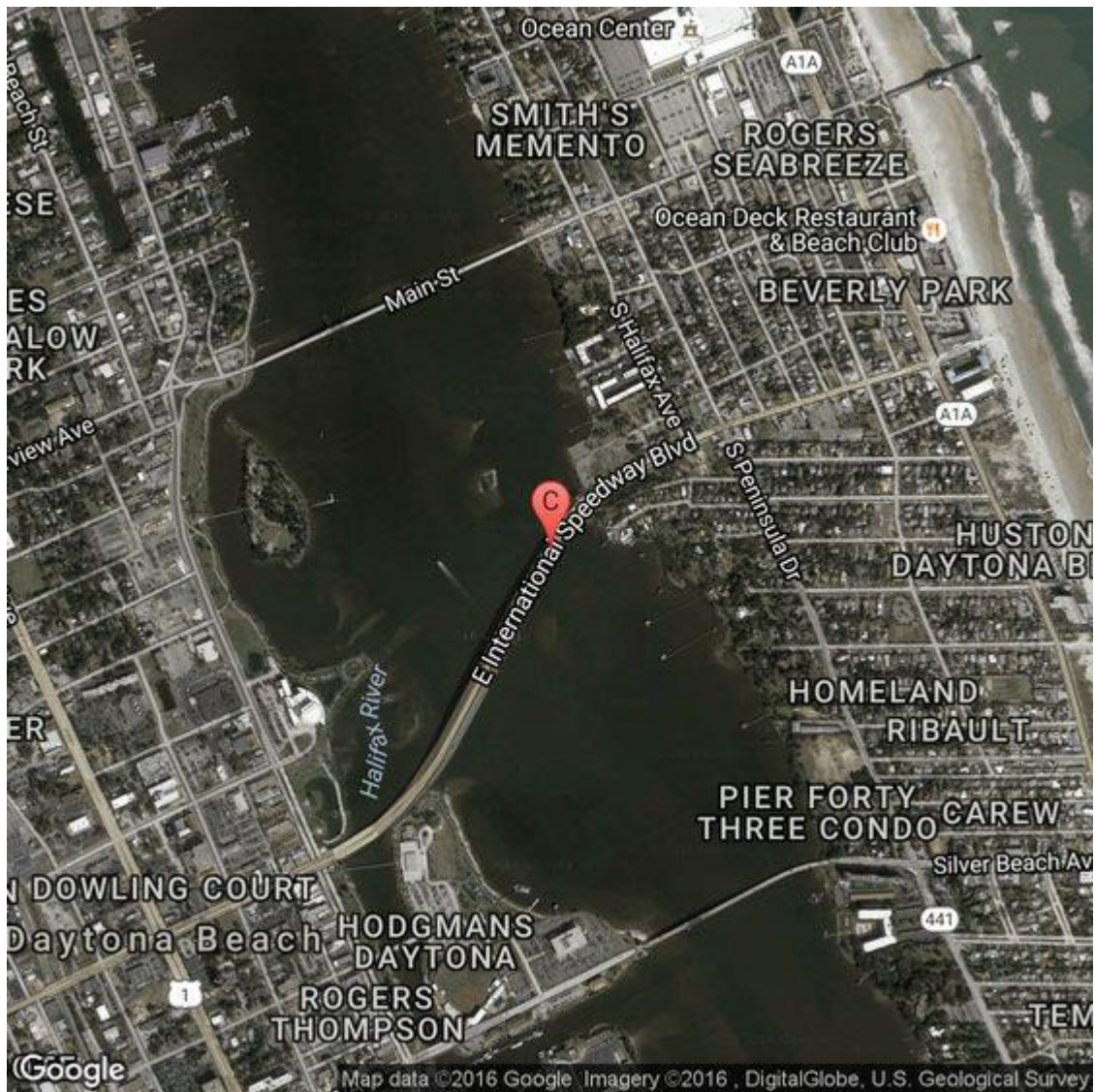


Image 23 – I now want to show you various other motorcycle establishments all located close together just to the west of the Main Street Bridge (north is upwards in this image). As I mentioned in Part 1, most of the festivities of Bike Week take place on the east end of Main Street between the Main Street pier and the Main Street Bridge.



Image 24 – The Main Street Bridge opens momentarily to allow for the passage of a boat. We are heading west across this bridge.



Image 25 – Just past the bridge heading west we see a BMW motorcycle dealership. To the right of this photo are plenty of new and used bikes as seen in next photo.



Image 26 – New and used bikes at Euro Cycles of Daytona.



Image 27 – After crossing the Main Street Bridge, the first left turn is into N. Beach Street where we see a series of motorcycle establishments. This is Midwest Motorcycle where they rent bikes including Harleys.



Image 28 – Further along N. Beach Street is All Out Motorcycles.



Image 29 – Then we see Brigit's Custom Works who sell and service motorcycles.



Image 30 – And then you get to the Indian Motorcycle Dealership on N. Beach Street. It's not as big as the Harley dealerships around but I found this place interesting to visit as you will see in the following photos.



Image 31 – Inside the main building are new Indian Motorcycles and biker apparel.



Image 32 – Outside the main building is this large tent housing new and used motorcycles for sale.



Image 33 – Included with the used motorcycles is this Boss Hoss trike. Boss Hoss Cycles is an American Motorcycle manufacturer producing motorcycles and trikes with V-8 Chevrolet engines ranging in size from 5.7 litres to 8.2 litres making them by far the most powerful motorcycles in the world. They have semi-automatic transmissions and also have a reverse gear, quite handy when trying to reverse these monsters.

In the USA, Boss Hoss motorcycles are more frequently found on the streets than you may think.



Image 34 – The very conspicuous V-8 engine of the Boss Hoss motorcycle.



Image 35 – Another Boss Hoss motorcycle for sale at the Indian dealership. Regardless of your opinion on these motorcycles, they demand your attention when you encounter one on the road with its very imposing sound and presence. More on these monsters in following blogs.



Image 36 – Polaris Industries is an American manufacturer of snowmobiles, ATV's and electric vehicles and currently produces motorcycles through its Indian Motorcycle Subsidiary. They also produce this 3-wheel "Slingshot" vehicle. I am still at the Indian dealership and they have a number of these on display for sale.



Image 37 – The rear of the Slingshot vehicle. This vehicle is driven by the back wheel; it has an in-line 4-cylinder 2.4 l motor, 5-speed manual gearbox, and has no roof, doors, or side windows, no airbags or crumple zone.



Image 38 – The interior of the Slingshot vehicle. Note that it has car-like controls and to me it's more a 3-wheeled car than a 3-wheeled motorcycle. Regardless, some people refer to these as trikes. In the catalogue they are described as a "3-wheeled open air roadster motor vehicle". The classification of the Slingshot is state dependant and 40 U.S. states have classified it as an autocycle which only requires a driver's license and not a motorcycle endorsement. Regardless, many owners take them to Main Street Daytona Beach during Bike Week to be part of the festivities.

Well that's it for Part 2.

More to come including a big focus on the motorcycle rally in Main Street, Daytona Beach.

Ride Safe.

Sergio - Editor / Historian