
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 1

Our story this time is about my experience while attending the world famous motorcycle rally in Daytona, Florida USA. I'm sure just about every HOG member would have this on their bucket list.

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



Image 1 - A map of part of the United States east coast showing the location of Daytona in the State of Florida.

I arrive in Daytona a few days ahead of the motorcycle rally giving me time to check the place out. So I will firstly give you a basic rundown of Daytona before showing you great photos of the Motorcycle Rally.



Image 2 – That's Daytona Beach at right of photo facing the Atlantic Ocean. Through centre of photo is the Halifax River.



Image 3 – Seen in the foreground is the Main Street Pier with Main Street running straight across town to that bridge at left in background known as the Main Street Bridge which crosses the Halifax River. Main Street between the Pier and the bridge is where most of the action of the Motorcycle rally takes place.



Image 4 – View from the Main Street Pier of Daytona Beach. This part of Daytona Beach is a continuous series of large Hotel buildings, with some still under construction.

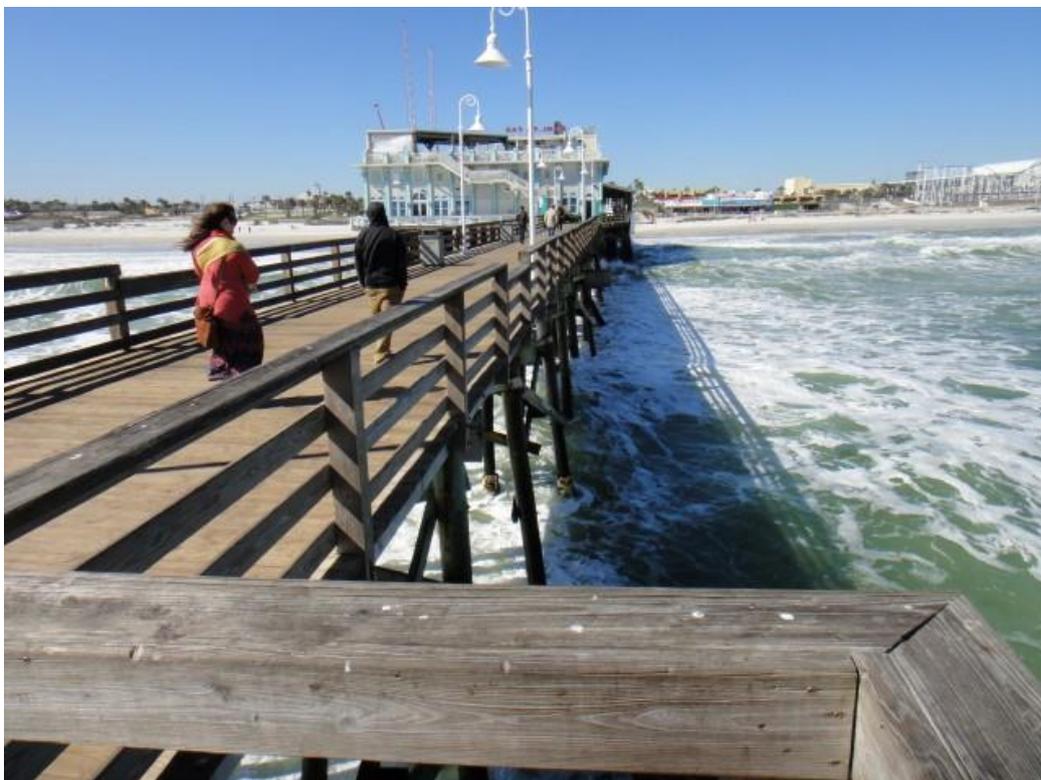


Image 5 – Standing at the end of the Main Street Pier perched over the Atlantic Ocean.



Image 6 – Daytona Beach has over 37 km of white sandy beaches. The beach has smooth hard-packed sand where driving of motor vehicles is permitted in designated areas. This beach became widely known in the early 1900's for high-speed automobile testing, and later, racing. This then made this beach a mecca for motor racing enthusiasts and by the 1920's it was dubbed the "World's Most Famous Beach".



Image 7 – The vehicular access to the beach is at the end of this road which is near Main Street. Other access points are also found along Atlantic Avenue.



Image 8 – Vehicular access to the beach is not free and speed limits are enforced.



Image 9 – Here we see swimmers parked on the beach. You don't need a 4WD to drive on the sand here as the sand is hard packed. Park wherever you wish and the beach is at your disposal.



Image 10 – That main road running parallel to the beach is Atlantic Avenue which houses many souvenir and beach shops.



Image 11 – Inside one of the many surf shops along Atlantic Avenue, they are huge and they also stock souvenir items.



Image 12 – A new Hotel still under construction along Atlantic Avenue.



Image 13 – March is the peak period of college students being on their spring break and Daytona Beach is also known as “The Spring Break Capital of The World”. This period also coincides with the Daytona Beach Motorcycle Rally giving the students a bonus attraction!



Image 14 – These are probably college students enjoying their spring break. The Main Street Pier is in the background.



Image 15 – A typical scene during spring/summer at Daytona Beach. If you go to the beach you park your car right on the sand near where you want to swim. Cars are only allowed on the beach between sunrise and sunset and alcohol, glass containers and pets are all forbidden. Pedestrians are allowed 24 hour access but are not permitted to sleep on the beach overnight.



Image 16 – Another typical image of Daytona Beach in summer with cars parked all along the shores of the beach.



Image 17 – I stay at the Holiday Inn about 4 miles south of Main Street along Atlantic Avenue.



Image 18 – North of Daytona Beach is Ormond Beach. Here you don't see the large Hotels along the beach but instead grand private homes.

This beach is actually the “Birthplace of Speed” where auto pioneers raced their cars. Here in 1902 the hard-packed sands of Ormond Beach hosted the first speed tournaments in the U.S. By 1904, world records were set here including one for motorcycles. Auto racing would eventually move to a banked speedway in Daytona Beach (Daytona International Speedway) but for three decades Ormond Beach was the Valhalla of automobile races. All the greats of racing competed here including Sir Malcolm Campbell. Speed records were set and broken almost every year, from a once amazing 68 mph in 1903 to almost 300 mph in 1935!



Image 19 – Ormond Beach – First Speed Tournament.



Image 20 – A home along Ormond Beach right on the oceanfront.

Driving is still permitted on this beach but there is now a speed limit of 10 mph!

Back in 1902 existing roads were no more than horse trails and few places were available offering long hard surfaces upon which a race could be organized. Back then, Ormond Beach looked like an ideal race course!



Image 21 – More homes along the oceanfront of Ormond Beach.



Image 22 – A visitor to Ormond Beach with all the provisions for a good day out. This clever trolley contains fishing tackle, beach chairs, esky with food and drinks, table and beach umbrella. It's very soft tyres make it easy to haul over the sand.



Image 23 – A bird takes a rest along Ormond Beach.



Image 24 – Right at Ormond Beach is “Birthplace of Speed Park” which commemorates the first automobile race held on the adjacent beach in 1903. While auto races are no longer held here, Ormond Beach’s heritage as the birthplace of speed remains very much alive. Every year, dozens of antique-car owners gather for festivals celebrating Ormond’s glittering past, and reminders of the glory days abound. There is even talk of reintroducing a parade on the beach with time trials and racing on the beach.



Image 25 – This is a small replica of the original Ormond Garage that was built on Ormond Beach to accommodate the racers and their mechanics. Known as “Gasoline Alley”, it contains full-size replicas of the two cars that took part in that famous first race in 1903.



Image 26 – The original Ormond Garage built in 1904 during its heyday.



Image 27 – A 1915 race car as seen on Ormond Beach.



Image 28 – A motorcycle in a time trial at Ormond Beach in 1908.

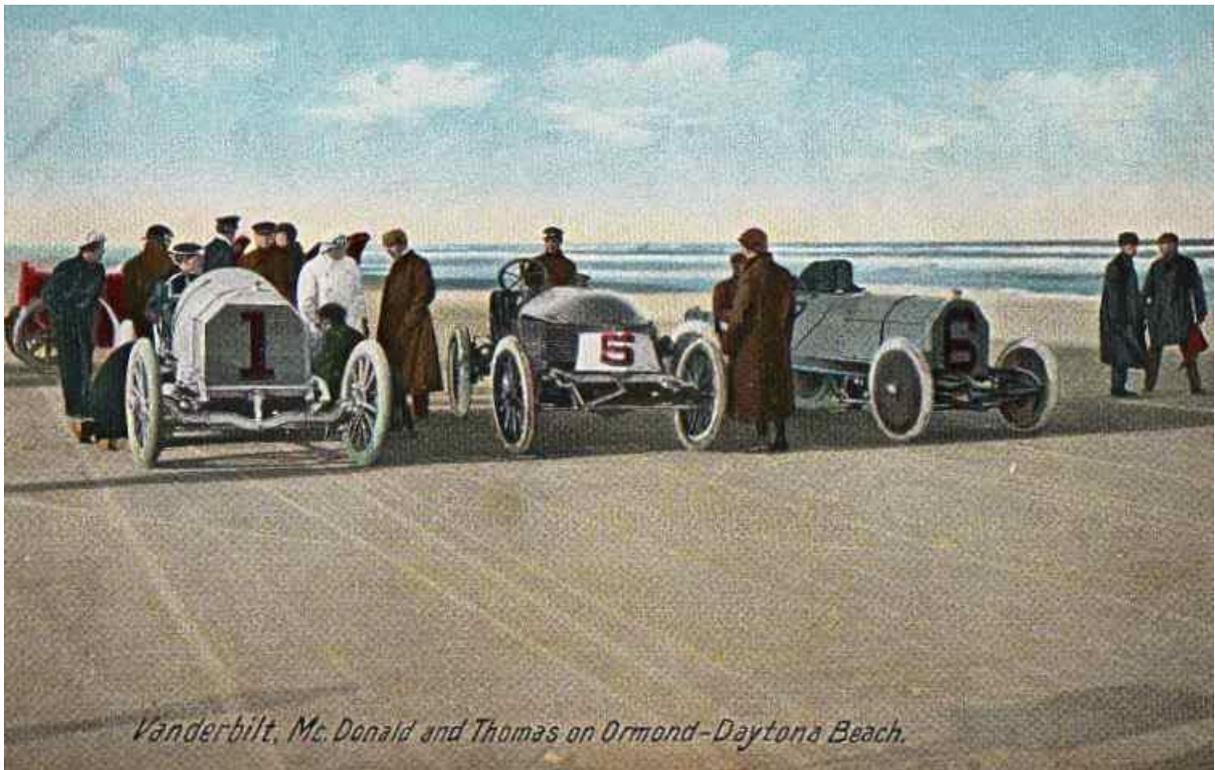


Image 29 – Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach form one continuous beach along the Florida Coast.



Image 30 – Sir Malcolm Campbell on a world record attempt at Ormond / Daytona Beach in the early 1930's. He broke 9 land speed records between 1924 and 1935, with 5 of these achieved at Ormond / Daytona Beach. He set his final speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in 1935 and was the first person to drive an automobile at over 300 mph. He died in Surry, England in 1948, aged 63 years.



Image 31 – Various historic markers can be found at the beachfront “Birthplace of Speed Park” that tell the racing story.



Image 32 – Glenn Hammond Curtiss is a huge name in motorsport and aviation and rode a V-8 powered motorcycle on Ormond Beach in 1907.

Well that's enough for Part 1 I think.

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

Ride Safe.

Sergio - Editor / Historian