



Custom Nationals Geiselwind, Germany - August 1-2



Words & Pictures - Horst 'Motographer' Roessler - www.motographer.de

Starting any event, especially an all-brands Custom motorcycle bike show, in a theoretically crowded market, at a busy time of year for custom shows, and pulling with 200+ entries straight away is quite an achievement, at any time.

But that is what the new Custom Nationals event at Geiselwind, between Würzburg and Nuremberg in south central Germany, achieved.

That said, the fact that this was a new iteration for, a new version of an event - the 'Bike and Music Weekend' - that had been running at that venue on the first weekend of August for more than 25 years did not hurt!

That prior iteration of the show regularly attracted some 80-100 entries, itself not a bad turnout but this year, with new branding and organisation team the event really took off. If this momentum can be maintained, then the 'Custom

Nationals' will quickly establish itself as one of Europe's summer 'majors'. The bike show is very much the focal point, but the legacy of the venue and location, and the beauty of the region as a rural summer riding paradise provide all the elements for a long-term success story.

The competition was fierce in all the classes, with the 'Best of Show' and 'Radical' class trophy being won by Harald Bauer of Harley-Davidson Würzburg Village, with the much



admired 'Red Rooster', a radical handcrafted 1918 Model J that was first assembled by the HDWV Team in 2020.

There aren't many Model Js around these days, and even the traditional events like Verona, Bad Salzflun, Lyon and Houten are faced with shrinking numbers of bikes competing from every Harley era, but especially pre-WWII.

The renewed partnership between the Autohof Strohofer and Knight Riders MC did fill the hall though, with 190+

motorcycles, ranging from a 1974 50 cc Cesare Rizzato Kids Trike to a 1.5 ton scratch built monster trike with 800 cc single cylinder stationary diesel engine - and an incredible number of high-class custom Harley-Davidson's by builders from all over Germany and even as far away as Kuwait!

To give customizers a wide field of classes, the show featured 16 (!) different categories, which did put the jury members - selected from members of the famous 'Customizers East' club in northern Franconia - under severe time pressure. The fast-paced show allowed the bikes to enter right up until Friday morning, so staging the judging (all bikes!) and the trophy ceremony on the Saturday was tight, but the organisers 'got it done'.

Presented here are a selection of class the winners but a more complete list of wins and seconds, including a couple of special awards and an extensive picture gallery, can be found online at the event website.

Save The Date - Custom Nationals, Geiselwind/Germany - July 31 - August 08, 2025

www.custom-nationals.de



US Bikes 1250-up cc (all customized US bikes, Harley, Indian, Victory and others, Big Twin or V8 powered, displacement OVER 1250 cc)
#1 - Gietl Lowrider on 2002 Softail TC base, Christian Gietl, Germany
#2 - Street Bob 113 Custom, One Way Machines, Julian von Oheimb, Germany



Custom (all bikes with frame modifications or engines of different manufacturers (S&S, Ultima, RevTech, Japanese & European engines in Custom-frames)
#1 - Triumph Dragbike140, Matthias Seidl, Germany
#2 - Evo Hardtail Chopper, Mean Machines, Hagen Pallmann, Germany



Best of Show Custom Nationals 2025
Red Rooster, 1918 "J" based fully handcrafted, Harley-Davidson Würzburg Village, Germany



Custom Touring (all Touring bikes featuring bags in stock version)
#1 - 2002 Road Glide Bagger, Marc Recknagel, Germany
#2 - 2022 Lowrider ST Performance, Stefan Geisler, Germany



Custom Classic / Vintage (all modified bikes, antique/classic/young timers, up to 1990)
#1 - 1969 Harley-Davidson "Ironhead" Chopper, Sebastian Gärtner, Germany
#2 - 1950 FL with Shovel-Motor, Piero Rathenow, Germany



Clubstyle (all Clubstyle bikes)
#1 - Comic Art ST, 2024 Lowrider ST, Esther Heipek, Germany
#2 - 2013 Dyna Street Bob Clubstyle, HH-Damm, Germany



Classic / Vintage (all stock bikes, antique/classic/young timers, up to 1990)
#1 - 1916 Triumph Model H "The Trusty", Thomas Niemann, Germany
#2 - 1980 Suzuki GS 1000, Frank Röhlich, Germany



Café Racer (all brands, Café Racer style)
#1 - VT-Café, Honda VT 600 Café Racer, Alexander Meier, AM-Bikes, Germany
#2 - K100RS Café Racer, Kai Hamacher, Germany

