

A little Bit of *MAGIC*

The “No-Show” in Ruedesheim!



June 11th - 14th 2020

Ruedesheim/Rhein: Can't stop
the bikes from rolling in...

A full report on a show that
did not happen – and the possible
(no) future of motorcycle
events in Germany...

**MAGIC BIKE
RUEDESHEIM**
am Rhein
11. - 14. JUNI 2020

- DORO PESCH
- STAHLZEIT
- Live Musik auf 3 Bühnen
- Harley-Davidson Probefahrten
- Großes Musikfeuerwerk
- Geführte Ausfahrten
- Parade
- Stuntshow
- Bike Show

www.magic-bike-ruedesheim.com
Buddies and Bikes e.V. • Rheinstraße 3 • 65385 Ruedesheim am Rhein Germany

Riding the Rhine Valley in May or June to meet at Magic Bike Ruedesheim or just for privat fun has been a passion for many motorcycle riders. Although the event was cancelled already in March 2020, "Buddies and Bikes" and the city of Ruedesheim did expect some riders to show up despite the Corona crisis. So they prepared for that...

MAGIC BIKE
Rüdesheim
2020!
 No Show!

MAGIC BIKE Rüdesheim 2020 No Show!

Rüdesheim's Corona disaster in just one image: This is Rüdesheim's "Mainstreet" and mooring area for Hotel-cruise-ships Saturday afternoon. What would have been *THE* top-day of the tourist year, thousands of motorcyclists parading through the Rheingau and something between six and ten Hotel ships in double lines at the moorings with the accompanying tourists prowling Drosselgasse, is almost deserted. Tourist business along the Rhine – as well as any other business – is on the brink of total collapse!



MAGIC BIKE

Rüdesheim

2020

No Show!

Local riders from the Rhein-Main area made the bulk of the visitors to visit Rüdesheim during the “Magic Bike” days in 2020. More than 600 (!) German and some Dutch visitors retained their reservations, thus supporting the just opened Hotels and Pensions at the hard hit City of Rüdesheim. Their “gamble” played off for a nice riding weekend but the “Spirit of Magic Bike” was far from being present...



MAGIC BIKE

Rüdesheim

2020

No Show!



Boss Hoss and Harley-riders heading for the Taunus hills an Wispertal valley on Friday. The Harley-Davidson Club of Wiesbaden usually organises the “guided Tours” of Magic Bike, last year divided in three separate groups, thanks to the 800+ riders that want to attend the rides. With 8-10 riders, the task is much easier, no roads have to be blocked off. Here they are heading out from East Rüdesheim toward Niederwald Memorial and Wispertal Valley.

MAGIC BIKE

Rüdesheim

2020

No Show!



Plenty of parking was available on Saturday afternoon, as the Rüdesheim City authorities designated the Rheinstraße in front of the Broemserburg Castle and the sideroad behind it as “free of charge” motorcycle parking. Something riders can be grateful! On any other weekend (and day) than Magic Bike, Ruedesheim is one of the greedy citys even cashing in on parking motorcycles – and it was and is ENFORCED!

A graphic with a blue background. At the top, the words "MAGIC BIKE" are written in large, bold, red capital letters. Below this, the word "Rüdesheim" is written in a white, elegant cursive script. Underneath "Rüdesheim", the year "2020" is written in large, white, bold capital letters. At the bottom, the words "No Show!" are written in a stylized, orange, hand-drawn font.

Eike and Juergen are long time visitors of Magic Bike and other European Harley events. Despite arriving from less than 120 km away, they retained their Hotel booking and enjoyed meeting friends at the “No Show” of Magic Bike 2020. Empty motorcycle parking at what in other years is the busy “Main Entrance” of Magic Bike shows that this years “No Show” will leave its marks!

MAGIC BIKE

Ruedesheim
2020
No Show!

Harley-Davidson's "Live Wire" was present for demo rides on most days of the 2020 "No Show" at Ruedesheim! Harley-Davidson Wiesbaden, Harley-Factory Frankfurt and HD Wetzlar, all members of the HD-Factory-Group, brought a 2-bikes/2 staff set-up to Ruedesheim, operating from the Rose Garden of the Broemserburg Castle. Demand was plenty – and this small but effective presentation did quite a great promotion for the electric Harley. More on that later in the story...





Friday's "Boss Hoss" tour rumbling out of Rüdesheim up into the vineyards.



Buddies and Bikes and Carlos Cachafeiro, who was one of the "lucky artists" to have a chance to perform during the Pandemic. All other concerts and activities were cancelled.

It was a "No Show" that will be in the memory of all those who attended it, because it was surrounded by all the "surreal" facts and fiction that follows us since Covid 19 hit the Planet, be it this or last year! "Magic Bike Rüdesheim" was cancelled already in March, following the Europe-wide "shut down" of almost everything to

"save lives" and "keep the virus from spreading". Nevertheless, as time passed, it turned out that some "believed" in what politicians and media fed them, others didn't. And those who did trust their rulers and media masters were somewhat shaken when they witnessed that some "political correct" mass assemblies and protests were

tolerated, while others were not. Motorcycle meetings certainly on the latter category. Falling into a time of "releasing" the pressure, Rüdesheim knew in advance that at least some riders would enter the town during the days that would have been "Magic Bike 2020" – so they prepared for it. So did Buddies & Bikes!

The vendors area served as free motorcycle parking.



Rheinstraße with little traffic.





No parking! Rheinstraße on Wednesday: Empty!



The tower of the Boosenburg and Brömserburg in Rüdesheim. No vendors, no visitors, no firework and (BELOW) no Bikeshow during the "Magic" days in Rüdesheim. At least, some sunshine!

When "Magic Bike" was cancelled officially in March, some 600 hardcore enthusiasts kept their Hotel reservations, starting a true "gamble" against time and Covid 19. It was just on midnight to June 11th that some of the Hessian restrictions were lifted.

The "Friends of Magic Bike" event Wednesday evening still needed a special permit, allowing up to 200 people to enter the garden of the Broemserburg Castle which was dominating the otherwise deserted event-site. The surprisingly few members

of "Buddies and Bikes" of Rüdesheim who organize this event since 2002 had invited friends and supporters to this meeting, most of which crawled out from their home-office holes for the first time since March, the author included. "We thought





Matthias Meier of Harley-Factory Frankfurt came prepared!

we should at least prepare some “back-up plan” for those riders and bikers who would pass or stop at Ruedesheim”, stated Bernhard Jung, one of the “Buddies” that organize the event for 19 years, “we wanted our long time friends to be informed what is going on and what is planned for the future.” Still optimistic that there is one...

Likewise, the City staff of Ruedesheim prepared: By cutting off the usual tolerated parking next to the Street Cafés, the police and “Ordnungsamt” was handing out tickets wherever they saw and felt somebody “stepping over the line”. “Magic Bike” is THE economic factor in Ruedesheim’s wide-spread annual event calendar, now as dead as tourism from foreign countries including huge numbers of visiting Japanese and Chinese tourists looking for Elvis. All the stranger that the city did its best to piss off the remaining visitors and 600 “Spartans” that kept their (certainly not assured!) Hotel reservations for the 4-day event.

Interestingly enough, the date also connected “by chance” with a “safety offensive” of Hessian Police forces searching for loud, modified, illegal and too fast motorcycles –

another fun factor that certainly not added to the excitement of the Ruedesheim bound riders. Speed traps and other check points were set up on popular riding routes along Rhine and Wispertal valley, checking the bikes and riders. Being an “easy

target” to bring in some money, motorcyclists now seem on top of the target list of German Police forces. Of course, Germany has no other problems at this time. Or has it?

Weather forecasts and news



Ehrenfels Castle, located between Ruedesheim and Assmanshausen is a great picture at sunset.

spread through the internet kept the numbers of visitors at a decent level. Ruedesheim was never in danger of being “over-run” on any given day of the “No Show” 2020.

“Distance” was the theme of the loose gathering in the

Broemserburg garden, I purposely avoid the “Newspeak” term “Social Distancing”, proposed by the ministry of truth, because distance is never social. Even during Wednesday evening it became quite obvious how difficult it is to see long time friends as Covid-carriers and potential bacillus...

This odd feeling somewhat continued through all days, making every contact a balancing act between the fear of infection and the old familiarity that came naturally. I don’t like the “New Reality”, but I gotta face it.

Carlos Cachafeiro spread his “music magic” on all days from a small stage: On any other event, he had played the highly successful part of “stage sweeper” after the main bands into the early morning hours. All musicians are hard hit by the current crisis. Harley-Davidson Wiesbaden, Frankfurt and Wetzlar operated two “Live Wire” demo bikes from the nearby rose garden” and did quite well in promoting the new Bikes.

Talking 2021, Magic Bike is planned to return with the precise program of 2020, then hopefully for a rousing 20th Anniversary party in the usual configuration and with all “major players” back in place. And hopefully with less

attitude and attention by the police of Hessen, the state so far supporting the event as a touristic highlight for the benefit of the local business. If that happens, we will see...

Text: HRF; Fotos: Motographer



The present "Buddies and Bikes" did thank all invited guests – people and officials that usually do the work on Magic Bike Ruedesheim and who visited the Wednesday night reception in the garden of the Broemserburg. Many long-time supporters of the event were present, most of which agreed to the seriousness of the problems coming up in the future!



Carlos Cachafeiro performed on all days of the "No Show", including a "live" online performance on Saturday. Check out his website on www.carlosseum.com. Keepin the distance was easy on Wednesday as a special permit limited the participants to 200 only. In fact, Hessen lifted its limitations only on midnight that day, yet political protests the week before had by far exceeded limits.





Stefan Dries and Bernhard Jung at the reception: Packing such a lot of work and passion into 19 years of Magic Bike Ruedesheim, they are now focussed on getting the 20th Anniversary Edition “on the road”, no matter which obstacles will be rolled in their way. In the past 19 years, this team has made “Magic Bike” the “top event” in the entire Rheingau and certainly for Ruedesheim!



What the Germans love! Rules and Regulations seem to be inherited in the German “Kraut Genes”, as the first 3 months of the Covid 19 Pandemic proved again! Rules and reg’s differed from state to state, sometimes from town to town and hour to hour! If you think you would be “safe” from loosing your driving licence by riding a bicycle in “high spirits”, THINK AGAIN! NOT in Germany!



MAGIC BIKE

Rüdesheim
2020
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Well protected against the virus, this Bagger rider approaches the Brömserburg Garden, passing the empty Rheinstraße. The traditional event days – Thursday is a “Bank Holiday” in some German States – saw many “riding” visitors passing Rüdesheim, but few stopped for a longer stay. This years “event” and procedures were ruled by Rüdesheim City authorities and local Police, trying to enforce the “city limits” and – of course – existing “Corona-Rules” ...



TOP: "Social Distancing" was "the theme" for much of the weekend. This is the somewhat sad view from the Brömserburg deck to the garden entrance, the "Live Wire" demo ride visible in the rear at the entrance to the Rose Garden. **BELOW:** Boosenburg and empty eventsite (in the left of the picture) show the rather deserted area and the cable cars to the Niederwald Memorial.



Plenty of space Saturday 4 pm in the front of the Garden facing Rheinstraße, Railway line and parking. The City had no complaints, even asked to set up more tables and benches to avoid "standing clusters" as the "newspeak" goes. Vera and Bernhard Jung themselves unpacked the hardware from their van and placed them in "safe distance"...



BOSS HOSS RIDE

**Big Bikes roam the
Rhine & Taunus roads...**

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The Boss Hoss powered riders at the end of the tour pose for a group show in front of Residence Johannisberg above Geisenheim and Winkel. Magic Bike always was a popular event for the Boss Hoss riders.

BOSS HOSS RIDE

Big Bikes roam the Rhine & Taunus roads



Several hundred horsepower thunder down into the Wisper Valley on Friday, led by Gernot Moser of Harley-Davidson Club Rüdesheim. Gernot knows the narrow routes of the Rhein-Taunus inside out, as he is usually plotting the routes for Magic Bikes "World Heritage" tours and the traditional Friday ride-out with HOG members and visitors that now line up in the hundreds at Assmannshausen.

BOSS HOSS RIDE

Big Bikes roam the Rhine & Taunus roads

Up on the “high ground” of the Rhein-Taunus hills, the landscape changes from plains to deep gorges with twisting roads leading up and down to narrow creeks that collect the water to the Rhine. What the image does not show – or what is rather remarkable for 2020, in this – so far – scenic landscape is a war going on! As it happened on the other side of the river – belonging to Rhineland-Palatinate – plans are underway to plaster the Hessian heights of the Rhine with rotors to create wind powered electrical energy. In ten years, this picture might be “history”...

BOSS HOSS RIDE

Big Bikes roam the
Rhine & Taunus roads



The riders that stayed until the groupshot outside Johannisberg Castle.



Laukenmühle and ruins in the Wispertal Valley.



The twisting L 3397 sideroad from Lorch to Ransel is one of the “secret tips” to ride with any motorcycle during Magic Bike. It is a “mandatory” when touring with the “Magic Bikers”.

Magic Bike Ruedesheim knows three major riding events: The “World Heritage Tour” on Thursday, guided tours by the HD-Club Ruedesheim and local HOG Chapters Friday and the Magic Parade Saturday, all of which assemble at a then “packed” Assmanshausen, next town “downstream”. In 19 years, the tours have been swelling to almost 600-800 participants, the parade packed several thousand bikers in some years. 2020 saw a “private” tour by those who usually route the herd along those narrow Taunus Hills – using some side roads from early years that now can’t take the huge numbers of participants. To add “spice” to the challenge, half of the “gang” rode with the V-8 powered Boss Hoss monsterbikes!





The small number of participants allowed to travel roads that are nowadays avoided with the bigger Magic Tours.

The ups and downs of Taunus riding: Too much fun!



The Boss Hoss rides quite well.

Up into the hills: Niederwald Memorial in the background.





Reconstructed water wheel at the Laukenmühle Restaurant.



Big bikes on their way!

Despite their weight, the Boss Hoss in motion can put up quite a performance.

Windshields may have not always the desired effect on a bike.



Electrifying!

**Harley-Davidson
„Live Wire“
Demo-Rides**

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The stock product is quite impressive in its performance: HD "Live Wire".

Electrifying!

**Harley-Davidson
„Live Wire“
Demo-Rides**



Two “Live Wire’s” were available for demo rides in Ruedesheim.



Bernhard Jung also tested the Live Wire.



Just from the Brömserburg to the "Mouse Tower" and back: The short "Live Wire" ride did already uncover the potential of Harley's electric ride. Full torque from the start does pay off!

The local Harley-Davidson Dealers, namely Wiesbaden and Harley Factory Frankfurt, have supported Magic Bike along with the always present HD Demo Rides that always had a fully "packed" shedule during the event! This year, the locals did show up despite the "No Show" and had two "Live Wire" test rides available, highly appreciated by the present riders that could get the "electrifying" feeling of riding this truely amazing Harley model. You can have a point on e-motorcycles, but this is an exeptional well constructed and executed motorcycle, offering impressive performance! Even only a short ride from Broemserburg to the Mouse Tower for a quick fotoshoot offered the "Live Wire" made an "electrifying" experience!





HD-Wiesbaden, Wetzlar and Frankfurt shared the demo rides at Rüdesheim.



The look is deceiving: Battery and equipment carry some weight: 251 kg!

Preparing for another testride.

Any first ride on a electrical motorcycle needs careful adjustment and concentration!



SATURDAY

No-Show Time in Rüdesheim...

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As Saturday morning and noon turned out to be more on the cloudy – and occasionally wet – side, it was late afternoon that the sun came out again and riders were now parking the last block of Rheinstraße along the Brömserburg. The Garden soon filled up with visitors and even some of the Magic Bike “regulars” riding high-end Showbikes rode in from all over the Rhein-Main basin. Björn aka pro “Captain Jack Sparrow” re-enactor from Ginsheim near Mainz arrived on his “Fossil” Habermann Chopper.

SATURDAY

No-Show Time in Rüdesheim...

What looks like a picture of pre-Corona times is in fact Saturday evenings "No Show" in the Brömserburg Garden. Despite the distance, there is a certain feeling of "family" amongst those who often visited Magic Bike for the last 19 years. This is where the shit can hit the fan, although motorcycle riders are amongst the best trained "isolationists" in the world, wearing helmets, visors, mouth-protection on long rides.

MAGIC BIKE

Rüdesheim

2020

No Show!





Parking outside the Brömserburg was tolerated by the Rüdesheim Local Police.



Custom V-Rod – on the traditional “Magic Bike Show” and “Magic Bike Parade” day, very few show-bikes prowled the Rheinstraße...

The expected “crowd” of Saturday did fail to arrive: In the morning, the promised weather did not show up – or was it that the news of the police action of previous days made it through the grapevine? Maybe a little bit of both...

Anyway, not much material was rolling around to arrange a make-

shift bike show, usually one of the Saturday highlights, or pick any bike features. The garden crowded up only in the evening hours when the live music started, most visitor groups interacting without their “mouth diapers”, which at that time were not mandatory outdoors. A “Magic” Corona hotspot in the making?

We will see, but I wish all of them the best! Given the circumstances, you can’t box people in forever – and motorcyclists are naturally careful about their protection against almost everything. Try to convince anybody not riding a motorcycle to wear a helmet for hours on end! Point taken?

Saturday evening, almost a “Touch of Magic Bike”.



The Flag is up!



Welcome to the NEW REALITY?

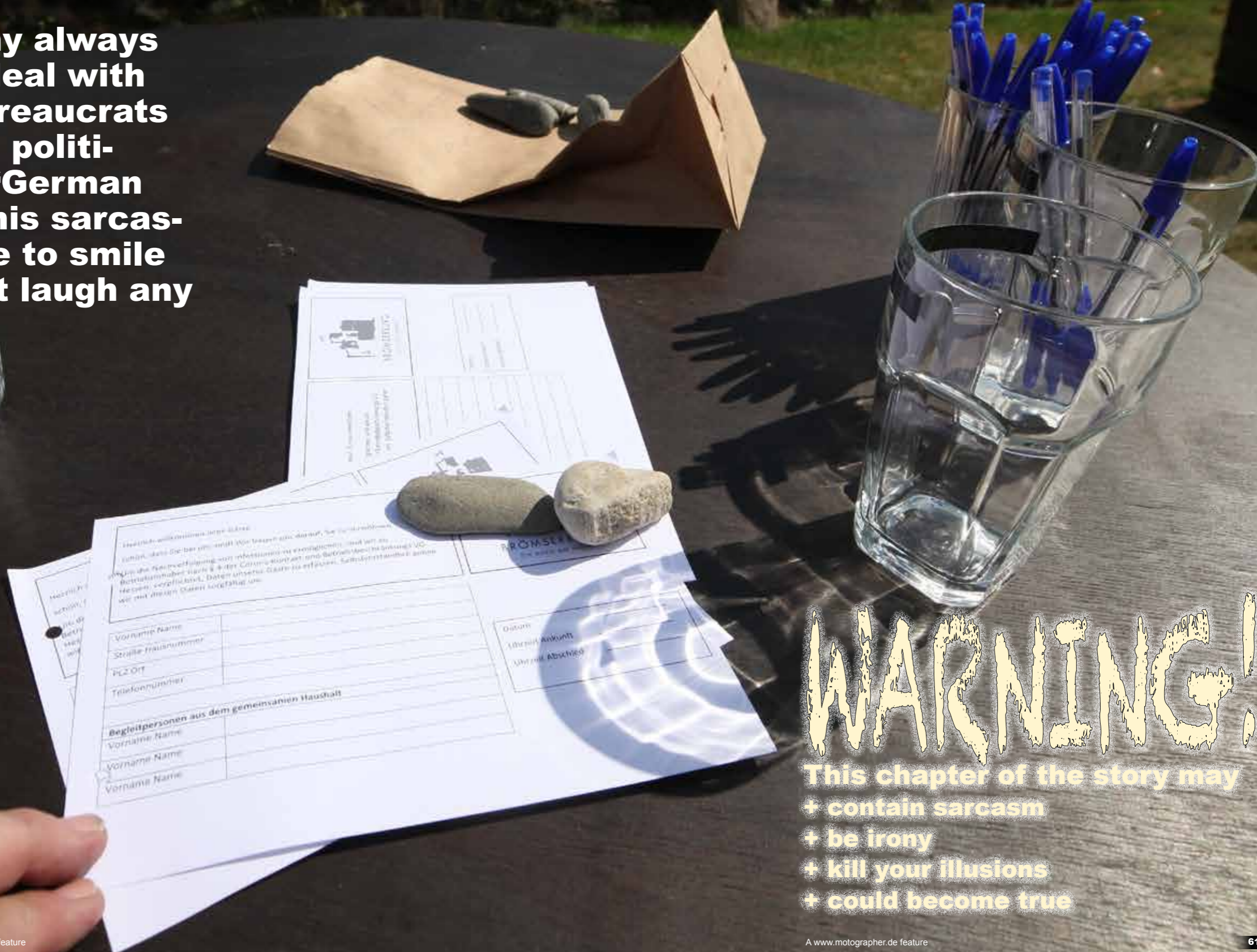
Welcome to „New Magic Bike“ 2021

BureauCRAZY – Germany always has a “special way” to deal with things. And plenty of bureaucrats to “innovate” their often political founded ideas. Will “German Angst” prevail again? This sarcastic “farce“ feature is one to smile at. For now. You may not laugh any longer next year...



Magic Bike “No Show” 2020: Remember the vision of “paperless office? Registering for any Restaurant visit in Germany creates a nightmare of data nobody will ever need, at the cost of personal, time, effort and...paper. And that’s for a virus whose distribution is still unexplored or unexplained...

MAGIC BIKE Rüdesheim 2020 No Show!



WARNING!

This chapter of the story may
+ contain sarcasm
+ be irony
+ kill your illusions
+ could become true



Corona June 2020: Many official representatives have many ideas how to be "safe".



The future looks distant: Food & drinks serving line at Rüdesheim 2020.

Bureaucrazyness sure has its own home country. And the winner is – surprise, surprise – Germany! When an islamistic motivated terrorist hit the Berlin X-mas market on December 19th 2016 by ploughing a truck into the visitors, what happened? Did German Police find the suspect? Did they check and publicise the background? Did they make it more difficult for suspected radicals to enter Germany? Did they issue orders to make hijacking trucks more difficult? Little of the above mentioned happend, but a massive uprise of pen- & paper-pushers created an unprecedented list of restrictions that from then on were to be mandatory for every town party, fair, event, carnival and what ever would assemble enough people to make a "valuable target" for any crazy out to get media attention. Since Germany's borders "could not be protected" – we know different since March 2020, do we? – orders were given to convert every street party into a small "fortress under siege", former "Westwall" builders would have been proud of. For all major events and celebrations, "safety concepts" have to be

written (and paid for...), along with the costs to supply the necessary (mandatory...) support by Police, Red Cross and Fire Brigades, if not "state police" to keep "order". In case of Magic Bike this adds another 5-digit amount on already rising costs, fortunately dampened a little bit by support from local businesses who provide trash containers for the task. State Police with automatic guns ready watch the scene, making a great "entry" into a biker party. As in most other German festivities, the setting is similar what elderly people remember as the "10 Minutes Barrier", manned in 1945 by local Volkssturm and Hitler Youth. American Soldiers christened them accordingly for "9 minutes laughing and 1 minute to blow them away". Since 2016, they are back – deja vu...?

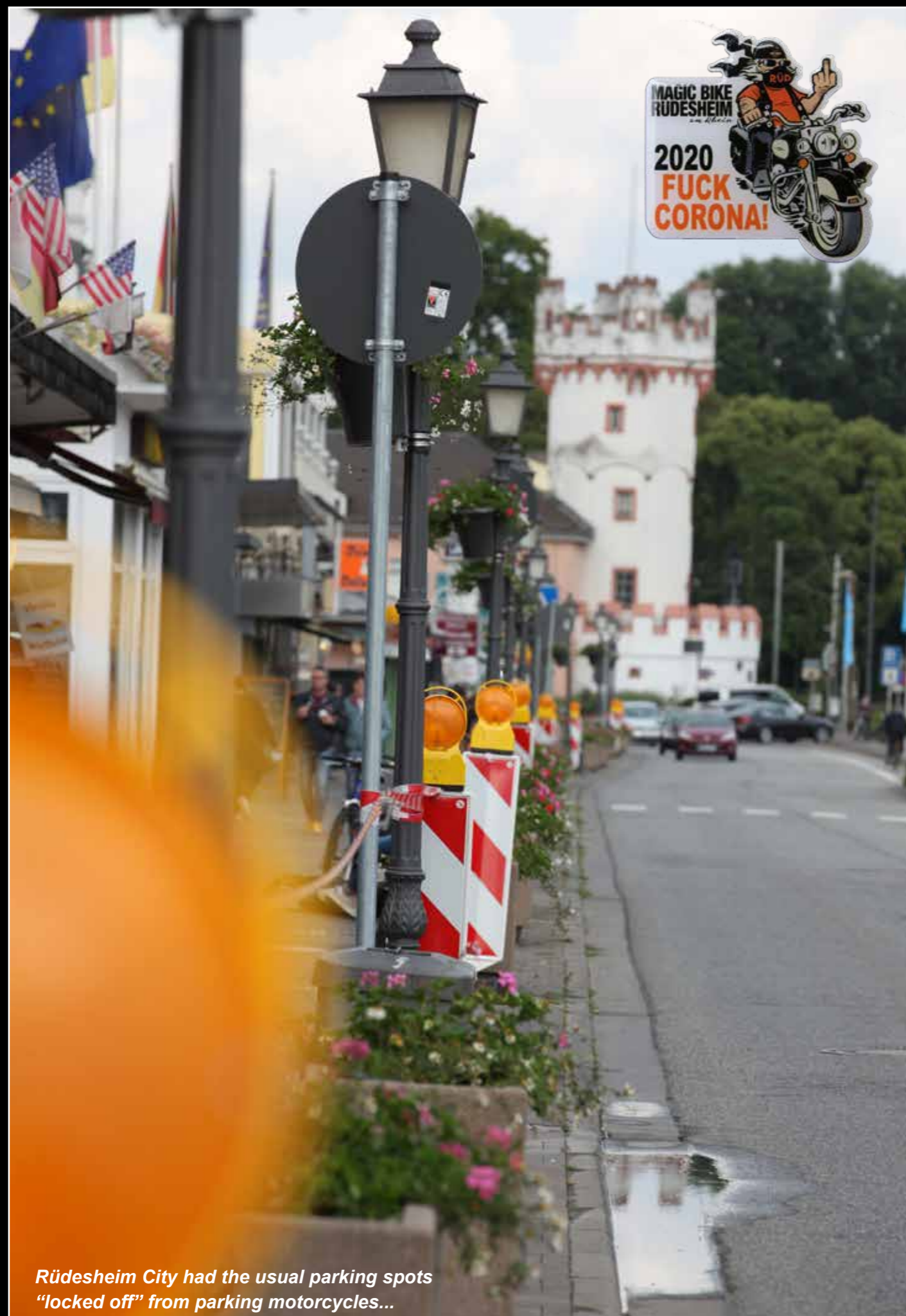
Now "back to the future" and the reason of this introduction? Since the outbreak of Covid 19, German citizens have been subject of an almost unbelievable amount of sometimes daily, even hourly changing rules and restrictions, often differing

from state to state, district to district, town to town and even street and house level. And this is still continuing. Not to mention the economic repercussions, most of which are still to come. While the legal windmills of the German Sancho Panza's are still grinding in thin air, we can already imaging how next years hypothetical "New Magic" will turn out. Don't blame me, if you find yourself hooked up in this scenario...

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June 2021, Rüdesheim am Rhein: As to be expected, "Safety" was supplemented by "social distance" and "public health needs" in a "Alternativlos" (= no possible alternatives) fashion, as most German political agendas for the last decades. Bookings at "New Magic" can only be done online in advance, 6-days minimum, and all visitors have to upload the "New Magic App" that gives away position, speed, corona status and alcohol level (for females, add date of last ovulation...) – with direct debit charging option in case of misdemeanors of any kind. China will certainly help with the software. When approach-

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Rüdesheim City had the usual parking spots
"locked off" from parking motorcycles...



...and Rüdesheim Local Police handed out tickets to everybody who dared stopping. Here next to the Drosselgasse. Bicycles of course...

ing the still "Volkssturm-style" entry barriers for the downtown area, if not pre-selected far outside town, riders have to stop for the mandatory "Health Check" to determine the two entry limiting values "Z1" and "Z2". Laser measured will be riders head temperature, tire & engine temperature, all of which are then calculated in a sophisticated formula that is

continuously scrutinized (probably hourly) by a collaboration between Germany's Ministries of Traffic and Health, local TÜV and state health department, defining Z1 and Z2.

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Z1, short for "Zugang" (= Access) defines the maximum upper temperature to enter the event. If it is exceeded, you're out, because

you might be a "spreader" or your engine is running low on oil. If your temperature is BELOW Z2 (the Z here for "Zombie") you're out too, because you are a Living Corpse or you have trailered your bike to the event...

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Z1 and Z1 are arbitrarily combined with the established "k" and "R" fac-

Consequently, the town was deserted on Wednesday.



3 more ticket candidates?





Ethnically maybe correct, this might not be the homologated isolation outfit for "New Magic" 2021.

A almost empty "Drosselgasse": Antisocial Distancing no problem.



Just re-opened: Assmannshausen is even worse off than other towns, as it has very little to offer than a row of hotels and restaurants.

tors, creating a multitude of reasons to send you back home, despite having booked and paid the tickets half a year in advance.

In the (unlikely) case you are allowed to enter, the "Distance Parking" on Rheinstraße will allow to park a bike only at a distance of 3 meters each – you never know if two riders may want to climb the saddle at the same time? Of course, all current Corona rules remain in force, as Covid 19 has already been replaced by Covid 20 and 21 – and don't be surprised that additional to the mouth piece, bikers have to wear their "New Time" helmets, fully integral and ready-made to fly the upcoming 2024 NASA Moon mission to replace the Stars & Stripes in the "Sea of Tranquility" against a golden Trump flag.

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Arriving at the main entrance of the concert & eventsite after passing contamination and another full health sweep, visitors can pick up their "Magic Safety Suit", the already established "Zorb Ball"

which allows hygienical, sexual and political correct access to party and concert areas. Rolling around in completely enclosed covered plastic balls on "New Magic" comes with many benefits hitherto unseen. Not are you isolated and protected from other disease-infected filthy bikers that crowd the place, or your nagging wife – passing out drunk Dutch riders can be disposed in the Rhine river and safely return to Holland in a matter of hours! For the fear of infection by overpaid, underperforming, pest ridden, live performing musicians, the stage is replaced by big screens. If not substituted by youtube, performing artists are connected from their "home studios", all separated of course. Likewise, the screen can be used for the Bikeshow, with bikes and details not necessarily present in Rüdesheim, Germany or even on the Planet. Same rules may or may not apply for all other activities.

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By the time "New Magic" will happen, the organizers will have spent

another 5-digit amount of cash on a mandatory "Health Concept", probably pre-booked sufficient hospital beds and respiratory equipment as emergency reserve and what ever German bureaucrazy will come up with. And believe me: They will!

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That's for starters – you are free to add you own ideas, but never believe a second that it could not come worse: Sunday, June 14th 2020, usually the "Blessing of the Bikes" day of Magic Bike, German motorcycle riders assembled in two widespread ignored and unpublished demonstrations in Mainz and Saarbrücken. Their issue: A German Bundesrat (the parliament of the German Federal States) initiative to BAN motorcycles from riding on SUNDAY and BANK HOLIDAYS all over GERMANY! Is anybody laughing now?

Vision, text and images: Horst Roesler, Special thanks to George Orwell and Aldous Huxley...

MARSHAL FORWARDS!

**Visiting Bluecher's Rhine
Crossing HQ in Kaub!**

**More than just a date for a
rainy day! Kaub, the "Pfalz"
and the Bluecher Museum
are certainly worth a
visit!**

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www.bluechermuseum-kaub.de

MARSHAL FORWARDS!

Visiting Bluecher's Rhine
Crossing HQ in Kaub!

The outstanding shadow box diorama with hundreds of painted tin-made-flat figures by G. Berker and friends shows one of the most essential episodes that led to the downfall of Napoleon: The Rhine crossing of the Prussian/Russian forces over the Rhine river at Kaub. The historically correct Diorama follows an historic 15 x 120 meter (!) panorama painting of 1902 origin and depicts the moment when the first artillery units were able to cross the bridge, which was damaged twice by the river during construction by Russian Pioneers. Construction of the ponton bridge has begun midnight, January 1st 1814 from Kaub to the Island. At 2.30 am, the troops launched a surprise attack in local boats to conquer the west, french occupied, river shore. Until January 5th, when the bridge was taken down and loaded for future use, approx. 50.000 soldiers, 15.000 horses and 182 guns had crossed the Rhine by boat or on the bridge in pursuit of Napoleon!



www.bluechermuseum-kaub.de



More memorials - more wars! Kaub was spared destruction in World War II, when Americans again stormed the Rhine at Remagen, Oppenheim, St. Goar and Coblenz! This is today's "Blücherstraße" on which the bulk of the 1813/14 troops – and the heavy Guns – approached the Rhine for crossing! Think about this when you "dive" down the (still!) 18% steep road into Kaub! Imagine the smell of horseshit of 15.000 horses passing by. And yes: Watch out for speed traps!

www.bluechermuseum-kaub.de



Kaub is one of the "less frequented" towns along the river. Which makes it especially charming!



Street house along the Blüchestraße: It should be noted that Kaub was much smaller in 1813 and – along with the "Hinterlands" had to house and serve and supply thousands of soldiers and horses.

The dull weather Saturday morning allowed finally to check out if a long-planned visit could be made: The Bluecher Museum at Kaub. Many riders bypass Kaub every year in sight of the famous "Rheinpfalz" toll station which on New Years night 1814 was the scene of world history when Blücher followed the retreating

Napoleon by crossing the Rhine river at this unexpected location. Napoleon was retreating from his lost "Battle of Leipzig", better known as "Voelkerschlacht", yet still optimistic to hold the left (French) side of the river. Town, Museum and Pfalz are definitely worth a longer stop and visit. The Museum's lack of

visitors might be explained by its SUPER-sophisticated website which is a great preparation for a stop or stay in Kaub! The chairs on the promenade are also highly addictive for falling asleep when resting and another tip that comes handy: Here is (by far) the shortest and quickest ferry transfer anywhere on the Rhine!

The entrance gate to "Haus Stadt Mannheim", today's Museum.



Blücher Memorial at the Rhine.





One of the original decorated rooms that make this museum a great visit into history!

Full view on the massive Shadow Box Rhine crossing diorama!



Not as big as one may think: Blücher's "War Chest" carried the fund for the campaign...

New figures and equipment are added permanently to the exhibition.
Don't miss the re-enactment "Bluecher Days".





Hat of a Napoleonic time soldier

Crossing the bridge in the diorama: Note the (authentic!) figures in the pontoons! "Human bilge pumps" as every ponton had to be continuously drained from water – five days and nights!



Another war against France: While fought far away, 1870/71 also left its traces in Kaub.

Replica "Russian Ponton" built by German Bundeswehr: Wooden frame with tar soaked canvas.

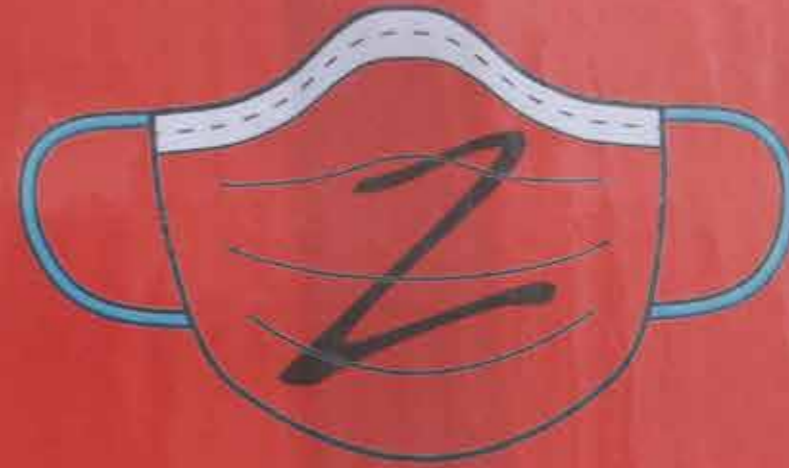


MARSHAL FORWARDS!

Visiting Bluecher's Rhine
Crossing HQ in Kaub!

Kaub

MACH ES WIE ZORRO



TRAGE DIE
MASKE

Wir bitten um Ihr Verständnis tragen Sie
die Schutzmaske beim betreten der Eisdiele. !!!

AT least some people at Kaub retained a sense of humour: This Ice Cream Parlor in the Metzgergasse, leading to the Bluecher Museum has cordoned off access to his shop and signed "Do it like Zorro! Wear the mask!" No explanation is given how to eat the ice wearing a mask but then – there are no tables and seats either. However, ice cream was good – and talking "corona times" to the owner even better. If you talk to people who are effected, it'll give you an unwelcome clear view of things to come...

MARSHAL FORWARDS!

Visiting Bluecher's Rhine
Crossing HQ in Kaub!

Bacharach

Following the Rhine assault crossing, the Kaub ponton bridge still under construction, Prussian and Russian troops split up to attack Bacharach and Oberwesel, as the heights opposite Kaub had no room and no roads to deploy troops for any type of battle. Today, Stahleck castle is a Youth Hostel and a great (less crowded too!) base to explore the Rhine Valley. Blücher then moved on to Bad Kreuznach and encircled the heavy defended french occupied Mainz. Note that for quite some time, we were here looking at French territory...



Blocking the Rhine river: The famous “Mouse Tower” toll station once had a massive chain running through the river.



There are still many “Seventies Style” locations along the river, this concrete-built “Party seat” arrangement near Lorchhausen (next to the speed traps!) one of the more surreal ones.

Riding the Rhine Valley between Rüdesheim and Koblenz is exciting any time of the year, especially on a motorcycle where you can stop and park almost anywhere you like. For further inspiration and information, including the Rhine Valley from Koblenz to

Bonn and parts of the Volcanic Eifel parts I can recommend reading my CCE Press release:

https://www.cus-tom-chrome-europe.com/out/pictures/ddmedia/CC-Riders_Rhine-Time_STORY_E.pdf

It includes many more touring tips for visiting this unique and historically significant part of Germany and Europe.

And don't forget to get your ass into the saddle and see it yourself. As long as we are allowed to do so...



MAGIC BIKE
Rüdesheim
2020
No Show!

The DESTRUCTION of the Rhine Valley!

**German Safety Madness:
A F-1 Racetrack for Bicycles!**

**For the entire duration of Magic Bike – and
years to come – the B-42 has been and is converted
into a Formula One Racetrack Style form that costs Millions
– and destroys the character of the Rhine Valley for good!**



Concrete nightmare at the "Binger Loch" Rhine breakthrough. Gone is the "Rhine-Romantic"! After more than a decade of construction, the B 42 and bicycle sideways are now finished between Ruedesheim and Assmanshausen: Only that "races" are not taking place.



Construction now downstream near Lorch, which in "Corona times" ain't much of a problem: Traffic at the "Magic" weekend remained low. Try to pass a bicycle rider according to new German law!

NO! Exiting Ruedesheim downstream direction Koblenz (and Nürburgring...), you are NOT entering Germany's latest super scenic F-1 racetrack. This is an ordinary road, yet the construction driven by the ever present "German Angst" that something "may or could hap-

pen". Yes, the old siderails were somewhat obsolete, yes, enforced railway freight train traffic along the Rhine route did take its toll on the banks, but is it really fun to drive "caged" between massive concrete railway embankments and car-high safety barriers that can

stop Russian Tanks from crossing the river? Check it out yourself, because planned to end 2030 ("Well planned in Germany"...), the old Rhine roads will be history...

<https://www.bvwp-projekte.de/strasse/B42-G10-HE/B42-G10-HE.html>



WATCH OUT! for the F***ing Road! *Lorch*



60 km/h speed trap at Lorchhausen

Lorch is the gateway to the famous Wispertal road that leads from here to Bad Schwalbach, earning it the well deserved reputation of one of the finest motorcycle roads in Germany. 30+ km of twisting, unpopulated nature road – uphill and with several “waterholes” en route. Of course, that brings on “concerned citizens” as well as environmentalists and other people that want to ban motorcycles from here ... and succeeded occasionally: For quite some time, the road was with restrictive 60 km/h speed limit, motorcycles ONLY. This was lifted, at least partially, when motorcyclists assembled on weekends, TRAVELLING the entire Wisper road at 60 km/h, effectively shutting down all other, unrestricted, traffic. Lorch and especially the Wispertal have a “tradition” of being “cut off” frequently as this was the “Free State “Bottleneck” (= Flaschenhals) from 1919-1923 when the American and French 30 km Bridgeheads around Koblenz and Mainz overlapped IN the Wispertal, effectively cutting off the territory from the rest of Germany. In the 2000+ years, road construction cut the road connection again and again, bankrupting all Restaurants, Cafés and mills in the valley – and now this. Lorch and the Wisper outlet were one of the “hotspots” in the “Cold War, as here are buried and abandoned Millions of German taxpayer money in some 30+ km of tunnel system, then used for Bundeswehr Hospitals, supplies and bridging equipment for crossing the Rhine in case of a Sowjet attack. Several military usable bridge ramps remain here and are used by the ferry – and police for traffic controls, which now brings us to the interesting part of the story...

MAGIC BIKE
Rüdesheim
2020!
No Show!



2020

ALL IMAGES : The 2020 accident site as seen from the police checkpoint, two squad cars and one motorcycle officer watching in the back. Of all Rhine valley roads, this is one of the least likely location to crash. Ever! The wide and well maintained road offers plenty of room to avoid a collision and enough overview to see oncoming traffic. 3:50 pm on a bank holiday is also an unlikely time for traffic jams.



2020



2020

In “good old times” Magic Bike Ruedesheim had little issues with accidents – and this despite an ever increasing number of riding visitors. Yet, last years fatal accident and this years nearly fatal crash next to a police control are two of three factors than made me write about this. The third factor was a private experience, which did happen on the A-66, returning to Frankfurt Wednesday night, when a car driver, well within the given 100 km/h speed limit (!), did an emergency “pedal to the metal” break in front of me, mistaking a “road toll” pillar for a speed trap.

Close call, again. But these days, with the new German traffic fines catalogue, valid from April 2020, you have to expect EVERYTHING! Never before was it easier to loose your driving license, add points to your account and pay heavy for everything from speeding to even minor traffic violations. Personally, I have switched to “Swiss/Austria mode”, which means I stay considerably UNDER the given limits – on German roads a dangerous riding mode! It is a sad fact that these days you have to spend more concentration on finding speed and distance traps, keeping the speed

limit, not to mention other “man made” traffic hazards, than on riding. Not just in Germany, but all over Europe. Riding or driving is no longer fun – which is probably exactly what lawmakers and environmentalists wanted all along.

Magic Bike visitors share the age structure of so many Harley events: Being well beyond 50+, after 3 decades of Harley-booming, we are looking at a massive assembly of retirees. Sad, but true.

The 2019 and 2020 crash sites are only a few kilometers apart, last years fatal crash happening next to a B-42 road construction, that





2019

ALL IMAGES : The 2019 accident happened when the road construction approached the B 42 opposite of Castle Reichenstein, Trechtingshausen visible in the background. Rider also came from direction Koblenz/Lorch (Lorch behind the ridge behind the freight ship). Realising the red traffic light too late, he avoided hitting the rear pack but fell while braking.



2019



2019

the rider probably did notice too late – with dire consequences for his passenger/wife.

While the 11 am Saturday March 22nd 2019 crash, the rider obviously heading for the annual parade assembly point at Assmannshausen, could be taken as an accident, this year's 2020 incident happened at a more delicate location: Directly at a police motorcycle control, set up along the B-42 which at this location is bypassing Lorch. Victim was a local Harley-riding Ruedesheim business man, which makes it likely that he knows both the 60 km/h speed traps at the Lorchhausen straight and the possible locations of other control "hotspots" used by Hessian Police. Lorch is the entrance gate to the Wispertal – and former Bundeswehr Military Ferry ramps make a great spot for catching all two-wheeled traffic in and out the Wispertal. Especially on a Bank Holiday Thursday. The B-42 here is only slightly curved, yet any control hidden from sight and protected by railing. There is no construction site when approaching from direction Koblenz/Wispertal – and the road is wider than anywhere else in the Rhine valley, thanks to

the Military heritage from Cold War times. What motivated the 62 year old rider to dash straight and without applying the brakes into a waiting Ford "Kuga" SUV is not part of the very sketchy police report. Neither is given a reason why the Kuga was stopping for "traffic related reasons". Newspeak in times of Corona? Certainly not – everybody can have his own phantasies about this. Expecting answers from official sources is highly unlikely as "parts of the answer would make the population feel insecure", a slogan slipping from the mouth of Thomas de Maizière, then Germany's minister of internal affairs in 2015 and popular ever since.

The Harley rider was flown to the Bundeswehr hospital in Koblenz, Police checkpoints remained active along several popular motorcycle roads. In fact, when taking the images Saturday morning, two Police vans and one motorcycle rider seemed to be ready to set up another control station at the very same spot...

While Magic Bike always had a positive relation with local and Hessian Police and politicians, the atmosphere is "in motion"

as political directions change in Wiesbaden, home of the Hessian parliament. A long-time coalition of Black-Green, including a dark-green minister of traffic affairs – is welcoming all two wheeled activities, events and transport. Given that they have pedals or are moving electrically. Millions are dumped into new and extended bicycle lanes, while motorcycle use is turned down and outlawed as "environmentally destructive". More a perspective for "Tal Total" – the bicycle only/car-free event on both sides of the river between Bingen/Ruedesheim than for the future of Magic Bike, which since years has become THE top event for Hotels and Restaurants well beyond Ruedesheim.

By any means, we wish the participants of the 2019/2020 crashes a quick and full recovery – and the option to be back to Ruedesheim and Magic Bike, if they wish to... Maybe, somebody will come up who witnessed what was happening. Have a safe ride through "Corona times" and beyond!

Text & Images: HRF

MAGIC BIKE Rüdesheim 2021

Let's hope
4 the best!

What we know:

June 3rd - 6th 2021

Ruedesheim/Rhein

20th Anniversary

**Same program and
bands as 2020.**

www.magic-bike-ruedesheim.de



MAGIC BIKE

Rüdesheim
2021
Let's hope
4 the best!



Meet the MOTOGRAPHER



Horst Roesler, the MOTOGRAPHER, is one of the leading photographers in the field of event and custombike photography, writing and research. His pictures and stories are published worldwide. Beside his job as freelance writer for custombike and motorcycle magazines worldwide he is available as Freelance photographer and writer for your needs.

He has been actively supporting Magic Bike Ruedesheim even before the start in 2002, performing the now legendary “Flying V-Rod” Fotosession above the Boosenburg tower and also shot the still retained and upgraded “Poster Shot” near Ehrenfels. He also organised the first “Magic Ride In Bike Shows” and retained that when the Bike Show moved into the Party tent. Swimming in the Rhine River as a young kid in the Sixties and blasting along the river with his moped and motorcycles ever since 1976, he has also extensive historcal knowledge of the Rhine valley.

**This Story is dedicated to all who helped
Magic Bike Ruedeheim 2002 - 2020
to become what it was!**

HRF

MOTOGRAPHER.DE

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