



Vintage Japanese
Motorcycle Club
South America, Inc.

Monthly Newsletter to the Midwest **VJMC** Community

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This is a newsletter covering what is going on in the Midwest with our VJMC friends.

Please send us your events, activities, or interesting stories. We will keep you informed about the above topics and want to see our region grow. Please pass this newsletter to any of your friends and let's build a community. Any correspondence will be kept private and no information will be given out without your permission.

February 2022 Edition

Topics: A letter from **Buddy Walton** about planning ahead!

Mark Bayer : An interview with Todd Tagatz, the new South Dakota VJMC Field Representative.

Please :
Consider attending the 45th VJMC National Rally this year.

Planning Ahead:

The New Year is already moving along quickly, one month down ! We have all been somewhat limited making plans the past two years in relation to restrictions, destinations, lodging, restaurants and pretty much anywhere you can think of visiting .

In the Midwest that means anticipation of the Spring riding season with day rides, weekend rides, weeklong plus rides and commuting. Almost everyone reading this already has plans and visions in their head of grand tours, cross country jaunts, places they have only dreamed of riding to finally coming to fruition in their plans. But are you really going to be ready? Not in the sense of your routes, and destinations but will your machine be ready and not sitting in your garage waiting on parts, tires, chains, batteries etc. The supply chain issues have really changed the dynamics of rebuilding and common maintenance. Instead of taking for granted that you can go to your dealer (or shopping online) you will find that common part you have always relied on being in stock for years and finding it's on backorder EVERYWHERE for a couple of weeks or months can be surprising and frustrating. You might find you can't find your usual rear tire and end up buying one that is available and "looks ok".

Now is the time to plan ahead finding parts and accessories you may require to accomplish Spring and Summer trips and projects. Vintage bike and newer models are vulnerable to parts delays and with the recent surge in restoring our vintage bikes and rare bikes, finding used parts online in usual places like Ebay can be time consuming and frustrating.

One more thing to consider on your travels is lodging, camping and the great outdoors. The surge in people seeking and exploring outdoor destinations fueled by social media exposure has overloaded National and State Parks, beaches and lodging in their areas. Check way ahead as many parks require reservations up to several weeks ahead of your visit.

(I have found this out the hard way the past two years traveling)

Have fun this year and safe travels be it Daytona, Smokey Mountains, Sierras, PCH Coast Hwy 1 or wherever your dreams take you. Don't forget the VJMC National Rally at Eureka Springs Arkansas in June also !

PLAN AHEAD !

Buddy Walton



The Kamikaze Museum located in central Iowa, pictured above, is a worthy destination!

New South Dakota Field Representative Todd Tagatz: Todd was formerly a VJMC Field Representative in Minnesota for several years who relocated with his family to South Dakota in 2021. The Minnesota VJMC membership base was much larger and active over the years in sponsoring shows and events. Todd offered to become a Field Rep in South Dakota knowing the active membership in the state was not very high and was spread out. In fact, there was only 1 active member within metro Sioux Falls which is where he moved.

Within the last six months active membership has increased by 7 in and around metro Sioux Falls, which believe it or not now doubles the membership in the state.

What Todd did once getting in his new home was to begin to connect with people with old Japanese motorcycles. By building friendships and meeting with these enthusiasts, he has been able to increase membership in the area. He has also found some nice collections of motorcycles which will be a great source of show bikes for possible future events. The big news is that Todd and the area members will participate in an event called the "Winter Fest of Wheels." Although this is a

Sioux Falls show for individual vehicles, space has been approved for six VJMC members motorcycles to be in one display. The event will be held from February 4th through the 6th. My hunch is that this event will open some big doors for future VJMC activities going forward. If anyone reading this is in the area try to make the event.

Todd will write an article for the VJMC magazine, I can't wait to see the write up.

Todd is already setting the stage for events during the rest of 2022 for members to enjoy and expand the network. We hope the best for his future in South Dakota. Todd is an active leader in our Midwest Field Representative community and we hope to watch him do his magic. I personally want to say, Thank You for your efforts.

We have a pictures of one of Todd's motorcycles below, thanks for your work and we plan on following your efforts.

Mark Bayer Missouri Field Representative

