



Vintage Japanese  
Motorcycle Club  
North 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. We will have at least one central event yearly. The *Meetin'-In-The Middle Rally* will be one of these events in which we want to develop an annual reunion. We want to add to this as we 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.

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**October 2021 Edition**    **Topics:** A letter from Buddy Walton about winterizing your motorcycle.  
Consider doing an event in 2022 by Mark Bayer.  
Consider attending the 45<sup>th</sup>. VJMC National Rally.

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### Comments from the Editor:

Unless you live in some areas of the country with an "Endless Summer," Fall weather becomes the beginning of the end of our riding season. Take time to consider what actions are required for your bike(s) to ensure they are ready for warmer Spring riding days which always seem to take forever to return. Of course this varies depending on indoor or outdoor storage situations, climate, humidity and several more challenges.

Here are a few suggestions to help make your Spring "startups" much easier.

**Change your fluids before storage:** An oil and filter change will help remove not just dirty oil but crankcase fuel dilution, and acidic buildup from crankcase moisture and combustion process. And you have a happy engine with fresh oil to start the new year.

Also take a few minutes to flush you brake fluid, which will remove moisture buildup within the fluid to avoid corrosion within the system and better pressures when riding season returns.

If you have a water cooled machine either flush and replace with approved coolant, or at least check the freezing point of your current coolant with an anti freeze tester (there are testers for ethylene glycol and propylene glycol so be aware of which coolant you have installed).

Regarding fuel systems there are many options for winter storage. Try to find non ethanol gasoline if possible, drain old fuel and replace with non ethanol or fresh fuel . Most "experts" suggest filling tank completely full and adding an additive such as Startron, Sta-Bil ,or Sea Foam to prevent gumming and corrosion of the tank and carburetors. Many riders also drain their caburetors completely but these fuel additives are capable of keeping them clean if treated fuel remains in float bowls.

Make sure to turn your petcock off for storage, and always check for fuel leaks for final storage. (vacuum petcocks can develop leaks also)

**Check your tires for proper inflation during storage.**

If you can store your bike with both tires off the ground ( centerstand etc ) great, if you have tires touching the ground many recommend a piece of cardboard, thin wood or carpet under the tread to prevent the tires sitting in moisture/water especially outdoors. A good heavy duty cover is a must.

Batteries should be at least disconnected or removed if stored outdoors in extreme freezing conditions. A good quality battery tender helps maintain if stored indoors.

Also remove seats if stored outdoors in extreme freezing conditions to help prevent cracking. A good heavy duty cover is a must if stored outdoors.

Cleaning and waxing the bike is always a good suggestion before storage, along with cleaning and lubricating your chain. If you live in an area subject to having moisture, salt and corrosive climate conditions consider "coating" the metal surfaces with a product such as "ACF50" which will deter surface corrosion and rust. ACF50 is widely used in European countries with wet, salty conditions and is available in the USA along with other similar treatments.

There are many other personal choices to be considered (which are easy to access online) and these are common reminders for keeping your bikes prepared when Spring warmth and weather return.

Buddy Walton

### Consider sponsoring an event in 2022:

I occasionally have someone in a distant location comment to me that there are no VJMC shows in their area. They note that our Kansas City group is very active and they ask if we could do an event in their area. My response is that they should do an event themselves. It actually just requires a little planning and development. It is actually better to start small

and build through building relationships than to attempt at doing a large show or rally on your first attempt. Here are some guideline to get started:

1. Make sure that your VJMC membership is up to date.
2. Connect with a few people that you know who like or own vintage Japanese motorcycles. Remember, a vintage motorcycle only has to be 20 years old and an enthusiast does not even need to own a motorcycle.
3. Find a local restaurant or someone's home or shop and schedule a meeting with a few likeminded enthusiasts.
4. Pick a day and time to have a gathering such as a weekend, and just invite a few friends to get together and talk about sponsoring a ride, having a small show, or just having lunch.
5. Meet monthly or bi-monthly till a small group forms and slowly develop some fun activities.
6. When you are ready to do an event, just call the VJMC events coordinator, Peter Slatcoff (850 624-8811) and make sure that all your details are in order.

Remember, motorcycle enthusiasts like to get together and talk about their bikes. It just takes someone to get things started. As you meet monthly listen to ideas and begin doing things together and let the group grow. Even if your first get together nets only a few bikes, that's a good start. I assure you, as you continue whatever you do will grow. It takes little time and can be fun.



The first picture is from our 2021 "Invitational" and the second picture is from our 2021 2-Stroke Rally.

**MAKE SURE AND SIGN UP FOR THE 2022 45<sup>th</sup>. VJMC RALLY TO BE HELD IN EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS ON JUNE 23-25<sup>th</sup>. JUST GO TO THE VJMC HOMEPAGE AND CLICK ON EVENTS.**

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