



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. 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.

March 2022 Edition:

Buddy Walton on getting a new motorcycle and getting involved in the VJMC community in 2022!

Mark Bayer will interview Everett Striken, Missouri VJMC member, about his long term interest in vintage Japanese motorcycles.

Remember to sign up for the 45th VJMC National Rally, link is at the bottom of the newsletter!

A New Cycle Is not always what we may envision. It may not be chrome, stainless, carbon fiber or titanium. The cycle changing of seasons can be meaningful, especially in the Spring for motorcycle riders in the Northern hemisphere. Time for a renewed enthusiasm of better weather in most areas ahead. Completing the cycle of a rebuild over the winter, and riding it again after many years. The yearly season of rallies, reunions, longer days, and vacations begins. The cycle of new vintage shows returns at many different cycle friendly locations. One thing that really matters is that we continue our enthusiasm and support for vintage cycles. Spread the enthusiasm and cultivate new and returning members after the past two years of having fewer shows, gatherings, and activities. Help someone “new” with the VJMC culture with positivity, advice, and direction. Do this so they can begin to give their new machine many new cycles of riding and pleasure once again.

Who doesn't like a new cycle!

-Buddy Walton



It might be an old bike but may be new to the owner. For everyone who purchased, restored, or traded for a new bike over the winter months, get ready for spring and get involved in the VJMC community in 2022.

An Interview with VJMC member Everett Sticken.

Earlier last year I had stopped at a Honda dealer in a city close to the Interstate while on a ride. As I left the dealership I was several feet behind a man wearing a Baxter Cycle T-shirt. Baxter Cycle is a business that we have visited while at the *VJMC Meetin In The Middle Rally*. Baxter is one of the largest vintage motorcycle dealers in the US who sells primarily British motorcycles but occasionally has Japanese motorcycles for sale.

The man was Everett Sticken, a resident of Pickering, Missouri, a town roughly 40 miles north east of where we were located that day. Pickering is probably 100 miles north of Kansas City. As I spoke with Everett I could tell that he was a genuine vintage motorcycle enthusiast who has been collecting motorcycles for decades. He likes both old British motorcycles and vintage Japanese motorcycles and has a collection of both. He currently has in his Japanese collection a 1964 Honda Benley 150, two 1977 Gold Wings, a 1984 Gold Wing, and two newer Gold Wings including a soon to be classic Rune which he bought new. He also has a 1980s CB900, a 305 Dream, and an assortment of smaller Honda mini and trail bikes.

Everett was a motorcycle mechanic back in the 1970s so knows his way around motorcycles and is always in the process of restoring bikes and is either selling or trading something. I have called Everett on occasion and am always informed about a new acquisition, a bike he is working on, or just to hear an entertaining story.

Everett bought his first motorcycle back in the 1970s and has continued riding, restoring, and collecting machines that he likes ever since. Everett has a preference for old Gold Wings but pretty much likes anything old and unique. Several years ago he saw a 1985 Gold Wing in an ad for free if the recipient would pick the bike up. A dealer had told the owner that it would cost \$7,000 to repair. Everett fixed it for nearly nothing and gave it to a friend who was unable at the time to purchase a motorcycle. Everett had just asked the new recipient of the bike to write a "thank you" letter to the guy who gave it away. This generosity made an impact on the new owner who now is able to have his own collection of motorcycles and now owns five or six mostly vintage bikes!

Everett, thank you for being a part of our Midwest VJMC group.
-Mark Bayer Missouri VJMC Field Representative

