



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.

October 2022 Edition:

Buddy Walton: Buddy interviews recent VJMC member Laura Langham.

Mark Bayer: Dennis Murphy, long term VJMC member and Iowa Field Representative.

An interview with **Laura Langham:**

Laura Langham is one of our newest VJMC Kansas City club members but her experience with motorcycles is vast and interesting. Growing up in the Knoxville, Tennessee area she started her journey with gasoline powered machines at a young age beginning with go karts. Back in the day when go karts had tube frames and were powered by lawn mower

and chainsaw engines (and the earliest ones were DIY build it yourself kits). Riding around parking lots and low traffic areas, she eventually moved on to her two wheel journey. At 13 her first motorcycle was a 1957 HD 165 powered by a 2 stroke DKW engine. In Tennessee you could get a motorcycle license at 14 years of age with a 5hp max rated machine. That bike became a stepping stone to her next bike, a BSA Super Sport 80 (350cc) which she bought at age 15.

During her high school days she rode and hung with friends that had Cushmans, Triumphs and a variety of bikes. 'We both remembered how many motorcycles used to be in high school parking lots in the 1960's and 1970's, something you don't see anymore. Her motorcycle journey took a break for a few years while she attended college and then went into full swing purchasing a 74' Kawasaki H2 Mach IV 750 triple. She chose it over a four stroke Z1 due to a more affordable price and less weight. After leaving many of her riding friends in a 2 stroke exhaust wake she moved up to a 1978 Kawasaki 1000 LTD, which she still owns and rides 44 years later! The bike is still in amazing condition and is such a classic with an enduring design. She also owns several 1960's and 1970's Triumphs which are a labor of love. They keep her busy while her Kawasaki just wears out tires! Laura has ridden and explored thousands of miles growing up in Tennessee, and probably needs no maps traveling the Blue Ridge area roads from Tellico Plains, Deals Gap and on to Knoxville. She still enjoys fast cars, boats and motorcycles which many of us know leads to great stories and memories to share with everyone. Thanks Laura for sharing them with us!



Dennis Murphy, long term VJMC Field Representative and enthusiast:

Dennis has been the VJMC Iowa Field Representative for at least eight years and has been a member of the national club for around fifteen years. Dennis was at one time the owner of Nishna Valley Cycles, a Honda, Yamaha, KTM dealer, in Atlantic, Iowa who has recently sold the business and is moving into retirement, if you could call it that! Like so many people retirement just means that you are as busy as ever!

Dennis was a long term vintage motocross racer who also worked with a group which promoted hill climbs and Hare Scrambles in western Iowa. This activity was through a group called the Hillblazers. Another activity is that of working with a group called Now which has a 160 acre tract of land designated for off road riding. I have word from a friend that this area is absolutely great for extended off road riding. With extensive backwoods trails and many hills there is no end to the thrills. If you live anywhere close to the Atlantic, Iowa, area join the group and enjoy the trails!

Dennis also has an extensive collection of vintage motorcycles, especially off road machines of many types. Probably my favorite motorcycle which Dennis owns is a new looking and completely stock 1982 Honda Nighthawk 750. This bike is pictured below. Whatever the case, Dennis is a genuine motorcycle enthusiast and especially of vintage motorcycles.

With his personal involvement in vintage motorcycle racing, his collecting of vintage motorcycles, and his sponsoring of the regional VJMC "*Meetin-In-The-Middle*" event for the past three years, Dennis is far more involved in motorcycling than most. The picture on the right is from a past *Meetin-In-The-Middle Rally*. His long term involvement in the VJMC community and his willingness to represent VJMC in Iowa are also appreciated. The reason for this article is to recognize his efforts, so Dennis thank you for your faithful involvement and support in our community. And by the way, enjoy your retirement!



Kansas City VJMC will have one last event in 2022. This will be the Donnell's event, flier is below, make plans to attend. Saturday October 15th.

KANSAS CITY VINTAGE JAPANESE MOTORCYCLE CLUB

2022 FALL FINALE

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