

Name: Jim Stokes – Lifetime member.

Profile Date: February 2021

Born: September 1950 Welland, Ontario

Voted in to the WCMC 1973

First Bike : Yamaha DT 360.

Current Bikes: Yamaha FJR 1300

Bikes owned: Yamaha DT 360, Yamaha XT 500, Yamaha IT 250 two stroke, 78 Kawasaki Z1R painted black and gold from its original metallic blue/ green, GPZ 750 Kawasaki, 2000 Kawasaki Concours, Kawasaki Z1R 1000 and Yamaha FJR 1300.



Yamaha DT 360

The reason I joined the club is that I was interested in dirt riding and developing camaraderie and friendships. I met this guy named Wes while shopping for my first bike at Clare's. Also while shopping I looked at Kawasaki's and met John Vukanics and Jim Orosz at Atlas Cycle. I settled on a Yamaha DT 360 as my first bike.

I have been to dirt track races all over the eastern US as well as Ontario and Western Canada. I also became a fan of AMA racing which included dirt track and road racing. This interest took me to Mosport every chance I got.

I started watching F1 and Indy car races. In 1979, I also went to the Isle of Man for the TT races. It was the last year that Mike Hailwood raced motorcycles before that he started racing in Formula One following his first retirement from motorcycles. He then went back to Motorcycle racing. I've also been to Daytona Bike Week a couple of times.

My competition was limited to competing in the Enduros in the 1970's. I learned I wasn't fast enough and the experts used guys like me for traction! I started riding Enduros on my second bike a Yamaha XT 500. It was heavy and slow but I always had traction. I changed the exhaust to a light and louder one. I knew I would always be first in one category, the loudest! So loud that when we went on club rides, I had to ride at the back!



Yamaha XT 500

I tried Enduros with a Yamaha IT 250 two stroke, great fun, light and fast, but I wasn't. During the Enduro years I rode with my friend Dale Winger, then a club member and future national #1 Enduro rider. We worked with Wes laying out the Massassauga Enduro and Wes's creation the CAN/USA (Canoosa) Enduro. It was a late fall Enduro and we worked on it with snow, cold and no daylight, but it was all fun!

Also during this time I travelled to various races to watch my friend and past club president Paul Steed race. He needed transportation to carry his Yamaha 500 two stroke dirt tracker to compete in Ontario half miles so I used my dad's pick up truck, more fun times.

The club had leased the track to Wes and I worked various jobs from food booth, corner Marshall, gate attendant etc.



Massassauga Enduro Crests

The Event was named after the Rattlesnakes that lived in the Marsh not the City hence the spelling

Later I owned a Yamaha XT 500 and IT 250.

I settled down after the Enduros, got married and my next bike was one of my favourites, a 78 Kawasaki Z1R painted black and gold from its original metallic blue/ green. My first road bike.

This was also the time (1982) of the first fishing trip. It was the first time a lot of us had ridden any distance or had in some time. The first one riding in the very cold rain on Hwy 11 north. Most of us had no rain suit, we learned the hard way, but those trips were so much fun and good rides in the Huntsville area.

Later Moe Gagnon the organizer handed it over to me and I operated it in Huntsville area, then we moved to Pennsylvania in August for warmer weather. There were more bike roads in that area and it was popular there until we wore out our welcome at our motel. The largest attendance at a fishing trip (60 guys) was our last year in PA at a Dude Ranch. The next year Ray Fornier, Rene Landry and Al Fair saved the trip by moving it to Ohio. Rene took it over after that.

After not riding a lot I bought a GPZ 750 Kawasaki, then moved on to my favourite bike my 2000 Kawasaki Concours.

During the long winters with not much going on I took on operating a bus trip to the bike show (super show at International centre) at New Years. This included the trip to the show then the bus taking us downtown Toronto for the evening. We did this for a few years as well as once to the AMA Museum in Columbus, OH. Later we would go to the Rock land Roll hall of fame and the bike show in Cleveland, OH.



Kawasaki GP 750



Kawasaki Z1R

In 2013 I started a small ride for club members and donated proceeds (\$550) to Movember.

From this grew the Moustache ride which has grown to a large affair raising \$30,000+ over the few years it has operated. Proceeds now go to Ride for Dad and attendance is normally 150 or more participants.

In 2009 I had a major accident (for me anyway) and totalled my Concours. I started riding again in 2014 on a Yamaha FIR 1300 as my current bike.

I've held several positions with the WCMC. I was Secretary, Vice President and a Board Member a few times.

I've headed up and organized several events over the years including:

Layout of the Massassauga Enduro.

Flagging at the races.

Working the entrance gate.

Organizing the Moustache Ride which has become very popular.

Collecting and Presenting funds for our Charity events.

Organized the Fishing Trip for a decade from 1985-95.

I also helped organized the 40th, 50th and 60th reunions.



Yamaha FJR 1300

I've been fortunate to receive several service awards including Rookie of the Year, Pig of the Year (then changed to Entertainer of the Year) (then changed again to the Spirit of the Fishing trip) and the George Harpwood Most Valuable Member award

I am proud of being a lifetime member of the WCMC and through the years some of my closest friends are in the club. People to chat with about our favourite subject, friends to discuss anything actually and friends who are experts at most things. The club has always been there for us as social club, an activity and a place to promote motorcycling.