



There is always a wide variety of motorcycles at the Northwest Kansas Bike Show, including both modern and classic bikes as well as custom builds.

Motorcycles rally Saturday

The 18th annual Northwest Kansas Bike Show will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at Ninth Street and Main. Registration will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

This year's show will have 12 classes including American, Asian, European, stock and custom.

Dash plaques will be given to the first 150 registered bikes.

The Motorcycle Driving Skills Demonstration will be at noon in the Bankwest parking lot.

A big draw to the bike show each year are the games, which take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., also in the Bankwest parking lot. Come see teams of bikers try to perform feats such as placing tennis balls on traffic cones while moving.

The Northwest Kansas Bike show was sponsored by Casey and Linda Quint in 1995. It started as a one-block rally with 54 motorcycles. It has grown throughout the years and now fills up more than two blocks as well as nearby parking lots.

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Joe Bauman at the altitude marker of 14,286 on Mt. Attero near Salida, Colo., in 2000. One of Bauman's favorite places to ride is in the mountains.

Grand Marshal starting riding motorcycles at 12

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

A man, Joe Bauman, who bought his first motorcycle in 1954 is this year's Grand Marshal at the Bike Show at the Flatlander Festival this weekend.

Bauman said he and a lot of other riders were inspired by Larry McClung who had the fastest motorcycle around when he was younger. One reason McClung was fast, he said, was because his motorcycle had dual carburetors and he wasn't overweight.

He bought his first Harley Davidson from Dean and Myrna Topliff when he was 12. Bauman said he used to ride it into town and ride with the older guys. He didn't have his license yet.

Over the years he had motorcycles from Dan Harper who had Indian Sale and Harley Davidson, George McClelland who had Triumph, AJS and BSAs, Chuck Brunswick with Piellie Sales, Duane Neitzel of Wheeler with BSAs, Jim and Jan McClelland with Triumph and Yamaha and Dan Edwards with Kawasaki.

In 1973 he opened Bauman's Norwest Recreation Inc. and sold Kawasaki, Moto Guzzi, Norton, BSA, Triumph, Rickman, bicycles, Honda three wheelers, Polaris and Kawasaki snowmobiles, go carts, jet skis, drag specialties and motorcycle parts.

He said the part of the business he enjoys is when people bring in their photos and stories about their current motorcycle trips.

There are a lot of people in town who ride motorcycles, he said, you just don't know who they are.

Bauman said he was so proud when he got his American Motorcycle Association pin when he was a kid. He was a novice for a year, than an amateur for a year and then an expert.

"I have been an A.M.A. member for 57 years," said Bauman.

His number was 99N and he was an expert in mile, half mile, short track, hill climb enduro, T.T. motocross, indoor and outdoor trail, road race on cement, wood and dirt.

Bauman said in races for novices and then amateurs the winners receive trophies. The money is in the expert especially at the state fairs. He has been to races at Sturgis, Stockton plus many other locations.

Currently he goes dirt bike riding with his grandkids and he said a whole group of his family and friends will go up to the Continental Divide in Colorado and ride off road and on trails.

He said it is just gorgeous up there.

Bauman said there have been several tracks around over the years including old Highway 24 drag races, at George McClelland's, Jim McClelland's in a pasture east of him, Darrel and Judy Willems at their sand pit, Harry Luken in a sand pit north on Highway 27, at Mitch Tiede's, out by the Sewer Treatment Plant, Bob Russell's by I-70 and in 1985-6 a half mile track at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

"There are no current commercial tracks," said Bauman.

Bauman was born in Sherman County and his parents were Norman and Eileen Bauman and his grandparents were George and Ruby Dimmitt and Joe and Ida Bauman. He is married to Darlene who has worked at the business for over 40 years.

Both of his sons are married and they live in Goodland. They are Gary Ron and Theresa Bauman and Chris and Kindi Bauman.

Bauman said that since the first of the year he is mainly selling parts at his business.

He said he expects to be like George McClelland and ride his motorcycle into his 90s.

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