



The 2nd Annual Motorcycle Expo

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By Helldog

Auburn, CALIF, June 2-3 –
Lorett Kinnicutt is the CEO and president
of Real Women Ride Inc, the company
that produced the Annual Motorcycle
Expo. Lorett learned from last year's
Inaugural Women's Motorcycle Expo and

made significant changes. She called upon her friends and "family" to volunteer which enabled her to reduce the entrance fee and create a "community of motorcycle enthusiasts" at the Gold Country Fairgrounds. She changed the name of the Expo to be more inclusive of men while retaining a strong focus on her roots with the Women in Motorcycling Lifetime Achievement Awards breakfast. With the addition of on-site camping, many of us never left the fairgrounds; we were a self-contained community. Harley Davidson and Victory brought in their Demo fleet for those wanting to venture into the foothills on the latest models. Also added was participation in the National Military Appreciation Month campaign sponsored by Rebels With A Cause. All Event participants were given an opportunity to escort the *Capitol to Capitol Ride Across America* contingent from the Expo to their final destination in Sacramento.

Friday night started with the rumble and roar of "Fast Fridays" a fairgrounds favorite. This is flat track racing at it's finest, or as one observer put it "racing with no brakes." The Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club greeted all the campers to the baseball field. They showed their first feature presentation: *Rebel Rousers* with Jack Nicholson and Bruce Dern from the 60's; it was truly horrible and everything you'd expect in a Biker "B" movie. Billy aka Backdoor Dawg cracked up when he pointed out an actor wearing a leisure jacket with the rebel "cut" sewn on it; Hollywood didn't have a clue.

Not to be outdone by all the festivities; legions of local Law Enforcement swarmed the fairgrounds including the "eye-in-the-sky." Lorett did a fine job of working with the local authorities for over a year on this event, but when they realized that Sonny Barger would be appearing for a book signing Sunday morning escorted by his brother Hell's Angels; even Auburn Mayor Bob Snyder pulled his support. The electrical light parade in downtown Auburn got cancelled and the BBQ got moved from the VFW in town back to the fairgrounds. We adjusted and had BBQ at center stage and enjoyed checking out the bikes arriving after dark. It was "all good" as Lorett and L.J., Pres of Sonnenaufgang MC, rode through the fairgrounds keeping things secure as we settled into our tents for the night.



The next morning, you couldn't have got a finer breakfast at your Momma's table. The Sisterhood cooked up fresh eggs, pancakes, bacon, fruit salad, coffee and juice all for just 5 bucks. I was chatting with Diablo, Top Gun, Lady Kay and others in the food line as we waited for the gates to open. After breakfast, I met Dee Rein; a proud Blue Star Mother who was working the Operation Mom booth that sends care packages to our Active Duty Military and supports Blue and Gold Star parents. I was having a great time, getting acquainted with folks and cruising around the fairgrounds on my '07 Custom Mini-Bobber, a raffle prize from the Scream'in Demons MC Shovelhead Run in May. She's a real head-turner.

"T" SAA for Red Nation MC and his brothers were volunteer security for the day and kept the peace. They even provided Sonny a full escort into the grounds when he arrived a day early for his book signing. It was a treat having Sonny at the Expo milling around, giving signatures, shaking hands, and giving kisses a plenty before his scheduled debut. The Miners MC provided security on Sunday and no incidents occurred; why would any?

Most everyone came out to experience the brotherhood, the vendors and to check out the bikes. I caught up with Debbie Martin, President of Elite Custom Cycles, and her designer/fabricator Dave Mitchell who I met at Laughlin in 2005. Riding through Prescott Valley and Jerome AZ, you can see why she developed this highly personalized, custom cycle showroom. If you have a dream that you'd like to see become a reality, take a look at the Elite custom platform.

I caught up with Batman checking out the new Sinister Big Daddy 50-spoke wheels in the Custom Chrome booth. Having deep billet on my Deuce, I picked up one of these bad boys and thought I'd get even better traction along the mountain passes with these heavyweights. Marquis Custom Cycles shared the booth and also had some fine entries in the bike show.

When I got to Greg Nelson's booth, I had to take a second look. I had passed by it at first because all I saw was a rather plain looking FXR; no flashy paint, phat tails or stretched frame. What caught my eye was the Quad engine propped up on the ground. His Quad is coming on strong and has already made an appearance with the OCC boys. With 214 ci, 250 hp, dual 45 mm Mikuni carbs, and so much chrome it's like staring at liquid silver; it's only 6 in. wider than a regular engine, has great sound and still gets 40 mpg! Greg then pointed out two of his more "fleshed-out" bikes in the next booth and my camera went bezerk. Wow, all I can say is it'll take a biker's breathe away!

Checking out some of the Expo off the beaten path, I ran into Seth Doulton, Promoter for this year's 60th Anniversary Hollister Rally. He's got the town's buy in and changed the vendors to the center of San Benito St, which should lessen the miles of walking to see everything. He's encouraging everyone to ride-in, camp at Balado Park, and stick around to see the bike show, Ms. Hollister contest, the stunt show and more.

You gotta love the volunteers at the Non-Profits booths like the Women's Motorcyclist Foundation who were pumping up the Pony Express Ride '07. This 4-day "experience to eradicate breast cancer" will have camping at Lake Francis Resort at Dobbins in Northern CA, with a different ride daily through the covered bridges, up to Lake Tahoe and finally to the State Capitol along scenic routes. To register or to donate to a Pony Express Rider, go to www.womensmotorcyclistfoundation.org. Bill Chamberlain was back promoting the US Wolf Refuge and Adoption Center. It was a treat to see the wolves at the Expo last year but circumstances prohibited bringing them for '07. "Next year for sure" Bill said and you can contact him at bill@uswolfrefuge.org for more info about wolf protection and welfare.

Justin Pullen was at Center Stage popping vertical wheelies, acrobatics and burning good rubber down to the core on his modified motorcycles. The crowd was captivated as some of the Expo participants brought their own bikes to center stage.

By now it was time to line up the entries in the bike show run by ABATE of Sacramento. I borrowed some soft cloths from Fillmore to wipe down the Mini-Bobber, which won first place in the women's custom category. He told me his brothers Jerry and Gino had entered their bike's in the same category as his. They were all three spectacular specimens of custom indulgence; but Jerry's lowered, red metal-flake Fatboy took first place in the Men's Custom class and Best in Show. Seriously, the glare off that Showtime special knocked out some of my best shots. Grumbles took first place in the Antique/Classic class and the People's Choice Award with her stretched 1970 Ironhead Sporty. Then she rode "Miss Hissy Fit" in the bike games including the obstacle course. It was amazing to see an old school chopper competing in the ring; but Cruiser earned the trophies in the women's games on her nimble 2005 Deluxe.

After an exhausting day, we settled into the campground for BBQ steaks and the next round of Biker-B movies: *Chopper Chicks in Zombietown* starring Rocks and the Cycle Sluts with Billy Bob Thornton. This B-Movie is a cult classic with many in the audience saying the lines before the actors and getting up to "walk like a zombie;" it was interactive and fun. After the movie, a huge bonfire was lit at the end of the campground and Spirit Rider of the Sisters of Scota played traditional Celtic tunes on her bagpipes; it was a perfect ending to a perfect day.

On Sunday the Sisters cooked another kickass, bargain breakfast for everyone as we made our way to the Center Stage, which had been transformed into a fete d'elegance with table linens and centerpieces included. Trapper was the emcee for the "Women in Motorcycling 2007 Lifetime Achievement Awards;" and skillfully brought laughter, tears and standing ovations of recognition for our leaders in the women motorcyclist fields. Loretta

received special recognition and thanks for her vision and hours of hard work dedicated to making this venue in Auburn for us all.

About this time, Greg Dunham rode his “Dream Big” project to the front of the grounds. It holds the record in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest rideable motorcycle at 3.429 m or 11’ 3” tall. With 74” tall by 36” wide tires, I could put rubber on my ride for a lifetime with those babies. The wicker bike made it through the weekend although thoughts of the “burning bike” in Nevada ran through all our heads.

Sonny’s book signing was well attended and went along without a hitch despite fears of the local PD. There were more bike games, food, demos and vendors to visit to round out the afternoon while waiting for the Capitol-to-Capitol Riders to appear. It was Sonny’s honor to lead the escort of riders along their final leg to the State Capitol. VNV/LVMC, Marines MC, a multitude of other MCs along with a host of Independent riders escorted the final leg of the 6,000+ mile journey into Sacramento. From Sonny’s *Freedom: Credo From the Road* (2005) “Do you take freedom for granted? Lose it and you won’t.” His book is filled with simply stated philosophies of freedom and brotherhood; the American way of life fought for by generations gone by. If you are interested in supporting our soldiers and their families, I highly recommend visiting the www.patriotguard.org website which includes links to various patriotic groups offering unique ways to serve. This special tribute to our service men and women in a time of war was a fitting closure to the Motorcycle Expo. I can’t wait to be here next year to support Loretta and my entire motorcycle community for another celebration of everything motorcycle.

