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Expo rumbles into Auburn

By: Loryll Nicolaisen, Journal Staff Writer
Sunday, June 3, 2007

People of all rides of life converged upon Auburn this weekend, brought together for their common love of motorcycles.

The Gold Country Fairgrounds were awash in black leather and rumbling bikes with the 2nd Annual Motorcycle Expo.

"Grumbles," also known as Dayna Davidson-"just like the motorcycle," she said - was one of a number of Sisters of Scota women's motorcycle club members in attendance this weekend.

Davidson rode into town on her plum-colored 1970 Iron Head Sportster, a bike she's owned for 12 years and which carries a special name.

"Miss Hissy Fit," Davidson said. "She runs when she wants."

Davidson is the founder of the Sisters of Scota WMC, which came about as more women began riding motorcycles.

"(Women) can ride big bikes like this," she said. "Give us our space, allow us space to roll beside you or at least pass you. Just sharing the road, that's my big thing."

Lincoln couple Roger and Dena Pitts said camaraderie and beautiful bikes drew them to the fairgrounds Saturday.

"We ride so whenever there's an event we like to attend," said Roger Pitts.

Dena agreed with her husband, saying she enjoyed "checking out the other bikes and being with other

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Mary Dement of Freebird Leather Sewing affixes a patch on a leather jacket Saturday during the 2nd Annual Motorcycle Expo. Freebird Leather Sewing travels the motorcycle show circuit, sewing patches on jackets and selling both jackets and vests. Michael Kirby/ Auburn Journal

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bikers."

Rocklin resident Matt Smith had a similar reason for visiting the fairgrounds Saturday.

"It's just brotherhood, vendors, just to check out all the bikes," he said.

Auburn resident Laura Volz and her family sat on the grass Saturday afternoon and watched members of the Sac Nuts Stunt Team perform tricks on their bikes.

"Everybody is here to have a good time and be relaxed," she said. "Most of us are out here because we enjoy motorcycles and the people."

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"This is not what they're billing it as," she said. "The guy's here for three hours, he served his time. The thing about bike people, we all have one thing in common, it's two wheels, and we love it. There's no reason for fear - fear is born out of ignorance. There's a lot of bad stuff that's really affected us." Auburn Police Chief Valerie Harris said Saturday that Kinnicutt indicated she didn't want police officers present during the expo "and I told her that was not a circumstance we were comfortable with."

The cause for concern was not due to Sonny Barger's presence, Harris said, but because of the type of crowd he might draw.

"You have a number of individuals from varying groups and the concern would be a clash from members of different groups," she said Saturday. "The concern is the safety of all fairgoers."

Barger's visit appeared Sunday morning to be what many would be your typical book signing. Fans lined up in an orderly fashion for an autograph from Barger, who was signing copies of his books "Freedom: Credos from the Road" and "Hell's Angel: The Life and Times of Sonny Barger and the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club."

Bill Mayer, of Ojai, near Santa Barbara, bought a copy of Barger's "Hell's Angel" Sunday morning, which he had signed by the author.

"I'm not much of an autograph guy," Mayer said, noting that Barger's was one on a short list of signatures worth having.

Robert and Christine Barger, of Pilot Hill, also came by Sonny Barger's tent for autographs Sunday morning.

"We do share the same name," Robert Barger said, when asked why he and his wife got Barger's autograph.

"If you get a chance to read him, he really has led an interesting life," Christine said. "I couldn't make it for the last signing, so it was nice to go together. I told him I wanted a second signature." "He goes, 'Where?'" Robert said.

"Right here," Christine said, pulling one side of her leather vest aside to show her chest, now bearing Barger's Sharpie signature.

The Journal's Loryll Nicolaisen can be reached at lorylln@goldcountrymedia.com.

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