

Name: Al Dunn

Born February 9, 1951 at the old Welland General Hospital.

Voted in to the WCMC Spring of 1974 (first time) January 2000 (second time).

First Bike 80cc Suzuki

Current Bike 1976 Yamaha XS 650cc converted to an old time flat track race bike.

Bikes owned: 1972 250cc Yamaha Enduro, 1978 Yamaha Moto - X, 125cc, 1977 Yamaha RD 400, 1976 Yamaha TZ 250cc Road Racer, 1981- 750cc Yamaha Seca, 1981 Harley Davidson Low Rider , 1992 Harley Davidson Road Glide, 1976 Honda 70cc street legal motorcycle and a 1976 Yamaha XS 650cc.



I was first introduced to motorcycles by my Uncle Dave Atkins, a W.C.M.C., Life Member, when I was around 7 years old, needless to say I was hooked.

I bought my first Motorcycle before I was of legal driving age around 1965. It was an 80cc Suzuki. I had it tuned, oil changed and certified at Edgar Givens shop in Gasport and then it was ready to ride.

I worked at various jobs from service station attendant to retail to save up for my next bike. I purchased a Yamaha 250cc Enduro in 1972.

I first joined the W.C.M.C. in the late spring, early summer of 1974 – 1975. I was sponsored by the late Welland County member Gerald Hough. I started working at General Motors of Canada in 1976, and did not renew my membership to the W.C.M.C. in 1976 because of shift work and I felt I could not commit myself to the club the way I felt I should.

I rode motorcycles, street bikes and racing motorcycles up until 1987, life was great. My first racing machine was a 1978 Yamaha Moto - X, 125cc. My first real street bike, other than my enduro was a 1977 Yamaha RD 400, the red one. Rode the hell out of that bike and traded it for a 1976 Yamaha TZ 250cc Road Racing Machine. I raced from 1978 - 1983 under the CMA (Canadian Motorcycle Association) and WERA (USA) banners.

I got married in the fall of 1983, ending my racing career due to family commitments. I continued road riding on a 1981- 750cc Yamaha Seca shaft drive, then purchased a 1981 Harley Davidson Low Rider until 1987. I also had a 1992 Harley Davidson Road Glide, a 1976 Honda 70cc street legal motorcycle and presently still own a 1976 Yamaha XS 650cc converted to an old time flat track race bike. I tried my hand of Trials riding on borrowed motorcycles, too slow for me at the time. I moved on to attempting Speedway thanks to Ian Boyd who used to race with Lightning Len Dillon, Hot Dog Freddie Legault and John 'Crash' Dymetrow. I could not get trying to high-side a motorcycle on purpose out of my head.

I've been to various motorcycle events throughout my life in Ontario, Quebec and all over the United States. I've been a witness to one of the most dangerous motorcycle races probably in the world, the Isles of Mann in the United Kingdom in 1979. I have seen some of the best riders, Mike Hailwood, Joey Dunlop, for example perform their magic. I've met and raced against some of the sports largest stars, mostly road racing.



Al hard at Work around the Club

My riding career ended abruptly in 1992 upon recovering from a heart attack in hospital I came in contact, in the hospital no less, with a virus called 'Guillian Barre Syndrome' which is best explained as a seventh cousin of MS and I have been confined to a wheelchair ever since. My love of motorcycling being very strong still I rejoined the W.C.M.C. and became a member the very first meeting of the year in 2000. I was surprisingly honored at the November Banquet as the 'Rookie of the Year' which brought actual tears of happiness to my eyes with my Aunt Sharon and Uncle Dave Atkins in attendance, needless to say one of the proudest days of my life.

During my W.C.M.C. membership so far, I've served one term as Public Relations Director, four years on the Board of Directors, and have served as the club's Newsletter Editor since 2002. I have also put on a few club rides and fund raisers over the years. I have since enjoyed riding in Brother Archie Hardie's side car motorcycle on a couple of occasions and on the back of a brother's Harley Davidson bagger to another brother's cottage in the mid 2000's. My love of motorcycling continues to this day.

Ride on Brothers Ride on

