

J&P Cycle's Open House '09

Quite simply, if you own a motorcycle and you've never heard of J&P Cycles, then you have been living underneath a VERY large rock! But just in case you actually haven't heard about J&P, or have heard very little, they are an aftermarket motorcycle parts retailer, whose doors are open to the general public, and they're based in the small eastern Iowa town of Anamosa. Owners John and Jill Parham started their business back in the late 70's, and were commonly known for handing out fliers nearby at the Anamosa Hill Climb. John would be selling parts out of his van, while Jill was handing out fliers listing their stock of used parts, which ultimately led to J&P producing their own catalog.

The Parhams have seen their ups and downs in the motorcycle business, but they kept pushing through all the rough spots and now, 30 years later, they've become the world's largest retailer of aftermarket motorcycle products. Their company is still based in Anamosa, but their distribution center just north of town has taken on huge transformations over the years. They still have a retail store on location for enthusiast traveling through the area to stop in and check out parts in person, and see a small part of John's motorcycle collection on the mezzanine above the show room floor. J&P also recently opened up a large show room at Destination Daytona in Florida, and they open up a huge store for a few weeks during the Sturgis Rally every summer in South Dakota.

J&P's Open House has rapidly become one of the largest motorcycle events in the Midwest, and this year's rally blew away all the previous attendance records, with an estimated 22,000 people taking part in the event. To start, this year's event was extended to both Saturday June 27th, and Sunday the 28th. Adding the second day allowed for 2 different bike shows, with the custom bike show on Saturday, and antique bike show on Sunday. J&P calls in a number of parts suppliers and manufacturers to display their latest products, including S&S Cycle, Drag Specialties, Mustang Seats, Vance and Hines, and Fat Baggers, just to name a few. The event is also known for bringing in some big names through-out the industry, and celebrities on hand this year included Rick Fairless, Michelle Smith, Jason Britton, Brian and Laura Klock, and Corey Ness.

Both days were packed full of other events like rodeo games, ILL Conduct Motorcycle Stunt Shows, The Harley-Davidson Drill team, and Teresi Dyno Drags. Door prizes and raffles were being handed out all weekend, and silent auctions were held, with all proceeds going to the National Motorcycle Museum and Hall of Fame, which is also based in Anamosa. J&P offered up some huge sales on a wide variety of items from their catalogs, and opened up a whole department in their warehouse just for clearance items, where a number of great deals could be found. To top it all off, free food, pop, and bottled water was available to all attendees, to make for a full weekend of family entertainment.

Plans are in the works for next year's Open House, which will be held on **June 26th and 27th**, so make plans early, because at the rate things are going, it's sure to be bigger and better than ever! J&P's web site at www.jpccycles.com is packed full of information pertaining to the motorcycle world, and their complete catalog can be viewed online, or you can request to receive one in the mail. See you next year!

Nate Ullrich (www.natanic.com)



"WALNECK'S" MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

June 6 - Sandwich, IL
Swap Meet
8am - 3pm
DeKalb County Fairgrounds, RT 34 to Fairwind Blvd, Turn N. At stop sign, turn left. Admission: \$5.00

June 13 - Springfield, OH (NEW)

June 27 - Woodstock, IL
Swap Meet
8am - 3pm
McHenry Co. Fairgrounds, Route 47 & Country Club Rd 1mi No. of Rt 14
Admission: \$7.00

July 11 - Martinsville, IN
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