



John Jans- In his own words

Joe Harralson has always been an avid motorcyclist and racer. In high school he built a rear engined open wheel single seat race car. The car was sold before it was finished and he used the money to equip his shop and then build a 125cc GP motorcycle of his own design which he raced with the AFM until he moved to Wisconsin. He worked as a motorcycle mechanic while a college student. In Wisconsin he worked with Ron Anderson, a fellow Mercury employee, to design and build the engine for an M class hydroplane. Running in boats built by Anderson this engine set many world speed records as well as winning the class season championship. He also helped on many other projects including Formula Ford, and a Can Am car that was not finished. While living in southern California Harralson was active in the AFM although not as a racer. He worked for several years as a tech inspector at road races in southern California. He currently rides a Kawasaki KLR 650 and is restoring a Hodaka Super Rat. His first bike was a Hodaka Trail 90 purchased new in 1963.

Joe Harralson is a retired professor of mechanical engineering. He graduated from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) in 1970 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked briefly for Aerojet Liquid Rocket company after graduation. After this he moved to Wisconsin to work for Mercury Marine. At Mercury he specialized in engine design. During this time Harralson did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin in applied mechanics.

Following his work for Mercury he moved to southern California where he worked for the McCulloch corporation as an engine designer. While at McCulloch, Harralson completed a masters degree in mechanical engineering from Loyola Marymount University. In 1980 Harralson joined the faculty at CSUS where he eventually earned tenure and the rank of professor. He taught courses on machine design, engine design, dynamics, stress analysis, manufacturing, and senior design project. In 2005 he took an early retirement in part because of his wife's health problems. He lives with his wife of 40 years, Betty, on a small ranch where they have a commercial wine grape vineyard. He continues to teach part time. Although motorcycle racing is his passion, he also collects antique machine tools and antique and rare books on engines, racing, and shop practice. He and his wife also own a 38 foot Catalina sailboat which they sail in San Francisco bay and occasionally off shore along the northern California coast.