

Collector Spotlight: Rickie Star

Photos by Rickie Star and Tracy Ball

Meet this issue's featured collector, Rickie Star, in her own words.

My husband Gene and I own Henthorn Mower and Engine Service, a lawn and garden business on the Westside of Indianapolis. We sell and service lawnmowers, tractors, snow blowers, and commercial mowing equipment. What is really nice about this is that all our technicians ride motorcycles and are able to help us restore and maintain our bikes and scooters. We are located close to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Speedcity Cycles, where I get my *Scoot!* issues.

I have been riding motorcycles and scooters for about 12 years; the last five or six-- mainly scooters. At some point in the early 1960s the shop we own was a Vespa dealer. An old ceiling collapsed in an out building and we found left over parts and accessories which we traded to Philip at Scooterworks for a project 1963 Allstate scooter and the obsession began. We still have the Allstate, now restored, and the following vintage scooters: 1974 Vespa Rally 200, 1981 Vespa P200e, 1957 Zundapp Bella r204, 1960 Heinkel Tourist, 1967 Fuji Rabbit s211, 1960 Honda Cub. We also have a 1984 Honda Elite 150, a 2005 Stella, and a 2004 Bergman 400 that are daily riders.

After we restored the Allstate I found a Xonex Model like it in a local toy store and that began my toy scooter and collectible addiction. I now have way too many pieces to even guess how many I have. I have shelves of toy scooters both vintage and new. I collect scooter clothing (including an old Shriner jacket for old Cushmans); t-shirts from scooter stores wherever we travel and from rallies; scooter manuals, postcards, posters, salt and pepper shakers, mugs, and of course magazines (I am missing the first two or three *Scoot! Quarterly*s.)

One of my favorite items is a 1980's child's electric ride-on P200e. I found it a few years ago at the AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days in Lexington, Ohio. It was in one of the first booths at the swap meet and I grabbed it. My husband and friend Jan carried it in a golf cart the rest of the day. People kept asking to buy it, but I wouldn't give it up. It's now in my den with an old Garton Super Sonda Scooter.

I really find scooter stuff in many different places. I love to go to Portland, IN in July for the vintage scooter and motorbike national meet. I go to local motorcycle swap meets. I hit antique stores, thrift stores, garage sales, and estate sales as often as I have time. You never know what you'll find at Target, Hallmark stores, Walmart, Starbucks, motorcycle shops, and of course scooter shops and rallies. I always check [April's Scooter Collector] column and blog, ScooterSwag.com for new postings and snag a lot of good ideas from these sources. Then I cruise eBay and look for neat scoot collectibles. My friends always let me know if they see something or just pick it up for me. If they go to rallies they will get me shirts or patches.

I really don't know what I spend on scooter stuff. I'd probably scare myself (or, for sure, my husband) if I added it up. Most things are fairly inexpensive, but some of the old toys can get pretty pricey. I try to have a little "mad money" stashed away so Gene doesn't know how pricey some of them are!

I can't guess how much time I spend looking, because I incorporate it with my regular shopping trips. Even at Krogers I've found toy scooters on the toy rack and scooter gift bags by the gift rack. At the mall I always look for something new like scooter ties for Gene or purses or scooter watches for me. It's just fun to find something and add it to the group. Even my customers at our store know about my collection and give me tips on stuff.

Maybe I just don't want to grow up, but I've really met the nicest people on scooters and have a lot of fun with the real scoots and play ones.

top: The red Vespa toy that started it all
center: The Toy P200E ride-on with my dog Pete
center: Some of our real scooters
bottom: A scooter Menorah that I found on Scooter Swag

