

The History of The GSResources

The GSResources started in 1995 as a hobby website (gsresources.com) by Mark Cooper while he was in college. He had purchased a Suzuki GS in which was suffering from the famed stator problem and he needed help in diagnosing and fixing it. So Mark started a small website for GS motorcycles on the college computer system. During that time Peter Huppertz starting giving him a hand in doing some of the website coding and provided assistance with site content, as well as helping with the stator issues.

After Mark got his college degree he no longer had the time to run the site and with his leaving college, the website needed to be moved to another server. Peter then moved the website over to servers in the Netherlands and he took on the duties of Editor-in-Chief. Peter got hold of a friend whom he met in college, Ritzo Muntinga. Ritzo was an electrical engineer and together they worked in diagnosing the stator problem. In fact, because of demand, Ritzo formed a new company Electrex, which sold replacement stators and rectifiers for Suzuki GS's. At that time, Ritzo supported the site by paying the web hosting bill and in exchange The GSResources had banner ads for Electrex on the website. Eventually Peter moved the site from an outside webhost to the servers where he was working at.

In 1999 Bill Chandler and Frank Perreault contacted Peter about helping out with handling some of the website duties since it looked like Peter was getting tied up with his job. They both took over the Technical section since that was the section that was getting the most email requests. There was no forum at that time and when questions were received by email, a webpage was created and the answers were then we placed on the page. It wasn't a fast process and it took a lot of time and effort to maintaining the website back then.

In 2001, Peter disappeared. There was no word from him and then Frank got a notice that the site needed to be moved off of Peter's work servers ASAP. At that point Bill decided to leave The GSResources and Frank decided to take over the website. What followed was 3 years of often changing webhosts. He didn't want to see the website site die, so he redesigned the website and paid all expenses out of his pocket. The greatest improvement was the change from a webpage based technical section to implementing a forum. This allowed almost real-time responses to questions that people had regarding their GS's. Other new site additions included the Photo Gallery and the User Registration database.

It was at this time that Dan Bard volunteered to help with content on the website. He had experience in writing articles for various magazines and he helped Frank in making some of the decisions regarding the website. One big decision was whether to move from a advertiser supported website to a visitor supported one. Dan didn't think that visitors would be willing to pay to keep the website running while Frank thought otherwise. The decision was made to try it, we eliminated all the banner ads and it worked out even better than expected.

Ritzo, owner of Electrex, owned the domain name gsresources.com and he wanted to keep his company's advertising on the site. Frank saw this as a potential conflict of interest and wanted to eliminate the advertising from the website. Because Ritzo didn't want to give up the domain name Frank registered the new domain name thegsresources.com.

At about this time Mark Nemetz contacted Frank about helping with the website. We had had a Bike of the Month section but it was a random kind of thing. Mark agreed to take that task over and he implemented the popular "Cover Photo of the Month" feature.

Today, The GSResources continues as a visitor supported website which is the most popular GS website on the Internet.

Dan Bard

Dan hailed from West Virginia and he loved motorcycling. He and his wife Gale logged thousands of miles riding his yellow Gold Wing all over North America. It wasn't unusual for him to tell Frank that he was in Canada or some other far off place. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts always prevented Dan and Frank from riding together though they would meet anytime that Frank headed to New Hampshire on his annual trip up north.

In 2010 Dan retired from the Maryland Department of Agriculture as a resource conservationist. Because he had written for numerous regional motorcycle publications he was offered the job by the State of West Virginia to tour the state by motorcycle and write touring articles for the State's website. This attracted the attention of the State of Pennsylvania and they invited him to attend a press junket. While on the junket, the tour bus in which he and his wife Gale were on was hit broadside by a dump truck. Dan was seriously injured and his wife was hurt pretty badly as well.

After being in the hospital for several months he was allowed home for the Christmas holidays. On Dec. 28, 2010 Dan unexpectedly died. Dan's warm sense of humor and friendly personality will sorely be missed.

Mark Nemetz

Mark hails from the state of Michigan and lives there with his wife Kelly. He tends to be the quiet one and he maintains the "Cover Photo of the Month" section. He is an avid motorcyclist and he enjoys days at the track. Unfortunately he was injured in track mishap in the summer of 2010. He ended up losing a kidney as a result of the accident and because of this he has had to give up his days at the track. Now he rides purely for recreation though the track still calls out to him.

Frank Perreault

Frank has been on GS ever since 1976 but now he finds himself GS-less. His current ride is a Yamaha 2007 FJR and loves riding it both in sporty fashion and touring 2-up with Terri. He handles all the technical aspects of The GSResources and is responsible for day-to-day operations.