

R1200GS Finally Breaks Cover



Long awaited, with tantalizing spy photos appearing in various European publications for months, news of the R1200GS production model is finally revealed, just days before the press introduction in South Africa. MCN will have a full report next month.

Visually, the first impression is of a much lighter motorcycle than the familiar R1150GS, constructed around a "tubular space-frame" and more compact bodywork and fairing. And, in fact, the R1200GS is 66 lbs. lighter than its predecessor.

The new engine unit is actually 1170cc (101mm x 73mm, bore and stroke), the compression ratio is 11:1 and a new engine management system (BMS-K) is used, with fully sequential fuel injection, knock control, and ultra rapid processing of sensor signals. It is claimed to make 100 hp @ 7000 rpm, and with loads of grunt, 85 lbs./ft. @ 5500 rpm. A significant feature of the new engine is a balance shaft, to effectively eliminate any unwelcome vibration.

"Supreme smoothness," is the result, says BMW. This also contributes to the overall weight-saving, as the engine unit is now a stressed member of the frame construction.

The exhaust system is quieter but with, says BMW, "a more throaty sound." And power transmission is via a 180mm single plate dry clutch to a new, and very smooth, six-speed gearbox. Following the theme of "everything new," BMW has developed new lighter suspension systems, but still of Telelever and Paralever type. Ultra-strong alloy wheels of different patterns are fitted with twin 305mm and single 265mm disc brakes with an ABS option, while tires are 110/80H 19 TL and 150/70H 17 TL.

The R1200GS bristles with improvements, and with a wide range of optional equipment available, every owner will be able to tailor his bike to his own taste, March 13 is the designated day when the bikes will hit the dealers and the fun begins! —Doug Jackson

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has announced that BMW will be the "Featured Marque" at **AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004**, to be held July 16-18 at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

In celebrating the 81-year-old marque, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004 will benefit the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum and will feature an exhibit of classic motorcycles and memorabilia.

AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004 also will feature two vintage bike shows; the traditional all-brands AMA Swapmeet, North America's largest; a slate of guest speakers, including renowned designer Craig Vetter; demo rides offered by BMW, Buell, Harley-Davidson and Moto-Guzzi; an array of vendors featuring new products from top manufacturers and dealers; the annual Motorcycle Hall of Fame Auction of motorcycles and memorabilia; and the return of Rhett Rotten's original 1941 "Wall of Death" drome, with vintage Indians and Harley-Davidsons defying gravity on its hardwood walls.

Spectator tickets for AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004 are available from

Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course at 1-800-MID-OHIO or www.midohio.com. For more information about Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004, visit www.AMADirectlink.com or call 1-800-AMA-JOIN.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has learned that a proposed law in California that could have **forced some motorcyclists to become organ donors** against their wishes has been amended, and will be reconsidered without the organ-donation provisions.

The amended Assembly Bill 1200 proposes allowing adults 18 and older to decide whether to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle. The organ-donation provisions, which had outraged the AMA and motorcyclists nationwide, stated that those who chose not to wear a helmet are "deemed to have consented to the making of an anatomical gift under this act."

The AMA worked directly with Assemblyman John Longville (D-San Bernardino) to remove all of the organ-donation provisions from AB-1200, which was granted reconsideration and has been referred again to the Transportation Committee.

To express support for the bill via e-mail, go to www.AMADirectlink.com and click on "State," under "Rights."

The California Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) reports that approximately 90% of the nearly-600 vehicles that have undergone the **state's new exhaust-noise test** have been certified to be in compliance with California law. BAR began operation of the motor vehicle exhaust noise-testing program in late summer 2003. The program, the product of a SEMA-sponsored law, allows California hobbyists to prove their vehicles comply with state standards.

"This information validates our long-held contention that a vast majority of citations written for violation of California's exhaust noise laws are, in fact, erroneous," said SEMA Senior Director of Government Affairs Steve McDonald. "For years, the enforcement policy used by police officers has deemed nearly all exhaust system modifications illegal, even when the noise levels met state standards."

The law also allows courts to dismiss citations for exhaust systems that have been tested and for which a certificate of compli-

CORRECTION TO JACKET COMPARISON Olympia Scores Higher

In last month's comparison of waterproof, breathable textile riding jackets, the final score for the **Olympia Sentry** jacket was reported incorrectly. The "Functional Score" should have been 41.5 points, which was reported instead as the "Total Score." This means the Olympia's actual Total Score was 44.5 points, which would have tied it for Fourth Place overall, instead of being in Seventh Place, as we listed it. However, the "Recommended" rating would not have changed.

MCN wishes to apologize to our readers, and to Olympia Motorsports, for this error.

ance has been issued. The 40 Smog Check stations that provide referee functions are performing the test. These referee stations are issuing certificates of compliance for vehicles when tests of their exhaust systems demonstrate that they emit no more than 95 decibels under SAE test procedure J1169. However, only those vehicles that have received a citation for an exhaust noise violation are permitted to submit their vehicle for the test.

"Motorists who modify their vehicles for durability, appearance and performance prefer aftermarket exhaust systems," McDon-

NMM Fund Established

As reported in these pages a couple of months ago, and widely-reported throughout the motorcycling world, the National Motorcycle Museum of England was leveled by a devastating fire that destroyed over 75% of their unique collection of antique motorcycles.

Now, a new group has been formed, called "Friends of the NMM Association," specifically to raise funds to rebuild the Museum to its former glory as one of the greatest motorcycling exhibits in the world.

If you'd like to help, checks should be made out to: National Motorcycle Museum Services, Ltd., and sent to Nick Hartland, Friends of the NMM, Bogay Hall, Henwood Lane, Catherine-De-Barnes, Solihull, West Midlands, Great Britain, B91 2TH.

For more information, see the website: www.nationalmotorcyclemuseum.co.uk.

Motorsports Employment

Looking for your dream job? If you're looking for motorcycle-related work of any kind, you'll want to visit MotorsportsEmployment.com, the premier global jobsite for all motorcycle, marine, automotive, aviation and motorsports-related careers. The website was just launched, with considerable content online already.

MotorsportsEmployment.com is free for job seekers, who can peruse the U.S. and international job listings. Motorcycle-related job categories range from design and engineering positions to sales, purchasing, painting, manufacturing, motorsports/racing, marketing, transportation, finance, insurance and a variety of office-type positions (e.g., accounting, human resources, information technology, customer service and administration/clerical).

If your dream job hasn't been posted yet, you can subscribe to their Job Alert Service. Whenever a new job matching your search criteria gets posted, the listing will be e-mailed to you automatically.

Job seekers may post their resume on MotorsportsEmployment.com for free. Additional resources include a searchable directory of executive recruiters, access to help in creating a professional resume and information on current salary ranges for a variety of jobs. There's also a calendar of national and international job fairs.

ald added. "By establishing this evenhanded testing process, this program is proving to benefit consumers who favor these state-of-the-art products, the aftermarket industry which markets them and even police officers who are charged with enforcing the law."

BAR has established a toll-free number (800) 622-7733 to accept phone calls from motorists who have received citations for excessive exhaust noise and wish to have the test performed. For more information, contact SEMA at (909) 396-0289; or www.sema.org.

The Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum will honor one of the greatest chapters in Anglo-American motorcycle history with a new exhibit entitled "**BSA's Greatest Daytona**." Opening March 12, 2004, this intriguing installation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the historic British marque's legendary victories at the 1954 Daytona 200



HondaJet

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has announced that the HondaJet, its new experimental compact business jet equipped with Honda-developed HF118 jet engines, successfully completed initial flight tests at Piedmont Airport in North Carolina.

Compared with conventional jets, this experimental aircraft offers superior fuel efficiency and remarkable cabin space. The engines are optimally positioned on the upper surface of the main wing in a unique configuration that reduces drag at high speeds and increases cruising efficiency. This layout also eliminates the need for structural engine mounts in the fuselage, creating over 30% more cabin space than in a conventional aircraft.

The jet is scheduled to undergo approximately 200 hours of flight-testing to demonstrate and verify the operability and performance characteristics of its various systems.

Honda began research into compact business jets in 1986, using engines provided by other manufacturers. The HF118 Turbofan Engine-equipped HondaJet experimental compact jet is the first Honda-developed aircraft to be outfitted with a Honda engine, a significant milestone for the company and the industry.

—the greatest performance ever for a single brand on the sands of Daytona Beach. That year, factory BSA motorcycles, piloted by a dazzling array of racing talent including Motorcycle Hall of Fame members Bobby Hill, Dick Klamfoth, Tommy McDermott, Ken Eggers and Al Gunter achieved a spectacular five-place sweep. The new exhibit not only pays homage to the machines and the men who rode them to victory, but includes artifacts, memorabilia, original photographs and more. "BSA's Greatest Daytona" joins the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum's main exhibit, "Heroes of Harley-Davidson." Both exhibits are open through the end of 2004.

Prior to its debut at the Museum, portions of "BSA's Greatest Daytona" will be shown in Daytona Beach, Florida, during the February 29 through March 7, 2004 Bike Week.