

## Ducati SportClassics Go Into Production



Finally, after the company terms a remarkable public and media success regarding the three retro-style "SportClassic" models presented at the Tokyo Motorcycle Show and other venues, Ducati has announced plans to actually produce said all-time bikes. Shown around the country at the Advanced Cycle World Expo, and featured here in *MCN's* "Bulletin" last February, the three models are

the Paul Smart 1000 (center), the Sport 1000 (left), and the GT 1000 (right), all of which have also been prominently featured on Ducati's website for the past several months.

As production costs have not yet been figured, prices for the bikes are still under development, but are estimated at this time as being from \$14,000 to \$16,000 for the Paul Smart, \$11,000 to \$13,000 for the Sport 1000, and \$10,000 to \$12,000 for the GT 1000.

You've got plenty of time to start saving your pennies, though. The first bike scheduled to be produced is the Paul Smart, in a limited edition of 1000 units in the legendary "750 Imola Racer" livery, due to be in showrooms by November of 2005. The Sport 1000 will go into production in March of 2006, and the GT is scheduled for September of 2006. For more information, see the website at [www.ducati.com](http://www.ducati.com).

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has announced the results of its election for the **AMA Board of Directors**.

Rick Gray has been elected to represent the Northeast region, Jeff Smith has been elected to represent the South Central region, and Dan Smith has been elected to represent the North-west region.

The AMA Board of Directors consists of 12 members. Six individual Directors are elected by the general membership in their respective regions and serve three-year terms. Six corporate Directors are elected by the corporate membership and serve two-year terms. The AMA Board of Directors meets four times a year.

The three new individual Directors were seated at the Saturday, February 14 session of the scheduled Board meeting, which followed the AMA Board of Directors at the annual Corporate Member meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In a related story, the AMA has announced that **Andy Gulliflow** of Aero-Fly/Red Bull/Carlisle in Duluth, Minnesota, has been elected to serve as a corporate member of the AMA Board of Directors. Gulliflow was elected during the annual Corporate Member meeting held on Saturday, February 14, in Indianapolis. He fills the seat previously held by Mike Buckley of Dunlop Tire Corporation, who stepped down from his position on the AMA Board after six years of service.

And in yet one more piece of news from the AMA, it was announced that as of March 1, 2004, **John Hoover** will join its senior staff as **Chief Operating Officer**.

In his role with the AMA, Hoover will

oversee day-to-day operations, working with the Association's professional staff to grow the organization. He'll report to AMA President Robert Raso.

Having been 30 years' experience in business management, sales, and marketing in his own position. For the last 20 years he worked in sales, marketing and product management for Kawasaki Motors Corp. USA, most recently as director of product management. He's also a former member of the AMA Board of Directors, having served as a corporate member for 11 years.

For more information on all these stories, visit the AMA website at [www.AMA-USA.org](http://www.AMA-USA.org). For the latest news releases, visit the News Room at <http://www.ama.org/cycle-ops/newsroom>.

The **Harley-Davidson** factory has confirmed to *Motorcycle Consumer News* that Italy's top-selling, Massimo Tamburini, responsible for the new MV Agusta range, the Ducati 916, and, of course, the creation of *Harley*, is now deeply into the design of a new Supermaxium.

Harley-Davidson already produces some tasty supermaxiums, developed from their motorcyc machines, but the new model is expected to be something truly unique. Everything about it is top secret, even the expected release date, but we assume *Motorcycle Consumer News* will have the news at the very earliest opportunity.

**Rig Dog Motorcycles**, the designer and manufacturer of highly-stylized heavyweight cruisers, continued to break its own sales records in 2003, solidly placing the com-

pany in first place among custom motorcycle builders.

With over 3600 bikes produced, nearly 400 in October alone, as well as selling big numbers with its line of apparel and OEM Performance Products, the company's 2003 sales (projected to over \$80 million). This is an \$42 million, and marks the company's sixth consecutive record year in sales and units shipped.

"Our sales volume has more than doubled in just the past two years, tripled in the past three, and, this month, we will pass the 10,000 unit milestone," explained Sheldon Coleman, company founder and CEO.

Of the units produced, more Choppers were built than any other model in Rig Dog's six-line line-up and contributed most to the company's record-breaking numbers.

Rig Dog Motorcycles currently has 90 dealers nationwide, seven of which are Rig Dog Motorcycles branded, and the company employs 305 people. The factory spans three acres and has over 155,000 square feet of office and production space.

Designing and manufacturing is performed at the company's world headquarters in Wichita, Kansas. For more information, contact Rig Dog Motorcycles at (316) 267-9121 or visit the new website at [www.rigdogmotorcycles.com](http://www.rigdogmotorcycles.com).

In a related story, Rig Dog Motorcycles has announced a **voluntary recall of certain Chopper model motorcycles**, the manufacturer's top-selling bike. Affected bikes include those built in the 2003 and 2004 model year.



## Suzuki G-Strider

In April 2003, Dan Gurney revealed his recurrent first-for-worship motorcycle, branded the All-gator. Built in the U.S., it is powered by an air-cooled Honda G21 single punched out to 710cc, the fuel-injected bike delivers a claimed 70cc and weighs approximately 360 lbs.

Recently, Suzuki showed its own take on the recurrent motorcycle by introducing the G-Strider concept. Powered by a 618cc, four-stroke, liquid-cooled, DOHC, parallel-twin engine, the machine uses center-hub steering with swingarm front and rear suspension, and the same Suzuki Electronically-controlled Continuously-Variable Transmission found on the Burgman 650 scooter. However, unlike Gurney's fully functional "Sator," the G-Strider isn't scheduled to be built for consumers. While certain items may find a way into production motorcycles, Suzuki says the G-Strider serves only as a concept study.

Plausible features include an intelligent keyless ignition system and an intelligent camera/lamp system, which uses microprocessors to sense the motorcycle's bank and handlebar angle to precisely illuminate the road on the inside of the turn. Electrically adjustable handlebars, windscreen, rider's seat, footrests and backrests for both rider and passenger seem useful, as does a self-diagnostics function and an advanced telematics system supporting videophone communication and Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation assistance.

Futuristic safety features on the Suzuki G-Strider include two rear-facing cameras mounted in the rear lighting system, which feed video images to the rear view mirrors, replacing conventional mirrors. Arm-mounted controls with trackball control operate the technology.

Approximately 1,000 Choppers will be shipped from all over the country to Rig Dog Motorcycles' headquarters in Wichita, Kansas, for fitting repairs. In addition to implementing necessary repairs, the factory will also perform other factory upgrades.

The voluntary recall has already been announced, and to Rig Dog Motorcycles' 90 dealers and the National Highway Traffic

## Win Ricky Carmichael's Tires

Ricky Carmichael isn't racing Superbikes in 2004 while he recuperates from knee surgery, but that doesn't mean his tires have to sit idle. So, at every AMA Supermax event from now until the season's end, Dunlop will give away a set of full-on race tires that were developed with the help of Carmichael: Dunlop's D736 Race Replica.

Here's how the giveaway works: At every AMA Supermax event, visitors in the paddock can stop by the Dunlop truck on race day and fill out an entry form. Late in the afternoon before the racing begins, Dunlop will hold a drawing. At some events, Ricky himself may be on hand to pull the winning ticket. One lucky winner will be awarded a certificate good for a set of front and rear D736 Race Replica tires. Each drawing takes place at each event, and you must be present at the event.

The Dunlop D736 Race Replica has proven its mettle many times over on tracks all across the country, and if your name is drawn now you can be a winner, too. And who knows—you might become a double winner as you stand up to receive your certificate and shake hands with 10-time national champion Ricky Carmichael.

## Latest Recalls

### BMW

#### Model R - Models

Year: 2003

Number Potentially Involved: 7,800

Manufacturer: December 2002 - August 2003  
Affected: 6-cylinder motorcycles (SportTourer, Six-Two-Spark Ignition), the electrical wiring for the oxygen sensor and the ignition lead for the right-hand secondary spark plug have a parallel routing over part of their installation path. The close proximity of these cables may interfere with the signal from the oxygen sensor wiring. As a result, engine hesitation or misfiring could occur, which could result in a crash. Remedy: Dealers will re-route the electrical wiring to the oxygen sensor.  
NHTSA Recall No. 03-424

Safety Administration. An official recall notice will be made to affected Chopper owners. Choppers made today, as well as the company's new Goldfinger, another rigid-frame, chopper-style motorcycle, are not included in the recall.

**Lufthansa Trikes, Inc.** has entered into a binding agreement to purchase a 34,000 sq. ft. facility in 37 acres in Springfield, S.D., site the firm hopes to use as an assembly and distribution center.

Lufthansa says the facility likely will result in significant cost savings and better customer service.

Have you heard this one?

A recent flight out of Delta Airlines flight from Paris to Cincinnati because of "unpleasant views in her seat," but safety officials later determined the was not a threat. Still, out of an abundance of caution, U.S. officials said they planned two-weeks all of the passengers and baggage aboard Delta Flight 43 after it landed. The Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Jennifer Marty said the plane would be kept away from the terminal.

A Homeland Security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a passenger was taken off the plane before it departed from a Houston because of concerns about the views. It later was learned the views were part of her motorcycle jacket's shoulder flaps.

Fair warning, guys—whatever you do, don't wear that hooded vest or liner if you plan on getting on an airplane!