

Harley-Davidson Corrects Media Reports on Recall

MILWAUKEE (March 26, 2004) - On Monday, March 22nd, Harley-Davidson Motor Company advised its U.S. dealers of a voluntary recall on a circuit breaker which is used on certain 2001 through 2003 model motorcycles. Widely circulated media coverage of this recall incorrectly reported the models that are affected.

The vehicles included in this recall are last-year's 2001 to 2003 model-year Electra-Glide Classic and Electra Glide Ultra Classic (models FLHTC and FLHTCUI), 2001 model-year Screamin' Eagle Road Glide (model FLTRSE) and 2001 to 2003 model-year police motorcycles (models RUP, RUPPE, and RLTPP).

Upon notification from the Motor Company in the next few weeks, owners of these motorcycles are encouraged to take their vehicle to a Harley-Davidson dealer to have the appropriate service performed. The required service is expected to take less than one hour and is provided free of charge to the owner.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has announced that the fourth AMA Women & Motorcycling Conference will be held in June 29 through July 4, 2004 in Ashland, Georgia.

"The AMA is pleased to once again host the Women & Motorcycling Conference," said Robert Rouse, President of the AMA. "Based on the success of our previous conferences, we are confident that the 2004 event will be a valuable experience for all who attend."

The first three AMA Women & Motorcycling Conferences were held in 1997, 2000, and 2002. Nearly 700 women and men attended the 2002 conference, from nearly every U.S. state and several foreign countries.

Admission is free as the site of the 2004 AMA Women & Motorcycling Conference for its excellent facilities, and for its proximity to great motorcycle riding. The AMA is working closely with the leadership of national women's motorcycling organizations including Motorcyclist Magazine, Yo Yo Sister, Women in the Wind, Women on Wheels, Women's International Motorcycle Association USA, and Women's Motorcyclist Foundation—to plan the 2004 conference, and will announce more details in the coming months. For more information, visit www.womenmotorcycling.com or www.AMADirectlink.com, or call 1-800-AMA-JOIN.

Scottish actor Ewan McGregor (Oz) was Kato in the most recent "Star Wars" movie) is taking survival skills training and medical emergency lessons for his next big project—an around-the-world trip by motorcycle.

The 35-year-old film star will embark on a three-month journey to New York by way of Eastern Europe and the hostile terrain of

Montania, Siberia and Alaska. Accompanying him on the 20,000-mile trip (to be filmed for documentary) will be his friend Chaz Bono, an actor who is the son of film director John Boorman.

Since January, the pair have trained with ex-soldiers and learned how to perform emergency medical procedures to ensure they can survive any accidents or setbacks with unfriendly weather, wildlife or unknown accidents. McGregor, who called the adventure a "once-in-a-lifetime trip," said the pair's original plan had been to go to China, but then the idea "grew and grew and grew."

He said he and Boorman would carry everything they needed on their off-road bikes, including camping equipment and tools.

(Editor's note: We can't help but feel if rather amusing that the mainstream press is going gull-gull over this news, when several MCN contributors have accomplished the same feat with little or no fanfare. Some, like Greg Frasier, have done it multiple times, and without need for special "survival" skills training. "But then again, one would never mistake Greg for a movie star.")

Announcing Camp GEARS (Gaining Rider Advanced Riding Skills)—A Rally Within a Rally for Younger Riders, sponsored by the BMW MDA Foundation. Camp GEARS is for riders, ages 16-26, the chance to hang out with other young riders from all over the U.S. and takes place on July 13-14, 2004, during the two-day picnic to the BMW MDA International Rally in Spokane, Washington. The best part is that there is no fee—just to see your own with a small group of riders with lots of road miles and quite a few miles on the track, too. Simply by participating, you'll be able to attend the BMW MDA International Rally, for the rest of the week, for free.



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If you are interested, or know of a younger rider who would get a kick out of coming to Camp GEARS, contact the BMW MDA Foundation for an application.

For more information or an application, contact the BMW MDA Foundation, David Colston, david@colstonbikes.com, or 415-242-9500 x101.

Anheuser, CA—Eaton Racing announced that it is releasing rider Anthony Gobert

from the Eaton team effective immediately.

Gobert was hired by the Honda-supported Eaton Racing team to compete in the new AMA Supercross class in 2004.

"There is a level of commitment and dedication that is required to be a rider on our team," said team owner Kevin Eaton. "Unfortunately, Anthony was unwilling to demonstrate the level of commitment and dedication required to get the job done. We wish Anthony well, his last displayed great talent on the years."

No further comment was available.

Ducati Motorcycle Tires has announced the **Ducati Flying D**, a custom-built track that will provide off-road and logistical support at national motorcycle rallies and select motorcycle events.

"The Ducati Flying D will serve as our operations base at rallies and special events," said Ducati Vice President Mike Buckley. "It also allows us to bring more tools and equipment to better the efforts of AMA's Rally Support Teams and Ducati Tire Check Crew at each event."

The Ducati Flying D will operate at the following national motorcycle rallies, plus select Supercross, national and amateur meetings, and AMA road races, as well as many special events across the country. March 14—Daytona Beach Bike Week, Daytona Beach, FL.

June 8-12—Americade Rally, Lake George, NY.

June 25-26—Honda Host, Knoxville, TN.

July 5-8—Wag Ding, Grapevine, TX.

July 29-31—Honda Homecoming, Marysville, OH.

Aug 9-15—Grand Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis, SD.

October 16-19—Bikelandfest, Daytona Beach, FL.

The 2004 Moto GP Championship is certain to be one of the most exciting racing series in years. And the biggest fans of controversy in the defunct Moto GP World Champion Valentino Rossi from Honda to Yamaha. Considered a long-shot to retain his crown on a machine that was relegated to third place last season, Rossi showed competitive lap-times in pre-season testing, but skeptics doubted that he could manage a whole race distance at each stop. It was the first race of the season in Williams, South Africa. Rossi's Yamaha M1 took the pole position, and went on to win a factory-controlled race by just ten tenths of second over long-time rival Max Biaggi on the Honda RC211V. It was Rossi's 60th GP win and became the first back-to-back victory for a premier-class GP rider on two different brands.

Latest Recalls

BMW

Model: K-Series & R-Series

Year: 2001-2004

Number Potentially Involved: 29,000

Manufactured: May 2002-December 2002

Defect: On certain motorcycles, the O-ring in the fuel line quick-disconnect coupling could become damaged and lead to a fuel leak. There is also a problem involving crimp-type hose clamps, which can result in a fuel leak. Fuel leakage in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

Remedy: Dealers will inspect and, if necessary, adjust all crimp-type hose clamps. Also, all fuel line quick-disconnect couplings will be inspected. If a leak is detected, the quick-disconnect O-ring will be replaced. If damaged, the coupling will be replaced.

NHTSA Recall No. 030320

Kawasaki

Model: Vulcan 900SD (KJ, KJ), VN800 (JH, H, HJ, HJ)

Year: 2002-2004

Number Potentially Involved: 2,082

Manufactured: NA

Defect: On certain motorcycles, accelerator pump diaphragms may be damaged from excessive assembly clamping pressure, which can allow fuel to leak from the pump actuating rod area. Fuel leakage could result in a fire.

Remedy: Dealers will replace the accelerator pump diaphragms.

NHTSA Recall No. 030320

Model: Vulcan 900SD (JH, LA, LH, PL, PH, RZ, RL, RH, HL, LL, LL)

Year: 2002-2004

Number Potentially Involved: 8,958

Manufactured: June 2002-February 2003

Defect: On certain motorcycles, high oil pressure upon a cold start-up can deform the oil filter cartridge, allowing oil to leak past the O-ring. Oil leaking past the O-ring may cause a loss of traction and a crash.

Remedy: Dealers will replace the oil filter.

NHTSA Recall No. 030323

Yamaha

Model: Road Star Silverado

Year: 2001-2004

Number Potentially Involved: 29,128

Dates of Manufacture: November 2000-December 2002

Defect: In the transmission on certain motorcycles, the second-third piston gear may be incorrectly machined which could result in abnormal wear that eventually results in a broken internal circlip. If the circlip breaks, the transmission could lock up, resulting in a loss of control. Yamaha dealers will replace the transmission gears and shafts with new ones.

NHTSA Recall No. 03030000

In response to numerous published stories about a possible take-over of Motorcyclist by Ducati, we've released a statement, confirming their interest in Motorcyclist, and that they "will formally make an offer within the next few weeks." However, the press release goes on to state that, "Any additional information published in the press is without foundation."

Motorcycle News (MCN) of England reports that Ducati's new 999 model is undergoing a "redesign" to improve the aerodynamics, at the request of its professional race team. Among the changes to be made are the removal of the upper fairing on ducts, and of the controversial "watermelon disc" side panels on the lower-fairing fairing panels. Supposedly just by coincidence, these same design features have been the most criticized by Ducati fans worldwide, and the reasons most often given for the lack-luster sales the model has suffered from.

Ducati denies that any redesign is underway, or even under consideration, but we have found MCN-UK's intelligence gathering to be remarkably accurate in the past.



Artist's concept of what the "redesigned" 999 would look like. From MCN-UK