

## 2003 Motorcycle Design Awards

On September 25, motorcycle designers from all over the world met at the Paris "Mondial du Deux Roues" to vote for the best designs of 2003. The awards were presented in front of the international press on September 26. The results are:

### Supersport Category

- 1st - Yamaha YZF 1000 R1
- 2nd - Aprilia RSV Mille
- 3rd - Kawasaki ZX-10

### Open Category

- 1st - Derbi GPR Nude
- 2nd - Mondial Nuda / Triumph 2300 Rocket III
- 3rd - Yamaha FZ6 Fazer

### Scooters & Commuters Category

- 1st - Gilera Nexus
- 2nd - Peugeot Ludix
- 3rd - Aprilia Leonardo DITECH

### Concept Bike Category

- 1st - Yamaha MT-03
- 2nd - Dodge Tomahawk
- 3rd - Voxan Black Magic / Melly Blue Rage

*And the Overall Winner of the 2003 Motorcycle Design Trophy is:*

### Yamaha YZF 1000 R1

Commenting on the winning design, MDA President Glynn Kerr says:

"The R1 has managed to retain its essential individuality in a third generation, yet its sharp new design is class-leading. The previous model could easily have remained in production for another year or two, but Yamaha seems determined to stay ahead of its competitors by introducing updates before the market is expecting them."

Winner for the second time in three years, the R1 well deserves to be awarded the 2003 Motorcycle Design Trophy.

For more information, and pictures, see: [www.motorcycledesign.com](http://www.motorcycledesign.com).

## METZELER TIRE RECALL

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has announced a recall of Metzeler motorcycle tires.

Make: Metzeler  
Model: Sportec M-1 P  
Build Dates: Jan. 26 - Feb. 08, 2003  
NHTSA Campaign: 03T003000  
Potential Number Affected: 53

Summary: During production, an excessive belt tension was used, causing high compression between the belt and carcass.

Consequence: As a result, the tire may change shape and a bubble may appear in the tread area, causing the front tire of the motorcycle to vibrate. Sudden vibration of the front end could cause the rider to lose control, possibly resulting in a crash.

Remedy: Metzeler will notify its customers and replace the tires free of charge. Owners who do not receive the free remedy within a reasonable time should contact Metzeler at (706) 368-5426.

On October 29, with the support of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and a host of groups backing **health care benefit protection for legal transportation and recreational activities**, the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee voted unanimously to pass S. 423.

The vote came after 24 hours of intense grassroots activity by the MRF and State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations with Senators who serve on that committee.

"We commend the motorcyclists of over a dozen states who took no time to answer our call for action," said MRF President Karen Bolin. In addition, the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association and the New Hampshire Motorcyclists Rights Organization commended Committee Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Ranking Member, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) for their leadership and innovation in bringing this vital measure to a full committee vote.

The MRF will continue to work with other groups supporting the health care rescue to bring the measure to a vote by the full Senate and the earliest possible committee vote in the House of Representatives.

## Motorcycle Noise Test Success

Albany, NY—ABATE of NY and AMA District 3, assisted by the Colonie Police Dept. and Ameri-cade, conducted the first-ever motorcycle Voluntary Noise Test in the State of New York on Oct. 25 in Colonie. It was an educational and entertaining way for responsible motorcyclists to check the noise output of their machines against NY State law.

In spite of brisk winds and cold temperatures, over 40 tests were administered in two hours, in a section of Spitzie's Harley-Davidson's large parking lot. Riders also enjoyed music and free coffee while they watched the tests, and learned the official New York DMV testing procedure. Two officers from the Colonie Police Dept. brought their new professional-grade decibel meter, along with a friendly, no-hassle attitude. The testing was timely, because the Town of Colonie has recently instituted a local law covering "unreasonable noise": Everything from squawking parrots to vehicles which are too loud after 11pm. The NY DMV regs specify a maximum of 82 dBA for test speeds under 35mph, measured at 50 feet, so a short acceleration course was set up, with the meter 50 feet away.

ABATE gave a "certificate of compliance" to all bikes which tested below the maximum sound levels. Several riders took multiple runs, at different throttle openings, to see the wide sound level variation it produced—about 20 dBA difference. The bikes tested showed readings from 68–106 dBA. A stock 1966 Triumph indicated 72 dBA with gentle throttle and 92 wide open. Stock H-D FLH models ranged from 72–82; and modified big twins ranged up to 106, for one with short, wide open "street sweepers." Multicylinder, water-cooled touring bikes ranged from 68–78 dBA. ABATE of New York is now planning similar voluntary noise tests throughout the state at the beginning of next riding season.



## World's Smallest Motorcycle?



Bjoern Rosner is a systems integration engineer at a company called NanoInk, Inc., but also a motorcyclist and an MCN subscriber. Utilizing his company's new technology, called Dip-Pen Nanolithography™, or DPN, for short, he created this image of his own BMW R100GSPD, which he says he is pretty sure must be the smallest-ever rendition of a motorcycle.

The technique uses an atomically-sharp tip to deposit thousands of ink spots onto a surface, each just 50 nanometers in diameter. The entire bike image is just 10 micrometers long, or a factor of 200,000 times smaller than the real bike. As Dr. Rosner says, "This BMW is the same size as one of your red blood cells. You could make it cruise down your capillaries—I'm sure it would make for quite a ride!"

For more information on the subject, see: [www.nanoink.com](http://www.nanoink.com)

In a story oddly related to the one above, a 40-year-old Swedish man, Tom Wiberg, will be receiving a certificate from the **Guinness Book of World Records for producing the world's smallest motorcycle.**

Unlike the BMW in the story above, Tom's is an actual, working, rideable motorcycle that is 2.5 inches high and 4.5 inches long, weighing just 2.4 lbs. The engine is an ethanol-powered internal combustion-type, like those often used in model airplanes. As for riding it, Tom says he has to balance on one foot on top of the mini-bike, and his record is a run of 36 feet before falling off.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has announced a replacement for Mark Homchick, who recently resigned his position as national marketing manager. **Vince Iorio**, who holds the position of retail marketing manager, will assume current respon-

## Piero Zambotti 1977–2003

From Cycle Canada's BBS—With great sadness I have to announce a terrible loss. Friday Oct. 10, during a road test trip, Piero Zambotti went wide on a left-hand corner northwest of Dorset on Hwy 35 and hit the guardrail. He was riding a Gold Wing, travelling in a party led by myself with Costa Mouzouris and Hugh McLean. Although Piero was conscious and moving after the incident and during the ambulance ride to Huntsville Hospital, his heart stopped as they brought him into the emergency room. The doctor believed he had a ruptured artery in his chest.

We're at a loss to explain the cause of the crash, as there were no marks on the pavement to suggest he'd grounded the Wing before leaving the road, and there was no other traffic in the corner. Hugh was travelling behind Piero, but was just out of view. I offer these few details because I know people want to understand why something like this happens. I wish there was a better explanation.

Piero's death has left us feeling shattered and heart-broken. We'll miss him personally and also for what he meant to *Cycle Canada*—Bruce Reeve

*Editor's Note: Piero Zambotti was a professionally ranked roadracer and Managing Editor at Cycle Canada magazine. Bruce Reeve is the Editor. Our sincere condolences to all his family and friends.*



sibility for guiding the company's national brand advertising programs.

Iorio, who joined KMC in 1995 as its public relations manager, served as a marketing manager responsible for the com-

pany's all-terrain vehicle and utility vehicle product categories prior to assuming his most recent position. Prior to that, long-time subscribers might remember that Vince was Managing Editor of MCN.

## Vespa Granturismo

According to the Motorcycle Industry Council, over the past four years the fastest-growing segment of motorcycling in the U.S. has been scooters—posting something like a 500% increase in sales over that period. No wonder, then, that Vespa, which only recently re-entered the North American market, is introducing a new "touring scooter" this February. Vespa (which means "wasp") is an Italian company known for their scooters since WWII, and which is now a subsidiary of Piaggio, and the Granturismo is their first new model since 1996.

The Granturismo will feature a 20-hp, four-stroke, four-valve SOHC liquid-cooled engine displacing 200cc, and is said to top out at 74 mph. Dual adjustable rear shocks are standard, as is an anti-theft immobilizer system, and an impressive instrumentation package, for a scooter, that includes a speedometer, fuel and temperature gauges, a digital clock, high-beam and directional indicators, low oil pressure warning and a fuel reserve indicator.

The gas tank holds 2.5 gallons, and an optional top trunk comes color-matched that will hold two full-face helmets and features a padded passenger backrest.

Suggested MSRP this February will be \$4899.

