

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF MCN

By mail to: . . . MCN—Letters, PO Box 6050, Mission Viejo, CA 92690

By Fax to: (949) 855-0654

Over the Internet to: editor@mcnews.com

From our Website at: www.mcnews.com

New Portstar

Guess wonder about the engineering team at Harley. Looking at the old Sportster, it was simple, relatively cheap, much lighter than their big twins, fairly quiet and vibrated like a child's bed with six quarters in it.

Mean, what to do? Gee, they could add about 10 pounds of counterbalance. Kill a lot of the vibes, make the engine happier because the crank wouldn't be doing an imitation of a Cuisinart, and maybe even make the engine cooling and the frame lighter since their lives would be easier. The end result could be lighter and faster than the old Sporty. Or isolate the engine, make the bike 50 pounds heavier and a few hp more powerful, and end up with what? A Portstar. Any added costs are being used to move along the added development.

I helped someone take about 50-hp off an '89 Sporty awhile ago. It wasn't cheap or easy but the bike was noticeably faster and better handling. To reach that

same weight now would require a full machine shop and the combined budgets of roughly 10 mid-Siberian countries. Ah, well. They'll probably sell every one they make just because of the name on the tank, and get themselves on the back for being so smart. My only hope is that this incarnation is just putting Band-Aids on a corpse and that a completely new engine is on the way.

Armen Aramian
aramian@yaboo.com
Instructor, Knowledge Workshop
Motorcycle Maintenance Classes

Armen, at the intro, the engineer talked about the possibility of counterbalancing the new Sportster engine (and they had actually designed one), instead of rubber mounting it, but they said they were overruled by Willie G., who insisted that the engine had to look the same as before, and the counterbalanced engine didn't.

I agree with your reasoning, but don't forget Harley sells nostalgia, first and fore-

most, and so far, it's hard to say that they haven't figured out exactly what the majority of their customers really want.

Don't hold your breath.

Thanks for the note.

—Dave Swartz

Internet Rip-offs

I have to warn, as I have tried to get this taken care of at the source to many times, without result, that I think no one cares.

I spend a lot of time on a cycle trader site (. . . not to mention my name, but cycle-trader.com is a very popular site), and I am worried about what the parasites of fraud and scamming are doing to the industry. Check it out, yourself, if you wonder . . .

I started my research when I found a 2000 H-D Screaming Eagle Road King offered for \$2500. This was a bike I wanted, but this price seemed a bit on the ridiculous side as the MSRP was \$28,000 and it wasn't that old.

What I have found is that there are a lot of fraudulent ads on all the classified websites, and there is really no way to tell the good from the bad.

I've annotated a great number of the ridiculously obvious ones, more than 20 from the "Selected Ads" section in the "My Garage" section of my favorite website, and wrote the webmaster about my concerns, pointing them to "My Garage" as an excellent source of obvious rip-offs. I received a response stating that there was

Motorcycle Consumer NEWS

Editor-in-Chief	Dave Swartz
Senior Editor	Fred Rau
Associate Editor	Paul Carpenter
Technical Editor	Tony Puzio
Copy Editor	Mary Turchi
World Reporter	Doug Jackson
Contributing Editor	Dave L. Hough

Contributors to this issue:
Jeff Bahr, Mark Barnes, W. Jeff Bernard, Ken Condon, No Ping, Wade Fulton II, Zach Gardner III, C. Bill Housh, Mike "Strip" Kambolis, Aaron Kellen, Tom Rice/Kennedy Jones, Glynn Kerr, S.T. Snyder, E. Don Smith

Send all editorial correspondence to:
Motorcycle Consumer News
P.O. Box 6050
Mission Viejo, CA 92690
Tel: (949) 855-0622
Fax: (949) 855-0654
E-Mail: editor@mcnews.com
Website: www.mcnews.com

**Volume 35/Number 3
March 2004**

Creative Director	Diana Di Pietro
Art Director	Chris Shultz
Circulation Director	Colleen Marzelle
Circulation Manager	Jessie Yee
Marketing Specialist	Nicole Dubis
Fulfillment Specialist	Natalie Dale
Electronic Imaging	Gina Cook

All contributions are welcomed on an exclusive basis but cannot be guaranteed acceptance. Resubmission is necessary in the event of a change of address. Resubmission to a different magazine is welcome upon request. Permission to reprint space except in quotations upon written and e-mail request. All materials are retained upon mailing the editor. Specific reprint guidelines are available upon request.

Subscription Department/Classified Service
Motorcycle Consumer News
P.O. Box 6061, Suite C, 92690-0061
Tel: (949) 260-4271 • Fax: (949) 450-7632

E-mail: mcnews@mcnews.com
Please include zip magazine title in the email subject line. For back issues and reprints, call the South International (302) 777-1282

LA Sales/Corporate Office
P.O. Box 57992
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Tel: (213) 289-0332 Fax: (213) 289-0665

Single copy price: \$3. Subscription rate (incl. G. and Postage): \$60 for 12 issues. Order by Visa/MC/Amex. Canadian and foreign orders pay postage in US dollars. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of the first issue.

Motorcycle Consumer News
This is not to be published without the written consent of American States Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Norman L. Miller, Chairman of the Board (Long Hill, Va. President & General Manager) and Harold J. Van Praeger, Secretary (Shawnee, Va. President, International Sales & Distribution) News Department. Vice President of Marketing & Business Management: William Hoffman & Jane Houser, Editorial Operations Manager.

Motorcycle Consumer News
P.O. Box 6061 • Suite C • 92690-0061

Corporate headquarters located at 2401 Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, CA 90027 (949) 260-4271. Copyright ©2004 by American States Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Norman L. Miller, Chairman of the Board (Long Hill, Va. President & General Manager) and Harold J. Van Praeger, Secretary (Shawnee, Va. President, International Sales & Distribution) News Department. Vice President of Marketing & Business Management: William Hoffman & Jane Houser, Editorial Operations Manager.

Printed in the USA. **CLASSIFIED** For annual subscription information, see page 100. **WEB SITE:** www.mcnews.com or www.mcnews.com/subscribe for subscription rates. **INTERNET:** www.mcnews.com or www.mcnews.com/subscribe for subscription rates.

Published by American States Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of American States Corporation, 2401 Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, CA 90027. Telephone: (949) 260-4271. Fax: (949) 450-7632. E-mail: mcnews@mcnews.com. Website: www.mcnews.com.