

# Red Hot News

www.redhotriders.com

Honda Riders Club of America • Southern California Motorcycling Association • American Motorcycle Association



Nick Haris, *American Motorcyclist Association Western States Representative* and Jim Branch, *Red Hot Riders President*. Nick gave us an AMA update at the March meeting and explained why it is important for motorcycle riders to have a political presence in Washington D.C. You can get more information about the AMA online ([www.ama-cycle.org](http://www.ama-cycle.org)) or by contacting our local AMA Field Representative, Dennis Rosemier at [darosemier@cox.net](mailto:darosemier@cox.net).

## Gadget Corner

I met up with ~20 friends from around the country this summer in Durango, CO. for a motorcycle tour of the region. While there I spotted a Rocket Locker tailbag on a friend's 929. This tailbag was different from various look-alike tailbags available in most accessory shops. It wasn't secured with bungee's dropping down from the sides and it "locked" onto the seat which kept it in place regardless of lean angle. Upon closer inspection I was immediately impressed with the quality, convenience, and security offered by this bag. After replacing the stock exhaust on my 98' Superhawk with the Wolf Racing under seat exhaust my tailbag options are very limited. Nirvana, I've found it. Sure, I could strap a less expensive bag onto the tail and have unsightly bungee's scrapping my side panels and carbon exhaust cans, but I'd rather invest in a quality bag that compliments the look of the bike, doesn't require constant readjustment, won't scratch that expensive plastic, and locks in place. After a month of usage I'm very pleased with the Rocket Locker tailbag and I encourage you to visit the Rocket Locker website at <http://www.RocketLocker.com>.



-Chris Crawford

## Member Profile: Karen Butterfield

I have been riding since about 1981 starting on a yellow Yamaha AT1 125 two-stroke dual purpose bike, later I had a red Honda XR200. On the street, I first rode a Yamaha SR500 single, but I couldn't start it myself. Then I bought a used black 1981 Yamaha 750 Virago back when they were techno with a monocoque frame and mono rear shock. I had a 1982 also. We did everything we could to get the most handling out of that bike - soft compound front tire, steel braided lines, fork brace. I picked the Virago over a white Yamaha 500 Seca, for the power band and the sound, ...the beginning of my love for the v-twin.

Seat height had something to do with it too at 29.5 inches and a narrow stance. I rode one of the first Ninja 600's and found a whole new world of bikes that actually handled. I got to ride FZ600's and 750's, but the seat height and stiff suspensions have always been an issue for me since I am smaller than the average rider in the engineer's mind. Somewhere around there, I got a 1985 GPZ500, when I was still a little intimidated by the Ninja 600. I rode the GPZ in the 1987 Arizona 1000 2-day rally, a bit of a stretch. I then rode a 1991 Ninja 600 until I found the 1992 ZX-6 with a more comfortable height, seating position and fairing.

The ZX has been on several long trips, some of them were hard on both of us. Overall the ZX is a great fit for me. The ZX-6 (not R) is the lowest of the 600 class inline-4 sportbikes, with the smoothest engine.

But back to the twins, I watched the Japanese twins for years, and I have always loved the sound of a Ducati. I needed something with a bigger motor than the ZX, a bike capable of long hauls and good speeds. I sat on an ST at Laguna Seca a couple of years ago, and I felt at home. Everything else is too tall, or fat, or top-heavy for me. I procrastinated long enough that Ducati put a great engine with a super suspension. The ST4s has the 996 motor at 117 horsepower. It's water cooled, with good wind protection and the luxury of hard luggage, no more soggy t-shirts. It's about the same length as the ZX, a little higher (I had the seat cut

-continued on back

## Motorcycle Deaths in California

Between 1986 and 1999 ...	232
1999, annual motorcycle fatalities in California dropped 72 percent.	200
1997 ...	233
1995 ...	260
1994 ...	291
Motorcycle injuries in California during the same period also declined 73 percent.	303
1993 ...	325
1992 ...	511
1991 ...	565
1990 ...	618
1989 ...	600
1988 ...	851
1987 ...	851
1986 ...	851

source - *The California Motorcyclist Safety Program web site.*

## Join Now!

Your \$15 membership fee entitles you to some super deals at House of Motorcycles, a newsletter, monthly meetings with speakers, organized rides, and special events. You can pay at the meeting or mail your check, payable to "Red Hot Riders" to:

Chris Crawford  
16329 Arena Drive  
Ramona, CA. 92065.



top - Karen completed the Baby Butt 1000 on her ZX-6 last October. An accomplishment by any standards.

below - Karen and her new Ducati ST4s at the Willow Springs Track Day, 04-01-02.



*-Member Profile continued*

down), and a little heavier but under 500 pounds. I love the sound, the power, the stopping power, but I am most impressed with the suspension. I am getting the hang of the adjustable Ohlins rear shock and it's firm but it doesn't beat me to death. What is really amazing to me is how stable and solid the front suspension is in a turn, regardless of speed or lean. It behaves like that perfect pair of skis that know how to turn and take you through the turns.

*We would like to see your profile in the newsletter. Why not write a 300-500 word article about "You and the Art of Motorcycling" and send it to the editor along with a photo or two?*

**Club Merchandise**

The Club has t-shirts, polo shirts, caps, decals, and books for sale. Please support the RHR by purchasing club goodies.



**MOTOPRO Discounts for North County Members**

For all our North County Members, just a reminder that the same discounts apply at MOTOPRO in Oceanside. They are owned by the same company, so if MOTOPRO is closer, stop on in and see what they have. I had some work done on my bike there a while ago and they do great work.

MotoPro House of Motorcycles  
1425 South Coast Highway  
Oceanside, CA 92054  
Phone: 760-433-4333

**Track Day Report**

The RHR's had another good time at the big track @ Willow April 1st. We had 38 people, great weather, with only a few mishaps fortunately. There were quite a few first timers who seemed to have a great time with plenty of time on the track. The dreaded Willow Wind kicked up late in the afternoon, but overall a good time was had by all. Our next track day will be at the Streets of Willow, tentatively for August but I am working on firming that up as we speak.

*-Jim Branch*

**Newsletter Submission**

Please email articles/photos to:  
amansker@pacbell.net

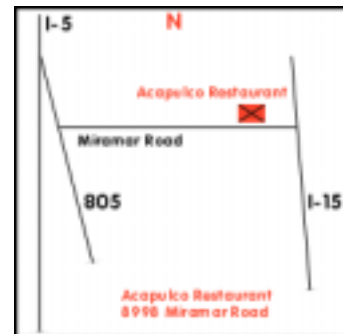
**Club Meetings**

Club meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at:

Acapulco Restaurant and Cantina  
8998 Miramar Road  
(619) 578-6390

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm



**Officers 2001-2002**

- president ..... Jim Branch
- vice president ..... Vacant
- secretary ..... Michael Gorga
- treasurer ..... Ed Krugman
- rider education chairman ..... Mitch Van Linge
- activities chairman ..... Richard French
- merchandise chairman ..... George Devareaux
- publication chairman ..... Andy Mansker
- membership chairman ..... Chris Crawford
- HRCA Liaison ..... Keith Knapp
- referee ..... Rached Maalouf
- legislative officer ..... Andy Mansker

**Event Calendar**

- April**
- 1 Mon ..... Track Day
- 6 Sat ..... California Speedway Trip
- 10 Wed ..... Club Meeting
- 20 Sat ..... Power Sports Expo!  
House of Motorcycles
- 28 Sun ..... Club Ride, Anza Borrego
- May**
- 8 Wed ..... Club Meeting
- Sept**
- 21,22 Sat-Sun ..... Baby Butt 1000

**Next Meeting: 4/10/02**

Simon Milward will be speaking to a slide show. He is on a 78-country 60,000 mile trip on a motorcycle. See his web site at: [www.millennium-ride.com](http://www.millennium-ride.com). Is he an enthusiast or is he mad?! You decide!



Think you are having a bad day?

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