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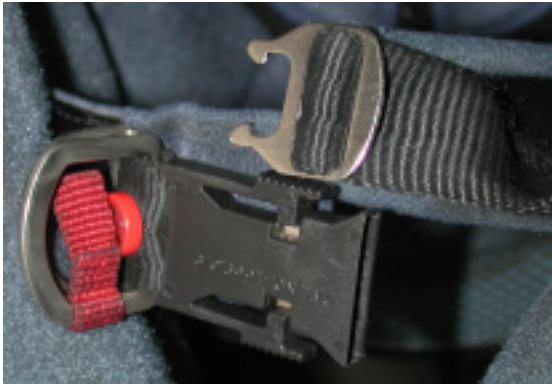
Honda Riders Club of America • Southern California Motorcycle Association • American Motorcyclist Association

Product Review

Echo Quick Release Buckle

by Andy Mansker

The Echo Quick Release Buckle is designed to install quickly and easily to any helmet that uses the typical strap and buckle fastener. The purpose is to eliminate the tedious process of threading the strap through your D-rings each time the helmet is used.



This photo is shot from the bottom of the helmet looking up. The product is installed, but the buckle is not connected. You can see the D-rings hanging 'down' on the left.

After removing the item from the package I was somewhat dubious of the thin metal clip and plastic buckle. Hmmm...just how important is it to keep your helmet on your head? That prompted me to closely read the packaging which states "Exceeds Safety Standards in both DOT 218 and Z90.1 1992* motorcycle helmet safety tests. *Same testing requirements as Snell." OK DOT and Snell ratings—I'll give it a try.

The instructions were clear and installation simple. No cutting of the strap or removal of the existing D-rings were necessary. Nice, because the product can be de-installed which will revert the helmet to its original state. An additional benefit is it can be used on future helmets.

My Arai Quantum E has a simple plastic snap button at the end of the strap, which is used to snap the excess strap and eliminate flapping in the wind. I had to remove this plastic – which cannot be reinstalled – with a screwdriver and pocketknife leaving a seemingly harmless hole in the strap. Forcing the plastic end around the thick strap required a bit of muscle and finesse.

On the first installation I had the original D-Rings pointing "up" so they protruded into my chin with the helmet and buckle in place. Duuhhhh. I pulled it apart and reinstalled with the D-rings down (see photo) and all was well.

I have 10 months and about 10,000 miles on the conversion and must say that I really like the product. It is much quicker to attach than the original strap/D-ring configuration. On two occasions I went through the routine of earplugs in, helmet on, keys in ignition, gloves on... oops, forgot to buckle the helmet. No problem! With lined leather gloves I managed to secure the buckle in just a matter of seconds both times. Now THAT's convenient!

Ease of use	★★★★
Build quality	★★★★
Usefulness	★★★★
Instructions	★★★★
Average:	★★★★

Idyllwild Ride Report

by Ron Farkas

The sun finally shined on the Red Hot Riders this past Sunday (August 3rd). If you missed the Email notice or forgot to check the web site for upcoming events, well...you missed a great time on the back roads to Idyllwild. The turn out was great with some exotic European brands (Aprila, Cagiva), a BMW or two ("Fast Eddie" on "Big Bird"), and even our own Jim Branch thumping along on his girlfriend's 650 single. Some of our friends from SoCal-SV Riders came along with their sport V-twins, and the cruiser ranks were majestically represented with a brand new royal purple and chrome Honda VTX! An air of anticipation surrounded Richard French as he presented the ride rules and previewed the route that we were going to take. With "Big Bird" in the lead the sport bikes left HOM for our first stop at Dudley's' via the fun and challenging Old Julian Highway. The pace was brisk, but well balanced between the sport bikes and cruisers as the first meeting at Dudley's looked like and invasion of motorcyclists when the sport bikes and cruisers assembled to start the next leg of our Sunday ride. Onto Anza thru Warner Springs, past the glider port, and up the Sunrise Summit for our next rendezvous at a gas stop in Anza. After a brief stop, the road started to twist and climb as we headed toward Idyllwild and that famous French toast at the Idyllwild Café. Just before noon we entered into the little village of Idyllwild, with the reward of a much-deserved brunch, good friends and another adventure to add to our two-wheeled experience!



Geoff and several Southern California SV Riders enjoyed outdoor dining at the Idyllwild Cafe.

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Track day at the Streets of Willow

by Jim Branch

Like many of our club rides this spring, our scheduled April track day was rained out at Willow Springs. The rescheduled date was June 26th at the smaller of the two courses in the high desert North of Los Angeles. This "short course" is known as "The Streets of Willow" and is a very tight technical course. This means you don't get any time to take a breather as you would on the "Big Track" with it's long straightaway. The amount of track time you get will really work you for a full day, as we had approximately 35 riders show up and enjoy the summer sunshine and dry track.

A nice addition to our track day was Eric Dadej, currently the 125cc record holder at the Streets of Willow, who was on hand to show people the fast line around the track. In order to keep the track safe and sane the riders were assigned to groups, as we had a lot of riders experiencing their first "Track Day" and unnecessary risks were not part of the program! We only had one minor get off, and the bike and rider were doing fine afterwards. All in all, everyone had a great time. We will be at the Big Track on October 6th. Hope to see you there!

Join the Club!

You can find details online at www.redhotriders.com or drop by the next meeting. We are a friendly bunch and with over 200 members you will most certainly find someone with common interests. We welcome all makes and types of motorcycles.

Baby Butt Next Month!

Baby Butt entry forms have been mailed to last years participants. If you are interested in riding in this year's event, come to the next club meeting or send an email requesting an entry form to: hondaron@cox.net

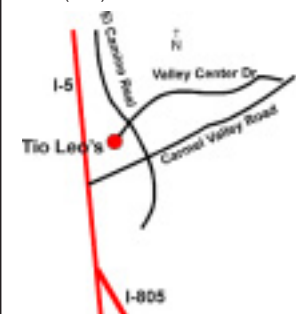
Don't want to ride it, but would like to help? - please show up at the next club meeting and ask to speak with Jeff Pratt or Jim Branch.



We all know alcohol and riding doesn't mix, but Louis brought along his own "Crown Royal" in the form of a new VTX!

Meeting Facility

The June meeting place will be:
Tio Leo's
3510 Valley Center Dr
San Diego, CA 92130-3301
(Del Mar)
(858) 350-1468



Meeting report for July

This meeting was one not to miss – as a very controversial subject near and dear to hearts (and engines) of every motorcyclist was presented. We were fortunate enough to have **Rich Law**, an avid motorcyclist and the local representative for Bel-Ray and Spectro motorcycle oils as our guest speaker that night. For those who attended the meeting, Rich was able to educate, entertain and inform on the subject of “Black Gold”. The history of automotive and motorcycle oil was the first lesson Rich touched on. The answer in preventing wear in your bikes’ engine was the best reason to use motorcycle specific oil. Synthetic oil versus old dinosaur juices was next on the lesson plan with examples of additives that made wear minimal, but caused wet clutches in most bikes to loose their grip! Rich was able to calm our fears of using synthetics, demonstrating how one manufacture had several “grades” of synthetic oil produced and that the petroleum laboratories were “up to speed” when it came to formulating a wet clutch friendly oil and solving wear issues. Lastly, the point of recognizing the degree of abuse you put your bike through and the interval of oil changes was dis-

cussed. With the conclusion of, if you abuse it, change the oil! Rich was good enough to stay after the meeting and field some “slippery” questions from the membership, especially those that wanted information on the products Rich represented or even those he competed against.



Rich Law (left) chats with RHR members after his presentation.

Club Newsletter: Internet Delivery

Want to receive your newsletter in a 21st century manner? - Red Hot Riders can e-mail it to you! - send a request to hondaron@cox.net to have the newsletter sent via e-mail.

Next meeting: 8/13/03

Lockhart Phillips dealer sales manager, Kipp McGowan, is driving down from San Clemente to bring us up to date on their huge line of bodywork, performance equipment, and accessories. Find out about all their new gear and thank them for sponsoring the AMA Formula Extreme series.

www.lockhartphillipsusa.com



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EVENT CALENDAR

Aug	13	Wed	Club Meeting
Sept	10	Wed	Club Meeting
	20-21	Sat-Sun	Baby Butt 1000/1500 (see web site for details)
Oct	6	Mon	Track Day (see web site for details)

Inclement weather may cause the cancellation of any of the above rides. Contact Jim Branch at (619) 460-0669 the evening before a scheduled ride if weather is a question. You can also check out the web site for up-to-date changes in the schedule: www.redhotriders.com

Club Meetings

The June meeting is at:

Tio Leos, Del Mar. See map on front.

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

Newsletter Submission

News letter submissions can be sent to Ron Farkas, email is hondaron@cox.net, Phone and fax is 858-486-3257

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