



THE BEST SITE FOR PROFESSIONAL MOTORCYCLE RIDERS OF TURKEY

OMMRA Information Bulletin November 2000

From Paolo Volpara on Monday, November 06, 2000

Comments, suggestions, ideas, question: volpara@homeemail.com

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Dear Friends and Riders,

October closed on a high note with the training Course organized in Kas in cooperation with **M. Wheeler** and efficiently organized by **Selim Karadag**. "Go wide, go late" was the repeated advice for better cornering and "wide and late" we went. Almost 2500 kilometers of learning and teaching with a "mad race" on the last day to catch the Bandirma Ferry back to Istanbul on time. The latest ones of us arrived to the boat six minutes before real departure.

You will read in two week a full report on this event on OMM web site but few notes cover now the fresh memory of this ride:

We had with us four members of the **HOG (Harley Davidson Owners Group)**

Istanbul: the President **Yigit Ikiz** and the soul of all our group, **Avi Salamanovich** were among the brave riders going trough ex-Yugoslavia on shining Harley and their story were most interesting. Media has first reported the ride on "**Klips. The Fame Magazine**" (at www.dbr.com.tr) and the fresh copies were available on the returning ferry. With **Taner Celik** and **Hamit Abassoglu** the Harley riders were a real pleasure on the road and at the table, showing once more that what unites us is not "the brand" but the passion for biking. Already at www.hogtr.com you can read (in Turkish) the first impressions of the group. **Hamit** betrayed the Milwaukee Iron Horse for a Ducati Monster Special pleasing the Italian in me. Unfortunately I lost the bet with **M. Wheeler**: the Ducati did not came back with us! Problem to carburation obliged to stop in Izmir and **Hamit** was just able to join the Award dinner in Istanbul 24 hours later. Meanwhile he got an useful address in Izmir and wrote to us: "*I would like to give you the name and telephone number of the mechanic who repaired my bike in Izmir very well in case any other rider needs. His name is **Cahit** and he answer to the following numbers: mobile 0532 623 22 72, Repair shop 0232 237 53 14*" On the note of useful numbers, register the name and phone of the master artist who decorated in a super way the Monster: **Hasan Ataoglu** Tel.0216 346 70 88 is a real champion of airbrush.

Pain maybe, but the Ducati was shining on the tortuous roads between Finike and Kale and **Hamit** demonstrated to my powerful ZZR what a light bike could do in cornering. Trying to follow him gave me one of the best 30 minutes of this season. The worst moment was on the top of the pass between Gocek and Dalaman: a spill of diesel put down two bikers (no injuries) and the BMW R1150GS of **Fuat Domanic** had to be

shipped back by truck. Not a single scratch on the bike but two big holes on the engine cover. **Fuat** took it philosophically and was honored with one of the best Evaluations of the course. The Long Term OMM riders **Cemil Turker** (in his new Honda VFR Electric Blue), **Murad Acar** and **Ert Bitlis** contributed to the success of the organization dedicating time and efforts to support fellow riders.

A **good lesson** from this little accident: the Trucks in Turkey tend to fill the tank to the rim. When you start a climb or a descent always keep your eyes open for diesel spills. By changing the inclination the tank spill out extra fuel. If fresh, it gives to the bikers a good impression of biking on ice.

Motorcycle Consumer News at www.mcnews.com is one of the most interesting readings in the sometime boring panorama of Bike Magazines. Totally independent (no commercial advertising accepted) this publication has interesting article on Physical and Mental Biking. This month under “Proficient Motorcycling”, you can read on-line a set of good advises on what to do when the road condition becomes difficult for “Road Works in Process”: the article is almost indispensable reading for Turkish Bikers. In the same issue **Fred Rau**, Senior Editor, has a splendid piece called “Magic Motorcycle Elixir” where he explain the therapeutical effect of riding. He writes: “*We (the bikers) really are a different breed, with a slightly screwed-up gene somewhere. Or maybe we’re the sane ones, and the rest of the world is a bit warped. I’m not sure, but it becomes more and more obvious to me every day.... Bikers are different, somehow. Not necessarily any better or worse than the mainstream populace—just different.*” After a brief description of a ride where he started sick and noticed his health improving while biking he concludes: “*I can’t help but wonder if it was all just a matter of coincidence, or if somehow just being out on the bike kept the illness at bay. Would I have still gotten sick if I had just stayed on the bike and ridden on to California? Or would the very act of riding have kept me well until I reached my destination? And why was I sick in Flagstaff, but better as soon as I started to ride? And why did I get sick again as soon as I stopped riding? Was it one of those mind-over-matter things? Could the joy of riding somehow have produced an anti-toxin that staved off the virus? I guess stranger things have happened, and happen every day, and also that I’ll never really know for sure. But I do know this: Riding makes me feel good. Even bad rides are preferable to not riding at all. And I find it difficult to imagine enduring life without riding.*” So here you have it! A perfect cure for the flues and colds that the winter will bring.

We received several letters on the subject of accessories (last bulletin) and gear. The second part dedicated to “what to wear” will form part of a special issue of the bulletin that we hope to issue before the end of this month. Our good friend from Greece, **Nickos Costopoulos** <http://nicosto.freeyellow.com> wrote: “*Again, I commend OMM dedication and excellent content of the bulletins and site. Reading about effective modifications for bikes I thought I would add a simple way to be noticed during the night. Simply go the nearest 3M outlet (or similar store) and get some self adhesive reflective tape. Cut to size and attach on strategic parts of the bike. Myself I have used "white" tape on the front forks for being conspicuous from the side and red tape at the back of my cases for the cars following. Careful not to overdo it with those reflective tapes because one can*

easily get carried away and end up with a kitsch bike “ With the dark of the winter already on the road this suggestion must be taken seriously. Already some OMM riders have this tape around and we strongly recommend the use. (Available also on Aerostich catalogue at www.riderwearhouse.com)

The “**Always with You**” section of the Accessories Note in the last bulletin received severe criticism from a good group of you. OK! You are right it was too short and you need to carry a little more. I do not recommend carrying spare parts: the one part you need is always the one you left home. Still here is my revised list of items to carry “Always with You”. Not to forget them, it is convenient to stuff the lot in a small container and leave it on the bike.

ALWAYS WITH YOU

- Bike and insurance documents (make a copy to leave on the bike while keeping the originals with you). Spare keys (around the neck or on your pockets)
- Tool box and owner manual
- Lock (chain or disk lock)
- First aid kit (check expiring date and include personal medications)
- Tires repair kit (self-inflating can or tubeless repair kit)
- Set of light bulbs and fuses
- Spare cables for trottle and clutch (already mounted in place)
- Electric cable and steel wire.
- Fuel bag (pliable tank for 2/3 liters of fuel) and 1 mt. pipe for fuel transfer
- Battery cables (optional)
- Torch (spare batteries), knife (multi-blades type), set of spare gloves, spare visor or goggles, pen and paper, matches, toilet paper, towel, maps, compass

This list will be inserted in the new web page “**Riding in Turkey**” containing the essential tips to make riding in our Country pleasant and safe. Several readers of the Bulletin already received the preliminary draft to offer further suggestion and the final version should be out by the end of this month.

Safe and Pleasant riding in Turkey will be further improved by OMM entering the **Horizons Unlimited Travelers Community** a web mail system designed by **Grant Johnson** (www.horizonsunlimited.com) “*The Objective of this Electronic Community is to enable motorcycle travelers, both those on the road and those at home, to meet up with like minded people. By joining the Community in their area, people at home that are willing to help travelers on the road will receive e-mails on occasion from travelers looking for information on the area, help to solve a problem, or a place to stay and visit. They can choose to ignore the message, in the hope that someone else in the area is willing and able to help, or can respond directly to the request.*” The basic plan for **Istanbul@HorizonsUnlimited.com** is as follows: **Grant** set up **Istanbul@HorizonsUnlimited.com** as an e-mail address, and it will automatically forward to all the people on the list in the local community. Whoever wishes to respond to it could then do so, using **Istanbul@HorizonsUnlimited.com** as the “return” email address to start with, or their own if they wish. This way, a "trouble" traveler could be

easily ignored, and the good ones easily contacted by all the locals. Also all local people know what is going on and who is coming to stay with whom, providing some security. While you are on **Grant** web-site do not forget to subscribe to his **Travelers-e-zine** one of the most inspiring piece of adventures on motorcycle.

Interested in exploring Turkey with experts in art, history and literature? It may be a good idea for the winter months to join **ARIT**. This association promotes the knowledge of Turkey and it organizes splendid visits to sometime ignored historical places. Contact **Anthony Greenwood** at gwood@boun.edu.tr

Rick Blocksidge from UK (e-mail: rik_bmw@lineone.net) wrote to OMM in September presenting his "Ride of a Life Time". *"Dear OMM riders, he writes, I am planning on taking my R80 TIC BMW called Changeling, on a "ride of a life time", over land to New Zealand, going through Europe, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and India. From Nepal I will fly to Bangkok Malaysia, overland to Singapore, than by boat to Darwin Australia, from Sydney to New Zealand by boat, where I have family. I am raising money for "The National Association for Bikers with a Disability". The N. A. B. D. is helping me to find sponsorship and are sponsoring me. Why am I doing this? In 1984 I crushed and shattered LVI in my spine, I was very lucky as I did very little damage to my spinal cord. I was able to get mobile after two-year's and eventually returned to motorcycling, at the time NABD had not been formed, so there was no one to help! When I was in hospital, I was given a copy of Ted Simian's Jupiter's Travels, which is a book about a journey Ted made traveling around the world on a Triumph motorcycle, covering some 63000 miles. At the time I said to my self I'd do that if I ever get out of this bed! But the opportunity never arose, fate stepped in and I met Ted Simon, early in 98 when I was recovering from an operation. Next I was made redundant in July98, after returning to work after this operation, which was related to my disability. I had put off having this operation because of work, which was foolish, as it only got worse. I found it very difficult to find a job, because I have a back injury. So I have set up again as a "sole trader," basically engineering bias, but doing anything a customer needs. It's been quite interesting and I've picked some new skills, which is never a bad thing! So I have the time, some money and my health is fair, so why not! I will be leaving the UK to late September, or when I get my Iranian Visa!"* **Rick** got his Iranian Visa and it should be in Turkey by the end of October and we will keep reporting on his progress.

Frank Campbell was ecstatic about Cappadocia and you can see pictures and read report on his passage in Turkey at <http://flafrank.home.att.net> while the Photo album is at <http://communities.msn.motorcycleadventures>

Some Web Sites to add to your Turkish favorites; for off road fans you can rent bike and join tours at www.yoshimoto.de . For information about Turkey go to www.mersina.com and for a TurkeySafari organized by Australian visit www.ferriswheels.com.au/turkey.htm

Tune into OMM web site soon to get our new program of **Rides and Training for the**

year 2001. In this way you will be able to book your place in our events well in advance joining the expanding group of OMM Riders. Some of the Rides are still open to new planning and we would like to open a friendly research trying to define the **SEVEN WONDERS OF TURKEY**. As you know two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World are in our Country (The temple of Artemis at Ephesus and the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus). We believe it will be good to define the Seven Wonders of Turkey, the must for any visitor passing through the Country and we ask for your opinion. **Send as a list of what are for you the most interesting seven places to visit and we will then publish a carnet guiding bikers to the most voted “wonders”. Mail to volpara@hotmail.com with subject “Seven Wonders”.**

In Brief:

- **Mustafa Yavas** from Bodrum Moto Club plans to run this year Paris Dakar: OMM will open a special section of our web site to follow his progress.
- If you are looking for an excuse to take your bike out of the garage in winter months, follow the invitation of Harley- Davidson Club Italy. December 1-2-3 is the date for the legendary meeting **HOG INVERNO** in Rimini. Last yet more than thousand riders met there for three days of fun and friendship. All info at wbianchi@centroin.it. (Walter Bianchi President of Hog Italy). **What about a Turkish winter Rally? Any idea?**
- OMM had a long conversation with **Zafer Celebi** discussing the BMW Bike plans for the future. The year 2001 was a good year for sales of big bikes with estimated 1250 units sold. Yamaha and BMW have now more than 55% of the market with Honda good third and Kawasaki losing position. BMW sold approx. 370 bikes and an additional 150 to the Police force (they now have the new GS 1150 and F 650). Best sellers from the Munich producer are the F 650, followed by GS 1150 and Custom. The forecast for next year (total market) is of 1500 units: to better serve the increasing number of biker BMW will move the service facilities to a state of the art workshop in Istinye (from June 2001). The “Boxer Café” in Kurucesme is already open and all biker are invited to use it as meeting point.
- **Yamaha** declared to OMM total sales in the year 2000 of 3.800 **scooters** in Turkey. This phenomenon is now booming in Europe with big four stroke vehicles capable of sustaining good touring speed two up. It would be interesting to see how the scooter users group of Turkey progresses.
- With winter coming the best defense against **visor internal fog** is to install “Fog City” shield. Order it at the usual www.thefastone.co.uk. A valid alternative comes from Italy: anti-fog (two walls) visors for any helmet at www.optivision.it
- Staying in Italy, I hope you noticed the fantastic results of Italian riders in the world championship: if you miss the Japan **Grand Prix** room around on the Champion’s web sites: www.robertsgroup.com, www.maxbiaggi.com, www.lucchinelli.com
- Riders kept asking information about **soft luggage** for sport and touring bikes: among the best see the site www.vanessa-roadline.it
- **Premier Helmet** is selling by Internet only a limited edition of the legendary Phil Read helmet “replica”. You can see it at www.premier.it from November 30.
- Missing your car air bag when riding a bike? Dainese just introduced “**Dainese D-Air**, an airbag to wear on top of your gear connected with a computer on the bike capable of inflating in 25 sec. Check at the web-site www.dainese.it
- Most of the gear coming from Italy, it is better to know that helmet produced in Italy carrying the approval (internal sticker) D.G.M. are now banned for sale and should not be bought.
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This is all for the month: a special issue on Gear and Clothes will be distributed by the end of November. Almost forgot (just testing if you are reading so far): in November and December OMM will organize two Observed Rides of one day from Istanbul. If you want to meet our riders and check your skills send us an e-mail