



OMMRA Information Bulletin February 2001

From Paolo Volpara on Monday, February 21, 2001

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Visit OMM site at: www.ommriders.com

Dear Friends and Riders,

one month out of Turkey is the reason why you are getting this month Bulletin so late. I was travelling in UK and USA with an attentive eye to bikes and bikers. You will have a good report on it next month. While I was away **Bora Sezer** and **Murad Acar** worked hard for a complete revision of OMM web-site while **Selim Karadag** kept a good eye on the incoming events. The first results of the new site are very encouraging and we hope to open it by the end of March. For the moment let me open summarizing the OMM activities planned for the next period:

1) With the generous support of BMW Turkey we will be able to organize for the first time a Training session on circuit. The Izmit racing track has been reserved for a maximum of 40 riders on Saturday 24 of March. Do not miss this opportunity to improve your cornering, braking and handling techniques. As announced earlier **Hans Heinz Dilthey**, one of the most famous motorcycle Instructors and Director of the Nurburgring Riding Course, will be the teacher starting with a theory lesson on Friday at 17:30. The meeting point is at BMW Boxer Café in Kurucesme. The next day the lesson will be placed in practice at the Korfez circuit. The invitation to the conference is open to all bikers while the circuit day will be reserved to 30 experienced bikers on BMW and 10 bikers on other brands. **The quality of the instructor and the opportunity to use a circuit make this event quite unique: so be fast in booking your place by sending an e-mail to our address within next week.**

2) The first 2001 training course of OMM ARA (Advanced Riding Academy) is definitely scheduled for April 6/7/8. We managed to have as Instructor **Jon Taylor** from UK. Jon has an impressive curriculum as rider, racer and trainer and he was one of our instructors on last year Nurburgring Course. Jon is also a member of the Rapid Training School, one of the best in UK with an interesting web site at www.rapidtraining.co.uk *“Rapid Training aims to provide motorcyclists with the most relevant and realistic training available anywhere. From those just starting out on their biking careers, to experienced riders with advanced qualifications. We will take your riding standard as*

high as it will go. If you thought training was boring you're in for a shock. We train for the way people really ride their bikes. We tailor the training around your needs and present standard." This course is open to Advanced Riders and limited to 20 of them. The OMM friends with good score in our previous training courses will find this one quite different and very beneficial. **Detailed information and entry form are in our web site and we already have a good number of bookings: so, again, be quick to confirm your participation.**

The Rapid Training School is conducted by a group of Police Motorcyclists but "*our instructors were motorcyclists long before they became policemen*". From this group of experts (in riding and in laws) comes a short set of suggestions on how to avoid fines for speeding keeping a clean record on our driving license. Although written for the UK situation these rules can be successfully applied in every country:

So, how can we stay safe, and keep a squeaky-clean license? Simple, sell your bike - but if that doesn't appeal, then there are some guidelines that you should try and stick to.

- 1. Don't speed in town. This is where 90% of speed enforcement is conducted. Most accidents (although not most bike accidents) occur in 30 mph speed limits, therefore resources are targeted at the problem area. Cameras and the man with the hair dryer are all to be found in these areas. If you find it difficult to quell your urges, remember going too fast in town won't allow people see how cool you look. Do slow down so they can take in your stylish use of florescent green and purple!**
- 2. Don't be the fastest vehicle on the road. Whilst being overtaken is a concept most motorcyclists will never quite get their heads round, having someone flush out the Feds from the road ahead can be very satisfying. Especially useful on long Motorway journeys - let the Rep revving the nuts of his Mondeo slide past you... it is just plain decent of him to collect the points on your behalf.**
- 3. Never exceed three figures on the Motorway. For some obscure reason the powers that be think this is dangerous and you are likely to lose you license. There is no pleasure in speed in a straight line so get off the Motorway and find a more challenging route.**
- 4. Use speed sensibly. You are more likely to get away with a bollocking, if you didn't also take 500 meters of solid white line and force an oncoming car into the ditch.**
- 5. When you are stopped for speeding, be humble! Grovel as best as you can, be amazed by his prowess is catching you, remember you are playing a game where the copper holds the entire deck. There is little point getting stroppy or asking if he knows his parents. Only offer sexual favors as a last resort.**
- 6. Of course the best advice is don't speed! And we all stick to that, don't we?**

3) The first of Lotus Tour in Turkey www.lotustours.com will start on May 9. One of the best American friends of OMM, **Court Fisher**, will take part on this event. Court is a motorcyclist journalist and a worldwide traveler: he was among the first to encourage us in setting up One More Mile providing sound and useful suggestions. Court will arrive in Turkey at the beginning of May and we are planning a meeting with him and possibly a ride along the coastal road to Amasra and Sinop on the week-end of May 6/7.

Coming soon on the Roads near You

Daytona Bike Week. March is the moment for one of the greatest event in Bikers Calendar: the Daytona Bike week. If you cannot attend with your motorcycle or if you cannot fly and rent-a-bike console yourself with a visit to the official site at <http://www.daytonachamber.com/bwhome.html>

Gone to Italy. A group of OMM riders will ride to Sicily from March 3 to March 11. A full report on this tour will appear on our web site by the end of next month. Sicily is an easy destination from Turkey and a beautiful island full of history, art... and splendid rider's roads. To be seriously considered for your summer rides.

Again to Italy, a group of **Harley Davidson** riders "going east via west". In order to participate to the Harley Davidson international Rally in Igoumenitza (Greece) a group of Turkish Riders, from May 25, will ship bikes to Trieste and then travel all way don the Italian peninsula to Bari.

BMW Bike Festival. April will be a full months for Turkish bikers: after OMM course BMW is organizing a major Event... a Bike and Bikers Week-end in Izmir on the 20/21/22 of this month. You will get all details in time but I want to anticipate that the Izmir Circuit will be open for Endurance races open to BMW bikes and Competitors brands. Mark the date on your calendar and contact us or BMW in Kurucesme.

Back to Nurburging, the Green Hell. The appointment for the Nurburging School in 2001 is now fixed from 27th to 29th August. **We are trying to form a group (6/7 experienced riders) from Turkey to participate. Please send us a note if you are interested: the places are going very fast and your request should reach me not late than March 11.**

Confirmed. Michael Kneebone President of Iron Butt Association and **Bob Higdon**, long distance rider and superb biking writer, will be with us from June 7 to June 18. Be ready for a Long Distance Riding Event in that week.

Going Russia. We are studying the possibility to organize a ride to Russia (this or next year) and we have been in contact with Bikers Group in that Country. Check (mostly in Russian) these two web sites: www.biker.spb.ru and www.moto.ru and let us know if you are interested in being part of the team preparing the ride.

Poor Turkish Rider... it has everybody on the road against him, including Mr. Cement. . Turkey is a Country of freedom where, within broad limits, a strong guy can do almost everything. So, if you feel disturbed by cars, trucks or bikes passing in front of your house the most popular solution is to turn for help to Mr. Cement. Simply prepare a good amount of concrete and build up a tall barrage across your road. In other (less free) Countries these bumps are called “sleeping policemen” and are regulated in dimensions, positions and signals. In Turkey is a “free for all” and we can sample “mother of all bumps” 70 cm. tall coming against your front wheel without any warning: most of the time these “sleeping fat policemen” are carefully blended in a mimetic form to the surrounding to increase your riding pleasure. Additional examples include: iron rods, thick ropes, undulated plastics. Most of these “sleeping policemen” are illegally placed and the road police sleeps conveniently when crossing them. But do not despair: they are there as a providential tool to perfect your jumping skills.

More on Training.

In these cold winter nights nothing better that refine your riding skills by reading some serious articles from expert bikers.

Go to www.motorcycle.com/mo/mcnews/safety.html and check these subjects by Canadian Safety Council instructor **Mark Yeager**

- ◆ Safety Bits: Foul Weather Gear. Date: 8/14/95.
- ◆ Safety Bits: All About Brakes. Date: 5/18/95.
- ◆ Safety Bits: Steering at High Speeds. Date: 3/27/95.
- ◆ Safety Bits: Slow-Speed Riding. Date: 3/1/95

From **Patrick J. Hahn** read “Three Degrees of Separation” a well written piece on biking attitude. Find it at www.activebike.com/index/features/threedegrees/threedegrees.htm

A group of OMM riders is considering a trip to USA to take part in one of the Racing schools located in the sunny States. Voted “Best School of the Year” by Motorcyclists Magazine, **STAR School** (at www.starmotorcycle.com The Skills and Techniques for Advanced Riding Motorcycle) was created to help everybody to become a more proficient, more confident rider. “*Chief instructor Jason Pridmore is the '97 AMA 750 SuperSport Champion and a veteran instructor of the CLASS Motorcycle Safety School run by his father, former three time AMA Superbike Champion Reg Pridmore. Whether you're an average street rider who wants to improve your skills to gain confidence and become a safer rider or a high performance rider or racer looking for answers on how to go faster on the racetrack, the STAR Motorcycle School has a training program designed specifically for you. Each STAR School is divided into two groups. The first group is for street riders and newcomers to the track who are most comfortable at a lower pace with riders of similar ability, the other for more advanced students and those with track experience who wish to explore their limits with fewer restrictions.*”

A very professional school with impeccable record and a serious list of teachers: a good excuse (if you need one) for a trip to USA.

Web discoveries and suggestions:

The Enduro Club of Turkey had an interesting Internet discussion about the techniques of Riding in Convoy. **Ahmet Pinar** (vap53@hotmail.com) translated and mailed in Turkish the OMM convoy rules (copy is available on request) and we offered new articles on this subject:

- ◆ **Group riding system** by **Ben Lovejoy** published on permission from <http://www.lovejoy.demon.co.uk/motorcycling/protocol.html>
- ◆ **Riding in Group** Instructions developed by the Shades of Gray MC at <http://people.ne.mediaone.net/grayfeather/ridepack.html>

Both sites are quite interesting but Ben pages are a real pleasure to surf. Pay a visit and you will not be disappointed.

If you are interested in **Long Distance Riding** and if you want to combine this sport with a visit to Europe go to <http://roadrunner1000.homepage.com/events2001.htm> and take a look at the list of events planned for 2001.

- ◆ **Roadrunner 1000 Irish Rally.** Held in Ireland 21st - 23rd June. A chance to achieve (your choice) 1000 Kilometers, 1000 miles or 1500 Kilometers certificates.
- ◆ **Roadrunner 1000 European Rally.** Held in Europe 27th - 29th September. Starting from a US Military Base in Germany. Certain to be an interesting and challenging event. The Rally Master being Dr. Homer L Krout II, holder of many IBA awards and one of the select few to earn a place on the biennial Iron Butt Rally in the USA, an 11 day, 11,000 mile event

In Turkey. A meeting point for bikers and a web site to visit at www.atolye.org .

Two web sites from Dealers at www.motoart.com.tr and www.motopar.net/urunler.htm
Motoart offers a Face Mask at a good price for user of open face helmets.

Accessories and Gear

In my recent travel I had the opportunity to try a new Jacket from and “old brand”. **Rukka** is a name familiar with the most senior riders. I had for many years a Rukka rain suit that served me exceptionally well... then I forgot the brand. The product I tested (Armatech Jacket) is the result of Rukka latest research in comfort and safety with RVP Air Protectors. *“The protectors stay fit and function properly regardless of the weather and riding conditions. They breathe and let the fabric breathe. The patented Rukka Air protectors, used in the Rukka motorcycle outfits, are made of special SBS-material. The injection molded shell protector is soft and elastic and thus fits the cyclist. Soft, elastic protector divides the impact into as wide area as possible. The soft protector has a damping area ten times larger than a hard protector. In addition, it prevents the outer material from breaking better than the hard protector. Rukka Air protectors are mounted into the inner and outer pockets of the outfit. The CE-marked shoulder, elbow, knee, shin and hip protectors meet the EU standard 1621-1 requirements. The Rukka back protector is made from the same CE-marked Air-material and will meet the new standard when the standard is launched.”* I must say that I rarely found a jacket so well built (at level...or better than my Aerostich!) and the promises of the producer were well kept. See the

Brand site at www.rukka.com and do not miss the “Ride with Rukka” section showing now an ideal tour of the Italian Alps: the Dolomites Sella Ronda.

I am always on the look for a reliable Log Book to use with my bikes. This month I came across two offers from www.Cyclegadgets.com

The first one is a standard log book (as the one for boats or planes) called the **Baroody's Bike Log**. *“This little gadget is perfect for organizing all pertinent information about your bike. Ron Baroody's professionally printed Bike Log is small enough to fit in a shirt pocket, but packs volumes of useful information. Just look at the contents of this 56-page booklet: Personal/Medical/Emergency, Motorcycle Ownership Information, Motorcycle Specs & Data, Bike Modifications & Accessories, Service Log, Trip Logs, Notes, Phone Numbers, Oil Change Checklist, Winter Storage Checklist, English/Metric Conversion plus a Wind Chill Chart Inside Rear Cover. Baroody's Bike Log is available now for \$8.95 including shipping via US Mail within the USA.”*

The second one (and it is the one I ordered) is an electronic version of an ample log book called **For Two Wheels Only (FTWO)**. *“This software simplifies and organizes your motorcycle record keeping. You can easily and quickly store maintenance records, trips, events you've attended, accessory purchases, and much more. You can store photos, track service intervals, and generate reports to tell you whatever you need to know! FTWO runs on Windows-based computers, and will run on Macintoshes with Windows emulation (e.g. VirtualPC or SoftWindows) Priced at \$34.95”*

The FTWO Web site in Cycle Gadget site provides screen shots and a downloadable demo For Two Wheels Only software. Go there and see by yourself how useful can be: a good excuse to visit this site is also the opportunity to get from free the Cycle Gadgets Emergency Info Tag. Approximately 2½" x 4", laminated, this tag be easily attached to a zipper or placed in an accessible pocket. It contains pertinent information about rider on one side, emergency contacts on the other, and is designed to be noticed. Just type your information and the tag will be on the mail. All information gathered is held in the strictest confidence.

It would be a good idea for all of us Bikers in Turkey to organize a Charity Rally.

It will do a lot of good to “people in need”, it will improve our image in the community and it will create a moment (an intense one) for meeting new and old friends. I am ready to put time and efforts in organizing one especially after reading the results of Ride For Kids in USA (www.ride4kids.org) Welcome to the Ride For Kids ®. *“The Ride For Kids® is a motorcyclist's program that is helping to find the cause and cure of pediatric brain tumors. The Ride For Kids® also serves as a nationally recognized educational and patient support program for patients and their families, and the medical community. Brain tumors are the most deadly of all the childhood cancers. The Ride For Kids® was started in 1984 by Mike Traynor, a newspaper executive and motorcyclist from Atlanta, GA, who had a friend whose child was stricken with a brain tumor. After watching the tragic deaths of many children, Mike set out to help find the cause and cure of this childhood killer. He solicited the support of the motorcyclists of America in raising the awareness needed to pay for research in the nation's leading brain tumor research*

centers. The first event was held in Atlanta in 1984, next in Chicago in 1989, and finally after leaving his career behind in 1992 to give full time attention to the disease he was able to put the program into motion throughout the USA.”

I am sure that OMM Friends and Riders share with me this desire to charitable work and I invite you to contact me on this subject with ideas on the “cause” to support and the event planning. I envisage a big rally sometime in September calling riders from all Turkey for a Day Meeting and Parade in Ankara but I need your valuable help to transform a Dream into Reality.

My final quote comes this month from Cheri Kolstad on The Women's Chronicle, a column written by women, for women, about women who ride at <http://www.canadianbiker.com/womens.html>

Bikers are gaining a reputation as well-educated, business-minded people who enjoy riding. They work with each other without being asked, help unconditionally, never regret the time spent helping another rider, and are notorious for donating time and money to any charity they deem worthy of their devotion. If bikers are considered lone wolves and rebels, I think some new descriptive phrases should be added, such as: works well in tough situations, needs little supervision and the most important of all great team player! I certainly wouldn't want to be without them.