

OMM

ONE MORE MILE RIDERS

OMMRA Information Bulletin April 2001

From Paolo Volpara on October 2, 2008

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

To receive or to send to riders friends the Bulletin just drop an e-mail request.

Visit OMM site at: www.ommriders.com

Dear Friends and Riders,

A view from the cockpit

I was walking last week with Friends in the early hours of a Spring Morning: it was a brisk walk designed to bring some aerobic advantages to our aging bodies. While few words were exchanged my mind was wandering to the “things to do” ahead: then an internal voice crept in “*It is exercise time and you better think of exercising*”. Following the inner advises I focused on the muscle of the legs and on the correct movements and body posture. Without changing pace visibly, just focusing on the right thing to do, I immediately gained a good advantage over my partners. Nothing to do with physical strength: just the result of concentration and attention.

The same applies to biking: we had in the last period two training sessions and in both classes the message was clear. Focus on the right positioning of the bike, the right standing of the body, the right line. Maintain your own concentration alerted for the whole ride and... fluency, speed will come as unexpected result.

The power of the mind to maintain the situation under total control is the real “advanced step” for all of us passionate bikers. Hans Heinz Dilthey call it “realistic self evaluation”. Knowing your limits is also the first step in moving them ahead: if we keep our brain switched on in every ride we take our learning curve will increase exponentially.

The New One More Mile Riders Group Organization.

As mentioned in previous Bulletins we started in November 2000 a set of meetings with friends in order to give to OMM a more efficient and stable structure. The commitments of the group in Training, Touring, Supporting the Web Site and the Bulletin, Offering assistance and help to local groups and international riders were too much for the few of us involved. The response from old and new friends riders has been positive and on April 14 we were able to conclude the structuring process.

OMM is now under the direction of a group of Ten Bikers sharing among them the various responsibilities. The following Riders compose the team, denominated **OMM Leading Group (OMMLG)**:

1. **Paolo Volpara** (volpara@homemail.com) acting as Director of OMM
2. **Selim Karadag** (selim.karadag@teklan.com.tr) acting as Secretary of OMM and Responsible for Training Plans.

3. **Hamit Abassoglu** (hamit@seratarim.com) Responsible for OMM Finances and Administration
4. **Murad Acar** (macar@superonline.com) Responsible for OMM Web Site and Relationship with the Motorcycle Industry
5. **Fuat Domanic** (fuatdomanic@turk.net) Responsible for OMM Bulletin and Touring Plans
6. **Sinan Sezer** (sinan@megaltd.com.tr) Responsible for OMM Touring Plans and Entertainment
7. **Taner Celik** (tanercelik@hotmail.com) Responsible for Reporting, Editing and Group Relationships Abroad
8. **Orkan Erhan** (oyerhan@superonline.com) Responsible for OMM Design and Colors
9. **Resit Soley** (leodesign@superonline.com) Responsible for OMM Sponsorship and PR
10. **Timur Schindel** (timschindel@hotmail.com) Responsible for Promotions and Special Events
11. **Yakup Icgoren** (yicgoren@barwill.com.tr) Responsible for Logistics and Contact with Clubs.

These riders are now setting up the final organization of the Group: while maintaining the key objectives of Touring Turkey, Training Advanced Riders and Supporting the Biking Communities in this Country and Abroad, OMM will introduce new tools and new opportunities to increase the “fun and pleasure” of Riding.

A brief presentation of the OMM Officers will be soon inserted in our Web-site offering to all riders the opportunity to know them better and to contact them directly.

While meeting with friends willing to help we discovered that some riders would like to sustain OMM activities but they cannot find time for an active role in the Group.

For this reason we opened a second Group denominated **OMM Riders Group (OMMRG)** accepting pilots willing to ride with us and to sustain financially our activities. All of you, readers of the Bulletin leaving in Turkey, are now invited to join this group and to sustain directly OMM efforts to improve the Motorcycling sport in Turkey. **If you want to be in the OMM Riders Group just send an e-mail to Taner Celik (tanercelik@hotmail.com) and you will be informed of all terms and conditions for joining.**

At the **Motorcycle Fair** in Istanbul not a lot of new things: with Kawasaki absent and a low presence of Accessories and Gear the show was taken by **Suzuki and Yamaha**. The first one introduced at the Fair the new GSX R1000 that with the (small?) sister GSX 750 is the most desirable sport bike in the market.

Yamaha was there with a line of splendid bikes and with two stars: The FJ1300 already judged in Europe among the best tourers (or sport-tourers) and the Fazer 1000 judged by all tester one of the most exciting bike of the year: a real all-round. Take a look at this new bikes before deciding to buy a new machine for the season.

BMW took the opportunity of the Fair to officially deliver to the Police Force 10 **C1**. Ten female pilots patrolling the most prominent central points of Istanbul will ride this urban project of BMW (scooter/bike/with roof and all round protection).

OMM 2001 Rides

The four week at the end of March and beginning of April were full of riding activities. On March 21 we welcomed in Istanbul **Hans Heinz Diltthey** Director of the Nurburgring Riding School. On the 22 and 23 we managed to visit with him the Istanbul Motorcycle Fair, few dealers and we had a fast (on bike) tour of the City. In the afternoon of the 23 the lesson at the Boxer Café' in Kurucesme was attended by around 60 riders and a group of "Dolphins" the expert motorcycle Police group led by **Mehmet Betni**. Hans presentation and riding "philosophy" is based around the classic concept of self-knowledge, self-awareness. The ancient order from the Temples of Delphi "**Know Yourself**" reveals a new meaning for modern bikers. *"You must be always aware of what you and your bike are doing: this is the only way to be in Total Control. The perfect biker is the upper part of the motorcycle"* Total Control was the name of the game on the 24th of May at the Circuit of Korfez (Izmit) obtained for us thank to the sponsorship of **BMW Turkey**. A lapse of control in OMM and BMW teams allowed unregistered bikers to enter the circuit: instead of the 40 planned bikers we had on the track almost 60 bikes. **Suleyman Memnun** multi champion on circuit and off-road honored the Group with his presence offering to all of us a lesson of discipline and humility. *"There's always something to learn,"* he said smiling from the top of his splendid **Yamaha 1300** (Roberts colors). Bikers were divided in three groups with Hans alternating between them and OMM riders providing safety and support. A sunny day and a circuit reserved for us: we worked for five hours on a set of exercises designed to improve control of bike in different conditions. All riders attending the Course received by e-mail certificate of participation and you can read the full report, including extracts from Hans lesson, on our web site under the heading Training: "**THE MENTAL SIDE OF BIKING**"

On April 4, **Jon Taylor** expert motorcycling Trainer from UK arrived in Istanbul for conducting the first Advanced Motorcycling Academy Course of the year. 18 bikers plus four riders from OMM, providing road safety, joined the course. **Jon** conducted the lesson on the 6th on the theme "Riding the System" and detailing the principle of safe, smooth riding as presented on the book 'Motorcycle Roadcraft: The Police Rider's Handbook'. On Saturday and Sunday we covered the standard A.R.A. circuit from Istanbul to Sile, Agva, Kandira, Bolu, Beypazari, Nallihan, Goynuk, Geyve, Iznik, Karamursel and back to Istanbul. 850 kilometers of observed riding with the night stop at the Thermal Hotel in Bolu. Monday night (April 9) at the Award ceremony the trainees, mostly from the Enduro Club of Turkey, (new address at www.enduroclub.org) received Certificate and Evaluation. **Jon** was pleased by the good standard of riding of all participants and the event was concluded in total safety without accidents. Unfortunately **Hakan Savaser** who, on behalf of Enduro Club, contributed to the organization of the course was unable to finish it: his **Triumph Tiger** died on the road in Bursa and he had to return on four wheels. We thank all member of this clubs and in particular **Mustafa Celenk** (mustalenk@hotmail.com), one of the founder, for the attention dedicated to training and we hope to have in the future opportunities to organize joint events (maybe an off-road training course?). **Jon** will be back in Turkey soon for a new Circuit Training and the second A.R.A. course.

Coming soon on the roads near You

The report on the ride to **Sicily** via Greece and South of Italy is now on our web-site under the Rides section with the title “Andare per Curve”. Also available is the report on Circuit Training. Coming soon (mid May) the report on Jon Taylor A.R.A. course.

- The “**Motosiklet Festivali**” planned in Izmir/Pinarbasi from the 19 to the 22 of April as been cancelled due to the Turkish Financial Crisis.
- **OMM Touring Program** will continue with a long Ride to Amasra and Ankara on May 5 and 6. We hope to have with us **Court Fisher**, Global Touring Editor of BMW Owners News [BMW ON], the monthly magazine of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (www.bmwmoa.org) and we will ride for two days along the plan reported below: if you want to join us on this Ride (from Istanbul or from Ankara) just send us an e-mail soon while we still have some places available.

RIDE TO AMASRA AND ANKARA.

A selected group of OMM Riders (max.5) will leave Istanbul in the early morning of Saturday (07:00) to take the Ankara Istanbul Motorway. At Dortdivan exit (after Bolu) we will turn North on route 760 to Mengen, Devrek, Caycuma. Then route 10 to Bartin will reach the Black Sea at Amasra. While Route 760 is already a good panoramic road, the real fun will start from **Amasra** continuing on the next 180 km. to Inebolu (Route 10). This is one of the most entertaining and difficult coastal roads of this Country with dramatic views over the Kara Deniz. We will finally reach **Sinop** where we plan to spend the night. On the following day (Sunday) we will turn south from Sinop on route 785 to Boyabat and Kargi to connect with route 100 to Tosya. Here we will connect with route 775 south crossing the **Elmabeli Pass** to Iskilip. Six kilometers after this center we will turn west on route 180 to reach, south of Cankiri, route 765/140 to Ankara.

720 K on the first day for a good 10 hours ride and 440 K on Sunday to **Ankara**. The Riders Group will split in Ankara with some returning in the evening to Istanbul on motorway while others will continue toward the south coast.

- The **OMM Long Distance Riding Team** is now collecting entries for the Riders planning to obtain an **OMM LDR and Iron Butt Certificate in 2001**. This year we hope to have **Michael Kneebone**, President of Iron Butt Association, as Guest of Honor and certifying officer at the departure and arrival

OMM Long Distance Riding and Iron Butt Association (U.S.A.)

OMM 1000 miles (1610K), “Iron Butt Saddle Sore 1000 “ in 24 hours. June 8/9 2001

The accepted bikers will depart on Friday 8th of June at 19:00 from Istanbul and they should return to the starting point at 19:00 of June 9th. The circuit to cover is presented in OMM web site: to Motorway direction Ankara till Izmit exit, from Izmit to Bursa via Yalova, from Bursa to Canakkale via Karacebey and Lapseki, from Canakkale to Izmir via Edremit and Ayvalik, from Izmir to Kutahya via Odemis, Usak and Sadckbey, from

Kutahya to Izmit via Bozuyuk, Adapazari (entry to motorway), from Izmit to Istanbul via motorway. The application should reach us not later than May 13 via e-mail to Selim Karadag (selim.karadag@teklan.com.tr). **As usual OMM Leading Group reserve the right to approve the application and the accepted riders will receive full kit for instructions and documentation.**

- Coinciding with **Michael Kneebone and Bob Higdon** visit to Turkey OMM Touring will organize a Ride to Cappadocia on June 15/16/17. The Ride is part of the 2001 Program "Ride in the Sky" visiting places of Spirituality in Turkey. If you want to join OMM riders in this fascinating itinerary just send an e-mail to Sinan Sezer (sinan@megaltd.com.tr)

OMM "Ride in the Sky" Cappadocia from 14 to 17 June 2001

June 14 From Istanbul to Ankara in the afternoon via Motorway. **June 15** Ankara: visit to the Museum of Anatolian Civilization and ride to Urgup. Overview of the Cappadocia Valley and lodging at Esbelli Evi. **June 16** Tour of Cappadocia including Soganli and Hilara Valleys. Lodging at Esbelli Evi. **June 17** Ankara Istanbul via Aksaray, Sereflikochisar, Polatli, Eskisehir, Bursa including visit to Gordion. Estimated mileage 1800 Km.

- Two opportunities to meet OMM and improve riding knowledge and share good time with fellow riders

**May 4 at 18:00 at Boxer Café in BMW "The world of Motorcycle"
An informal meeting with Court Fisher (see above) and Thomas Goltz.**

Thomas is the Project Leader of "Oil Odyssey 2001" repeating the crazy ride on Ural sidecars done in 2000 from Baku to Ceyhan. He just finished the editing of the **short film** documenting last year ride: it was world premiered at a meeting of the Worcester Mass chapter of the American Committees on Foreign Relations to sustained applause and intense Q & A, and then shown again to a similar response at the Rochester NY ACFR chapter meeting, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts, the Kennedy School of Government/Caspian Studies at Harvard. We hope to have the opportunity to show the film for the first time in Turkey and discuss the new Ride leaving Baku in late August 2001. (www.baku-ceyhan.com)

Court is an incredible source of information in the international world of BMW and BMW Clubs. With **Murat Acar**, OMM rider, planning to launch a BMW Owner Club of Turkey (BOCT) it could be a good opportunity to count the forces and take advice.

Michael Kneebone and Bob Higdon Conference in Istanbul on June 8th

Michael Kneebone, leaving in Chicago, is a legendary figure in the world of American Motorcycling. President of the Iron Butt Association, Michael is definitely the Father of Long Distance Riding. This sport is now expanding in and outside of the United States

thanks to Michael and his partners missionary work. The Iron Butt Yearly Rally is now considered one of the toughest events on two wheel and you can read more about it at Michael web-site (www.ironbutt.com).

Bob Higdon is a 61 year-old retired attorney who lives in Washington, D.C. An avid motorcyclist, he has ridden more than 520,000 miles on BMW bikes. He has been active in motorcycle politics, serving as vice-president of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America, as a member of American Motorcyclist Association's political action committee, and as the former chairman of the BMW Bikers of Metropolitan Washington's committee on government affairs. In 1992 he was named AMA's Road Rider of the Year. He is a frequent contributor to motorcycle periodicals and writes a regular column for the magazine of the BMW Riders Association.

Michael and Bob will held a **Conference open to all Bikers on “Riding Lessons from the IBA experience” covering the aspect of mental preparation and endurance involved not only in Long Distance Riding but also in planning a touring trip.** This is an unique opportunity to get in contact with leading figures of American Riding and it offers to all of us in Turkey a moment for learning and for establishing new connections. The Turkish readers of the Bulletin will receive a specific invitation (with final place and hours) by the end of this month.

- We still have one place available for the **Nurburgring Riding School.** The date for the international course (sponsored by Shuberth in association with Honda U.K. and directed by Hans Heinz Dilthey) is 27th - 28th August and the majority of OMM riders taking part will fly and rent bike on location. Contact Selim Karadag.
- **With all this n the roads ahead you have our new Calendar:**

Ride Date	Category	From	To	Km.	Notes
1-Jan	Day Ride	Istanbul	Kiyikoy	301	Kiyikoy Village and Cave Monastery
7-Jan	Day Ride	Istanbul	Armutlu	297	Armutlu Coast and Iznik
12-Jan	Day Ride	Istanbul	Agenda	450	Demirkoy forest and corners. Igneada
3/11 Mar	Int.Ride	Istanbul	Sicily	4500	Epyrus, Calabria, Sicily, Puglia
18-Mar	Day Ride	Istanbul	Domanic	550	Karamursel corners, Domanic forest
23/24 Mar	Training	ARA Circuit	Korfez/Izmit	300	Lesson at Boxer Café, Korfez Circuit, Izmit with H.Dilthey
6/8 Apr.	Training	ARA Log Book	Bolu Ride	850	Lesson at Boxer Café, Bolu circuit with J. Taylor
4-May	Conference	World of Motorcycling		850	At Boxer Café with C. Fisher and T. Goltz
6/8 May	Ride	Istanbul	Amasra-Ankara		Ride with Court Fisher
8-Jun	Conference	M. Kneebone/ B. Higdon			Lessons from IBA experience
8/9 Jun	LDR	OMM IBA 1000X24H	LDR log book		Long Distance Riding

15-17 Jun.	In the Sky	Ankara	Cappadocia		Ride with M. Kneebone/ B. Higdon
13/15 Jul.	In the Sky	Istanbul	Bin Bir Kilesi		
12/13 Aug.	Training	ARA with J. Taylor	Bolu Ride		
14-Aug	Training	ARA Circuit J Taylor	Korfez/Izmit		Circuit reserved for OMM Riders
24/31 Aug	Training	Istanbul	Koblenz		Nurburgring Course
25/28 Oct.	Training	ARA with M. Wheeler			Lesson at Boxer Café, Kas circuit
7/11 Nov.	In the Sky	South East Turkey			

Riding the Web

New places for the Turkish biking community:

- www.atolye.org offers a point of reference for the Enduro Club Bikers in Istanbul
- www.geocities.com/gezginler1 is a well designed web site for lovers of choppers and Gold Wing.
- www.motosa.com.tr is the web place Motosa Company present at the Bike Fair with Direct (Grey) Import of Japanese bikes (all brands) and an ample catalog of bike gear, accessories and parts. Request the Catalogue (82 pages) at mrbike@motosa.com.tr

http://www.bmwmotorrad.co.za/discuss_cycle/talkacc.html publish a summary of the "Hurt Study": Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Counter-measures. The Hurt study, published in 1981, was a groundbreaking report on the causes and effects of motorcycle accidents. Although more than 17 years old now, the study still offers riders insight into the statistics regarding motorcycle accidents and tips on safer riding. Researcher Harry Hurt (from which the study gets its common name) of the University of Southern California, investigated almost every aspect of 900 motorcycle accidents in the Los Angeles area. Additionally, Hurt and his staff analyzed 3,600 motorcycle traffic accident reports in the same geographic area.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) in USA has opened an **“National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety”** trying to cover all aspects to be investigated for a new research. You can get a copy at www.msf-usa.org and it could a serious basis for a similar action to be developed in Turkey by the Industry.

www.ironbuttgoldwingers.com **Dave** of the Iron Butt Gold Wing Group writes to us: *“We are very excited about the new Ironbutt Goldwingers Website and cordially invite you to come join us for some fun! There has been a lot of things added and we think you will love the changes you see at the Website for 2001! And, when you want to cruise to visit other Goldwing sites, we have listings to hundreds of the best on our links page”*

News from OMM friends biking around

In addition to the information published in previous Bulletins on the **Ferry service to Europe** we have received this month from OMM Riders new data:

- **Blue Star Line** (Strinzis Line) in Brindisi phone number +39 (0) 83 1521022
- **Superfast** in Bari phone number +39 (0) 80 5211416 5232429
- Starting April 4th, there will be a ferry from **Venice to Izmir** every Saturday night. This is operated by Turkish Cargo Lines. Their phone numbers is Istanbul 0212 244 02 07 and Izmir 0232 464 88 64 They have not appointed an agent in Venice but as the season progresses the name of the Italian agents can be obtained from these numbers.
- Everyday there is a ferryboat (Ro-Ro) from **Trieste to Istanbul**. The boats are operated by UND,(Uluslararası Nakliyeciler Derneği.) UND RORO phone in Istanbul +90 (0) 216 3100506. Deniz Nakliyat phone in Istanbul +90 (0) 216 4155863. The bike is loaded by the owner on the ferry and few days later the riders goes by plane from Istanbul to Ljubjana (Zagreb) and by bus to Trieste where the bike is taken out of custom directly. Kazim used this service recently and he writes: *“In Trieste the agent is SAMER, and the phone number is (39) (040) 306630. The person in charge is Mr. Ismail Balaban, his cell phone number is (39) 335 684 3630. Just show at the port; find the dock of the Turkish ferry. Allow time for this, as the port is 12 kms long along the sea! One does not need any reservations as they can always find room for a motorcycle. I paid 60,000 Liras (about 30 US\$) to Samer for port handling fees. After you get your receipt you are ready to load the bike. Loading starts at 2 PM, and normally the ferry leaves around 7-8 PM. After tying and strapping the bike, there is lots of time to kill at the Turkish Cafe, frequented by all the truck drivers, until the bus comes to haul you to Ljubjana, capital of Slovenia. The ride from Trieste to Ljubjana takes around 45 minutes, but the plane is at 00:30, which meant along wait at the airport for about 4 hours. I was in my bed at 4:00 AM, Turkish time. The boat comes to Istanbul in 3 1/2 days and you pick up your bike in Harem. The cost of freight (\$150) and the one way plane ticket (\$250) was a total of \$400, payable in cash only at UND's office in Harem. Not too much considering the amount of time spent on the road, money spent on hotels, ferry from Bari to Igoumenitza, and gas. Custom formalities took only about 15 minutes, everybody was very helpful.”*

More from our friend **Kazim Uzunoglu** (kuzun99@yahoo.com) organizer of the first Lotus Bike Tour in Turkey, who traveled to Italy and Greece offering to OMM a synopsis of the tour.

I first rode my bike to Thessaloniki.... After that I had wanted to visit the monasteries at Mt. Athos, 100 miles southeast of Thessaloniki. Mt. Athos is a semi-autonomous state with about 20 Greek orthodox monasteries that are still active. The whole area is still run by an edict that was issued in 1066 by the Byzantine Emperor Constantine Monomachus. One of the most interesting rules that are still observed is that it is forbidden for women to enter the area. I missed the ferry in the morning from Ouranopolis so I could not go there as I did not want to wait for another day. Ferry is the only way to get there, you can not go there on a bike. Then I rode south to central Greece through Larissa and stopped over at the

Meteora area. Absolutely breathtaking area, again ancient monasteries on top of sheer hills and rocky pinnacles. After this Igoumenitza, and then by ferry to Bari After disembarking in Bari, I first stopped and paid my homage to Santa Claus. Italian sailors had stolen his bones from Myra (modern Demre in southern Turkey) in 11th century and had built a church in his name in Bari with the bones in a sarcophagus in the crypt. Then I rode straight onto Pompeii, the dream place of my life. I got lost in the ruins in pure excitement, running from one place to another. A very remarkable site indeed. Later I rode along the Amalfi coast, south of Naples. A very twisty road, just what a biker wants, surrounds the whole coastline. In some places it is so narrow that two buses have both had to back up about 20 meters when they met at a 90-degree curve. Then I rode onto Orvieto, a medieval hilltop town with a very nice Gothic Duomo, to spend the night

Next day I went up to Florence directly... Then I rode down to San Gimignano, Siena, Monteriggione to spend the night at the wine region Montalcino. This day was probably the best day of the holiday. Beautiful countryside, great country roads in Toscana, splendid medieval towns and delicious food and wine. San Gimignano and Siena were both fascinating, but Monteriggione was the highlight, perhaps of the whole trip. It is an old army garrison, a small fort built on a hilltop. So small that you can actually see the other gate from the main gate. Extremely peaceful, still so medieval in character, in terms of layout and architecture. Highly recommend it. After that I went up to Bologna, stopped briefly to visit Ducati's factory and museum. It was very exciting to see how Ducatis were made. We visited the 996 assembly line as well as the engine building and testing departments, and also the little room where they make the MH900 Evoluzione, 2 bikes per day. The total production will be 2000. The Museo was also very interesting and very well laid out, with the original bikes that raced in many circuits for the past 50 years or so. Next day I rode my bike to the Adriatic coast, spent the night at a very fine hotel in Cattolica and had a great dinner in Riccione. Anyway, as the holiday came to an end, I went on to Trieste to load the bike on a Turkish ferry. Then I took the plane from Slovenia to Istanbul, flew on the same plane with truck drivers who did the same. Overall I covered 3,900 kms in 7 days, the highlight was riding in Toscana.

On the next bulletin a fascinating report from **Ian Johnson** on his ride to Syria. And do not miss the last issue of the Horizon Unlimited Bulletin (www.horizonsunlimited.com) for more reports on worldwide rides.

From Russia **Vladimir Zyablov** President of Russia Moto Club (www.moto.ru) writes: *"We are only starting to ride here, as the snow is slowly melting. It is a pity that you do not plan any longer a trip to Russia this summer, but I hope we will meet next summer, right? It would honor me to you here in Moscow and show you and your friends around. If you need anything in/from Moscow, do not hesitate to contact me."* Definitely we will plan an OMM Ride to Moscow in 2002 but if OMM friends pass by the city they are invited to contact Vladimir.

Fuat Pazvant from **Beldeyama Company (the importer of Yamaha)** distributed in Turkish an interesting list of 96 Golden rules for safe riding. If you want to receive a copy you can mail to Fuat at fpazvant@beldeyama.com.tr

Watch that corner!

Dealing with dogs: **Istvan Szlany** writes on Horizon Unlimited on his Latin America experience. With so many street dogs in Turkey it may be useful to listen!

On the way to Cusco I had some encounters with the local dogs. One of them bit me on the leg, too, but other than the pain, - wearing jeans and riding pants - no harm was done. I learned my lesson and I started to think about all kinds of strategies on how to get out unharmed from these encounters

1. *Outrunning them - not always works,*
2. *Running them over - some of them are quite large, or there are more of them, so I might end up dropping the bike and get more bites.*
3. *As the dog gets close enough, honk LOUD! If you have a loud horn, that is.*
4. *In villages ride as slow and silent as possible, so these lethargic animals will not wake up.*
5. *Talk to them - but some of them doesn't understand Spanish, or English or Hungarian*

Poor Turkish Rider... it has everybody on the road against him, including Flashing Drivers.

You will always find in your ride in this Country a large number of riders ready to flash several time while crossing a biker in opposite direction. Originally I considered this a fraternity message for "people on the road" like in France or Italy. "Be careful! A police speed trap ahead!" So, for the first rides in Turkey I thank the flashing driver and I slow down for the next few kilometers. When no police was found I started considering the significance of the "flashing" and I am able now to produce an (almost) complete list of meanings following an attentive semantic analysis:

- You are disturbing me (or my wife) with your lights on in full day!
- I am so pleased to see somebody poorer then me obliged to use two wheels instead of four!
- The bridge ahead just collapsed and you are going to die now!
- My car has lights too!
- It is an happy day and I am flashing inside and outside!
- Years ago I had a MZ (or Java) and I still consider myself an inner biker!
- I do not no what I am doing but I like it!
- On the radio I just got the news that my football team won (or lost)!
- I am trying to reach the leg of my fiancée' (or wife) and I touched the light switch
- Just checking!
- Police ahead, the road is blocked, flock of sheep covering the tarmac, bad dog, running horse....

Ride in gear

Following our previous report on **Rukka Jackets and Pants** we have been pleased to see Rukka presented at the Bike Fair by the Turkey importer **Kemal Kaya at Samura**: the full line is now available here and you have to take a look to see the advanced features of this brand especially for the incoming summer. **Samura** also import Givi, Caberg (a new helmet with large visor looks quite interesting), Bering and Sidi

Hans Heinz Diltthey was a source of valuable information on gear.

He uses **Daytona** booths and he showed us the new **Daytona Security Evo**, state of the art in racing booths. You can check the characteristics of this booth (and of the Traveler GTX) and place order at the **Daytona representative in Istanbul Bulent Mamay at Daytona Kurucesme** tel 0212 2871787, www.daytonamotor.com

<http://www.held-biker-fashion.de> is the place to visit if you are intersted in the **Held gloves** that Hans Heinz was wearing at the circuit. Our friend trusts them completely and I was very impressed by the quality of leather and manufacturing.

www.jofama.se presents the **Jofama, Halvarssons and Lindstrands** product for bike-wear and safety. Hans was using one of their back protectors (reputed to be one of the best in the market) and he sent me the hard copy of their catalogue. From it ones get an impression of high quality gear designed for hard road conditions.

While on the circuit Hans also alerted the rider on the risk of injuries from old hard plastic knees/back and elbows protectors. If the one you are using is not properly padded to distribute the impact it may cause tendons lacerations on the borders of the shell.

Open Invitations

Bora Sezer is working hard (so he said) to make all links in OMM web site active: do not despair ... visit us frequently and you will be rewarded.

The section "Open Invitations" is a remainder of the suggestions we made on past issues: we need your help to finalize them. If you have time and desire just send an e-mail to us and we will meet.

- ◆ OMM would like to publish a **guide to the dealers/ gear shops/repair points** for bikers in Turkey. We already have a good database that needs check and expansion.
- ◆ **Charity Ride:** 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. We are looking for suggestions.
- ◆ **Join the OMM Riders Group now by contacting Taner Celik (tanercelik@hotmail.com)**

Ride and Think

The book 'Motorcycle Roadcraft: The Police Rider's Handbook' can be ordered for 10.99 Sterling Pounds (plus shipping costs) to the following address: The Publication Center PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT, Phone orders +44 171 8739090 Fax orders +44 171 8738200

The quote of this month comes from William Blake quoted at the opening of "The Adventure Motorbiking Handbook" of **Chris Scott**.

"Improvement makes straight roads. But the crooked roads without improvements are the roads of genius.