



OMM INFORMATION BULLETIN DECEMBER 2001

NUMBER 28 OF NEW SERIES

From Paolo Volpara on Wednesday, December 26, 2001

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

The OMM Web Site, dedicated to Motorcycle Culture, is the virtual meeting point of all Riders interested in Turkey. Updated every month, it offers suggestions for rides in this part of the world, advises on the way to ride in the Country, offers reading material on the Technique of Motorcycling and reports on group activities. From Off-Road to Long Distance Riding we try to cover Biking in all aspects. The OMM Riders Group is committed to serve the Turkish Biking Community and to help in any form Clubs, Associations and Groups in this Country.

Join us as [active OMM member](#) and become part of the legal Association: Tuncel Alacayir is at disposal of all riders planning to join the Association to facilitate the legal procedures. Members of OMM Riders Group at January 2002 are:

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Information on OMM Group spirit, organization, financial policy and history can be found on the section ["Meet One More Mile Riders"](#).

At the End of the Year

With this issue One More Mile Riders Group closes the activities of year 2000. In a difficult year and with limited resources we managed to sustain big portion of the planned activities.

- 1) We published 15 issues of the Information Bulletin. The twelve monthly reports and three special issues: "Dress to Ride 2001" dedicated to clothing and accessories, two editions of "Biking in Turkey 2001" with suggestions on how to enjoy this Country by bike. We hope you enjoyed this simple way of staying in contact and, from January 2002, we plan to make easier for all of you the access to the Bulletin. Instead of a (sometime) long downloading, the Riders currently subscribing the Bulletin by e-mail will receive a brief summary and the list of

planned activities. The complete Bulletin, together with the past issues, will be available on OMM web site.

- 2) We completed the three planned rides in Turkey:
 - a) The west-Black Sea Ride in May from Istanbul to Amasra, Sinop and the area of the Saraycik Mountains. On this ride we had the company of the American Journalist and BMW Ambassador Court Fisher.
 - b) The Ride to Cappadocia in June together with IBA President Michael Kneebone and journalist Bob Higdon.
 - c) The Ride to Nemrut and South East at the end of September: although plagued with problems this ride gave us the opportunity to visit the north approach to the Sanctuary.
- 3) We traced a “less common” Route to South (full report coming in February) from Istanbul to Fethiye in October trying to avoid the trafficked and patrolled roads.
- 4) Two Rides to Europe:
 - a) In March we traveled to South Italy, Puglia, Calabria and we completed the coastal tour of Sicily.
 - b) At the end of August, after the Nurburgring Training Session, we rode to the Central Alps.
- 5) In the Training Area we failed to complete the plan presented at the beginning of the year. Still, we managed to conduct two ARA Courses, a session of basic training in closed circuit and we took a Turkish Team (with Suleyman Memnun) at the Nurburgring Riding School.
 - a) March. **H. H. Dilthey** lesson and training session at Korfez Circuit with more than 50 students.
 - b) April. ARA Course with **J. Taylor** and 18 students
 - c) August. ARA Course with **J. Taylor** and 15 students.
 - d) August. Nurburgring Training Course with 7 Riders
 - e) In December we initiated the first of three session of Theory presenting the new ARA program.
- 6) In the Long Distance Riding list of activities we invited **Michael Kneebone** in June to present his experience as founder and president of the Iron Butt Association and we certified four riders (and one co-pilot) who completed the 1000 miles in 24 hours: **Yigit Ikiz, Ian Johnson, Randall Rosetta, Taner Çelik** and **Ugur Saner** with Co- Pilot **Aylin Cakici**
- 7) Two OMM Riders (**Ian Johnson and Kazim Uzunoglu**) rode the Baku Ceyhan Adventure organized by Tom Goltz.
- 8) We supported in different forms (advices, plans, hospitality and services) more than **150 riders** traveling in Turkey. In this important role OMM also strengthened the links with the **Horizons Unlimited Communities** of Riders providing information on Turkey now published at www.horizonsunlimited.com
- 9) The OMM web-site grew in contents offering reports on all rides done, links to bikers sites and new articles for improving riding skills. We are now inserting on the “Read and Ride” section a new set of material edited in the month of December
 - a) “**New ARA Course**”. The OMM Training Program has been going on for three years following a Theory Course prepared by OMM members in 1998. In the summer of 2001 we revised the Course and we plan to publish it by the end of the first half 2002. Check for the chapters already available
 - b) “**The Hand Signal Code**”. Hand Signals can be quite helpful when riding in group. OMM is introducing the Hand Signal Code as defined by the Gold

- Wing Road Riding Association (USA) one of the best organizations for safe a fun riding. Get here the pictures and the explanation of several signals.
- c) **“How To Make Yourself a Safer Rider.”** We kept these articles from Mark Yager in the back burner for too long trying to contact Mark. We now inserted four chapters of “How to make yourself a safer Riders” covering: Low Speed Riding, High speed Steering, Braking ad Foul Weather Gear. Some of the best advises for efficient biking.
 - d) **“It’s All In The Mind”.** Published on June 200 by the Magazine Bike (one of the best you can read from UK) the Raymond’s Four Steps to be a Good Rider are the most practical advises you will ever found. Practice, Practice, Practice.
 - e) **“The Joys Of Riding Classic (Older) Motorcycles”.** OMM friend Mike Parry explains the joys and pleasures of owning a Classic Bike. Do you want to catch the bug? If you missed the article in the November 2000 issue you can read it now and discover a new passion.
 - f) **“New Rides In An Old Land “.** In the summer of 2001 Court Fisher Ambassador and Global Touring Editor of BMW Motorcycle Owners Club of America visited Turkey and rode with the first Lotus Tour and OMM Riders. Along the Black sea to Amasra, to Ankara and Cappadocia, down to the Mediterranean Sea and to the Ionian Cities, across the Dardanelles and back to Istanbul. Read the full report , as published on BMW ON Magazine.
 - g) “The View from the Bunker” is a regular section of the Magazine “On The Level: a forum for the serious BMW Rider”, official publication of the BWM Riders Association International based in Florida USA. In this section Bob Higdon presents notes, reports and wise observations from his rides around USA and the World. In the summer of 2001 Bob Higdon joined Michael Kneebone, President of Iron Butt Association, in a trip to Turkey on OMM Invitation. Now you can read the full report of this adventure.
 - h) **“Three Degrees Of Separation”.** An inspiring article by Patrick J. Hahn received from an OMM. We tried, without success, to trace Mr. Hahn and at the end we decided to issue his writing in our web site hoping that he will contact us. “Three Degrees Of Separation” is something to read every time you take your bike out.
 - i) **“Specialized Repair and Inflation Tools “.** Nobody should allow a puncture to ruin a good ride. Every rider should know what to do when a tire goes flat. We thank **Stephen Karlan** for the permission to publish his article on “Specialized Repair and Inflation Tools”. Although written for USA market this is the best source for kits that can put you back on the road again.
- 10) We reinforced the structure of OMM with the creation of a Legally Registered Association in Turkey, the inclusion in the group of new Riders, a revision (still in progress) of the visual identity and the connections with Group and Association in Turkey and abroad.

Still a lot of work most be done to fulfill our objectives of a Safer and more Competent Riding. We thank all of you, riders – copilots – readers –writers for the big support given. The 2002 will be even better if we continue to ride One More Mile.

Coming soon on the roads near you

Yes, we noticed it! The weather in western Turkey has not been favorable to bikers recently. Snow, winds, rain and all the associated pleasures kept bikers in bars, dealer's shops or garages for a long period. Now is time to fight back and beat the weatherman by joining **The Original OMM Mad Ride of New Year**. An ancient legend tells that what you do on the first day of the year, you'll do it all year around and respecting old traditions, OMM riders have been out every morning of January first facing sometime really inclement weather. This year we are going to Agva via Sile and, if the weather is acceptably good we will extend the ride to Kandira. **Meet at 11.00 sharp on January first at the Shell Petrol Station on the Istanbul Sile highway. Take the TEM motorway, pass the second bridge over the Bosphorus and exit at the yellow sign market "Sile". Keep on the highway to Sile and the first Petrol station on your right is "Shell". We will be there waiting for you. Ride One More Mile in the New Year.**

"Once you've mastered the mechanical controls and become used to your bike, normal operation becomes almost automatic. As you gain more and more riding experience, you become comfortable and confident. But this doesn't make you a better rider. It only frees up your brain from the distraction of the controls. This allows you to develop your first line of defense: a mental strategy" (from Three Degrees of Separation by Patrick J. Hahn)

The first lesson of the new OMM ARA Course introduced the need of a new Mental Attitude for achieving a better riding performance. If we bike for fun, minimizing the risks is our skill. A trained rider can gain partial control of the external elements of risk by learning just a single practice: how to gain more time.

We will cover this crucial point in the **second meeting** and you are invited to join us **THURSDAY 10 OF JANUARY 2002 AT BOXER Café KURUCESME**

As usual we will start at 18:00 planning the closing at 20:00 with food and drink provided. We hope to see you there.

Riders of the OMM Group worked in the last period with the group of Doctors at Tumer Eğitim Kurumları Bahçelievler Şubesi in Istanbul to design a **First Aid Course specially conceived for people moving around on two wheels machines.**



This is the first time that a course of this kind is presented in Turkey and we are sure that the responsible Bikers will support it with attentive participation. It is our experience that we must improve the reputation of motorcyclists in this Country and what a better way than offering knowledge when it is needed at the most.

The date for this comprehensive Course are fixed on January 12 and 13 2002, with each day starting at 09:30 hours and ending at 17:30 hours. It is a 16 hours Course it will take place at E-5 İncirli Kavşağı Mehmetçik Sk. No:6 (Kadir Has

Centre Yani), Istanbul and reservations can be made directly at +90 0212 258 60 11 / 0212 258 59 79 nor by e-mail at tanercelik@hotmail.com

The calendar of 2002 planned rides will form the subject of next month Bulletin. You have seen our plans in October and November issues. We are now fixing the last details and organizational points before presenting the complete plan to all of you.

2001 Calendar Final

Year 2001	Category	From	To	Km.	Riders	Notes
1-Jan	Mad Ride	Istanbul	Kiyikoy	301	1	Kiyikoy and Cave Monastery
7-Jan	Day Ride	Istanbul	Armutlu	297	11	Armutlu Coast and Iznik
12-Jan	Day Ride	Istanbul	Igneada	450	1	Saray, Demirkoy Igneada
3/11 Mar	Europe Ride	Istanbul	Sicily	4500	3	Calabria, Sicily, Puglia
18-Mar	Day Ride	Istanbul	Domanic	550	4	Karamürsel, Iznik, Inegol
23/24 Mar	Training	Istanbul	Korfez/Izmit Circuit	300	60	ARA Circuit H. Dilthey
6/8 Apr	Training	Istanbul	Bolu	850	22	ARA2 with J. Taylor
4-May	Conference	World of Motorcycling			30	Meeting with C. Fisher and T. Goltz
5/6 May	History	Istanbul	Amasra-Ankara	1800	7	Ride with Court Fisher
8-Jun	Conference	World of Motorcycling			50	Meeting with M.Kneebone /B. Higdon
8/9 Jun	LDR	Istanbul	Istanbul	1600	5	OMM IBA 1000X24H
15-17 Jun	History	Istanbul / Ankara	Cappadocia	1600	12	Ride with M. Kneebone/ B. Higdon
11/12 Aug	Training	Istanbul	Bolu	850	24	ARA3 with J. Taylor
24/31 Aug	Training	Istanbul	Nurburgring		7	Nurburgring Riding Course
20 to 24 Sept	History	Istanbul/ Ankara	Urfa		4	Malatya, Nemrut, Gazi Antep
25/28 Oct.	History	Istanbul	Fethiye, Selcuk		4	Ride to the South
17/18 Nov.	Rally	Istanbul/ Ankara	Assos		50	End of Season Meeting
12/14/19 Dec.	Conference	ARA Lessons				Theory of Road Riding

Riding the Web

In the year 2002 we plan to introduce to Turkey the “Ride to Work Day” with the support of the whole Biking Community. The day is internationally fixed on July 17 and you can get more information at www.ridetowork.org

Do not buy a new tire for your bike before checking the mega test at http://www.tl1000.com/pb_tires/sport_rider_sep_2001.htm



Check the very good product reports at www.bikergirl.net/index.html: Shoei & Arai & Shuberth helmet, Corbin seat, Eclipse bags, Riderwarehouse products, earplugs, HD boots and gloves etc.etc.

Riders of “Heavy Metal” in Turkey have now their own club. Listing Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha, Honda, Harley Davidson, Titan and forgetting BMW R1200C the **Chopper Club** has his very good web site at www.chopperclub.ven.cc

News from OMM friends biking around

[Nigel Richards](#) is an old friend of OMM running a Magazine and Shop for Bikers in Prague: if you pass by give Nigel a call. He just changed address at **BIKER NEWS** BELOHORSKA 165/688, 169 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic. Telephone: +420 2 205 184 28 +420 2 205 184 29 +420 2 333 570 92 Bikers' Store number is +420 (0)737 917 098. Biker News is editing some of OMM Riders and, with Nigel we hope to organize a ride "Czech-Turkish Friendship" soon.

[Ken and Carol Duval](#), visited us during this summer and, after completing the long tour around the world, are now sending a "Season Greetings" letter to all riders friends from Australia:

"Seasons Greetings. As Carol and I stroll into the final days of 2001 we reminisce over the past four to five years. So many personal achievements, so many accomplished dreams and most important of all, so many new friends....

Help from numerous motorcyclists, bike shops and Aussie friends living abroad will always be remembered. These are the positive experiences that keep our dreams alive for perhaps another journey. Dreams! Where would we be without them??

Fortunately we still have a few left to full-fill. These little gems were discussed over our bike intercom as we headed through the last couple of countries en-route to Australia. We have met so many people both over Landers and vacationers who have been to South America that we feel that we would be committing the greatest sin if we did not include this superb country as part of our next journey. We would have to



travel to North America again and then, traverse Russia from East to West. After another stint in Europe and providing the political climate was stable we would attempt to come home through the Khyber Pass in Afghanistan. This is just a dream for now and is, at least, a few years down the track. Back in the real world we take each day as it comes, enjoying the company of frequent overlanders

who come to stay at our little home. Sharing their experiences, both good and bad, keep our spirits high and our dreams alive. One day we will be 'back on the road again'. In the mean time we would welcome anyone who wishes to travel the great expanse of water and land to visit us in the 'Land Down Under'"

[Jules Brenner](#) and his wife were "bikers without a bike" visiting Turkey this year for paragliding in Fethiye. They contact us and we met. They now write: "Pam and I had such a fantastic time in Turkey again - we are already planning to come back. It was wonderful meeting in person - it felt to me like we were old friends meeting after a long time. Mille Grazie for making us so welcome and for giving us such a sense of being at home. Pam and I agreed that we'd have liked to spend more time talking - we had so many things to chat about. After we left you, I had my best flight ever in Turkey - it was 2 1/2 hours, and I got to over 8000 ft above sea level. Quite beautiful. I have been riding my BMW quite a bit since we returned, and I keep on thinking of how nice it would be to ride through Turkey one day. When you send this news letter, it gets my mouth watering for some Turkish travel, and I lap it up."

Martino Gianfrate is a visitor of OMM web site from Italy dreaming to come and ride with us. We met him by e-mail when he sent us a very friendly note for the New Year: *I surf often your web-site and I came to realize that you all at ONN are real passionate bikers without fanatics*” We hope to see Martino, his wife and the CB 750 Four Honda he calls “grandmother” here in Turkey soon.

Kirsten and Chris Latimer met this summer with Taner Celik and the HOG group while crossing Turkey. They now write: *“Thought you and the club might like to hear that we have made it to Lahore in Pakistan and are hear relaxing for a few days before getting on the move again. The weather here is perfect; warm in the daytime and too cold for mosquitoes in the evenings. We will stay here to watch the Eid celebrations and some more sightseeing. The desert road from Zahedan in Iran to Quetta Pakistan was four days of single-track road through the desert and many police checks (got to write your name in the big book). It was our first desert so it was an interesting experience but it was a relief to finally cross the mountains and enter the fertile plains of the Punjab. The Triumphs have only required routine maintenance and the engines still sound OK (despite our fast blat with the HOG Istanbul Chapter) We hope to have the web-site updated soon with our adventures in the rest of Turkey, Iran and the crossing to Pakistan. In the meantime, due to Visa problems we will have to travel quite quickly across India and go to Nepal where we can arrange a new visa for India. So, looks like we are due for our second spell of cold riding (our last one was crossing the mountains to Erzurum).”*



This should be called “**News from OMM friends flying around**”. OMM ARA students will recognize **Jon Taylor** who, after preaching safety and restraint while biking does not hesitate to put words into practice. Probably the highest bungee jump in the world at over 700 feet. Check it out at www.engineer.co.za/bloukrans_bridge.html

The second and Last part of **Kazim Uzunoglu** Ride to Syria and Jordan is here: you can read the entire report on our web site at “Travel”: we left our riders in Damascus at the end of day 5.

Day 6 (Nov 18, Sunday)

Damascus

We spent the whole day aimlessly wandering around the souq, exploring the little alleyways and khans filled with the oriental aromas, certainly befitting the typical picture of a Middle Eastern bazaar. The best thing about both of the souqs in Aleppo and Damascus was that they still catered to the local people, whereas the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul is now geared towards tourists. We also stumbled across a modern art exhibit in one of the old buildings. It was a good example of the Syrian and other Arab artists trying to break their shells of artistic expression that was constrained by Islam for centuries. We visited the very well laid-out Azem Palace that was the residence of the Ottoman governor of Damascus in 18th century, exemplifying the blend of local features with Ottoman palatial architecture. One other delightful aspect of Damascus is its outdoor cafes, frequented by the local youngsters especially after breaking of the fast. We did our time at the An-Nafura coffeehouse, located right by the eastern side of the Umayyad Mosque, sipping our coffee, listening to the chirping of the canaries and puffing away on the hubbly bubbly, the nargile. It reminds one of

the Il Fishawi coffeehouse in Cairo, with its serenity and timelessness. The oddest figure of the night was surely the local guy trying to sell an extension power cable in one hand and an elastic waistband for losing weight in the other hand.

Day 7 (Nov 19, Monday)

Damascus-Petra

It took us about 45 minutes and 20 kms in the wrong direction in the Damascus morning traffic to get out of the city due to incorrect directions given to us by the hotel clerk. The Dera border point with Jordan was much easier and took us shorter time, costing us about \$2 in departure taxes. The Jordanian side was even more facilitated, with all the staff speaking English (a fact which we later found out applies to the majority of Jordanians). Entry into Jordan cost us JD30.5, equivalent to \$43 (1 USD = 0.70 JD), in compulsory insurance and customs taxes. This was the first GSM coverage since leaving Turkey, so we took the opportunity to make some calls. (Syria has a cell network, but there is no roaming agreement with any of the Turkish services). The welcoming figure this time was the new King Abdullah enthroned after his father Huseyin's death in 1999. His pictures showed him with a warm smile as opposed to the austere pictures of his counterpart in Syria. In the 90 kms between the border and the capital Amman, we saw three universities, which was an interesting signal for Jordan's approach to education. We had decided to bypass the unexciting Amman and head on directly down to Petra, but wrong navigation led us into the city. One more time a very helpful taxi driver told us to follow him for about 50 kms out on the ring roads of Amman to safely bring us to the fast and boring Desert Highway. Although we were heading even further south, the weather was very cold due to the tormenting desert winds. Upon arrival in Petra we settled in at the Sunset Hotel for JD13 a night and walked out to find a bar to quench our thirst from the cold and dry desert riding for 600 kms. The bar at the 5-star Movenpick Hotel was very handsomely decorated and sure enough that reflected on the two glasses of beers we drank at \$6 each. Our tired bodies hit the bed at 8 PM for a long and uninterrupted sleep for 12 hours.

Day 8 (20 Nov, Tuesday)

Petra

This was the day I was waiting for and for me, one of the objectives of making this trip. I had seen so many pictures of Petra and read a couple of articles that had raised my expectations for this magical site. In spite of this, I was totally overwhelmed by the magnificence of the site. Petra was built by the Nabateans, a nomadic tribe of Arabic peoples, who levied heavy taxes on the caravans passing through the area under the supervision. Later in 1st century BC Petra came under the Roman rule, which resulted in cultural and architectural influence on the Nabateans. The walk through the 1,200 meter long canyon-like siq (fissure) was exciting enough and gradually prepares the visitor for the highlight of Petra, the Treasury, or the Hazine. The approach through the narrow opening brings the splendid façade of the Treasury suddenly into view. Erroneously called the Treasury, this building must have been built as a monumental burial place for a local ruler. Among other impressive ruins were the unique theater carved out of the hillside, many monumental royal tombs carved out of the rock, and the Monastery, one hour walk from the main site. The most unlikely encounter at the Monastery was with a Turkish motorcyclist, Menderes from Istanbul. He was on his KLR650 traveling in the Mideast, eventually would end his trip in Egypt and ship the bike back from Cairo. When we told him we were on bikes as well, he was extremely surprised too. Throughout the whole trip, he was the only Turkish person we saw, and he was on a motorcycle! It seems Turkish

motorcyclists are now more adventurous and will not be surprising to see more on the foreign roads in the near future.

Day 9 (21 Nov, Wednesday) Petra-Madaba

Petra was the southernmost point of our trip, so today we started driving north, this time on the much more pleasant and scenic King's Highway. After a few hundred clicks of fascinating riding on the winding highway through desert landscapes, we stopped briefly at the 12th century Crusader castle of Karak built very strategically on a hilltop controlling two valleys. The highlight of today was the ride along the Dead Sea and a quick swim in this body of salt water. Well, I guess "float" is a better word. We changed into our "swimming" gear at the Government Rest House and took a dip in this lowest point on earth, 400 meters below sea level. The feeling was just sensational, literally floating above the water, making the classic "read your newspaper" picture come true. As we were enjoying the lake, we could hear the Israeli warplanes roaring from the other side of the lake, a clear reminder of the turbulent times the area has been going through for ages. We spent the night at Madaba, a very easy-going, cute little town, 30 kms south west of Amman. The relaxed atmosphere comes from the fact that the population is still 50-50 Muslim and Christian and according to the Christian owner of our pension, Lulu's, they have been living very peacefully for centuries. This is a town where the muezzin's call to prayer mingles harmoniously with church bells. Madaba is also famous for its 6th century mosaic that depicts the earliest known map of the area, including the Palestinian territories. Tonight we exchanged stories with a lovely Dutch couple who had been traveling in their Land Rover for a year in Africa and were now on their way back to Holland.

Day 10 (22 Nov, Thursday) Madaba-Lattakia

Even though Jordan does not have oil, it was cheap here as well. One liter of super gasoline costs 350 Fils, about 50 cents/liter. We filled up again before getting to the border with the good 92 octanes. Driving on the tangent road around Amman this time proved successful and we reached the border with no problems. Leaving Jordan just like entering was no problem, departure tax was 5 JD per person. Upon clearing the Syrian customs (this time we only paid the \$10 road tax as our insurance was still good), we sped through Damascus and Homs to arrive at the impressive Crusader Castle Krak de Chevaliers. Dubbed by Lawrence of Arabia as "the finest castle in the world," this impregnable castle was never truly conquered. With its two lines of walls and a moat in between, Krak is located in the most strategic location, in the only break in the mountain ranges between Antakya and Beirut. Even though 2,000 people could easily spend 5 years in this castle with their storage of food and water during times of siege, the Crusaders finally gave in the mighty Krak to the Muslims under terms of safe retreat from the area. It is also interesting to note that it is the same group of knights, the Knights of St. John Hospitalliers, that built the castle in Bodrum. The climate, geography and landscape varied dramatically as soon as we reached the Mediterranean coast. The vegetation became very lush, full of olive and peach orchards, and provided us with a warm welcome to the beautiful coast of the very Eastern end of the Mediterranean. Lattakia was a big surprise for us as it was a cute city with palm lined boulevards and whitewashed buildings along the water. It reminded us very much of Izmir in its laid back approach and urban layout. We stayed at the Al Atlal Hotel for \$12/night right in the middle of the "American" quarter.

Day 11 (23 Nov Friday)**Lattakia-Ankara**

We left Lattakia with the intention to drive 1,400 kms straight on to Istanbul today. We entered Turkey from the Kassab-Yayladagi border points, a much smaller and more beautiful passage between two countries. The roads approaching the border from both sides are spectacular mountain twisties with incredible views. Upon crossing the Taurus Mountains, we were welcomed by the snow covered Central Anatolian plain. It looked like a white desert to our desert-acquainted eyes. The road was dry and not busy, but the cold weather made me think about the mountain climbers who lose their fingers and toes on tough climbs. After a hot soup at the Orhanagacli Facilities in Aksaray, we rode along the Salt Lake at sunset and arrived at the outskirts of Ankara with numb hands and feet. The decision to spend the night in Ankara did not take us long to make as we were warming ourselves at the electric heater at the last Petrol Ofisi station before the expressway. We spent the night at a friend's house and munched away on pizza. We would later learn that staying in Ankara was a very wise decision.

Day 12 (24 Nov Saturday) Ankara-Istanbul

The road at Cankurtaran Pass (1580 meters) after Ankara was a bit slushy with last night's snow, but the whole ride to Istanbul was uneventful. We later learned that Alp on his way back to Istanbul had to let the bike down due to a sudden snowstorm at this very same point and put the bike on a tow-truck for about 130 kms. The last 30 kms before Istanbul was under torrential rain with visibility around 30 meters, but it was fun as we stayed dry in our Gore-Tex boots and rain gear. When I killed the engine, my odometer was reading 4,776 kms, from my doorstep back to my doorstep.

Watch that corner!

Steve Forster, an OMM friend from UK, sends us a good interpretation of Haynes Manual's (or any workshop manual) jargon. He writes "*I am sure you've all used Haynes manuals to work on bikes in the past, and wondered why things didn't work out right. Perhaps this will explain....*

Haynes: *Rotate counter-clockwise.* **Translation:** *Clamp with vicegrips, then beat repeatedly with hammer counter-clockwise.*

Haynes: *This is a snug fit.* **Translation:** *You will skin your knuckles!*

Haynes: *This is a tight fit.* **Translation:** *Not a hope in hell Buddy!*

Haynes: *Undo...* **Translation:** *Go buy a tin of WD40 (catering size).*

Haynes: *Retain tiny spring...* **Translation:** *"Jeez what was that, it nearly had my eye out!"*

Haynes: *Press and rotate to remove bulb...* **Translation:** *OK - that's the glass bit off, now retrieve some good pliers to dig out the metal base part.*

Haynes: *Lightly...* **Translation:** *Start off lightly and build up till the veins on your forehead are throbbing then re-check the manual because this can not be 'lightly'.*

Haynes: *Inspect...* **Translation:** *Squint at it really hard and pretend you know what you are looking at, then declare in a loud knowing voice to your wife "Yep, just as I thought, it's going to need a new one!"*

Haynes: *Get an assistant...* **Translation:** *Prepare to humiliate yourself in front of someone you know."*

Ride in gear

Pilots of Sport Bikes have often problems in packing for long tours. Rocket Locker at <http://www.rocketlocker.com> is offering an interesting solution based on an aluminum plate replacing the back seat. Two types of bags are available and they accept orders by Internet.

Ride and Think

Think of being stranded while riding in Turkey and consider the importance of having a friendly help at hand. One month ago we initiated the project "**OMM Help Book**" that will be published on the OMM web side and it will contain the Names and Addresses of OMM Friends willing to offer assistance to fellow riders. Assistance can go from offering hospitality in emergency case to simply provide help and information over the phone. The answers to our request came mostly from fiend's abroad and we decided to include an international section in the listing.

Nevertheless the contribution from Turkey has been so far quite poor and we repeat here the invitation to enroll.

If you want to be included in the "OMM Help Book" or if you have friends (non bikers are accepted) willing to help a rider in need please answer to this message filling the request of information reported below

Please include in the "OMM Help book":

1. Name
2. Family Name
3. Address
4. Home Phone Number
5. Work Phone Number
6. Mobile Phone Number
7. E-mail
8. Bike(s) owned or no-biker

9. Help offered

- Assistance by Phone
- A space to park the bike
- A workshop to repair the bike
- Hospitality in emergency (food)
- Hospitality in emergency (bed)
- Bike recovery (trailer or pick-up)

More information about Turkey can be found at these selected web sites:

<http://www.turkey.org> A complete Country's profile containing essential notes on government, education, tourism and consular services.

<http://www.kultur.gov.tr/english/main-e.html> This is the web site of the Turkish Ministry of Culture covering historical places, museums and events.

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/GRUPg/gg/default.htm> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers a list of Embassies and Consulates of Turkey combined with useful information for border crossing.

http://www.focusmm.com/index_03.htm "Focus on Turkey" is one of the best sources of information for travelers in this country.

<http://www.thy.com.tr/en/index.htm> Turkish Airline web site with all internal and international flights. You can also read on line the last issue of the on-flight magazine "Skylife" containing pictures and articles on Turkish itineraries.

<http://www.twarp.com/turkwarp.htm> A well informed site that offers a list of virtual traveling options. You may want to move in time to the prehistory of Anatolia for a

walk into the land of the legends and a multitude of civilizations. Or you may want to visit the top 10 natural beauty of Turkey. Or you may explore the Jewels of Anatolian history.

http://www.csd.uu.se/~pierref/travel/turkey_guide.html Mr. Pierre Flener maintains a “travel guide to Turkey intended to show foreign would-be travelers and residents what Turkey is really like, unbiased by glossy brochures or homepages by Turkish authorities or individuals”. This is essential reading for the preparation of a ride.

<http://www.hitit.co.uk> This is a good place for advises to independent travelers

<http://www.naturekey.com> The place for a valid list of outdoor places (and activities) in Turkey

<http://www.worldexecutive.com/cityguides/istanbul> A practical guide about Istanbul with city map, restaurants and hotels.

<http://www.osmanli700.gen.tr> A site dedicated to the Ottoman history.

<http://www.exploreturkey.com> A commercial site offering Hotel reservations, information about important tourist places and good pictures.

<http://www.beyogluweb.com/istanbulshit/core.htm> This is the site of the alternative magazine for Istanbul: Istanbulshit. Go there for something different.

<http://www.ptr.co.nz/turkey> A photographic essay about Turkey with hot spots map of Turkey.

<http://www.ideamerge.com/motoeuropa> This site offers a summary of information for road users in Turkey.

<http://www.great-adventures.com/destinations/turkey/turkey.html> is the place of Adventures Great and Small offering a well prepared selection of activities in the Country and a large list of links.



Serex generously supports the OMM web site and some of OMM activities.

Information about this Company can be found at:

<http://www.seratarim.com.tr/>

<http://www.seratarim.com.tr/>

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