



**One More Mile April 2002  
Information Bulletin  
NUMBER 32  
Monday, April 15, 2002**

**A View from the Cockpit**

**One More Missed Occasion: the Istanbul Motorcycle Fair.**

The welcome outside the modern Lutfi Kirdar - Rumeli Exhibition Center says it all: when I arrive on my bike on the early hours of Friday 29 April I discover that the Motorcycle Fair has no parking places for Motorcycles. The security people at the doors welcome Mercedes and BMW cars but are quite rude in moving out of sight this ugly object of a bike wet and muddy. The parking man on the other side of the road went to the same school: yes, there is space for cars (the parking is basically empty); no, bikes are not accepted even when ready to pay full car rate. The only alternative is a tight slalom up on a high pavement sharing space with soft drinks and 'simit' sellers. And it goes on: the elegant ladies at the ticket control (press counter) are not easily captured by the biker look: no, there is no place to leave your wet Jacket and your muddy helmet... after all, if you do not have money to buy a car or to pay for a taxi why should them bother with low class customers.

**This is the best summary for a Fair with no bikes, no bikers and no interest.**

The industry in Turkey complains that economic recession crippled a growing bike market: they mourn the absence of new bikers and cry over the slow sales. Some of them disappeared (Honda and Kawasaki were not attending the Fair), some of them reduced their presence and some of them discontinued several models. It is true: to sell 700 bikes a year in a market of over 60 millions inhabitants is a shame. But one has to ask why and "economic crisis" is not the only answer. In the whole Fair there was not one single message on how to use a bike, not a single suggestion about the pleasure of biking: all we have been doing is to sell hardware, metal and plastic, horsepower and speed. This criticism involves OMM too: our presence was without intelligence. As most of the "exhibitors" we placed our logo on the wall, four chairs and a table... selling our group as one of the hardware in offer.

**For a new "would-like-to-be-biker" the OMM contribution was useless:** we did not present our Training Program, we did not show our touring events, we did not bring any interesting experience to share with the public. So did all other "brands and firms": a lost opportunity to improve social acceptance and attraction. The use of semi-naked ladies to attract visitors, the intolerable high music and regular explosions of the exhaust fumes from the Harley Davidson booth did not help in creating a positive image. One day we will use our intelligence and we will create a Bike Show where the bikers and non-bikers are welcome to see what you can do with bike, with friends on bike, with passion for bike.

Nothing interesting? Well... you cannot bring me to a Bike Fair without raising my blood temperature.

First the bikes: the new importer of Aprilia had one of the best displays with Futura, Mille and Caponord dominating the floor. The Mille is the sport bike of this year and several bikers already expressed interest (Fuat Domanic OMM Rider will be the first one to ride it in Turkey). Futura is just gorgeous and a good alternative for the Honda VFR. Caponord fights against the BMW GS "monster" and it will be interesting to see the reliability and durability of this bike on Turkish road.

Yamaha had the most attractive bike in show: the new R1 looks a bred apart although difficult to use on our poorly paved roads. More practical the new TDM and, in my opinion even more fun+practicality the Fazer in both version 600 and 1000.

Harley was presenting the new liquid cooled roadster an American surrender to the Japanese way of building smooth engines.

On BMW the new 600 CS is a serious attempt to bring new users to our sport. For the rest just "marketing tricks" with new mat colors for the GS and special equipment for the GS Adventure.

Suzuki was presenting the new Vstrom that can be a serious alternative to GS, Varadero and Caponord.

New faces? None with the exception of Derbi (why here?) and MZ (serious consideration for a practical everyday bike on and off road)

Leaving hardware for people: always classy the presence of **Sinan Afyoneri Mototas Company** carrying alone the Honda flag. **Sinan** is one of the most serious businessmen in the industry producing a catalogues of parts and accessories that cover the Gotha of the industry: Dainese, Arai, Nolan, Herpco Becker, Yoshimura. Very interesting the preparation of a GS with Touratech parts. **Sinan** is now the official importer of this extraordinary producer of "Rally and Adventure Parts" and we should pay him a visit soon.

**Even more interesting Sina opened a new Company: MOTOTAL for renting bikes in Turkey, next door of Mototas (Intas Blokleri A Blok, 27. Kiziloprak, Istanbul. Tel +90 216 3471300 Fax 3479400, www.mototas.com.tr e-mail mototas@mototas.com.tr) They have BMW R1150GS bikes for rent for now on and are expanding the fleet rapidly.**

**Ahmet Aktas of Romork Endustry** (phone 0232 4589676 fax 0232 4589134) is at biker's disposal for producing some of the best trailer around. He has standard trailer in stock for one/two/three bikes but he can accommodate most of your requests.

**Samura Motor** always present with quality products had in display the new collection of Givi soft bags. I am abandoning hard cases founding soft luggage more practical and the Givi one looks sturdy and reliable.

From the Club scene: **HOG** initiative "Yol Komsulary" "Road Companion" is the only event trying to improve the biker's image. Go to their web side ([www.hogtr.com](http://www.hogtr.com)) and see the program for the Traffic Week (4-11 May): they will have bikers on the road to help and assist all users. Mail to [yolkomsu@hogtr.com](mailto:yolkomsu@hogtr.com)

Present with multiple stands **Enduro Club of Turkey** was also presenting the second issue of the Club Magazine. If you want to subscribe go to [www.enduroclub.org](http://www.enduroclub.org)

On Mototas booth the newly formed **EMOK Club** and (with the most stylish presentation) in an independent booth the **Chopper Club**: join them at [www.klassikmotor.com](http://www.klassikmotor.com)

**For the rest noise, confusion, and depression: time to go out and try to retrieve my bike. This time I hope that the kebab seller is not using my Corbin seat as serving area.**

**Motorcycle's Producers Attitude.** The View from the Cockpit of last month underlined the lack of support that all Groups like ours receive in Turkey from Importers and Producers: **Andy Goldfine** (the inventor of Aerostich and the creator of Riderwarehouse catalogue [www.riderwarehouse.com](http://www.riderwarehouse.com)) wrote to us a very encouraging note: "I feel that motorcycle companies and distributors everywhere want to "move metal" as the highest priority. Regardless of where they are located, few are enlightened enough about "creating a motorcycle culture and acceptance" to make more substantial investments in these secondary and indirect areas. Your situation in Turkey may be a little worse than it is in America or France or Japan (?), but it is only a question of gradation or degree. Some companies and distributors are a little better, and some are a little worse, but all of these business entities can do much, much more in this area to help grow motorcycling. Do not give up."

On the same subject **Barry Tinson** from UK confirms: "Regarding manufacturers support. In the UK, Honda has within the last year withdrawn support for the Honda Riders Club. None of the other Japanese manufacturers or their dealers gives regular support to the various 'one make' or 'one model' clubs. I belong to the Virago Star Owners Club. We have some 1300 members in the UK, we receive not help or encouragement from Yamaha. It seems to me that motorcycles are just manufactured goods, much like washing machines or fridges, once you have bought it the manufactures is not really interested!" On different aspect (rights to ride) but similar subject **Derek R**

**Packham** ([derekr@superonline.com](mailto:derekr@superonline.com)) living in Turkey writes to OMM: "Fact is Turkey needs its own association preferably on the lines of MAG-UK. It is time Bikers took a hand at getting thing and laws in Turkey sorted out. For example the Bike Speed limits and the "Carnet" document. For me the Carne is used to support the non-active Touring Club rather than they producing the goods for Bikers and others. You ask them questions and they can't answer most anyway... First Turkish Riders must help themselves and there's a long way to go. Rider Licensing and Bike testing are just some of the urgent factors to be addressed"

**More opinion from our readers would be welcomed.**

#### OMM Rides & Travels

A busy month of March with a glorious end of February. The second "**Andare per Curve**" Ride in Italy and France was one of the best ever done by OMM.

"**Andare per Curve**" is an annual ride dedicated to fun riding and normally reserved for a small group of experience bikers. The objective is to find some of the best curvy road in Europe in low season to ride, ride and ride. This year we selected the Maritimes Alps between Italy and France and the Mountains along the French Riviera. To gain time we moved to Milan by plane and we rented bikes in town. **Kazim Uzunoglu** ([kuzun99@yahoo.com](mailto:kuzun99@yahoo.com)) and his company **Kazoom Travel** took care of all organizational details offering a choice of BMW, Aprilia and Ducati. ([Read more Going for Corners in France](#))

#### Rides and Events Ahead

**As you will see from the calendar update of this month we are revising our plan for Riding and Training quite substantially.** New opportunities, new invitations, new ideas make our program a lively thing continuously evolving.

**Please join us and reserve your place in one of our rides: it is a good way to meet new friends and sharing the passion for good biking. Send an e-mail to [volpara@homemail.com](mailto:volpara@homemail.com) and indicate the ride you would like to join. The participation is free in most cases and you pay just for your own expenses.**

**RIDE 10.** The **OMM Rally** has been cancelled to allow all Riders to take part on the "**Across the Bosphorus**" Parade organized by HOG as opening for the two years long campaign of education of roads users on bikers rights. The Harley Owner Group Representative, who also expect international motorcyclists and press to enter the parade are aiming to create public awareness to motorcycles, stated: " *This campaign belongs to all the*

*bikers of Turkey. We are just leading the way. The traffic laws in Turkey do not have enough details such as in many EU countries and USA. Our goal is to point out to everyone in Turkey the number of motorcycles and the problems we are facing'* You will receive a specific invitation for this event: for now just mark it on your calendar. **May 11 starting from Salipazari parking space near the Fenerbace Stadium.**

**RIDE(S) 12/24/25.** The second element of this revision is the cancellation of most of the **Long Distance Rides**. Last month we announced the postponement to 2003 of the "Four Corners of Turkey LDRide": in this month we had to cancel the "Sunrise to Sunset LDRide" planned for July 21. LDR is a "special and acquired taste" in riding and not a lot of pilots are interested in this kind of activity. Furthermore the continuous deterioration of the Turkish road system makes LDR quite risky and, as responsible riders, we never plan to open LDR to every pilot. As result we do not have sufficient entries for the "Sunrise to Sunset LDRide". For the same lack of participation we must cancel the "**LDRide for the Republic**". Originally planned by OMM as a special celebration of Atatürk arrival in Samsun on the 19 of May 1919, this ride was covering the places where the key events that led to the creation of Modern Turkey took place: 19 June 1919 Amasya Protocol, 23 July 1919 Erzurum Congress, 4/11 1919 September Sivas Congress, 20 October 1919 Second Amasya Protocol, 19 March 1920 Ankara, establishment of the Grand National Assembly. ([Read more: The LDRide for the Republic](#))

**RIDE 11. On May 13, 2002 we will welcome the arrival in Turkey of Kevin and Julia Sanders on their way to attempt a new Guinness "Round The World on Motorcycle" Record.** OMM is offering support to these riders while crossing Turkey and we plan to meet them at the border entrance in Ipsala. From there we will ride with them to Istanbul where you can join us in celebrating Kevin and Julia crossing of the Bosphorus and entering in Asia. **Omer Koker, OMM rider, is expecting all of you at 21:00 of May 13 at the "Tanker's Parking Place " on TEM (Second Bridge Motorway) located after the exit "Abidler" and before the exit "Alibeykoy"**. The group of Turkish Riders will ride across the second bridge (respecting the rules reported below) and will leave the Kevin and Julia after the crossing. CNN Turk will cover the event. ([Read More OMM welcomes Kevin and Julia Sanders](#))

**RIDE 17. From July 20 to July 29 Selim Demirel (from Ankara) and Yakup Icgoren (from Istanbul) will lead a Grand Tour of East Turkey.** A spectacular ride covering Amasya, Ordu, Trabzon, Artvin, Kars, Ani, Dogubeyazit, Diyarbakir, Nemrut Dagi, Urfa, Harran, and Cappadocia with more other interesting sites in between. It is an OMM Touring Ride where pilots with pillions are invited and welcomed. **Jim Parr**, a LD Rider from USA originally planning to join us on the Four Corners Ride could not resist the call of Turkey and he will join us in this event. ([Read more on the Grand Tour of East Turkey](#))

**RIDE 15.** If you are planning a Ride Abroad for this summer take a good look at OMM Calendar: **in cooperation with Kazim Uzunoglu we are now presenting a Ride to Tuscany for a week in July** done in comfort and style. You can ask details to us directly for one of the most fascinating rides in this antique region on Italy, famous for art, food and wine.

**RIDE 9.** A group of five OM M riders led by **Cemil Turker** will ride a second "Andare per Curve" in **South of Italy** at the end of April. The planning of the route, covering some of the best riding routes, is available to all riders who want to visit this part of Europe, so near to the Ferry from Greece. ([Read More: OMM Ride to South Italy 2002](#))

**RIDE PLAN.** OMM also prepared the plans for a long week-end (or more days) in **Greece**: covering a circulate route Kavala, Saloniki, Édhessa, Kastoría, Ioánnina, Prevetza, Astakos, Makrakomi, Lamia, Delphi, Lárisa this ride explore the north west part of this historical country bringing back the riders with a central mountains crossing allowing the visit of the famous site of Delfi. ([Read More: OMM Ride to Greece 2002](#))

**RIDE 23. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan—Oil Odyssey 2002! An Adventure In Hydrocarbons! From 21 August to 2 September.** Take a dozen BMW-clone, WWII-era sidecar motorcycles, mix with international adventurers interested in oil and gas and politics and culture, stir with passion and salt with madness, and what do you get? Oil Odyssey 2002! **Thomas Goltz** has many more surprises for your desire of adventure. ([Read the newly released program for Oil Odyssey 2002](#))

**RIDE 16. Mark in your Calendar the 17 of June.** This is the "Ride to Work" International day and we are trying to prepare a good event for all bikers introducing this celebration of motorcycle culture in Turkey

#### OMM Calendar Update

In blue the **Rides/Events** done or fully booked and in Red the ones **cancelled or postponed**

CODE	From	To	Description	Itinerary
1	Jan-01	Jan-01	Mad Run	Ist-Sile-Ist

2	Jan-10	Jan-24	ARA Theory Lesson (2)	Istanbul
3	Jan-12	Jan-13	First Aid Course	Istanbul
4	Jan-17	Jan-17	ARA Theory Lesson (3)	Istanbul
5	Jan-24	Jan-24	ARA Theory Lesson (4)	Istanbul
6	Feb-20	Jan-24	ARA Theory Lesson (1 rep.)	Istanbul
7	Feb-22	Mar-03	OMM Ride "Andare per Curve"	Italy and France
8	Apr-19	Apr-21	ARA Course (4)	Bursa circuit
9	Apr-19	Apr-24	OMM Ride "Andare per Curve"	Italy: Puglia and Calabria
10	May-10	May-12	OMM Rally and Moto Camp	Ist-Abant-Istanbul
11	May-13	May-13	Welcome to Sanders (Guinness Record)	Ipsala Bolu
12	May-18	May-19	LDRide for the Republic	Ist-Samsun-Erzur.-Ankara
25	Jun-01	Jun-11	LDRide Four Corners of Turkey	Ist-Hopa-Van-Urfa-Edirne-Ist
13	Jun-21	Jun-23	ARA Course (5)	Kas circuit
24	Jun-21	Jun-21	LDRide Sunset to Sunrise	Sinop-Anamur
14	Jul-12	Jul-18	OMM Ride "Touring" Black Sea	Moldavia and Ukraine
15	July	Week TBF	OMM Ride "Touring" Tuscany (Kazoom Tour)	Italy
16	Jul-17	Jul-17	Ride to work day	Turkey
17	Jul-20	Jul-29	OMM Ride "History" Grand Tour	N & S East Circuit
23	Aug-21	Sep-02	Oil Odyssey 2002 (Thomas Goltz)	Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan
18	Aug-23	Sep-01	OMM Ride "Andare per Curve"	Transalps Crossing
19	Sep-20	Sep-22	ARA Course JT	Kas Circuit
20		September	OMM Ride "History"	Damascus, Beirut
21	Oct-25	Oct-29	OMM Ride "History"	Bin Bir Kilesi & Cappadocia
22	Nov-16	Nov-17	OMM Rally	Assos