



OMMRA Information Bulletin April 2000

From Paolo Volpara on Wednesday, April 19, 2000

Comments, suggestions, ideas, question: volpara@home.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,

Welcome to the fourth edition of our bulletin. In the last period I received several invitations to ride and I had to decline most of them.

Getting old (April 4th was my 54th birthday and **Levent Baki** at Berke Motor (Kawasaki and BMW) with old friends from OMM make it very special for me) I have to select more carefully the areas of interest and, when comes to biking, I want to focus on Long Distance Riding combined with some “mild” off-road excursion.

This is not the only way to enjoy biking but it is my way and it represents my contribution to the Turkish biking community. Long Distance Riding is a combination of different physical and mental skills similar to the ones required in a Marathon Run.

I am trying to improve these skills and I am placing most of my biking time in this basket while recognizing that there are several other way to spend time on a bike: my good friend and co-national **Max Zanardi** (go and visit his Restaurant: Getti in Etiler) likes to spend hours on an unstable Cross Bike (new [Husqvarna](#) for him) blasting on unstable terrain and flying on unstable air.

This gave him last weekend the second place on the 500 class in Cross Turkey and, I presume a lot of satisfaction. Invite Max to a tour of the Bosforus on a chopper and he will politely decline. So for me and for this bulletin is Long Distance Riding and discovery of the history of Turkey. I hope to pass some of my passion and to bring more people in remote but beautiful parts of Turkey.

The OMMRA web site is changing server once more leaving megaltd.com and going under the care of **Murad Acar** (OMM). My ignorance of most recent web programs and the chronically lack of time impacted negatively on the quality of the site: be patient with OMMRA and place your faith in [Murad](#). If you are experiencing difficulties in reading the site send a note to him or, even better, if you time to help us on editing the web please contribute.

- It was the period of Bike Show and on March 30 I visited the **Motorcycle Exhibition** at the Hilton Hotel in Istanbul. As usual very small and primitive but the BMW and Kawasaki areas were in line with international standard presenting the only two

interesting bikes: Kawasaki ZX-12R and BMW F650GS (also available on PB version).

- I also liked the presentation and catalogues of [Mototas](#) and [Demaks](#). [Sina Afyoneri](#) imports and distributes in Turkey an impressive list of quality products such as Dainese, Arai, Nolan, Hepco Becker. **Demaks** brings us Ducati, Triumph, Bimota, Moto Guzzi, Polaris and Husqvarna together with brands like Brembo, Akarapovic, Ohlins and my favorite Alpinstars and AGV. Visit both side (for Mototas you need to download [Macromedia](#) Flash Player) for the tempting parts and accessories.

The last 30 days have been pretty busy in organizing and running a set of events:

- On March 25/26 OMMRA rode the first section of the Crusaders route from Istanbul to Eskisehir. To add further interest to this ride we included in the tour a visit to the Roman City of Aizanoi (today Cavdarhisar) and to the best preserved Zeus Temple of Turkey. The weather good, the road demanding and the company willing to ride: all the elements of a perfect weekend. The full report of the trip is at www.megaltd.com.tr/omm/Tripaizanoi.htm
 - The OMMRA riders: **Selim Karadag** (OMM), **Cemil Turker** (OMM, Iron Butt), **Alp Berker**.
- On April 1 with **Cemil Turker** we rode a new circuit we called “Thousand Corners: Marmara”. It is a splendid set of roads around the [Marmara Sea](#) specially recommended to riders with Endurance Bikes (Honda Africa Twin/Transalp/Varadero, BMW GS/650, Kawasaki KR 650, Yamaha Tenere(s), Triumph Tiger). Bad surface in most places but good corners and unspoiled nature. Read about it at www.megaltd.com.tr/omm/MARMARARIDEhtm.htm We want to transform this circuit in a classic two days ride for the year 2001 and we have ready now a “Thousand Corners: Marmara” Certificate for the ones of you testing the ride this summer. (send documentation to our e-mail box)
- On April 16 two BMW R 1100RT went to Domanic (the ancient Temnos) via Bursa/Inegol. The pilots **Cemil Turker** (OMM, Iron Butt) and **Armagan Ak** (OMM) rode along a portion of a new ride we would like to present by the end of this year. Starting from Istanbul/Bursa the ride will go on panoramic road and via historical places to Inegol, Domanic, Tavsanlı, Kutahya, Cavdarhisar, Gediz, Usak, Civril, Denisli (Pamukkale), Alasehir (Philadelphia), Salihli (Sardes), Akhisar, Bergama (Pergamon), Kosak, Edremit, Can, Biga, Bursa/Istanbul. If you have riding information on some of these roads we would appreciate your notes (in English of Turkish). Send comments, notes or suggestions to our e-mail box.



1: Cemil T. on the road to Domanic - 2: Bikes on the snow in April - 3: Tired...but happy in Safranbolu

- From March 31 to April 2 OMMRA riders **Selim Karadag** (OMM) and **Murat Acar** (OMM) on BMW R1100GS rode to Amasra and Safranbolu repeating the ride presented at www.megald.com.tr/omm/3_academy%20riders.htm Despite heavy snow the Havuzlu Hotel in [Safranbolu](#) provided comfort and happiness to the two couples. This is the first OMMRA ride with wives and the Ladies must be complimented for the endurance. We will present soon (promise!) a new “Thousand Corners: Black Sea” covering what I consider a “mother of all twisty roads” from Amasra to Inebolu and Sinop. We covered this road in 1999 with **Ertugrul Bitlis** (OMM, Iron Butt) and **Cemil Turker** (OMM, Iron Butt) on our way back from Kars: the best description we can offer is a natural roller coaster for bike freaks. Still Safranbolu is a good destination for a weekend from Ankara or Istanbul: the city has the best group of restored Turkish traditional houses, a good bazaar and a civilized hotel. Take the bike and go!
- In total the OMMRA riders covered more than three thousand kilometers in the last month and they invite you to take out the bike from the garage and hit the road.
- Focus at <http://www.focusmm.com.au/tanamenu.htm> is one of the best sites to get the information you need for preparing a trip. Most of the references in this bulletin come from this group and a visit to these pages is always a pleasant experience
- **The Iron Butt Turkey.** I received several notes requesting information, explanation, and entries to the Iron Butt ride planned for 22 and 23 April. As most of you already know I decided to cancel this event: riding for 24 hours trying to cover one thousand miles may sound fun and easy when sitting at your favorite bar. In actual life this is a serious ride requiring experience and preparation in order to avoid accidents. Under the “old” OMM rules agreed with Iron Butt Association the “100 miles 24 hours” ride in Turkey is on a pre-determined circuit and I feel responsible for the riders entering the event. The entries received this month came from riders I never rode with and therefore I felt uncomfortable about the experience and qualification. I do not want to carry the burden of possible accidents or to push (still unknown) friends to unexplored limits. This is the reason for cancellation. The future may bring different rules (as in USA you plan and submit your itinerary and OMMRA only certified the completion) and new opportunity (an Iron Butt in group of ten riders). For the moment I apologize to the pilots taking the trouble of entering: I will get in contact with you during the summer and we will discuss some alternatives (maybe a shorter 12 hour ride to come to know better our stamina).

- I was ready to try again a “1500 miles in 24 hours” with the support of BMW Turkey but problems in communication reduced the time for preparation and this event has been postponed to May or September.
- **Net: if you want to test your endurance on an OMMRA Long Distance Ride to be certified as Iron Butt send me your request (if you already sent the entry form for April do not repeat) and I will get in contact with you trying to fix a meeting in Istanbul to define a plan.**
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- The OMMRA plan for the next months includes:
 - Advanced Riding Techniques Course conducted by **Mick Wheeler** between April 27 and May 2 on the area from Istanbul to Bolu. All places for these two courses are taken but, if you are interested on next year course, I plan to organize a meeting in Istanbul with M. Wheeler on May 2nd. You may want to come and meet Mick discovering his “philosophy” on smooth riding. Send me an e-mail and I will let you know details.
 - The preparation for “Four Corners of Turkey 2001 Rally”. Few riders will try the circuit on June 22/25 and we are ready to accept **one experienced rider** to come with us in this first attempt. We will start from Istanbul to Hopa, Kars, Van, Urfa, Mersin, Antalya, Izmir, Canakkale, Edirne back to Istanbul. The objective is to test the feasibility, check the roads and control points, select hotels and write road book.
- News on Books: I just finished to read for the second time “Motorcycling Excellence: Skills, Knowledge, and Strategies for Riding Right” by The Motorcycle Safety Foundation. It is a splendid book and I will never stop to recommend it. I also found a brief article on this book to give you a taste of things to come: ” *Here is a book for the motorcyclist who wants to do it right--the most complete, authoritative book ever published on safe riding techniques and strategies. Statistics indicate that a substantial percentage of motorcycle accidents involve riders with limited experience and training. Prior to 1973 there were few organized programs to instruct beginners and experienced riders in safe motorcycle operation. Since that time, over one million students have completed courses developed by the MSF. This book is the culmination of what they have learned about teaching students of all ages and experience. It is the perfect refresher for anyone who has taken an MSF course and will be an eye-opener for those who have not yet discovered them.*
In a clear, engaging style with detailed diagrams and extensive full-color photographs and illustrations, the book covers rider attitude, proper dress, performance, maintenance and troubleshooting, as well as basic and advanced street skills. Included are tips on how to stop quickly when necessary; avoid traffic hazards; apply evasive maneuvers; countersteer for better control; travel skillfully in a group; identify and fix mechanical problems; ride more smoothly at high and low speeds; maintain momentum in off-highway riding; and much, much more. A remarkable source of riding wisdom, this book is certain to become the definitive reference for the sport. It enables brand-new riders to learn safe riding habits from the start while veterans can perfect their performance to reduce accident risk.
The Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses have been responsible for sparking in many people a lifelong passion for motorcycling. As they claim, "The More You

Know, The Better It Gets!" Motorcycling Excellence provides the opportunity for every motorcyclist to discover for him or herself the thrills of "riding right" by getting the best from self and machine."

- Finally this issue of [Bike](#) (UK) has an interesting article" A biker's guide to the web" showing the money you can save by ordering parts, accessories and gear from Internet. It lists several sites and I did not have the time to test them all. But, for your curiosity (and saving) here we go:
 - www.nwcycle.com
 - www.compacc.com
 - www.themotorcycleshop.com
 - www.aerostich.com (an old trusted friend of OMMRA)
 - www.daytona.de (S.Karadag of OMM rides on these)
 - www.ohlins.com
 - www.yoshimura-rd.com

Next bulletin by May 15 from Gocek