

Not a bad year at all, despite all tragedies that the exportation of ideologies created and keeps creating. 2006 OMM year was probably the best ever with so many kilometers under our wheels, for training, for Long Distance riding, for touring... in a word for sheer pleasure. Old friends went, new friends came and, as usual in any bikers group, the "hard core" of professional bikers took the load of the organization. A lot of riding, not a lot of writing and we all missed some good report, some good story and the simple chat of bikers kicking wheels.

So, resolution for the New Year, we will return to the monthly bulletin of OMM, simpler – shorter – lighter (in kilobytes). This "End of

2006" issue goes out to the old list of Friends: if you do not want to keep receiving the voice of Turkish motorcyclists just send a message in return with subject "No more OMM Bulletins" If, on the other hand, you plan to visit our Country or you plan to cross it on your way East note that OMM riders are here to help with suggestions, answers and hospitality.

If you live in Turkey join us in our passion for competent and fun riding.

Happy 2007 Riding One More Mile

View from the Cockpit

For a moment I was really scared.

Conversations, phone calls, messages, advises, orders and suggestions were pouring incessantly into my brain trying to persuade me that my old friend, the motorcycle, was dangerous. Make no mistakes this was serious brain-washing - at least for me, having built most of my beliefs following a "two wheels discipline".

For more years that I like to count, I always went back to a good ride to clarify my thoughts, to revise my perceptions, to confirm my certitudes or to find new ideas.

And every time the good friend, the motorcycle, whispered words that were clear, honest and as multi-useful as a Swiss knife.

Now, if I had to believe what I was preached, this friend should have been considered as dangerous as a passenger carrying liquid shampoo on an international flight.

And the accusation was not coming from traditional enemies of bike such Jeremy Clarkson but from bikers, from people owning two wheels and occasionally using both of them. From friends that did not plan (as Mr. Clarkson declared) "to silence motorcyclists by stretching a piece of cheese wire across the road". The message came from believers and that made me afraid.

Uncertain shapes, visitors from the past,
At whom I darkly gazed so long ago,
My heart's mad fleeting visions-now at last
Shall I embrace you, must I let you go?
Again you haunt me: come then, hold me fast!
Out of the mist and murk you rise, who so
Besiege me, and with magic breath restore,
Stirring my soul, lost youth to me once more.

Right, when you feel down and lonely nothing better than cheering up with Mr. Faust: if the motorcycle was a dangerous friend I spent years I bad company and only a pact with you-know-who could bring back the wasted time.

So I planned one last ride to say good-bye to the infectious companion and, just to be on the safe side, I planned to make 5.000 K in 5 days without a planned route, without proof of passages, without calls or notes. Just a long casual summer ride to celebrate the end of a long lasting relationship.

Good by singles, twins and four-on-line... good by monoshocks, dual sparkplugs, speed-triple...good by aerostich, pilotpower, brems and ohlins... ciao ciao forever to GT, RT, ST, CBR, ZRX, SMR, MGS, GSX and YZF ... a new life of safety and consciousness (an maybe a Volvo station wagon) waiting at the end of the last ride.

A ride that I could not even complete: at just over 3.000 k I decide to quit, trusting a strong friendship with Michael Kneebone. I was really spent, the heath of the Anatolian planes had no more appeal and maybe more important, I found the answer from "uncertain shapes, visitors from the past".

As my friend David says motorcycle is not dangerous: I left (mea culpa) a 916 Ducati alone for three months in the spring and, at my return, no one of the other inhabitants of my confuse garage was damaged - I had reports that kids even touched the red monster without being assaulted by the Duke. Proven: bike no dangerous ... so what?

More came to me while crossing (km 1.090) the Cilician gates on the Taurus Mountains, from Tarsus to Pozanti: an appropriate place for illumination with Tarsus birth place of S. Paul. Not blinded by the sun, but contemplating the sunset in a semi-deserted road (D750 is a better choice than the parallel highway) I realized that all boiled down to FEAR or, better, to how FEAR effect all of us after a bike accident hit us or some of our close friends.

I should have remembered an article signed by Guido Meda, one of the TV commentators of GP. He divided the world in three categories: the normal world where the rider (after the accident) pulverizes what remains of the bike, puts the mind in peace till, 20 years later, a new model of Vespa revitalizes, just a little, the desire to face again the wind. The second world (he call it "the word of throttle freak bikers") where passion, soon or later, takes over FEAR pushing, after a crash, to go back on the saddle. And finally the third world where FEAR is a well known friends riding with you on the bike, where FEAR "caress even when you crash," where the pilot "places all in the hands of God, even if he does not know Him".

This last world is the place where FEAR signifies RESPECT intertwined with LOVE.

That's right... all those friends mentoring me on the need of safe, boring riding, advising me to forget Long Distance Riding, suggesting that I should wear the police mask of control and restrain... all those friends ready to criticize (as good boy scouts of Joe Glydon memory) all bikers for taking risks and not respecting at all times

the stupid speed limits that corrupt politician disseminate around the paved world for easy-cash-generation... all those friends – I was saying- are without the third FEAR.

They use bikes as ultimate proof of machismo, they buy and change and use bikes in the same way frustrated old men buy-change-use lovers. Biking without FEAR and sex without love.

Once again biking made all clear and two days later when in the middle of Anatolia I decided to stop and retrace my way back home I felt satisfied: this time I could not reach my inner goal of 5000k in 5 days but in the kilometers that I covered I reestablished a strong relationship with the passenger. Sitting on the back of my bike, FEAR- RESPECT and LOVE - pacified my thoughts: perceived and felt in this way, FEAR-on-the-saddle cements the link of a non dangerous bike with a potentially dangerous rider.

FEAR on your back pushes your limits, makes everything exciting and memorable, brings you to those places where you don't

belong, and this is according to Peter Egan, "the root of all misery and the soul of all adventure"

So, Mr. Faust, no need to look for a magic return of the lost youth. After a bad accident, to you or to some of the friends, you will receive millions of advises and you will wander whether it is still worth riding. But, according to Michael Kneebone, "...that is something you do not worry about today, tomorrow or even next week. After and accident, tomorrow you will wake up and think, "no more" ...but then other friends will gather and remind you how much better their life is with this riding as part of it. And then "no more" becomes "maybe" and then maybe becomes, "let's put on another ride..."

In this way, FEAR reveals the real face of Respect and Love: you turn back, smile at this invisible passenger, and keep riding... keep doing stupid things for stupid reasons... take craziness out of biking and what you are left with is half Volvo. **OMM**

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OMM Calendar

OMM riders met in December to finalize the calendar that, as usual, will be based on Training and Touring. We also have a great

(we think so) project to promote in semi-competitive and rewarding way the exploration of Turkey. With affiliation to the Institute of Advanced Motoring and with the strong link with Iron Butt Association we are looking forward for an engaging and surprising 2007. Here the first half:

2007	From	To	Subject	Location	Note
January	01-Jan-07	01-Jan-07	Mad Run	Istanbul	
January	13-Jan-07	13-Jan-07	CAT Training	Istanbul	CAT 1 theory
January	14-Jan-07	14-Jan-07	RoadCraft Ride	Istanbul	
January	20-Jan-07	20-Jan-07	OMM- ARA Theory	Istanbul	
January	21-Jan-07	21-Jan-07	OMM-ARA Theory	Izmir	
January	27-Jan-07	27-Jan-07	CAT Training	Istanbul	CAT 2 theory
January	18-Feb-07	18-Feb-07	RoadCraft Ride	Istanbul	
February	24-Feb-07	24-Feb-07	CAT Training	Istanbul	CAT 3 Theory
March	11-Mar-07	11-Mar-07	CAT Training	Istanbul	CAT 4 Theory
March	17-Mar-07	17-Mar-07	RoadCraft Ride	Istanbul	
March	31-Mar-07	01-Apr-07	CAT Training	Izmir	CAT Practice
April	28-Apr-07	29-Apr-07	OMM-ARA Road	Istanbul	
April	30-Apr-07	04-May-07	CAT Examination	Istanbul	
May	05-May-07	06-May-07	OMM-ARA Road	Izmir	
May	31-May-07	31-May-07	OMM-ARA Theory	Istanbul	
June	01-Jun-07	04-Jun-07	OMM Master Ride	Istanbul	

Ride with OMM

1. The Year opened with "OMM Mad Ride" of exceptional proportions: helped by good weather more than 200 riders celebrated the first day of the year in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. (January 1)

2. The ARA Theory course at the Hyatt Hotel in Istanbul registered one of the highest levels of participation for the last five years: almost 200 riders crowded the room to cover in one day the entire course. (January 21) and the success of OMM Advanced Riding Theory Course did not stop... carried by the passion of David Maden we continued:

a) 14 April: more than 100 riders in Bursa attended the OMM Theory under the organization of Bursa Chopper Club.

b) 1 July: more than 40 riders under the organization of Fazer Club

of Turkey.

c) 21 April: a repetition of the course for the riders taking part in the ARA Road workshop.

d) 1 September: again in Bursa, 150 bikers gathered together to listen to David in a session organized by Enduro Turkiye, sponsored by Bursa Halk Ekmek and Renault in cooperation with Bursa Municipality.

e) 24 December: in the fabled Trabzon 50 riders shared four hours to go through the OMM course in a friendly meeting organized by Trabzon Motorsiclet Suruculeri and OMM Member Dursun.

3. OMM observers ran four RoadCraft Rides on the area south of Istanbul around the Iznik (ancient Nicea) Lake. (February 11, March 12, April 16, May 28) and continued in the Autumn with two rides (11 November and 10 December)

4. February, March and April: OMM Observers covered more than 2.000 kilometers of "qualification rides" to help new and old pilots to revise the personal status of MC education and training.

5. OMM – ARA Control, the one day session in safe area to tune the skills of steering, braking, accelerating and controlling the bike was repeated three times in the year involving more than 50 bikers. (April 15, July 8 and August 12)

6. 22 and 23 April OMM ARA Road 24. Having started in 1999 with the first training "on the road" OMM is the only group in Turkey that offers workshops in real situation dedicated to advanced riding. Twenty three times later, we rode with 30 bikers having with us the experience of Jon Taylor and Andrew Longshaw.

7. OMM Master, the ride traditionally reserved to the OMM members with high qualification, was something special. The first day we spent four hours on Otodrom Circuit working on an advanced form of ARA Control; then we took the road to Kutahya where we spent the night. In the following two days we rode from Kutahya to Fethiye and from Fethiye to Izmir covering some of the best roads of Turkey in perfect spring weather. The last day, thanks to our friends in Izmir, was spent at the Racing Circuit following a program designed by Jon Taylor. On the 29 evening a good party closed the entire event. (25,26,27,28 and 29 April)

8. The Touring side of OMM was in 2007 quite interesting: we planned five rides and we managed to complete three of them:

a) April 2, 2006 Istanbul- Demirkoy, an old village perched on top a splendid bay of the Black Sea. Eight bikes and ten people led by Omer Durusel.

b) May 27-28, 2006. Led again by Omer, the week end ride from Istanbul to Babakale, the most western tip of Asia. Nine bikes and eleven friends took the road to this small fishing village with incredible sunsets. Babakale is not fully exploited by tourism and the village maintains a sincere (and sometime squalid) air of authenticity. The tour covered Behramkale (Assos), Smitheus temple in Gulpinar, Alexander Troy and the incredible unpaved crossing (road 59-50) from Sarkoy to Tekirdag.

c) From June 16 to July 1, organized by MotorEast, we traced the legend of Count Dracula in a long and exciting ride through Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and the coast of the Black Sea. The north of Romania, the Carpathian and Transylvania are among the best rides I had for long time.

d) We cancelled the planned rides to Amasra and Khios. Small groups of OMM bikers had numerous rides in Turkey and abroad: North Black Sea in secondary (and sometime off) roads, Italy the Dolomites, Greece all around, Spain and France, Scotland and Ireland are some of the rides reported in the summer 2007.

9. 2 and 3 September OMM ARA Road 25. This time in Izmir and along the famous route of Dacia and the crossing Odemis – Salihli. Twenty bikers and safety riders had great time in a workshop smoothly organized by ARA director David Maden and "OMM man in Izmir" Ugur Ertekin.

10. IAM examinations for Turkish Riders wanting to join the pinnacle of ARA curriculum for pro-riders continued on the 2006 with two sessions and bringing the number of Associated Member to over 20. 26 April and 30-31 August.

11. A special OMM ARA Road (number 26) took place in an itinerary around Izmir on the only few days of November that saw an unforeseen cold weather: snow on the ground on the South of Turkey for 8 riders, Jon Taylor and David. (4-5 November)

12. On the Long Distance Ride area OMM riders had a seriously bad year. Several riders had to abandon the planned LDR and only Kaan Tuna, with a perfect Saddle Sore increased the number of IBA Riders in Turkey (now over 20). We will take revenge on 2007 and we will honor once more the "world's toughest riders group"

a) The riders of Sunrise to Sunset (from Sinop to Anamur - 950K on sun time) decided to suspend the trip on the 5th hours for a terrible accident that took the life of Atilla from Izmir.

b) I suspended the 5.000K-5 days attempt at 3.219K and on the third day on the saddle.

c) Kaan Tuna had to stop on day three his crazy attempt to cover in 10 days all cities with number in traffic registration in Turkey. The clutch of the bike gave up and it was impossible to continue or to repair in time.

We issued only one bulletin in April keeping updated the web site (www.ommriders.com) on monthly basis. We managed to send out a new revised version of the RoadCraft book and a completed revision of ARA Theory.

On the "Sharing the Riding" side we provided support, help, information and route plans to more than 250 riders and passengers taking Turkey as their destination in 2006. Some of them we personally met, some other we only contacted by electronic means. As part of Horizons Unlimited Communities we provided a prompt and accurate service to all bikers using this web-site (www.horizonsunlimited.com).

EMOK continues to service the need of the Turkish biking community with exceptional generosity: Hakan Erman and other members train on ARA Theory and ARA Control system at the AUTODROM. Get the latest calendar at www.emok.org or contact egitim@emok.org Following the ARA system, Rahmi Barutcu and his Lamatech School (www.lamatech.com) provides to paying riders a full range of tuition including Control and Road workshops.

The OMM Izmir community is exceptionally active with rides, training workshops and courses. On 25/11/06, they hold a free First-Aid seminar about what we can do after a motorcycle accident till ambulance come. Sponsored by Akca Makina-VOLVO the seminar was attended by over 90 people. More information from Ugur Ertekin. **oMM**

Long Rides

From IBA News: Roger Allen has become the first finisher of the Iron Butt Association's End to End ride in the United Kingdom! Leaving John O'Groats on the southwest side of the UK at 6:00 am, he rode to the Land's End on the extreme northeast tip of the UK in less than 24 hours. Most people would find that ride to be very difficult... But a straight shot was not what Allen had in mind, he wanted the IBA End to End GOLD, which meant a lengthily trek east to get the mileage above 1,000 before reaching Land's End. 1,079 odometer miles and 1,049 gps miles to be exact in less than 24 hours.

From Riders in Turkey: Ian Johnson finally achieved one of his personal goals; Istanbul to the UK by Ducati 738SPS in just 2 days. Ian left Istanbul 07:00hrs on Friday 21st July and arrived at Calais for the tunnel under the Manche at 08:31hrs 23rd July. He wrote "It was bl***y hot and uncomfortable and a 200km range on the tank was a serious liability when crossing France in the middle of the night when all the petrol stations were closed but it is done. Only problem(s) were the oil pressure warning light coming on after 350km (eek) and losing all blood to my toes due to high frequency vibration. I just hate those Ducati oil pressure switches...for over 3000km all I could look at was the oil warning light" **oMM**

Links

Omer Buyukavsar An OMM rider has taken the task of offering

every month a selection of his finding in the Internet. If you want your web-site presented here, mail to him directly the necessary information. ommm

<http://www.kgm.gov.tr/images/trkh-yeni1.jpg>

<http://www.kawasaki-turkiye.com>

<http://www.vasitam.com>

<http://www.sahibinden.com>

<http://www.ikiteker.org>

<http://www.istanbulvespa.com>

<http://www.moto-park.com>

<http://www.superevariders.com>

<http://www.motorsiklet.net>

<http://www.thunder-flash.org>

<http://www.motorsiklet.diyari.com>

<http://www.daytonamotor.com>

<http://www.cycle-parts.com>

http://www.viriniawind.com/byways/history_01.asp

<http://www.ktmendurookulu.com>

<http://www.motoaktif.org>

<http://www.cbxmanmotorcycles.com>

<http://www.dragspecialties.com>

<http://www.tumopar.com>

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

<http://www.runawayriders.com>

<http://www.motosiklet.diyari.com>

New map of highways and roads of turkey

Kawasaki dealer in Turkey - Z-Motor official web site.

A secondhand sales web site direct seller-to-buyer

The best secondhand sales site for bikes in TR

News about bikers and biking in Turkey.

Vespa motorcycle owners club

A portal for bikers in Turkey.

Site of Chopper club based in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

Informative web site with many links.

An interesting bike builder from Turkey. .

News about biking in Turkey and legislations.

An on line sales site for Turkish riders.

Internet Source for Discount Motorcycle Parts.

History of motorcycles very informative

A motorcycle off-road course company web site, in Turkish.

A portal for bikers in Turkey.

American web site with many cheap accessories

One of the biggest parts producers in USA

Retailer and importer site for small bikes accessories

The Turkish web site for Chinese motorcycles Mondial

A group of riders from Izmir,

The web site of Turkish motorcycle fans

Ride and Think

Bob Higdon gave us a very interesting article of Don Arthur MD titled "Fatigue and Endurance Motorcycling" essential for those riders who want to approach or continue LDR events. The article covers sleep, circadian rhythm, fatigue effects, preparation to periods of less sleep, countermeasures and suggestions. The riders that would like to receive the article (in Acrobat and English language) should send a message directly to me (volpara@homeemail.com).

Selim Demirel wrote in March 2006 "Dear Paolo, I and my wife Basak, we were in Marrakech for a couple of days last week and on a brief excursion into the Atlas mountains where we met Patrick and Belinda Peck on Miss Adventure II (Super Tenere) at roadside café. We had a small talk and as they told they plan to come to Turkey for the second time, I offered them our courtesy service whenever they are next to Ankara and told them about OMM and the website etc. No surprise for me, they said that they have al-

ready a correspondence with you and were really happy to be able to get help when needed, in Turkey. Let me express my appreciation for your contribution to the biking and biking community in Turkey, not only because of life saving effects of getting skilled on a bike and your ever lasting enthusiasm for training but may be more for having planted the seeds for sharing and compassion among bikers in Turkey. I felt a good portion of pride by having been in the position of saying to Belinda and Patrick "Paolo Volpara, of course I know him, he is friend of mine"

Selim is one of the pillars of OMM and his activity, as the passion and generosity of many others Turkish riders, generated the reputation on OMM in the international community. By the way, we met then Belinda and Patrick in the summer when they were passing by Gocek... ommm

This Bulletin is edited by Paolo Volpara with contributions from bikers in Turkey and abroad.