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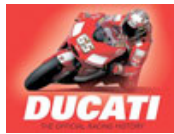
Long Beach Monster Challenge has a [winner](#) and he took the performance route with a turbo delivering 112hp to the wheel from a Monster 900. The runners up were nice, too. [12-14-2004](#)



Ducati Desmo Challenge will be a [Ducati only race series](#) in Europe next season. Three classes will run on four dates from April to July. There are a lot of Ducati riders stateside that would love to push the envelope, too. Maybe Ducati can get a similar series going over here. [12-14-2004](#)



Land yachts are how many of us refer to the huge RV's seen all over, many are lined up at the racetracks to house the race teams. This one, the [Terra Wind](#), is no longer confined to land. Just drive down the boat ramp and off you go. Why take the long way around the lake? Just drive across. Do I live a sheltered life? This stuff just amazes me, not only that they build them, but there are people who will drop a cool million bucks to have one. Geez! [12-11-2004](#)



Ducati: The Official Racing History by Marco Masetti will be published January 6th, 2005. All new, it covers the history of Ducati, the designers, racers, engineers, loads of illustrations and photos. If you're passionate about Ducati's, this book's for you. [12-09-2004](#)



Personal Air Land Vehicle (PALV) In another attempt to show what wonderful things we can do with technology without dealing with that sticky issue of the actual drivers on the road, a Dutch entrepreneur is developing a combination 3 wheel vehicle that has a sort of built in gyrocopter enabling it to take off and fly. Is the technology available? Sure. Can this be built? Don't see why not. But just think about your last drive down the street and consider what would happen if those drivers could fly, too. Combine road rage with air rage and watch the dive bombing begin, if they can keep from crashing into houses and crowded streets even when they don't want to. The reason we don't have flying cars is not lack of technology. [12-09-2004](#)



In some weird disturbance of the space-time continuum, Sachs built a version of their MadAss scooter that looks ultra contemporary and powered it with a 500cc engine from (are you ready?) a Royal Enfield! Displayed at Intermot in Europe, it features fuel in frame and a few other interesting features. Click on the photo for a large version. I am at a loss for words. A comment on one forum says it best, "EuroBuell." [12-06-2004](#)



An American Builder Builds a Racer and it's an amazing piece, the [MotoCzysz C1](#)! Michael Czysz has a running prototype that's getting coverage in the motorcycle press and it deserves a lot of attention. An inline 4, mounted longitudinally usually has a lot of torque transferred to the bike, so Czysz split the four into a pair of twins then reversed the front pair so it counter-rotates and offset them for a 15 degree V configuration. And that's just for starters, the single sided front fork, the gearbox under the engine, rear springs separate from the shock, it just goes on and on. His ambitious goal is to race MotoGP. Potential street versions down the road, too. [12-06-2004](#)

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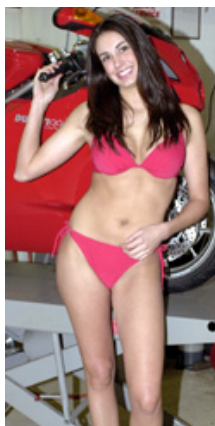


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[Vintage Motorcycle T-Shirts](#)

We have 'em!





Round 2 of the Monster Challenge is now in the books and [the winner has been announced](#). There are numerous pictures on Ducati's site. There are still several shows where the competition will take place. If you have a Monster with something extra, maybe you can win, too. The overall winner gets a new Monster so it's worth a shot. *12-02-2004*



Old Honda CBX's had great engines but the frames were a bit flexible. No matter, here's a fellow that started with a neat project for his wife, who has MS, and he decided a little power for the wheelchair would be a good thing. Then maybe a little more power, so he has this CBX, see, and... Well, just [take a look at the result](#). What an inspired use for an old engine!

12-01-2004

Motorcycle riders and other recreational rider's health insurance coverage is sometimes at risk when insurance companies refuse to cover someone because he or she was hurt while doing something those companies consider dangerous. The Senate passed a bill to stop insurance companies from denying health benefits to motorcyclists and other recreational riders hurt while engaging in those activities. The house will now consider this bill and it is worth looking at. [Details on the AMA site](#). *11-28-2004*



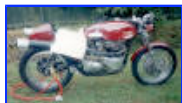
Those boring, slow electric cars, and now for [something completely different](#). The Eliica, an electric car from Japan has eight wheels, a top speed so far of 370kmh (230mph) and accelerates faster than a Porsche 911! OK, it's expensive, REALLY expensive, but it just shows that things are improving on the electric vehicle front. Sooner or later, this technology makes it into the real world.

11-22-2004



Elena, has another motorcycle tour. Well scooter tour actually. Elena is the Russian who took us for a [ride through Chernobyl](#). Now she has a tour of [The Serpent's Wall](#), an area around Kiev where a huge Russian/German battle took place in WWII. She rides the trails on her Scooturo, her ZX11 isn't exactly a trail bike, and gives us a glimpse of what it was like. Personally, I find her perspective and her Russian/English notes about the photos a fascinating read. *11-22-2004*

AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2005 celebrate Ducati (Thanks to Roadracing World Magazine for the pointer). [Ducati will be featured](#) July 15-17, 2005 at the Mid-Ohio Roadracing Course in Lexington, Ohio. We'll be there, will you?
11-18-2004



Our Australian readers like to keep us up to date on goings on down under. John Scerri sent us a few photos of the old machines they've been riding and racing. His Triumph racer has gone 147mph at Phillip Island. It looks great. John also has a Matchless street bike project under way.



John makes replacement primary belt drives for several different machines, his racer has one as does the alcohol burning Vincent, number 20 in the photo.



This Vincent just looks gorgeous and fast. I really like these bikes, they have that timeless, classic look.

Just click on the photos to see them full size. *11-18-2004*

The Search For The Lost Bike is [another Ducati effort](#) to fill in the blanks in the company history as far as examples of past motorcycles and other information. If you have a Ducati that is a little out of the ordinary or advertising, manuals or other literature from the years 1946 to 1970, let them know. You may play a part in the reconstruction. *11-13-2004*



The Monster Challenge Round 1 has a winner. The first winner was announced in California for the Monster Challenge which is running in conjunction with the Int'l Motorcycle Shows. [The winners](#) show a variety of interpretations of their own special vision. The coverage shows all of the winners for this first show, next one is in Texas.
11-13-2004



1947 Royal Enfield. Yes, some guys have the old ones and ride them. The owner of [this bike](#) says it goes about 3000 miles per annum. It looks absolutely stunning. The picture is from the group ride in California. Follow the link and scroll down to see more of this bike and the others on the ride. Looks like great riding country, you fellows out in California have it pretty good. *11-07-2004*



The 24th Annual International Motorcycle Shows has begun this weekend and will tour the country. It's a great opportunity to see all of the latest bikes from all of the manufacturers, parts and accessories from a host of suppliers and riding exhibits and of course the usual assortment of girls showing off the best attributes of each model. I always find them to be of great technical assistance whenever I have a question. We usually go to the [Cleveland](#) show which will be January 28th to 30th. It's a pretty sure bet you won't be out riding that weekend so mark it on your calendar. This year you can also buy your tickets online which is great because the lines can be really long. See you there! *11-07-2004*



The Ducati Monster Challenge as noted below is being sponsored by Ducati to find the coolest Monster. Well [here's one](#) that could be a contender, with custom built frame and 2 into 4 exhaust with lots of other custom pieces, too. This is just a sample of what can be accomplished with desire, a great bike to start with and a few other things like talent, skill, determination, ... you know, the usual things that make a winner. *11-07-2004*



Norcroft V-twin. A few days ago I mentioned the Carberry Enfield V-twin and it has been showing up around the Internet and in some British cycle mags as a new project. Well here is a photo of a Norcroft Enfield V-twin, however, the Norcroft was produced some time ago, I think. So is Carberry trying to resurrect the old Norcroft? I don't know but it sort of looks like it. It's a neat bike no matter what but I was unaware of this Norcroft until just yesterday. Who is Norcroft, anyway? Was this a one off?

If you are familiar with this motorcycle, let us know. Hmm... *11-02-2004*



The Roehr Motorcycle Company wants to build an American sportbike. The [RV1000](#) runs a V-twin displacing 936cc and has a long list of high tech parts. It takes guts to start a new company and go straight into the teeth of numerous manufacturers who have well developed motorcycles that will compete directly with this new model. With the number of startups that have tried and failed to bring out new bikes or resurrect old ones, it will be interesting to see what happens here. Can they succeed?

Time will tell. *11-01-2004*

Valentino Rossi wins ninth MotoGP race this year and the title again. Every now and then, someone comes along who is so good at what he does, it is hard to comprehend. Over the weekend, Valentino Rossi won the MotoGP race at Valencia to cap a stunning year. This year aboard a Yamaha, he wasn't supposed to be as competitive because the bike was new and still needed development. He was on a Honda last year and won the title, switched to Yamaha, ... and won the title. His riding leaves you in awe. Whatever he rides, he wins. Unbelievable skill and talent. If you get a chance to catch a MotoGP race on TV, be sure to watch. *11-01-2004*



Carberry-Enfield V-Twin takes a Royal Enfield single and through the magic of some imaginative engineering turns what was one cylinder into two. The Indonesian importer of Royal Enfields had the idea for this engine and turned to Ian Drysdale (of [Drysdale V8](#) fame) to make it real. It's a cool idea. [Carberry](#) is looking for financing to get production in gear. Price might be a bit high but the bike would be unique. *10-28-2004*



Motorcycle design down under. Noticed a graphic on the [MCNews](#) website and followed it to [Tim Cameron Design](#) and some motorcycle design studies. Tim has a company in Australia that creates some really superb motorcycle possibilities. Here's a variation on an older [Ducati SS 750](#). I hope the manufacturers are watching because his talent is definitely top shelf. *10-26-2004*



Great ride on a Royal Enfield over the weekend. We took advantage of the beautiful autumn day and rode up through southwestern New York. The particular [Royal Enfield Sixty-5](#) I was on was equipped with a solo saddle which gave it a very period look. I was amazed at how well the bike handled for being essentially a 50's era motorcycle. The power was more than adequate for everything we did and I found myself enjoying some slow

sightseeing in a few areas where a sportbike would have been out of place. If you ever thought a Royal Enfield might be a nice addition to your garage, you owe it to yourself to take a look. Lots of fun and they attract more attention than the average bike. [10-25-2004](#)

Technology marches on ... I think. If you like to tinker and that weekend lawn mowing is getting a little boring, how about a [flying lawnmower](#). That should impress your neighbors before you go for your Sunday ride. There's [video here](#) but I would suggest a high speed connection. [10-23-2004](#)

The Ducati Monster Challenge is on. Down below I pointed out a modified Monster and now, Ducati is running its own contest to find the [coolest Monster in America](#). If you have one or know of one, let them know. [10-22-2004](#)

They look neat but I wonder how they sound. Ducati is introducing the [Ducati High Performance Sport pens](#) in conjunction with the Sport Classics. [10-12-2004](#)

Murphy's Law always seems to strike at the most inopportune time. Well, now there's a [formula to show the components](#) of a situation and how you can affect the likelihood of old Murphy showing up to spoil your day. [10-10-2004](#)

Saw one of these on TV and it seemed odd but after thinking about it and taking another look, [SMART cars](#) seem interesting. A steel cage with snap in plastic panels, 2 seats and 60mpg. They are coming to the US and with \$2 gas I bet they sell like crazy. Not ideal for cruising the open highways, maybe, but for a lot of other running around... [10-09-2004](#)

Am I psychic or what? Yesterday I suggested an [X prize for other technology](#) and now they are starting multiple X prizes. You can even suggest the categories. Hmm... imagine the possibilities. [10-08-2004](#)

How about an X prize for motorcycles or cars? Now that the [X prize has been won](#), everyone is talking about how it stimulated private development of space flight technology. But what about technology we use all the time? A [hydrogen car](#) for instance, was built by a teacher and his students. What might we get if there was real money involved? [10-07-2004](#)

Renault is investigating that runaway car and so far it seems perfectly normal. Hmm... what a surprise. What they need is a CSI team like on TV. "Could I see your shoes?" [10-07-2004](#)

OK, just call me skeptical but I have a hard time believing this one. A driver in France said his car just accelerated to 120mph and would not slow down no matter what he did. A magnetic key wouldn't shut off the engine. After 125 miles it finally slowed down. Now, suppose he just floored it and cooked up this story... [10-05-2004](#)

Here's another example of possibility thinking. The [transformation of a Ducati Monster](#). I appreciate the work involved, I'm still mulling over the design but I applaud the effort and "make it happen" attitude. [10-05-2004](#)

Wheelie School! Keith Code, who runs the famous [superbike school](#), is now conducting a [one day wheelie school](#). What bike is he using? Why, a [Triumph Speed Triple](#), of course. [10-04-2004](#)

As someone who has owned two V-Max's I was always looking for a company that could make one into the bike it could be, after all, Yamaha seems to be sucking dollars from a 1985 motorcycle sold every year as a new model. Well, there is [one company in France](#) producing an interesting variant, rear video camera instead of mirrors, 2 Triumph Speed Triple single sided swingarms, but if my Euro to dollar converter is working correctly, I won't be buying one anytime soon. [10/01/2004](#)

If you're handy with a wrench and a voltmeter you can build your own two wheel transportation, of course the wheels are in parallel instead of tandem but it is very cool and you save a lot over the factory model. [Build your own Segway](#), or at least a scooter that does the same thing. This is do-it-yourself at its very best. *10-01-2004*

Lost track of this web site after it was moved some months ago. The original server couldn't handle the load and someone else offered to host it. It is one of the most interesting and almost surreal things I've ever seen. It is a [motorcycle ride](#) into the Chernobyl dead zone. Lots of pictures as she rides her ZX11 into an area most would fear to go. The site goes on for many pages and her Russian/English writing adds to the experience for the web visitor. Definitely worth a bit of your time. **A Kneeslider Recommended Site!** *9-28-2004*

Why didn't they have these when I was a kid? Of course I had a collection of [this series](#) which was pretty cool. *9-27-2004*

La Ducati Day 2004 will be held October 10th. As I perused the [events](#) I noticed a nice touch, a helmet check/welcome area. How many times have you ridden to some event and found yourself wondering where to stash your helmet and jacket? You can use the helmet lock on the bike but there's usually only one so if there's two of you, what do you do? If it's too warm for the jacket you end up carrying it all day. More event organizers should take note. *9-25-2004*

So now we find out that was a Honda RC51 supposedly going 205mph. Most tests of that bike put the top speed around 170mph so this bike must have had one helluva lot of engine mods plus some very slippery body work - or some less than perfect speed measurement and Dan Rather reporting. *9-23-2004*

There's some controversy about the possibility of that 205mph Honda on the street. As noted below, it was timed with a stopwatch which introduces human error and since the trooper was in an airplane going slower than the motorcycle, his viewing angle would change which increases the error and streetbikes in the real world simply do not go that fast, no matter how much boasting the riders do. The difference between 175 which is believable and 205 is huge for a lot of reasons. The trooper must have felt like he really caught a big one or maybe he embellished the story a bit. Radar would have been much better and perhaps verifiable. *9-22-2004*

If you missed the movie FASTER, it's now [available on DVD](#). *9-22-2004*

Honest Officer, my throttle was stuck! Is this [a new speeding ticket record](#)? On a motorcycle, 205mph! Of course since it was timed with a stopwatch it could be a little off and he may need another run in the opposite direction to validate the time, but somehow I think the chances of that are pretty slim. *9-21-2004*

Lots of motorcyclists like to make stuff and use tools to fix or modify technical things. A new magazine will be out early next year for people who like this sort of thing. "Make" magazine will focus on new technology of all sorts, so if you're into making and building you should take a look. You might say this is a modern version of the old [Lindsay](#) books and publications. *9-19-2004*

Have you seen the [International CXT](#) in the news? I mentioned a few days ago how some motorcycles may be getting a bit too big, well here is a pickup truck, I mean, c'mon now... curb weight 14,500 pounds. 70 gallon diesel fuel tank, payload 12,000 pounds, air brakes, cab height 108 inches. "Ah,... Honey, I just broke the garage." *9-19-2004*

Bonneville is under way. I've always found the pursuit of pure top speed fascinating. I am partial to wheel driven attempts. Using a jet engine or rocket motor seems like cheating and wheel driven is closer to what the rest of us do. When a motorcycle hits 200+ you think, "Gee, I could do that" but lighting up a rocket on the interstate is a little farfetched. *9-17-2004*

A new study (gotta love new studies) has just determined that quaffing a beer is as beneficial for the heart as a glass of wine. Those party folks at the University of Western Ontario say so, and I believe them. So if you prefer a tap to a corkscrew, cheers. *9-15-2004*

Faster, an independent film about MotoGP is now being shown around the country in selected theaters. It is [scheduled to be shown](#) the week beginning Friday, September 17th at Tinseltown in Erie, PA. Looks like a very cool documentary of the riders and races. Be there! *9-15-2004*

*****One show only: Friday, September 17th, 7:30pm*****

Diesel motorcycles set speed record at Bonneville. Well, *speed* is relative I guess, being diesels and all, but one went 85 and with a turbo went 91. [Diesel motorcycles](#),... I can't quite get my mind around that, but why not? [9-14-2004](#)

Now here's someone using their head. I mentioned below about pocket bikes and mini choppers, well [this](#) just shows there is a way to make money with the mini scooters and provide a real service. Neat idea! [9-12-2004](#)

Thinking about that biker build off and it occurs to me that all of these build offs are about choppers. Why don't we see more shops building standard bikes or sport bikes? If you are going to do a chopper, at least do [something different](#). Choppers seem to be the rage right now and they get lots of coverage in the media but there have been some great examples of custom built motorcycles over the years where parts gets mixed and matched (remember [Triton](#)?) and Cycle World magazine has regular features of American Flyers that cover a lot of diverse territory. One of the most beautiful bikes I've ever seen is a single cylinder Rotax powered [flat tracker by Ron Wood](#). It's clean, simple and gorgeous. I wonder if a TV show about building bikes without all of that yelling and tool throwing would get good ratings? [9-10-2004](#)

Ride aware all the time! Just this morning I almost met a Dodge Neon head on. The cell phone wielding bimette at the controls never saw me coming as she cut the corner well into my lane. Hard braking and horn application on my side and we missed by inches. Was I wearing a helmet and leathers? Well, no, you see I was in my Ford F150 pickup at the time with headlights on. If that vehicle didn't intrude into her consciousness, you can bet a motorcycle wouldn't either. A [recent study](#) confirms what we all suspected. Cell phones are a greater impairment to driving than being drunk. So now, we are not only invisible to the majority of drivers, most of them are driving impaired, and it's perfectly legal! Stay alert! [9-8-2004](#)

MotoGP 4 strokes are a wonderful thing because the technology is slowly moving onto the street (What a surprise!). [Ducati](#) unveiled their V4 DESMOSEDICI/RR engine at World Ducati Week which will be placed in some ultra expensive (\$60,000+) limited production street machine. The race version made 250HP, you have to wonder what the civilian version will do. Now there are whispers of a Honda 1200cc V5 which may reach 200HP on the street. The 2 stroke 500's were a wonder to watch but show me something we mortals could ride (yeah, like I can really ride a 200hp sportbike) and I get interested, or at least I can dream. [9-8-2004](#)

Watched the World Biker Build Off last night on Discovery and I was fascinated by the [Australian team](#) that actually hand built the entire bike instead of simply assembling parts they ordered. They created body panels to cover the steel frame by hammering aluminum over wooden forms and then welded and polished without any filler! Wow! Of course the Daytona biker crowd voted for somebody else as the winner. Go figure. You may or may not like choppers but the skill of this group was undeniable and the finished bike is stunning. [9-7-2004](#)

What do you do with time, a workshop and a jet engine? Let's see, airplane? No, lots of those. Car? Nope. Motorcycle? Been done. [Wait, I know!](#) [9-6-2004](#)

Speaking of big engines, have you seen the new hot thing? [Custom mini choppers](#) are wildly popular along with [pocket bikes](#). These mini sized motorcycles are selling like crazy all over the country but think about this. The most popular big engine for mini choppers is the Briggs and Stratton Vanguard which displaces 570cc. It hasn't been very long since that was larger than the majority of motorcycle engines sold. Now, it's a mini. Incredible. [9-5-2004](#)

Big engine bikes seem to be the thing right now. Being a Triumph dealer, we see the new 2300cc Rocket 3 coming and it promises to be the big guy for a little while, like maybe a year or so. I know, I know, there's that Boss Hoss thing with the Chevy engine but it looks like a bike and a car collided, it's hard to get the styling right when you have an engine that big. I understand from those who have ridden the Rocket 3 that it handles pretty well and goes like stink. Triumph did their homework on this one. But sooner or later the crossover point comes and no matter what you do you're stuck with a monster bike that wallows around and looks ugly. How much bigger can anyone go before that happens? [9-5-2004](#)

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