

## LETTERS

Dear Inside Motorcycles  
Perth is not only the "Prettiest Town in Ontario." It is also motorcycle friendly.

Last year Lynda, Tony Hendricks and Rod Tooley started a social bike night gathering on Tuesday nights behind town hall. The gathering had been well attended and the decision was made to continue it again this year.

Tony approached town council about the gathering and they were in full support of it. They have now erected No Car parking signs on the circle behind town hall. Up to 40 bikes have gathered in Perth, a community of 6,000 just west of Ottawa.

This year Hendricks Independent Grocers, Carson's Toys and MacDonal's have sponsored free tee shirts to the participants. A free BBQ is also planned for this year.

So, if you are in Perth on a Tuesday night stop in for a visit.

Glen Cooper  
Perth, ON



## WEB POLL

Do you think Jordan Szoke can overtake Steve Crevier for the most all-time Superbike wins?

Yes . . . . .86%  
No . . . . .14%

Will the formation of the new MCC competition group help improve Canada's performance on the world stage in the future?

Yes . . . . .88%  
No . . . . .12%

## CORRECTIONS

*On page 17 of our Motorcycle Racing Schedules, which was a supplement to the June 2008 issue, we listed an incorrect date for the Norm Carr Classic CMA National Dirt Track event. It takes place Aug. 16.*

*Just below that we gave incorrect sanctioning information for the Quebec Provincial Dirt Track series. It is sanctioned by CMRC.*

*We apologize for these errors.*



## KAHUNA, BUCKING A TREND

Several large Toronto and GTA multi-line dealers have closed their doors in recent years. That has left local moto-enthusiasts noticeably underserved with OEM dealer options. But perhaps that trend is turning around now that Kahuna Powersports has relocated from north of the city to Toronto's boundary road in the north-west.

Because of steady growth since it first opened several years ago in Woodbridge, ON, Kahuna has moved south to 4342 Steeles Ave. West, a well appointed facility, formerly an exotic Italian sportscar dealership.

That's fittingly ironic since dealer principal Joe Linardi and senior service manager Tony Nardone both had earlier careers in car retailing. In addition to the awareness of the need to stay abreast of modern merchandising methods like using bright, airy showrooms that allow vehicles to sparkle, the car guys brought with them the benefits of countless hours of training on the supreme importance of quality customer and vehicle service departments in creating long-term relationships with customers.

Out front in the elegant showroom with its south facing glass façade are the rows of gleaming new motorcycles, scooters, ATVs and watercraft from Yamaha and the same from Kawasaki. The shop also carries Argo XTVs.

Tucked in various corners are radical V-Twin customs, for sale or in for repair. Interests in high-end choppers were what initially led owner Linardi into the motorcycle business and a technician is on staff at Kahuna to help owner/customers he's known since the "old days."

The closing of so many old dealers in the region created a pool of knowledgeable powersports people to staff the expanded dealership. That would include general manager Alan Blinoff, formerly of Cycle World and its two defunct locations.

Blinoff's career path has always followed the bikes – starting at McBride Cycle then moving to Cycle World until it wrapped up in 2007. Observing them he notes that their troubles developed as the owners failed to invest in modernizing showrooms or incorporating new merchandizing methods and, at their liquidations, were carrying huge accessory inventories.

Of course his outlet has an accessory department, stocked with essentials and able to immediately order from any distributor, however it's on exemplary service that Kahuna will continue building its reputation insists Blinoff.

Until you can visit in person, drop in via [www.kahunapowersports.com](http://www.kahunapowersports.com).

## OFF THE 'NET

The first batch of students passed through the new motorcycle design class at the Art Center Pasadena, California, and one grad's term project in particular has caught the eye of Blogosphere denizens.

When course professor Bumsuk Lim, a passionate, new environmental technologies advocate and motorcyclist encouraged his students to explore beyond the fringe of environmental-motorcycling, several took him literally.

His brief was to consider that you cannot carry more than two people, you cannot take excessive luggage, you might drop a bike, and its overall public image is that motorcycles are inherently dangerous. What if, Lim hypothesized, you could counter these negative points while emphasizing the good ones with green technology. What would it look like? In other words, rethink the entire motorcycle as it has appeared for over a century of production.

Jake Loniak, a Transportation Design student in his sixth term, called his project machine 'Deus Ex Machina' (God Out of a Machine). He describes it as an electric, single passenger, vertically parking, and wearable motorcycle.

Loniak's design was inspired by Biomechatronics and nature. Biomechatronics incorporates aspects of biology, mechanics, and electronics that are equally present throughout his design.

You would, says Loniak, control the three-wheeled 'Deus Ex Machina' via 36 pneumatic muscles and two linear actuators with your body. Its historic lineage to the steam-powered trikes of the early 19th century is barely discernable!

The flexible "arms" would extend and lean the rider depending on speed. The Deus, says Loniak, would be powered by Doped NanoPhosphate batteries and ultra-capacitors, and have an in-wheel motor that could supply ample torque to deliver acceleration to 60 mph in three seconds. Recharge time is a proposed 15 minutes with a cycle time of 60 minutes. Top speed, limited for now, is to be set at 75 mph. To park, the wheels would close in to minimize its urban footprint.

Yamaha, which inspired and advised Loniak, has a large industrial robotics division and has done a lot of research into human mobility vehicles.

