

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF MCN

By mail to: . . . **MCN—Letters, PO Box 6050, Mission Viejo, CA 92690**

By Fax to: **(949) 855-0654**

Over the Internet to: **editor@mcnews.com**

From our Website at: **www.mcnews.com**

Back To Stock Pipes

I'm a retreat. Started riding in the late 60's, rode through the 70's and retired it until a few years ago. Back then, I did my share of hell-raising; not so much as some, but enough to scare most of middle-America. Since then I've founded my own business; got married...all the usual causes and the almost usual cure.

It's the "almost" that I thought might interest you. I restarted my biking with a Harley, of course. But no matter how much chrome I put on it, the ride stayed the same: great for around town, but hell on my ancient body for a nice long tour. I'll skip an interim bike or two, and tell you I landed on a 2001 Valkyrie (standard). Well, I apparently had not learned my lesson from the Harley, so I busily added more chrome to the Valk. And, frankly I like all of it... with an exception that might be of interest: The pipe swap.

Yep: I spent about \$700 + a few hundred more in dealer labor; a rejet and a dyno tune,

all to get the nice loud sound of the Two Brothers 6-6 pipes. And boy, did that Valk sound like a '65 Buick with Glas-Packs!

But, you know, I was uncomfortable making that much sound—turning heads and such. Then the straw that broke my resolution's back: I went to my favorite place on earth—Yosemite. I've been going there since I was two years old. The valley is now full of blaring radios; screeching tires; rude and oblivious tourists in shorts... and me with my noisy bike. I was mortified. Ashamed. Humiliated in myself, for visiting a natural cathedral and adding to the noise.

When we returned from our Monterey to Washington (state) and back tour (my wife rides her own bike), the first thing I did was pull off those loud pipes, and put back the stock pipes... and I'm much happier with my bike and myself.

Friends asked "Why?" and my reply has been, "Because I'm not a doctor." With a bit of a grin (and a nod to the new Harley rid-

ers). I am who I am. I did my hell raising, and I don't need to pretend I'm anything more than an old guy whose young heart still loves the thrill of a great ride.

Cordially,

Tracy Valleau
tracy@tracyvalleau.com
Monterey, CA

Can't Thank You Enough!

I've been riding motorcycles for over 40 years but only recently discovered what it means to be a "motorcyclist." In the past I did all the "biker" stuff, Myrtle Beach, Laconia and Sturgis. I never seemed to enjoy these events as much as others did, probably because I was sober. In 1995, I purchased my first Gold Wing and attended "Americade," where I discovered your booth and first subscribed to your publication, which has since become my motorcycle bible. That Gold Wing opened a whole new world for me, "touring," which last year expanded into "adventure touring." After reading your articles about the Kawasaki KLR650 I purchased one, did some suggested upgrades, and set off for Labrador and Newfoundland. Of course the KLR performed flawlessly and I was in awe of the scenery and friendliness of the people. That trip completed, I started planning a trip to Alaska and the Arctic Circle. I just returned from that trip after six weeks and 12,000 miles. I tried to think of words to describe the scenery as I rode home and I came up

Motorcycle Consumer NEWS		Volume 34/ Number 10 October 2003	
Editor-in-Chief	Dave Searle	Creative Director	Diana Di Pietro
Senior Editor	Fred Rau	Art Director	Chris Shulda
Associate Editor	Patti Carpenter	Circulation Director	Dolores Bonafede
Technical Editor	Tony Foale	Circulation Manager	Jason Yee
Copy Editor	Marcy Toschi	Marketing Specialist	Nicole Dutra
World Reporter	Doug Jackson	Fulfillment Specialist	Natalie Dao
Contributing Editor	David L. Hough	Electronic Imaging	Gina Cioli
Editorial Intern	Rachael Westfall	All contributions are welcomed on an exclusive basis, but must be accompanied by return postage. No responsibility is assumed for loss of or damage to unsolicited material. A guide to editorial requirements is available upon request. Permission to reprint or quote excerpts is granted only upon written or e-mail requests and must be approved in writing or e-mail by the editor. Specific reprint guidelines are available upon request.	
Contributors to this issue: Mark Barnes, Ken Condon, Nic Frising, Walt Fulton III, flash gordon md., Glynn Kerr, Tracy Martin, Buster Moldenhauer, Steve Natt, Stephen Nu, LT Snyder		Subscription Department/Customer Service Motorcycle Consumer® News P.O. Box 55661, Boulder, CO 80322-5661 Tel: (800) 365-4421 • Fax: (303) 604-7644 E-mail: fancy@Neodata.com Please include the magazine title in the e-mail subject header. For back issues and reprints, call Ian Smith Information at (303) 777-2385	
Send all editorial correspondence to: Motorcycle Consumer® News P.O. Box 6050 Mission Viejo, CA 92690 Tel: (949) 855-8822 Fax: (949) 855-0654 E-Mail: editor@mcnews.com Website: www.mcnews.com		LA Sales/Corporate Office P.O. Box 57900 Los Angeles, CA 90057 Tel: (213) 385-2222 Fax: (213) 385-8565	

Single copy price, \$7. Subscription rate in U.S. and Possessions: \$52 for 12 issues, \$104 for 24 issues. Canadian and foreign, add \$18 extra per year payable in U.S. funds. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.

Motorcycle Consumer® News (ISSN 1073-9408) is published monthly by Aviation News Corporation, a subsidiary of BowTie, Inc., 3 Burroughs, Irvine, CA 92618. Periodical Postage Paid at Santa Ana, CA 92799 and an additional mailing office. When changing address, at least six week's notice is required for processing. Please send both old and new addresses, along with a mailing label from a recent issue to our Subscription Department. **Postmaster:** Please send change of address to:

Motorcycle Consumer® News
P.O. Box 55661, Boulder, CO 80328-5661

Corporate headquarters located at 2401 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90057; (213) 385-2222. Copyright 2003 by Aviation News Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Norman L. Ridker, Chairman of the Board; Doug Steil, Vice President & General Manager; Jeff Scharf, Vice President, Advertising; Chuck Kruder, Vice President, Merchandise Sales & Distribution; Steve Zepezauer, Editorial Director.

GST Registration #R126851765
CDN Agreement #40013663
Printed in the United States of America
Motorcycle Consumer News
Accepts No
Paid Advertising