



Newsletter

January 4, 2007

First off, I need to do a little self-promotion. I am Jon Bushey, president of Rapid Cycle. In the past, I have written magazine articles, letters to the editor and even published small books. I have seen my name in magazines several times but not for the last few years – until now. Last month I had a letter to the editor published in *Motorcycle Consumer News*. My letter was in response to an article about the new 250 Ninja, which stated that the Ninja was the only 250cc sport bike available in the USA. For those of you who know the Hyosung bikes, you know this is dead wrong. My letter to the editor informed MCN that there was indeed another 250cc sport bike in the USA and it was even better than the Ninja in quite a few ways. MCN apologized for the oversight and promised to include Hyosung in the future. I was very happy and proud to have helped promote the Hyosung brand and products. Hyosung makes great products and I hope the powersports industry is finally taking notice of them.

Another topic I feel strongly about is the care and attention riders should give to their machines – both motorcycles and ATVs. In the winter months, it is easy to forget about your machine and just let it sit until spring. This attitude could be bad for both you and your machine. We see a lot of machines in the spring with issues that could have been prevented – and it costs the owner a lot of money. The best thing to do with your machine is to winterize it. This means filling the tank with gas to reduce the amount of air in the tank, which will reduce rusting. Also, use Sta-bil or another product to treat the gas. Run the machine for a few minutes to insure the treated gas gets into the carburetor/fuel injectors. Current wisdom says not to drain the gas so just leave it like that. Next, tend to the battery. I suggest taking the battery out of the machine and bring it into your house where it can be kept warm, but be sure to keep it away from children. A good battery will last at least 5 years if properly cared for. What kills a battery is letting it get cold at the same time it loses its charge. If your battery must be kept in the cold, then put it on a trickle charger to keep it charged. Finally, keep the machine out of the weather. If the machine is kept outside, snow will get blown into places that will cause some issues. Bikes rust a lot in the winter, which doesn't make sense but it is true. There are other things you could do too. Like changing the oil before putting it away and keeping the tires off the ground. But if you at least do basic winterizing, you will avoid most problems.

Rapid Cycle now carries AMSOIL. Many of our customers have requested the AMSOIL products and we now have the motorcycle/ATV/scooter products in stock. AMSOIL products are all synthetic and are higher quality than most oils. We also stock the oil test kits if you want to get your oil analyzed.



We now offer nitrogen for tires and gas-filled shocks. Nitrogen is very popular for filling tires because it leaks out slower, about 3 times slower. So your tires will keep the proper pressure longer so you get better fuel economy, better handling, and longer tire life. Also, tires filled with air contain oxygen that can cause oxidation inside the tire.

We are having a sale on the movie "The World's Fastest Indian" a great motorcycle movie, \$5.95.

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Rapid Cycle has the Twenty-Twenty helmet camera for rent. This is a top-of-the-line video camera that can be temporarily mounted to a helmet or a machine. It includes a lipstick camera, microphone, battery pack, and we include a Sony video deck to record the video. The deck and battery pack is kept in a fanny pack so it is easy to carry on a ride. A few racers have tried it and it works great! The rental fee is just \$35 a day and you need to provide your own mini-DV video tapes. We have used it a few times so stop by the store if you wish to see some sample footage.



And speaking of cool things to mount on your machine, a lot of people attach a GPS. I have tried a few different units and I would like to share my experiences with you. The most important thing I learned was to not grab just any GPS and stick it on a bike. One of the units I tried was a very expensive unit that had a hard drive in it to hold all the maps. The hard drive inside the unit did not like being on a motorcycle and it stopped working a few times after being bounced around. Also, some units had speakers in order to give turn by turn directions. The bad thing is that when at speed on a bike, you cannot hear the directions. My recommendation is get a unit without a speaker or get a unit with Bluetooth. Bluetooth will bring it own set of issues, like battery life of the head set, if the headset will fit inside your helmet, and possible interference from your cell phone. But in my opinion, even a unit without a speaker is much better than a paper map. Most GPS units for vehicles will want to get power from the bike, a few have their own batteries. Getting power from the bike is the best option as then you don't need to recharge the batteries and the GPS will not die from lack of power when on a long trip. We can install a 12 volt power outlet on your bike or you can do it yourself. Be careful installing a power outlet as it could void your warranty and a bad install could be dangerous. The other thing to do is to get a good mount for the GPS. RAM mounts are very well made and have



models for most bikes and GPS units. Keep in mind the theft factor. Motorcycles themselves are favorite targets for thieves and GPSs are even more popular. I would recommend bringing the GPS in with you any time you are away from the bike. The photo is of the Garmin Zumo 550, a recommended GPS. It's only drawback is it's price – about \$1000. Garmin also makes a Zumo 450 which is not quite as fancy for about \$750. Another nice unit is the TomTom RIDER 2, which is not quite as nice as the Garmin, but it is less money, about \$599. If you decide to go with another unit, make sure it is water proof as you never know when it may rain.

Another great product is Citrusshield. It is a hand protectant that has two other benefits; it is an anti-bacterial agent, and it is a moisturizer. I say it is like an invisible glove. I put it on before working with anything messy and it acts as a barrier to prevent anything from getting to my hands. Plus, it kills 99.9% of germs. It's better than a regular antibacterial soap, because if your skin is damaged from using other hand cleansers, this product will promote healing of cracks and cuts on your hands. Once I put it on my hands, I cannot tell it is there. But it washes off easily and everything that was on my hands is going. To test it, I had Danny spray my hands with spray paint – and he sprayed too much! My hands were completely covered and dripping paint. I waited for it to dry then washed. All the paint came off easily.

