

Motorcycle

sport & leisure

issue #502 £3.20

AUGUST 2002

ESTABLISHED 1962

something DIFFERENT

DUCATI S4 • YAMAHA TDM900 • TRIUMPH SPEED TRIPLE



SCOOP!

- KAWASAKI NEXT GENERATION ZX6-R
- APRILIA TUONO
sweet • desirable • unique
- IMPROVE YOUR RIDING 2
grip • lean • speed



MÜNCH: MAMMUT

BMW: K1300RS & R1100S SPYSHOTS



I'm writing about *the* US catalogue for devoted motorcyclists. I'm kinda bashful about claiming to be a devoted motorcyclist, but I do get along without a car and ride 12 or 15,000 miles a year.

I've done that for years, not in far northern Duluth where Aerostitch is, no way, but in four San Francisco Bay area seasons and now in Tucson, in the desert south-west.

Never a great rider, I rode endurance rallies to finish, never to win. I road-raced slowly. I rode enduros, desert races and scrambles to mid-pack finishes.

On Sunday mornings in Marin I watched fast guys disappear up the coast road.

I did get out and ride. You could call me devoted.

It's easier to be devoted in Tucson - it doesn't rain much. You get caught in hard rain to the south-east of us - and you're perfectly dry and warm again when you get home.

Not all that gritty, huh?

So I still get really excited when Andy Goldfine sends me a new Aerostitch Rider Wearhouse catalogue. I just got the new one, 180 pages, hours of reading devoted to the comfort, convenience and safety of motorcyclists.

If I get excited about the Aerostitch catalogue, imagine how excited guys and women must become who love riding and live in remote small-town America. Maybe it's 100 miles to the nearest bike shop.

Maybe that shop mostly sells and services quads for farmers and hunters. Maybe they don't even stock street bikes.

Imagine how those folks feel when the Aerostitch

catalogue arrives. They realise once again that there ARE other people here and there who love motorcycling. How else could Goldfine afford to produce that wonderful catalogue and manufacture all those rider-specific products?

You wonder, given the number of regular road riders you see even here, how he can pay the bills. No doubt it's a fraternity, but it isn't a big one, is it?

You've got your commuters, your ironbutterers, your BMW GS adventure guys, your annual Alaska trekkers... How many can there be?

I'm thankful that there are enough certifiable motorcycle crazies to keep the Goldfine household in their beloved Honda and MZ singles. This comes out in the catalogue, which isn't just a list of jackets and gloves - it's a homage to motorcycling by people who love it.

Take a paragraph from Season of the Bike, by Dave Karlotski: 'On a motorcycle I know I'm alive.'

'When I ride, even the familiar seems strange and glorious. The air has weight and substance as I push through it and its touch is as intimate as water to a swimmer.

'I feel the cool wells of air that pool under trees and the warm spokes of sunlight that fall through them. I can see everything in a sweeping 360

degrees, up, down and around, wider than PanaVision and higher than IMAX and unrestricted by ceiling or dashboard.'

A sidebar by Mr Subjective about Hi-Viz Lime Yellow Roadcrafter suits and Darien jackets: '...motorcycle commuting via today's overcrowded roads can become almost a gladiatorial contest against a dangerous mix of drivers and vehicles. Wearing Hi-Viz Lime Yellow is about riding everywhere, every day, all of the time. Hi-Viz Lime Yellow will not reset the clock to 1970, but it does reset the odds.'

Aerostitch Authentikrud, a spoof item, is bottled stuff to stain your way-too-new-looking jacket: 'Specify your suit color and which filth palette you'd like - 'Plains Dust,' 'Northern Slimy Bugs,' 'Ironbutt Finisher' or 'Urban-Metro Grit.'

Imitation Totes pullover rainboots: 'will keep your feet dry in all-day rain rides. Except for that they are useless, and we hate them. Black. S,M,L,XL.'

Tireflays, tyre valve caps that glow while your wheels turn: 'Perhaps a bit silly at first glance... Kids will probably steal them. Just a thought.'

TIZip Waterproof Tank Bag: 'The tank bag embodiment of tough. If Russia made mil-spec tank bags for Kalishnikov carrying Ural dispatch riders on the Siberian frontier, they would be exactly like this.'

Buffalo Bob's Big Game Jerky (from the flesh of various game animals): 'A perfect treat at road-break time. Plus you get to use phrases like 'Ostrich or Wild Boar, anyone?'

Aerostitch CFSP (Carbon Fibre Sidestand Plate) prevents the stand from sinking into hot tarmac: 'The official membership card of the secret 'Hey, dude' riders club, a perfect placement is under the sidestand of a roached beater bike. It makes a great gift for snobs or dweebs of all descriptions.'

Fake Oil Pool: 'No two are alike. Perfect for when you have heard enough about so-and-so's brand new bike for the umpteenth time. Handmade by famous industrial designer and malcontent.'

Another parody item, a non-existent novel titled 'A Hard Motor Onward', based on a real novel now happily out of print: 'A tale of a fat f..k RUB who, after being a total loser for 52 years, becomes an even bigger one by buying his FIRST motorcycle, for crying out loud, a chrome-encased posermobile on which he trundles across the countryside of his misspent youth, subjecting us to endless homilies and downright idiotic drivel for 182 gruelling pages. Softbound, 6" x 8", 182pp.'

And finally, Aerostitch Mr Happy Puppet, a simple plush hand puppet with a Mona Lisa smiley face: 'So your buddy pulls over in a cloud of smoke with a broken chain piled up in front of his engine sprocket... Mr Happy wants to help. Fits readily in most tankbags. Also good for cheering up rain-soaked rally campsites or bolstering spirits during multi-day bad weather.'

Yes, you can have your very own Aerostitch Rider Wearhouse catalogue! Either call 1-800 222-1994 or log onto www.aerostitch.com. You'll be glad you did.

Ask Mr Happy Puppet...

'So your buddy pulls over in a cloud of smoke with a broken chain piled up in front of his engine sprocket... Mr Happy wants to help...'

