



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

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WWW.THUNDERBIKE.CO.NZ

WELCOME TO THUNDERBIKE

JANUARY SPECIAL: GET A FREE WOF VOUCHER WITH EVERY SERVICE OVER \$100

Welcome

Happy New Year to you. So what has happened in the bike world and at Thunderbike over the last year. Well, the introduction and proverbial smack in the face that was Triumph's mighty Rocket III certainly shook up a few people.....what a bike! 140bhp an awesome machine is an understatement and if you've had the good fortune to ride one, you'll know what we're talking about.

But of course we went one better and developed a new Thunderbike muffler system for it and added another 20bhp and made it sound like it should, more systems are in design at the moment but you can read more about this later in the issue.

Speeding has again been a major issue, with more cops on the road than dead possums, (so who's dealing with all the crime?) we have to be on our guard! Road safety??, we spend more time looking down to check our speed than looking at the road ahead! Jason has news later, so read on, we're not trying to encourage speeding, but it is sometimes hard to stay within the limits, especially on today's machinery and our licence is precious

With most of the Japanese manufacturers shaking out new models, it was only a matter of time before Triumph followed with updates including a new Sprint ST, completely re-styled more streamlined, new engine. The ever popular Speed Triple gets a new style injection too, it also has the 1050cc engine shared with the ST, radial brakes and a very aggressive streetfighter style, Damon has more details in the next article.

In the last issue we talked about getting your bike sorted for the summer and took a closer look at your riding gear. So what about you? are you ready? We'll look at a few things that can make your riding experience a little easier and hopefully safer.

Yet again there are more additions to the Thunderbike staff, Dave Wilson joins us as our second Service Technician and Richard Shaw from the UK (yes, another!) will be running the parts and accessories department.

The Thunderbike Team.



New Triumph Models for 2005



The new 2005 Triumph Speed Triple

Besides the new paint schemes and bigger engines for the classic range such as the Bonneville, Thruxton, Speedmaster and America, Triumph have now revamped two of their best selling models, the Speed Triple and Sprint ST.

Both have all new specs with the new 1050cc engine with more power and torque, new aluminium frames, suspension and with looks that bring them into the 21st century. The Speed triple looks even more aggressive with a short stubby rear end and twin muffler system that exits above the rear wheel showing off the new wheels and single sided swing arm.



The Sprint ST looks have been completely revamped with new body work, including triple underseat mufflers and triple headlights and updated clocks giving it a much more stylish look.

The Tiger has also been improved for the road with a new chassis making it a much sharper handler, new cast wheels allowing fatter tubeless tyres. Should be even more of a superbike eater through the twisties.



The Daytona 600 has an all new 650 engine giving it the midrange that was so lacking before making it more useful for real world riding.

We have brochures for all of the new models and are taking orders now!

WWW.THUNDERBIKE.CO.NZ

LATEST NEWS AND PRODUCTS

More new staff at Thunderbike

Richard Shaw: Parts and Accessories



Due to our ever increasing workload in sales, we have employed the services of Richard Shaw from Buckinghamshire, England to run the parts and accessories department at Thunderbike.

Richard who moved to Nelson with his wife and daughter in December has 12 years experience in BMW motorcycle parts

and accessories. He has worked at Park Lane BMW in London and Allen Jeffries Motorcycles in Yorkshire, where he met the late TT legend David Jeffries, "a down to earth pie eating bike racer" as we're sure you'll find Richard, although we're not sure of his pie consumption at the moment!

So for all your motorcycle parts and accessories requirements, give Richard a call on 035485787 or email: parts@thunderbike.co.nz

We welcome Richard to New Zealand and Thunderbike.

Jason Howcroft is now running the bike sales department, so if you have a bike to sell or are interested in a new bike for the new year, give Jason a call on 03 5485787 or 021 682946 email: sales@thunderbike.co.nz for bike sales enquiries.

Dave Wilson: Service Technician

Thunderbike Powersports are pleased to announce that we have added a second team member to our busy Service Department.

Dave Wilson (31), joins recent service technician Ian Millward. Dave, an A-Grade motorcycle technician with 13 years experience in the industry, topped his Trade Certificate exam and also achieved the top mark in NZ (past and present) for his A-Grade.

Dave is a born and bred Nelsonian. He has worked at several local dealerships, specialising in all makes and models including Ducati, Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha, Kawasaki and has over 5 years experience with BMW as a senior technician/service manager and has now got to grips with Triumph. Dave has been with us since early November and is enjoying the new Thunderbike team environment and working with Triumph.

We welcome Dave to our team.

Nelson RAT Raid

In March next year the Riders Association of Triumph comes to Nelson. The event supported by Thunderbike will run from 11th - 13th March. We are particularly hoping for a good turn out of South Islanders to support this, the first event of it's kind here in the South Island.

For more information on the rides and activities call Graeme on 03 5485787 or email servwriter@thunderbike.co.nz To join RAT or renew your membership go online at www.triumph.co.uk and follow the links to RAT or, call: 0044 1455891515 and quote a Visa or Mastercard number or send a cheque to: PO Box 83, Hinckley, Leics, England LE10 3ZP.



Thunderbike Triumph Rocket III Performance Mufflers



Our latest addition to the Thunderbike Products range include the new Triumph Rocket III Performance Muffler. This is our performance muffler system, it retains the original heat shields for that factory quality finish and look but eliminates the collector/catalyst box.

These are available as a 3-3 system similar to the originals but tucked in instead of the splayed out look of the factory originals and also as a 3-2 system with only the 2 mufflers on the right side. Gain nearly 20bhp, more torque than you'll know what to do with, lose 5.5kg's (12lbs) and make it sound like it should do! There is also a short movie file, the sound quality is not great, but it should give an idea, this will be updated shortly for an improved version.

It seems we are in a minority of one so far of manufacturers who have a dyno, a Triumph Actia tool with all of the available tune configurations currently available for the Rocket3 and the enthusiasm for the model and brand to be investing the time and effort to produce these performance enhancing muffler systems.

We have a few more ideas on the burner at the moment for future development.

Nitro Helmets and R Jays Clothing

The N900V is all new for 2004 Aggressive new graphics combined with the integrated Aerotech venting gives great styling and adjustable airflow through the helmet, while meeting the highest safety standards (ECE2205)

Features include:

- Latest EC2205 standard.
- Fibreglass shell construction.
- Full adjustable 'Aerotech' venting, exhaust and stabilising system .
- 3 point face and visor venting system.
- Quick release visor with accessory visors available.
- Double D chin strap.
- Multi sized cheek pads available for adjustment of fit.
- Removable and washable lining for hygiene and comfort.
- Open cell foam comfort liner.



We have a large range of Nitro helmets priced from \$150 to \$310 for the N900V.

Richard in the parts and accessory department has been testing the new Rjays Nomad Jacket and pants. He says it's one of the best waterproof jackets/pants he's ever worn. He rides daily from Motueka and through pouring rain the clothing has never let the water in, which great news from such a reasonably priced suit.

Rjays Nomad Jacket

"Micro skin, 100% waterproof & breathable, removable inner liner, CE tested protector, reflective material Price \$299



This is not Richard!!

GET READY FOR SUMMER

Speeding and Radar Detectors

With the new police/ Government attitude towards revenue gathering and political point scoring disguised as concern for road safety we have decided to do some research and testing on the subject of radar detectors for motorcycle use.

We have discovered the following: New Zealand law enforcement does not utilize X-Band and most (if not all) police use Ka.

Since X-Band is the "dirtiest" band, with the most false alerts, you should have a detector that enables you to deactivate this band and a radar detector that has high gain on Ka

The radar detector can't protect you against everything: Your radar detector is designed to respond to



radar and laser signals it receives and that is all. There are many other methods law enforcement use to accurately estimate your speed and issue you that citation. However, if you are paying attention and know what to look for,

you can reduce your chances of being caught.

Aircraft Enforcement: In some parts of the country police sometimes use aircraft to obtain speed readings, including Canterbury during holiday periods in the past.

Even if the effort seems fruitless, apply your brakes immediately upon being warned by your radar detector.

Remember, police radars are machines and don't ALWAYS work correctly.

If you apply your brakes immediately, you could beat a cop to the punch, even if he is using instant-on radar.

This is because X and K-band have a much narrower bandwidth (X band is a mere 50 megahertz wide and K band is only 200 MHz wide). **At 2600 MHz wide, Ka band is 1200 times broader than X band!**

This wider bandwidth requires a detector to spend valuable time scanning back and forth to detect. This results in lower sensitivity and less range before your detector delivers a warning. This is the undoing of cordless detectors which have to reduce the number of sweeps they make to conserve battery power thus making them less effective in the Ka band most widely used here in NZ!



We are currently testing the H.A.R.D system at the moment and early results are positive this system provides a cordless link from your detector to a L.E.D light inside your helmet allowing you to keep your eyes on the

road and still get effective warning from the detector.

It seems that like most things the more you pay the best detectors seem to come from Bel, Escort and Valentine and they all seem to cost close to \$1000.00 but we are looking at a couple of models and will report back on effectiveness.

Riding Skills

Generally speaking motorcycle riders have far greater road skills than your average car driver, mainly because we are much more vulnerable being on two wheels and not enclosed in a metal safety cage, but there are still a few who ride like they are invincible, seemingly without any regard to their surroundings or personal safety.



There are a few things that can make your riding experience much more enjoyable and safe. Think back to when you were learning or going for your test, because a lot of what was taught then makes a hell of a lot of sense.

Blind spots: So many riders never check their blind spot before turning, this is especially important when turning right as a vehicle could be trying to overtake you and has not realised your intentions. It takes a second to do and could save your life, so just before you make the turn, turn your head in the direction you are turning, use your mirrors before hand but remember that they won't show what might be in your blindspot!

Indicators: An indicator left flashing can potentially be very hazardous, leave the left one on and a vehicle in a side road may think you are turning and pull out in front of you, so cancel that indicator as soon as you've completed the turn.

Ride defensively: Don't ride in the gutter, vehicles will push past you leaving very little room. When cornering get as far to the right of your lane as is safe



when going into a left-hander for maximum vision of the the road ahead and to the left when going into a right-hander. We hate being "tailed" so don't do it back, stay well back and to the right, you will see so much more and be able to see an overtaking opportunity much better and of course reduce the risk of ramming the vehicle ahead if it stops suddenly! Ride in the right "wheel tracks" of a car, use the road well, you've just as much right to it as anyone.

Look well ahead: Look where you want to go, sounds obvious but not many do! When you steer into a corner, look as far ahead as possible, watch the Superbike or MotoGP riders and see where they are looking when they are leaning over, it's certainly not directly in front of them. Keep your head up and turn it to look into the turn and keep it level with the horizon. You will be much smoother and faster with practise. Target fixation can be the cause of accidents when going into a corner, so don't look at the wall/rockface/tree etc, look where you WANT to go, it can steer you to safety.

Counter-steering: John Fitzwater has written a great article on this on our website, it makes sense, it works and we all do it whether you realise it or not! Read the article at: <http://www.thunderbike.co.nz/workshop/notes/lifeAfterCountersteering.htm>

We'll continue riding tips next month and if you have any of your own, drop us a line or email: alan@thunderbike.co.nz

BIKE SALES



SCOOTER MANIA
NEW SCOOTERS FROM \$1895
GET MOBILE FOR SUMMER!!



2003 Triumph Tiger 955i
13500kms. Lots of extras,
excellent condition \$16995



1998 Suzuki Intruder 1500
10300kms, saddlebags, screen,
excellent condition \$13495



Triumph Sprint ST 955i
2 to choose from, blue or silver,
great condition from \$17995



1985 Honda GL400
57800kms, a great commuter in
excellent condition \$2395



1975 Honda GL1000 Goldwing
55000kms. Good original condition
japanese classic \$8995



1978 Moto-Guzzi Le Mans 850
22300 mls, almost impossible to
find in this condition, \$9995



DON'T MISS THIS!!!
Daytona 955i 1 only, new old
stock, save thousands, call now!



1988 Kawasaki GPX 750
60,000kms, white & gold, nice
price, nice condition \$3995



2000 BMW F650GS
60635kms., nice condition,
optional luggage brackets. \$7495



1988 Suzuki LS650 Savage
18000mls. Low seat, \$2800 spent
on engine rebuild. \$3695



1999 Harley Road King
44000kms. Excellent condition,
PRICE REDUCED! \$25995



2004 Thruxton 900
Ex demo, as new, includes T/bike
2 into 1 muffler system \$POA



NEW TRIUMPH ROCKET III
Order yours now, demo available.
\$31690 + orc



ARRIVING SOON!
1991 Kawasaki ZZR1100
1994 Yamaha V-Max
1990 Yamaha FJ1200
Yamaha TRX850
Ducati Monster 900

Please call Jason on 021 682946
for details.



Motorcycle Internet Guide

Now and then we stumble upon some great motorcycle related web-sites, so here are a few that we have found and recommend that you have a look, some are very resourceful, others just good entertainment

If you receive this newsletter via email then just copy and paste the web address into your address bar on your internet browser.

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/triumphclassics/>

A great resource for the Triumph Classic Triple owner, discussions and online chat with like minded Triumph owners.

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/TriumphTrophy/>

A great resource for the Triumph Trophy owner, discussions and online chat with like minded Triumph owners.

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A19422079>

A strange address yes, but it links you directly to sign up for the Thruxton, Bonneville, T100 discussion forums. An excellent site.

<http://www.tigerlist.org/>

A great resource for Triumph Tiger owners.

<http://www.bonnevilleamerica.com>

Speedmaster and Bonneville America information site.

<http://www.superbike.co.uk> The website of the UK sports-bike magazine, lots of good photos, articles and some great video clips.

<http://www.motogp.com> Catch up on Rossi and Co with all the news and results, great images and videos of the World Motorcycle Championship

http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/Triumph_Rocket_III/ Web forum group for Rocket III owners

<http://www.triumphnz.co.nz> All the latest machines available from Triumph NZ

<http://www.thunderbike.co.nz> Did you really think we'd leave this one out? Buy Triumph accessories online from our secure store and see what bikes are on offer at Thunderbike.

<http://www.gotournz.com> Our sister company offering fully guided, self guided tours and rentals all over New Zealand.

If you have any suggestions for this list, then contact us with the details.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions relating to the contents of our newsletters, then please email to: alan@thunderbike.co.nz or write to Thunderbike Powersports, 29 Bolt Road, Tahunanui, Nelson, New Zealand.

WWW.THUNDERBIKE.CO.NZ

Nelson Port Races

Graeme, Jason and Alan all competed in this years Port Nelson Street Races. Graeme on his GPz1100 placed a well earned 3rd place overall including a second place and 2 thirds in his first New Zealand event, fighting off very determined competition in the Post Classic class. He also entered his machine in the Formula 1 class, with the likes of John "King of the Port" Hepburn and was certainly competitive and entertaining in this class too! Jason riding his Yamaha RD350LC who had the mad Scotsman to contend with had his work cut out this year after winning the Post Classic class last year finished fifth overall in this class. He also entered the Formula 2 class and finished the day racing alongside Graeme in the King of the Port finale. Jason's partner Tiff and Thunderbike's Alan battled it out in the Bucket class on their Honda MB100 and Suzuki GS125. Alan finished the day fifth after starting the first race halfway through the second lap because of a slight technical problem ;) All will be back next year hopefully competing again on the new Nelson Street race circuit. Good luck next year!

It's Competition Time!

Win a one piece 100% waterproof over suit to help combat our lovely summer weather. All you have to do to enter is answer the question below, fill out and return the cut out coupon or email your answer and details to alan@thunderbike.co.nz Good luck! Here goes.

Question: Kiwi motorcycle legend Burt Munro set the land speed record on his Indian Scout, what was the speed recorded? *Closing date 28th February.*

Answer: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____