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Motorcycle

CONSUMER NEWS

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MC Bulletins

Husqvarna For 2013

After a successful, record-breaking year in the US and worldwide, Husqvarna will introduce a refined lineup of motocross, off-road and dual-sport motorcycles in 2013 an effort to continue the growth it



has enjoyed since it was purchased by BMW. The North American market will see no less than 11 revamped models with a host of upgrades, including Husqvarna's Red Head motor, which made its debut on the 2012 TC250.

The Red Head is a DOHC design that features an F1-inspired lightweight piston, new cylinder and Keihin EPI. Its finger follower valvetrain—a concept used on BMW's S1000RR superbike—replaces the previous shim-under-bucket design, while new cams increase duration and larger-diameter valves (titanium on the TC motocross models) improve breathing. A new exhaust is designed to boost power across the board on the TXC250R, TXC310R (cross country) and TE310R (dual-sport) models; the "R" added to the model names indicate that they're equipped with the Red Head.

Both TXC models (250 and 310) get new ECU maps and revised suspension settings—their Kayaba 48mm closed cartridge forks upgraded to USA-developed specs. The TE dual-sport models receive additional upgrades, such as revised, more compact handlebar switches with waterproof connectors and a fuel system catch canister that has been redesigned and repositioned to be less obtrusive. Its stock tires have also been upgraded to DOT-approved dual-sport units. The TC449 returns for the 2013 model year, sharing changes applied to the entire model range, including new all-black Domino grips, a new bar pad and updated IPD (In-mold Plastic Design) graphics.

Husqvarna is still a proud seller of two-strokes, and its CR125 and WR125 two-strokes will once again come with a free 144cc top-end, in the form of a new cylinder and piston that delivers a substantial performance upgrade. Prices have been set as follows: TE310R, \$8399; TE449, \$8599; TE511, \$8999; TXC250R, \$7599; TXC310R, \$7999; TC250R, \$7199; TC449, \$7999; CR125, \$6299; WR125, \$6299; WR250, \$6699; WR300, \$7099. For more information, visit: www.husqvarna-motorcyclesna.com

EPA To Eliminate Gas Pump Boots

Motorcyclists everywhere are likely to rejoice at the EPA's announcement that it intends to phase out those pesky rubber boots on gas pump handles nationwide.

The fuel pump vapor recovery systems are now redundant, according to the EPA, as 70% of all cars on the road today come equipped with on-board vapor recovery systems. The EPA also says that 31,000 affected gas stations, mostly in urban areas where smog is a problem, will save about \$3000 apiece once its decision is fully implemented.

Since 1994, gas stations that failed to meet EPA air quality standards have been required to use gas vapor recovery systems, the most common of which is the rubber boot at the end of the fuel pump nozzle that fits directly over the gas tank opening. Phasing them out will mean less hassle for drivers trying to get the boot to fit over their gas tank opening, and motorcyclists will no longer have to pull the boot back in order to activate the pump when refueling their motorcycles.

Ducati NA Breaks Another Record

Ducati North America reported an all-time sales record for the month of May 2012. With its new motorcycle sales already up 49% YTD compared to 2011, Ducati North America sold 1782 retail units in North America in May, a record figure that boosted its January-May retail sales by 19% to 4844 units, an increase of 98% over the same period in 2010.

"This fantastic result confirms the customer's enthusiasm for our brand that has led us to double our sales in just 24 months," said Cristiano Silei, Ducati Vice President of Global Sales and CEO of Ducati North America. "The increasing appeal of our expanding product line, our

experience-based marketing strategy and the strengthening of our dealer network represent the key building blocks that will continue to fuel our future growth."

The company says that its May 2012 sales results were bolstered by the introduction of its two newest models, the 1199 Panigale and the Streetfighter 848.

Tsunami Motorcycle To Be Preserved By H-D Museum

This Harley-Davidson motorcycle, which was recovered on the coast of British Columbia after drifting for more than a year and 4000 miles across the Pacific Ocean following last year's Japanese tsunami, will be preserved by the



Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee as a memorial to the tragedy that claimed more than 15,000 lives, according to a news release by the Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

The story of the 2004 FXSTB Softail Night Train motorcycle's survival and recovery by Canadian Peter Mark made international headlines after he found it washed ashore on a remote beach on British Columbia's Graham Island at low tide. Mark discovered the motorcycle, still bearing its Japanese license plate, along with several other items in the remains of an insulated cargo van container where the motorcycle was being stored by its owner, Ikuo Yokoyama, prior to the tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011.

Working with news agencies and representatives from Deeley Harley-Davidson Canada and Harley-Davidson Japan, contact was made with the 29-year-old Yokoyama, who lost his home and currently lives in temporary housing in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. Harley-Davidson offered to return the bike, but still struggling to rebuild in the aftermath of the disaster, Yokoyama declined. Instead, he requested to have it preserved in the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee to honor those whose lives were lost or forever changed by the disaster.