

Adventurers! Follow me to the...

Long Beach Motorcycle Show!

Opening night was Friday, it was windy/rainy outside and at 4pm nearly-empty. A perfect time to enter/enjoy!

In past years, "getting a bag" was a hassle. The "bag" being what you used to stuff all of your freebies into. But this year... Ha! The organizers were ahead of me...



The hottie above (and her ladyfriends) were at the bottom of the entry-escalator, handing out bags! And, so eager to pose 😊.

There is no rhyme/reason for my path through the show. Whatever I bumped into, that's what I photographed...

The first booth was "Retro Racing", not normally a hot-topic but whoa! The CZ (Czech) bike in the pic was identical to the new CZ that I bought in 1969!



And, even more amazing, the adjoining Ducati (below pic) was nearly-identical to the "very used" Ducati that I bought in 1970 for \$400...



Under the "I am amazed" heading, the 3rd antique I saw was identical to the Yamaha RT-360 that I bought new in Newport, Rhode Island (1971) as I was going through Naval Justice School...



Three awesome bikes, I owned them all!

Then (my weakness) I passed the designer-sunglasses booth. WooHoo! Look at the brand-names! Yes, I bought 3 pairs 😊.



I really like 2-stroke dirt bikes. The show had them all, here is the best from Austrian maker KTM...



A fly-buddy in AR just bought a new bike like the one below, and he got it for a song! The very impressive Honda CRF-250X...



Over at Suzuki... Here's my favorite street-bike... The Bandit-1250 with ABS Anti-skid Braking System... \$7000 a steal!



I love this stuff... a "cut-away" engine...



The Kawasaki KX-250F... I need one!



Harley Davidson had a huge display, but, the only bike they had that I found interesting was this 1937 Bonneville racer...



The fabulous Yamaha YZ-250, a 2-stroke. In another couple of years, even the "pure race bike" 2-strokes will be gone due to Federal EPA standards...



Below: The good-news, bad-news 2008 Yamaha 250 dual-sport...

- A) Good: Low seat height, fuel-injection, comfortable, street-legal, "cool"...
- B) Bad: **\$6000**... For a 250cc dirt-bike! Ugh ☹ !



Ural (below, made in Russia) Side Car rig... Must-have! An updated copy of a 1936 BMW... Wow!

Better still, I sat in the sidecar, I fit! This bike has a terrific reputation for both fun and (in the latest years of production) excellent quality/reliability.

Does anyone suppose I could get *Glider Girl* to ride-along?



BMW (below) had their controversial cross-country bike, the 650cc *X-Challenge*...

This bike "felt great", I wanted to like it, but...

This bike has no conventional rear shock-absorber. Rather, it has an "air shock" which is an air-pressurized rubber bladder with a terrible service history (poor reliability). This bladder-suspension is very weird.

Nonetheless, for "cool" this dirt-bike was unsurpassed...



Below is the BMW moto-cross ("MX") race-bike... "Very cool"...



See my sad face? I am bummed! Last year the below bike, a BMW R1200R, was my favorite bike of the show. This year, I went looking for it again, to Dream-the-Dream but this was not to be...

For 2008, BMW has transformed it into a "Joe Racer" replica, meaning the riding position has been optimized for racetrack use, not street-touring. Bummer. The footpegs are so far back the bike was uncomfortable to sit on for just 5 minutes ☹️ ☹️ .



Notes:

In the vendor-area, there were no deals on clothing (jackets etc).

Speaking with Kawasaki, I found out exactly (with a phone number!) the dept ("Public Relations", not "Marketing") to send my proposal to be the **Roaming Dirt-Gnome** of Kawasaki. This alone made attendance worthwhile ☺ .

The show-area was much-larger than previous years.

Dirt-bikes this year were more abundant than ever ☺.

In closing, this was a terrific show. Web-entry-price was \$11 (very reasonable). Parking was \$8 (expensive).

See you next year!

Paul P. ☺