

HAWKWORKS

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BY ROBERT PANDYA

Hawk Flock '98

Time for a party! Bust out the red Sharpie and after a good long sniff circle the weekends of April 24-26 and May 1-3. I'll be dragging out the Hawkworks Racing Hawk, and possibly Phil White's Duhawki, to race at Sears Point and Willow. Actually I plan on circling the track waving at my fans like the Queen on a friggin' carriage! No time to trash the endurance bike trying to keep up with the locals. (That's just a start to my excuses for low lap times...) Phil being the stud pilot that he is will fly out - leaving the driving up to yours truly. The duties of editorship never leave me. It's 1750 miles from Austin to San Francisco - please have some coffee for me when I reach the track!

The real reason for this shindig however is to celebrate the ten year birthday of our beloved bike. Ten years, four spark plugs, two cylinders, one rear wheel nut, thousands of loyal fans. I firmly believe that the Hawk is the #1 cult bike in America. A popular "cult" bike - is that possible? The fact is we have over 500 Hawkworks subscribers internationally says it is. The Hawk has gone *up* in value for the last several years - indeed finding a perfect example for under \$2500.00 is nearly impossible. Riders who years ago eschewed our mount for a zippier Hurricane, are now looking at our bikes with a V-twin lust in thier hearts. Hey, I'll bet you don't want to sell yours, do you?

I'm inviting all of you west of the continental divide to make this rally. Actually I'd like to see some of you from elsewhere making the ride. There's no need to drone on about the beauties of California. EVERY bike mag in the US comes out of the West Coast, and EVERY US magazine has beautiful bikes, on beautiful roads, riding into beautiful sunsets. Those of you who commute through LA smog are welcome to call me names now.

The resulting center of the US motorcycling scene is home to the top race teams, motor tuners, chassis specialists and aftermarket suppliers in the world. Bring some cash -- you'll find *something* you'll have to buy.*

Sears Point Raceway is near San Francisco home of Zeitgeist, ticketless sidewalk parking, some big ol' red bridge, thousands of beater Ducatis and many, many Hawkworks subscribers. The track has recently been renovated featuring increased safety for the racers and more amenities for spectators. The tight slippery track is a perfect place to exploit a Hawk's abilities. And a perfect place to keep my bike safely in the back of the pack... Feel free to bring egg timers to mark my progress. Our multi-talented art director Melissa Shimmin will race as well as several *Hawkworks* subscribers and contributors.

The second week will find us in California's high desert. Willow Springs International Raceway is about an hour outside LA and is known as "the Fastest Road in the West". I first experienced it mid-January when I accompanied one of Hawkworks Racing sponsors, Jeff Nash of Advanced Motor Sports, to test for the upcoming season. I had a chance to ride his Supermono on the track, and I have to say that I do NOT have the cajones to tilt a rare \$30,000 Italian exotic into turn 8 at full boogie in top gear. I bow to the Gods of speed here. The wind is legendary and the racing is exciting - to say the least. And Rosmond is, ahhh forgettable. But that track...

Both these races will be under the auspices of the American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association. AHRMA

is the place for every funky old race bike and odd ball racer in the US. The open pits allow you to closely inspect some of the coolest old machines on the track - and I don't mean the pacemakers. The other end of the spectrum features the modern Twins and Singles classes. This is where the Hawk comes in. JD Hord, back cover boy this issue, is the Battle of the Twins F3 champion and will make the trip from Ohio to humiliate the locals. (Hah! Set him up!) Hawks race in several classes in AHRMA and will be on the track on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Now I'm well aware that many of you don't give a flip about racing. Just come on out for the people then. Remember the 500 subscribers? Fully 1/2 of you are in California. We're working on some maintenance seminars and *Hawkworks* will make available a maintenance station for subscribers to adjust and lube chains, check tire pressures and clean your steed. Melissa is working on some semimar type deals that will enlighten you, and I'm hitting up manufacturers for prize swag to give away. We'll host rides and at least one dinner each weekend. I am sure you will enjoy yourself. There is no better way to meet people who dig the Hawk like you do, than to come to a rally celebrating the Hawk, attended by people who dig the Hawk like you do. I am sure you will enjoy yourself. Tickets are cheap, and hotels are...umm - available. If you live in California we'll be sending out postcards with maps and other necessary information. If you want to add yourself to this list, contact me via snail or email. I'm going to stock up on No-Doz and apply for a new gas card. Hawk Flock '98...torque your nut - it's time for a party!