2004 New Models Revealed
A Look Back: 40 Years of Baja
MANAGER'S BOX
Continued from page 5

pelvic bone and the first of many operations to repair my knee. When I came out of surgery, the nurse in ICU asked if I would like to see some visitors, who turned out to be Dori, Russ and Bill. I was so happy to see them and I was also surprised they had found out I had an accident. It turned out that Bill had talked to someone who had heard about the accident and told Dori. With that little bit of information, she started making calls and checking with the police. She successfully acquired the information that identified me as the motorcyclist in the accident, and my current location. They rushed to the hospital and had been patiently waiting many hours for me to come out of surgery.

It's not often that you find people so willing to give of themselves to help others.

Immediately after a nurse contacted my wife Jan about my accident, she booked a flight from Oklahoma. Upon arriving early the next day, she rushed to the hospital. Jan and Dori became friends right from the start. Dori and Russ continued their hospitality by offering Jan one of their personal cars for Jan's use while she was there. Dori also assisted in securing a temporary place of residence at the University for my wife. Russ, a Honda employee, had to go back to work but Dori would drive in from Marysville (about forty-five miles one way) almost every day to spend time with Jan and me.

I spent three weeks in the hospital in Columbus, Ohio. It would have been significantly longer were it not for Dori going the extra mile once again to help my family in our time of need. Dori introduced me to LuAnn McKeen, one of the key organizers of the Honda Homecoming event. As a result, the remainder of my hospital stay would be spent in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where all of my family would be able to visit and assist in my efforts to recover. Again, showing the utmost concern for Jan and me, Dori, Russ, and LuAnn met us at the airport to say goodbye and to wish me the best.

The next week at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa, who should come to visit me at the hospital but Dori and Russ—what a surprise! They both kept in touch with Jan and me throughout the remainder of my stay in the hospital. After ten weeks in the hospital and a significant amount of rehab, I was released on October 4, 2002. When I returned home, Dori and Russ were there to welcome me home.

Needless to say, they have become permanent members of my family. They demonstrated repeatedly the willingness to assist in any way necessary to help me in my time of need. It's not often that you find people so willing to give of themselves to help others. I thank God for bringing them into my life, and the friendship we now enjoy with them.

Ernie & Jan Knak, Oklahoma

Now that is what I call having a Honda heart! Season's greetings to all of you from your friends at the HRCA.

Environmental Update:
Meet the New Golden State OHV Noise Standards

Effective January 1, 2003 California's Off-highway Vehicle noise regulation levels tightened up and according to state officials, the new regulations will be strictly enforced by agencies conducting sound tests on public lands where OHVs are used. The new sound regulations were introduced by state assembly members Fred Keeley and Mark Wyland in the spring of 2002 and approved by Governor Gray Davis on September 14, 2002.

The new California OHV noise regulations are as follows: All off-highway vehicles manufactured before January 1, 1986 must not exceed 101 dBA (decibels), while all off-highway vehicles manufactured on or after January 1, 1986 must not exceed 96 dBA. The same document states that competition off-highway vehicles manufactured before January 1, 1998 may not exceed 101 dBA and those manufactured on or after January 1, 1998 may not exceed 96 dBA.

Noise levels of 96 and 101 dBA sound strict, but according to Chris Real, the
owner operator of the Honda Riders Club-sponsored Chemhelp, meeting or sounding off below the enforced levels is attainable. Real and Chemhelp travel to about 20 events every year, teaching environmental awareness. He also conducts confidential sound checks and provides education on how to minimize the noise through mechanical practices.

Real recommends re-packing your spark arrestor or silencer every 10 to 15 hours and even sooner on two-strokes.

“I don’t know how many times I’ve been at an event and heard a guy coming from a mile away,” says Real. “When he finally arrives, he’s got the best aftermarket spark arrestor money can buy, but it’s not doing any of us any good. My first question to him is, ‘When was the last time you re-packed your spark arrestor?’ The standard answer is, ‘Never’ or ‘Last year’ And that’s why I’m at these events, to send him home with new spark arrestor packing.”

Real recommends re-packing your spark arrestor or silencer every 10 to 15 hours and even sooner on two-strokes because the packing quickly becomes saturated with two-stroke oil. Not only will frequent re-packing limit the chances of a possible fine, it will also boost performance. “People don’t realize how much power is robbed from old packing,” says Real.

Whether trail riding or even racing on a closed course, it’s crucial no matter what state you reside in to help protect our sport by meeting off-highway vehicle noise standards. “Californians shouldn’t complain,” says Ray Conway, a life-long off-road motorcyclist and long-time member of the Honda Riders Club of America. “The noise level in the state of Michigan is 94 dbA.”

'03 EVENT CALENDAR

The HRCA has scheduled participation at many of the following events. Others are listed based on their value as a riding destination. Please remember that while these events are shown in our schedule, we do not control the events, except for the Honda Hoot. We participate as a service to the Members and other Honda enthusiasts. Events and our participation at events in this schedule are subject to change without notice.

AMATEUR MOTOCROSS

| NOV 24-29 | Mini-O |
| Gainesville, FL |

RIDE FOR KIDS

| NOV 2 | Dunnellon, FL |
| RR |

For more information on Ride for Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, point your browser to www.ride4kids.org or call 1-800-253-6530.

Watch for the 2004 calendar of events, HRCA Members event order form and updated Chapter listing in an upcoming issue of Honda Red Rider.

Warranties end. Protection doesn’t have to.

Riding your Honda is always more fun when you have peace of mind. And that comes from knowing you're protected if any covered repair should bring you into the shop. You can get that coverage on your Honda Motorcycle, Scooter, ATV or Personal Watercraft by securing a Honda Protection Plan — before your warranty expires.

Here’s what you get when you choose a Honda Protection Plan:

- Nationwide coverage
- Unlimited riding
- No deductibles
- Transferable - at no cost
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See your Honda dealer and ask for HondaCare® protection.

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