

THE FREEWAY NEWSLETTER

No. 3

February 1981

Circulation this month is ~~10~~. 14!

Our first tip, contributed by Joe Amoroso, from the great state of Texas, involves lubricating your drive chain:

Be careful to wipe up all surplus oil from the wheel, chain oil which gets onto the drum will ruin your rear-wheel braking system.

Final gas mileage figure for the first tank full: I used 9.3 gallons to drive 529.8 actual miles. Now a lot of this was just running time, warming up out in the yard, but it still comes out to a very gratifying 56.9 mpg, all of it in below freezing weather, and with the larger of the engines, the 450cc.

A recent memo from Dave has cleared up the rapid spin-outs that I mentioned in my last newsletter, when the drive wheel is on ice. The transmission UPSHIFTS, causing the rear wheel to spin even faster. It won't happen if your foot is off of the throttle, but better to leave it at home as Dave says, until the roads are dry. You wouldn't risk your brand-new Harley-Davidson on ice, so why risk your FREEWAY?

Thank you Dave, for the quick explanation, and words of caution.

Philosophy Dent: Those of you who hike, or run, alone, know the almost religious feeling you get when you are out at sunrise doing your thing. Well I'll be darned if driving my FREEWAY up route 495 at 6 A.M. into the sunrise-doesn't give me much the same feeling. The Interstate is so big, and so empty at that time, and Space Shot and I are so small, that it is an experience. Or, as the kids say, a Happening.

Since we all seem to be getting to know one another over the phone, I'm adding a list of the owners with whom I've been in contact so far, and hope that no one minds.

Have driven mine seven out of the last ten working days and am really getting loose in the saddle. Current mileage is 860.4 miles on the same tank of gasoline that I mentioned above, and I will easily clear 1000 miles before having to fill up again.

As you all know, President Reagan has decontrolled the price of gasoline, and owning a FREEWAY at this time is a real comfortable feeling.

The Boston Herald-American's automotive editor is looking for an owner to do an article on, and I may give in, although as those of you who already have yours know, we certainly don't need publicity.

Don B. Davidson, of Rome, N.Y., has been kind enough to send me a copy of the TRIMUTER Newsletter, published by Quincy-Lynn Enterprises, Inc, of Phoenix, Arizona. This bulletin deals with a do-it-yourself three wheeler, for which they have sold over 20,000 sets of plans, and estimate that over one thousand vehicles have been built. So, three wheel technology is really getting off of the ground.

But, the TRIMUTER builders are running into the same insurance and registration frustrations that some of us have been experiencing with the FREEMAY.

Mine is currently registered as a mop cycle, as you know, and carries liability and medical coverage from Public Service Mutual, but I do not carry fire, theft, or collision as in my area it was priced at \$1300, out of the question. So it is chained to the old oak tree when I'm not using it. Things in this category will improve, however, at least in Massachusetts, or so the Registry has promised me.

No problems this month, no oil burned, very little gas used, and not even any air in the tires yet. Here is the list:

Don B. Davidson, Jr. 1115 North James St. Rome, NY 13440	(Electric)	Tom Ferman (Gasoline) 24 Crest Drive Dover, MA 02030
Ralph LeBlanc 77 Ft. Allerton Ave. Hull, MA 02045	(Electric)	Ray Beese (Gasoline) 10049 Carolynn Drive St. Louis, Mo. 63128
Robert R. Bees 9507 Katherine Drive Allison Park, PA 15101	(Gasoline)	Leonard J. Goss (Gasoline) 420 Rieky Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Joe Amoroso 1611 Jane Drive Pasadena, TX 77502	(Gasoline)	
Jehn Gustavson 133 Oak Street Franklin, MA 02038	(Gasoline)	
Ourtis Hunnewell 76 Dean Street Belmont, MA 02178	(Gasoline)	
Andy Fabricant 304 Sears Street Philadelphia, PA 19147	(Gasoline)	
Victor Powell 8526 Castor Ave Philadelphia, PA 19152	(Gasoline)	
Dave Kent 56 Marble Street Stoneham, MA 02180	(Gasoline)	

Won't send another one now until I have something meaty, but do send me tips if you wish, and I'll include them in the next newsletter.

Bob & Spence

V-2-43

Robert Ferris #85  
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Bellingham, MA 02019

H-M-Vehicles, Inc.  
1116 East HWY 13  
Burnsville, MN 55337

Dear H-M-Vehicles

Thank you for the latest product bulletin, concerning driving on snow and ice.

Please send it to prospective owners first, however, as those of us who have been driving ours any length of time have learned the characteristics of the VRT transmission very quickly.

If you manage your first turn onto an icy side street from a nice dry main road, under power, you get an instantaneous lesson in upshifting.

One of the reasons stated by you, that of driver over confidence, is absolutely true, it feels so much like a large, heavy, conventional car once you get going that you forget that it's a motorcycle.

But there is another reason, once which I feel you cannot personally comment on, but that I never-the-less feel comfortable in relating to you - and that is - some people drive a car, and some people just aim it.

So if you are the type of person who grinds gears, spins wheels, slams on brakes, cuts corners short, and drives the car until it quits from lack of attention, you probably shouldn't own a FREEWAY. Or anything else mechanical, for that matter, but non-mechanically-inclined persons would be safer in a Buick Roadmaster or a GMC.

But I'll tell you, with most of us it's a love affair, we can't walk by it without touching it ever so gently, and the last thing we do at night is peek out the window at it, so when it comes to ice and snow, we take our commutin' nice and slow. As I told Joe Amoroso, from Pasadena, TX, it's not our bodies we worry about, it's the car.

The first thing one of my acquaintances did was get into mine, floor it, go reeling out into the street, bounce off someone else's fender, and break the side light. I could have killed him! And this was not accidental, he wanted to see if it would "peel rubber". How are you going to keep turkeys like that from getting hurt?

Thanks again, and keep us posted.

Sincerely yours,

*Bob Ferris*

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