

My Ride (1985 VMax)

Since the purchase of my VMax from a friend's father, in 2000, I have steadily made changes to either correct known design shortcomings or to modify the bike to my preferences. I made one change at a time, to assess the effect of the change, before moving to the next step.

In the approximate order of change:

- Yamaha case guards
- braided stainless brake and clutch lines
- frame brace
- Superbrace fork brace
- Works rear shocks and Works front internals w/ Gold Cartridge Emulators
- Flyscreen
- Stage 7 jet kit
- replacement of 2nd gear and dog shift cam and shift fork
- Ducati mirrors
- UFO Starfighter seat
- UFO exhaust system w/ carbon fiber silencers
- UFO VGAS intake system
- UFO shift light
- UFO turn signals
- UFO clear clutch cover
- new thermostat switch to enable fan at a lower temp
- external oil filter adapter kit
- relocated license plate w/ UFO LED taillight
- Odyssey battery
- UFO Quadzilla slip-ons for occasional swap w/cf silencers
- UFO 17" polished wheels
- 190/50ZR17 Avon Azaro rear tire and 120/70 ZR17 Bridgestone Battlax BT 016 front tire
- EBC rotors
- select polished aluminum parts.

I joined VMOA shortly after the purchase of the VMax and spent countless hours in the archives and contacting prospective vendors. Based on contact with many vendors, for most of the changes/products, I settled on Jon Cornell's UFO Performance Products. I selected UFO because of Jon's



patience, positive attitude, understanding and support of my goals, his seat time with verifiable records on drag race bikes and his technical expertise. In short, he was (and is) a kindred soul with a passion for R & D, top quality and high performance.

I have spent the last decade and many miles on board my transformed VMax and have enjoyed every part of the adventure. Although there will always be a short list of remaining things to change, the majority of the work has been done. I have a motorcycle which meets my needs for comfort, performance, reliability along with unique status and history. Although I also own and enjoy riding my Ducati Monster (M900) and KTM 400 EXC, the VMax is invariably the bike I end up pulling out of my garage for two-wheeled therapy. As witnessed by the enclosed photo from a recent trip to the Smoky Mountains, it is a hoot to ride on the Dragon's Tail and other twisty venues... what you don't see is the huge grin on my face!

Gerald W. Casey #1230 - Pelham, Alabama



LEO'S TRIBUTE

October 25th, 2009: this date will remain impressed in our memory as a sad date:

A dear friend has left us... a terrible bike accident has snatched him from us and from his family's love.

The VMOA Italian Chapter remembers LEO as a wonderful person, cheerful, joyful, ever available for everyone; his passion for bikes and riding, for the fantastic sensations that those can give to you and his willingness to share those moments with his friends did not save him... at the end of that damned last curve he paid his tragic bill to the destiny.

Everyone of us had the opportunity to appreciate the human qualities of LEO: he did not make anyone miss his advice, his smiles, his useful help. Very great was his capacity to live with optimism, with happiness and with the desire to taste powerful emotions at any costs. His ability to feel all of this inside accompanied him until his death.

For us, and for his family, his death was a very tremendous blow to suffer, an event that marked everyone of us in a permanent way. Now we are forced to live and to go ahead with only our memories, and we want to make this in the way that LEO would like... with optimism and trust thinking that his death must remind us to be safe riding our bikes. We are sure that LEO is watching over us everyday on our road... ever with his smile on his face and with his hand on our shoulder...

It's important for us showing one more time all our closeness, affection and availability to LEO's family, to his wife and his sons.

CIAO LEO... VMOA Italy Chapter

