

AMA Races are coming

Round 6 of the AMA Superbike races, presented by Suzuki, are coming to Road America, in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin on June 4-5 & 6. Once again, the Metropolitan Chicago area gets to enjoy AMA motorcycle racing at its finest, and at one of the best venues in the country for racing, and for the fans.

On Saturday, June 6, race fans can watch Race 1 of American Superbike, and Daytona Sportbike series, as well as a Supersport race, and return on Sunday for Race 2 of American Superbike and Daytona Sportbike. Additionally, there will be a pair of 2-hour Moto-GT team races on Sunday.

The bikes running in the American Superbike series include the new Buell 1125R, the Honda CBR1000RR, Kawasaki ZX-10R, Suzuki GSXR-1000, Yamaha YZF R-1, Aprilia RSV100 and Ducati 1098R. Mat Mladin is currently leading the series on his Suzuki, with Tommy Hayden and Josh Hayes hot on his trail. Speeds on the straightaways will reach over 190 miles per hour, so the action is exciting.

For Daytona Sportbike Martin Cardenas, on the Suzuki GSXR-600, is in a tight battle with Jamie Hacking on his Kawasaki Ninja ZX-6R, and Danny Eslick on the Buell 1125R. You'll also get to see the Honda CBR600RR, Ducati 848, Triumph Daytona 675, and Aprilia RSV100R approach speeds of 175 miles per hour.

Road America has long been regarded as one of the best venues in the country to view races and enjoy the racing scene. Fans can stroll pit lane and see their favorite rider up close, and watch as their crews

prep the bikes for each race. Vendors galore showcase their wares, there is great food at affordable prices, and there will be demo rides from some manufacturers.

You can order tickets and get more info about the races and the venue by visiting www.roadamerica.com. You can get all the latest racing information by going to www.amaproracing.com.

Cyclefocus will have a booth in the paddock area, so stop by and say hello.

Hugger Gloves

Riding gloves are an important part of my riding gear, and should be for every rider. I ride with gloves every time I get on my bike, regardless of the weather, and I've got gloves for every climate. Recently, I tested two pair of gloves from a company called Hugger Gloves, which has been around for 16 years, and has becoming a force in the riding glove industry.



One of the most unique features of Hugger Gloves is that they use a premium leather process called Technaline, which makes their leather waterproof. I tested one model, called the Basic Seamless Riding Glove, which is an unlined glove good for riding in temperatures from the upper-40's to low 70's. It's a short glove with a small gauntlet that will still cover the sleeve opening of your jacket to keep the wind out, and has an elastic wrist.

The leather itself is butter soft, and requires no break-in period. It was comfortable on my first ride, with excellent hidden stitching that didn't cause any rubbing or irritation on the skin. They fit like a second skin, and allowed enough feel to easily be able to work the chinstrap on my helmet, or pick up a dime on a tabletop.

Now one thing about the waterproof leather; keep in mind that the leather itself is waterproof, and sheds water without absorbing it. But, because there has to be stitching to make the glove, and stitching has to put little holes in the leather, water will get into the glove after a while. There is no way around that. But even though your hands will get damp, it isn't like regular gloves where the leather becomes soaked through and water-logged.

They do make totally waterproof gloves which have dual liners, one of which is called Wonder Dry. But those gloves are heavier weight, and are good from temperatures down to below freezing, and up to temperatures around 60 degrees.



For warm weather I tested Hugger's Summer Touring Glove, which features their Technaline padded leather palms, and Spandex between the fingers and on the top of the hands. The gloves have no extended cuff, and use a nice wide Velcro closure for a good fit. Aside from their cooling comfort, they also feature a padded palm, which I found quite effective in keeping the annoying buzz at bay that I get

Short Shifts

through my Ninja's handlebars. Again, these unlined gloves have excellent fit and non-irritating seams.

Both gloves offered very high quality at a very reasonable cost. The Basic Seamless Riding Glove retails for only \$40, and the Summer Touring Glove retails for only \$38. Huggler Gloves also makes many styles especially designed for women riders, so that ladies can get a proper fit, instead of trying to make a man's glove work for them. They also make several styles of riding jackets and chaps with the waterproof Technaline treatment.

You can visit their web site at www.huggergloves.com to learn more about their products, see their full line of gloves and gear, and to find a dealer near you. In the Chicago area, you can find their gloves at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, Racer Café, Fox Valley Cycles, Kalbo's Performance, and Kelly's Leather.

HD 2000 Pro Custom Earphones

By Hearing Dynamics



One of the things that I enjoy while riding my motorcycle, (and many other riders do as well) is listening to music. Over the years, I've had many types of systems, including helmet speakers and various types of headphones. There have been drawbacks to all of them.

With speakers, you often have to carve out some of the Styrofoam liner to fit them into the helmet. Then there is always the wind noise that the helmet allows in, especially if the helmet is an open face model, forcing you to crank

up the music so that it becomes dangerous to your hearing. And after a bit, you get a headache and you can't hear the ambient traffic noise going on around you. And if you use different helmets, you need to reinstall the speakers, or get a set of speakers for each helmet you own.

Headphones and ear buds I've tried are always uncomfortable after a short time, as the helmet jams them into your ears when they're not meant to go, or they move around as you turn your head. But I've found a great solution with the HD 200 Pro custom earphones by Hearing Dynamics.

Custom Dynamics makes their earphones from exact molds of your ears, done by a highly trained audiologist, so that they fit perfectly into your ear. They are made from a soft material so they are comfortable to wear for hours, and their low profile design and special routing of the cord won't interfere with the sides of your helmet. And because they are custom fitted to your ear, they stay put while blocking out any wind noise created by a helmet (or even if you ride without a helmet). Therefore, you don't have to crank up the music to hear it properly, and can still be aware of the traffic sounds surrounding you.

And the sound quality you get from these headphones is absolutely incredible, with a wide range of frequency response and absolutely no distortion. Trust me, you'll never experience a better sound from any set of headphones. Even at low volume, you can hear every note clearly.

It's a 2-step process to order from Custom Dynamics. First you call the company to get the name of a qualified technician in your area who will take the

impressions of your ear which is crucial to a comfortable and proper fit. You then send the molds to the Custom Dynamic lab in New Jersey where they install the drivers and transform them into your custom earphones.

You'll use your earphones not only for riding, but anytime you use your iPod or whatever music device you have. I use them at the gym while jogging on the treadmill, where the snug fit means they never fall out. I wear them on airplanes where they seal out the annoying drone of the airplane engines. They come with a standard 3.5mm stereo plug, so they can be used to plug into any intercom / music system on your bike, as well as a radar detector, GPS system, portable DVD player, laptop, or any device that you use headphones with.

The cost of the HD Pro 2000 customer headphones is \$250, plus the cost of your custom fitting, which usually runs under \$50. The earphones are pricey – quality always is. But you will have these earphones for a lifetime, and once you've experienced these earphones, you'll never want to use anything else.

For more information and to order, visit the web site at www.hearingdynamicsusa.com



Note to our Readers:

Ken "Hawkeye" Glassman can be reached at KGcyclefocus@aol.com. Send him your thoughts, comments, critiques, and suggestions for what you'd like to see in the magazine. We want to make Cyclefocus YOUR magazine, so your comments will help us shape the future issues.