

Feb. 27, 2005

10113783

Dear Sir,

I am a sixty-one year old motorcyclist. I do not own a car. My two current bikes have combined mileages of over 330,000 miles, all of which I've put on the bikes. I've had three other bikes previously, but never kept track of their mileages. My 1993 CB 750 Nighthawk, has over 271,000 miles. My 2003 ST 1300 has, over 60,000 miles.

Now, this letter is not meant to "blow my own horn", but rather to show why I am so concerned about Honda's approach to the current Safety Recall pertaining to the wiring harness and ground connectors on the 2003 ST 1300.

I had been experiencing problems with my bike since June of 2004, although not as frequently as when I took it to a dealer, to have it looked at in November, 2004. They could not find anything wrong with the bike. The problem was sporadic and if it's not doing it now, it's not broke.

I had the bike cut out on me making a turn, in traffic, with cars behind me. Luckily, the bike kicked back in and I wasn't run over. The bike stalled countless times as I was approaching a stop or when being stopped at a light or a sign. It cut out on me on the ramp, to my roof top parking, at work. It's cut out in 50 mph traffic, went into a bucking spree at 45 mph and it did this after the recall that it took Honda almost two months to correct.

I had been trying to have my bike repaired, by Honda, since I received the recall notice back on Dec. 20, 2004. They told me on Dec. 21, 2004, that the parts were not available. I checked in weekly with them to see if the parts had come in, they had not. On Feb. 7, 2005, after having checked in regularly with Honda, my bike finally stopped, completely, in the left turn lane. I had to dodge traffic to push my bike off of the road. I had the bike towed to Rick Case Honda in Davis. I, by the way, had to pay the tow bill, because Honda doesn't think that it's their responsibility. They're probably right, they only produced the defect, they didn't buy it.

This Safety Recall issue is really very disturbing. How can a company like Honda, drag their feet on such an important issue as their customers safety. This problem should have been taken care of lightning speed, for the safety of their customers. I have always been one of their most vocal, loyal customers. As you can see I am still vocal, but not in their favor.

I had a call from one of Honda's people, telling me that they had done all that they could to take care of the recall problem, including stopping production on all current ST 1300's. That is a claim that can easily be verified.

Two months is too long a wait for a safety recall. If these bikes had been intended for occasional use only, they should have been advertised as such. I am hoping that you will bring this problem to light and in doing so, maybe save a life or two. Heaven knows, there are others that just don't care.

I will be sending copies of this letter to other magazines, U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, The National Traffic and Safety Administration and to Honda as well. Someone will take notice, especially if some person has already been injured due to this negligence.

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MOTORCYCLE DIVISION

Very truly yours,

[Redacted signature]

Copy provided to EMD Michael 3/14/05