

RIDE-STUFF

By Alan Tecchio

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Ah the **Honda Goldwing**. This is definitely the bike I will eventually be on somewhere down the proverbial road of life. By the time I am ready for it I can only imagine what this beast will look like and be capable of. It is already the world's premier touring bike, mating practically all the luxuries of a car with handling that gets closer to that of a sportbike each and every year. Oh yeah, and she has tons and tons of horses! But I digress... In Sweden, a man named **Mattias Liljeberg** has given the Wing a new job—that of a tow truck. Check out these wild photos of his **Goldwing "Retriever"**. I can't even begin to imagine what riding that must be like while towing a car! The designer says that you don't even notice the car's weight when towing or the extra weight of the device when riding with it folded up. In competitions with normal Swedish tow trucks, they have been on-scene first in every case due mostly to the high traffic congestion in their country. Remember my mention of lane splitting a few weeks back? Here is another huge advantage to line riding—it can help clear the mess and get traffic moving again more quickly than traditional methods. Surf to www.comingthrough.se to check out more on this innovative idea.

Speaking of Honda...I stopped by **Sport Honda Powerhouse** in Metuchen, NJ recently for their unveiling of the new Honda motos. I was lucky enough

Stu Segal



to speak at length with **Stu Segal** who has the kind of colorful motorcycle background that leads to engaging two-wheeled stories that you just don't want to end. Stu told me many things but what stood out was

how this dealership allows bike clubs to use its space as a start point for Sunday rides. Hell, they'll even provide coffee and danishes and open their customer lounge for ya! Gargantuan in size, Sport Honda has everything that Honda makes save for their autos. Bikes of all types, ATV's, generators, scooters, lawn mowers—it's all here and laid out in an easy-to-navigate floorplan that adjusts to suit each season. In speaking with Stu

and fellow *Honda-Hombre* **Dan Notte**, I got an inside perspective on their customer base. Stu was originally a **Harley-Davidson** dude having been one of the original owners of Liberty Harley. He said, "One interesting switch is that at my old H-D dealership we would get worried when kids came in for fear that they might mess with or scuff up the bikes. Here, children as well as their parents are all potential customers. It is a much more laid back atmosphere and I've found that our customers tend to lack any elitist biker-attitudes". Watching Stu interact with one such satisfied customer, I could see exactly what he meant. Sport Honda also owns **Cross Country BMW** and **Ducati** by the way, so if you'd like to see just how cool this dealership is, you can kill three birds with one stone by paying them a visit. Surf to sporthonda.net to learn more.



The Retriever at work...



...and at rest

