

MEGAMOTO

T Limited Edition, Unlimited Power

The 2008 BMW HP2 Megamoto is a 440lb monster (with a full tank of gas) with 113 horsepower and a seat height of 35"! Now let's be clear; my inseam is 30". I was a bit concerned about the height, but it turned out not to be an issue. The Megamoto's power has been much discussed in the press and rumored to easily pop wheelies in 2nd gear.

Roy Oliemuller, BMW Motorsports Communications Manager, and Jim Viola, events manager, were on hand in Santa Monica, California to provide a brief background on BMW sales over the last year, and to introduce the Megamoto.

Five beautiful new BMW's were lined up in formation, waiting for us to take them out on the road. I threw my leg over the seat. Yes, I could manage it, but that seat was tall! I eased out of the parking lot and immediately entered LA traffic, got turned around and took a few minutes to locate the freeway again. I had prepared for the cold weather (yes it IS cold in California in January on a naked bike!) and had worn long johns under my riding gear and a heated vest that I never plugged in. I was also wearing a brand new Scorpion helmet (more on that later).

Once underway, I started to feel this machine out a bit. The first thing I noticed was the incredible raw power in any gear at any speed. Roy had told us these motors were hand-built, and that with the light weight, they would move right along. Yes, they did! I immediately thought back to the muscle cars that were around when I was beginning to drive. You had to be a bit careful when starting to keep things in control, but once moving, WATCH OUT! The next thing you notice is the seriously stiff suspension. Southern California freeways were recently reported as the worst in the nation. I know Chicago and some other areas might disagree with this, but the roads in California are bad enough to provide a rough ride for a bike set up for canyon riding. I felt my arms pumping up on the wide bars, but managed to settle down, relax and go with it.

Those bars were wide, not what I'm used to on the K100LT, RS or Airheads that I ride. I was glad I had brought a new pair of Lee Parks padded deerskin gloves to absorb some of the pounding. I was also a little concerned about the minimally padded seat, but it proved to be OK for a tank of gas at