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ANY ROAD
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Laura & Brian Klock own Klock Werks Kustom Cycles in Mitchell. Laura and daughters Erika & Karlee are the first mother, daughter, daughter trio in Bonneville Land Speed Racing history to hold records at the same time.

Motorcycle Shows Can Help with the Winter Blues!

It's cold outside, and the streets are covered with snow and ice. That can feel almost depressing when a good motorcycle ride sure would clear out the cobwebs and help with the winter blahs! Spring can't come soon enough, BUT, this is the time of year when there are some motorcycle shows and swap meets that you can attend. It's not as good as riding, but almost!

Brian and I recently attended one of the Progressive International Motorcycle Shows, in New York City. We were honored to be invited to the unveiling party for the new Victory Motorcycle model, the High Ball (www.polarisindustries.com), a stripped down, bare bones, classic bobber style bike they've added to their line. Victory wasn't the only OEM introducing their new models. Harley Davidson unveiled the Forty-Eight, described as "a factory custom in the legendary tradition of the hot rod Sportster line with the raw, elemental appeal of the Dark Custom bikes." Other OEM's had incredible booths at the show, including Honda, Triumph, Yamaha, Kawasaki, BMW, and Suzuki. It all created a ton of excitement.

I was invited to be a part of the Women's Center at the show by organizers Sue Slate and Gin Shear. These 2 ladies are not only the founders of the Women Motorcyclist Foundation, a charitable/educational foundation which has raised in excess of 2.3 million dollars for breast cancer research that is also a Red Cross course provider presenting CPR and First Aid Courses to Scout Troops, motorcycle clubs and MSF coaches, they organize the Women's Center for the IMS shows. And the list goes on. They led seminars on everything from maintaining your bike to how to ride twisties. It was pretty cool to watch. You can find out more at their website www.womensmotorcyclistfoundation.org.

The Women's area is set up so enthusiasts can rest their feet and enjoy specific seminar content, knowledgeable women rider speakers, try on a variety of apparel options and more. There's brochures on women's riding groups, racing, training courses, techniques, riding tips...I really found it to be an exciting place to hang out whether you're male OR female. I was invited to give my "Any Road" presentation, so shared a 30 minute talk about racing and how motorcycling

relates to life. I was also honored to be on a panel of women who are equally as accomplished at riding, racing, and working in our industry. The panel included 16 year old Elena Myers who on May 15, 2010 at age 16, became the first woman to win an AMA Pro Racing professional motorcycle road race (www.elenamyers.com); Kristin Casey (www.kristincaseyracing.com), a new racer on the scene who left her career in horses to try out some horsepower and is the first woman to compete in the history of Superbike Peru; and Tigra Tsujikawa who is the AMA Special Events Manager. Tigra played a key role in organizing another cool event I attended, the AMA International Women and Motorcycling conference in Keystone, Colorado in 2009 (www.womenandmotorcycling.com), and is an accomplished rider herself.

It was fun for Brian and I to be able to walk around and visit all the vendor booths on Friday before the place was packed with people and we had to work on Saturday at the different seminars. From aftermarket parts to gear, to a Jason Britton stunt show, a custom bike show, and more, it was well worth our time. We saw some old industry friends and made some new ones, and were even invited to be judges for the custom show. We saw Ice-T and got to spend some time with Steve Baldwin too. The 2010-2011 series marks the 30th annual Progressive International Motorcycle Shows nationwide tour, and I would recommend you catch one of the shows if you can. Find out places and dates at: www.motorcycleshows.com, they are all across the country from New York to California. The Minneapolis show is February 4-6. That one is close to home!

It was just as cold and snowy in New York, but being around all the bikes and motorcycle people helps get through this weather and keep the passion that is motorcycling alive until we ride again. Next Stop for us – the V-Twin Expo in Cincinnati Ohio, February 5-7, and then Winterfest of Wheels in Sioux Falls, February 11-13. If you've got the winter blahs, stop by Winterfest! We will be there with all of our race bikes and more!