

SCOOTER RALLY SUMMER

SCOOTER RIDER MAGAZINE



THE END OF DAYS

Final leg of the Scoot Commute 2006



- EXPANDED PRODUCTS REVIEW •
- KYMCO XCITING 250 •
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could otherwise rub off paint. In use we found the Canyon Dancer to be easier to use than tie downs alone and the scooter trailered much more solidly in all situations. Online prices go for about \$30. www.CanyonDancer.com

HIGH ROLLER TIE DOWNS

"Roller" is the german term for "scooter" but somehow we don't think a tribute to scooters was the intent of Paragon Powersports when they named their HIGH ROLLER tie downs (a pair of dice is on their logo). That's okay as they make fine tie downs for scooter trailering. Much better made than the usual stuff you find, the High Rollers have thicker nylon strapping, stronger buckles, bigger hooks, all good features. But the unique features are that

these tie downs have built in 'soft ties' on one end and a closing 'carabiner' style hook on the other. The built in soft tie allows looping the strap through a frame rail, rear rack or the usual strong tie point on the back of your scooter. The carabiner hook allows the tie to attach

to the trailer with no chance of the end slipping out. High Roller tie downs come in cam-lock or ratchet buckle versions and are well priced at \$25-\$32 a pair respectively. www.HighRollerProducts.com



LEE PARKS DESIGNS GLOVES

Lee Parks is dedicated to making the best riding gloves on the market, and he may have accomplished this goal. Features like Deerskin and Elkskin combinations, double layer construction in select areas, a natural fit that does not bunch up, super strong seams, long gauntlets, trimmed internal seams, and a wide sizing range for best fit. These gloves are handmade in the USA. Initially putting on the Lee Parks

gloves they feel a bit tight, but quickly mold themselves to your hand. Comfort is exceptional and improves the longer you wear them and the more you use them. The Deer and Elk skin are machine washable, breathable and have a wide temperature range. When Lee explained to us the features of his gloves, he pulled out a pair with 10 years of use. Scuffed in some areas, scratched in others, and with obvious use over thousands of miles, but they were still as supple and usable as when new. As you might imagine, handmade, premium items are

not cheap. Lee Parks gloves run between \$109-179 and are available in three different models in Black or Gold colors. So if you are a rider that demands the best you owe it to yourself to find out more at www.LeeParksDesign.com.

GARMIN QUEST 2 AND RAM MOUNT

GPS technology has advanced by leaps over the last years. The selection is huge but if you are planning to use a GPS on your scooter, there are added considerations beyond the usual car based offerings. Weather resistance, ease of use (with gloves on in particular) versatile



mounting, vibration resistance and screen brightness are a few. Then there are the multiple choices of brands..... it can be overwhelming. Garmin is likely the most recognizable name in consumer GPS technology so we contacted them for their recommendation on a setup to use on the Scoot Commute 2006. They followed loaning us a QUEST 2 model with cycle mount. The Quest 2 is their most popular motorcycle use model, and in checking, we found it has a huge following among seasoned riders the world over. Weatherproof, large buttons, compact size, and to

avoid vibration problems the memory is not hard drive-based.



The Garmin supplied cycle mount was not easily adaptable without making permanent modifications to our loaner scooter. RAM

MOUNTS came to the rescue with their expansive line of mounts for every use. Ram supplied us their Quest 2 specific cradle, mount arm and various attachment ends. To top it all off they also kicked in the optional power supply for the Quest cradle.

To attach the mount we looked at a variety of ways and settled on using the flat mount base. We covered the base bottom with high strength 3M double-stick tape. This was then adhered to the top of the left brake reservoir. To keep everything solid we followed up with two long zip ties, crossed over the mount base and under the reservoir. To finish up we wired a lighter socket plug to the end of the power supply.

This combination proved exceptional and was a great enhancement for the Scoot Commute. The Ram Mount placed the GPS high, at an angle easy to see and this minimized screen glare. The buttons were usable while wearing gloves and the high contrast color screen was easy to view. Redraw of the map was fast and the only time we had a problem was when I accidentally set the unit to the WAAS mode which made the redraw very slow in the city. I found myself relying on the GPS screen, not only for the mapping but for speed and miles traveled, rather than look at the scooter's instruments. The Ram Mount was very adjustable with two twist knobs. Once set, it allowed me quickly snap out the GPS unit so I could drop it in a pocket when away from the scooter. The Quest 2 has an internal rechargeable battery, but having the Ram power supply allowed the backlight to stay on continually, further enhancing screen readability. Oh, and the 3M tape and zip ties worked like a charm -- they were barely noticeable.

The key in mounting is to keep the GPS unit high and in the line of vision so you do not end up looking away from the road. We recommend both the Quest 2 and Ram Mount system. MSRP for the Quest 2 is \$749.00, but we found that street prices are from \$550-650.00. The Ram Mounts are available for everything from a coffee cup to a laptop computer, and of course many GPS units. Price will vary according to which component you use, but they do list the components for some maxi-scooters. Figure on about \$50-100 according to how you set up. Also bear in mind the Ram system can also be setup to hold more than one item, so you could add an Ipod, satellite radio, etc. Garmin Quest 2 - www.Garmin.com. Ram Mounts