

Fly, ride and then RawHyde

If the idea of flying to the USA, renting a BMW and then riding into the mountains above Los Angeles to participate in some excellent off-road tuition appeals, then your California dream could well come true, courtesy of a new, approved West Coast BMW off-road training centre.



BMW Motorrad has selected RawHyde Adventures, of Castaic in southern California, to serve as one of nine factory-authorized off-road training centres worldwide. RawHyde Adventures joins an elite group of training schools that have demonstrated the quality and commitment to meet BMW's high standards. BMW will initially provide 12 GS-model motorcycles (F 650 GS, F 800 GS and R 1200 GS) for the training centre.

Veteran adventure ride instructor and founder of RawHyde Adventures, Jim Hyde has a simple philosophy when it comes to riding: "Ninety five per cent of the world's roads are unpaved, yet many motorcyclists are timid when it comes to off-road riding on big bikes like the GS. Our program is designed to give GS owners and others the confidence and skills to navigate the roads less travelled."

Jim believes that these centres are important allies in growing the GS market segment by helping riders gain the



confidence and skills to enjoy their enduro motorcycles more fully. Keen to attract international visitors to the new West Coast BMW off-road training facility, he is keen to stress that riders from overseas would be very welcome at the Enduro Park.

“The ideal scenario would be that BMW fans fly in for a holiday and rent a bike of their choice from one of the local BMW Motorrad dealers. They then ride this bike to the Rawhyde Enduro Park, but do the training on one of our BMWs. We would love some international riders joining us at RawHyde, and to make that more enticing we have developed a wonderful follow-up to our initial training program which takes ‘graduates’ of the camp on a two-day adventure ride into the heart of the Mojave Desert. I know that the Mojave is great attraction to European riders, and a visit to Death Valley would be possible on the trip as well.”

For five years RawHyde Adventures has been operating a rider-training program for BMW owners, known as ‘Adventure Camp’. The new and ‘official’ BMW training programme is known as the BMW Off-road Academy and the 2009 dates are Feb 20-22; Mar 20-22; Apr 17-19; May 8-10; Jun 19-21; and Jul 24-26.



Sessions begin on Fridays with an orientation, followed by a gourmet dinner (breakfasts, lunches and dinner are prepared by Cordon Bleu-trained chefs). Rider training is held from 9am to 5pm on the Saturday and Sunday, followed by a graduation celebration. Trail rides are offered Mondays and Tuesdays immediately after training to help graduates put their skills to immediate use while still under the supervision of RawHyde instructors. RawHyde also offers the option of a two-day overnight adventure ride, following graduation, to a destination called Base Camp Alpha, in the Mojave Desert.

BMW's off-road training course is open to BMW GS owners and other licensed motorcyclists who want to explore the road where the pavement ends. The cost for the

two-and-a-half day course is \$1,295. The course, including the Base Camp Alpha Adventure, will cost \$1,890.

For further details about the training school, visit the www.bmwoffroadacademy.com website.