



## BIKE REVIEW: BMW R 18



From Berlin to Boston, the massively powerful BMW R 18 looks to bring some German refinement to the classic American cruiser market.

Its horizontally opposed boxer twin features 1,802 cubic centimeters of power and its style is a mix of laid-back California cruiser with a German eye for craftsmanship. It has a long, stretched out tank with beautiful white pinstripes, and a low-slung seat nestled by the rear tire to accentuate that long and low look.

In a move of pure genius, BMW designed many of the common customizable parts to be interchangeable with American cruisers. Wire-spoked wheels along with metal fenders, tanks, and bodywork are cruiser de rigueur. BMW has a host of customization

options available from Roland Sands Design, Vance & Hines, and Mustang Seats. In order to be successful in the American cruiser category customization is key and BMW made the right decision to make that as easy as possible with the R 18.

Ride-wise it has three electronic ride modes, Rock, Roll and Rain. On the road, the R 18 is an eclectic mix of vibration and precision. While it looks like a BMW, there is a fair amount of that cruiser "feeling", particularly when you get on the throttle between 3,500 and 4,500 rpm. It was designed to cruise, and look good while doing it, which it accomplishes effortlessly.



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# King of the Baggers: Indian or Harley?

MotoAmerica's "King of the Baggers" exhibition race in 2020 was an absolute smashing success. Viewers tuned in by the millions from across the country to see the 800 lb. baggers literally throw themselves around the Laguna Seca. The race and results were exciting enough that MotoAmerica decided to expand the series in 2021 by adding a 5-race circuit following the HONOS Superbike Series.

Round 1 kicks off at the Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta, then to Road America in Elkhart, Wisconsin, then back to the iconic Laguna Seca. The series wraps up with a trip back east to Pittsburgh International Raceway and the final round goes down at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama.

The King of Baggers was so successful in its inaugural run that FOX Sports has agreed to broadcast the races, which is a huge win for the series and motorcycle racing in general. In total, 14 teams joined in the fun in round one with a number of aftermarket companies on both Indians and Harley's jumping at the chance to show what they can do.

Roland Sands, S&S, Performance Machine, and Saddleman were just a few of the companies that turned heavy touring bikes into nimble corner shredded race bikes. Stay tuned to MotoAmerica for up-to-date information on the races and teams.

<https://motoamerica.com/tag/king-of-the-baggers/>



**HAVE A LAUGH!**



*"I invested in a few accessories for my motorcycle. The rest of the delivery is coming tomorrow."*



**I'm riding even when I'm not riding.**

# BAGGER RACING LEAGUE

For anyone who thinks a bagger is slow, check out the new Bagger Racing League. The new race series is kicking off 2021 with a full slate of racing classes, including Hooligan GP and a Stunt GP – and they're all V-twins. These bikes may look a bit like the touring Road Kings you'll see at a roadside bar, but they are purpose-built race bikes that tear up the track almost as quickly as a Supersport. The first races of the season will be in Salt Lake City. [baggerracingleague.com](http://baggerracingleague.com)



YOUR LEGAL GUIDE TO  
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This insider's guide explains how motorcyclists can maximize claims after an accident and avoid expensive mistakes, that could devalue their case and cost them tens of thousands of dollars or more. Readers will learn the answers to 11 questions that injured bikers need to ask before they sign any settlement documents with an insurance company.

Read this important legal guide **BEFORE** you are involved in an accident!

[www.NAMIL-LAW.org/jeffreyglassman](http://www.NAMIL-LAW.org/jeffreyglassman)

# GREAT GEAR:

## Dainese Smart Jacket

The new Dainese Smart Jacket is a great example of MotoGP technology trickling down to the rest of us wannabees. Ever wonder how those guys can crash at 200 mph and walk away? It's because their suits have airbags in them.

What makes the Smart Jacket really stand out is that instead of a tether to your bike, like many airbag vests use, this one has a little computer in it that knows when you've gone airborne and automatically inflates -- creating a shield around you, protecting collarbones and backbones. It offers perfect ventilation for warmer days and its advanced technology can withstand any downpour or weather conditions. The best part, though, is that it looks like a stylish sportbike vest.

<http://getmore-info.com/smartjacket>



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# LACONIA TURNS 98

## June 12th-20th

Steeped in motorcycle history, Laconia is a rally that needs to be attended, no matter how far you have to travel. And as rallies look to return in 2021, expect Laconia to pull out all the stops to make it a year to remember.

Located on the banks of Lake Winnepesaukee, the "Oldest National Motorcycle Rally" in the United States is also known as one of the best riding rallies. What makes Laconia an amazing rally is along with the standard mix of parties, and music, are the endless miles of beautiful New Hampshire roads. From Bear Notch, to Grafton Notch, to the Kancamagus Highway, the list of roads to try in and around the rally are endless.

<https://laconiamcweek.com/>

