

- I had my first cycle ride in the summer of 1967 from a friend on a Bridgestone. I was going into 8th grade at the time, but that ride is all it took for me to get hooked on the feeling of riding the open road. I have been riding Honda since 1969 when I started with a 65cc Sport.

All those years riding cycles taught me the dangers of the road and you can imagine the thoughts that went through my head when Ryan, my high school age son announced he wanted a motorcycle. Knowing he did not have the funds to buy one, I was able to stall him out for a while so he could mature. This past April Ryan called from college to let me know he wanted a cycle in the worst way this summer of 2006. I could hear the excitement in his voice and it reminded me of my early years when I was ready to buy my first bike. I knew where he was coming from. I knew what he was feeling.

A short time later a friend called to tell me he had a 1980 Honda CM400E with 10,000 miles that had not been run for 10 months as the throttle cable had broke and he was going to junk it. I bought it for \$50 and we loaded it into the van to bring it home. I took some pictures and sent them to Ryan so he could see our “summer project bike.” He was full of excitement and could not wait to leave college to get home and start the wrenching with me. In the meantime I joined VJMC and started to search for parts.

The throttle cables went on well and the bike fired right up with new plugs and cleaned carbs. We added new sprockets and drive chain. The side covers were scratched and the decals were no longer available. A friend repainted the side covers, made new identical decals and then applied clearcoat. They look better than the

Our Honda CM400E Restoration

by John Hathaway



original. We decided to keep the bike all original so it did take us a while to track down some OEM parts including new OEM mufflers. We were successful in keeping the bike original.

Once the work was done a thorough cleaning and polishing was all it needed. Of course, a test drive by me affirmed the bike looked and rode like the old school bikes of my past.

Ryan and I had a wonderful time riding this summer, he on his CM400 and I on the Goldwing riding the country roads I have ridden since 1969. It was a great father / son project that brought us together for a common goal. To restore this bike to original condition, learn the dangers of the road and safe riding, and to have fun together this summer; we achieved them all. It was a great summer!!!

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**Left: John and Ryan
working on the bike**

**Below: Finished! This 26
year old motorcycle really
looks great now.**

