

Vetter Fuel Challenge Goals and Rules Update

Updated June 14, 2018

You will make history at the 2018 Vetter Challenge.

Friday, July 6, 2018 Vetter/Corbin Motorcycle Fuel Economy between Hollister and King City

The approximate trip distance is 65-miles each way.

**8 AM Friday, July 6 please meet at the Corbin Factory by, located at 2350 Technology Pkwy, Hollister, California, Ca. 95023.
(Just north of Hollister, across from the airport)**

Gas Motorcycles are to show up with a full tank of gas from Chevron Gas Station, Highway 25 and San Felipe Road.

Electric motorcycles are to show up with batteries charged.

- 9:00AM** Rider's Meeting
Questions and answers
Vehicle inspection... paper bag carrying test
- 10:00AM** Follow the pace vehicle to King City.
Mostly Route 25.
There will be one rest stop along the way.
- 12:00** Arrive in King City. We will have a 1 1/2 hour lunch break at the predetermined restaurant. If needed, gas motorcycles can top off their gas tanks Turn in gas receipts. Electric motorcycles can charge their batteries. Take a photo of energy used.
- If there are too many electric motorcycles to charge, we may have them depart on their own schedule. We will work out details.
- 1:30PM** Follow pace vehicle back to Hollister.
If, for any reason, a competitor falls behind the "Follower", they will be disqualified from the competition. Of course, they may still continue and enjoy the ride.
- 2:30PM:** Arrive back in Hollister.
Gas powered motorcycles must stop at the Chevron Gas Station near the Corbin Factory and fill with the same kind of gas they ran with trip. Gas receipts are to be signed by the rider and be collected by the leader. Electric motorcycles can charge at the Corbin Factory or at a Charge Point and take a picture of the Charge Point screen.

The winner will be the one that uses the least amount of energy in money and will be announced at Corbin's Saturday Awards

How the Vetter Challenge Ride Works

We want to develop motorcycles to consume the least fuel in dollars and cents

Ride the Challenge trip... about 65 miles each way.

Be able to go the speed limit into a 30-mph headwind

Be able to stay *in* the group and maintain the posted legal pace for the entire ride.

Be able to carry 4 loaded bags of groceries from the grocery store:

All bags must be loaded within 60 seconds

See bag loading changes below

Ride in comfort

As always, the owner/rider/driver must make sure his vehicle is legal to drive on public roads.

Any and all applicable local, state and federal Motor Fuel and Alternative Fuel Taxes must be paid current.

A Leader sets the pace. A "Follower" at the back of the pack shall maintain the pace and prevent competitors from going too slow and separating from the riding group. All riders must stay between the Leader and the Follower. Acceleration will often be brisk but all road rules shall be obeyed.

Most Vetter Challenges will be for 2 or 3 wheeled vehicles, motorcycles and scooters only. Occasionally, I will allow 2, 3 and 4 wheelers to run together, just like in real life. I, for one, would like to see the energy cost claims of car-makers be verified... wouldn't you?

Vetter Fuel Categories

Best Traditional Fuel Challenger - Gas station liquids

Best Electric Challenger- Sun or Plug in energy

Best Alternative Fuel Challenger – Everything else

Overall Winner

The best Challenger with the lowest dollar amount from the above

A detailed description of the Fuel Categories:

Best Traditional Fuel:

Traditional fuels are the Gasoline and Diesel sold at a common station in close proximity to the beginning and end of the challenge. Since you are expected to arrive filled at the beginning the Challenge, at the end you must fill with the same cost type and grade of fuel that you consumed during the Challenge.

The Best Traditional Fuel award will go to the Challenger that meets the "Vetter Challenge Conditions" while consuming the least fuel as measured in dollars and cents. Results will be posted in both mpg and cost per mile.

Best Electric fuel

Electric Challengers are allowed to add electricity at the lunch break stop. The return ride should be at the same speeds and distance as the Leader and Follower. If no electric bike can do this, we will identify the "Best Electric" as follows: Electric Challengers will agree among themselves how far they will ride on the Vetter Challenge before turning around and returning to the starting grid but cannot become an Overall Winner.

Upon returning, the electric Challengers will recharge their vehicles and will be responsible for providing the cost of the electricity actually used per machine. Today, depending upon the state, electricity costs may be different at different times of the day. In California, we will use the various "charge time" costs giving to us the actual cost for the time of the Challenge.

Energy is from the sun will be considered as being Free

You must be able to show and convince Craig Vetter how you got the sun's energy in 4 hours to begin with and to top off at the end.

Results will be posted as "cost per mile"

Best Alternative Fuel - New category

We want to encourage innovation in machines and fuel (except for nukes) Therefore, this category will include bio-fuels, like bio-Diesel and ethanol blends of 20% or better... energy sources not generally available at gas stations.

The cost of any alternate energy fuel will be the most reasonable local cost, including local taxes. It will be the Alternate Fuel Challenger's responsibility to provide proof of cost.

Some Alternative Fuels will be "outside the law," not having been thought of as vehicle fuel. If road taxes have not been figured into the cost of the Alternative Fuel, the same tax cost that a traditional fuel machine consumes may be added. This is a very interesting condition and could be discussed at the beginning of the challenge.

Should there be any disagreement, Craig Vetter will make the final decisions.

Carrying the groceries

Carrying a useful load - such as four bags of groceries - is a major requirement of the Vetter Challenges. "Failure to carry" is probably the biggest reason 2-wheelers are not used more often. Therefore, this is how we will deal with this:

Before departure, the four filled grocery bags must be acceptably placed into each machine by the Challenger. Bags do not need to be carried in the competition. If the machine does not carry the bags at check in, it cannot win.

Clarification:

The filled bags will be provided by the FER leader

The bags must be held upright and in a position so items do not fall or blow out. If anything falls out, you will be disqualified from winning.

When available, Carol Vetter or another designated person, will decide if the bags are being carried with satisfaction. If any parts of the bags are exposed, you will have to ride in the Challenge with similar grocery bags filled and in place. The reason is simple: If the groceries are exposed, you and your machine are more likely to be more aerodynamically "dirty" (You will probably lose some groceries, too and become disqualified) In addition, you will consume more fuel as your engine tries to push you through the air. If the groceries are within an enclosure, they are not likely to be blown empty or affect the mileage.

As long as you demonstrate before the ride that the four bags of groceries can fit totally enclosed inside your bodywork, you are not required to carry the groceries on the ride. You may use that space to carry your clothing, cameras, etc. On electric bikes, the storage space may also be used to carry batteries or chargers used on the ride, as long as they are in place for the bag storage test.

If you cannot carry such groceries, you will still be welcome to ride in the event but you cannot be declared a winner

I have measured the bags we get in California. The base is 12" x 7" and they are 14" high. Because stuff sticks out the top, assume 20" of vertical space is needed.

Is it just "storage volume" that we are interested in?

The answer is "No"

When Carol sends me to the store, it is to pick up bags groceries.

Packing in a reasonable time

Packing took too long in the past

At the Quail Challenge Ride of 2013, it took Reg Kittrelle and Terry Hershner the better part of a half hour - each - to put four bags of groceries on their bikes. This is not reasonable. To prove this, I put four bags of groceries on the ground next to my vehicle and put them in my Streamliner in 26 seconds. To put those bags in my car, it took 22 seconds.

The 60 second time is more than adequate.

Therefore, to qualify, you must be able to load your groceries - by yourself - in 60 seconds - to the satisfaction of the Bag Judge, Carol Vetter, Craig's wife or another Judge will be determined by Craig Vetter.

If you cannot carry the 4 bags...

You can still ride in the challenge, but you cannot be declared a winner, no matter how little fuel you consume. This is non-negotiable.

Comfort is a major goal, too

A sitting up position will be considered as more comfortable in normal riding.

Drafting is dangerous, illegal and is not allowed.

If you get a traffic ticket during the Challenge, you may not be declared a winner.

Craig Vetter is the final judge in any misunderstanding

The Overall Winner

The Overall Challenger winner will be the one who meets the Vetter Conditions in the above categories and consuming the least fuel in dollars and cents.

We welcome any Challenger. Just play by the rules.

For more information on the Vetter Challenge please check out www.craigvetter.com
or send me an E mail at craig@craigvetter.com