



6th October 2009

Bonneville celebrates 50 years with four world speed records

The 50th anniversary of the iconic Triumph Bonneville was marked in spectacular style when four officially-recognized FIM world land speed records were set. The quadruple records were recorded at the 2009 edition of the event that gives the bike its name: the Bonneville speed trials.

The original Bonneville, introduced in 1959, was named after the record breaking streamlined Triumph that set numerous records at the Utah Salt Flats venue during the 1950s. To pay tribute, the internationally syndicated journalist Alan Cathcart took two highly-tuned examples of the latest Bonneville back to its spiritual birthplace at this year's event, held between August 30 and September 3.

Riding a street-legal Thruxton Bonneville prepared by Matt Capri, owner of South Bay Triumph in California, Cathcart broke the 150mph barrier to set a new two-way FIM World Record for the flying mile at 152.678mph, and another for the flying kilometre at 152.770mph, with a best one-way speed of 153.150mph. These speeds set new marks for the FIM's 1000cc Normally-Aspirated Twin-Cylinder Unstreamlined category.

In addition, Cathcart established two more new FIM world records for the 1000cc Forced Induction Twin-Cylinder Unstreamlined class, riding a turbocharged South Bay Triumph Bonneville with a two-way speed for the flying mile of 165.405mph, 165.672mph for the flying kilometre and a best one-way speed of 171.624 mph. The mile speed qualifies as a new AMA record too, with all records set by the air/oil-cooled parallel-twin British bikes subject to ratification by the relevant authorities.

Cathcart commented: "We've been coming to Bonneville since 2007 in preparation for this, the model's 50th birthday year. Breaking the 150mph barrier with the standard bike was always our main objective, and when the FIM established the new twin-cylinder category for speed records, it was great that we could claim official world records by doing so. Maybe we'll be back next year to try to join the 200mph club with it!"

The South Bay Triumphs were shod with Pirelli rain tyres supplied by the Italian tyre manufacturer's road racing division, giving the riders the great traction which was key to achieving such record breaking speeds.

www.triumphmotorcycles.com

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For further information please contact: exposure:

Andy Jephson
andyj@exposure.net
0207 907 7245

Hannah Melbourn
hannahm@exposure.net
020 7907 7283

About Triumph

First established in 1902 and now based in Hinckley, Leicestershire, Triumph Motorcycles is currently the fastest growing motorcycle brand in the world. For over a decade Triumph has produced iconic bikes which perfectly blend design, character, charisma and performance. Producing around 50,000 bikes per year, Triumph is the largest British automotive manufacturer in the country.

At the heart of Triumph's philosophy is a commitment to developing truly unique motorcycles that offer a blend of distinctive design, intuitive handling and performance. The innovation and engineering passion that gave birth to the iconic Bonneville of the 60's has today created a broad range of bikes suited to all motorcycle riders, including the striking 2.3 litre Rocket III, the unmistakable Speed Triple and the powerful Daytona 675.

In recent years it is the Daytona 675 that has enabled Triumph to truly stamp its mark on the modern motorcycle landscape, a proven class leader in the field. After winning the Supertest 'King of the Supersport' crown for three successive years the Daytona's status has been further enhanced with the MAP Embassy Triumph team's victory in the 2008 British Supersport Championship.

With an impressive 2009 product portfolio in place, including significant updates to existing best-selling bikes and a striking new model, Triumph is set to continue to enhance its stratus in the marketplace.

Triumph currently employs around twelve hundred personnel worldwide and has offices in the UK, America, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden and Benelux, plus a network of independent distributors. Triumph has manufacturing facilities in Hinckley, Leicestershire and Thailand.

