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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Wandering Wheels” Senior Riders Complete Marathon Tour, From L.A. to Myrtle Beach on KYMCO 50cc Scooters

Inman, SC - (July 15, 2006) On July 7, when 23 scooters, mostly KYMCO 50cc models, pulled into Myrtle Beach, SC, the jubilant group of riders organized by “Wandering Wheels” celebrated a dream come true. They had just successfully two-wheeled across the USA on back roads: 3500 miles in 20 days.

It was a truly amazing feat made more incredible by two other facts: nearly all of the riders were between 65 and 80 years old, and the large majority had made the trip with only *50cc displacement* engines!

“It was a challenge and the very best way to see the country,” recalls Sally Jones from her home in Tampa, Florida. At 80 years old, Mrs. Jones was the most senior of the Wandering Wheels riders. She made the trip on a KYMCO Vitality 50 even though she had never ridden a scooter before. (Mrs. Jones had, however, bicycled cross-country as recently as 1998, when she was 74.)

Ron Valutis and his wife, Rosalie, made the Los Angeles-to-Myrtle Beach trip on their 2005 KYMCO Super 9 models with 50cc engines.

“I would recommend KYMCO to anybody,” Mr. Valutis says. “It was remarkable to be able to cruise at 45 miles an hour and climb the mountains we had to cross out west.”

The Valutis’, from East Lansing, Michigan, didn’t experience any maintenance issues at all.

“We changed the gear oil and the spark plug once along the way,” Ron Valutis says. “Frankly, it didn’t even need a new plug but we put one in anyway.”

Another participant used the words “*romantic*”, “*glorious*”, and “*Herculean*” to describe the journey.

But what set these wheels wandering in the first place?

The epic ride testing human and scooter endurance was organized by Bob and Janech Davenport, whose non-profit organization, Wandering Wheels, led its first cross-country bicycle tour back in 1966. At that time Bob Davenport, a football All-American at UCLA and coach at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, was making a transition from motivational speaker to bike tour leader.

In 1966 the participants were all teenagers. According to the Wandering Wheels web site, “Our original purpose was to strengthen young people’s understanding of God’s place in their lives.” Soon the growing organization had a year-round cycling program serving church youth from all over America.



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Over the years, Wandering Wheels participants' average age has grown older, but the original motivation is still the same. Davenport, now 73 himself, still leads bicycle tours. But a few years ago, while on vacation in Italy, he and Janech, now 44, discovered scooters.

They soon added scooter touring to the annual menu of Wandering Wheels trips. The idea was to allow those who might be too senior for long-distance biking to still enjoy the spirit of adventure.

"Don't slow down as you get older, just change machines," is how Davenport sums up his philosophy. And he thinks that when it comes to scooters, small is beautiful.

"There's something magic about the transition from a bicycle to the scooters," he says. "The possibility of going coast-to-coast on the next-smallest two-wheeled vehicle [a 50cc scooter] is in itself magical."

Other brands were in the mix early, but after four years of long-distance rides, Davenport calls KYMCO his "absolute scooter of choice."

"These little things look snazzy and will jump up to 45 miles per hour."

All of that performance and reliability were needed. Soon after leaving Santa Monica on June 17, following historic Route 66, the group of 23 riders experienced 117-degree heat going through the town of Needles, California. Not long after that, they were caught in a sudden sleet storm on a 9000-foot mountain pass in New Mexico.

Those experiences may have reminded Davenport that he originally tried to talk his oldest rider, Sally Jones, out of the trip. But he was unsuccessful.

"Mr. Davenport," Mrs. Jones gently scolded. "When you are eighty, you will not want others telling you what you can do."

Now, thanks to her will to keep pursuing adventure, she has the well-earned memory of re-tracing Route 66 through the desert.

"The gorse was blooming when we rode through California," Mrs. Jones says. "And it smelled wonderful."

The route also included stops in Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, plus a trip through the Smoky Mountains. The unofficial pit crew of the trip was Janech Davenport, whom her husband calls "one heck of a mechanic." KYMCO USA provided technical support and hosted a luncheon for the riders when they took a side trip to company headquarters in Inman, SC.

"It was very impressive, seeing all of their products in one place," Bob Davenport says.

According to Bruce Ramsey, KYMCO USA Vice President for Sales and Marketing, the company plans to continue supporting Wandering Wheels.

"We are very pleased to be connected with such a unique and beneficial organization," Ramsey says. "They clearly put our products to the test and we're proud of the way they performed."



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About the KYMCO Super 9

The Super 9 is the top of the line of KYMCO 50cc scooters. It features cool, aggressive Superbike styling and is a thrill on the road. The liquid-cooled, oil-injected engine 2-stroke engine gets you off the line in a hurry, which is why the Super 9 is a favorite of scooter racers and enthusiasts. With front and rear disc brakes and KYMCO's popular stepless CVT transmission, it's easy and safe to ride.

About the Vitality 50

Comfortable and stylish, the Vitality 50 is basic transportation with KYMCO reliability built in. Getting across campus or knocking around town at only 210 pounds, with a 2-stroke, air-cooled engine, this scooter is simplicity itself. A front disc brake provides reliable stopping power and the combination of electric and kick starting provides convenience.

About KYMCO USA

KYMCO's roots in the motorsports industry go back to its founding, in 1963, as the Kwang Yang Motor Company, Ltd., with headquarters in Taiwan. Long a leader in quality, fuel economy, and versatility, today KYMCO manufactures motor scooters, motorcycles, and ATVs at five plants in Asia, including the main facility in the city of Kaohsiung.

KYMCO is the largest scooter manufacturer in Taiwan, and currently exports to 74 countries worldwide. All KYMCO plants use the latest technology for the engineering and production of reliable engine, chassis, and other components. Since 2004, KYMCO has been officially accredited for ISO-9001 quality in manufacturing, KYMCO is committed to maximum customer satisfaction and constant innovation, making use of the most advanced CAD/CAE tools to bring superior engineering and design to their products.

The company's partner in the United States is KYMCO USA, with headquarters, marketing and distribution centered in Inman, South Carolina. KYMCO USA is dedicated to building the brand's reputation and market share through superior value, frequent new product introductions, strategic industry partnerships, and excellence in dealer network support. KYMCO USA has a reputation and expertise gained through over 30 years in the U.S. powersports industry.

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