

Vargas



By John Campbell
Takas Studio photography

There are CBRs, V-Rods, GSX-Rs and R-1s out there that speak volumes about power in all its various forms. And there are now many riders, wise in the ways of performance, who will settle for nothing less than the fast and the furious. For them, only the most extreme horse-

Virago



power hop-up mods will do, only the brightest and newest.

But as trends come and go, there remains a group of riders still intensely loyal to the timeless Yamaha Virago. You'll see them in the latest days of fall or the earliest moments of spring. They'll be out when others have their bigger, flashier, more expensive street rides tucked away for the season.

But, now that Yamaha is replacing the Virago with the V-Star family, you'll start to see the venerable cruiser less and less.

So, with all that in mind, we'd like to introduce John Staley's 1986 Virago 750. For all you Virago riders who think that your bike summarizes the no-frills cruiser statement, who've come to love your bikes for their style, reliability and moderate prices, who've stuck with Virago in the face of rapidly changing motorcycle technology, this one's for you.



Mr. Staley considers it a "work in progress." He has adapted Sportster forward controls, Cobra pipes (for their sound), reshaped and re-upholstered the seat ("The stock seat has too much forward slope.") and added more chrome (naturally).

At Mohawk College in Hamilton, John teaches the only accredited air-brush course in Canada, so naturally he painted the bike himself. He says he was looking for a more unusual appearance and chose to use the artwork of Alberto Vargas

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Some readers may recall that Vargas's work was featured in many magazines in the 1960s and '70s, but most notably *Playboy*.

Although mildly risqué, the Vargas-influenced images he's kept deliberately tasteful because of his own sensibilities and because he has six grandchildren he didn't want to offend. What makes this paint job unique is that all the paint, from the base coat to the artwork was shot with Createx waterbased paints. Createx specializes in airbrush paint mixes.

"The base colour is chameleon gold over a brown base colour," says John, whose bike will be used by Createx in the paint company's promotional materials. Although the images of this very tasteful Virago may go on display, the bike itself John plans on keeping for a long, long time. Far from feeling as though he'd like to trade up, this is yet another Virago owner who's having "Too much fun," with his ride to even consider letting it go.

(John Staley will teach upcoming airbrush seminars at: doctorairbrush.com.)

