



*Gooda Morning! Thanks for the great times.
 See you on our next ride! Ciao, Domenic
 11/20/1940-4/5/2006*

DOMENICO GRUPIDO

On April 5, 2006, the motorcycling world lost one of the best known and best loved members of our community, when Domenico Grupido passed away. Just about everyone who knew which end of a motorcycle went down the trail or road first, knew Domenico. He opened his first motorcycle store in Kailua, in 1969. He was a fierce competitor on the trails and always spoke his mind. If you didn't like what he had to say, well that was your problem, but he always said it with a twinkle in his eye and that famous Italian flare. 'Ya had to love him.' He continued to run Domenico's Motorcycles until the day he passed, with his last and current store in Kaneohe. His wife Paula plans to keep the store going.

Being whom he was, a normal send off was out of the question, so on the morning of April 22nd, a huge contingent of street bike riders gathered at his store, where they collected his ashes and Paula, then headed up the highway to Kahuku. There, they streamed into John DeSoto's ranch for a party and celebration of Domenico's life. During the next hour, those offroad riders who weren't already there arrived, and by the time lunch was served there were over a thousand of us on hand. Before eating, John DeSoto gathered us all into one gigantic circle and while all held hands, to complete the circle, a prayer of farewell was given. For the next couple of hours old friends talked, ate, celebrated and looked through hundreds of pictures of that crazy Italian, living life to the fullest, from his youth to more recently.

At around 2 pm the offroad riders and many others headed for the Kahuku Motorcycle Park where we all gathered again. The riders headed up to the top of the park and those without bikes were shuttled up in four-wheel drive trucks, to an area forever after known as Domenico's loop. There, with a fantastic view of the Koolaus and the ocean, his ashes were scattered from the point where a plaque in his honor now permanently stands. For the next half hour, or so, the dirt bikes passed by his plaque, in a final salute. From there we all went back to the main park area, with some tears, but more smiles as we remembered a great friend.

We will all miss you. Farewell old friend and happy trails forever,

Mark Morrison

The
 next meeting of
 the HMDA will be
 on Monday,
May 1st
 at 8:30 a.m.
 at the
 Airport Plaza Hotel
 Coffee Shop.

We will have Mario Di Prete joining us for the meeting on May 1st. Mario is the Safety Specialist / MSF Rider Coach for the Base Safety Center (all the military bases on the island). He would like to share with us the new MSF course and give us a little information about it.

Farewell Domenico

I first met Domenico in 1967 when I returned from two years in the Army and was offered a job as a mechanic at Yamaha of Hawaii's Waikiki branch store.

Domenico was the service manager of the main store on Waiakamilo Road. Although I never worked with Domenico, we were both mechanics who opened up our own motorcycle shops, so we had many experiences in common.

As Yamaha dealers, we were once both required by our distributor to attend an "inspirational" seminar given by some self-important blowhard. After about 20 minutes of listening to his hooah, Domenico and I looked at each other, got up and left the seminar, going on to enjoy an excellent dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Sometime in the mid-70's. I invited Domenico to dinner at my home with some other friends and he showed up two hours late, as usual, just in time for dessert. I had told him dinner was a 7:00, when really we'd planned it for 8:00, because I'd been warned of "Domenico time"—kind of like Hawaiian time, only you add another hour. Of course, he showed up at 9:00 with some cockamamie story that made us all laugh. Domenico was invariably late for everything.

Domenico loved to tool around up in Kahuku on his Yamaha dirt bikes—this was way before the motocross park was set up—and I remember one afternoon in particular, when sun and rain had alternated all day, in the ever-present wind, Domenico had a huge grin on his face—wet, caked with mud—and happy.

I'm gonna miss him.
Red Proctor



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Well, the legislature is about to come to an end for this session and it looks like we have dodged any major bullets. There is a bill to require helmets on moped riders, under the age of eighteen. It will likely pass, but no one wants to object to that. The only other item on the radar is SB2213. This bill will make liability waivers for those under eighteen effective, in the eyes of the law. This bill is extremely important, if we are to have any motorsports activities for that age group. Groups all across the state, including the HMDA, have been pushing for this bill's success. At this time it has successfully made it's way through both House and Senate committees and the conference committee. It started with a "defective, effective" date of 2050, to keep discussion going. The last conference committee has now changed the effective date to "upon passage". The next stop is a full floor vote and that looks very favorable. It looks like the Keiki will be racing again soon. Good work to all who fought for this bill!

Aloha Everyone from
Crystal Mukai
...a P.S. on SB2213

I just got some great news! Representative Jerry Chang just gave me a call and told me that the bill is out of the conference committee and will be going on the floor for a full vote by the House and the Senate, and then will be moving on to the Governor for a signature and the kids should be able to start racing (at the Hilo track) soon. So please pass this news on to all our supporters, and...

Thanks for all the support, I think we did it!!!!



Paula and Domenico's ashes arrive.



The street bikers stream in.



When all the cars and bikes had arrived.



Domenico

Domenico's plaque with a view of where he loved to ride.



Offroad riders climb the hill for a last salute.



Offroad riders pass Domenico's plaque in final salute



Convention News

Hello to all, I know everyone is anticipating the annual HMDA convention this year! And if you're not, well you should be. Like last year, it will be held at the **Waikiki Beach Marriott** on **October 21st**. But unlike last year, we will be entertained by **Greg Gabaylo**, who will be performing his **Comic Hypnotist Act**. If any of you have ever been to a hypnotist show, it is hilarious and this guy is great. Greg has traveled to Las Vegas, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Japan, Guam, and the Philippines. He even had his own show in Waikiki, called "the ONE." But if good food, great entertainment and good people don't get you counting the days until the convention, then maybe the free stuff the vendors give away will. This year we have confirmed with **Dunlop Tires**, **Kryptonite Locks**, **ITP** quad wheels and tires, as well as **Hooker Headers**. Mark is still pinning down **Scott Goggles** and a few others but it looks like we will have another year full of new products and information. So if you haven't already done so, mark your calendars **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006** for the HMDA Annual Convention. If you would like to see more information about Greg Gabaylo, you can visit: www.greggabaylo.com



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- ★ A Tribute to Domenico Grupido
- ★ Legislative News
- ★ Convention Update