

## "Favorites"

Did you ever have a bike that you still consider your favorite of all time? Jeremy McGrath liked his 1993 CR250 so much that, much to the dismay of the Honda management, he insisted on racing one for four years. Each year his mechanic would disguise his 93 as a 94, 95, & 96. He said he'd still have raced a 93 but there was no way to hide it when Honda went to aluminum frames.

From the first time my friend Jimmy Butner rode his Honda SL-70 into our yard it was love at first sight. It just looked so very RIGHT. The way they dipped low in the center. The cool little fenders that matched the tank. The way the pipe swooped up along the right side. Even the tail light, as dangerous as it was if you tried to jump off the back, looked so cool to me. The exhaust made a sound that was music to my young ears too. Even though I have owned over 30 bikes since seeing my first SL-70, I have never had another bike I'd call my favorite. Even my current race bikes don't hold the same fascination that the SL holds for me.

Several years ago I decided to finally act on my SL yearnings. Over the course of 6 months I bought 11 old SL's in various degrees of disrepair.

My intent was to get one good one out of them. For one reason or another it never got done though. It just wasn't the same. I ended up selling the whole lot of them for next to nothing. Now I found a website ([www.marblesmotors.com](http://www.marblesmotors.com)) that restores old SL's and I sure would like to have them all back again. I have even considered spending the money to buy one from Mr. Marbles. Even though they now cost more than 10 times as much as they did in 1972.

A year or so after that I had a passing fancy for the Penton 175 "Jackpiner". These were gorgeous bikes too. Light blue tanks and silver frames. In their day they were the bee's knees baby. And if you ever heard the sound that came out of that big pipe you would never forget it! It was the coolest "whirrrriing" noise I ever heard. Even the awful transmission didn't change my mind about the bike. You see they had a Sachs engine that was alleged to have six forward gears and 8 neutrals! My lust for the Penton almost eclipsed my SL cravings for a while. But not for very long.

Recently I began to look back fondly at CR's. Say what you will about them boys and girls, they are HOT! The 250's were sleek, sexy, beasts with more power per pound than even a new 450 4-stroke. More affordable to maintain, and quieter too! And there is just something about mixing your own fuel that seems almost mystical. But nothing surpasses my want for the SL. I can't explain it, I just want one.

Now my pastor told us that when we get to heaven we will have everything we need. If he's right (and I have no reason to doubt him) there's gonna be lots of SL-70's there with my name on them.