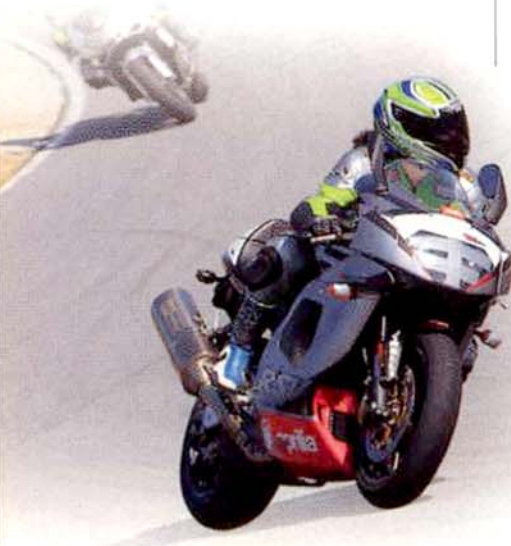


# FLYIN' FEMS!

**P**ILLION PILOT? NOT THIS girl. These days, more and more women are opting for their own bikes. And the newest niche of choice? Not low-to-the-ground, feet-flat cruisers. No, sir. Club rides and even racing grids are seeing an influx of women on—you got it—sportbikes.

Nowhere is this more apparent than at the newly organized Femmoto track days. Fifty-three entrants from every corner of the continent turned up for the inaugural event, held last August at Virginia International Raceway. Aprilia and Sportbike Track Time ([www.sportbike-tracktime.com](http://www.sportbike-tracktime.com)) teamed up to provide three 15-minute sessions on the Italian bike-maker's latest cut-and-thrust machinery. Participant experience ranged from track novices to veteran roadracers. Fast, medium and slow groupings made sure everyone had a good



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH WIERZBICKI

***You go, girl! More than 50 women showed up last August at Virginia International Raceway for Femmoto's inaugural track day. This year's event will be held at Las Vegas International Raceway on September 27-28.***

time and didn't put others at risk. Aprilia's Robert Pandya was on-hand to help out with the event. "It was the most stress-free track day we've ever had," he said. "Everybody respected the bikes and each other's space on the racetrack. It was a lot of fun."

There was plenty to do off-track, as well. Parts Unlimited showed up with a huge supply of women's gear from Alpinstars and Teknic. Besides conducting informative track-side seminars, Michelin proffered participants with T-shirts, air-pressure gauges and product information.

Rider Jan Barrett summed up her experience. "Events like this would certainly open up the sportbike market to women who might otherwise be hesitant to



participate in this aspect of motorcycling. As for me, I won't be giving up my touring bike, but I will seriously consider a sportbike as a second bike."

—Wendy Hogg