

# From the Summit

The official Newsletter of Rokon International.

Vol. 1 No. 1 1994

Winter 1994

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

# TOM'S CORNER

Tom Blais talks about Rokon, where its been and where its going. Also, what Rokon's direction today means to past and present riders.

## THE TOOLBOX

Looking to upgrade an older Rokon? Find out in this issue how you can bring your older Rokon into the '90's, and give it all the performance of today's machines. Plus, keep watching for the latest ways to increase your Rokon's performance.

## TIPS & TECHNIQUES

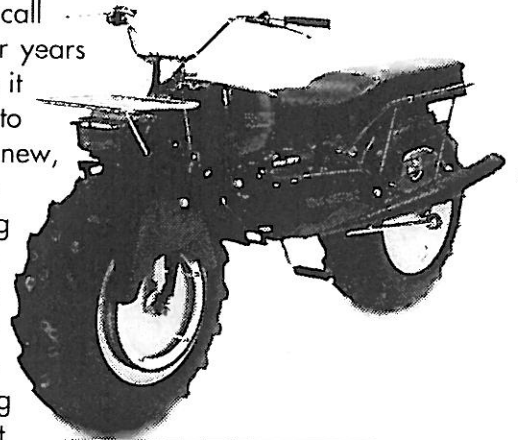
# 3

Surviving in the outdoors means planning for the unexpected. The Rokon Trail Kit is an important first step. Find out all the particulars about this invaluable option.

# Rokon Newsletter, it's back!

Some of you may recall that Rokon had a newsletter years ago, and we think it's time it came back. Rokon is proud to announce the first issue of its new, newsletter; From the Summit.

It's our way of staying in touch with you, and providing valuable information about new products, techniques on riding and the unique ways people are using their Rokon's to do just about anything they can imagine.



1994 Rokon Trail-Breaker

We encourage you to send in any stories you may have about your Rokon—especially the many ways you're using it to get the job done. Or, any ideas you have on improving the Rokon to make it even more versatile. Remember, it's people like you who keep the Rokon evolving into the perfect machine.

Back to the newsletter. Each issue of the "Summit" will cover the latest on Rokon. You'll get an insider's view of Rokon, and be able to talk directly with us. We want to know all about you so we can keep our product quality the highest it can be. You're complete satisfaction with Rokon is our greatest goal. So, stay in touch!

If you have a story you'd like to tell, please send it to: Rokon International, Dept. 1, 140 West Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Also, if you have any photos of you and your Rokon in action, send them along with your letters. This front page is for you! (Materials sent to Rokon will become the property of Rokon.)

# TOM'S CORNER

Hello, and welcome to "The Summit".

Some 33 years ago, Rokon set out to build the ultimate in an off-road vehicle. It had to go anywhere, and be a work-horse for those who do the impossible. With this in mind a vehicle was designed and produced.

Today it appears the Rokon has become legendary in its abilities, and our commitment is to continue in this tradition. You won't find fancy model names, or color options, they just don't mean much out where you are. However, you will find Rokons do one thing better than any other vehicle made—get the job done.

J.B. Nethercutt, the owner of Merle Norman Cosmetics, invented the Rokon in the late 1950's. Nethercutt was a hunter who travelled the planet, and not withstanding, encountered some incredible terrain in his search for game. This led him to develop the Rokon in Slymar, California. The real invention was, of course, the two-wheel drive system. Which today makes Rokon the only vehicle able to go anywhere.

The original Rokon design was simple. But this afforded a high degree of reliability, and that was important to Nethercutt. Although there have been refinements to today's Rokons, the idea of simple reliability lives on in every product.



Overlooking the Verdy River.

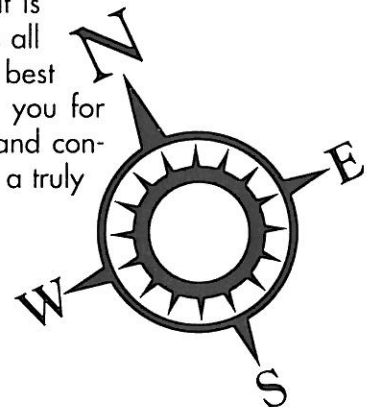
In the mid 60's the company was purchased and moved to Wilmington, Vermont. Production of Rokons began in earnest, and it was well received. A short time later the company was moved to New Hampshire, where it has remained for the past 24 years, proudly building Rokons.

We plan to continue the evolution of the Rokon to meet every need. Increasing the Rokon's capabilities once it's in the field will make it even more versatile.

My personal commitment is to the tradition Rokon has built. We will continue to sell Rokons and accessories factory-direct. Factory service will also remain. We are confident in all the talented people here at Rokon who answer questions, place orders and build the bikes. It is the best way to insure all our products are the best they can be. I thank you for purchasing a Rokon, and continuing the tradition of a truly amazing machine.

Thank you,

Tom Blais  
President



## Nice view...

Dave Gavert, of Chino Valley, Arizona sent us this picture of his Rokon in action. In his letter he mentioned that he would like to hear more about the repair of Rokons, and see some demonstrations. Well, keep you eyes on the "Toolbox" section. In later issues we'll show you basic repair techniques. Also, if you have repair questions, call Rokon directly. We're here to keep your Rokon performing to the standards it should. The phone number to call for repairs is, (603) 431-5100.

Dave also assures us we have a "super" machine. Thank you Dave for your letter and photos.

# THE TOOLBOX

Rokons made today follow the same design principles found in the original models, but many improvements have been made which can be adapted to any older machine. It's important to first find out the year of manufacture of your Rokon. This can easily be determined by finding the serial number located under the seat on the frame.

Some of the important and beneficial upgrades are shown below. For more information on upgrading and parts ordering, please call Rokon at 1-800-593-2369 or (603) 431-5100. We can answer all your questions, and help you decide which upgrades are right for your older Rokon.

- **Models manufactured before 1983**

The front fork should be retro-fit with new king-pin bolts and bushings. (In 1983 the design changed to overcome this crucial area of wear.)

- **Models manufactured before 1985**

A redesign of the drive-line bosses was incorporated to eliminate a weakness which resulted in the breaking of the over-ride spring. A retro-fit kit is available that includes two bosses, a retaining pin, over-ride spring and all needed clips.

- **1973 a hi-impact polyethylene gas tank was introduced to replace the previous metal tanks**

The metal tanks rust and dent, whereas the polyethylene won't. Metal tanks can quickly—and easily—be replaced with the fuel tank conversion kit.

- **1985 engine upgrade**

Rokon engines were upgraded from an 8 HP, 134 cc, to a more powerful 10 HP, 146 cc—that's a power increase of 25%. The new engine also includes a solid-state ignition and allows for a light package, which is required in most states to register an off-road vehicle. Upgrading to this new engine is less complicated than you may think.

- **Cargo racks, tow-bar, rear seat and foot-pegs**

Earlier machines did not include a front rack or rear tow-bar. These are now standard features on all new Rokons, and are available as add-on kits for older ones. A rear seat and foot-pegs are also available.

- **Smokeless oil is available for purchase direct from Rokon**

- **A 15" Traction-impliment tire is available for the Trail-Breaker as an option to the Sure-Grip**

This tread provides a smoother ride on hard surfaces. This tread also performs well in snow and muddy conditions. For more information, please contact Rokon directly.

## TIPS & TECHNIQUES



By now you've probably discovered how versatile your Rokon is, and because of that you've probably seen some incredible situations. Following the "ounce of prevention" philosophy we suggest you have the Rokon Trail Kit. It's been designed by, and for Rokon users. And considering some of the stories we've heard about how people are using their Rokons, being prepared just makes sense.

The Trail Kit includes a spark-plug, spark-plug wrench, fuel filter, air filter, chain-breaker and two connecting chain links, smokeless oil and a drive belt. The kit also includes a pull rope, extra length of chain, two half links, a 9/16th wrench and a low-pressure tire gauge. These important survival items are packed into a leather pouch engraved with the Rokon name on the front. This pouch can then be strapped to the front handle bars.

In addition to the Trail Kit, we also recommend you carry with you an engine coil, bulbs for lights and a tire patch kit. These will also fit snugly into your pouch to minimize space.

If you have a tip, send it in to Rokon!

Tommy Wright  
PO Box 70  
Kahuku, HI 96731

Rokon International  
140 West Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

The official Newsletter of Rokon International.

# From the Summit

Bulk Rate  
US Postage  
PAID  
Portsmouth, NH  
Permit #182



## The Rokon T-Shirt

Now available in full color on quality 100% cotton, heavy-weight T-shirt. To order your shirt, send a check or money order for \$16.95 plus \$3 shipping to:

Rokon International  
Dept. 1  
140 West Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Or call: 1-800-593-2369

Please specify size: L XL XXL