

ydr.com

[York Daily
Record/Sunday
News](#)

Scooter use on the rise \$3-per-gallon gas sparks interest in the fuel-efficient two-wheelers

June 17, 2007

Section: BUSINESS

Page: 01, 03

GWEN NEWMAN For the Daily Record/Sunday News

JUST SCOOTIN' ALONG When gasoline prices top \$3 a gallon, Joe Galie Jr. knows to brace for business.

A salesman at B&B Sales & Service in Lancaster, Galie said the popularity of motor scooters ebbs and flows, but there's a marked increase in phone calls, showroom visits and actual sales when gas prices escalate past a driver's comfort zone.

"Around here, \$3 a gallon seems to be the pain threshold."

As price cutters look for ways to soften the blow of increasingly costly commutes, many are turning to motor scooters as a more practical - and stylish - mode of transportation.

Kevin Cysyk of New Freedom has always had a love of scooters. He'd been captivated as a youth and as a college student he had a friend who drove one. But he'd lacked the funds to buy his own.

Now a young father and gainfully employed, Cysyk not only had the cash, but the purchase also seemed to make good financial sense.

He spent \$2,899 last September for a 150cc model that travels 60 mph. Cysyk doesn't drive it to work - a 27-mile trek in business attire. But he uses it to scoot around town, stop at the gym and even pick up groceries.

"I get a hundred miles to the gallon," he said. "I fill up for \$3 and ride for two to three weeks. Insurance is less than \$100 a year. And it's great fun. I'd always wanted one, but the economy of it definitely played a part in my actually buying one."

Scooter prices typically range from \$1,000 to \$6,000, with sales averaging about \$2,500.

The ones that travel the fastest (80 to 100 mph) cost the most. Many boast fuel consumption of 80 to 100 miles per gallon.

John Yurejefcic, sales manager at Action Motorsports in York, says the popularity of scooters has grown steadily for the past two years and that customers have a growing variety of color, style, pricing and product features from which to choose - and express themselves.

In addition to cycles from Yamaha, Honda and Suzuki, Action Motorsports

last year introduced a fourth scooter line. Customers can now also find models from the Omega line manufactured in China. "That's what we had to do in order to keep up with demand," he says.

Yurejfcic says scooters are being offered at more and more sales venues and that customers defy demographics.

"Scooters are much more vogue than they used to be," Galie said.

"Older folks like them because they're easy to get on and off of. Younger folks like them because they're all the rage and it's cool. And women like them because they're small, easy to handle and there is little to no maintenance." PIC: DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS - BIL BOWDEN
Eric Kling heads out to a work site on his scooter last week, happy to be driving a vehicle that gets eight times better gas mileage than his pickup. Kling is vice president of R.R. Kling and Sons, which specializes in plumbing, heating and air conditioning. His company started using the scooters last summer, and in the first year, the company saved about \$6,000 in fuel. PIC: DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS - BIL BOWDEN
Kevin Cysyk of New Freedom takes some ribbing for riding a scooter to work and around town. But at 110 miles per gallon, the scooter still gets way better gas mileage than the two generally fuel-efficient Hondas he drives.

All content © 2007- York Sunday News (PA) and may not be republished without permission.

All archives are hosted by NewsLibrary, a division of NewsBank, inc.