

# Legendary Superbike racer Paul Ritter recounts his racing glory and recovery from tragedy

*Octane Press brings motorsports fans a tale of beating the odds on and off the track in Racing the Gods*

## Racing the Gods by Paul Ritter

For the first time, first generation Superbike racer Paul Ritter shares his personal story, from his journey to success in the AMA Superbike series to the tragic accident that would change his life forever, and the inspiring recovery that followed.

Ritter's upcoming autobiography *Racing the Gods* (May 1, 2015) takes readers back to the formative days of Superbike racing when he won the first championship race he entered, stunning fellow racers and fans. Ritter, regarded for his work ethic, good nature and competitive spirit, went on to race professionally in the late '70s on a Ducati 750SS and 900SS.

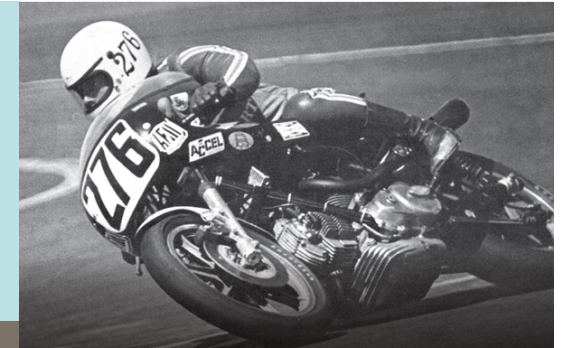
Nearly two decades after retiring, an accident at a vintage race in Colorado left him paralyzed from the chest down. In the years following, Ritter attacked his rehabilitation with all the gusto and intensity one might expect from a roadracing prodigy. The story of his recovery is as powerful and inspiring as his remarkable success on the racetrack, and Ritter's passion for riding, racing and life carries through his book.

*Racing the Gods* provides a first-person look at the earliest days of American Superbike racing when professional racers were weekend warriors who traveled on shoestring budgets and fueled their bikes with passion and (if they were good) a few dollars of winnings. He tells of racing with legends like Wes Cooley, Mike Baldwin, and Keith Code. He also raced against and collaborated with Cook Neilson, who contributed the book's foreword, and his legendary Ducati twin racer, Old Blue.

"Paul's book is one of those rare pieces that offers an insightful, first person account as well as an inspirational story," says Lee Klancher, Publisher of Octane Press. "Paul's voice is honest and engaging, and his stories about racing and riding will resonate with anyone who loves to ride."

*Racing the Gods* comes at a time when there is new hope for Superbike racing. Forty years after the launch of AMA Superbike racing, the series has found a new home at MotoAmerica. Led by Wayne Rainey—another motorcycle road racer who has triumphed over a paralyzing accident—the revitalized series is poised for success that will bring renewed interest in American Superbike racing.

Ritter's triumphs on and off the track make it the kind of book that motorcycle enthusiasts of any stripe will enjoy. *Racing the Gods* releases May 1, 2015, and is available at [www.octanepress.com](http://www.octanepress.com) and anywhere books are sold.



# RACING THE GODS

A DUCATI SUPERBIKE  
RACER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

PAUL RITTER

FOREWORD BY COOK NEILSON

## BOOK DETAILS

Octane Press

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Autobiography

256 pages

55 B&W images

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## About the Author

Paul Ritter started riding motorcycles in college. His excitement for street riding and speeding around turns led him to the track. He began club racing in 1973. In 1977, Ritter participated in his first professional race on a Ducati owned by Dale Newton at the Sears Point AMA National Superbike race, and won. Ritter placed third in the 1978 championship. After the 1979 season and a few club races in 1980, he retired from racing.

Following a long hiatus, Ritter started riding again in 1996. Then in 1998, he participated in his first race in two decades, a vintage race in Colorado, where he was involved in a terrible accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. It took several years to learn how to live a meaningful life from a wheelchair. Ritter has returned to riding his Moto Guzzi with a custom side car and hand controls. He is a certified scuba diver and enjoys camping and exploring the outdoors. He lives with his wife, Dee, in Albany, Oregon.

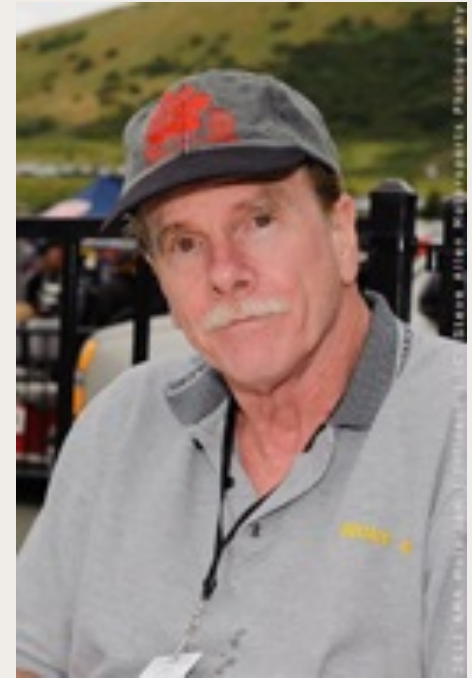
## About Octane Press

Octane Press produces high-quality narrative and illustrated books for discerning enthusiast audiences. Some of the company's best-known titles include *Beast: The Top Secret Ilmor-Penske Engine that Shocked the Racing World at the Indy 500*, and *Red Tractors 1958–2013: The Authoritative Guide to IH and Case IH Tractors*. Founded by long-time book editor and publisher Lee Klancher, Octane Press has won several book awards in the company's relatively short history, including IBPA Benjamin Franklin awards (*Red Tractors 1958–2013*, *Forward*, *Adventurous Motorcyclist's Guide to Alaska*) and Independent Publisher Awards (*In the Red*, *Red Tractors 1958–2013*). Learn more at [www.octanepress.com](http://www.octanepress.com).

## Praise

"When F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote there were no second acts in American lives, he hadn't met Paul Ritter. This determined racer has had acts numbers two, three, and four, and the play still isn't over yet. In each of them, the motorcycle is both inspiration and getaway vehicle. Who says bikes don't save lives? *Racing the Gods* proves they do, over and over again: it is a tale of finessing life the way you finesse turns on the fastest lap. Paul Ritter—rider and writer—knows how to corner." —**Melissa Holbrook Pierson, acclaimed author of *The Perfect Vehicle***

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## AUTHOR APPEARANCES

April 9, 5-8pm

Ducati Austin

April 10th, 1pm

Circuit of the Americas  
Ducati Austin tent, Turn 13

April 11, 1:15pm

Circuit of the Americas  
Ducati Island

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