



HOT PLAYMATES
COLD MICHELOB LIGHT
PLAYBOY MANSION
NEW YEAR'S PARTY

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

LIVING
in **STYLE**

PLAYBOY CYBER CLUB | PLAYMATES | LOVE & SEX | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | LIVING IN STYLE | ON CAMPUS | SPORTS ROUZE | WORLD OF PLAYBOY | PLAYBOY TV/VIDEO | PLAYBOY MAGAZINES | SHOP PLAYBOYSTORE

features • reviews • guy 101 • mantrack • bachelor party

reviews

11.09.00 :: WHEELS :: YAMAHA ATV

SUBSCRIBE TO **PLAYBOY** FOR ONLY **\$1** AN ISSUE!

Click HERE to Join the **MILLER LITE VRL**™ Virtual Racing League

Bet on tracks all over the U.S.

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE (book)

Buy Now



YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION
2001 660R RAPTOR

\$6499
800-88-YAMAHA
www.yamahausa.com

TYPE OF VEHICLE:

High-performance 2WD ATV

SPECIFICATIONS:

Engine: Liquid-cooled, single-cylinder, five-valve, SOHC, counterbalanced 660cc four-stroke with electric start and US Forest Service-approved muffler

Transmission: Manual-clutch (left hand), manual-shift (right foot) five-speed with reverse

Wheelbase: 49"

Length/Width/Height: 72.0"/43.3"/45.3"

Seat Height: 33.9"

Dry Weight: 398 lb.

Colors: Blue or black/gray

TARGET AUDIENCE:
Experienced ATV enthusiasts in search of a major off-road adrenaline rush.

PROS:
Good handling, strong but tractable power and smooth controls, but way too much fun for the price.

CONS:
Gear ratios too wide between first and second; initiating power-slides could be easier.

When it comes to four-wheeler performance, Yamaha equals power and Honda equals handling. But you need both if you're going to get your thrills off-roading at 75 mph while sitting on top of -- rather than inside -- a vehicle. Now, with its all-new 660R Raptor high-performance ATV, Yamaha is throwing dirt in Honda's face by demonstrating that it can design a four-wheeled missile with not only frightening thrust, but also an excellent cockpit.

The Raptor gets its muscle from a liquid-cooled, five-valve, single-cylinder four-stroke. A sport-bike enthusiast would laugh at 35 horses, but give him the same power in an off-road environment and his eyes widen. The beast revs fast and hard all the way to nine grand, even in power-robbing sand. The controls, including thumb throttle and five-speed foot shifter, couldn't be smoother. Though the spacing between first and second gear is a bit wide, you can just roll on some more throttle and boogie.

A high-performance ATV must do many things well and the Raptor gracefully meets the challenge. See that rapidly approaching tight turn with a scary 20-foot cliff? No problem: The Raptor curves nicely. How about soaring off the top of a steep sand dune? Feel free to fly this nimble bird high and far -- commensurate, of course, with the size of your huevos.

While the word "slide" typically doesn't go over too well with on-road enthusiasts, it's a big part of off-roading. The Raptor's radial tires provide ample traction, but make it hard to initiate power-slides. Aftermarket tires and stiffer front suspension settings will probably provide a relatively simple fix.

No, this new performance ATV doesn't get a perfect score. But Yamaha's finally built a vicious predator with comfortable ergonomics, nimble handling and a strong power delivery. It's a Raptor that earned our rapture.

--Bill Lanphier



Previously in Wheels:

