



## SPRING FLING

### **Vanderhall Speedster Run To The Super Bloom**

*By Alisa Clickenger*

*Photos by Jen Muecke*

**Editor's Note:** Is it an automobile or a motorcycle? Neither one... and both, it's an autocycle says Jeff Whaley, VP of Sales & Operations for the Utah-based OEM. We pinned down Jeff just six weeks into his new gig and asked him to demystify Vanderhall's product positioning and powersports industry opportunities for the Dealernews Live! cameras at the AIMExpo. Jeff does a great job of articulating the unique selling proposition in the three part series. However, nothing is as convincing as butts on seats, so we jumped at the chance to put the new Speedster through its paces. We also took the one person on the masthead who doesn't even own a car to do the "rode test" with a fresh set of eyes since several of us had some seat time in the two-place Vanderhall models. For specific details on dealer programs, tune into Jeff's YouTube interviews. He says opportunity is knocking for select dealers... tune in and profit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7ulxmWvQTU&t=40s>

Perhaps living in the LA area I am unduly influenced by the motion picture industry, but from the moment I saw the Vanderhall at AIMExpo, I wanted to drive one. They appear to me like a cross between a space machine and something out of Hollywood's glory days, and to me they are irresistible. When I was offered the opportunity to drive one to the Mission Motorcycles event at Moto Doffo in Temecula wine country, I jumped at the chance. That fact that it coincided with the Super Bloom was a true bonus.

Full disclosure: I do not own a car, only motorcycles. I don't get to drive regularly, so I was a little intimidated by the Speedster. It being so low to the ground, I was worried that I would do some irreparable damage to it because I was out of driving practice. The instructions I was given to operate it were quite casually delivered, and in my excitement, I forgot them as soon as my tutor drove off and left me alone sitting in the Speedster's solo seat. I couldn't even get driver's training if I wanted it. People think riding motorcycles is scary, but I have logged thousands of miles all over the globe without a care in the world...

My initial timidity with the Vanderhall vanished as soon as I fired it up and went half a block!

There was a party in my driveway that night, between the neighbors coming around to make their comments and my driving it up and down my little street. Yes, I wanted to do a few test runs before taking it on the open road. Turns out driving of the Vanderhall was not nearly as intimidating as I had made it out to be in my head... in fact, it was the opposite: the wind-up of the turbo activated some primordial part of my cortex. I can only blame the Speedster for what happened once I left my neighborhood in the dust.

I am fortunate enough to live on the other side of the mountains from Malibu. There is a whole network of backroads that are just a joy for motorcycles... and Vanderhalls. Heading up and over the mountains and down

to the Pacific Ocean, the handling on the machine is so tight and responsive that once I gave the bump shifting a go, let's just say that there was a lot of laughing out loud and shouting into the wind.

I chose to wear a full-face helmet, which I think was a good move given my stature. At 5' 11" in height my face stuck up quite a bit from the windshield (the Speedster gets a cut-down windscreen compared to the two seaters). That low to the ground there is lots of debris kicked up from the road and from other vehicles, so as much as I wanted the cool look of a leather flying helmet and split frame goggles (and a fancy silk scarf to stream behind me), instead I opted for a full face Schubert instead.

A word of warning: if you are the least bit shy, do not attempt to pilot a Vanderhall of any shape or size. I got hundreds of honks, thumbs up, and people shouting and hooting at me wherever I went. With the Vanderhall you will also need to build extra time in to any excursion. Beyond your neighbors, who get used to your sexy bullet-shaped vehicle, people will invariably stop you and ask you a question. They may even run towards you and startle you or holler at you on the freeway!

Luckily there were postcards in the vehicle for me to pass out. I may have had a frown on my face when I gave back the Vanderhall, but I take solace in the fact that thousands of people driving down California's Route 1 last Sunday still have smiles on their faces remembering that cool chick in the sexy boutique vehicle. I was so enthralled with the ride, I barely remembered to stop and smell the Super Bloom!

The Vanderhall Speedster may not be the vehicle for every customer or every dealership... at least not until your butt hits the seat and that turbo spools up for the first time. After that, all bets are off! To become a Vanderhall dealer, click here: <https://vanderhallusa.com/dealer-inquiry/> 📧

