

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



On her last day in California, Julie sat at Jimmy's counter instead of pouring coffee from the other side. Here she's with Stacy Silverwood, Bob Skirvin, Herm and Don Picker.



She even brought Bear (she calls him Bay AH) along to say good-bye.

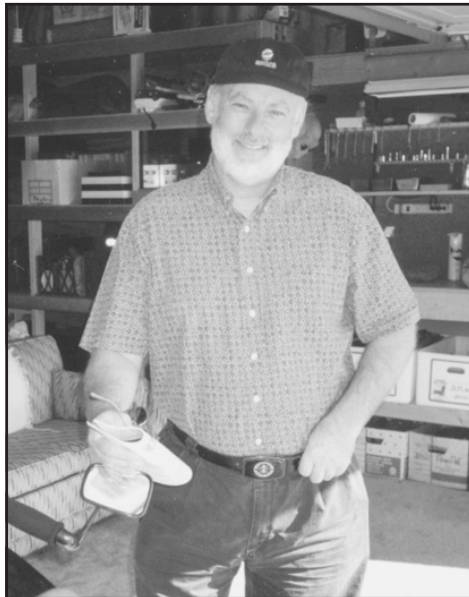


Jim Cheng left the RT at home and rode the VFR with Ken Robb across S-2 and up to the barbeque place at Julian.



Reva and Mike Randall got old-time BMWOCSD'ers together at a Red Lobster. Dan Cooley, left, was a co-founder of Brattin Motors back in the

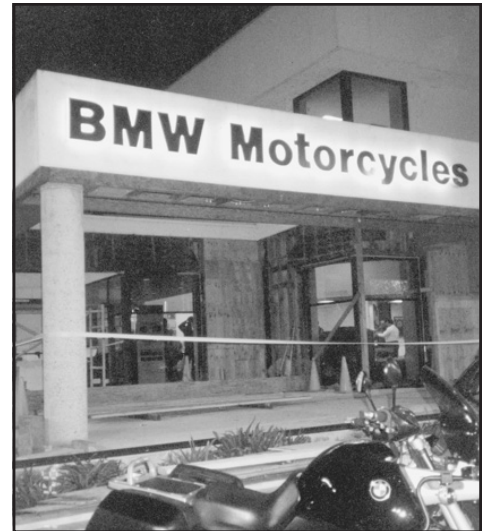
'60's. Pippa Dinger, center, is a former president of the club, and Riley Johnston, right, sold 'most everyone their first BMW.



Don Picker gave Airhead #1 his choice of lunch spots. Jan Hofman, former Road Captain and Vice President and chairman of Oktoberfest, chose that famous BMW place, Jasmine on Convoy.



Not to be out-Chinesed, masses of BMW folk tried the Mongolian barbeque at Hsu's, except Home Made Bob Skirvin, right, had duck. Martha and Hugo Schreiner and Editor Fulton and Tom Mooney and John Barnes were barbequers.



Brecht's in Escondido hosted a gang of BMW folk (car and bike drivers), showing off their new bike addition.



Bill Brecht was all smiles showing it to Chuck and Mary Parks, who seem to be pleased, too. Sales staff now includes Stacy Silverwood as well as Kyle Hudson, with Jim Boydston at parts.



There was more BMW chowing at the annual Holiday Party at Stoneridge Country Club. Starting out with omelettes to order. Leading the line was Rick Calou, followed by John Dyer, and Rich and Beth Flores from Brattin Motors.



Later, at the salad buffet were Sonja Kijora, left, and Susan Martin and Ken Shortt. There was food galore, with turkey, beef and ham.

Especially welcome at the party were Scott Olson, about sans walker, and Lori. And Dick Climes, recovering from his El Centro dog incident, with Priscilla. (The friendly dog stripped skin off Dick's right hand, requiring skin grafting.)



Members collected toys at the Stoneridge party, and the club added a check for the children at Casa de Amparo, a home for endangered children. Then President Dietrich, left, Road Captain John Barnes, and Secretary Tom Mooney took off from downtown Ocean Beach to deliver the check.



Here's proof that they made it. With them is Sandra Osborn, of the Casa.

(You should note that President Dietrich was poised to ride direct from

Stoneridge to the Casa. But, punching the starter button of his trusty RT, the untrusty battery went "POW." Exploded. Now he's consulting with Jon Dyer who had a similar experience at Santa Ysabel.)



One day Tom Mooney took his newly acquired pretty bumblebee R100GS out to Banner Grade and store, escorted by Hugo Schreiner and John Barnes.



Then he took it by Brattin Motors where Dave Campbell declared it fit, after a bit of adjusting on the front forks and drive train.



One Friday morning, Dick Climes displayed his skin-grafted hand to John Barnes and Fulton Martin at Margarita's.



What's this? Our 1100GS guru, Stacy Silverwood on an RT with top box? A deal waiting to happen? Note the new Nolan helmet.



One rainy Saturday Ron Jensen showed up at Giovanni's in his BMW instead of on one. That's Ron in civilian attire. Ron's decided to focus activities back in San Diego County.



Later, it cleared, and Jim Montgomery, with back to camera, joined Ken Shortt and Jon Dyer absorbing the truth according to a helmeted Doc Williams.

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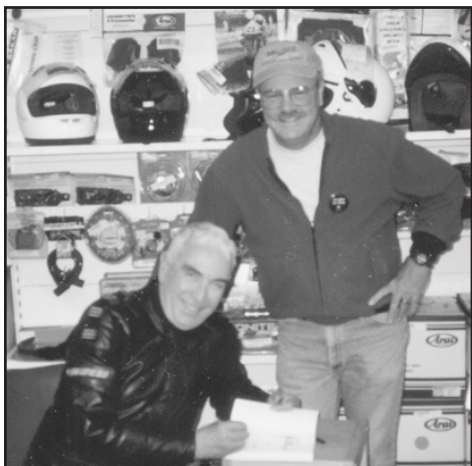
KING...



Later, Blair at Brattin Motors and several others got Ron to try the yellow R1100S.



Bud Bostian tried the S also. He was at Brattin's for sort of an embarrassing reason. He'd trucked his RS in because it refused to run. Seems it needed gas after 104,000 miles. Story was the gas gauge acted up.



There was a Holiday open house at Brattin's with Herm available to personalize copies of his new edition. Here, he's signing a copy of the great book for Carl Langston.



Sandra Contreras's papa bought this lovely red K1200 at Brattin Motors that open house day, and Sandra tried it for size.



To prove his independence, Will Creedon rode his 1100 Guzzi Sport, very red, to the Brattin party...



...only to be declared the winner of the grand door prize, a substantial jacket that seems to surprise him both because he won, and because it seems to fit. Jonesy, right, sort of approves.

Top O' The Rockies Rally at Paonia, CO, chaired in '99 by Gray Buckley, (303) 892-1472, wbuckley@leo.gov

Gary Laux's mother, the matriarch of Thurlow Leatherworld, has been very ill.

Someone reported spotting Karen May on the Academy of Motorcycle Training course, across from Giovanni's.

Vern Henderson is back riding after cataract surgery.

Checking a desert race east of Tecate, for his other club, Los Ancianos, our Road Captain, John Barnes.

AMA's moved from Westerville, OH, to Pickerington, OH 43147, (614) 856-1900 (no relation to Don Picker).

