

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

Lost Coast Luau. A cute alliteration, but a false appellation. That's the rally **Tom Mooney** (rhymes with ?), our esteemed secretary, and **Tom Cheng**, our esteemed entrepreneur, went to recently... looking for rain and cold. The lost coast, you know, is that untouched by pavement California coastline south of Ferndale and north of Ft. Bragg. Usually lost in fog and drizzle. Luau goers must roast the pig wearing rainsuits and electric vests.



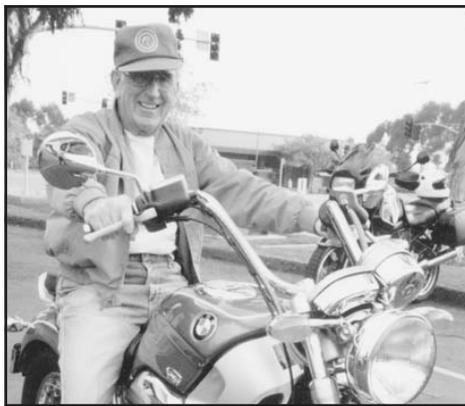
Practicing for the cold, **John Barnes** showed Tom how to balance a coffee cup on the platypus of his GS.



Don't mess with **Harry Brattin's** Fiero. In the trunk is a GMC V-8.



Always searching for the finer things in life, these worthies find the coffee at the donut shop, across from Giovanni's, to their liking. And available earlier. That's **Doc Williams** with the reminder on his finger, with **Kyle Hudson**, **Pat Fullerton**, **Ivan Aceff** and **Carl Langston**.



You can tell by the glint in his eye that there's a new BMW in **Chuck Parks'** future. But, it turned out to be pretty, only with 4 wheels... a lovely M3. Chuck traded in that flashy yellow K12.



Our society guru, **Jon Dyer**, concluded that the fashionable spa to dine at on the recent blue moon eve was the Blue Moon Bar & Grill. That's Jon, left, ready to dine, while **Don Petrick** eyeballed the technique and Jon's wife **Sharon** did her best.



Just the other day, it was so cool on the pier that the gang dressed for the road to hike out to the end, where **John Dewar** could view the real Ocean Beach. **Stacy Silverwood** and **Tom Mooney** risked collecting seagull souvenirs on their leathers by sitting on the bench, while **John Barnes** and **Ken Shortt** stood with John D, visiting from Chico.



There was this celebration in Clairemont recently of some significant day in the life of Airhead #1. Right there, **Herm**, the King of the Alps, was cornered, collared, by the King of I've Been Everywhere (especially in the dirt), **Dr. Gregory Frazier**.



And right there was **Karen May** laughing at her own joke, along with **Kelly Pixton** and the well-dressed **Larry Stonestreet**.



And right there in Clairemont, straight from Seehausen in Bavaria, was the Pink Panther rider herself, **Kirsten Hassman**.



And for-heaven's-sake – it's former president, **Tony Montijo**, wearing his long pants to talk to **Ron Jensen**.



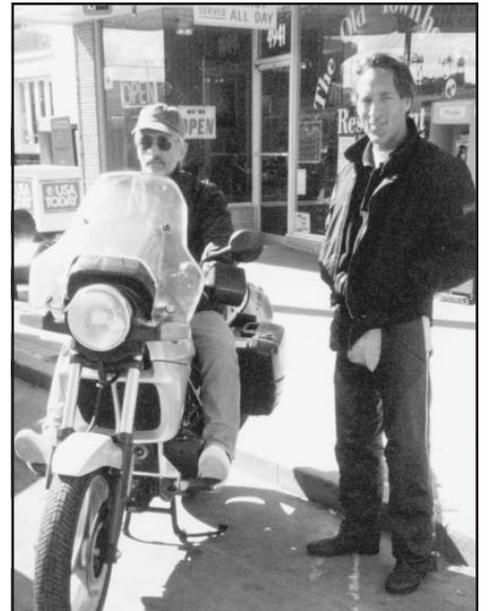
Meanwhile, **Kevin**, just ready to pass his nursing tests, entertained all the kids and **Candy Ray** with his balloon fashions.



While **John Moore** told **Terry May** and **Bob Ray** that they really should mount up and follow his Triumph on the Wildcat Canyon Ride.



That's **Blair Balsam**, right, telling anyone who'll listen how great the riding was in Death Valley, especially some secret roads and some secret house where they killed the fatted calf to feed him and **Sam Ballante**. **Jonesy**, left of Blair, can hardly believe it. Nor can **Don Picker**, far left. After Death Valley, Blair took the mighty 650 to Willow so he could trash the Red Hot Riders. **Jamie Lenore** went to Willow, too, on the 1100S.



"These just might work for the next trip to Daytona," says **Doc Williams**, trying out **Don Petrick's** personally fashioned and fabricated cruiser pegs for the K75.

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Good thing he's wearing a helmet. Let me see you do this on your GS. The drill team was showing its stuff just down the block from Brattin's one day. Now he has to get down from there.

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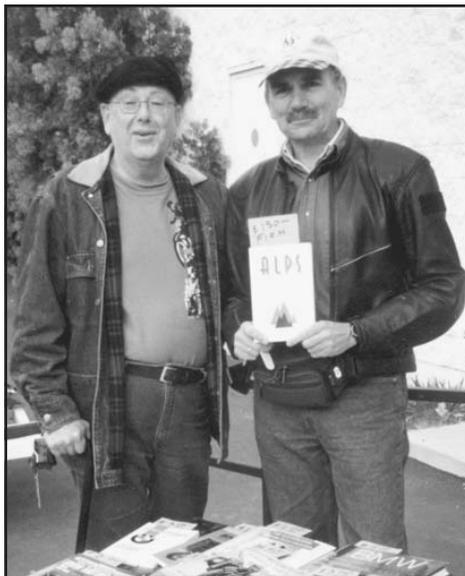
KING...



What's happening? We sent Theresa and Don Walker off to Florida, fine, no, expert sport riders. A couple of years in Florida and they're back on this Road King. Guess he's no longer riding with Two Brothers.



Maybe he's picking out a birthday present. Walter Gates shows Cheryl Nemeč and son Michael how comfortable he is on a new LT.



David Knetzer set up a BMW book table at the recent swap meet on the grounds at Giovanni's. The prize offering was an original copy of the first edition of *Motorcycle Journeys Through the Alps*, being held here by Jon Dyer. It was marked to sell fast at "\$150 Firm."



Another swap meet corner had Greg Balas, right, checking a rainsuit being eyed by Don Picker, left, while John Ciccone treads gingerly amongst the offerings.



Other days at Giovanni's, the issue is "Who's leading where?"

Tom Mooney reports from Paris, France, on his March visit.

He met with the President of BMW Moto Club France, Pierre-Philippe Errard. Pierre came to Oktoberfest in 1997.



The French police monitor emissions and decibels. In this foto, the officer on the left has the microphone in hand, checking the Harley. In the truck are the emission-measuring machines.

Lisa Boydston is off to Memphis to receive FedEx's distinguished employee award.

Moto Guzzi owners flocking to check Will Creedon's chip. Steve Van Twuyver is knowledgeable on the chip. Both Steve and Will have Italian and German machines.

Some had to watch AMA races at Willow Springs, but a crowd saw Herm through Wildcat Canyon, including Sam Jones and Dann Thoresen, and Gary Orr on the mighty 69S.

Rick Lasch showed up with a leg in a "it's broken" type boot. Not a bike-fall, not a ski-fall, not even a snow-board-fall. It was a down-the-steps-fall. And it's his shifting leg.

