

KING OF THE ALPS

JOHN HERMANN; PHOTOS BY TOM MOONEY

Attention! Achtung!

The great 4th of July festivities will be on Monday, the 5th of July, in Coronado. The parade and the hot dog cook-off at Herm's will be on the legal holiday, Monday, the 5th. The parade is at 10. The hot dogs are from about noon on... or come by and drop your gear at Herm's, 1010 E Avenue, before the parade. It's okay to bring something to share.

What a traveling gang, the BMWOCSD! Ken Shortt and John Barnes checked all the roads between San Diego and Oregon's Chief Joseph Rally, including the lost coast south of Shelter Cove.

Dave Mishalof has almost 12000 miles on his 2-month-old K1200LT, and now he's off for the National in New York. Tom Mooney, just back from the Alps, is riding to New York, too.

John Ciccone and Will Crendon took in the wonders of Taos, NM.

Our president's wife, Sonja Kijora, is being serenaded upon the completion of a year heading La Jolla's Rotary. Herta Salzmänn came back from Dusseldorf on the same plane as Herm and Mooney.

Because I just got back from 3500 miles or so in the Alps with Tom Mooney and Carol Alley and Stacy Silverwood, and others, you are treated here to a visual accounting of that excursion. Fotos by Mooney.

We claim we ride the Alps for the motorcycle friendly roads like these:



The Sottoguda Gorge in the Dolomites of Italy,



...and the Maloja Pass in Switzerland. (Note: There are no double-yellows, and the bikes made it by those trucks on the Maloja in jig time.)

There were a few impediments on the roads.



Like this tractor dragging a load of logs requiring 110 percent of the pass road,



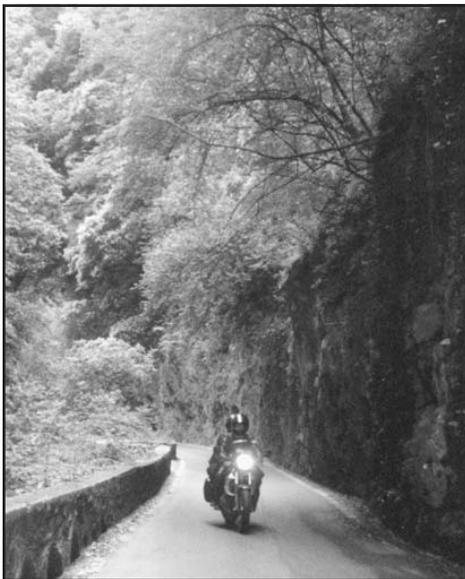
...and this section that had slid down the mountain, being checked on foot by Herm and Carol. Herm's vote: "Let's go back the way we came."



Then there was this very official Swiss barrier, with international "Do Not Enter" signs on the San Bernadino Pass. We had to take the tunnel!



Another notable road was this one climbing up from Lago di Garda, Italy, first hanging on a ledge over the lake,



...then snaking up a narrow gorge.



But at the top of that little snaking road was this hotel and pool, Hotel Paradiso, Pieve, Italy. Parking lot full of bikes.



And here are Tom and Stacy and John Engweiler (of Nova Scotia) packed with their bikes in a tiny compartment on the Furka-Oberalp train... you know, the Glacier Express, riding where the road can't take them.



Then checking their hairpin style on Passo Stelvio.

All over the Alps, the roads, the cafes, the hotels, are full of motorcycles. Motorcycles rule the road.



Here's a late evening view from a hotel room window in Andermatt, Switzerland... the bikes are still pouring off the pass roads.

Typically, European riders are in very mixed groups, sport bikes, cruisers, dual-purpose, all together.



This is a village near the top of Passo Spluga. All the village customers are on motorcycles.



This is the hotel garage in an Austrian village where a bunch of good roads come together. The hotel advertises for motorcycle customers. The hotel owners ride, and have valuable route suggestions.

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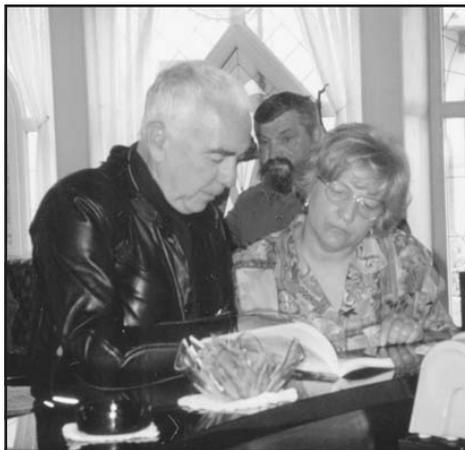


Way atop a mountain pass, the Col du Menee, in France, was this chateau, our hotel. (The turret happened to house the bathroom for our room.)



And here's the gang anxiously awaiting dinner at the chateau. **John Engeweiler, Carol Alley, Stacy Silverwood, John Hermann, Barbara and Tracy Cate.**

Chateau guests included a Swiss couple with a Ural sidecar powered by a BMW engine.



This lady in Storo, Italy, was interested to discover her ice cream parlor mentioned in a book by a famous American author. She rushed next door to the bank to get a foto copy.

Where to now?

Herm and the Picker's are flying to JFK, then riding to the National at Rhinebeck July 13–15. **Tom Mooney** and **Dave Mishalof** are riding all the way. Herm gives a seminar on (surprise) the Alps and Corsica at the rally on Wednesday. Wednesday night is the Ambassador's dinner at the Culinary Institute of America, to which most San Diego attendees have been invited. Then Thursday night, there's a special dinner arranged by **Mike Mandell** at the Belvedere Mansion. La de dah.



**Never argue with a woman
holding a torque wrench.**
