

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

13 from our club at the Rhinebeck Rally. Not enough for a first award, but enough to provoke comment at the award ceremony.

The rally site was nice, but hot. Grass for camping, but hot. Nice buildings for vendors, but hot. Almost 100° every day with high humidity.

I got to ride in style on a beautiful cream cruiser with blue leather saddlebags and seat, and a Bagster tank bag, courtesy of Joel Sacher of BMW of New York.



Here I pose with the Cruiser at the Belvedere Mansion, overlooking the Hudson near Hyde Park, just a few miles from the Rally. A bunch of us stayed at the mansion.



Here, cruising the rally grounds. (Nanna Frye took the picture.)



Sipping Pepsi inside the beer building at Rhinebeck were Peggie and Don Picker, Nanna Frye, Herm, Dave Mishalof and Tom Mooney.

Missing from this shot were Priscilla and Dick Climes, Chuck and Mary Parks, Carl Langston and Don Petrick. Oh, yes, and Harold Schey.



Here's where it started, at Mike Mandell's driveway on Long Island, with Don's R1100 in the foreground, then my cruiser, and Mike with his GS on the back of the Jeep.

Don Picker led a "scenic route" ride down the Hudson to West Point. Frankly, all we saw were decaying old buildings and lots of trees and stop lights. So Dave Mishalof had the inspiration: "Let's take the Thruway back." From the freeway, the rolling mountains looked interesting and the forests looked green, and the villages looked quaint. Later, I came to the same conclusion in New England. The back roads aren't twisty or scenic enough to justify the effort required. The views are better from the freeway. In this instance, Dave paid all our tolls. And Tom Mooney treated us to lunch at the officer's club at West Point. Nice

place overlooking the Hudson. And the guy serving my plate told me about his Shadow as he piled the roast pork on.



Here, with the beautiful cruiser in the foreground, Don and Peggie and Dave and Nanna and Tom load up after the West Point lunch.



Breakfast at the Belvedere Mansion was on the terrace, overlooking the Hudson, served leisurely. With back to the camera is Don Picker, waiting for food, with Dave Mishalof and Court Fisher and Nanna Frye. Court's the "Global" reporter for *MOA News*, and recently was made "Friend of the Marque." In the background are Judy and her friend, Mike Mandell, and Tom Mooney.



There was a dinner at the Mansion that was really something. At left are **Court Fisher** and **Dan Kennedy** (Dan's publisher of Whitehorse Press, the outfit that does all those books) with two **Judys** facing the camera and **Mike Mandell**. In the background are **Don** and **Peggie Picker** and **Tom Mooney** (right).



At the awards ceremony, BMW Owners Club of San Diego got mentioned twice. And **Dave Swisher** was recognized as the first to ride a BMW one million miles. (Herm has almost 200,000 to go.)



Here's a view of the rally grounds with **Lawton Gresham** who's ridden in San Diego often, on the GS talking to **Court Fisher**, and **Dean Hudson** of northern California talking to **John Engweiler** of Halifax. John has been

travelling in the Alps with **Mooney** and **Herm** several times.

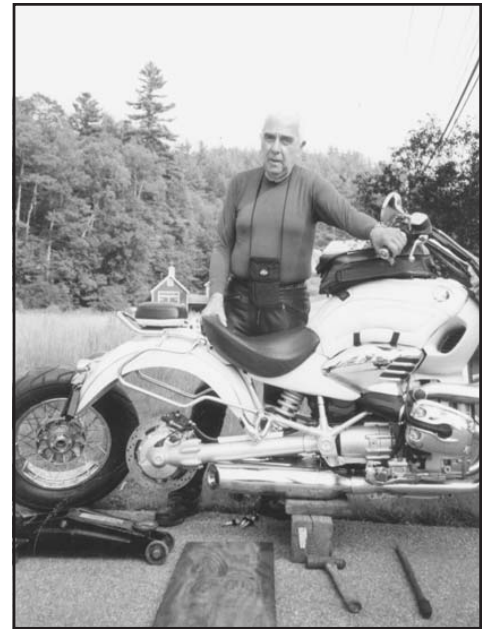
Craig Dickson, who's often in San Diego with the Wood's Hole ship, **Atlantis II**, picked me up after the Rally to show me his favorite back road routes in New England. Rhinebeck is a couple of miles from Connecticut. We wound through woods and villages through CT, into Massachusetts, stopped at Tanglewood, the summer music festival site, Williams College, into Vermont for ice cream. Then we started north on VT route 100, rated by BMW and the National Geographic as one of the 10 best roads in the US. (They've never seen Montezuma Grade.)

A few miles into 100, I began to think the road surface was oozy. Then, sure enough, decided it was the rear tire. Wheeling the bike off the road, the tire came off the rim. So much for a plug and a CO₂ bottle. And the tool kit has **no lug wrench**, and the bike has no center stand.

Fortunately, there was a building with a phone near by. Unfortunately, the BMW 800 number put me on hold and played music, and the Motorcycle Tow folk said they'd have a response in 30 minutes that never happened.

Would you believe, the AAA sent a truck. I just told the lady it was a non-automatic BMW with a flat rear tire. The Truck guy couldn't have been nicer. We tried a jack, but there was no way it'd work. So he had a bunch of blocks and boards and we lifted the bike up on them. He had a lug wrench that worked, and took the wheel back to his station, plugged the hole, remounted the tire and brought it back to the bike and put it on.

I tipped him \$20. Should it have been more?



Craig took this photo of me looking discouraged along route 100 in woody Vermont.

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So it was 10 P.M. and dark, after several moose sightings, that Craig and I made it to **Dan and Judy Kennedy's** house in North Conway, VT. Remember, they're the publishers of the Alps book. Next day, Dan took us to the capital building of Whitehorse Press.



Here are Dan and I and the door.

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KING...

Then Dan on a KLR took me on the back roads north and east, way up into Maine. The cruiser works fine except the short shock sent me flying off the seat a couple of times. There was no South Grade or Engineer Road, where I fear the cruiser might have been a real hand full.

The next day I crossed north along the White Mountains almost to Canada, then back on the Interstate across New York and into Pennsylvania and New Jersey to the Cate's Farm near the Delaware Water Gap, where a bunch of my old Euro-gang friends were gathering. It was a 450 mile day, and I felt very comfortable on the cruiser. **Dave Mishalof** was right. The mountains and villages look best from the Interstate.

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That Harley you always wanted was at Brattin's. Was. The thieves moved the BMW's aside and took it.



Would you choose this gang to show you San Diego roads? **Judge Edwards** did. It's Will Creedon on the collector Ducati, John Strayer and Don Francque on the Triumphs.



Would you trust this guy with your BMW? For years we all did. It's **Dan Cooley**, guru of BMW twins and Triumphs, who for a decade or more presided over the shop at Brattin Motors.

Rand Dougherty died recently. He often hosted quite a party at Laguna Seca.



Back at Giovanni's with his polished red wheels, **Doug Tyrone**.



Franz Dominger at the Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant, engineered getting a genuine sign from the Grossglockner in Austria to **Herm's** house in Coronado. **John Barnes** got it the last miles. Here it is at 1010 E Avenue.