

# KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

Lots of San Diego riders at INTERMOT, the huge bike show in Munich last September. At INTERMOT each manufacturer has an arena and puts on a show with music and dancers caressing the new bikes.



Here a couple of the BMW dancers with the new R1150 R, the bike I call "an 1150 GS in street clothes."



There were several 1150 R's about that you could actually sit on. It has a one-piece handlebar.

There's a new executive director of MOA. It's Ray Zimmerman, a 27-year member, retired Army colonel from Alabama.

In September, the San Diego gang started gathering at Andermatt, in the center of the Swiss Alps. At the bar of Alpenhotel Schlüssel were, kneeling, Herm and George Young, and from left, Tom Mooney, John Engweiler, Dick Climes, John Barnes, Jenny Rives, David Rives, and Sue Young. George and Sue Young are from Maryland, and he's former president of BMWBMW. John Engweiler has joined the gang several times before. He's from Halifax, and a member of BMWOCSD.



There's a fine north-south pass in Italy, near the French border, with great switchbacks and vistas. Only problem is that it isn't paved. Tom Mooney rested atop the pass at the stone marker of *Colle delle Finestre*.

The November *Airmail*, you know, the Airhead rag, has a picture of riders on *Col de L'Iseran*, France, the second highest pass in the Alps. Not to be outdone, the November issue of *Road Signs*, in your hands, has a picture of members of the BMW Owners Club of San Diego on the *Col de L'Iseran*.



The Aerostich back is Dick Climes, with Tom Mooney, center, and David Kuhnle, right. Dick was riding a Honda Varadero, the not-in-the-USA dual-purpose bike. Tom was on his airhead GS, and David on a 650 BMW.



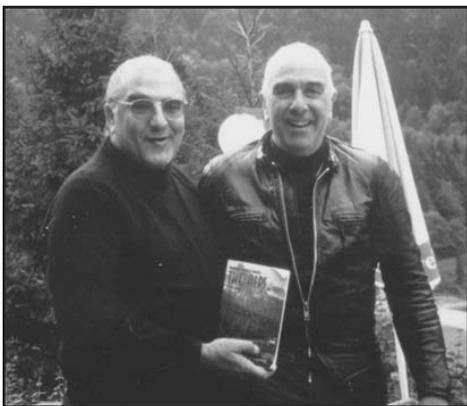
Here's Dick Climes on the Varadero, with Mont Blanc in the background (barely visible behind the windscreen).



Hey, I thought this was a BMW crowd, **John Barnes** seems to be saying. There's **Brad Baum** of Escondido, sitting on the asphalt parking lot lubing the chain of his bike, the new F650 GS. **Dick Climes** is waiting to use the stuff on his Honda. Ask Brad about the new telescoping saddle bags.

For those cognoscenti who have a copy of *Motorcycle Journeys Through the Alps and Corsica*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, the view of the author eating ice cream at Klontal See in Switzerland can be found in the back of the book. Naturally, the San Diego gang stopped in September to test the ice cream at Klontal See.

Would you believe, two other American motorcyclists drove up and sat down for the same purpose. **Dave Kuhnle** said, "I hope you have *the* book!"



**Bruce Wagner** of Fort Lauderdale reached into his jacket and pulled out the book. "I wouldn't leave home without it!"



After a day on their feet at INTERMOT and the Munich OKTOBERFEST, some San Diego folk dined at their hotel in Ismaning with MOA expert **Court Fisher**, left, next to the **Herm**, **Helmut Kohl**, **Tom Mooney**, **John Barnes**, and **Dick Climes**. **Helmet** is a long-time BMW friend who's traveled extensively in the U.S.



Fall is always the driest season in the Alps, except when it isn't.

You read it here, Vespa will arise again.

