

# KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

Wise and interested BMW folk in Santa Barbara decided they'd better hear and see more of the Alps, so their president, **John White**, invited **Herm** up to a club dinner (and put Herm up in the swank Fess Parker Resort). **Stacy Silverwood** decided Herm needed supervision on the trip, and on the way they stopped to visit famous author and magazine writer **Bill Stermer** at his home in Camarillo. Stacy asked Bill about Zero Gravity products that might fit his (Stacy's) GS. So Bill called **Glenn Cook**, owner-boss of Zero Gravity, who invited us over. ZeroG makes all kinds of wind screens and fairings, including those famous day-glow colors and double bubble ones. After a complete tour of the factory, Glenn took a wind screen out to try on Stacy's bike.



Here's **Glenn**, left behind Herm's beautiful R1150 R, with Stacy in the fancy BMW suit, and author **Bill Stermer** in the cap.

Meanwhile, Glenn mentioned that he's phasing out his racing team.

Then Stacy and **Carol Alley** rode up to Laguna Seca for a bit of C.L.A.S.S. time. Carol, of course, was riding her 1100R. She reports that **Lorraine Sturges** was pretty quick.

A recent Sunday at Giovanni's found none other than former road captain **Mike Whitman** on his 750

Suzuki checking in with old friends. He finally discovered it was his heart that caused his blackouts. So now he has a pacemaker and it seems to be doing the trick.

**Dave Shealey** started out on his new K1200 LT (the second) for a trip toward Florida. In a small town in Arkansas an unlicensed pick-up driver hit him and sent him to the local hospital. He rented a truck, took the bike to Florida and brought it back to California where the truck's insurance company finally decided to fix it. Beaucoup thousands later at Brecht's, it's back on the road and at Giovanni's.

What goes around? Former member **Doug Gray** had a beautiful blue K1100RS, but he coveted a Triumph. Then he coveted a K1200 RS.



Here he is on it, sporting a custom bit of pin striping, all in Giovanni's lot.



So Brattin Motors had his Triumph for just a few minutes. 'Cause **Phil Beck** snapped it up and brought it by Giovanni's to show off.



**Turk** knows his way around Mercedes and his new K1200 LT, and the back roads of San Diego County. When he's not on the bike, you can find him at 3555 Pacific Highway.



Two worthies here, of great lineage come together. **Vic Siebold**, son of **William** and **Nancy**, now has a fine BMW twin. It's the motorsport model that once belonged to **David Jones**. (You know, David of Oktoberfest Music Making, and Engineer Road.) Vic has been checking the vintage of the '78 model, and believes it might first have been sold in Spain.

With Rons, yellow is in. **Ron Jensen's** new Suzuki, and **Ron Spicer's** very special GS.



Off and riding on the mighty GS, our distinguished editor **Fulton Martin**, and **Susan**.



They got you coming and / or going. (Note front and rear facing radar...)



“When would be the best time to check out our favorite unpaved roads?” The question was directed to **Bill Siebold**, and he answered “Right now.” So he ventured to guide **Ken Shortt** and **John Hermann** up Viejas Grade, across Boulder Creek toward Julian, and down Black Canyon from Mesa Grande. Here Bill and Ken debate whether to try the fork from Black Canyon down to Pamo Valley. It was decided to head for Ramona.

**Eric Levy** and **Celia Germond** enjoyed an Edelweiss trip in late August. They covered the Alps from Nice to Munich. He rode an 1150GS and she rode an F650. They got to Munich just in time to have their flight home canceled by the September 11<sup>th</sup> crashes.

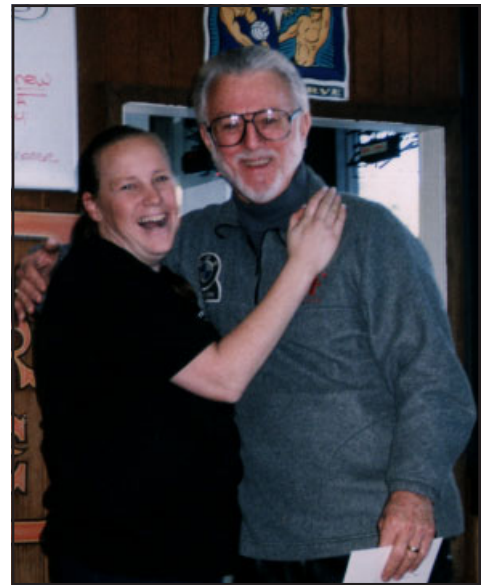


And **Ken Matousek**, often at Brattin Motors, with his new R1150 R. He’s sporting a fairing that’s a bit bigger than the BMW sport fairing. He seems to be accumulating miles faster than Herm.



It’s great to have **Priscilla** and **Dick Climes** back from Missouri for a few weeks. They’ve got the fifth wheel and the bikes, and here they’ve found **John Barnes**. John’s celebrating getting the rod removed from his leg, so the doctor recommends more time with the walker.

**John** and **Lee Collins** brought their horses to Hemet from the ranch at Pagosa Springs. John reports one last GS ride before a white Christmas in Colorado.



Just before Christmas **Ericka**, who’s everyone’s friend at Giovanni’s, told President **Ken Shortt** how much she appreciated the club’s Holiday remembrance.

# KING...



Party-party. There was one gathering just before Christmas of very early members (say 30 years ago) of our San Diego club. Most no longer ride. Three who do are **Dan Cooley**, left, **Charlie Parks**, and **Bill Hoefler**. Dan Cooley was a founding partner at Brattin Motors. He says he has ridden his MZ more than 40,000 miles in the last twelve months. Bill is diving coach at various community colleges.



Then **Charlie** put on a tie and took **Mary** to the fantastic club party at StoneRidge. Here, they host a table that includes **Amos Robinson**, **John and Pat Wagner**, **Dick and Priscilla Climes**.

After the great repast at the party, assembled members heard from **Nicole Davis** about the work of Casa de Amparo, a home for children who have no place to go in an emergency.



Here, **Nicole Davis** receives a check from the club delivered by President **Ken Shortt**. Several of those present made additional contributions.



Then **Ken** was able to congratulate **John Ciccone**, voted Member Of The Year. John has served as Road Captain and advertising manager for *Road Signs*.



Having performed these duties so effectively, **Ken** then passed the presidential gavel to **Tom Mooney**.



As everyone was suiting up to leave the party, this couple arrived on the cruiser. They said they'd been looking all over for the event. Better luck next year.



**Sam Ballante** has a couple of Yamaha's in his garage. If you think this FJ1200 looks clean, you should see his R-1. Getting the details from him are **Phil Beck** and **Don Nimon**.