

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



This is January. These are the BMW folk in San Diego. Not one rider in San Diego is worried about storing the bike for the winter!

Here's a January Sunday ride starting out from Giovanni's. In the lead is Road Captain John Ciccone testing a 2002 1150R from the fleet of *California Motorcycle Rental*. Beside him is Dave Mishalof on his F650 (giving the mighty K1200 a rest... Speaking of which: you gotta see his ostrich saddle).



Here's the gang early on New Year's Day 2002 at the Spice House.



Riders went in several directions, but thirty or so did the required annual ride. First stop, at 4,000 feet elevation, the Acorn Casino. The folks there have gas and clean rest rooms.

Then it was down to the desert and across S-2 to Borrego where the Palm Canyon Resort was not quite ready for prime time. Tom Mooney lead a spirited ride up to Mother's atop Palomar Mountain.



At Mother's, Karl Bauer, the Fire Chief, was on hand to receive the club's annual contribution. That's Mort Mirmontazeri and Ken Burkett on the left. Ira Grossman, Don Picker and Brad Baum are squeezing in the picture between the chief and President Tom.

Eleven of the original troop from the Spice House made it all the way for a supper of *all the ribs you can eat* at Fat Ivors in Valley Center. Tommy, the boss, was there to make sure the meat was falling off the bones. But, we could have been in Massachusetts.

'Course, if your bike were in storage in Massachusetts, it might not get scratched, like Ira Grossman's and Denzil Mitchell's and Mort Mirmontazeri's and Roger Davis' borrowed one.



What to our wondering eyes should appear? Why, it's Pat Fullerton on a new R1150 GS! Butch Hays and Wesley Stark are giving it the once-over. Pat spilled his coffee.



"But Don," says Phil Beck, "you're a GS type." Don Nimon is thinking an R1100 S like David Turner's would fit him fine. That's Victor Siebold pondering in the background.

Some spent New Year's Day in the desert—like Dick and Priscilla Climes—now headed east for Bike Week in Daytona. Like Dave Rives, down from Sacramento. Like Ron Spicer...



You can't have too many dirt toys, according to Ron Spicer. His latest has an R100 motor. You take it from there. The frame is yellow.



You'd never guess he holds a lot of speed records...our former president, Vern Henderson. But not on his RS. That's Herta Salzmann on the low-seat Honda behind him, and the motley crew grinning in the background includes Bill Siebold, John Barnes, Greg Balas and Ron Jensen. (Marilyn Jensen has a project going now in Rancho Santa Fe.)



AMA has a new web site: www.womenandmotorcycling.com. So Sharon Dormire thought she should be able to get her First Gear suit in women's sizes. Nope. She searched all over to get it ordered. It looks good on her, and she looks good on the F650 GS.



According to Harold Dorr, it would be a breeze for Ray Gretlein to paint the K75S. Well, it was a strong wind, not a breeze, but the result is very nice. (That's Ken Seaver coming to check it out.)



Allen Owens, who occasionally visits Giovanni's, asked the Sergeant at *FREE 2 WHEEL* about "tampering" with exhausts. The sergeant's long answer in the January *FREE 2 WHEEL* includes this observation: If you own a bike with a catalytic converter (like almost all the 1995 or newer BMW's) you cannot mess with the exhaust system at all, period. Hmm. So he's joined the mighty ranks of K75 owners. Not a bad idea, says Tom Graves.

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Just when it appeared that K1200's might surge ahead in the club's "vote by buying one" contest, a covey of new R1150 GS's make an appearance. Ken Dinckan is pointing out the merits of such GS's here to McLean King.