

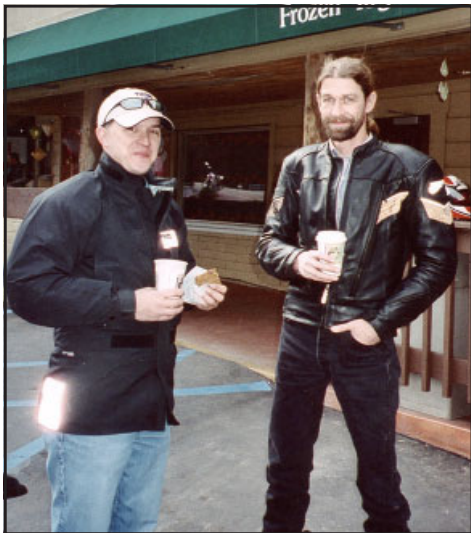
KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

2005 Wildcat Canyon will be Sunday, April 17. Mark it and be there. The 27th anniversary of that dark day.



Two BMW dealers in our area, and they both make fun of my age. Tom Clark at Brattin's posed me with this sign. Then Emery Master of North County comes to the February club meeting and suggests that I'm 80. Well, not quite.



One February Saturday when it wasn't raining, Tom Mooney led a spirited ride out Wildcat, Old Julian, Mesa Grande, and up the East Grade to Mother's, where Kevin Gordon and Brian Muldoon debriefed over coffee.

Then it was down the South Grade to the Pauma Reservation for lunch. (Note: over 55 get the lunch buffet for \$2.95 after 1 PM.)



Wesley Ross has ridden most every kind of bike except BMW on road and off. Now he has this new 1200GS which he's discussing with club president, Rich Kapushinski. (Rich's shirt is from the Cowboy Steakhouse in Panguitch, Utah.)



Those beautiful R100RS's just keep inspiring. They were one of the first fully faired bikes. Wayne Bratt's 1978 model here brought his daughter Erin to breakfast. For '77 and '78 they were a metallic silver blue.



Then there's Ken Wagner's '78 with only 220,000 miles on the clock. That's Ken on the right discussing the beautiful bike with Dave Campbell at Brattin Motors.



You have to thank Brattin for their fine fleet of "Service Loaner" bikes. It's so convenient to drop off a bike for service, and ride away on one of the fleet of 650 cc loaners. Keith Palmateer is taking off after leaving his LT for service.



For a while we had Todd Shoenburg off his Triumph and onto a black BMW Rockster. It didn't last. Now, look at him posing on his 900cc Ducati Monster. This particular bike has a *lot* of carbon fiber parts.



Skip Carter joined the exclusive ranks of 1200GS riders recently. From Giovanni's he joined up with Wesley Ross, on his new 1200GS, and Brian Muldoon on his new RT to explore Pine Valley Creek Road which was a bit rocky and muddy in the rain.



Riding this nice Boxer Cup, Jim Gairdner of BMW dropped in at San Diego area dealers recently. He'd taken it out for a ride at Buttonwillow.



You can't tell what will become of perfectly decent BMW riders. Eric Williams is now on this 1200cc Sportster. Our own Road Captain has been spotted riding a Electra Glide Ultra Classic.



Five distinguished members of the BMWOCSD *cruised* down the Mexican Riviera recently. Of course, that involved some dining in the elegant Versailles Room, one of eleven dining rooms on the Norwegian Star. They took in Acapulco, Zihuantenajo, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas.



They did not ride to the ship in L.A., they arrived at the Port of Los Angeles via Mercedes.

Motorcycle sales in the U.S. in 2004 topped one million. BMW sales slipped.

See you at Fat Ivors in Valley Center.

