

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



Here it is, ladies and gentlemen. The first, the only, the dear, the R1200HP with its enthusiastic owner, **Bill Siebold**.



At Giovanni's, the HP prompted a lot of looking and a bit of touching. **Brian Muldoon** and **Bob Miller** are getting some of the lower details in mind while Bill looks on, and our editor, **Fulton Martin** leans over the tank.

Third time's a charm!

First time **Hugo Schreiner** led us to Porterville, it rained. So the San Diegans cut and ran, limping home on I-5.

Second time, it snowed. Beautiful cold snow and ice.

Third time, last month, was perfect. Lots of blue sky. Lots of San Diego riders. Lots of great roads.



It all started at the famous McDonalds on I-15 at Cajon Pass. By 8:30 AM on Friday, the parking lot was taken over by San Diego BMW bikes and riders.



Hugo, right, got us all up amongst the big *big* trees in Sequoia National Park. Rumor had it that **Pat Wagner** was chastised by park rangers because some motorcyclist had been reported passing across the double yellow in the park. Horrors! But not she.



Ron Spicer directed some of the gang from King's Canyon along the Lake Hume Road. Curvy road with fine views over the canyon, then a pleasant lunch stop overlooking the lake.



Who would ride the Sierras on a tire like this? Well, **Mike Lynch** is still smiling, right, as our esteemed editor holds the disgraceful tire. All in the parking lot of the Best Western in Porterville.



After a lot of tight kinks, Bodfish-Caliente Road in Kern County, north of Tehachapi, daylights for a couple of miles in a flat high valley, Walker Basin. That's where Bill Siebold collected some of the troops.



You gotta do Breckenridge Road. It twists narrowly westerly from Bodfish-Caliente into pines and firs and then oaks before daylighting in oil fields west of Bakersfield.

Here Don Walker and a couple of others are starting up.



High up in the trees of Breckenridge, our VP, Bob Miller gave all an excuse to stop and admire the scenery. Note: no one seems worried about traffic.



A couple of miles east of Porterville, and 7,000 feet up, is Ponderosa Lodge, a coffee stop in the morning, and lunch after heading down the Kern River and up to the top of Sherman Pass and back. The lodge apparently is for sale.



Great view. Clear thin air and plenty of San Diego BMW's atop Sherman Pass, 9,000 some feet up in the Sierras.



Way up there, miles and miles from any community, there was indeed a Port-a-potty.



Hugo's route brought the group to California Hot Springs. It has a lovely pool, a big lodge, water at 125 degrees, and very good ice cream. Brian Muldoon and Ariel Silveira opted for the ice cream (see the cones, above Ariel's head).

KING...



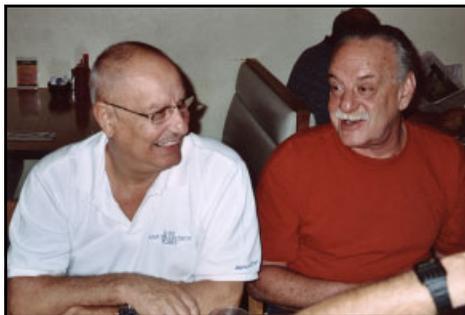
Meanwhile, back at Giovanni's, Dr. John Ciccone arrived on a Ducati Supersport 900. Very red. He says it had been lying fallow in one of the Dakotas. All it needed was a little burnishing. He does have a clutch cover for it.



Ron Spicer, here getting the truth from Dan Toporoski, has to coordinate bikes and costumes. The yellow outfit goes with the yellow and black 1150R. He did the Porterville ride on a red GS.



Quite a bit of international traffic at Brattin Motors as riders come and go to Mexico and beyond. Oliver Fisher here on the 1150GS is from near Stuttgart, Germany. He is just in from Prudhoe Bay on his way to Tierra del Fuego. How about a service and some new tires?



He's back. Turk Konuk is back at Margarita's, telling Don Picker how he feels.



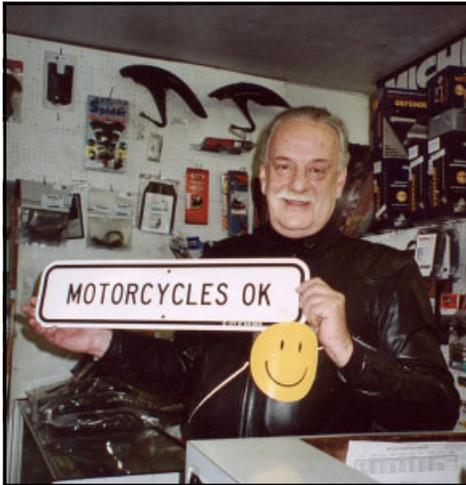
A bibbed Mark Pohlson worked on crab legs at Joe's Crab Shack on the Full Moon Dinner Ride last month.



Kit and Mike Lynch in new outfits fit for Tasmania and places down under in a few weeks.



It's as big as a Wall-Mart, the new Fun Bike Center on Kearny Villa Road north of Clairemont Mesa, sort of across 163 from San Diego Harley.



It's an official City of San Diego sign that **Don Picker's** holding. You can get them at the downtown city store.



Linda Blaylock's smiling. It's the new Kevlar pants from Motoport in San Marcos. They're custom made. A jacket and an outfit for **Bill** may be next.

Linda and Bill are ready to accept your reservations for the Holiday Party next month.

Welcome **Bob Ingram** home from a cross country tour on the mighty K75.

Welcome **Stacy Silverwood** home from three days of track time at the Barber track near Birmingham. He says the layout is pretty fancy.