

# KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN

Two well-attended rides recently from *The Spice House* on Clairemont Mesa (just west of Giovanni's), one on Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) and one on New Years Day.



On Boxing Day, our '05 Road Captain, Dick Sackett, gathered this fine gang.



He lead out east with Nanna Frye left, ready to ride, and Denis Duchene on his yellow Suzuki already in line.



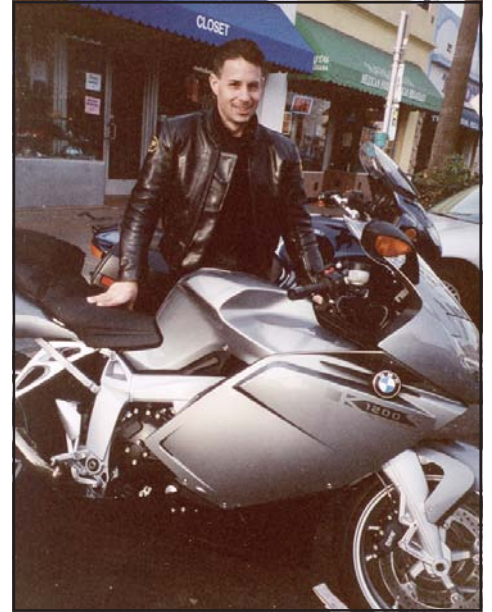
On New Year's Day, the official "renew your membership dues ride," the '06 Road Captain, Carol Hughes took the club out to Turk Konuk's house in Borrego. Ken Wymer and his wife Barbara did lunch there. Here, the club assembles at *The Spice House* awaiting Carol's order to mount up.



One of the new renewers was this rider of a new RT.



Pippa Dinger was there on her R1200 GS, and Scott was allowed to tag along on his Yamaha.



It finally happened. Mark Pohlson at last has the silver K1200S of his dreams. As of this picture, the fat tires were already thoroughly scuffed. Remember, Mark had one of the first R1200 GS's, yellow, but then Mark begged a ride on Brian Muldoon's big K, and the rest is history.



One Sunday morning in January, Mike Moore, right, brought out his Boxer Cup and caught the attention of Rex Neilson, Mark Pohlson and Richard Amiton.



Then Ken Shortt said, "Here's what we're gonna do." So Rex and Mark and Brian paid heed.



Back from riding way down under, Kit and Mike Lynch, center, had awesome pictures to share with Nanna Frye and Pat Wagner. Kit and Mike rode an R1150 RT mostly on the left side of the road, in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Their guides were Lin and Prue Van Kopenhagen. And the long story is that some of us, including Mike and Kit, met Lin and Prue on Passo Giaù in the Dolomites in Italy, and they joined us there, and then came here and rode with the San Diego club. Later, Lin and Prue joined the San Diego riders on the French island of Corsica. So now, Kit and Mike joined them in Australia.



Remember, that BMW dealer at Thun, Switzerland, invited Ira Grossman to try a naked K1200R. And it was love at first ride. So Ira (left) had to shop as far afield as Oklahoma to find this yellow one, which now draws an audience where ever it goes. Here at Giovanni's, Bill Edwards is checking it out, while VP Brian Muldoon is musing that it can't be as fast as his K.



One misty day, Bill Siebold announced an off-the-pavement ride, and the GS mounted folk hurried to line up. Bill's left, on the mighty HP. Gary Kepple, right got some new AXO dirt boots for the occasion. Cafe Veronica just east of a swamp in Baja was the destination.



Chuck DuVivier usually is seen on his R1200 GS, or maybe on his Cagiva. But for the dirt ride in Baja ride he showed up with knobbies on his Suzuki.

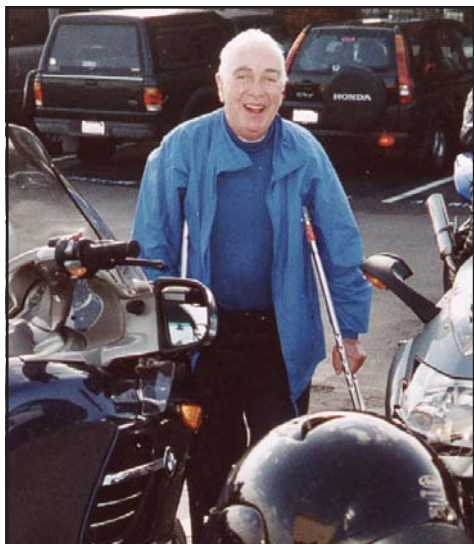


John Collins has planned an Alpine ride this spring with two sons-in-law, and he came down out of the mountains of Colorado to make sure they

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were ready for the challenge. Lined up after breakfast at Giovanni's were Chis on the R65, John and Tim. John was riding his R1200 GS and Tim, an R1150 GS Reports are that they are very well qualified.



The crutches **Herm** is limping about on are only remotely related to motorcycling. His story is that he was putting on his long johns, to go under his leathers on a Saturday morning before heading for Giovanni's. There was a knock at the door, he turned, fell down with his left leg only half way in the pants, and broke his left ankle.



Our editor, center in white tee shirt, has a new bike! A R1200 GS with Jesse bags, and it's black with white pin stripes. Very handsome. Painting done through BMW Motorcycles of North County. Admirers include **Bill Siebold**,

**Don Petrick, Ken Wymer and Wesley Ross.** (Wes, by the way, is back from adventures in Colorado and Thailand, and is ready to ride in San Diego. Rumor is that he tried a scooter in Thailand.)



It's always an uplifting experience to visit **Tom Mooney** at the La Jolla Veterans Hospital Spinal Unit. His progress and spirits since the horrible accident November 14, are amazing. He's always busy, and entertains visitors where ever he is. In the gym recently, working on arm muscles, he was encouraged by **Bill Siebold** and **Dave Mishalof**. Rumor has it that he challenged **Pat Shortt** to a wheel chair race.



**Gabe Aid** held rapt attention of the crowd that came to the January club meeting at Giovanni's. That's his CHP radar gun in his shooting hand. For many years, Gabe has been a CHP motor officer in San Diego. He says that he uses the radar usually to confirm his expert observation of vehicle speed. He can aim it and trigger it for a short burst, so by the time a detector notices it, it's too late. Among his suggestions, "check you mirrors." Gabe, a very able speaker, implied that he is not enthusiastic about the possibility of returning to Harley Davidson bikes. His own personal bike is a GS.



It is progressing. **Blair Balsam's** parts counter at Brattin Motors now extends a long ways east. All it needs now is an inviting display of parts and accessories.