

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



No. Say it isn't so. This reported 1000cc bike doesn't even have a Roundel.



And that ain't all. Apparently all these "X" bikes are supposed to be BMW's.

In spite of all these new bikes, BMW bike sales for the first quarter of 2008, are apparently down about 8% from last year, 21,000 vs. 23,000.



Guido and Gabriella from Switzerland happened by the Orr Haus in

search for repairs on her 1200GS. It stayed there for a couple of days, so they made it to Giovanni's on his GS. They had shipped both bikes to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and rode north as far as San Diego for this stop. There have been several problems with the GS's. Once in South America, Guido on his GS towed Gabby on her GS for many hundreds of miles. Now, they are slowly working their way north, following spring toward Alaska.



Hey, Bill Siebold. Look at all that pretty white plastic and fine rear view mirror and the fully extended side stand on this Ducati that calls Muldoon "master."



Ducati's are taking the place by storm. Joe Michaud wheels into Giovanni's on a red Ducati, telling some story to the effect that he's testing stuff for *Rider* magazine. Apparently, cameras. You can spot the one mounted on his fairing.



Some of the camera stuff is in Joe's tank bag, and another camera is mounted inside the cockpit.



Previous *Road Signs* have carried reports of Dan Toporoski's rides, including the recent one on his 1200 GS south across Mexico to Oaxaca and back. The round trip was about 14,000 miles. Somehow, Dan manages to find friends or make new ones everywhere. And every hotel is good and priced reasonably. The last trip included visits to caves full of swallows and mountains full of monarch butterflies. At the April club meeting here, Dan used nice pictures to illustrate his travels.

Dan, a Vanderbilt engineering grad, seems quite fluent in Spanish, but he brought his wife Teresa and Cuca Walker along to the meeting to help with site identification.



A fun evening at Phil's famous BBQ on Sports Arena Blvd., the scene of the April Full Moon dinner ride. The system is that customers wait in a line to order, then the BBQ comes to them. The very large restaurant always seems to have lines of customers. To the left, at the close end of the table are the club president and first lady, Dick and Louise Sackett. On the right are brand new club members and BMW riders Paul & Gretchen Bailey.



Across a table laden with BBQ, Phil himself posed with Social Chair Frida Silveira.