

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



Klaus Thiele has been out playing on his new HP2. In the course of expounding its merits, he has been known to allow a couple of esteemed and trusted companions, like Rex Neilson, to test its wonders for themselves. Scott Dinslage has been persuaded.



With a beautiful new blue RT, Tom Reilly and his wife found their way to Giovanni's.

San Diego BMW riders have been traveling. There's Gary Orr's non-stop jaunt across the US, to be joined by countless worthies (actually, softies, as they flew rather than ride) for off-road fun in South Carolina.

While in SC, our own H. Edward Bell received a coveted award, an ICON of BMW. It recognizes his speed record achievement on the Utah Salt Flats last year, setting a record on his own K1200R.



Dave Flood ventured to Giovanni's recently on his mighty K1200R, and met up with the ICON himself.

Dave sports several bikes, even (of course) a Ducati. Edward was on the K1200 R that carried him in Utah.



Plans are afoot for more records to be established next September. With Gary Orr's help, Edward is studying the record book and the rule book. It just appears that the record for push rod fully faired twins between 750 and 1000 cc's has not been established. Yet. Is this the machine that could do it? Edward is testing hiding his small figure behind the R100RS's fairing. Editor Fulton is checking the possibility.

Some SD BMW folk went abroad.



Ferries from the European Continent to Corsica have been thoroughly tested by San Diego riders. Collecting after debarking in Nice, France, are Sybil and Tom Roach, with Don Walker behind them. Herm was riding the R bike with the "M" (for Munich) plate.



Don Walker now has this fine R1200RS in Europe shown here in Porto, Corsica, with Don Picker and his fine old K100 at the left, and Will Creedon on the right with the famous red R100GS with California plates that was indoctrinated by Tom Mooney.



The roads of Corsica are spectacular and challenging and full of motor-cycles.



Stacy Silverwood and Carol Alley riding the final curves up the Col d'Izoard in the Rhone Alps of France.

They are on an F800GS which comes with regular BMW GS hard cases. They got the bike from Moto-Mader in Oberentfelden, Switzerland.



St. Veran, France, advertises itself as the highest village in Europe. Lin and Pru von Kopenhagen, who've spent some in San Diego, are leading Don Picker and Will Creedon down the main street. Lin and Pru, of Australia, have met the San Diego gang several times in the Alps.



Chuck DuVivier used the good offices of Stefan Knopf to ship his R1200GS to Europe. No matter, snow

still blocks the top curves of the Col d'Agnel. Stefan also transported Don Walker's RS directly to the BMW Niederlassung in Munich, where both of them are now stored, along with Hugo Schreiner's K bike, and Don Picker's K, and Will Creedon's GS.



Imagine the San Diego riders surprise to register at Hotel Vauban in Briancon, France, as Will is doing here, and find the US flag most prominently displayed.



Another US development, this Holiday Inn Express in Aosta, Italy. Hiding behind those white roses are Sybil and Tom Roach, Ira Grossman, and Chuck DuVivier. It's not raining, but rain gear seems appropriate. The top of the Great St. Bernard Pass is just minutes away.



European countries like to put up signs that are supposed to encourage motorcyclists keep their enthusiasm for the road under control. This sign is near the top of the Lukmanier Pass in Switzerland, and seems to say, "Too fast...? we wish to prevent this!"



Sometimes our esteemed editor reclines all the way to Giovanni's, where Gary Kepple thought the editor's machine just might need some adjustment.



No matter how hot the temperature, Rex Neilson is gonna lead a Kawasaki ride out Old Julian. Old Julian is Rex's specialty. Doc Mazzei on his Ducati Motard, Bob Ingram waiting to board his K1200, and Bill Taylor and Scott Dinslage right, are all accepting the challenge.



After 30 years and about 200,000 miles, Ken Wagner and his dog have decided to give the silver R100RS some rest. Ken admits that the new bike works very well, and both cases and top box will store a helmet.



Our road captain, Bill Edwards, appeared recently on his new Ducati 1000 which immediately caught the attention of Mike Moore and Gary Kepple. Bill claims he had a suspension problem with his Kawasaki, so he traded it in for this fine new ride.



But then John Ciccone rode up on his dry clutch Ducati that rattles like a freight train, and distracted the admirers of Bill's new bike



Thank goodness, there was a new BMW in the midst of the Ducati run. Eric Broeder was just in love with a new ST, only to find this K1200S was the dream machine. He says he told his wife he was going out to have his beard trimmed and then to the bike shop, and she said, "OK."



Dave Flood could not stand the Ducati talk, so he left his K1200R at home and rode up on this very special 999. It's yellow, and new Ducati owner, Bill Edwards, stopped by to admire it.