



## "Perfecting the Art"

*By John Hermann*

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*a.k.a. "King of the Alps"*

It all began for me one winter day in early 1975. I'd been to the Alps a couple of times by car and once by myself on a bike. I knew there had to be a better way. So I called the Beachs in Grand Island, New York. I remember Bob saying, "Well, if you like to ride; I think we can get along." I signed up one of the luckiest decisions I've ever made.



So a couple of us from San Diego got new R90Ss on that spring Beach Adventure and had such a wonderful time that we decided to leave them with Mike Krauser and come back for the fall Beach Adventure. The Beachs had two trips a year in those days. By the time fall rolled around, several others who'd shipped their bikes home after the spring trip couldn't stand it, so they bought new bikes and came along.

From then on each season found an expanding circle of Beach friends meeting to ride and play and explore the Alps with the Beachs and sometime get together on this side of the Atlantic for more riding and partying. No matter what walk of life, each talked motorcycle and Alps. You have to understand that an Alpine Adventure put together by Bob and Elizabeth Beach was a continuous party, meeting new European friends and riders, exploring customs and languages and roads with scenic overload. Oh, yes, and eating. With Bob and Elizabeth, we didn't just ride through the Alps, wonderful as that is. We got to know people there. We met riders there. They became good friends, sometimes taking their vacations to ride with us. Some came to visit us in America.

So, it has come to pass that many of the best friends of my adult life I've met on a Beach Adventure. And that includes, Bob and Elizabeth themselves. I had a 70th birthday a while ago, and Bob and Elizabeth completely surprised me by walking into the party. They'd flown from New York to Coronado, California, just for the evening. That's friendship.

They perfected the art of matching wonderful people that like to ride motorcycles, with what many of us believe is the best motorcycle venue available – the Alps. How many times have I been on a Beach Adventure? I've lost count.



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Beach's Motorcycle Adventures, Ltd.

2763 West River Parkway

Grand Island, NY 14072-2053 USA

Telephone: 716-773-4960 Fax: 716-773-5227

Website: <http://www.beachs-mca.com>