

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

There he is, ladies and gentlemen, our own **Dave Campbell**, rounding turn 4 at Willow on the Brattin-sponsored 1100S. He'd have won his second time out but for a little brake fade, and had to settle for 3rd. Wait'll next year! (See cover for picture.)



Here's that photo you were waiting for: It was mentioned in November's

Road Signs, but wasn't there. It's the gathering of San Diego club folk at Andermatt, Switzerland, last September, ready for

Alpine riding. Kneeling are **John Hermann** and **George Young** (former president of the Washington, D.C. club), and from left, **Tom Mooney**, **John Engweiler**, **Dick Climes**, **John Barnes**, **Jenny Boakes Rives**, and **David Rives** and **Sue Young**. Tom and Herm had the faithful bikes with California plates, John Engweiler had Nova Scotia plates, Dick Climes had a Vaquero with Swiss plates, John Barnes, a Swiss Blackbird, Jenny and Dave a Swiss R1150 GS, and the Youngs, a K100RT from home, Maryland. Two days later, John Barnes had them dirt-trailing over Italian passes.

Former president **Dietrich Kijora** has had some hospital visits recently.

India, home of the diesel motorcycle, has banned all machines over 15 years old. Cars older than 12.

The BLM had closed almost 50,000 acres near Glamis to protect the endangered Peirson's milk-vetch plant.

Art and Grace and **Alicia Valencia** are eyeing a move to Mission Hills.

Todd Stahly got a break from law school and took some turns with the Saturday gang recently on his 1100S.

Some are gonna see Berlin at the end of March, sans bikes. Check with **Herm**.



Charlie Parks is moving on up. He's trading this magnificently-powered R27 for a very red K1200 RS. That's super-sales **Scott** taking over the R27.



K75s retain their special attraction. Let's see: there's **John Ciccone**, our president **Ken Shortt**, **Doc Williams**, **Don Petrick**, **Gary Orr**, **Jim Montgomery**, **Herm**, **Turf McTaggart**, **Jon Dyer**, editor **Fulton Martin**, and, of course, **George Uphouse**, here with **Marie**.

The Club recognized its three remaining founding members... that is, they've been members since the beginning... with handsome trophies.



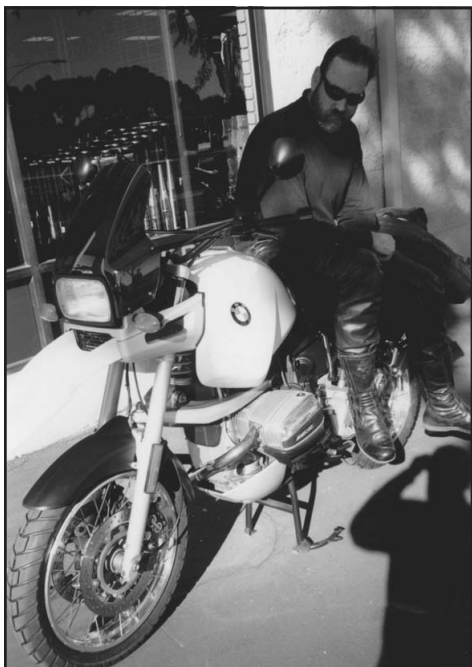
Here are **Mike and Reva Randall** with theirs at Giovanni's recently. The trophies are etched with the club insignia and reflect a purple color and read "BMW Owners Club of San Diego—1970 to 2000—Founding Member."



The goal was **Fat Ivors** in Valley Center for ribs, but on the way down from Palomar **John Barnes** found a slick spot. The BMW crash bars seemed to have done their duty in the valve cover area, but his GS nacel looks bunged up. John seems to be okay, but he has to temporarily ride the Duke. Would you believe, one of the first past the crash site was a pick-up that stopped and offered to take John and the bike back to Mt. Helix? The guy even had tie-downs. They did stop at **Fat Ivors** on the way.



Nothing like a new paint job to jazz up a 1150 GS.



Look close at the front tire tread. You're gonna love 'em on your GS according to **Hugo Schreiner**. It's the new Avon Distanza, copies of which have found their way into several club members' garages. Somehow, "Gripster" sounded more GS-y, and more British, too.

Ask Ambassador **David Mishalof** of the wonders of Mesa Grande.



You can get anywhere from here, but first you gotta get out of the parking lot. **Turf McTaggart**, **John Barnes**, **Bill Siebold**, and **Ron Jensen** plot the best dirt trail ride. Meanwhile, **Kendal Settingsgard** has already taken the A-1 team out, and **John Ciccone** has started the A team to Borrego.



Everyone stood and cheered when it was announced that **Nanna Frye** was the club "Member of the Year." She gets the award here from president **Ken Shortt**. Nanna is the incoming vice-president for 2001.

Right near Margarita's on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach is a hostel that occasionally attracts international bike travelers, and the mostly unemployed BMW riders sometimes ease out of Margarita's in time to check them out.



Dan Frey, right, is the local checking out these two. The 1200 Sportster rider was from Japan, and has spent the last six months visiting all 49 continental states and several Canadian provinces. When the photo was taken, he had three days left before returning to Japan, and he was on his second engine.



Dan, here with his trusty white GS, is an OB'ean who can report on the local crowd.

KING...



It's a pleasant place, and the buffet was really nice, and so were the BMW folk at the Holiday Party in December. Satisfied and smiling are **Greg and Elena Balas, Don and Peggie Picker, John Ciccone, Dave Mishalof, and Nancy and Bill Siebold.** (The Siebolds left for a holiday near Loreto.)



Another table has **Vern Henderson, Bill Adams, Herta Salzmann, John and Pat Wagner, and Esther and Butch Hays.**



Treasurer **Doug Tyrone** thought every dessert at the party deserved thorough testing.



Claiming he had no experience riding in the dirt, **Scott Mastrocinque** entered the L.A. to Barstow to Vegas on what had been **Harry Brattin's** former ride, the F650. Even though he fell early on, and cracked a bunch of ribs, Scott finished the two-day event in good stead. Shouldn't he clean up the bike?



Jim Cheng showed up for a Saturday ride on his new very yellow Ducati Monster. **Herm** has been admiring Monsters since he first saw one years ago in Italy, so he couldn't resist. It fits pretty good.



They sorta have BMW credentials, but... **Don Francque**, left, and **John Strayer** on Triumphs, and **Steve Hill** on the Ducati head out from Giovanni's. **Will Creedon** kibitzes. Would you believe they found radar on Highland Valley?



There've been some lovely riding days recently. This Saturday bunch refreshed at the Banner Store before heading for a very toney lunch at Casa del Zorro. The house of the fox with thick linens and crystal and cushy upholstery had a combo playing by the pool. It seemed that more than half of their customers were on bikes.

Ten years ago in the *King of the Alps* column in *Road Signs* Herm wrote:

"One Sunday recently I lunched on the Glacier Express crossing Switzerland's Oberalp Pass. The next Sunday, lunch was al fresco facing Vienna's St. Stephen's cathedral. The next Sunday was on a dirt road out of Prescott, AZ, following **Blair Balsam** and **Ron Spicer**. The next Sunday I read scripture at my church in Mission Valley and then rode to Palomar. The next weekend I was in the 90,000 seat stadium at Columbus watching OSU beat Minnesota."