

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

Where were they? Gene Dalton is just back from Cinque Terre on the Italian coast, with stops in London and Rome and Paris. Rich Kapushinski is just back from Sao Paulo and Rio, Brazil, where, he reports, the food fits his low carb diet perfectly.



Wasn't it nice of all these big wheels from BMWNA to come to Brattin Motors with Herm's new ride? To Herm's right is none other than **Thomas Plucinsky**, the top motorcycle guy at BMWNA. To his right is our area rep, **Gary Farinacci**. That's **Dan De Christofer** on the right in the picture. Herm made sure they had a copy of *the* book.



Then **Ken Matousek** made sure the new bike was properly licensed. It's an R1150 R with ABS and power brakes (yes, the front lever activates the rear, very, very effectively for fast level stops...the rear brake is not coupled), with the neat sport fairing, high seat (there are high and low

seats, not adjustable) and all the regular goodies...the six speed gear box, mag valve covers, shocks, new telelever... It's Atlantic blue.

Have you noticed all the press that **Dave Kuhnle's** Predator drone has been getting? Firing missiles now. And Dave just got that Yamaha to add to his 1150GS stable.



Not to be outdone, **Turf McTaggart** went out and got a similar Yamaha... that's it parked next to **Bruce Redding's** Pacific Coast out in front of the Ocean Beach International Hostel, just down Newport Avenue from Margarita's. Curious admirers include **Gary Adler**, **Bruce Redding**, **Dietrich Kijora**, **Bob Ingram**, **Ron Jensen** and **Turf** himself.



Tom Mooney lent his GS to Marsee so they could fabricate a tail pack for it. Here, he demonstrates the result to **Stacy Silverwood** (note Stacy's nifty

new BMW suit). The bag slips over the rear rack on the GS and snaps onto straps behind the rider's seat. A larger version is available.

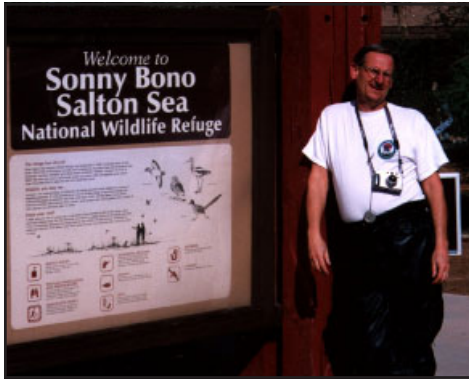


Some BMW types will recognize the Z leather suit...it has to be **Don Cox** on the F650 pictured at Mother's on Palomar. He claims the bike does amazing things on the South Grade.



Gary Orr at Brattin's has started a collection of damaged CHP fairings.

Guy Harris lead a Saturday ride of a dozen or so BMW's and one Honda 'round the Salton Sea with stops at many of the area's scenic spots.



First was the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. It boasted blessed shade, clean toilets...



...and a viewing platform from which to view nearby fields and distant marshes and perhaps wildlife. Tom Graves and President Ken Shortt enjoyed cool drinks (there were three functioning machines) atop the platform.

Then, all the customers at Salvation Mountain seemed to be bikers. The place is near Slab City east across the mainline of the Southern Pacific from Niland.



It's actually pretty high...you can spot two BMW climbers just to the right of the letter "E." Others mingle around the "G" of God at the top. There was no sign of the creator-resident. The "sculptures" are painted vivid hues.

From Salvation Mountain, Guy lead the gang north to Bombay Beach for lunch. The place is pretty sad, and the "beach" defies description. "Arm Pit" is too gentle a term.

On the way back to San Diego there was a pleasant stop at the green grass of Christmas Circle, and Don Nimon and Rich Kapushinski joined Herm at the Valley View Casino buffet.

Some BMW worthies who'd missed the BMW gala rode north for the Ducati weekend at Las Vegas.

The Venetian, home to two Guggenheim museums, is really impressive. Here's the view of the Venice Campanile from the balcony of the Dog's Palace, with the Realto Bridge connecting the two.



KING...



Signs all over lead to the "Art of the Motorcycle" at one of the Guggenheims. This is the entrance. Note the letters overhead, and poster, left. Herm noted that the MV Agusta at the entrance in Bilbao, Spain, was "from the collection of His Majesty, the King of Spain." The Las Vegas MV is not.



Meanwhile, out at the race track, north of Vegas, this K1200 LT dazzled all with its performance, scarfing a bit of fairing.



Familiar faces at the track included Paul Lucas and Isaac from GP...



...and our own Sergio Villalobos.

