

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

San Diegans in the Alps in September. *It's the roads!*

I love the ice cream and people of the Alps. But the only reason for going there time and again is *the roads*. Like...

(On the cover) Our President, Tom Mooney, ready to overtake a European rider on one of the 40 plus hairpins on the eastern side of the Stelvio in Italy.



Look at this Italian marvel ... just wide enough for biking fun, with perfect asphalt. That's President Tom following Stacy Silverwood with Carol Alley going down, left, with some Euro-riders coming up, right, on *Passo Croce Domini*.



Here some Euro-riders from the Netherlands take off on the *Monte Baldo* road about 5,000 feet straight up over *Lago di Garda*.



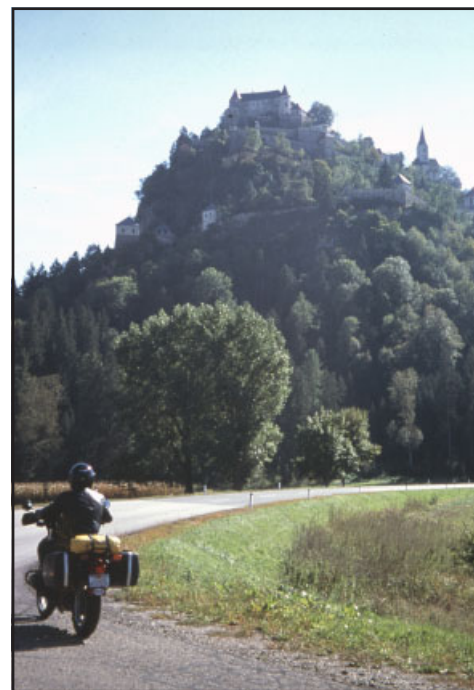
What happened to our lane? And that's President Tom again heading through the narrow arch on the *Versam* road in Switzerland. Stacy and Carol in front.



There are some toll roads. Like this, the *nockalm Strasse*, in Austria. Popular with bikers, who always have a bit of a problem finding the toll money.



And there are occasional obstacles, like these sheep being pushed by Stacy and Carol.



And castles to gawk at. Here's President Tom slowing to check out the Austrian castle known as *Hochosterwitz*. It was built 500 years ago to defend the area from the Turks.



But they're looking for bikers. This sign is near the top of the *Grossglocknerhochalpenstrasse* in Austria.



And on this forest road in Switzerland known as the *Pragel Pass*, the foresters were foresting. And there was a Harley waiting for the trees to be cleared, ridden by a Swiss rider who'd been to San Diego to study English. Peggie Picker and Carol Alley sold him a copy of Herm's book.



And bikes are handy at city gates, like this one at Glarns in the *Sud Tirol* of Italy. A sign on the right reminds all that the gate has two-way traffic.



Sometimes we stay in castles, like this one called the "Burg Hotel," the castle hotel, on a hill amidst vineyards, the products of which include sparkling wine.



Oh yeah. At the Oktoberfest. *The* Oktoberfest in Munich, the very first booth on the right, just inside the main entrance was this one selling "Arnold Schwarzenegger's Liebling-schnitzel," Arnies favorite schnitzel.

Charlie Parks rates a great story in the December *Rider*. He refuses to testify just how many BMW's he's owned, but the pictures show him on the K1200 GT. He's credited with being the oldest rider to finish the Four Corners tour ... you know, the four corners of the U.S. in three weeks.

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Charlie says he found a lot of rain on his Four Corners ride. Henri Warren is just back from doing the four corners on this RT, and he found some snow on the northern leg. Henri started in San Ysidro and went north to Blaine, WA, then east through the snow to Maine, ending at Key West. Then he had time to stop at the RA Rally at the Barber Center near Birmingham, Alabama. He says the place is wonderful.

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Other long distance riders include Gary Orr, left, and his Aussie-talking brother-in-law Mike O'Keefe who did a three week run to Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean. Here, they chat after reporting to the club at the October meeting.

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Another long-distance member of the San Diego club just moved into the Adventure world. If Dave Mishalof keeps to his normal riding style, this new bike will be pushing 100,000 miles in no time.



Then, of course, there's Gary Walker who's gonna do a bit of dirt work on the new KLR. Ask him about the recent ride from Ocotillo Wells with Ron Spicer and Bill Siebold.



Stefan Knopf of Heidelberg, Germany, is busy helping Americans ride in Europe and Europeans ride in America. He was in San Diego recently having dinner at the Studio Diner with a friend from Germany and Don Picker, after loading 90 German Harley's in a container for shipment home. The riders had been to the 100th anniversary festivities in Milwaukee, then checked out the wonders of the west, like Route 66, before leaving the bikes at a pre-arranged drop-off point.



Some thought the most exciting part of the Super Motard race at Del Mar last month was the first hairpin turn on asphalt, right in front of the stands.



There was only one BMW entered in the bike show at Del Mar ... this R100S, 1978, entered by Mark Spitler of Orange County, right, with his son.

Did you notice Dan Toporoski's cover article about riding in Mexico in *Friction Zone*? As we speak, he's riding there, again.

Other articles in print recently ... Ken Chapman's letter in *American Motorcyclist* explaining the preferred riding zones and regions of California. And in *Free-2-Wheel* about riding to the trains at Campo. Then *American Motorcyclist* had one about riding 76 and 78 to Julian. No mention of Palomar.



Ira Grossman and Aliza agreed to pose on the K1200 RS without helmets, just for the picture.



Back on BMW with a new RT, Brent Haywood made a stop at Giovanni's with his wife. He had been one of the first buyers of the 1100RT, then he ventured through all kinds of exotica, before this fine return with a 4-spark model.



A new recruit for the C.H.P.? He might have to put on long pants and trim the pony tail.

Earplugs are legal! According to a news release from AMA, California Senate Bill 315 allowing the use of foam and other non-custom-made earplugs has been signed into law. No more tickets for using this type. State Senator Debra Brown (D-Redondo Beach) carried the bill.

