

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

Fire and smoke. How could that night time fire from the Cuyamacas be at Giovanni's for breakfast? Bill and Linda Blaylock raced to back to their home at Scripps Ranch. Their R1150 RT seat was burned from embers on 1-15. They evacuated, but their house is OK. So is the Scripps Ranch home of Scott and Pippa Dinger. And the Julian cabin of John Ciccone.

Not so fortunate, Joe and Meg Hylton and their two kids. Seems their home burned Sunday night. Richard Amiton helped get the motorcycles out, and they got Meg's horse into the trailer. The only road open by the time they fled was Highland Valley.

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Also not so fortunate, David and Suzanne Jones. You

know their stone house on Engineer Road, the tall stone house in the hairpin with slate roof. Some BMW folk helped in the construction. A hollow shell of stones remains, full to several feet with ash and debris and shards of slate and sharp pieces of metal and nails. Dave says the fire didn't head back on Engineer until Tuesday. He filled the little sedan with his wife and musical instruments "that weren't mine" and escaped to El Centro. Gone are all his antiques and violins and guitars and violas, at least a half million dollars worth. (Victor Siebold rides the R100S that he got from Dave.)

Now what a sad sight, some of our favorite rides ... Crest, Harbison Canyon, Wildcat, Lake Wohlford, Highway 79 through the park, freeway 52 east from Giovanni's, all bare and black. Well, the sight distances are better.



At the November meeting Tom Mooney congratulated Ken Burkett who had just been elected his successor as club president.



Anne Stapsy of Ridetour pointed out some details of their trip across China to Pippa Dinger at the November meeting. She and husband, John, offer a 31 day tour of China by bike.



And John Stapsy handed Steve Strachan a souvenir of Ridetour's China trip. It's a dragon with a bike wheel in its tail. The captions read "Tour China East to West."



You must know that Amos Robinson is an Indian guru ... real Indian bikes guru, not those Johnnie-come-lately things. This one, he insists, came in a box, minus a few parts, and he restored the whole thing. Cool. And he can kick start it, too.



These nimble Boxer Cup bikes are gonna overtake us. Brecht has delivered more than a dozen of them, including this one to Mike Moore who found an empty place spot for it in his bike garage.



One recent Friday this guy Mike from Alberta joined the unemployed BMW folk at Margarita's. He was heading for Tierra del Fuego, like now, so our resident expert Dan Toporoski was able to give him a few pointers about the first 3,000 miles.



"Not bad, this CHP RT," observed Rich Kapushinski, as it parked at Giovanni's, straight from A&S near Sacramento. Purchased there, it had a bit over 40,000 miles on it, and bells and whistles, like the flashing lights and siren.



Ah ha. What has happened to Erick Anderson's 650? Seems its been transformed into this silver 2-spark 1150R.



His other wheels are on his RT. A couple of days after flaming embers burned holes in his RT's seat (thoroughly frightening Linda), and just after evacuating his Scripps Ranch home, Bill Blaylock made his first flight in this RV-8 plane that he had just finished building. It is an all metal monoplane powered by a 180 hp Lycoming engine. It's capable of 200 mph, and is aerobatic and has a range of 600 miles. This picture shows the happy pilot after landing from that first flight.

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You gotta know that discussions get serious at BMWOCSD meetings. Dr. John Ciccone is making sure that club secretary "Turk" Konuk and Scott Dinger get his point.