

# KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



Here he is, ladies and gentlemen, Harry Brattin on the new GS. This one's yellow. Harry and Polly Gillette flew to Cape Town, South Africa, last month for the official BMW intro of this new wonder bike. OK, so the bike

is all new and weighs less and has more power, the big question is, "how does it work?"

There was a lot of nice partying in Cape Town, according to Polly, then Harry got to ride it and he says it's indeed wonderful. Rumor has the intro price about \$15,100.



He was a friend of everybody, so all are saddened to learn of the death of Harold Schey, the oldest member of our club. He lived at Palm Desert at very nearly the first place you come to

after riding down the wonders of the Pines to Palm highway. (Check the movie, *Torque*, for some racing scenes on this road). Harold claimed he could sit in his house and see mountain sheep on the rocks. He often rode his K bike to club meetings in San Diego. He equipped the bike with two side stands, one on each side. This photo of him proudly sporting his "Pioneer" shirt was taken by Gary Walker at our Oktoberfest last fall. The Pioneer shirt is worn by those who have attended every single BMW MOA rally, decorated with patches from each rally. By now, it's pretty well solid rally patches.



One recent Saturday, Gary Walker got this crew out to the Desert Tower, all the way on 94. Warm day with views clear across the Imperial Valley. Looking at the freeway snaking down to sea level, Tom Mooney wondered why the highway engineers didn't just make the road go straight down. Then, from this point, the ride was supposed to be all down hill. But the clouds came in and opened up, and it poured buckets. Hard to note in this picture is Erick Anderson on the new 1150 R sporting new leathers. He says he was

inspired to get them by the special performance of our road captain, Bill Siebold.



It is a pretty red K75S, and mounted on it, none other than Mr. and Mrs. John Diffin. John and Stephanie got married last month at a water-side ceremony. Rumor has them headed for Michigan.



Long time club member, John Collins, of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, showed up last month at Giovanni's on his beautiful R90S. It's orange-smoke in color. He said he had to come pay his dues for 2004. Then he joined Stacy Silverwood (on the white Airhead RS) and John Ciccone and Don Picker on a nostalgic ride. Then, he took the bike to Dave Campbell for some fine tuning.





Rocksters are rocking. This is Don Francque's, here at left telling Dan Frey of it's wonders. Don has mounted a small custom windscreen. This Rockster is that sort of rust color.



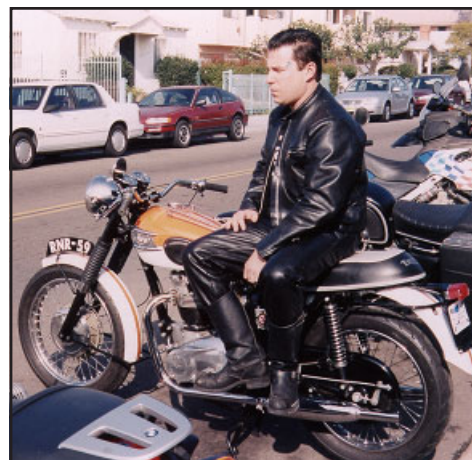
And here's a Rockster that's sort of lime green with non other than Tom Clark aboard. Tom has been riding an Adventure while selling four-wheeled BMW's. He's still got the Adventure, but now he's selling two-wheeled BMW's at Brattin Motors on the Boulevard. Tom is at Brattins because Scott Mastrocinque retired to Canyon, Texas. Before he left, Scott tried to explain the wonders of west Texas to doubting San Diegans. Let's just observe that he did a better job selling BMW's than selling west Texas.



Some believe that the 1150R is close to the perfect bike. Now BMW has given it some new clothes. This new one from Brecht, belongs to Don Becker. It's silver grey, with black engine and cylinders and wheels.



Ken Wagner nursed more miles out of an R100RS without engine work than anyone. Now, he's enjoying the wonders of this 1959 BSA Roadstar with vintage pot helmet to match. And he's mastered the art of kick starting the big single.



Almost as old is Todd Schoenburg's Triumph. Here, he's ready to join other Rockers down on India Street, so they can go harass a gaggle of Mods on their Vespas up at Gelato Vero. Some may remember, and some may have to just read about it, but 40 years ago or so in merry England, Rockers in studded leather on bikes, apparently staged incidents at beach side resorts frequented by Mods on scooters who usually were mod-dressed. The incidents made for several movie plots.

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Dress right. Don't they line up nicely when they see the camera?