

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



All the way from Germany, Uwe Gerach sporting his San Diego club shirt was at Margarita's on a recent Friday, so Tom Mooney could fine tune his *Deutsche spreche*. Tom and many San Diegans will be in Europe as you read this. Stacy Silverwood and Carol Alley pick up a new bike in Switzerland,

land, and ride to Munich to meet Don Walker and Don Picker and Blair Balsam, then load bikes on the

German train to ride the train toward Spain. Joining the San Diegans abroad, Tom and Sybil Roach, Tracy and Barbara Cate.



Doc Williams reports the chair is perfect. Kyle Hudson recruited Doc and brought him to Giovanni's in the neat GS sidecar.



Look what happened! Doctor John Ciccone has arrived on a new R1150 R, blue in color. He does have good taste.



If you can't find the golden arches on I-15 on Cajon Pass, you cannot play. The gang here has recovered from the blast north from San Diego and is ready to hit State Route 138 and Lone Pine Road to Wrightwood and beyond, heading clean across Los Angeles County and Kern County to Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County, all on the heels of Bill Siebold.



If you keep turning corners coming down from Angeles Crest, it's almost possible to miss most of the traffic signals in Palmdale. After a series of corners, Bill Siebold, mounting up here, has accounted for the everyone and is heading for another McDonalds for relief and lunch.



The secret, according to Bill Siebold, is to head for Avenue S which skirts Palmdale, and at Avenue S is a lovely new McDonalds enjoyed here by Gary Walker, Ken Shortt, Bob Ingram, Bill Blaylock, Carol Hughes, Linda Blaylock and Don Petrick.



Then there was a refreshment stop at Ron Jensen's new home-away-from-home at Pine Mountain, well west of I-5, west of Frazier Park on Portola Road. Snow on the nearby mountains is clearly visible from his terrace and living room. Ron says he can get anywhere in two hours.



Heading out from Jensen's mountain home, Turk Konuk on the faithful R1100 R, the Blaylocks on the RT, Tom Mooney on the new GS, Don Walker on the K1200RS and ...



"Look out for deer," was Jensen's final advice. He garnished the urgency by telling of recent deer incidents. Sure enough, heading west on Cerro Noroeste, the first sign is of a jumping deer. The deer apparently heard that the BMW club was coming, flat out. So they stayed clear.



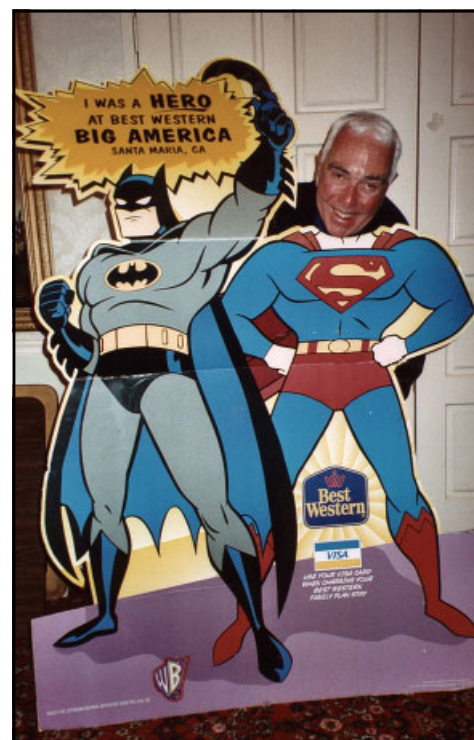
Once established at the Best Western in Santa Maria, it's time to relax. Turk is a specialist with Jim Graham's assistance. Mark Pohlson is getting the truth from Ken Shortt and Pippa Dinger, while in the background, Scott Dinger and Gary Walker share a fine moment.



Twisting out of Santa Maria on Foxen Canyon with a knowledgeable ride leader like Bill Siebold leads to Figueroa Mountain Road, a one-lane twisting marvel that climbs several thousand feet into the Los Padres National Forest before working down to Fess Parker's ranch. Bill's leading down here on what could be called, the easterly leg. Lots of purple lupine blooming. Foxen Canyon is named after a German settler who lead some American troops through the canyon so they could get to Santa Barbara before the Mexican army.

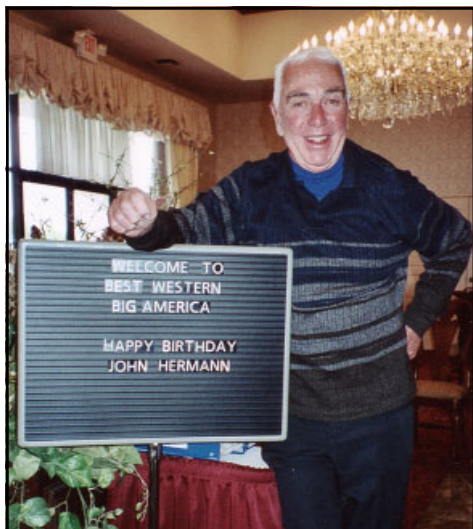


Lunch in Santa Barbara County has to be at Cold Springs Tavern on Stagecoach Road, off of San Marcos Pass. It's a place that expeditiously turns out a marvelous variety of quality food in a very rustic setting.



I thought I'd get myself a new set of leathers modeled like this outfit. But somehow, the cape just wouldn't work.

KING...



Someone spilled the beans, and there was no getting around acknowledging the fact that I was a year older right there in Santa Maria.



It was really nice to have so many BMW friends at the birthday party at the County Skillet ... a very satisfactory restaurant across the street from the Best Western.



Right here at the Laguna Lodge atop Sunrise Highway is where **Hugo Schreiner** and **Dietrich Kijora** stopped on their first BMW bike ride together. So, leading a ride in Dietrich's memory, Hugo gathered the riders together on the porch of the lodge.



Brian Muldoon, right, fast becoming an expert on his R1150 RT, is casting covetous eyes on **Glen Lowe's** new K1200 S.



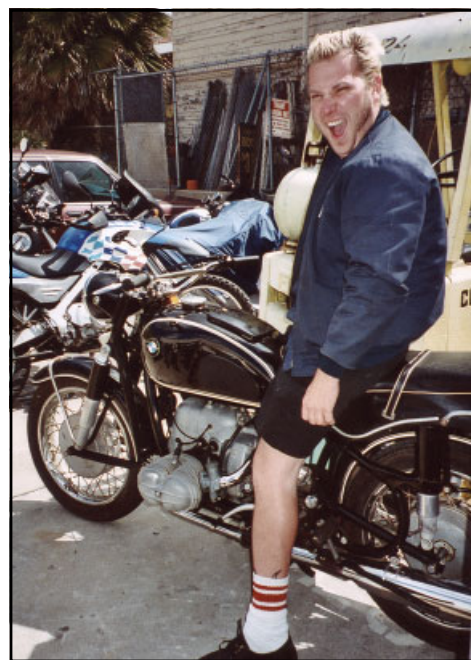
Ariel Silveira and his well-equipped Adventure are just back from a 6,000 mile trip in Mexico. **Ken Dinckan** reports that the roads were perfect. They rode as far as Puerto Vallarta. Coming north, they ferried across to Baja.



Don't they look neat? An unlucky 13 Highway Patrol BMW's lined up in the parking lot of Lake Henshaw Resort back in April. Part of the training must be how to park.



Just home from Afghanistan, **Clain Brandt** fired up the Adventure and headed for Giovanni's.



Todd Schoenberg at Brattin Motors found this almost new, old R69S with only a couple of thousand miles on it. It idles just like a /2 should, like a sewing machine.

Erick Anderson literally ran into an accident recently, and it appears that his R1150 R is totaled. He got caught in

the aftermath of that tragic accident at State Routes 15 and 94 recently in which a lady riding a Harley was killed.

John Collins reports that his new red R1200 GS is in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, awaiting the melting of the snow.



It's thumbs up and home from here. **Mark Pohlson** has filled the tank for the last time on the recent Santa Maria trip at 138 and I-15. From here, it's non-stop by San Bernadino County, crossing Riverside County, into San Diego.

