

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN

Good to see Mark Eckel, aka Eck, at Margarita's recently, apparently with his leg all healed. He's checking into the real estate business with Prudential.



Out on the Winona lineup, Brian Muldoon, left, and Mark Pohlson, right, contemplated the bikes with a guy who blacked out his face. It was a fine sunny Saturday.

First there was an open house at SDBMWMC on the Boulevard, with demo rides and barbecue from Phil's.

Seems like a lot of new bikes coming out of Berlin and wherever that other BMW plant is. Rich Amiton tried a lot of them. First, this new GS X Moto. Helping him get underway were Phil Beck, left, Eric Broeder and Ron Spicer.



Then Rich scuffed the tires on a red and silver 1200S.



While out back, where Phil was grilling pork and beef ribs, Skyler Carpenter's friend Sarah Frederick were checking the sauce and beans. (Skyler is in the shop at SDBMWMC.)

Carol Alley sends a clipping from the North County news, with a color photo of "SKY GUY Ron Jensen, 60, of Carlsbad is one of a core of group of fliers who gather along Highway 101 in Carlsbad" to fly their model airplanes. Says he flies three or four times a week. "It's definitely more exciting than it looks," according to Ron. At the April meeting, the club watched the video of his K-hop demonstration. And he managed to get his Suzuki to North County at the end of Wildcat.



Then. The club's excellent social chair, Frida Silveira, arranged a club dinner at the Fish Market on Via de la Valle in Del Mar, just north of the Race Track. You gotta know that the Fish Market does a lot of business and much of it with the rather upscale neighborhoods near by. But Frida arranged a private room that was soon filled to capacity. They set up more tables just outside the door. One waitress was a marvel. She got every order straight, and remembered where to deliver each, and then got everyone served very quickly, and all got separate checks. Frida's Solana Beach Chamber of Commerce arranged an attractive gift basket, and the lucky winner was Kyle Miller, our president's son. Frida delivered it in person.





Here's a shot of the room at the Fish Market with one table laden with attractive full plates, all amazingly delivered quickly and together.



Then there was the Poker Run benefitting the PKD Foundation which focuses on kidney disease. The first check and first card in the poker hand was at the Arco Station in Jamul. Both street and dirt riders made it that far. And there delivering the cards was none other than Airhead #1, **Jan Hofman**, on his John Deer special. That's Jan to the right. In the immediate foreground is **Gary Kepple** on his 1200 GS, then **Sharon Kepple** and **Rich Amiton**. The Kepples and Rich took off south from here on Proctor Valley's dirt, heading for Otay Mountain. Street riders did Lyon's Valley and Honey Springs and then out 94. All met up at Potrero County Park, a very pleasant venue, where **Kelly Pixton** of Airhead fame grilled up a fine lunch.



Rich and Ed Seeber came in from Otay Mountain, where Ed got side-swiped by a Border Patrol vehicle that did not stop. Punched a hole in his valve cover. Wisely, he had some JB Weld on his bike, and put a temporary patch on the outside of the cover. Here, at Potrero Park, he's getting ready to take the valve cover off and repair it from the inside. **Dick Sackett** is supervising.



Sharon Kepple confessed that she did not ride Otay Mountain on her

Dakar. So after lunch, she headed out for the next check point which was Pine Valley, from whence, the dirt route was out Pine Valley Road to Sunrise. There was some debate about gates, so the *real* dirt guys took Boulder Creek to the next check point which was on Mesa Grande. **Ed Seeber** had the best poker hand and got a gift certificate from SDBMWMC, which should help with the new valve cover.



Tish found some BMW folk at the Lyon's Valley store. She'd purchased the almost new 1200GS on the internet. So she came by Giovanni's of a Saturday and reported in with **Bill Edwards**. You should know that Tish's GS is yellow and her jacket is too, and so is Bill Edward's jacket.

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They come out of the woodwork for the club flea market. **John Ciccone** had to bring his stuff in the Mercedes, and he completed a sale of a jacket to **Ira Grossman** while **Mike Lynch** was testing some boots.

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Something motivated **Rich Amiton** to bring his R100RS, painted by Painter **Don Francque**, on the Saturday ride to pre-run the Wildcat Canyon route. There was snow and fog on Palomar.



Who should be the first one at Giovanni's for the 29th Wildcat Canyon but **Jim Branch** on his Augusta. What a bike!. Jim was a BMW rider, and is president of Red Hot Riders. Eventually, he escorted Herm all the way to Palomar. He complemented Herm on his lines through Old Julian. So Herm then demonstrated bad lines on Mesa Grande. Jim said nothing.



Then there was **Rached Maalouf** on his blue and white K1200S. He has a store on Lincoln in Escondido.



Then **Joe Bowman** was all smiles on the GS X Moto.



Chris Leiber from SDBMWMC was there on his fine R1150. And Chris deserves a medal for sacrificing himself for the benefit of all.

A major group was headed for Wildcat Canyon on SR 67 in El Cajon. The CHP officer beside the road chose Chris out of the group to pull over. Chris eventually made it to Dudley's and the mountain and to lunch at North County.



We got to see Stacy Silverwood's perfectly restored 851 Ducati with Stacy in a perfectly matching Dainese suit. Everything is red.



Determined to be historic, Richard Amiton rode his beautiful Norton on Wildcat. Several checked under it during the day. All was dry.

Jim Branch is headed for the 100th anniversary Isle of Man TT. He shipped