

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



The closest I got to the Alps this fall was flying over them on the Alitalia 777. I think this is the Gran Paradiso in north western Italy



Butch Hays showed at Giovanni's in a rain storm (San Diego style) a few weeks ago, proving the mighty K1200 GT works fine in the wet. He'd already been out to Alpine for breakfast.



So did Linda Sorensen. By golly, those K1200 riders are good for anything.



Not content with his own picture in BMW Xplor, H. Edward Bell is seeking new sand dunes to conquer with his new X bike, and with his new nifty suit to match.



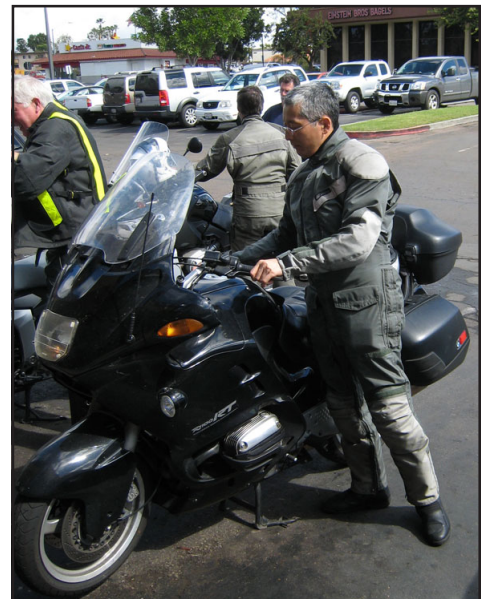
Rex Neilson will race you to Chicago on this very swift Kawasaki ZX-14. But, he hesitates to recommend it for the South Grade.



Butch Hays and the Internet folk had special guests at the October club meeting at Giovanni's back room. At far left, from Chicago, Jon Diaz, and at right, Dr. Junji Yoshida from northern Japan. Both had visited the San Diego club in years past.



Bill Edwards, left, has an Internet connection with Jon Diaz's wife Sue. Junji's not surprised.



Junji was riding an RT courtesy of an Internet friend, Jim Brown, in Manhattan Beach.



Bob Soracco, new owner of BMW of North County briefed the club on new developments at the store, with two employees at right.



Wesley Ross and his fine GS were only briefly incapacitated.



Off again, on again. Don Cox is persuaded that the new 800 is the latest answer to his riding dreams.



On a recent Saturday, Ira Grossman and Don Picker pondered dates and routes.



Later that day, I called a meeting on the South Grade, two miles down from Mothers. Lots of business, because the meeting took several hours. That's my bike at right, the good side. Maybe you can tell the brake fluid container is empty. Bill Sullivan's nice K1200 S at left, and Steve Hill's R1200 S. They're conferring with Ira Grossman; Rex is in the background.



Scott Satrom is a professional escort rider, and when he's off duty, he's on his K/LT.



Dan Nguyen is showing Lee Bradley his telephone-GPS on the dash board of his RT that's blue-toothed to his helmet. He can adjust it with buttons on his helmet.

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First time to Giovanni's, Mark Llano on his fine looking Rockster. Some think the Rockster will shortly be listed as "collectible."

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