

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

Helmets save lives *and bikes*. Seems **Shakespeare Ken** came by Giovanni's one recent Sunday on the Springer Harley with noticeable mufflers. He wasn't on the pretty blue R1100RT, but he took a ride anyway, and then stopped for some business, and the Harley disappeared. Gone. By the time he got one of San Diego's finest to take a report, they'd found it. The thief was stopped for not wearing a helmet! So there, New York Myke.

Some rumor has **Stacy Silverwood** leaving Brecht on Gretchen, the 1100GS, tagged by a car from the side. Gretchen's rear frame was dislocated, and Stacy's ribs. Having influential friends at Brecht, he got a BMW car to drive home, only to find that it goes too fast too easily.



Fortunately, Stacy had just acquired Hansli, a 650, which he's here showing off to **Ivan Aceff**.

Larry Stonestreet went to Singapore on business. Now, **Butch Hays** is checking out the Far East.



There was a **Blair Balsam** invitational ride one recent Monday, the invitees assembling at **Jamie Lenore's** lil' mountain cabin high above Japatul (with its view forever, including Point Loma). Jamie, left, was out on the stealth black 1100S. **Sam Ballante**, next, was sporting the Ducati of fiber and open clutch. Blair, center, was on the mighty BMW 650, Home Made **Bob Skirvin** on the R1100RS, and **Craig Dickson**, on the 1100GS.

After a bit of Banner and Palomar, the whole gang restored their energy with Fat Ivor's all-you-can-eat ribs.

Craig Dickson was in town just a couple of days, picking up his GS and delivering it to Albuquerque.

Speaking of Banner Grade. That's where **Steve Hill** (no doubt Ducati mounted) escorted a couple of *Road Racing World* test riders, after a photo shoot on Montezuma. One of the testees on a Honda F4 was champ **Roland Sands**. Photo journalist **Kevin Wang** was on the Yamaha R6. It was at the lower hairpin that Sands passed Hill, locked up, and went down. No pictures.

Leaving goats and ponies and contractors to take care of things in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, **John** and **Lee Collins** came down from 7,000 feet to sea level to visit friends and family in San Diego.



Some of the friends were so glad to see them, that they took them to Home Town Buffet for dinner, where this photo was snapped. From left, **Peggie** and **Don Picker**, **John Barnes**, and **Lee and John**.

AMA's been sort of worried by the CARB (California Air Resources Board) agreements, which will seem to require catalytic converters and fuel injection on motors, including water sport ones. *City Bike* adds the concern that **Gray Davis's** new Secretary of Resources comes straight from championing stringent EPA restrictions.



Doug Gray has abandoned the Ducati and even the K1100RS for this special GS, being appreciated by **John Ciccone**.

Jonesy and **Kim** showed their Falcon (like in Ford) at that popular BMW debriefing spot, Deer Park, where 1100S mounted **Vern Henderson** motored by.

Wasn't it fun to have these members from far off Missouri and Colorado spend the holidays in San Diego with their bikes.



John Collins brought his red R100GS. Here he is with **Lee** and the bike.



Dick and **Priscilla Climes** brought their matching white GS's; **Dick's** a 100, **Priscilla's** a lovely 80.



This photo officially records **Don Picker's** return to riding ... his first day since September 8, 1998. The occasion was, of course, **Jimmy's** on Midway.



He then took **John Collins** and **John Barnes** to **Mother's** on Palomar Mountain.



Down to a mere seven motorcycles in the garage, **Sam Ballante** couldn't pass up a deal on the narrowest bike alive, a 610 cc Husky. Here he's demonstrating how to use the kick starter (only), left mounted, while standing on a curb or step. **John Dyer** is standing by wondering "How do that work on Oriflame Canyon?"

Internet Riders recently rushed to Death Valley. But **Pat Fullerton** took the mighty 1100GS south, like to Ixtapa and Zihyatanejo where he checked out the tire repair facilities.