

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

A bunch of San Diegans rode to Milano, Italy, in September for the huge 59th EICMA (that's Esposizione Internazionale del Ciclo e Motociclo), one of the world's biggest bike shows... and it was huge. Lots of hot ticket stuff.



At BMW the new item was the Adventure 1150GS being checked out here by Blair Balsam and Don Picker. It's supposed to take low octane gas for that trip across Asia or South America, and the tank holds about eight gallons and first gear is shorter and there are a lot of (heavy) bolt-on goodies.



I kind of liked the looks of the MV Agusta Brutale.



In the French Alps, Brad Baum checked the view from l'Alpe d'Huez, Don Picker and Ron Spicer checked the map. That's Scott Dinger, right, on an Africa Twin.



The climb up the l'Alpe d'Huez in France is one of the most arduous climbs in the bicycle Tour de France. Blair Balsam and Don Walker did it faster.



At a gas stop in Italy, some of the group check with Bruce Redding, left, while at right, an Italian station manager tries to read the group an Italian newspaper report about New York.



Later, they stopped atop Passo di Gavia, a narrow Italian twisty. Jamie was riding the 1100S, Ron Spicer, and 1150GS. Blair had an 1150R. Pippa was on a VFR Honda.



At dinner at Chichilianne, France, in a 14th century French Chateau, from left, Don Picker, Don Walker, Ron Spicer, Tom Mooney, Scott Dinger, Pippa Dinger, Jamie Lenore, Brad Baum and (back to camera) Blair Balsam.



It was ride and party all September. Here, host Hans Gut pops the champagne cork for the San Diego gang gathered at Pontresina, Switzerland. (This was the evening after the K75C that had served Herm for years decided to revolt.)



Tom Mooney on the 100GS with Brad Baum and Jamie Lenore check out Lac Serre-Poncon from the Col de Pontis in France.



Then they rode the ferry across Lago Maggoire in Italy. In the foreground, to the right of Ron Spicer, is the wonderful Atlantic Blue 1150R that Herm rented to replace the defunct K75.

It did indeed rain. A lot. But that didn't daunt the San Diegans.



Here, Pippa Dinger and Scott come down off the Passo Giau in Italy.



Meanwhile, back at Giovanni's, Dave Turner, left, showed off his 1100S's Staintune pipes neatly fitting under the Corbin seat to John Ciccone and Don Nimon.



At Oktoberfest, Ron Jensen recruited expert Katie Robinson to handle the hoops from the back of his KLR.



And the CHP officer gathered a mostly rapt audience as he discussed riding and ticketing. He admitted that his personal bike is a Harley.



It was noted that most took the CHP officer's comments very seriously. That's Susan Martin on the left and Pat and John Wagner, seated right. (John and Pat were just home from a soggy Alpine trip with Beach's.) But note, Harold Schey and Lucky Locke are smiling at the officer's comments. Lucky was the oldest rider at Oktoberfest. He rode with the McLaughlin Motor Drill Team in the Rose Parade before WWII.

11



Attracting attention at Oktoberfest was this lady on a yellow R65LS with matching leathers, boots, and helmet. She's a new rider from Vista.

KING...



Another new LS rider is Ken Seaver of Kensington. He's active in the local CCA (BMW car club), and he flew to Phoenix to get the bike. His first ride in twenty years was getting it home.

Jim Reynolds was in London on September 11th. Then he safari'd to Kenya.



David Kuhnle came in from Kuwait on a new Yamaha.



The big *uberrauschung* (German surprise) recently was Rich Kapushinski, the dedicated Cruiser aficionado, on a new K1200 RS, blue. He kept the R1200 C. Admirers are Ira Grossman, David Mishalof, John Ciccone, and Ken Dinckan.

On four wheels:



Ira Grossman beside his Mercedes at Giovanni's.



Todd Schoenburg on the new Brattin fork lift. There are a lotta bikes coming in, and the lift is just right for unloading them from the truck.

12

