

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



Weather did not look promising for the big ride to the Sierras. You can tell, the ride leader/expert/promoter, Hugo Schreiner is all suited up for rain as he pulled out of Brattin Motors.



Nary a sign of rain or a sequoia tree or any kind of tree the next day as the San Diego BMW buffs entered Sequoia National Forest on Breckenridge Road, climbing westerly off of Bodfish-Caliente. The sun was shining. Hugo had led through the Willow Springs windmills, through Tehachapi to Woodford Road, which twists looking down over the famous Tehachapi Loop to narrow little Bodfish-Caliente Road, then onto even narrower, twistier Breckenridge..



Hugo lead the charge up Breckenridge with Turk Konuk and Don Walker on his tail. In its 40 miles of twisties, Breckenridge does indeed make it into the pine forest, then fir forest, then down into oaks, before daylighting at the first intersection in the Ant Hill Oil Field east of Bakersfield.



Don Walker charges up the west side of Breckenridge on the mighty K1200RS, recently dialed in with some engine tweaking.



Headquarters for three nights was the Best Western at Porterville with an attached Carrows restaurant that managed to feed us each evening. This dinner included Bob Ingram, Ken Shortt, Hugo Schreiner, Don Walker, Jim Greer, Turk Konuk, Rich Kapushinski, Bill Siebold, and John Dewar.



First stop, about 7200 feet above Porterville on State Route 190, was the Ponderosa store. Snow was still falling off the porch roof.



In fact, there was solid ice on along the road.



Lined up out front of the patriotic Ponderosa, Rich Kapushinski, Ken Shortt, Turk Konuk, Bill Siebold, Bob Ingram, and Jim Greer, all debating whether the group should try for Sherman Pass, some 3000 feet higher than the Ponderosa.



The knowledgeable ride leader, Hugo, had a better idea. Tiny little Portugese Pass (aka Burnt Ridge) that climbs a couple of times above 7200 feet. There was a lot of snow on the road. Bill Siebold and Ken Shortt stopped at the pass sign at the top. The sign indicates it's 24 miles back to the east end of the road, and 11 miles down westerly to Glenville. Lots of signs point to Glenville, which apparently has a population under 40. It does have a restaurant.



Then it was toward Sequoia National Park, on the Generals Highway (you know, Grant and Sherman and those guys) with Turk and Bill Siebold. Not much traffic. It was snowy.



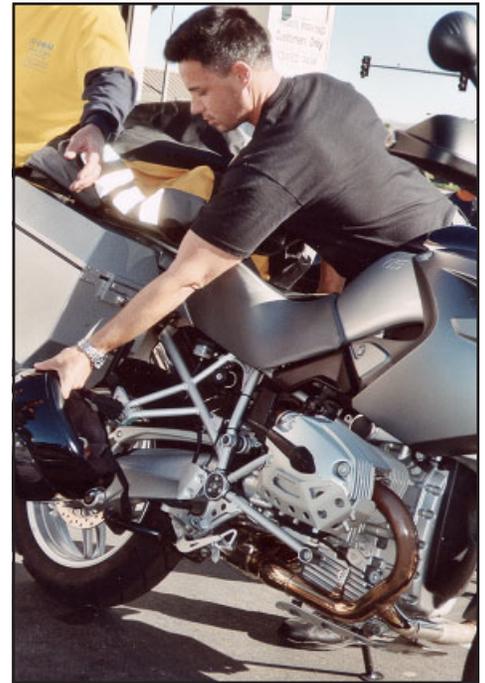
The only place open to warm and feed the riders was the Montecito Lodge, up a snowy lane being explored here by Don Walker, who flew in from south Florida for the ride.



Amid the snowbanks at the lodge, Hugo oversaw the proper warming and feeding of the gang. He said, "It's all downhill from here."



Sure enough. Dry Creek Road and Lokohl Valley Road were dry and empty and tempting, very tempting.



Mark Pohlson, a 1200GS rider, is checking out John Sullivan's Jesse Bags. The camera is focusing on John's new Touratech valve covers.



Turk is now riding McLean King's faithful R1100 R. So Lane, in the white shirt, is enjoying his new 1200GS. It's yellow with BMW bags.

Ask Gary Orr at Brattin about a Rawhyde weekend.



One recently rainy Saturday, Hugo Schreiner got Snowball spotted. Also, the new leathers. But the purpose of this photo is to show off Snowball's new Staintune exhaust system.



Then seeking shelter under Brattin awnings, none other than Orange County riders Sam Jones and Mark Spitler. That's Mark's R80 with the Pichler fairing.



Stacy Silverwood on his K1 can find Turk Konuk's new house in the desert.



So can everyone else. Henri Warren, Dave Mishalof, Gary Walker, Ken Shortt, Turk, Ron Spicer and Bill Siebold. Look at those lovely mountains.



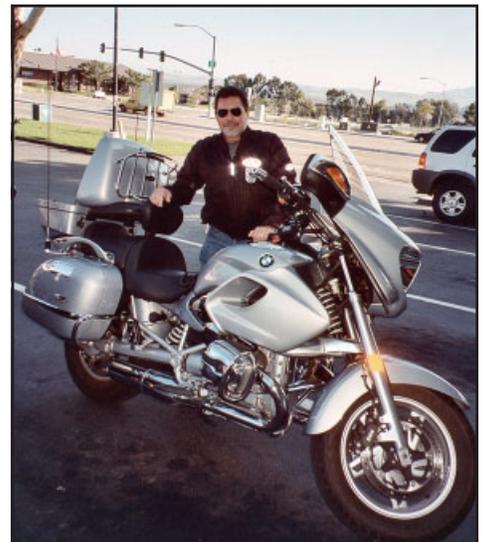
Charlie Parks and Mary are smiling alongside their new 330 BMW. Engine's bigger than the old one by half a liter, and Charlie says it has electronically variable exhaust valves as well as intake.



Mike Jensen, right is telling Erick Anderson how he got a good deal on this F650 at House of Motorcycles.



And Don Petrick is telling Doc Williams how important it is to have a spare set of wheels on the back of the bike.



Wayne Nadolski has put 22,000 miles in 18 months including a ride back to Illinois on his silver CL.



According to the resident experts, the "in" place at Borrego is Kendall's on the back side of the Mall.