

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & MANY PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



Giovanni's is getting an exterior face lift. New doors, new facade, new stone pillars, here being checked out by our editor, **Fulton Martin** and **John Barnes**. Off left, **Brian**

10

Muldoon, an expert on such things is saying, "They're fake!"



Ron Spicer headed for Missouri to rescue this fine Indian. You should hear it.

While all this was going on, club folk took off. **Bill Siebold** and **Ron Jensen** and **Greg Balas** and **Bill Soracco** and his son took off for trails in Colorado meeting with various adversities. Then **Brian Muldoon** did track time at Buttonwillow, and **Ira Grossman** did

track time at Fontana. No reported adversities. **Turk Konuk**, after a trip around the U.S. successfully facing off all kinds adversity, headed for home in Borrego and on the way did meet with adversity. Then there was the big overnighiter to Big Bear. A little bit of adversity on the way.

Then a select crew of seven (**Tom Mooney**, **Don Picker**, **Don Walker**, **Chuck DuVivier**, **John Hermann**, **Ron Spicer**, and **Bruce Redding**) headed for the Alps and Slovenia and Croatia.



Tom Mooney keeps the 100GS and **Don Walker** keeps the neat R1100 S at the Niederlassung in Munich. Here, they check them out after picking them up early in September. Note the nice cobblestones.

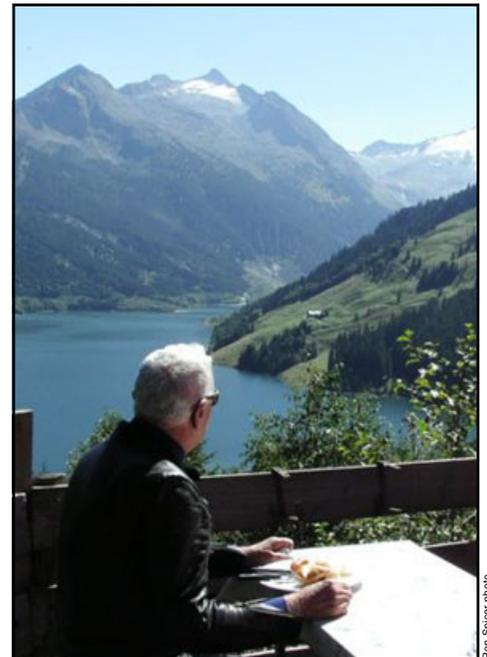


Next day, on a view deck with a magnificent view of the Inntal and the Zillertal, **Chuck DuVivier** noted this

panoramic view map showing all the Alps, and he bought a copy



Later, on the narrow little Zillertaler-hohenstrasse in Austria, **Don Walker** got his "S" underway, followed by **Chuck** (cover photo).



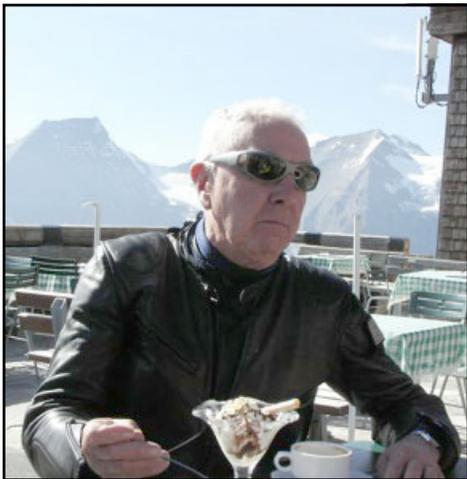
Herm chose this spot atop Gerlos Pass to try a bratwurst.



The tight curves up the Grossglockner Hochalpenstasse in Austria, and a motorcyclist's delight.



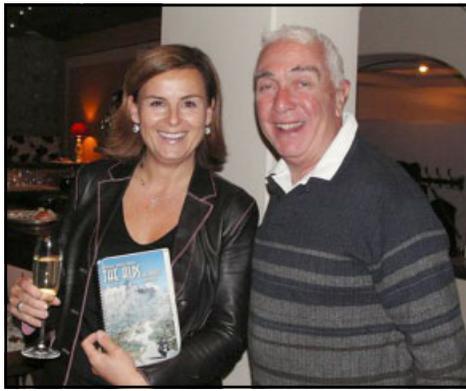
Then Chuck climbed to the top of Edelweiss Spitz on the Grossglockner. More nice cobblestone.



Once atop Edelweiss Spitz, Herm ordered a Coupe Danmark; hot fudge sundae.



Chuck, Don Walker and Tom Mooney settled for coffee.



Before dinner at the lovely Glocknerhof in Austria, the hostess offered champagne and admired a copy of Herm's book which does indeed recommend the hotel.



At the last stop for coffee, actually cappuccino, in Austria, Chuck took advantage of a helmet visor cleaning station. Ahead lay Plocken Pass into Italy, Sella Nevea, then Predil Pass into Slovenia. At the Slovenian border, with

39 hairpins immediately ahead, the border guards handed out a color brochure with a Slovenian motorcop on the cover. In English, the brochure urged careful riding.



Herm and Don Walker lost the cares of the Austrian and Italian and Slovenian hairpins in this Bled, Slovenia, hot tub, shared with two Brits who seemed to understand English.

11



At the Croatian border, the border guard handed out handy color maps of the country. One side had pictures, the other side was an actual map. All in English. So we found our way via many rural roads to this hotel in Plitvice Jerzo National Park. How did so many tour busses get here? At least, there was motorcycle parking at the door. The park is in woody mountains with interesting lakes and water falls that you cannot ride to see. We did rate spacious suites and pretty good meals.

Continued next page

KING...



We took some modern fast freeways and some real remote rural roads to Dubrovnik, a historic walled city on the Adriatic coast, way south next to Albania. It's necessary to cross through Bosnia Herzegovina to get to Dubrovnik, which is completely repaired, clean and up-to-date from the war ten years ago. Not so, the mountains above the town, where this picture was taken, with war destruction all around.

(Note: Slovenia is in the European Union, but not in the Euro money zone. Croatia is not in the EU, apparently because it refuses to hand over war criminals to the court in the Netherlands. Croatian money is called the Kuna.)



Back into Italy, 5000 feet over Lago di Garda, Tom, Don Walker and Chuck

are high tailing it along the Boca Navene road. The road is one lane wide, with two way traffic.



Don Picker, Chuck DuVivier, and Tom Mooney lead a couple of Italian riders on the Boca Navene road, 5000 feet over Lago di Garda.



Bruce Redding and Chuck DuVivier in the Dolomites of Italy.



Ron Spicer came across this sign in Switzerland. It says something to the effect: "Expect the unexpected." The pictured bike has a Canton Bern plate.

The unexpected found on September 18 in Pontresina near St. Moritz was fresh snow.



This "sculpture" welcomes all to the top of Grimsel Pass in Switzerland. The lass has long wire hair.



Once off the bikes, back in Munich, Tom Mooney and Don Walker have to figure out how to get where they want to go on the subway.



The arch covered with evergreens covers the exit from the Oktoberfest grounds in Munich. *Pfua Gott* is vernacular Bavarian for "go with God."

Ron Spicer photo

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Ron Spicer photo

Ron Spicer photo

Bavarians and Austrians often greet each other with “*Gruss Gott*,” greet God.

Now. Where to? Porterville. Stacy Silverwood is going to Class at Willow, then at Sears Point and then at Barber in Alabama.

