

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



David Knetzer photo

Good crowd. Great day for the 28th Wildcat Canyon. David Knetzer, center, posed with two of John Hermann's "escorts," Lajos Tresser and Ed Seeber.



Sean De Angelis photo

Sean De Angelis was on Wildcat Canyon taking pictures.

He caught Lajos on his R1200 GS, chasing Herm through Wildcat Canyon.



Sean De Angelis photo

Then Ed Seeber on his R1150 GS.



Sean De Angelis photo

Later, he got a shot of Brian Muldoon cornering on Mesa Grande.



The Harleys had cleared, so there was room for all the Wildcat Canyon riders to meet in the parking lot at Dudley's in Santa Ysabel.



At Mother's, atop Palomar Mountain, Jerry Franklin was proudly showing off his collection of Mesa Grande mud. Bent shift lever and turn signal.



Wildcat ended happily at BMW Motorcycles of North County where the boss, Emery Master, center, welcomed Gary Kepple, left, and Bill Siebold. They're grinning because they've checked out the bratwurst and hamburgers and halibut being grilled outside by experts from The Brigantine.



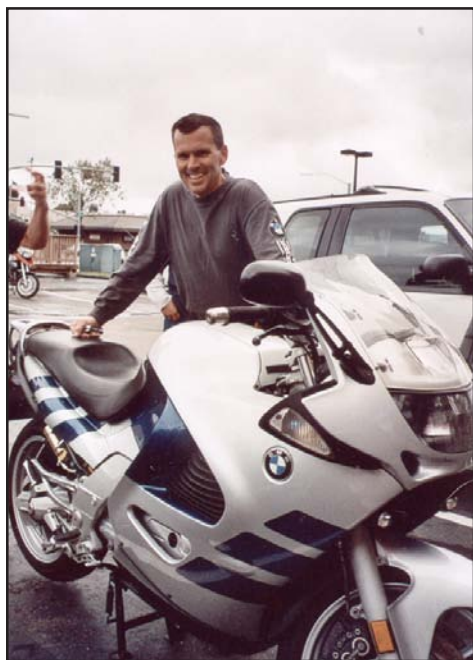
Full Moon Dinners are always unique with Frida Silveira in charge. April's dinner was Cuban, where one table had Scott Dinger, left, and Turk Konuk framing Rich Kapushinski, Herm, and Frida.



One Saturday recently, Giovanni's was graced with Don Meredith's sister, Sue. Sue hails from Maine, where she needs a copy of Herm's Alps book.



Another Saturday, the ride got to Mother's on Palomar where John Volkman and Rich Amiton compared notes. John and Rich had exchanged bikes for the sprint up the East Grade. Seems Rich's MZ handles easier. John's Ducati accelerates better.



Gary Kepple says his wife Sharon made him buy this beautiful K1200 from Mike Moore. He admits that his 1200GS flicks easier on Highland Valley.



Ron Spicer always has a bike for sale. Now Gary Walker is looking for a new owner for his red Suzuki. He has a bunch of critical observers at the curb on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. But no buyers.



Big Saturday at Brattin Motors on the boulevard recently. Polly Gillette, long time owner / manager of the shop, was on hand, wearing her best Germanic head gear and braids to greet the Herm, possibly the oldest customer. He bought an R75/5 from Polly's father-in-law right in this very room in 1970.



Then Polly and her husband, Harry Brattin, announced new owners, and unveiled the shop's new name, "San Diego BMW Motorcycles."



And they congratulated the new owners, Mike O'Keefe and Gary Orr.



Seems Mike and Gary couldn't be happier. The two have made a couple of trips to Prudhoe together, plus Mike's wife Lisa and Gary's wife Heather are sisters. Mike has been with Qualcomm for many years.

KING...



And look. Heather's happy, too.



Glen Heggstad was signing copies of his book, *Two Wheels Through Terror*, which chronicles his ride through South America. He compared notes with Gary about the wonders of 650 GS's with Touratech tank and stuff. Glen was at BMW Motorcycles of North County after the Wildcat Canyon Ride.



Meanwhile, parts counter sales were exhausting Blair Balsam, left, as Fred Greenfield and Hugo Schreiner and Don Picker compare gloves.



Then John Williams showed on an April Saturday with his new Dakar.



Twenty-two years ago, Bill Hoefer was Road Captain, riding the very same R75/5 that he rides today. His lasting contribution was moving the Saturday and Sunday gatherings from various Denny's and Sambo's to Mr. G's on Clairemont Mesa, now know as Giovanni's. Recently the faithful R75 refused to start on a Friday morn at Margarita's, and this crowd gathered to kibitz.



SCHOOL...

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allowed to go as fast as our skill level and conditions allow. There are a few "no passing" areas at each track and we don't pass on the inside. The rider in the lead has the right of way at all times, and it is up to the faster rider to pass safely and appropriately. Intimidation is not tolerated, and no one will be bullied into an unsafe situation.

The day is finished with a presentation of certificates of completion to each of the students, and a final question and answer session. Reg will have videotaped several afternoon sessions from his camera bike and shared the tapes in the CLASS-room sessions. We will have all made new friends and developed new skills. I

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