

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



One Sunday last month John Hermann rode his millionth BMW mile. To mark the occasion, Don Picker took this picture of him on the faithful R1100 GS with the ALP KING license and the Corsica sticker. The license was a gift from the San Diego club on Herm's 70th birthday, now some years ago. The GS has about 89,000 miles. (The first 28,000 were by Dave Campbell).



Then Herm took his ease on one of the comfy new chairs at SDBMW Motorcycles, placing his new Joel Robert replica Sidi boots carelessly on the table.



There was this marvelous ride to King City, with the initial rendezvous at the famous McDonalds atop Cajon Pass, where the good roads start. Here's the McD parking lot at 8:30 AM of a Monday morning.



The reason for King City (about 50 miles south of Salinas, on 101) is that it's nestled against wondrous mountains with wondrous roads all around. The roads were not paved with gold, but most of them had absolutely no traffic, and all about was lush green scenery. Here, some of the gang is reporting in at Keefer's Inn at King City.



One day Mark Pohlson set out from King City at daybreak to get to the BMW shop in Watsonville so they could check his soft clutch. The shop did, and Mark joined a special group exploring Eureka Canyon. A sign read "closed 10 miles ahead," and indeed it was. Too bad, because the canyon road leads straight to Skyline Drive and Alice's Restaurant. Don Walker is marking the landslide and fallen trees that closed the road.



Fortunately, Don Picker spotted the Corralitos Market & Sausage Co. back by the "closed ahead" sign. Wonderful sandwiches.



A detour to State Route 17 got this gang back on one-lane Summit Road, which leads to Skyline Drive. On Summit, there was a pit stop with **Don Picker**, **Mark Pohlson**, **Brian Muldoon** and **Don Walker**.



There was a brief stop in the shade of some cottonwoods in San Miguel, where **Ron Spicer** on the yellow R bike appeared. **Don Walker** at left, on the Florida bike, flew from Florida for the week's ride.



Here's **Don Walker** riding his K1200 RS on Nacimiento.



Mark Pohlson caught **Don Walker** and **Brian Muldoon** riding on Summit Drive.



One warmer evening at Keefer's Inn, debriefing was done outside the rooms. **Mark Eckel** had a top box on his new RT and it proved useful on trips for refreshments. **Turk Konuk**, at right, was presiding.



Since 9/11, access from Nacimiento across Hunter Liggett Military Reservation is controlled. This fine rent-a-cop wrote passes for each rider by hand. Hunter Liggett is huge, yet many roads have a 20 (yes, twenty!) mph speed limit. One radar officer was spotted.



Then, at Alice's Restaurant on Skyline Drive, **Herm** and the two Dons thought sure they had a sale for Herm's book. **Don Picker** is an expert closer, but his skills were for naught.



Then it was G16, and Carmel and Big Sur to Nacimiento Road, the one-lane wonder that climbs the coastal range. **Don Picker** and **Mark Pohlson** are negotiating the lower curves.

KING...



Don Picker guided one group on Hunter Liggett to Mission San Antonio de Padua, founded by Fr. Junipero Serra in 1771, apparently his third mission in California. Mark Pohlson thought he ought to have his picture taken with Fr. Serra, and Don Walker was obliging him.



There's this hotel on the military reservation, built for William Randolph Hearst as a hunting lodge for his guests over at Hearst Castle on Highway One. It's open to the public as an hotel, now. The gang all had ice cream. Reportedly, a three bedroom two bath suite is \$150 a night. 'Course, you have to go 20 mph to get to it.



Meanwhile, back at Giovanni's, Eric Broeder and Denis Duchene contemplate the smooth air flow around Eric's new leathers. Eric restored a beautiful K1100RS.



And Sharon Kepple celebrated her brand new Dakar GS by taking it on the Mother's Day ride lead by Gary Walker through the mountains and back to his estate at Olivenhain. The flowers at Gary's were spectacular, the spa and pool were enjoyed, and the food was good.



Wesley Ross went off to play in Thailand and bought this souvenir. The early Honda looks in perfect condition, due to detail work by Wes, who rode it to Giovanni's but not on the freeway. Note Brian Muldoon's new Vanson suit.



Rex Neilson claims credit for getting this fine Harley rider, Mick McGirr, onto this fine GS. It appears that Mick can straddle it flat footed. The bike came from Steve Kennedy, who bought a new Adventure.



About the first K1200GT showed up at Margarita's in the capable hands of Jon McKinley. That's Jon, telling Dan Toporoski about the bike while Gary Walker contemplates it. Jon has a 650 in Oaxaca.



Then Gary could stand it no longer. He had to try the GT, while Ken Shortt diverts Jon's attention.



Richard Amiton has some special goodies on his GS, the GS that went to the Arctic Circle, including this top case that fits on a rack of his design. While they last, you can get the top case from Rich. That's Mick, left, Rich, Bob Ingram (who's not a candidate for the case) and Fulton and Rex Neilson.

Stacy Silverwood has been wearing out tires at Sears Point and Willow. Recently he took Hugo Schreiner along to Willow. Then Stacy and Carol are heading for Switzerland with John Collins and two of John's sons-in-law.

Recently, Herm gave a talk to a group at the San Diego Yacht Club, and found himself sitting under a plaque honoring Hugo Schreiner. Hugo plans to ride the Alps with his wife, Martha, in July.



At last Don Picker has a new GS. It's silver and Don Nimon approves.

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Mark Kelly just purchased the Dakar, his first bike since he was a kid in Ireland. At

the May club meeting, he was contemplating riding for the first time after sunset.



Sean DeAngelis, the parts guru at SD BMW, is gonna have a R1200 GS, just as soon as the parts come in and he can get it together. It seems like the brains are gone on this bike from Washington State.



On his third of four corners, Terry Brode from Pennsylvania was getting tires and service at SD BMW and took advantage of the occasion to get a signed copy of Herm's *Motorcycle Journeys Through the Alps and Corsica*.

Meanwhile, Mark Eckel is booking a trip to Corsica. Chuck DuVivier is heading for Costa Rica, before heading for the Alps with Don Walker, Don Picker, and Herm. All this month.



There was all this space in Mike Moore's garage (that's Mike on the right), so he had to get the new HP2 GS, which will fit just nicely beside the Adventure GS he has on order.



Gary Walker photo

Gary Walker encouraged a recent Saturday ride to do Boulder Creek. The wet cement crossing caught a couple. Proving that there is indeed water in San Diego County, Glen McComb, a new club member, Rex Neilson, Gary Kepple and another Gary on an Aprilia.

Our own Amos Robinson has done it again. His tree sculpture has been selected by the Port District for display on the waterfront, across from the county building and just north of the Berkeley and Star of India. Remember, he had a sculpture near Anthony's Star of the Sea Room in last year's *Urban Trees* exhibition.



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