

KING OF THE ALPS

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN HERMANN



As usual, after landing in Munich and checking in at the hotel, the next stop is the BMW Niederlassung to pick up bikes. Some wags thought this model was appropriate for *Herm*.



Pippa Dinger was outfitted with this F650 by one of the rental bike staff.



Chuck DuVivier got a yellow 800 ST.



Would you believe it, on Schallenberg, sort of a Mother's Kitchen of Canton Bern in Switzerland, Ducati was offering free rides. The place was packed with motorcyclists, but few were taking up the offer. Don Walker did. He's starting out on the new 1000 retro model. All he did was show his Florida license. No paper work involved. And the immediate roads in the area are fairly challenging.



Herm tried the bike, but decided it was too tight for his knees.



Then Chuck DuVivier took it out. The picture is taken from the restaurant balcony.



There were a couple of older BMW's in the Schallenberg parking lot.



Ron Spicer danced around the Alps on Tom Mooney's old red R100GS. In this picture, Ron is looking down into the gorge at the headwaters of the Rhine River.



Every place in the Alps is looking for motorcycle business. Old time elegant Hotel Post in Oetz, Tirol, Austria, now has covered motorcycle parking.



Up a dead-end valley along the Swiss border with Austria at about 6,500 feet altitude, is a town packed with shoppers. Called Samnau, it's a tax-free community. So people flock to it to buy cigarettes and perfume and watches. The Americans bought gas and lunch. In the picture, **Chuck DuVivier** is returning from turning around at the dead end.



The faithful 100GS is a quick source of gas. It seemed that **Don Picker's** K100 was out of gas, so **Ron Spicer** is filling a bottle to put in Don's tank with **Tim Dinger** supervising. It did not work. Don's bike was out of gas because the fuel pump had failed. This was in La Villa, in the Dolomites of Italy. So Don called the German auto club he belongs to, and they sent a

bike hauler and took the bike over the mountain to a BMW dealer. Don will tell you the rest of the story.



Carson de Lanza is a tiny, rugged pass road in Italy, barely one lane wide. At the top there's this crude Italian *rifugio* offering simple (very) accommodations and food. The folks that run it have decided that bikers are a major part of their business, so they erected this sign in Italian and German, "welcome bikers." It's framed here by **Ron Spicer**, **Don Picker**, **Don Walker**, and **Chuck DuVivier**.

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Later, at Sapadda, in Italy, **Tim Dinger** and **Ron Spicer** tested the *gelati*.

KING...



So it was decided to check out the French side of the Black Forest across the Rhine, in an area called the Ballons de Vosges. Roads were really good.

Twisty, good pavement. Lots of forest and clear mountain tops that seemed sort of like the Smokies. We stopped

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for lunch at this village called Bourbach le Haut (high). As you can see, Bourbach le Bas (low) is off right. And you can see the route numbers. Hurrah for France, which can be depended upon to post route numbers. "D" is for department road as opposed to "N" for national road. This part of France was occupied by Germany prior to World War. One.



Back in Munich, there's this corner that has a lot of motorcycle accessory stores. Don Walker tried on some Polo leathers to replace those he messed up last fall. He's sitting backwards on a chair to simulate riding position.



Also back in Munich, in the store-room of the hotel, Tim Dinger is contemplating how he's going to get all this stuff back to Salzburg, Austria, on a train.



A special picture for our editor, Fulton Martin. In Thun, Switzerland, the view is across the Aare River of a bicycle train. The leader, recumbent, hitches up a line of rickshaw-like carriages, each with pedals. Folks pay to participate.



Yes indeed, in spite of outrageous fortune, there is to be a *Porterville* this month. Here Bill Siebold, left, offers his sage wisdom to Mark Pohlson and Ron Spicer who may be the glorious leaders of the event.

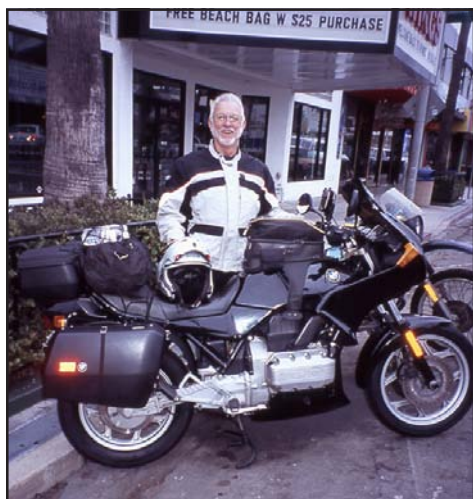
Rumor is that Kate DuVivier is getting her bike license.

And from Miami, Florida, comes a note from Sharon Dyer (Mrs. Jon) saying she learned how to ride. She has a Honda Rebel. She says Jon went to the MOA national and has become a "rider coach."

Say hello to the new service manager at BMW Motorcycle of North County, Jack Prewitt.



You have to gum your oatmeal at Margarita's of a Friday morning, so you can kick tires at the curb out front. **Bill Edwards** had a new hard bag tube container on his bike, accessible from either end.



Ken Shortt plans to be at Porterville, but first he has to go further north. What better way to start a trip than breakfast at Margarita's on Newport in OB?



Our Vice President, **Brian Muldoon**, decided not to change the oil on his K1200. Just get a new bike.



NEW MEMBERS...

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Iron Butt Association, possibly completing a 'Saddle Sore 1000' in New Mexico October 7-8 during the 'Land of Enchantment 1000' rally. This would be my first rally.

"I'm currently evaluating different seats. I have the stock '99 and a stock '00 rider & passenger, and a Russell rider seat.

"I'm interested in auxiliary fuel cells (sources and installation) and driving lights."

Another from last month, **Darcy Murphine** says:

"My brothers were weaned on dirt bikes, my father had an Indian Scout that he rode to college at San Jose State (from Santa Ana). Motorcycles were in our blood almost from birth.

"I never did dirt bikes, other than a little mini-bike we had, but my first street bike was my dad's Honda CB 100. Since then I've owned a succession of Japanese street bikes, with heavy emphasis on the standard style. I rode a Honda CB 450 Nighthawk for many years, until it was flattened by a cager. My 1992 Yamaha TDM 850 was the all-arounder I bought when I couldn't afford the BMW R1100 GS, which was too tall for me anyway.

"The last few years, as the Yammie is getting older and (due to its rarity) harder to find parts and accessories for, I've been searching for a dependable, rugged, capable touring bike without a lot of plastic coating. Standards that meet my demands and fit my inseam are still hard to come by, but the BMW's are always at the top of the list.

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"The GS is still too tall, but I've just purchased a very nice 2004 R1150 R, my first BMW.

"Other than brief times during my married years, I've been riding street motorcycles since 1979. I've not been involved in clubs before, but since I'm new to BMW, I'd like to soak in some knowledge and expertise from those with greater experience to help me know this bike better. Thanks!"

Frank Baggett writes:

"I ride a 2006 R1200 RT.

"I'm 64, married, with four adult children and four grandchildren. I was born in Minden, Louisiana; I'm a retired hospital Chief Financial Officer/Operating Officer, with an MBA from Columbia University, a BBA from Hofstra University, and served in the US Navy as an HM2 from 1960-1964

"I'm married to Margarita, who's the CNO at UCSD Medical Center.

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