



Santa Barbara Ducati Club

October 2003

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Ducati Club



Greetings Ducatisti!!

Sorry for the brief hiatus, but there is lots to talk about and lots to tell, so please read on for all the exciting details about Ben and J. Lo (just kidding)

Club News:

Membership continues to thrive, more additions every month, but I fear we will be tapped out as a club soon. This means everyone out there needs to encourage family and friends to buy a Ducati and join the club. Without your efforts in this regard, we will be forced to start offering membership to Honda owners (sorry Dominic), and even (GASP!) Vespas. If you do NOT want to get passed by a lime green Vespa by a woman wearing a perfectly matching beanie helmet and carrying a Luis Vitton bag on her shoulder at the next Sunday ride, pay your dues and encourage more acquaintances to buy a \$16,000 motorcycle.

This weekend is the Italian Festival at Earl Warren Showgrounds,, and the Ducati Club was fortunate enough to receive an invite to show off our bikes. Please come by, there will be good food, Italian songs, drinking, more drinking, and perhaps even some drinking. Plus many of my bikes will be on display, and since they are rarely running long enough to make it to Java Station, this may be your one and only chance to see them in all of their glory. Bring your bike by as well for display if you are interested. Contact Walter...he is the gatekeeper and will only allow finely polished and refined machines on display. Dirt and grime will not be tolerated any more on your bike than he allows in the hair of his clients.

Word on the street is that with the help of our Italian Ducati representatives Andrea et al., we may be planning a trip to Italy next year, complete with access to a live GP race, possibly the Ducati factory, and all that Italy has to offer. Plus plenty of Vespas for those of you who like that sort of thing. We will keep interested members posted.

Track Days:

A great turnout for our last track day at ButtonWillow a couple of months ago. An excellent time by many first time track riders, just ask Pete Ehlen about the adventure. We have more planned in the future, so please email Mark Sorenson or myself to express your interest. Otherwise, feel free to push the envelope on Casitas Pass amidst the unexpected gravel, drunk Harley riders from Cold Springs, and the CHP. Good times.

As an interesting idea, there is the very real possibility we, as a club, could rent out ButtonWillow racetrack for a day----SB Duc riders only!! I can think of no better experience than having the whole track to ourselves with Ducati only, friends only, But, to make it happen, we need at LEAST 15-20 participants. If I see that there is enough interest, I will make it happen.

Racing:

My man Max Biaggi finally stepped it up to win at the Moegi Pacific Grand Prix this weekend, but what a controversial race. When Tamada made an "unsafe" pass on Gibernau in the last turn, he

was disqualified, placing Rossi in second and American Hayden (wow!) in third. Ever been nudged off the track at 140 mph while leaning out of a turn? I haven't, but it seems like a good reason to disqualify someone, don't you think. Sadly, our Ducati brethren did not fare too well, since Bayliss got taken out in a horrendous crash in the first turn when Hopkins barreled into him. That sounds like a reason to disqualify someone as well. Stay tuned this weekend to see the boys ride in Malaysia.

Group Rides:

Thanks to all those who have been participating in the group rides on Sundays. Please remember to be safe out there. We have a virtually unblemished safety record for the ride days, and we want to keep it that way. If you want to race, go to the track. Spend Sunday's enjoying your machine with leisurely rides through the beauty of Santa Barbara. Look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Ciao for now, hope to see everyone this weekend at the Italian Festival!!!!

Phil