

DIOC NEWS

BY JOEL ELIEL, DIRECTOR

DAYTONA has come and gone and I hope that next years event is as much fun as this one. We had reason to be jvilant, Cook, Phil and Ducati were the grand winners of the Super Bike race. They completely trounced the opposition and handed them a defeat they will not quickly forget. It was a time for getting together with other club members, kindling some friendships and most of all it was a time for reinforcing each other with the commitment that we all need each others help if we are to continue to enjoy this motorcycle that to many of us represents the very essence of motorcycling.

Before I arrived at Daytona I had some doubts about our chances of winning the Super Bike race but after meeting with Cook and Phil and after seeing the Ducati during practice I became more and more convinced that the California Hot Rod had an ace up its exhaust pipe. There was a lot of talk about how fast the Kawasakis were, but after watching them wobble their flexi-framed garbage cans around the track during practice I had a good feeling Cook's day had come. They just sat around talking and not once did I see them put a wrench on the Duke. The bike was ready, the rider was ready and buddy that was the name of that tune. All systems were GO. And go he did, well you all can read about it else where in this issue.

The most exciting moment for many of us there was when Cook crossed the finish line and the track announcer said "Here comes, his first Big Bike victory, Ducati mounted number 31 Cook Neilson, has taken the checkered flag BUT THE RACE RIGHT NOW IS GOING ON OVER THERE ON THE EAST BANK! WOW! what a rush. If the race would have gone to 200 miles Cook would have lapped the second place Yoshimura East, Double Overhead Cam, four into one garbage can Kawasaki.

If any of you have never seen the production race, you must make it a point to see it one of these Daytona Speedweeks. It is the only race worth seeing at the Speedway. The sound the action, the excitement of the big four stroke production motorcycles is unforgettable. The thundering trumpet like boom of forty or more racers blasting around the banked portions and straightaway parts of the course was enough to rattle the filaments loose on the bulbs in the scoreboard. After seeing this kind of racing you start to wonder why you should waste your money to see 80 chainsaws from Yamaha buzzing around the track like a flock of wild bees. I havent gone to a 200 mile race in two years and until some changes are made I don't plan on wasting my money. What for? I already know whats going to win. Who am I going to root for, Steve Baker? Johny Cecotto?, Kenny Roberts, hell I don't know any of these guys, I've never owned a TZ 750 Yamaha. Keep it Jack. As far as I'm concerned Yamaha has ruined Grand Prix roadracing for everyone. They can take all the TZ750s racing today, line them up along the Grand Canyon and push them off. Ten-Four.

Well now that I got that off my chest, I want to thank all the members that came down to meet with the Dioc staff and share some really great t-mes at my Motel room. We had four meetings at the motel and one at Tusawilla Park on Saturday. During these meets a bunch of us would go out and get some beer and pizza and rap about Ducatis until the wee hours of the morning. On the final meeting night, Cook Neilson dropped by to share his victory with the people that had gathered that night. For an hour and a half we talked with Cook about Dukes and racing, he brought his Ducati by in his van, had his picture taken with some of the guys and made, for many of us, this Daytona Speed weeks one of the most memorable ones we've ever had. Cook, thanks a lot. You are one helluva guy.

For next year I hope to have a repeat of this years activities since everyone there enjoyed them so much. I'm going to try to get other Ducati racers, tuners, sales peoples etc to come by and rap for a bit with the members. Maybe Cook, Phil, Gordon and Dale can come by and I hope to have Kenny Roberts drop by and say hello. For those of you who missed this year, well, what can I tell you? You all missed so much. Make plans to come in 78. I personally guaranteed that the experience will be unforgettable..



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