

DIOC NEWS

BY JOEL ELIEL, DIRECTOR

AND NOW ladies and gentlemen coming to you tonight from the ballroom at the top of the Grand Hotel St. George in the heart of New York City is the DIOC column with your host and MC, Joel Eliel. (clap Clap, clap, and Guy Lombardo music in the background.

Do you guys believe this? I mean here is your DIOC Director getting ready to write his column for the Ducati INTERNATIONAL OWNERS CLUB Newsletter and with Members all the way in Tierra Del Fuego, to Japan, to Malaysia, to Damascus... I mean we have members in all these countries and these people have customs and they figure well here is a serious Ducati Newsletter and a serious man at the helm and look how he starts his column for a motorcycle publication... I mean am I wrapped right or what? I think I'll send my secretary, Julie, down to the 5 and Dime store for a pack of marbles and have me repacked. No, really everytime I come to this typewriter and I sit here for almost a half an hour trying to figure out just how the hell I am going to begin this thing so there, I've begun it and its overwith.

First news, is Daytona. Well I'm going to keep this short and sweet or should I say sour... Oh well. This years Daytona was a disappointment. It rained on Wednesday, on Thursday and it was cold and Damp on Friday the day of the Superbike race. The race went well for everyone else except Ducati. For what its worth here's the top finishers: Steve McLaughlin (Suz): 2. Reg Pridmore (Kaw): 3. John Long (BMW); 4. Mike Baldwin (MG); 5th Billy Addington (Kaw). the 1st Ducati to place was in 10th place by Kurt Lentz; Malcolm Tunstall from Syds Cycles 11th, 15th was Jonathan White and these were the only Ducatis in the top 20. Paul Ritter, the man who we hoped would place Ducati in a respectable position with Cook Neilson equipment broke down during the race with a crankshaft failure on the sixth lap.

When I got home from Daytona I went and dug out my Daytona tape and listened to the most glorious moment for Ducati I have ever witnessed. The Day Cook whacked the tar out of everyone in the 1977 Superbike Race. I wore my Daytona Win T-Shirt and relived the entire experience. Oh well... ..

And now on to brighter things. I just got a copy of the new Haynes Ducati Owners Shop Manual and I think it is terrific. It is well written, it covers all the twins, Desmos and otc models from 1971 on, has a lot of photos and illustrations and is in my opinion much better than anything the factory has put out, besides that its cheaper.

The shop manual covers things as simple as how to order parts to how to put your transmission back together after you've taken it apart. And when you don't have a special tool, it shows you how to improvise and use and alternate tool. And like I said before the photo illustrations are all over the place to guide you step by step. No matter what you do on your Ducati Twin this manual has got to be an investment well worth making.

We shall be getting our first shipment within a couple of weeks of this writing, aprox the end of April. We are taking orders and we would like for those of you who have orders in for the 860 Ducati factory manual to get into contact with us if you would like your order changed to the Haynes manual. What ever monies are left over we shall refund or send you a t-shirt or something. The manual should sell for 7.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling. We have been promised the initial order of these manuals since we have the largest organization of Ducati owners in the world. With this manual you'll wish something goes wrong with your Duke just so you can fix it.

Conti mufflers have gone up about 38\$ a pair suggested retail. They were around 49.95 a piece and now these jewels have gone up to around \$69.00 each. Those of you who took advantage of the DIOC sale on these units made out like bandits. We were shipping them out like hot cakes at \$79.95 a pair. We are still discounting these units about \$25.00 a pair to our members. (see classifieds). So if you still need a pair you can still save by buying from your DIOC. These items are purchased with DIOC funds and all the proceeds go towards improving the club and its services.

We also have the new Key Fobs in, see our full page ad and take a look at this little turkey. It's all leather and its printed on one side with the original Ducati insignia and that is all. Far out, huh? Show your Duke you really care by putting one of these Duke key fobs on your key.

The Miss DIOC contest is coming along just great and I hope you take the time to take a shot of your sweetheart on a Ducati and enter before the June deadline. The weather should be just right now and you can go out, polish your Duke and get that photo into the club. The winner will appear on the front page of the DIOC and will be seen by over 1700 Duke freaks all over the world... ..some class.

HELP WANTED: In order to reach more Ducati owners all over the world, I need someone to compile a list of Ducati dealers all over the world. foreign publications are the best bet for this kind of list. I have been trying to get around to doing this for a long time but the amount of work I have with this club that keeps growing so fast makes it impossible for me and my staff to compile this list. Please don't wait for someone to do it send us whatever you can gather and we will eventually take all the info and make up our list.

We need large black and white photos suitable for use on the front page. Our resident artist and commercial draftman Gil Hanson will take care of the rest.

Ducati articles of any kind are also needed. We have been receiving some excellent work lately but we are always trying you think ahead in the future and we are soon going to make 14 pages our standard format, so all you writers out there please donate whatever you can, even if you copy it out of a magazine. Our staff member John Campbell from Mars Hill College has been doing an excellent job for us in this department. Thanks a lot John.

While we are saying thanks I might as well mention out new staff member Miss Julie Cellars who has been placed in charge of Commercial and Circulation Departments.

We would also like to thank all those members that came to see us at the Robin Hood Motel in Daytona Beach during the races. It was unfortunate that we did not have the original planned location at the Royal Scottish Inn, but nonetheless the friendly atmosphere present at all our meetings help to dampen the gloominess of the rain and miserable all around weather we had this year. Our good friend and member and also the Director of the Canadian Ducati Owners Club James Collins helped out a great deal with his Ducati memorabilia and his warm and friendly manner. Good to see you again James. James also took first prize with his factory cafe racer at the Boardwalk show. He promised to let me ride his little 125 Desmo racer, but the weather and the time was not on my side, oh well maybe next time..eh?

Well it looks like I'm about out of room. I want to say thanks to John Campbell, Julie Cellars, Gil Hanson who did our cover, Roy Racer who supplied some of the beer, Mark and Monica Gonzalez who did a lot of the folding, Frankie D. who did most of the scolding and kept me fed so I wouldn't have to waste time cooking, Julie helped with the cooking too, she can open a can of beans better than anyone I know and of course all of you who sent in stuff we could print in the Newsletter. Oh by the way we are all out of Coors, so if anyone has a couple of cans left your DIOC staff will love you for it. I hope this is legal?...! I'm in enough trouble with the law as is... ..what with all the speeding tickets I get....