

DIOC NEWS

by Joel Eliel, Director

DAYTONA GET TOGETHER —

Well gang I'm back again and here is your new Newsletter, late as usual but here nonetheless. Hey before I forget I want to thank all those people that showed up during the meets...I mean everything went so well, the weather was nice, the atmosphere was very carnival like, lots of people on bikes...oh jeez, I wish a lot more of you could come to Daytona. There is nothing quite like it.

We got there. Mike the Psyche and I, on Wednesday early in the morning and it was drizzling and raining and drizzling and I thought, well here come another Daytona 1978, which was a real bummer. I was cold, and it rained like mad. We lost the race Cookie wasn't racing, Paul Ritter broke down and it was just awful. Anyway we got there early and we got right to work the next day setting up headquarters at the Royal Scottish Inn. I hung up a bunch of Penthouse and Playboy posters and Mike the Psyche took them down and replaced them with racing posters, and I hung up some shirts in a window and gave the place a little class. Then we went and hung around the pits and talked with the people who were racing Ducatis and tried to find out just who was doing what and we were wondering what ever happened to Paul Ritter. I mean I thought Paul was going to carry the banner for Ducati this year. As it turned out a young man from California raced the Ducati and he became our hope for a top place in the race which was to be a 100 miler instead of the 50 miles of previous years. His name was Freddy Spencer and he put one one hell of a race. He was aboard an NCR racer. The bike was prepared by Reno Leoni.

Well race day came and it was a beautiful day. We got into the pits immediately after we had some grub and checked around to see if everything was still going good. On Thursday Malcom Tunstall from Syds Cycles placed real high in the Superbike Heat race. And Freddy Spencer got a front row start for his efforts.

While cruising through the pits I ran into Phil Schilling and he told us that they were very busy at Cycle, with the magazine and all and that they were pretty much out of racing. Cook was covering the activities and was taking photos in the infield. Anyway, we kept on checking out the activities in the pits and we found the Suzukis to be very well prepared. That is an understatement. The damn things just plain looked mean. The Yoshimura racing team was so well prepared. They came to do business and by God everybody else had better watch out. Well everybody else except the NCR Ducati forgot to watch out because once the flag dropped and the race got under way things changed and we were right in the top five in no time at all. I have a race Report in another section of this issue and you all can read about it. The story doesn't mention much as how Freddy Specner was right on the tail of the Suzukis and how he even lead the race for a lap or two.

Sometime after the 1st lap, Malcom Tunstall dropped out with a sheared coil wire. I was very sorry to see Malcom retire so early. I know Malcom and I had a feeling that he was going to put on one hell of a race. He is an excellent racer and his machine was very well prepared by the Syds Racing team.

During the race I was in the infield taking pictures (that came out too dark) and watching the score board. Old number 8, Freddy Spencer

was in the top four for most of the race. A few laps from the end his drive sprocket wore out and that was all she wrote for Ducatis chances at Daytona for 1979. I was so disappointed I just could not believe it. It finally all sunk in when Roxy Rockwood announced that Suzuki finished 1, 2, 3.

While things may not have been too good for our boys in the Superbike race we managed to score a couple of second places one in the Heavyweight Stock race which was by club member Ed Millineaux, on an 860 Ducati. And in the Lightweight Modified Production race Sydney Tunstall, another club member racing his ancient but raceworth Ducati 250 Single. He took a second behind a Yamaha. Syd is owner of Syds Cycles whose ads appear often in the DIOC.

Oh well as we always say, "wait til next year". With the big event of Daytona over with we headed back to the motel to get ready for the main meet our Daytona get-together. The Big Friday Night Ducati International Owners Club Meet.

The meet got under way shortly after 6pm and it was still goin a 12 midnight and lasted until 3:30 am.

Every one who had knowlege of the Ducati meet was there. People with Vincents, Triumphs, Laverdas, Indians, Moto Guzzies...jeez, this was crazy. There were more of the other brands of bikes than Dukes. Oh well, it was just goin great. We had free beer and pizza. Syds showed up with his entire racing team of about 800 people, or so it seemed and the Motel room all of a sudden was too small and people were out side and the beer was disappearing just as fast as we could chill it. There was a lot of talking and people laughing and talk about this bike and that, and flowing heads, and racing cams and this kind of tire and the club and the shirts, the race that afternoon, next year, the new Ducatis, the factory is all &c%\$# up and Berliner is a *&c%\$#@* an jeez there was all kind of bench racing goin on.. ..it was just great.

Well I gotta get on with other stuff in this column so anyway I gotta move on. Oh, by the way I have written another DIOC News that is available upon request only. It is different version than the one I wrote here....its...well...you see...I wasn't all there when I wrote it and it's a bit more loose and layback, ya know whata mean? Ya gotta send me a SELF-STAMPED SELF AD-DRESSED ENVELOPE if ya want one.

THE CLUB HAS A NEW T-SHIRT

Well, yes, we have a new T-Shirt. It is the Ducati Racing Team Shirt. It is in bright red with white and black lettering. Look elsewhere in this issue for a look at what it looks like. It is absolutely beautiful, and pretty neat too. We got them in on Friday Morning. Pam, the club secretary had to get them at Miami International Airport and bring them back to us at Daytona. I just wanted everyone to have one of these shirts to sort of get into the racing mood.

We sold a bunch of those shirts at Daytona. We sold them to people who owned Dukes and to people who owned another brand. Just because they looked spiffy. Cost is \$4.95 + \$1.50.

We are also marketing Imola Cams and new parts manuals and owners handbooks.

The cams are original factory items and we have a limited quantity of these. We think Berliner has a few of these so if you all want one set and would like to help raise money for the club buy them from your DIOC.