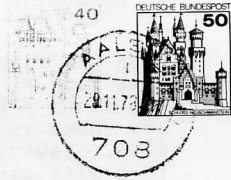


# LETTERS



## DREAMING OF A 900 GTS

Hi I'm a GTL 500 owner and I was wondering if there is a way of obtaining a dealers list in the U.S. I like to do a lot of long distance traveling and would find such a list very useful since I am not very mechanically inclined. Along with such a list it would be useful to know about the dealers capabilities; what kind of parts inventory do they keep and if they have good mechanics. From my experience I have found here locally that Cycle Specialties of Athens are very good but the mechanics at Al Rodis Ducati-Honda shop leave a lot to be desired.

## ON LOGO FOR THE CLUB AND RIDING IN FLORIDA

Regarding the club logo and stuff like that, a new design may be ok if it is really good, but..we've got an old one which we may be able to use which is good. Look on the singles T-Shirt. The old Ducati Meccanica logo is colorful, handsome, and says it all. If you insist, you can replace the "Meccanica" with "Owners Club" or something like that, but why not use it as is? I would wear something like that more proudly than anything else I can think of. You probably know, but if you don't the colors are: Wing: gold; big D: white with red outline; wreath, green with black lines.

Even if you cannot use this as the club logo, you could do us all a service by making up decals and big embroidered patches, in full glorious color, to this handsome design. If they were available at a reasonable price I'd stick them all over everything.

On a different note, New England weather is now getting good. A couple of weeks ago I renewed my acquaintance with Vermont. When I was finally sated with nicely paved hilly and twisty roads, I went for a ten-mile honk down dirt roads. I miss the 12-month riding season in Florida, and I miss the opportunity to wind it on wide open time and again the way one can around Central Florida, but damn it, no Florida road compares with the Northeast's mountain backroads. It is enough to bring joy into any biker's life.

Now that I don't need them as much, you may want to roll a few Central Florida roads when you get up towards Daytona again. US 441 from Yeehaw Junction to Holopaw, slow down for Kenansville and Webb's Hotel. County 532 East of Ashton-St Cloud; County 419 from nowhere to Deer Park, slow down for Deer Park or any other road user. Don't get the locals angry at you. County 523 from Kenansville to St. Cloud is more used but still nice. I cannot say I've never seen police on these roads, but they're not like I-95 either. US 441 is the best. I've even seen an eagle scavenging with turkey vultures there in December, it's so deserted. There's even a picnic stop North of Kenansville. Happy Riding...

Thomas L. De Fazio, 103 Chapman St., Watertown, Mass. 02172

## A PROJECT TO COLLECT AND CLASSIFY THE HISTORY OF DUCATI, TO INCLUDE THE COLATING OF ARTICLES AND ROAD TESTS OF DUCATIS FROM THE OLD 160s-900.

The cooperation of all of our fellow DIOC freaks is required to index and colate articles and road tests on Ducati models from the old 160s to the new 900 twins. Members who have material to donate for this interesting project are to contact me. From this project a list of the material can be kept and if anyone wants a road test on a 250 Monza they send in a request and along with a small donation for the reproduction have what he or she is looking for. This is a worthwhile project and I would like to see everyone get involved and putting it together. Send all contributions to

TOM DUDONES, 30 Ampersand Ave., Saranac Lake, New York 12983

I really enjoy my Duck but the vibration on long trips is a bit much. I have become very interested in obtaining a new 900GTS. The GTS has a beautiful tank, a comfortable seat and no vibration. Unfortunately the price is getting higher and higher, barely under a Darmah. I'd like to hear from someone who has one for sale at a reasonable price. I have written Berliner for some information on this model but I never received a reply, I'd would at least liked to have had a picture to look at and dream of the day I could own one. A lot of the guys around here say the bike is too large for me, especially my boy friend who has an 860. I'm 5' 7" and weigh 135 lbs. I figure he thinks I can't handle it because I'm a female. If there is a will there is a way. I'd really love to hear from other Ducati owners and exchange ideas about riding, bikes etc.

Meri King Martin, PO Box 454, Athens, Georgia 30603.

## THRASHING A DUKE

Hi Joel I'm riding the Ducati again since my BSA Firebird seized. First I took it to the Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group's Vintage Bike Races at Shannonville Motorsport park. Had a great time beating the hell out of that little bike - it really likes to be thrashed.

Last weekend I went to the First Annual V.A.R.A.C. Vintage Festival with vintage bikes and cars. My husband was in Nova Scotia so I loaded up the Duke with tent, sleeping bag, air mattress (on the seat), raced all day Sunday (came in 4th and 5th out of 10 bikes -Gold Stars, Atlases, 450 Desmo, Aermacchi, and a couple of Velos) and then rode it home. What a great little bike - I have to restrain myself from kissing it and giving it a hug when I park and go in to work! You should've seen the cars that were there pre-war Maserati, Bugatti, MG, Fraser-Nash, post-war Lotus, Austin-Healey, MG, Morgan, (4 and 3 wheelers) and a bunch of really cute Cooper Formula 3 cars with Triumph Bonneville and Manx engines, fast too, and a whole lot of cars I'd never heard of before and can't remember now. Blew my mind I can tell you. Stephanie Coulshaw, 561 Gilmour St. Apt. 3, Ottawa, Canada k1r 5L5.

## MOTORCYCLE GATHERING PLACE IN CONN. NY AREA

I'd like to mention to other DIOC members that if they would like to get together for some Sunday morning riding, that a large number of motorcyclists gather at Markus Dairy parking lot in Danbury, Connecticut. The place is on Route 7 just north of Route 86 near the fairgrounds. I've just found out about this place and rode up there last Sunday. There were several BMWs a couple of Harleys, Guzzies, an Ariel 4, several Jap bikes and one other Ducati besides mine. People arrive all morning and the dairy has a Restaurant right there.

Gary Sutcliffe, 203-934-8611 days, 934-1356 eves.