

# LETTERS



THE STARTING LINE UP

Dear Joel: I am enclosing a slide you might use in the Newsletter. It's the starting line up of all Italian Exhibition race held last fall at Portland International Raceway. It was held in conjunction with the regular race program put on by the Oregon Motorcycle Road Race Association. The grid was all Ducati except for one 850 and one 1000 LeMans. There were two eight lap heats with lots of good sounds for everyone and NJC (no jap crap). Ducati placed 2nd and 3rd in open production and 3rd in open cafe that day also.

Anyhow, here's the slide. See you in Daytona.

David R. Trathen - 2124 SE Yamhill, Portland, OR 97214

## ...DUCATI WARRANTY HORROR STORIES. HERE'S MINE

Dear Joel: Hence my annual renewal letter. Enclosed is yet another (I think Dave Trathen sent one also) picture of the "Ducati Exposition" ride during the last OMRRA race. I'm third from the inside on my Darmah. There were half a dozen other Ducks with owners in attendance. Almost all of these folk are club members, by the way. I've had the "application" duplicated and been leaving them on the counter of the shop I'm with - Rose City Motorcycles - since last August. Feel free to reproduce the slide - could I have it back?

I should assume you've seen the Dec/Jan '81 issue of Classic Bike - good article on works 350D eh?

Ed Brooks - Euromart - informs me the Pantah is the hottest selling Duck to date! I've sold two yesterday - one is to be raced only by a gentleman here who also owns a Darmah, BMW, and, get this, a 750 SS MINT with 3000 km. The bike was the second obtained by a shop in San Francisco. Cook Nielson took the first. I'll get pictures of this if you'd like. It needs to be posed before anything happens to it - heaven forbid.

I'm sure you have your own Ducati Warranty horror stories... here's mine. Last summer a 80 Darmah owned by a delightful young lady dropped the exhaust valve seat of the front cylinder! Tweaked valve but rapid shutdown kept massive damage from occurring. I received a head directly from Berliner but her's has large parts with wide intake studs so we had to wait again. Finally I completed the set-up with new valves and all the other related detailing in 6-7 hours "to do it right." Referring to the "Warranty Schedule" which only he has, Ernie Wiffen gave 1 hour to R&R head (front) and 1.5 hours to swap components! The essence of this sort of deal is, of course, that Ducati Warranty is provided by it's dealers network. Ed Brooks says it used to be worse and he wants me to write Michael Berliner and complain, which I am doing. As you also are aware, they pay 75% of rate which is somewhat normal - Suzuki pays 85%. This condition is truly unfortunate and I feel serious. Do you and/or the D.I.O.C. have any ideas or ways to expose, explore, pursue, pressure or generally deal with the situation?

By the way, do you know the whats and wheres of Cook Neilson?

Dave Trathen is making it to Daytona. He carries my best greetings and my endorsement as a true Ducati freak. He can carry your reactions and ideas back to me. Discuss what we might do out here to equal your annual Daytona get together. You've promised me a list of Northwest members a few years ago. I remain willing to organize now that I'm no longer running the OMRRA, I have the time. OK?

Keep it up, you're doing a good job. My only wish is that Newsletters weren't so far apart.

Dick Blocksma - 1556 S. E. Miller, Portland, OR 97202

## THIS COUNTRY HAS A HEAPING HELPING OF DUC ENTHUSIASM

Dear Joel: Greetings from above the 59th parallel. Our mail strike is now over so I now receive my Newsletters from D.I.O.C (Thank God). It happened to show that I also need to renew my membership, gladly I submit the dues. If you keep a record, please start sending newsletters above #26. I've gotten all the Newsletters (except #22) and I must say they are superb! The pages are getting ragged from being re-read so often. It's obvious by the effort shown that the club has a great membership, "one for all, all for one."

The Ducati dealer in Calgary is "Elite Motorcycles." It's a classy place. He's had 3 Mike Hailwood Replicas in stock with Contis, 40 mm carbs, etc. (I wish I had the money). I own a '72 GT 750 and a 450 Scrambler. Parts for the bikes are not a problem (for the most part).

This country has a heaping helping of Duc enthusiasm with great dealers like Richard White in Quebec, Keith Harte in Ontario and Reg Carter in Alberta.

Marc Wassill, General Delivery, P.O. Box 1897, Airdrie, Alta. Canada T0M 0B0

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