

# LETTERS

## THE SWISS ARMY COMES IN FOR WAR GAMES

After 25 years of marriage, my wife and I decided a honeymoon might be nice. After all we figured after four kids why not treat ourselves. So - with a "Home Improvement Loan" - we went to Europe this summer and spent 10 days touring in a "Fiat" and visiting with our son who's stationed in Germany. One night in Sarnen, Switzerland, a unit of the Swiss Army comes in for War Games, and they're all riding Ducati singles.

I damned near died - the funniest thing I ever saw. At any rate, this is a picture I got of these clowns and their bikes. If you can use it great!

Dennis L. Micaletti  
Arvada, Colorado



*First Soldier: "Hey Hans, don't get too attached to that Duke it's my turn to ride it. You can start getting acquainted with that bicycle. You'll be riding it for the next 50 miles.*

*Second Soldier: Fritz, you are full of Swiss air. I happen to be a member of the D.I.O.C. and that entitles me to Ducati privileges, namely the use of this Duke, besides I have that Italian look which is so vital to riding a Ducati the right way.*

## ECHOS FROM A LOST SOUL

*People who drop out of the club for some reason or another are termed "lost souls". Every once in awhile we'll make an effort to contact some of them and find out what they are up to. Anyway, here's a letter from one of them.*

Dear Joel: Thank you for your interest in me....I do appreciate the ad offer for my Ducati Ashtrays, I have sold a total of 58 units - I do not intend to market more of them myself, unless I get a volume order from someone wishing to stock, and market them.

I have enjoyed your club Newsletter and have given your address to a few Ducati owners, (those few who have not heard of the D.I.O.C.)

My last Ducati was my fifth V-twin Duck and I loved them all! It was my ultimate bike. Balanced engine, worked over by Bob Gorsuch of Exello Plating, Morris front and rear alloy wheels, Desmo wheel/hub rear, Hunt alloy discs; it was as fast as a Darmah, no, faster, lighter and had more ground clearance: hence I won my "beginner" race on Sept. 1978 at Ontario, California, and 2nd and 3rd places in the 750 G.P. Race and 1 hour enduro - then I knew that the bike was "IT" - I added a 1/2 fairing and for the next two years, I was swapping "king of the mountain" titles with several others who had Dukes, Moto Guzzi's and BMW's (Los Angeles "Crest Testers" - Woods Motor Shop, Glendale). But in 1980

something happened!

(1) I had built the ultimate machine. (2) I had survived hundreds of official and unofficial racing miles - most in the twisties in Southern California. (3) In a parking lot, a woman driver backed into me while I was at a standstill and my foot was broken. (4) My foot healed. (5) I rode differently now though. I was reaching my middle 30's then...(6) I hit a deer with the tire of my Duck; just clipped her enough to feel it in the bars. Within four months I had sold my Ducatis and parts to a friend and didn't ride again for 14 months.

Well, this time I have a funky '77 T-3 Moto Guzzi with leather police bags, Mikey Mouse fairing; you know, a "rat bike". It's a V-twin - Italian even and y'know, I've gotten older and I ride a lot less. I don't race on the streets or track. I don't have so much love, sweat and money in my bike and it is not an obsession. I guess my "Duck Fever" has passed, (*God help him! Ed*), but not the memories of hanging out with friends on their bikes through the cool Sunday morning air in the hills above Los Angeles, knowing and trusting my life on the design of one Mr. Fabio Tagliani.

Gregory Duvall  
Los Angeles, Cal.

PART OF THE FUN OF OWNING A DUCATI IS BEING ABLE TO RIDE AND SHARE SOME GOOD TIMES WITH OTHER DUCATI OWNERS. WE ARE IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO GET ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING, OR HELPING TO ORGANIZE OR PARTICIPATING IN A CLUB SPONSORED CHAPTER.

WE NOW HAVE CHAPTER FORMATION KITS AVAILABLE FREE FOR THE ASKING. IF YOU HAVE A FEW GUYS YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INTO A CHAPTER, SEND FOR THE KIT, LOOK IT OVER AND SEE IF YOU CAN'T GET A CHAPTER GOING. WITHIN A SHORT TIME FOLKS WILL BE JOINING AND YOU WILL HAVE A GROUP OF GUYS WITH WHOM TO SHARE GOOD TIMES.

WRITE OR CALL: DIOC CHAPTERS, PO BOX 22814, FT. LAUD. FLA. 33335 (305) 524-8384 DAY OR EVES.



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