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THE DIOC RALLY Sept. 3, 4, 5, 1982

The Ducati International Owners Club has finally pulled one off - We've staged our very first Rally! The scene was the Smoky Mountains of Georgia and Tennessee the place was the Campgrounds of Fricks Cave in Georgia. Over 103 people began to trickle into Chattanooga and Bob Verners farm, the original intended site, from August 30th. The main idea was to gather a bunch of Ducati owners together for some riding, some bench racing, camping, beer drinking and some high level bench and mountain road racing. The Rally was great fun but it also served to remind folks that getting together with other Duke owners is a rich and rewarding experience where a lot of long lasting friendships were started and the memories of such good times that stay warm and alive through the frigid winter til the spring and summer when the hills will be alive with the sound of Contis...the way it has been for a million yeeeeeeears"....

When my daughter and I arrived in Chattanooga we went to Bob Verners place and started setting up shop. Charlie Turner, who was responsible for the Rally idea in Chattanooga met us there and for a couple of days we planned things out. The Rally was to begin on Friday. On Thursday Bob Verners landlord shows up and informs everyone that he does not care to have a bunch of motorcycles running all over his farm. Things started to look grim, but then the Landlord suggests we contact a friend by the name of Ace Harris and it just happened that Ace had a complete campground facility on his huge farm. We contacted Ace and he said we were welcomed to use his facilities. The place was a bit out of the beaten path but it worked out just great! There were toilet facilities, running water from a huge mile and a half deep cave which provided air conditioned air for part of the campgrounds. There was lighting all over the campgrounds at night and a huge barbeque pit where Harold Rose, his wife Joyce and I cooked up a fantastic delicious bar-B.Q. dinner on Saturday night. At night campfires burned as riders huddled around it and talked into the early morning hours about their favorite subject Ducatis, biking and women....(not necessarily in that order...).

I would like to thank everyone for coming, special thanks to Charlie Turner, Ace Harris & his son who prepared the campground for us, Harold Rose who cooked and helped organize the rides, Bob Verner for letting us stay at his place, Jack Hedblom who took all the pictures you see here except the cover and the group picture at the L/H bottom corner (this one was taken by Charlie Turner, and the front cover which was taken by Harold Rose. I also want to thank the guys at Continental Cycles who gathered up a large bunch of Ducati customers and brought them all to the Rally. We are looking to make the next Rally three times better, and three times as big!!!

RALLY PHOTOS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.....

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