

# LETTERS

UPDATE ON THE 1983 D.I.O.C. RALLY IN GEORGIA

Dear Joel,

I thought I would take a moment to compliment you and the D.I.O.C. staff on a very fine Rally and Newsletter. After all, how can one complain about an event that gets his photo on the cover of the newsletter and in cycle news as well!

I am working with Dave Barranti down at Continental Cycles on the '83 D.I.O.C. Rally which we plan to hold at my place on the Chestatee River four miles east of Dahlonega off GA. Hwy 52. We have about 8½ acres along the river in which we keep about 15 campsites cleared for bikers and climbers. This winter, we will bushhog and clear a much larger number of sites for the Rally. The River is beautiful, clear and warm enough at Rally time for swimming, tubing, rafting, canoeing, etc. It is also a good gold river (the first big gold rush in the U. S. was here in Lumpkin County) and I operate a small placer gold dredging operation on it. If anyone at the Rally gets "bit by the gold bug" I'll be glad to teach them the basics of panning and let them keep all they find.

So far as the physidal plant is concerned, my place, "Hot Ashes", lacks the strings of lights and rest room trailer of Ace Harris' farm. We do have a good sized barbeque building with two pits (1 large, 1 small), a wood burning cook stove, a refrigerator, and running water near the house. We will need to move in some Port-O-Lets for the sanitation needs.

General location-wise, I think the place is perfect. We are quite alone out here so far as neighbors go, but less than a minute from the paved road. We are at the very foot of the mountains (GA 52 that goes by here is as "good as Road Atlanta), yet GA 400 (4 lane) from Atlanta ends only six miles south of us. Accessibility is certainly no problem. I am going to draw up a map showing the general location of Dahlonega in relation to Atlanta with an inset showing in detail how to get out here to "Hot Ashes" from Dahlonega and mail it to you before Christmas so that you can get it into the Newsletter before the Rally date. I would also be glad to send you some B&W photos of the area if you feel that they would help with pre-rally P. R. in the Newsletter.

Dave and I are going to put a great deal of effort into making this Rally a very memorable experience for everyone who attends and will do all we can to insure a good crowd. Ideas we are working on at present include a barbeque-beer night, a bon fire on the big gravel bar in the river, short tours of the historic gold mining areas, gold prospecting and panning, a canoe trip down the Chestatee, and most important to us all, a number of rides through the mountains (both long and short, some oriented towards the tourers, others for the cafe/RR types. We will have a slide projector for anyone who has slides to show and I am working on getting three hours of video tapes on the '79 and '82 Isle of Man Races. (I haven't yet found a tape of '78 with Hailwood and the Duck).

Rest assured that we will be in regular contact with you to keep you updated on plans as well as get your feed back on our ideas. If you have any immediate questions, you can reach me most any time at 1-404-864-2576 or write Dave Buck, "Hot Ashes", Box 468, RR #2, Dahlonega, Ga. 30533. Please feel free to publish my name, address, and phone in the Newsletter as D.I.O.C. members are welcome here anytime they are in the area, no charge for camping.

Later, Dave

P.S. Please send a Chapter Kit as we want to get organized and start holding at least one ride per month from here or Cont. Cycles.

## A WELL REPRESENTED SOUNDING BOARD

Dear Joel and Betty,

Congratulations on your efforts to produce a special-interest periodical that any Ducati owner can be proud of.

During the year of my membership, I have seen the DIOC Newsletter go from your basic scooter rag to a well-represented sounding board for Italian motor sport affectionadoes.

As most Ducati owners are aware of, our machines are one-of-a-kind steeds - comparable only to that gold crown of perfection, the Maserati. It is in that thought frame which my 500 GTL and I exist. In a world of Toyota mentalities, Ducati stands head and shoulders above all competition. You may call it snobbery, I call it pride in the possession of quality.

Whenever I ride, my Ducati always attracts admiring glances; it makes me feel good to own a machine that leaves a gleam between the ooh's and aah's. Funny, last week I visited our local Maserati/Lamborghini dealership to gently paw (and obviously drool) over a 65K Maserati Merak SS; when I mentioned in conversation to the manager that I own a Ducati, our talk immediately turned to such abstracts as response, speed, velocity, craftsmanship and rarity - in short, our eyes met - smiling.

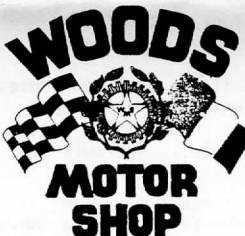
After running the gamut of Euro-go fasts (Bultaco, Triumph, B&A, Etc.,) I have found that my true love rests within the steely heart of an Italian beauty. What I have found in Ducati ownership is the true difference between the exotic and the elite.

To say that I swear upon the best (Ducati) is not to say that I am an Ayatollah Assaholla fanatic, but rather to say that I am not a stillborn believer in the superiority of Ducati. My enthusiasm for a piece of the finest is only overshadowed by the unequalled finesse that my Ducati embodies.

This is the very first time I have written a letter to any editor about anything; but frankly am so happy with my bike and with seeing the D.I.O.C. Newsletter forging ahead to a better space, that I felt compelled to write a short communique. Please find enclosed monies due for the membership of the coming year. In closing, I only wish to say: "Let us revel in excellence."

Sincerely, Sheldon Braffman, MFA

(HERE! HERE! - CLAP, CLAP, CLAP, CLAP!) Ed.



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