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**OUR 5TH
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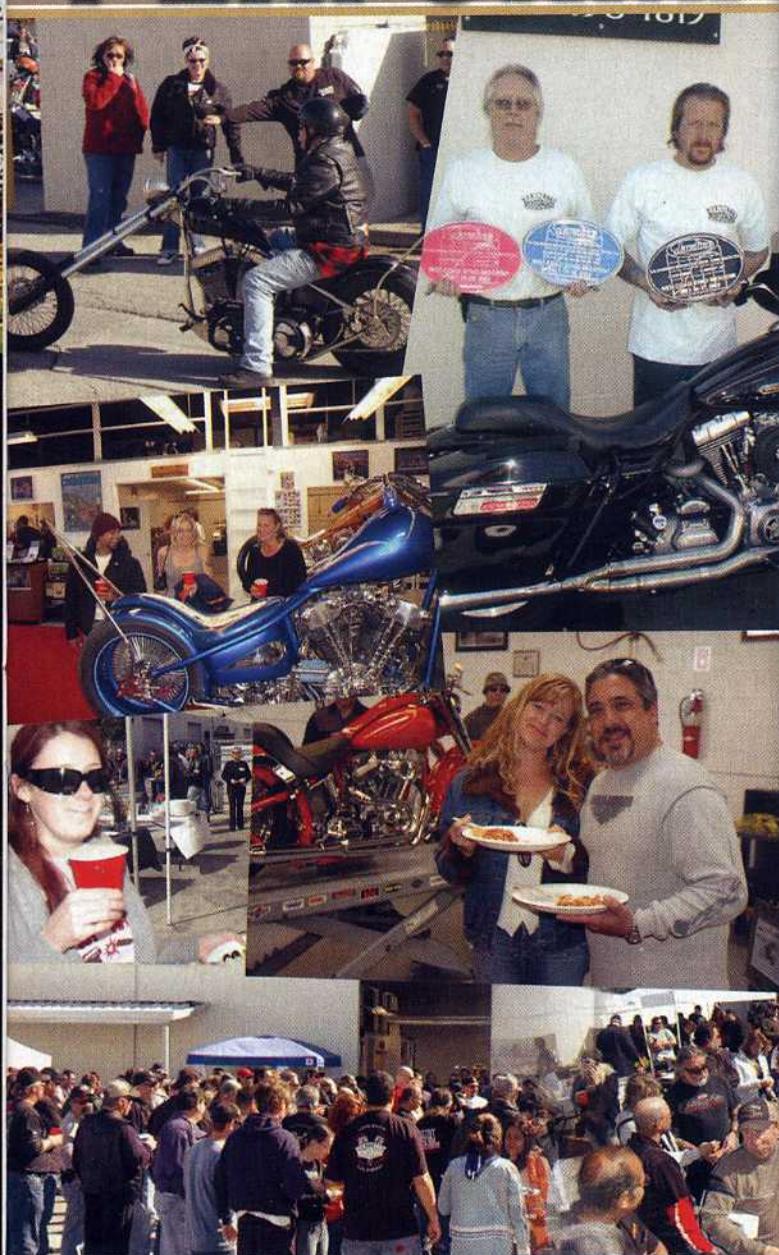
**WOMEN
WHO RIDE**



**'06 THUNDER
MOUNTAIN CUSTOMS**



BENNETT'S PERFORMANCE PARTY



By Art Hall

It was Saturday March the 18th in Signal Hill at the new home of Bob (Father) and Eric (Son) Bennetts new shop. An open house party that Bob says, "If you missed it – you missed a great party." I would have to agree.

The facility is large and roomy, newly redone and hospital-white clean with 5-6 bays for bike repair/modification and neatly installed utilities, all to give confidence in the quality and orderliness of their work. They have a separate room for the dyno, a separate engine assembly room as well as a separate kitchen/dining area – very top drawer.

The opening bratwurst was scheduled to be BBQ ready at 11 am and I can attest to the fact that it was, along with top quality tri-tip, super great ribs, chicken and tacos made to order by a very competent seniorita chef. Salads, beans, rice were on the serve-yourself tables allowing the really big eaters to fill the plate. Undoubtedly the best BBQ spread I have ever partaken of at a bike shop party. A variety of soft drinks were available as well as imported and domestic beer on tap (which by the way did not run out). They had a great band playing a variety of music with a Latin/Island flair for entertainment. A really good Long Beach based group made up of CSULB music graduates (and Bob's son on the percussion) named Delta Nove.

The party was given by Bob and Eric, who have been in business since Jan 1st, 2000 when they picked up their keys the night before, just in case the Y2K bug actually did occur.

Well no meltdown and business has been good to them, maybe because they have been good to business. As you look around the shop you will notice a few things missing from most shops. Over the counter is the poster commemorating their Bonneville record holder bike with two world speed records in the APG class at 168.031 mph and the APSPG class at 186.777. You will also see their Jardine Horsepower Shootout trophies from the L.A. Calendar Show at the Queen Mary. I say trophies, plural, because they have won the last three consecutive years in the 88-inch category. Not just a repair/modification shop but "Speed/Power Central."

The crowd was large and steady all day long well past the official quitting time of 5 pm. I heard from JR (JR's Engine Service Signal Hill) that it was 8 pm before the last reveler departed. Among the many passing through and having some great food and entertainment were Gerry Branch of Branch Heads, Gene Koch of Drag Specialties, John Antigliogio of Rivera Primo and a host of lesser known celebrities and legends.

For those who want "more," stop by Bennetts Performance, 1940 Freeman Ave , Signal Hill 90755. Phone 562-498-1819.