THE BOCA BEACON AROUND THE WORLD

BY TERRY SEITZ

■ *First please know Tibet is absolutely a must for anyone who appreciates the culture of native Tibetans. A beautiful mountainous country and a Buddhist culture that is far and beyond the normal.*

We first crossed on our motorcycle's to China (A) at the Laos/China border we were (all 14 of us) searched thoroughly including our clothing and one of the items confiscated by China Customs was my " Boca Beacon". When the Chinese inspectors discovered that we were visiting Tibet on this trip we were figuratively strip searched.

China does not allow any Western influence into their province of Tibet. I had the Beacon confiscated, one of our riders had a magazine confiscated and one motorbike group from Malaysia were totally not allowed to enter China when the inspectors found that one of the riders had a small Tibetan flag. Like Tawain the Chinese state that Tibet is a province of China and ceased being an independent country in the early 50's. In 1959 during protests Tibets ruler (the current Dalai Lama) escaped to India from his home (Potala Palace) in Lasha, Tibet and he resides in India to this day.

I did have some earlier photos of myself with the Beacon before getting to the border, but this is most likely the first time a "Beacon has been confiscated at a border crossing" and that may be an interest in itself?

While there, a typical Tibet grocery store (B). It is a very cool climate with very sparse refrigeration so people shop for their food daily.

Walls around a section of the palace made of pieces of red slate with every piece inscribed with a prayer (C).

The Potala Palace over my shoulder (D). It is also on their 50 yuan note in my hand (E).

***NOTE:** Potala palace 999 rooms and the former home of the current Dalai Lama. The largest Buddhist palace in the world and highly revered by the local population.*

You have your typical Tibetan folks hanging out and inside the palace (F). Next week Terry heads to the base camp of Mount Everest.

■ *Since the Chinese confiscated the Boca Beacon newspaper at the border, Terry did Ham-It-Up before he got to the border with this photo on the left.*

TIBET

Can't wait to ...
HAM-IT-UP
Take your Boca Beacon newspaper around the world and show us how much fun you had!
With copy and photo(s) send to dgodwin@bocabeacon.com