

Norton Notice

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La Honda's Playbowl gets an on-site inspection from members including Dave Cronin, Steve Coburn, Gene and Pat Austin, and Alex Stewart.

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San Francisco Branch





NORTON
NOTICE

Published monthly by the
San Francisco Branch of
the Norton Owners Club

Editors and Officers:

Stephen Coburn
Secretary/Treasurer
P.O.Box 236
La Honda, CA 94020
(415) 747-0326

Robert Marshall
President
1439 Oxford Street
Redwood City, CA 94061
(415) 369-0597

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All articles and advertisements in the Norton Notice are for the sole use of the members and prospective members of the San Francisco Branch of the Norton Owners Club. Please obtain permission from the Branch officers before reproducing any material contained herein.

Members are strongly encouraged to submit any articles, photographs or other materials for publication in the Norton Notice. Technical info. and member feedback are particularly welcome. Photographs should be black and white prints, preferably 5"x7" for ease of printing. Please submit all materials to the Branch secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the San Francisco Branch of the Norton Owners Club includes: bi-monthly issues of the Roadholder Magazine, published by the Norton Owners Club in England, monthly issues of the Norton Notice, published by the San Francisco Branch, monthly Branch meetings and rides at various locations in the bay area, other Branch functions organized by the officers throughout the year, and free advertising in the monthly Norton Notice Trading Post.

Membership dues are \$15 per year, and cheques endorsed to the Norton Owners Club may be sent to the Branch secretary on or before the expiration date on the membership card. New members must fill out a membership application form which is available upon request.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members are requested to notify the Branch secretary immediately of any address or phone number changes.

ADVERTISING

Members and non-members may submit any Norton-related advertising to the Branch secretary at any time. Please remember to inform the secretary of any changes (additions, omissions, etc.) to be made in previously submitted advertising.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The Branch secretary will furnish a complete membership list to any member upon request, and each member will be sent an up-to-date list periodically. Machines owned will be included on the list for ease of spare part acquisition.

BRANCH MEETINGS AND RIDES

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month, starting at 7:30pm. The meeting location is often a bar with a British atmosphere, and the specific venue will be announced in the Norton Notice each month. Suggestions of new possibilities in the bay area will always be welcome, as will offers to host a meeting. In general, meetings at member's homes have been poorly attended, but if any member would like to show his machines or give a Norton trip slide show or whatever, please say so. Rides will generally meet at 10:00am on the following Sunday, at a convenient venue to be announced in the Norton Notice each month. In the event of actual rain on the morning of the ride, it will probably be postponed one week. Please call one of the Branch officers if the weather looks doubtful.

2nd Annual

Norton

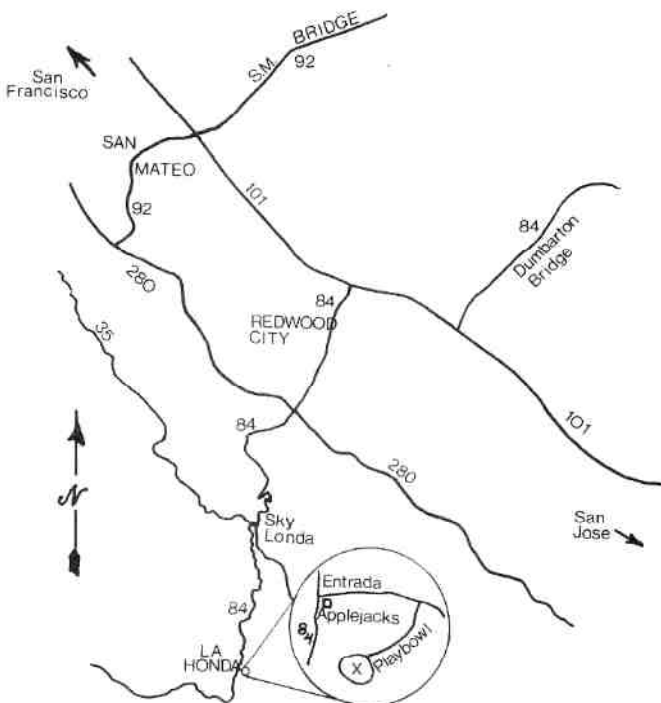
BEER BUST

FREE BEER FOR NORTON
RIDERS

MAY 14, 1978
NOON 'TIL

At The PLAYBOWL
La Honda, Ca.

BRING FOOD, PARTS,
TECH PROBLEMS
OR ADVICE ~ EARLY
NORTONS ALWAYS
WELCOME



Sponsored By The
San Francisco Branch Of



For More Info: (415)747-0326, 369-0597

CARL CASTLE

One of our most knowledgeable and likeable members suffered a fatal heart attack while jogging one day early in April. Those of us in the Club who were fortunate enough to have known Carl from Branch meetings and Sunday rides, not only enjoyed his witty sense of humor and good company, but also had a great respect for his broad experience and expertise in motorcycle maintenance and the restoration of antiques. Carl owned some twelve (at last count) beautiful British bikes of various vintages and makes, and served as one of the Ariel Owners Club national officers. Carl and his prize Ariel Square Four are pictured in the latest issue of the unlikely magazine Chopper, as part of an in-depth article on the Ariel. Anyone who might be tempted to call about Carl's motorcycles is asked to refrain for the time being. Carl's wife, Vida, asked that his advertisements be removed from the Trading Post and that she not be called concerning any of his motorcycles. She has a lot of other things to worry about at the present time and will inform the Branch concerning any future sale of Carl's motorcycles. Carl will be sorely missed at future Branch meetings but will long be remembered by all of us who knew and appreciated him.

APRIL RIDE HIGHLIGHTS

In spite of several isolated showers, a few brave souls managed to make it to the Bay Bridge toll plaza in time for the April ride. Apologies go to the gentleman from Fremont who was caught in the rain on Highway 17 and missed us. The small but hardy group made it up to Vallejo for brunch with dark clouds looming overhead, tried unsuccessfully to recruit the Vallejo contingent to come along for the ride. Phil Lang's excellent suggestion of routes found us on 15 miles of super twisting roads to test Norton's roadholding capabilities while only a BMW and a Nippon buzz bomb had

any difficulty keeping up with the blistering pace set by Gene and Pat Austin. A stop at Sebastiani's winery provided an excellent tour of the facilities and a well deserved respite.

RAINY SUNDAYS

Sundays are frequently overcast in the Bay Area lately, but NORTON riders should not be discouraged if they get up on the morning of the Branch ride and see a few rain clouds. Quite often, the days start out looking gloomy, but end up being the best riding day because most of the Sunday driver crowd will have made some other plans by the time we ride. This leaves the roads relatively traffic-free for all the hardcore motorcyclists. The group on the April ride found both to be true and found a crisp, freshly washed day to enjoy with few motorists to slow things down too much. So, if you plan to go on the Branch ride and the weather worries you, call one of the two Branch officers and find out if the ride has been postponed until the following week. In general, it will still be riding weather if there is blue sky windward and will be postponed only if there is no hope of clearing. You have our phone numbers, so give us a call if there is any doubt. When we are able, numbers will be given to the nearest phone at the ride meeting place, so you can get an on-sight report.

MEMBER INPUT

The editors of this rag would like to have more input from those of you who have something to contribute but have been so modest in the past. It doesn't have to be in any particular form--we will gladly take care of preparing the text and cleverly placing spelling and gramatical errors. A phone call is sufficient to get us started on an article about, for instance, a new product you are pleased with or shouldn't have wasted your money on, a technical tip concerning making your NORTON run better or stop better. Don't hesitate to send or call us about your ideas, experiences, gripes.....

SECOND ANNUAL NORTON OWNERS CLUB BEER BUST - SUNDAY, APRIL 14th - LA HONDA

Well the time is finally upon us. This is what you've all been waiting for. Aren't you excited? The Second Annual Norton Owners Club Beer Bust will take place at the Cuesta Playbowl in La Honda on the afternoon of Sunday, May 14th. The event will be "sponsored" by the San Francisco Branch in the sense that all the leg work is being done by the Branch officers, and the beer will be purchased with funds in our Branch account, but we do plan to put a collection helmet next to the beer kegs and will ask all drinkers to pitch in a few shillings (or whatever) to help pay for the beer. The Playbowl, which is a small park in a redwood grove belonging to the Cuesta Guild in La Honda, will be loaned to the Branch for the day free of charge (your Branch secretary-treasurer is a Cuesta resident), but we will be **REQUIRED** to clean up whatever mess we create. Therefore, I would like to ask all members to do whatever they can to keep the mess to an absolute minimum by making use of trash cans and asking the non-members to do likewise. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated by those of us who have to clean up afterwards. If you can help with the clean-up before leaving, that too would be appreciated.

The plan is to set things up in the late morning, and any of you who haven't any better things to do on Mother's Day are invited to show up a little early and be available to help out as needed. We will have a keg of light beer and a keg of dark both of which will be transported over the hill on Saturday by Bob Marshall, and will be settled and cold by Sunday morning. In addition to the beer, we will provide some charcoal for those who wish to barbecue some burgers or whatever to wash down the beer with. The charcoal pits are already there so no need to worry about what to cook in, but you might want to bring some food with you or buy some at the Pioneer Market in La Honda, which has an excellent meat department and is very close to the Playbowl. Anything you might wish to bring for general consumption would be appreciated.

For those of you who have not yet had the experience, I heartily recommend a breakfast at Alice's Restaurant, which is located at the intersection of Hwy. 35 (Skyline Blvd.) and Hwy. 84 (known as Woodside Road or La Honda Road). A Sunday morning breakfast at Alice's is usually an excellent opportunity to check out all the latest motorcycles and trick racing paraphernalia; the parking lot across the road has now become one of the major motorcycle meeting spots in the bay area, and in general there is a preponderance of cafe racers and a paucity of full-dress tourers. Those who like to put their Nortons through a few high speed turns once in a while might like to get on Skyline at its intersection with Hwy. 92 (San Mateo-Half Moon Bay) or Hwy. 9 (Saratoga-Boulder Creek), and then take Skyline to Alice's. Keep on until you find a bunch of motorcycles at the Skylonda junction, and don't give up at King's Mountain Road, as Maya Peterson did a few months ago.

Besides beer, food, and Nortons, there will be a few other diversions at the Beer Bust this year. A "Wellie toss" and some tug-o-war competition have been planned, and we may have an egg toss if there is enough space between all the parked Nortons. Further ideas would be greatly appreciated. There may even be some special prizes, such as awards for best antique Norton, most unusual Norton, most unusual Norton rider(?), etc. All suggestions will be most welcome, so please don't hesitate.

Most important of all is that you come. Bring an old Norton if you have one, and bring your Norton friends. You can even bring your mother if you wish, but come. We hope that all members will come to this meeting, especially those of you who haven't been to Branch meetings or rides in the past year. We would like to meet the people who have been only names and addresses to us thus far. Let's have a big turnout and a great day in the woods.