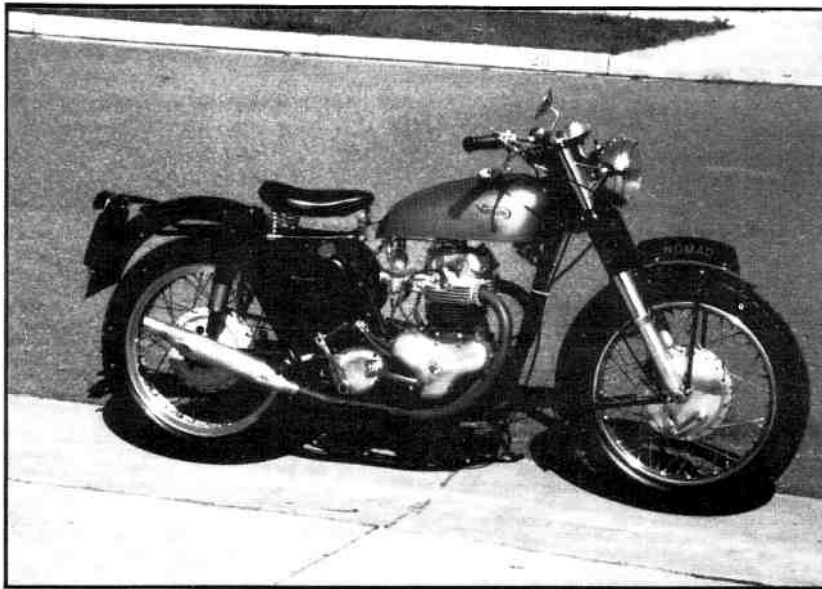


# Norton Notice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH



NO. 85 MAY 1985



## Norton Notice

# Norton Notice

The Newsletter of The Northern California Branch



is published monthly by the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH of the NORTON OWNERS CLUB. Its purpose is to inform and entertain members regarding all aspects of the Norton motorcycle, including history, technical advice, and preservation of the marque.

NORTON NOTICE is a reflection of its readership, who are encouraged to submit any article, technical tip, photograph (original or otherwise), as long as it is in good taste, so that other Norton enthusiasts may enjoy it. For Branch members who cannot attend club meetings or club rides, the NORTON NOTICE affords an opportunity to share experiences and information with the membership of the branch, and to bring the Branch members closer together.

Deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 21st of each month.

### PRESIDENT

Scot Marburger  
639 Kinglet Ave.  
Livermore, Ca. 94550  
(415)455-8776

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Phil Radford  
1020 Ellis Ave.  
San Jose, Ca. 95125  
(408) 293-4548

### NORTON NOTICE EDITOR

Tom Mullen  
1930 Almaden Rd. #45  
San Jose, Ca. 95125  
(Mail in advertisements;  
do not call them in)

### RIDE ORGANIZERS

Tom Dabel (408)272-0369  
Mike Hansen (415)969-2489

### PARAFERNALIA

Tom Sorman  
4278 25th. St.  
San Francisco, Calif.  
94114

MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH OF THE NORTON OWNERS CLUB IS AVAILABLE FOR \$25.00 PER YEAR.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE TO THE BRANCH SECRETARY/TREASURER, WHOSE NAME IS SHOWN ABOVE.

RENEWAL DUES ARE PAYABLE AT THE END OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S MEMBERSHIP YEAR, THAT MONTH BEING DESIGNATED BY THE LAST NUMBER OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AS LOCATED ON THE MAILING LABEL OF THE NORTON NOTICE OR THE MEMBERSHIP CARD. FOR EXAMPLE, 745/2 DENOTES MEMBER NUMBER 745 WITH DUES EXPIRING ON THE 1st OF FEBRUARY.

ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS SHOULD GO TO THE BRANCH SECRETARY/TREASURER, NOT THE NORTON NOTICE EDITOR.

Subscription to the NORTON NOTICE only is available for \$15.00 per year. This does not include membership in the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH of the NORTON OWNERS CLUB, nor does it afford any of the rights or privileges of membership in the NOC.

Membership in the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH of the NORTON OWNERS CLUB entitles a member to monthly issues of the NORTON NOTICE and bi-monthly issues of ROADHOLDER magazine, which is sent directly from England, keeping members informed of Norton owners' activities worldwide. Membership provides voting privileges at all NOC and Branch meetings, and allows one to purchase Norton spares directly from England, at significant savings, through the NOC Spares Program.

Cover Bike owned by Tom Mullen

List of high performance parts include, short velocity stack, K-70 Dunlops, Commando headlamp brackets and shrouds, lightened by missing inner air box, siamese exhaust system, and high hopes. It is a 1958 Nomad, 600 c.c. twin, IO : I comp. single 389 Monobloc. similiar to the Mod. 77 of Ed Brooks.



## VIBRATIONS

Welcome to the club the following new members :

Erik Cuthell Annandale, New York.  
Viriato Vieira Mamaroneck, New York.  
Victor Geminiani Sacramento, Calif.  
Douglas Hamby Taylors, South Carolina.

In last months column I mentioned our forthcoming annual picnic / oldtimers run but omitted to say what date it happens on. That's just as well because originally it was scheduled for July 14. Well, seeing as on that weekend the Battle of the Twins takes place at Laguna Seca, we didn't have much choice but to move the picnic forward one week. So now mark your calendar for the 21st. of July for our annual picnic which this year is combined with the Oldtimers Run. Traditional meeting place is Alice's Restaurant on the Skyline, in the morning and then around noon ride down to the picnic area at Huckleberry Flats Memorial Park for good hot dogs and some serious bench racing. Beer will not be provided by the club this year, so if you want to slurp some suds, bring your own.

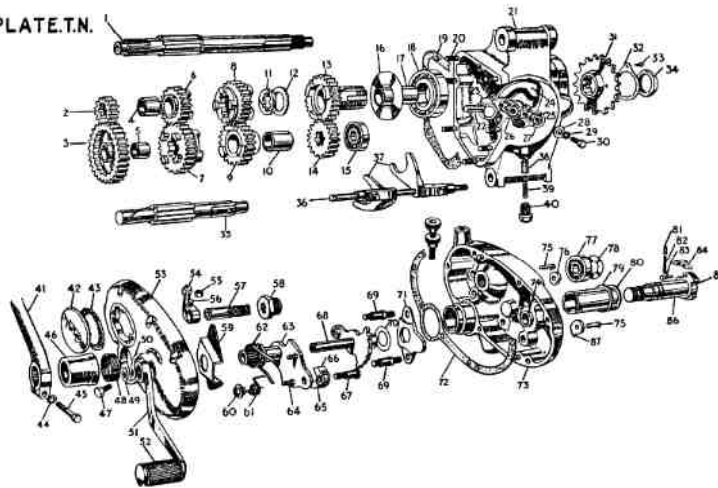
Also mark your calendar for June 23rd. which is scheduled to be our Marin County ride. Destination point will be Bernie Birleffi's place in Calistoga. Both Kathy and Bernie have offered to provide a resting place and nourishment for club members after the ride. Many thanks to them for offering to do this. I have recently spoken to Paul Critchett who organises the annual British Bike Bench Racers and he might be doing it again this year on June 23rd. in Calistoga at a British pub there. So it looks like Calistoga will be the hot place to be on the 23rd.

Any members who missed out with the branch purchase of the 1985 N.O.C. calendars may still be able to get one from the U.S. liaison officer, Bob McKeaver. He has around 20 or so left and has asked me to pass this information on to you. His address is in the Roadholder. These calendars are excellent value and well worth having. Price is \$5.50 plus \$2 shipping.

Finally our thanks go to Dave Crader and Nick Wiltz for organising the first annual N.O.C. off road ride, which takes place at Hollister Hills on May 18 and 19. If you don't feel like staying overnight its not too far away to just make it a day event and head home afterwards. Please contact Dave or Nick for further details. See you there,

*Phil*

PLATE.T.N.





9th ANNUAL Owners Club Picnic &

# Norton

Old Timers  
Motorcycle  
Meet

**SUNDAY JULY 21st 1985**

SAN MATEO COUNTY MEMORIAL PARK  
HUCKLEBERRY FLAT PICNIC AREA #2  
(HALF A MILE WEST OF MAIN PARK  
ENTRANCE ON PESCADERO RD.)

**ACTION BEGINS AT NOON**  
ALL NORTON RIDERS AND  
**EARLY NORTONS**  
**ESPECIALLY WELCOME!**



SPONSORED BY  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH  
NORTON OWNERS CLUB



**Hot Dogs & Soft Drinks Available - No Beer Supplied**

FOR MORE INFO, CALL SCOTT (415) 455-8776



---

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9 Ricks in Palo Alto  
May 18 & 19 first annual off road ride  
June 13 Ricks in Palo Alto  
July 11 Edinburgh Castle S.F.  
August 8 Ricks in Palo Alto  
Sept. 12 Ricks in Palo Alto  
Oct. 10 Edinburgh Castle S.F.  
Nov. 14 Ricks in Palo Alto  
Dec. 15 Christmas party / dinner at Ricks in Palo Alto

This schedule is subject to change if we find a suitable east bay location.  
The ride schedule is still being discussed.  
I will publish the dates and times as I receive them.

NOTICE : In the event of rain on the day of a club ride, the ride is automatically postponed one week. Also, riders should have plenty of oil and gasoline by the scheduled departure time and all personal problems should be taken care of. In other words...  
FULL TANKS AND EMPTY BLADDERS .



FIRST ANNUAL NOC OFF ROAD RIDE

COME AND JOIN THE OFF ROAD SPIRIT IN THE NORTON OWNERS CLUB. BRING YOUR P11s, N15s, 500Ts, BSAs TRIUMPHs, GREEVES OR YOUR JAPANESE MACHINES.

TO

HOLLISTER HILLS  
MAY 18 & 19

TIME: WHENEVER YOU GET THERE  
REQUIREMENTS: EITHER A GREEN ORV STICKER OR LICENSE PLATE AND ENTRY FEE-\$2.00 FOR CAR OR TRUCK AND \$1.00 FOR EACH BIKE.

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL: DAVID CRADER 295-4968  
OR: NICK WILTZ 978-5985





# Norton Notice

these  
 T-SHIRTS T-Shirts are only available in large.  
 BASEBALL JERSEY

All branch logo t-shirts are white, baseball jerseys are white with blue sleeves.

All t-shirts are Hanes Beefy T's  
 Prices : T-shirts (all) \$8.00  
 : Baseball Jerseys \$9.50

Pay by check made payable to the  
 "Norton Owners Club"

### T-SHIRTS\*\*\*T-SHIRTS\*\*\*T-SHIRTS\*\*\*

#### NOC BIG N LOGO

	S	M	LG	XLG
BLACK	*	*	*	*
NAVY	*	*	*	*
YELLOW/BLACK	*	*	*	
WHITE/BLACK		*	*	

#### BRANCH LOGO

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH TOOL LOAN-OUT PROGRAM

Get in touch with Harry Bunting if you need one or more of the following tools for working on your bike. A refundable deposit equal to the replacement value of the tool is required at the time you pick it up.

TOOL	DEPOSIT
timing cover off seal guide.....	\$ 5.00
rocker spindle puller.....	\$25.00
crankshaft sprocket puller.....	\$12.00
clutch spring tool.....	\$12.00
clutch locking tool.....	\$16.00
valve spring compressor.....	\$22.00
exhaust nut "C" spanner.....	\$10.00
timing pinion extractor.....	\$20.00

Harry Bunting (415) 968-2020  
 1401 Gilmore St.  
 Mountain View, Co. 94040

#### PARAPHERNALIA

4 1/2" sticker	N.O.C.	\$I.00
2" sticker	N.O.C.	\$ .50
2 1/2" x 3 1/2" sticker	N.O.C. ( red, white, and blue )	\$ .75
N.O.C. keyfob		\$I.50
4 1/2" embroidered patch		\$2.50
Lapel pin, branch logo		\$I.25
T-shirts - N.O.C. and branch		
various sizes and colours call or write for details.	Tom Borman	

4278 25th. St.  
 San Francisco, Ca  
 94114  
 415-282-9304

#### NEW PARAPHERNALIA

Black T-shirts, "MY SUCCESS IS DUE TO MY UNAPPROACHABLE NORTON."  
 Size XL ( US large ) only. \$8. plus shipping, \$ I.50.

Norton Owners Club Commando Service Notes.

45 pages of technical information produced by the N.O.C. England. Invaluable information to any Commando owner. \$ 5. plus .75¢ postage.

John Player Norton key fob	\$ I.75
N.O.C. embroidered patch I 1/2" sq.	\$ I.50
"Unapproachable Norton " decal I x 2 1/2"	\$ I.00
N.O.C. machine badge 3" x 3"	\$ 6.00
John Player Norton lapel pin	\$ I.50

On items listed above, please include an appropriate amount extra to cover postage and an envelope, thanks Tom.

#### FOR SALE

Dunstall 1/2 fairing ( black ) with neat dash plate for speedo, tach., warning lights and light switch. Comes with twin mirrors and has a low and aggressive look. ex. cond. \$ 250.

Dunstall rear-set footpegs and controls. Substantial weight savings over stock items. very good condition \$ 60.

Tommaselli clip-on handlebars, very nice looking and also in excellent cond. \$ 35.

Syds 1/4 fairing ( black ) was made for a Ducati but I had it on my Commando. needs a new windscreen ( can be ordered for \$ 35. ) \$ 40.

Dark brown leather flight-type jacket. like new, \$ 80.

I will consider a package deal on items I-3 for less money, make an offer. call after I P.M. and before 9 P.M.

Doug McCulloch ( 415 ) 547-6708



## BRAKES

With all the encouragement of our club president, I have decided to put pen to processed wood shavings and contribute to OUR newsletter. What I would like to write about is a topic that should be of interest to all motorcyclists. The act of hauling a bike down from excess speed to a velocity that the rider can escape injury to man or machine ( or moped ) due to the impending situation.

The first thing a motorcyclist must be able to do is recognize a potentially dangerous set of circumstances. Example : the confrontation of the front end of a Norton with the rear end of a rice grinder. This usually happens in corners. The first indication that should be cause for concern is the brightening of the light above the big fat tire ahead. This means that the rider has applied white-knuckle pressure to his brake lever, realizing he has entered the corner at too brisk a pace. By doing this he has decreased his chances of crossing the centre line and damaging any oncoming vintage machinery, but increased the chance of having K-81 tread marks up his back -- enter the Norton. This is the moment that should concern us. Your first thought is "Is he going to ride the bike around the corner, or is he going to walk it"? Either way, the moment of decision has arrived. As your hands open up to grab clutch and front brake ( hopefully both simultaneously ), the Roadholder portion of your brain cancels this reaction, and you find yourself saying "No way". At about this time the reason for you being in this predicament is now sideways across the centre line with his rear tire passing up his front end. You tighten up your line a bit, and whisper the Japanese equivalent of Adios .

But back to our topic of braking. It seems that stopping a motorcycle depends upon the rider doing the braking ( makes sense doesnt it ? ). Not taking into account environmental conditions such as ice, sand, etc. it can be observed that most riders brake differently because of a combination of technique and mechanics. The single most important aspect of braking, aside from having a continuous brake cable or enough deaired DOT 3 in the master cylinder, is to grab the clutch as you grab the brake. It sounds elementary but in the heat of the moment the clutch can be neglected. When you consider the rotational energy of a British twin at 4000 R.P.M., and add this to the kinetic energy of 400 lbs. of Norton plus rider, you are asking a lot from your brakes. I remember reading once that a contributing factor to Kenny Roberts success is that he is constantly playing over hypothetical situations in his mind, and mentally reacting to them. These exercises, he says prepare him for any conceivable event. Thus for an emergency that may call for rapid deceleration, the mind is prepared to make spontaneous accurate directions to the body.

The braking ability of your motorcycle depends upon the condition of the individual components of the braking system. This is a complex interrelationship of leverage, brake pad compositions, brake fluids, front fork stiffness, etc. I wish someone would contribute their knowledge and experience in this area to the N/N. But even with all the components and their differences, each braking system works or does not work differently. Here is my point, Within the N.O.C. there is disagreement on the efficiency of the Lockheed disc brake on the Commando. Some guys swear they can stand the bike up on its front tire- with a stock master cylinder. Then there are others like myself who contend that the only use for the brake is to keep the front wheel from jumping up and down while at idle. I honestly do not think this was the intended use, because the Norton engineers in England could not have possibly estimated the number of California stop lights their export bikes would idle at. However, if you are in an emergency situation and are fortunate enough to have time to use your brakes. It is important to be able to use them in the most efficient manner possible, I.E. clutch in, hard front brake and some rear brake with little or no skidding.

I hope that with the upcoming riding season, the euphoria will spread to more letters sent in to the N/N and better attendance to club events, especially those of you with the obviously better looking Interstates. ( just kidding Roadster/Fastback owners )

*Nick Wiltz*



## Norton Notice

---

---

### NORTON RACE MANUAL

I've been racing at Willow Springs race track and winning a few. Anyway, I've compiled and written a Norton race manual covering crank lightening and rebalancing, valve train lightening, porting, cam timing, altering compression ratios, bullet-proofing, etc., etc. Twenty-three typed pages and eight pages of illustrations. The manual was a lot of work and should be very helpful to those hopping up their Nortons. The cost is \$ 10.00.

Jim Schmidt  
582 N. Golflinks Rd.  
Fresno, Ca. 93727

### FOR SALE

B.S.A. Gold Star DBD34 Clubman, 6 gal. Lyta tank, Borrani rims & stainless spokes, Lucas racing magneto, John Tickle TLS front brake, Cerriani road race forks. \$2500 Phil.  
(408) 293-4548

### FOR SALE

1972 Norton Hi-Rider headlight v.g.c. \$ 55.  
speedometer drive. \$ 35.  
I pr. 1972 B.S.A. Lucas handlebar switch assemblies with levers and wiring g.c. will also fit 1971 Norton and 1971-74 Triumph. \$ 30.  
1972 B.S.A. B-50ss frame, swingarm & papers. g.c. \$ 50.  
1972 B.S.A. B-50ss gas tank. g.c. \$45.  
front & rear fenders. g.c. \$13 ea., sidecovers \$7 ea.  
1972 B.S.A. B-50ss engine, transmission & clutch, rebuilt carb., still in bike and running, good compression. g.c. \$170.  
Norton MK-3 master cylinders, front, just rebuilt chrome plated by Browns Plating. e.c. \$50. rear g.c. \$35.  
1973 Triumph T-140 gas tank, 2 small dents otherwise g.c. no paint. \$40.  
1973 750 Norton front fork upper yoke, straight & g.c. \$10.

plus lots of other small parts  
Charlie Kuss  
1671 Electric Ave.  
Lackawanna, N.Y. 14218  
716-824-7887

### WANTED

1975 Norton Commando Roadster factory workshop manual, original type.  
Vincent Black Shadow, in good shape.  
Keith Garrow  
4521 Langara Ave.  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6R 1 CQ

### FOR SALE

850 Commando parts  
Rear wheel with rim & tire. \$ 50.  
850 cylinders. \$ 60.  
850 head. \$ 75.  
Biff Erickson  
( 415 ) 681-9131





#### FOR SALE

1947 Norton E S-2 basket, contains, plunger-frame, motor cases, tranny, forks, wheels, tank, barrels, head, and small parts, \$ 200. firm tskes it.

1952 BSA C-II 250c.c. rigid frame basket, 90 / there. Good project can be completed with a little more cash and a lot of labor, \$ 175. firm. Dave Kerst

FOR SALE: 1973 750cc Fastback style Commando. Rebuilt from scratch 20,000 miles ago including the following improvements: Boyer Bransden electronic ignition, Lockheed front disk brake, spin-on oil filter, WM-3 x 18 cush block drive rear wheel, Dunlop Elite tires (excellent tread), 850 style head steady, Mk III style sleeve gear w/bush retaining clip, layshaft roller bearing replacement, Fiam electric horns (very loud), "Twist Assist" throttle holder, early headlamp shell with working ammeter, Imron polyurethane enamel paint on frame, subframe, and swingarm. Improvements made within the last 200 miles include new Imron maroon metallic paint with gold painted lines and letters, new Amal 930 Concentric carb bodies, slides, needles and needle jets, new valves, valve guides, and valve seats, new battery, and new full length fork boots. Everything works, strong motor, really don't want to but too many Commandos forces sale. Offered at \$1250, counters considered. Will trade for late model Honda 250 to 350cc four stroke dirt bike or interesting Norton single plus \$\$\$ either way. May be seen at TT Motors. Call Scot at 415-455-8776 eves. and leave a message, preferably including a day time phone number.



#### FOR SALE

Norton Twins 88, 88ss, 99, 99ss, 650, 650ss, Atlas, Mercury. 497cc, 597cc, 647cc, 745cc, 1957 to 1970 Owners Workshop Manual, Haynes Pub. \$ 5.

Maintenance Manual and Instruction Boo for the Un approachable Norton. Mod. # 50, ES-2, 88, 99, 650, Sports Specials, 750 Atlas and 750 Scrambler, the original workshop manual \$ 25. George Chodorow

4527 39th. St. #9

San Diego, Calif. 92116



# Hall-Burdette

MOTORCYCLES



We have been selling and servicing Nortons since 1948 and have a good supply of parts and accessories, both new and used. Our mechanic, Bob Bennett, has been repairing Nortons for over 20 years and is a recognized expert. Thor Berke, our parts manager, has a thorough familiarity with all Norton parts and accessories.

2010 DEL PASO BLVD.  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95815  
PHONE (916) 925-1797

RABER'S  
EUROPEAN CYCLE WORKS, INC.  
"Your source for parts and service"  
BSA The Originals TRIUMPH



DUCATI MOTO GUZZI

the same old guys at the same old place...

Over 60 years combined M/C knowledge...  
( Bill must be older than I thought)

\*\*\*\*\*PARTS: Bob Raber  
SERVICE: Bill Mankins\*\*\*\*\*

1615c ALMADEN ROAD (rear building)  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA. 95125  
(408) 998-4495



# T.T. MOTORS

Norton Owners - T.T. specializes in European motorcycles and offers complete parts, service, and machine shop for all the wonderful bikes we sell.

Stop by and visit and check us out!

- \* Complete line of British tools
- \* Manuals and spares for your Norton
- \* Speed Equipment:

Megacycle and webcam camshafts  
Single Mikuni kits  
Exhaust port repair \$45 each  
Valve jobs and port work  
Cylinder boring and surfacing

- \* 10% discount on all parts (except Lucas) to N.O.C. members

2800 Adeline Street  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tues. - Sat. 845-8235

**TRIUMPH**  
Norton MOTO GUZZI DUCATI  
**MUNROE MOTORS, INC.**  
MOTORCYCLES  
SALES - SERVICE - PARTS

Munroe has three mechanics that are familiar with Nortons and have been for a number of years. We can replace exhaust ports with the head on the bike and don't know of anyone else who can. The job looks like original factory! Call for a quote on shop prices. We also have a good Norton parts supply.



412 VALENCIA ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO 94103  
PHONE 626-3496