



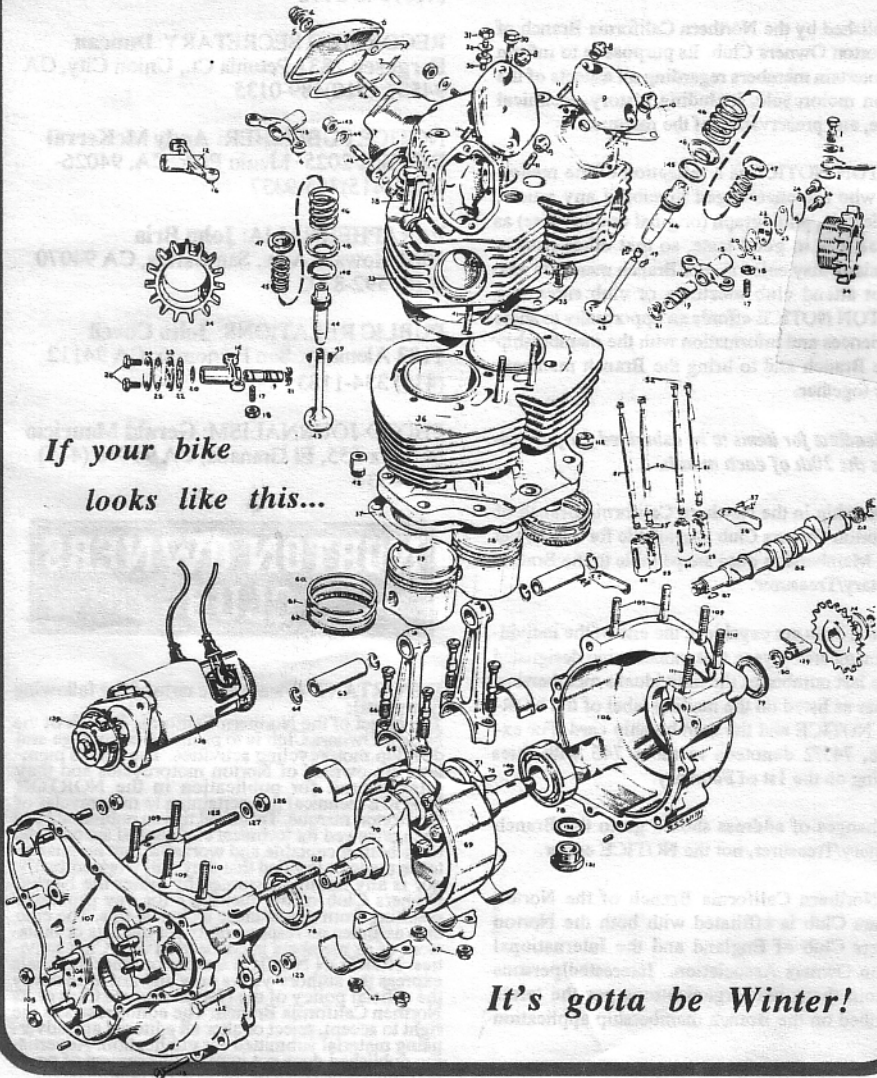
Norton Notice



The Newsletter of the
Northern California Norton Owners Club

No. 177

January, 1993





is published 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 the reader-ship, 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.

The deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 20th of each month.

Membership in the Northern California Branch of the Norton Owners Club is available for \$15.00 per year. Membership dues are payable to the Branch Secretary/Treasurer.

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 listed on the mailing label of the NORTON NOTICE and the membership card. For example, 745/2 denoted member 745 with dues expiring on the 1st of February.

All changes of address should go to the Branch Secretary/Treasurer, not the NOTICE editor.

The Northern California Branch of the Norton Owners Club is affiliated with both the Norton Owners Club of England and the International Norton Owners Association. Interested persons can join these two organizations per the terms described on the Branch membership application form.

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IMPORTANT (Please take note of the following fine print):

The object of the Northern California Branch of the Norton Owners Club is to promote, encourage and develop motorcycling activities. The Club's members are owners of Norton motorcycles and they often submit for publication in the NORTON NOTICE technical tips pertaining to motorcycles of the Norton marque. Technical tips so published have been reviewed for technical content and are believed to be both acceptable and workable, but no guarantee is made or implied that they will work correctly, nor is any liability assumed by either the Norton Owners Club or the members for any problems resulting from use of these technical tips. The club also assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of its members in connection with Club activities. NORTON NOTICE articles or other materials express the authors' views only and not necessarily the official policy of the Norton owners Club or its Northern California Branch. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or alter all editorial and advertising material submitted for publication. Advertising published does not imply endorsement of products, goods or services. Now you know.

Upcoming Events

Club Rides Schedule

January 10- 49 Mile Scenic Ride

San Francisco: Just following those seagull signs around the City. Leaves the Java House on the Embarcadero at 11:00 AM.

February 14- The Sweethearts Ride

-Down Niles Canyon Road and points East of Fremont. Duncan leads this one.

March (date has not been determined)- The Annual Flying Lady Ride

Our annual geology-fest and twistie-orgy lead by Marick Payton...hopefully.

Events Calendar

1993 Activities at a glance-

March 28- *The Clubman's Show* in San Jose. Sponsored by BSAOC.

April 11- *The Easter Morning Ride* to Tamalpias Summit. Organized by Lynne Miller. You gotta do this at least once.

June 6- *The Bridge School Memorial Poker Run*- Starts and finishes at the Newark Pavilion... the first in what we hope will be a series of annual charity events put on by the club.

July 29 thru August 1- *The INOA Rally* in Havana, Illinois. Sponsored by the Chicago Norton Owner's Club.

Moredetails to follow as we get them...

Meeting Schedule

The Club meets on the second Thursday of each month. The meetings are SUPPOSED to start at 8:00 PM, but they haven't done so for as long as I can remember...

January 14, 1993- Peninsula

The Prince of Wales Pub

25th, Avenue, San Mateo

A great selection of beers, a private meeting room, fish 'n chips, and dartboards

February 11, 1993- East Bay/Marin

The San Francisco Bay Ferry-

No, this is not a joke. We plan to ride our bikes out to the Ferry, and have our meeting on the water as we go back and forth from San Francisco to Marin. Details will follow. (...well, someone said that we don't have enough fun-)

March 11- South Bay

Harry's Hoffbrau

El Camino Real near Castro Street. A large assortment of beers, a roomy meeting facility, and good cafeteria-style food.

Graphics Contributions

Photography:

Gerald Mauricio

Lou Caputo

Press Production and Halftones:

John & Carrie Follett:

White Oak Press, San Carlos, CA



by Joe Edwards, President

1992 has come to an end... Boy, does that sound great! Now, maybe we can get on to having some fun, the way it was meant to be- bench racing and friendship whenever we can.

Just a brief note on the Christmas Party: we had a great time, and door prizes abounded. The food was done well, as was the service. This year was outstanding from a service standpoint. Santa was the hit of the restaurant, as could be seen by the eyes of a little girl who spotted Santa on his way to the "refreshment counter" (that sounds *real* good). Also, I would like to thank Maya for the great cookies that she baked. As you know, Maya and Brad were both running for the office of Vice-President. The ballots were cast and counted, and Brad won by one vote. There were a total of 34 votes cast. We also had a member who rode his Norton from Strawberry Valley, the Mountain Man, Tarmo Jaagus. To make it more interesting, he had just put the final touches on the engine of his Norton. Thanks for making the run, Tarmo.

I saw a lot of happy faces at Raber's Annual Christmas Party this year. The food, the drink, the chili- all were outstanding. Bob and the crew had a large card at the front door that they were sending to Ed Brooks. I know that those of you out there who know Ed feel better for being in touch with him. Wish him well, and take a few moments to say a kind word for him in your own way.

We'll be sending a form with a few questions on it that we'd like you to answer and return to the address listed on the form. Please take a moment to answer

it, as it'll be of great help in finding out what the general membership wants (and expects) from belonging to the NCNOC. Remember, this is *YOUR* club, and we need your input.

The Northern California Norton Owner's Club has taken on a major project for 1993. As you know, we're planning a major poke ride with a few different changes. This year, the benefactor of our efforts will be the Bridge School, as Andy's Side Trips column described last month. I realize that you'll probably get tired of our cry for help during these next five months, but we won't be able to do ourselves- or the Bridge School- the justice that we both deserve without the assistance we need from everyone we can get. I know that those of you out there who have children- and in some cases, grandchildren- will want to help. We will have a great deal of information on this subject during the next Norton meeting in January. (*Ed. 's Note: ...and how! As of January 1st, we have the go-ahead from Lookout Productions, the venue, the rides itinerary, the basic registration procedure, and a good idea of the "flavor" of participation. We need as many folks as possible to show up and learn what we have up our sleeves- this one is gonna be a doozey!*)

May the New Year find all of you in great health and prosperity!

Joe Edwards

Minutes of December, '92 Meeting

Editor's Note: There were two meetings in December, 1992: the first was held at Tonto in San Francisco, and the second was the Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party in Redwood City. Both sets of minutes are included for your information.

The Meeting from Hell

Tonto's- December 10, 1992

The meeting that was originally cancelled was called to order by Joe Edwards at approximately 7:45 PM. About 20 members were in attendance.

This meeting was held during the first large storm of the Winter season. We received about 2 inches of rain that day and night. The only thing worse than the weather was the attitudes of a few individuals.

Members travelled from Novato, Los Gatos, Fremont, Menlo Park and Redwood City in terrible weather- people who must care about the Club- to listen to petty bickering that I will not even put down as minutes of record.

It is the belief of the undersigned that any person who would like to change the way that the Club operates has the right to stand up and make a motion to change the rules- this motion was then voted on and approved by those in attendance.

It serves no good purpose to privately stir things up, then viscerate people in a public meeting of the Club without waiting to hear the outcome of the attending membership's vote.

The Club By-Laws were discussed- also, the Robert's Rules of Order- and all in attendance were favorable to their adaptation.

No other motion was made, other than to close the meeting at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Duncan Ferguson

The Annual General Meeting

6:00 PM, The Farmhouse
Redwood City, California

51 Members and guests attended this meeting, which was called to order by President Joe Edwards.

The first order of business was the 20 year membership awards presented to Maya Lai and Tim Coburn.

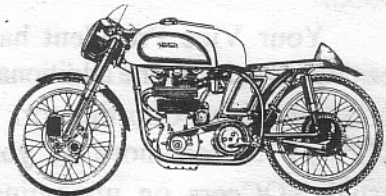
Next, Joe announced that Mike Burnham would not be able to serve as Rides Coordinator for 1993. Many thanks, Mike, for an excellent and tireless job as the Rides Marshall for the last two years! It was then announced that, as a matter of Club rules, that the offices of Vice President and Rides Coordinator would be combined.

Santa Claus passed out cookies (baked by Maya) and collected the votes for Vice President. Grover Buhr counted the votes, and Joe called up the winner of a very close race. Brad Green will be the 1993 NCNOC Vice President and Rides Coordinator.

All the other remaining Club Officers ran uncontested, and were reinstated for another year.

Dinner and drinks were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Duncan Ferguson



Pipes Up!

by Brad Green, Vice President and Rides Coordinator

Joyous Winter Solstice, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a great New Year of Cheer to all!

It was great to see all you folks at the NCNOC Christmas Party. Some came from as near as Redwood City itself- and others rode from as far away as Strawberry Valley... even the North Pole! Ho Ho Ho!

I'd like to thank all of you who voted for me (you know who you are).

There was a great turnout at the Raber's Christmas Party. All were had by a good time (*Ed.'s Note: ???*) and the food was great... kudos to Maya Lai.

Now that '92 and all of it's tribulations are behind us, on to 1993...

Your Vice President has been bestowed with the additional duties of Rides Coordinator. I **EXPECT** to see more of you casual NOCcers on upcoming

rides. The finalized Rides Schedule will be printed after confirming with Don Danmeier to solidify the Clubman's Calendar.

I would like to put together at least one ride to Sears Point this year to show our Club support for our local Norton Racers (i.e.: Tom Terry, Ernie Montague, etc.)

Any and all rides suggestions are welcome at (510) 247-9710.

In the coming year, I would like to reinstitute monthly printings of the Norton Service Bulletins; I also plan to publish several interesting tech articles. (*Ed.'s*

Note: Yo, Bradley: you interested in gleaning over the Club Archives?! I could use the closet space!)

Until next time..

Pipes up 'an Push Hard!

Brad Green



GROVER'S COLUMN

Does anyone else have this problem? It's cold outside. It's cold in the garage. Any part of a bike I touch is icy. My bikes are hibernating, as are my tools. My lists of todos get longer and longer. Each time I go to get some item done, I say the hell with it, it's too cold. Wayne up in Montana or Mike in New York probably think this is pretty silly, but I challenge them to spend twenty years out here getting acclimated and then try to deal with it going down to thirty at night.

M2

Well, the membership and money levels are about where they were last month. I haven't looked lately. I'll be preparing the fourth quarter and annual financial report between Christmas and New Years for inclusion in the February Notice.

In this issue are enclosed the club roster; a personal non-transferable membership card, personally signed by me (thanks, Joe), which will get you across the bay bridge; and the new, improved membership application. This application has some new and very important (!) weasel words to keep anyone from suing the club or any of its officers. I'll be keeping a file of these, so please fill it out and send it to me whether you are due for renewal or not. In addition, the application once again has the forms for joining or rejoining the INOA and the United Kingdom NOC (the Mother Club, so to speak). I think I have finally, after much study and thought, understood the method for assigning member numbers.

There have been rumors of some members planning to break away and form a San Mateo Norton Owners Club. Evidently, these members object to the smarminess of Harry's Hofbrau and finding their way to Tonto's through all those streets that look alike and have similar-sounding names. Let me just say that for the good of our club I'm willing to keep circling blocks named Allo, Clarabelle, and Virenzi, wondering "Is it 45th or 48th? Is that the zoo? Where the heck is this place?"

CLUB SCHEDULE

We have received some input on the schedule printed here last month. "You've got Easter on a Thursday, you jerk," was the most popular response. Well, Easter is on a Sunday, and that's what I meant.

The January ride in San Francisco is planned to follow the 49-mile scenic drive, just following those seagull signs. Some have expressed concern about hills on this ride, but I think we can tough it out. The ride will leave at 11 a. m. from The Java House on the Embarcadero. This place is near the southernmost end of that fabled street, which is all torn up right now, and not to be confused with Red's Java House about a mile to the north.

THURSDAY NIGHT FIGHTS

Because bench racing does not seem to be able to fill the membership's need for conflict, we are instituting monthly Thursday Night Fights at our usual venues. Though some might say that we are only making official an institution that is already thriving, this is not the case. In a new age interpretation of the ancient Viking tradition called "holmgang," we think this will be the most appropriate method for solving the clubs knottiest issues. In addition, although betting on events will be frowned on by the club, and is in fact illegal, the house will be forced to take a cut should such an unfortunate and disrespectful situation arise.

Anyway, the club would like to invite all sporting members to our first match, to be held at the Prince of Wales Pub in freezing San Mateo on the fourteenth evening of the new year. Grover "Lucky" Buhr will battle Duncan "The Mad Scot" Ferguson in a ten-round hullaballo over the proper pronunciation of potato, tomato, and Lucas. This will be followed by the traditional donnybrook in which all attending members are invited to participate. Soft drinks are strangt verboten, of course.

Side Trips

by Andy McKerral, Editor

1993... I like years that are prime numbers: that means that no arithmetic number divides them evenly. Maybe that means this year, I'll get a shot at a decent run of good luck. Hell, when you figure that the last "prime number" year was 1987 (a year, I might add, that was one of the most dynamic, productive and creative times in my life), it's about time that I get cookin' and get some high-powered stuff done while I'm ridin' the tube...

I gotta confess that I wasn't too enamored with last year; there was far too much adolescent whining and carping in the Club, and not enough responsible, constructive help. The folks of the NCNOC Club Officers really tried very hard to overlook, overcome and over-condescend to those of the more sensitive ilk and provide a general concensus-like awareness for the needs of the Club. A few of us suffered wilting criticism for it-some were really turned off by the provincialistic, class-oriented attitudes of some of the more voiciferous paens from a very select few- nonetheless, the strong still survive in this world, and those of us with the *cahones*' to weather the storm are still hanging in there with this Club, while some brats are still crying about their soiled diapers... and not doing a damn thing to make this Club something for the San Francisco Bay Area to be proud of...

I'll conclude my thoughts on this issue by telling you that I'm glad I got through puberty when I did. It's a pain in the ass to watch a few grown men have to go through it in their 40s. This Club will,

on the other hand, survive very nicely... with, or without them.

Then there was the meeting at Tonto's in San Francisco last month... those in attendance braved the aftermath of a hellatious rain storm to come and finally get to air out some dirty laundry. Although the grind finally came to a head- and although a couple folks there still didn't get the message- I believe that it had to happen for the good of the Club. Some issues got aired that needed to be brought forward. There was much in the way of positive feedback after that meeting, which tells me that the overall state of the Club is as strong as it ever was... we just have to dial in a few adjustments to make it work more efficiently and cater to the needs of the overall Membership more effectively.

I can't (and won't) speak for the rest of the Club leadership- however, for my part, I discovered a few ways that my particular effort could be made to feature the Club's unique attributes. SO... I am actively soliciting VOLUNTEERS to participate in two new elements of the Notice, which will enhance our Club's communications.

The first idea came from what I will now and forever refer to as the *Tonto's Summit*: I would like one person from each of the four regions in our Club to submit just a paragraph or two each month to inform the General Membership of what's Nort'n on in their neighborhoods. That means one person in Berkeley (or points East), one person in Marin (or

points North), one person in San Jose (or points South) and one person on the San Francisco Peninsula (preferably closer to the City)- each blurb will be published every month under the general title of **"Whazz Happ'nin"**, with by-line credits given to the contributor. In that way, we can all gain appreciation for the regional characteristics of our Norton friends and perhaps participate in their shenanigans with 'em.

The second idea grew out of the Tonto's Summit: I would like to see someone in our Club who has the common respect and appreciation of all of us to take the massive Club Archives files which I have and create a Technical Tip article each month. It doesn't have to be an extensive, overblown and elitist affair: it just has to be an ongoing, simple, common-sense article each month that has to deal with the mechanical eccentricities of

Nortons. It can either be a narrative article (like describing a factory technical bulletin), a historical description of Norton engineering, or else a sort of "Ask Mr. Goodwrench" kind of thing where folks send in letters asking for help with their Norton problems. Four folks come to mind for this assignment: Phil Radford would be an excellent choice, with his unparalleled, extensive technical knowledge of Nortons (and his dry, ascerbic wit)- also, Art Sirota would be good because of his vast knowledge of

Norton restoration and marque history; Tom Terry would fill the bill nicely because of his practical knowledge in racing engineering (and his unflinching ability to let bullshit roll off his back)- and Mike Burnham, whose creation of the Raffle Bike last year, together with his practical knowledge and skills at problem solving would make for very nice reading. Of course, others who would truly be willing to contribute to this article would be very welcome to do so. I merely suggest these gentlemen because I've had personal knowledge of their skills. Others are welcome to step forward.

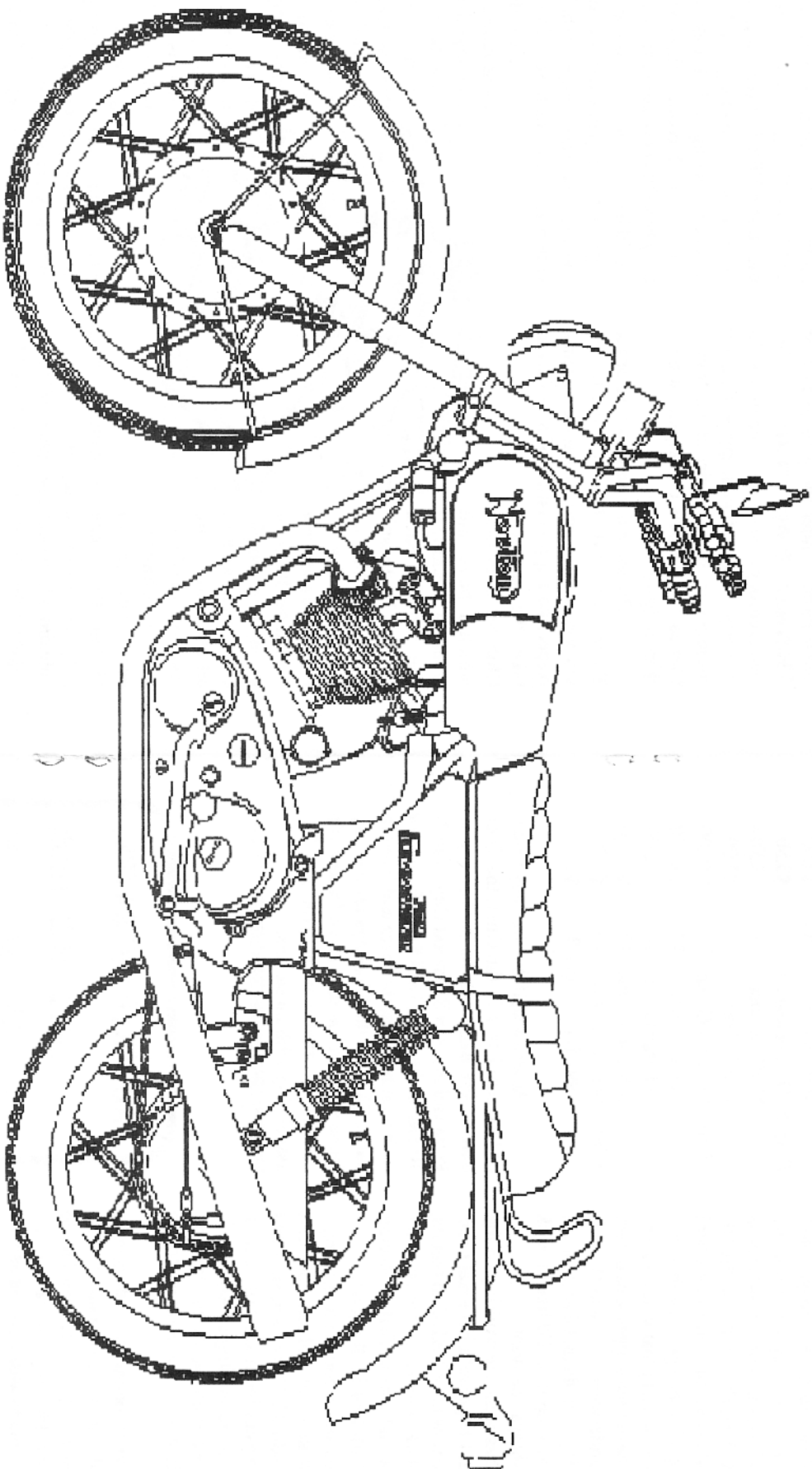
I've also done some research into a few ways that I could make the Notice be a bit more- well, er, that is- lively... or fun. While it would be very easy to revert to some of the more common ways this is done in other newsletters (more flesh and less iron), that isn't what I believe that the general Club

membership wants. So I'm going to try a few other ideas in the months to come, and I fully expect to hear feedback (both positive and negative) so that I can dial this thing in for the upcoming Notice publisher in November. That way, he or she won't have to reinvent the wheel and work so hard.

So let's get ready to have a great 1993, and make this the best, most fun year ever!

-Andy





"Norton" 350cc Roadster Norton Headlight, 1971, Dave Cooper, Dean Prinslow, California, USA.

This outrageous picture of a 1971 Roadster was created with AutoCad for Macintosh by Dave Cooper. Only now have I figured out how to format this thing and get it swallowed into the Notice. Give Dave a call and tell him what a great job he did! This thing must've taken DAYS to finish.

STUFF - by John Bria

Another year gone already, I can't believe it! As you can see from the inventory below, our stock of patches is getting pretty low. I've written to the UK to find out what they have available, but I need some opinions/suggestions from you about the type of thing that you'd like to have. There have been suggestions of ties, tie tacks, underwear (no way!) with appropriate logos on them. Give me a call or catch me at a meeting- I'd like to stock the kind of things you want.

Joe has someone working on the Club pin that I hope we'll have real soon. Note that we now have XXL club t-shirts, but the're dark blue since the supplier couldn't get that size in British Racing Green. The still look really good.

If you're not coming to meetings, I'll be glad to keep our mail order business going. Just add \$2.00 for each shirt and \$1.00 for a reasonable amount of patches, pins, etc. to cover mailing expenses (I'll cover the cost of the cappucino that my wife usually extorts for walking to the post office).

If you're coming to a club meeting or event and want to be sure that I bring along whatever you need, call me. I try to bring a reasonable supply to each event, but there's a limit to what I can put into my tank bag. (Yes, I have a pickup- but that's not why I joined this club.)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE
<i>Decals</i>	NOC Large	43	\$2.00
	NOC Small	15	\$1.25
<i>Patches</i>	Union Jack	9	\$2.25
	Wing-self stick	2	\$2.00

	NOC Large	6	\$3.50
	NOC Small	5	\$2.50
<i>Pins</i>	NOC red	25	\$3.00
	Norton Black	61	\$3.00
	1991 Rally	134	\$2.50
<i>Keyfobs</i>	Norton leather	7	\$3.50
	NOC Leather	18	\$3.50
	NOC Clear	8	\$2.00
<i>Shirts</i>	Medium Green	7	\$12.00
	Large Green	12	\$12.00
	X Large Green	10	\$12.00
	XX Large Blue	12	\$12.00
<i>Misc.</i>	Service Notes	10	\$5.00
	1991 Rally Caps	3	\$5.00

As an aside, if there are any lovers of Dixieland Jazz in the Club, the Toot Sweet Jazz Band will be performing at Pizza and Pipes in Redwood City from 7-10 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, and at the Pizza and Pipes in Santa Clara on the Mondays proceeding the second and fourth Fridays. I know, it's confusing- that's what you get for associating with musicians.

ADVERTISING RATES

	<u>1/4 Pg.</u>	<u>1/2 Pg.</u>	<u>Full Pg</u>
6 Mos.	\$35	\$70	\$140
1 Yr.	\$60	\$120	\$240

Send ad copy and check
to the Publisher

Letters...

Dear Editor:

As one who attended the "nonmeeting" last Thursday evening at Tonto's in San Francisco, I'd like to offer an observation. To the extent that NOC events deteriorate into public diaper-changing sessions, they are no fun and the club suffers in the eyes of it's members, whether they attended or just heard about it. Wrangling is good PR, too.

I have said it before and I'll say it again, as I did afterwards on Thursday night: I continue my association with the Norton Owner's Club because, yes, I like my Norton, but also because I have found the members of the NOC to be some of the finest, most erudite folks I have ever met. ("...you poor s.o.b.," said Grover) I like them. And I don't want them done the disservice of having to watch so much dirty laundry being done in public. It's just not necessary, and no one is under any obligation to tolerate it.

Let's get back to the basics. "The ride's the thing."

John Covell

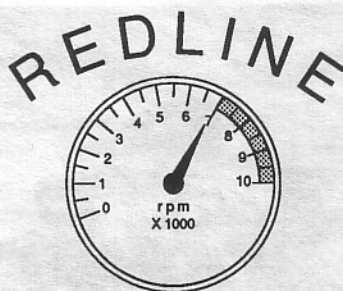
Public Relations Officer
Northern California NOC

John, it's interesting to note that I haven't received one single letter on the "Tonto's Summit" since it went down. I HAVE received several phone calls, however, and the preponderance of opinion generally reflects your views.

My thoughts on the issue are in my column this month, and I still think that it was important to get the issues of dissent out on the table where they belonged. While I don't think that the method of

getting to the bottom of it all was in the best interests of the Club, I still think that more good than harm came from it. Another way of looking at it could be that people cared enough for the Club that all braved horrific weather; some were willing to risk looking like over-emotional spoiled kids; others were willing to risk looking like irretractible, narrow-minded rednecks; and the rest dealt with the situation with cautious and dignified respect for EVERYONE, no matter how the rest behaved.

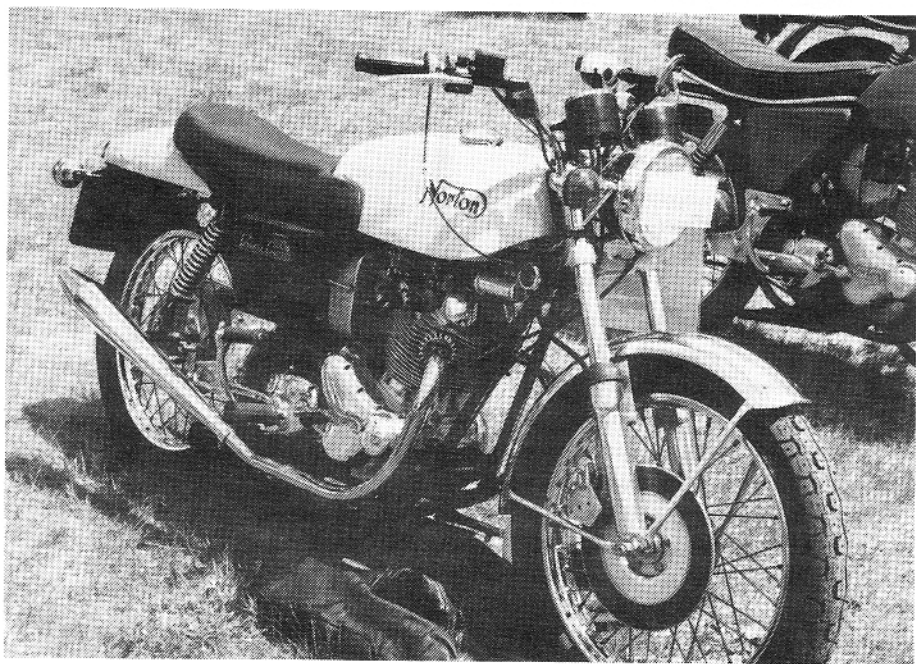
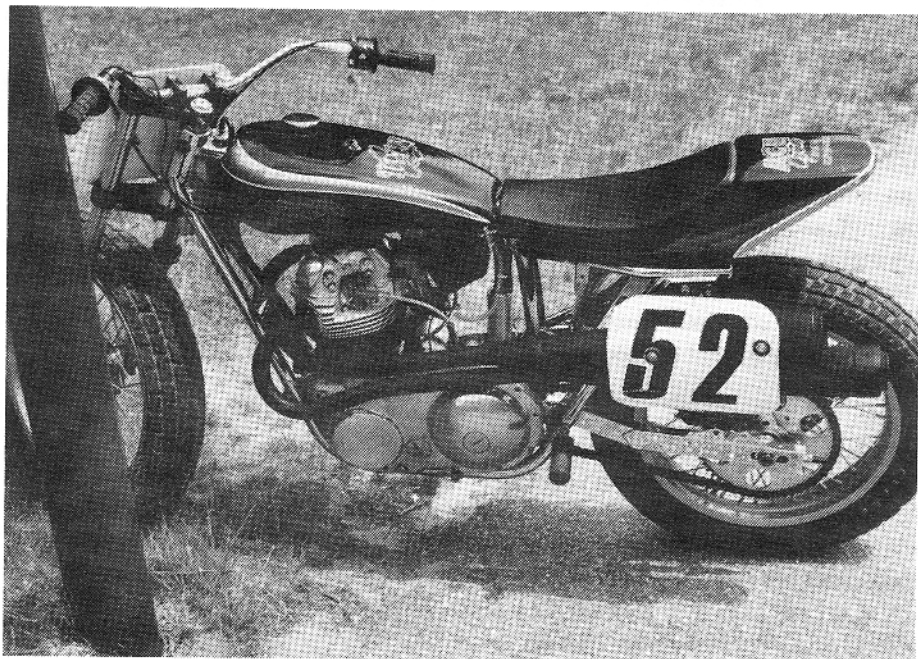
No fists were thrown- no bottles broken. Some feelings were hurt, but I don't believe that anything that happened was beyond repair. If other organizations had the same tenacity and quality of people, they'd be a genuine force to be reckoned with- Andy

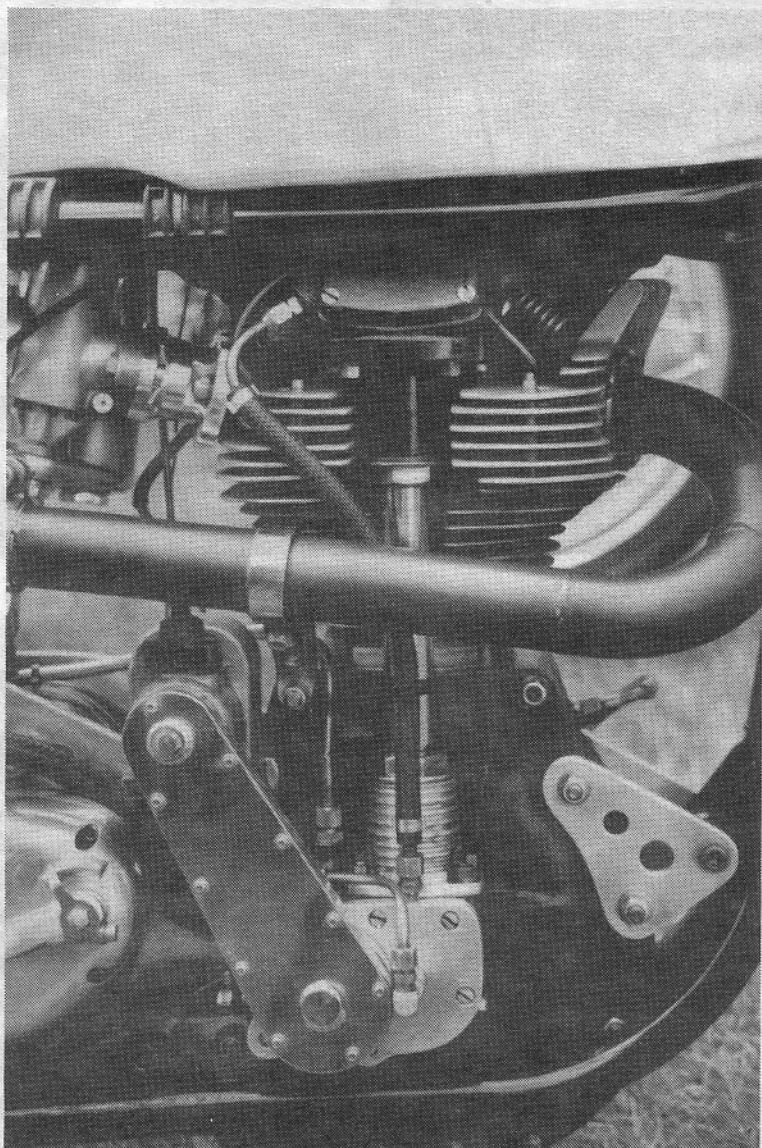


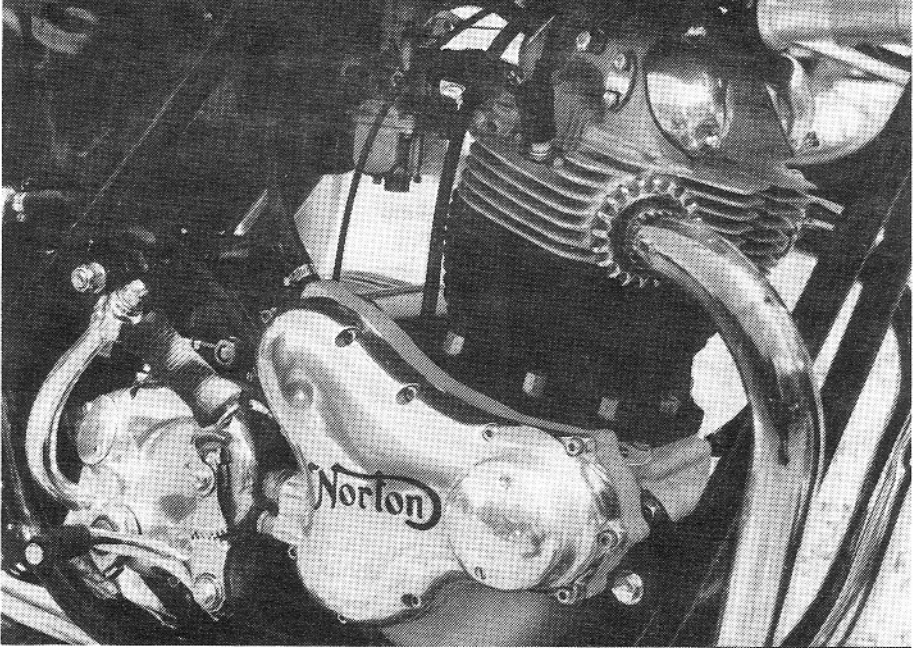
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NOC Membership Profile

by John Covell

Name: Chris McIntosh

Age: 43

City Resident: San Carlos

Marital: yes, 2 sons

Occupation: Construction

NOC Member since: 1989

How First became involved with NOC: "Art Sirota sucked me in..."

Club offices held/years: none!

Nortons Owned/described: '68 Fastback and '72 Combat Roadster

Other makes of motorcycle owned: Triumph, Vincent

What first interested you in the Norton?
Bought one in '72 because it was the best bike available at the time.

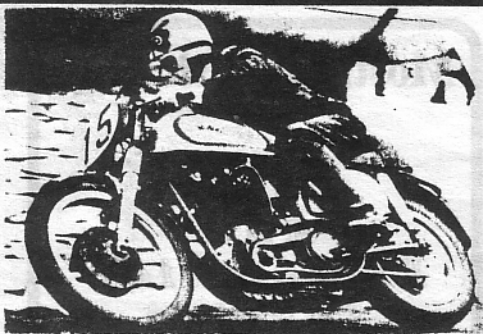
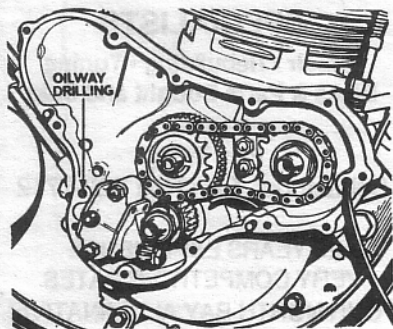
Other hobbies/interests of note: none

Favorite motorcycling road/ride: S.R. 49 near Jamestown, to the north of it

If you could redesign the Norton, what one thing would you most want to change? Give it more power, for a start. And change the side stand- make it higher

Favorite or most embarrassing episode on a Norton: Blew my head gasket in Athens. The local police garage changed it, put on a paper gasket. It went like stink after that... for about 100 miles...

Thank you!



**Hold on
to your seats!**

➔ *the all-new*

**1993
Norton Owner's
Club Calendar**

is here at last!

Published in England by the NOC, this very high quality production is now in it's 11th edition! Measuring 16x12 inches, it contains 13 full-color photographs of Nortons, complete with full and informative captions.

Printed on fine quality art paper and hung on a wire spiral, each page is just flipped over as required- no rip-offs here! This is a must for every discerning Norton Owner and enthusiast- just \$11 per copy!

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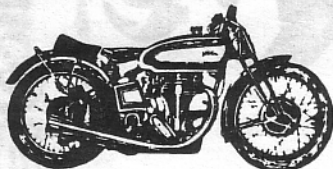
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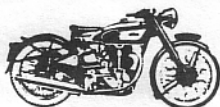
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