



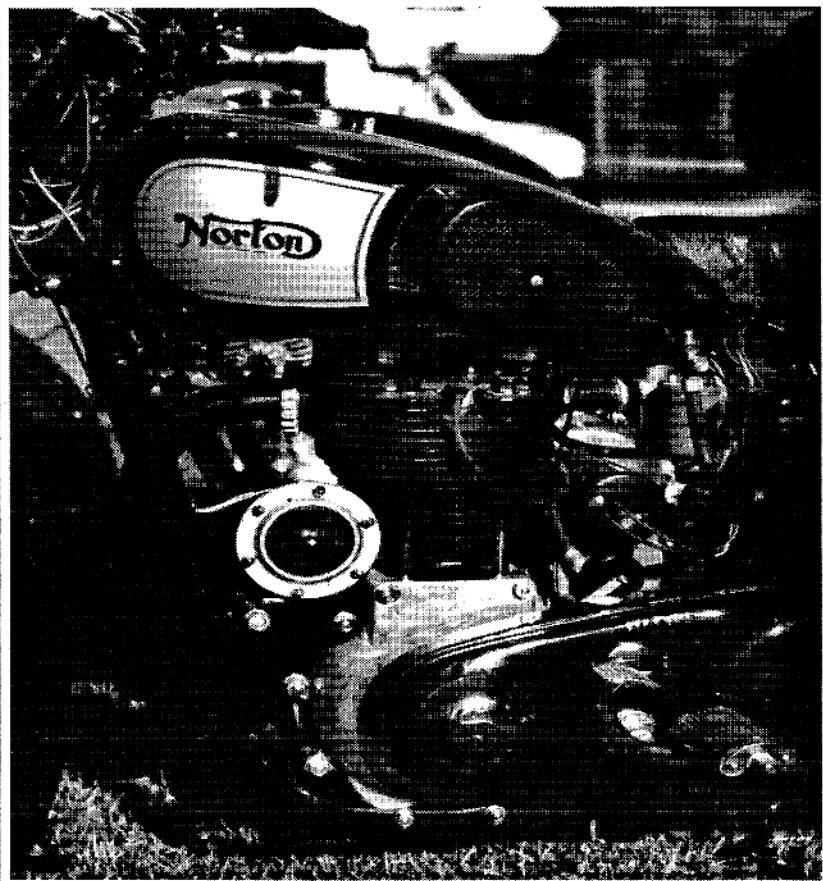
# Norton Notice



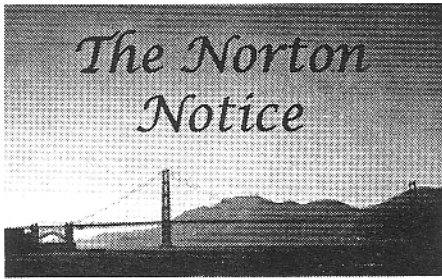
The Newsletter of the  
Northern California Norton Owners Club

No. 229

September, 1997



1947 Norton ES2



is published by the Northern California 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.

The **NORTON NOTICE** is a reflection of the readership, who are encouraged to submit an article, technical tip, photograph (original or otherwise) as long as it is in good taste, so that other Norton enthusiasts may enjoy it. (Good taste is somewhat optional, but hey-this is a group of bikers we're talking about here....that's why we have an editor.)

The deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 20th of each month.. The **NORTON NOTICE** welcomes contributions submitted electronically. Material in any format placed on a 3.5" floppy disc can be read by the editors' clever Macintosh. You may also send articles directly to the editor via modem or fax at 415-595-3368. Set your telecom software to 8/n/1, use X or Z modem file transfer protocol, and just call up the editor most evenings (don't wait until the 20th...there is a long line then). E-mail can be sent using INTERNET to [norton2@earthlink.net](mailto:norton2@earthlink.net) or [norton2@aol.com](mailto:norton2@aol.com)

Membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club is available for \$20.00 per year. Membership dues are payable to the Branch Treasurer. See application form on inside cover.

**Advertising rates are \$60.00/year for a 1/4 page ad!!**

Renewal dues are payable at the end of the individual's membership year, which is designated by the last number listed on the mailing label of the Norton Notice and the membership card.

**All changes of address or questions about membership or the Notice, call the President.....not the Notice editor!!**

The Northern California 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 organisations per the terms described on the Branch membership application form.

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## HONORARY MEMBERS

Brian Stark  
Jodi Nicholas  
Bill Knight  
Dick Slusher

## NORTON NOTICE

**IMPORTANT (Please note the following fine print!)** The object of the Northern California Norton Owners Club is to promote, encourage and develop motorcycle 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 the use of these 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 author's view only and do not necessarily reflect 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**

Official NOC events are shown underlined and in **bold print**. You earn NORTON points only by participating in these events, as follows:

Riding a Norton: 6 points

Riding other bike: 4 points

Riding on 4 wheels: 2 points

Weekend events are tallied per day. At the end of each year the member with the highest point total is awarded the Norton Cup and gets a free year membership.

**September****7: British Triples Ride**

Call Stevan Thomas at  
(415)923-1662

Royal Coffee Shop in Oakland,  
6253 College at 63rd (510-653-  
5453 - The ride leaves at 10 AM  
Get there early if you want to eat.  
Lunch at Pete's Brass Rail & Car  
Wash.

**You don't need a Triple to attend!!**

**14: Old-timers Ride & Picnic**

Huckleberry Flat in San Mateo  
Memorial Park. The ride leaves  
from Alice's at 10 AM. Call Alan G.  
to volunteer for the meal.

**26, 27, 28: Vintage British  
Motorcycle Rally**

Lake Cachuma, CA  
1-888-MC RALLY or  
1-888-627-2559

**27: Very British Auto & Motorcycle  
Show & Swap Meet**

First Congregational Church in  
Fresno  
Telephone: (209)227-8489

**October****12: Mt. Hamilton Ride****November****2: Don Danmeier's Annual 50th  
Birthday/All British Ride**

Call Don at 415-898-0330

**December****20: (Sat.) NCNOC Xmas Party**

Fontana's Restaurant/Menlo Park  
More info to follow

*If rides are cancelled due to poor weather  
- plan on the ride taking place the following  
week - same time - same place, call the  
ride coordinator!!!*

**Club Meeting Schedule**

*The Club meets on the second Thursday of  
each month at rotating venues. The meetings  
will start at 8:00 PM.*

**September 11 - Harry's Hofbrau**

399 W. El Camino RI  
Mountain View  
415-964-8455

**Press Production and  
Halftones:**

John and Carrie Follett:  
White Oak Press, San Carlos, CA

## Minutes of the August Meeting

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The meeting was called to order by Alan Mueller at 8:05 PM. Our president, Alan Goldwater was not able to attend this evening due to a prior family commitment. The venue for this month's meeting was The Prince of Wales in San Mateo. We had 18 members and seven of them rode their Nortons. We welcomed new member (1st meeting) Ian Sunderland.

There was a brief discussion about a few of the venues visited recently by the club. The Donkey Deli in Hollister and Camerons in Half Moon Bay both got good reviews as possible future venues. It was mentioned that ride/meetings might be a good idea, especially in the summertime.

There was some talk about another City and East Bay venue. Nothing was decided. Several places were mentioned. It was decided to send out a fact finding committee to check out a few places.

The Dardanelle weekend was mentioned. Again, it was suggested that one needs to get reservations.

The next order of business was the Old Timer's Ride on September 14. Alan M. has reserved Huckleberry Flat in San Mateo County Memorial Park for 50 people. We should spread the word to other clubs about this event and invite all British motorcycle clubs to share the day with us. The ride will begin at Alice's at 10

AM and will end with a picnic at Huckleberry. George & Sachi Shoblo, John Covell and Harry Bunting will help with salads and Mike Sullivan will help with dessert. A committee headed by Alan G. will try to coordinate the food.

Art Sirota reported that the British Banker's Club in Menlo Park might be a good spot for our Christmas Party. He will check it out and get back to us.

Alan M. suggested that the members start thinking about next years officers. The nominations will open next meeting and will close at the meeting after that.

The Treasurer reported that our account has \$564 in it. All bills are current. He reported that renewals of membership has been a little slow. Everyone remember that the only source of income that this club has is its membership...soooooo.....RENEW promptly. If you see a "Membership Expired" on your Notice, that will be your last issue unless you renew.

There was no Old or New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alan Mueller (Secretary/Treasurer)**

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## Alan's Wrench .... by Alan Goldwater, President

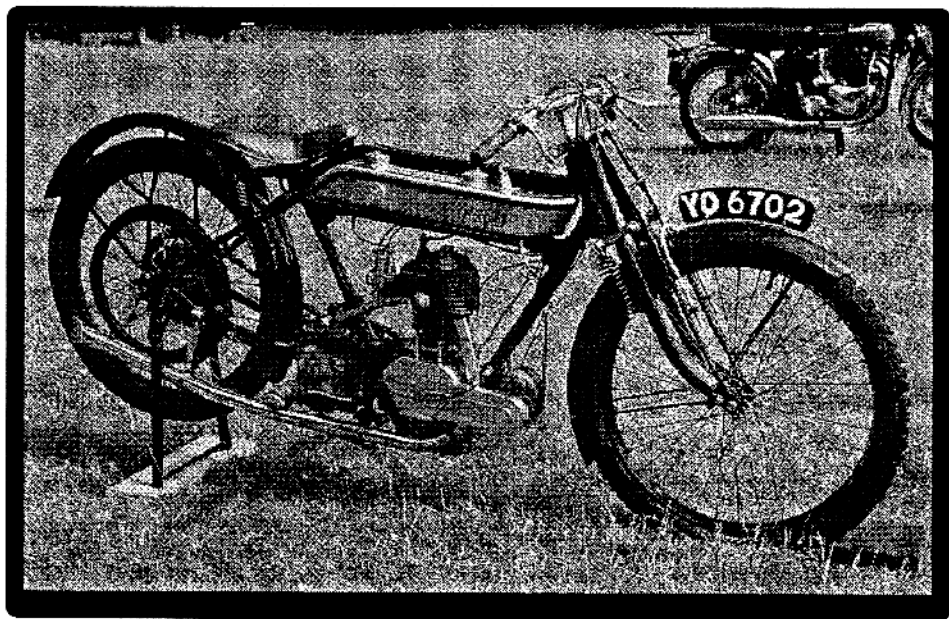
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What is it about an open road and a sweet-running bike that feels so good? Is it the freedom to go as fast (or slow) as you want without the burden of traffic? Or maybe it's the total immersion in the interaction of man, machine and road. Whatever the reason, it is hard to beat Sonora pass for an opportunity to explore this pleasure. The Dardanelles ride on Saturday gave a dozen of us another chance to do just that, with perfect weather and light traffic. At the lunch stop in Bridgeport, we shared another Norton tradition, the roadside repair. It took only a few minutes for the assembled group to diagnose the loose clutch center on John Padilla's bike, and the repair was done on the spot in under a half hour. Since we already had dirty hands, we also cleaned up his sticking float problem

and then headed back over the hill to camp.

A brief sprinkle after dinner had everyone scurrying to find rain gear, but it stopped in time for some star-gazing by the time we turned in. On Sunday, the sky was crystal-clear, and while most people packed and headed home, a few of us went for another dose of road-rapture over the pass and south on 395 to Yosemite. Having so much fun, surrounded by so much natural beauty has got to be one of the finest things in life!

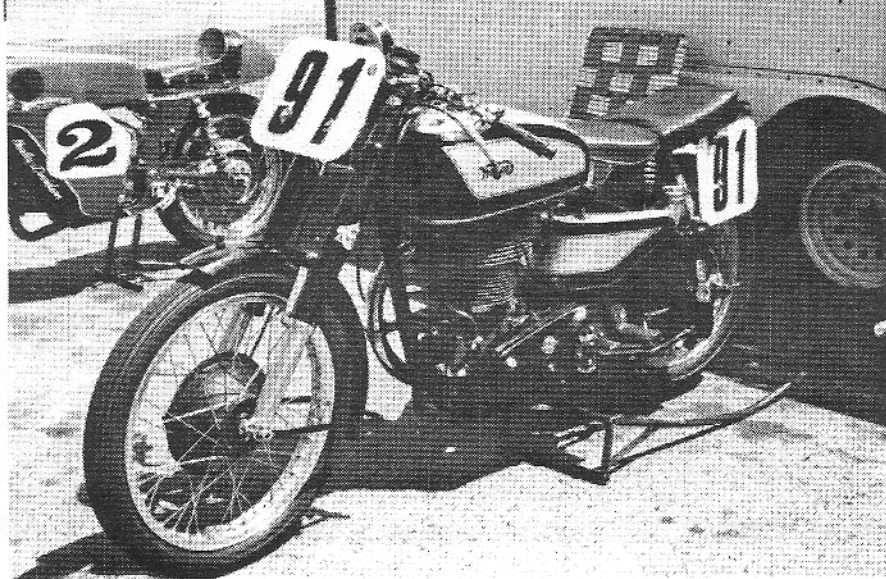
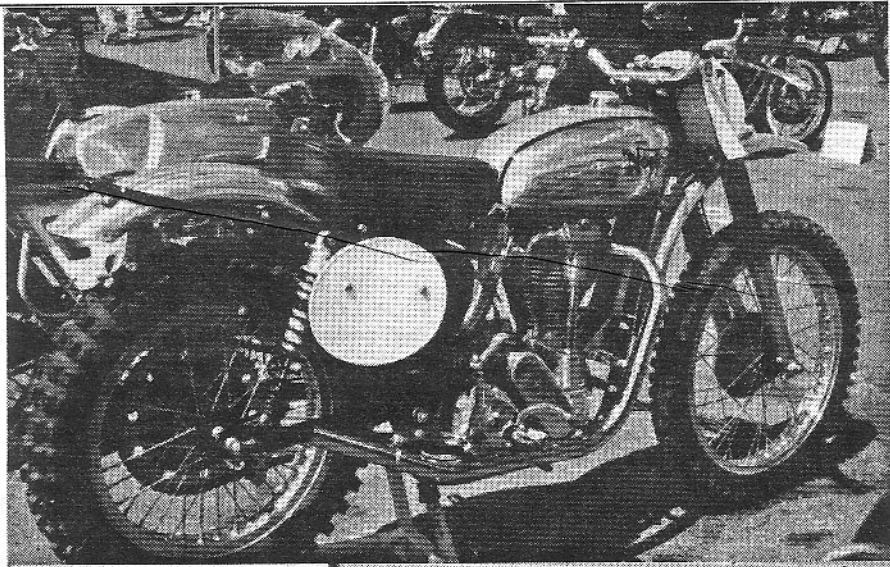
Don't forget to bring some goodies to the Old-Timers Ride and Picnic, coming up next month. We've had several volunteers for salads, so think of Hors D'Oeuvres and deserts. The ride will leave from Alices (corner of 84 & 35) at 10 am. See you there.



## *View from the Bridge.....by Alan Mueller*

Well another month has flown by. Everybody seems quite busy. I wasn't able to make it to the Dardanelles this year (I wish I could have), so I took Saturday off and went to the AHRMA event at Sears Point. It was a wonderful event..lots of gorgeous bikes and all ready to race. Next year this event will be held in April. I think this could be a great event to include as a ride.

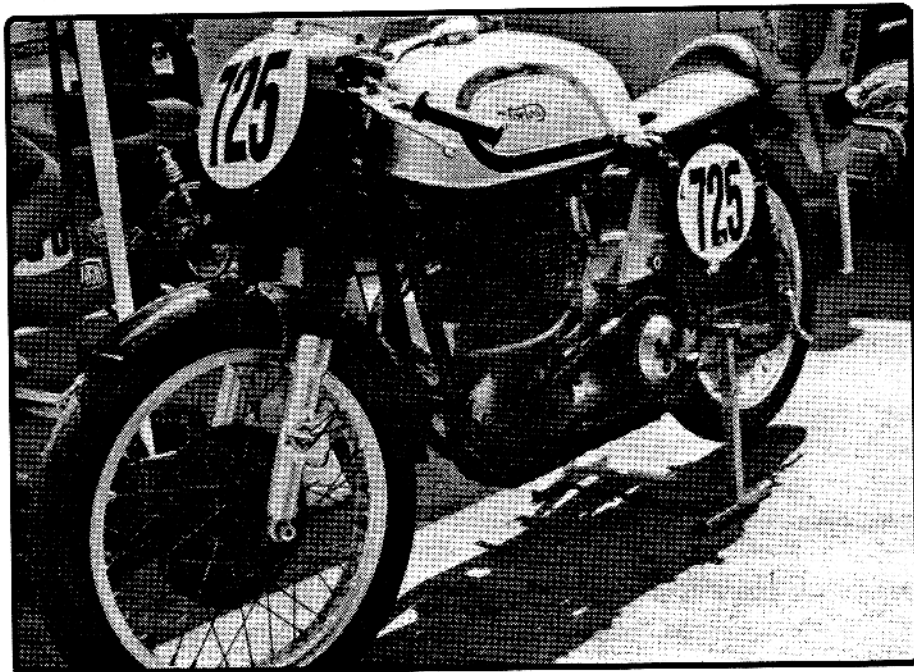
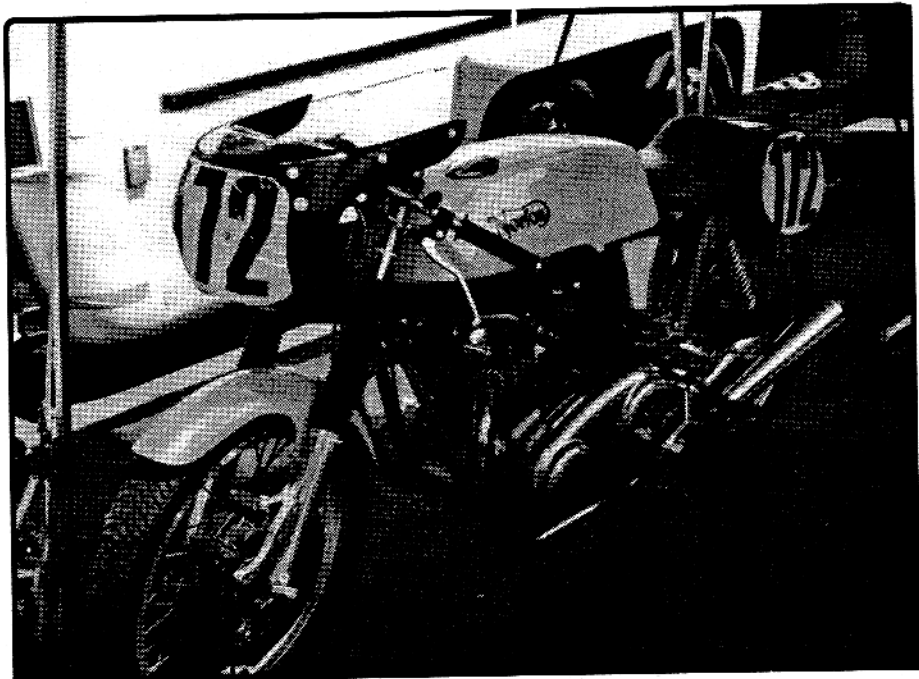
Here are a few photos taken of just a few of the many Nortons I spied at the Sonoma Fest.





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## More From The Sonoma Fest



## A Great Ride!

by Art Sirota

I just returned from a very long ride on my Norton, and I thought some of the members might be interested in hearing about it.

I rode a 1970 Commando 750 that I purchased in 1971. It was my first motorcycle, and over the years I have turned it into an Interstate with the steel 7 1/3 gallon gas tank, Interstate exhaust, and Interstate seat. I find the stock seat very comfortable even after long trips. Several years ago I replaced the original drum front brake with a later type Norton/Lockheed disc which is slightly better. I also fit an RH6 cylinder head which is a low compression Combat head, (how's that for an oxymoron?). For reliability it has Superblend main bearings and the roller bearing on the gearbox layshaft. It also has an external oil cooler mounted up front with a Lockhart thermostat tucked between the engine mounting plates. This machine did not originally have an oil filter, but I installed a stock Norton oil filter in the usual place behind the gearbox. It has the 'S' type and early roadster across-the-frame oil tank. A Boyer electronic ignition provides sparks. It also has a welded rotor, Mk3 isolastics and all the other refinements that Norton should have installed on it back in 1970! The carbs have been re-sleeved, the swingarm

made more rigid with additional set screws, and hardened valve seats installed so it runs on unleaded gasoline. For touring, I installed a 22-tooth countershaft sprocket so at 60mph the engine is turning over at 3500 rpm.

I left on a Friday afternoon and rode alone to Auburn where I partied, debauched, and made a nuisance of myself with the BSAOC. We went to the Motorcycle Speedway Races at the Auburn Speed bowl and watched all the bikes race around the short track kicking up dirt at the spectators.

On Saturday morning we left from Grass Valley with 29 British motorcycles bound for Sparks, Nevada and the annual chili cook-off at Jerry Meadows' house. As usual, we took the scenic Highway 49 through Downieville. The weather was sunny and the Norton was running perfectly. At one point I was a part of a pack of renegade Commando owners who broke away from the pack and cruised down the road a 95 mph for about a half hour.

After a fantastic meal, (there were 29 different types of chili to be tasted), and homemade cherry ice cream, (thanks, Patty!), Frank Forster and I took off for Susanville. Frank was on his eye-catching 1961 Royal Enfield and for the duration of the ride I'd lose him on the curves and catch up with him on the straights. He must

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have some secret gas additive that no one else knows about.

We stayed the night in Susanville and then rode up to the Velocette Rally in Oregon. It was dark by the time we reached Suttle Lake near Sisters, Oregon, and the campgrounds were really beautiful. The lake was shimmering in the moonlight, the weather was warm, and it was great to see all my longtime friends from the Velo club. Several members had flown over from Australia and from England to attend this special event.

The next five days had us touring Oregon and parts of Washington on the great Velocette Volcano Run. We saw Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, and Mt. Hood. Everyday was packed with snow-capped mountains, blue skies, and great food. Finally, I rode home alone on Saturday having put over three thousand miles on.

During all this time I never turned a wrench on my Norton. I did keep a watchful eye on the oil level and oiled my rear chain every 500 miles. But the Commando never missed a beat. It's pretty filthy right now and needs some new tires, but it was a reliable, quick, easy starting motorcycle that stayed oil-tight for the entire trip.

Next time I attend the Velo rally, I think I'll take my Venom.

The End

## NOC Member Profile

by John Covell

*Name:* Matt Kocks

*Age:* 41

*City Resident:* San Francisco

*Marital:* married, 1 son

*Occupation:* metal fabricator

*NOC Member since:* early 1997

*How first became involved with NOC:*  
Joined at the Clubman's Show.

*Club offices held (years):* None yet.

*Norton(s) owned, described:* 1956 Dominator 500, 1957 Dominator 600

*Other makes of motorcycle:* 1979 Triumph Bonneville 750

*What first interested you in the Norton?*  
"It was totally different looking, sounding, performing from the other (Japanese) bikes I was used to."

*Other hobbies/interests of note?*  
amateur herpetologist (has a 14-foot python named "Lost [in the Ozone]" in the basement)

*If you could redesign the Norton, what one thing would you most want to change? How and why?* "More horsepower for the Dominators, better brakes too."

*Favorite/most embarrassing episode on a Norton?* "I laid it down once in front of a crowd about ten years ago when [in a temporarily diminished capacity]."

## Classified Advertisements

**Editors note: We actively encourage non-Club members to post ads to sell Norton motorcycles, Norton parts and Norton-specific services. Ads will also be posted on our new web site, at <http://ru486.hypno.com/~norton>. All ads will run for 3 months. Please notify the editor if your item has been sold. Your ad will automatically be removed after 3 months if I haven't heard differently. Note the expiration date at the end of each ad.**

### FOR SALE

1972 750 Norton, clip-ons, Ceriani road race forks, 13" front disc, stainless rear sets, custom brackets galore, 1 1/2" black chrome exhaust, powder coated, fresh paint, 3500 miles since rebuild, new clutch, balanced crank, polished rods, new bushes, 850 breathing system, Powermax pistons, 4s cam, lightened & polished rockers, Titanium collars, custom stainless battery box, Rita ignition, mightMax voltage control, Akront alloy rims, Buchannan stainless spokes...all for \$4800  
Call Chris at (415)965-4611 (9/97)

### FOR SALE

'72 B50SS, Powder coated, custom silver & British racing green, custom seat, custom low exhaust, Akront alloy rims, Buchannan stainless spokes, Boyer ignition, 2500 miles since complete restoration...some minor attention needed..\$2500  
Call Chris at (415)965-4611 (9/97)

### FOR SALE:

Front mudguard for Norton 21" front wheel Complete with brace and stays. Condition 6/10+. No free rust. Some pitting on lower stay. Painted black. \$125.00  
Call Mike (415)872-3336 od fax (512)547-2007 (9/97)

### FOR SALE

Bultaco Sherpa T. Needs main bearings and seals. \$300.  
Stevan Thomas (415)923-1662 (7/97)

### WANTED:

500 or 600 twin motor or parts. Need for my 58 Nomad. Also looking for the tool/battery box (non featherbed frame). On page 80 of the Norton Buyers Guide.  
Steve (408)476-1319 or fax (408)476-9446 (9/97)

### FOR SALE

Knobbies!! Bridgestone rear tires: 100/90-19, 110/90-19, 120/90-19. List \$70-\$80, only \$50 each.  
Stevan Thomas (415)923-1662 (7/97)

### FOR SALE

1970 Norton Roadster cafe style! Original owner (purchased in England). Mint condition! Extras: new tires and rims, stainless steel spokes, black powder coated frame, black laquer gas tank, clip ons and all Norton graphics. First \$5,000 takes it home!!!  
Contact Bill [bd@pe.net](mailto:bd@pe.net) or call John at (310)376-4223 (10/97)

### FOR SALE

1971 Triumph 650, Tiger, New top end, many new parts, excellent cond. \$3000  
1968 BSA 441 Victor Basket 90% comp. \$500.  
1958 Royal Enfield 700 Constellation, Basket 80% comp, \$500 & other Enfield parts for Conie,  
Call John Ahern (415)355-6774 (8/97)

### FOR SALE

Redline synthetic oil (20W50) at dealer cost. \$6/quart or \$72/case, plus tax and shipping. Protect your Norton with the best oil made!  
Alan (408)475-7505 (4/97)

### BUY A BETTER BOYER

Magri Motorcycles has the NEW Boyer Microdigital Electronic Ignition. Better than standard Boyer or Rita systems. Uses microprocessor technology to compensate for cam timing variations associated with timing chains. Fits under stock points cover. Necessary hardware included.  
Magri Motorcycles, 1220 Pennsylvania Ave., San Francisco, (415)285-6735 (4/97)

### SERVICE AVAILABLE

FOR COMMANDOS. Have your bike apart? It's time to ensure your handling is up to snuff

for the great riding you'll do later this year. Get Kinetic Analysis to fix your cradle and improve your handling (see NN#220). We machine the two isolastic tube faces on the cradle and the two faces on the front motor mount. \$150 plus shipping.

**Ken Augustine (415)472-6661 (4/97)**

**FOR SALE**

1969 Norton "S" Model, from Zach Reynolds Collection, as new, 2700 miles..\$6500; '68 Triumph TR6C Restored...\$3400; '70 Tr. Bonneville, original but faded...\$2600

**Call John (916)753-9696 (12/97)**

**FOR SALE**

Your editor must downsize....'64 TR6, last years winner at the Monterey European MC event,...'67 650 BSA, red/chrome. For details & price call,

**Ken Armann (408)379-4300 (10/97)**

**FOR SALE**

Norton Commando 750 cylinder head, used but in good condition, \$50. Shipping costs are extral

**Art (415)324-0567 (6/97)**

**FOR SALE**

'72 Norton Special - custom nickel frame, teal green painted proddy bodywork, stainless highpipes, alloy wheels, alloy oil tank, Engine performance mods to numerous to list. Contact:

**Brad (510)537-0253 (10/97)**

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Norton 750 Dragster, Mhunt mag, nitrous injector, HP cam, air shifter..Featured on July cover, \$4500..call

**Dan Lynch (209)638-6011 (10/97)**

**WANTED**

Yellow production racer gas tank, seat, fender, all or some or info..any shape.

**Contact Dick Slusher at volks1984@aol.com or (503)284-9624 (7/97)**

**FOR SALE**

Two sets of tanks and tail sections for Fastbacks. One set is solid signal red, comes with plastic tank badges, and is for a 1968 model - \$225. The other is BRG and is for a 1969 or later - \$200. BUB 3-into1 chromed exhaust for BSA Rocket 3 or Triumph X-75 Hurricane, excellent

**Call Art at (415)324-0567 (10/97)**

**FOR SALE**

'72 650 Bonnie (5 sp), '72 Daytona 500, and '70 500 Daytona....all for \$2500.

'69 roller 650 Bonnie, '72 cases, not matching, rough, single leading shoe w/ giant air scoop. Call

**Chuck (510)837-2190 (10/97)**

**WANTED**

Joe Hunt magneto for pre-unit Triumph. Atlas or P11 side stand

**Call Tom (415)924-6558 (11/97)**

**FOR SALE**

All Black powder coated; '61 slimline featherbed frame, S/arm, bat/box, oil tank, C/stnd, tool tray, dash, fork shrouds, yoke, headlight holders. New shocks, Timken needle bearings installed in new fork-all new stainless hardware & headlamp switch, clean undented tank. \$2000

**Call Ken Armann (408)379-4300**

**SERVICE AVAILABLE**

Thinking of buying a Commando or other British bike? I can help you determine what the bike needs to become reliable. See me before or after you buy! I also do maintenance and provide instruction. Reasonable rates.

**Jim (510)483-2045 (4/97)**

**FOR SALE**

'63 BSA 650 star, complete, recent engine overhaul. Original right down to the fasteners. \$3000/'64 BSA 500 Star, early sixties unit twin, 2000 miles since overhaul, 99% complete...\$3000

**Call Greg (510)447-4802**

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**Come visit! (415)284-9514 (4/97)**

**FOR SALE**

The Club Mac....Mac Classic, Stylewriter printer and enough software to make you a desktop publisher. \$300. Also John Covell has a modem to add for an extra \$40. Call Alan Goldwater.

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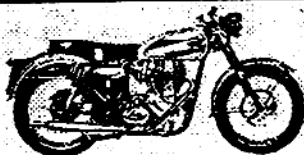
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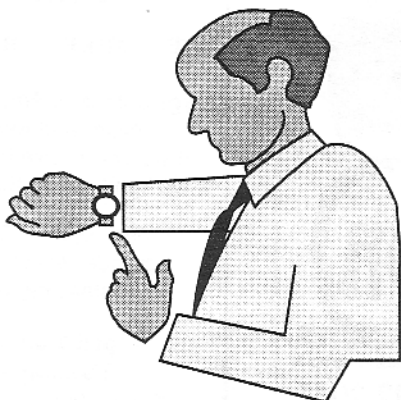
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## THE 1998 NOC CALENDAR

**!!It' s Time to Order!!**



The 1998 edition of the NOC calendar will be published shortly. Copies are being offered at a discount price to all the branches as usual, with larger discounts on bigger quantities. Members purchasing the Calendar via Roadholder will pay more.

I can order these Calendars at a good rate but I need to know how many of the members would be interested in ordering one. They make great gifts!!

Please give me a call and let me know if you might want one. Call 650-591-5444 and leave a message. According to the latest exchange rate, the cost should be around \$8 or \$9 if my conversion calculations are correct.

Alan Mueller

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**THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NORTON OWNERS CLUB**  
 Membership Application

The Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC) was started in San Francisco in the early 1970's, and grew geographically larger to become the Northern California Club.

Club membership is technically limited to Norton owners, but we look the other way all the time, at least as long as you would like to have a Norton, own other British bikes, or are just a great person to have around. So if you like to ride, repair, eat, drink, be merry, and admire Norton motorcycles, it will cost you \$20 to join.

The club has monthly rides (sometimes more often), monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month (at rotating venues), an award winning monthly newsletter, and a Website.

If you would like to learn more about your Norton and how to take care of it, would like to buy a Norton, or just want to have a good time with other Club members, join now!

The NCNOC maintains a relationship with the U.S. Norton Owners Association (USNOA, also known as the International Norton Owners Association, or INOA) as well as the original Club in England. Our club secretary will tell you how to join the UK organization, if you have an interest.

The USNOA puts on a North American Rally each year and publishes a fine quarterly magazine called the *Norton News*. This gives you access to national want-ads and to Norton merchants all over the country who advertise in the News. You also get the national membership list. It is well worth joining and will cost you another \$20. Send that to: **Dian Stark, 12603 BelAire Circle, McCalla, AL., 35111...Phone (205)477-4340.**

We look forward to seeing you and your Norton out on the high road.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY STATE and ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTORCYCLES OWNED**

Make	Year	Model	Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers
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Attach another sheet if you want to list more.

I hereby apply for membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC). This is a \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewal application.

The undersigned applicant certifies that he or she is a legal resident of the US over the age of 18, has a valid motorcycle driver's license, and will use legally required safety equipment in connection with club activities. Participant does hereby execute this release, waiver, and indemnification for himself or herself and his or hers, successors, representatives, and assigns, and hereby agrees and represents as follows: To release the Northern California Norton Owners Club ("the Club") and its officers, agents and members from any and all liability, loss, damage, costs, claims, and/or cause of action, including but not limited to all bodily injuries and property damage arising out of participation in the club's activities, it being specifically understood that such activities include the operation and use by applicant and others of motorcycles. The undersigned further agrees to indemnify the club and its officers, agents, and members and hold them harmless for the results of the undersigned's participation in those activities. This indemnification shall include attorney's fees incurred in defending any claim or judgement and incurred in the negotiation of any settlement. It is understood and agreed that the undersigned shall have the opportunity to consent to any settlement; provided, however, that such consent shall not be reasonably withheld.

I have read and agree to the additional terms and conditions set forth on all parts of this application. Other affiliated clubs and organizations are also represented and protected by this release.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send all applications or inquiries to:  
**Alan Mueller, 128 Windsor Ct., San Carlos, CA. 94070**  
**(415)591-5444**