



# Norton Notice




The Newsletter of the  
Northern California Norton Owners Club

No. 253

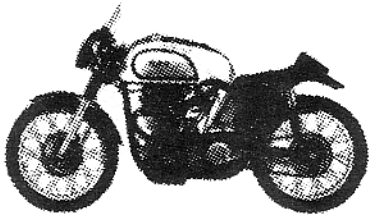
October 1999

THE "BIG FOUR"  
WILL CLIMB ANY HILL  
WITH A BIG LOAD AS  
EASILY AS WITH



NORTON.

A vintage-style advertisement for Norton motorcycles. The text is arranged in a block at the top, followed by a central illustration of a Norton motorcycle with a large load on the back, climbing a hill. The word "NORTON." is printed in a large, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom of the illustration.



## Norton Notice

*The Norton Notice* is published by the Northern California Norton Owners Club. Its purpose is to inform and entertain members regarding all aspects of the Norton motorcycle.

The dead-line for submissions is the 20th of every month. Send articles, pictures etc. to: **Norton Notice Editor- 1318 Eleventh Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122** You can also send text or scanned art (any format) via e-mail to: **dana@spazzco.com**

**Advertising rates are \$60 per year for a 1/4 page.** Membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club is available for \$20 per year. Membership dues are payable to the branch treasurer (see application form inside cover). 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 this mailing and on the membership card. **All changes of address or membership questions, please call the club President...not the Notice editor!!!**

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

## Club Officers

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**Brian Stark, Jodi Nicholas,**  
**Bill Knight, Dick Slusher**

### Tech Tip Fine Print

**IMPORTANT:** Norton Notice members often submit technical suggestions for publication in the Norton Notice. Submissions published have been reviewed for technical content and are believed to be acceptable, 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 connections with club activities. Norton Notice articles and other materials express the authors view only and not necessarily the policies of the Northern California Norton Owners Club, NOC or INOA. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or alter all editorial or advertising material submitted for publication. Advertising does not mean endorsement or products, goods or services.

## ◆ 1999 Club Rides ◆

date tact	time	alt date	event	meet at	con-
Oct 10	10 AM	N/A	Delta Ride	Gar Jorgenson	(925) 634-9395
Nov 7	10 AM	N/A	Marin Ride	**	
Nov 21	11 AM	N/A	Boulder Creek	Alices	Alan G.

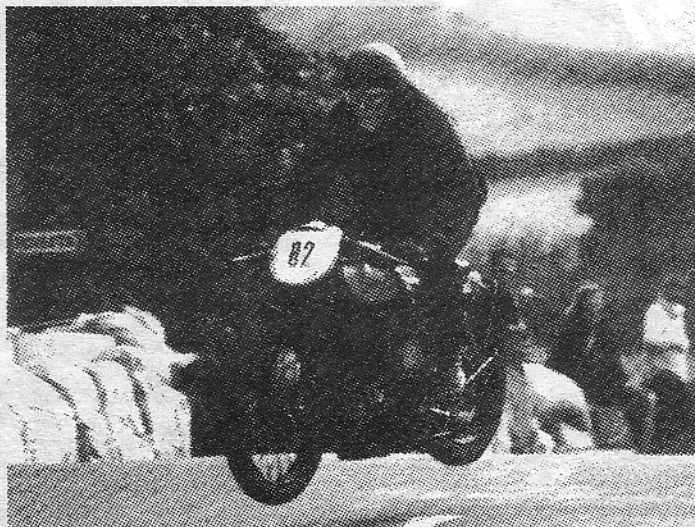
\*\* to be determined

Earn Norton Points by attending OfficialNOC events Ride a Norton: 6 Points, Any other bike: 4 points, Ride on 4 wheels: 2 points Weekend events are tallied by 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.

## 1999 Club Meetings

The club meets at 8:00pm on the second Thursday of each month at rotating venues.

Oct 14	Harrys Hofbrau Mtn View
Nov 11	Harrys Hofbrau San Leandro
Dec ??	Xmas Party



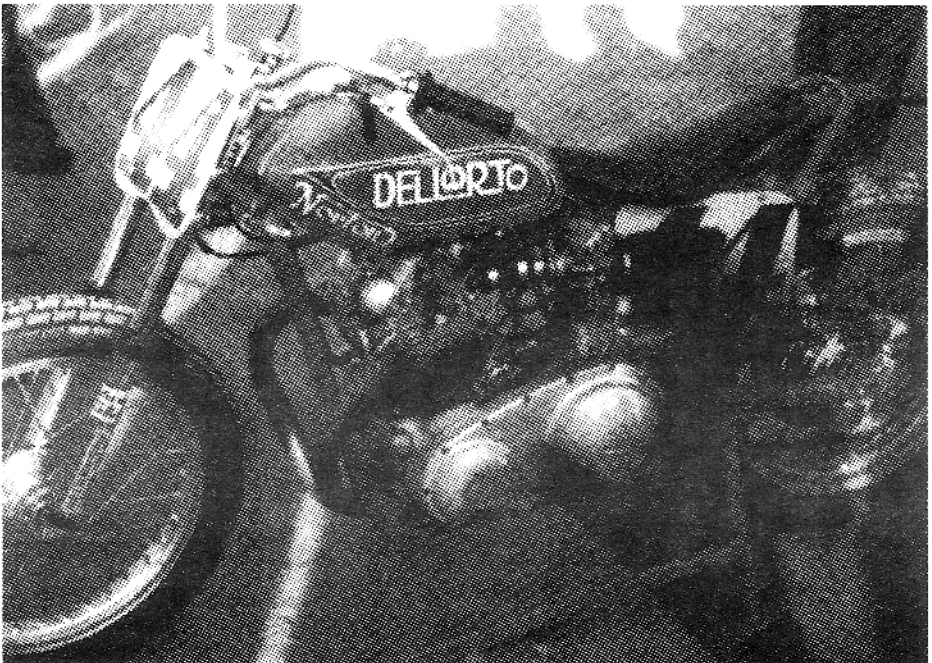
Dick Miles from Pennsylvania on his 1932 ex-works TT Machine at Ballaugh Bridge, Isle of Man, 1998 (photo courtesy: <http://users.abling.co.uk/gcohen/>)

## Remember the Nortons at the "Mile"?

*by Art Savacool*

Remember from 1969 to 1974 when Norton made the Guinness World Record Book as the fastest production motorcycle? In 1970 Norton won the Isle of Man TT (Tour Trophy) proving that it was not only the fastest but the best handling motorcycle of the times. I still have both my Norton's I bought in 1970 and 1974. The pictures below I took myself. I was a big motorcycle race fan, both road racing and especially flat track (San Jose IS the Mile!). In the early 70's Alex

Jorgenson's Norton's were the only bikes that could give the XR750 Harleys a run for their money. In those days Jay Springsteen (factory Harley rider) dominated the mile with a Harley engine the factory named their "San Jose Mile Engine". His younger brother Bruce later became quite famous for his song "living in the USA", but us middle aged motorcyclist think of Jay first when ever we hear the name Springsteen.



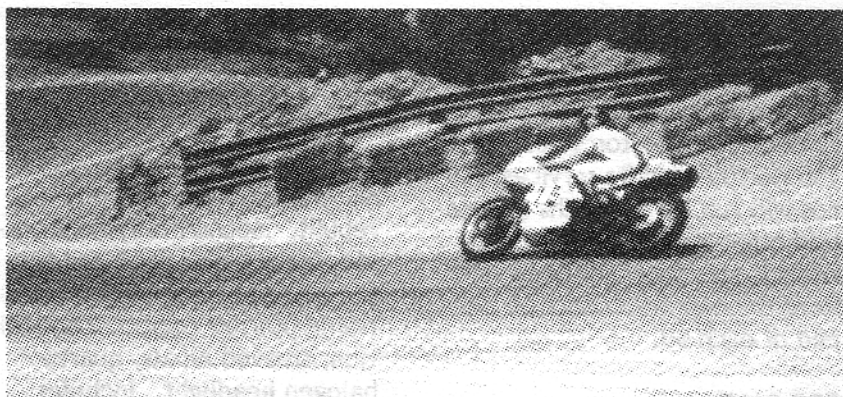
*This was one of Jorgy's Mile Bikes, at the San Jose Fair*

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This is the same bike shown above with Jorgy coming through turn four at San Jose (the bleachers in turn four was the best place to sit at S.J.). The neighbors use to complain about the San Jose Mile motorcycle race, held twice a year. One year a bike went over the wall you see behind Jorgy and ended up on someone's Patio. After about 1972 they made the bikes run with noise restricters, which took a bit of a thrill out of the race. Nothing sounds sweeter than a fine tuned Norton or XR750 (they sound identical) running flat out...without the restricters! I don't know about you, but I find the Harley street bikes, with their thump thump, pause thump thump timing (they aren't 180 degrees out) not as smooth sounding as their racing machines.



This is the same John Player Norton that won the Isle of Man, going down the cork screw at Laguna Seca

**The Dardanells gathering** was pretty good, though only the brothers Will & Curt from Santa Rosa actually rode their motorcycles. I really enjoyed the moderately pace trip to Markleeville, getting a few photos of a place I'd never been before. The Cut-throat Saloon there has a curious interior, or is it ulterior, decor; and is an appetizing place to dine as well. The Beardsley Dam Road and the Herring Creek Road are decent short side trips from the resort. The Clark Fork Road, dead-ending at Iceburg Meadows is a bumpy one, you may as well stand up the entire length of it... Tom Dabel built a great camp fire each night, and a number of stories were told, mostly exaggerations and digressions with questionable credibility. I know because I did a lot of the talking! Probably the best technical aspect of the gathering was uncle Charley's welding of Curt's exhaust header flange with coat hanger!

Best wishes to the group!, Eric Rhodes

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## **THE DELTA RIDE**

**WHEN:** October 10, 10am

**WHERE:** Carl's Jr. at the intersection of Hwy 160 and Hwy 4, in Oakley. (ride meeting at 9:45 AM) If you have questions, please call Gar Jorgenson at (925) 634-9395.

## **Classified Advertisements**

Editors note: We actively encourage non-club members to post ads to sell Norton motorcycles, parts and Norton-specific services. All ads will run for 3 months (unless told otherwise). Please let us know if your item has been sold. Note the expiration date at the end of each ad.

### **FOR SALE**

1966 Velocette Venom, Black and Gold. Lucas comp racing magneto,

alloy rims, stainless spokes  
\$5,400 Art Sirota  
(650)324-0567 (12/99)

### **FOR SALE**

Mark III Roadster, recently rebuilt. Mechanically impeccable, looks great. Tank and side covers beautifully pointed, frame powder coated. Rita ignition, sleeved Amals, quartz-halogen headlight. includes: optional chrome grab bar rack, sprocket puller, exhaust wrench,

shop manual, and parts book, and more. \$4K/best offer. Call Ron at 510-653-7760 or e-mail rfielder@sprynet.com.

**FOR SALE**

Commando Basket case (mid 70's?) All the parts are there and everything is in good shape and clean. Have all papers. Make an offer. Call Steve Barchi Boulder Creek, CA (831) 338-9150 11/99

**FOR SALE**

1973 850 Commando Roadster, \$3500, call Jeff before 8 pm at 209-533-3690 for details. 11/99

**FOR SALE**

1972 Commando 850. One owner, 6500 original miles, never down, no dents in tank, Any offer around 4k considered. Philippe. (310)403-1970 or 310 452-8629 PRLemieux@aol.com 11/99

**FOR SALE**

73 Norton Interstate Commando, 750 cc, Blue with Silver, with less than 6000 miles. I bought it in England and toured Europe with it before shipping it back to the States. It is in excellent condition. It has the 6 gallon fiberglass tank and saddle bags. I have to sell it because my wife needs a car. I'm asking \$5500. call (505) 292-8676 or contact me by e-mail, John Gowan 11/99)

**FOR SALE**

1974 Norton Interstate Commando. There is about 3500 miles on: top end, clutch, paint, tires. I have owned the bike for about 3.5 years. It looks and runs great. \$4000 obo call anytime (650)856-8578 (10/99)

**WANTED:**

Norton Atlas, Triton or similar featherbed twin. Also need chainguard, side stand, rear shocks and handlebars for a 1967 Atlas. Call Terry (916)727-2673 (10/99)

**FOR SALE**

1972 Commando. Excellent condition. Many improvements: Norvil floating disc front brake, MkIII isolastics, 3-phase high output alternator, Boyer, sleeved carbs. \$2700. Marick Payton: (650) 723-8115 work; (650)321-5083 home. (10/99)

**FOR SALE**

1973 norton 750, ported polished -dunstall exhaust- balanced crank, rod & pistons- new top end -100 miles on rebuilt tranny one owner-- 22k miles- very nice, all receipts, manuals, some special tools, spare tank, seat. (10/99) \$3500 (503) 772 3147

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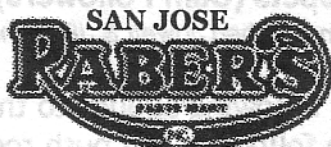
## Norton Commandos Only

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# Norton

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Monroes three mechanics have been familiar with Nortons for a number of years. We can replace exhaust port threads *with the head on the bike* - we don't know of anyone else who can. The job looks like original factory. Call for shop prices. We also have a good supply of Norton parts.

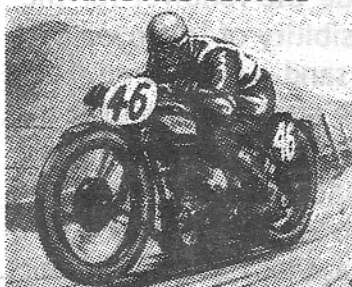
# Norton

# TRIUMPH

412 Valencia St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94103  
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## **Tappets (Cam Followers) and Push Rods.**

*from Stephen Jowett & JB Nicholson Courtesy N.O.C. [www.nortons.com](http://www.nortons.com)*

The following applies to the cam followers and push rods for the Norton twin. The cam followers are generally of good quality and last for many miles. Upon disassembly it is advisable to inspect the stellite tip for wear and possible loosening. This is especially true if modified cams or combat cams have been in use. The added lift can apply more stress to the followers, resulting in premature failure. I have heard of incidents where the tip has come off and made a mess of the cam and crankcase area. Also check inside the follower for the possibility of left over casting sand. I have seen it and have also read about it in a few articles. The followers should always be kept in pairs and as such should always be replaced in pairs. Keep in mind to have the bevelled end toward the front upon re-assembly. A question was asked a while

ago about the clearance for the followers in the pushrod tunnel. Although I can't find any information on this clearance, I would suspect that 0.004-0.010 inches would be acceptable. The followers being made from cast iron as well as the cylinder barrel will expand at the same rate where by giving a fairly stable clearance throughout the heat range experienced by the motor. The pushrod tunnel acts as a oil return so some clearance must be maintained, in order for the oil to get to the camshaft lobes. Upon re-assembly don't forget to tie wire the screws holding the followers. Push rods require very little attention. The following should be checked when the push rods are out. Inspect the tips for looseness, and check that the push rods are straight. See the NOC Notes below for further discussion on the push rods. It is all there.

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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 typically limited to Norton Owners, but we look the other way all the time, at least as long as you would like to own a Norton, own other British bikes, or are just a great person to be around. So if you like to ride, repair, eat, drink and be merry and admire Norton motorcycles, it will cost you \$20 to join. The club has monthly rides (some times more frequent), monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month (at rotating venues) and award winning 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 the INOA) as well as the original club in England. Our club secretary will tell you how to join the U.K. organization if you have an interest.

The USNOA hosts 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 merchants all over the country who advertise in the News as well as a national membership list. It is well worth joining and will cost 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 on the high road.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Motorcycles Owned

Make                      Year                      Model                      Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers

Attach additional sheet to list more.

I hereby apply for membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC). Check One:     New Membership     Renewal application.

The undersigned application certifies that he or she is a legal resident of the U.S. over the age of 18, has a valid motorcycle drivers 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 it's officers, agents and members from any and all liabilities, loss, damage, cost, claims and/or cause of action, including but not limited to all bodily injury and property damage arising out of participation in the Club's activities, it being specifically understood that such activities include the use by applicant and others of motorcycles. The applicant further agrees to indemnify the Club and it's officers, agents and members and hold them harmless for the results of the undersigned's participation in those activities. This indemnification also includes attorney's fees in defending any claim or judgment in the negotiation of any settlement. It is understood and agreed that the undersigned will have the opportunity to consent to any settlement; provided however, that such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

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

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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