



# Norton Notice

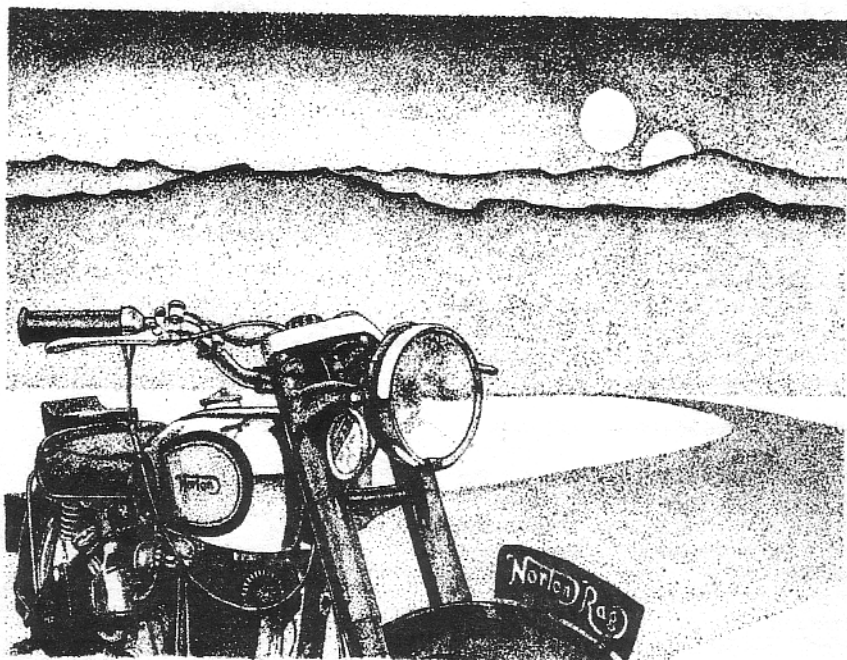


The Newsletter of the  
Northern California Norton Owners Club

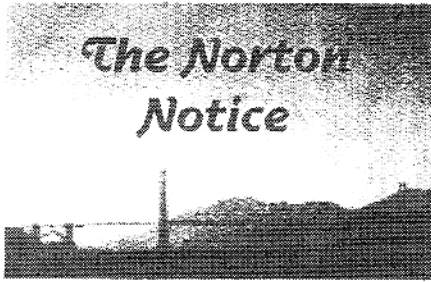
No. 264

September 2000

THE UNAPPROACHABLE  
Norton



Travis Archino / 1985



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 any 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 18th of each month.. The **NORTON NOTICE** welcomes contributions submitted electronically. Please submit articles and photos in a format compatible with IBM PC. You may also send articles directly to the editor via E-mail. Send using INTERNET to [dpcrader@thegrid.net](mailto:dpcrader@thegrid.net).

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 Night  
 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 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

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.

Call Ride's Coordinator Gar Jorgenson (925)634-9395 for details

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEET AT
<u>Sept. 17</u>	10AM	Mt Hamilton Ride	Dean's Cafe, Pleasanton
<u>Oct. 1</u>	10AM	Old Timer's Ride (Annual General Mtg)	Alice's
<u>Oct. 15</u>	9AM	Delta Ride	Geno's Country Store, Livermore
<u>Nov. 4</u>	9:30AM	All British Ride	Lyons Restaurant, Novato
<u>Nov. 19</u>	T.B.A.	Turkey Ride	T.B.A.
<u>Dec. 10</u>	T.B.A.	Xmas Party	T.B.A.

### Club Hats

Can be order through Gar Jorgenson. These are \$10.00 each which includes your name on the back. Contact Gar at (925) 634-9395.

### New NCNOC Website

The new NCNOC website is up and operating due to the efforts of Alan Goldwater. Gar Jorgenson has contributed a few digital pictures of club events. If you have the capability check it out at <http://members.aol.com/NortonClub>

### Club Meetings

**Club meetings start at 8:00PM**

Sept. 14	Harry's Hofbrau, Mountain View
October 12	Prince of Wales, San Mateo
Nov. 9	The Boat House, SF
December	No meeting

*At this time, all rides and meetings are not cast in stone. Events and dates may change!!*

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

## *President's Message.....by Mike Sullivan*

The Santa Cruz ride on Saturday, August 5 was only lightly attended, with eleven members showing up at Alice's and only ten going on the ride. Alan Goldwater led us on a ride south of Summit Road into a canyon that seemed to go on forever. The lunch stop was a little different this year as we had alfresco pizza on the beach at Capitola. One of our group got a parking ticket for hanging over into a crosswalk by about six inches. Be advised that the parking cops in Capitola are real zealous in their work.

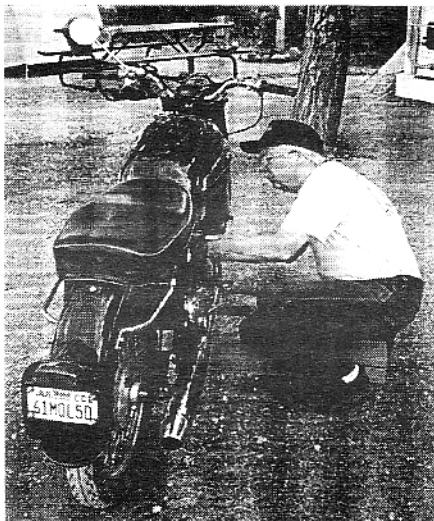
After lunch we went up to Britalia where there was an abundance of brand new Italian machinery including two MV F4s. These are pretty wild bikes, but at this time they are not legal in California. Oh well, if you can afford one you can probably afford to pay the tickets.

The following Thursday was the August meeting at The Prince of Wales. Here again there was a small turnout, with only twelve members present, but with a good percentage of bikes ridden, five Nortons, one Velocette and one other make. The next ride was discussed, this being the Mount Hamilton Ride on Sunday September 17th. Look for details elsewhere in the Notice. Also, the Oldtimers Ride was discussed. Please note that the date has been changed from that previously published, September 30, to Sunday October 1. Remember that the Old Timer's Ride is the Annual General Meeting where nominations for next year's officers will be taken.

If you do not like how the Club is being run, now is the time to volunteer or speak up. Lunch will be provided by the Club. Meet at Alice's and lunch at the same spot at Huckleberry Flat in San Mateo Memorial Park on the Pescadero - La Honda Road.

It has been confirmed that the All British Ride (ex Danmeier Birthday Bash) is scheduled for Sunday November 4th. Meet at the Lyons Restaurant in Novato as before. Better be there by 9:00 to 9:30am. Lunch will be a self catered affair somewhere on the ride.

It has been rumored that there is a thrrrrrifty Scotsman in the Club that has tried to stretch his mileage penny by running his Commando on diesel. I have heard of diesel Enfields, but not Nortons.



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*Tech Tip.....by Art Sirota*

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This article is for all those owners of MkIIA and MkIII 850 Nortons who have retained the stock black air filter box on their bikes. Right away I've lost about 95% of you, right? That's because most late model Commando owners have discovered what a Royal Pain those large boxes are. To change the factory air filter, you first need to remove the engine, gearbox and both wheels. (Just kidding!)

Current price of a new Norton air filter for the MkIII type black air box is \$40 each plus tax. (Not kidding!) These foam air filters destroy themselves and turn to crud quicker than you can say, "What a mess!" Then you can't get your hand into the black box to scrape out all the old shreds of foam. I think more foam gets sucked into the engine than falls to the bottom of the black box. Maybe it's useful as upper cylinder lubricant!

So do yourself a favor and throw away that awful Norton foam-type air filter. But Wait! Just throw away the foam: keep the metal part that its glued to. The metal plate comes in two forms. The first is like chicken wire with grids about one-inch square. If that's the kind you have, throw the piece of cheap junk away because there isn't enough metal framework to glue anything to. The second type of plate is more heavy duty and is a piece of extruded steel. Retain this because

you can use it over and over.

Purchase a can of weatherstrip cement by Gasketinch. Then buy some air filter foam at your local motorcycle accessory store. I purchased a sheet for \$14, and there is enough filter material to make four filters. This is proper foam which doesn't turn to worthless dust as soon as it's installed in your Norton.

Brush the weatherstrip cement all along the perimeter of the old metal framework on both side. Cut two pieces of foam the same shape as the framework. Apply them on each side of the metal framework and press them together. Squirt some air filter oil on your new air filter and install it in your black box. End of problem. The cost works out to be about \$5 each. I usually remove both carb float bowls to make installation easier.

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About the Author

I'm not sure when Art joined the Northern California Branch of the Norton Owners Club, but I do know his membership number in the '82 directory is 27. Art was already a long time member when I first joined the club in '81 and has held several leadership offices in the club.

With an extensive collection of Nortons as well as other British marques, he has quite a bit of experience in things that can go wrong. Also not a half bad singing voice!

*Editor*

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## **UPCOMING RIDES**

By Gar Jorgenson, Rides Coordinator

### **September Ride**

#### **Mount Hamilton**

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000 - 10 AM**

Ride leader Tom Dabel provides the following regarding the Mount Hamilton Ride. This year the ride will start in Pleasanton at Dean's Café, 620 Main Street. Tom will be leading us through Sunol, down Calaveras Road to San Jose, and then on to Mt. Hamilton. From there we will ride to "The Junction" for lunch about 1 PM. We will return to Pleasanton via Mines Road and should arrive back at our departure point between 3 and 4 PM. If you would like to start the ride with breakfast at Dean's (highly recommended) plan to arrive there about 0830 as Dean's is a very popular place in the Tri-Valley. Tom will be starting the ride promptly at 10 AM. Tom promises to set the pace so NN Editor, David Crader, can keep up on his newly restored ES2!

### **October Rides**

#### **Old Timers Ride**

**October 1st, 2000 - 10 AM**

Observant members will note that this ride has been postponed one day from September 30 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. This ride will be much like last year. The ride will depart from Alice's Restaurant, Hwy 84 and Skyline Drive in San Mateo County at 10 AM for a leisurely ride through the mountains to McDonald Memorial Park. At the park there will be a barbecue and plenty of bench racing. Look for additional details next month in the Notice or on the web page.

#### **Delta Ride**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000 - 9 AM**

This year's Delta Ride will be for those of you that complain the rides are not long enough. We will be starting out from Geno's Country Store on Vasco Road, just north of I-580 in Livermore. The ride will go north through Antioch, Rio Vista, and Dixon to the Hayes Truck and Tractor Museum in Woodland. There will be a nice long layover in Woodland to see the museum and have lunch. We will return via Sacramento River levee roads and arrive back in Livermore at 5 PM (There will be another start point in Antioch at 9:45 for those who live in the North Bay and several places to bail out of the main ride if you are limited on time). Look for more details in next month's Notice or on the web page.

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**Editor's Line**  
**by David Crader**

I've been cruising the **nortons.com** tech talk for the last couple of months. This was part of the INOA until a falling out on a money issue. Scandal aside, there is a lot of technical information available for Nortons from some very knowledgeable people from around the world. The following is an example from a contributor called "dynodave" and is a lot more than I ever knew about various years' camshaft bushes.

All Commandos get the beveled steel washer against the tach gear, except the early magneto type of course.

'71 and older get a LARGE diameter, single flange, pressed in from the inside of the case.

750 ('72/'73) combat breather cases-only have tab holes, SMALL diameter bushes (p/n 06 2600) with no flanges, two thrust washers with tabs (p/n 06 2601), one inside and one outside with tab going into the hole. My recommendation is to avoid like the plague.

850 e-start gets two SMALL diameter bushes with short flanges, sintered bronze. One pressed in from outside and one from inside and have about 1/8" gap between for an oiling groove. My personal choice for all 72 and up 750 and 850 cases.

The cam only thrusts in one direction due to driving the tach. Since the engine never runs backwards there is no thrust in the other direction. For magneto versions, the spring loaded cam end breather type, again this thrusts in one direction only.

For all my measuring of all the cam related components for all years, I found that you will NOT get a tight end float thrust. If you are more perfectionist than me, by all means make a custom length bush.

The cam and cam bush data is confusing to the newcomer as well as the more seasoned Norton techs, as evidenced by the incorrect data in the tech paper section of this website.

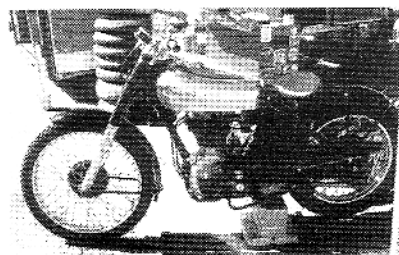
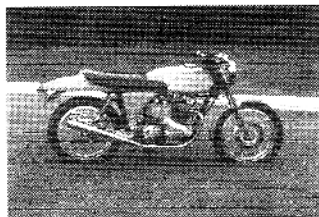
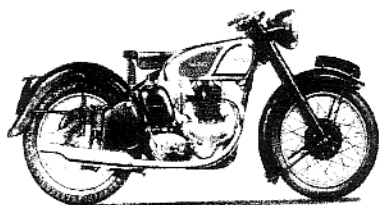
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## Restorer's Column

*This section is for people working on that Norton project and is an open forum. Send in your comments about your project or share some wisdom about your experiences.*

Bob Belle in Saskatchewan has started a new Model 7 club. This is the 500cc twin made from 1949 to 1955. The website for the club is

<http://www3.sk.sympatico.ca/belle/index.htm>



## Chrome Platers

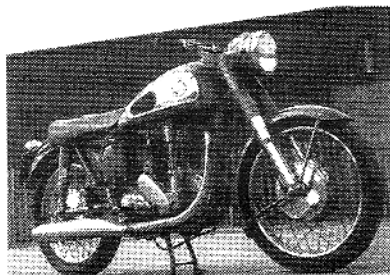
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(408) 947-7781

## Wire Wheel Building

Kelly Moss Wheels  
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'57 - '59 Dominator and '59 - '60 Norton Singles **Chrome gas tank panels** complete with plastic edging can be obtained from Fred Williams at Millstream Motors, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7BD, UK. **(44) 1234 854138**. These are not the same as used on '57 -'58 Norton Singles and Model 77 twins.





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# Pappy



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Pappy,

I was talking to a guy in Australia last week on the internet. Seems there were some uncommon colors for 60s 500 singles available in the US and nowhere else. The "bloke" in Australia was having a hard time believing "red" and "original ES2" in the same sentence. What's the story behind that?

Curious Red

Dear Red,

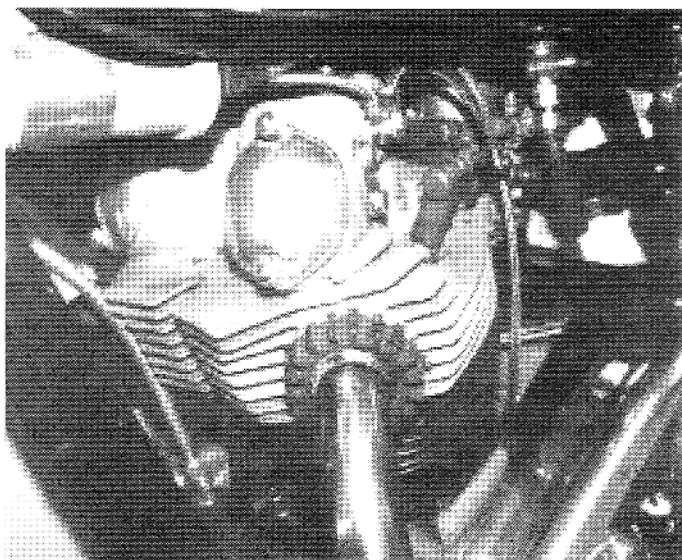
The gentlemen at Bracebridge Street were quite willing to make non standard variations to the American buyers requests. After all that was our prime market for revenue. Remember later in 1967 the P11 was developed in Southern California and was produced for that area.

Always yours,

Pappy

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Identification	Part	Capacity	Compression	Inlet Port	Remarks
RH1	060988	750cc	9.0 : 1	30mm Standard	up to 1972
RH2	061427	750cc	10.25 : 1	32mm	AMA racer
RH3	063327	750cc	10 : 1	32mm	1972 Combat
RH4	064038	850cc	8.5 : 1	32mm	1973
RH5	064048	750cc	8.9 : 1	32mm	1973 low compression
RH6	064097	750cc	9.3 : 1	32mm	1973
RH7	064845	750cc	10 : 1	32mm	1973 short stroke
RH8	064884	750cc	-	32mm	1973 short stroke race kit
RH9	065013	850cc	10.5 : 1	32mm	1974 high performance
RH10	065062	850cc	8.5 : 1	30mm	1974

A suffix S, e.g. RH6S, indicates a 750cc head fitted with 850cc guides

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Exclusive Importers and Distributors:  
West of Mississippi River including Alaska and Hawaii:  
Norton Villiers Corporation, 6795 Pleasant Blvd.,  
North Long Beach, California 90805, (213) 631-7138

## Classified Advertisements

**Editors note: We actively encourage non-Club members to post ads to sell Norton motorcycles, Norton parts and Norton-specific services. 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.**

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### FOR SALE:

**1951 Model 7** frame and cylinder head (iron). **\$300 for both**  
Chris Knoedel (415) 350-1695 (10/00)

**Lucas 12v type 6H horn.** Original equipment for '63 to '68 Norton featherbed twins. Excellent cond with new paint. P/N 70159D with date 10/63. Will trade for Lucas 6v type 8H horn, P/N 70140A ('61) or 70163 ('62) in good cond. Sell outright for **\$50.00**. David Crader 925 484-9176 (10/00)

**1971 Commando** parts bike. Newly rebuilt engine (not started), chrome swingarm, painted frame, fork legs (no triple trees), no wheels or fenders, other pieces chromed. **\$1500** for everything Shorty Tompkins (916) 489-8371 Sacramento (10/00)

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### Selected ads from traderonline.com

**1972 NORTON COMMANDO 750**, looks & runs great, new paint, shows well, ready for summer, \$4250 obo, 925-362-0086, 916-712-9827  
**Location: Alamo, CA**

**1975 NORTON COMMANDO MK3 ROADSTER**, 850cc, 7800 miles, as seen on cover of Norton Buyers Guild. New 1974 style exhaust, electronic ignition, low miles, Avon tires, LH shift, rebuilt brakes, new forks, rebuilt top end, strong, quick, dependable. \$3950. 503-656-3177, 503-656-6192. Gladstone, Or

**1974 Norton 850 Commando**, New Valve job, Tires, Battery, Chain. SS Spokes, near new paint (black). Exc. Condition. SofTeq@Att.Net \$4,600.00, (714) 969-8507

**Location: Huntington Beach, CA**

**1975 NORTON COMMANDO**, 850cc Roadster, red, electric start, just serviced, excellent condition, \$4990, 562-630-6827

**Location: Bellflower, CA**

**1975 Norton Commando**, mk3 black roadster runs strong, dunstall pipes, .51+mpg mechanically fine, only needs paint to be impressive \$2,995.00, (520) 297-0768

**Location: Tucson, AZ**

**1970 NORTON 750 Commando**, Great shape & a beauty in black. Many new parts. A must see. Ask for Dale. \$3,500.00, (661) 821-4820

**Location: Tehachapi, CA**

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# Norton

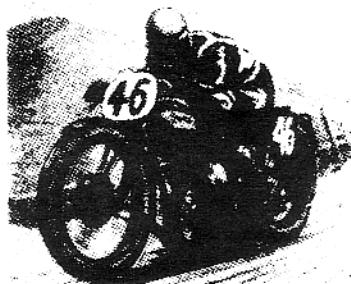
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**THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NORTON OWNERS CLUB**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

CITYSTATE and ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTORCYCLES OWNED**

Make	Year	Model	Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers
_____	_____	_____	_____

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 unreasonably 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**  
**(650)591-5444**