



The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

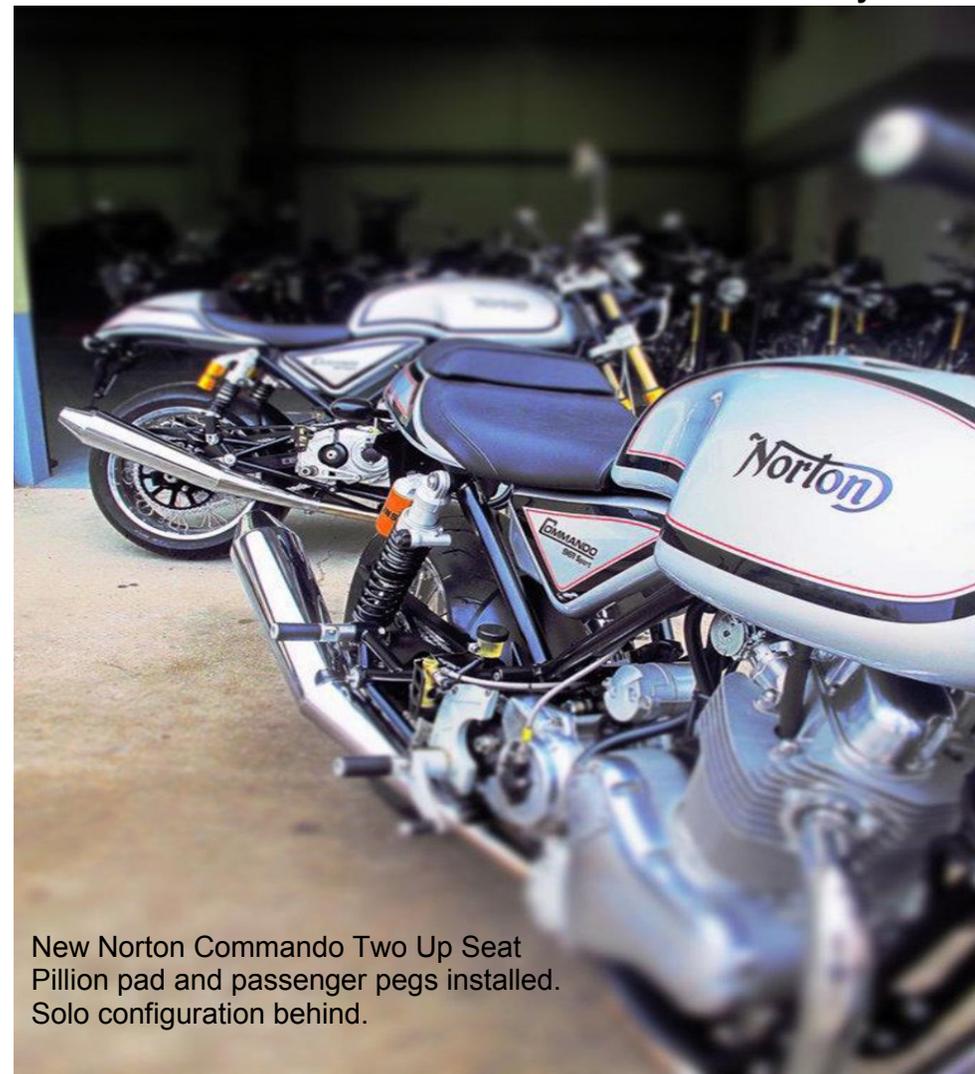
36 Oakmore Dr., San Jose' Ca. 95127



The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

No. 383

June 2013- July 2013



New Norton Commando Two Up Seat Pillion pad and passenger pegs installed. Solo configuration behind.



NORTON NOTICE

Published by the Northern California Norton Owner's Club, its purpose is to inform and entertain the club members. The Norton Notice is a reflection of the readership who are encouraged to submit articles, technical tips, photographs (original or otherwise). The Norton Notice prefers contributions submitted electronically. Send to

Loinguy@yahoo.com. The NCNOC / Norton Notice Newsletter accepts ads from qualified business for the purpose of information for the readership. Acceptance and publication of ads is in no way meant to be an endorsement of or a recommendation, for service. The Club does not accept any responsibility for the qualifications of or reliability of advertisers.

MEMBERSHIP

The Northern California Norton Owners Club is open to all British motorcycle enthusiasts. Membership and renewals can be paid for via our web site and is available for \$25 per year. Membership offers a wide range of benefits including the mailed Norton Notice, website, yahoo group, Social activities, Tech sessions and Monthly rides.

Advertising

Ads are \$100.00 per 1/4 page for the year. Contact the Editor for information and pricing on lager ads.

AFFILIATIONS

The NCNOC is affiliated with both the Norton Owner's Club of England (NOC) <http://nortonownersclub.org/> and the International Norton Owner's Association (INOA) <http://inoanorton.com/>

Honorary Members ,Brian Slark, Dick Slusher, Jodi Nickolas

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Club gratefully acknowledges the work of Fred Fortune (Fortune2.com) for the designs used in this journal and on the club web site. Website program is thanks to club member Ian Reddy.

See us at www.nortonclub.com and join our Yahoo group for information and club activities at

NorCalNOC@yahoogroups.com

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Membership cost is \$25.00 per year and includes a subscription to the Norton Notice, a publication which provides an enormous wealth of information to Norton owners and re-caps of club events.

I hereby apply for Membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC)

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **E-Mail** _____

This is a new _____ renewal _____ application.

Norton(s) owned: Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

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 judgment 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.

Applicants Signature and date (required)

Make your check for \$25 payable to **Northern California Norton Owners Club**. Send all applications & inquiries to Ron Bastiaans, 708 Liberty Street, El Cerrito Ca. 94530 You can also join on line at nortonclub.com and use credit card through our pay pal account.

Join our club Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorCalNOC/>

*The NCNOC is associated with both the NOC and the INOA You can join the INOA and the NOC from our website at Nortonclub.com

From the National Safety Council Newsletter

Study projects 9 percent increase in motorcyclist fatalities

Washington – The number of motorcyclist fatalities that occurred in 2012 is projected to reach more than 5,000 – about 9 percent higher than the 2011 total, according to a study from the Governors Highway Safety Association. The findings are based on preliminary traffic fatality data for the first nine months of 2012 for people operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger. Compared to the first nine months of 2011, the number of fatalities increased in 34 states, decreased in 16 states and showed no change in the District of Columbia.

GHSA identified effects of the strengthening economy, including increased disposable income for purchasing and riding motorcycles, as reasons for the overall increase.

Based on the findings, GHSA recommended that more states adopt motorcycle helmet laws .

Please help educate more riders to the “wear all the gear all the time” philosophy of riding.

12th Annual BSAOC 2013 North Woods Ride June 7-9

Something old and something new. This year we'll sneak into Oregon For a technical ride through the coast range along the Rogue River Rd from Gold Beach to Grants Pass, one of my very favorites!! We'll enjoy *TWO* Evenings of Dinner & Cheer along the way We'll start Friday from Motel 6 #95, Redding Central 530-221-1800 at 9 AM SHARP. Route maps provided there.

Friday night is at Motel 6 # Arcata 707-822-7061
Saturday night is at Motel 6 #253, Grants Pass 541-474-1331
Rooms cost less if reserved from website <http://www.motel6.com/default.aspx>

Event is sponsored by the BSA Clubs of Northern California and Southern California. Anyone interested in Old British Bikes is invited. There is no charge.

INFO:
Frank Forster (831) 688-2120 frank.forster@sbcglobal.net

Burt Barrett (661) 832-6109 blueox1@bak.rr.com

RIDE AND EVENT DIARY: note: dates in bold are NCNOC club events those not in bold are events of interest to the club. **For event details see your club website at Nortonclub.com**

June 13 Thursday: Meeting Sonoma Chicken Coop Campbell Ca. 8pm start.

June 30th: 9:30am start Hobees' Los Gatos: Alan Goldwater ride leader: Capitol to Bikes On the Bay Ride

July 11th Thursday: Meeting Swiss Park at the in San Leandro Ca, 8pm start.

July 14-19 INOA Rally 2013 Buffalo Wy. Chairperson Gar Jorgenson see website for details and see page 10 this issue.

July 15th Sunday: Ride Alice's 10:30am ride for non rally attendees.

July 27th Saturday: Moto Espana Spanish Motorcycle Show at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds See motospanaisa.com, All bikes welcome

August 8th Thursday: Meeting: Swiss Park & Dardanelles

August 8-12th : Dardanelle's motorcycle Camp Out : club spaces reserved, NCNOC's 21st annual, see website or call club President Ken Armann for details.

August 12th Sunday: Ride TBA see Club Website: need ride leader: **contact Club Ride's coordinators**

August 21st Wednesday: **TrackerNite 6** ,Barnaby Machine Co Santa Clara Ca. 5:30pm-9:30pm

September 12 Thursday: Meeting Sonoma Chicken Coop, 8pm start Campbell Ca

September 16th Sunday: Ride TBD

October 6th Sunday AGM: annual meeting & Ride details and location TBA..

November 2nd Saturday: BSA Clubs All British Ride, Novato Ca,

President Message : By Ken Armann

What a phenomenal success the Quail Lodge event was, so much thanks has to go to two of our own, club members Lorin and Kathryn Guy for making it the success it is.

I got talked into making the Quail ride on Friday, it was the perfect day for a really great ride, not to mention the fantastic lunch after the ride and the incredible dinner, that evening.

Big thanks to Harry Bunting for turning on his camera and following me on the Laguna Seca Race track, part of the Quail Ride. It was really super, and now I have video to last a long time.

I would recommend you all try the Quail ride, once at least, it's a fantastic time. The staff at the Quail sent a thank you letter for our participation, what a class group.

On to other events, Gar sends his best and is getting all his "ducks in a row" for our arrival in Buffalo, Wyoming., and the INOA International Rally. Things are progressing and space is filling up fast so if you have not gotten your arrangements made best get on it. Trying to solidify my own plans is working out to be one of those things but as they say "It all works out in the end, so if it has not all worked out yet it must not be the end".

We are still looking for a site for the AGM so please send suggestions if you have any, if not we'll be back at Vasona Lake Park, but we have to make reservations soon.

I hope all are planning on making it to the Dardanelle this year Aug 8-11 we have campsites #15-18 and as of today 5/29/13 one cabin is left and all (4) motel rooms, so give Sean a call and let him know you are part of the Norton group 209-965-4275.

Thanks to all for your help and support remember to play well with others and be well.

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INOA and the NOC Happenings:

We in the NCNOC are associated with the NOC of England (Norton Owner's Club) After years of establishing ourselves as the Norton representatives in the USA we joined with the INOA (International Norton Owner's Association). We highly encourage all members to join both organizations, for the benefits to you and your club.

Coming events in the INOA:

2013 INOA Rally will be held in Buffalo, WY Registrations is NOW OPEN On line. See the website for details Nortonrally.com

Coming events in the NOC:

The French Branch of the NOC will host **the International Rally in 2013**

Jun 06, 2013 12:00 PM to Jun 10, 2013 10:00 AM

Where Montsauche-Les-Settons, Burgundy, France

Contact Name: Geoff Scale

The rally location lies on the shores of Lac des Settons and has tenting facilities and chalets with B&B/gites nearby.

The annual Brooklands Day, run by the NOC's Surrey Branch

When Jun 09, 2013 from 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM

Where Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, KT13 0QN

If you're not planning on attending the International Rally in France this year, why not put the Brooklands Day in your diary instead?

The World's first motor racing circuit - Brooklands still oozes with its original 1930's charm. It's an amazing place with lots to do and see. The annual Brooklands Day, run by the club's Surrey Branch in conjunction with Brooklands Museum has been growing in popularity over the last few years.

Your £9.00 entry fee not only gives you free access to the excellent Brooklands Museum, but you can show your bike inside the famous Members' enclosure and take your Norton on the famous Brooklands banking and up Test Hill.

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Editor's Ramblings:

This month we have a lot to write about and to start with let's say our good byes to Bob "Bib" Bibiani the renowned motorcycle enthusiast from Southern California and Norton aficionado has died. A pillar in the ridding community and a mentor to so many, "Bib" as he was affectionately known was a riding icon. Founder of the Southern California Norton Club that held for years that it was not a club but a bunch of guys who just loved riding, and founder of the famous "Hanson Dam Ride" known as the best dam ride in all of California!. Bib was known for his tenacity, his deep devotion to riding his Norton motorcycles and his dry and often mistaken sense of humor. He'll be greatly missed in both Northern and Southern California. RIP "Bib"..

If all that walking we do along Highways 84 and 35 seems all for not, here's a letter we received via E mail just after last month's Highway Clean Up.

Hi there:

I rode my motorcycle to Alice's today and saw your "Adopt A Highway" sign at the junction of 84/Skyline. First let me say "thank you" for your efforts to keep our highways free of clutter, and as a Sunday motorcycle rider from the Santa Cruz area I want you how much I appreciate your clubs efforts.

*Sincerely,
Marci Keays*

Not only does Cal Trans love what we do but others who ride recognize our efforts, in fact I've been approached many times with people saying "Oh you guys.. I see your sign at Alice's". I'm very proud of our members and the great job we all do for the community. Thank you again all who show up and help.

The Quail Lodge : The NCNOC again made a good showing at the Motorcycle Gathering May 4th with many members attending. The show just gets better and better, the organizing committee at the Quail works hard to improve and organize as well as looking to offer displays and bikes that you do not see in other shows. In addition to all the freebee's offered, this year there were local wineries offering free tastings, a coffee vendor offering free coffee and lattés and other coffee drinks and more.

The lunch again this year was to rave about, even vegetarian guests I had there were impressed. All it takes is more word of mouth, if you went to the show tell someone about it. The Quail has become one of the best shows in the country.

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2013

Swiss Park , 18 Members and guest present 2 bikes ridden Keith Karn, BMW, Angel Monje, Commando

A round of applause was given to Angel for having ridden the only Norton to the meeting. We need more youngsters like him!

Ken Armann opened the meeting with a discussion about the upcoming Quail Lodge Show. Lorin Guy followed with details about the Club booth and asking for some good clean bikes.

Harry and Isabelle gave us an overview of the shirt inventory status. Since we are going to order new shirts, Ken suggested that it would be good to donate the few that are left in inventory to the Save a Horse Rally. It was agreed to do that along with the donation of some Commando oil filter adapters. Kathryn Guy mentioned the possibility that some custom shirts could be made. The Regalia Committee will look into this possibility.

Ken mentioned that if you are going to the National Rally, advance registrations are needed so proper planning can take place.

The ride following the meeting will be skipped a week due to the Mother's Day holiday.

For those interested, the Hanford Show and swap meet will be on the 18th of may.

Tom and Liz Dabel talked about the Mt. Hamilton Ride on the May 19. Apparently the operators of the Observatory have gotten upset about all the motorcycle showing up early in the morning and disturbing their sleep. As such, the parking lot will not be opened until noon which is after we will get there. Tom states that there is adequate roadside parking but he is checking into the question about whether the toilet facilities will be available.

Ken and Lorin told us about the untimely passing of Bill Bibbiani, the moving force behind the southern California club. They are in the process of getting past this unfortunate event and are getting themselves re-organized.

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Alan's Wrench for Norton Notice 383 © Alan Goldwater 2013

There's been a lot of talk about Commando tires on the INOA list. The original size was 4.10 or 4.25H19, which translates to a metric 100/90-H19, both front and rear. I did a deep internet search, and there are many choices for the front, thanks to the use on Harley front wheels. But for the rear, the only street tires currently made in this size are the Dunlop K81 and the Avon Roadrider AM26. Avon also still makes the older AM9 Roadrunner tyre in the smaller 4.10H-19 size. There are also Chen Shin and other Chinese-made K81 knockoffs for less money. Personally, I wouldn't take the risk – I had a new Chen Shin tube split down a seam after less than 100 miles!

I settled on the Avon as my choice and have been running them for many years. With the current AM26 I don't get any more than the 3-4k miles (rear) I used to see on the Super Venom AM18, but the handling doesn't degrade as suddenly when they hit the center wear markers. This is a definite improvement. I have noticed that they're more prone to "cupping" on the side blocks and this led me to think they maybe use a softer compound there. Here's an example at around 3500 miles on my MK3:

Notice that the wear is on the trailing edge, and one theory I saw suggests

that when these side blocks hit the pavement, the leading edge compresses, causing the trailing edge to scrub and wear more. Maybe so, but it doesn't matter in the end, this tire is used up!

Another important factor is tire pressure. I've been running 30 psi front and 32 rear. When Eric Goforth recently asked Avon, they said "we recommend 29psi front and 32psi rear for both the Roadrider and the Roadrunner." Avon's scanty published info recommends 38/42 psi for their modern sport/touring tyres, but those are radials, which need higher pressures.



Rally 2013 continued:

The rides are all planned out and will offer a variety of scenery and historic sites to see. The main ride on Thursday will be a long one and will take us to the Little Bighorn Battlefield. If you have never been to the battlefield it is a moving experience. The planned ride will include plenty of rest stops, lunch will be available across from the battlefield entrance, and there will be a 3 hour layover to see the battlefield, get lunch and get fuel before returning to Buffalo. This ride will be a bit over 200 miles and an alternative ride will be available for those who don't wish to go that far. There will be maps and directions for some optional self-guided rides that people can work into their schedule if they wish.

So, I think we will have a pretty good rally this year. We have a great rally site, plenty of close-in motels, good rides, and good food. As always, I encourage everyone to register as early as you can to assist us in making plans and ordering supplies. Check out www.nortonrally.com on the net. NCNOC member, Ian Reddy has done a great job with the rally website and there is lots of info and many pictures of the area available there. Also look on the main website page for a map showing the hometowns of people who have already registered. The Bay Area is well represented.

See you in July.
Gar Jorgenson
Save a Horse Rally Chairperson



Rally 2013 Update: Gar Jorgenson, Chairperson

As I write this, May 9th, the rally is only 66 days away. Plans and preparations are continuing to move forward and it looks as though we will have a good turnout.

We currently have over 100 people preregistered, some from as far away as Ireland and New Zealand. The rally site, Deer Park, is about half full but plenty of sites remain available for both tent camping and RVs. A special, and nice, section has been reserved just for NCNOC members attending the rally. There are 8 NCNOC members currently registered. There are three tent sites and 2 RV sites left in the NCNOC section. As an aside, I have been up at the RV park this last week helping them open for the season and one of my jobs included "grooming" the sites that are set aside for the NCNOC.

Many people have chosen to stay in nearby motels, especially the Motel Six. I spoke to the manager this afternoon and she told me that they have only a few rooms left and that the hotel is mostly filled with rally folk. So anyone staying at the Motel Six can plan on lots of Norton camaraderie. There are several other close by motels to the rally site so if you are not able to get into the Motel Six, there will still be a convenient room for you.



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The order is in for the awards for the Concours and the field trials. The Concours this year is being handed by the Northwest Norton Owners Club and the field trials by the Colorado Norton Club. My thanks to both of those organizations for all of their help with the planning.

The banquet this year is being catered by a local "ranch" caterer who will be cooking tri-tips on scene on a giant BBQ. They are experienced and very well received locally. I have been to a wedding reception that they catered and can vouch for the quality of their operation.

Finding things like caterers here in the "Big Empty" can be tricky. I went through two others before settling on these folks. There will also be a catering truck on scene on Monday and Tuesday nights for those who wish to purchase dinner. Dinner Wednesday night will be provided.

Alan's Wrench Cont.

Several comments on the INOA list support the higher numbers, and others the lower. I did try 36/38 psi once, and found the handling changed in a subtle way. The bike would turn in quicker, especially at slow speeds. Maybe this is due to the smaller contact patch. It wasn't dangerous, just different than what I was used to, and I went back to the lower settings. I'm about to put a new AM26 rear on and will try a bit higher pressure, maybe 32/36, to see if it reduces the cupping I got on the last one.

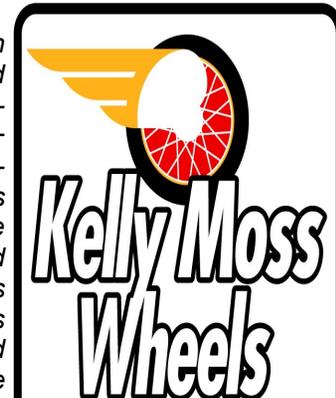
Both Dunlop and Avon also make race-compound tires (tyres) for Commando wheels. Two of our more prominent Norton racers commented on them, with different opinions. Tom Kullen likes the Avons, because they seem to give better cornering and longer life on the track. Kenny Cummings prefers the Dunlops because they break away more predictably, though he doesn't like the short life (1-2 races typically).

Start planning for the INOA rally in Wyoming. Gar has set aside a prime camping area for us. At a recent meeting, almost everyone said they were going but few had registered yet. It's a good idea to do this - remember pre-reg closes June 30 so don't delay.

AlanG

ED: Having been running the Avon Roadrider tires with the higher tire pressures (actually I'm running 40ft and 42 rear) I find the ride and handling better with the higher pressures. The bike is carrying a lot of weight, 5.5+ gallons of gas and two up riders. The turn in on an Interstate is heavy at best and the higher pressure makes it more responsive as for the rear I like the surer set the tire takes in a high speed corners I've never cared about the mileage the tire is what it is and will run as long as it will run, I always change when the wear bars start to show, I consider it cheap reassurance of good safe handling. As long as it's safe and not issues for the tire casing I'll continue to run the high pressures, to each his own though, these are just ideas and starting points, YOUR comfort settings might be different, I encourage you to try other pressures and see how it feels to you.

MotorCycle Logic: Gray-haired riders don't get that way from pure luck.



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TV star shows his Norton at Clubman's'

TV's A&E star of "Storage Wars" Barry Wiess was in attendance showing his highly modified Norton Commando. Barry said he enjoys rides with the Southern Cal-Norton group and being on the road with the gang. He said he was blown away by all the bikes and was impressed with so many of them. He was also a little miffed about not winning his class, saying to me "Hey look at it, how could it NOT win?"... I just smiled and said "yeah, well... I know those crazy guys!"

Top California Commando heading South! Club member Bill Ball sold his very clean one owner Norton to David Zeve of Southern California. The bike was in his family since new, being bought by his brother. Bill you might remember loaned the club the bike for the IMS show at San Mateo a few years ago.



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Club bikes line up for the start of the Mt.Hamilton ride, lead by Tom and Liz Dabel. Leaving from their house in San Jose it was a fun and easy ride to the Observatory then over to the junction.

NCNOC Camping

Dardanelle camp out is coming.. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Dardanelle . August 8-12 2013 See Ken's message for details or see your club website.



MotorCycle Logic: Never be afraid to slow down.