

Norton

Notice



Newsletter of the Northern California Branch

NO. 40

SEPTEMBER 1981



Alice's Restaurant breakfasts won't be the same for a while - the August Branch ride managed to collect 38 Nortons for a jaunt through the hills and redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains.





Norton Notice

1924 Kentucky St.
Redwood City, Ca. 94061.
(415) 369-0597 eves.

published monthly by the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH of the NORTON OWNERS CLUB, its sole purpose is to inform and entertain members regarding all aspects of the NORTON motorcycle, including history, technical advice, and preservation. NORTON NOTICE is not for sale, but is provided as a benefit to members of this Branch.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

PRESIDENT

Harvey Loucks
7583 Lockford Ct.
Cupertino, Ca. 95104
(408) 255-7356
(BEFORE 9:00 PM)

VICE PRESIDENT

Maya Petersen

RECORDING SECRETARY

Art Sirota
(415) 747-0740

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Tom Horton
250 Curtner Ave. #26
Palo Alto, Ca. 94306
(415) 493-2157

NORTON NOTICE STAFF

Michael Heth
Harvey Loucks
Phil Verzola
Bob Marshall
Louis Mendelowitz

ADVERTISEMENTS

Current and prospective members may place ads for Norton-related material wanted or for sale in TRADING POST. Send all necessary information to NORTON NOTICE. There is no charge for ads in TRADING POST.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

	<u>1 Issue</u>	<u>3 Issues</u>	<u>6 Issues</u>
1/4 page	\$5.00	\$13.00	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$9.00	\$25.00	\$45.00

Ads may be designed by the Staff if so desired.

NORTON NOTICE IS A REFLECTION OF ITS READERSHIP AND EVERYONE IS URGED TO SUBMIT ANY ARTICLE, TECHNICAL TIP, JOKE, PHOTOGRAPH, ORIGINAL OR OTHERWISE SO THAT OTHER NORTON ENTHUSIASTS CAN ENJOY IT. FOR BRANCH MEMBERS WHO CANNOT OTHERWISE ATTEND RIDES AND MEETINGS, NORTON NOTICES AFFORDS THEM AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP AND BRING US ALL CLOSER TOGETHER.

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.



MEMBERSHIPS

Membership is available in three categories.

FULL MEMBERSHIP gives membership in the NORTON OWNERS CLUB with its benefits and privileges such as bi-monthly issues of ROADHOLDER MAGAZINE sent directly from England keeping members abreast of Norton owners activities from around the World, the SPARES PROGRAM that allows one to buy Norton parts directly from England at an attractive, low cost, and full voting privileges at all NOC and Branch meetings.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is established for any Norton owner wishing to be associated with the Northern California Branch and are welcomed at all meetings, rides and other functions. Members are urged to become FULL MEMBERS as they become familiar with NOC advantages and benefits.

SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP is established for Norton enthusiasts who have not yet bought their Norton to become familiar with NOC and Branch functions and to assist them in finding a Norton suited to their needs. Although Social Members do not have Branch voting privileges, they are welcome with their ideas at all Branch functions.

NORTON NOTICE is provided to all three membership categories and the publication is open to all for articles and ads they wish to submit.

FULL MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00/yr.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00/yr.

SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00/yr.

ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE TO THE BRANCH TREASURER. RENEWAL DUES ARE PAYABLE AT THE END OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S MEMBERSHIP YEAR, THAT MONTH BEING DESIGNATED BY THE LAST NUMBER OF THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER LOCATED ON THE MAILING LABEL OF NORTON NOTICE. Example:

999/6

denotes member number 999 with dues expiring in JUNE.

BRANCH MEETINGS ARE HELD EACH SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH; LOCATIONS ARE ANNOUNCED IN THE NORTON NOTICE CALENDAR.

BRANCH RIDES ARE HELD THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE MEETING, TIME AND LOCATION ALSO ANNOUNCED IN NORTON NOTICE CALENDAR. IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE RIDE IS POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT SUNDAY. IF IT RAINS THAT SUNDAY, THE RIDE IS CANCELLED FOR THAT MONTH.

OCCASIONALLY, MEETINGS AND RIDES ARE SCHEDULED FOR DAYS OTHER THAN THE SECOND THURSDAY AND FOLLOWING SUNDAY. BE SURE TO CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR ANY CHANGES.

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AUGUST MEETING

held at Rick's Swiss Chalet, Palo Alto, on August 13, 1981.

The meeting was called to "order" at 8:40 by Branch President Harvey Loucks - about 55 members were present. A proposal was passed to make Rick's the Branch's permanent south Peninsula meeting place each alternating month. Harvey emphasized the Old Timers Ride (aka Pre-Commando Ride) on August 16.

Art Sirota spoke about a large order of John Player Norton fiberglass spares that was put together from local members. Art promised to report on the quality of the merchandise as soon as it arrives from England. Gene Austin brought a large selection of NOC paraphernalia to sell to bolster our usually sagging treasury. Amazingly, Treasurer Tom Horton announced that we were able to report \$510 in the coffers with all of our bills paid! Dues, therefore, will not be raised in the near future and Harvey hinted that we might be able to have an extra special Christmas party this year.

Steve Coburn announced the Classic Sports Racing Group's upcoming race at Sears Point September 20. Anyone interested in details can contact Steve or Norton Notice. Steve then treated everyone to a slide show of the beer Bust and Bass Lake Rally to finish up the meeting.

Art

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

I hate to start "Ramblings" on a sad note this month, but that's the way it is. Dick Rutter, an active club member from Alameda was seriously injured during the "Old Timer's" ride last month. We were about a half mile from the end of the ride on Hwy. 84 when a kid on an old Suzuki 750 two-stroke came flying down from Skylonda, out of control, on the wrong side of the road, and ran head on into Dick before he had a chance to take evasive action. Dick was riding one of Mike Rettie's fine old ES2s which was totaled. Dick suffered a compound fracture of the left leg with at least three broken bones. He's at Stanford Medical Center now in surgical intensive care but will probably be moved to an Alameda hospital by the time you read this. The other guy was unhurt. Cards and flowers should be sent to his home in Alameda at 610 Taylor Ave., Zip 94501. Good luck, Dick.

On a more cheery note, the "Old Timer's" ride was a resounding success with about forty Nortons showing up, half of which were pre-Commandos. Among the notables were Ed Brooks on his beautiful '57 Nomad Scrambler, Jan Barton on his Gardengate Manx, yours truly on a ratty but fun '51 500T trials machine, Mike Rettie with his pair of ES2s, and a host of others from the 60's. However, the bike that stole the show, the most inspiring, immaculate, beautiful, and oldest machine there was Art Sirota's '47 Model 18, our centerfold bike for this month.

Art has simply done a superb job on the restoration of this machine. It just exudes quality, character, and class. I was so impressed by this machine that I asked Art if he would give a little restoration workshop to tell us how he did it. He would use the Model 18 as a basis for describing all the techniques and resources required for restoring a classic Norton. Fortunately Art agreed, so stay tuned for details.

I think we have found a home in the South Peninsula area -- Rick's Swiss Chalet in Palo Alto. We had another giant turnout of over fifty people and there was more than enough room to accommodate everyone. The atmosphere was nice, we had our own bartendress, and they bought a couple of cases of Bass Ale just for the Norton Club. I have reserved the same room for our October 8 and December 10 meetings, so we will have our Christmas party at Rick's this year.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND RIDE: LAKE TAHOE OVERNITE

Our next meeting will be at the Edinburgh Castle in the City, and the ride will start from the Ferry Landing in downtown Saucalito. This will be an overnighiter, but as usual, the first days ride will be laid out so that those who don't want to spend the night can ride on Saturday like it was a regular one day club ride.

Our ride will start on Saturday morning from Saucalito then wind on up north through the Wine Country up to Clear Lake then through a scenic backroads way across the Vally to Grass Vally where we'll head north on 49 across Yuba Pass, then down to Lake Tahoe for a night in a nice warm motel at the Northshore area. The next day we'll head around the East side of the Lake, down into Nevada, then back home across Ebbett's Pass to Stockton and the Bay Area. If you want to trace out the route on a map (it's the best way), these are the Highway numbers to follow: 101, 37, 121, 12, over to Calistoga, then 29, 53, 820 to Grass Valley, then 49, 89, 267, 28, 19, 395, 88, 89, 4, 99, 205, 580, then home.

We will get to Tahoe before dark and should have plenty of time for dinner and perhaps a little gambling or other Lake Tahoe recreational activities before turning in for the night. Sunday's ride will be a little shorter and we should be back in the Bay Area by 6 PM. This ride avoids the boring freeways that cross the Central Valley and passes through some of the most scenic parts of the Sierras.

I'm going to take a chance that most of you would rather spend 7 or 8 bucks for a nice, clean, warm motel room with all the modern conveniences than sleep out on the cold, hard, early Fall Sierra ground. Therefore I'm reserving a place in the North Tahoe area that will sleep 15 people. This means you don't have to worry about bringing tents or other cool outdoorsy stuff. Also, we can lock our valuables



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inside when we go out to eat and play. It's our last overnighiter until next summer, so don't miss it. Oh, yes; there will be clearly marked maps for those who worry about getting lost.

BRANCH EVENTS

Steve Coburn showed slides of the Beer Bust and Bass Lake Rally which turned out to be the hit of the evening. It's amazing how many witty comments can come from the mouths of the "very slightly" inebriated. It should be easy to find the meeting places now; every even month will be at Rick's Swiss Chalet in Palo Alto, and every odd month will be at the Edinburgh Castle in San Francisco.

Thinking of San Francisco, I feel like we have been neglecting our brethren in and around the City by not having as many activities in that area as we should have. The schedule over the next few months should go a long way toward rectifying that problem. The meetings will be in the City in September, November, and January, and the Sept., Oct., and Dec. rides will be in that area.

Here's a bit of rambling that might be helpful from the current issue (Sept.) of Cycle World. Norton oil filters for \$2.30 each plus 15% for shipping. Send your bucks to:

Southwest Motorcycle Parts
1810 Texas St.
P.O. Box 1314
Houston, Texas 77001

or call 713-227-8289

Keep 'em Upright!

Suggestion of the Month?

I shudder every time I see an uncovered open quart of oil (that the owner intends to use later) sitting in someone's garage. I have yet to see any engine that likes dirt, dust, animal hair, sawdust, etc. A simple and airtight cover can be obtained from a one pound coffee can or similar can used for Crisco shortening, shelled nuts, and other perishable foods. Some of these plastic snap-on covers are the same diameter (4") as a quart of oil. Besides keeping impurities out of your favorite liquid lubricant (next to beer, that is), they also keep the oil in after you've kicked the can over while wrestling with the sump plug of your engine in the course of an oil change. I would, however, hesitate to rely on one of these snap-on lids while going on a bike trip. A plastic pint bottle with a good screw-on cap such as shampoo or fork oil comes in does much better at keeping your excess engine oil away from your last pair of clean socks at the bottom of your saddlebags. And with a British bike, who wants saddlebags that leak oil?

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
9/10	7:30	Edinburgh Cast. San Francisco	Meeting
9/12, 13	10:00	Ferry Bldg. Sausalito	Northern O'nighter
10/8	7:30	Rick's Swiss Chalet, P.A.	Meeting
10/11	10:00	Ferry Bldg. Sausalito	Ride
11/12	7:30	Edinburgh Cast. S.F.	Meeting
11/15	10:00	Summit Inn Hwy. 17	Santa Cruz Ride

Announcing the 7th Annual Southern California Chapter Antique M/C Club of America La Mirada Motorcycle Show - Swap and Field Meet, Sat. October 3, 1981.

Entrants must be current members of Antique M/C Club of America (can join at meet, \$15 per year) Entry Blanks and information from: Bill Hoecker, 14402 Cerecita Dr., Whittier, Ca. 90604

The September Centerfold Norton is Art Sirota's carefully restored 1947 Model 18. Photographs do not do this machine justice and those who saw this beautiful Norton at the Branch ride last month were treated to a fine example of a restored machine.

Some of the features of this bike are
engine and frame numbers match
new .020" over pistons
new valves and guides
new Avon tyres
stainless steel spokes
new wiring harness
new bearings in wheels, front steering, fly-wheel assembly, crankshaft and gearbox

all new bushings in gearbox
new chains
rebuilt mag-dyno
relined breaks
rebuilt front forks with new seals
new seat, horn, exhaust, speedo, battery
frame straightened to factory specs
carb rebuilt
new exhaust

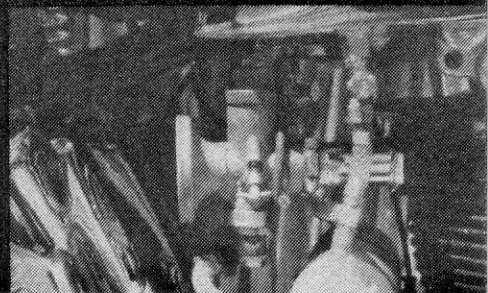
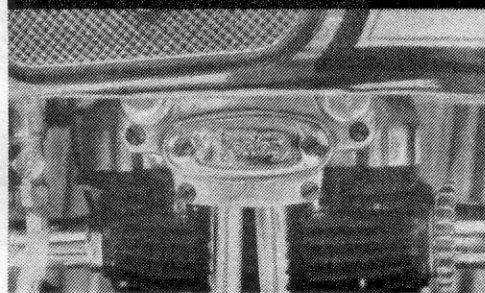
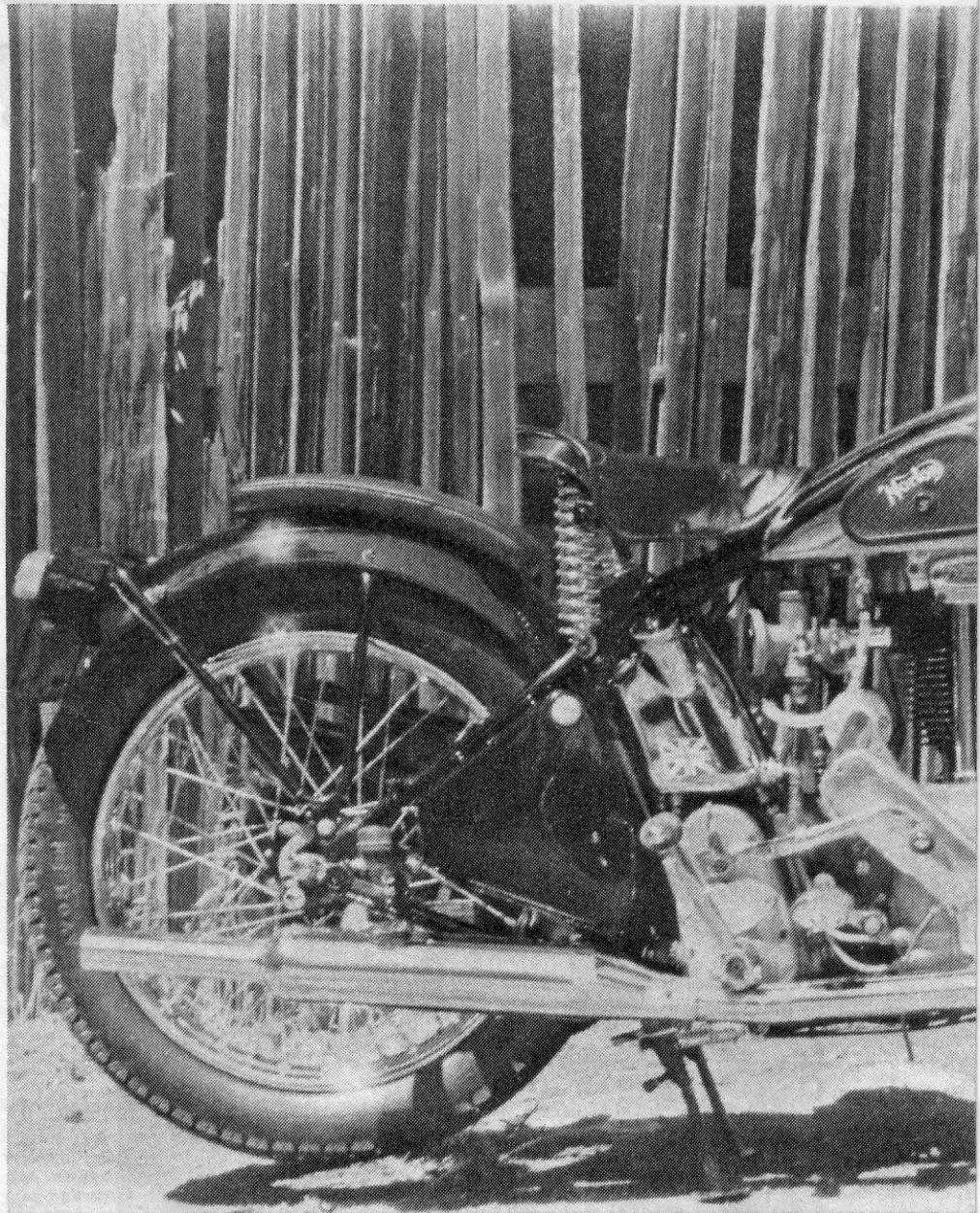
Art has received much-deserved praise for his work and is being encouraged to give a restoration seminar at the October meeting.

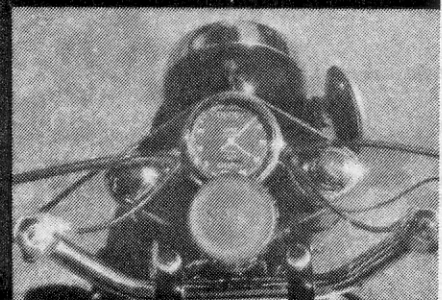
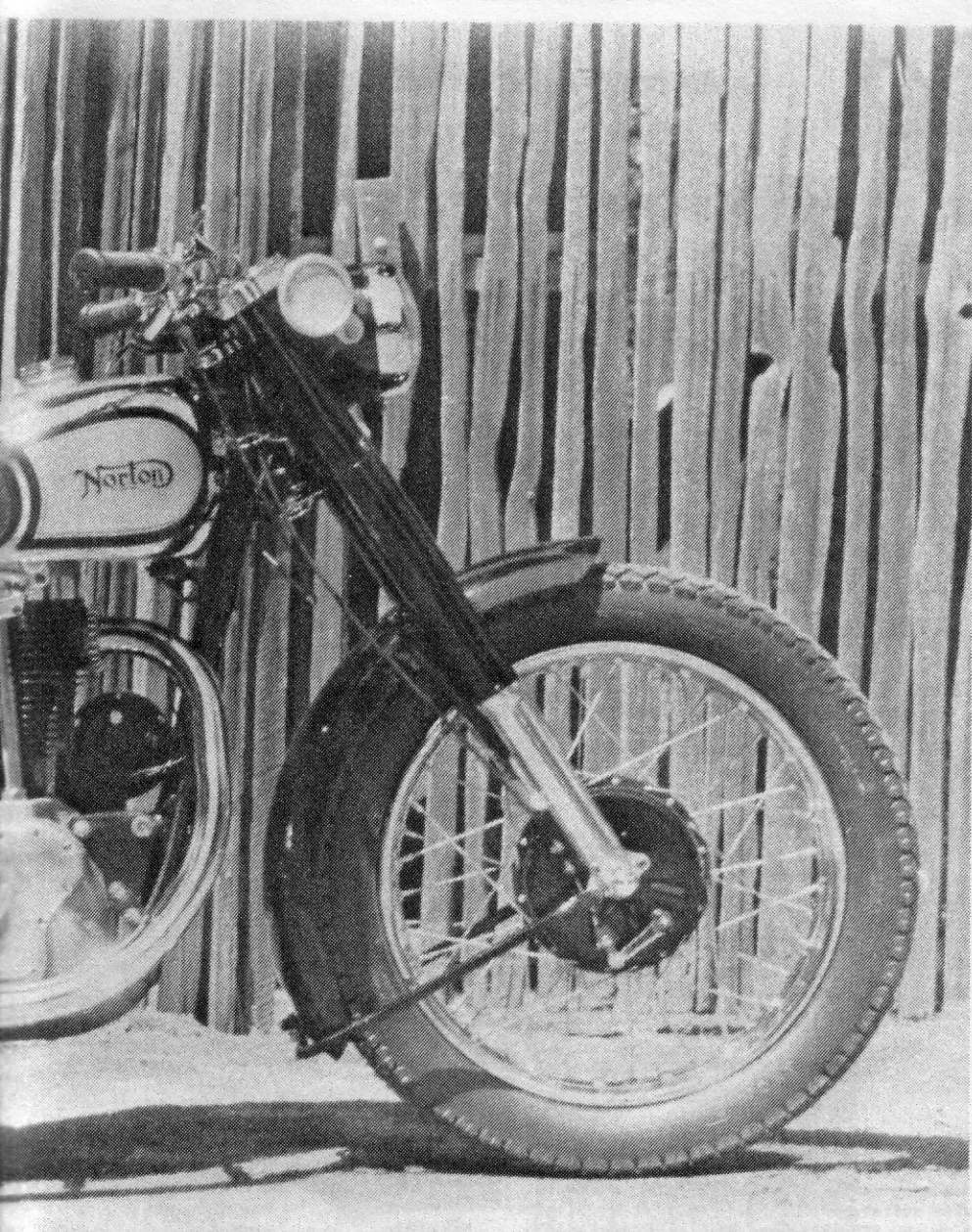


A total of eleven pre-Commandos arrived for the ride - Atlas, Manx, ES2, and others were there in force and well-represented the marque.



Harvey's N15 - well cared for and a very good runner.







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Parting out wrecked 73 750; call Rich Brand after 6:00 415-325-7521

For sale: Rearsets for Atlas and one set of Tomaselli control levers. Best offer. Must sell by June 11. Call Dan Nord 415-648-7876

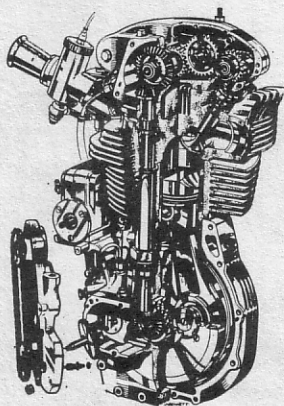
FOR SALE:

Rare 1969 Commando "S", original owner, original condition, metallic blue, 37,000 miles (less than 5,000 from the case up). Make offer.

1971 Commando Roadster, Dunstall cafe tank, clip-ons, etc. much new, \$1500 or best offer.

Many other miscellaneous parts.

Call Mark Gribble (415) 573-1699



TRADING POST

FOR SALE:

N.O.C. PARAPHENALIA AS FOLLOWS.....

3" square machine badge.....	\$6.00
lapel pin.....	1.25
4" square embroidered patch...	1.50
4 1/2" sticker.....	1.00
2" sticker.....	.50
key fob with badge.....	1.50

3-color Northern Calif. Branch lapel pins \$1.50 at branch meetings or monthly rides \$1.75 by mail
See CAROLLYN SCOTT at club meetings or rides

WANTED:

JOHN PLAYER NORTON - Will pay reasonable price
Dave Clifford (408) 269-6368

FOR SALE:

Vincent 1950 Rapide Basket Kase - missing fenders, seat, & speedo, all the rest there plus extras, asking \$2K - (415) 643-6837 after 5 pm -NO STROKERS- may also talk shit on '54 Matchless & various bullshit.

WANTED:

Roadster seat to fit '71 Norton. Upholstery unimportant, but frame must be O.K.
Bill Sarnoff (415) 428-4079
(415) 834-3760

FOR SALE:

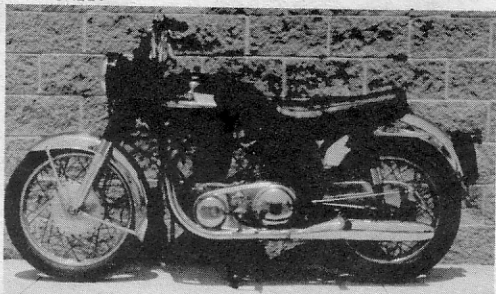
1975 Norton Mk III, Black Roadster with Interstate Tank/Sidecovers, 7800 miles, Immaculate. BEST OFFER

Ray Cabler
(415) 274-0513 (home)
(415) 969-4222 (work)

WANTED:

Classic Bike magazine issues Summer '78 (#2) and Winter '78 (#4).
Gene Austin (415) 573-9559 3:00 to 8:00 P.M.

FOR SALE:



'62 Atlas. Mechanically sound with good black paint, chrome, tires, etc. Instruments and electrical system (with Miti-Max battery eliminator) are good also. \$1200 firm.
Gene Austin (415) 573-9559 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

WANTED:

One or two Norton Enthusiasts to drive to USNOA RALLY in Tennessee (Great Smoky Mountains National Park) week after Labor Day. I can provide 1980 Datsun King Cab truck with camper shell, if you can provide trailer for two or three Nortons. Plan to leave California Labor Day Weekend if possible, and return immediately following the Rally. It's a 50-60 hour drive from the Bay area to the Smokies, and with one driver sleeping in the camper, while other(s) drive, it should be an easy trip. If interested in talking about it, please call: Steve Coburn (415) 497-6601 (work)
(415) 747-0687 (home)



TRADING POST (continued)

FOR SALE:

Almost complete Dominator 650 engine in three large pieces (head, barrels, & bottom end) plus extra head. All or part--very reasonable.

Classic Bike magazine issues Spring '79 (#5), Summer '79 (#6), and April/May '80. \$3.00 each.

Commando Service Notes, MKIII Addendum only as mentioned in Roadholder magazine. Completes original Commando Service Notes. \$1.00 each.

Tubular chrome luggage rack to fit pre-'75 Interstate or Roadster. \$20.00.

Gene Austin (415) 573-9559
1 P.M. to 6P.M.

'Time to sell one of my loved Nortons - '71 750 Commando (battery & oil tank crosswise), new red paint, Dunlops, ringed and valved and ready to enjoy! \$1500 FIRM
Bernie Birleffi
1856 Lincoln Ave.
Calistoga, Ca. 94515
942-5122 or 942-6555

FOR SALE:

oil tank, early '50s style with clutch cable through center of tank

oil tank toolbox for single down tube-type frame

slimline gas tank; only one badge

primary assembly, complete

featherbed engine plates

single down tube frame engine plates

single down tube frame with pink slip

featherbed swing arm

500cc pistons, used +.040, new +.060

magento

brake lever

footrest assembly

forks, early style short Roadholders

500cc motor, all or part

wheels, non-full width hubs

Amal Carb

gearbox, complete

gearbox, blown gear

Atlas motor, complete with primarys, alternator, etc., but no head

For any or all of the above, call
Steve Thompson (408) 946-7225

WANTED:

Desperately needed for restoration of 1964 Atlas - Front and Rear Fenders and stays. Will pay a good price for excellent pieces as these are the only parts I need for a 100% restoration. Any help deeply appreciated!

Phil Hendricks
1840 High St.
Hamilton, IL. 62341
(217) 847-2501

FOR SALE:

1. Pair of good used 750 Interstate mufflers, \$25.
2. Set of good used 850 Interstate head pipes with balance pipe and clamps, \$50.
3. Pair of chrome 126 lb./in. Girling springs for stock Commando shocks, \$10.
4. Pair of used Girling Commando shocks with chrome springs, \$35.
5. Almost complete Dommie 650 engine in three lumps (head, barrels, and bottom end) plus extra head. All or part-CHEAP!
6. Pair of new 12V. auto coils with cushioned Adel clamps, \$12.
7. Set of new clutch friction plates to fit Norton singles, Dommies, and Atlases after 1959, \$30.
8. Used Fiamm chrome air horns with compressor and relay, \$15.
9. Free used Stadium bar end mirror.

Gene Austin (415) 573-9559 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

FOR SALE:

'71 Roadster, single Mikuni, Dunstalls, otherwise stock. Needs clean up and tune up. \$750 or best offer.

Call Tom at (415) 326-0504 after 5:00

REWARD

\$25 for information leading to the purchase of an ES2 or P11. Also wanted, old style Dunstall Decibel Silencers and P11 seat. Call Harvey between 6 & 9 at (408) 255-7356

FOR SALE:

1970 - 750 Commando, Cherry condition, must sell, \$1750 or offer. Call (415) 347-6055

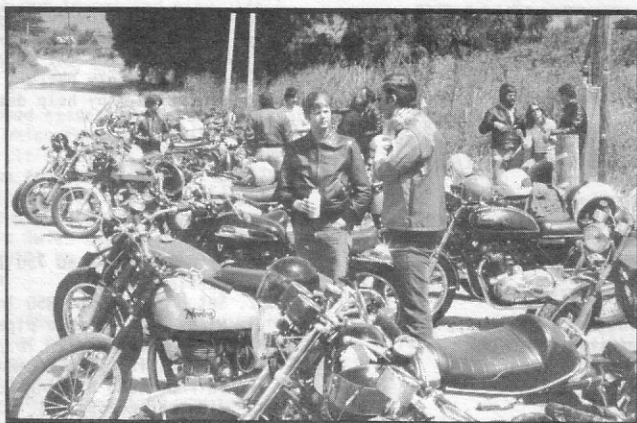
FOR SALE:

1975 MK III Commando, 4000 original miles, VERY NICE CONDITION, must sell \$2000 or best offer. Steve Murry, (415) 364-8627 after 5:00.

Just a reminder for new members and old: The TOOL LOANOUT PROGRAM, sponsored by the branch is still in effect and is in need of use. Call Harry Bunting at (415) 968-2020 or
415) 842-3473

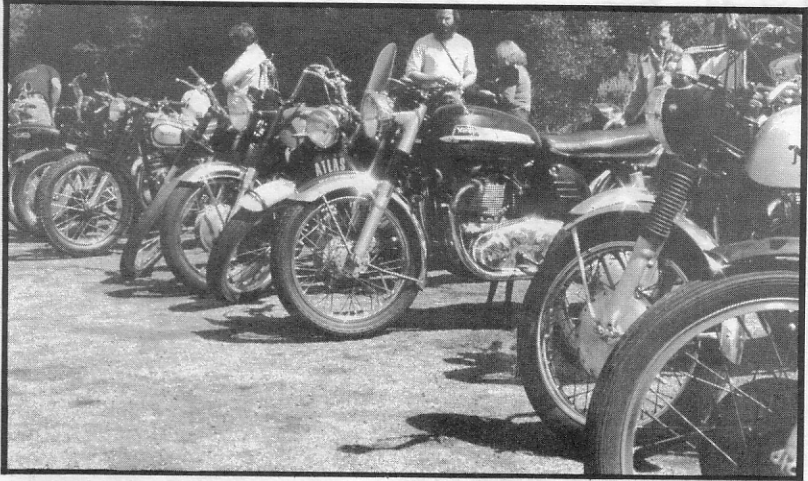


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San Gregorio was the next stop and the collection of Nortons seemed to be growing. Norton groups seem to stop anywhere they see a "BEER" or "WINE" sign in a store window.





First stop, a photo session at a Skyline vista point. The view of the Bay Area was great, but everyone seemed to be facing the other direction looking at Nortons!





Ed Brooks' beautifully maintained 1957 Model 77 performed flawlessly throughout the day. This bike is on display at Brooks Cyclery, San Jose



Harvey "OIL CAN" Loucks demonstrated a roadside repair of a rear fender on his newly acquired 500T. 'Says he knows where he can get a good deal on overload seat springs. Bungy cord stocks went up the next day.

