

Northern California
Since 1971 "The Unapproachable"
Norton OWNERS CLUB

851B South McGlincey Lane, Campbell, CA 95008

Norton OWNERS CLUB
of Northern California

INTERNATIONAL
Norton
OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Norton Notice

Since 1971 ~ "The Unapproachable"

The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

No. 441

September & October 2023





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 sportsterdiana@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.

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:

Ray Abrams, Robert Bausch, Jerry Kaplan, Bill Knight, Maya Lai, Brian Slark, & Dick Slusher

2023 Club Executive Board

President:

- Ken Armann (408-626-0061)

- KenArmann@gmail.com

VP/Treasurer/Secretary:

- Alan Goldwater

- treasurer@nortonclub.com

- vice-president@nortonclub.com

Editor:

- SportsterDiana (This Issue)

- editor@nortonclub.com

Members in Service:

Web Master:

- Ian Reddy

- webmaster@nortonclub.com

Regalia Manager:

- Ken Armann

- quartermaster@nortonclub.com

Rides Coordinator:

- Margie Siegal

- Rides-coordinator@nortonclub.com

Highway Clean-Up Coordinator:

- Norman Trueblood

Graphic Designer:

- Frederick Fortune

- Frederick@fortune2.com

Advertising:

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

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 IO group for information and club activities at <https://groups.io/g/NorCalNOC>

All rights reserved © NCNOC 2023 no part can be reproduced without permission.

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, announces 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 as-signs, 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 Treasurer

Alan Goldwater 1780 Chanticleer Ave. Santa Cruz Ca. 95062

You can also join on line at nortonclub.com and use credit card through our pay pal account.

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

See us at www.nortonclub.com and join our IO group for information and club activities at <https://groups.io/g/NorCalNOC>



Classifieds

FOR SALE:

1972 750 Norton Commando.

8 miles on complete restoration.

\$18,000

email: jimmysparks351@gmail.com



FOR SALE: A very nice parts pile from a 1959 m99. Nice motor parts, fenders, transmission, useable exhaust and more than is pictured. No frame, wheels or tank. Asking \$1500, call Shawn Sage 209 470 6676



Do you have something to sell? Want to Buy something?
Contact the Norton Newsletter Editor at editor@nortonclub.com
(Club or Norton Related Please!)

Upcoming Events

Dec 3 Holiday Dinner location: Franks and Renee's house

Dec 10 Freeze ride to Alice's Restaurant 10:30am. RL: None
17288 Skyline Blvd, Woodside, CA

***Jan 14** Polar Bear Ride to Alice's Restaurant 10:30am. RL: None
17288 Skyline Blvd, Woodside, CA

***Feb 11** Sweetheart Ride to Original Joe's Niles Canyon
RL: North-Margie South-Alan

***Mar 10** Gilroy Wildflower Ride RL: Art

** Pending Approval of Proposed Calendar*



SportsterDiana's new, prone to bursting into flames, 1968 P-11

I am very lucky and made it to the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy races In August. I encourage all who can make the pilgrimage to do so!!!



The island is beautiful and everyone is helpful and kind. The weather can be somewhat problematic but it is definitely worth it. The island

"The approachable"
Ken Armann
 Classic & Antique
 Motorcycle
 Restoration & Repair

Norton
BSA
TRIUMPH

851B So. McGlincey Ln
 Campbell, Ca 95008
 (408) 626-0061
 kenarmann@hotmail.com

is made of stone and moss for lack of a better term. Lucky for me this is the slow group racing as seeing what was passing me before I got a chance to look was a new experience. The food was good and the beer was excellent . I must thank Ian and Dennis Reddy for keeping me on the right track as I was almost always lost, even in the hotel!. We saw a couple of museums with bikes from the very early beginnings of motorcycle existence (they all had very cool stuff on display) Words fail me being grateful for a truly fantastic adventure without the help I would have been lost with so very much to experience.

Annual General Meeting

by SportsterDiana

Only three bikes in the lot, Margie's 1975 JPS, Frank's 1974 Interstate and my 1982 Sturgis. It was pointed out to me that more women rode than men, make of that what you will. By the door it was a different story all together. 21 of us laying siege waiting for the doors to open at 11:30. They had a large table setup in the back room, which we made bigger to accommodate our larger than expected group.



Alan started off with the official meeting part of the day by stating he and Ken were willing to serve another year. Ian, Margie and I will continue in our roles. He then tried the old "And we'll go over the 2024 rides at the holiday party at Frank's place" ploy, then looked shocked when it actually worked. A

cheer went up for Frank being willing to host us once again! The meeting lasted for a mercifully short five minutes, then somehow two and a half hours flew by in a flash as stories were told and food & drink were consumed.





into his boots and lead a Delta Ride next year. Thanking Dave Crader for all the years of Delta Rides!

Addendum from SportsterDiana

Thank you for all the years you lead this ride Dave, I often hear how good it was. I'm sorry to have missed it, I had planned to go but ended up sick for two weeks instead.



Williams Welding

Shop and Mobile
Braze to Heliarc, we weld ANYTHING

We will work with aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron and more!

Also we do rust repairs, fabrication and painting.

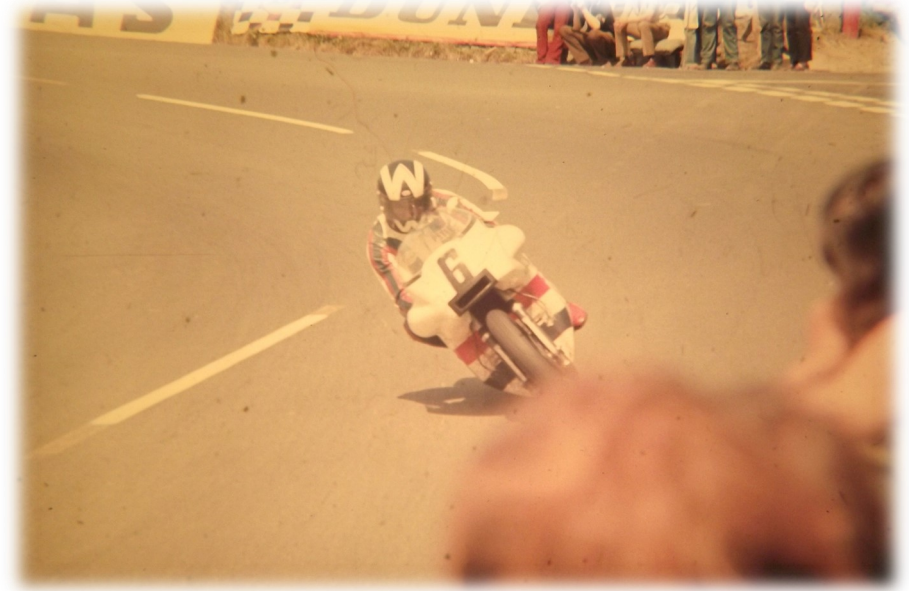
9 to 5 weekdays
2056 Clement Ave
Alameda, CA 94501

Kim Williams (510) 521-5514
Cell phone (510) 541-8012
Fax (510) 521-0965

Norton's Last Isle of Man Win

by John Darlington

This was the last time a pushrod engine bike won an Isle of Man TT race. I took this photo of the late Peter Williams on his 750cc Norton at Signpost Corner during the 1973 Formula 750 Isle of Man race, which he won. I went to the prize giving at the Villa Marina and when Peter stepped onto the stage to receive the trophy the roof raised a foot when the cheer went up. GLORY DAYS.



NCNOC celebrates 20+ years of Adopt-A-Highway with Cal-Trans:

In the absence of NCNOC Adopt-A-Highway chairperson Norm Trueblood; the past chairs Lorin & Kathryn Guy took the reins to celebrate the 20+ years of NCNOC service to the Adopt-A-Highway program. It all started when our sign at Alice's Restaurant area was knocked down, club member Frank Cheap made the sign rescue and subsequently returned the sign to Cal Trans yard in Redwood City. All this just happened to coincide with Cal Trans looking at 20+ year participants in District 4 (of California's Cal Trans Districts). Turns out, as a club we have been doing this for over 20 years!

A little background: Over twenty years ago, when Lorin Guy was

president of the club, he was looking for a way the club could “pay it forward”. He said “ Kathryn and I did a lot of charity work and felt the club needed to make an effort to be more involved somehow” At Alan Goldwaters’ suggestion, the club started looking into the Adopt-A-Highway. “We had no clue that the Alice’s Restaurant site was available but we made the inquiry and actually, there was another group that also had requested that area.” Lorin did some “smooth operator fast-talking” and the club secured the most “motorcycle friendly stop in the Bay Area.” The rest is history.

The following was recently posted to the Cal Trans Update Newsletter and the Adopt-A-Highway CA. Newsletter:

Adopt-A-Highway -Northern California Norton Owners Club

This past Sunday, our Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Coordinator Michael Jevicky, and Assistant AAH Coordinator Jose Montoya met with the Northern California Norton Owners Club to participate in a heartwarming display of community spirit and civic responsibility. The motorcycle enthusiasts demonstrate a selfless dedication to serving the community by maintaining



NCNOC Delta Ride Sept 10, 2023

by David Crader, Photos by Bruce

Seven of us were at the start in Oakley on Sunday morning. I counted three Commandos, two plus mine. The route I chose this year was a bit abbreviated from the past and didn't include any ferry crossings. Good thing for that since as we passed the J Mack ferry on the Grand Island side it was closed. I have been on the BSA club's Delta Ride and for those that didn't enjoy Rd 145 due to poor pavement....at least there is pavement. The other club likes to take some dirt road.

The weather could not have been better. Good for the leisure pace through delta roads and through the "bayou" looking Rd 145. The lunch stop at Husick's Taphouse in Clarksburg is a nice venue. Three more joined us coming from Sac area. There are new owners and the menu is very limited, either pizza or salad. Previous owners had several tasty sandwiches. We had plenty of space under umbrellas for shade with the usual club banter.



After lunch we rode north to the Painterville bridge then south on Hwy 160 with one stop in Walnut Grove. Total distance 93 miles.

I made the announcement this will be my last leadership for this ride. Thank you to all who joined me.

Addendum from Margie Siegal

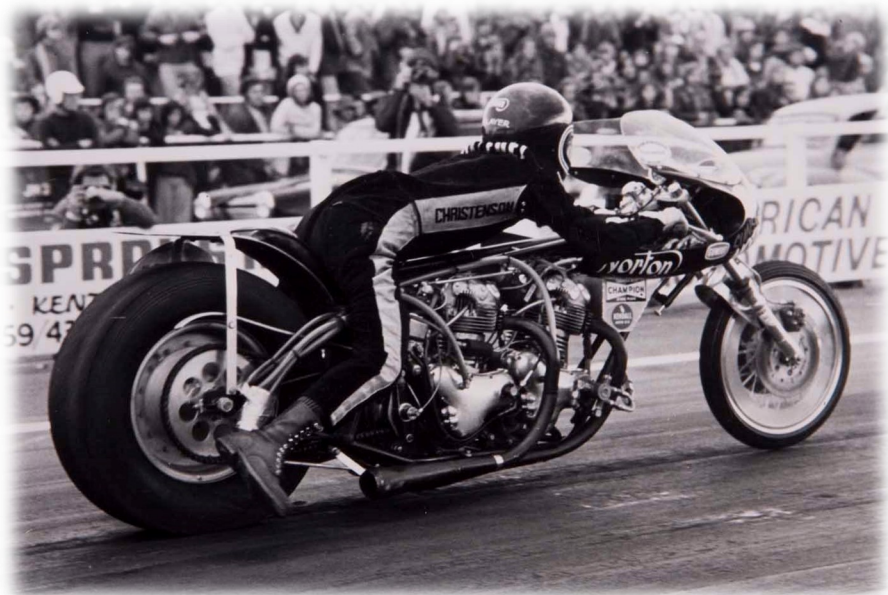
Most of the people on the ride were people you never see on rides. In addition to Bruce and two friends from Sacramento, there was a former Norton Club member who lives near the Delta, and Kim Williams. Bill Davis from the BSA Club has been showing up on a semi regular basis and so has Keith Karnes.

Crader is an expert ride leader and it will be difficult to find someone to step

But then this is not really about me, it's about the Amazing team of Tom and John and what they built, what they achieved, and the legacy they are leaving for

all who know and love the Commando. Yes, the Norton Commando was a road racing champion and a dominant force in Europe. However, these two guys saw something different, something challenging, and with their know-how and nerve, they proved that the Commando was more than a road racer, they added more to the legend in Slaying the Mighty Harley Davidson on the drag racing tracks of America.

Fans can watch the incredible story in the documentary, "Hogslayer: The Unapproachable Legend," which was originally released in 2011 at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee



and beautifying our roadway for over 20 years. Their commitment to giving back was evident as they collectively picked up nine bags of waste and 1.3 cubic yards of lumber and large debris for a total of 1.7 cubic yards of waste. The group then concluded their event with some lunch at Alice's Restaurant in Woodside, CA. It is inspiring to witness how this motorcycle group leverages its comradery and shared love for riding into a positive force for the community.

Ps: Our sign is now again standing tall at the corners of highways 84@35 Alice's Restaurant, Woodside CA.

Article by Motorsports Editor and correspondent: Rollin Chicane, Photo by Michael Jevicky used by permission.

Norton Motorcycle Legend Passes Away

by Lorin Guy

R.I.P. The legendary T.C. Christenson passed away on September 21, 2023, and was the owner of Sunset Motors in Kenosha for 54 years.

In 2005, T.C. was inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame, and the Hogslayer motorcycle is now housed in the British National Motorcycle Museum in England.

(T.C.) Tom Christenson: The Fastest Man on two wheels for most of 1970's Drag Racing Super Star on his twin-engine Norton Commando "The Hogslayer". I never met Tom in person, but I had a number of phone calls with him during the production of the Documentary "Hogslayer: The Unapproachable Legend," and at the time sent in some contributions to the cause. I was honored to see my name in the credits. Along with his buddy and business partner John Gregory, they set about building a legend of a bike. They also pioneered many innovations for the Commando engine, like fuel injection. I felt privileged that they reached out to me as then President of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club, I was tasked with some minor research for them.



