

# Norton

# Notice



Newsletter of the Northern California Branch

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**NO. 45**

**FEBRUARY 1982**

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1982

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
FEBRUARY 14	BIG SUR/RIVER INN BRANCH RIDE	BROOKS' CYCLERY SAN JOSE, CA.	10:00 AM
MARCH 14	GURNEYVILLE/RUSSIAN RIVER RIDE	SAUSALITO FERRY TERMINAL	10:00 AM
APRIL 17-18	OVERNIGHT RIDE TO VOLCANO	LIVERMORE	9:00 AM
MAY 15-16	RAFTING TRIP DOWN AMERICAN RIVER	(to be announced)	9:00 AM
JUNE 13	BEER BUST	(new location this year, to be announced)	12:00 NOON
JULY 11	SECOND ANNUAL OLD TIMER'S RIDE (PRE-COMMANDOS EMPHASIZED)	ALICE'S RESTAURANT	10:00
AUGUST 19-22	SECOND ANNUAL NORTHERN CALIF- ORNIA BRANCH RALLY	IN THE SIERRAS	DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED
SEPTEMBER 11-12	OVERNIGHT RIDE TO LAKE TAHOE VIA SACRAMENTO RIVER DELTA	DUBLIN	9:00 AM
OCTOBER 17	MONTEREY RIDE	HOWARD JOHNSON'S, 1ST STREET, SAN JOSE	10:00 AM
NOVEMBER 14	WINE COUNTRY/NAPA VALLEY RIDE	BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA	10:00 AM
DECEMBER 12	MT. DIABLO RIDE	SAMBO'S RESTAURANT IN CASTRO VALLEY	
JANUARY 16, '83	ALICE'S LOOP RIDE--LUNCH AT DUARTE'S IN PESCADERO	ALICE'S RESTAURANT	10:00AM

# Norton Notice

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

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

Art Sirota  
P.O. Box 8  
La Honda, Ca. 94020  
(415) 747-0740

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY/ TREASURER

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

### VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Dabel

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Phil Radford

### RIDE MARSHAL

John Padilla

## 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.

MOTORCYCLE DEALERS wishing to advertise may send ads to the NOTICE with the following 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

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

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS THE 20th of EACH MONTH.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH TOOL LOAN-OUT PROGRAM

If you need one or more of the following tools, for working on your bike, get in touch with Harry Bunting and arrange to pick them up.

A refundable deposit equal to the replacement value of the tool is required at the time you pick them up.

<u>TOOL</u>	<u>DEPOSIT</u>
Timing cover oil seal guide	\$ 5.00
Rocker spindle puller	\$25.00
Crankshaft sprocket puller	\$12.00
Clutch spring tool	\$12.00
Clutch locking tool	\$18.00
Valve spring compressor	\$22.00

Harry Bunting (415) 968-2020 (home)  
1401 Gilmore St. (418) 735-1550 x2394  
Mountain View, Ca.

## 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

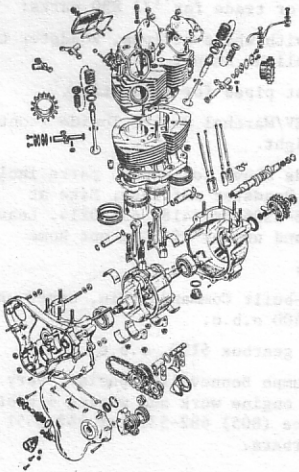
denotes member number 999 with dues expiring in JUNE.

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.





## 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

### FOR SALE:

Hepolite Pistons for Norton 750 & 850  
+20 to +40. Call Herb: (408) 253-0602.

### WANTED:

Lower fork shrouds for "long" Roadster  
forks.

Chaincase  
Fenders  
Headlight switch  
Any Model 77 parts

### ALSO WANTED:

Picture of a Model 77 ('57 to '59) or  
someone who has a complete bike to aid  
me in the restoration of my Model 77.  
Call Steve at (408) 946-7225

1974 Commando Roadster, 1900 Original  
miles, original owner, all original,  
includes tank cover, European bars,  
manuals and other extras; \$2000 firm.  
Call Joel at (408) 353-1824.

### WANTED:

Left side cast aluminum top main fork tube  
cover for early Nortons, part number B2/635.  
Call Art at (415) 747-0740.

### FOR SALE:

1955 BSA 500 Goldstar Roadster CB34GS  
in excellent condition. Motor and tranny  
are superb, seat has been recovered, and  
large tank (European 5 gallon, fiberglass  
version) has just been repainted in Imron.  
Leaks oil from valve covers and needs some  
maintenance. Fenders are close, but not  
original; \$1275.

1968 Rickman-Triumph 650 dirt bike. Custom  
magneto, alloy rims, 21" front on Yamaha  
YZ 400 forks. Light (285 lbs), torquey, and  
very fast; \$675. This would be an easy  
cafe conversion.

1969 Norton Atlas 750. The last year made,  
with points and coil ignition, hump on back  
of new seat, and new concentric carbs. New  
red paint. All original (including exhaust  
system) except for air cleaner. Has  
short in wiring and needs a good clean-up  
and tune-up; \$875 with full guarantee if you  
fix it up, \$975 firm if I have to fix it.

All above prices are cheap for these collect-  
or's pieces and I'm only selling them because  
I have my heart set on something really nice  
that's going to set me back a lot.

Also, complete 1974 tranny - \$175  
complete disc front end conversion \$225  
New Dunlop K70 4:00 x 19 - \$35  
New Michelin 4:00 x 19 - \$30  
"Norton Story" by Bob Holliday 1st  
edition - \$15

Please call Harvey between 6 & 9 at  
(408) 225-7356.

### FOR SALE:

1964 Atlas - sharp, clean! Two seats, spare  
Roadholder front end, low mileage, spare stock  
fender, oil tank, extras at \$1500. Call Wayne-  
(408) 429-5015.

### FOR SALE:

1. Rare 1969 Commando "S", original owner,  
original condition (the bike). Metallic  
Blue, excellent! Make Offer.
2. 1972 Commando Roadster, many options,  
call for details.
3. 1971 Commando, Dunstall glass, clip-ons,  
rear sets, new engine. Make Offer.
4. 1963 Ducati 250, Make Offer.
5. Commando clutch pressure plate tool, cost  
\$22.00, sell for \$15.
6. Miscellaneous Norton Parts.  
Mark Gribble (415) 573-1699

### TACH DRIVE FIX

Will replace "O" ring with new seal in your  
tach drive, \$7.50.

Mark Gribble, (415) 573-1699

**WANTED:**

Banjo fittings from broken cylinder head oil feed lines. Call Gene Austin evenings at (415) 573-9559.

**FOR SALE:**

1. Black '62 Atlas. Mechanically sound with good paint, chrome, tires, instruments, and electrical system. \$1200 firm.
2. Late Commando Oil tank with stainless steel reinforced aft mounting tab, \$20. Similar oil tank but not reinforced, \$10.
3. Highly polished Commando timing cover, \$25.
4. Set of NEW pre-Commando heavy weight rocker arms, \$50 the set.
5. '69-'70 Commando Roadster oil tank (it's square), \$10.
6. Early '70's Commando battery tray, make offer.
7. Set of USED pre-Commando heavy weight twin rocker arms, make offer.
8. NEW rubber mounts for Commando mufflers, heady steady, or petrol tank, \$1.00 each.
9. Set of highly polished heavy weight twin rocker box covers, \$20.
10. Set of NEW Commando cush drive buffers, \$6 the set.
11. Set of new standard size rod bearings for 500cc and 600cc twins, \$10.
12. Two-position ignition switch (early '70s) with key, \$10.
13. Set of NEW clutch friction plates to fit post '59 Norton single, Dominator, Atlas, \$25.
14. New auto advance unit to fit '68-'69 Commando (mounts at back of engine). Also fits 500cc and 650cc Triumph twins, \$20.
15. Springs for Dzus fastener that secures aft end of an Atlas seat. Free if you send a self-addressed envelope (one dollar each if you don't!!).

All above from Gene Austin, (415) 573-9559 EVENINGS.

**WANTED:**

Tail light assembly for '72 Commando Roadster. David Crader (408) 295-4968

**WANTED:**

1974 Roadster or Interstate. I am willing to pay \$1400 for a bike in good running condition. Ken Duffy, 345 Lyon St. #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94117, (415) 768-6028 or (415) 346-2497.

**FOR SALE or trade for '73 850 parts:**

1. Blue with white stripes, Roadster tank in excellent shape.
2. Exhaust pipes for Interstate.
3. New SEV/Marchal Quartz Iodide front headlight.

Will trade above for needed parts including a set of Roadster mufflers. Mike at (916) 756-2596 or (418) 438-0214. Leave message and number if I am not home.

**FOR SALE:**

Pridmore-built Commando twin, never used or raced, \$400 o.b.o.

Commando gearbox \$150, o.b.o.

1979 Triumph Bonneville Special, very nice with new engine work and wiring - best offer. Call Lance (805) 682-5387 or 962-3551 in Santa Barbara.

**FOR SALE:**

Norton, 1975 850cc. Excellent condition, \$2069. (408) 636-1798 after 7:00.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If there is not a NORTON NOTICE for March, it is because I have taken a two week vacation to Florida.

Since months of pleas for increasing the NOTICE Staff to spread the work load out a little has fallen on deaf eyes, this month's issue is what is available to publish. And probably rightly so - Nortons are a hobby to 99% of the membership (or less) and it's no big deal if it all goes correctly, every time. The newsletter seems to have lost its purpose to inform and enlighten since most members are very knowledgeable of Norton's history, mechanics, and future.

You have the schedule for this next year of meetings, rides, and special events. Membership participation is where the action is, not reading the newsletter once a month and glancing at a centerfold Norton for a few seconds that took minimum of 6 (that's right, six) hours work to put together.

## JANUARY MEETING

held at Edinburgh Castle, San Francisco, January 14, 1982.

On a cold San Francisco night, it was a pleasure to see quite a few Nortons parked on the sidewalk outside the Edinburgh Castle for the first meeting of the year (it's worth it just for the Draught Guinness!).

The meeting began at approximately 8:45pm with about 36 members present.

Art Sirota mentioned that the John Player parts he had ordered from England had arrived, but unfortunately, they had been mailed to Compton near L.A. instead of La Honda(?). But he hoped that he would have more information for the next Branch meeting.

Steve Coburn informed the group that he had heard of a private collector's large assemblage of old British motorcycles in Volcano, a small town in the northern part of California and suggested a weekend Branch ride at a future date to see them.

Harvey Loucks gave his farewell ramblings in precedence to the elections for new officers of the Branch. He recieved a warm round of applause for the excellent job he had done over the past 12 months.

So now down to the serious stuff as the 'Magnificent 36' decided two person's fates for the next year as Officers. The positions of Secretary/Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Ride Marshal only had one nomination each, so the real voting was left to Branch President and Vice President as unsettled business.

Harvey announced a tie between Gary Broeder and Tom Dabel for Vice President and in a show of hands in the "runoff", Tom received the majority.

The final act that Harvey had to perform as outgoing President was to say who his 'Heir to the Throne' would be. It was a close race between Art Sirota and Jan

Barton with Art receiving the 'crown' (which closely resembled a Lucas headlight rim - could this be history in the making? Tim Coburn was a close third.

Next on the adjenda was the raffle which included the \$25 Gift Certificate from Brooks' Cyclery and two original Norton Owners donated by Brooks' new owners, John McCoy and John Carter. Modesty forbids me saying who won the Gift Certificate, but Bart Rago and Richard Euler won the Manuals.

## JANUARY RIDE

We left Sutter's Place with high overcast and went up Calaveras into low fog breaking through to a clear day on Felter road for an optimistic view of the ride ahead. Plummeting down Sierra Road and going

through Alum Rock Park, Harvey again drew the short straw. Talk to him about it - these are the things war stories are made of.

Number two casualty of the day was Harry Bunting in a tricky stretch after the grand view, damaging pride, chrome, and tail light.

Those of us who made it to the Observatory atop Mt. Hamilton were treated to clear, mild weather and an easy-paced ride down the mines road with frequent stops to transfer fuel to overconfident Roadster owners' bikes.

Round Table of Livermore catered the awards banquet for the survivors and all made it home before the Winter dark set in.

Tom Dabel

## BRANCH EVENTS

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
2/11	7:30	Rick's Swiss Chalet, Palo Alto, Ca.	Meeting
2/14	10:00	Brooks' Cyclery San Jose	Big Sur/ River Inn Ride
3/11	7:30	Edinburgh Cstle San Francisco	Meeting
3/14	10:00	Ferry Landing Sausalito	Gurneyville/ Russian River Ride

## PRESIDENTIAL PROFUNDITRIES

First of all, I want to thank all of the members who voted for me in the election. I will do my best throughout the year to make our Branch a united, smooth running, trouble-free organization. As for those of you who didn't vote for me, I know who you are and I'll get even if it's the last thing I ever do.

This month's meeting at Rick's in Palo Alto should be fun and informative. Dick Rutter will return to our ranks and give us an interesting discourse on witty things to say after getting into a head-on collision, tips on how to lay perfectly still on your back for two months without going insane, and how to make certain that all your accidents happen while you're driving someone else's Norton.

I missed the last Branch ride, and I can hear everyone talking about what a stay-at-home the new President is, but the truth is that I was too busy conferring with God about weather conditions for future Branch rides. She said all of this year's rides would be sunny, but warned to watch out for bad roads (even God can't speed up a Cal Trans crew!). Tom Dabel gives his accounting of the ride in the JANUARY RIDE article.

Suggestions are being taken for where to hold

this year's rally. I know of a real nice place called the Pinecrest Chalet and I'll bring brochures and information on it to this month's meeting.

John Padilla, Tom Dabel and I have come up with an extraordinary ride schedule for the coming year. It will be found elsewhere in this issue, giving everyone plenty of time to plan ahead. There's a little something to please everyone. One of the exciting and different events is sure to be the overnight rafting trip down the American River! Ben Halstead will be our guide and we will be using his new rafts. No, you will not be allowed to actually take your Norton down the rapids on the raft! Ben, Ara, and I rode the rapids in one of his rafts earlier this year and found it almost as exciting as falling off a Moto Guzzi while coasting down Mt Diablo!

Please note that our February ride will meet at Brooks' Cyclery, not at Alices' as we had reported in the last issue of NN. We will ride down to Big Sur and lunch at the River Inn.

I would like to propose a change of meeting place in San Francisco. Edinburgh Castle is so stuffy and dingy, perhaps we could find a place with cleaner, cheerier facilities. If anyone has suggestions, I would like to talk about them next meeting.

Harvey Loucks has inadvertently come up with a suggestion to help bolster our Treasury. During our last two raffles, he has managed to purchase two matching tickets and then hold on to both of them without dropping one in the helmet with all the other raffle tickets. Now, if everybody followed Harvey's patriotic example, we wouldn't have to keep finding new items to raffle off each month!!

The John Player fiberglass spares from Sprint Manufacturing in England are now at my brother's house in L.A. (they went to L.A. by mistake because the manufacturer in England thought I lived in a suburb of L.A. called L.A. Honda!). If I get them in time, I'll bring them to the next meeting.

In addition to Classic Bike, another well put together English motorcycle magazine catering to vintage bikes has recently come out. It is called The Classic Motorcycle. and is published every two month's. I'll bring the latest issue to the next meeting if everyone promises not spill beer, slobber or drool on it. For more information, contact Subscription Manager, IPC Business Press (S&D) Ltd., Oakfield House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 3DH in, of course, ENGLAND. This month's issue has a beautiful colour photo of a 1939 works replica Norton 350.

Tom Dabel has volunteered to organize the overnighter to Volcano and it sounds like a real great trip. He says there is a vintage motorcycle museum with 80 bikes!

I know the Beer Bust isn't until June, but start thinking now about possibly volunteering to help make it a success.

We have the Best Norton Owners Club Branch. I hope this will be a memorable year.

Your humble servant,  
Art Sirota

#### THE LITTLE NORTON THAT COULD by Art Sirota

One sunny day, Billy and Janey were riding down the road on a beautiful Norton 250 Jubilee. Billy smiled to himself as the green countryside seemed to race by.

"Look, Billy!" cried Janey, "See how the green countryside seems to race by!"

Billy clicked the Norton into fourth and felt the smooth pur of the engine beneath him.

"Go faster, Billy!" squealed Janey. "I want to get home before my ass gets sore!"

"OK!" shouted Billy, "Hold on tight!"

But just then, they came to the bottom of a big, big hill. The smile on Janey's face seemed to fade as Billy downshifted into third, second, and finally, first gear. Little droplets of sweat had condensed on the Norton's headlight as it came to a halt 100 yards from the top.

"What's wrong with this old thing?" demanded Janey.

"No problem, Sweets," answered Billy. "We'll just have to try 'er again."

So, Billy turned the Norton around and tried to build up more speed.

"Whee!" yelled Janey, "this is fun! We better make it to the top this time or you ain't gettin' any tonight!"

But halfway up the hill, the Norton started to slow down. Billy downshifted again and used his clutch like an expert. The Norton strained and pulled as hard as it could, but 50 yards from the top, they found themselves stopped once again.

"Boo Hoo!" cried Janey with real tears. "This is embarrassing! What if one of my friends came by right now and saw us? I'd just die!"

Don't worry, Janey, I've got an idea!" And Billy wheeled the Norton around and came to a stop at the bottom of the big, big hill. "Get off for a second," ordered Billy.

But as soon as Janey was off the Norton, Billy did a wheelie and raced up the hill. As he flew past the top of the big, big hill in fourth gear, Billy smiled to himself as the green countryside seemed to race by.

Moral: Don't carry excess baggage.