



Norton Notice



The Newsletter of the Norton Owners Club

No. 153

Jan. 1991



A last hurrah for three retiring officers (Payton, Bunting and Goldwater) at the Club Xmas party

(Photo by Gerald Mauricio)



Norton Notice

is published by the Northern California Branch of the 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.

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. For Branch members who cannot attend club meetings or club rides, the NORTON NOTICE affords an opportunity to share experiences and information with the membership of the Branch and to bring the Branch members closer together.

The deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 25th of each month.

Membership in the Northern California Branch of the Norton Owners Club is available for \$15.00 per year. Membership dues are payable to the Branch Secretary/Treasurer.

Renewal dues are payable at the end of the individual's membership year, that month being designated by the last number of the individual's membership number as listed on the mailing label of the NORTON NOTICE and the membership card. For example, 745/2 denoted member 745 with dues expiring on the 1st of February.

All changes of address should go to the Branch Secretary/Treasurer, not the NOTICE editor.

The Northern California Branch of the 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 organizations per the terms described on the Branch membership application form.

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NORTON OWNERS CLUB

IMPORTANT (Please take note of the following fine print):
The object of the Northern California Branch of the Norton Owners Club is to promote, encourage and develop motorcycling 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 use of these technical 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 authors' views 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

Jan. 20 (Sun.) Brunch at Flying Lady 11 am, Morgan Hill. Ride the SC wine country, Call Marick (415) 321-5083 for info.

Feb. 24 (Sun.) East Bay Ride. Meet at Denny's on Ashby in Berkeley at 9:30 am. Will go to Royal Oak Pub in Clayton. [QUESTION FROM RIDE LEADER: on the last East Bay Ride only two people showed up from the East Bay. What gives?]

Complete ride schedule in next issue.

But Is It Art?

(Reprinted from *Classic Bike*)

'HE'S a serious collector — he rides a Norton Electra oh-oh,' we sang in harmony. Attempts to exact a father's revenge upon a Betty Boo fan by subjecting her to Art Sirota's *Norton Songs* tape had backfired. My 11-year-old daughter just loves Art.

She's even taken to strolling through the house giving voice to Art's *Norton Rap*. 'I'm talkin' Norton rap, Norton rap, not German, Italian or Japanese crap...'

The 11 songs on this tape feature a wide range of musical pastiche from Beach Boys to electric folk, executed and recorded in a highly professional manner. The lyrics penned by Californian building contractor Sirota are witty and whimsical.

Subject material includes Norton motorcycles, mechanical breakdowns, unrequited love, collecting mania, shop

Meeting Schedule

The club meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM. The location rotates between Peninsula, South Bay, East Bay and S.F.

January 10--Peninsula

The Prince of Wales Pub on 25th Ave in San Mateo offers a wide selection of beers and a private meeting room with dart boards!

February 14--South Bay

Harry's Hofbrau, El Camino near Castro Street, Mountain View

March 14--East Bay

Spaghetti Factory, Jack London Square, Oakland (tentative)

April 11 -- San Francisco

Lake Merced Boathouse. Off Skyline Blvd.

restorations, the reincarnation of Elvis Presley and the sexual preferences of Tarzan. Art Sirota sings and plays both the harmonica and guitar, accompanied by Rolf Wyer on guitar, drums and piano and Lorrie McFtridge on vocals. Highly recommended, even if you ride a BSA.

Norton Songs can be obtained from Art Sirota, 1281 Laurel St, Menlo Park, California 94025, USA, or Fair Spares, The Corner Garage, 96-98 Cannock Rd, Chase Terrace, Burntwood, Staffs WS7 8JP. Each tape cassette costs £7, post paid.

Peter Watson

Over the Bars . . .

by Lynne Miller, President

Over the Bars is to be the new title of the President's column. For three years we got used to seeing "Alan's Wrench" up there and Alan deserves a lot of credit for a job well done.

Over the Bars refers not to what happens under severe conditions but to the most enjoyable conversations that we have on rides over the bars at rest stops. That is what this column is about. I will attempt to keep you informed and up to date about the events and important items as they come up.

The Norton Club is alive and healthy! When I first joined it was just coming out of a dormant stage and the membership was restless. People complained tha the club was a group of non-riders and polishers. I found that not to be true and attempted to interject some enthusiasm and humor. We have a good group of people and with the leadership of John Covell and Alan Goldwater the club came back stronger than ever. We have a great club and great members.

Nineteen Ninety-one is going to be a banner year for the Norton Club. We have a plan to take leadership of the traditional Easter Morning Ride. With the help of Marshall and our new ride coordinator, Mike Burnam, we should be able to make this event better than ever.

Then, there is the International Rally at Lake Tahoe in July and August. This is Alan's baby and he is going to need every bit of help he can get. Lots of details need attending to, some large and some small. Figure out how much you want to help and call Allan. He will appreciate the help.

Thanks, too, for the confidence in electing me as your President and I have enjoyed this little chat "over the bars."



Minutes of December Meeting

NOC Annual General Meeting Minutes at the Holiday Party at Alice's Restaurant in Woodside on December 15th, 1990

Tardy as usual, the assembled members of the Norton Owner's Club were called to order by President Alan Goldwater at 4:30 PM.

He immediately announced that a nearly full slate of officers has been assembled: Lynn Miller as President; Stan Beneveds as Secretary/Treasurer; Andy McKerral as Norton Notice Editor; and Mike Burnham as Rides Coordinator. Leo Christianson volunteered for the position of Paraphenalia Officer. Brad Green subsequently volunteered for the position of Recorder, enabling the current Scriber to concentrate on Public Relations for the Club and the INOA Rally that we're hosting next July/August. Finally, Marick Payton stepped forward to serve as Vice President.

Alan then reviewed the recently proposed amendments to the "Officer Incentive Program", and these were approved.

Don Danmier described a rides chart which he's compiling to keep track of all the rides that the various Bay Area British bike clubs have calendared.

The 1991 All British Clubman's Show is scheduled for March 24th- put it on your calendar. (Ed.'s note: there are rumours to the effect that Andy McKerral will have the Club Bike ready for show at this event...)

Brad asked about incorporating the Club for liability protection, especially

now that we're hosting the INOA Rally in '91. Alan stated that we're covered for that purpose under the INOA's insurance, and that a Club Safety Officer will have to be chosen and sent to an AMA safety meeting - an activity for which the Club will pay.

Alan described the rally preparations and announced a rally committee meeting to occur immediately after the dinner. Anyone desiring to become involved should contact Alan.

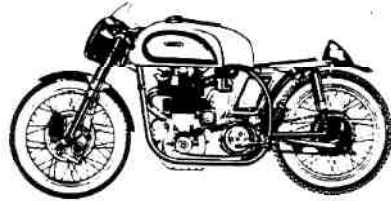
The meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Local Boys Make Good

Two local Norton enthusiasts are featured in the February *Cycle World* now on the newstands. Columnist Steven Thompson devotes his page to a review of Art Sirota's new album, "Norton Songs." He singles out "Serious Collector" as one of the three songs ever recorded that deal seriously with motorcycling and motorcyclists.

A six-page feature on "Bikes that Wouldn't Die" tells the story of Gerry Reynolds, another club member and leader of the Monterey Bay Eurobike scene, and his 151,000 mile '72 Interstate. The story includes a great photo of Gerry with the bike. Other high-milers described are: a '75 Honda Gold Wing with 300,800 miles, an '88 Harley Electra Glide with 135,000, a '74 Kawasaki H1 (my gawd, one that didn't go out in a flaming crash), and the winner, a '75 BMW R60/6 with a claimed 750,000 miles.

CLUB ROSTER

THE UNAPPROACHABLE

1963 catalog drawing of Manx 30M and 40M

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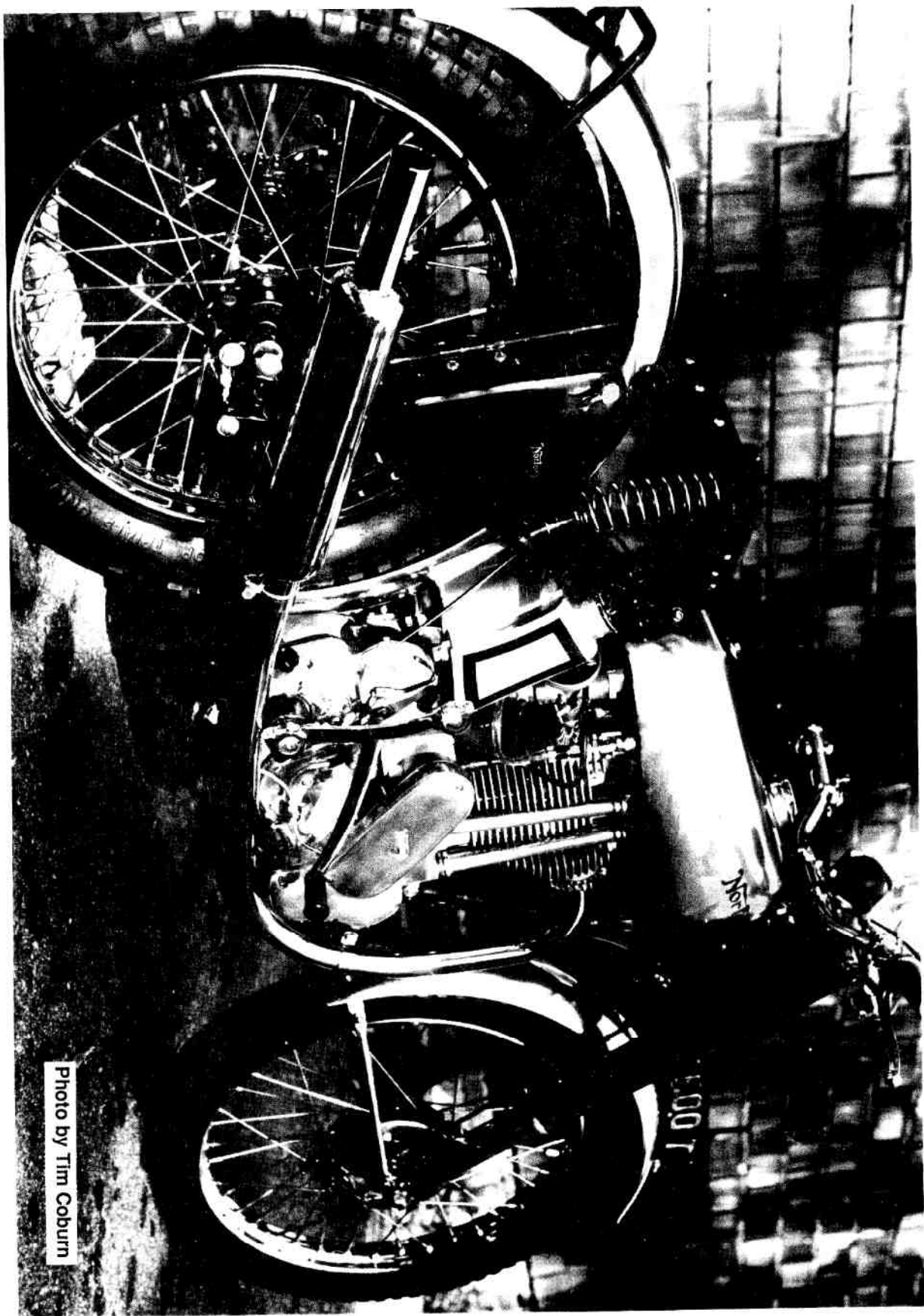


Photo by Tim Coburn

What happens when you push it home, with a little bit of jing and a lot of hard work:
Art Sirota's restored 500 T. (Story next month)

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NORTON OWNERS CLUB

1991 CLASSIC CALENDAR

Published in England by the NOC, this very high quality production is now in its eighth edition. Measuring 16x12 inches, it contains 13 full colour photographs of Nortons 11x7 inches, complete with full and informative captions.

Bikes included this time are: Commander, 16H, JPN, Commando 'S', Model 99, ES2, Atlas, Inter, Model 19, Fastback and the very latest in the long Norton line, the F1. A unique extra to the NOC Calendar is the information page, this time featuring a specially written article on the history of the Dommi engine from its debut on the Model 7 through to its final Commando version.

Printed on fine quality art paper and hung on a wire spiral, each page is just flipped over as required, no rip offs here! Truly the best quality and value in motorcycle calendars and it is 100% Norton. A must for every discerning Norton owner and enthusiast, at the very reasonable price of \$11 per copy, post paid. Don't go into 1991 without a copy upon your wall. Order now for prompt dispatch. Ideal Xmas/New Year present for all your motorcycling friends.

The Norton Owners Club
1165 Crandano Court,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Pair of 34mm Mikuni carbs w/ manifolds, jetted for my stock '73 850 Commando. Your Norton will start easy, idle nicely, and won't leak gas all over. LET'S TRADE: My '75 Mk3 Commando Roadster seat in really good condition for a '73-74 Commando Roadster seat in similar condition. My new Mk3 stainless front fender (one fender stay) for a similar condition '73-74 front fender (2 stays). WANTED: Dunlop Gold Seal K70 tyre, 3.50 X 19. Metal external rocker feed oil line for Triumph TR6SC. Lucas sealed beam headlight for 850 Commando. Norton exhaust nut wrench. Call Ken (408) 974-0083, days. /11

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A.J.S. B.S.A.
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