

# Norton Notice



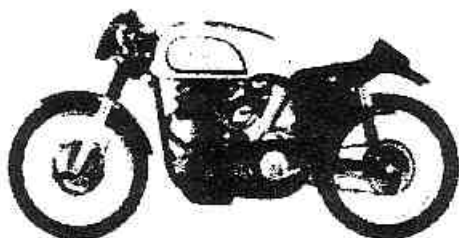
The Newsletter of the  
Northern California Norton Owners Club

No. 246

March 1999



The Unique Kenny Dreer Built Commando



## Norton Notice

*The Norton Notice* is published by the Northern California Norton Owners Club. Its purpose is to inform and entertain members regarding all aspects of the Norton motorcycle.

The dead-line for submissions is the 20th of every month. Send articles, pictures etc. to: **Norton Notice Editor- 1318 Eleventh Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122** You can also send text or scanned art (any format) via e-mail to: [dana@spazzco.com](mailto:dana@spazzco.com)

**Advertising rates are \$60 per year for a 1/4 page.** Membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club is available for \$20 per year. Membership dues are payable to the branch treasurer (see application form inside cover). Renewal dues are payable at the end of the individual's membership year, which is designated by the last number listed on the mailing label of this mailing and on the membership card. **All changes of address or membership questions, please call the club President...not the Notice editor!!!**

The Northern California Norton Owners Club is affiliated with both the Norton Owners Club of England (NOC) and the International Norton Owners Association (INOA). Interested persons can join these two organizations per the terms on the Branch membership form.

## Club Officers

**President/Technical Editor**  
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**Honorary Members:**  
**Brian Stark, Jodi Nocholas,**  
**Bill Knight, Dick Slusher**

### Tech Tip Fine Print

IMPORTANT: Norton Notice members often submit technical suggestions for publication in the Norton Notice. Submissions published have been reviewed for technical content and are believed to be acceptable, 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 the use of these tips. The club also assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of it's members in connections with club activities. Norton Notice articles and other materials express the authors view only and not necessarily the policies of the Northern California Norton Owners Club, NOC or INOA. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or alter all editorial or advertising material submitted for publication. Advertising does not mean endorsement of products, goods or services.

## ◆ 1999 Club Rides ◆

date	time	alt date	event	meet at	contact
Mar 13	11 AM	Mar 20		Meet at Alices	
Mar 28	10 AM	N/A	Day After All-Britt Show	Roadrider	Alan G (831) 475-7505
Apr 11	10 AM	N/A	Rallye di Milani San Rafael	B Street Bar	Ed (415) 4557-5423
Apr 16-18	**	N/A	Vintage Days	Sears Pt. Raceway	
May 16	10 AM	N/A	Camerons Ride	Alices: Cornor of 84 and Skyline(35)	
Jun 12	10 AM	Jun 19	Santa Cruz Ride	Alices: Cornor of 84 and Skyline(35)	Alan G. (831) 475-7505
July 25	**	N/A	North Bay Ride	**	Greg Fuller (510) 449-1762
Aug 11-15	**	N/A	Dardanelles Run	Call for reserv's or camping info	(209) 965-4355
Sept 2	10 AM	N/A	Mt Hamilton Ride	**	Tom D. 408-272-0369
Sept 26	10 AM	Oct 14	Old Timers Ride Annual Meeting	**	
Oct 10	10 AM	N/A	Delta Ride	Gar Jorgenson	(925) 634-9395
Nov 7	10 AM	N/A	Marin Ride	**	
Nov 21	11 AM	N/A	Boulder Creek	Alices	Alan G.

\*\* to be determined

Earn Norton Points by attending OfficialNOC events Ride a Norton: 6 Points, Any other bike: 4 points, Ride on 4 wheels: 2 points Weekend events are tallied by day. At the end of each year the member with the highest point total is awarded the Norton Cup and gets a free year membership.

## 1999 Club Meetings

The club meets at 8:00pm on the second Thursday of each month at rotating venues.

Mar 13	11 AM, Alices (rain date 3/20)	Aug 12	After Dardanelles Ride
Apr 8	Harrys Hofbrau Mtn View	Sept 9	Price of Wales, San Mateo
May 13	Harrys Hofbrau San Leandro	Oct 14	Harrys Hofbrau Mtn View
June 12	Ride Meet Alices-Santa Cruz	Nov 11	Harrys Hofbrau San Leandro
July 8	Boathouse S.F.	Dec ??	Xmas Party

### Meeting Minutes 2/99

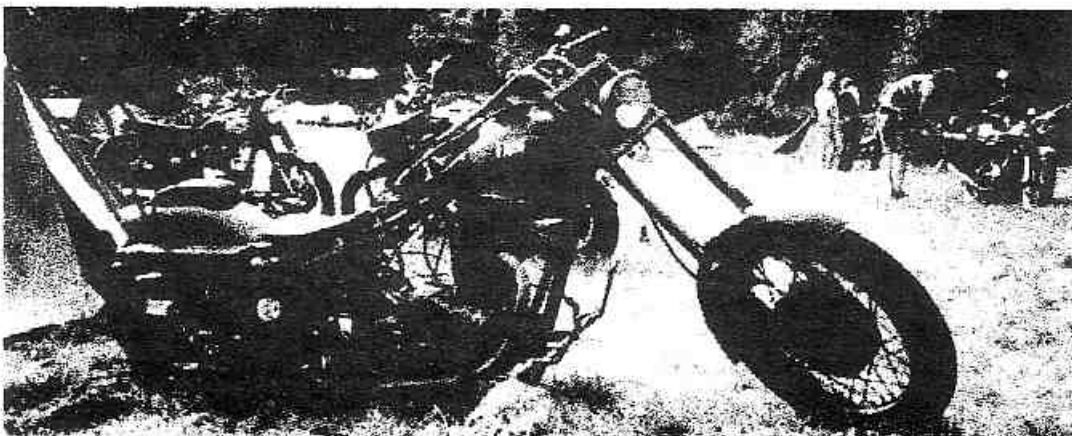
The February meeting of the Northern California Norton Owners Club was called the order at 8:30 PM by President Alan Goldwater. This months venue was The Boathouse in San Francisco. Most of the members ate out in the meeting room. There were 16 members present. Three brave souls rode their bikes, 2 Nortons and 1 Beemer.

Alan G. discussed the coming up Vintage Days at Sears Point, Sonoma. He is looking for legitimate Norton racing bikes to display at the event. Norton will be the featured bike this year. We will have to pay admission but we can park our bikes at a tent provided by the event. Alan says the tent will be quite large...40'x40'.

Tom Dabel got the award for attendance in 1998. He was given a beautifully inscribed crystal mug. Alan G. says it is authentic Transylvanian Crystal. Tom was given a round of applause for his contributions to the club.

The ride for next month will be a ride/meeting. It will start at Alice's Restaurant on March 13th. We will leave at 11 AM and proceed to a destination still undecided for lunch and the meeting. Please we encourage members to attend these meetings and rides. That's what the club is all about.

Thanks were given to Dana Muise for the publication of his first issue of the Norton Notice. We all encourage him to keep up the good work. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
*Alan Mueller, secretary/treasurer*





**Coming this June!  
The 1999 Moto Melee**

Devised in the same spirit as the California Melee sports car run, the Moto Melee is a two day, 500 mile road rally for less than perfect vintage motorcycles. Held on some of Northern California's most spectacular back roads, the Moto Melee is an endurance challenge geared toward the two or three wheeled enthusiast who rides regardless of bike presentation. Picture yourself carving the vacant curves of the north counties with like minded vintage cyclists, assisting in the inevitable roadside repairs, spinning tall tales at the overnight stay, and winding it all up feasting at the sumptuous awards banquet.

So get out that old machine that's buried behind the lawnmower and start building, because the '99 event promises to be bigger and of course better. Don't be left out!

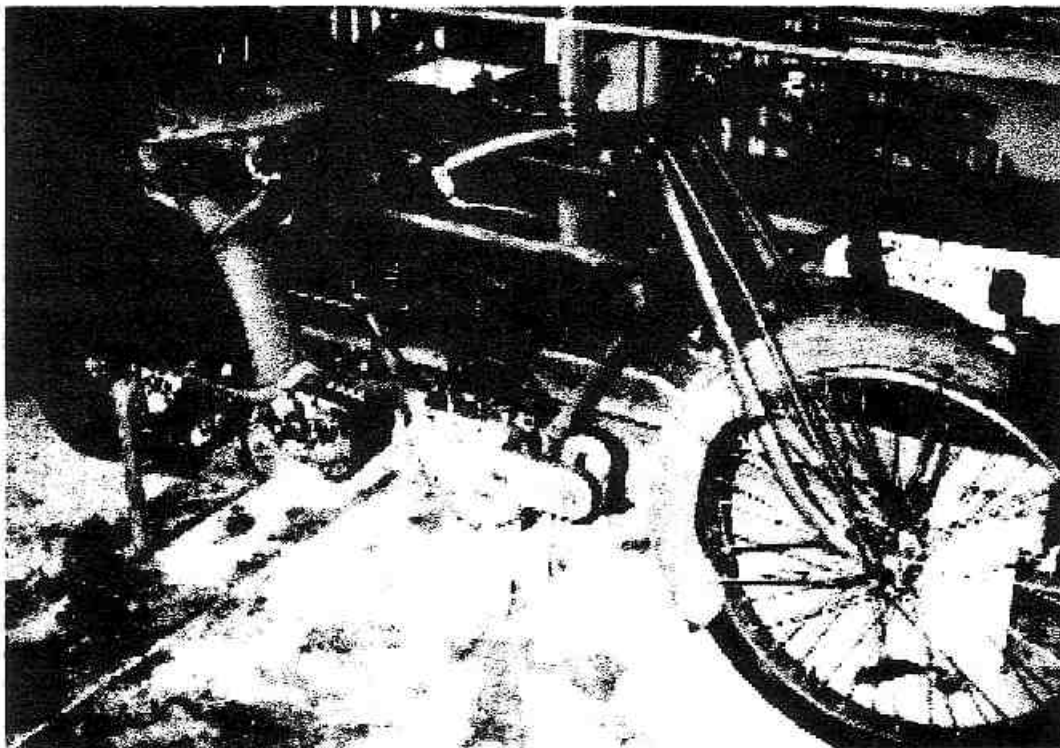
Riders need to pre-pay for the event (this will secure your accommodations). For more info get on the mailing list at:  
**The 1999 Moto Melee**  
1220 Pennsylvania Avenue  
San Francisco, Ca 94107  
or on the internet at:

<http://www.wibekillaz.org/motomelee>  
or just call Harley at Magri Cycles  
**(415) 285-6735**  
*(not a NCNOC sponsored event)*

The NCNOC is trying new technology! Check out the NCNOC internet message board on the web:

<http://beta.voxtok.com/boards/54>

Post a message or discuss your latest Norton obsession. It's free and open to the public. *Courtesy of Voktok Inc.*



### Leon's 1921 Norton by Leon Mitchell

Reprinted with permission

I spotted the sad remains of this bike on a stall at a local swap meet (autojumble) in 1997. It was pretty much a rusty wreck: just the frame, forks, rusty guards, rear brake shoe, handlebars and a home-made petrol tank. The vendor - on the advice of a previous customer - had it labelled "1920's AJS V-twin". I looked it over carefully, but with admirable self control I left it lying there. Later at home I rang my friend the Norton man... "Jack, should I have left a vintage Norton frame at a swap meet?" ..."Leon, no-one should ever leave a vintage Norton frame at a swap meet."

So later in the day, I was on the phone to the vendor and later at his house to pick up the remains of the "AJS". Even having filled my head with the differences between a 16H frame and a Big Four, I was still uncertain about what I was dragging home.

With a very early frame number - 3009 - I am still uncertain about whether the bike is a Model 17C (the colonial model introduced in 1921) or a pre-1921 Model 16. For 1921, the Model 16 became the 16H and had the low ground-clearance frame. Mine has the Big Four style frame, but with the lightweight Druid fork as used on the 16 and 17C. At this time the Big Four used Mark 2 Druids with the extra set of springs, as fitted to my Blue Bird and Victor Blackburne.

Since bringing the frame home, I have added a c1922 motor (anyone with 79x100 crankcases with a 20xxx engine number can email me!), B&B carburettor, CAV 3U1 magneto with correct platform, Enfield cush-drive rear wheel with dummy brake rim, British Hub Company front hub, a pair of new-old-stock 26x2 1/2 Dunlop BE rims, Stumey Archer CS gearbox and hand change lever, period handlebar controls, a rear stand and a seat. The major item still to find is a suitable fuel tank, even a rusty one to use as a pattern.

### Dating Vintage Norton Frames

Firstly I'm no expert on this. If anyone can help me out I'd be pleased to hear from them.

Many articles and books on Nortons skip quickly from O'Donovan breaking records at Brooklands in 1914-15 to the OHV 490 which appeared in prototype form in 1922. The exceptions are Titch Allen's articles in *Motorcycle Sport* in the 1970s, and Bob Holiday's *The Norton Story*. It seems that the Norton offerings in 1919 were most likely the Big Four 633 cc and the Model 16 490 cc as all-chain-drive machines (with mention of belt final drive option), together with the direct belt drive "sports" models. It seems that for 1919 and 1920 the Big Four and Model 16 shared the "high ground clearance" (6in) frame, perhaps most easily identified by its fuel tank which was somewhat upswept at the front. In 1921, the 16H was introduced with a lower frame

(4in clearance) and the "speed" tank of the style fitted to the belt drivers. The 16H resembled closely the machines raced in the 1920 TT. The 17C (C for colonial) introduced for 1921 kept the 6in clearance frame of the Big Four, but differed from it in having the 490 cc engine, lightweight Druid forks and chain guards on the top runs only. I assume then that the 1919-20 Model 16 and the 1921 Model 17C are quite similar.

Some dating points:

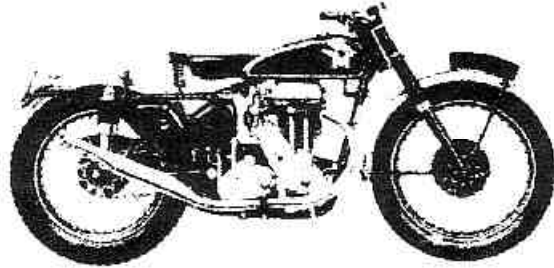
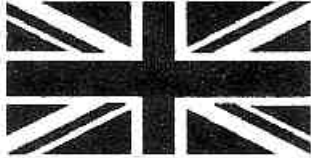
- Between 1915 and 1920, Norton engine numbers began with the year of manufacture. For example 151119 is a 1915 engine and 201133 dates from 1920
- A good way to get some firm dates is from Brooklands certificates issued to verify the engine performance. For example 151119 was tested at Brooklands on the 18th of December 1915, and 201133 on 22nd January 1921. Does this suggest that around 1000 machines were produced in the years 1915 and 1920?
- Up to 1919 all Nortons used plain bush big ends. A crowded single-row roller was used at the 1920 TT, and introduced for the 1921 production models. For 1924-on, a double-row big end was used
- Adjustable tappets were first used in 1922

Visit leon's website at:

<http://users.senet.com.au/~mitchell>

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Speedway/TT/Flat Track  
Roadrace  
Street  
Modified/Cafe

**Sunday March 28, 1999**

**The "Morning After Ride"**

Meet at RoadRider Accessories

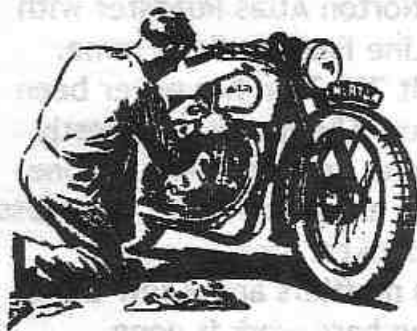
2897 Monterey Highway

Ride departs 10:00 A.M.

**Info:** Wayne Mooneyham (408) 272 2097



## *Alan's Wrench*



For a change, I don't have any reviews, testing, or tech talk this month. I haven't even had time to start the bike, as my work has been very demanding. Daydreaming about a week at Dardanelles is about as close as I got, but that's a start. I talked with Joanne at the resort and confirmed our schedule for August. She asked me to mention that the cabins are filling up already, so if you want one, please call her for a reservation (phone # in calendar, pg.3).

I have also been struggling with organizing our scheduled display at the Sears Point Vintage Days in April. So far I have only lined up about 6 bikes, and not a single club member has called me to offer a bike or some help. I know many of you will come forward at the last minute but I don't seem to have enough time right now to set the whole thing up. So please

help me make it happen. Here's what I need the most:

1) Someone to locate and organize the bikes for the display. I would like to emphasize competition Nortons in keeping with the racetrack setting. I have lined up a Manx, a 500T, an Hank Wenzel's Inter-engined scrambler, Tom Kullen's F1, and a Production Racer. I would like to add at least one Norton flat-track bike and a couple of road race bikes. If anyone is in touch with Tom Terry or Eric Swortzfigure, please call them and ask for a bike to show. Also, if anyone knows where Jim Schmitt's race bike is, please let me know.

2) There will be room for a second row of bikes, which I would like to be 'specials' in the café style, as befits a racetrack paddock. If you have one you'd be willing to show, please call or email to me.

Our only March event is a Saturday 3/13 ride, with a lunch meeting at Duarte's in Pescadero. In case of rain on the 13th, we'll move it up to the 20th. I will definitely make this ride and I hope you do too.

*-Alan Goldwater, President*

### **Classified Advertisements**

Editors note: We actively encourage non-club members to post ads to sell Norton motorcycles, parts and Norton-specific services. Ads will also be posted on our web site: <http://www.spaz-zco.com/norton>. All ads will run for 3 months (unless told otherwise). Please let us know if your item has been sold. Note the expiration date at the end of each ad.

#### **NEED HELP**

I'm trying to find someone to contact to get my 1975 MKIII restored. I live in the central valley in California, about 70 miles south of Sacramento. If you have or can forward this to someone in the area of Northern Ca. or the central valley area please e-mail me or they can call me at 209-481-9169 Thank You Richard Kinsall [rkinsall@aol.com](mailto:rkinsall@aol.com)

#### **FOR SALE**

I have a one owner '73 750 Norton for sale in portland it is in great shape with only 22k miles..never been mistreated. new top end , new tranny, ported, polished, dunstall exhaust, balanced crank etc, only \$4500.00 contact Robert Shafer at: [rjames@teleport.com](mailto:rjames@teleport.com) (503) 772-3147

#### **FOR SALE**

1966 Norton Atlas Roadster with Slim Line Feather Bed Frame. Rebuilt 750 Twin has never been fired up. Sheet metal is mostly all there, seat has been redone. Wheels are rebuilt with stainless steel spokes. Tires are new. Needs mufflers and a few things but the hard work is done. Basically needs to be finished up. \$2,500. MIKE ROSE (510) 794-8298 Fremont, CA

#### **FOR SALE**

1974 Commando, excellent condition, chrome everywhere, extra parts, Koni shocks, sleeved carbs, everything else stock \$3,500 Call Harry (408) 615-1234 (2/98)

#### **FOR SALE**

1972 Norton 750, 10K, Dunstall tank, seat & fender, 1/4 fairing, rearsets, 2-1-2 exhaust, Boyer, new Avons, \$3,500 Call Lou (510) 527-6803 (2/98)

#### **FOR SALE**

Redline Synthetic Oil (20W50) at dealer cost, \$6 per quart or \$72/case, plus tax and shipping. Protect your Norton with the best oil made.

#### **FOR SALE**

1967 BSA A65, red & chrome, clean \$2500/OBO: Call Alan (650) 591-5444 (2/99)

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**FOR SALE**

1975 Triumph Trident: 17K original miles. Fresh motor. \$3,000 or best offer. Contact: Brad (510) 537-0253 (2/99)

**FOR SALE**

1972 Commando Roadster, 11K original miles. Beautiful with many add-ons. All original parts. New Avons, stainless lines, Corbin gun-fighter saddle, Hyde rearsets, factory shop and owners manual. \$4,150  
Call Jerry: (707) 578-3708 (2/99)

**FOR SALE**

1976 850 Dunstall Norton Mill, full kit, fairing, tank, seat, fender & silencers. 10k original miles. New top end. Beautiful black machine in good shape. \$4000 Call Peter (510) 649-8953 (2/99)

**FOR SALE:** 1972 Combat 750 BOTT Racer. Large valves, Grimeca brakes, fox shocks, 4 & 5 inch rims, fork brace, guesstetted frame, street legal, registered, runs well. \$2,500 Call Mark(415) 919-5510 days or (408) 996-8203 evenings (2/99)

**FOR SALE:** 13mm master cylinder with stainless steel hose for MKIII used, works perfectly, one finger will lock up front wheel **WANTED:** MkIII 1975, clean, low miles... call JImat (510) 483-2045 and tell him what you have.(2/99)

**FOR SALE** 1972 Daytona 500

Triumph, Complete, needs restoration. \$2000 or best offer Jason: (650) 570-6409 (2/99)

**FOR SALE:**1974 850 Commando in excellent condition. Black and gold. Matching frame and engine numbers. Current registration. Garaged. Asking \$5000 OBO. Contact: Charles (562)983-1923 (2/99)

**FOR SALE:** 1966 Norton Atlas Scrambler N15CS. Fresh, 100% rebuilt engine from crank up. Sheet metal is all there. Needs paint and minor cosmetics to complete. \$2500. 1972 Norton Roadster 750 (non-combat). Disc front brake, Akronts, stainless, Boyer. Clean and runs strong. \$3500. (801)544-1546. Thebikes are located near Salt Lake City, UT. Delivery to Bay area is possible.

**FOR SALE:** 1972 Triumph Bonneville T120RV. Hotrod/cafe racer. Megacycle cams, Mikunis, custom exhaust, ported/polished, way too much to list, over \$8000 in receipts. Less than 100 miles since restoration. \$4000 offer. 1973 Triumph Trophy TR5T. Highly polished. Better than new. \$3500 offer. Call (408) 241-1812. (2/99)

**FOR SALE:**1973 850 Commando, very good condition, black/gold, low miles rebuilt engine, runs strong, electronic ignition, good rubber \$4250, obo Call (602) 870-0595 or (520) 532-7565

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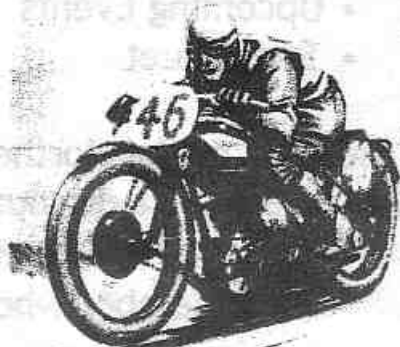
Monroes three mechanics have been familiar with Nortons for a number of years. We can replace exhaust port threads *with the head on the bike* - we don't know of anyone else who can. The job looks like original factory. Call for shop prices. We also have a good supply of Norton parts.



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## THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NORTON OWNERS CLUB

### Membership Application

The Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC) was started in San Francisco in the early 1970's and grew geographically larger to become the Northern California Club.

Club membership is typically limited to Norton Owners, but we look the other way all the time, at least as long as you would like to own a Norton, own other British bikes, or are just a great person to be around. So if you like to ride, repair, eat, drink and be merry and admire Norton motorcycles, it will cost you \$20 to join. The club has monthly rides (some times more frequent), monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month (at rotating venues) and award winning Newsletter and a website. If you would like to learn more about your Norton and how to take care of it, would like to buy a Norton or just want to have a good time with other club members, join now!

The NCNOC maintains a relationship with the U.S. Norton Owners Association (USNOA, also known as the International Norton Owners Association or the INOA) as well as the original club in England. Our club secretary will tell you how to join the U.K. organization if you have an interest.

The USNOA hosts a North American Rally each year and publishes a fine quarterly magazine called the *Norton News*. This gives you access to national want-ads and to merchants all over the country who advertise in the News as well as a national membership list. It is well worth joining and will cost another \$20. Send that to: Dian Stark, 12603 BelAire Circle, McCalla, AL. 35111 Phone: (205) 477-4340. We look forward to seeing you and your Norton on the high road.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Motorcycles Owned  
 Make                      Year                      Model                      Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers

Attach additional sheet to list more.

I hereby apply for membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC). Check One:     New Membership     Renewal application.

The undersigned application certifies that he or she is a legal resident of the U.S. over the age of 18, has a valid motorcycle drivers 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 it's officers, agents and members from any and all liabilities, loss, damage, cost, claims and/or cause of action, including but not limited to all bodily injury and property damage arising out of participation in the Club's activities, it being specifically understood that such activities include the use by applicant and others of motorcycles. The applicant further agrees to indemnify the Club and it's officers, agents and members and hold them harmless for the results of the undersigned's participation in those activities. This indemnification also includes attorney's fees in defending any claim or judgment in the negotiation of any settlement. It is understood and agreed that the undersigned will have the opportunity to consent to any settlement; provided however, that such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

I have read and agreed to the additional terms and conditions set forth on all parts of this application. Other affiliated clubs an organizations are also represented and protected by this release.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send all applications or inquiries to: Alan Mueller, 128 Windsor Ct. San Carlos , CA. 94070  
 (415) 591-5444