



Norton Notice

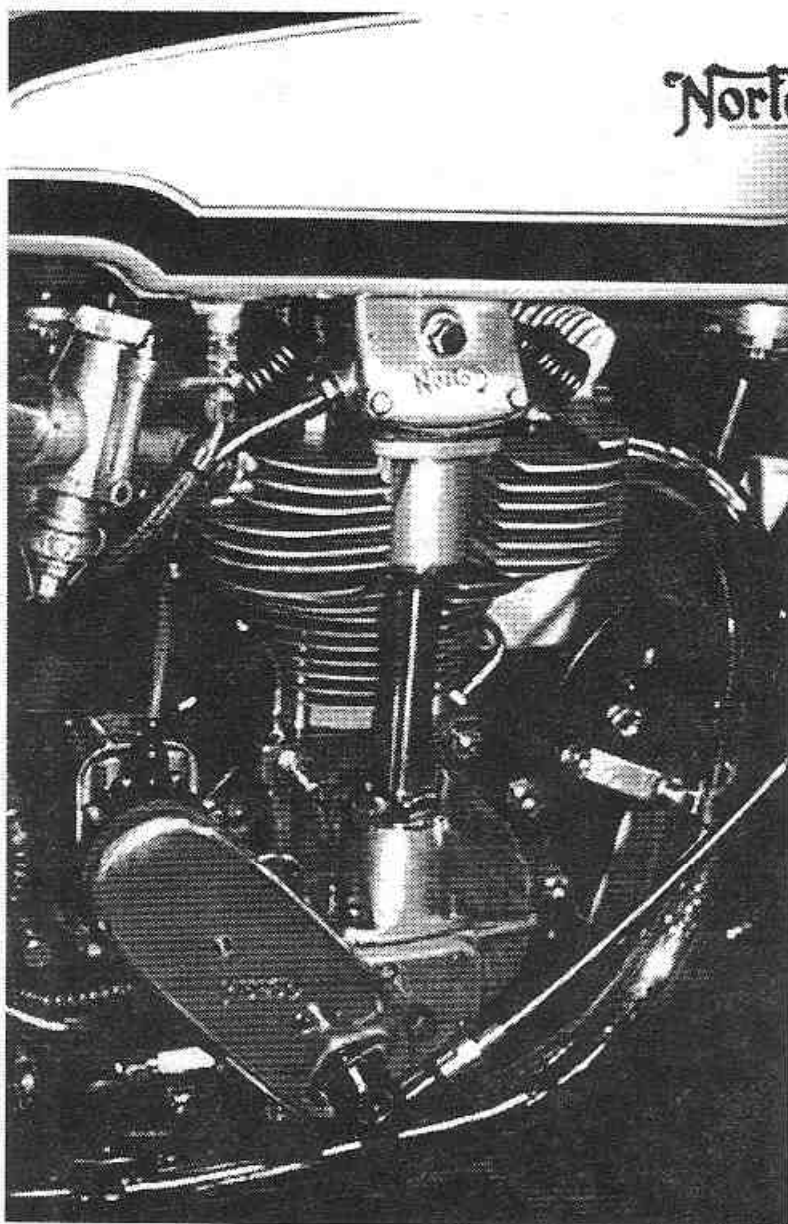


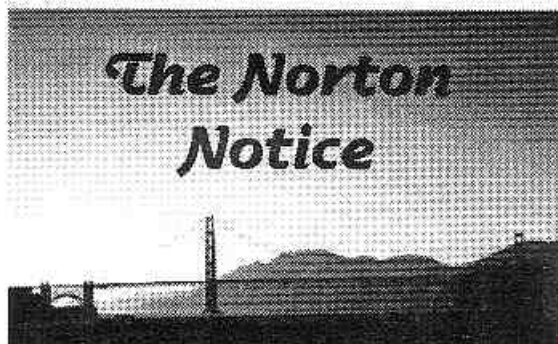
The Newsletter of the
Northern California Norton Owners Club

No. 257

February, 2000

The Unapproachable *Norton* Manx





is published by the Northern California 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 marquee.

The **NORTON NOTICE** is a reflection of the readership, who are encouraged to submit an article, technical tip, photograph (original or otherwise) as long as it is in good taste, so that other Norton enthusiasts may enjoy it. (Good taste is somewhat optional, but hey-this is a group of bikers we're talking about here....that's why we have an editor.)

The deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 20th of each month.. The **NORTON NOTICE** welcomes contributions submitted electronically. Material in any format placed on a 3.5" floppy disc can be read by the editor's P.C.. You may also send articles directly to the editor via E-mail can be sent using INTERNET to dpcrader@thegrid.net. Membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club is available for \$20.00 per year. Membership dues are payable to the Branch Treasurer. See application form on inside cover.

Advertising rates are \$60.00/year for a 1/4 page ad!!

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 the Norton Notice and the membership card.

All changes of address or questions about membership or the Notice, call the President.....not the Notice editor!!

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

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NORTON NOTICE

IMPORTANT (Please note the following fine print) The object of the Northern California Norton Owners Club is to promote, encourage and develop motorcycle 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 marquee. 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 the use of these 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 author's view 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 Schedule

Official NOC events are shown underlined and in **bold print**. You earn NORTON points only by participating in these events, as follows:

Riding a Norton: 6 points

Riding other bike: 4 points

Riding on 4 wheels: 2 points

Weekend events are tallied per 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.

Call Ride's Coordinator Gar Jorgenson (925)634-9395 for details

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEET AT
Feb. 13	11AM	Ferguson/ Sweetheart	The Florence
March 25		Clubman Show	S.J. Fairgrounds
March 26	T.B.A.	Day After Ride	Road Rider/SJ
April (?)	T.B.A.	Rallye de Milani	T.B.A.
April 23	Dawn	Easter Ride	T.B.A.
April 28-30	Anytime	Sonoma Fest	Sears Point
May 14	10AM	Mother's Day/ to Cameron's Ride	Alice's
May 26-29	Anytime	Lake Cachuma Ride	T.B.A.
June 10	10AM	Santa Cruz Ride/Meet	Alice's
June 24	T.B.A.	Ft. Sutter AMCA	Dixon Fairgrounds
July 12-16	T.B.A.	INOA National Rally	Torrey, Utah
August 11-13	Anytime	Ken Armann Weekend	Dardanelles
Sept. 17	T.B.A.	Mt Hamilton Ride	T.B.A.
Sept. 30	10AM	Old Timer's Ride	Alice's
Oct. 15	T.B.A.	Delta Ride	T.B.A.
Nov. ?	T.B.A.	All British Ride	T.B.A.
Nov. 19	T.B.A.	Turkey Ride	T.B.A.
Dec. 10	T.B.A.	Xmas Party	T.B.A.

Club Meetings

February 10	Prince of Wales, San Mateo
March 9	Harry's Hofbrau, Mountain View
April 13	Prince of Wales, San Mateo
May 11	The Boat House, SF
June 10	Santa Cruz Ride/Meeting
July 2	Donkey Deli, San Juan Batista
August 10	Prince of Wales, San Mateo
Sept. 14	Harry's Hofbrau, Mountain View
October 12	Prince of Wales, San Mateo
Nov. 9	The Boat House, SF
December	No meeting

At this time, all rides and meetings are not cast in stone. Events and dates may change!

**Press Production and
Halftones:**
John and Carrie Follett:
White Oak Press, San Carlos, CA

President's Message.....by Mike Sullivan

Welcome to the New Millenium or not as you see it. Lots to cover so here goes.

The January meeting at the Boathouse at Lake Merced was rather sparesly attended, only 10 members showing up and only one Norton being ridden. Many items were discussed, the major one was the National Rally in July. I handed out some maps of the area around Torrey, Utah as well as some maps of the area between northern California and southern Utah. On looking at the maps, most people agreed that the best route was east across Nevada on either Hwy 50 or the more southerly Hwy 6. The Rally de Milani was discussed, but no one had any info as to when it would be. I will try to find out some data for the next issue. George Shoblo told us the the Velocette Club is

going to be the host club for the Day After Ride and that they intend to leave promptly at 10:00am so don't be late getting there.

Jerry Grainger brought some interesting memorabilia from when he first joined the club in 1972. The club roster had only about 12 members and was an affiliate of the English Club at the time. He had some issue of the 1972 Roadholder Magazine in which there was a letter about a Sunday Morning ride to Stinson Beach when Jerry Kaplan tore his bike down on Friday night and made the ride Sunday morning. There was also a letter from Harold Brum about an upcoming ride to the AMA National 1/2 mile race at San Jose on July 2, 1972.

I passed around at the meeting a copy of the flyer for the big motorcycle auction in Las Vegas on Super Bowl weekend.

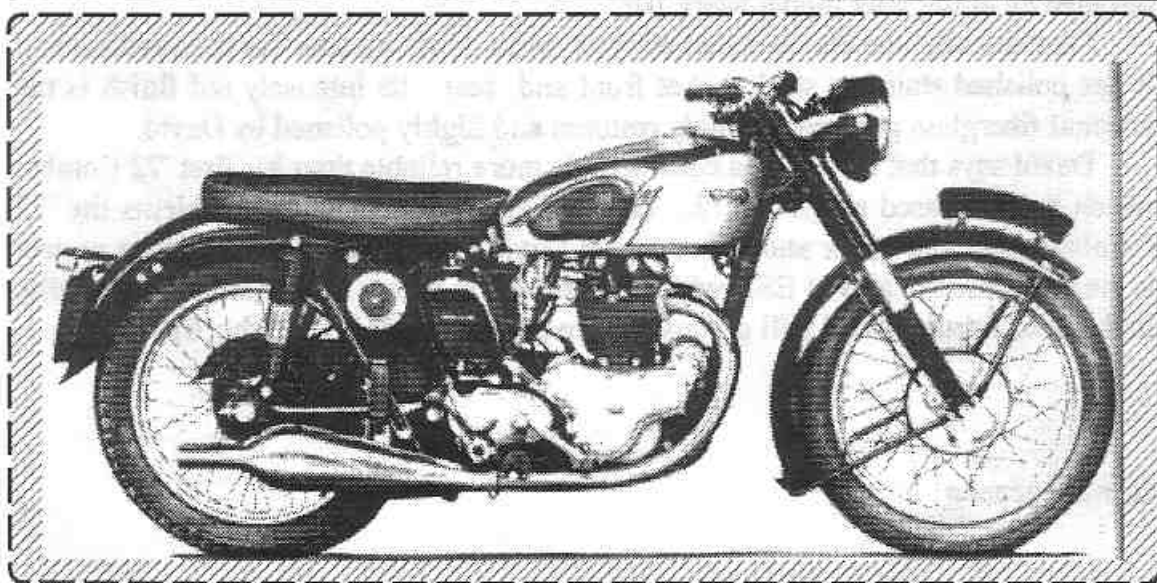


This thing seems to be getting bigger every year. Listed as going up for sale were a '57 Model 50, '49 Manx, '29 16H racer, '60 Manx and a '60 Domiracer styled unit, but no Commandos. I guess they are all on the road being ridden.

The Polar Bear ride to Alice's took place as scheduled with 12 riders showing up. It sprinkled while we were eating lunch, but with the south wind it was not too cold. Tom Dabel brought along two flyers of interest. One was for the Ft. Sutter (Sacramento) chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club's annual meeting and swap meet. It is being held over a three day period starting on June 24th and will be held at the Dixon Fairgrounds. The other flyer was for the Cachuma Lake Rally to be held on May 26-29 (Memorial Day weekend) at Live Oak Campground near Lake Cachuma, 18 miles north of Santa Barbara on Hwy 154. For more details call toll free 888-627-2559 or e-mail jmulrean@home.com I understand there were about 150 bikes there last year. It seems this is beginning to be one of the more important rides/meets in California. With the locatoin being about half way between L.A. and S.F., it should get good attendance from both areas.

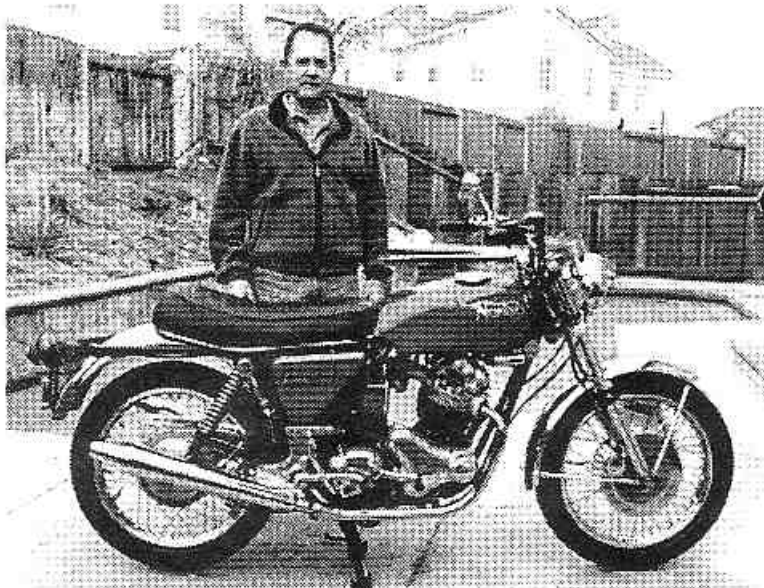
One last item. Jerry Grainger has served notice that he is out to get the Norton Cup this year. At this time he is in the lead with 12 points and Keith Karns is close behind with 10. Are there any other members willing to challenge these two?

Next month's meeting will be at the Prince of Wales on Thursday Feb 13. The bench racing will begin as soon as the second rider shows up and the formal (?) meeting will start at 8:00pm.



Riders' Rides

In the accompanying photo you will find our new editor of the Norton Notice, David Crader, posed in his Brentwood backyard with his red, 1972 Norton Commando Roadster. David was a club member in the early 1980s and returned to the club in 1998 after purchasing what he refers to as his "Phil Radford" basket case. Purchased as a restoration project, David let it languish for about six months until he moved from San Jose to Brentwood. Six months of diligent effort followed and the Commando was back on the road in time for the 1999 riding season.



David reports that the bike is a Combat with "all the service bulletin mods to the engine". The engine is fed by sleeved twin Amals and fired by a Boyer Digital ignition system. The rear swing arm has been staked in three locations to prevent the slop that sometimes turns up in the bushings of older bikes and the engine breather has been rerouted as in the later model Mark III's.

Cosmetically, the bike is a real winner. Most of the chrome has been redone and it has polished stainless steel spokes front and rear. Its intensely red finish is the original fiberglass gel coat, lovingly restored and highly polished by David.

David says that this bike is considerably more reliable than his first '72 Combat which he purchased new in 1972. That one displayed all of the problems the '72 Combats were known for and didn't stay in David's stable for long. His latest project is the restoration of a 1961 ES2, which is currently in pieces in his garage. Hopefully, in the near future, David will get his picture published again with the '61.

Gar Jorgenson

UPCOMING RIDES

February Ride

Annual Duncan Ferguson Memorial/Sweetheart Ride

Feb 13 - 11:00am

The Ferguson/Sweetheart Ride this year will again be lead by Jerry Jolliff. Jerry reports that the ride will start at "The Florence" (37349 Niles Blvd - PH:510 792-5522) in the old Niles District of Fremont. Plan to meet around 10:30am with the actual ride starting at 11:00am. Jerry has plans to take us through Niles Canyon and then through the hills surrounding Livermore. We will be stopping for lunch again this year at Livermore's "U.K. Cafe" at the corner of "J" and Second Streets. The U.K. Cafe specializes in British food and has a variety of British beers. After Lunch, Jerry will lead the riders back to Fremont. Jerry said he plans on a fairly short ride and that we should be returning to Fremont around 3:00pm. If you have questions or need directions to The Florence, give Jerry a call at (510) 793-7747, or you can call the Rides Coordinator (me!) at (925) 634-9395. See you at The Florence.

Gar Jorgenson

March Ride

This year's "Morning After the Clubman Show" ride is going to be hosted by the Velocette Owners Club and, as usual, meets at Road Rider (2897 Monterey Highway) in San Jose. The ride will be lead by John Ray and will depart promptly at 10:00am. This year there is going to be a sign-in sheet so be sure to arrive enough before 10:00am to have time to get registered. If you have any questions, you may contact John Ray at (408)353-4852.

A CONSPIRACY?

Is the NCNOC conspiring against Ken Armann ..or.. is he just jinxed? First, his name gets misspelled in the December issue. Then, his phone number gets typed in incorrectly in the January issue. The name is Ken Armann and the phone number is (408)379-4300. Sorry about that Ken.

This does bring up a point, however. It is very important that when we renew our memberships, we fill out the application form at the back of the Notice. This gives the treasurer a chance to double check the roster and make any corrections that are necessary. In Ken's case, the phone number has probably been incorrect for some time because the list printed in the Notice came from the club data base.

NOC Member Profile

Name: Don Goforth

Age: 61

City Resident: Fremont

Marital: married

Occupation: machinist (self-employed)

NOC Member since: 1999

How first became involved with NOC:

Bought a Norton in 1974, had a 1981 application form from the club and finally turned it in this year.

Club offices held (years): None yet.

Norton(s) owned, described: 1974
Commando Roadster

Other makes of motorcycle: None

What first interested you in the Norton? "My partner bought a Harley. One of the magazines had an article on superbikes, featuring the Norton. I bought one in a crate."

Other hobbies/interests of note?
amateur photography

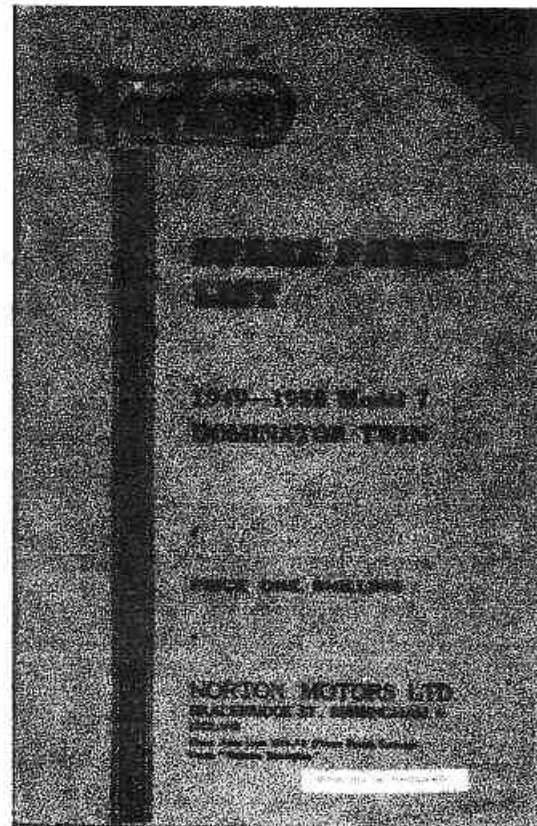
Favorite motorcycling road/ride: La
Honda Road (Hwy 84)

If you could redesign the Norton, what one thing would you most want to change? How and why? Seat height-drop it a couple of inches.

Favorite/most embarrassing episode on a Norton: Anytime the thing stalls in traffic!

Don's e-mail: tmsgoforth@aol.com

John Covell



Editors line

Well, I did it. Volunteered for a rather long term position with the club. The inducement was to attempt to add little fun into these pages and have some fun of my own doing it.

Regressing back to my introduction to the NCNOC, I took a ride one Sunday on the '73 750 Commando I finally got running well enough to trust. Going to the top of Hwy 9 above Saratoga, I stopped at the parking lot at the crossing of Hwy 35 (Skyline). In a few minutes I heard the low rumble of several non-Japanese bikes coming from the direction of Alice's. Then came the hoard. I recall about a dozen Nortons coming right toward me. After they parked close to me, a girl wearing a black lycra riding suit got off her fastback, ran up to me and handed me a business card. It had the NOC logo and the names of the club president and membership secretary. The girl invited me to the next club meeting.

I didn't even know there was a Norton club. The idea of a group of people to share in my torture and education of how to keep this black tempermental bike running could only be good news. I joined during the first meeting I attended and became a club fanatic for the next five years, well at least four. I remember not being able to wait for the monthly club rides and even the club meetings. Unfortunately for the older members, I think I was a little too talkative. Just couldn't get enough of hanging out with all these people with the same disease.

I call brit-bike-itis a disease because I know better than to get involved, but can't help it. After a 12 year period where I went from Norton to BMW and several others, finally to no bike at all, I returned. I wanted to have another restoration project and couldn't think of a better subject than a Commando. You can follow that is Gar's article on page 6. No the combat wasn't my first choice. Really wanted a '74 850, but Phil had this very complete '72 Combat and that was my first Norton, so there it is.

You probably won't see me on all the club rides or meetings. I'm living in Brentwood now. That doesn't change my enthusiasm for the NCNOC or Nortons. I hope all of us can express that enthusiasm in this publication. It's about and for all of you and our common affliction.

David Crader



Classified Advertisements

Editors note: We actively encourage non-Club members to post ads to sell Norton motorcycles, Norton parts and Norton-specific services. Ads will also be posted on our new web site, at <http://ru486.hypno.com/~norton>. All ads will run for 3 months. Please notify the editor if your item has been sold. Your ad will automatically be removed after 3 months if I haven't heard differently. Note the expiration date at the end of each ad.

FOR SALE:

Mark III Roadster...recently rebuilt. Mechanically impeccable, looks great. Tank and side covers beautifully painted, frame powder coated. Rita ignition, sleeved Amals, quartz halogen headlight. Includes: optional chrome grab bar rack, sprocket puller, exhaust wrench, shop manual and parts book and more..... **\$4K or OBO!! Call Ron at (510)653-7760 or e-mail: rfielder@sprynet.com (03/00)**

FOR SALE:

Commando Basket Case!! Mid-seventies?. All parts present and clean. Have all papers. Make an offer!! **Call Steve Barchi in Boulder Creek (831)338-9150. (3/00)**

For Sale

1972 Norton Commando! Exceptional, original condition. Serious inquiries only! 8500 original miles. Starts right up, very oil tight. \$4500 OBO!! **Call John Edwards, Moss Beach, CA (650)728-2470 home or (510)494-2420 work. (03/00)**

For Sale

Commando! Comp restoration by British USA of Houston, TX in 1995. 190 miles on restoration. Corbin seat and original seat. Bike is in Grandma's garage in Oklahoma. **Mike Semrad (405)368-7451 or (405)853-6095. (03/00)**

For Sale

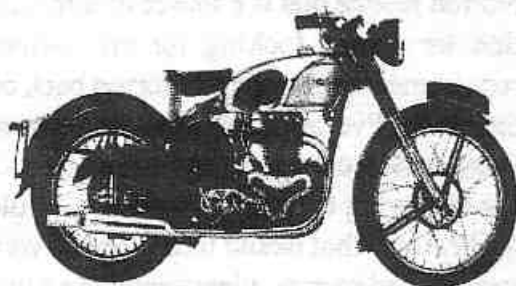
1973 850 Commando Roadster. \$3500!! **Call Steve Barchi in Boulder Creek (831)338-9150. (03/00)**

For Sale

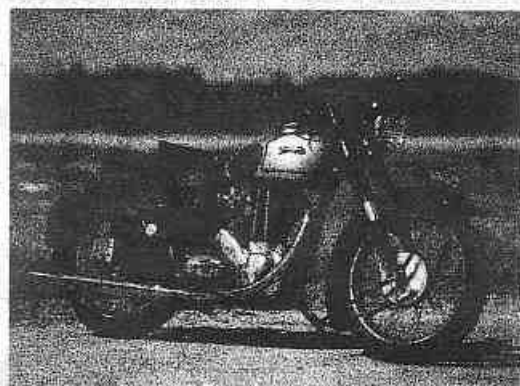
1972 Commando. One owner. 6500 original miles! Never down..no dents in tank. Any offer around \$4K considered. **Call Philippe (310)403-1970 or (310)452-8629. (03/00)**

For Sale

'73 Norton Interstate Commando, 750cc, blue and silver..less than 6000 miles. I bought it in England and toured Europe with it before shipping it back to the States. Excellent condition. It has a 6 gallon fiberglass tank and saddlebags. My wife needs a car, so I must sell! \$5500
Call (505)292-8676. (03/00)



1950 Model 7 Dominator



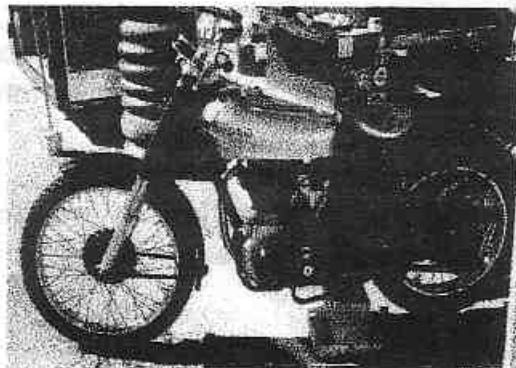
1951 ES2 500cc single

Wanted

Need Mk III 850 engine. Doesn't have to be perfect. **Call Ken Armann at (408)379-4300. (03/00)**

Wanted

Featherbed twin street bike, Atlas fenders and chain guard, seat for a '66 Triumph stock or after market. **Call Tetty (916)727-2673. (03/00)**



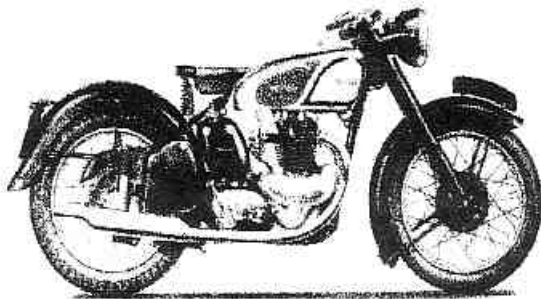
Norton 500T

Restorer's Column

I'd like to start another new section to the Norton Notice that is a source of information for people looking for the various requirements of putting a Norton back on the road. I've been involved in a few of these basket cases and can offer some of the following resources. Any of you old "collectors" that would like to reveal your sources and secrets, please send me a line and I'll include it here.

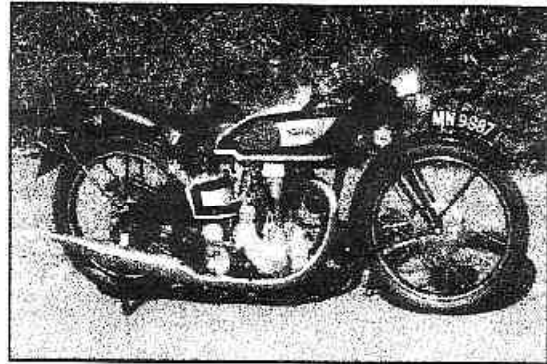
Bob Belle in Saskatchewan has started a new **Model 7** club. This is the 500cc twin from 1949 to 1955.

Website: <http://www3.sk.sympatico.ca.belle/index.htm>



Spectrum Powder Coating in Redwood City for **frame coating** restoration. They're at 650 367-4940.

Ken Puccio Welding in San Jose for **frame straightening and welding**.

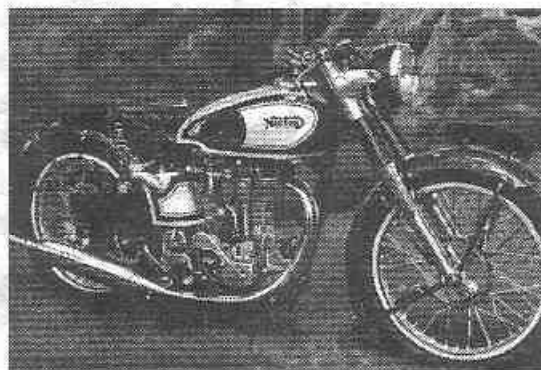
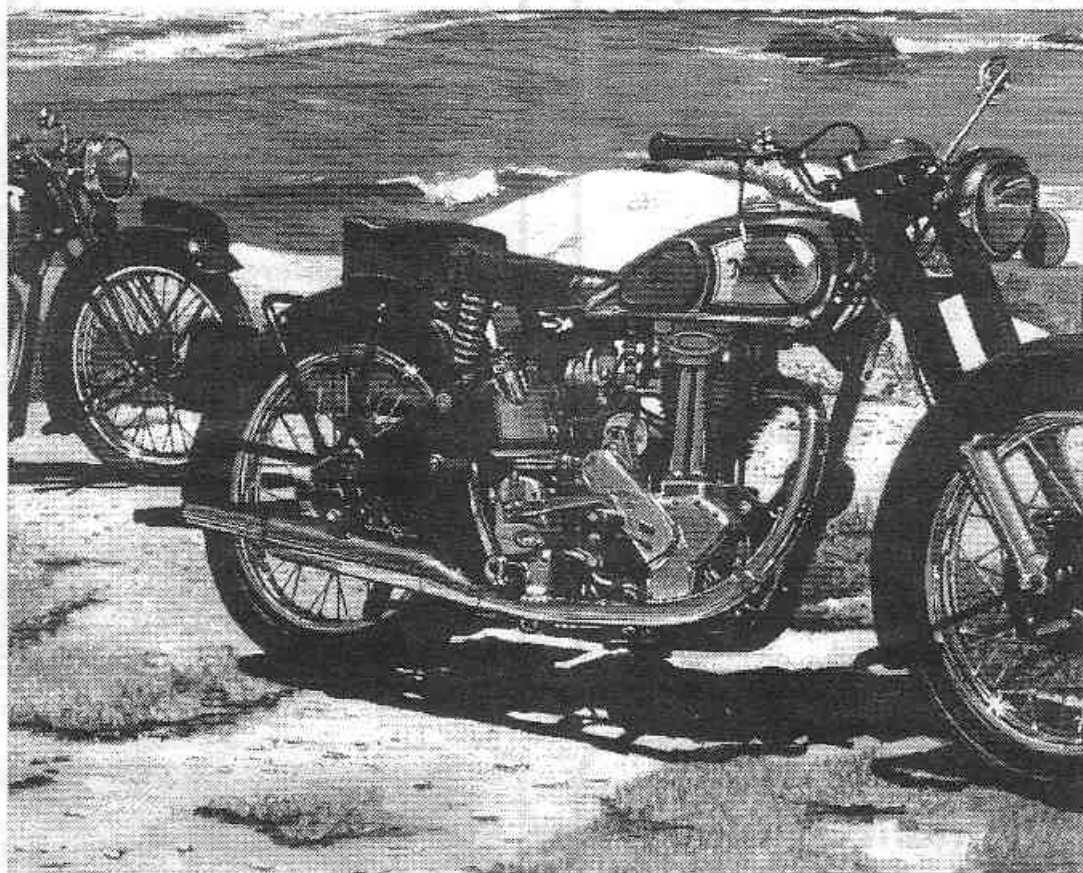


British Tools & Fasteners in Los Osos, Ca for **british thread taps and die** as well as stainless fasteners, helicoils...etc. phone: 800 587-0475

For Norton related items including the occasional bike try www.ebay.com and search under "Norton motorcycle". Right now there's a guy in SLO with a '47 Model 18 restoration project (min bid is \$2200) with zero bids as of today.



YEAR 2000 CALENDARS



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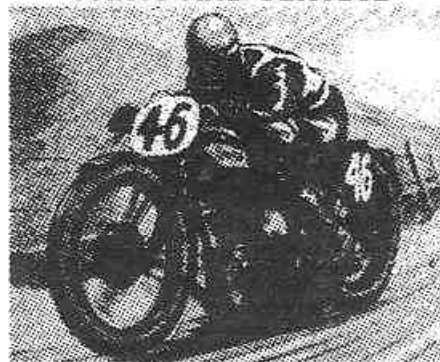
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