



Norton Notice

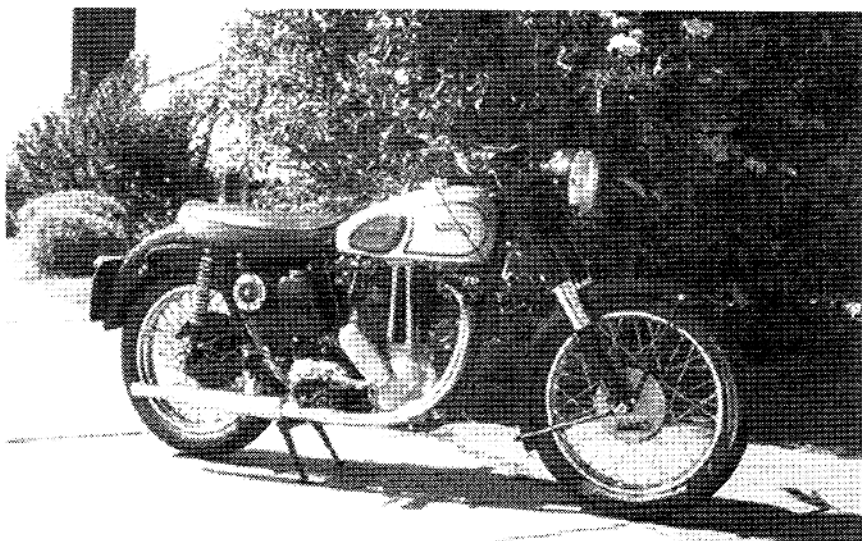


The Newsletter of the
Northern California Norton Owners Club

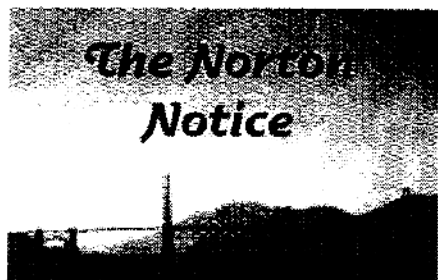
No. 278

November 2001

30 YEARS OF THE NCNOC



This 1953 ES2 sold on e-bay for just over \$4,000.



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 marque.

The 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. (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 18th of each month. The NORTON NOTICE welcomes contributions submitted electronically. Please submit articles and photos in a format compatible with IBM PC. You may also send articles directly to the editor via E-mail. Send 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 back 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 the Norton Notice.

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

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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vacant position

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Brian Stark
Jodi Nicholas
Bill Knight
Dick Slusher

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 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 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

2001 Club Rides Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
Nov 3	10:00am	All British Ride	Novato Public Library, Novato Blvd at 7th St
Nov 25	11:00	Turkey Ride	Alice's, Skylonda

*NCNOC Points Rides in bold print

2001 NCNOC meetings

All Meetings start at 8:00pm (except Jul 1)

Nov 8 - Athens Burgers Restaurant, Dublin

Dec 9 - Christmas Party at the Recorders

Prince of Wales - 106 E 25th St, San Mateo

Athens Burgers - 6999-A Dublin Blvd in Dublin,

Hopyard exit off Hwy 580 east (in Dublin) turn left on Hopyard, then left on Dublin Blvd

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

Well, here goes. A lot has happened since the last issue of the Notice. On Sunday 11/23 we had the East Bay Ride hosted by Brad and Ruth Green. We met at their shop, Circle Jerk Racing, in Fremont where Brad showed us around and Ruth presided over the refreshments. They have an interesting shop leaning towards dirt track racing stuff. If you are into that and need that special custom item, give them a visit. The ride went up Niles Canyon to Palomares road. Then through Castro Valley and up Redwood Road to Skyline above Oakland and then back down Redwood Road stopping in Castro Valley for lunch. I had never been over either of these roads and it makes me wonder if there are any more of these hidden gems out there. It is hard to imagine that in the midst of an urban population of 15 million people there are unspoiled canyons with twisty roads through them like these.

The next weekend saw the Annual Old Timer's Ride, Picnic, and General Business Meeting. We had a fairly good turnout with 22 Nortons amongst a total of 28 bikes. There were even two non-Commandos with Ken Armann on his '70 Mercury and Tom Dabel on his '64 Atlas. I am not sure where Alan Goldwater took the ride to as I left early to set up the BBQ but everyone arrived safely.

After a lunch of sausages, potato salad, chips, dips, and salsa as well as drinks and brownies the Annual General Business Meeting was called to order. After some general discussion about trying to up the participation in Club events it was voted on and passed that the Club should purchase a set of the NOC Engine and Gearbox videos. I have started the process of getting them from Old Blighty but I suspect that it will take about a month for them to get here.

At that point nominations were taken for the next year's Club Officers. Notwithstanding any other nominations being received, the following is a listing of Officers and Positions:

Mike Sullivan, President
Maya Lai, Vice President
Alan Muller, Notice Editor and Treasurer
Alan Goldwater, Secretary
Dave Crader, Public Relations
Gar Jorgenson, Rides Coordinator
Jeff Potter, Webmaster

Elizabeth Recoder let Frank volunteer to have the Christmas Party at there house. This is scheduled for Sunday December 12. Details will be given in the December Notice.

On to other business:

The Delta Ride will have been taken before you get this issue. I hope to have seen you there.

The Old Brit Ride is scheduled for SATURDAY, Nov 3. There has been conflicting information on where the ride will start. Please see the latest data elsewhere in this issue. This is the ride of the year so make sure your unit is up and running well and be there on time. This is one ride that leaves on time. It would be best to plan to arrive at 9:00am because the ride will leave at 10:00am sharp.

The next meeting will be at Athen's Burgers in Dublin on 11/8. I would like to see all you East Bay Riders show up for this meeting. The Turkey Ride is scheduled to meet at Alices on Sunday 11/25 at 11:00am. We will decide where to go after we get there.

Get out there and ride, the rains will start soon and I don't know about you but I do not ride in the rain unless I get caught out in it. Also remember, any other motorcycle is a ride, but a Norton is an adventure.

Mike Sullivan
President

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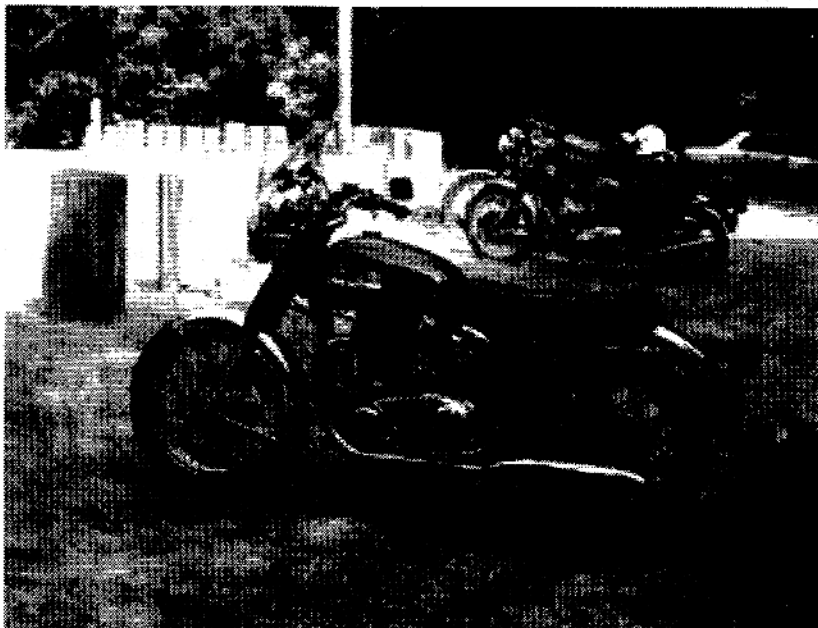
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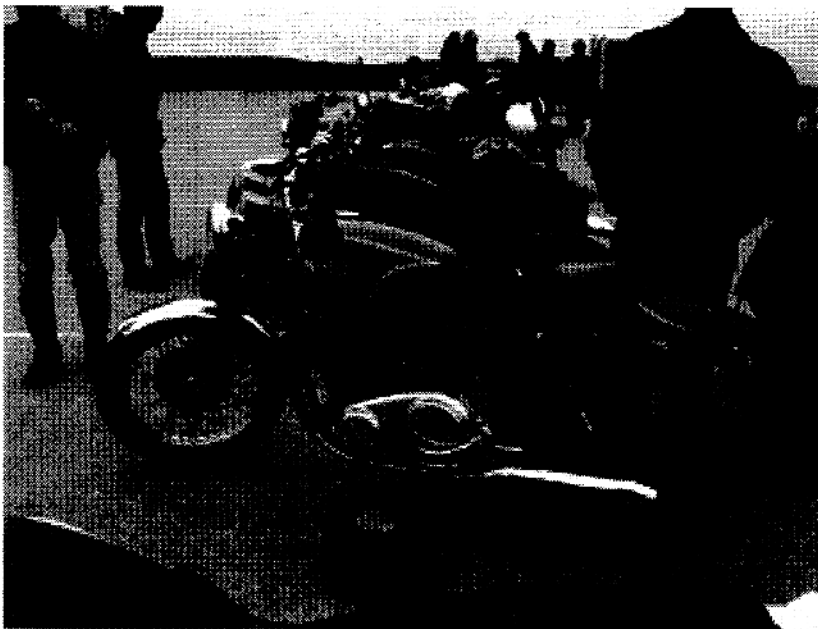
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Two venerable NCNOC Nortons.

Above: Tom Dabels Atlas Below: Maya's Fastback, both at Gazos Creek on the coast during the Old Timers Ride.



The Old Timers Ride and Annual General Meeting

The Old Timers Ride started at Skylonda Sunday morning, Oct 8. After riding close to two hours in the overcast to get there I needed a hot cup of tea just to warm my hands and get rid of the shakes. Mike Sullivan, Len Iosty and a few others were already in the parking lot, local guys. The time before any ride in this club hasn't changed. Various groups get together talking about their bike's problems or some British bike event. Good thing there are clubs for this kind of thing. I know I can't have these conversations at home, they just yawn.

I'm not sure what the 10:00am ride departure really means, but by 11:00am Alan Goldwater had given two pre ride lectures and had the main body of Commandos and Featherbeds on the road heading to the coast. Alan isn't shy about his riding and soon was distancing the slow group. I stayed in the back with the velocity impaired for some time. I should apologize to Marge Seigel, but I can't go slow forever and overtook on Bean Hollow Road. Frankly that road isn't good for 70mph. It's like riding a pogo stick.

Not trusting my sense of direction, I waited for the trailing group to catch up at Hwy 1. My inclination was to go left, but something was sticking in my mind that we had turned right last year (probably thinking of the Social Ride earlier this year). The consensus was go left which was correct as we soon picked up the main body of riders at a coastal parking lot near Gazos Creek. You'll see some photos of this stop elsewhere in this issue.

Alan soon rounded up the group and we were off up Gazos Creek Road to Sam McDonald Park. Mike Sullivan already had the fire burning and polish sausages and hot links on the grill. Mike's a good sport for doing this every year...thanks.

editor





Mike Sullivan (above) our past President will continue the job in 2002. Long time member, Maya (below), will take over the Vice President position next year. Alan Goldwater is moving on to INOA responsibilities.



UPCOMING RIDES

November Rides

November 3 (Saturday)

All British Ride

The ride will leave the the Novato Public Library at 10:00am proptly. This is the annual ride where the NCBSAOC invites all British made motorcycles (formerly Don Danmeier's Birthday ride). Typically there are a couple of hundred classic motorcycles. The library is at Novato Blvd and 7th Street in Novato. Just follow the crowd of British bikes. Some will be meeting at the Star Restaurant across the street for breakfast, just to let you know there is food available before the start. The gathering for a BBQ will be at the Cheese Factory as always. Be prepared to cough up some cash as Don Danmeier isn't running this any longer. For more information call Steve Fischer (415) 892-2197

November 25

Turkey Ride

Meet at Alice's, Skylonda for departure at 11:00am. For more information contact Gar Jorgenson, Ride Coordinator (page 2 for phone info).

December Rides

It's cold go to the Christmas Party

December 12 (Sunday)

NCNOC Christmas Party

The Recorders have volunteered for us to descend on them for the annual Christmas Party. This is in the east bay and more information will be in the December NN.

Pappy says get out and ride before it gets cold and wet!



Editor's Line....David Crader

Some of you know I've been working through problems with a '61 ES2 and have missed bringing it on club rides. Oh yeah, if you're not familiar, this is a 500cc single cylinder in pretty much an Atlas (featherbed) frame and running gear. Recently I was able to get the alternator to show ammeter needle movement to the right instead of discharge while running, that's one.

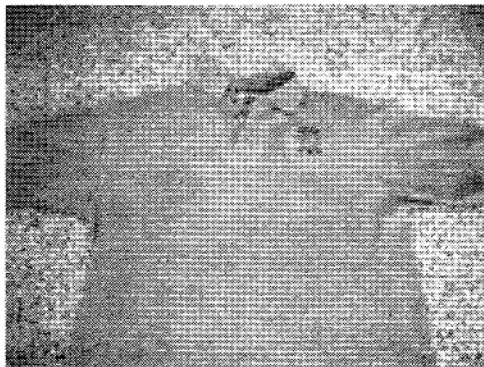
The weekend before the Old Timers Ride the engine started to seize when out test riding it. A few members had made comments about re-checking the timing. That sounds like an easy job if you know Commandos, but on the single there are no timing marks and to get at the alternator rotor the primary case outer cover needs to be removed. The proper method is to attach a degree wheel to the rotor nut, find TDC and use a piece of wire as an indicator. Locking the auto advance to full advance the points should be just closing at 38 degrees BTDC.

On my engine the threads for the rotor nut are closed to being stripped. I can get some torque on it, but rely mostly on red locktite to keep the nut in place. Removing it to clamp a degree wheel isn't an option any longer. The best solution would be remove the head and use a travel dial to determine the 17/32 inch of piston travel before TDC which according to my book is the same as 38 degrees. Well, not having that I used a machinists scale and a piece of wire across the top of the cylinder as a reference plane. It's somewhat crude, but I think I got the timing a lot closer. The resulting test ride proved the seizing problem is gone, that's two down.

During the test ride I got a good coating of oil coming from the head. At first I thought the pushrod tubes were leaking, but it now looks more like the decompression cam in the rocker box is the culprit. In an effort to cure a possible internal pressure build up, I've removed the engine breather that was connected to the oil tank. We'll know if that worked during the Delta Ride, and that's three.

In all you would think the ES2 should be an easy engine to make run well and reliably due to it's very simple design. Like the Commandos, the earlier Nortons need to be assembled properly and then give good results. My 750 Commando is running very well these days. Unfortunately I'm not the precise mechanic that some are and usually go through months of trial and error in fixing little complaints before getting to where I'm satisfied. Anyone else like that??

NCNOC Shirts and Hats still available



Shirts available in polo style, long sleeve T-shirt and short sleeve T-shirt with the logo from the hat below. Colors are red, black or grey.

Hats as in the picture are available in black only.

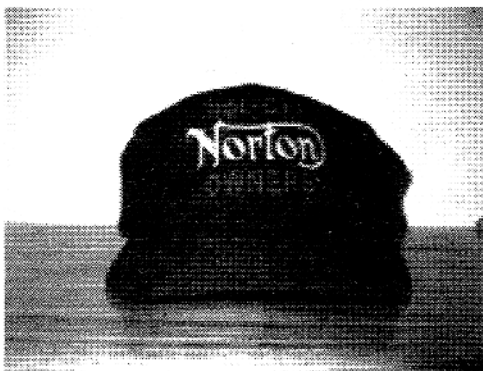
Prices:

Polo shirts - \$25

Long sleeve T-shirts - \$20

Short sleeve T-shirts - \$15

Make check payable to NCNOC. You can pick them up at club meetings or \$4 for shipping. Contact Gar Jorgenson at (925) 634-9395.



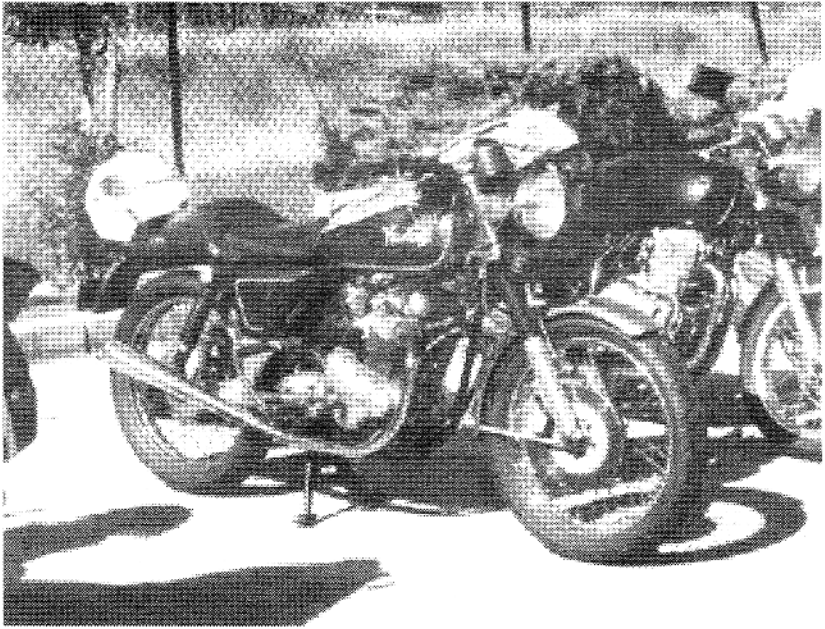
2002 NOC Calendars



PLACE YOUR ORDER SOON!!!
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\$15.00

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e-mail at norton2@earthlink.net

**Mike Sullivan will be bringing calendars to
the All British Ride on Nov 3. See him.**



A beautiful Red Roadster! East Bay Ride

Having homemade muffins and coffee East Bay Ride



NCNOC Bulletin Board

International Motorcycle Show

The San Francisco event is scheduled for November 9-11, 2001 (it'll be the kick-off event for the series) and will be held at the San Mateo County Expo Center.

Last year there was a corral for vintage motorcycles. Bob Bausch has been trying to get some space for the NCNOC to display a few Nortons. We'll get some followup on this in October.

This show is also a good place to see all the new 2002 models, if you're interested in any modern makes.

NCNOC Christmas Party

This year's party will be at the Rcoders in the East Bay. See Mike Sullivan's presidents message on page 4. This should be more centrally located for the majority of the membership. Try to get there as we plan the activities for 2002. Ride the Norton if you can.

NCNOC e-mail list

Our club has a group list that Gar Jorgenson uses to notify members of information related to club activities. The information is usually late to get into the Norton Notice or to bring up at a meeting.

If you have an e-mail address and haven't been getting messages from the group, send an e-mail to Gar at losono@mindspring.com

From someone on ebay, I received this information about a camchain tensioner product. This was news to me although I'm sure several of you already know about this company. The good news is it's close in San Jose. The idea of this tensioner is to reduce the variation in the cam timing by reducing the chain slop.

RMA Engineering, 447 Santa Mesa Drive, San Jose, CA 95123. (404) 478-4032
Price was \$79.95 for the kit.



Several of us waited at the junction for the rest of our group. Here is Mike our fearless leader. There were some folks on rice burners that were quite interested in the Nortons. I guess they did have class. Esat Bay Ride

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Classified

Editors note: We actively encourage non-Club members to post ads to sell Norton motorcycles, Norton parts and Norton-specific services. 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

From Cycletrader:

1975 NORTON COMMANDO, 850, Mark 3, elec start, exc cond, 10k mi, runs very strong, fine example of classic, \$3950, 818-347-1460, 310-970-2104

1973 NORTON COMMANDO 850, very rare bike, all orig, a great ride, very pretty, \$4700, 510-787-1005, 510-469-6964

1972 NORTON COMMANDO 750 Black Roadster, very reliable, \$3400 (916) 395-7856

1964 NORTON Electra 400 twin, basket, \$600 Red Bluff (530) 529-2318

1952 NORTON, MODEL 7 W/CAR, \$9,900, cond. 9+ MARIAH MOTOR CLASSICS, Capitola, (831)-462-1262. Looks like this bike →

1929 NORTON, MODEL 18, \$8,900, MARIAH MOTOR CLASSICS, Capitola, (831)-462-1262.

Norton Commando prices

From Cycletrader online Oct 20, 2001

Year: 1969 to 1975

Make: Norton

Model: Commando

Region: All Regions

Low: \$2,500.00

High: \$7,500.00

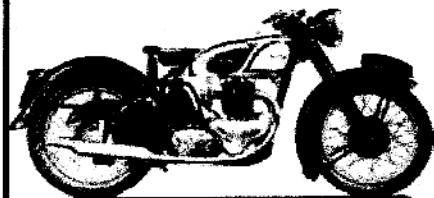
Average (mean): \$4,918.79

Median: \$5,900.00

Ken Armann

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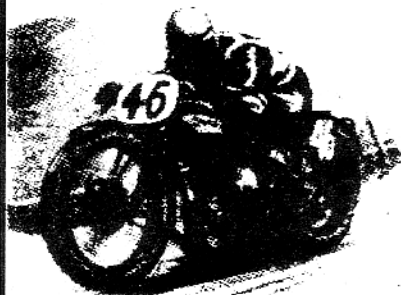
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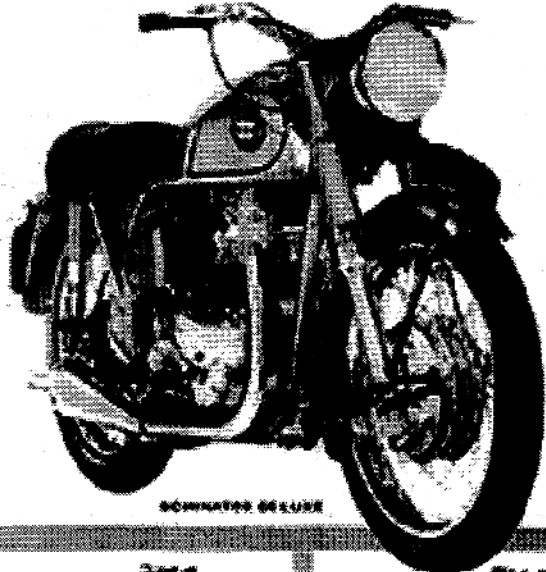
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NORTON 7



NORTON 170

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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 technically limited to Norton owners, but we look the other way all the time, at least as long as you would like to have a Norton, own other British bikes, or are just a great person to have around. So if you like to ride, repair, eat, drink, be merry, and admire Norton motorcycles, it will cost you \$20 to join.

The club has monthly rides (sometimes more often), monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month (at rotating venues), an award winning monthly 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 INOA) as well as the original Club in England. Our club secretary will tell you how to join the UK organization, if you have an interest or see their website at <http://www.noc.co.uk>.

The USNOA puts on 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 Norton merchants all over the country who advertise in the News. You also get the national membership list. It is well worth joining and will cost you another \$20. Send that to: Dian Slark, 12603 BelAire Circle, McCalla, AL., 35111...Phone (205)477-4340.

We look forward to seeing you and your Norton out on the high road.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE and ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

MOTORCYCLES OWNED

Make	Year	Model	Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers
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Attach another sheet if you want to list more.

I hereby apply for membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC). This is a _____ new _____ renewal application.

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 assigns, 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 judgement 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.

Dated _____ Applicants Signature _____

Send all applications or inquiries to:
Alan Mueller, 128 Windsor Ct., San Carlos, CA. 94070
(650)591-5444