



# Norton Notice



The Newsletter of the  
Northern California Norton Owner's Club

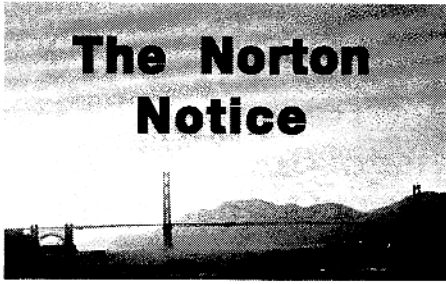
No. 307

May 2004



**MT. HAMILTON RIDE  
MAY 2**

**START AT TOM DABEL'S HOUSE**  
(Apologies to John and Don)



# 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, 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. Articles and photos can be sent in almost any format and the Editors PC can read it. E-mail can be sent using INTERNET to [mikemill20@aol.com](mailto:mikemill20@aol.com)

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.

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.

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 Treasurer or the 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.

**WEBSITE: [www.nortonclub.com](http://www.nortonclub.com)**

## CLUB OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Jerry Grainger**  
1512 Black Mountain Road  
Hillsborough, CA 94010  
650-348-5840  
[grainger@pacbell.net](mailto:grainger@pacbell.net)

### VICE-PRESIDENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Lorin Guy**  
2329 Cimmaron Way  
Santa Clara, CA 95051  
408-961-3468  
[loringuy@yahoo.com](mailto:loringuy@yahoo.com)

### SECRETARY/TECH EDITOR

**Alan Goldwater**  
1780 Chanticleer Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831)-475-7505 [magicssound@aol.com](mailto:magicssound@aol.com)

### RIDES COORDINATOR:

**Gar Jorgenson**  
2241 Biscay Ct. Byron, CA 94514  
(925)634-9395. [losono@mindspring.com](mailto:losono@mindspring.com)

### NOTICE EDITOR

**Mike Sullivan**  
20 Bayview Court  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
650-872-3336  
[mikemill20@aol.com](mailto:mikemill20@aol.com)

### TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

**Raymond Pallett**  
462 Del Medio Ave #2  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
650-947-9780  
[raymond.pallett@oracle.com](mailto:raymond.pallett@oracle.com)

### WEBMASTER: Jeffrey Potter

4111 W. Hayward Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85051  
(623)334-3017, [dgtalmn@cox.net](mailto:dgtalmn@cox.net)  
[www.nortonclub.com](http://www.nortonclub.com)

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Brian Slark  
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

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# Upcoming Events

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## 2004 Meeting Schedule

### **Northern California Norton Owners Club 2004 Meeting Schedule**

Next Meeting

May 13

Prince of Wales Pub

106 East 25th Ave

San Mateo

650-574-9723

**Bench racing starts whenever the second member arrives.**

**Meeting starts at 8:00PM Upstairs**

June 10<sup>th</sup> – *Meeting Prince of Wales*

July 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Ride/Meeting San Juan Bautista*

August 12<sup>th</sup> – *Meeting – S.F. (No meeting place selected yet)*

September 9<sup>th</sup> – *Meeting – Prince of Wales*

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – *Old Timer's Ride and AGM*

November 4<sup>th</sup> – *Meeting - Prince of Wales*

December 5<sup>th</sup> – *Christmas Party (no ride or meeting)*

**Please note that at the last meeting at the Prince of Wales on March 11 it was decided by a vote of the members present that the East bay meetings at Mimi's Cafe in Dublin on May 13 and November 4 would be changed and held instead at the Prince of Wales. Please make the appropriate changes to your calendars.**

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## Ride Schedule..

by **Gar Jorgenson**, ride coordinator

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Points Leaders:	Ian Reddy	44
	Lorin Guy	37
	Tom Dabel	36

May

May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday) – Mt. Hamilton Ride

Ride leader – Tom Dabel. **Please meet at Tom's house at 730 Linda Flora Ave. prior to the 10AM departure time. Tom reports that we will go up Mt. Hamilton, have lunch at The Junction, and then return to San Jose via Mines Road and Livermore.**

To get to Tom's house, exit I-680 in San Jose on McKee Rd and go east. Turn Left On Toyon and left again on Golf. Turn right on Linda Flora and stop when you get to a bunch of Norton's parked on the east side of the road! Call Tom at 408-272-0369 if you need additional info.

June

June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday - Sunday) – Weekend Cambria Ride

**This will be a hook-up with the Southern California Norton. Alan Goldwater is leading the ride and will have a couple of meeting places in the South Bay along the way. See next months notice for details.**

June 6<sup>th</sup> – (Sunday) - Alternative Day Ride

**Ride leader needed for a local one-day ride as an alternative for those who can't make the two-day Cambria ride.**

June 20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 9:30 AM – Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day

July

July 3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) – San Juan Bautista Ride/Meeting

July 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Monday - Friday) - INOANational Rally, Ohio

July 25<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) - Cameron's/Half Moon Bay Ride

**Ride Leader – Lorin Guy**

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August

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday – Sunday) – Dardanelle Weekend

**Dates to be confirmed. Ken Armann, will these dates work?**

August 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – Alternative Day Ride – Ebbets/Sonora Pass Loop

**Ride leader - David Crader.**

August 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday) 9:30 AM – Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day.

September

September 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday – Sunday) – North/South Ride (Tentative).

**Ride Leader Alan Goldwater. This will be a hook-up with the Southern California Club somewhere in the Sierras.**

September 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – Alternative Day Ride – TBA

**Ride leader needed.**

October

*October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday) – Old Timer's Ride and AGM*

**Ride Leader – Mike Sullivan.**

October 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Delta Ride

**Ride leader Gar Jorgenson**

November

November 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – All British Ride

November 21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) – Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day

**9:30 AM before the Turkey Ride**

November 21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) – Turkey Ride

**Ride leader – Lorin Guy**

December

*December 5<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Christmas Party (no ride or meeting)*

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## EDITORS CORNER

I have had communications from Bob Aaronson and Paul Adams. Bob wants to thank all those who stopped to help him after the unfortunate getoff during the Day After Ride, and Paul Adams wants to thank the Club members for voting him the Best Norton in the Show.

I received a newsletter from Norton Motorcycles. It would seem that they are getting close to selling some units. The photos look great. Of general interest is that there are to big screen movies coming out that feature Nortons. For you left wingers there is The Motorcycle Diaries, which is based in the journal of Che Guevara as he toured South America in the early 1950s on his Norton. The other titled Mr. and Mrs. Smith, is a thriller in which Brad Pitt uses a VR880 as a get away vehicle.

Norton is going to be at Laguna Seca in July and will be showing the new bike so here is your chance to see one up close and decide whether you need one or not. They are setting up a Vintage Gallery and would like to display bikes from each of the decades. If you have a showroom quality bike (hello, Paul Adams) and would like to display it please contact Norton at [rob@nortonmotorcycles.com](mailto:rob@nortonmotorcycles.com).

The Hanford Show and Swapmeet is Saturday, May 15. This is good timing as the ride for May is the North Bay Ride on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have never gone to this show but I hear that it is a good one. For info go to [www.batorinternational.com](http://www.batorinternational.com).

For you riders who like to go both ways, the Annual VBMW Swapmeet will be at Vashona Park in Los Gatos on June 13. There is a \$4.00 charge to get into the park but if you are a cheapskate like me you can park on the street to the west of the picnic site and walk in for free. There will be a catered lunch available.

Mike Sullivan  
Editor

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President's Message **by Jerry Grainger**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

18 April 2004

Hi Riders

Well, as predicted, your Northern California Norton Owner's Club had an important role in putting on a great Clubman's Show on March 27, and special thanks go to Lorin Guy for creating a terrific NCNOC booth, for which we copped the trophy again. This was made possible due to the invaluable support of numerous members.

The Morning After Ride was a showcase of the redwood forests and Pacific Coastline that distinguish our area as about the best place in the world to live and ride a Norton. Be sure and attend the May 13th meeting at the Prince of Wales in San Mateo, and admire our trophy.

There are lots of events coming our way, as detailed elsewhere in this issue. You can also always obtain the latest info online through the NCNOC website at <http://nortonclub.com/> and also the International Norton Owners Association site at <http://www.inoanorton.com/welcome.htm>. The latter also has a very active mail list at

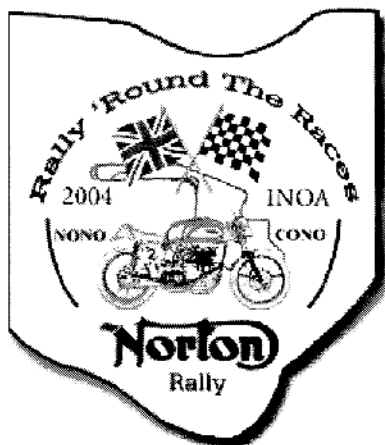
[INOALIST@yahoogroups.com](mailto:INOALIST@yahoogroups.com), where you can get tips on the Ohio rally in July. Planning is also well along for the 2005 INOA Rally, which the NCNOC is organizing as we speak, probably for Selmac, Oregon. Stay tuned.

This just in: the April 18 North Bay ride had a good turnout at Jerry Kaplan's place in Davis, with more riders meeting at Muscowite Corners for the North Bay ride to a historic lunch venue in St. Helena. Weather conditions were not favorable, as the warm Spring weather we have been enjoying turned, Spring like, to cold and damp, but Norton folk are intrepid, and Nortons arrived for the ride from far and wide.

The May 2 Mount Hamilton ride, starting at Tom Dabel's in San Jose, is always one of the best of the year, and we eagerly look forward to it. And be sure and mark your calendar for the Adopt-A-Highway session on June 20, at Alice's in Woodside, on #35 Skyline at #84. These events are fun and leave plenty of time for camaraderie and riding, too.

See you on the road.

Jerry Grainger  
President,  
Northern California Norton Owners Club



## July 19-23, 2004

(Monday-Friday)

Whispering Hills Campground

8248 State Route 514

Big Prairie, Ohio 44676

[www.whisperinghillsvrpark.com](http://www.whisperinghillsvrpark.com)

Mail check to:

INOA Rally 2004

c/o Stan Smith

Rocky Point Cycles

2509 Linebaugh Road

Xenia, OH 45385-8590

e-mail: [sales@rockypointcycle.com](mailto:sales@rockypointcycle.com)

info: [ohionortonowners.org](http://ohionortonowners.org)

Phone: 937-376-9792

Tee-shirts: \$12-S, M, L, XL; \$15-XXL, XXXL

Names of others attending with you:

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

### Pre-Registration Rates (USD)

(rates will be 10% higher on-site)

INOA Member . . . . . \$50

Non-member . . . . . \$55

Youth 6-18 . . . . . \$25

Children (under 6) . . . . . Free

Tee-Shirt(s) . . . . . See prices

Camping fees are \$8 per night per person, to be collected at the rally.

Do not send camping fees.

**Make Check Payable (In US dollars) to "INOA Rally 2004"**



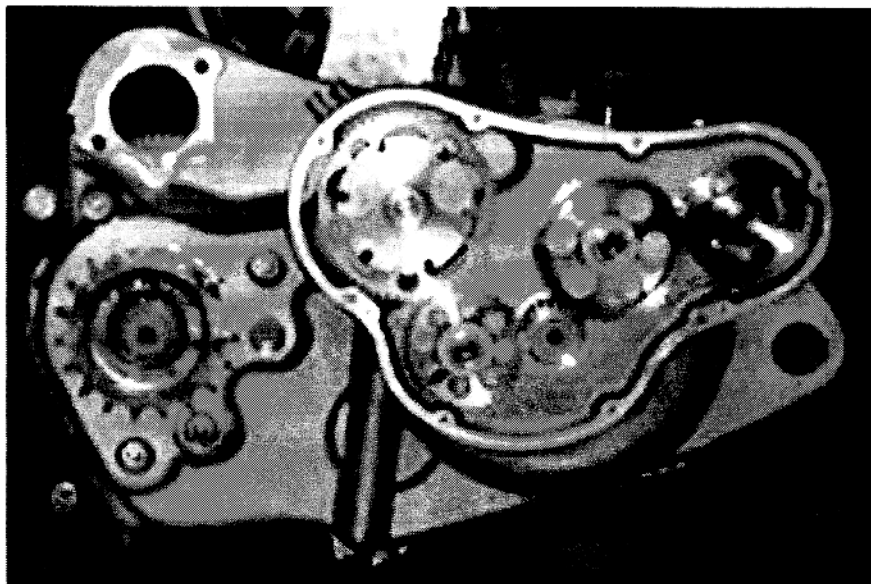
## Minutes of the NCNOC Meeting 4/8/2004 at Harry's Hoffbrau in Mt View

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Pres. Jerry Graiger with about 20 members and guests present, and five Nortons in the parking lot.

- 1) Welcome new members Todd Darrow, Fred Fortune and guests Phil Conklin and Chris and Dave from Sussex UK
- 2) The Mt. Hamilton ride will leave from Tom Dabel's house. To get to Tom's house, exit I-680 in San Jose on McKee Rd and go east. Turn Left On Toyon and left again on Golf. Turn right on Linda Flora and stop when you get to a bunch of Norton's parked on the east side of the road! Call Tom at 408-272-0369 if you need additional info.
- 3) The Treasurer reports that we have 168 members and \$1200 in the treasury. Burn rate is \$265 per month. We have lost almost 150 members in the last 12 months. Treasurers report accepted after discussion.
- 4) Mike says printing the NN costs around \$1 per copy. Cost can be reduced by cutting the print run from 200 to 180. We can save an additional \$40 per issue by stapling ourselves. Total saving \$60/month. Tabled for further discussion.
- 5) Report on Clubmans show. Lorin offers thanks to all who loaned bikes for display, and to Ken Armann and Rabers for trophy donations, and club members who staffed the booth. Once again we won the Best Booth award. The Morning After ride was marred by a few 'incidents'. There was neither a riders meeting nor a ride leader, and we need to take note of these mistakes by others for our own future events.
- 6) Gar commented on the North Bay ride: Try to meet at Jerry Kaplans house in Davis, worth the extra effort. There's no gas or food at Muscowite corners, so be sure to fill up first if you plan to join the ride there. Directions to the meeting places should be found elsewhere in this issue.
- 7) Lorin asks for comments on a possible fall event for european bikes, similar to the Clubmans show in the spring.
- 8) Last call. Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted by Alan Goldwater, sec.

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**New 952 Timing Side** With a little bit of oil these gears should last a long time and they will never need adjustment. Don't we wish that we could do this conversion on existing units. It looks to me like the large gear on the left is driving the oil pump. The final drive looks to be on the right side of the swing arm. The hole on the upper left should be the starter mounting. You can see the gear teeth on the clutch basket.

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#### DATE CORRECTION

Art Sirota invites all NCNOC members to his house for the third(?) Annual get together and barbecue. Meet at Art's house at 601 Harrison St Redwood City on Saturday June 26. Call 650-363-9277

The good times kick off at 12:00 noon

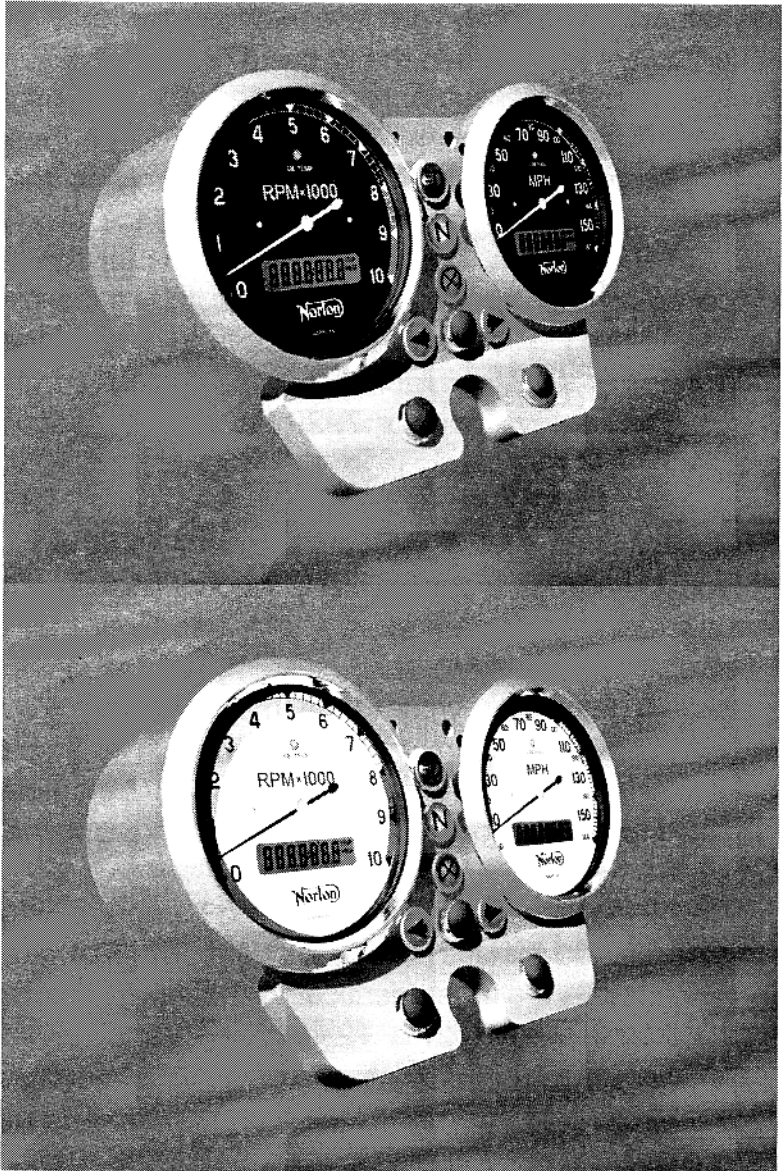
Please no smoking and no alcohol

See you there

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## NEW 952 INSTRUMENT CLUSTER



Alan's Wrench     February 22, 2004

I just finished testing the LED tail light unit from BulbsThatLast4Ever.com. This is a new design that replaces the stock bulb and socket in the Lucas 679 (750 style) and 914 (850 style) rear light assemblies. It uses 20 ultra-bright red lamps, plus 6 cool blue ones pointing down to light the license plate. The visibility angle is excellent, limited only by the stock lens, and brightness is very close to that of the stock bulb. Current consumption is reduced to 0.13 amps for the tail light and 0.68 amps for the stop light. Overall this is an excellent design, combining efficiency and reliability in a nice package. It's part number 679, available for \$49.95 only from <http://www.bulbthatlast4ever.com> or 7929 De Garmo Avenue, Sun Valley CA 91352.

There's been a lot of discussion recently on the INOAList about Norton exhaust systems. Many readers (including myself) were surprised to hear from expert tuner Leo Goff, that he got best power from a close-to-stock system, with separate 1 5/8 inch headers feeding reverse-cone megaphones. He found that a 'trick' 2-into-1 system was down as much as 8 hp on the dyno. Of course the stock system has only 1 3/8 inch diameter pipes, and the megaphones have some baffling, but the basic design is pretty good.

The Norton factory used a surprising number of variations on the Commando exhaust over the years. The first fastbacks (1968) had a system almost identical to the Atlas. The headers exit the exhaust ports with a 12 degree tuck in toward the center of the bike, and feed the slightly flattened horizontal silencers as used on the Atlas. This tuck in header angle was probably first used on the 650SS model, around 1961, when the redesigned downdraft cylinder head appeared.

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The earlier heads from the Model 7 and Dominator 88/99 had only 40 degrees of angle between the exhaust ports, so that the headers followed close to the frame down tubes. When the head was re-designed it got 80 degrees of exhaust port spread. To retain the exhaust look and fit, some 650 SS and early Atlas headers were made with an angle at the exhaust port flange. But some were also sold with the pipe exiting straight out of the port. This mix of styles continued through the 750 Commando years, until the 850 exhaust with the cross-over appeared in late 1973. The 750 Interstate pipes also appeared in both forms, and some of the hybrids also had the modified angle.

Personally I prefer the look of the tucked-in style, which came as stock on my 1972 roadster. Exact replacements had been unavailable for many years as they are harder to build, but I recently got a set made by Viking in New Zealand. The quality and fit of these headers is flawless. They are made from heavier tubing, with .062 inch wall thickness compared to .050 on some pipes. The flange is also thicker where the nut bears on it, and the welds are polished smooth and the chrome plating flawless. The parts I tested are available at \$260/pair from <http://www.oldbritts.com>. The price for Viking exhaust parts is a bit higher than for others, but the superior quality is unmistakable. They make a full range of systems which can be seen at their web site <http://www.vikingexhaust.com>.

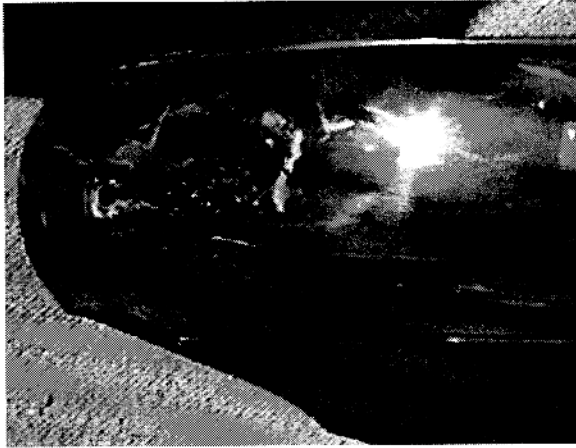
I've started testing a new Mono X2 helmet from Jarow. It's a flip-front type with a built in adjustable sun shield. So far, I really like it, but have some questions about wind noise. I'll be making measurements of this and comparing it to other helmet designs in a future report. It's still raining as I write, but spring is just around the corner, with the excitement of a new riding season and a great INOA Rally ahead. I hope to see you there.

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## Fastback Trivia ..... By David Crader

Here's a bit of obscure Commando trivia. I was considering other body styles for my '72 Roadster, among which were Interstate and Fastback. A few weeks ago I noticed a rear fender on EBay that the seller listed as for an English motorcycle. I recognized it as the black painted item fitting a Fastback so I went after it since these parts are fairly scarce.

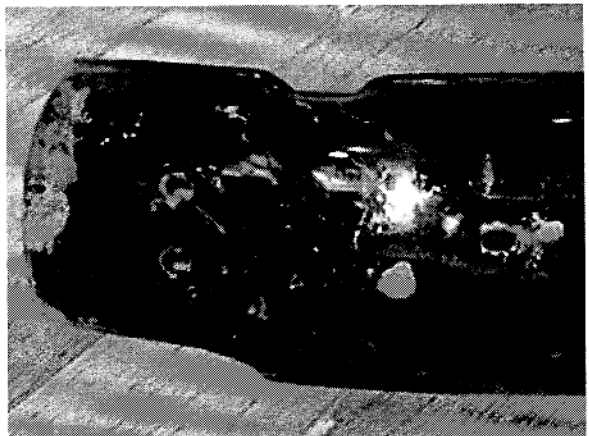
Ken Armann had one of these sitting in his shop in Campbell and in looking at it closer I noticed that there were some differences compared to the one I had bought. The forward

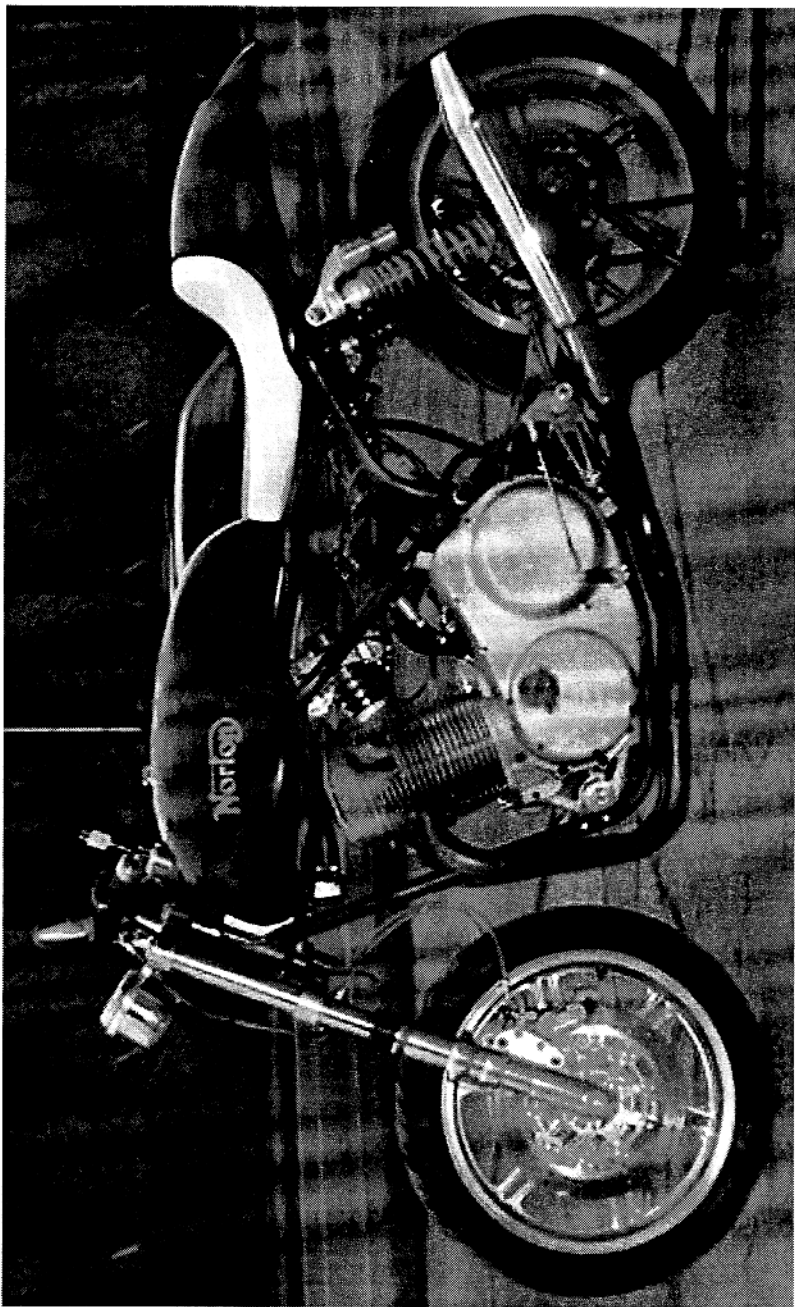


mounting holes were one difference and also the fender I bought had an indentation on the forward right side (to clear the oil tank fittings). That made me wonder if there were two part numbers so I checked the parts books. In fact, that is the case. The earlier Fastbacks from 1968 to 1970 use the original type oil tank (no outside cover) and the

fender part number is 060507. The later Fastback with the oil tank common to all Commandos from 1071 uses the rear fender part number 062171. Included in this article are photos of the forward sections of both types. You can see the earlier version has no indentation and only one forward mounting hole. The later style has the indentation and three forward mounting holes.

So now if you are replacing the rear fender of an original Fastback or converting from other body types, you will know which fender will fit your particular model year.





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**Alloy fork nuts**, polished alloy. Commando pn 06-0345A \$30.00/pair

Atlas and pre-Commando 06-7746A \$30.00/pair

With logo for Commando only pn 06-0345AL \$48.00/pair



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**(650)574-9723**

## CLASSIFIEDS

*EDITOR'S 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 three months. Please notify the editor if your item has been sold. Your ad will automatically be removed after three months if we have not been informed. Note the expiration **date at the end of each ad.***

**WANTED: Send Want Adds to your editor.**

For sale..... 1973

850 Commando

9,800 original miles since new and correct except for the tail light. Health forces sale. \$5,000.00 obo

Contact dave at 916-983-5556 days or e-mail at comanchefy@aol.com

**Bits for Sale**

Freshly re-upholstered stock roadster seat, silver logo, perfect \$150

Brand new rearsets right hand shift \$250

Brand new clipons \$50.00

Misc other bits

Rob Heyden, mechanic at Schlichers in Oakland  
510-569-4767

**FOR SALE: 1971 Commando Roadster. Engine by Ken Armann. single Mikuni. Original carbs included. Sealed battery from Frank Recoder. New rear tire, front tire 80%. Boyer. Easy starter and good runner. \$4000 or best offer. Mike Sullivan 650-872-3336**

**F r o m**

**NCNOC Website**

**For Sale: 1971 Commando**

Completely refurbished, new tires disc front brake. All records. In Danville, CA

\$4,500.00 OBO Contact Ben

510-595-8110 or 510-610-2914

email bensamrick@comcast.net

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2000 Honda  
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Windshield,  
Saddlebags,  
T-bag,  
Highway  
pegs.  
Excellent  
condition  
\$5,200 OBO**

## 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.

The USNOA/INOA 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 \$25. Send that to: **Dian Slark, 12603 BelAire Circle, McCalla, AL., 35111...Phone (205)477-7780.**

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY STATE and ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### MOTORCYCLES OWNED

Make	Year	Model	Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers

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 reasonably 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:  
**Ray Pallett, 462 Del Medio Ave. #2, Mountain View, CA**  
**94040**  
**(650)947-9780**