



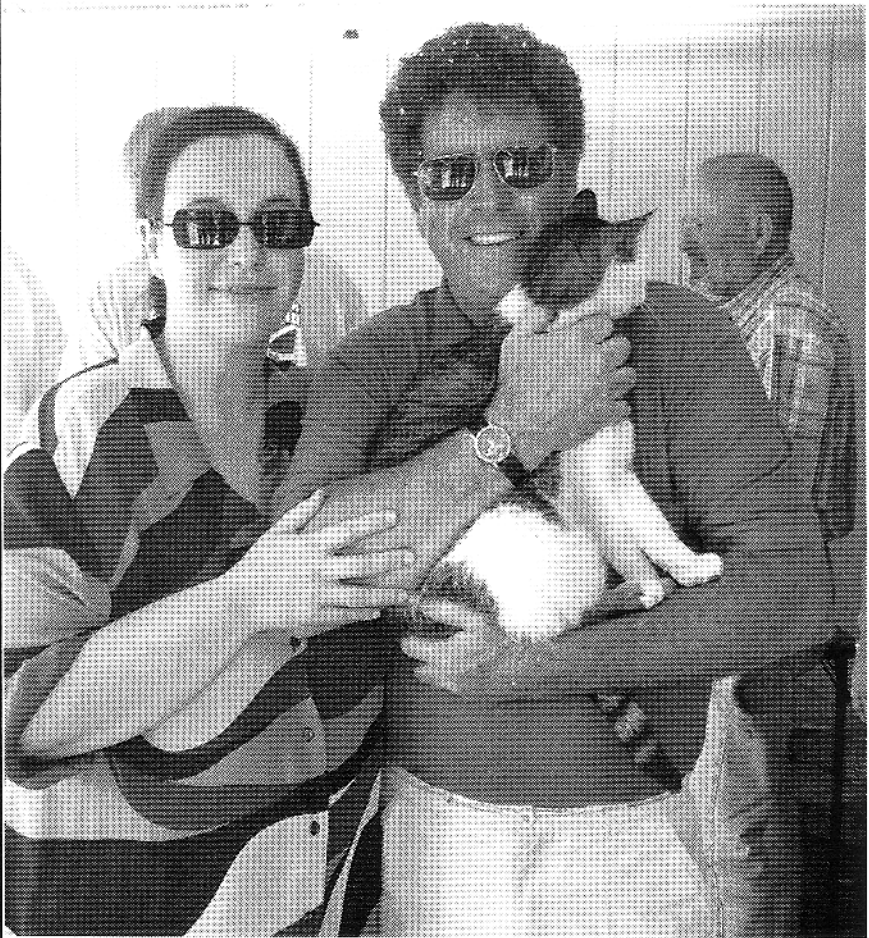
Norton Notice



The Newsletter of the
Northern California Norton Owner's Club

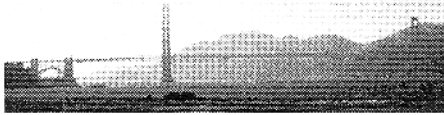
No. 310

August 2004



CONGRATULATIONS ART AND LINDA

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 marquee.

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

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.

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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

Upcoming Events

2004 Meeting Schedule

Northern California Norton Owners Club 2004 Meeting Schedule

August Meeting:

Thursday August 12

Tommy's Joynt

Southwest corner of Geary and Van Ness Streets

Downtown San Francisco

415-775-4216

Meeting starts at 8:00pm

Bench racing starts as soon as the second member arrives

September 9th - *Meeting - Prince of Wales*

October 2nd - *Old Timers Ride and AGM No location yet.....*

Any suggestions?????

November 5th - *Meeting - Prince of Wales*

December 5th - *Christmas Party (no ride in Dec.)*

Ride Schedule..

by Gar Jorgenson, ride coordinator

Points Leaders:	Ian Reddy	74
	Lorin Guy	62
	Alan G.	62
	Tom Dabel	60
	John Maka	60

August

August 13th, 14th, 15th (Friday – Sunday) – Dardanelle Weekend
Dardanelles Alert!!!

It has come to our attention that an inconsiderate wedding party has booked up all of the rooms at the Dardanelles Resort for the weekend of the annual Norton Ride. You would think that they would have had the couth to subordinate their plans to the traditional activities of such a venerated group as the NorCalNOC, but apparently they weren't raised right! So, this has become a camp-out weekend. When last I checked, there were a few campsites left at the resort itself. Call (209) 965-4205 if you want to reserve a site at the resort. If they are full, there are about 13 forest service campgrounds within a five-mile radius of the resort, and the resort facilities are still open to all. The Forest service campgrounds are first come first serve, but Ken Armann has made the following offer. He will be arriving on the Wednesday before the ride weekend and he will snag campsites for anyone who wants him to. Please call Ken at (408) 626-0061 if you would like him to act as your unofficial reservation agent. We will still be meeting up on a daily basis at the resort to sort out rides.

For those of you who might be going to Bridgeport during the weekend, before you go on this ride, rent the movie, "Out Of The Past". This Film Noir classic stars Robert Mitchum, Kirk Douglas, and Jane Greer. It's classic Film Noir with plenty of double crosses, lust, plot twists and snappy dialog. But the real interest is that it was filmed in Bridgeport in 1947! Watch it and then go see how much (or little) Bridgeport has changed in the last 57 years!

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

Ride leader - David Crader reports: This year I'm taking the group in the opposite direction. The starting point is east of Sonora at the Junction Shopping Center on Hwy 108, look for my red 750 roadster next to the gas

station. Departure is at 10:00am. Traveling east on Hwy 108 it's 76 miles to the Dardanelles where we will meet with the weekenders. Continuing east on Hwy 108 over Sonora Pass, lunch will be at Walker Burgers as we did last year. After refueling both man and machine we will head north on Hwy 395 then west on Hwy 89 stopping at Monitor Pass. From here on its high Sierra scenery going up and over Ebbets Pass on Hwy 4 with Alpine Fir, narrow, well paved roads and Alpine Lake. The return will take us through Angels Camp then south on Hwy 49 back to Sonora. Total loop is 206 miles. We should be back to Sonora around 6:00pm.

David Crader Ride Leader (408) 807-4082 days (925) 513-3148 evenings

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

September

September 18th & 19th (Saturday – Sunday) – North/South Ride

Ride Leader Alan Goldwater. This will be a hook-up with the Southern California Club somewhere in the Sierras. The ride will go over the Sierras on Saturday and Return on Sunday. So far, the overnight spot is still in question. Virginia Creek Settlement just south of Bridgeport is a distinct possibility, but 'motelling it' in Lee Vining is also being discussed. Getting a reservation now at Virginia Creek Settlement (760-932-7780), or across the street at Willow Springs Motel and Campground (760-932-7725) might be a good idea. If the decision is to stay in Lee Vining, both Virginia Creek and Willow Springs are close enough to Lee Vining (about 20 minutes) and your reservation would be assured. (Get the jump on all those wedding people)

September 18th (Saturday) – Alternative Day Ride – TBA

We still need someone to take this on. If I don't get a leader pretty soon, the ride will be cancelled.

October 3rd (Sunday) – Old Timer's Ride and AGM

Ride Leader – Mike Sullivan.

October 17th (Sunday) – Delta Ride

Ride leader Gar Jorgenson

November 6th (Saturday) – All British Ride

November 21st (Sunday) – Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day

9:30 AM before the Turkey Ride

November 21st (Sunday) – Turkey Ride

Ride leader – Lorin Guy

December

December 5th (Sunday) – Christmas Party (no ride or meeting)

EDITOR'S CORNER

Summer is upon us although you would never know it. At the time of this writing I haven't seen the sun in 4 days and I will be darned if I can get my tomatoes to ripen up. If you want to see the sun you just have to get on your bike and ride south. Don't ride on Skyline to Alice's though. Ray Pallett reports that the fog was so heavy that it was dripping off the trees in ¼ inch drops and the roads were wet under every tree. It also seems like every overhanging tree is on a corner so be careful out there. There are the Dardanelle and Sierra rides coming up in August where I am sure you will find a bit of sun.

I have received a flyer from The British Connection about the Lake Cachuma Rally over the Labor Day weekend. It will be held on Sept 3-4-5-6 this year as they were displaced from the old time slot of the Memorial Day weekend. Cost is \$125.00 per person and includes 8 meals and camping fees. Reservations need to be in by August 15 so if you are thinking of going better send in your applications now. You can go to www.britishconnection.org or call toll free to 1-888-627-2559.

I reported last month that I was having a clutch cable made for the Model 50 at Motion Pro in San Carlos. I am happy to report that their service was great and timely. My left forearm is very grateful. They are located at 867 American St. San Carlos Phone 650-594-9600. They do not have adjusters to fit either the gearbox or handlebar ends so you will have to bring one off an old cable. Price was reasonable at \$30-35 for a modern nylon lined cable.

I have received word that Rob Aaronson who fell off his brand new award winning 88SS after the Clubman's Show is doing well. He is down to only one crutch at this point. His bike is at Ken Armann's and is looking good again. Hope to see you on the road soon, Rob.

We still do not have a venue for the Old Timer's Ride and AGM. Come on guys... Someone knows a picnic ground with a barbecue pit we can use. Let Jerry Grainger know ASAP.

Keep the rubber side down

Mike Sullivan, Editor

President's Message by Jerry Grainger

July 25, 2004

Hi Riders

These are busy days for Northern California Norton folks. Today's ride to Cameron's in Half Moon Bay was meticulously planned and led by Lorin Guy, complete with colored stakes marking turns and a detailed route map. Eventually, there were two-dozen riders enjoying camaraderie at this English pub, following a fine ride. Nice job, Lorin.

Preliminary reports on the Ohio INOA 'Rally 'Round the Races' this past week are very favorable, with enthusiasm building already for our INOA event next July 13 - 17, 2005, at Lake Selmac, Oregon. Plan now for a great riding and family-friendly trip.

By the way, on our scouting trip to Oregon last month, your pres. discovered a couple of Nortons in a barn, and wound up tripling the size of his Norton stable, adding a nice Mark III and a nifty old P11 to accompany the original Combat, so you never know what your going to find in your Norton travels. Stay tuned for progress reports on these recent NCNOC additions.

The INOA rally in Ohio created a shake-up in the race for 2004 ride points, with competition very keen already. There's a strong pack of leaders in the points standings, and handicapping is already well under way. Remember, ride leaders score extra points, with lots more rides coming up. Ride coordinator Gar Jorgenson has further details in this issue. Keep up the good efforts, fellows.

Our club meeting this August 12th (second Thursdays) will be at a new venue in San Francisco: Tommy's Joynt, on Van Ness at Geary, where you can still get buffalo stew with your bench racing, and validated parking to boot. See additional details herein.

And then there's a great weekend to be spent on the Sonora Pass at the Dardanelles, August 13, 14 & 15. Ken Armann has assured us that there will be another fine meteor shower to be enjoyed from your mountain campsite, but reservations are critical at this time. Again, see this issue for further details, including an alternate day ride, led by Dave Crader.

All of which goes to show why the Northern California Norton Owners Club continues to be recognized as the best chapter in the International Norton Owners Association, with great rides, friendly meetings, a terrific newsletter and best of all, the coolest old motorcycles in the world to ride and share our enjoyment of them with one another.

See you on the road.

Jerry Grainger

THE MISUNDERSTOOD NORON RIDER

By Art Sirota Copyright 2004

Supposed Commando Imperfections In Reality

1. Early Commando frames broke where the two downtubes join the headstock.

For real Norton riders, an imminent frame breakage at high speed only adds to the thrill of the ride.

2. Norton speedometers should have come equipped with a trip meter

Only sissies need a trip meter!

3. Portuguese layshaft bearings in the gearbox fail and cause the kickstart lever to drop down in the bottom position

Real Norton riders bumpstart the bike, even uphill.

4. Early Nortons did not come equipped with turn signals

Only sissies bother to signal before making a turn.

5. Lucas rotors broke and dragged the wiring harness down thru the hole in the back of the primary chaincase thereby causing the headlight to malfunction.

Real Norton riders have already found someone to shack up with by sundown and don't need lights!

-
6. Even when they did finally offer turn signals on Nortons, they didn't fit self cancelling ones. See #4 above.
7. When commandos were being sold in the early 70s, BMWs came equipped with clocks as standard. Well, la de da.
8. Nortons vibrate too much at low rpm. It says "Norton" on the tank, not "Wussmobile."
9. Some camshafts were so soft that they went flat only after a few thousand miles. What's your point, Poindexter?
10. Ducati also made a twin cylinder motorcycle that was just as fast as a Commando and leaked less oil. Yeah, but who wants to ride a bike that's made in a town named after a town in Italy named after a luncheon meat.
11. Rubber gaitors on the isolastics let the dirt and water but then don't let them out again. Get over it Princess.
12. Some 850 frames made in Italy caused high speed wobbles. The only time we Norton riders ever experience high speed wobbles is right after the bar closes.
13. Rear frame loops on early Commandos broke off completely. Who needs 'em?
-

14. Norton rear view mirrors discolores so badly that you couldn't see anything out of them. "Dont look back." *-Bob Dylan
15. Electric starters on the Mk3 Commandos were never quite up to the job. See #13 and #3 above.
16. Early top engine head steadies broke due to metal fatigue. No problemo once you're over the ton.
17. If you guys are so tough, how come the Hi-Rider model came with a sissy bar? Why don't you hop on your Vespa and meet me out back in twenty minutes, bro?

When it comes right down to it, there is only one valid criticism of the Commando. Should've made it oil-in-frame so that the oil tank could carry beer. 'Nuff said!

*This is not a typo. Bob left out the apostrophe.



Art and Linda Sirota were married on June 26 during Art's annual get together. A surprise to us all except for Lynne Miller who came in full regalia to play the pipes. What? No Norton on the cake?

LAGUNA SECA NORTONS

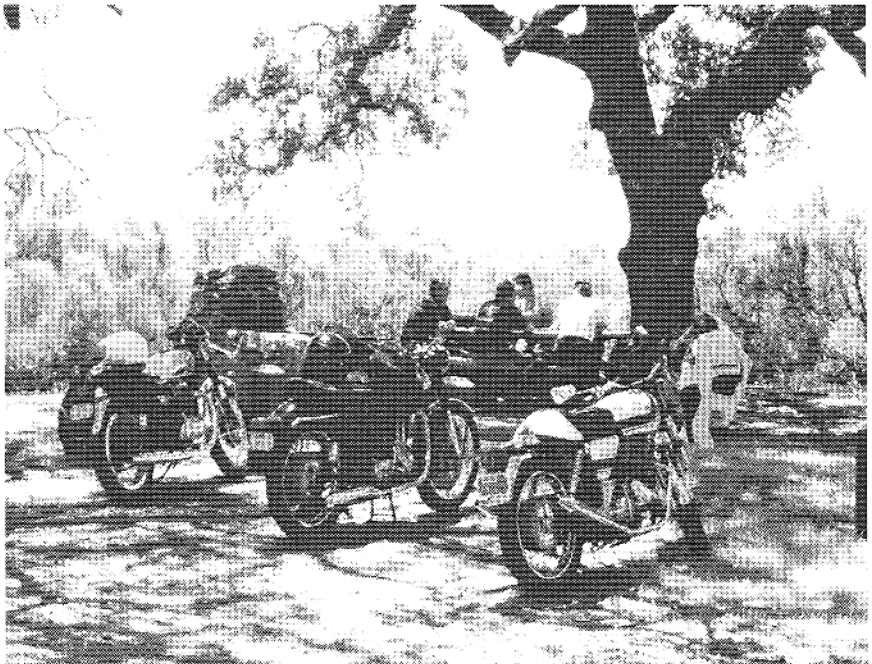
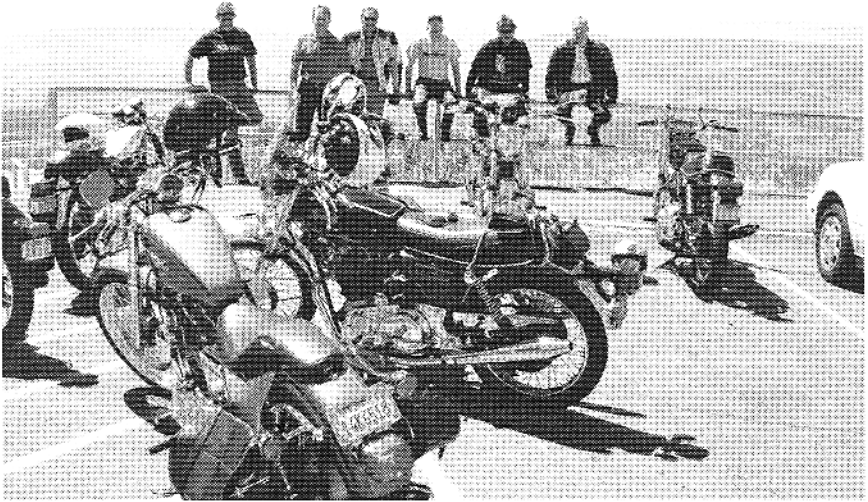


DAVE CRADER MAKES A DEPOSIT

CAMBRIA NORTH-SOUTH RIDE



MOUNT DIABLO RIDE



Half Moon Bay Ride Report:

July 25th ride to Half Moon Bay and lunch at Cameron's restaurant had great weather; good riding roads and fantastic attendance all made this short ride a sweet success. Ride leader Lorin Guy (vp NCNOC) and family put in a great effort to make it fun and safe with the pre-ride map being in "large print" to the road sign markers to lead the way. All who attended liked the route and the lunch in the back room of Cameron's very good and we were well served.

The route was started at Alice's restaurant in Sky Londa then along highway 35 to Tunitas Creek rd. we then veered onto Lobitos Creek rd. It becomes Vargas Rd and short stretch for letting the throttle do the talking. Then on to Purisima Creek rd and then Higgins's Canyon again a spot to stretch your legs, and on to Highway One and Cameron's. Not a bunch of miles but quality twistys with a few spots to let the Ole Norton's breathe a bit.

It was great to see late arrivals Frank and Elizabeth Recorder and Liz Sain and Tom Dable (Tom and Liz just back from their Canada ride). The North Bay boys Gar Jorgenson, David Crader and Greg Fuller were there (been a while Greg we've missed ya).

President Jerry Grainger was sporting a sore ankle and driving his car on the tour, but promised his new Commando will be ready for the next ride. It was good to see some new members too like Dan Bockmier, Norman Trueblood and David Hedges. The regulars, it's always great to ride with George and Sachie Shoble, John Meka, Len Iosky and Don Goforth with his smoker Norton (time to pull something Don.) Ray Pallet back from his big ride and trips across the sea, and of course the Model 50 of Mike Sullivan.

It was great to have the VTRG Triumph group along for the ride and as Steffen Guy rode his clean 69 Triumph Trophy, Cliff and his 71 Triumph and Philippe Murat rode his Triumph Triple. The members who showed up for the start but did not ride were a nice addition to the morning affair, thanks for your support hope you have time to ride next time. Special thanks to Todd Darrow for riding the new Triumph Rocket3 for us all to see first hand. Nice big bike. It handled the twisty route well I might add.

So all in all a great day of good roads, nice weather and best of all really great people to spend the day with.

Lorin Guy

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

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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:

1970 Commando Roadster

95% original

New shock absorbers

New battery

New chain

New tires

Boyer

\$4,500.00

Call Mike at: 510-581-9061

Wanted:

Norton Atlas or similar

Featherbed twin Other English twins considered.

Contact:

Terry S. Coleman

PO Box 1461

Citrus Heights, CA 95611

916-727-2673

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

FOR SALE:

'72 Commando Interstate as is Threw a right hand rod.

Punched a hole in right hand crankcase half. New primary chain, rear brake hub, and

front tire. Matching numbers

Email Richard at nutcon@

earthlink.net \$1000.00

Bike is located in Banning, CA

Email Mike Sullivan for photos.

For Sale:

'75 Interstate

Good condition except starter missing clutch mechanism

contact Kevin at

marincustom@aol.com

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/TNOA 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 Stark, 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