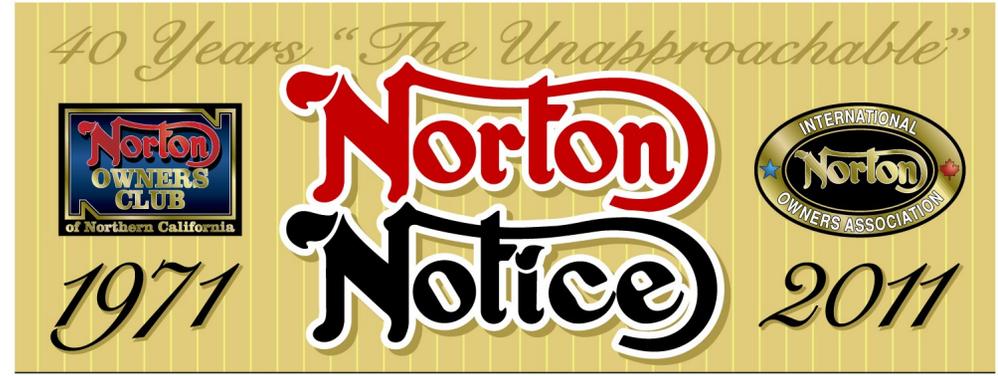


*Celebrating our 40th Year*



The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

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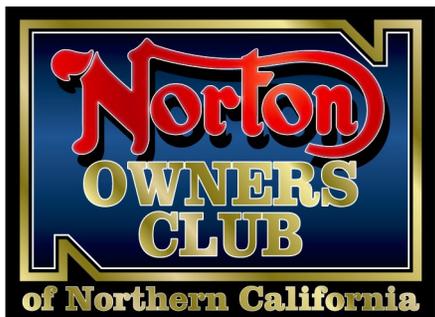


The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

No. 369

December 2010/ January 2011





**NORTON NOTICE**

Published by the Northern California Norton Owners Club. Its purpose is to inform and entertain the club members. The Norton Notice is a reflection of the readership who are encouraged to submit articles, technical tips, photograph (original or otherwise) so that other Norton enthusiasts may enjoy them. The deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 18th of the month preceding the issue. The Norton Notice prefers contributions submitted electronically. Send Loringuy@yahoo.com.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Northern California Norton Owners Club is open to all British motorcycle enthusiasts. Membership and renewals can be paid for , to the Club via our web site and is available for \$25 per year. Membership offers a wide range of benefits including the mailed Norton Notice, website, yahoo group, Social activities, Tech sessions and Monthly rides.

**Advertising**

Ads are \$100.00 per 1/4 page for the year. Contact the Editor for information and pricing on lager ads.

**AFFILIATIONS**

The NCNOC is affiliated with both the Norton Owner's Club of England (NOC) <http://nortonownersclub.org/> and the International Norton Owners Association (INOA) <http://inoanorton.com/>

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** The NCNOC gratefully acknowledges the work of Fred Fortune (Fortune2.com) for the designs used in this journal and on the club web site. Website program is thanks to club member Ian Reddy.

**See us at [www.nortonclub.com](http://www.nortonclub.com) and join our Yahoo group for information and club activities at [NorCalNOC@yahoogroups.com](http://NorCalNOC@yahoogroups.com)**

**Cover Pix :**  
courtesy of Phil Hawkins taken at the SLO Rally 2010

**Membership cost is \$25.00 per year and includes a subscription to the Norton Notice, a publication which provides an enormous wealth of information to Norton owners and re-caps of club events.**

*I hereby apply for Membership in the Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC)*

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*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 judgment 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.*

**Applicants Signature and date (required)**

Make your check for \$25 payable to **Northern California Norton Owners Club**. Send all applications & inquiries to Elizabeth Recoder 4000 Mozart Drive, El Sobrante, Ca. 94803 You can also join on line at [nortonclub.com](http://nortonclub.com) and use credit card through our pay pal account.

Join our club Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorCalNOC/>

\*The NCNOC is associated with both the NOC and the INOA You can join the INOA and the NOC from our website at [Nortonclub.com](http://Nortonclub.com)

**Rotary Tales**

By Don Danmeier

When motorcycles began to seriously accumulate in the corners of my garage, I decided to adhere to a common theme: except for an Indian that I restored for Shirley, they are all British "last editions". That keeps me from just buying bikes on a whim, and it means that, in each case, it provides me what is arguably the most reasonable proposition for actual riding for each respective make. That explains (or rationalizes) the presence of my 1975 Mk3 Commando.

It also explains why I jumped on the chance to obtain a Norton rotary. They are, as you know, as rare as rocking horse manure in the USA. I had seen an early version, the Classic, at the 1992 Norton Rally back in New Hampshire; I know a guy who maintains UK registration for his F1; and of course there's Alan Goldwater, who actually jumped through a lot of hoops to get an early Interpol registered legally, but it meant some serious re-engineering of the induction system and an awful lot of twists and turns with the DMV. In fact it was he who sold me my rotary.

I've dreamed of owning an F1. But it so happens that I wound up with a 1993 Commander, the very last Norton to come out of Shenstone. It came to the US with the effects of the Norton buyout some time ago, having sat in the factory unsold until that time, and passed to in turn Kenney Dreer.

At one point, it was exhibited locally our All-British Show, resplendent in red. At that time I didn't know anything concerning its provenance, such as it was. It passed from Dreer to Alan, along with a bill of sale from Norton to him, to record its first commercial sale. By the way, the Deeley museum up in British Columbia has one as well (in green).

You've read about the post-war Norton P10, which never made it to production, and of course the famous P11 and it's derivatives. This Commander was designated P53K - the K denoting the factory-equipped Krauser bags (not shown in the photo). Earlier versions of the P53, including police units, had integral fiberglass panniers.

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**RIDE AND EVENT DIARY:**

**January 13 (Thursday) Club Meeting Harry's Hofbrau 390 Saratoga Ave. Saratoga Ca. 8pm start.**

**January 16 (Sunday) This is the traditional first ride of the year. Starts at Alice's at 11am, where just showing up gets you double points and starts you on the road to the coveted "Norton Cup". Once there (depending upon weather) we'll decide where to ride. Ride Leader TBA.**

**February 10 (Thursday) Club Meeting Harry's Hofbrau Foster City Ca. 1297 Chess Dr. 94404 (650)349-8411, 8pm start.**

**February 13 (Sunday) Sweet Heart Ride "Valentine's Day", ride starts at 10am at The Florence in Niles at 37349 Niles Blvd. Fremont Ca.94536 (510)792-5522 Ride Leader TBA**

**March 10 (Thursday) Club Meeting Harry's Hofbrau Foster City Ca. 1297 Chess Dr. 94404 (650)349-8411, 8pm start.**

March 26 (Saturday) BSA club's : Clubman's All British Motorcycle show and swap. 8am-4pm Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose Ca. contact Barry Porter at (408)985-7864

March 27 (Sunday) Morning After Ride : traditional ride after the Clubman's event. This ride starts at 10 am at Hobbes's in Los Gatos Ca. Again they ask it be All British only. Contact Don Danmeier at (415)898-0330

**April 14th, Meeting "Harry's Hofbrau" - San Jose**

**April 17th, The Goldwater Ride 10:30AM - Alices->Santa Cruz Mtns->Davenport**

April 23, Salinas AMA Grand National TT

April 24th, Easter Sunday

May 8th, Mothers Day

### Presidents Message Dec/Jan 2010/2011:

With the incredible efforts of our illustrious editor Lorin Guy, 2010 will go down in our history as the year the NCNOC brought the New Norton 961 from "Norton Motorcycles Ltd. (UK)" to the San Francisco Bay Area. The new Norton traveled to the BSA Clubman Show, Calistoga Half Mile, American Sport Bike Night and the IMS all the way back and forth from South Bay Norton in Lomita, Ca. and orders were taken. Let's hope this is the beginning of a successful new motorcycle company that represents and recognizes the proud history of our bikes. Lorin's dream may really come true!

I had no idea what was going to happen with the CBS Channel 5 "Eye on the Bay" episode, but it turned out to be a lot more than I expected, so thanks for everyone who showed up at Alice's on July 1<sup>st</sup> and for singing me happy birthday on TV, OMG! Ian Reddy did a fabulous job of integrating the video and Bob Bausch's artwork into the NCNOC home web page so check it out.

Alan Goldwater put on one fine 2010 gourmet XMAS party at his house this year and we raffled off merchandise from Bob Raber's and Phil Radford. Thanks to everyone who bought items at the auction, (we made about \$400); we can show our appreciation by patronizing them and our buddy Ken Armann who seemed to buy everything at the auction. Remember to say a big thank you to these guys.

We have about \$4k in the bank and over 180 members which indicates the club is still thriving. Our founding father, Bob Bausch created fabulous poster and T-shirt artwork and our 40th anniversary party planning is fully underway. The celebration is planned for June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 so keep this weekend open and be available, more information will be forthcoming!

This year was a very close "Norton Cup" points race. Congratulations goes to Alan Goldwater. However, the rules regarding "Norton Cup" seem to be unclear and are not complete, so the NCNOC board of directors will soon be clarifying them in the NCNOC Bylaws.

My door is always open for your comments, construction criticism, etc. Remember, this is your club and we need articles, tech tips and other interesting motorcycle experiences so get to it.

Happy Holidays and Have a Successful New Year. Harry Bunting

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Pix from the Holiday party at the Goldwater's home. Buffett table full of goodies and NCNOC members and families having a great time.

Below: Gifts for the exchange piled high this is a favorite activity at this party every year.

Other page below: Two favorite places at any party the Kitchen and Garage.



**Thoughts from the Editor :**

We are again at the end of another great year in the NCNOC. So much went on this year and some events are reflected in a few pix in this issue. We also have the last chapter of the NOC/NCNOC story by Bob Bausch recanting the club in the beginning days. We are very fortunate to have many of our founding members still around, hence the reason for celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> and not waiting for the 50<sup>th</sup>.

Your Norton Notice editorial staff would like to put together a special NCNOC picture collection for the anniversary party, so if you have one or two old pix from a club event or YOU with your Norton back in the day I'd like to get a copy (scan) of it for the special display. If you can include some facts about the pix that would be very cool too.

We are looking at some very fun and interesting things for this year, all are centered on our 40<sup>th</sup> year. Some have to do with rides and fun stuff, others have to do with your knowledge of our history, so a "thinking cap" under your helmet would be warranted.

Keep the articles coming and visit your club web site often. Remember if you buy from or call or visit any of our advertisers mention you saw them in the Norton Notice Newsletter.



The Club at "bring out your dead" event held at Ken Armann's British Motorcycle shop in Campbell Ca.



Above: Liz takes 5 in the heat at the club ride in Napa-Davis



The NCNOC at Lumby Cdn. at the INOA Rally. Great club representation at the event.



Above: NCNOC at the Quail Lodge Motorcycle Gathering in May in Carmel Ca.

Below: The Dardanelles' Motorcycle Camp out near Sonora Pass.



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**NCNOC MEETING MINUTES:**

Harry's Hofbrau, San Jose, CA. November 11, 2010 14 members present along with 3 guests 2 Nortons ridden: Keith Karn, Commando; Ken Armann, Mercury; 2 other lesser makes

President Harry Bunting opened the meeting at 7:35 and told us that the NCNOC would be featured on the Channel 5 show, Eye on the Bay, on Monday 10/15

It was reported that Keith Karn would be out of action as Ride Leader for a while as he is going to have an ankle replacement. Get well soon, Keith.

Lorin Guy gave a rundown on the upcoming IMS Motorcycle show at the San Mateo Fairgrounds. He stated that we would have one of the new Norton 961 Roadster units available for inspection.

Alan Goldwater stated that the date as shown in the Notice for the Christmas Party at his house was wrong. It will be Sunday, 12/5 at 2:00pm. The Club is providing the turkey and ham and other fixin's and that if you want to bring something like salads or desserts or drinks, they would be welcome. Again this year a gift exchange will be held so if you want in, bring a wrapped gift. There will also be a fundraiser auction so if you have any odd bits lying around that you would care to donate, bring them along.

Alan stated that parking at his house can be a problem but that there is a Senior Center about 1 block from his house that can be used for overflow. It is shown as the Alzheimer's Assn on the following map: <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

The location for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party was discussed and a number of places were suggested including Harvey Louck's house on Skyline. The location and date will be further discussed at the Xmas Party. Also, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster and T-shirt logo as designed by Bob Bausch will be discussed.

The Clubman's Show in March was briefly discussed and it was suggested that along with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration that the founding member Bob Bausch's one owner bike be displayed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

The 2010 Northern California All-British Ride cont.

You're wondering about the second "Crazy" award, weren't you? Crazy 2 We had an extra trophy (not a plaque as with the others) atop which is mounted the posterior anatomical features of a horse. It is awarded annually for ungentlemanly conduct on the road, and it has most often been won by Don Clancy. Not this time.

Maybe next year those of you who think you can handle 100 miles of beautiful countryside in the company of a couple hundred kindred souls might consider joining us. You can see bikes like Bill Whalen's immaculate Hurricane, Kim Stuart's neat little Ariel Red Hunter, Rick Walsh's outrageous yellow ("Crazy") Norton, Pete and Kim Young's kids ("Born to Run") in the ancient sidecar outfit, Charlie Taylor's Matchless V-twin, Dick Gale's Tri-King three-wheeler, Bruce Gajjar's custom 500cc ("Born to be Wild") Triumph, and all the rest..

Ed. Note:

The Norton Club was there in force as usual, our club table set out at the start. Greeting our members and taking in membership re-newels as well as signing up new members. The ride was a joy and although some of us got lost, ok a bunch of us got hellla lost. I know that sounds almost impossible as the route really has not changed all that much in the many years of this ride. But never the less it happened. We were just lucky to find our way back and still get lunch. So if I can vote at all I say put the turn marker guys back on the corners. Thanks



The illusive Norton Indian:  
This is a combination of too much time and too many things, it's also the incredible bike owned and once ridden and vows to ride it again, machine of Allen Goldwater. One of only a handful ever built it combines the fantastic Norton feather bed frame with the early 50's Indian twin cylinder engine. It incorporates many custom made parts and a full roll of duct tape.

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## The 2010 Northern California All-British Ride

*It was a dark and stormy night.*

Don Danmeier

Besides being one of the corniest opening lines ever written, in this case it actually represented reality. Fortunately, it was the night that followed the day of our annual frolic through the countryside with all of our British-mounted buddies. Well, almost all - some of you didn't show. Despite the iffy forecasts which changed daily during the preceding week, we still had a hardy, hearty crowd of 150 riders assembled and on the road by 10:00, somewhat less than our usual fair-weather 200 or so.

And the further we went, the better it got. By the time of our first pit stop in sleepy Tomales, it was bright and sunny. It was so pleasant in fact, that the continuation of the ride was pleasantly protracted as everyone pleasantly strolled through the horde of bikes spread throughout the village, or sat in the sun on the porch of the William Tell to pleasantly view the proceedings. Yes, very pleasing, but perhaps the very best part was enjoying the twisty-turny, smooth, new pavement of Highway One. Here's a touring road that ranks right up there with the best on Earth, and if you've never ridden it, take my advice: get it onto your Bucket List. And the sweet sounds of a brisk procession of British singles, twins, triples and fours gearing up and down as they roll along the coast just cannot be topped. What a ride! Barbecued ribs and chicken were served on the lawn back at the Marin French Cheese Factory at the conclusion.

Speaking of sounds, our list of awards this year was based on a musical theme: song titles. In most cases, the relevance of the title and the respective bike/rider "winning" the award will be obvious to the reader (those in attendance "got it" immediately, which prompts me to dredge up another shopworn phrase - "you had to be there"). Take a look:

The Sound of Music award	John Ellis, 1964 Velocette
Satin Doll award	Gene Graser, 1958 Ariel Square Four
Born to be Wild award	Bruce Gajjar, 1972 Triumph
Smoke Gets in Your Eyes award	Ed Meagor, 1964 Greeves
Rust Never Sleeps award	Jeff Scott, 1961/54 Velocette
Tumbling Tumbleweed award	Uwe Goejereis, 1967 BSA Victor
Born to Run award	Pete Young, 1938 Velocette/sidecar
Crazy award	Rick Walsh, 1975 Norton Commando
Great Balls of Fire award	Paul Zell, Egli Vincent
Crazy2 award	Soren Andersen, 2004 Triumph
End of the Line award	Dale Odom, 2002 Triumph

The list of awards issued by our questionably reputable, totally biased judging staff was based on completely subjective criteria, but it cannot adequately convey the diversity of people and machinery that makes this day so special. It doesn't tell you about the old Norton singles, the BSA Victors and Gold Stars, Vincents, Velocettes, Hinckley Triumphs, BSA Rocket Threes. No one fell off, so the "Tumbling Tumbleweed" award went to Uwe for tumbling all the way from Germany

## NCNOC 2011 Calendar of Events :

Jan 13	Meeting Harry's HofBrau - Foster City
Jan 16	Polar Bear Ride - 11:00AM Alices -> Camerons Half Moon Bay
Feb 10	Meeting "Swiss Park Restaurant" - Newark
Feb 13	Valentines Ride 10:30AM - "Florence" in Niles -> Los Gatos: CB Hannegans
March 10	Meeting "Liberties Restaurant" - San Francisco
March 12	"Bring Out Yer Dead" - Ken Armann's shop
March 26	Clubman Show - San Jose Fairgrounds
March 27	Clubman "Morning After Ride" - Velocette OC: (Norton Club Points Ride)
April 14	Meeting "Harry's Hofbrau" - San Jose
April 17	Alans Ride 10:30AM - Alices->Santa Cruz Mtns->Davenport
April 23	Salinas AMA Grand National TT
May 12	Meeting "Swinging Door" - San Mateo
May 14	Quail Lodge Event - Carmel
May 15	Mt Hamilton Ride: <- Should we move this to May 22nd? (Lorin's B-day)
June 9	Meeting "Harry's Hofbrau" - Foster City
June 11	<b>NCNOC 40th Anniversary Party, Skyline Palo Alto 11:00AM</b>
June 12	<b>NCNOC "Morning After Ride", Alices 10:30AM</b>
June 25-27	MotoMelee motomelee@earthlink.com
June 26	Capitola Antique Motorcycle Show: "Bikes on the Bay" 9-4.
June XX	AMCA Dixon Swap Meet
July 3	Meeting and Ride "San Juan Bautista"->Hobeas Los Gatos 10:30AM "Joan&Peters Rest"
July 18-22	<b>INOA Rally joint NOC rally - Cats-kill, New York</b>
July 24	USGP, Laguna Seca
July 30	Sacramento Mile AMA Flat Track National
August 11	Meeting "Swiss Park" - Newark
August 12-14	Dardanelles Campout & Ride -> Sonora Pass <- Should we move this to 5,6,7?
Sept 8	Meeting Liberties - San Francisco
Sept 11	Napa/Delta Ride - Jerry Kaplan, Walden and Bruce to Organize
Oct 1	Calistoga AMA Flat Track National 1/2 mile
Oct 2	Ride from Alices 11:00AM and AGM - Huckleberry Flats
Oct 30	AMCA 49 mile Ride - San Francisco
Nov 5	BSAOCNC - "All British Ride" - Novato (Norton Club Points Ride)
Nov 10t	Meeting Harry's HofBrau - San Jose
Dec 4t	Board Meeting, XMAS Party. Local TBD



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## And In the Beginnings : The Story of the NCNOC upon the eve of its 40th year.

Continued from last month ; number three of three parts.

With the 40th anniversary of the NCNOC coming in 2011. We are so fortunate to have the club story right from the man who started it all, Robert (Bob) Bausch. Here is the third and final installment of the story. Ed.

### The birth of the NCNOC.

I guess our all time best (or seemingly most appropriate) meeting place was the Edinburgh Castle, a British style pub downtown on Geary Street in the city, fish and chips (wrapped in newspaper) from around the corner, and a pint or three of Bass or "Black and Tan" never disappointed. In later years I remember Rick's Swiss Chalet in Palo Alto as a good place. The Class Reunion on the corner of Page Mill Road and El Camino in Palo Alto was another place where we had some fine meetings, and we could meet and park our Nortons out on the grass in the back during the warmer months. Both these places are long gone.

We had at least a couple of SF Branch NOC displays at motorcycle shows in the city, the Cow Palace I guess, and, also at the old Brooks Hall under the Civic Center. We would shine up our prettiest machines and put them out for all to see.

The point at which the Branch really started to grow was around the early 1980's, when we changed our name to the Northern California Branch, and when Steve Coburn joined and took an active role in increasing our membership.

We had begun to have members further from San Francisco, and the name change reflected that. If I remember right Steve Coburn also started the "Norton Notice" newsletter, and that became a great drawing card in gaining new members. In a short time membership soared to over 200.

### Birth of the NCNOC cont.

The Northern California Branch of the NOC is now called the NCNOC, though I understand that we are actually still considered a branch of the parent club in England, and that some members of the NCNOC are also still members of the original NOC in England. The Roadholder magazine from the NOC has now become a monthly, color throughout, and is really excellent.

I have belonged to several other motoring clubs, but my first love is the Norton and the Norton Owners Club and the great folks I've known through the years have made the journey a lot of fun. I'm happy I was able to contribute to it in the way I did and start the San Francisco Branch. I'm also happy to know its offspring still survives in the NCNOC. Keep up the good work!

Robert Bausch

Ed: Robert (Bob) Bausch is by trade a graphic designer: <http://www.bauschdesign.com/> and he brings a depth of experience and talent to his work that gives it a timeless quality, see his web site



Before the AGM ride in October, getting the ride map and ride instructions from ride leader Keith Karn.

**It's a fact:** 2011 marks the 113yr since James Lansdowne Norton decided to only market products under his own name thus starting the company that would become Norton Motorcycles.



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