

# Norton Notice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH



THE FLAME BURNED BRIGHTEST JUST BEFORE IT WENT OUT



NO. 69 FEBRUARY 1984

# Norton Notice

The Newsletter of The Northern California Branch

is published monthly by the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH of the NORTON OWNERS CLUB. Its sole purpose is to inform and entertain members regarding all aspects of the Norton motorcycle, including history, technical advice and preservation of the Marqua.

NORTON NOTICE is a reflection of its readership who are encouraged to submit any article, technical tip, photograph (original or otherwise), so long as it is in good taste, so that other Norton enthusiasts can enjoy it. For Branch members who cannot attend meetings and rides, the Notice affords an excellent opportunity to share experiences and information with the membership at large, and to bring the Branch members closer together. Deadline for items to be submitted to this publication is the 21st of each month.



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Mail in Advertisements,  
DO NOT CALL THEM IN

PARAPHERNALIA

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MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTHER CALIFORNIA BRANCH OF THE NORTON OWNERS CLUB IS AVAILABLE IN THREE CATEGORIES.

FULL MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 per year.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 per year.

SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 per year.  
(OVERSEAS ASSOCIATE OR SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE U.S. \$20.00 per year.)

ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE TO THE BRANCH TREASURER. RENEWAL DUES ARE PAYABLE AT THE END OF THE INDIVIDUALS MEMBERSHIP YEAR, THAT MONTH BEING DESIGNATED BY THE LAST NUMBER OF THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER LOCATED ON THE MAILING LABEL OF THE NOTICE. FOR EXAMPLE:

828/2

DENOTES MEMBER NUMBER 828 WITH HIS DUES EXPIRING ON THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY. PLEASE SEND ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY/TREASURER ONLY.

FULL MEMBERSHIP give membership in the NORTON OWNERS CLUB with its benefits and privileges, such as bi-monthly issues of ROADHOLDER magazine sent directly from England, keeping members informed of Norton owners activities all around the world. Use of a low-cost Spares Program which allows one to buy Norton Spares directly from England at significant savings, and full voting privileges at all NOC and Branch meetings.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is established for any Norton owner wishing to be associated with the Northern California Branch and are welcome at all meetings, rides and other functions. Members are urged to become Full Members once they become familiar with the NOC benefits.

SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP is established for Norton enthusiasts who have not as yet bought a Norton motorcycle but would like to be included in club functions. They do not have Branch voting rights.



THE EXHAUST NOTE

If this Notice is a little thin, Wake Up! The club puts out a newsletter which is supposed to represent the input of the members, not the output of a few who run around dredging up stuff to fill out the pages. I don't have time to write a column this month and there isn't alot of other stuff so I don't know where this will end up, but if a future Norton Notice is 2 pages and you have never sent in a contribution to the membership you'll know why. Hopefully everyone will send something in next month and we'll never have a 2 page newsletter again ( the original Norton Notice was 2 pages).

*MM*

TWISTIES how 'bout a heading here, Michael?

So far so good! I know its only been a month, but the calender is shaping up pretty well. Gene Austin continues to threaten more summer overnights and Dave Kerst and Ken Duffy are just about ready to announce their plans for a summer swap meet/show. Dave and Ken would like to hear from anyone interested in selling parts, showing bikes, or helping out with judging at the swap meet. Gene and I are planning some scouting trips to check out possible locations for the summer rally and would welcome any who would like to accompany us.

If you get a chance, check out this month's (January) issue of Classic Mechanic (an offshoot of Classic Bike) for the pictorial on Norton gearbox rebuilds. Combined with the tech tips found in old issues of the Notice, it makes for a very complete treatment of the subject.

Looking a little farther down the road, rumor has it that the CAMA rally probably won't happen this year. If you have attended it in the past, I'm sure you'll agree with me that its one of the highlights of the spring riding season. The issue of sponsoring our own CAMA type rally was brought up at a meeting in November but it was decided not to attempt anything on the scale of CAMA for several reasons: First, we had no wish to compete with Frank Connley and his CAMA event if it did come to pass, second, we didn't have time or experience to pull it off this year. It was decided to have a scaled down, Bay Area swap meet and bike display for european cycles to see if the club could handle it. Dave and Ken are working toward that end now. If things work out well we'll probably make the swap meet a yearly event. This isn't an effort to upstage CAMA. We're merely trying to give people in the Bay area the opportunity to clear out their garages and see a few nice bikes in the process.

Happy Trails

*Just*

STATE OF THE BRANCH REPORT JAN. 84

First I must apologize to Jim Crocket NC 26/9 for omitting him from the branch membership directory. Jim has been a member of long standing in the club and can be contacted, if needed via P O Box 12600 Fresno, Ca.93778 or (209) 237-4414.

At the Christmas party Robert Briscoe very generously donated some Norton stationary to the club i.e. writing pads with Norton and the British flag emblazoned across the top, to aid the treasury. So anyone wishing to have one should send me \$1.50 and i will mail one to you free of charge. In other words, the postage is included in the \$1.50. Anyway grab them while they're hot, before I use them all.

Also at the party Robert was handing out a fat Norton Notice extra containing a trilogy of Norton stories. Charles Kuss of Lackawanna, New York NC271/1  
Donald Kaas of Coopersburg, P.A. NC272/1  
Ken Whitney of Berkeley, Calif. NC273/1  
Hans Winberg of New York City NC272/1

Welcome to the Club

There is an increasing interest from out of state Norton owners towards the Norton Owners Club via our branch. Whilst they can hardly take part in No. Calif. branch activities, it shows there are more and more Nortonphiles wanting to hang on to their Nortons, be associated with other Norton owners through a club and keep their Nortons running with help through such things as the NDC Spares Scheme than I've witnessed before. So if you know or see anyone who owns a Norton, who doesn't know about the NOC, assure him or her that they aren't the only Norton rider left in the country and so to be looked upon as an oddity and tell them about us. Yours,

PHIL

NORTON OWNERS CLUB  
BRITISH/EURO SHOW AND SWAP

There will be no CAMA! this year. I spoke to Frank Conley personally and I now can set a date for our show. It will be held Sunday May 13th or 20th and will be located in Dublin, California at R and J - specialty sales - it will be a show of British and European bikes, but there will not be any judging, or prizes just good looking bikes and a swap meet, all free! There will be food and drink of some kind for sale and I am now working on the flyers. Our club is putting this on, so this means you are putting this on. So start putting those parts in a box and clean up that chrome because May is just around the corner

DANE KERST

## LES EMERY CLEARS THINGS UP

(The following letter from Les Emery of Fair Spares, in England, is in response to some erroneous statements that appeared in the August issue of the Norton Notice concerning Fair Spares, Ed.)

Fellow Norton Owners,

We started Fair Spares in February 1980 and it is wholly owned by Sue and me. The reason Fair Spares was started is as follows. In 1971 I joined the N.O.C. Committee and in 1978 I changed my job on the Committee from Membership Secretary (the whole lot was done by one membership secretary and not four then) to the newly formed Spares Officer in charge of heavyweight twins. The Committee made arrangements to be supplied by various dealers who agreed to supply parts at 10% above trade price. Several dealers let us down and Sue, plus my sister and I, were spending over forty hours a week (without pay) sending parts, and as the dealers were getting 10% just for ordering the parts, we decided to see if setting up a business would be a good idea.

I approached the Committee at the next meeting to see if they would agree to this, and it was decided unanimously, on the condition that they could set any of my prices that they thought were too high. I must say here that if I didn't buy a shop and start up in business I would have had to stop being Spares Officer because I didn't have time to go to work and my bosses were getting a little restless. Before I set up Fair Spares I was a toolmaker for J s p h L c s (sorry I daren't say it or my light will fail) and had been for twelve years.

The relationship between Fair Spares and the N.O.C. can be terminated at any time with three months written notice from either party. Fair Spares now has eight workers, including Sue and me, to supply, invoice, and pack the parts. I should add that before 1978 there wasn't any spares service at all and it was me who suggested it because most letters to me, as Membership Secretary, started with, "I am joining the N.O.C. because I am having difficulty finding certain items for my bike and wonder if you can tell me where to obtain them."

Our parts sources are mainly:

1. Norton Motors
2. Ourselves (more on this later)
3. Edmunds Walker, who own Hepolite and Glacier.
4. Icarus Engineering, who make most of the stainless steel parts.
5. Wassell (last resort), 'cos they make certain parts other people don't supply.
6. M.C.A. (Aston), who make our workshop tools.
7. Sprint Manufacturing, who under contract to supply Norvil glass fibre parts.
8. Joseph Lucas, who also supply Girling parts.
9. BCB Tools, who make "specials".

You will notice that I put ourselves as the number two supplier. This is because we have made, through associate companies, many parts that we supply Norton with such as frames, crankshafts, crankcases (MKIII), and other things such as those. We have many parts made to the spec. where originals are not available and have hundreds of original Norton blueprints to work from. All the Norvil parts are made to the original drawings and only ever differ if they have been up-rated in any way - such as using LM25TF for fork legs instead of the original LM12, purely in the interests of safety. And yes, we do own ALL the manufacturing rights for the Norvil marque!

Fair Spares is a profit-making organization (sometimes), which should make you realize that shops can be profitable without charging exorbitant prices. We realize that from time to time there are delays in delivery and the occasional faulty part, but considering the volume of parts that we supply the percentage is very small. I hope it stays this way! Some delays of older parts are inevitable because of production "lead time" and there are still places over here that take twelve to eighteen months to deliver special parts.

Bikes that I sponsor are:

1. MKIII Proddy Racer, ridden by Pete Lovell (my bike).
2. 92D Mettisse, ridden by Mike Shoesmith (my bike).
3. 92D Featherbed Racer, ridden by Gary Edington (my bike).
4. 750 Norton/Bandit, ridden by Alan Morris (my bike).
5. 750 Seeley/Norton, ridden by Martin Whiteley (his bike).
6. 750 Seeley/Norton, ridden by Andy Knowles (his bike).
7. 750 Commando Formula 1, ridden by Rob Stapleford (his bike).
8. 850 Commando Racer, ridden by Rob Turner (his bike).
9. 750 sidecar outfit ridden by Dave Stone and Paul Riley (their bike).

All the engines of the bikes that I don't own are mine, and most of the Quaife boxes are too!

I hope you understand all this.

Les Emery  
100 Lichfield Road  
Brownhills, West Midlands  
England

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**UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS**

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2/9/84	7:30	Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St. San Francisco	February Meeting
2/19/84	10:00	Howard Johnson's North 1st St. & Highway 101 San Jose	Mt. Hamilton Ride
3/4/84	-----	Cow Palace	MMA Swap Meet
3/8/84	7:30	Rick's Swiss Chalet 4085 El Camino Way Palo Alto	March Meeting
3/18/84	10:00	Sausalito Ferry	Marin County Ride

NOTICE: In the event of rain on the day of a club ride, the ride is automatically postponed one week. Also, riders should have plenty of gasoline by the scheduled departure time and all "personal problems" should be taken care of.

**\*Paraphernalia\***

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT....

The club is organizing another group T-Shirt purchase. If you are interested in owning something that is sure to become a collector's item, don't miss out, here's your chance. Tom Borman is organizing the purchase and will take orders until 2/29/84. After that date all orders will be returned to the member. To order, be sure to include the following information: Shirt description(s), quantity of each type, color of each, size of each. (NOTE: Any ambiguous orders will be investigated only if Tom has time, so be very clear about what you want.) Include a check made out to "NORTON OWNER'S CLUB" sufficient to cover the cost of your order.

All order will be on a "pick-up at a meeting" basis unless you arrange otherwise with Tom. [for example, if you live in outer Mongolia or somewhere] If you intend to arrange having your order mailed, don't forget to include reasonable postage costs.

Also, there is the possibility that we can offer baseball-style caps with the branch logo on the front. Because this would require having a new silkscreen made, we need to test the water before plunging in. If you would be interested in buying a cap like that, let Tom know when you place your order. Send no money for a cap at this time as that purchase will take place AFTER AND SEPARATE FROM the T-Shirt purchase. The caps should cost about \$5.00 - \$7.00 and be available in various common colors. We'll let you know if and when it's time to order caps.

Send your order (or cap "yes" vote) to:  
Tom Borman  
2600 Belmont Canyon Road  
Belmont, CA 94002

Please do not call in your order. Phone calls for the purpose of placing an order will be RUDELY REFUSED. (Tom has roommates who have to listen to the phone ring)  
If you are confused by all this and need some additional information, call Tom between 6:00 and 8:00 pm weekdays or after 11:00 am and before 8:00 pm weekends. NOTE: use the following phone number as the one in the membership list is no longer accurate: (415) 595-1954.

# WANT ADS

## FOR SALE:

'75 Norton Commando MK.III Elec. start. Black w. gold trim. Interstate tank and seat. 15,000 mi. Has: Electronic ignition, Lockhart cooler with thermostat, Mikuni carb., halogen light, Fiamm horns, new battery. This bike has been faithfully maintained and kept indoors. Oil was changed every 1,200 miles. Also included are: a windshield, special Norton tools, factory shop manual, parts catalog, tool catalog, 2 other manuals, luggage rack, leather saddlebags, and all original parts. (Amal carbs, air filter box, points, etc.) All above for \$2000.00. Call (415) 824-1797 San Francisco

Anyone planning to go to the U.S.N.O.A. rally in Mo. and wants to go in a group, contact David Kerst  
3781 Hickory Avenue  
Tracy, CA 95376

## WANTED:

Interstate tank - steel? No leaks or dents will pay up to \$50.00  
Call David Kerst  
"page me" after 5:00 pm  
(415) 443-6300

## FOR SALE:

1950 ES2; 95% complete. I am, shamefully, abandoning my first motorcycle, for the first good offer. 1979 Triumph Bonneville special - Excellent; 8,000 miles, best offer  
Call Lance Mason  
Days (805) 962-2970  
Evenings and weekends (805) 682-5387

## FOR SALE:

Early Roadster and "S" model fiberglass side-panels in perfect condition \$25.00 for the pair.  
Avon 3.00 X 19 Speedmaster Mk II tire new \$35.00  
Reverse cone mufflers, no weld type from Armour's, look and sound great \$85.00 for the pair.

Call Art Sirots  
(415) 327-3167

## FOR SALE

1) '70 Commando with '74 850 engine. Engine has ported and polished head, balanced bottom end, plus 0.20" pistons, Boyer ignition, and about 5000 miles on it. Bike has 23,000 miles on it with Roadster exhaust (new Norton reverse cone muffler). Interstate tank and seat, disc front brake, small rack, oil pressure and temperature gauges, etc. \$1500  
2) Solo humpback Commando seat (made in Italy) in excellent shape \$50.  
3) Early 750 Commando frame with engine cradle, swing arm, shocks, but no pink slip. \$125  
4) Early Fastback forks with triple clamps and chrome headlamp ears \$75 or offer  
5) Fastback tank, seat, and tail section. Needs paint \$125  
Bob Getts (415) 365-0243 after 5 P.M.

FOR TRADE OR SALE: Wixom type handlebar fairing, like new with all brackets for Norton mounting, \$35. New Atlas type mufflers, never used, \$70. Steel roadster tank and side covers, need paint, \$65. Fiberglass roadster tank, sidecovers, seat and handlebar fairing, black with red stripes and letters, \$135. 850 type tail light fairing, complete including lens, \$15. T15 front wheels, complete less tire, \$25. 4.25 x 18 K291T Dunlop Elite Tire new, never mounted, \$50. Alternator rotor, single phase, \$35. Used spark plugs, genuine champion, factory original and very rare, \$3 ea. Mikuni dual 32mm carb setup, complete with manifolds, K and N filters, and cable actuated choke kit, jetted as you like, \$135. Many Mikuni main, needle and pilot jets \$35 the lot. Disk brake caliper, master cylinder, fork slider, drilled disk, no wheel, \$135. Interstate tank, sidecovers, seat, needs paint, \$145. Commando frames, 850 and 750, with swing arm and subframe, \$135 ea. WANTED:  
Fastback tank and seat, condition not important. Disk brake front wheel, engine and tranny parts in good condition.

SCOT MALBORG  
455-8776

## WANTED:

Norton Featherbed Frame, wideline type, or will purchase parts bike to get a frame. Call Phil Radford  
mornings or weekends  
(408) 293-4548

## FOR SALE:

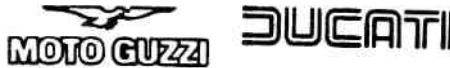
1971 Triumph Trident, excellent condition, \$1100.00 or will trade for Norton Commando in good running condition.  
Call John Pinto  
after 5:00 pm  
(408) 779-4919

## FOR SALE

1956 Norton ES2 500  
Full restoration from the frame up.  
110 miles on the odometer  
Asking \$3400  
Mark Wentz  
900 Las Lomas Dr.  
Milpitas, Calif. 95035

# Hall-Burdette

MOTORCYCLES



We have been selling and servicing Nortons since 1948 and have a good supply of parts and accessories, both new and used. Our mechanic, Bob Bennett, has been repairing Nortons for over 20 years and is a recognized expert. Thor Berke, our parts manager, has a thorough familiarity with all Norton parts and accessories.

2010 DEL PASO BLVD.  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95815  
PHONE (916) 925-1797



I would like to thank the dealers who have advertising on this page for their support of our club. To the members I would like to say, drop in and check them out; and, if you buy, mention that you saw their ad. Your patronage is appreciated!

Also, there is more space available for anyone out there who might like to advertise. The rates are \$35 for 6 months and \$60 for 1 year. Who could ask for a better deal.

Call or write: Dave Kerst, 371 Hickory Ave., Tracy CA. 95376 (209) 835-7468 until 2PM or (415) 443-6300 between 4PM and 10PM.



Norton Owners - T.T. specializes in European motorcycles and offers complete parts, service, and machine shop for all the wonderful bikes we sell.

Stop by and visit and check us out!

- \* Complete line of British tools
- \* Manuals and spares for your Norton
- \* Speed Equipment:

Megacycle and webcam camshafts  
Single Mikuni kits  
Exhaust port repair \$45 each  
Valve jobs and port work  
Cylinder boring and surfacing

\* 10% discount on all parts (except Lucas) to N.O.C. members

2800 Adeline Street  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tues. - Sat. 845-8235



Munroe has three mechanics that are familiar with Nortons and have been for a number of years. We can replace exhaust ports with the head on the bike and don't know of anyone else who can. The job looks like original factory! Call for a quote on shop prices. We also have a good Norton parts supply.



412 VALENCIA ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO 94103  
PHONE 626-3496

## Norton Notice

### FOR SALE

- 1) Set of new chrome clip-on bars for 35mm fork tubes (same as your roadholders)\$30
- 2) Set of four new Commando pushrods \$30
- 3) One used Commando connecting rod \$30
- 4) Used early ('57-'62 or thereabout) AMC inner gearbox cover. This inner cover takes the early type kickstart spring and shaft, is in perfect condition and has been bead blasted clean. \$10
- 5) Used complete Commando 750 head with good exhaust port threads. Will disassemble for inspection. \$75
- 6) New Commando timing inspection plugs \$2 ea.
- 7) 750 Commando crankshaft with standard size rod journals that do not need to be ground. Cleaned and torqued, ready to install \$100
- 8) Used Dunstall 2-1-2 exhaust pipes with clamps (no mufflers),chrome is poor \$20
- 9) New 20 tooth countershaft sprocket for Commando \$20
- 10)Used Commando SS exhaust pipes, in good condition, \$35 the pair. These are not S pipes. Gene Austin (415) 573-9559



**WE HAVE IT NOW!**

Call or write:

**Norton**

**Britalia Motors**

**USA**

**DUCATI**

385 Tully Rd.

**H** Husqvarna

**scorcher**

San Jose, CA 95111

**TRIUMPH**

**MOTO GUZZI**

"Comprehensive stock of parts shipped UPS daily"

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**HUGE CATALOG - \$6.00 POSTPAID**

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