



The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

350 Avenida Arboles, San Jose' Ca. 95123



The Newsletter of the Northern California Norton Owner's Club

No. 376

April/ May 2012



The Season to Ride is here!

The NCNOC is hitting the roads running strong!



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Club 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 and join our Yahoo group for information and club activities at

NorCalNOC@yahoogroups.com
All rights reserved © NCNOC 2005-2012 no part can be reproduced without permission.

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)

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **E-Mail** _____

This is a new _____ renewal _____ application.

Norton(s) owned: Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

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 Ron Bastiaans 708 Liberty Street El Cerrito Ca. 94530 You can also join on line at 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

NORTON NOTICE

Published by the Northern California Norton Owner's 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 24th of the month preceding the issue. The Norton Notice prefers contributions submitted electronically. Send Lor-inguy@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP

The Northern California Norton Owners Club is open to all British motorcycle enthusiasts. Membership and renewals can be paid for 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 Owner's Association (INOA) <http://inoanorton.com/>

Honorary Members ,Brian Slark, Dick Slusher, Jodi Nickolas

The Norton that hates to be sold,

By BMWBOB

My Norton was originally purchased by a friend, Bill Palmtag in the early 80s from the original owner with 1500 miles. I had just purchased a Norton for more money that wasn't nearly in as nice condition and I was jealous! Several friends and I all rode Norton's together through the Santa Cruz Mountains, but Bill's was the cleanest!



Bill sold the Norton a couple years later and purchased a new Yamaha FJ1100 and soon after crashed receiving severe brain injuries and later died.

Dan West had purchased the Norton from Bill. Dan lost his job and sold the Norton to Brian Dirksen, and be-

came depressed and committed suicide!

Brian Dirksen sold the Norton to Dave Peterson and bought a GSXR 1100 and crashed it on Highway 25 and died. I purchased the Norton from Dave Peterson in 2001. Dave was diagnosed with incurable cancer and passed away last month.

So whenever the wife suggests I sell the Norton, I remind her of the bike's history! This is a true story and I have all the past registrations to prove it!

Riding Tip:

With the warm weather coming up make sure both you and your bike stay hydrated. When your bike is warm, check that your oil level is good, and add more if needed, it will help keep your motor cooler.

Also remember that leathers, dry wind, and hot weather can steal water from your body quicker than you might expect. Be sure to drink enough water, and perhaps carry a bottle of it with you while riding. If you do get sunburned a little white vinegar will take the sting out and keep you from peeling.

RIDE AND EVENT DIARY: note: dates in bold are our club events those not in bold are other events.

May 4-5 Friday Saturday: The Quail Lodge Motorcycle Gathering , The Quail Lodge Golf Resort, Carmel Ca. (Show is Saturday the 5th). Details on the Quail website, club booth

May 10 Thursday: Club meeting The Swiss Park in Fremont Ca. see website for details starts 8pm.

May 20 Sunday: Mt Hamilton Ride, Tom Dabel ride leader and the start is from his house in San Jose , see website for details.

June 7 Thursday: Club Meeting Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose 390 Saratoga Ave. 8pm start

June 10 Sunday: Bikes On the Bay, Capitola Ca. Swap meet and bikes show.

June 9-10 Saturday:/Sunday Possible Tom Dable Overnighter TBA See Website

June 24 Sunday: Adopt-a Highway Clean up, meet at 10:30am Corners at Highway 35 and 84 Alice's..

July 12 Thursday: Club meeting The Swiss Park in Fremont Ca. see website for details starts 8pm.

July 15 Sunday: Alternative Ride . Leader TBA, see website for full details. Starts at Alice's 10am

July 16-20 INOA "end of the World rally" see INOA site for details.

August 9-12 NCNOC Dardanelles Motorcycle Camp out ,20th year Celebration... more details coming

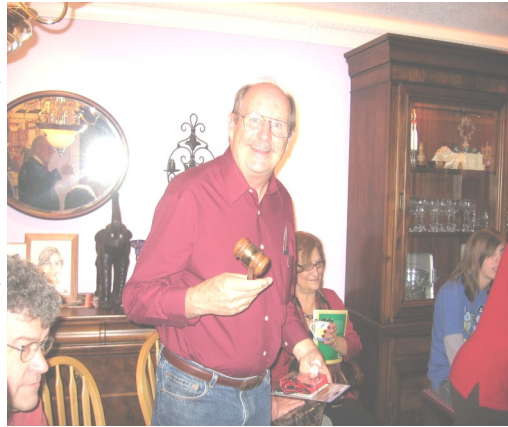
August 26 Sunday: Adopt-a-Highway Clean up, Alice's 10:30am

For event details see your club website at Nortonclub.com

President Message :

The Clubman show was a great success for the NCNOC, weather not so much. It's always great to see the Brit-bike folks come out specially the ones we don't see all of the time, just wish I remembered more of their names.

Our club booth looks even better than normal with new artwork in place thanks to Lorin & Kathryn Guy. The new club shirts were in and sold briskly drawing in both members and non-members alike, while club members helped some non-members to become members. I'd like to give a special thanks to all those who worked the booth letting everyone know what a great club the NCNOC really is!



The show over all, while a bit slow in the morning perhaps due to the rain, picked up nicely as the day went on and was well attended. The swap meet was pretty much the normal stuff again, with a lot of bikes seeming to sell from both booths and the swap corral. The only disappointing aspect of the day was seeing BSAOC show guards turning people back from leaving by the side doors closer to the parking even when using dual canes! How about a Handicapped entrance guys? Rules are rules I guess, but it seems to me they should be tempered with a little common sense and courtesy.

Plans are in full swing for the upcoming event at the Quail Lodge on May 4th & 5th. We will have our club booth setup with six chairs so members working or stopping by to visit can rest their feet. The bikes we will have on display should be sure to draw some attention, with my Mercury, Frank Recorders red Fast-back and Alan Goldwater's single. Hope we see many club members coming out for the Quail, it's a fantastic show and a great oppor-

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INOA and the NOC Happenings:

In all the years our club has been established we've been associated with other organizations. In our founding year and it continues still, we are associated with the NOC of England (Norton Owner's Club) or as its called the "Mother Club". After years of establishing ourselves as the Norton representatives in the USA we joined with the INOA (International Norton Owner's Association). We seem to be more closely allied with the INOA and I'm sure it's only because they are located within the USA. I do highly encourage all members to join both organizations, it's not really all that expensive and the benefits to you and your club are great.

As a regular feature I want to bring a little the news about these two organizations into the Norton Notice. So starting with this issue this little spot is for NOC and INOA news.

So coming up in the INOA: 28th Annual New Ulm British & European Motorcycle Rally May 18-20, 2012 New Ulm Firemans Park, New Ulm, TX. Then the New York Norton Owner's Brit Bike Gathering June 22-24, 2012 Sampson State Park, Rt 96A South of Geneva NY.. And then the big one: 2012 End Of the World Rally July 17 to 20, 2012 Smoke Rise Family Campground 2145 Grove Street US Route 7, Brandon, VT

Coming up for the NOC: Foxholes Castle Campsite Rally, Montgomery Road, Bishops Castle, SY9 5HA May 5-7 2012 then a Track Day Runs & Shows Cadwell Park, Lincolnshire May 07, 2012 . The Austria-Sulzbach Branch of the NOC is organizing a rally in memory of Wolf Pfeiffer Grub 11, AT-3351 Weistrach, Austria May 11, 2012 09:00 - May 13, 2012 and the Essex Branch will host the NOC National Rally which for 2012 incorporates the Summer Party and Norton Day Brook Farm Dairy, Thorpe Road, Weeley, CO16 9JL Jun 04, 2012 10:00 Am-

The INOA holds a North American Norton Rally each year in July, alternating East Coast to West Coast. The NOC has an International Rally each summer also watch for more information on that event, generally in England but can be in other countries also.

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Remembering a old friend and riding his bike: By BMWBOB

After getting out of the ARMY in the early 70's I met Dave Peterson while working at Carrow's Restaurant at the corner of Camden and HWY 17 where he hung out on occasion and we became friends. Dave and I got an apartment together creating the classic bachelor pad. Dave talked me into going back to school taking advantage of the GI bill and later I received my degree. I met my first wife and moved in with her leaving Dave with the bachelor pad . Dave promptly had a party that got him kicked out of the apartment.

After I got married and Dave and I kind of drifted apart till I divorced and the Norton motorcycles brought us back together. We spent many wonderful hours terrorizing the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Once Dave and I were riding our Norton Commandos through the Santa Cruz Mountains with our fishing rods tied to the back of our bikes and it's beginning to mist, but we ride on because we're going fishing for steelhead trout!

We're fishing a tranquil mountain stream catching small steelhead thinking we hit the mother lode and up walks a ranger who informs us we're catching freshly stock baby steelhead out of season! He takes our fish and gives us a ticket, but lets us keep our rods.

Not to be deterred we rode on getting soaked from the steady drizzle. We stop downstream and Dave spots a huge steelhead in a small pool and promptly jumps in after it! I'm rolling on the ground laughing and watching Dave up to his waist chasing that damn steelhead. We were both soaked and having a great time. That's how remember Dave Peterson!

Dave and I have always kept in touch, sometimes more than others. If I was having a hard time I would go visit Dave and Cheryl (his wife) or if Dave needed a boy's day out we would go for a motorcycle ride together.

Dave planned life out like no one I know. His plan was to retire at 55 and enjoy life. But even the best plans don't always work out and cancer took his life.

I was an honorary paw bearer and dressed in kakis, black jacket with my Norton t-shirt!

Dave will be missed and I still have his Norton!



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Meeting Minutes April 12, 2012

Harry's Haufbrau Foster City 14 members and guests present. No bikes ridden because of rain. President Ken Armann opened the meeting at precisely 8:00pm. Ken spoke about the upcoming Quail Lodge Show on May 5. He stated that he was looking for a representative selection of Nortons to put in the stand, a maximum of three bikes

Isabelle Gloege, the Club Quartermaster stated that we took in \$1,004.00 in shirt sales and other items at the Clubman's Show. There was some discussion of what to charge for shipments. It was suggested that we look at the USPS standard box charge. There is a flat charge of something like \$6.50 for anything that you can stuff into the box.

It was mentioned by one of the members, that past member Paul McGreggor had heart surgery at Stanford but that he is out now.

Terry and Donna Morrison made a presentation of a new meeting place in San Francisco. It is the Pig and Whistle at 2801 Geary Blvd. close by Masonic Blvd. A decision as to when to give it a try will be made later.

Tom Dabel mentioned that the Rickenbacker Bar in San Francisco is closing. They had a nice collection of vintage motorcycles displayed. If you want to see them you better drop by.

Ken mentioned that he has a 1974 Dunstall 850 for sale. Check it out if interested. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm

Respectfully submitted , Mike Sullivan, Secretary



Club Member Bob Rowland's Sweeet Commando

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Editor's Notes;

Letters are coming in and it's so good to hear from former members as well as longtime member. Here's a note we just got from Robert Marshall, Robert was our clubs first newsletter editor, in fact he started the Norton Notice in 1978 and served in several club board positions.

"It's great to see that the newsletter I started lo those many decades ago is still alive and well. I had just been elected president of the branch (by default, I might add) and wanted a way to increase membership.

The idea of a newsletter had floated around for a while and I wanted a catchy title. Norton News was already taken, but I took a cue from Vette Vues and tried to create a name equally catchy.

I also edited the Notice another time a few years later. I generated a banner using the distinguished Norton script and modified Norton to add Notice with the light wisp of the GG Bridge in the background.

That was the year of "center folds". I scoured the country looking for unique machines to photograph with my trusty 35mm. I developed the film printed the main layout and detailed the lower portion with thumbnail shots of detail images. 'Good thing there were only 12 of them--I was almost out of bikes to photograph.

Hats off to both you and Kathryn for keeping the Notice alive. Believe me, I KNOW how much work it can be to put together a newsletter, even every other month."

Shiny side up,
Bob

Ed. You can see from his comments that , although so much has changed, other things have not . Cover photos from Terry and Donna Morrison, others by Diana Pettijohn, Bob Rowland.

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11th ANNUAL BSAOC 2012 NorthWoods Ride June 8-10

This year's ride includes the mountain roads around Oroville and Quincy, the ever popular untamed Salmon River, and the lovely Klamath River Highway along with the usual festive Dinner & Cheer.

SPECIAL: Thursday Evening Open House at the Bently Conway Motorcycle Museum, featuring a freshly restored A-70 twin and Rocket Gold Star. It's at 1757 Leta Lane, Thermalito, CA (530) 533-8144

We'll start at 9 AM Friday from Motel 6 at the Montgomery exit from Hwy 70 in Oroville. Reservations (530) 532-9400. Route maps provided there. Next door is a newer Comfort Inn. (530) 533-9673

Friday Night is at Motel 6, Redding Central (530) 221-1800
The plush Red Lion is next door at (877) 733-6006

Saturday Night is at Motel 6 Yreka (530) 842-4111

Event is sponsored by the BSA Clubs of NorCal and SoCal
Anyone interested in old British Bikes is invited. There is no charge, and route maps are provided.

INFO: Frank Forster
(831) 688-2120
frank.forster@sbcglobal.net

Burt Barrett
(661) 832-6109
blueox1@bak.rr.com

The hard working crew at the "Bring out your dead day".

Ken and Cindy Armann were host for this fantastically fun event.

Not only do you get help to work on your bike, but a great lunch too.



Bring Out Your Dead 2012

By SportsterDiana

It was hard to tell it was March with the sunshine leaving everyone hiding under the easy-ups or inside until the food arrived, though there was a slight chill on the breeze. The turnout was large, with roughly 25 NCNOC members and friends showing up. Last minute donuts were provided by Carolyn, thank you!

It turned out to be Amal carb day. Even the Italian bike that showed up (how crass!) had them! The approachable Mr. A went over the items to check, the hind jets, and how to measure the wear caused by the needle bouncing back and forth... along with why this problem is more common on the dual-carb bikes. Some other small issues on bikes were address as well.

Lunch was provided by Mrs. A, and was lasagna with all the trimmings, even a veggie one for those that wanted it. It turned the day into a great social event which would explain why so many people showed up without needing work done. Many thanks to those that donated to the food fund, as it pretty much covered it. See you all next year!

A fine feast was provided by Cindy Armann for the guys and gals hard at work. Bring out your Dead Day



NCNOC 2012 Calendar of Events :

- January 12 Thursday – Meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in Foster City
- January 15 Sunday - Polar Bear Ride, Hobbies' Los Gatos Ca. - Harry is ride leader
- January 29 Sunday - Adopt-a-Highway clean-up at Alice's

- February 9 Thursday - Meeting at Swiss Park in Fremont
- February 12 Sunday - Sweet Heart Ride~ Memorial Ride – Niles CA. /Tom Dabel ride leader
- March 8 Thursday - Meeting at TBA see web site
- March 10 Saturday - Bring Out Your Dead / Diana Pettijohn event leader
- March 31 Saturday - Clubman Show, San Jose.

- April 1 Sunday - Morning After Ride (club points) Start Los Gatos
- April 12 Thursday - Meeting at / on peninsula TBA see website
- April 15 Sunday - Adopt-a-Highway clean-up and "Goldwater ride,"

- May 4 & 5 Weekend - Quail Motorcycle Gathering and Ride
- May 10 Thursday - Meeting at Swiss Park, Fremont
- May 20 Sunday - Mount Hamilton Ride, Tom Dabel leader

- June 7 Thursday - Meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose
- June 10 Sunday - Bikes on the Bay in Capitola
- **** TBA Over-nighter Ride TBA – Tom Dabel is leader, details to follow

- July 12 Thursday - Meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in Foster City
- July 15 Sunday - Alice's Restaurant Ride TBA
- July 17- 20 – INOA End of World Rally in Vermont

- August 9 – 12 - Dardanelles Camp-out (20th Anniversary) and Ride (no meeting)
- August 26 Sunday- Adopt-a-Highway clean-up

- September 13 Thurs Meeting at Swiss Park, Fremont
- September 16 Sunday - Delta Ride, Dave Crader leader

- October 7 Sunday - AGM and Ride (location TBA)
- October 28 Sunday - 49 Mile Ride w/ the antique motor cycle club
- October 21 Sunday - Adopt-s-Highway clean-up

- November 3 Saturday - All British Ride in Novato
- November 8 Thursday - Meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose
- November 25 Sunday - Turkey Ride from Alice's to Gazos Creek
- December 2 Sunday - NCNOC Holiday Party and Board Meeting
- December 30 Sunday - Adopt-a-Highway clean-up and Freeze Ride

NOTE: Check Website for updated information on all events:



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Alan's Wrench by Alan Goldwater

The Norton Commando is a remarkably successful motorcycle, but it has a few design weaknesses. Perhaps the best known of these is the pre-MKIII swing arm bearing assembly. The bronze bushes require more lubrication than they usually get, and the hardened steel spindle is insufficiently supported in the gearbox cradle. The result is excess side play in the swing arm, which in turn degrades the handling of the machine. The usual fix (as detailed in the INOA Tech Notes) requires disassembly of the bearing and welding of some nuts onto the cradle. This is a good permanent fix, but exceeds the workshop capability of most owners.

INOA member Heinz Kegler developed a repair kit for this problem that is field installable without removing the swing arm or the rear fender.

It consists of a pair of split collars that clamp around the swing arm pivot tube of the cradle. A lock bolt is threaded through each collar to clamp the spindle in place.



Unfortunately Heinz passed away in 2010, but you can duplicate his kit yourself from readily available parts. Start with two split shaft collars 1-1/8" ID, \$8.73 each chrome plated:
<http://www.mcmaster.com/#3370K28>

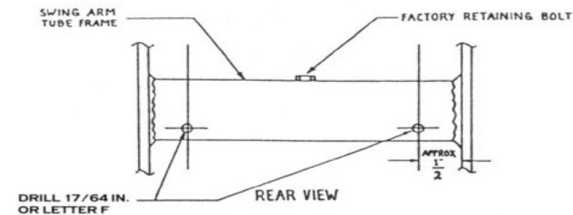
or in stainless for 15.44 each

<http://www.mcmaster.com/#6436K39>

Drill and tap a couple of 14-28 holes for the spindle locking bolts. Now you should have two parts like this:

Here's the procedure I followed to install the kit:

- 1) put the bike on the center stand. Block the front wheel so that the bike cannot roll forward. This is important for your safety! Remove the rear wheel and oil filter assembly if fitted.
- 2) Mark and center punch for two holes in the spindle support tube. Drill to 17/64 in. as shown in the diagram below. Try to keep the drill perpendicular to the tube while drilling, so the hole doesn't wander. The tip of the drill will blunt itself on the hardened spindle, so you won't be able to drill completely through the tube.



- 3) 'Skin sharpen' the drill by grinding it flat across the tip, or buy a skin sharpened drill at a tool supply house. Using this drill, bottom out the holes against the spindle.

There will still be a small burr at the bottom of each hole, but this is OK.

- 4) Loosen the locking bolt in each collar, but leave the end projecting through its threaded hole. Using some locktite on the clamp screws, install each collar. Make sure that each spindle locking bolt is correctly located in the hole you drilled.



- 5) Tighten the spindle locking bolts (about 10 ft-lbs. torque). Finally, tighten the lock nuts on the bolts. Wiggle the swing arm to make sure everything is tight. If you still have too much side movement, the bushes are worn and must be replaced.

- 6) Replace the oil filter assembly (if fitted) and the rear wheel.

Total time for the installation was under three hours. There isn't much that can go wrong, and the quality of the parts is high, so the fix should last as long as the bike.