



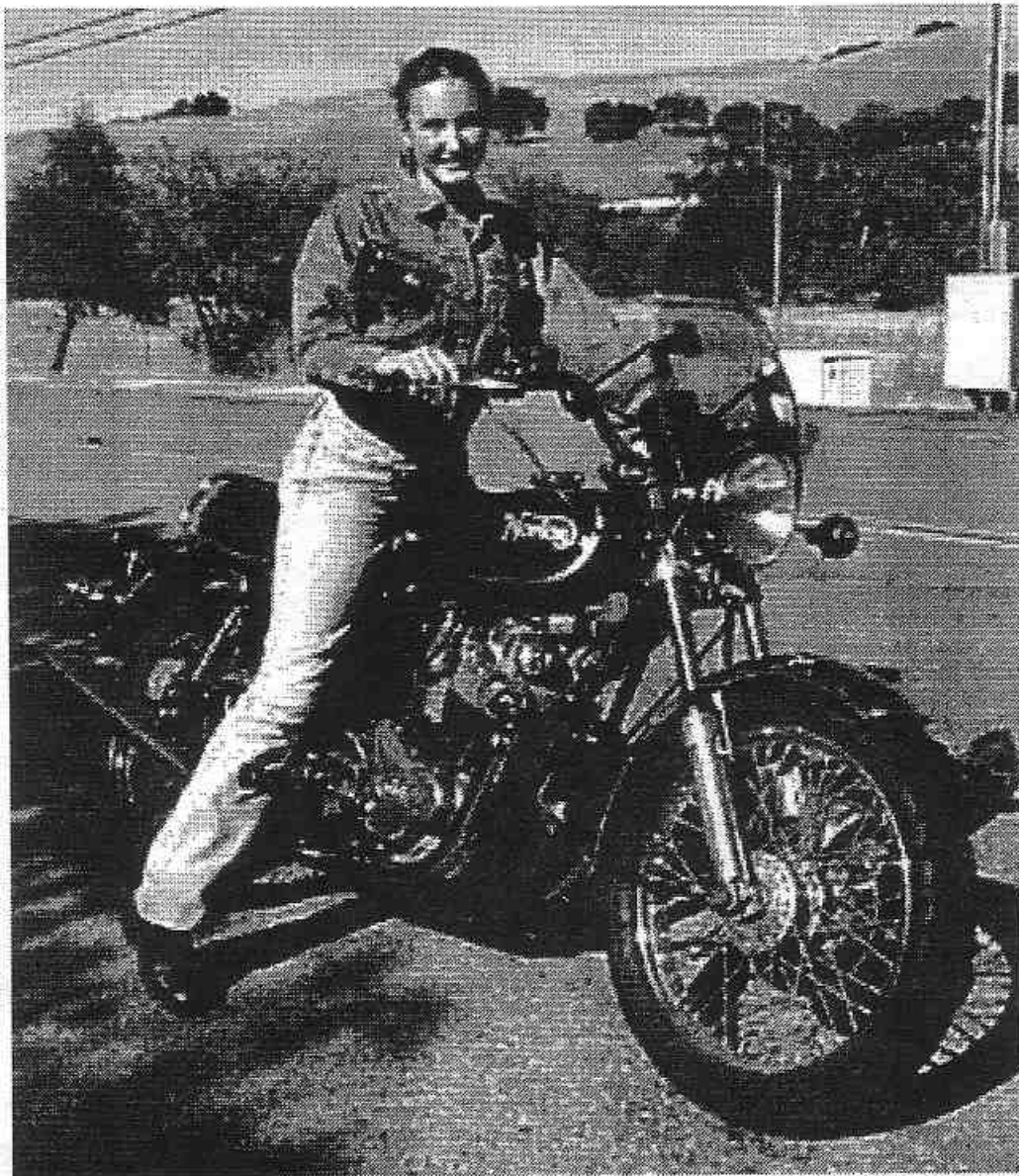
# Norton Notice

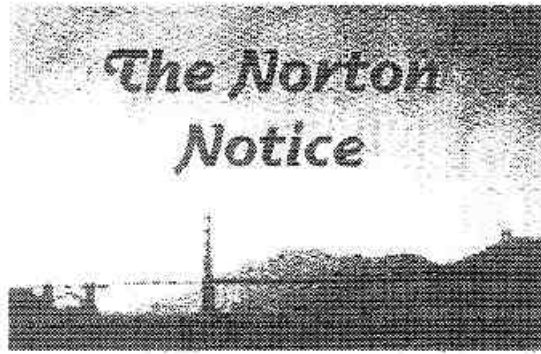


The Newsletter of the  
Northern California Norton Owners Club

No. 265

October 2000





is published by the Northern California Norton Owners Club. Its purpose is to inform and entertain members regarding all aspects of the Norton motorcycle, including history, technical advice, and preservation of the marque.

The **NORTON NOTICE** is a reflection of the readership, who are encouraged to submit any article, technical tip, photograph (original or otherwise) as long as it is in good taste, so that other Norton enthusiasts may enjoy it. (Good taste is somewhat optional, but hey-this is a group of bikers we're talking about here....that's why we have an editor.)

The deadline for items to be submitted for publication is the 18th of each month.. The **NORTON NOTICE** welcomes contributions submitted electronically. Please submit articles and photos in a format compatible with IBM PC. You may also send articles directly to the editor via E-mail. Send using INTERNET to [dpcrader@thegrid.net](mailto:dpcrader@thegrid.net).

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.

Advertising rates are \$60.00/year for a 1/4 page ad!!

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.

All changes of address or questions about membership or the Notice, call the President.....not the Notice 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.

## CLUB OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Mike Sullivan**  
20 Bayview Ct  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
(650)872-3336, [Mikemill20@aol.com](mailto:Mikemill20@aol.com)

### VICE-PRES/TECHNICAL EDITOR

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

### NORTON NOTICE EDITOR

**David Crader**  
83 Palm Dr., Brentwood, CA 94513  
(925)513-3148, [dpcrader@thegrid.net](mailto:dpcrader@thegrid.net)

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Alan Mueller**  
128 Windsor Ct.  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
(650)591-5444/ fax (650)593-4850  
[Norton2@aol.com](mailto:Norton2@aol.com)

### RIDES COORDINATOR:

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

WEBMASTER: **Alan Goldwater**  
<http://members.aol.com/NortonClub>  
(831)475-7505,  
[magicssound@aol.com](mailto:magicssound@aol.com)

PUBLIC RELATIONS: John Covell,  
PO Box 472024, San Francisco CA  
94147; (415) 378-1183;  
[senator@well.com](mailto:senator@well.com)

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Brian Slark  
Jodi Nicholas  
Bill Knight  
Dick Slusher

## NORTON NOTICE

**IMPORTANT (Please note the following fine print)** The object of the Northern California Norton Owners Club is to promote, encourage and develop motorcycle activities. The Club's members are owners of Norton motorcycles and they often submit for publication in the NORTON NOTICE technical tips pertaining to motorcycles of the Norton marque. Technical tips so published have been reviewed for technical content and are believed to be both acceptable and workable, but no guarantee is made or implied that they will work correctly, nor is any liability assumed by either the Norton Owners Club or the members for any problems resulting from the use of these tips. The Club also assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of its members in connection with Club activities. NORTON NOTICE articles or other materials express the author's view only and not necessarily the official policy of the Norton Owners Club or its Northern California branch. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or alter all editorial and advertising material submitted for publication. Advertising published does not imply endorsement of products, goods or services. Now you know.

# Upcoming Events

## Club Rides Schedule

Official NOC events are shown underlined and in **bold print**. You earn NORTON points only by participating in these events, as follows:

Riding a Norton: 6 points

Riding other bike: 4 points

Riding on 4 wheels: 2 points

Weekend events are tallied per day. At the end of each year the member with the highest point total is awarded the Norton Cup and gets a free year membership.

Call Ride's Coordinator Gar Jorgenson (925)634-9395 for details

DATE	TIME	EVENT	MEET AT
<b><u>Oct. 1</u></b>	10AM	Old Timer's Ride (Annual General Mtg)	Alice's
<b><u>Oct. 15</u></b>	9AM	Delta Ride	Geno's Country Store, Livermore
<b><u>Nov. 4</u></b>	9:30AM	All British Ride	Lyons Restaurant, Novato
<b><u>Nov. 19</u></b>	11AM	Turkey Ride	Alice's
<b><u>Dec. 10</u></b>	T.B.A.	Xmas Party	T.B.A.

### Club Hats

Can be ordered through Gar Jorgenson. These are \$10.00 each which includes your name on the back. Contact Gar at (925) 634-9395.

### New NCNOC Website

The new NCNOC website is up and operating due to the efforts of Alan Goldwater. Gar Jorgenson has contributed a few digital pictures of club events. If you have the capability check it out at <http://members.aol.com/NortonClub>

### Club Meetings

**Club meetings start at 8:00PM**

*At this time, all rides and meetings are not cast in stone. Events and dates may change!!*

Oct 1	AGM at Old Timer's Ride
October 12	Prince of Wales, San Mateo
Nov. 9	The Boat House, SF
December	No meeting

## *President's Message.....by Mike Sullivan*

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The Club owes many thanks to Tom Dabel for organizing and leading the Mt. Hamilton Ride on Sunday 9/17. There were 15 members there, all on Commandos, as well as two prospective members on their Commandos and one Harley-Davidson. One of the prospective members told us of buying his Interstate for \$55.00 out of a back yard. Of course he did have to spend a little more to get it in the nice shape it was in. The ride went well, starting with a mid-morning snack of some good spring rolls, pastries, orange juice and coffee at Tom's house. Credit must be given to Tom as he took Saturday off to get ready for the ride. No major breakdowns were experienced, with only two minor problems. I must give Ken Armann a big THANK YOU for holding my hand during a period of high anxiety and rescuing me by finding and correcting a broken wire in my charging circuit. Remember guys to always carry some wire, electrical tape, and spare fuses with you.

Now to other business:

1. The Club has been invited to have a table at the upcoming City Bike swapmeet in San Mateo on Dec 10 which is the same day as the Christmas party. This should work out OK as the swap meet is generally over by 11:00 and the Christmas party will be at Jerry Grainger's' house in Hillsboro just off Hwys 92 an 280, starting around 2:00pm. Look for details of the Christmas party in the next Notice.
2. The November Turkey Ride will meet at Alice's at 11:00 since this is after daylight savings changes. The ride destination is still to be decided. Does anyone know of a turkey ranch we can visit?
3. The BSA Club has asked us to supply some workers for the All British Ride on Nov. 4. We have a couple of volunteers all ready but could use a couple more. If any of you are rideless, helping out at the barbecue would be a good excuse to get out of the house and still be in with all the bikes. Please coordinate with me and I will advise the BSA Club. Speaking of the All British Ride, it will start at the same place, the Lyons Restaurant in Novato, and end up at the same place (The Cheese Factory) as before. I understand that the menu will be barbecued tri-tip and all the fixings. The cost to each rider has not been fixed yet but as I see it anything up to \$10.00 would be cheap by any standards considering that the food has to be bought and that the grounds have to be rented. Maggie Neeto may not show up this year, does any one know a female volunteer?

**continued on page 6**

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## *Tech Tip.....Alan's Wrench*

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At the Red Rock rally there was a vendor offering a complete range of reproduction seats from UK manufacturer R.K. Leighton. I bought one for my 1968 Atlas, and found the quality and fit to be excellent. The metal used for the pan is thicker (.058 in.) than that used in the original seat (.042 in.), and the mounting brackets are also heavier at 0.125 in. This should prevent the cracking and broken welds, which are all too common in the original parts. The cover also appears to be a heavier material than the original, although here I can't be sure as my stock seat was previously recovered. All the Leighton seat covers I looked at seemed to match the original surface finishes and embossing patterns ( these covers are also available separately). The foam used is firm, but not as much so as to be uncomfortable. All in all this is a very high quality product, at a price about 10-15% more than similar seats of lesser quality. The exclusive North American supplier is Denis John Cavalier, PO. Box 300, Nyack NY 10960 (845) 358-1957. Seats for virtually all Norton, Triumph and BSA models are available from stock. Mr. Cavalier also offers alloy cycle parts from UK fabricator, T.A. Baker, and a variety of other special Norton spares, including a nice hydraulic clutch conversion.

Following my research into the temperature tolerance of motor oils, I received several reports of deteriorated engine seals. I had previously heard rumors of seal problems resulting from synthetic oils, so I started another science project to see if there was any truth to these reports. I built a small test chamber, using a heating element from a solder pot, and chose the following three valve seal samples to test the most common materials used in these parts:

- 1) a nitrile (black rubber) seal, supplied by Fair Spares
- 2) a viton (blue rubber) seal, supplied by US Seal
- 3) a teflon (white plastic) seal, supplied by Perfect Circle.

The test samples were first weighed and measured accurately, then immersed in the heated oil bath for 100 hours at each of 150C, 165C, 180C and 200C. The measurements were repeated after each test. After 400 hours, there was practically no change in dimension or weight of any of the valve seals tested. The hardness of both the nitrile and the viton seal did increase by about 10% during the final test at 200 C, indicating some aging of these materials.

This testing program is roughly equivalent to 20K miles of hard riding in adverse conditions, at up to the highest oil temperature I previously measured in a Commando motor. I'm therefore confident that there is no adverse effect on valve seals from running synthetic oil such as the Red Line I recommend. Details of the test results can be found on the NCNOC web site, <http://members.aol.com/NortonClub>.

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## *President's Message.....continued*

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4. It is rumored that Domi-Racer is out of business. You better keep very friendly with the local suppliers, Rabers, Magris, Phil Radford's Fair Spares, and Mean Marshall's if he is still open.
5. Lastly, if anyone knows of a shop where they have the taps to repair the exhaust threads in an ES2, please let our Editor, Dave Crader, know.

The next meeting will be at the Old Timer's Ride which is the Annual General Meeting. Meet at Alice's at 10:00am. Alan Goldwater has volunteered to get us not too lost on the ride in. The Club hosted picnic will be at the same place as all ways, Huckleberry Flat in San Mateo Memorial Park on the Pescadero-La Honda Road.

The next Thursday night meeting will be at The Prince of Wales on October 12. See you there if not before.

Mike Sullivan, President

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## Very early warning from the INOA

July 18-21, 2001

Ivy Lea, Ontario, Canada.

The Ivy Lea KOA will be the host campground for the first INOA International Rally of the century. Located minutes from the U.S. Canada border. As shown on the map below.

The Ontario Norton Owners are going all out to make the Thousand Islands Rally one of the best ever. With group rides planned all over Leeds County and the Thousand Islands region.

More about the 2001 National Rally to come in future issues of the Norton Notice.

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## **UPCOMING RIDES**

**By Gar Jorgenson, Rides Coordinator**

### **October Rides**

#### **Old Timers Ride**

**October 1st, 2000 - 10 AM**

Alan Goldwater has volunteered to lead the ride this year. The ride will depart from **Alice's Restaurant, Hwy 84 and Skyline Drive in San Mateo County at 10 AM** for a leisurely ride through the mountains to McDonald Memorial Park. Alan reports that, as long as he stays south of Hwy 84, he will get us there without difficulty (It's those roads north of 84 that get confusing). At the park there will be a barbecue and plenty of bench racing. President Mike Sullivan will be the BBQ chef again this year. This is always a fun time and a pleasant ride so don't miss it!

#### **Delta Ride**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000 - 9 AM**

I will again lead this year's Delta Ride. We will be starting out from **Geno's Country Store on Vasco Road, just north of I-580 in Livermore. Departure is going to be 9 AM sharp.** For those of you coming from East Contra Costa County, meet us at **Carl's Jr at Neroly Rd and Highway 4 in Oakley at 9:45 AM.** The ride will go north over the Antioch Bridge. There will be a short rest stop at McDonalds in Rio Vista around 10 AM and then on to Woodland via Dixon. We should arrive in Woodland around 11:30. In Woodland we will have lunch and visit the Hayes Truck and Tractor Museum. There is a \$2 bridge toll and a \$6 museum fee. We will depart Woodland at 2:30 PM and return via Sacramento River levee roads. We will arrive back in Livermore about 5 PM. There is parking at Geno's for cars and trailers if you decide to tow your bike to there. It will be around 175 miles round trip. Give me a call at 925-634-9395 for more details.

### **November Rides**

#### **All British Ride (formerly the Danmeier Ride)**

**November 4<sup>th</sup> 2000 - 10 AM**

This is the big British bike rally in the Bay Area and is sponsored by the BSA Club. Last year around 200 British bikes participated. If you go to only one ride a year; this is the one to go to. The ride winds through the Marin County countryside and concludes with a BBQ. Look for more info in next month's Notice.

#### **Turkey Ride**

**November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000 - 11AM**

Meet at Alice's. More info in next Month's Notice.

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### Editor's Line by David Crader

Well, as Gar is my witness, I did start out the Mt Hamilton ride on the ES2. For any of you singles owners, or probably the same for twins, if the exhaust pipe is not fastened with the exhaust nut ring, the engine gets HOT. The poor little 500 single started to seize, so I pulled over on the hill and let it cool while trying to screw in the exhaust. Unfortunately there weren't enough threads to catch.

Now that the ride is over I got back to the problem and have found that I could grind a little of the pipe weld away, leave out the copper seal and then get a good tight joint screwing the ring futher into the port. It's working so far.

Next I've got to seal the inside of the gas tank as it started a pin hole leak and blistered the paint at the front edge. Oh yeh, also have to seal up the push rod adjuster cover. It leaks like mad. Mike Sullivan said his Model 50 does this also and he uses some type of sealant on the gasket. Think I'll make a new gasket out of that cork/rubber stuff you see for car valve cover gaskets, then use gasketcinch.

What this is all leading to is, do you ever start to loose interest in these Norton's when they play these games with you? One of our past members and a former good friend to me

just sent me an e-mail letting me know he is now ready to sell his '83 BMW R100 Krauser Special. He and I bought Beemers the same year from San Jose BMW and that ultimately caused me to drop out of the NCNOC in '86.

Reflecting on the idea more, I think I will probably pass on his BMW. With all the distraction in my life, I find I have enough riding time to just make the club events. That means a BMW that needs to go for all day or all weekend rides is not in my lifestyle right now.

Think I'll stay with the two Nortons and just buy them more goodies. Anybody got a steel roadster tank they can part with?

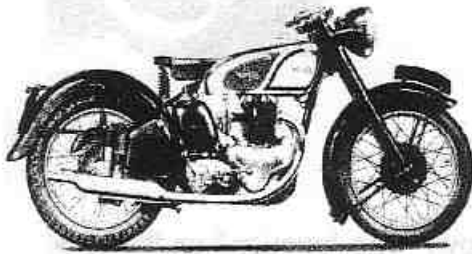




## Restorer's Column

*This section is for people working on that Norton project and is an open forum. Send in your comments about your project or share some wisdom about your experiences.*

Bob Belle in Saskatchewan has started a new Model 7 club. This is the 500cc twin made from 1949 to 1955. The website for the club is  
<http://www3.sk.sympatico.ca/belle/index.htm>



I just received a 1974 Norton Worldwide Dealers List. This is one of those e-bay buys. Anyone wanting name and address of any dealer send me an e-mail or phone. Phone and e-address is on page 2 of this Notice. - Editor -

57 - '59 Dominator and '59 - '60 Norton Singles **Chrome gas tank panels** complete with plastic edging can be obtained from Fred Williams at Millstream Motors, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7BD, UK. (44) 1234 854138. These are not the same as used on '57 -'58 Norton Singles and Model 77 twins.

## Chrome Platers

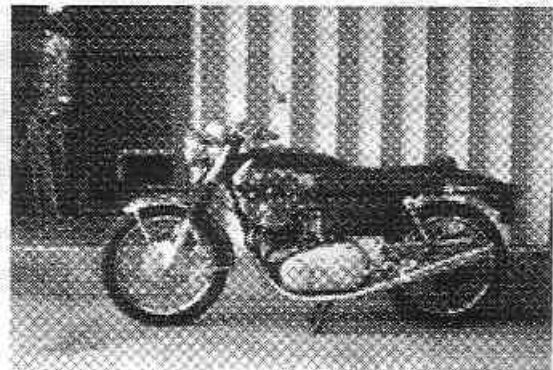
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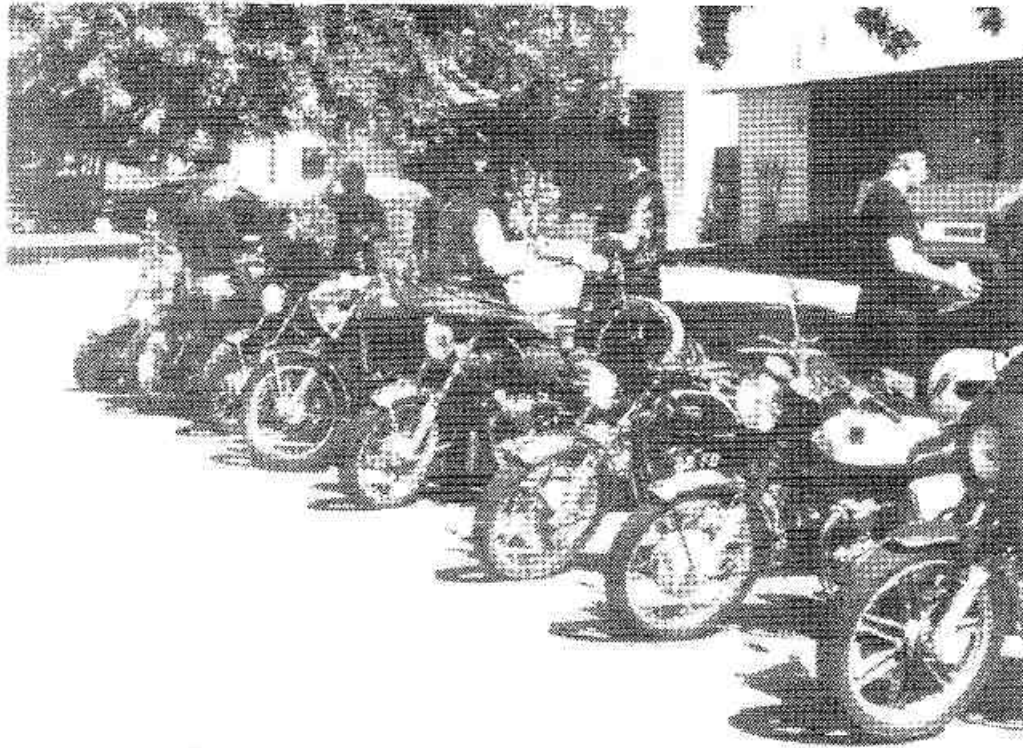
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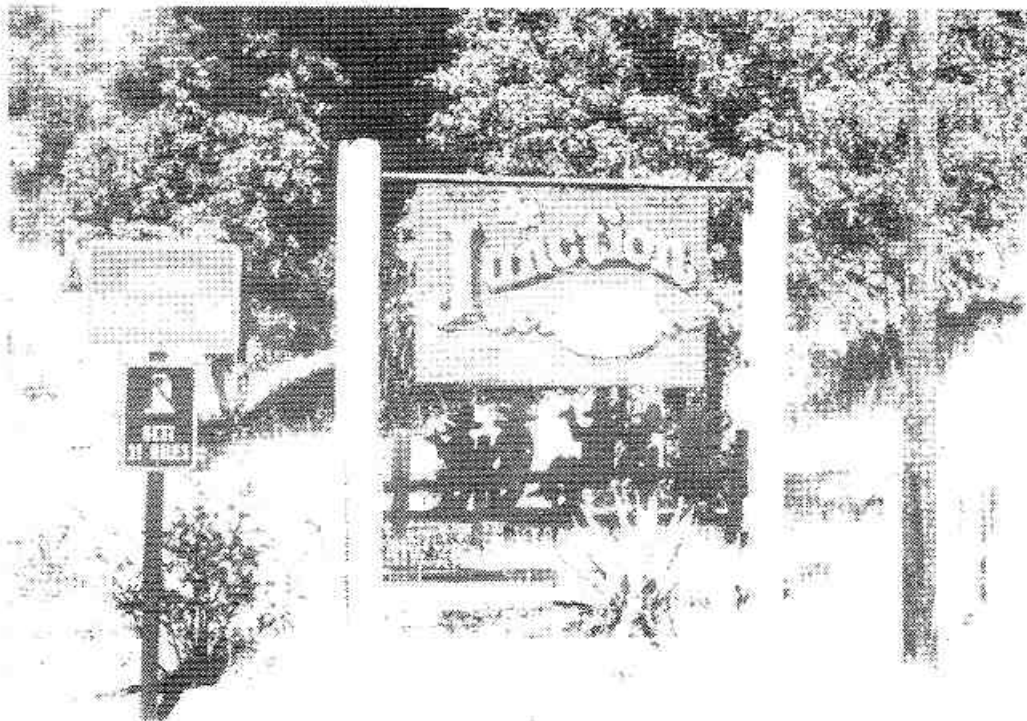
Last month I discovered the shop I've been using for engine machine work for the last 25 years is now out of business. This was Penniman and Richards on 1st Street in San Jose. I had the head on my '66 Mustang done there as well as the crank balance on my '73 750 Commando. Anyone with a good recommendation for this type of work, send it in to me - Editor -



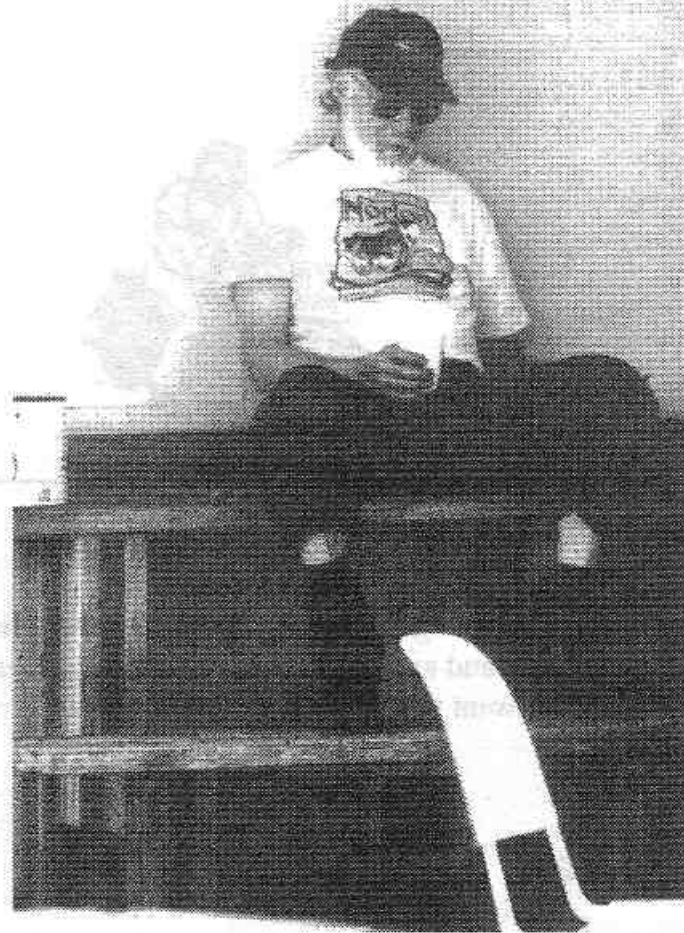


Above: Club outside Tom Dabel's house in San Jose.

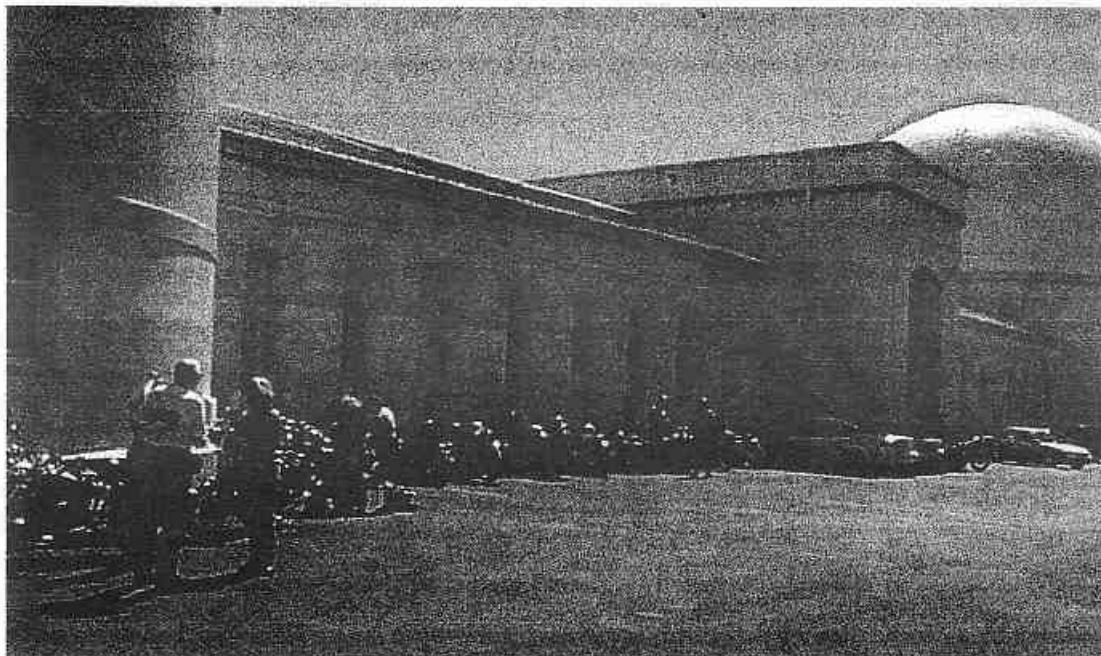
Below: "The Junction" on the back side of Mt Hamilton....food & drink.



Right: Maybe too much drink....Alan? Nice high speed run to the Junction. I really enjoyed it, but what where those two bikes we passed?



Below: Club at Mt Hamilton Lick Observatory



# *Pappy*



---

Pappy,

I haven't heard anything about the company lately. The president was in trouble for some type of fraud and the Nemesis isn't going to happen. Any crystal ball information you want to let the faithful know about?

NOCCER

Dear NOCCER,

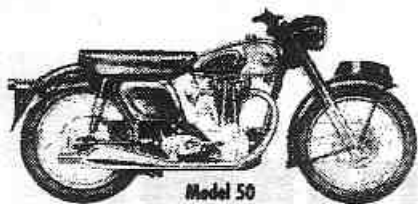
I gave up my leadership of the company and just enjoy riding what's left the factory already. No need to concern yourself about resurrection. If it happens it happens. What you really need to know is that there will always be parts for your cycles as long as you believe in them.

Ride them and love them,

Pappy

THE UNAPPROACHABLE  
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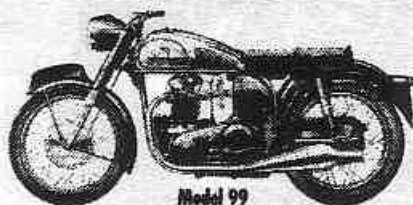
Model 50

*They're Exciting*

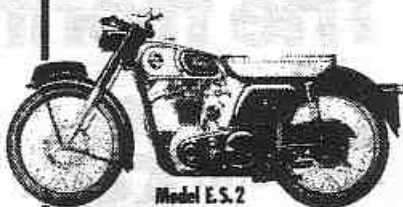


Model 19

*They're Unapproachable*



Model 99



Model E.S.2

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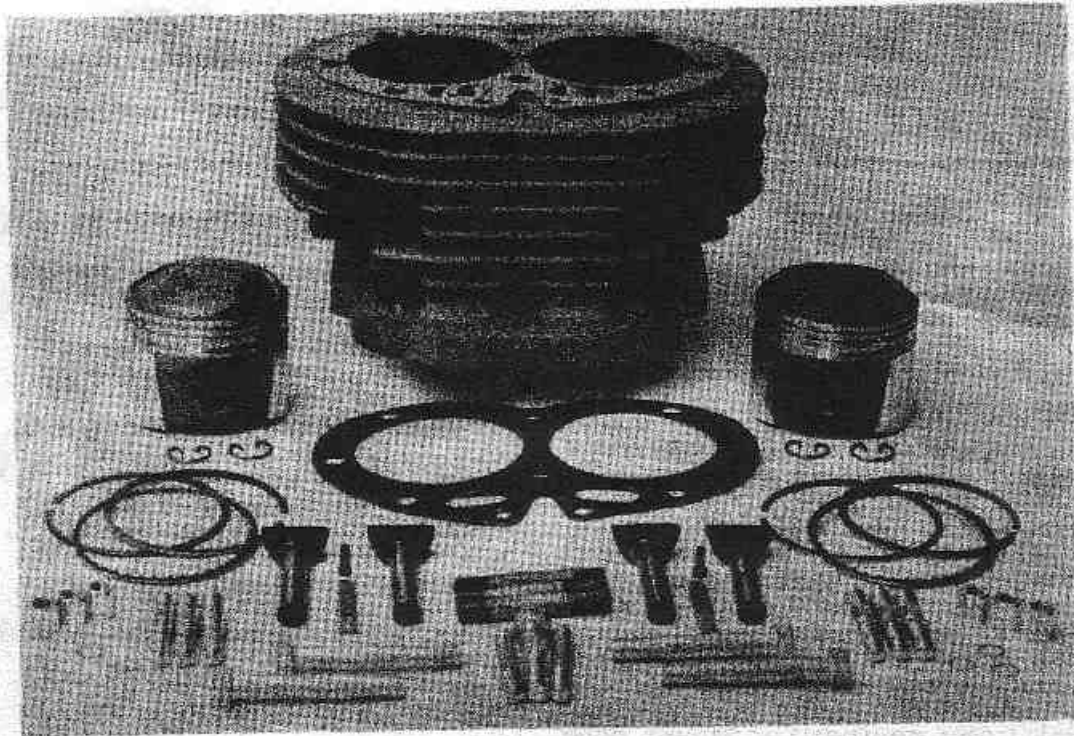
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long distance  
strider



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the stock item. The spun cast, low expansion 10 to 1 pistons have a squish band for optimum turbulence and improved flame spread. The new Dunstall tappets supplied with this kit combine light weight with good rigidity and low friction. Available to fit all Norton 750 engines, Commando, Atlas G, 15,

P.11 etc. from 1965 onwards. Components are as follows Alloy cylinder with shrunk in spun cast liners, low expansion, spun cast 10 to 1 pistons complete with gudgeon pins circlips and rings. Lightweight tappets, all studs, nuts and gaskets. Fits straight on without modification to crankcases.

## Classified Advertisements

Editors 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 3 months. Please notify the editor if your item has been sold. Your ad will automatically be removed after 3 months if I haven't heard differently. Note the expiration date at the end of each ad.

---

### FOR SALE:

**1951 Model 7** frame and cylinder head (iron). **\$300 for both**  
Chris Knoerdel (415) 350-1695 (10/00)

---

**Lucas 12v type 6H horn.** Original equipment for '63 to '68 Norton featherbed twins. Excellent cond with new paint. P/N 70159D with date 10/63. Will trade for Lucas 6v type 8H horn, P/N 70140A ('61) or 70163 ('62) in good cond. Sell outright for **\$75.00**. David Crader **925 484-9176** (10/00)

---

**1971 Commando** parts bike. Newly rebuilt engine (not started), chrome swingarm, painted frame, fork legs (no triple trees), no wheels or fenders, other pieces chromed. **\$1500** for everything Shorty Tompkins (916) 489-8371 Sacramento (10/00)

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**1975 850 Commando MkIII**, red roadster, rebuilt with many upgrades, some modifications, 17K miles. **\$3800**  
Richard (707) 725-5283 Fortuna, Ca Humbolt Co. (12/00)

### For Sale

**'68 Norton Commando Fastback**, 10 year old restoration, original frame replaced, Norvil rearsets, reverse gearbox camplate, Dunstall fairing, Borrani alloy rims, MkIII isolastics, Boyer ignition, sleeved Amals, new wiring, JPN front fender, Norvil pipes with reverse cone mufflers, new British Racing Green paint. **\$5,000**  
Chris (510) 845-1000 Berkeley

---

### From Cycletrader

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**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 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 \$20. Send that to: **Dian Slark, 12603 BelAire Circle, McCalla, AL., 35111...Phone (205)477-4340.**

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTORCYCLES OWNED**

Make	Year	Model	Engine/Frame/Plate Numbers
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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 agree 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 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.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send all applications or inquiries to:  
**Alan Mueller, 128 Windsor Ct., San Carlos, CA. 94070**  
**(650)591-5444**