



WE'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE WE'RE NOT ALL THERE



Norton Colorado

www.nortoncolorado.org Newsletter

April 2017



Jay Tynes showing off his beautiful Atlas at the Vehicle Vault Ride .

Upcoming Events

See page 15 for the entire official 2017 events schedule. If you have any ideas for the 2017 official schedule, please contact Eric.

April 2 (Sun): *Spring Tech Day* at [Bob Martin's](#), 11838 W. 108th Dr., Broomfield, 9 AM.

April 23 (Sun): Tea Party - host Debby Johnson (See P. 12 for more information)

May 6 (Sat): Palmer Lake Ride

Lots of open time to fill if anyone cares to lead a ride. Just email Eric and he will broadcast it to the club.

Norton Club goes to the Las Vegas Auction

Story and pictures By Dennis Horgan

I took a vacation to LA in January and visited the Petersen Automotive Museum on the Miracle Mile - near the La Brea tar pits. And then on the way home I stopped for the three day Mecum motorcycle auction extravaganza at the South Point casino in Vegas.



The Petersen Museum was endowed by Robert Petersen of Hot Rod and Motor Trend fame and is a palatial tribute to all things automotive. The museum has a permanent collection of rare cars of all kinds and they do rotating shows of every description. If you have a thing for rare gas pumps or old gas stations - they have a room full of that stuff. They have a "silver room" devoted to old Mercedes, Porsches, and all things German. And on it goes. When I was there, they had a special show devoted to Bugattis, including a bunch of rare cars ranging from Type 35 race cars to a 21 ft long Type 41 Royale. And they had Bugatti family art and sculpture too.

But it's not just cars. They have a number of rare motorcycles on display - typically first year (1959 Triumph Bonneville) or artistically significant (916 Ducati) but they also had a 1957 Norton International with a sidecar that I thought was just too cool, so I took a picture for you all.

If the Petersen was about quality - the Mecum Vegas auction was all about quantity. I couldn't get the showroom in one picture so each of the two pictures is about half of the bikes being sold - about 1,000 in all. They had everything ranging from very early Harleys and Hendersons, to some modern bikes. They seemed to be loaded with Triumphs this year - but they had some Nortons too. They had a 1951 International that was very nice, some Commandos in various liveries, and a couple of older Atlases. There were not many motorbikes that seemed to be bargains, but it was fun to watch the auction macho ("my wallet is bigger than yours") cause eruptions of bidding. For example, two guys went nuts one afternoon over a 1974 Ducati 750GT and ran the price up to \$41,000. The next morning an identical bike sold for \$26,000.





The most expensive bike I saw cross the block was an original 1914 Henderson that apparently had provenance traceable as William Henderson's first bike. It looked like a rust pile, but it sold for \$490,000. Al and Barb Slarks were there and went up to the street to a competing auction where a 1936 Crocker sold for \$330,000. After those sell-your-house prices, there were some older bikes that sold in the \$150,000 range, and as always, someone has to pay north of \$100,000 for a Vincent. The Nortons were selling for good prices - mostly \$12-20,000. I was drooling over a 1949 Manx - but lucky for me I found a Zen Master who warned me away from it by pronouncing it a "bitsa". I decided that if I go again, I need to find a Zen Master - either that or learn a lot more about bikes. You all have met Zen Masters - the guys at

the auction with flashlights and magnifying glasses, observing that "that cylinder head does not have the right number of fins for that year" and "everyone knows that the oil lines for that 1935 Rudge were cad plated not chromed". Who would have known if not for the Master?

In summary, it was a fun time, but it left my head spinning after watching a thousand bikes cross the block in 3 days. And I came home empty handed. I think Eric called it right - the auction is a good place to sell, but not so good to buy. But if you want to watch a vintage bike extravaganza - I can't think of a better place than the Mecum Auction.



Vehicle Vault Gallery

<http://www.vehiclevaultco.com>

Vehicle Vault is the premier auto gallery and elite custom garage community that provides a unique environment for those who share the passion for cars. Exhibiting a fabulous collection of rare and exotic automobiles from all over the world.



Rode a Norton:

Jack and Peggy Abeyta
Debbie Johnson
Jay Tynes

Rode something lesser:

Arnie Beckman -- Triumph
Eric Bergman -- Laverda
Mike Fields -- HD
Mark Liu -- BMW
Scott Robinson -- HD

Got there:

Greg Boechler
Tom and Nora Kruplak
Bob Martin
Mike Powell
David Sheesley
Ed & Diana Johnson



Getting close....

Waiting for silicone rocker gaskets, a clutch spring, pillion peg rubber and grips. That's it, I think.....

I hope it starts!

Scott Shuler



Got a wife or girlfriend with a birthday or anniversary coming. We have the "man's" solution for you. And if you pick the wrong size you can fix it yourself!



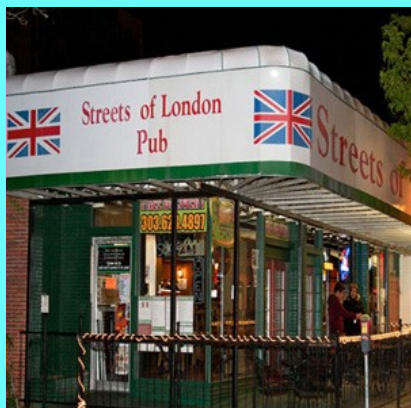
The Bobber I built got a trophy in the custom Euro class today. To the victor go the spoils :-)

Blast From the Past: Elephant Ride February 14, 2004

Those Elephant Rides were good fun, and by “fun” I mean “scary, cold and dangerous”! Now that Guanella Pass is paved, I’m not sure if it’s easier or harder. The last time I rode it I took a really hard fall on a downhill paved section on the north side of the pass where the whole road was a sheet of ice. -- Eric B

Thanks to Greg Ray for sending these along.





Rode a Norton

Jack and Peggy Abeyta
 Mark Achten and Sandy
 Rick Black
 Mike Fields
 Scott Robinson
 David Sheesley
 Martin White
 Mike Wilson
 Denny Westervelt



Jim, enjoying a second childhood, drawing with Ella



Rode something lesser

Arnie Beckman -- Triumph
 Eric Bergman -- Laverda
 King Browne -- Ducati
 Jim Colt -- Honda
 Mark Liu -- BMW
 Julie Robinson -- HD
 Tom Tallick -- BMW

Got there

Greg Boechler
 James Lafler
 Bob Martin and Sheila
 Wilson
 Susie Saarinen





We showed up on a nice variety of motorcycles, Aside from Nortons we had Harleys, a Honda, BMWs, a Laverda, a Ducati and a Triumph. Diversity at its finest.





I'm sitting with Mike Wilson. Mike was a member of Norton Colorado about 20 years ago. He's decided to rejoin our club



This is Mike's Norton, very nice.



The guys at Streets of London want to start a vintage bike night twice a month on Wednesdays starting in April. Check their website for more information.

<http://streetsoflondondenver.com/>

Foothills Bike Show

Amongst the BMWs there were some very nice British bikes on display.



Upcoming events : Add these 2 fun gatherings to your calendar

Return of Tea Party

by Debby Johnson

It's back! Debby's Tea Party and Open Garage is returning, better than ever. This year's event will be held on Sunday, April 23, meeting at my home in Niwot at 10 am.

For those who are new to the club, or for old timers whose memory isn't what it used to be, the event is inspired by the idea of the English High Teas. A variety of hot teas, both herbal and caffeinated, will be available and I'm planning to brew up a jug of my sun tea as well. As with any proper High Tea, home-baked goodies will be served to enjoy with your tea, including genuine English style scones, served with clotted cream and jam. Other snackage will also be available for those who are watching their carbohydrate or gluten intake. Beer will not be on the menu.

After snacking, we'll head out for a ride showcasing some of the finest roads and scenery Boulder County offers (weather permitting of course). To accommodate this, we will meet in the morning instead of the afternoon as is usual for a High Tea.

This year's event features a new location: my home in quaint, charming downtown Niwot. The address is 6915 Conifer Court, which is located directly across Niwot Road from the Old Town district. We will meet at 10 am. As usual, parking is limited in front of my house, so motorcycles park in front and cars park around the corner or across the street. So fire up those Nortons (and Lesser bikes) and we'll see you in Niwot!

2017 4 CORNERS RENDEZVOUS

(Yes, it is still going on all these years)

When: Thur. -Sun. June 15-18th

Where: Mavreeso Campground on West Fork Dolores Rd. (same as last year)

From Dolores stay on 145 North (toward Telluride) go 13.4 miles to West Dolores Rd. (the road will widen with a left turn lane and there is a green sign that says Dunton with an arrow on it) turn left go 6.1 miles to Mavreeso Campground. It is on the right. (We will have a group site for camping. If you set up in any other sites, you will have to pay for that site yourself.)

Who: Hosted by Western Slope Norton Riders and Norton Colorado.

Includes: Tent Camping, Morning coffee, Friday night chili and Saturday night brats and burgers, door prizes, 50/50 drawing, and the coveted paper plate awards. Amazing mountain roads and unbelievable, but true campfire stories. Fee is \$30.00 per person.

For further information contact Steve Harris at sharris@frontier.net or call 970-946-1960.

(Please R.S.V.P. so we can figure food)

Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

The event is put on by the Southern California Norton Club. As many as 500 motorcyclists have participated in this annual event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01kly6znVW8>

In 1892 David Lewis Isaacs established a gentlemen's outfitters at 124 Great Portland Street, trading under the name 'D Lewis' Read more about Lewis Leathers:

<http://hidden-london.com/nuggets/lewis-leathers/>

Defying Gravity, Then Listening to Mom

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/07/sports/marc-marquez-motorcycle-champion-hometown.html?_r=4

On Line Tech Discussion

Feel free to join in and add your opinion about this or any other tech issue email Eric or Scott

Link to ad on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01C1AOSVS/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Peter Allen: Interesting , might work on British bikes.

Eric Bergman: Has anyone tried this? Before you rush out and buy one, you should read the reviews, several of which comment about inadequacy of the high-beam. I'm not sure that's a deal-breaker for me, as long as the low-beam is good, but it could be for some. Maybe the main reason to consider something like this is to make better use of those precious few amps produced by our charging systems, especially in a state that requires headlight use during the day.



Bob Herman: Presumably, since we're talking diodes, wiring would need to be changed to negative ground, or if kept positive, the leads at the light would need to be reversed. And the once-ground now-hot positive leads isolated from metal parts.

Denny Westervelt: My first thought is that being an LED it would not work with our Positive Earth systems unless the base is isolated from ground. Some guys, including me, have converted to Negative ground, should work. An LED must have the correct polarity.

Jim Bay: Beam is a function of the reflector not the bulb. Some bulbs are slightly longer than the original that the reflector was made for, which affects beam quality and pattern, much more so on high beam. That's why some folks rave and others bitch. Also,

depending on the charging system and general wiring health, more powerful bulbs will not get enough juice unless you power them directly from the battery with a fuse and relay. Which explains high beam weakness.

Jerry Pokorny: I am going to order up a few of these "universal ground" lamps and do some bench tests on polarity and voltage range versus Lumen output and see what the story is. I shall share my finding with the usual suspects.

Another Joke About Getting Old From Bob Martin

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them.

As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, 'That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.'

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything.

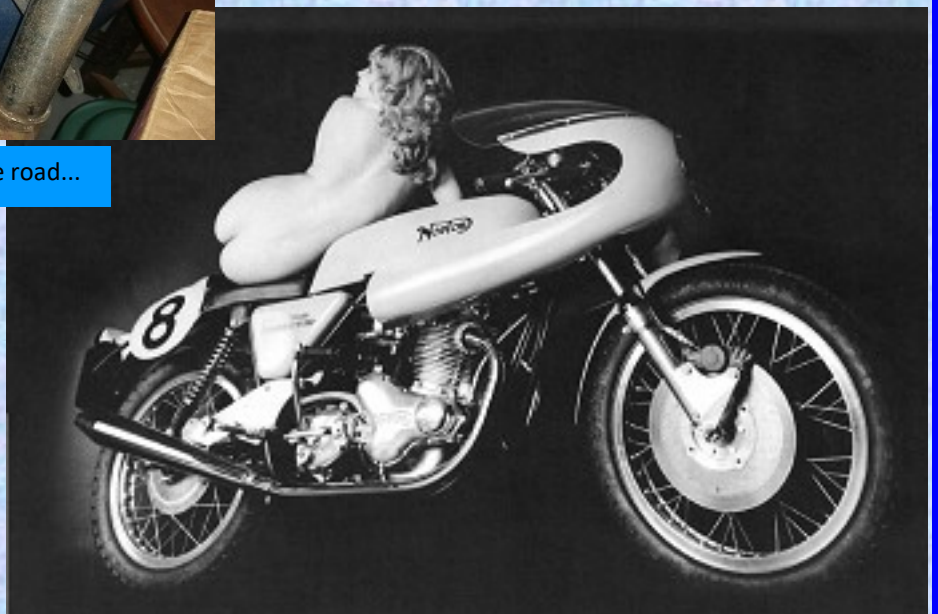
People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.'

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked 'What is it you are waiting for?'

She answered
'THE TEETH.'



Bodge du Jour: I guess if it gets you down the road...



Schedule for 2017

Feel free to contact Eric Bergman or Jack Abeyta to suggest more ideas or to volunteer to host an event

Feb 4 (Sat): Winter Banquet

Mar 4 (Sat): Museum Tour TBA

Mar 19 (Sun): *Pub meeting* at [Streets of London Pub](#), 1501 E. Colfax, Denver, 2 PM.

April 2 (Sun): *Spring Tech Day* at [Bob Martin's](#), 11838 W. 108th Dr., Broomfield, 9 AM.

April 23 (Sun): Tea Party - host Debby Johnson

May 6 (Sat): Palmer Lake Ride

May 21 (Sun): [Old Bike Ride 15](#), hosted by [Bob Ohman](#), Golden, 8 AM.

June 4 (Sun): *Big Tent BBQ* hosted by [Eric Bergman](#) and [Susie Saarinen](#), 1900 19th St., Golden, 1 PM.

We welcome members of the [BMAC](#), the [Rocky Mountain Chapter](#) and the [Phantom Canyon Chapter](#) of the [AMCA](#), and all other riders of vintage motos.

June 15-18 (Thu-Sun): *Four Corners Rendezvous*, at [Mavreeso Campground](#), near Dolores, hosted by [Steve Harris & Charley Gremmels](#).

July 2 (Sun): *Mt. Evans Ride*, followed by brunch at [David Sheesley's](#), 28204 Meadow Dr., Evergreen, (303) 670-7258, (303) 670-7258. Start at [Eric Bergman's](#), 1900 19th St., Golden at 9 AM.

July (TBA): INOA Rally, Buena Vista, VA

July 15-16 (Sat-Sun): Century Ride

July 29 (Sat): Shop Tour (3-4 Brit-bike shops)

Aug 5-6 (Sat-Sun): *Wimpy Campout*, hosted by [Jamie & Michelle Jones](#), 10800 S. Oehlmann Ave., Conifer.

Aug 20 (Sun): *Breakfast Ride* hosted by [Jim and Marti Fisher](#), 1374 Greening Ave., Erie, 11 AM.

Sept 8-10 (Fri-Sun): *Up The Poudre Without A Paddle* at [Archer's Poudre River Resort](#), west of Fort Collins.

Sept 17 (Sun): [English Motoring Conclave](#), Oak Park, Arvada.

Sept 30 (Sat): *Open Garage* at [Al & Barb Slarks'](#), 6299 Sunshine Canyon Dr., Boulder, 11 AM.

Oct 15 (Sun): *Plains Ride*, hosted by [Scott & Julie Robinson](#), 1711 E. 83rd Pl., Denver, 9 AM.

Oct 29 (Sun): Fall Tech Day - host TBA

Nov : Sat night 7:30 DU Hockey game outing! (Date TBA)

Dec 3 (Sun): Pub meeting

Jan 1, 2018 (Mon): New Year's Day Ride

Jan 14, 2018 (Sun): Pub meeting

Membership

Membership in Norton Colorado is open to anyone, regardless of whether they own a Norton, or any motorcycle whatsoever.

Dues are \$20/ year individual, \$22 for a couple or family unit, payable to "Norton Colorado" and sent to the Treasurer, whose contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

The official club membership list is posted on the club website. Please let Eric know if there is an error.

The membership year begins with the Winter Banquet in February. New members who join after August 1 are credited with membership for the following year.

Club Events

Many events have been scheduled for the 2017 season, usually about 2 per month. Participation in these events will be counted for the President's Award. Events may be added, dropped, or re-scheduled through the year. The schedule can be found in this newsletter or check the schedule on the club website:

<http://www.nortoncolorado.org/meetings.html>

Ethanol Free Gas in Longmont

Debbie Johnson is always on the lookout for ethanol free gas. Here's a new station she found.

I recently heard reports of a new gas station in Longmont that has 87 octane E0. So I went over today to check it out. The station is on the north end of town, on Main St just south of Hwy 66. It's on the west side of the road. Murphy Express, address 2375 Main St, Longmont. They are listed in pure-gas.org now.

They have an interesting way of dispensing it. Each pump has three hoses - a black one on the right for the ethanol gas, a green one for diesel, and another black one on the left side of the pump that is just for the non-ethanol gas. No worries about the hose still being full of E10 from the last customer, but you do have to be smart enough to figure out which hose to use!

I have a test kit that I bought online that lets me test for ethanol content and percentage of ethanol in fuel. I tested a sample of the fuel I bought and confirmed that it is ethanol free.

I do not know if 87 octane gas is suitable for a Norton, but it runs fine in my Ducati and my Kawasaki W650.

Prez Points Standings Top 10 (2017):

points, events, solo rides

David Sheesley	12	3	5
Jack Abeyta	11	3	0
Peggy Abeyta	11	3	0
Mike Fields	10	3	2
Scott Robinson	9	3	1
Debby Johnson	7	1	2
Denny Westervelt	6	2	0
Jay Tynes	6	2	0

Current Occupants

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Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, King Browne, Bob Herman, Dennis Horgan, Debbie Johnson, Bob Martin, Jerry Pokorny, Greg Ray and Scott Shuler for their contributions to this newsletter.

I also want to say thanks to others who sent me things I will use in future editions.

Norton Colorado

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