



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



# Norton Colorado

[www.nortoncolorado.org](http://www.nortoncolorado.org)

Newsletter

December 2017



## Upcoming Events

See page 10 for the entire official 2017 events schedule. If you have any ideas for the 2018 official schedule, please contact Jack Abeyta.

Dec 3 (Sun): Pub meeting-- Pints Pub  
<http://www.pintspub.com> 221 w.13th Ave, Denver

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

Jan 14, 2018 (Sun): Pub meeting



## ***The Norton Club goes to a DU Hockey Game***



In an effort to keep things new and interesting for the club, an excursion to a DU Pioneers Hockey game was added to our calendar this year. The Pioneers are last year's National Champions, and after this weekend they are once again the number one ranked team. Our opponent was the St. Cloud Huskies who were the number one ranked team until playing DU. Those of us who went to the game, Jack and Peggy Abeyta, Arnie Beckman and his family,

Karen Bailey and Steve Lavin, Bob Martin, Ken Robinson and friends, David Sheesley, and Julie and I weren't disappointed. The game was fast and there were lots of goals, many right in front of where we were sitting. Just before the end of the game there was even a bit of a scuffle resulting in 6 players being sent off the ice !! Oh, and best of all, we kicked butt, winning 5 - 1. Go Pioneers !!!



## ***James' Ariel has a story to tell***



I thought you may like to see this photo of a photo of the '56 Ariel Square 4 and its original owner Ray when the bike was around 2 years old... what a proud fellow. Also the same machine made it over to see his widow Barbara (aged 85 years) just a month or so ago. It was a touching moment of her remembrance of their youth.





I asked the club to send examples of motorcycles and being cool. Here's what you sent in, very cool indeed !!

(If you like this, please send more pics or stories on this topic for next month's edition)



Bob Herman looking very cool and peaceful in Utah, 2001



Here is a picture from 2 years ago when I was doing "break-in" miles on my 961SF on the Olympic peninsula before bringing it home to Montana. Weather was superb in mid October! Bob Wood, Billings, MT



Peter Allen riding over Healy's Pass, west of Cork, Ireland on a '39 Model 18 1/2.



Julie Robinson looking very cool while touring British Columbia, 2015



### ***Here's a cool story from Ron Pierce***

I was sofa surfing in London in 1971 with people I barely knew, when one of them I didn't know casually offered me his scooter to go out and see the city on. Pretty soon I was riding a clapped out scooter with something loose in the steering, on the left side and going around Piccadilly Circus, clockwise I think. Don't know how I ever found my way back to where I started from.



Peter Allen on back of his Dad's day old Interstate with the Combat engine, circa 1972.



'Laf looking good

In the summer of 2006, Julie and I were cruising Florida when we decided to check out Cocoa Beach. We found a hotel and asked why there were so many people lining the streets. Apparently we arrived about 15 minutes ahead of the shuttle Discovery launch. We made it to the beach just in time to see it. We were 20 miles away and the ground shook and the rocket was as bright as a welder's torch. Wow, definitely one of the coolest things we ever saw. -- Scott



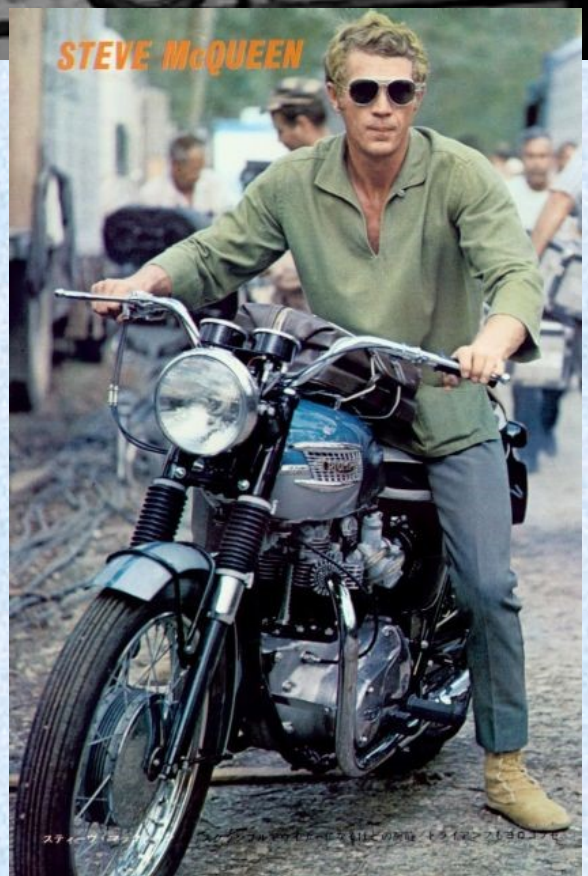
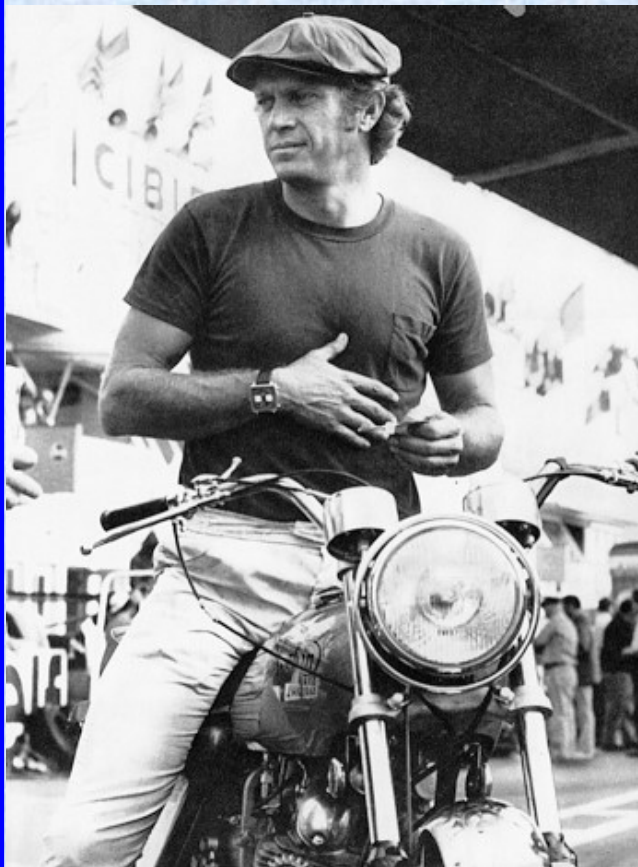
Scott Robinson on his 1970 S model Norton



Disclaimer: Not actually a picture I took. (no fake news in this publication, ha ha.)



Steve McQueen, One of the "Kings of Cool".

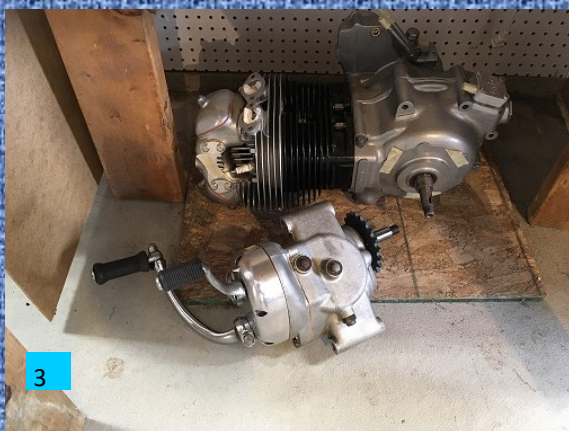




Jo Teague has been busy lately,  
he has another toy to occupy his time.

I've started putting my '73 850 together. Here are a few pics:

1. Mark III by Mike Gallagher, Mancave by Teague
2. Frame from Bones Engleman, with wiring harness.
3. Engine by Jim Comstock, Transmission by Norton Club tech day, Debby Johnson.
4. Fork tubes from Eric Bergman, master cylinder by Randy Albright
5. Wheels by Woody
6. Parts by CNW, Old Britts, Amal





## ***Bob Herman is planning a productive winter***

My winter projects are lined up and will keep me in the shop through the cold season.

Some months ago I took possession of the Norton Model 50 engine that was languishing in Eric Bergman's basement. I "needed" a thumper for my daily trips to the post office, and figured to build a bike around the old lump. That engine is now apart, with the bottom end in Randy Albright's shop for inspection of main and big end bearings.



Meanwhile, a fairly complete and original 1973 RD350 showed up and triggered smoky nostalgia. I figured on tearing it down and doing a full restoration, but after a bit of elbow grease and mechanical fettling, I decided to just shine it up a bit and run it as is, warts and all.

If this one doesn't smoke up the neighborhood enough, I still have the X6 Hustler project to finish...

Craig Terry claimed an old Yamaha 750 Virago that had been taking space in a dusty corner of the shop, and as we all know, nature and garages abhor a vacuum. I had torn down the Guzzi T3 that Mike Klimo once planned to build, and was dismayed at how totally mucked up it was. I started to think that building this one might be a fool's errand - barrels were shot, the whole bike had long ago been treated to a rattle-can flat black effect that resisted standard attempts at removal, and there seemed little of value under the patina. It began to look more like a parts donor than the basis for a fresh build. What to do?

I've long appreciated the Tonti-framed Guzzi bikes - the CX100 I put together from a basket case while my Commando was smoldering has seen 30,000 miles in the decade since I built it. I like the 850 T3s, but find them a bit anemic; the extra 100cc capacity of the CX engine makes a considerable difference in real world performance. Craigslist to the rescue! I found a one-owner 1979 1000SP, a model that Guzzi built as a somewhat more muscular version of the T3. Mechanically, it's identical to the CX1000, but shares the T3's "sit up and beg" riding position that is much kinder to aging riders.

The owner of this bike rode it for twenty years before pulling it down for restoration. With (he said) "about 300,000 miles" on the machine, he bought a lower mileage bike for the engine, sent the gearbox to a Guzzi specialist for rebuild and sent the chassis, cast wheels etc. to a powder coater. Acquired a bunch of new parts and components - stainless steel exhaust system, for instance, a high-zoot RAM clutch/flywheel assembly, shocks, cables etc. - and then life intervened. Wife, kids, job, we all know the drill. Fast forward about eighteen years, and likely with encouragement from the missus he reluctantly concluded that the bike was never going to be put back together by his hands. So up on Craigslist it went, and I jumped on it.



With great bones, and all the expense already lavished on the components, I can't cut corners on the build. So I've ordered a full set of stainless steel hardware and will install new braided stainless brake lines. I probably will rewire it from scratch, though new replacement wiring harnesses are available. The tank and other tinware will go to my favorite shop for a paint scheme as yet undetermined. By the time riding season returns it should be ready to go.

So... winter is long up here in the Sangres, but maybe not long enough for all the above projects to see completion!

## Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

The Motorcycle Classics website has an article about a 1974 Commando Hi-Rider:

<<https://www.motorcycleclassics.com/classic-british-motorcycles/classic-norton-motorcycles/1974-norton-commando-hi-rider-zmsz17sozhur>>

See the Norton Girls on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NortonGirls>

Girl on Norton Dommie:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?sns=fb&v=0Gh1rzHktMU>

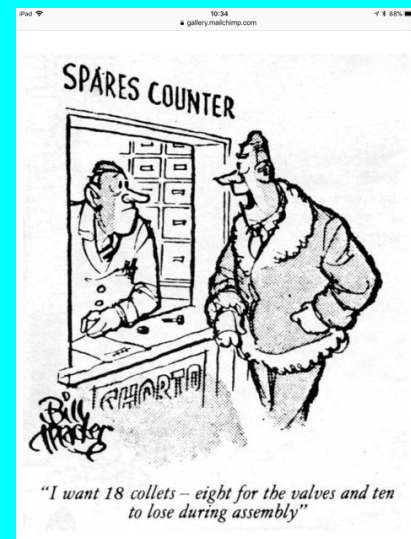


Bike would not start ,so I used the engine in the bar.

To help save the economy, the Government will announce next month that the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegals) in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs. Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home. I started to cry when I thought of you. Then it dawned on me...oh, hell...I'll see you on the bus.



While being mostly a sober machine, it seems to be drawn to lowly honky tonk watering holes by nature





## News Flash: 2018 INOA Tall Timber Rally in Elma WA.

**Flash:** - INOA Rally website is up and running at <http://nortonrally.com/>

**Flash:** - Registration form and on-line registration are available.

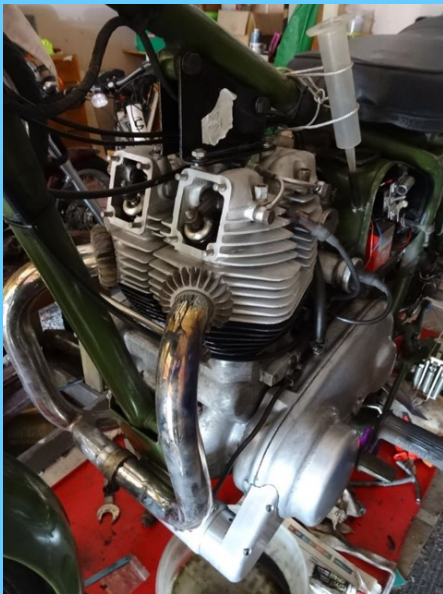
**Flash:** - Discounted motel reservations available at the StayBeyond Motel in Elma. Ask for Norton Rally. This motel SELLS OUT in July. The rooms are on a first come, first served basis only, we are unable to reserve a block of rooms, so make your reservation EARLY. Reservations can be made NOW!

You can always cancel. The StayBeyond has a 24 hour prior cancelation policy.

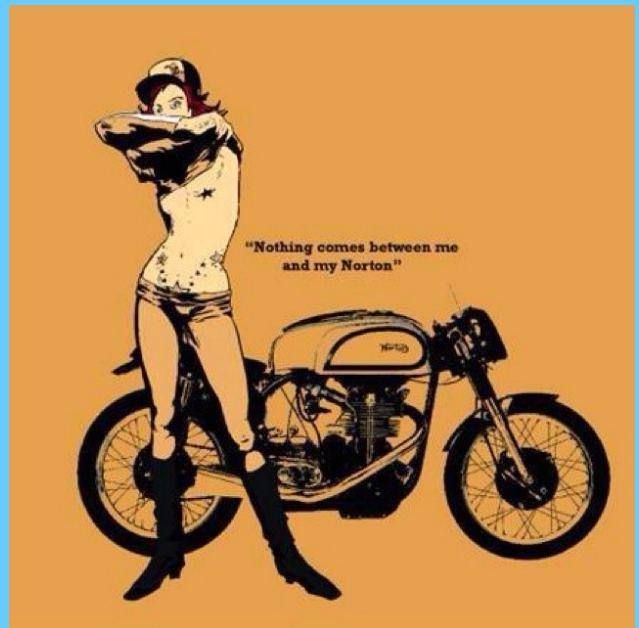
Check out the Norton Rally website under Accommodations for more information on lodging possibilities.

**We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 INOA Tall Timber Rally!**

For most frequent updates, please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/450097545355918/> or <http://nortonrally.com/>



Starter??



Steve Harris and his JPN behind the original CNW Quonset hut in Dolores while on his way to the Norton National in Torrey, Utah, 2000



## **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 Glenn Echo 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 11: Sat night 7:00 -- Hockey Game : National Champion DU Pioneers vs. St Cloud State

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>

## Prez Points Standings Top 10 (2017):

*points, events, solo rides*

Debby Johnson	84	13	25
Eric Bergman	76	17	17
Jack Abeyta	70	18	5
Scott Robinson	60	13	5
Peggy Abeyta	48	13	4
Laf	47	10	17
David Sheesley	41	9	9
Rick Black	37	8	0
Bob Herman	28	2	16
Bob Martin	28	17	0

Peter Allen has placed this beauty, seen at the Lone Star MC museum, first on his wish list.





## Current Occupants

### Officers

#### **President**

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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

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970-946-1302  
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### Staff

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#### **Swag Boss**

#### **Newsletter Editor**

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#### **Webmaster**

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Jim Comstock (719) 646-2610  
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**Credits:** Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Bob Herman, Steve Lavin, James Lafler, Bob Martin, Ron Pierce, Julie Robinson, Al Slarks, Jo Teague and Bob Wood 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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