



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



Norton Colorado

Newsletter

www.nortoncolorado.org

April 2018

Temptation

... comes in many forms.

Take the new Commando 850, for instance. To one man, it's the highly developed Norton 850 c.c. twin cylinder engine, conjunction of brute strength and finesse, with its 120 mph + speeds; to another, the superlative roadholding and ultra-responsive handling, echoing that racetrack sensation. To a third, its appeal lies in its no-holds-barred appearance and freedom-loving approach to life.

But find it yourself—the Norton experience!



Commando 850s
Superplusbikes
—all with isolastic super-ride

For the name of your nearest U.S.A. dealer, write or call:

Exclusive Importers and Distributors,
East of Mississippi River: Belfair Motor Corporation,
Railroad Street and Plant Road, Haverbrook, Illinois,
New Jersey 07604. (201) 288-9696

Exclusive Importers and Distributors,
West of Mississippi River: Norton Villiers Corporation,
6765 Paramount Blvd., North Long Beach,
California 90805. (213) 531-7138



CIRCLE NO. 21 ON READER SERVICE PAGE

Upcoming Events

See page 14 for the entire official 2018 events schedule. If you have any ideas for the 2018 official schedule, please contact Eric or Jack.

4/8 (Sunday): Tech Day @ Bob Martin's

4/21 (Saturday): Group Ride & Shop Visit: Jesse Caraway's

May

5/5 (Saturday): Group Ride

everyone admires the
'Smooth-Look'
1957 RANGE

Norton

DOMINATOR 99
600 C.C. TWIN

Just one of the outstanding new Norton models now available through your nearest distributor—

This is the year to be a Norton dealer! It's the "Smooth-Look" line that is proving the sales hit of 1957. To get full details on the profit-making Norton dealership that may still be open in your territory, write today to

HAP JONES
DISTRIBUTING CO.
3 CUNTON PARK OR PHONE
MARKET 1-5873
SAN FRANCISCO 3, CALIFORNIA

March 3rd Group Ride

Just got home from a very enjoyable first club ride of the 2018 season. Eric led five of us from Golden up Highway 40, to Highway 119, back to the flatlands via Highway 6 and over to Randy Albright's shop, also the location of the club's Parts Depot. There we gathered over lunch, a very nice BBQ, and dug through and organized some of the parts that are for sale at the Depot. Today's event seemed to offer something for everyone. Aside from those of on the ride there were several folks who met us in Golden to say hello and send us on our way.

At Randy's place there were a bunch more who showed up for the BBQ and sorting of parts. Great way to start the Norton Club riding season.



These guys braved the chilly mountain air and enjoyed a very nice ride. (not pictured, but rode: Scott and Eric)



Mike Fields showed up in this very nice 1958 Ford Fairlane convertible.

A few other things worth mentioning, Al Slarks rode his newly acquired BMW, Marc Lomax brought a very nice 250 Ducati to Randy's that he just purchased.

Rode a Norton:

Jack Abeyta
David Sheesley

Rode something lesser:

Arnie Beckman -- Triumph
Eric Bergman -- Laverda
Kris Geller -- BMW
Keith Hurtubise -- HD
Dennis Oberwetter -- Triumph
Scott Robinson -- HD
Al Slark -- BMW
Tom Tallick -- BMW
Jo Teague -- Honda

Got there:

Randy Albright
Jim Colt
Mike Fields
Blair Jenkins
Mark Liu
Marc Lomax
Bob Martin and Judy
Bob Ohman



Well, the predicted storm held off long enough for a handful of us to meet at the Streets Of London Pub once again. This seems to be a club favorite as year after year we have nice weather and a pretty good crowd of folks. I can only remember one year where we had rain and snow for this yearly event. Even then we drew a decent crowd. A little club gossip; Bones informed us he will be moving to the mountains of Ecuador next month. Best of luck to you, Bones. You'll be the only Norton Colorado member in South America.



Rode a Norton:

Jack and Peggy Abeyta
Arnie Beckman
Rick Black
Mike Fields and Vicky Borden
Scott Robinson

Rode something lesser:

Eric Bergman -- Laverda
Bones Engelman -- Suzuki
Bob Ohman -- BMW
Tom Tallick -- BMW

Got there:

Dennis Horgan
Jamie and Michelle Jones
Bob Martin and Judy
Denny Westervelt







The Norton club was well represented at the Foothills BMW vintage bike show on March 24th. Here's a little challenge: How well do you know your fellow club members? Can you match the Norton with the rider? Answers on the bottom of the next page.





- 1 - Bones Engelman
- 2 - Scott Robinson
- 3 - Arnie Beckman
- 4 - Jack Abeyta
- 5 - Martin White
- 6 - Steve Siler

Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Norton and antique parts, "Good guy and good quality ":

<http://customclassiccycleparts.com/>

Here is a free app that will track the maintenance on your motorcycle. Reasonably current IOS only.
bikeminder maintenance

<http://appadvice.com/shareapp/1024640003>

Interesting read about some pretty amazing women riders:

<http://www.messynessychic.com/2018/03/02/alone-with-her-bike-the-first-females-to-ride-around-the-world/>

Lucas is replacing the Rita ignition system with MOIRA:

<http://www.hoppybikes.co.uk/moira.htm>

A must have for any serious motorcyclist.....

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Luggage-Saddlebag-Motorcycle-Accessory-Crocodile-HD-iron-883-SB17-BIKELIST/302084116905?hash=item46559dd1a9:g:~ksAAOSwmLIX5SGd&vxp=mtr>

For Sale 1995 Triumph

Thunderbird 900 \$1800

3 cylinders, 3 carburetors

2 seats (stock and Corbin)

Windscreen, small bags, Norton low bars

Approximately 8000 miles

Top end redone by Erico's

Triumph factory shop manual

Stored in garage for last 8 years

Needs battery and carburetor cleaning

Herb Varona 303-420-5107



See, I still ride it once in awhile. (Bones Engelman)

Not for long, I'm told this bike will soon be on it's way to Hawaii, where Bones' son will be enjoying his dad's old Norton.

A Priest was about to finish his tour of duty, and was leaving his Mission in darkest Brazil where he has spent years teaching the natives right from wrong, when he realizes that the one thing he never taught them was how to speak English.

So he takes the chief for a walk in the forest. He points to a tree and says to the chief, 'This is a tree.'

The chief looks at the tree and grunts, 'Tree.'

The Priest is pleased with the response. They walk a little further and he points to a rock and says, 'This is a rock.'

Hearing this, the chief looks and grunts, 'Rock.'

The Priest was really getting enthusiastic about the results when he hears a rustling in the bushes. As they peek over the top, he sees a couple of natives in the midst of heavy sexual activity.

The Priest is really flustered and quickly responds,

'Man riding a bike.'

The chief looks at the couple briefly, pulls out his blowgun and kills them.

The Priest goes ballistic and yells at the chief that he has spent years teaching the tribe how to be civilized and be kind to each other, so how could he kill these people in cold blood that way?

The chief replied, 'My bike.'

(Public service announcement:
When riding this type of bike
always remember to wear
your "helmet" and be safe.
AGATT)



It's about time to start planning your summer riding season.
Check out these event notices.

Jerry D's in Dacono has invited the Norton Club to Bike Nite May 30th, 2018 from 6:00 to 10:10 P.M. We can have a booth, there will be vendors there.

Is there any interest in adding this as an official event?
We'd need a volunteer "host" for this event.
Call Eric or Arnie.

2018
4 CORNERS
RENDEZVOUS

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

When: Thur. -Sun. June 14-17th

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 green chili burritos 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)

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/>

2018 Land O' the Pines Rallye

**The 34th Land O' the Pines Rallye is at Diamond Don's Campground.
September 27th to 30th 2018**

Rallye Chairman - Dennis Tackett

Al Lamb is our Rallye Grand Marshal.

Aug 2017, for the first time ever Al Lamb and the World's Fastest Motorcycles competed on the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia. The world's largest salt flat, at an elevation of 12,000ft. Al Lamb was on a quest to surpass his own 262.471mph FIM World Fastest Sit-On Motorcycle Record and break the 300mph barrier. However a competitor Ralph Hudson had the same idea. It was an epic fight for the title of "FIM World's Fastest Motorcycle". Al will be going back to Bolivia in July to break the 300mph barrier.

The rallye draws over 300 people displaying over 150 of the finest vintage motorcycles anywhere in the country. Join us at Diamond Don's Motorsports & RV Park which is just one mile outside of Jefferson, Texas. Participate in Friday's Field Events, display your bike in Saturday's bike show and ride in the Rolling Concours. Come enjoy a weekend full of great entertainment and fun.

This is a beautiful campground located in the woods of East Texas. It is only 1 mile north of Jefferson on Highway 49 with all its antique shops, stores, and restaurants. The campground sits on 100 acres and has 50 RV hook ups along with a dump station. There are clean restrooms and free Wi-Fi. The center of the campground has a huge covered pavilion with a stage, sound system, lighting, and a bar with a fridge. There is a large central open area that is perfect for our new field events being held on Friday and for our traditional bike show and rolling concours to be held on Saturday. As an added attraction there is a fenced in alligator pit!

If you are interested here's a link to follow to more information about the rally:

<http://www.ntnoa.org/18loprallye.htm>

An engineer explains Lucas electronics

A sheet of paper crossed my desk the other day and as I read it, realization of a basic truth came over me. So simple! So obvious we couldn't see it. John Knivlen, Chairman of Polamar Repeater Club, an amateur radio group, had discovered how IC circuits work. He says that smoke is the thing that makes ICs work because every time you let the smoke out of an IC circuit, it stops working. He claims to have verified this with thorough



testing.

I was flabbergasted! Of course! Smoke makes all things electrical work. Remember the last time smoke escaped from your Lucas voltage regulator, didn't it quit working? I sat and smiled like an idiot as more of the truth dawned. It's the wiring harness that carries the smoke from one device to another in your Mini, MG or Jag. And when the harness springs a leak, it lets the smoke out of everything at once, and then nothing works. The starter motor requires large quantities of smoke to operate properly, and that's why the wire going to it is so large. Feeling very smug, I continued to expand my hypothesis. Why are Lucas electronics more likely to leak than say Bosch? Hmmm... Aha!!! Lucas is British, and all things British leak! British convertible tops leak water, British engines leak oil, British displacer units leak hydrostatic fluid, and I might add British tires leak air, and the British defense unit leaks secrets... so naturally British electronics leak smoke.

-- Jack Banton, PCC Automotive Electrical School

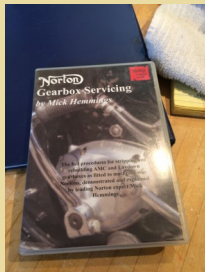
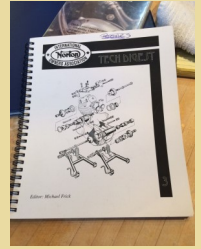


Jo Teague and Jim Colt seem to have the trip of a lifetime down in New Zealand.



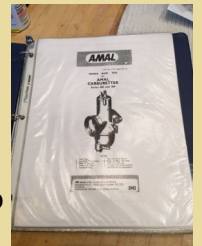
Our esteemed member Bones Engelman is making a big change in his life and moving to Ecuador soon, so he needs to lighten his load in life. In fact he cannot even take any of his motorcycles there, due to the import laws. His Commando is staying in the family though, going to live with his son. In clearing out all the stuff a motorcyclist collects over time, Bones came up with several Norton-related items that he decided to donate to the club. They are:

- 1) A DVD by Mick Hemmings on how to overhaul an AMC gearbox.
- 2) An INOA Tech Digest (3rd edition)
- 3) A binder with neatly collected reference information about Amal carburetors.



Bob Ohman and I were already thinking about the possibility to start a Norton Reference Library in conjunction with the Parts Depot, and Bones' donation has pushed us off the dime. Soon there will be a bookshelf in the Parts Depot trailer with these items and others that we collect. Many of us have relevant documentation that is either no longer of much interest or perhaps duplicated in our collections. I have several items I will pull out for the Reference Library. If you have something you'd like to contribute, contact Bob Ohman at (303) 570-9333 or <reohman@att.net>.

I think the Library will end up consisting of two departments, one of which is a permanent, stationary set of documents that should not leave the Parts Depot. This would be mainly Parts Books and documentation that helps in identifying the stuff in the Parts Depot. The second section would be things that could be borrowed by club members, and for those things we would have a sign-out book. For these kinds of items, Workshop Manuals, for example, having duplicate copies would be advantageous.



At a later date we will post an initial inventory of the Reference Library in the newsletter. As always, your comments on our plans are greatly appreciated.

Eric and Bob

President's Award (Every so often we publish the rules concerning the President's Award for the benefit of newer members and also for older members whose memory is on the decline) The President's Award will be given at the Winter Banquet to the member who has accumulated the most points, which are issued on the basis of participation in official club events during the previous "Club Year", which begins with the Winter Banquet in early February. The President himself is ineligible for the award, although we will keep a tally on him. You score 5 points for riding a Norton to one of our official events, 2 points for riding any other brand of motorcycle, 1 point for driving, taking the bus, walking, or whatever. Full points (5) are scored if you host a club event. Passengers on motorcycles earn the same score as the rider. "Riding a Norton" means arriving at the meeting, riding an operational Norton. The trailer may not be visible from the meeting site. We make an exception to the visible trailer rule for long-distance events such as the Four Corners Rendezvous. Two (2) extra points are awarded for paying the entry fee and showing your Norton at the English Conclave. Four (4) extra points are awarded for entering and winning a ribbon. We award 5 points for attending an INOA Rally, even without a motorcycle, and an additional 5 points if you ride a Norton at the Rally. In recent years we have added another way to score points toward the President's Award: solo Norton rides, for a which a single point is awarded with a maximum of one per day and a yearly maximum of 25. We leave it to you to decide what constitutes a "Norton ride". To be credited with the points, however, you must inform the Secretary about it. A claim for a solo ride should include a date, even if you have to approximate it. The President is the sole arbiter of disputes over points awards. Rules changes are not retroactive. Periodically we will review the scores from the previous month's event(s), update the tally of points and publish it in the newsletter.

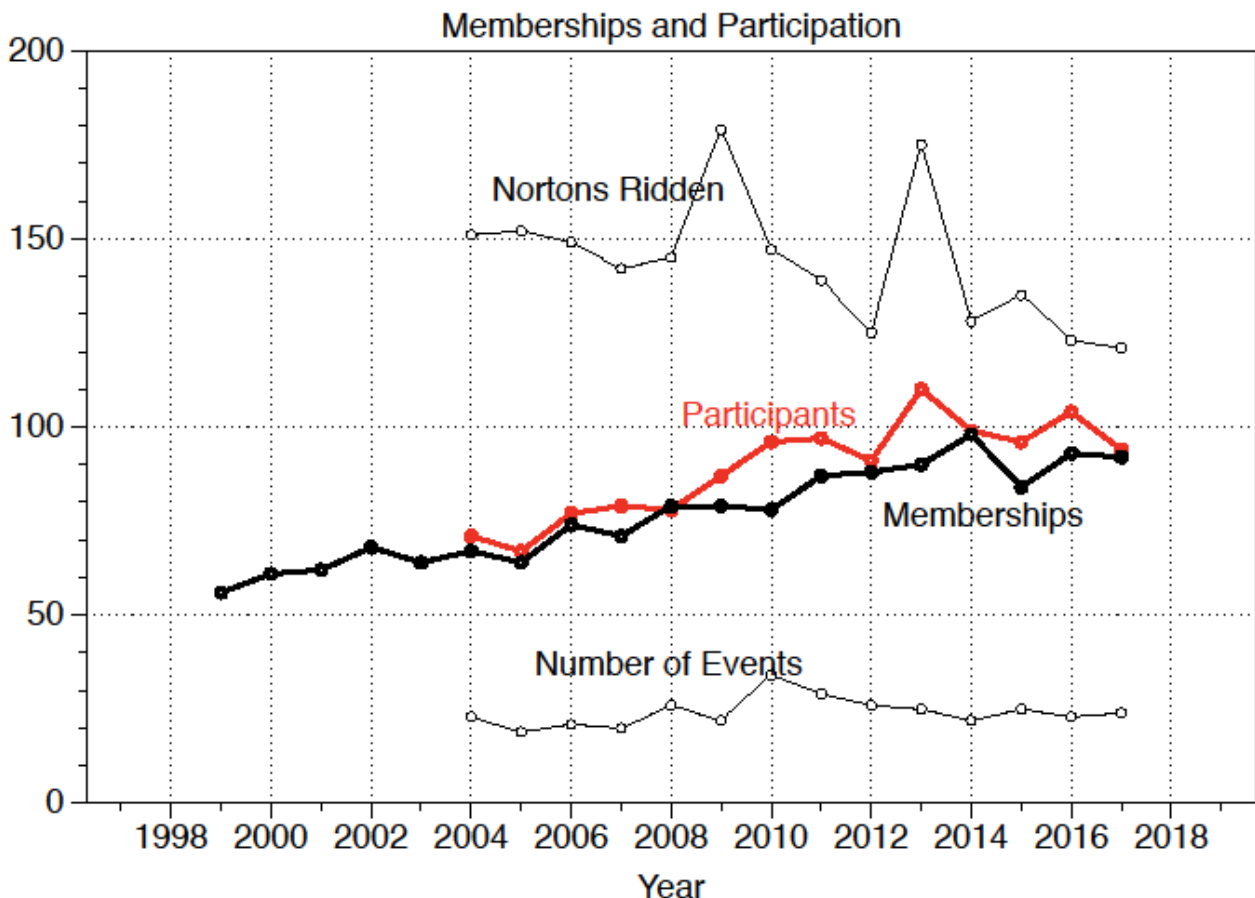
Norton Colorado Membership and Participation by Eric Bergman

For a number of years I've been keeping track of some basic statistics about membership in Norton Colorado and participation in the club's events. This information is summarized in the graph below, which I recently updated with the stats from 2017. The things plotted are:

- 1) Number of Events, the number of official events scheduled.
- 2) Memberships, the total of single and couples/family memberships (not total number of members).
- 3) Participants, the number of members (including spouses and children in family memberships) who participated in at least one event.
- 4) Nortons ridden, the number of times someone scored 5 points toward the President's Award. This slightly over-estimates the number of Nortons ridden because 5 points are awarded for hosting an event.

The graph provides a quick overview of what might be called the State of Health of the club. Memberships have steadily risen (except for a notable drop in 2015) over the past 20 years or so, from about 55 in 1999 to about 90 in 2017. Historically, we seem to lose about 10 members every year who fail to renew their membership and then through the year we add about that many back, and usually a few more. At the moment we are at 72 renewals from a 2017 membership of 92, so I expect about 10 of the laggards from 2017 to finally renew their membership and we'll move on from there. This is quite a typical pattern. On the other hand, I fully expect the membership in Norton Colorado to begin a steady decline someday and in hindsight it may turn out that 2014 was our high point.

The number of events we schedule has stabilized in recent years at around 24 per year, so changes in the number of participants and Nortons ridden represent important aspects of the health of the club, even more so than the number of memberships. By those measures, there is some evidence of a decline in the frequency with which Nortons are hauled out and started. We all recognize the temptation, with advancing age, to avoid the opportunity to kick-start the wet-sumped Norton in the garage and instead pull out the modern button-equipped bike instead, even for club events. Our Nortons are becoming genuinely OLD motorcycles and it is inevitable that we will see fewer and fewer of them being ridden. It is the natural order of things. On the other hand we often make an effort to stave off the inevitable, and some of you clearly take that approach to your choice of motorcycles. Good on ya!



Tentative Schedule for 2018

Please check this out and feel free to contact Eric Bergman to suggest more ideas or to volunteer to host an event

February

2/3 (Saturday): Winter Banquet

March

3/3 (Saturday): Group Ride or Museum Visit, depending on weather

3/18 (Sunday): Pub Meeting: Streets of London

April

4/8 (Sunday): Tech Day @ Bob Martin's

4/21 (Saturday): Group Ride & Shop Visit: Jesse Caraway's

May

5/5 (Saturday): Group Ride

5/20 (Sunday): OBR 16

June

6/3 (Sunday): BBQ @ Eric & Susie's

6/14-17 (Thur-Sun): Four Corners Rendezvous

July

7/8 (Sunday): Mt Evans Ride & Brunch @ David Sheesley's

7/28 (Saturday): Group Ride

August

8/4-5 (Saturday-Sunday): Wimpy Campout @ Jamie & Michelle Jones'

8/19 (Sunday): Group Ride

September

9/7-9 (Friday-Sunday): Campout

9/16 (Sunday): English Conclave

October

10/7 (Sunday): Plains Ride (Scott & Julie Robinson)

10/21 (Sunday): Tech Day

November

11/4 (Sunday): Open Garage

TBA (Saturday): DU Hockey Night

December

12/2 (Sunday): Pub Meeting

January 2019

1/1 (Tuesday): New Year's Day Ride

1/13 (Sunday): 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.



Looks like Jack wants to keep his shoes. He volunteered to continue as Road Captain for another year. That gives someone a year to think about taking over this prestigious club position.

Club Events

Many events have been scheduled for the 2018 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	89	14	25
Eric Bergman	82	18	18
Jack Abeyta	70	18	5
Scott Robinson	65	14	5
Peggy Abeyta	48	13	4
James Lafler	47	10	17
David Sheesley	41	9	9
Rick Black	37	8	0
Mike Fields	34	8	4
Bob Martin	30	18	0

Current Occupants

Officers

President

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arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com

Secretary

Eric Bergman (303) 278-7445
onenorton@gmail.com

Treasurer

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Road Captain

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Newsletter Editor

Scott Robinson (303) 287-6580
mister.r@comcast.net

Secretary of Commerce

(My new job title reflects my role in the Parts
Depot as well as Swag slut)
Bob Ohman (303) 570-9333
reohman@att.net

Webmaster

David Sheesley (720) 277-6563
dks@davidksheesley.com

Technical Advisor

Jim Comstock (719) 646-2610
comnoz2@juno.com

Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, King Browne, Jim Colt, Bones Engelman, Bob Herman, Dennis Horgan, Bob Martin, Bob Ohman and Al Slarks 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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Golden, CO 80401

