



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



# Norton Colorado

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

## Newsletter

May 2019



Jamie came prepared for the 4/20 ride with his new commemorative license plate stickers

## Upcoming Events

See page 13 for the entire official 2019 events schedule.

May  
5/5 (Sunday): Group Ride

5/19 (Sunday): OBR 17

June  
6/2 (Sunday): BBQ @ Eric & Susie's

Look for club emails for more details about these gatherings.



There's no need to fear!  
Norton-dog is here!



## **Spring Tech Day** Hosted by Bob Martin

Another fine day to come out and visit with the Norton Club. The first project was to help Ross Petersen get his 750 Commando ready for his big southern adventure. Our other project was to figure out how Jack could mount his newly purchased saddlebags on his old Norton. The rest of us passed out advice, some of it even useful, ate Bob's famous chili, and just hung out, as usual.

### **Rode a Norton**

Jack and Peggy Abeyta  
Arnie Beckman  
Rick Black  
Jamie Jones  
Ross Petersen  
Scott Robinson  
Dave Sheesley  
Ron Weaver  
Denny Westervelt

### **Rode something lesser**

Mike Fields -- HD  
Debbie Johnson -- BMW  
Mark Liu -- Metropolitan  
Marc Lomax -- Motoguzzi  
Steve Siler -- KTM  
Lew Wackler -- BMW  
Martin White -- KTM

### **Got there**

Eric Bergman  
Pete Homan  
Dennis Horgan  
Michelle Jones  
Ric and Joy Landeira  
Tom Tallick  
Herb and Karen Varona





There was more to see than just Nortons !!





Ross Petersen took advantage of the expert advice available at the tech session to rebuild his forks and install a new rear wheel bearing.



## 420 Ride: Norton Colorado takes a tour of the high country

When it was pointed out to Eric that the date of our next event was April 20 (4/20) it seemed appropriate to respect this important national holiday. Therefore, Eric planned a ride along some of our favorite roads in the foothills, including Central City Parkway, Peak-to-Peak Highway and Coal Creek Canyon, with stops at three "emporia of recreational marijuana", one each in Idaho Springs, Central City and Nederland. The weather was beautiful and we had one of the largest groups of Nortons I've seen on a club ride.



This ride brought out the largest group of Nortons, 11, for a club ride that I can remember. We also had 3 new members, Jerry, Ron and John join us for the ride.

**Rode a Norton**

Jack Abeyta  
Arnie Beckman  
Jerry Doe  
Mike Fields  
Kris Geller  
Dennis Horgan  
Jamie Jones  
Scott Robinson  
Dave Sheesley  
Steve Siler  
Ron Weaver

**Rode something lesser**

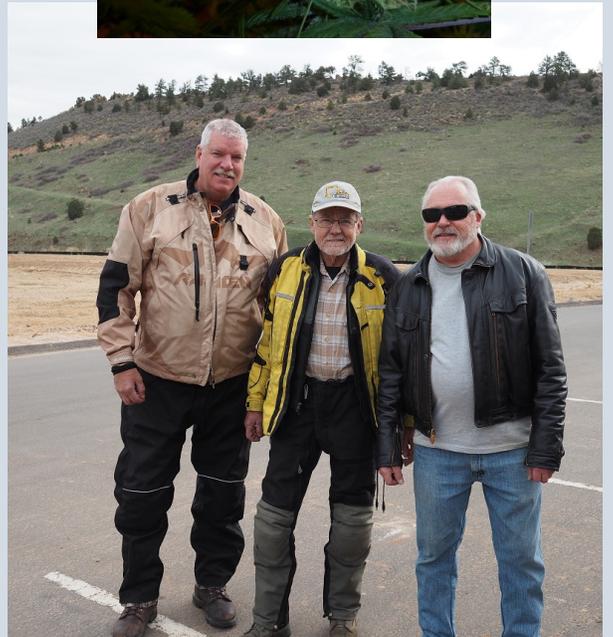
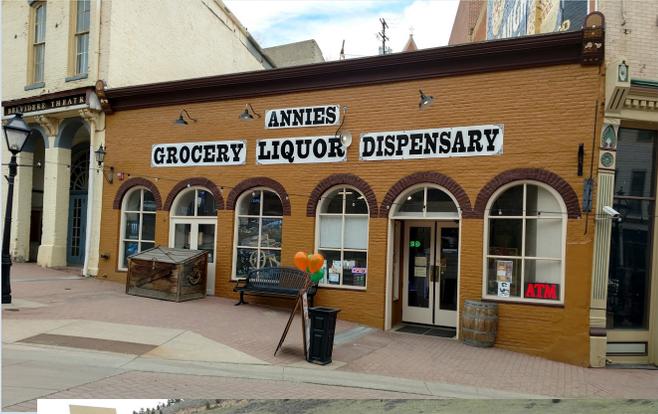
Eric Bergman -- Laverda  
Jim Colt -- KTM  
John Hartman -- Triumph  
Mike Powell -- Triumph  
Martin White -- Yamaha



Mike Powell's bike also sported the 4/20 commemorative license plate stickers. His plate even had his initials on it.



Who would have thought, back in the day, that we would see a picture like this. A large group of us all lined up outside of a marijuana store. At least not without being paired with a profile shot and a ruler behind us. Gotta love Colorado.



# SUMMER MOTORCYCLE RACING BEGINS

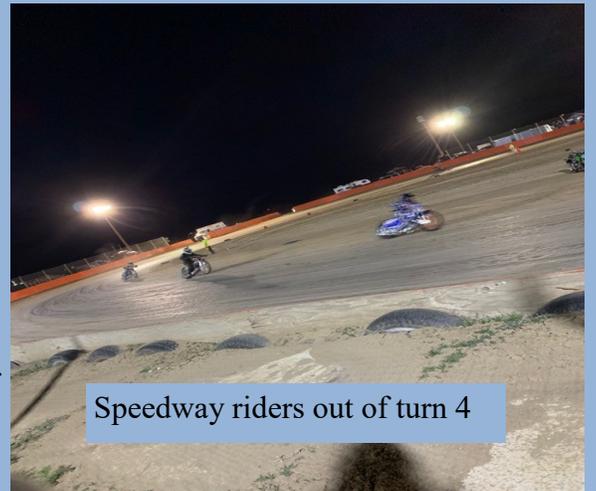
By Arnie Beckman

Photos: Amelia Beckman



As spring draws near so does motorcycle season; including racing season. Since adequate coverage of our official events occurs routinely, and since I intend to contribute more to the Newsletter, this begins my coverage of motorcycle racing events I plan on attending. My focus includes the speedway/short track races at the IMI track off I-25 and Danoco exit (232) which began last Saturday night April 20, 2019, as well as vintage motocross races occurring throughout the summer. Both a local motocross club (Rocky Mountain Vintage MX Club) and the national American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association (AHRMA) host MX races in Colorado at a variety of locations. I plan to race vintage motocross this summer on my BSA 441 returning to vintage MX last summer after a 25 year hiatus. Until that starts I will be at the flat track races.

The season kicked off at IMI ¼ mile dirt track on Saturday night with primarily speedway and flat track bikes, however, they also run races with quads, carts and even a riding lawn mower race. The flat track bikes include Sportsman A and B open riders as well as open pro riders, a vintage open class and smaller displacement classes. The racing is tight and the races short on the ¼ mile dirt oval and side by side or three abreast racing is the norm. The Speedway bikes in the hands of a skilled rider complete the oval in an almost constant sideways slide. The Division 1 riders have those skills and are thrilling to watch.



Speedway riders out of turn 4

The vintage class features mostly 1970s and 80s era purpose built flat track bikes and the crowd favorite “hooligan” class pits riders on stock street machines, mostly Harleys, on the tight oval. The gate fee is \$12 and the racing starts around 7:00. The program typically features heat races until about 8:00 to 8:30 and then the main events . The racing is done by around 10:00. For the money this is a great motorcycle entertainment value.



Number 242 rider Miner goes over the high side in 250/450 heat race 3.



# COLORADO SPEEDWAY + FLAT TRACK

Find us on 

5074 Summit Blvd., Dacono, CO 80514  
(Formerly County Rd 8)

## 2019 Flat Track Schedule

- April 20th
- April 27th
- May 11th
- May 25th
- June 8th
- July 6th
- July 20th – **BOGO Admission**
- August 3rd
- August 24th
- August 31st
- September 21st – **Championship Race**



- Located at the **IMI Racetrack**
- **NOW Lengthened to 1/4 Mile!**
- **Classes for ALL Ages!** (North of Denver)  
I-25 exit 232 – EAST 2 Miles  
(Through the stop sign on the dirt road.)

**\$12**  
Gate Fee



13<sup>th</sup> Annual



## A MOTORCYCLE RIDE FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS

**WHEN**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019**  
Always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June

**BENEFITING**



[www.Molly-DharmaRun.org](http://www.Molly-DharmaRun.org)  
303.871.8290

## THE 2019 MOLLY-DHARMA RUN

**WHEN**  
Sunday, June 9, 2019  
(Always the second Sunday in June)

**COST**  
\$25 single rider/ \$35 for two-up  
\$5 discount for early registration online

**REGISTRATION**  
9:00 am – 10:00 am - Last bike out 10:30am  
Platte River Bar & Grill  
5995 S. Santa Fe Drive  
Littleton, CO 80120  
FREE ride pin & burrito for first 200 participants

**MOTORCYCLE RIDE**  
10:30 am – 1:00 pm  
300+ bikes ride through the foothills and meet the animals and volunteers at 4Paws4Life, 3648 N Perry Park Rd, Sedalia, CO 80135

**AFTERPARTY**  
1:00 pm – 5:00pm  
Wheelz Bar & Grill  
2490 W. Hampden Ave.,  
Englewood, CO 80110  
Live music! Food & beer! Fun!



## NEWS - HARLEY DAVIDSON SPEAKS TO "DECLINING BIKE SALES" (Probably true for any brand of motorcycle)

Apparently the Baby-Boomers all have motorcycles. Generation X is only buying a few, and the next generation isn't buying any at all. A recent study was done to find out why Millennials don't ride motorcycles:

1. Pants won't pull up far enough for them to straddle the seat.
2. Can't get their phone to their ear with a helmet on.
3. Can't use 2 hands to eat while driving
4. They don't get a trophy and a recognition plaque just for buying one.
5. Don't have enough muscle to hold the bike up when stopped.
6. Might have a bug hit them in the face and then they would need emergency care.
7. Motorcycles don't have air conditioning.
8. They can't afford one because they spent 12 years in college trying to get a degree in Humanities, Social Studies or Gender Studies for which no jobs are available.
9. They are allergic to fresh air.
10. Their pajamas get caught on the exhaust pipes.
11. They might get their hands dirty checking the oil.
12. The handle bars have buttons and levers and cannot be controlled by touch-screen.
13. You have to shift manually and use something called a clutch.
14. It's too hard to take selfies while riding.
15. They don't come with training wheels like their bicycles did.
16. Motorcycles don't have power steering or power brakes.
17. Their nose ring interferes with the face shield.
18. They would have to use leg muscle to back up.
19. When they stop, a light breeze might blow exhaust in their face.
20. It could rain on them and expose them to non-soft water.
21. It might scare their therapy dog, and then the dog would need therapy.
22. Can't get the motorcycle down the basement stairs of their parent's home.



Here's a couple of pictures of antique motorcycles on the road



## What's going on in your garage?

Now that winter is setting in many of us are spending more time in the garage. If you are spending your time turning wrenches instead of turning a throttle please send me a picture and maybe even write a paragraph so while we aren't riding we can have something cool to read and look at.

It was a big day in Northern Colorado this last Saturday. My deceased brother Greg's dump find '29 JD from 1967 is back on the road after at least 5 decades! RIP while smiling! Lot's of sorting and fettling this summer before disassembly and paint this fall....

Ride On,  
'laffman



Just remember, the project isn't done till someone bleeds, usually me. You wouldn't think you could hit yourself in the head with the side stand. I have talent you never even suspected.  
Dave



## For Sale : 1969 BSA Rocket 3

Rick Black has decided to put his Rocket 3 up for sale. It's partially restored, runs, but still needs some work. The price : Expensive.

Call Rick if you are interested.

720-885-6410



**Editor's note:** This is a BSA Rocket 3, but it is **not** Rick's.

## Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Fascinating (but a bit monotonous) old color film footage of the factory abusing early Commandos (Fastback, R and S, and something that looks like a cross between a Commando and a P-11) in the campaign to solve the notorious frame breakage problem. I felt sorry for the test riders! (Just like riding around Denver-- Scott)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o624FRvsSsE>

Here's a link to information about this year's national rally in Brooklyn, Michigan

<https://NortonRally.com>

Norton 750 Commando Racing Superbike Class at VRRRA Mosport 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgU-AjCKwAM>



Three generations of Martins  
out for a ride: Bob, son Bill and  
grandson Dan.

# Norton Colorado 2019 Event Schedule

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

## February

2/2 (Saturday): Winter Banquet at the Rock Bottom Brewery, Denver

## March

3/2 (Saturday): Group Ride, Parts Depot Work Party or Museum Visit, depending on weather

3/17 (Sunday): Pub Meeting: Streets of London

## April

4/7 (Sunday): Tech Day @ Bob Martin's

4/20 (Saturday): Group Ride

## May

5/5 (Sunday): Group Ride

5/19 (Sunday): OBR 17

## June

6/2 (Sunday): BBQ @ Eric & Susie's

6/13-16 (Thur-Sun): Four Corners Rendezvous

## July

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

7/20-21 (Saturday - Sunday) : Century Ride

## August

8/3-4 (Saturday-Sunday): Wimpy Campout @ Jamie & Michelle Jones'

8/18 (Sunday): Group Ride

## September

9/6-8 (Friday-Sunday): Cotopaxi

9/15 (Sunday): English Conclave

9/28 (Saturday): Group Ride

## October

10/13 (Sunday): Plains Ride (Scott & Julie Robinson)

10/27 (Sunday): Tech Day at MotoWorks Denver

## November

TBA (Saturday): DU Hockey Night (host Scott Robinson)

## December

12/1 (Sunday): Pub Meeting

## January 2020

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

1/12 (Sunday): Pub Meeting

Strange how times change. I was almost arrested once for not wearing pants.



In 1916, Adeline and Augusta Van Buren became the first women to travel across the country on two solo motorcycles. They made it despite frequently being arrested for wearing pants.

## 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 2019 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 (2019):

*points, events, solo rides*

Ron Weaver	15	3	0
Scott Robinson	15	3	4
Arnie Beckman	12	3	1
Jack Abeyta	11	3	0
Peggy Abeyta	11	3	0
Ross Petersen	11	3	0

Looks like we have a couple of new names on this list. Is Jack or Debbie's hold on the President's Trophy coming to an end? Keep riding and we'll see how it all turns out in February 2020.

## Current Occupants

### Officers

#### **President**

Arnie Beckman (303) 733-4239  
[arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com](mailto:arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary**

Eric Bergman (303) 278-7445  
[onenorton@gmail.com](mailto:onenorton@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer**

Charley Gremmels  
1832 Forest Ave., Durango, CO 81301  
970-946-1302  
[NoNortons@gmail.com](mailto:NoNortons@gmail.com)

### Staff

#### **Road Captain**

Jack Abeyta (303) 426-0594  
[abeytaa@aol.com](mailto:abeytaa@aol.com)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Scott Robinson (303) 287-6580  
[mister.r@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:reohman@att.net)

#### **Webmaster**

David Sheesley (720) 277-6563  
[dks@davidksheesley.com](mailto:dks@davidksheesley.com)

#### **Technical Advisor**

Jim Comstock (719) 646-2610  
[comnoz2@juno.com](mailto:comnoz2@juno.com)

**Credits:** Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Amelia Beckman, Arnie Beckman, Dennis Horgan, James Lafler, Bob Ohman, David Sheesley and Dave Webster 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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