



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



Norton Colorado

Newsletter

www.nortoncolorado.org

December 2019

Upcoming Events

See page 8 for the entire official 2019 events schedule.

December

12/8 (Sunday): Pub Meeting, 11AM
Pints Pub
221 W. 13th Ave.
Denver CO 80204
(303) 534-7543

<http://www.pintspub.com/>

January 2020

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

Look for club emails for more details about these gatherings.



Peter Allen's 1939 model 18 in Ireland

Tech Day at Moto Works Denver

Hosted by King Browne

Rode or worked on a Norton:

Mike Fields

Scott Robinson

Scott Shuler

Ron Weaver

Rode something lesser:

Dennis Oberwetter -- Triumph

Got there:

Jack and Peggy Abeyta

Eric Bergman

Rick Black

Jim Colt

Kris Geller

Pete Homan

James Lafler

Mark Liu

Bob Martin

Mike Powell

Frank Puckett

Randy Schneider

David Sheesley

Al Slark



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.

What I've Been Doing in My Garage Lately, or How One Thing Leads to Another...Usually

By Scott Shuler

So, the original idea was to take my 1960 BSA Gold Star down to the open shop day at Motoworks on November 3 to see if, after ten years under restoration, we could get it to start. I was all set. Then, I noticed the fuel taps had leaked a bit since I painted it two years ago. So, I took them off to clean them and the rest of the fuel system. Since they were leaking, I decided to make them not do that. Easier said than done with the OEM taps. So, I decided to put more modern, non-leakers on. However, they, and the new bushings needed, didn't arrive in time to take the Gold Star to Motoworks. A Plan B was needed.

Since my 1974 850 Commando was missing on one cylinder when I parked him last year after the Old Bike Ride, I figured that might be an interesting project for the club. Down to Motoworks we headed. I arrived at 9:00 sharp with the Commando in tow. I met King Browne inside and began unloading and pushing the bike onto one of the many lifts in the shop. I described the issue with the bike missing on the right cylinder and King sprung into action. First, he checked compressions. 130 psi both sides. It's a brand new engine rebuilt by Jim Comstock down in Pueblo less than 200 miles ago, so rings probably aren't even seated, yet. Then, we checked spark from the Pazon setup. The right side was making a bright spark, but the left, not so much. I thought I forgot to bring an extra set, so I went to the Auto Zone on Broadway to get two more BPR7ES's. When I got home I found the plugs I thought I had forgot right where I had put them in the backset of my truck. Oldtimers setting in fast. The new plugs were creating nice lightning on both sides. We tried to start him. A weird clunking noise occurred when the kickstarter was engaged. Hmm. After much mashing of teeth and general consternation along with many opinions, it turned out to be a loose primary belt. Another successful diagnosis by Dr. Eric Bergman. Thanks, again Eric! But, the bike would not start. We sprayed starter fluid into the carbs. Good noises, but would not keep running. Then, somebody smelled the fuel in the tank and said it was reminiscent of the aroma emanating from two week old road kill in the summer. Hmm. No more of that low-down 10% ethanol-containing juice for my bikes! In addition, I decided to get rid of the FCR flat slides and go back to my single, dead reliable VM34, also. I know; not as unique or sexy as the twin pumper carbs, but I think I'll actually be able to ride the bike, now. That is the point, right?

Anyway, that was one weekend. The point of this article was to explain what's been going on since then. Well, I've decided the paint work I had done on the tank was not adequate. For some reason, some kind of dastardly reaction had occurred between the primers and caused spider webs to form in the base coat and could be seen through the clear coat. Nobody noticed it but me until we got it under the excellent fluorescent lighting at Motoworks. Thanks, a lot King! Lol. Also, I didn't apply the 'Norton' vinyl transfer very well, and it wrinkled in one area. It bugged me. So, I decided to strip the tank and repaint it. And, also, find out how to apply a two dimensional vinyl transfer to a round, three dimensional gas tank without creating wrinkles.



For the past week I sanded the paint off the tank down to the metal in some areas but mostly down to the epoxy primer.

Metal etching primer then goes onto any areas where bare steel appears. Then, a high build primer surfacer goes over everything. After sanding the primer surfacer with P400 wet or dry, a coat of sealer goes on.



To me, the best part is applying color and then clear. This is where all the prep work pays off. The color is a metallic orange called 'tangerine' to which I laid on a very light application of pearl. Four coats of clear go over all of this and we wait for it to cure before color sanding.

I wait overnight to make sure it's good and hard and will accept the color sanding process.



Since I don't have access to a proper spray booth, I try to make sure everything is pristine clean in my garage, but no matter what, little nibs and other flying crap get into the clear everytime it seems. To find these bumps, I first sand the whole piece with P1500. This makes the nibs and stuff really show up. These get knocked down with P1000, then back to P1500. After this, I go to P3000 and then buffing.

Compounding gets rid of the P3000 scratches.

The rubbing compound leaves kind of a hazy look behind, so this is followed by buffing.



Then, finally a polishing compound gets rid of any swirls left by the buffing process.

The end result is usually worth the work.



I have not put the vinyl 'Norton' on at this writing, so any advice/opinions/commentary are more than welcome.

If you've got any suggestions for Scott's vinyl letters project here's his email address: Scott.Shuler@ColoState.EDU



Norton Club goes to DU

Hosted by Scott Robinson

Not exactly, we're all too old and wise to go back to college, We were there to see the DU Pioneers play hockey against the Western Michigan Broncos. This was our third trip to DU and this one was a doozy. The Pioneers beat the Broncos 6-1. Best game I've seen in a while.

The Pioneers got off to a slow start which was a concern. They were on a 6 game winless streak. But, in the second period they woke up and never let off the gas. Very exciting, and as usual a good time was had by all.



Norton lovers enjoying hockey



We had a pretty good view of the game

Jack and Peggy Abeyta
Karen Bailey and Steve Lavin
Arnie and Amelia Beckman
Eric Bergman
Pete Chronis
Jerry Doe and Mina Tung
Dennis Horgan
Jamie Jones
Mark Liu
Bob Martin
Bob and Claire Ohman
Mike Powell
Scott Robinson
David Sheesley

***How'd you like to save a little money?
Want to learn how to mount your own tires?***

Rick Black has offered to teach us how to mount tires the old fashioned way. Great opportunity to learn a skill that will save you money. He'd like to know if there is enough interest to make it worth his while to clean out his garage and make room for us or if you would like to host this event in your larger, heated garage. If this sounds like an event you would like to attend let him know. 720-885-6410



Best and Worst riding of 2019

Here's an idea for those of you who want to write something for this fine newsletter:

Now that 2019 is coming to a close let's hear about your riding experiences from 2019. What was your best ride of the year? Or, for those of you old curmudgeons, what was your worst ride of the year?

Scott Robinson, best of 2019: One of my favorite rides in the state is CO 149. The road goes from HWY 50 west of Gunnison to South Fork on HWY 160, about 120 miles. It passes through Lake City, goes over Slumgullion Pass (11,360 ft) and through Creede. Very cool and beautiful ride. This year's ride I had the road to myself for 75 miles before I had to ride behind another vehicle. A rare and wonderful treat.

Scott Robinson, worst of 2019: I-70 from Grand Junction to Denver. The road is in terrible condition, the traffic sucked, tons of trucks, and I was tired. If you ever rode this miserable stretch of highway I'm sure you agree. (Of course, a crappy day on a motorcycle still beats driving a car, so I wouldn't do anything different next time.)



A green Commando, a red Atlas and a gold Bonneville escaped into the hills on Friday... Winter just can't keep'em down!



Gertrude needs paint



A Phantom Commando flew solo to it's sister' pony's hangar (or stable) for a visit today...



Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Progressive International Motorcycle Show, Denver

<https://motorcycleshows.com/denver>

The Kings of Cool | Group Test | Motorcyclenews.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSBUFQHGf7g>

Clint Eastwood's Norton Commando S video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmLytE3mJ_w

Are you a fan of **Classic Bike Magazines** ?

Rick Black is ready to part with his collection. He's got them all from the 1980's to the present. They are yours if you are willing to come and get them.

(720) 885-6410



Peter Allen's 1936 A Vincent
as found in a shed in Kent

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.



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



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):

| | <i>points, events, solo rides</i> | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----|----|
| Scott Robinson | 56 | 11 | 9 |
| David Sheesley | 47 | 9 | 10 |
| Jack Abeyta | 42 | 10 | 0 |
| Ron Weaver | 39 | 9 | 0 |
| Jamie Jones | 32 | 8 | 0 |
| Mike Fields | 32 | 7 | 3 |
| Eric Bergman | 26 | 14 | 0 |
| Peggy Abeyta | 23 | 7 | 0 |
| Debby Johnson | 22 | 7 | 7 |
| Jerry Doe | 22 | 6 | 0 |

There seems to be a friendly competition going for this year's President's Trophy. So far it seems to be up for grabs. 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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Charley Gremmels
1832 Forest Ave., Durango, CO 81301
970-946-1302
NoNortons@gmail.com

Staff

Road Captain

Jack Abeyta (303) 426-0594
abeytaa@aol.com

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
OneAtlas@DavidKSheesley.com

Technical Advisor

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

Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, James Lafler, Mike Powell 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

1900 19th Street

Golden, CO 80401

