



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



Norton Colorado

www.nortoncolorado.org

Newsletter

January 2020



Upcoming Events

See page 8 for the entire official 2020 events schedule.

January 2020

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

1/12 (Sunday): Lincoln's Road House Pub Meeting

February

2/1 (Saturday): Winter Banquet at the Rock Bottom Brewery, Denver

Look for club emails for more details about these gatherings.

Pints Pub

Good friends , good conversation, bad jokes, good food, cold beer, tasty Scotch. A good time was had by all.

Rode a Norton:

Scott Robinson

Ron Weaver

Rode something lesser:

Arnie and Amelia Beckman -- Triumph

Eric Bergman -- Laverda

Dennis Oberwetter -- Triumph

Got there:

Jack and Peggy Abeyta

Jim Colt

Mike Fields

Bob Martin

Bob Ohman

Mike Powell



Long Live Emperor Norton

submitted by Dennis Oberwetter

Let it be known to all Norton riders, that on January 9, 1880, Norton The First Emperor Of The United States and Protector of Mexico passed away!

Born Joshua Abraham Norton in England around 1814, his parents migrated to South Africa when he was young. In 1849, he immigrated to San Francisco, with the large sum of \$40,000. He then went into the import business, where he amassed the fortune of \$250,000. He then tried to corner the rice market by buying all the rice coming in from China. Unfortunately, cheaper rice started to arrive from Peru. Norton lost his entire fortune. He fought his creditors in court, but lost. He then vanished from the face of the earth!



Then on September 17, 1859 he reappeared at the local San Francisco news paper office and had them print the following: **"At the request of a large majority of the citizens of these United States, I Joshua Norton, formerly of Agoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope, and now for the last nine years and ten months of San Francisco, California, declare and proclaim myself Emperor of These United States."**

At first every one laughed at him, but as time went by, people started to bow or curtsy when he passed. He then printed his own currency, which was accepted at the finest restaurants in the city! (His currency fetches tens of thousands of dollars on the rare occasion of one coming up for sale!) If he was pleased with the service, he would let the owner display a sign proclaiming, "By Appointment to His Emperor, Joshua Norton I."

At one time Samuel Clemens, (Mark Twain) lived in the same boarding house. He wrote favorable stories about the Emperor, which made both more popular then ever. It was said, the character of The King in Huck-leberrry Fin was based on Norton! When Norton's uniform became thread bare, the Board Of Supervisors appropriated enough funds to buy him a new one. Thus he could greet his subject once more. He would arbitrate any disputes, with his word as the final say. The citizens claim he had the wisdom of Solomon! His most famous act of chivalry came during the anti Chinese riots of 1877. He boldly stepped in front of the two crowds, and recited The Lords Prayer, after which, both sides dispersed. When one of the over zealous police officers arrested him, the Chief of Police issued a formal apology. After that day, all officers were instructed to salute the Emperor. He also bequeathed nobility on towns folk. This would last from one day, to perpetuity.

Norton I issued several proclamations. A league of nations should be formed so that nations can resolve their disputes peacefully. He also advocated for the abolishment the Democratic and Republican parties. His most famous Proclamation was:

"The following is decreed and ordered to be carried into execution as soon as is convenient:

I. That a suspension bridge be built from Oakland Point to Goat Island, and then to Telegraph Hill; provided such bridge can be built without injury to the navigable waters of the Bay of San Francisco.

II. The Central Pacific Railroad Company be granted franchise to lay track and run cars from Telegraph Hill and along the city front to Mission Bay

III. That all deeds by the Washington government since the establishment of our Empire are hereby decreed null and void unless our Imperial signature is first obtained thereto

He also decreed that a flying machine should be built, plus many other ideas that would become reality in the future. The August 1870 San Francisco Census listed the occupant of 624 Commercial St. as Norton I, occupation: Emperor!

On January 9, 1880, Norton was on his way to a lecture at the Academy of Natural Science, when he collapsed in the street. A police officer summoned a carriage, but it was too late, the Emperor was no more. The next day, the San Francisco Chronicle published the front page banner, "Le Roi est Mort" (The King is Dead). The Morning Call printed, "Norton the First, by the Grace of God Emperor of The United States and Protector of Mexico, departed this life."

Wealthy members of the community bought him a rosewood casket, 30,000 people attended his funeral. He left behind correspondence with Abraham Lincoln, Queen Victoria and many other prominent people of the world. During his 21 year reign, he imposed no taxes and did not send any of his subjects to war! He is still beloved by his empire. As can be seen, he loved two wheels, and would most assuredly fit right in with our club!

***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. This event is on the calendar for Saturday, February 29th, 2020



Twas the Night before Christmas

Submitted by Peter Allen

twas the night before Christmas at the motorcycle store.
The sales clerks were gone; they'd locked up the door.
Back in service, the tools were hung with great care,
The floors had been swept, the workbenches bare.
Sales had been brisk, filling staff with elation
As they headed down south for their winter vacation.
The new shiny sportbikes had all been sold out,
And all that was left was an Indian Scout,
A Norton Commando, a Rudge Multi too,
And a black BMW R32,
A Vincent, a Matchless, and Velocette,
And a drippy old Brough that wouldn't start on a bet.
"This stinks," said the Norton. "We're just as fine
As those Japanese bikes the kids buy all the time."
"You're right," said the Vincent as he grew agitated.
"All I need is to get my back tire inflated,
Then I could compete with the best of `em yet."
"Me, too! I'm still fast," cried the old Velocette.
"If someone was handy, somebody smart,
They'd know how to fix us and get us to start."
And so while they grumbled and whined and complained,
They didn't notice a visitor came.
He was dressed all in leather, black head to toe,
And his helmet had reflective stickers that brightly glowed.
His beard was snow-white. It reached to his chest.
How he got in the door was anyone's guess.
He looked them all over. "Merry Christmas!" he said.
"Are you fellows available to pull my big sled?"
"Who, us?" laughed the Matchless. "We're rusty and old.
Nobody wants us, that's why we're not sold.
Kids want electric, not our old kickstarts.
These young punks think we're just bikes for old farts."
"My Lucas headlight hasn't worked well in years,"
Said the Rudge. "And my gearbox is missing some gears.
I'd be much obliged if you'd look at my choke.
And the earthing brush in my magneto is broke."
"My mix is too rich, I think," said the Beemer.
"Does anyone know how to set the carb leaner?"

Then Santa said, "Hey, stop the whining, you guys.
You're legends and history in many men's eyes.
So what if you're rusty and don't look brand new?
Hypermotards and `Busas wouldn't be here without you."
Then the vintage bikes lights started glowing with pride.
And the Norton Commando said, "Let's take a ride!"
"I'm ready, let's go, come on!" said the Brough.
"Let's get it in gear and show `em our stuff."
They took to the road, their pipes roared like thunder.
And Santa sat back in his sled, filled with wonder.
And he said as he watched them race into the night,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a safe ride."
Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year.

***Save the Date:
Norton banquet will be on
Saturday, February 1st at
Rock Bottom Brewery
downtown Denver.
More information coming
soon.***

Here comes 2020, ready or not.
Happy New Year



The Three-Legged Pig by Bob Herman

Some years ago I found myself touring South Africa's Western Cape with Lance and Frans, a couple of lads from Cape Town. We'd been on the road about a week and were working our way down the eastern coast, heading back to Cape Town. After coffee and milkshakes in Port Elizabeth we continued south, planning on lunch in Knysna. Low on fuel, we ducked off the highway and next to a petrol station discovered a watering hole named "The Three-Legged Pig." A half-dozen sportbikes were parked out front and after a brief discussion we decided to check the place out. Fueled up, we pulled into the lot and entered the saloon. It was not a pretentious place. In late morning, its well-worn circular tables were occupied by leather-clad bikers, some with female companions. A few booths under the front windows held couples and small groups, all drinking beer, eating meat, and/or smoking cigarettes.



The proprietor of the Three-Legged Pig was slumped heavily at the far end of the bar, nursing a beer and a hangover and loudly lamenting that his wife had made him and his dog sleep outdoors the previous night. We settled in and listened as he told his sad story. Evidently, stumbling home in the wee hours, he had become enraged when a woman sitting in a parked car engaged her hooter as he staggered past. He mistakenly inferred that she was rudely honking at him, when in fact she was trying to hail her domestic help in a neighboring house.

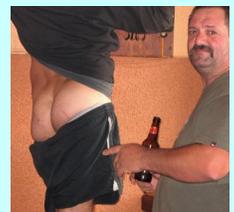
In confusion and umbrage he approached the car, reached in and slapped her face. A dramatic scene ensued and ultimately the barkeep was hauled to the hoosegow. His wife was called to bail him out. She was displeased; hence the al fresco sleeping arrangements. Why the dog was exiled, I don't know. Why the assaulted woman was offended, HE didn't know. After all, he hadn't used his fist, but had only slapped her with his open hand.

Listening to the story, Lance voiced surprise that our host might act aggressively toward a woman, having taken him for an enlightened modern metrosexual. A tense silence settled over the crowd, as all present mulled over the meaning of the word "metrosexual." Some time passed before casual banter resumed.

By now we'd quaffed a beer or two. Cheered by the down home coziness of the joint, we decided to stay for lunch. And speaking of joints, I ducked outside for a breath of fresh air and found one of the bikers standing near his motorcycle, a Suzuki TL1000R sporting a homemade license plate that read FUX OFF. I asked the rider, who had been smoking a joint in the parking lot, if the license tag was legal. "Do you think THIS is legal???" responded the biker, lifting the Suzuki's seat and proudly displaying a Tupperware container filled with loose cannabis buds. Another rider snuffed out his reefer and chuckled. His own bike wore a "FUX OFF2" plate.

Back inside, our plates of heaping meat had arrived and we dug in. Before long, the telltale odor of overheated transformer mingled with a miasma redolent of cigarette smoke and stale beer. I muttered that there might be an electrical problem, and presently the power went out, dousing the exhaust fan, TV and lights. With a groan, the hungover barkeep rose heavily from his stool and proceeded to study the exposed breaker panel on the dining room wall. We watched incredulously as he laid a hand on the incoming power cord and declared that he could "feel amperage coming in." Beyond this declaration, and after fiddling and fussing with the various switches and breakers, he was powerless to diagnose the problem. Finally, he grudgingly got on the phone and summoned a specialist.

An electrician showed up in short order, and in short pants. He was barefoot. This fact was not lost on Lance, who asked him if some manner of footwear wasn't typically part of a working electrician's standard dress code. The tradesman, by now standing on a chair and peering at the breaker panel, replied: "If you like my bare feet, you can have a look at my bare ass!" He proceeded to pull down his shorts, and went to work on the electrical system while mooning the room. None of the diners present seemed concerned. We finished our lunch, paid our tab and left. Just in time to watch the pilots of FUX OFF and FUX OFF2 mount their trusty steeds and wheelie away into the unknown.



Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Crazy Horse - Best wife ever - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isO8wilO1zg&feature=emb_logo

Norton ES2 1934 | Pure Sound & Start Up by Jaume Soler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSZLU1d-0tk>

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

For Sale : 1969 BSA Rocket 3

Rick Black has decided to put his Rocket 3 up for sale. It's partially re-stored, 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 2020 Event Schedule (Proposed - See next page)

Here is my first shot at an event schedule for next year, which starts with the Winter Banquet on Feb 1 at the Rock Bottom Brewery in Denver. I have taken the liberty of turning most of the "group rides" into "open garages" with certain people pencilled in as hosts. I converted the spring Tech Day at Bob Martin's to an Open Garage because that's what it has mainly been in recent years, but if there is work to be done, it can still be a Tech Day. Any Open Garage event can also function as a Group Ride if desired. The hosts for the Open Garages are people who have expressed an interest in hosting an open garage event in the past. If you find yourself so designated for a date that won't work for you, or if you've had second thoughts about hosting at all, just let me know and we'll make the necessary changes. There is still a "Group Ride" scheduled for April 29 (or thereabouts) that could be turned into an Open Garage event. Any takers? The entire schedule (other than the Winter Banquet) is subject to revision at this point. Please send constructive comments on any aspect of it. ---Eric

Norton Colorado 2020 Event Schedule (Proposed)

February

2/1 (Saturday): Winter Banquet

2/29 (Saturday): Open Garage @ Rick Black (tire mounting demo)

March

3/15 (Sunday): Pub Meeting: Streets of London

April

4/5 (Sunday): Open Garage @ Bob Martin

4/19 (Sunday): Group Ride

May

5/2 (Saturday): Open Garage @ Al & Barb Slarks

5/17 (Sunday): OBR 18

June

6/7 (Sunday): BBQ @ Eric & Susie

6/18-21 (Thur-Sun): Four Corners Rendezvous

July

7/5 (Sunday): Mt Evans Ride & Brunch @ David Sheesley

7/18-19 (Friday-Saturday): Overnighter to Walden

August

8/1-2 (Saturday-Sunday): Wimpy Campout @ Jamie & Michelle Jones

8/16 (Sunday): Open Garage @ Dennis Horgan

September

9/11-13 (Friday-Sunday): Cotopaxi overnighter

9/20 (Sunday): English Conclave

October

10/3 (Saturday): Open Garage @ Ric & Joy Landeira

10/18 (Sunday): Plains Ride (Scott & Julie Robinson)

November

11/1 (Sunday): Tech Day at MotoWorks Denver

TBA (Saturday): DU Hockey Night

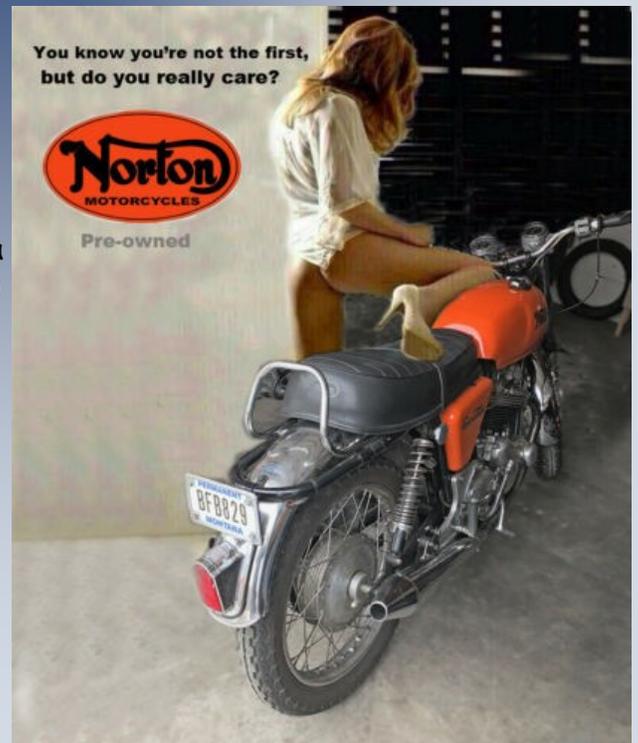
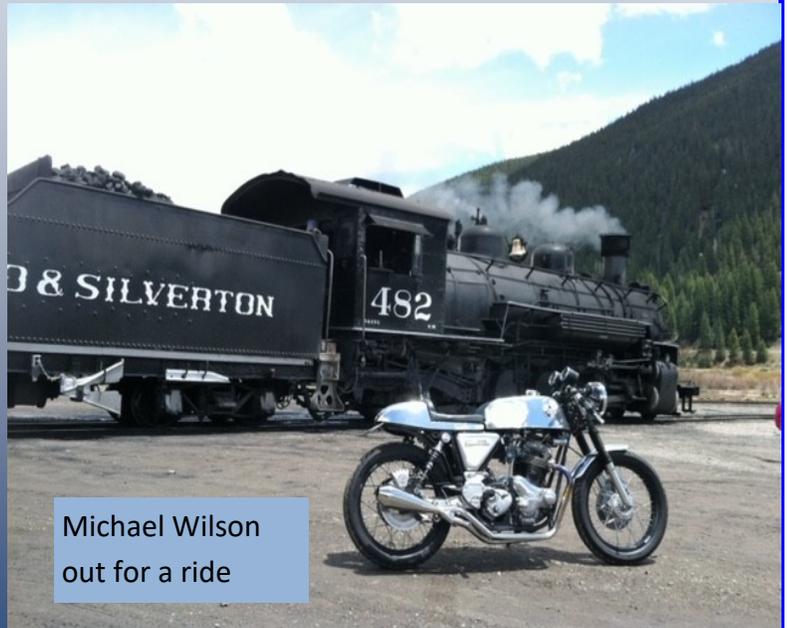
December

12/6 (Sunday): Pub Meeting at Pints Pub

January 2021

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

1/17 (Sunday): Pub Meeting at Lincoln's Roadhouse



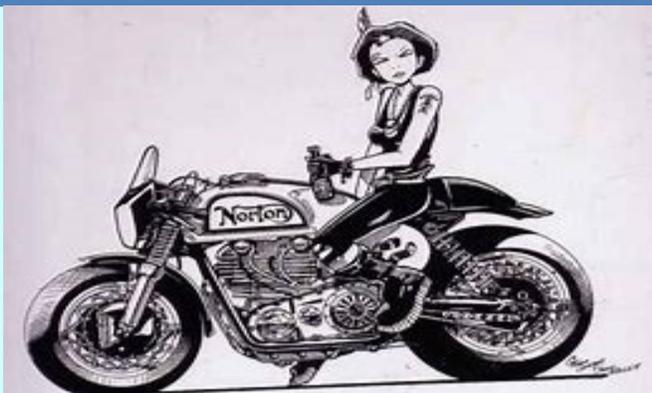
Membership

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 2020 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

Scott Robinson	77	15	10
David Sheesley	59	13	10
Ron Weaver	59	13	0
Jack Abeyta	50	14	0
Mike Fields	39	9	4
Eric Bergman	34	19	0
Jamie Jones	33	9	0
Jerry Doe	29	8	1
James Lafler	27	5	13
Peggy Abeyta	26	10	0

Time to pay our 2020 Dues

Norton Colorado's membership year begins with the Winter Banquet, which is scheduled for February 1 in 2020. We try very hard to convince everyone to pay their dues before the new season starts, because the club subsidizes the Winter Banquet to a significant extent and it represents a big hit on our Treasury. I hate it when Charley cries! Membership is still a paltry \$20 for single memberships, \$22 for couples/families. On the website <https://www.nortoncolorado.org/membership.html> you can pay your dues with a click of the PayPal button or find the address to which a check may be sent:

Charley Gremmels
Treasurer, Norton Colorado
1832 Forest Ave.
Durango, CO 81301

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, Eric Bergman, Bob Herman, Dennis Oberwetter, Mike Powell, Greg Ray and Michael Wilson 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

