



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



# Norton Colorado

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

Newsletter

June 2020

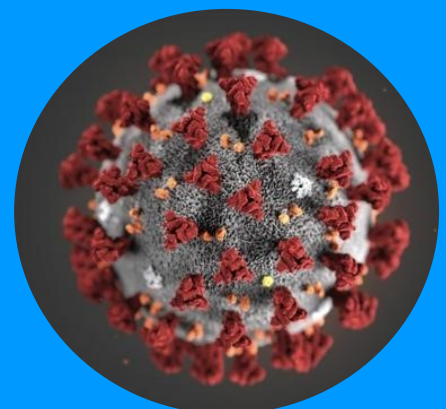


## Upcoming Events

***All events are cancelled/postponed until the world gets healthy again.***

*Crazy to think that this little guy here, the Coronavirus, has taken down the entire world and is interfering with our motorcycle riding. See you soon, stay healthy*

Look for club emails for more details about these gatherings.



## Tale of Randy's Triumph by Dennis Horgan

As some of you may know, I bought Randy Albright's Triumph at the charity auction last February. I wanted to give all the club members an update on the state of the bike, and a brief summary of its journey back to mechanical health and riding condition.

Randy brought the bike, a 1972 Tiger 650, to Colorado from Maine as a rider. I was the second year of the oil-in-frame 650, and it is the single carb model. Someone put a Mikuni carb on it, and tossed the original Amal (no big loss). Unfortunately, both Randy and the bike began to develop issues, Randy with his health, and the bike began to smoke heavily. As a result, Randy parked the bike in his shop where it sat for several years. When we pulled her out she was covered in dust and grime from the shop. We gave her a bath and sent it off to Jamie Jones's house to find the source of the smoke.

Jamie is the total hero of the restoration. He told me when he pulled the head, the valve guides fell out in his hand (big oops!). It soon became clear that the pistons, rings and barrels were also in tough shape. Jamie tore the engine down and got all new parts, and a new barrel, and reassembled the entire top end of the engine. When I went to pick her up, she started on the second kick! In fact, I've had it for several weeks and it still starts on the second kick! Woohoo!

I've been riding her a bit – gently to seat the rings and break in the engine, but I can't go far because I haven't been able to get plates yet. Being an out-of-state bike with no title, I know there's a kerfuffle waiting for me at the DMV, but all the offices being closed from the virus, it may be a while before I can get it all sorted out. But when we can do group rides again, I'll bring her out and let everyone have a look.

Thanks to everyone – particularly Jamie – for getting a very nice bike back on the road where she belongs.



Jamie "the hero" Jones  
after getting Dennis'  
Triumph on the road





## Bob Herman's 70th Birthday Trip



Darell in canyon

Way back in the pre-COVID19 lockdown days I got away for a little warm weather, camping and riding. Norton Colorado members Craig Terry and Darell Teeple joined me, as did my friend Mark, who flew up from Florida to meet up with us in Nevada.

We had planned to spend two or three nights camping in Valley of Fire State Park, about 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, then head up to Death Valley, which seemed like a suitable place to celebrate my seventieth birthday. But we found Valley of Fire to be quite to our taste, and weather reports told us that it was actually some ten degrees colder in Death Valley's campgrounds than where we were, so we stayed put in Nevada.

Craig brought his Honda 400A and Transalp, I had along my Honda CB175 and Triumph Tiger hack rig. We did no marathon rides, but enjoyed the roads running through the impressive scenery within the park, and explored the area at the upstream end of Lake Mead, putting a couple hundred miles on the bikes over five days. A lazy agenda to be sure, with plenty of loitering around the fire ring and great meals in camp. The campground was quiet, with shower facilities and potable water, and the geology was dramatic. We did a bit of hiking in the red rock canyons, where petroglyphs on cliff walls told stories we could only guess at. This area would be insufferable in mid-summer, and I believe the campgrounds close for the hot months.

But it's a nice winter getaway about seven hours' drive west from Grand Junction.



Hack & Honda



Snaking road



Mark & Craig at fire ring



White domes road



Flank steak chef





Fine vintage Brit bikes, real riders out of Ft. Collins, escaped covid air again today for a replacement OBR divided by 3 divided by 3. Up the Rist Canyon, Stove Prairie and Poudre Canyons they went. Harmony was achieved by singing parallel twins and the sound of a rising Cache Le Poudre River. Beautiful ! James Lafler

Rare Norton Tractor!

Just finished my winter resto mod. If you're gonna mow, do it in style!

And my inspiration. Just wish I had the correct orange ...

Jim Bay



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

### ***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

### **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

## **Motorcycle Stuff on the web:**

HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE SALES FILM 1950s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EuKaRHMzU0>

Stan Dibben video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvNPlacuz3Y>

A timely article by Kevin Cameron

<https://www.cycleworld.com/story/bikes/the-amazing-modern-oil-cocktail/>

You'd have a couple of pints, then go and race': talking with Dave Croxford

<https://www.motorsportmagazine.com/articles/motorcycles/motogp/you-d-have-a-couple-of-pints-then-go-and-race-talking-with-dave-croxford>

SUPER SPECIAL | Free E-magazine for passionate Special motorcycles and Lifestyle

<https://superspecialmagazine.com/>

George Eyston's Thunderbolt - Land Speed's Missing Monster

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTY0shFj\\_C4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTY0shFj_C4&feature=youtu.be)

Bikes of the 70's

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

Old Harleys Off-Road In Code Two Movie (1953)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfEb\\_Jj\\_Tdc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfEb_Jj_Tdc)

Best Motorcycle Videos To Pass The Time

<https://www.motorcyclistonline.com/story/videos/best-motorcycle-videos-to-pass-time/>

Johnny Allen and the Texas Cee-gar at Bonneville

<https://amcn.com.au/editorial/heroes-of-bonneville/>

810 Dunstall Norton

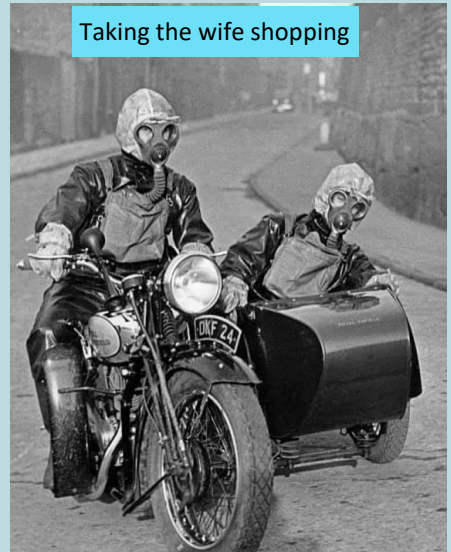
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-dirt-bike-kid-graduates-to-a-record-setting-motorcycle-11590500724?>



When your dog gets it,...Priceless,...



Taking the wife shopping



## **Motorcycle Stuff on the web:**

### ***“...and a lamppost in your way if you overdo it.”***

This is excellent. Set aside 40 minutes before watching. It starts with a very well-produced color film of the 1958 Northern 200, an Irish version of the Isle of Man TT. Every bit as dangerous. More Norton Manxes than you've ever seen, but Mike Hailwood and Sammy Miller dueling on NSU 250s. Sammy squeaks by, and there's a great shot of him accepting his trophy. I've never seen a picture of him so young.

There is more. Trials, scrambling, and road racing videos, prepping a Manx Norton for McIntyre, testing it at Oulton Park with on-board video, the 1960 TT, German GP with the MV multis starting to take over, wailing MZ 2-strokes, early Honda efforts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thzoa0pVxvU&feature=youtu.be>

I think it may be safe to say that more than a few of us are getting closer to what they used to call "long in the tooth". As this is only going to continue, I thought it might be helpful to send along this inspirational little video about a "biker" I admire. And--of course--he's a Brit! To see him getting back in the chair at the end is truly wonderful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvNPIacuz3Y>

They are not British bikes, but one of the riders, Keenan Wynn was an early cheerleader for the British bike industry! He had a racing club called, Famous Actors Racing Team, FART! He got many actors into racing motorcycles, including Lee Marvin, and one Steve McQueen. As you can see from this clip. he did his own riding. Sad he is mostly forgotten. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfEb\\_Ji\\_Tdc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfEb_Ji_Tdc)

Julian Kowalewski in England took these photos and videos at a big motorcycle gathering a few years ago, marking AJS's 100th anniversary. There are some Nortons in here too.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/57997293@N00/albums/72157646542663634>



# **Norton Colorado 2020 Event Schedule**

## **February**

2/1 (Saturday): Winter Banquet

## **March**

3/1 (Sunday, 10am): Open Garage @ Ric and Joy Landeira (tire mounting demo by Rick Black)

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

## **April**

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

4/19 (Sunday, 9am): Group Ride (Debby Johnson) / Open Garage @ Scott Shuler

## **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

6/27-28 (Sat-Sun): Riverside Run

## **July**

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

7/18-19 (Friday-Saturday): Overnighter (TBA)

## **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): Group Ride or Open Garage (need a host)

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



## 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  |



**HOW OLD WERE YOU  
WHEN YOU FOUND  
OUT THESE LINES  
ARE ACTUALLY  
MEASUREMENTS?**





## 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  
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#### **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  
[OneAtlas@DavidKSheesley.com](mailto:OneAtlas@DavidKSheesley.com)

#### **Technical Advisor**

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

**Credits:** Thanks to Peter Allen, Jim Bay, Eric Bergman, Tony Hagger, John Hartman, Bob Herman, Mike Homs, Dennis Horgan, Julian Kowalewski, James Lafler, Dennis Oberwetter, Jerry Pokorny, Greg Ray and Randy Schneider for their contributions to this newsletter. I also want to say thanks to others who sent me things I will use in future editions.

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