



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



Norton Colorado

www.nortoncolorado.org

Newsletter

July 2020



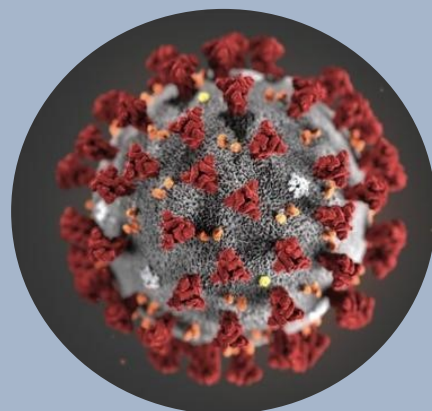
One of Alan Elstob's beautiful bikes.

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.



Norton Colorado: Plan for the rest of this year, please read

Hi Folks,

The officers of the club (Arnie Beckman, Charley Gremmels and me) have agreed on the following plan for the event schedule for the rest of this season. As you may recall, our "season" runs through January of next year and the new season begins with the Winter Banquet in early February.

- 1) For the rest of this season, i.e., up to the Winter Banquet next year, Norton Colorado will have no official gatherings.
- 2) We will announce the possibility to join other members for rides and even informal social gatherings.
- 3) President's points will only be awarded on a solo ride basis. That is, the only way to earn President's Points is to ride a Norton. You can do it by yourself, any day you want. But you have to let me know in a timely manner.
- 4) We will handle dues as usual next year, but if anyone is especially hard-pressed financially due to un- or under-employment or any other reason associated with the pandemic, we will extend membership in 2021 for free.

Any of you can offer to host a ride or an event, for example a Bob Martin Ride, David Sheesley's breakfast, or the Plains Ride just give me a couple days lead-time if possible to make a broadcast.

This was a hard decision to make. The social aspects of the club are the main thing that has kept the club vigorous for so many years, Hopefully that vigor will carry us through these challenging times.

Cheers,

Eric



Tom Kruplak's Project 1953 Model 7

Eric always tries to blow smoke up my skirt. With that said, I resurrected a project recently that I figure I better finish before I am missing the faculties to put it back together. I sent Eric a pic after I uncovered it recently. He thought it might be of interest for the club. I'm restoring the bike and it isn't complete yet.

Well, Tom, if the finished project looks as good as the parts in the pictures it will be a beauty, It's a good thing Eric motivated you to share, thanks.



This is what the bike looked like in the beginning



Broken frame tubes removed



Completed Frame



6-16-2020



From James Lafler

Fellow enthusiasts,

Just a few photos of **29JD10036** going into paint this week after a year of 1st build/ride & run in. If COVID allows anything.. its more time spent wrenching in the shop !



Riding Partners

by Scott Robinson

This month Julie and I are celebrating our 30th anniversary. Compared to some of you we are mere amateurs, but we are proud of this milestone. Equally important we have been riding partners for 30 years as well.

Over the years we have ridden over 165,000 miles together, visiting all of the lower 48 states and making 4 trips into

Canada. Our longest trip was about 6000 miles. We were on the road for 35 days. Our style of riding is referred to as "sport touring". We define that as riding around the country looking for fun, exciting and scenic roads to ride.

Our adventure started when we were still dating, doubled up on my 1970 Norton Commando S model. I bought a 1986 883 Sportster just after we got married and we travelled on that for about 3 years. One day, while riding along the Million Dollar Highway here in Colorado, Julie decided she was bored being on the back. She smacked me on the head and said, "Next year I ride my own." Best decision we ever made. I moved up to a HD Softail and Julie then began riding the Sportster. Julie outgrew the Sporty and moved up to a HD Dyna Wide Glide. After another 7 years we both upgraded to HD Road Kings, mine a 2003 and Julie's a 2004. I wore out my Road King and bought a 2015 model. We still own all of those bikes, as well as several more.

We learned to ride together. We'd talk about each ride and discuss any mistakes and things that needed improving. We developed hand signals so we could communicate. We learned what was comfortable for us. I lead and plan the routes, Julie gets to pick what attractions we should visit. I'm responsible for keeping the bikes maintained, Julie needs to know about the bikes so she can communicate to me about any issues she notices. We have a few simple rules we live by, like if we don't like where we are we go somewhere else. As time went on we just knew what the other was going to do in a situation. It just simply feels right to be riding together. I'd like to think we look good going down the road on our almost matching bikes.

When we were first starting our touring I pretty much refused to stay in hotels. We camped out rain or shine, dry or muddy. More than once we got to camp so late that we would set up by the bikes' headlights. Julie finally put an end to that one rainy night. We decided it wasn't such a sin to treat ourselves to a hotel. Our trips evolved over the years from a hybrid of camping and staying in hotels to where we usually just hotel it now.

We ride through anything and enjoy long days in the saddle. We've been through some terrible storms, like that time in North Dakota when the hail was coming at us sideways at 40 miles an hour. Sometimes we want to see where some dirt road or trail leads to, so off we go. While touring Northern California we took a road called "The Wildcat". It is the most miserable "paved" road we've ever been on. I always told Julie rides like this make good bar stories and to think of how much fun it would be to tell our friends of our adventures. Last year Julie informed me that there aren't enough bars for all the stories we have.



Julie and me outside of Whistler, BC, Canada in 2016

Of course all of our travels are not so challenging. We've visited friends and family all over the country. We've been to well over 100 lighthouses. We saw the space shuttle take off from Cape Kennedy in 2004. I lost count of all the motorcycle museums, aquariums and other museums we've been to. We've been to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans as well as the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes. We've ridden along and crossed the Mississippi River as well as so many other rivers, big and small. We've ridden in the Rockies, the Appalachians, Cascades, Black Hills and the Ozarks. We've put the bikes on ferries when water gets in our way, nice to occasionally let someone else do the driving for a bit. America is a beautiful country, we've ridden through a lot of it.

As I am finishing this story I call out to Julie, "Are you up to another 30 years?" Her answer, of course, is "Why not? Let's go". That's a riding partner.



Our travels over the last 30 years.

Next up, fill in the blank spots in the US and more riding in Canada.

Road trip from Kansas to California, Sissy's need not apply!

(This is not Julie and me.)



Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

This is the vintage bike run Peter Allen grew up on.

<https://www.rte.ie/archives/2018/0821/986536-vintage-motorcycle-rally/>

The Only 8 Rotary Motorcycles Ever Sold - YouTube Half of them are Nortons.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xu53wjxJN4>



Glad I did not have to do my travel with a kit bag and a rifle

What did you do on your COVID vacation?

For the record - My '73 750 commando has been sitting for 4-5 months. I pulled the cover off this morning, removed the trickle charger, replaced the seat, and started it on the 2nd kick. Smoked for about 30 seconds, which for this bike is a wet sumping Triumph. Took a short spin out east around Erie. It makes a nice throaty purr. At risk of inviting karmic disaster, after much work bringing it back from the dead, it seems to be alive and well - and dare I even say reliable?

Steven Wolhandler



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 restored, 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

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

May

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

5/17 (Sunday): OBR 18

June

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

July

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

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

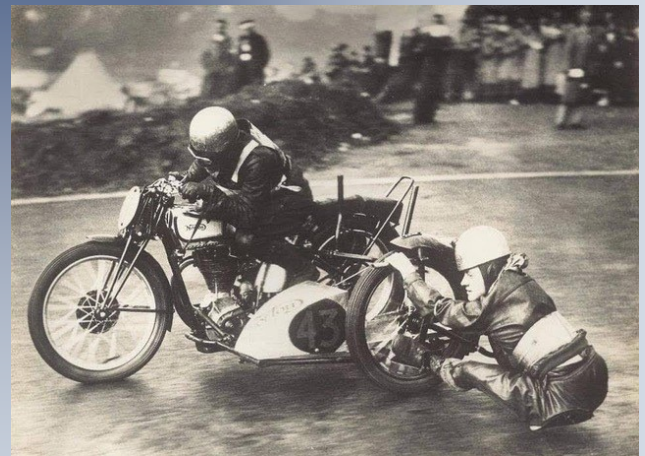
December

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

January 2021

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

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



the sidecar guy has balls.

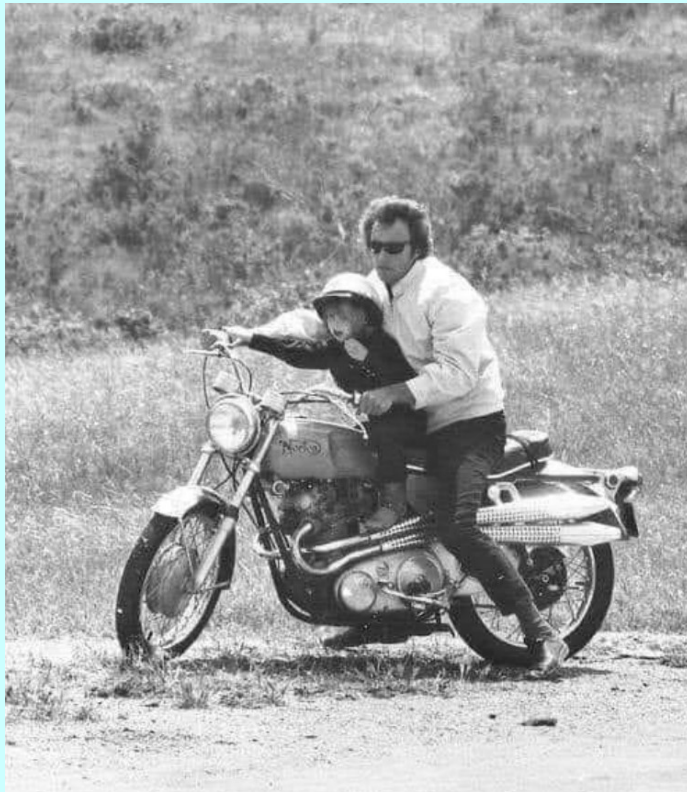
Membership

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

Mechanical advice from Peter Allen:

(I wonder what his day was like, sounds challenging)

To check to see if your spark plug is any good , throw it in a lake and if it floats it's good.

Current Occupants

Officers

President

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arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com

Secretary

Eric Bergman (303) 278-7445
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Treasurer

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Newsletter Editor

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Secretary of Commerce

(My new job title reflects my role in the Parts
Depot as well as Swag slut)
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Webmaster

David Sheesley (720) 277-6563
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Technical Advisor

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Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Bob Herman, Julian Kowalewski, Tom Kruplak, James Lafler, Dennis Oberwetter, and Bob Ohman 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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