



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



Norton Colorado

www.nortoncolorado.org

Newsletter

February 2021



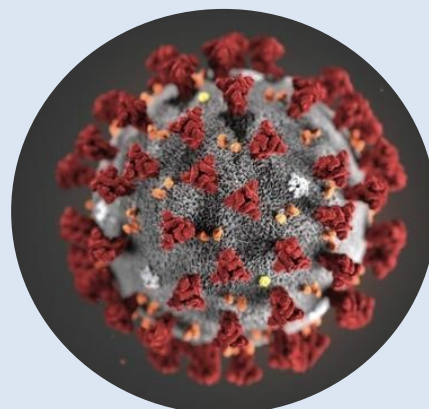
First single cylinder bike to do 100 miles in an hour

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



Greetings to Norton Colorado from the Leadership Team!

Arnie Beckman (el Presidente)
Eric Bergman (The Secretariat)
Charley Gremmels (The Bursar)

After most of our 2020 activities were cancelled we felt it would be appropriate to open the new year with some explanation of how we intend to approach 2021.

Unfortunately, the state of the pandemic is still such that we cannot say with any confidence when the club may be able to sponsor gatherings of any sort. In particular there will be no Winter Banquet in early February. This means there will not be an opportunity to vote on new officers in person. As the defense of democratic and electoral norms is currently a subject of wide interest, there will be an opportunity for you to throw us bums out:

- 1) The current leadership team is willing to continue serving if they are not, singly or collectively, replaced. They will not be at all sad to be replaced, either!
- 2) Until January 20, 2021, a date we can all easily remember. I will accept any application from a club member (paid up for 2020) for any of the club offices (President, Secretary, Treasurer).
- 3) On January 21, 2021, I will broadcast the information about any competitive races for you to vote one.
- 4) Between then and February 6, 2021, which would have been the date of the Winter Banquet, you can send your vote to a neutral party who has not yet been appointed, by any means you like, including verbally.

We will continue to monitor the covid situation and as soon as it seems safe to do so in 2021, we will begin announcing events. The hiatus we have endured does provide a nice opportunity to refresh our approach to club events, so if you have any thoughts on this matter please send them along.

I'd like to finish with a personal note to you all from Charley Gremmels:

Hi there and Happy Holidays.

I agree the Winter Banquet needs to become the later in the year, see what happens Banquet. Sad but safe! It was a lousy year for a lot of things in a lot of areas, we did what we could and didn't do what they told us not to. I am trying to end this year with hope for the vaccine and hope for a new better normal. And the bad memories will be replaced by new good ones. And my quarantine fifteen will melt away! If anyone has a problem with the 2021 dues let me know, it can be fixed, with a flick of the pen! I can fix it or I'll pay it.

The only other thing I would add is, as everyone sends me dues I hope I see all the familiar names and some new ones too!

From Scott Robinson:

If anyone has been waiting for the chance to take over as newsletter editor now is your chance. While I am happy to continue in this capacity, I have more than honored my 5 year commitment to this role.

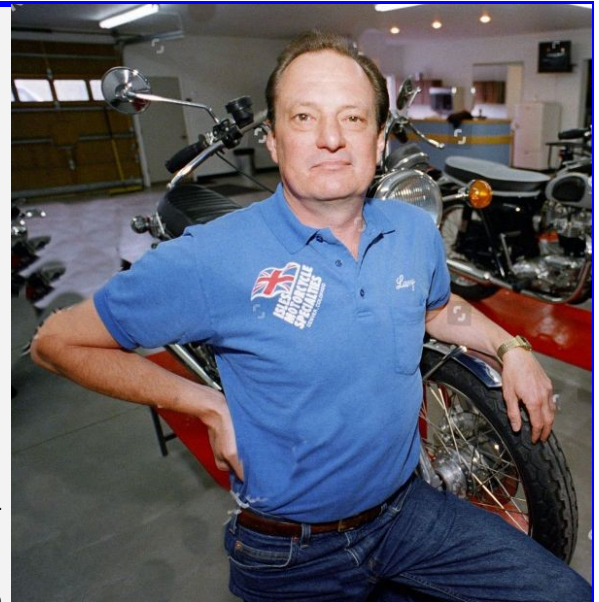
Any questions, please email me mister.r@comcast.net.



Larry Isles Passes

(reprinted from email)

Larry Russell Isles was born on October 6, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. On Sunday, January 10, 2021 Larry peacefully left us on his journey home surrounded by the people he loved and who loved him the most. His 3 amazing grandchildren, Isaias, Reina, Delilah, his son Rael', daughter-in-law Christina, best friends Hank and Wanda Vidal and his Forever Love and wife Lynne. His Daughter Dene' preceded him in death a year ago on January 6, 2020.



Larry was a self made man and established his business, Isles Motorcycle Specialties here in Colorado in 1973. His passion was the restoration of British Motorcycles – Triumph, BSA and Norton. He would always tell you “I have never had a real job a day in my life – I do what I love everyday”. Larry’s knowledge and talents surrounding British Motorcycles was known worldwide. He was a bit of a British Bike celebrity and was highly regarded in this niche market. After retiring and closing Isles Motorcycle Specialties, he continued to quietly build and restore motorcycles because as he would say “that’s what I do”. The last few years his comrade and friend, Jeff Savage became his right hand man, as did his son Rael'. As Larry’s health declined he would sit in his recliner in the shop every single day and guide, teach, mentor and “sort it out” with these two guys. He loved the fact that his legacy would continue – he was so very proud of his passion.

Larry married Lynne (Caranci) in 1991 and together they never skipped a beat. They were best of friends. They were always on the same page – working hard and playing hard. Together they hosted huge and crazy parties - BBQ’s, family holidays, 4th of July’s, Italian club steak fry’s and of course their epic Halloween parties. If you ever came to one, you know exactly what we are talking about. Larry and Lynne loved taking the boat and RV to Lake Powell at least twice a year for 25 years (sometimes 3 or 4 times). Often they went just the 2 of them, but also included the kids and good friends on many trips. One of their favorite things to do was gamble and take cruises. Together they had the good fortune to go on 22 cruises during their years together and hundreds of gambling trips to Wendover, Black Hawk and Vegas. Larry loved to gamble and would say “gambling is a heck of a lot cheaper than paying for counseling – it is a great escape”.

He loved his wife (and would tell anyone that would listen “oh, how I love this woman of mine”) and his family above all. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and would do anything for you, all you had to do was ask. Larry’s word was gold and he would never fail you or let you down. He was kind and gentle and so, so much fun. He loved going to the American Legion right down the street for one or two in the afternoons and see his dear friends. Never a dull moment with Larry in the room. He always had an ear ready to listen, great advice if asked and could make you laugh no matter what.

Six years ago Larry, Lynne, Rael' and Christina built together their restaurant Emilio’s Almost Famous. Larry’s business expertise, ability to look ahead, think things through methodically and his uncanny 6th sense when it came to inventory control, was the foundation Emilio’s was able to grow and succeed from.....we love you Larry Isles. You have left a giant hole in our world. No one will ever fill your shoes – they were just too big.

Larry faced many health adversities throughout his life and handled each and everyone of them with strength and dignity. He rarely complained even though his daily challenges were overwhelming at best. You, Larry were so strong and remained tough and pushed through for all of us. Now we ask that you rest in peace, you more than earned it.

Larry is survived by his family mentioned above and 3 brothers, Bob (Susan), Marv (Sue) and Ron (Karen). Several nieces, nephew, great nieces and nephews and his two sons and their families. Larry also was preceded in death by his father Arden, mother Marilyn and the sister he so adored, Nancy (Isles) Fortin.

Larry's family will be hosting a Celebration of his remarkable life when the weather warms up and we can gather safely. We hope you will all join us and share your time and experiences with this very special man.

My modern reintroduction to Nortons and to Norton Colorado happened in his old shop on 29th St., in about 1994. I saw a magazine cover with a black 1971 Roadster on it, just like the one I had bought in 1971 at Paul Dunstall's shop in south London, and was inspired to look up shops dealing with vintage British bikes. Standing in the little foyer there I saw an ad posted for Norton Colorado and decided to go see what they were about, which led me (and Katie) to our first club meeting at the old Mexican restaurant (Plainview Inn?) on 38th St. The rest is a descent into madness with which you are all familiar. I was not close to Larry. I got tied up with Gene Plue early on and you had to choose one or the other. But it's sad to see another vestige of the vibrant old motorcycle community in Denver pass into history.

Eric Bergman

My first "experience" of Larry was noticing the sign on his corrugated tin shop located at the southwest corner of McIntyre and 44th sometime around 1980 or '81. When I walked in I saw that he had nothing mentioning Norton's and that he was clearly a Triumph man. I asked him if he worked on Nortons and his answer gave me the distinct impression that he could if he had to. He clearly didn't like Nortons and told me they were a pain to work on. I wondered if it had anything to do with the fact that they were a threat to the flat track Triumphs he raced but I never found out. There was only one flat track Norton racer in the Denver area that I ever knew of. Anyhow, the next thing I learned from Larry was that he didn't work on non-stock Nortons and eventually I came to understand why. Over the years I eventually also learned about his shop at the 29th street location and got to know his son. By then Larry wasn't running it but I would see him there from time to time. I came to feel that Larry's rough behavior was probably from meeting him on a bad day and that he was just a frank man who didn't dilly-dally around when it came to business; sensible to be sure. I also got the continuing impression that he was a good mechanic. I never heard anyone tell me of a bad a experience with his work.

I went to Gene Plue's as well from time to time, if only to see what bikes or parts he had around (I once saw a Drouin supercharger at his Morrison road location). I never came to him to do any work on my Norton either as he told me once that "anyone who modifies a Norton for speed is a complete idiot!". Oh, the cross I've had to bear (weeping and moaning in the background). Luckily, I never mentioned Larry around Gene, much less than I visited him!

It is sad to hear of his passing as, as you say, he was a part of the Denver scene and a good resource.

Michael Homs

Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

The NorVin story Homegrown: Peter Allen's Wee NorVin | Revival Cycles

https://revivalcycles.com/homegrown/peter-allen-the-wee-norvin?fbclid=IwAR3gSDg-PoQKMh22qfOCa_lhmZ_jLqEpGP43Hk4il2zHnz83uGM5Ouf0pYE

Should work on a Norton, too! Man, I miss motorcycle camping.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3QFPNUj_nw

India's love affair with classic British motorbikes - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-54997191>

Motorrad Extreme Gespann - Spaßfaktor ganz groß , pur und fantastischen Sound - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1kPK9nQaJBNIkMooGMVTXETf7KiRq85jHAGxi6JRbDEIldFJrrLNSic&v=vVt4XRsrLY&feature>

Another new marque

<https://janusmotorcycles.com/motorcycles/>

Norton Kompressor | Der stärkste Oldschool-Motor - Commando 850 | Andi Feldmann - YouTube (in German)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1Ds_B7Brd4

Rocket Lincoln jump

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

Norton Atlas Models Returning To Production In 2021

https://advrider.com/norton-atlas-models-returning-to-production-in-2021/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_content=01_25_2021

The Classic Motorcycle Channel - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcexUX0sijZDjVpopm7EAig>

50 Years of On Any Sunday: Cowtrailing and Assorted Pranks | Thunderpress

https://thunderpress.net/american-motorcycle-features/50-years-of-on-any-sunday-cowtrailing-and-assorted-pranks/2021/01/18.htm?oly_enc_id=4135B3790501F1X

'World Largest Biker Bar' opening distillery in Estes Park

<https://www.eptrail.com/2021/01/27/world-largest-biker-bar-opening-distillery-in-estes-park/#newsletter%23newsletter%23newsletter%23newsletter>

Motorcyclist Who Identifies As Bicyclist Sets Cycling World Record

October 25th, 2019



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

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.

I wanted to show you my Christmas present this year. I had been looking for one for a long time. 1990 BMW K1 future bike LOL: It showed up on BAT and I was lucky enough to win it. Marc Lomax

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):

	<i>points, events, solo rides</i>		
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



Current Occupants

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Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Jesse Caraway, Jim Colt, Bob Herman, Michael Homs, Marc Lomax, and Jerry Pokorny 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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