



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



Norton Colorado

Newsletter

www.nortoncolorado.org

March/ April 2021



Once again, for the 6th time, Jack Abeyta brings home the coveted President's Award.

Upcoming Events

Woo Hoo!!!

Looks like we are restarting our social lives finally.

Eric and Suzy are hosting their BBQ, Dave Sheesley wants to have his 4th of July ride and brunch, Sam, Charley and Steve are planning on having the 4 Corners Redevouz and I'm ready to lead the Plains Ride in October.

There's more information inside. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

There's plenty of open time if anyone would like to host a gathering or lead a ride. Maybe something new??

Look for club emails for more details about these gatherings.

2021 Event Schedule

Hi Everyone,

The restrictions on our activities deriving from the COVID pandemic are finally easing and I'm excited to be able to think about scheduling opportunities for us to gather again in person. Many of us have already been vaccinated or are in the process, and the prospects seem good that most adults will be able to be vaccinated within a couple months. The public health authorities are now removing most of the restrictions on gatherings of the sort our club events entail, although we may find that indoor gatherings in pubs and such are still problematic for a while. With the return of clement weather, though, our most important and enjoyable events, i.e. rides, should be safe enough for most of us. Arnie Beckman and I have discussed this and we're ready to start filling in a calendar of events for the rest of 2021.

I am delighted to announce that Susie and I will host the traditional BBQ event at our house in Golden on Sunday, June 13. Normally we would do this on the first weekend in June, but Arnie has a vintage MX race in Steamboat Springs that weekend, so we're leaving that weekend alone in case you'd like to go out to Steamboat and watch Arnie smoke 'em. The following weekend (June 17-20), as you will see from the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter, is the popular Four Corners Rendezvous at Sam Manganaro's place in Mancos. So early June is pretty crowded but we're betting that after a year off you're ready for some catch-up.

David Sheesley has already announced he will host his traditional Independence Day brunch, combined with a group ride over Squaw Pass. I think this will be on July 4, but keep an eye on the event page of the website and the newsletter for possible adjustments.

As many of you know, Bob Ohman has spent that last 5 months in the hospital with a series of health crises. He's been making excellent progress lately and should be home again by the time you read this. I have raised the possibility with him of running The Old Bike Ride this year and I expect a decision will be made within a week or two. There is a chance we will do it on the traditional Sunday after Mother's Day, which is May 16 this year.

At this point I am throwing open the discussion of club events to all of you. After our forced hiatus I have wiped the calendar clean of all other "typical" events for the rest of the 2021 ride schedule. If you have a proposal for an event of any kind, whether it is a reboot of one that we've done traditionally or something brand new, send them in to me and we will see what kind of event schedule can be made of them. If you are wanting to do something with your friends from this club and you're not seeing announcements of the kind of events you like, LOOK IN THE MIRROR.

I am personally delighted in the response to our membership renewal campaign for 2021, nearly everyone has renewed. I take that as an endorsement of your expectations that we will soon be having some fun again. Let's do it!

Eric

James Lafler has finished "Gertrude"

Enthusiasts !

It is official: My 5 year restoration project is finally finished ! Weekend before last it reached 65' out, my minimum for re-start after 2nd build. It was a success. Now able to say 'Gertrude Lives' (first bike I ever named... after my Grand-ma) Long way from the basket case of multi-year parts I started with to get correct. It was fun riding it in 2019 as raw metal and primer after 1st build. This is 2nd build re-start day, I decided man you can't ride this thing yet.. at least not until fall after you hit a couple a shows with it. (on display soon in your area !)

See y'all soon around metro or the springs...

James Lafler



Dennis Horgan's Covid Project

It's not a Norton, but here's a project I've been doing with King Browne and the guys at MotoWorks:



I bought Bob Ohman's 1981 Benelli 900 SEI when Bob decided to reduce his inventory of old motorbikes. The Benelli SEI (six in Italian) is an interesting motorbike done during the period in the late 70s and 80s when Benelli and later Honda decided to put in-line six cylinder motors in their bikes. Benelli was owned by de Thomaso – known best for the Mangusta and Pantera sports cars – and he pushed Benelli to become the first in-line six. The 750 was introduced in 1973 and grew to 900 and they were produced until 1989. Honda did the CBX starting in 1978 and Kawasaki joined in the



wave of bigger, wider engines. They were interesting bikes – mostly because they sound like formula 1 cars with the right pipes, but they were heavy and expensive to produce – and wide, don't forget wide – so they faded from the scene. For quite a while you could buy a CBX for little money. More recently, the CBX has become collectable and auction prices are going up. Benelli never made many of the 900s, and I'm told they only imported about 80 of them.

After ignoring the bike for a while in my garage, I decided to take it down to MotoWorks and let King and Scott Potter, the Italian Zen master at the shop, have a look at it and see if they couldn't get it back in running condition. They've been working on it over the winter, and it should be on the road soon. The bike took all the usual barn find parts – battery, and tires – but the brakes were a mess, and the carbs were all gummed up as well. Lots of other parts needed overhaul, such as wheel bearings, and rebuilding the leaking forks. Someone had put racing clip-on handle bars and those were brought back to stock. The engine runs great now, and when the new petcocks arrive, I hope to get it back on the road in time for spring.

Here's a picture of what I hope it will look like finished. We're talking about maybe putting racing pipes on it – which will make it LOUD.



I'm sure some of you heard about the recent fire that destroyed a motorcycle museum high in the mountains in Europe. Here is what was lost. This may be worse than the fire at the British Motorcycle Museum a decade or so ago. As far as I have heard nothing was saved. The usual expressions of dismay seem inadequate. -- Eric

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rqf3qqYPhnw>

nice video on YouTube about special tools for working on Commandos. If you know every one of these you are a Master Commando Mechanic. If you're not sure that you're already a Master, it's worth the time to watch this, you might save yourself from a big headache down the road.

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=AwRWNHrQTBlgWSEAgRQPxQt;_ylu=Y29sbwNncTEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZANDMTM4M18xBHNIYwNzYw--?p=engine+rebuild+tools%2C+norton+commando&fr=yhs-sz-001&hspart=sz&hsimp=yhs-001&guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9zZWZyY2gueWFob28uY29tL3locy9zZWZyY2g_aHNwYXJ0PjN6JmhzaW1wPjXlocy0wMDEmdHlwZT10eXBINzA4ODk1NC1zdjctZEdGbldERXIOREkzTORZdFpXmWWhV3ctNDRmNWZiYmRiMzBIYjYhZDhjMDAxZDIINmQ0Y2VmNjEmcGFyYW0xPTE0MzE3JnBhcmFtMz04MjQmcD1lbmdpbmUIMjByZWJ1aWxkJTlwdG9vbHMIMkMlMjBub3J0b24lMjBib21tYW5kbyZwYXJhbTI9ZXIKelpYSndSMlZ2VW1Wa0lqb2lIV1Z6SWI3aVpYaDBWR0ZuY3JlNld5Sm1iRzKzWDI1MGMxOWxiV0ZwYkY5dGFxZHZlZWFJcSWwwc0ltSnliM2R6WlhKT1lXmWwXJam9pUTJoeWlyMWwXJaXdpWW5KdmQzTmxjbFpsY25OcGlyNGlPaUk0T0Njc0ltVjRkRlpsY25OcGlyNGlPaUpvYjYjNOMFpXUWIMQ0psZUhtST1lXmWwXJam9pUldGemVTQkZiV0ZwYkNCUWJlVnpJaXdpWTJ4cFkydFRjbU1pT2IKNWFITmZjM2x1S1Wl3aVkyHlIMjF5VTNSdmNtVkpQ0k2SW1kaWlyRm5aWEJsWm01bllXSnZhMlJuY0cxdVltUm1hR3hpWVdsamFtdHZJaXdpYVhOU1pXeGxZWES5SWpvd0xDSnpaV3hVYUdWdFpTSTZjbVpZyJkZmJuUnpYMIz0WVdsc1gyMXBaM0poZEEdVaUxDSmtiMjFoYVVC0aU9pSiNkM2N1WldGemVXVnRZV2xzY0d4MWN5NWpiMjBpTENKaGRYUnZVM1ZuWjJWemRFTnNheUk2SW05eVoyRnVhV01pTENKdmNsTnlZeUk2SW01bGQzUmhZaUlzSW1salp5STZJakFpTENKb1ptVjNJam9pSWI3aWNTvJjYm055WXIJNklqRWIMQ0p5WlVWdVoyRm5aV1JWYzJWeUlqcG1ZV3h6WlN3aVJHbHpkSEpwWW5WMGFxOXVYMFJoZEdVaU9pSXINREI3TFRBNExUQTNWREU1T2pBd09gQXdmakF3TUZvaWZlRm5aV1JWYzJWeUlqcG1ZV3h6WlN3aVJHbHpkSEpwWW5WMGFxOXVYMFJoZEdVaU9pSXINREI3TFRBNExUQTNWREU1T2pBd09SgWg2niR6F8DYRTC22Ue-VFgINlwwphTzp_HLzvP5xUwWDDqpSacEgWpNq_tmKJ63aSHOdYEEVOBPK6TJRbQHIBk4OxUmgwLny2QRH9DRNYoDKBE5CL7IAMcDuBSKHW3u-liFmHJSGGIT-R-q7L#id=1&vid=885be449955c6cbf110d9ebdddef6cbe&action=view



New Machinist in Town

Aside from the personal loss, Randy Albright's stroke and resulting incapacitation in December 2019 also deprived many of us of a wide range of machining services. Machine shops like Randy's are becoming quite rare as the Randys of this country retire, with few replacements coming along.

I'm happy to report that there is a new machine shop available to us, one specifically focused on maintaining old motorcycles:

Steve "CQ" Choquette
Studio Engine Werx
7870 Granada Ave.
Denver, CO 80221
(720) 990-8162
e-mail: studioenginewerx@gmail.com
web: www.studioenginewerx.com

Steve is a motorcyclist himself, especially fond of off-road riding. He's also an experienced engine builder. He has run large automotive machine shops but now wants to do a one man operation on the kinds of jobs he loves, old motorcycles. He has done work for King Browne's Moto Works Denver shop, which is how I found out about him. He's recently been doing machining for a Moto Morini engine I am building. He prefers not to work on Harleys, mainly because of the type of clientele such work tends to attract, but he is very eager to start a relationship with members of Norton Colorado and if your needs include some machining on a Harley I think he will be fine with it. Visit his website to get a better idea of the services he can offer and his pricing structure.



Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Norton Gallery @ Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum

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

Danger ☹ Every bullet has its billet – but preferably far from me

[https://advrider.com/every-bullet-has-its-billet-but-preferably-far-from-me/?](https://advrider.com/every-bullet-has-its-billet-but-preferably-far-from-me/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_content=02_08_2021)

[utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_content=02_08_2021](https://advrider.com/every-bullet-has-its-billet-but-preferably-far-from-me/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_content=02_08_2021)

Colin Jenner on the Pioneer Bike run Pre 1914 bikes

<https://youtu.be/-Ves6b9I-ZM>

PDFs of old motorcycle documentation,

<http://lamaneta.org/manuales/manuales/>

13 Underpriced & Underrated Classic British Motorcycles -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygQtT-7MefE>

Vintage motorcycles and beautiful women

<https://www.returnofthecaferacers.com/triumph-cafe-racer/vintage-motorcycles-and-beautiful-women/>

Vintage Motor Cyclebooks

<https://www.vintagemotorcyclebooks.nl/en/product-categorie/landen/engelse-motoren-english-motorcycle/page/2/>

279 MPH Nitro Burning Norton Streamliner: Bonneville Stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BDedZ-sbrs>

Vincent rag

https://mcusercontent.com/82297a9619f863d17b3c014c3/files/ff39dba7-acd3-44fd-82a2-8e853fad1372/OVR_085.01.pdf

Norton herstory

[https://nortonmotorcycles.com/news/2021/03/08/iwd-2021?](https://nortonmotorcycles.com/news/2021/03/08/iwd-2021?utm_source=news&utm_medium=article&utm_campaign=beatrice-shilling&fbclid=IwAR3lay9z9wWeZG9x7B_unOXHbztAfrSsvo1ifXoDKmHcL-Yj5FuXaaw7rCU)

[utm_source=news&utm_medium=article&utm_campaign=beatrice-](https://nortonmotorcycles.com/news/2021/03/08/iwd-2021?utm_source=news&utm_medium=article&utm_campaign=beatrice-shilling&fbclid=IwAR3lay9z9wWeZG9x7B_unOXHbztAfrSsvo1ifXoDKmHcL-Yj5FuXaaw7rCU)

[shilling&fbclid=IwAR3lay9z9wWeZG9x7B_unOXHbztAfrSsvo1ifXoDKmHcL-Yj5FuXaaw7rCU](https://nortonmotorcycles.com/news/2021/03/08/iwd-2021?utm_source=news&utm_medium=article&utm_campaign=beatrice-shilling&fbclid=IwAR3lay9z9wWeZG9x7B_unOXHbztAfrSsvo1ifXoDKmHcL-Yj5FuXaaw7rCU)

Getting your tooth extracted at the Harley repair shop...

<https://vidmax.com/video/202847-real-bikers-are-so-tough-they-don-t-go-to-dentists-to-extract-a-tooth-they-go-to-the-harley-repair-shop>

Check out Monthly Ride on Relive!

<https://www.relive.cc/view/vPv4G17dr3q>

2021
4 CORNERS
RENDEZVOUS

(Yes, it is still going on all these years)

When: Thur. -Sun. June 17-20th

Where: See map for directions to Sam Manganaro's Place 14984 Rd 31, Mancos CO 81328

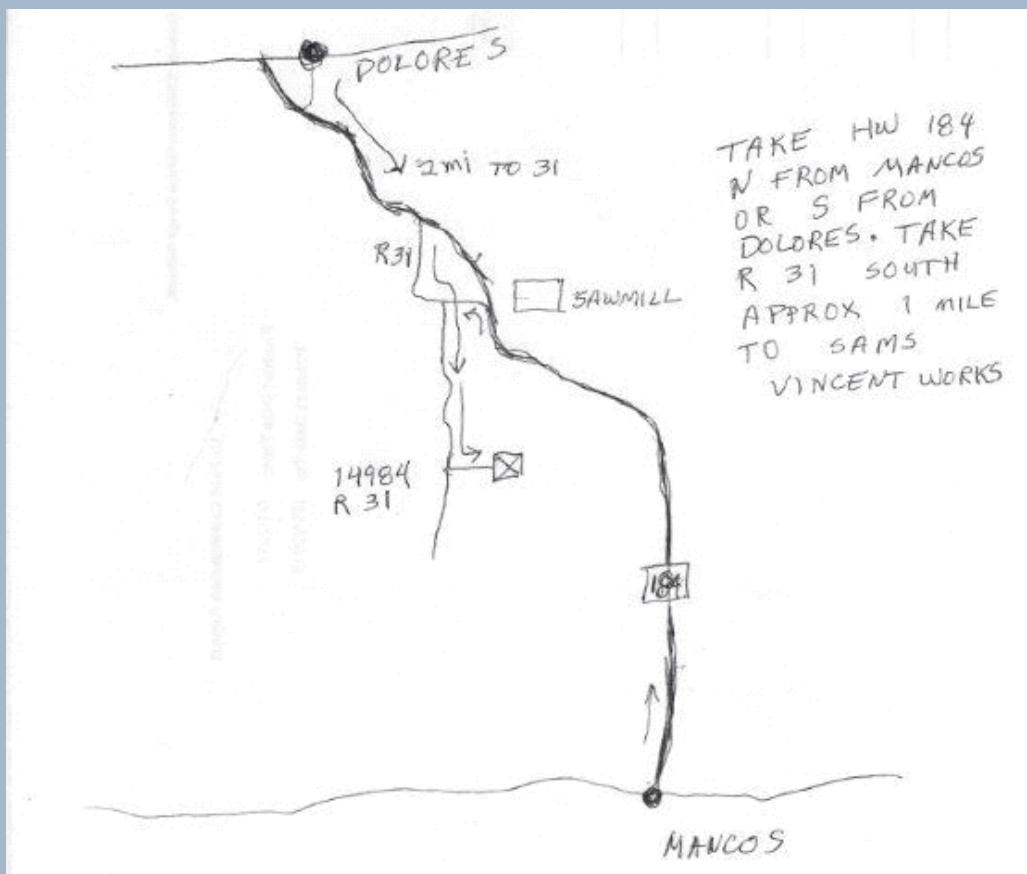
Who: Hosted by Western Slope Norton Riders and Norton Colorado.

Includes: Fee is \$30.00 for tent camping, morning coffee, good food planned for Friday and Saturday night, door prizes, 50/50 drawing. If you aren't camping there are motels close by in Dolores and Cortez. Amazing mountain roads and unbelievable, but true campfire stories.

For further information contact Steve Harris at sharris@frontier.net or call 970-946-1960.

(Please R.S.V.P. so we can figure food)

This is a save the date notice, details may change and change our plans. County and state covid regulations will have to be observed. We will send out updates as we become aware of any changes. Thanks for your patience.



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 over-nighter

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



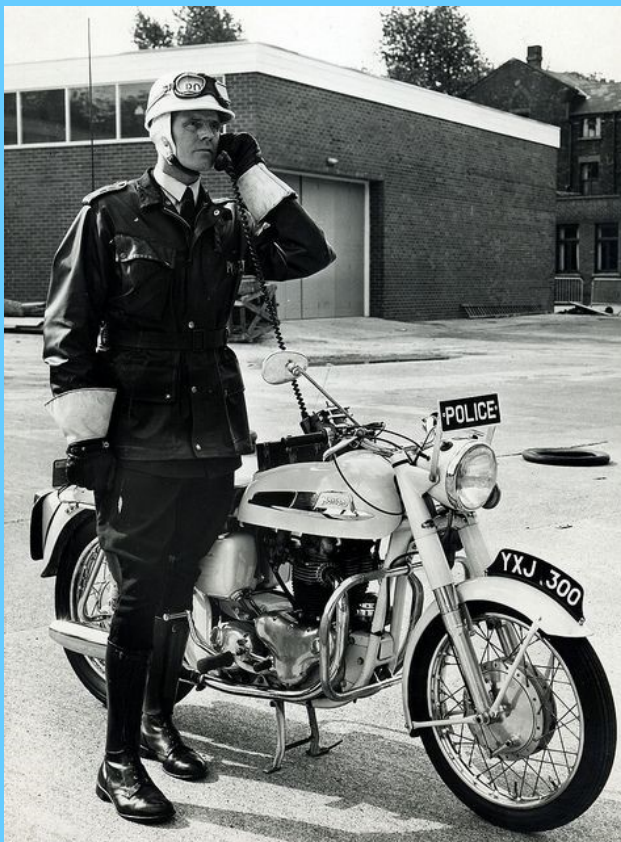
Membership

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 (2020):

points, events, solo rides

Jack Abeyta	35
Peggy Abeyta	25
Scott Robinson	23
David Sheesley	17
James Lafler	15
Debby Johnson	12

Jack does it again, for the 6th time!!!!



Current Occupants

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arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com

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Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Jim Colt, Terry Gurriel, Bob Herman, Michael Homs, Dennis Horgan, James Lafler and Jo Teague 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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