



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



# Norton Colorado

## Newsletter

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

Editor's Note. Some of the Rick Black stuff came from an edition featuring Rick that originally was published in November 2015

September 2022



## Upcoming Events

**September 11 (Sunday)** Old Bike Ride 19

**September 18 (Sunday)** English Conclave

**October 9 (Sunday)** Plains Ride

Look for club emails or check the website for more details about these gatherings.

*Rick Black was one of the original members of Norton Colorado. He's one of the characters that has made it fun to be a part of our club. He is a good friend and one of the people who inspired me to join and remain in the club all these years. We will miss him.*





2003



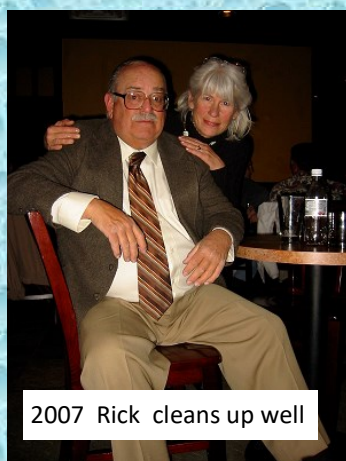
2006



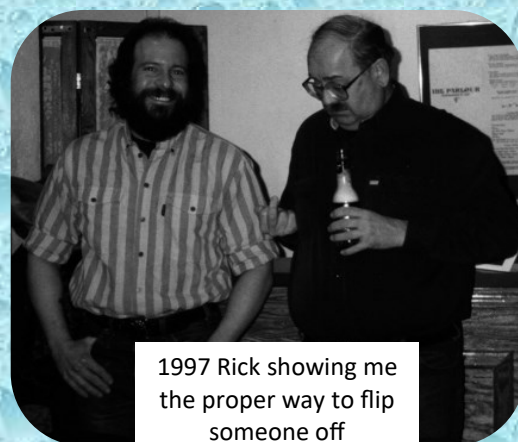
2015



2011



2007 Rick cleans up well



1997 Rick showing me the proper way to flip someone off



So long ago no one remembers what year



2007



2014

Jack and Rick have been friends since the '70s

Rick has been my "go to guy" whenever I needed help with my Nortons. He is always happy to give me advice over the phone. He has made the ride across town to help me in my garage and there was the weekend tech session in his garage many years ago where working on my bike was the club project. I have learned a lot from Rick. — Scott Robinson



I first met Rick in the mid 70s on a Kawasaki Las Vegas dealer trip to introduce the new models. We sat together on the plane & struck up a conversation. As I remember it Rick reached in his pocket to pay for a drink only to find that he had left his wallet on his dresser when leaving home. I had a little extra money so I gave Rick a one hundred dollar bill. A hundred went pretty far back then. Who wants to be in Las Vegas broke? A day later Rick smilingly tracked me down & returned the hundred. He was lucky at the table. A few hours later here comes Rick to get the hundred back. A few hours later here he comes to return it. A short while later he comes to get it back. You get the pattern. Rick returned the hundred when we returned to Denver a few days later.

Rick worked at Kawasaki west at that time & went on to work at most of the dealerships in Denver. He was always a valued employee. He sold everything from Kawasaki's to Harley's and loved all bikes which is evident from his current stable. Rick, myself and several other guys sort of became a trail riding bunch meeting haphazardly at Rampart Range most weekends. Most of us had Can Am Qualifiers and a couple were top enduro riders in Colorado. Rick was quite an accomplished dirt rider. Lots of fun.

Rick was one of the earliest Norton Colorado members. I joined, as I remember, in 1985 & hosted some get together's for chili etc. in those early years as did Rick. We also both belonged to the antique motorcycle club. Believe Norton Colorado started in 1983 with Rolf Norstag providing the main organizational impetus. Rick was right there at the start and invited me.

Rick sort of became infamous for bike breakdowns on camping trips years ago. Lots of crude joke's around campfires about his woe's with Norton's & Harley's. Rick is a pretty good mechanic but seemed beset by gremlins.

Rick is known & valued for his wry and dry sense of humor. Always a odd slant on life. This has stood him in good sense dealing with the vagaries of life we all encounter.

Good on ya Rick, may you ride in happiness and grace. Bob Martin



A few years ago I was living in Longmont and all was not well in the neighborhood - police chases, people knocking on my door late at night, people shaking my front door in the wee hours looking to get in, etc. I was not feeling safe in my home. I mentioned the situation to Rick and he responded by giving me a 12 gauge shotgun! He wouldn't take any money for it. I'm happy to say the shotgun has not been required for home defense (so far at least) but it definitely let me sleep easier.

Debby Johnson

When I first met the guys in the Norton Club I couldn't remember everyone's names. Rick and Ernie were pretty much inseparable at that time so I referred to them together as "Bert and Ernie". — Julie Robinson



### **Rick's Eulogy by Dennis McCadden**

Rick was my best friend in the world. Rick was my friend for 50 plus years. I met Rick in 1971 shortly after we both got home from Vietnam. One day he came riding over on his motorcycle to see my roommate.

We hit it off immediately over our love for motorcycles. He was working for a Kawasaki dealership. Rick convinced me to take a ride on a demo motorcycle and after that I was hooked. I bought a 900 Z1 from him. When I opened my own Kawasaki dealership, I snatched him away from his job to become my parts manager and salesman. The friendship continued. We have taken countless rides on both street bikes and dirt bikes. I got him started on dirt bike riding and he bought one from my business. We've been hanging out, partying, and eating Mexican food together for many years. We've had wonderful conversations. Rick was like a brother to me.

When Cheryl and I got married eight years ago, Rick was my best man. During the toast Rick said, "Contrary to popular opinion, they didn't have to get married!" Everyone got a charge out of that.

Rick was my best friend.  
I've lost a brother.

Ron Weaver says, "Only sane person to work at Isle motorcycles".

### **Rick Black Has Gone Riding by Dennis Horgan**

I received a text message from Rick's wife early, Lizette, this morning telling us all that Rick died in the VA hospital a little after 3 this morning. I saw Rick yesterday evening, and it was clear the end was approaching quickly. Funeral arrangements are not yet made, but Lizette said she would keep us informed and asked that all the Norton Club members be notified.

It's hard for me to remember that Rick was riding only a month ago, and helping me get a barn-find Kawasaki on the road. But cancer hit him quickly and he went from early symptoms to the end in only a few weeks. He had his 79th birthday in May, and was looking forward to a summer of riding. He also looked on Debby Johnson's Kawi with a lustful eye, and he was complaining about not having room in his shed for the barn-find Kawi. I told him he had first dibs on either one, and he was talking about shedding some of his current bikes so that he could have space and funds for a few new ones. Sadly, that is all now in the past. When we go, our dreams go with us.

Rick was born in Denver, and he spent his professional life in the motorcycle industry. He knew everyone. He worked for shops all over the front range, many of which are gone, although a few remain. I was always amazed at the stories he could tell about rides to Norton Conclaves and meetings, and club rides to all the far corners. And although he seemed a bit chagrined by the excesses of his youth, he would sometimes admit that the rides were fueled as much by beer as gasoline.

His memory was amazing, and even when he was sick he never gave up his love for motorbikes. On one of my visits to the hospital, only about a week before he died, he waved for me to get a pen and paper, and he proceeded to recite the valve clearances on all his bikes, a listing of the special parts and modifications that were done to many of them, and asked us to be sure his machines were sent to good homes.

There is much more to say about Rick, but I'll close now and hope that so many of you who knew Rick better than I, will share your memories and stories. For myself, I will say that Rick was both a true original and a real friend, and I will miss him.







We just lost these 2 friends . Let's hope they are riding off into the sunset together on their Nortons.

## ***Norton Colorado Website Offers Something New*** from Eric Bergman

I have good news for you: the club's website has just been revised by Jerry Doe to add several fora (or forums) for discussions on topics of interest to our members. This effort was stimulated by a group of our members who wanted a place to exchange information about their BSA Goldstars. Thus there is a forum covering all matters BSA-ish. There is also a Norton-oriented forum, of course, and a General Topics forum. If there is demand, we can add others, but I think we will want to see if anyone actually uses the existing fora before doing that.

All fora are visible to anyone on the internet, so be circumspect about casting aspersions (in other words, mind your manners). The link to the fora is under the Members menu on the main page. Here is a direct link to it: <<https://nortoncolorado.org/discussions/>>. You do not need to log in to the website to view the fora. You do need to log in if you want to post something, start a new topic or reply to an existing one. I suspect many of you have forgotten how to log in to our website. Get in touch with me if you need to be reminded of your login and password information.

For the time being, Jerry Doe, David Sheesley and I will be keeping an eye on the fora but we would appreciate having a volunteer for each forum to act as a moderator. Since this is a small, close-knit community I do not expect many of the kinds of problems that often afflict global fora, so the workload of moderators should be very light.

Clearly, there is some overlap between our little Norton forum and the wildly popular AccessNorton forum <<https://accessnorton.com>> that Jerry also created. Use one, both, or none, as you like. I think it will all fall into place.

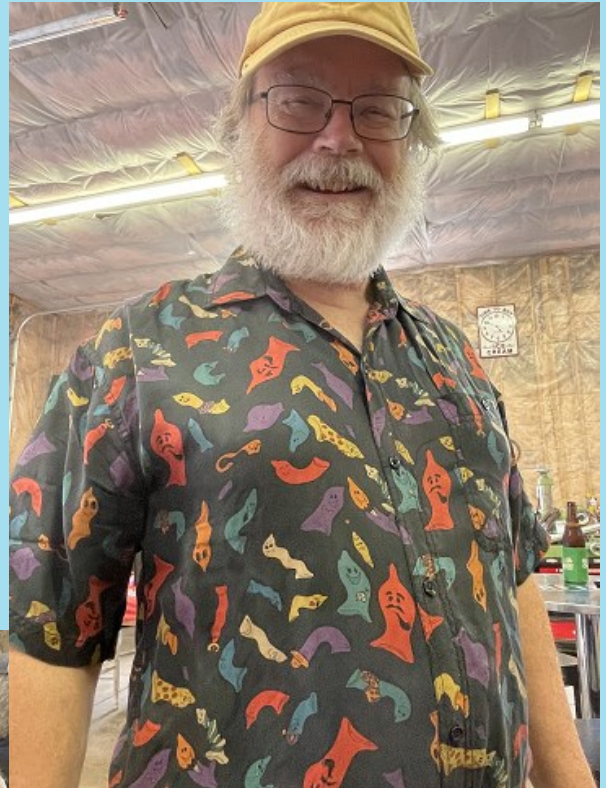
Jesse Carraway mentioned that he recently acquired most of the used parts, and possibly a number of new ones, from Matt Rambow at Colorado Norton Works. Matt is no longer building complete bikes so he doesn't need that inventory. Jesse had previously purchased the inventory of the club's Parts Depot when we lost our storage site and he already had a large inventory of his own parts, so at this point I think it is safe to say Jesse has the largest inventory of Norton parts in Colorado. He is glad to help out fellow club members who are in need:

Jesse Carraway  
815 S. Estes St.  
Lakewood CO 80226  
(303) 980-6641  
[jesse@fastmail.fm](mailto:jesse@fastmail.fm)





## A few pictures from Jamie and Michelle Jones' Wimpy Campout



Eric is wearing a rather interesting shirt, check it out





## ***Ric and Joy Landeira 's Open Garage and swap meet***

The gathering was well attended, about thirty people came, many on motorcycles, most of whom were club members but around a third who were friends of mine and Joy's. They all got along fine, stuff was sold (notably a 1955 Matchless single engine), bought and given away free.





## ***Congratulations to Al Slarks.***

The big Morgan Adams concours show was this past weekend. There were several Norton Club members present. I am happy to say that I won "Best in Show Motorcycle" with my 1965 BSA "Lightning Clubman". One of only 200 production race bikes built for the 1965 race season in the UK.





## The Robinsons Hit the Road : Summer Travels

This summer Julie and I took 2 out of town trips. Our first was what has become our regular Midwest Loop, where we see my family in Wisconsin and drop down to see Julie's family in Indianapolis. Our second was a tour of Oregon. All together we spent 36 days on the road, logging about 6500 miles through 14 states.



This time instead of the mad dash to Wisconsin we took a detour through the Black Hills and the Badlands of South Dakota. We also rode through southern Minnesota on some very nice curvy roads. Crossing into Wisconsin through LaCrosse we went south along the Mississippi for a while until a closed road sent us on some very nice roads to get to Madison. After the family visit we went north to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. We took a ferry across Lake Michigan from there, The SS Badger. The ship was built in the early 1950's to carry trains and large construction equipment across the lake. It is coal powered, so of course, it will probably be replaced soon. Nice to let someone else do the driving. We then went to central Michigan and made our way south to Indianapolis. After a nice visit we did the mad dash home, covering 1100 miles in 2 1/2 days.

Next on our agenda was Oregon. We've been there several times so the goal was to check out some new roads as well as riding along the coast. As luck would have it we timed our trip the same time as the Pacific Northwest, and much of the country, was experiencing record breaking heat. I'm not sure how many days we rode when it was in the high 90's or over 100 degrees. The temperature reached 112 degrees at one point. Along the coast the temperatures were in the 60's so we rode west and spent a little more time there to escape the heat. Oregon offers



A rather remote forest road near Lakeview. Rode as far as we could into the forest until the road ended due to last year's wild fire.

some beautiful roads. There were enough curves on well paved roads to keep us interested. Riding amongst the big trees in the forests was amazing, and if the trees blocked out the sun, kind of spooky. We rode just under 3500 miles and saw the Pacific Ocean, ate as much seafood as we could handle, looked at some waterfalls and a few volcanoes and travelled on some very remote roads, one stretch was 120 miles between gas stations, along the way. Everywhere we went people were nice and Julie and I had a great ride.





Silver Falls State Park near Salem, OR offers several water falls to see.



We could see 3 volcanoes from our balcony in Sisters, OR



There were about 27 sea lions or more that call this dock in Newport their home. One tourist asked his son if they reminded him of his grandpa, laying around napping and making noises. At first I was kind of offended, until I realized he was right. Gave us all a good laugh.



Another waterfall near Sisters. Apparently Oregon has quite a few waterfalls to see depending on how much you want to hike



## Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

A Tune For Debby, from James Ingram

<https://youtu.be/C6CBTzGvt2Q>

Rick Black Obituary and pictures

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/wheat-ridge-co/richard-black-10863091>

Harvest Classic Oct 21 Rally in Texas

<https://www.harvestclassic.org/featured/how-to-viewparticipate-in-the-2020-harvest-classic-virtual-rally/>

### NORTON COMMANDO PR 350

A 350cc single cylinder sports motorcycle. dedicated to India's domestic market being the prestigious Brand of TVS Indian Group today.

Revolt to the motorcyclist public more educated and economically wealthy would be the modern reissue with cylinder and number of cylinders halved, of the famous Commando 750 Production Racer from the early 70s, a real object of worship among the fans of NORTON.

Classic Racing Aesthetics with dome, extended tank and saddle with number plates, strictly yellow, on a traditional drawing frame and an air-cooled turrito engine, a recipe apparently very welcome in India, where the 350cc Classic industry war. It is happening more than ever in many houses.

With the COMMANDO PR 350, NORTON would definitely aim at the top among the sports versions, both for the prestige of the Brand and for the evocative quality and aesthetic of the product.

And maybe some nostalgic person will also wish for importation to Europe, why not?





## Old Bike Ride 19 Sunday, September 11, 2022

Open to all riders of (sufficiently) old motorcycles and all (sufficiently) old motorcycle riders Welcome to Old Bike Ride Nineteen! This annual event was begun by Bob Ohman in the early 2000s. In recent years Norton Colorado provided Bob with logistical support. Bob died September 9, 2021, but we are trying to maintain the tradition in his honor. The purpose of the Old Bike Ride is to encourage people to bring out their old motorcycles and ride them. American, British, Italian, German, Russian, Chinese, motorcycle, scooter, sidecar, concourse original or hideous mongrel, any engine capacity, we do not care as long as it's old enough. The approximately 95-mile route takes us over some of the finest motorcycling roads of the Front Range. The Old Bike Ride is open to anyone riding a motorized vehicle with less than four wheels made in 1980 or earlier.

We also honor people who refuse to quit riding just because they got old, so a rider over the age of 75 can ride whatever they want to, dammit. Except for this Extremely Important Exception: We are trying to encourage more riders of the female persuasion to get involved in vintage motorcycling. Therefore, since OBR13 and until further notice, women of any age are welcome to participate while riding (not as a passenger) a motorcycle or scooter of any age. Ladies, here's your chance to ride with a choice collection of the crustiest old motorcyclists you could ever imagine!

This is not a race. Everyone rides at their own pace and, to quote the old song, "never is heard, a discouraging word" about the mechanical preparation of one's machine or one's rate of forward progress, cornering abilities, or navigational skills (no one could be worse than Jerry Pokorny). We'd really, truly like you to join us. In honor of Paul Swenson, departed Sidehacker Extraordinaire we also open the OBR to anyone of any age riding a sidecar of any age.

As in recent runnings of the Old Bike Ride, the special decals commemorating this event will not be issued until the lunch stop.

### Location and Start Time

The ride will start from the same location in downtown Golden as recent years: the large parking lot behind the old Foss Drugstore, one block west of Washington Ave on 13th Street. Maps will be distributed to qualifying riders starting at 8:00 AM. Rider's Meeting at 9:15. The ride will start at 9:30 sharp.

### Breakfast, Lunch, and Beer

There are multiple coffee/dining establishments within one block of the parking lot, all of which will be open by 7:30 at the latest on Sunday: Cafe 13, a coffee/pastry shop facing the parking lot at 1301 Arapahoe St. The Table Mountain Grill & Cantina, full-service restaurant around the corner at 1310 Washington St. Higher Grounds, at the corner of Washington St and 14th St, the best coffee shop in the area, a short block away but worth the walk. The Golden Diner, a couple blocks away at 700 12th St., but the best breakfast joint in town. What a surprise, a Starbucks!, at the intersection of Washington and 13th. The route for OBR19 is likely to be pretty similar to recent years. Maps and directions will be handed out at the rider's meeting. In any case there will be several dining options at the lunch stop so that you can select the establishment that best meets your fiscal and dietary needs. The ride will end at the Golden City Brewery beer garden, about one block from where we begin. You're responsible for paying for your own food and drink. We expect to arrive back in Golden around 2 PM.

Further Information: Eric Bergman (720) 400-7835 [eric@nortoncolorado.org](mailto:eric@nortoncolorado.org)



## Norton Colorado 2022 Event Schedule

These are the events planned so far. As you can see there is still plenty of open time for you to host an event. Group rides will be announced throughout the season on short notice, based on weather conditions. In the interest of variety, volunteers are solicited to lead group rides on their favorite roads. Likewise, we're looking for volunteers to host an open garage. Tech days are usually scheduled on short notice as they become necessary. Contact Eric <[eric@nortoncolorado.org](mailto:eric@nortoncolorado.org)> for more information or to volunteer.

**February 12 (Saturday)** Open Garage @ Dennis Horgan's

**March 20 (Sunday)** Clancey's

**April 24 (Sunday)** Tech Day/Open Garage at Bob's

**May 22 (Sunday)** Distinguished Gentleman's Ride

**May 29 (Sunday)** BBQ at Eric Bergman & Susie Saari-nen's (postponed to June 12)

**June 4 (Saturday)** Colorado Vintage MC Show, Erie

**June 17-19** Progressive MC Show, Loveland

**June 16 - 19 (Thurs - Sun)** Four Corners Rendezvous

**July 10 (Sunday)** Mt. Evans Ride & Brunch @ David Sheesley's

**July 24 (Sunday)** BMAC Picnic

**August 6 -7 (Saturday - Sunday)** Wimpy Campout @ Jamie & Michelle Jones'

**August 13 (Saturday)** Colorado Vintage Motorcycle Show

**August 28 (Sunday)** Open garage at Ric and Joy Landeira's place.

**September 11 (Sunday)** Old Bike Ride 19

**September 18 (Sunday)** English Conclave

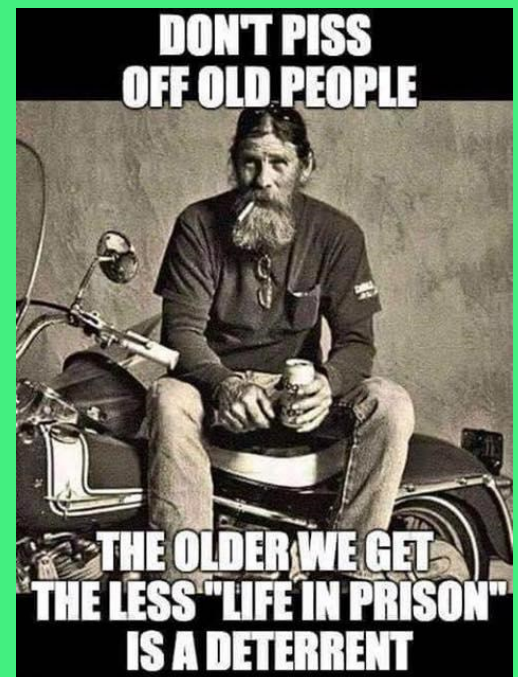
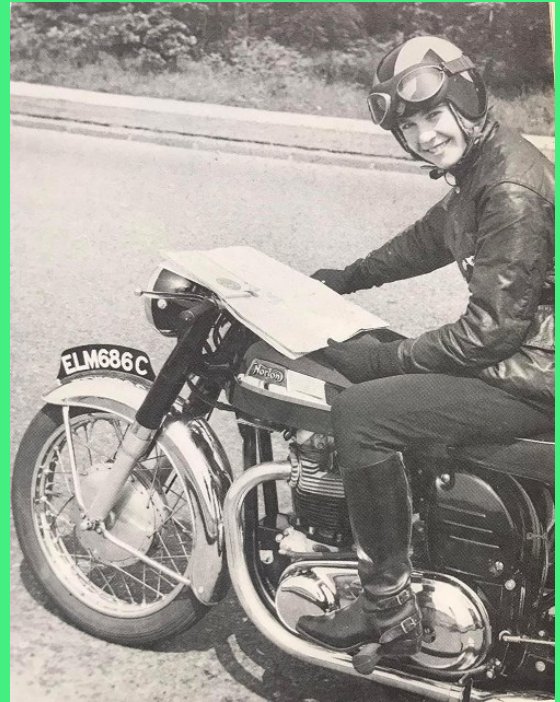
**October 9 (Sunday)** Plains Ride

**October 16 (Sunday)** Open Garage @ Jonathan Chaikin's

**December 4 (Sunday)** Pints Pub

**January 1, 2023 (Sunday)** New Year's Day Ride

**January 15 (Sunday)** Lincoln's Road house





## 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 2022 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>





## Current Occupants

### Officers

#### **President**

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#### **Secretary**

Eric Bergman (720)400-7835 **NEW #**  
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**Credits:** Thanks to Karen Bailey, Eric Bergman, Bob Herman, Dennis Horgan, Julian Kowalewski, Dennis McCadden, Lynaire Reeh, Julie Robinson and Al Slarks 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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