



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



# Norton Colorado

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

Newsletter

February 2023

Doug McCadam  
1944 - 2023



## Upcoming Events

**February 4 (Saturday)** Banquet at African Bar and Grill

***Banquet information inside Page 2***

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

## 2023 Banquet Information , February 4th — Eric Bergman

African Bar and Grill

955 S. Kipling Parkway

Lakewood CO 80226

<https://africangrilllakewood.com/>

The Winter Banquet has traditionally been the largest gathering of the club each year, and also the one gathering where we attempt to conduct club business in a semi-democratic manner.

The restaurant is at the intersection of Kentucky and S. Kipling, easy access from any direction. There is a huge parking area and none of the security concerns that bothered some of our members (we miss you, Debby) when we had Winter Banquets in downtown Denver.

The menu can be intimidating for people with risk-averse dietary habits, but we will coordinate with Theodora and Sylvester to include some friendly, recognizable dishes in the buffet. There are many vegetarian options. Most of the menu is gluten-free. There are a few very spicy things in the menu. If we include any such items in the buffet they will be carefully labelled. I'd like to hear from you if you'd like to try some spicier fare or have any other concerns about "African Food".

The club treasury is in good shape these days so we will be able to stick with our long-held tradition of charging \$20/person for the food and a range of non-alcoholic drinks (pay for your own alcoholic drinks and some fancy non-alcoholic ones), and subsidizing the remainder from the Treasury.

We took an informal poll of members at Lincoln's Roadhouse the other day, and we will be holding the **traditional gift exchange** at the Banquet. You are not required to participate. If you do, start thinking about an item that would have appeal among the membership and their partners. It doesn't have to be motorcycle parts. In light of inflation, I think \$25 is probably a fair guideline these days. No gag (i.e., worthless) gifts, please.



A shiny Norton

And a not so shiny bike found off the North African coast circa 1941





## ***Doug McCadam*** by Bob Herman

Anyone who has known and spent time with Doug over the years will have stories and anecdotes aplenty. As we all know, Doug was a unique character of prodigious appetites, who lived life on his terms, damn the torpedoes. I want to be sure that he is also remembered for his kind heart and generosity.

In 2006, after my Norton was burned up in the disastrous fire at Jim Comstock's shop, I strongly considered washing my hands of the bike and replacing it with something less charred. But the old timers in the club will recall that with the help and encouragement of a number of Norton Colorado members I rebuilt the bike. At that time I did not have a shop of my own to work in - my initial assembly of the chassis components was done in my gravel driveway at 8000' elevation in the Sangres.

Doug McCadam invited me to use his shop, in Dolores at that time. He helped with parts and advice, disassembled my engine, voluntarily polished and detailed alloy components and more. Doug's help was instrumental in getting the Phoenix up and going again, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Over the 24 years that I knew Doug, we shared plenty of good times, rides, laughs and a dram or two together, and I counted him among my good friends. RIP, Doug.

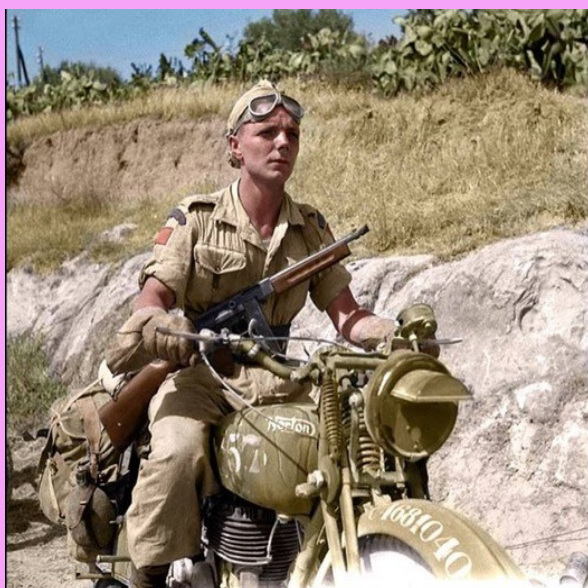


## Moto Morini Girls

I guess the Italians also think girls sell motorcycles. Hard to resist these beauties.



## Also from Italy:



Dispatch Rider private Harry Mc Dowell of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, 1st Canadian Infantry brigade delivering a message aboard a Norton 16 H motorbike to the battalion's advanced headquarters Regalbuto Sicily August, 1943.

Sadly, Harry McDowell would be killed in action 4 months later. In Memory of Lance Corporal HENRY McDOWELL

B/73826, 48th Highlanders of Canada, R.C.I.C. who died age 27

on 11 December 1944

Son of Harry McDowell, and of Martha McDowell, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Remembered with honour RAVENNA WAR CEMETERY





Good Friends



Plus Good Food



Equals FUN



## ***Saints Title Service***

In the vintage motorcycle community it's a rare person who does not have at least one "title problem" in the herd. In addition to the ever-popular bonded title that seems to be the universal prescription by the DMV there are various other ploys and services that may work. This article describes my dealings with one such service, Saints Engine and Machine in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to obtain a title for a moto that was imported to the US in a container and was never documented here. The fellow running this service is named Joe Casola. The web page is:

[<https://www.saintsengine.com/services/title-service/>](https://www.saintsengine.com/services/title-service/)

The motorcycle needs to be 30+ years old and cannot have any existing title problems (salvage, stolen, etc). The service works by having you legally sell your motorcycle to them, after which they obtain a Tennessee title. Then they legally sell the motorcycle back to you. You get the Tennessee title in their name, properly endorsed on the back, and a signed and notarized bill of sale from Saints to you, which you can convert into a Colorado title in your name in the usual process. The motorcycle never needs to leave your garage, although it will legally belong to Saints for a short period, and the only actual transfer of money is the \$400 fee for the service when you apply. You can do some of the application on-line, but you need to have your signature notarized on a paper bill of sale (selling the moto to Saints) and mailed to Joe. There is a standard form on the Saints website to download, already filled in with most of the information. You can pay the fee on-line as well, but I enclosed a check for the fee with the bill of sale.

The bottom line is that the service worked as advertised for me, once they received my letter with the notarized bill of sale and my check for \$400. I started this process last September but the letter with the bill of sale and my check never arrived at Saints. I had recently experienced a 2-month delay in delivery of a letter (regular 1st class mail) from Crestone to Golden so I know the USPS can really take their time, but after waiting several months I talked to Joe and we decided to start over. After cancelling payment on the check I sent a new letter using registered mail so it could be tracked. This costs \$4.60 but that's a lot less than the \$34 it cost to cancel payment on the first check and well worth the avoidance of brain damage. The second letter left Golden on December 8, was delivered in Chattanooga on December 12, and I received the Tennessee title today, January 17.

Regarding the notarization of the bill of sale that you send to Saints, some notaries public will complain that they are not allowed to notarize it unless both seller and buyer have signed in front of them. In that case, tell them that they can add a note on the document that they are notarizing seller's signature only. That works fine for Saints.

The only thing left is the visit to my local DMV for a title transfer. Joe says they have done this in every state, even California, and another member of Norton Colorado (Al Slarks?) who has used it successfully was the one who pointed me to Saints. \$400 is not cheap, but neither is a bonded title and using Saints was a lot less hassle than the bonding process and resulted in a clean title. I am content.



## Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Check out the club websites new photo galleries:

<https://nortoncolorado.org/galleries/>

Watch a 90 minute history of Norton

[<https://tinyurl.com/5d8bztuf>](https://tinyurl.com/5d8bztuf)

Most popular classic motorcycles

<https://www.autoweek.com/news/industry-news/g42589678/most-popular-classic-motorcycles/>

Birth of the Norton Commando

[article birth of norton commando.pdf \(workingatamc.london\)](#)

Jack, a handsome man, walked into a sports bar around 9:58 pm. He sat down next to this blonde at the bar and stared up at the TV as the 10:00 news came on. The news crew was covering a story of a man on a ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Jack and said, "Do you think he'll jump?"

Jack says, "You know what, I bet he will." The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't." Jack placed \$30 on the bar and said, "You're on!"

Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off of the building, falling to his death. The blonde was very upset and handed her \$30 to Jack, saying, "Fair's fair... Here's your money."

Jack replied, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5 o'clock news and knew he would jump."

The blonde replies, "I did too; but I didn't think he'd do it again."

Jack took the money.

## The Norton girls are back

Many of you will remember the Norton ads from the 1970s which featured a pretty girl and a one-word title. Now the Norton Owners Club is offering a set of six sturdy 11oz mugs, each emblazoned with a different advert of the time on one side and the NOC logo on the other.

The set of six costs £33.60 and shipping is free. Go to <https://shop.nortonownersclub.org/mug-adverts> for details of how to order.



## ***Looking for an excuse to visit our friends up North?***

Reaching out to all the clubs to let them know that we are back!

After 4 year hibernation our Classic & Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet is back. It is our 33rd event. It is the largest Classic & Vintage swap meet in western Canada and the Pacific NW states. British Columbia has some of the rarest and most unique motorcycles in North America. Just minutes north of the Sumas-Lynden border crossing in Abbotsford BC. 1.5 hours north of Seattle or 1 hour east of Vancouver.

***Sunday April 30th.***

Todd Copan  
Classic Bike Swap Meet Ltd  
PO Box 99755  
Brentwood RPO  
Burnaby BC V5C 0M5  
[info@classicbikeswapmeet.com](mailto:info@classicbikeswapmeet.com)

604-299-0020 info line  
604-313-4394 cell.  
[www.ClassicBikeSwapMeet.com](http://www.ClassicBikeSwapMeet.com)

## ***1939 Norton Big Four | Great Britain***

At the beginning of 1938, the Department of Army Civilian ordered 15 motorcycles with sidecar wheel drive (SWD) for further testing. Apparently, this idea came to British officials after they realized the advantage of German BMW and Zundapp with sidecar wheel drive.

This very scheme of the drive, finally applied to Norton Big 4, was first used by the Baughan company in 1929. The founder of the company, Henry Baughan, offered his all-wheel drive system (which proved to be successful in cross-country racing) to the military back in 1932, but his idea was rejected. Fortunately for Norton, Henry Baughan never patented his invention, so the company did not have to pay royalties for the use of his technology.

From 1938 to the autumn of 1941, approximately 4,779 Norton Big 4 (SWD) were produced.

Vehicles produced at the end of 1939 were sent to the RAF stationed in France. The Norton from the collection of our museum was one of those motorcycles. Its service in the British Army ended at Dunkirk Beach, where the motorcycle was abandoned during the evacuation of Allied forces from French territory. It was about this event that Christopher Nolan released the 2017 film Dunkirk.







Photo of the desert sled Steve Harris built a couple years ago.



These 2 Nortons look very clean, but seem to be missing an oil tank. Notice that both have an extra gas cap, probably for an oil tank combined with the gas tank. Nice!! Is this a new trend?



## ***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)





## **Norton Colorado 2023 Event Schedule**

This is my first shot at the schedule for 2023, and I think you should all have a chance to comment on it. If you are surprised to see your name listed as hosting an event or the date of "your" event is a problem, get in touch and we'll do what's needed — Eric

**February 4 (Saturday)**, 5pm, Winter Banquet, African Grill and Bar, 955 S. Kipling Parkway, Lakewood CO 80226, <<https://africangrilllakewood.com/>>.

**March 18 (Saturday)**, Spring Tech Day, host Bob Martin

**April 16 (Sunday)**, Group Ride.

**May 7 (Sunday)**, Open Garage, hosted by Ric and Joy Landeira.

**May 28 (Sunday)**, Big Tent BBQ hosted by Eric Bergman & Susan Saarinen.

**June 10 (Saturday)**, 8am to 2pm, Colorado Vintage Motorcycle Show, Erie United Methodist Church, 604 Holbrook St., Erie 80516, contact Bob Kelly (720) 837-9090, <[SuperHawk65@gmail.com](mailto:SuperHawk65@gmail.com)>.

**June 15-18 (Thursday-Sunday)**, Four Corners Rendezvous hosted by Steve Harris and Charley Gremmels.

**June 21-24 (Wednesday-Saturday)**, INOA Rally, Winthrop, Washington.

**July 9 (Sunday)**, Mt. Evans Ride and Brunch hosted by David Sheesley.

**July 23 (Sunday)**, BMAC Picnic hosted by Frank & Joanne Puckett.

**August 5-6 (Saturday-Sunday)**, Wimpy Sleepover hosted by Jamie & Michelle Jones.

**August 20 (Sunday)**, Open Garage, hosted by Al and Barb Slarks.

**September 10 (Sunday)**, Old Bike Ride.

**September 17 (Sunday)**, English Motoring Conclave.

**October 9 (Sunday)**, Plains Ride, hosted by Scott and Julie

**October 21 (Sunday)**, Open Garage, hosted by Jonathan Chaikin and Tamara Hale.

**November 11 (Saturday)**, Fall Tech Day, host TBD.

**December 3 (Sunday)**, Pints Pub.

**January 1, 2024 (Monday)**, Clancy's Irish Pub.

**January 14, 2024 (Sunday)**, Lincoln's Roadhouse.

There will almost certainly be some changes, perhaps some additions, some may occur during the season, but if you put these dates into your calendar you probably won't be too far off.



## 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:

<https://nortoncolorado.org/events/>

BSA / Norton Hybrid



First Triton





## Current Occupants

### Officers

#### **President**

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[arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com](mailto:arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary**

Eric Bergman (720)400-7835 **NEW #**  
[onenorton@gmail.com](mailto:onenorton@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer**

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### Staff

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**Credits:** Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Steve Harris, Bob Herman, Tony Kersberger, Julian Kowalewski, Dennis Oberwetter, Lee Shanley and Davis Sheesley 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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