



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



Norton Colorado

www.nortoncolorado.org Newsletter

December 2023



Upcoming Events

December 3 (Sunday), Pints Pub.

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

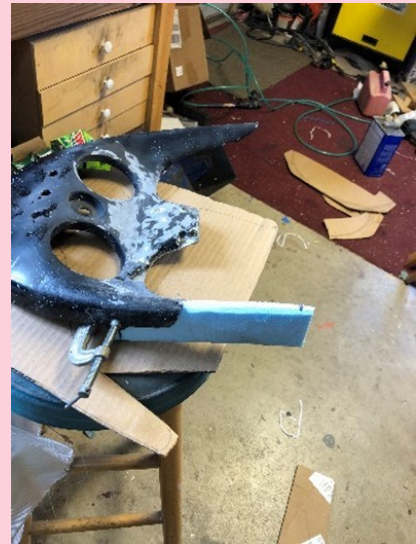
Look for club emails or check the website for more details about these gatherings.

Ol' Blue Hits the Road Again, Part 2

by Frank Puckett



Here are some notes on the restoration of the Dunstall Commando I got from Bob Ohman. A lot of fiberglass work was done to restore the original Dunstall pieces that were broken in the crash. The dashboard was rebuilt with aluminum glassed in to reinforce it and the broken side section was built up.



The tank was cracked, and it was repaired and Caswell coated on the inside. I have had no leaks at all, but I only will use non-ethanol gas in this tank. I painted all the fiberglass, matching the original blue. The seat was broken, but repaired nicely and I had a new seat cover made.



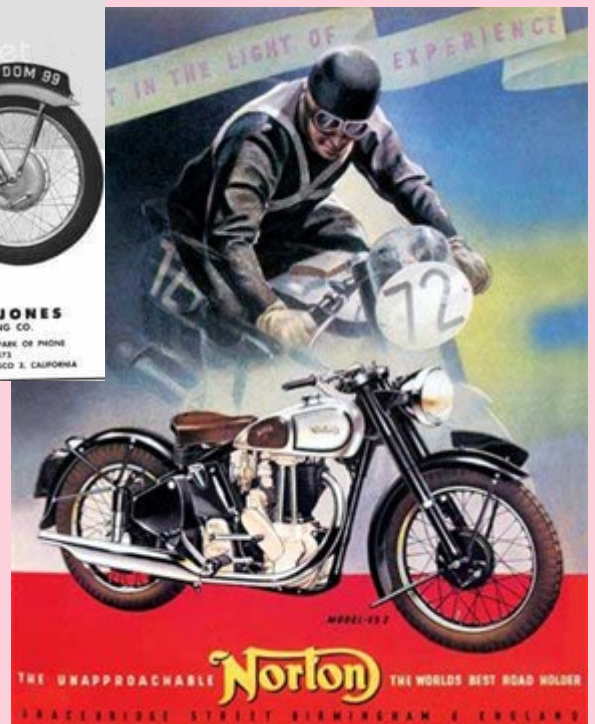
The Borrani rims were polished and respoked on refurbished hubs. The transmission and engine were completely torn down and new bearings, seals, and gaskets were utilized. This Commando went directly from the Norton factory to Paul Dunstall's shop. Upon taking the motor apart, I found it had a "big valve" head, which was a Dunstall modification. Jim Comstock did a valve job with the original guides and valves, which would have been difficult to replace. My thought is that this bike came out of Dunstall's shop with an 810cc kit and the big valve head. Jim says that the aluminum cylinders with steel liners did not hold up well, with the threads always stripping out. I am guessing that the cylinder was replaced with a stock 750 cylinder, which is what I found on this bike. These Dunstall modified heads had the chambers opened up, so with the stock cylinder in place, I used high compression pistons from JE pistons that Jim had in his stash. This was to get the compression more up to normal. I put in a new cam from Webcam.



This Commando came with Dunstall's 2 into 1 into 2 "Power Street Exhaust System" and Patented Decibel mufflers. The originals were refurbished as much as possible and rechromed. I built all new stainless steel internal baffles to replace the rusted out ones. The twin Dunstall front brake was a challenge, but I found O-rings that would work and fabricated new pads from a sheet of brake material. They only leak a small amount.



Bob Ohman said this bike ran very strong, and with the new pistons and cam it is running as good as ever I hope. Bob saw the bike when it was about 90% done, before he passed away. Ol' Blue did 97 mph on my dyno (which is harder than real life) and showed 49 hp at the rear wheel. Time to get some road miles on it now.



Fall Tech Day hosted by Eric Bergman

First of all, thanks to those of you who came to the Fall Tech Day last Sunday. We had a bit of work to do, servicing wheel bearings from Dave Powlison's Commando and that seemed to go smoothly. It was a pleasant day and the other folks on hand enjoyed noshing and chatting. — Eric



Dave Powlison actually doing service on his Norton on Tech Day, while the rest of us watched and offered advice, both useful and not.



And the rest of us, glad it's not our bikes in pieces and needing work, always ready with advice and /or comments.



Eric's Laverdas ready to go.



Marc Lomax always rides something interesting to our events. Today's ride was a Ural with a side car.



And a pair of Nortons, Ron Weaver's is the silver one, mine is the black one.

Come to the next Tech Session in the Spring to get your bike ready for summer so this does not happen to you. (Zoom in and read the caption in the picture for an explanation.)



From **Tony Kersbergen**: We had a motorcycle shop in Den Haag which was called: "Haags Motorcentrum". Around 1974 my best friend Frank bought his first bike at this shop, a BSA (not sure which type).

This shop had a dealership of Suzuki, Honda and a few other brands, like Norton. I will never forget the black Norton Commandos. They had 6 or 8 brand new machines, black with golden letters on the fuel tank.

For both Frank and me (both still at school) such a bike was more than a bridge too far, but I remember those beautiful Commandos.

This was the model (perhaps with a different front brake):



Tony,

The black/gold motif has always been the quintessential Commando color scheme. Mine left the factory that way (and would still be black/gold if it hadn't burned up in 2006). Here it is in 1983 when I and it were young turks.

And yes, that is not the stock front brake in your photo.

Bob Herman





SMALL BIKE, BIG ADVENTURE by Bob Herman

In late August, several intrepid Norton Coloradans joined a gaggle of riders from hither and yon and embarked on SBBA 2023 - a bit of a "Cannonball Run - Lite" 6-day tour covering some 850 miles of the best paved roads in southwestern Colorado.

Craig Terry, Jonathan Chaikin, Frank Puckett, Robin Webster and I represented our club in typical fashion.

Organized and shepherded by Ben Foster and Todd Wallis, the tour was offered to adventurous riders on motorcycles no newer than 1972 and of no larger capacity than 350cc. Among the bikes on tour were Benellis, Motobis, Ducatis, Hondas, no fewer than SIX Puch Twingles, one Bultaco, a Suzuki X-6 Hustler, a Moto Morini 3-1/2 and Robin's beautiful, freshly built Aermacchi.



Gateway , Colorado

The adventure began and ended in Palisade, just east of Grand Junction, with the route cresting a number of high passes - Lizard Head, McClure, Wolf Creek - and included an overnight on Mesa Verde.



Since our route passed through Dolores, there was nothing for it but that we must detour to both Colorado Norton Works and Sam Manganaro's Vincentworks shop on our way through. For those of us who live in southern Colorado and frequent those august establishments, it was a chance to visit old friends. To the outlanders, of course, it was a rare, perhaps once in a lifetime opportunity to be immersed in the rarified world of moto exotica, Colorado style.

Ben and Todd did a great job, with a cadre of support workers - no fewer than three SAG vehicles

carrying luggage, tools, water and snacks, spares - even a couple of spare motorcycles - and a designated mechanic to lend a hand as needed when a rider's mount suffered an indignity of one sort or another.





A fine whisky tasting on the first night out, repartee and relaxation in our sundry destinations and finally, an afternoon banquet on our return to Palisade were icing on the cake.

Next year's SBBA will take place in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Several Norton Colorado members are already signed up, and anyone else contemplating jumping aboard is advised to do so soon. Info here:

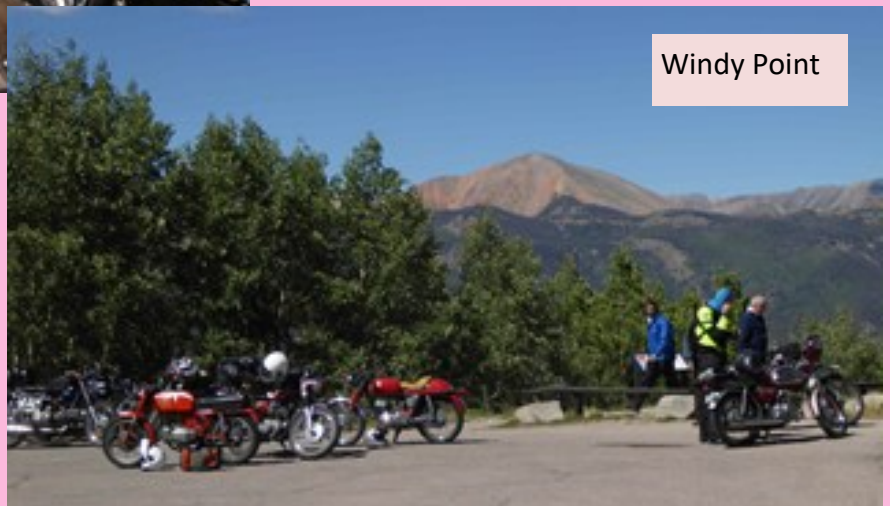
<https://sbba2024-61.websselfsite.net/home>



CNW



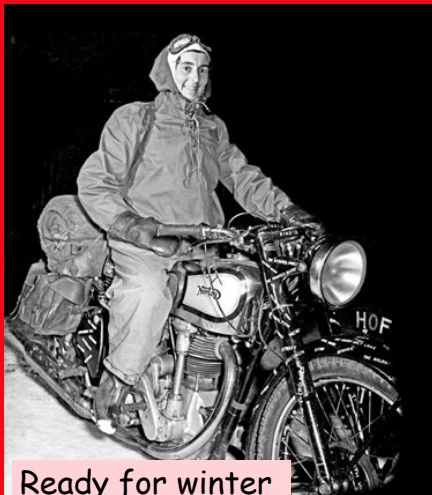
Vincentworks



Windy Point



The British Police seem to like Nortons also.



Ready for winter



She prefers summer



And this woman is ready for anything



Three times the trouble



Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Check out the club websites new photo galleries:

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

Here's the link to the discussions page on the website:

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

The evolution of the famous Norton logo

<https://brnw.ch/21wEdNy>

NORTON MANX GARDEN GATE 1939

<https://legendlille.com/2017/06/08/norton-manx-garden-gate-1939/>

The Last Ride of 'Fast Eddie' Fisher | The Vintagent

<https://thevintagent.com/2023/10/19/the-last-ride-of-fast-eddie-fisher/>

How to ride in a group. Nothing new, but a good review for all of us.

<https://www.motorcycle.com/bikes/how-to/riding-in-a-group-44596681>

The Memphis Mafia Wants Their Triumph Motorcycles Back

<https://www.autoweek.com/news/a45508526/elvis-presley-memphis-mafia-triumph-motorcycle-collection/>

November 10, 1885 - The first motorcycle ride - This Day In Automotive History

<https://automotivehistory.org/first-motorcycle-ride/>

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

Bob Herman has some Norton parts to sell:

I have several Commando seats and a tailpiece that I don't need, and I'd like to offer them to club members before going to eBay or Craigslist with them I don't know what to charge but will take less from a Norton Colorado member than from an "outsider."

1 nice Mk3 seat with hinge

1 nice 750 seat

1 Fastback tailpiece - good shape except for a small crack (damaged in shipping, easily repaired)

I'm going to bring them up to Golden, they will be at Eric's house so a club member won't need to drive down here or pay a big shipping charge.

Bob Herman 719 256-4527; romomoto@gmail.com

Eric Bergman [<bergman@csd.net>](mailto:bergman@csd.net)



Fastback tailpiece

MK3 seat



Highrider seat base

Norton Colorado 2023 Event Schedule

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 27 (Saturday), AHRMA Vintage Motocross races at Milliken.

June 4 (Sunday), Big Tent BBQ hosted by Eric Bergman & Susan Saarinen.

June 10 (Saturday), 8am to 2pm, Colorado Vintage Motorcycle Show, Erie United Methodist Church,

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 8 (Sunday), Plains Ride, hosted by Scott and Julie Robinson

October 22 (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 2023 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/>



Now that's a pit crew!



Current Occupants

Officers

President

Arnie Beckman (303) 733-4239
president@nortoncolorado.org

Secretary

Eric Bergman (720)400-7835 **NEW #**
secretary@nortoncolorado.org

Treasurer

Charley Gremmels
1832 Forest Ave.,Durango,CO81301
970-946-1302
treasurer@nortoncolorado.org

Staff

Road Captain

Jack Abeyta (303) 426-0594
abeytaa@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Scott Robinson (303)287-6580
(303)915-3064
newsletter@nortoncolorado.org

Webmaster

David Sheesley (720) 277-6563
webmaster@nortoncolorado.org

Technical Advisor

Jim Comstock (719)646-2610
comnoz2@juno.com

Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Eric Bergman, Jim Colt, Bob Herman, Julian Kowalewski, Tony Kersbergen, Dennis Oberwetter, Jerry Pokorny and Frank Puckett 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
1900 19th Street
Golden, CO 80401

