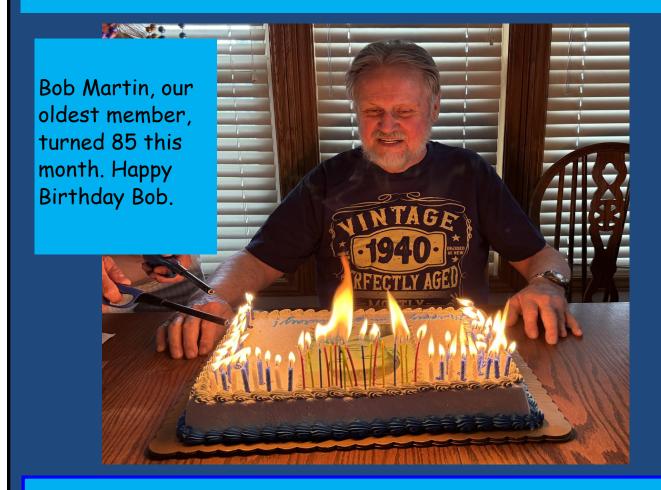


June 2025



Upcoming Events 2025 Calendar See Page 15

June 1, 2025 (Sunday), Big Tent BBQ hosted by Eric Bergman & Susan Saarinen.

June 7, 2025 (Saturday), 8am to 2pm, Colorado Vintage Motorcycle Show

June 12-15, 2025 (Thursday-Sunday), Four Corners Rendezvous hosted by Steve Harris and Charley Gremmels.

June 16-21, 2025 (Monday-Saturday), INOA Rally, Quincy, California.

July 13, 2025 (Sunday), Mt. Evans Ride and Brunch hosted by David Sheesley.

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



Al and Barb Slarks' Open House

Another fine gathering of Norton Colorado, this time hosted by Al and Barb Slarks. After a nice ride up to Boulder we were treated to a tasty lunch and an interesting time in Al's excellent shop. It's like visiting a museum with all the beautiful motorcycles Al restores. A walk through the parking area completed the bike show vibe. The pictures tell the rest. Thanks Al and Barb, we all enjoyed our visit.





























O NORTON/DUCATI SPECIAL

RealClassic





ethos. Stock+7 Yep. I have no problems with improving on original componentry, and even less with making a partial machine into something which isn't a close replica of the bike which originally left the factory. Take the BSA Fausbird Scrambler which is your current effort. The bike was originally a Ughtning – but the Firebird bits I've used to revive it are all Beezer bits from the right period. You get the ideal

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Anyway: what have we here? This original Norton was apparently a 1958 Dominator 88, a 500cc twin of decently relaxed performance but great charm. At least, that is the most probable origin, as when the previous owner—and builder of this special-acquired the bike it was fitted with an engine taken from a Velocite Venom. A "Velton", should you enjoy improbable nomenclature, I've ridden a couple of Veltons and have always wondered about the reasoning

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Worth a closer look. Can you work out how the

behind them. It's not a simple conversion to accomplish – so I'm reliably advised – not least because of the famously slim Velocette cankcases and primary drive chailine. Oksor real engineers enjoy a challenge... But a Venom' A stock Dommi Bed develops around 29bhp, while a Venom is usually quoted at 34bhp or so. A fast rider would treasure the difference, perhaps, but the data against the Dominator's very such a such as a

SUPER SPORT

MAY 2025

THE DONORS



n by the standards of 1994





easy starting and I still don't really get the point. Lots of riders really like Velo singles, of course, but given that Velocettes are generally excellent in the steering and handling department, why build one of their engines into a featherbedf Maybe it was just available, while scrapyards have never been entirely racked out with Velo 500 engines. Who knows? Puzzles are popular, as you know...

Meanwhille, squeezed - impressively, it must be said - into this wideline featherbed is the complete powerplant from a 1994 Ducat'l 750S. And here, to be entirely honest my personal puzzlement went completely off-scale. It is indeed only a personal view, but I consider that generation of air cooled Ducat's to be among the best looking bites of the era. Again speaking personally, I prefer the entirely naked Monsters to the fully and partially faired more sporting offerings, both in the looking and riding departments. The only Ducati I've ever been in serious danger of buying for myself was an early M900 Monster, which was utterly glorious to ride. Back in those mid-90s days, Rowena and I worked on a modern bike magazine, so every time Ducati's UK importers offered us a bike – I grabbed the Monster. And was always sad to return it, which wasn't often the case – once again I'm just being honest about this. With only a little fuck, there should be a pic or two of both a 1958 Dommi 88 and a 1994 7505S somewhere nearby, and If I were building a special engine into a featherbed (an always mysterious decision, but well ignore that and if it needed to be a V twin, then I'd plonk in a Harley Sportster motor. The narrow-angle Vee was intended for an enveloping cradle frame of trad bent

tubes; the Ducati engine is a stressed part of a triangulated trellis – a combination which out-corners any featherbed of my acquaintance. And has better brakes … Anyway, the Ductoris builder – a gentleman not entirely in the very first flush of youth, so I was informed – decided to replace Velo's big banger with the business from a Ducati. And that, gentle reader, is entirely fine by me. Anyone can do whatever they want with their bike, in my view. No criticism from me at this point – and a lot fewer critical opinions after I got around to riding the machine in question. More of that in a minute.

This is the point at which I survous

in a minute.

This is the point at which I suggest you take a good gaze at the close-up shots of the bike. Then take another long look at the engine as installed in its original Ducato trellis. Observe that the major engine

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PICTURE FRAMES







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mounting is between the cylinders and that the swinging arm pivots in the back of the main engine castings. This is entirely unlike the Norton arrangement, Planky, our builder wanted a real challengel Anad sa! keep repeating. I truly do not understand the planky in resistible urge to combine such disparate bite!

But...he did.

But...he did.
My mind is still faintly boggling over
this. The Ducati engine – a thing of wonder
– is designed to hang from a set of well
triangulated tubes with the rear cylinder
head sitting high in the frame and with the
sump hanging below it (to put it in a sort head sitting high in the trame and with usum phanging below it (to put it in a sort of non-engineering way). And as I already wrote, the swinging arm – itself another thing of wonder – pivots in the casting behind the gearbox. What this means, gentle reader, and I know I'm stating the obvious, is that the Ducati frame is not a bicycle. With the front forks and wheel in place it can be wheeled about, but only like a wheelbarrow. If you want to push it around with its rear wheel attached, then the engine needs to be installed. Norton's frame – like most others of its time and carefully ignoring (Mincents, as a sensible chap should – was designed as a sensible chap should – was designed as a a sensible chap should – was designed as a person of an engine and a gearbox, connected by a separate primary drive. You will have noticed that the Ducat I trellis is not... quite... the same.

noticed that the Ducati trellis is not...
quite... the same.
How did our hero solve the non-fitting
business? With great Ingenuity, that's how.
Being an I-twin, rather than a Y-twin (the
Ducati engines cylinders are at 90 degrees to
each other), the frontmost part of the engine
is not a crankcase, complete with handy
bosses to hang from the frame's downtubes.
but a neath frontmost The Duratil but a neatly finned cylinder head. The Ducati frame has no downtubes. So Mr Builder removed the featherbed's brackets for the redundant front engine mount – but did not remove the downtubes themselves, which is interesting, not least because it means that the entire power unit needs to be situated rather a long way back in the frame, which keeps the final drive chain decently short, if nothing else.

nothing else.
Lacking any top mountings in the featherbed tubery (although there is provision for a head steady, that usually fixes to the steering head, so is little use here) Mr Builder fabricated a top mount



attached to the featherbed's gussets. Note also the substantial brake pedal, and the gearchange

for the engine, bracing it across the twin top tubes of the featherbed. Look closely, and you can see it, as well as the tough alloy brackets which connect the mount to the engine itself. That takes care of half of the major engine mountings. The easy of the major engine mountings. The rear of the two mounting structures is gripped by substantial fabricated plates built onto the

substantial fabricated plates built onto the gussets used by the Notton frame to locate the swinging arm—which it still does. The special's swinging arm still plovts in the rear engine plates, be they evers to befed up.
Meanwhile, the seriously solid boss behind the gearbox where the Ducatic arried its own swinging arm contains the crossover linkage for the gearshift. Because, gentle reader, Mr. Builder prefers British machinery and wanted a right foot shift. And a left foot brake, obviously enough.

I may not be a great fan of specials, but once we start working through the What, the

once we start working through the What, the Where, the Why and the How! I do actually

find them fascinating. But I still think that this one looks very odd.

Do you want a few specs for the Ducati engine? OK. It's an air-cooled, four-stroke, 90-degree V-Twin, SOHC, with two valves per cylinder, operated desmodromically, according to the 1994 spec sheet. Standard according to the 1994 spec sneed Standard output is a claimed 66bhp at 8500 rpm, with 53 ft-lb of torque offered at 6500 rpm. There's an electric start, of course, and a 5-speed gearbox connected by a typically rattly Ducati clutch, which is hydraulically operated, making it pleasantly light in operation. That's quite enough talk; let's go for a ride. Maybe two; this is an unusua machine, after all.

Climb on. It feels exactly like a wideline feathering.

featherbed Norton. No surpr



Professionalism is its own reward. Contemplate the controls. It always helps to find out where everything is before storming off into the unusually hot afternoon. First from-the-saddle surprise? It has a 15mpn speedo. Should I be worning already? There's also a steering damper, but I didn't touch it, and of course there's the hydraulic fittings for the clutch. No such luck on the



The stock Norton 8-inch sls drum has been

opposite side of the bar. The machine uses a standard Norton 8-inch sIs drum, which Mr Builder has converted to twin leading shoe operation. Hmmm. Caution applied here. This is a fast engine







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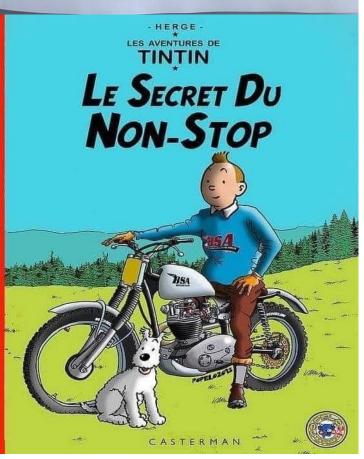


Happily enough, although the big bucket carbs are apparently fitted with de-icing kit, there was no need of that. Switch on, press the button and. there's a mighty nobe. It is indeed mighty, too. If anyone had suffered a momentary lapse of reason and thought they were sitting aboard a Dominator 88, the engine sound alone would have returned them to instant reality. These air-cooled Ducati engines are not quiet—but they are smooth. And they are certainly powerful enough. The clutch is as light as you might expect, given its hydraulics, but I sat and considered for a moment, remindling myself that the

in particular looks a little agricultural, the brake works well enough, as does the gea shift, despite its rather convoluted linkage. And after a half-mile or so, I just forgot about it anyway. The rests would have fet better a little further back, but it's not my

better a little nutrue to Dack Dutt's not my blies, so onward!
You'd expect the Dutath heart of the machine to be right on our propulsive that the company of the company o

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For those who like Italians Pictures from the Ace Café in London by Julian Kowalewski





Norton P86 750 is a classic British motorcycle engine produced in the mid-1970s by Norton-Villiers. This 750cc engine is a parallel-twin, four-stroke unit known for its distinctive character and contribution to Norton's lineup during a transitional period for the company. Featuring overhead valves (OHV) and a relatively simple yet robust design, the P86 was designed to deliver a balance of power and reliability.

The engine powered the Norton Commando models of the era, known for their smooth performance and strong mid-range torque. Although the P86 faced competition from more modern designs, it remained popular among riders who appreciated traditional British engineering and the iconic Norton sound. Its classic styling and mechanical simplicity make the Norton P86 750 engine a cherished part of vintage motorcycle history.

<u>Norton P86 750 Challenge - Norton's Last</u> <u>Gasp - OddBike</u>





Not a hair out of place





Every morning, Edwin takes his blood pressure pills, his statins, his anti-inflammatories, his rheumatism tablets, his glucosamine, his echinacea, his vitamins, his evening primrose oil and his zinc supplement.

Edwin wonders why he ever said no to drugs when he was at college.

He feels invincible.

10







Dennis O has a new place

3,000 Square foot garage, 812 Square foot house, almost the perfect ratio! Unfortunately, it's down in Fountain, CO, so getting even farther away from the Norton club then I already am!



Norton for Sale



1974 Norton 850 Commando for sale. The engine is running and has recently been worked on. Gaskets will need to be replaced though. The motorcycle is currently located in the Denver Metro area. Asking price of \$10,000.

Please contact:
Mike Ehrmann at
(720) 347- 0105
Mikeehrmann20@gmail.com.
For more information.



This is the card of Bryan Flanigan, used to work at Vintage Twins. Started his own shop about 6 months ago. I've used him for vapor blasting, good guy. Also works on older Jap bikes. Harder and harder these days to find someone to work on classic stuff, spread the word to the club and bring him your business!

https://trophyclassiccycles.com/

King Browne

TROPHY CLASSIC CYCLES

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www.trophyclassiccycles.com

Colorado's British Motorcycle Specialists

My name is Kevin Bulger and I am from Chicago. I live in Tanzania and my wife and I own www.iridearusha.com. We do adventure motorcycle tours here in Tanzania in East-Africa.

I am looking to start bringing more Americans to explore this amazing country with us. iRide has been operating for 7 years in East-Africa and have guides, mechanics, bikes, follow cars, and all of the routes to have an amazing adventure.

If you think any of your club members could be interested in visiting, I would love to setup time to chat more about the possibilities.

Best, Kevin Bulger



2025 4 CORNERS Rendezvous

When: Thur.-Sun. June 12-

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

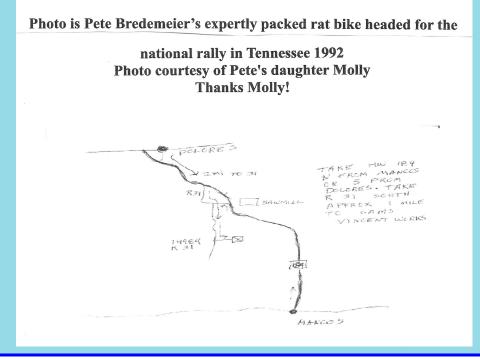
<u>Who:</u> Hosted by Western Slope Norton Riders and Norton Colorado.

<u>Includes:</u> Fee is \$30.00 for tent camping, morning coffee, good food planned for Friday and Saturday night, door prizes, 50/50 drawing. Frivolous or even serious items for door prizes will be accepted. If you aren't camping there are motels and RV parks close by in Dolores and Cortez.

Amazing mountain roads and unbelievable but mostly true campfire stories. Join us and tell a few yourself.

For further information contact Steve Harris at charleysteve10@gmail.com or call 970-946-1960

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





The INOA Norton club welcomes all British motorcycles to the



INOA 2025 Feather River Rally III

June 16th through 21st, 2025 Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds, Quincy, CA nortonrally.com



The Northern California Norton Owners Club (NCNOC), a chapter of the International Norton Owners Association (INOA), is hosting the INOA 2025 *Feather River Rally III* June 16th-21st 2025, in Quincy, CA.

It will be a lively gathering of over 300 participants and their motorcycles. Enthusiasts of Norton, British, and other motorcycle brands are invited to explore the best roads and destinations the northern Sierra mountains have to offer.

We invite you to join us for the company of fellow motorcyclists and Feather River Rally III activities:

- Tech Sessions Talks, presentations, demos on mechanics, modifications, repairs, restoration, upgrades, after-market kits, etc.
- Group Rides Guided rides. Corner guides to show directions.
- Self-guided Rides Rides with maps and directions that can be undertaken by anyone anytime.
- Dinners A buffet and a banquet.
- Concours Categories covering Norton, British, non-British, and custom motorcycles.
- Awards For concours, feats of riding, service to the INOA and its chapters.
- And more: Trivia, social hours, evening entertainment, spontaneous events.

We will see you in Quincy, CA, at the Feather River Rally III! Registration opens early January 2025.

https://nortonrally.com

The organizers can be reached at:

2025-rally-committee@nortonrally.com

I am available online to present the rally to your club!
Ian Reddy, Rally Chair
408-218-1087

Please print out these postcards, email them, post them, and include them in your next club newsletter:

Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

Check out the club websites new photo galleries:

https://nortoncolorado.org/galleries/

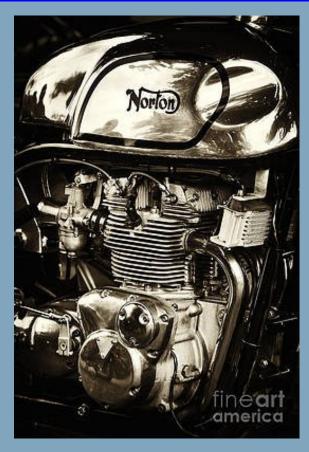
Here's the link to the discussions page on the website:

https://nortoncolorado.org/discussions/

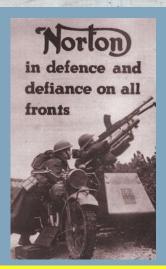
Pretty cool maps

https://comost.com/skills-rating-maps/





1954 88





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 (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







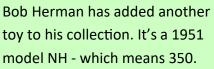
Fastback tailpiece

MK3 seat









Highrider seat base

Norton Colorado 2025 Event Schedule

Here is the first draft of the club's 2025 event schedule. I've taken the liberty (based on past performance) of listing you as a host for an event. Please have a look and let me know if you are still willing to host an event, or if the date needs to be changed. Also, if you would like to host an event of some sort, please contact Eric.

February 8, 2025 (Saturday), 6:30pm, Winter Banquet, Mickey's Top Sirloin, 6950 N. Broadway, Denver.

March 23, 2025 (Sunday) Museum.

April 19, 2025 (Saturday), Group Ride.

May 18, 2025 (Sunday), Open Garage / Tech Day hosted by Al and Barb Slarks.

June 1, 2025 (Sunday), Big Tent BBQ hosted by Eric Bergman & Susan Saarinen.

June 7, 2025 (Saturday), 8am to 2pm, Colorado Vin tage Motorcycle Show

June 12-15, 2025 (Thursday-Sunday), Four Corners Rendezvous hosted by Steve Harris and Char ley Gremmels.

June 16-21, 2025 (Monday-Saturday), INOA Rally, Quincy, California.

July 13, 2025 (Sunday), Mt. Evans Ride and Brunch hosted by David Sheesley.

July 20, 2025 (Sunday), BMAC Picnic hosted by Frank & Joanne Puckett.

August 3, 2025 (Sunday), BBQ and open garage hosted Jamie & Michelle Jones.

September 7, 2025, Sunday, Old Bike Ride.

September 14, 2025 (Sunday), English Motoring Conclave.

October 11, 2025 (Sunday), Plains Ride, hosted by Scott and Julie Robin son.

October 26, 2025 (Sunday), Open Gar age, hosted by Jonathan Chaikin and Tamara.

November 8, 2025 (Saturday) Tech Day December 7, 2025 (Sunday), Pub meeting.

January 1, 2026 (Thursday), Clancy's Irish Pub.

January 18, 2026 (Sunday), Pub meeting. February 7, 2026 (Sat) Winter Banquet.





Membership

Membership in Norton Colorado is open to anyone, regardless of whether they own a Norton, or any motorcycle whatsoever.

Dues are \$25 per 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 2024 season, usually about 2 per month. Participation in these events will be counted for the President's Award. Events may be added, dropped, or rescheduled through the year. The schedule can be found in this newsletter or check the schedule on the club website:

https://nortoncolorado.org/events/



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

<u>Staff</u>

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 Karen Bailey, Eric Bergman, Johnny Iuzzini, Julian Kowalewski, Dennis Oberwetter, 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 1900 19th Street

Golden, CO 80401



