

Delaware Valley Norton Riders

NEWSLETTER

February 2001

Norton Royalty to Wed



On New Years Eve last, **Chris Greenbacker**, the omniscient President of the Nations Capitol Norton Owners chapter, a guru when it comes to the rights and wrongs of Nortons, and an all around great guy, proposed marriage to DVNR's reigning grand

dame, **Laretta Atkinson**. Laretta, with her late husband Steve, founded our chapter in 1984. She's known to everyone as a super enthusiastic Nortonian and a terrific warm-hearted woman.

"Quite romantic, actually," Laretta said. We're not sure where or when the wedding will take place."

Our February Meeting ...

Will be at the home of **Tom & Irene Schaefer**, 514 North Chestnut Street, Westfield, NJ.

Take the Garden State Parkway to exit 135, Clark and Westfield. Take Central Avenue to its end in Westfield, and turn right onto Broad St. About a mile down, turn left onto North Chestnut Street. About a half mile or so look for #514 on the right. There is a chestnut tree on the front lawn, hence the street name.

Or from Route 22 East, take the New Providence Road exit. Turn right towards Mountainside. At the traffic light, turn right onto Mountain Avenue. The second left is North Chestnut St. #514 will be on the left. Tom's phone number is (908) 232-4190.

Tom hopes the weather will be nice enough for some to ride up!

From Bob Katz

Tom Schaefer and I have been talking about this month's meeting at Tom's house, and we are working to make it a worthwhile trip for the DVNRs who'll have to drive a long way. In addition to the pleasure of gawking at the bikes Tom has for sale, and maybe getting a look at John Brownell's video of the Dreer VR880, we have another idea in the oven.

Please let me remind you that it's membership renewal time. Dues and memberships are due now. If you haven't already done so, please complete the form at the end of this issue and send it to Tari with your check. Thanks.

It's not too early to start talking about the Nationals in Canada this July, is it? My wife is planning to go, and we're thinking about taking my pickup and trailer, though I'm counting on riding most if not all of the way there. I'd like to know who else is planning to go so we can make the trip together, and we can plan for support along the way if necessary. Also I would like to host a DVNR function at the rally as we have done before. Perhaps a breakfast or a beer & sandwiches lunch.

When we get back from the Nationals (and my house is finished) I'm planning to host the next monthly meeting and have a pig roast at my house.

See you at the next meeting. **Bob**



Dreamy early 1960s 350cc Norton Navigator

Isle Of Man 2002 TT Update

If you are among the DVNR members interested in attending the 2002 Isle of Man, mark these two dates on your calendar:

Practice Week - Monday 5/27 thru Fri 5/31

Race Week - Saturday 6/1 thru Fri 6/7



Christophe DiMarino on a Yamaha R1 in Parliament Square

The *Norum Hotel of Choice* in Douglas is the **Welbeck Hotel**, on Mona Drive, off Central Promenade. Visit their website: www.isle-of-man.com/tourism/accommodation/welbeck/index.htm.

For the 2001 TT, the Welbeck's room rates, which are for double occupancy and include breakfast and taxes, are:

Standard room	£75
Executive room	£80
Deluxe room	£90

A recent check of the prevailing currency exchange rate shows that 1 US Dollar = 0.68 British Pounds.

Hotels on the Isle of Man charge premium prices during the TT and rooms, especially in Douglas, typically sell out. I will determine whether private homes near Douglas that would accommodate 8 to 12 people are available to rent. If so, this would probably be the most economical source of housing.

I highly recommend reading "Planning Your Motorcycle Adventure to the Isle of Man" by **Art Bone**. Art is former President of the INOC. Art does not recommend shipping your personal bike unless you are planning an extended trip throughout the UK and or Europe. The best shipping charge he found was \$550 each way, plus about \$100 customs charges each way. And to make matters worse, allow at least a month for the bike to clear customs.

Bob Norum

John Brownell's Visit to CW Motorcycle Show

I have attended the Cycle World Motorcycle Show for many years at different locations, but this year I saw something that really pumped me up! On display was a customized *Norton Commando VR 880 Sprint Special* built in Oregon by an outfit called Vintage Rebuilds.



What's your favorite color?

This black beauty instantly got my attention not just because it was a well done Norton with lots of tasteful upgrades like Brembo free-floating twin disc brakes on stock appearing fork legs, or the custom plastic fuel cell blending into a solo saddle and tail hump. This thing had right side shift and an electric starter unlike anything I've ever seen! I stood there in utter amazement trying to figure out just how many subtle details were waiting to be discovered when this guy comes up and asks me if I want to buy a raffle ticket to win this bike. "Sure," says I. "How many you got?"

Well it became clear that he had far more tickets than I had egg money, but I got **Bill Waddington** to split a bunch of tickets with me and we decided that he gets the bike from sundown to sunup and I get it the rest of the time if we win. Boy do I feel lucky!



Kenny Dreer, above, test rides every VR880.

Anyway, the raffle proceeds go to benefit the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. The raffle will be held at all 12 locations where the show travels. The drawing is to be sometime in May 2001. I'll bet they will sell a lot of tickets. You can purchase your own raffle tickets on line at www.vintagerebuilds.com or at least visit their way-cool website. I called to order the free video of the bike in action and talked to Laney Dreer, wife of Kenny Dreer. They are originally from

the Philly area (Roxborough and Cheltenham, respectively) so we chatted a while. I learned that Cosmopolitan Motors is becoming a dealer for Vintage Rebuilds, and is soon to receive a VR 880. Sign me up for a test ride OK?

There's a free video available. I have a copy and I have watched it several times now. Let me tell you, this bike rocks! If you can imagine a modern day vertical twin based on a classic design but built with modern technology and components this is a dream come true! Go ahead, order one on line or maybe fill in your wish list with a few performance components available from VR. They definitely have some stuff I need. Call me if you want to see the video.

You can get your own free video and more details about the bike from their aforementioned website, or by calling 888 671-7285. For mail-in raffle entries, visit www.ride4kids.org.

John Brownell

Results of Members Insurance Survey

Last month I sent out an email survey asking members about their motorcycle insurance. More than half the members responded. That probably makes this representative. Therefore, the results: The average annual premium among us is \$109. The high was \$300, through Rider Insurance of Union, NJ. That amount was almost twice as high as the next highest premium. The low was \$50 (through Progressive Northern). Slightly more than half the members responding have vintage or

historic coverage. Almost 70% have liability coverage only, no fire & theft. The most popular company was Progressive Northern, from Cleveland, OH, followed by The St. Paul Company of St. Paul, MN, and the Congdon & Skelley Agency of Maple Shade, NJ.

Tech Videos

The Norton Owners Club UK has two good tech videos available. Both by NOC President John Hudson.

Engine Strip and Rebuild (120 minutes) – Hudson shows how to dismantle and rebuild a large capacity Norton twin engine, from the Model 7 to the Mark III Commando. It is full of facts and figures, hints and tips from a man who spent decades working for Norton. Price is £18.

Gearbox Rebuild (90 minutes) -- Hudson strips down and rebuilds AMC and laydown gearboxes. These gearboxes were on all large twins and most post-war singles. In addition, he demonstrates the different types of clutches you will find, and discusses how best to set them up. With all the important little pieces out on the bench, he demonstrates how the gear trains all mesh together to make it work. Price is £18.

If you are interested, order "NTSC" format for North America. Paying is the tricky part. The NOC does not take credit cards or cash; they ask for payment in £ Sterling, payable to "N.O.C." The Norton Owners Club, 16 Green Lawns, Barry, Glamorgan, Wales CF62 9DX

Editor's Note

At our November meeting, the club brass decided to pursue electronic distribution of our monthly newsletter for reasons of economy, efficiency, and the opportunity to broaden content. I volunteered to help. After a clumsy initial attempt, some help from another chapter, and an investment in software, we have it. This issue is available electronically as a .pdf (portable document format) file and uses less than 200KB of space. That means that even over a 56K modem, it should come through the wires quickly and easily. And it won't take up much storage space if you decide to archive it on your hard drive. Opening a .pdf file on your computer is a snap, if you have installed a

reasonably up-to-date version of the software "Acrobat Reader". And that software is available free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

If you want to read and/or keep a paper copy, open the newsletter file on your computer, click print and bingo

If you received this by mail, it may mean that we do not have your email address. Please send it to me at hanswinberg@home.com.

Rest assured that if you do not have an email address, or for some reason you prefer not to receive the newsletter via email, I will print you out a hard copy and put it in the mail. Thanks. Hans

2001 Meetings & Events

February

18 DVNR February meeting, Tom and Irene Schaefer's, 514 North Chestnut Street, Westfield, NJ 07090. (908) 232-4190. You're planning to ride, aren't you?

March

3-11 Daytona Bike Week, Daytona Beach, FL.

7 GANOA Nortona, Noon to 5PM, 1650 South Flagler Avenue, Flagler Beach, FL. \$12 admission.

18 DVNR March meeting, Todd Robertson's, 22 Buckley Hill Drive, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865. 908 454-3765. E-mail: trob@fast.net

April

22 8th Annual DVNR GATHERING OF THE NORTONS, Washington's Crossing State Park, Washington's Crossing, NJ.

June

1-3 The [Ontario Norton Owners](#) Black Fly Rally, 25 Kms north of Kingston, Ontario. This is a wonderfully relaxed event. Great riding and fine food are mainstays. Contact [Guy Fortier](#), 613 376-3228.

July

11-15 Mid-Ohio Vintage Motorcycle Day's. 2001 is the year of the Indian.

18-21 The INOA International Rally (Ivy Lea, ON, Canada – minutes from the US/Canadian border) will be hosted by the [Ontario Norton Owners](#). The [Ivy Lea KOA](#) will be the host campground for the first INOA International Rally of the century. For more details, contact [Guy Fortier](#), 613 376-3228. [The 2001 Rally Page is up and running.](#)

2002 International Norton Owners Association National Rally will be hosted by the [Northern New England Norton Owners](#). [Mike Frick](#) 603 883-3038

2003 International Norton Owners Association International Rally will be hosted in British Columbia, Canada. Ken Jacobson 775 Richter Street, Kelowna, BC, Canada V1Y-2J8 kjacobso@city.kelowna.bc.ca.



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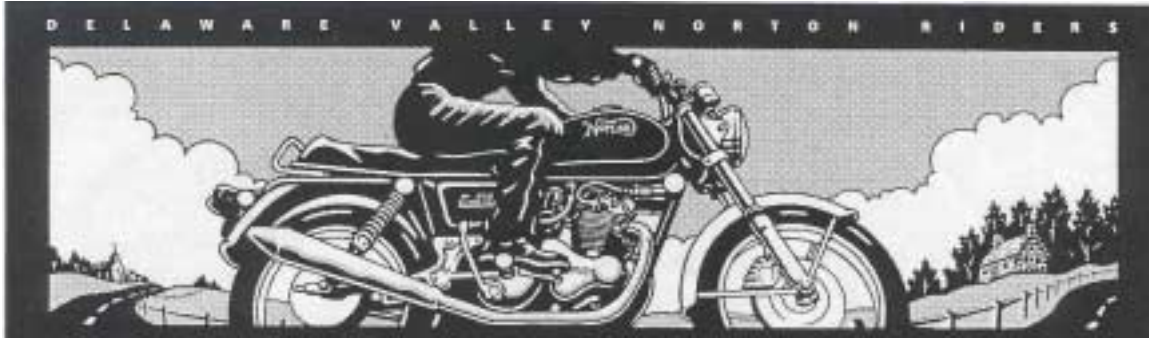
Norton

For Sale or Wanted

- ❑ Tom Schaefer is still trying to thin the herd, so call him at 908 232-4190 if you or a friend are interested in one of the following. If you miss him, Tom asked that you leave a message and he'll get back to you.
 - ✓ 1999 Kawasaki ZXR-1100. For this nearly new, great all around bike, Tom is asking \$6,000.
 - ✓ 1995 M-Z Scorpion for \$4,100 obo.
 - ✓ 1970 Norton Commando S. You've seen this beautiful yellow bike for which Tom is asking \$6,500.
- ❑ 1979 Triumph Bonneville 750 twin. Black with silver flash. All original, 400 original miles. This bike has been in storage the last 12 years. Call Walt for details, 215 453-9460.
- ❑ 1972 Norton Commando 750 cc MK IV Roadster, 4000 original miles, \$6,500. Needs no work. Call Andy Pramer, 609 924-0947 (home) or 732 247-9190 (work).
- ❑ DVNR tee shirts are available from Pete Gallo. They come in either Black or Green with the very popular six color front/back graphics you've seen many of our members wearing. Pete got these great shirts reprinted and they are now available for only \$15 each. All sizes are available. Pete also has Norton ratcheting tie downs. They are 5'2" long and include the Norton logo. \$15 per pair. Call Pete at 610 461-6582.

Got a bike you want to sell? Good new or used parts that someone in the club might need? If you are interested in buying or selling anything, please contact Hans with the information and it will be in the next newsletter. E-mail Hans at hanswinberg@home.com, or call 908 518-9603, or fax to 908 317-0584.

Important Notice: Participation in any DVNR activities, meetings or rides is done exclusively at the personal risk of the participant. The DVNR or any of its members cannot assume any responsibility for the safety of any participant or the behavior of any other individual particularly in association with the operation of motorcycles. Motorcycles are inherently dangerous and attendance at DVNR activities, particularly those that include operation of motorcycles, is viewed by the DVNR as a personal acceptance of associated risks. Anyone riding on public highways is responsible for maintaining liability insurance.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please use this form when renewing membership and/or joining the DVNR.

Please "mark" one of the following: _____ Renewal _____ New Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail address: _____

With postal rate increases, this would be one way of keeping postage costs to a minimum. Would you like to receive your newsletter **via** E-mail? YES _____ NO _____

Dues for **2001** are \$12.00. Monthly meetings are usually held on the **THIRD** Sunday of each month. Check your monthly newsletter for the exact time and place.

Please return this form with your **payment made payable to:**

Tari Norum - Treasurer, DVNR
276 Butterworth Lane
Langhorne, PA 19047

It is important that you completely fill out the above including phone #. Thanks for your help.

OFFICERS

President

Bob Katz
426 Maple Avenue
North Hills, PA 19038-2225
(215) 884-1174
E-mail: Bobkat07@home.com

Secretary/Publisher

Hans Winberg
640 Rahway Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 518-9603
E-mail: hanswinberg@home.com

Treasurer

Tari Norum
276 Butterworth Lane
Langhorne, PA 19047
(215) 741-0110
E-mail: TeeJayN@aol.com