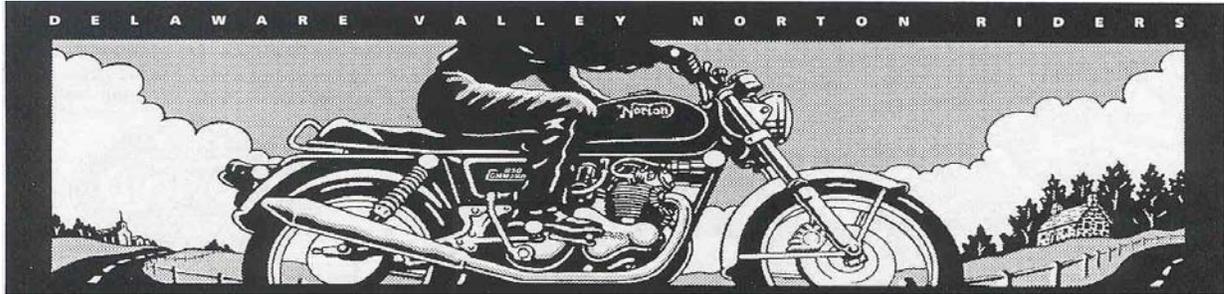


APRIL, MAY, JUNE
2003 Edition



Delaware Valley Norton Riders

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Life's experiences have ways of providing valuable lessons. Lately, someone in God's admissions office seems to have enrolled me in yet another program of studies. During these times I often look to find some sort of reassurance.

As a result, I developed the following:

- The best roads are those less traveled.
- The twisty, windy roads provide the greatest accomplishments and rewards.
- Skilled riders focus on what lies ahead, not what is in the rear view mirror.
- You need to be very aware of your surroundings, anticipating the seemingly unthinkable.

- Complete confidence in your tires for traction and your personal abilities get you through the sharpest turns.
- Throttle and brakes are equally important
- Sometimes we simply need to pull off to the side and appreciate the scenery.
- You do not own the road. It should be respectfully shared with others.
- Always look for opportunities to refine your riding skills
- Accept the fact that riding involves risk, and sometimes stuff happens.
- Just be grateful for the ride!!!

- Bill Waddington

THE NEWSLETTER CHALLENGE

The DVNR is still struggling to pull the newsletter together. Susan has graciously offered her assistance in compiling the articles and developing the publication. However, we still need contributions of articles and pictures.

At this time, I have made an executive decision to go to a quarterly format in an effort to produce a better quality

publication. The next publication will be scheduled for dissemination in mid-July. Please continue to utilize the website as a primary communications tool. It contains information on DVNR meetings and events as well as other items of interest to DVNR members.

It is your organization, consider sending a short blurb on a repair procedure you found to be successful. Maybe there is a favorite route you would like to share with your friends. Perhaps your Norton has an interesting story behind its acquisition or restoration. Please have your articles and other contributions to me by the end of June.

FEBRUARY MEETING

'Ol man winter provided some driving excitement as a rather serious snowstorm ventured into the Delaware Valley.

Despite the pending weather, 14 Norton enthusiasts made their way to the meeting. We enjoyed being introduced to new members Donna Kadish, Michael Leuz, Jerry and Sue Walsh. As well as reacquainting with long standing members Ron and Lisa Ettinger, Pete Bartholomew, Rich Casey, Susan Greulich and myself. It was also a pleasure to meet Steve and Patrice, friends of Michael and Donna that also share a passion for motorcycling.

Between sampling glasses of wine, crackers, dip, and cheeses, conversation about vintage motorcycles and great riding experiences soon emerged.

The meeting focused on three primary topics: **1.) A brief discussion about the function of the DVNR** established a better understanding for new members and reaffirmed for veterans why we actually get together. I think Rich said it well as he explained DVNR members

have a riding addiction and the monthly meetings were all part of some sort of 12 step process. **2.) The 10th Annual Gathering of Nortons** event on April 27, 2003 will meet at Washington's Crossing Historic Park, Washington Crossing, Bucks County PA.

Motorcyclists should plan to meet in the Flag Pole parking lot about 10:00 AM. After the "gathering", tradition has been to ride to the Ship Inn for lunch. However, this year DVNR members and their guests should plan to ride to Rolling Hills Farm for a barbeque.

A minimum donation of \$10.00 will be collected to help defer the cost of food and drink. We also are in need of a few volunteers to assist in the barbeque.

3.) The DVNR June 20-22 Rally will be held at the Fin Fur and Feather Bed and Breakfast in Haneyville, PA. Details of registration are outlined on the rally flier. Mountain laurel will be in peak bloom, the riding, scenery and fellowship with DVNR friends will add up to an experience you won't want to miss!

A special thank you to Donna Kadish and Michael Leuz for hosting the February 16th Meeting and Valentines Celebration.

MARCH MEETING



WOW! What a great riding day this one turned out to be! Eleven of us meet at the Le Bus restaurant on Main Street for a delicious breakfast prior to the meeting at Manayunk Triumph.



We really appreciate the hospitality of Bill and Buzz at Manayunk Triumph. They certainly have a nice assortment of two wheelers to pick from as well as a nice selection of riding apparel and accessories. If a Triumph lurks in my future, I know where I'll look first!

About 35 DVNR members and their guests attended the brief meeting. The primary topics included; 1.) The DVNR website 2.) DVNR Souvenirs 3.) The 10th Annual Gathering of Nortons at Washington Crossing, Bucks County PA on April 27th 4.) The European and British Bike Show at Butler's Orchard Germantown, MD on May 18th, and 5.) The Bloomin' Mountain Laurel Rally scheduled for June 20th - 22nd.

BATTERY BASICS

Now that the snow falling season is nearing an end (I hope) we begin dreaming of balmy weather and happy hours riding our Nortons. Seems like a good time to begin the pre-season preparations needed to have our trusty

stead ready to go when the weather finally breaks.

Perhaps the first thing to do would be getting the battery charged after it's long winter rest. It's easy to attach a trickle charger or battery tender and let several days go by, but I want to stress the idea of first checking the electrolyte level (water for you non-techy types) in the battery before letting it cook on your battery charger for a few days. It is very important for the lead plates in the battery to be fully immersed in the electrolyte to prevent them from drying out and several charging sessions over the course of the winter will boil off a good bit of the water. I made this very mistake last year and found myself at the National Rally with a dry battery that couldn't handle the load of supplying the electronic ignition and the headlamp with enough current to run at idle. How embarrassing. I was lucky that by topping off the water level from a bottle of spring water my battery was able to recover enough to make it through the rest of the riding season. I plan to retire it this spring and not push my luck any more than necessary.

About three riding seasons seems to be average battery life in my experience. Since I plan to replace my battery this year I'm going to look into the new Gel Batteries as a possible replacement. I understand the Gel technology allows more available ampere/hours from a smaller size battery, which means we may be able to upgrade from a 10 A/hr unit in a Commando to possibly a 15 A/hr battery and the E-start guys might get a 20 or 25 A/hr unit. This would allow the use of an electric vest or a high output headlamp without fear of discharging your battery while riding! As I learn more about this I'll pass along the info.

- John Brownell

“RIDE ‘EM DON’T HIDE ‘EM!”