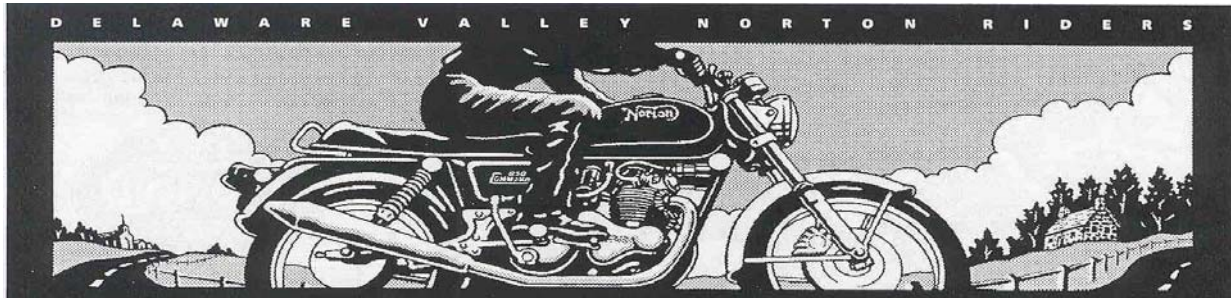


May 2005

1984 - Twenty-One Years - 2005



Delaware Valley Norton Riders

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I was walking through a local department store, I noticed a product that caught me off guard. A gentleman's cologne: *Full Throttle* from none other than Paulie Jr. of Orange County Choppers fame. What next? I thought, as I simply couldn't resist a little spritz from the sampler. I was chuckling to myself as I wandered over to Susan. She turned and had a strange passionate look in her eyes.... "Oh my God, you smell amazing!" I darted right back over to that counter and bought myself a bottle of the premium Fu-Fu juice! It was my first OCC purchase. Maybe, just maybe, there is something to this chopper thing.

I have been working with a student that is building a mini bike chopper... We shot it in a screaming yellow and black paint theme earlier in the week. It has become all the rage. Students are wandering through our classrooms trying to get a sneak peek before it is showcased in the student car show next week.

Televised events, reality shows, quests to Mecca such as Daytona or Myrtle Beach even refined art museums continue to display motorcycle art. I find myself amazed at the attention our hobby is getting. I also am mystified at motorcyclists puzzled by the Norton on the side of the tank. Who would name their bike Norton? Was that the previous owner's name? Go figure!

I am grateful for the opportunities we have in the DVNR, an organization of people that appreciate motorcycling in general and have a special place in their heart for our Nortons. April's Gathering of the Nortons event is an excellent example of our interest in a variety of motorcycles and our passion for vintage Nortons. We find great pleasure riding the back roads and sharing time with fellow motorcyclists.

As our hobby continues to become more and more mainstream I urge you to remember your Norton and be sure to provide regular doses of sunlight and asphalt (tyres only). If the whole chopper (pronounced "choppa") thing gets its grip on you, remember Norton did produce a High Rider!

I look forward to the DVNR attending the British & European Classic Motorcycle Day at Butler's Orchard in Germantown MD on Sunday May 22nd. See you there!

- Bill Waddington

INOA RALLY 2007 UPDATE

Aka the "Double O Seven Rally" –

Representatives of DVNR intend to present a bid at the INOA Rally this July in Oregon.

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Tari and I took a brief but thoroughly enjoyable trip to England last month.

Our first day took us to Hever Castle, the ancestral home of the Boleyns (home of Anne, second wife of Henry VIII). We included a quick stop at Red Dog Motorcycles in Edenbridge just beyond Hever Castle.

We also visited Old London that Friday. There were many modern, large displacement motorbikes running the city streets even though the weather was damp with a chill to the air.



Hever Castle built 1270

Red Dog Motorcycles is home to Benelli, MV Augusta, CCM, Puch, and Ducati/Cagiva.



Red Dog - home of Italian Motorcycles

Tari and I toured the London Motorcycle Museum on Saturday in Greenford just outside London proper.

The gentleman responsible for the facility is Bill Crosby, owner of Reg Allen Meriden Triumph. He is one of the few remaining old time dealers that go way back. His interest is Triumphs and the museum reflects that. The museum is very nice and has on display a number of prototypes that never saw production.

Before leaving the museum, I did what everyone does, perused the gift shop where I discovered a box of second hand magazines for sale. For 50 p, I purchased the June 14, 1951 edition of *The Motorcycle*. Much of the content was dedicated to an in-depth review of the recently concluded TT Races on the Isle of Man. The 1951 TT was a watershed event for Norton. Norton machines placed 1st and 3rd in the Senior and placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the Junior. Factory rider Geoff Duke won both the Senior and Junior races. This particular issue of the magazine offers a rare glimpse into Norton racing history.

Upon leaving the museum, we visited the Reg Allen shop nearby and had a pleasant conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Crosby. The shop smelled of older English machinery..... ahhhh – wonderful!



750 triple pre-production – LMC Museum

Sunday April 17 we went to the New Forest on the south coast of England and visited the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum. We met the man himself.

The AJS and Matchless clubs had a ride in. This museum includes workshops which were open for viewing. This is a “living” museum where the machines are runners.

When a group has a ride in, Mr. Miller prepares a few machines of interest for demonstrating. The one remaining 1947 AJS Porcupine 500 GP machine was brought out and fired up. Sammy performed a number of laps around the outside of the museum to the absolute wonderment of everyone there.



Sammy Miller on the AJS Porcupine

Wish I had the ability to capture the audio! What a fantastic museum. One could easily spend the entire day studying the wonderful machines on display.

The Miller Museum is housed in what was at one time an abandoned dairy farm. You would never guess that based upon its current pristine state. And if you are wondering, the interior of the buildings are fully protected from fire by a comprehensive sprinkler system.



Norton Manx Low Boy – Miller Museum

Nortons, Nortons everywhere!



Norton Competition Singles – Miller Museum

Useful and interesting links:

London Motorcycle Museum

<http://www.motorcycle-uk.com/lmm.htm>

Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum

<http://www.sammymiller.co.uk/museum.htm>

I look forward to going back for a second look!

- Bob Norum

12th GATHERING OF THE NORTONS

The 12th Annual Gathering of the Nortons was met with one of the most beautiful sunny Sundays so far this year. We all kept our collective fingers crossed for a perfect day and our wishes were met ten fold. Despite the road closures and detour signs on Route 32 everyone managed to get to the park on time.

This year we stepped things up a bit and had a fancy sign-in tent offering DVNR membership, club regalia, bottled water and tickets to the bar-b-cue at Mike's.



DVNR volunteers hard at work

The turn out was as fine as the weather with a record 420 some odd bikes entering the park. Vintage machinery was everywhere with over 40 Nortons resting proudly in their separate area.



Commando line up

Amongst them was a John Player Replica, a late '40's or early 50's Garden-gate International (with a Manx head), a lovely '55 Dominator, a pretty pushrod Single ES2,

a couple of Atlas' and the usual brace of really nice Commandos from most all of the production years.

How often do you see three fastbacks in one place... well, that day you did. And the 'oldest Norton' on hand was the unrestored 1929 CS1 500 Single sitting on a trailer in the parking lot. It was a runner too.



1955 ES2 Norton single

Beyond the Nortons, other English marques were very well represented. On hand were Royal Enfields, a Velocette Thruxton, numerous BSA singles and twins of the 50's, 60's and early 70's including a beautiful Rocket 3.



Kenny Dreer 880 Norton

Triumphs from Coventry and Meriden were well represented as were the new generation Hinkley Triumphs with Speed Triples, Bonneville's and other models parked all around. From the looks of things, the new Triumphs have really taken hold in the NJ, PA area. Word is that the new Triumphs are the best kept secret out there

for those that want something not made in Japan, Germany or the USA.

It was nice to see the wide range of twin cylinder hardware from other European nations as well with numerous Ducati, Guzzi and BMW models on hand. There was a nice 4-cyl Benelli 500 and a Laverda Triple on deck too.



lovely BSA Triple with factory gray frame

American iron was on hand as well with a trio of the best looking vintage Sportsters lined up in a row. I saw a 40's Harley 'bob job' there as well and it is still one of my favorite period customs.

What a great selection of machines all gathered in the same corral and it keeps getting better every year.



1968 TR6C Trophy Special

Next stop was the bar-b-cue at Mike's which was the crowning feast for what was already a great day. The food was terrific, the blues band was a fabulous surprise and Mike's place was as in the past, just a great location for the picnic. There was a pretty good turnout though we had hoped for a few more paying customers to help defray the costs. Next year.

And that band, man were they good! We will have to ask them for a return engagement next year or perhaps when we host the national rally in 2007! I could have listened to them all afternoon. See Bob Katz for their name and contact information if you have a need for kickin' blues band.

- Rich Casey

My thanks to Fred Nemiroff and Todd Robertson for contributing the Gathering photos. - Editor

For many more photos of our Gathering go to:

<http://forums.cycleworld.com/eve/ubb.x/a/tpc/f/47260871/m/4770079421>

MACHINE FOR SALE

1975 Norton 850 racer. Engine by Greenbacker. Too many details to list here. Call Jim Hamilton in Baltimore at 410-687-5669 for all the specs and price.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Sunday, May 22

British & European Classic Motorcycle Day at Butler's Orchard in Germantown MD. Group ride departing Bob & Tari Norum's at 8 am sharp. Call 215-741-0110 if you need directions to our home.

Visit our club website at <http://www.dvnortonriders.com/> for in-depth coverage of the upcoming Butler's Orchard event.

THE DELAWARE VALLEY NORTON RIDERS ANNUAL MEET

By

FRED NEMIROFF

There's a very popular book that starts out "In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth" or words to that affect. Over the next 5 days, God was pretty busy until the 7th day rolled around. Personally, I think He took a Norton 750 Commando out for a run to clear his head after a hard week's worth of work. I'm just wondering if he showed up on the third Sunday of April when the rest of the DVNR members rode their well maintained equipment to Washington's Crossing State Park at Titusville, NJ. This spot on the Delaware River located just south of the tourist town of New Hope, Pennsylvania, is the spot where Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware on Christmas Day night and attacked the partying British and Hessian troops for perhaps the only victory ever achieved by General Washington.

The annual ride-in started some 12 years ago with just a handful of street worthy Nortons showing up. As more members finished their restorations and word spread, the numbers of bikes increased to the point that this year's ride-in boasted over 50 Nortons, many in better than showroom condition. Many of the members own more than one British bike so you never know what bikes you'll be able to admire from year to year.



Master Sergeant Joe DeFazio on his BSA WD Dispatch model

Master Sergeant Joe DeFazio showed up on a 1942 BSA 500cc dispatch motorcycle. But DeFazio also dressed the part! The large smile never left his face for the entire morning. He explained he took back roads from McGuire Air Force Base where he is a non-commissioned officer in the US Air Force, to the Park since the BSA wasn't happy at the 65 mph plus speeds common on NJ highways.

Not every member and non-member stayed by their motorcycle. They're just as busy as those of us who rode in on modern machinery, roaming the parking lot checking out other machinery as other marques besides Norton are welcome. Some of the manufacturers represented this day included Yamaha, Honda, Benelli, BMW, BSA and Harley Davidson. If you have a vintage Japanese, American or European bike, the members would love to check it out.

But the real story this date was Norton. There were Fastbacks, 750cc and 850cc Commandos, a 750cc Norton Atlas, a 1955 Norton Dominator wideline frame, a 1947 International overhead cam SS road bike fitted with a Manx head, a John Player Norton and other models proudly parked throughout the parking lot. Many of the Nortons as well as other antique machines were immaculately restored and would have been at home in a museum. But this is not the place for these fine vintage British machines. After all, the motto of the DVNR is "Ride 'em, don't hide 'em".



1974 John Player Special

Mark your calendar for the third Sunday of the month in April. Note that the meet is held on Pennsylvania soil for as the event has gotten so big that the Park Service asked the DVNR if they could move from the New Jersey side to the roomier Pennsylvania parking lot. However, the Pennsy parking lot has reached its capacity as those who attended this year's event can verify.

My sincere thanks to Fred Nemiroff for contributing his article to our newsletter. His article is scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of City Cycle Motorcycle magazine. - Editor

2005 Calendar of Events

- **May 22** - [British & European Classic Motorcycle Day](#) – Butler's Orchard, Germantown, Maryland
- **June 18-19** - DVNR Chocolate Lovers Rally – Hershey, PA - 20 rooms are reserved under DVNR for Saturday night at the EconoLodge outside of Hershey (address is 252 Bow Creek Road, Grantville, PA 17028) You must book the room no later than 5/18/05 for the discounted rate of \$71.99 + tax. The hotel can be reached at is 717-469-0631
The ride will begin Saturday morning 10 am departing from the Bridge Café, Frenchtown, NJ. Get there early for a great breakfast.
- **July 15-17** - [AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days](#) – Mid Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, Ohio. The 2005 "Featured Marque" is Ducati.
- **July 13-17** - [2005 INOA RALLY](#) – Oregon Anyone? (The Norums are attending)
- **August 21** - (Monthly Meeting) - To Be Announced
- **September 10-12** - Rolling Thunder Weekend hosted by Nations Capital Norton Owners
- **October 16&17** - Fall Foliage Tour Weekend - To Be Announced
- **November 20** - (Monthly Meeting) - To Be Announced
- **December TBD** - The 2005 DVNR Holiday Party will be hosted by Bob & Tari Norum

- The DVNR Newsletter is published by the Delaware Valley Norton Riders club to inform and entertain its members.
- Members are encouraged to submit articles, tech tips, photographs, classified ads or other material. The deadline for submissions is two weeks after the monthly meeting.
- The Delaware Valley Norton Riders principles are to promote the use and pride of Norton motorcycle ownership and to provide an arena for the exchange of technical information and parts availability in an effort to extend the useful life of Norton motorcycles.
- Membership in the Delaware Valley Norton Riders club is currently \$12.00 per year. Annual membership fees are due in January of each year, with a grace period ending with the April monthly meeting. Dues will be waived for new members who joined between November and December of the prior year. DVNR usually holds monthly meetings the Third Sunday of each month but members are asked to check their newsletters or the web site for current information.
- DVNR is affiliated with both the American Motorcycle Association and the International Norton Owners Association. Members are encouraged but not required to join these organizations.
- Group rides are not sponsored by DVNR and participants ride at their own risk. Motorcycling is a dangerous sport and DVNR will not be responsible for individual rider's conduct or safety. Anyone riding on public highways is responsible for maintaining liability insurance. DVNR assumes no responsibility for the acts or omission of its members in connection with club activities.
- DVNR Newsletter articles or other materials express the author's view only and not necessarily the official policy of the Delaware Valley Norton Riders. Technical tips published in the DVNR Newsletter have been reviewed for technical content and are believed to be both acceptable and workable but no guarantee is made or implied that they will work correctly nor is any liability assumed by either the DVNR or the members for any problems resulting from the use of these tips. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or alter all editorial and advertising material submitted for publication. Advertising published does not imply endorsement of products, goods or services.

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