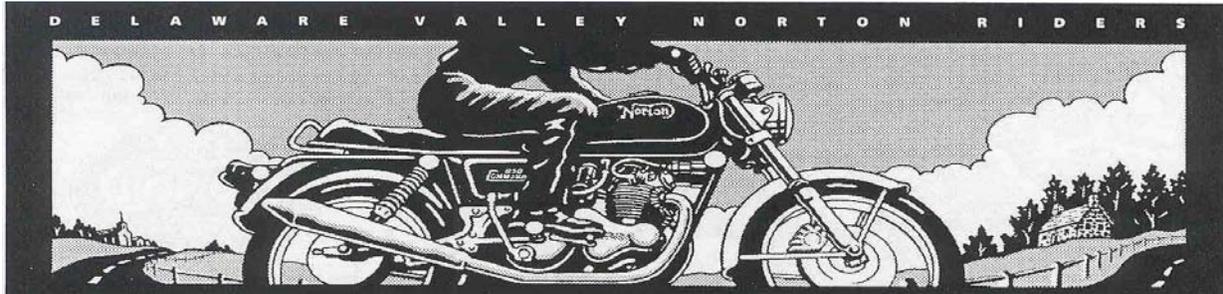


AUGUST THRU NOVEMBER 2008

1984 - Twenty-Four Years - 2008



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



September ride kick-off, Brass Ring

Our November meeting occurred last weekend. Thanksgiving is upon us. Yikes! Where did the year go?

Last edition was the Rally Extravaganza. Let's pick up from there. The club activity in August was coordinated by Rick Hill. Rick led the group ride following some of his favorite roads through the Delaware River valley. As much as I was sorry to have missed the ride – these roads and scenery are among the best in the area – I did enjoy racing across Deep Creek Lake on a borrowed Yamaha personal watercraft.

Come September – then Rolling Thunder – Dave Glover, Pat Daloisio and I rode down to Maryland Thursday evening staying overnight at Tari's folks in Rockville Maryland. The plan was to be up early Friday morning in time to join up with the NCNO folks at the Fauquier Livestock Exchange in Marshall Virginia, have breakfast, then form ranks and head off with everyone on the NCNO group ride to the campground.



First stop of the day, Poolesville, MD

On any morning of the work week, navigating the byways and highways of Montgomery County Maryland can be SLOW. Trying to go south into Virginia during morning rush is even SLOWER.

So, in the spirit of the weekend, we chose the road less traveled via MD 28 north to Poolesville, then west to the Potomac River opposite Leesburg Virginia. The only remaining ferry on the entire Potomac River allows Virginia residents to cut an hour out of their morning commute to the Technology Corridor along I-270 through Montgomery County.

It was one of those warm, sunny late summer mornings. Trees still wore their summer green, lawns still required mowing, and the corn was about ready for harvest. Our band of three topped up the tanks in Poolesville before heading for White's Ferry and the Blue Ridge Mountains that lay to the southwest.

Our arrival time at White's Ferry was spot on – we just missed the outbound departure. Round trip on the ferry is about 15 minutes thus giving us time to stretch and snap a few photos.



Friday morning – White's Ferry

Is that Pat between Dave and I in the photo? That's right folks - past President Pat Daloisio has rejoined the club. Welcome back Pat.

In case you are wondering, the ferry operator charges motorcyclists half the price of an auto - \$2 versus \$4. Ferry service at this crossing dates back to 1782 and currently operates year round river conditions permitting.



Commuters from Virginia crossing the Potomac at White's Ferry

We were first on and first off the ferry. The river was smooth as glass that morning. What a neat way to start an all day ride.



Looking downstream from aboard the ferry

Why more DVNR members don't attend Rolling Thunder beats me. Another great time was had by all, after all this is a Norton family reunion – regardless of hurricane warnings. Friday was hot and sunny – the group ride that day was well attended by 14 riders – the distance to campground around 180 miles. Staying hydrated was key to maintaining sufficient focus that day. NCNO tradition is to maintain a quick pace on group rides.

The group did suffer one casualty on Friday's ride – Rob Loveless, long time member of NCNO. The group had just gotten back on the road after our first hydration stop of the day. We were running along a country lane that curved downhill to the right towards a small concrete one lane bridge.



Post-breakfast prep

Leaving bright sunlight, the road became partly shaded (dappled light) in the exit of this particular curve. I rounded the curve in time to watch Rob and his Norton go sliding sideways across the road into the deep grassy shoulder. Thank goodness for that run off area – it spared both Rob and the bike from more serious damage.

Within 10 minutes of the crash, the first emergency responders were on scene. Within 15 minutes, Virginia State Police, the local fire department, and medical emergency services personnel were also on scene.



Lots of scattered stones across the road surface – looking back up the road

Rob suffered a deep cut to his right knee and numerous abrasions to his hand. Rob was taken by ambulance to Stockbridge, VA Hospital for repairs. Rob is now back at work and on the mend (most excellent news).

While emergency personnel tended to Rob, we tried to reconstruct the incident. We noted a light coating of fine stone dust lay in the inside radius of the turn near the shoulder. We figured Rob touched the front brake just for a moment and that's all it took for the front wheel to lock momentarily, sliding across the stone dust causing loss of directional control.

Rob's mishap was a wake up call to the rest of us, well at least me. I know I was a bit less cavalier with the throttle the remainder of the day. On the other hand, a bit less speed meant a bit more time to quickly look about and enjoy the wonderful scenery.



Shenandoah Valley rest stop

The group arrived at the campground in time for adult beverages and the splendid Friday evening meal.



Rally Central especially during Saturday's all day rain

The hurricane-spawned rain started at dusk and turned into a steady, thrumming rain that lasted into early Saturday afternoon. Rally attendees crowded under the pavilion roof and adjoining canopies starting with the

Saturday morning meal and continuing throughout the day until mid afternoon at which time the rain moved off. The poor weather allowed everyone to catch up on family news, all things Norton news, tech subjects, and the telling and retelling of Rolling Thunder stories from the past.

DVNR contributed 3 gift cards each valid for a club shirt as door prizes for Saturday night's gala. So far, two have been claimed.

All too quickly the rally concludes with Sunday morning good byes and a quick getaway for it's a long ride back home. Our original trio grew to 4 with Mike Forte joining us on the first leg home - Skyline Drive north to Winchester VA, to Charlestown WVA, then Frederick MD.



Sunday morning ride on Skyline Drive

At that point, Mike headed due north to Pennsylvania on US 15 while the 3 of us vectored east by northeast across the northern tier of Maryland before crossing the Mason-Dixon line into York County, then across the Susquehanna River into Lancaster County then home to Bucks and Mercer Counties.

Our club event in September was blessed with perfect late summer weather and a good turnout for breakfast at the Brass Ring. Following much tire kicking, Dave Glover led the group north, crossing the Delaware into Bucks County at Upper Black Eddy then turning downriver before heading uphill to Van Sant Airport.

The usual crowd was enjoying the sights and sounds of the piston-powered airplanes pulling gliders or taking visitors for scenic rides over the river valley.



Rare sights at Van Sant Airport

Leaving the airport, we meandered south to the Norum hacienda in Langhorne for a cookout followed by a brief business meeting.

Kathy Gehrhardt was kind enough to take meeting notes. Topics included a brief touch on the financial results of the National Rally (in the black), passing around the Chapter of the Year trophy, positive feedback on the rally, planning update on the Fall Foliage Ride, and reminder for upcoming November elections. I announced my willingness to continue on as President unless someone had a better idea. Treasurer Diane announced her desire to step down from her post. On a positive note, Diane agreed to continue managing membership renewals – thanks Di.

Speaking of memberships, three friends of Bob Katz joined the club that day. Welcome Curt Pierson, Jay Marcolina, and David Vezzosi. David's membership was courtesy of his friends and only later learned of his new found status having had to return home directly from the Brass Ring. Pat renewed his membership also that day. Here's to new and old friendships.



New member David Vezzosi and his stunning Vincent Comet at the Brass Ring

We had a bonus ride in October when Richard Colahan sponsored a Brit Bike Bucks Back Roads Ramble on the Sunday before our regularly scheduled club meeting.



Rick's '72 750 and Bob's '75 Mk 3

That particular Sunday was a stunner. Seasonally cool and sunny weather provided the background over some of the more scenic byways and covered bridges in upper Bucks County.

Rick Hill and I rode north together to join up with the group. Running late, no time for coffee this morning; we found the group with helmets in hand awaiting our arrival. Fortunately the first of several pit stops was not too far up the road! The group even encountered club member Ron Ettinger at the local convenience store in Carversville while taking a coffee break. Ron pulled up in something with 4 wheels. We tried unsuccessfully in convincing Ron to go

home and return with something more suitable!

Richard led the group on an autumn colored ride through the woods and hills and across the creeks along the Delaware River watershed. Our destination was Richard's home hidden back in a hollow above Upper Black Eddy.



No gas at Bergstresser's in Wassergass, PA but the strudel is to die for

Anita was waiting our group's arrival along with Mike and Desiree Forte who had ridden over from Lancaster County on the K-bike. Priorities dictated a most excellent picnic lunch prior to exploring the wonders of Richard's basement.



Richard's superb collection of British iron - and they are all runners

The following weekend was our scheduled Fall Foliage Ride. Trying something different, this year's event was billed as the Jersey Shore Lighthouse tour with an overnight destination in Cape May.

For a number of reasons including an uncertain weather forecast, the decision was made to compress the weekend event into a Sunday only ride to Barnegat Bay lighthouse. Four intrepid club members met at the Norum hacienda that Sunday morning. After sufficient caloric and caffeine intake, Rick led the way east into Jersey, through the pinelands on the way to the shore.



***Barnegat Bay lighthouse parking lot
Rick, Richard, Dave and Bob***

The weather that Sunday was very different from the prior Sunday's. Sunny to partly sunny, very cool and blustery weather was on order that day.

The wind made itself dramatically felt as we approached the causeway onto Long Beach Island. Essentially a low level nor'easter, the wind pounded us as we traversed the causeway. With considerable relief, we found shelter on the island's roads.

We headed to the northern end of LBI where the ocean meets Barnegat Bay and the lighthouse stands marking the entrance.

We carefully walked out along the walkway north from the lighthouse towards the bay's entrance. The ocean waves pounded the concrete breakwater sending curtains of seawater over the unsuspecting.

Later, we stopped for a hot lunch before heading back to the mainland. The day's ride was a great way to wrap up this year's schedule of club rides.



***Dave bracing for photo – timing the splashes
was critical in avoiding a soaking***

November's meeting was hosted by Bob Katz. A fine breakfast spread satisfied everyone's hunger. New member David Vezzosi rode over on a 4 cylinder Indian much to the pleasure of the crowd. Once everyone was settled in, the club meeting began. Kathy Gehhardt was the official scribe for the meeting.

The primary item of business last Sunday was elections for club officer positions. Also known as the Executive Board, the officer positions consist of President, Secretary, Legislative & Insurance Communications Officer, and Treasurer.

After reading the job descriptions of the officers, the following people were each unanimously elected to office:

President- Bob Norum (2nd term)
Treasurer- Ed Pollogruto (new)
Secretary- Richard Colahan (new)
Insurance and legislative Officer - Ron Ettinger (approaching lifetime achievement award status)

Dave Glover was reaffirmed as Ride Captain. Other appointed positions are

Quartermaster, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor. Quartermaster remains open.

I will continue as editor until such time that someone more motivated than me takes the reins.

Webmaster is open. I will share the ability to access and edit our website with any interested club members. Since moving our club's web domain to GoDaddy.com earlier this year, I have had little time to explore the website building tools available. Past President Bill Waddington had built a sophisticated site complete with Members Only pages. I would like to see the site rebuilt in a similar manner. All the earlier content is preserved and can be used in rebuilding the site.

The club's financial status was reviewed during the meeting. The bank account established in Wellsboro should be closed prior to end of year. Once the final receipts have been paid, it appears that over \$3,000 will ultimately be transferred to INOA as per agreement for hosting the National Rally. Our local account holds approximately \$8,800. Those funds belong entirely to the club.

Earlier this year, we achieved our fundraising goal of having sufficient seed money to jumpstart the rally. Due to sound event planning, getting the word out, excellent rally shirt sales, and a registration process tightly managed by Tari Norum and Diane Glover, a net operating income resulted. As a club, we should be very pleased with our cooperation and teamwork in planning and hosting one of the best National Rallies ever.

In preparation of this month's meeting, I reviewed our Constitution and Bylaws. During the meeting, I brought up the need to update the section addressing club dues in the Bylaws.

Ed Pologrudo made a motion to amend the by-laws as necessary to reflect the multi-year dues schedule that was established at last November's meeting to help fund the

National rally. The motion was seconded, voted and unanimously passed.

John Wilkers, friend of Pete Gallo, attended the meeting to give us an update on Pete's medical condition. Pete is fighting a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments for at least two more weeks. The club is asked to keep Pete and his family in their prayers.

In review, my association with this club goes back 20 years when in 1988 we moved to Bucks from suburban Maryland. We had joined NCNO in 1985 and attended/survived several Rolling Thunder rallies. It was at those rallies we first met folks from DVNR and North Jersey Norton Owners. When we moved to Bucks, it was only natural to join DVNR. Over the years, many of our best friendships have been and continue to be with fellow club members and their families. We have fun when together and share a common interest in all things Norton. As Suzi Greenway pointed out to me at the National, DVNR has been providing a focal point for Norton owners in the greater Philadelphia area going on 25 years. How about that!

I look forward to more fun in '09 as we focus on riding, riding, and riding.



***Friendships - October ride in Bucks –
Richard behind the lens***

Ride smooth, ride as often as you can, and remember to ride the Norton!

- Bob Norum

Rearview Mirror



- 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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DVNR 2008 Calendar of Events

Monthly Meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.
Dates and Events are subject to change.

- **Saturday, December 13 DVNR Holiday Party** – Ron Ettinger's home, Buckingham, PA 7 pm



This way to Ron's ...

Delaware Valley Norton Riders Presents

The Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 13, 2008

Hosted by Ron Ettinger

The party begins at 7 pm

Soft drinks, beer and mixers will be provided

Bring your appetite – dinner will be served

Bring your favorite wine or spirits and a dish

Call Ron (215-498-5432) to coordinate the menu

And back by popular demand – the Chinese Auction*

*Please bring a wrapped motorcycle theme gift (preferably Norton) not to exceed \$25 in value