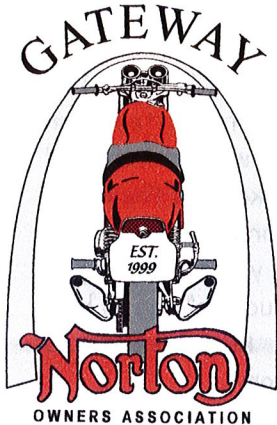


Gateway Norton Owners News #53



"To Promote the Use and Pride of Norton Motorcycle Ownership" Compiled by Marty and Peggy Dupree May 2013



KING'S COLUMN

Aging: have you done it with grace? Has technology just whacked you into thinking "Duh"? Is it hard to kick-start your brain? Hard to remember where that little part is? How old is the crappy fuel in the tank? Isn't that a pretty new tire, just a couple years ago? I just put a new battery in the darn thing...uh... back in 2008! I just paid my insurance uh.. last year. Did I tighten my oil drain plug? Check tire pressure? Was it this bike or the other one? When did the wife say I needed to dress up and be civilized? I have one of those.. let me look for it, I will call You back...a \$6.00 part, spent \$30.00 worth of time searching for it and vaguely remember giving it to someone 2 years ago. Somehow, it shows up 2 weeks later, after you forgot who needed it. So much for the aging brain, now for the body parts.

Years ago I had an immaculate B-50MX BSA single, went down to Flat River to go around the track with Dick Mann a lap or two, (he made 3 laps and broke his foot and I went around 1 and was exhausted). A fellow came up to me and said, "That's beautiful! I had one of those, just like that... broke both legs on it!" Sweet!

I just installed an Alton E-start kit on a '71 Commando for member, Mark Chapman. He is having a replacement new knee in May. Hope all of you saw it at the Corner Bar meeting in February.

He said he broke his leg badly years ago, racing a Yamaha Blaster, among numerous other accidents he has had in past years. (Betcha he never jumped over a campfire!) To this day my ankle really bothers me to kick a "#!@*^/! Norton/Triumph/BSA/ too many times, and it seems I have been putting it to the stress- test lately. Marks little button on his Commando was a real envy of sorts. I thought of what I could sell, steal, forge, counterfeit to get one too, for my Commando.

I have only owned one Motorbike that had "The Button" and that was a '93 Ducati. It did everything too quick for me. I realized that soon, aging as fast as I could and having my 3rd mid-life crisis, I should sell it, and buy a hot tub. (a much safer ride).. Helps the ankle, starts at the push of a button, I can wear my speedos or nothing at all, contrary to the dress code on the Ducati.

"gentlemen do not motor about at night" –Joseph Lucas

*****IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION*****
*****SPRING KICK START MEETING*****

Kurt Baue has graciously offered his place for the Spring meeting again. The date is May 11 (a Saturday) at noon-ish. This will be a very important meeting because the King wants to step down and my wife and I are giving up the newsletter editorship. These important items will be discussed and hopefully dealt with in a positive manner. Orders for club "T" shirts will be taken and the order will be place right after the meeting. If you will not be at the meeting but want one, contact Steve @ shurst01@att.net right now. There will be some kind of "eats" and drinks. If you are driving or have saddlebags, please bring something to share for the meal. There will be a "buck up" can to help defray Kurt's expenses, so please be generous if you are not bringing something. Kurt lives at 528 N. Benton, St. Charles. 636-947-3895 He email address is: kurtie528@hotmail.com

*****GNOA CLUB RIDE MAY 19*****

Club member Scott Dowler has offered to host a ride on May 19. The ride will commence at his house - 2386 Hwy. F, Defiance, MO 63341 - at 10am (arrive gassed up and ready to go before then). The ride will consist of a zig-zag route to Hermann where you will stop for lunch. These are some very beautiful roads so I'm sure you will want to attend. Rain make-up dates are June 2nd and June 9th. Call Scott for details or if the weather looks iffy . . . 636-987-2820 or 314-378-6600.

Contact Information:

Mike French, King/President:	636-940-9365	mfrench9365@charter.net
Steve Hurst, Membership:	636-928-3391	shurst01@att.net
Marty Dupree, Newsletter:	636-398-4049	madx2@centurytel.net

Dues are \$5 per year running July thru June. They are non-prorated to keep bookkeeping simple. Make check payable to "Steve Hurst" or send cash to Steve at: 966 Weybridge Ct. W. St. Charles, MO 63304.

ITEMS FOR SALE

For Sale: One Craftsman motorcycle/ATV jack. Never used. 1500 pound capacity. Sears sell them now for \$107.99. Will take \$50 cash. Can deliver to the Spring Kick Start meeting.

Marty 636-398-4049

For Sale: Oxlite heavy gauge aluminum "Dresser" motorcycle ramp, never used. Consists of two ramps, 17" wide, 94" long, can be connected or used separately. 1000 lb. capacity. Cost \$309 new, will take \$150 cash. Can deliver to the Spring Kick Start meeting.

Marty 636-398-4049

MINUTES FROM THE WINTER MEETING

The winter get-together was another success. People started showing up around 6:45pm and the meeting actually started at 8pm. There were 18 members present and the new members Paul Parson, Mark Chapman and Frank Murphy were welcomed by everyone. King Mike brought the Alton electric start kit he is installing on Mark Chapman's Commando. Everyone "Oooh'd and Aaah'd" at the quality and gasped at the price. It is truly a beautiful thing.

Business discussed:

- our last t-shirt order. About 17 were originally printed and they are all gone. New t-shirts will be ordered if the demand is there.
- Marty and Peggy are stepping down from the newsletter editorship after 10 years. We need someone to take over these duties.
- Spring Kick Start meeting (see article above).
- Treasurer's report-balance of \$825. Detailed report to be given at Kick-Start meeting.
- A "Weenie" Ride, sometime in late spring or early summer to Klondike Park; details will be ironed out at Kick Start meeting.
- Scott Dowler has offered to do a ride on May 19. See article on page 2 for details.
- A plea went out for articles for the newsletter.
- King Mike announced that there will be a new president selected at the Spring meeting.
- Steve Hurst mentioned that our Facebook page is operating - check it out at www.facebook.com/GatewayNortonOwnersAssociation
- Trash pick up day announced for April 21.
- Upcoming events were discussed, but they have passed by the time you read this, so I'll not list them now.
- It was announced that Craig Vetter will be at the Moto Museum on July 16. More info at the Kick-Start meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

AS RECENTLY SEEN IN A GERMAN NEWSPAPER

Puppy thrown at German biker gang.

A German student "mooned" a group of Hell's Angels and hurled a puppy at them before escaping on a stolen bulldozer, police have said.

The man drove up to a Hell's Angels clubhouse near Munich, wearing only a pair of shorts and carrying a puppy.

He dropped his shorts and threw the dog, escaping on a bulldozer from a nearby building site.

He was arrested later at home by police. The 26-year old is said to have stopped taking depression medication.

After making his getaway on the bulldozer, he had driven so slowly that a 5km tailback built up behind him on the motorway.

After driving about 1km, he had abandoned the bulldozer in the middle of the motorway, near Allershausen. He continued his journey by hitchhiking.

"What motivated him to throw a puppy at the Hell's Angels is currently unclear," a police spokesman said.

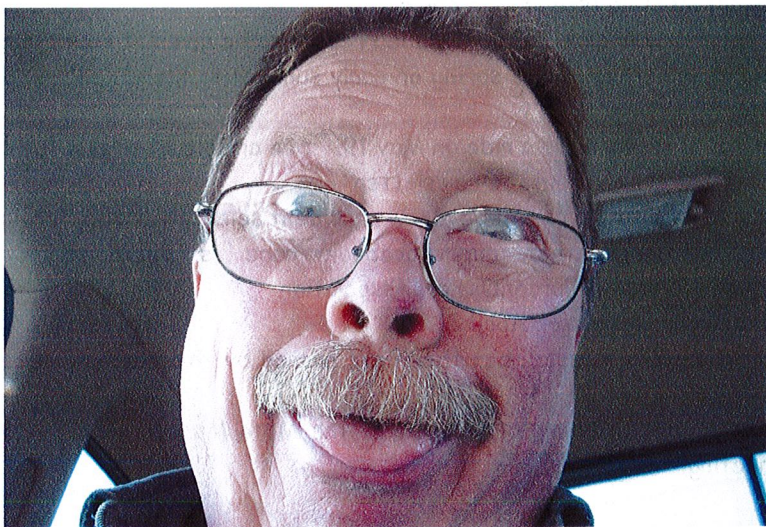
The puppy is now being cared for in an animal shelter.

FLYING TIGER MOTORCYCLE SHOP OPEN HOUSE

By Steve Hurst

On Saturday, March 23, at about 2:00pm, I picked up our Club's King Mike and we proceeded to drive down to the open house at the Flying Tiger Motorcycle Shop. I said drive because the forecast was not looking good for a ride. They call 'em weather predictors because they predict. I think weather guessers would be a better description of what they are.

The shop is located on Manchester road in Maplewood and it's a nice area. We stopped along the way for a soda and I went inside Jack in the Box. While I was inside, someone tampered with my camera and liked to gave my wife a scare and bad dreams with this self photo. I like to show her pictures of cool bikes and stuff after I return from an outing. She may never recover.



Anyway back to the open house. There were 15 to 20 people who didn't care as much as us and rode an assortment of different bikes to the Flying Tiger shop. The owner is a nice guy named Eric. He has a girl friend with nice sisters who kept the chili from burning and helped out with displaying the tee shirts that were for sale, they did that very well. I saw two kegs of Schlafly beer and some punch with a "contains alcohol sign". There were nachos and chips, too. Lets have a party, where's my solo cup?

As always, we brought our half pints but didn't need 'em. I think the turn out was great. Live music and friendly people. Eric has some Royal Enfields and Cleveland Cycle Werks bike for

sale along with some old vintage metric and others. They do bike work in the shop and he said his sales were good. I didn't see any sidecars but he said he can order them, wait, I did see one on a Vespa that was for sale parked at the curb. John Wuebbeling and his son showed up as we were getting ready to leave. I had hoped more of the Club would have come on down cause it was a really good time, the address is 7231 Manchester road phone 314 645 7425. You missed the party but I am sure the bikes are still there if you want to go have a look for yourself.

That's all from here, pass me another beer, Steve

Member Paul Parson's Bio
As sent by email to Steve Hurst

Hello Steve- I've attached pics of me, my wife, and me at 11 years old when I got my Kawasaki 90 for Christmas in 1976.

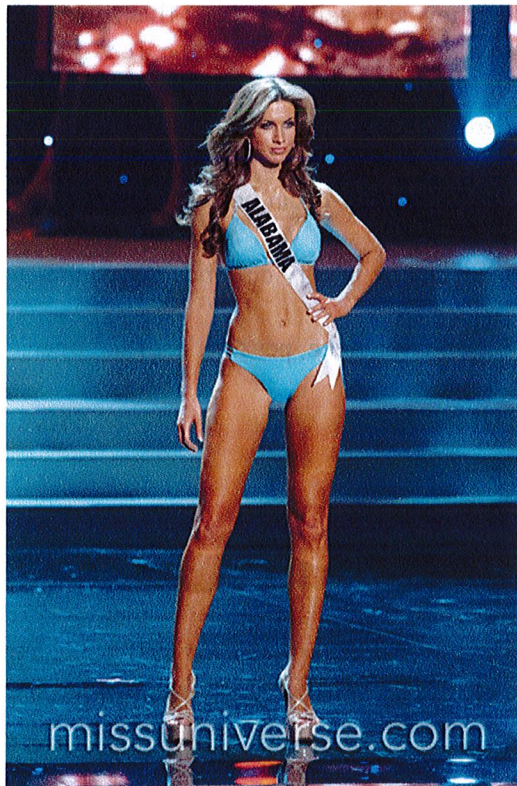
And so- I was born a poor white child in North St. Louis. My dad was a policeman, a TV repairman and was just finishing up his leadership run as the leader of a local motorcycle gang. I took rides on his BSA when I was still in diapers. We moved from Florissant to St. Charles in 1973.

I graduated from St. Charles High School in 1983. My motorcycle was a Yamaha XT500 at the time. I went to college and tech school. My motorcycle was a Suzuki GS 1000 at this time. I've worked in the multi-family industry and real estate for 28 years. I live in St. Charles with my wife of 26 years. I have 3 kids, Mack 24, Olivia 20 and Claire 11. I have 1 grandchild Summer 3 months.

I've owned 47 motorcycles. I currently own 6. I hope to buy a new Norton in the near future. I'm heterosexual and do not make exceptions.

Thank you for your consideration.

[thank you for the picture of your wife! Marty]



THE PERVERT

Phone rings, woman answers.

The Pervert, with heavy breathing, says, "I bet you have a tight arse with no hair."

Woman replies, "Yes, he's changing the plugs on his Norton at the moment. Who shall I say is calling?"

RUST AND PIECES

Steve Hurst

Rust and Pieces, no that is not the name of my current bobber project! That was a motorcycle show that King Mike and I attended on Saturday March 30. I don't know if "show" is the right word to describe the event. More like swap meet between hoarders of old pieces of metal that were once used in some way to hold other pieces of metal that could in some ways resemble a motorcycle together that are now covered in decades of dust and oil and grime and cobwebs. Got that now? Mike was not keen on going down to see this. I guess when you see people with bikes that resemble this on a daily basis that want their badly neglected bikes fixed, you don't want to see more crap on your day off. Somehow I convinced him to go with me. The fact that I drove my truck and I told him he could drink on the way down there and back didn't hurt either.

Well, the show we went to the week before was about as far opposite as it could be to this one. That one had free Schlafly beer, free food, live music and pretty ladies showing off tee shirts and more, with new bikes to see. This one was cold hot dogs for sale, Pabst beer for sale, some guy looking like he starred on Duck Dynasty spinning heavy metal records on a old Harley rim blasting music out of six foot speakers at 114 decibels, while old biker mamas with faded tats with too much skin walked around guys selling old 2 stroke bikes for six thousand dollars.

If you haven't been down to Widman M/C on 3628 S. Broadway for a while like me, how's a guy to know what it's like. One time, I am told, it was a Harley dealership. I think the dad owned it then he let the sons take over. Well, then Harley got all hoity-toity and wanted all their dealerships to look new and fancy and gave the boys a couple of years to do it. They came back and it wasn't done so they took their Harley's away. WE don't need to sell no stinkin' Harleys anyway, do we? Now I think they mainly repair bikes and sell used ones. Didn't see much evidence of anything else. The day was already cold and it was starting to rain, the ice in our glasses was starting to clink together so we decided to head back across the Missouri River. I did see one Yamaha gas tank I would have like to have had for my bobber project, I asked how much as the owner was packing up his stuff. Sometimes if you wait 'til the end, rather than pack it they will sell it. Not this time. He wanted a Franklin but I only had a Jackson.

This deal was put on by a guy named Stephen Jehle and was his first attempt at it. He said he is going to do it again next year. Will I go back? Probably so. Will Mike? Who knows? Jim Beam can be pretty convincing at times.

That's all from here, pass me another beer,

Steve

FOR SALE ITEM

For Sale: I will be listing this on E Bay and thought I would give Club members first pick. 1978 Yamaha 650 XS needs carbs cleaned as it hasn't been started in a year, original exhaust pipes and headers, great shape, maybe recovered seat but orig. pan, blue in color, title in my name, new tire, won three trophies at Mc Nair Park Bike show if you were there you saw the bike, if not I can send you a pic. I am starting bids on line at \$2000.00 but will offer to anyone in club for \$1800.00.

shurst01@att.net Steve

6

BIKE SHOW AT MICHAEL'S MOTORCYCLES

seen through the eyes of Steve Hurst

On Saturday April 13, after I finished making the world a better looking place, one hair cut at a time, I decided to go and check out the Open House / Bike Show at Michael's Motorcycles. His shop/showroom is on Chouteau and Grand in St. Louis. I called my last co pilot/partner in crime King Mike to see if he would like to go but he would not have any of it on this day. He went with me on my last two excursions. What do they say, fool me once-shame on you, fool me twice-shame on me, fool me three times-I have dementia. Maybe that's out of context a little. I didn't want to drive your drinking ass around anyway. Ha, I will go by myself. I seemed to have had to play by myself a lot when I was growing up. Not that we didn't have neighbors with kids, mind you. Their parents didn't want their children exposed to risky/ dangerous fun type things. You know, how are you going to know if a bed sheet will make a good parachute if you don't jump off the roof with it?

OK, since it wasn't yet raining on this day I felt it would be a good thing if I rode my Commando to the event. After a walk around the bike with a check of fluids and air, everything looked to be tight and sound. I suggest everyone do this before they ride. If it's good for the airplane pilots then it's good for us, too. I won't bore you on how easily my Norton started or how fine it ran because yours might not and I don't want to make you mad.

Traffic was moving fast that day and I was moving with the traffic so I made it there in 35 minutes. Not bad for 27 miles of city and hwy travel. As I backed my Norton to the curb among many other marques of bikes, who should come up to say hi but Monty and his son Paul, members in good standing of our wonderful club. I thought great at least I will

know somebody here. Turns out they didn't come to say hi but came to say they were leaving. Bye guys. Guess I'll be playing by myself again.

I walked around and found a food truck and a barrel of Schlafly beer. Well now, this event is starting to look better. Gravitating towards the music I found the band was our member Brent Jones and his wife Jacquelyn playing music. Their band name is Lonesome Threesome although I counted five players. Maybe they spent time like me playing alone so that's why they are lonesome.

Too much thinking makes me thirsty so I went back for another beer. I met the host Michael by the tap. He remembered me 'cause I tried to sell him 3 old worn out Honda 350's from the early seventy's a few years ago. He didn't buy them and I finally sold them to a guy in Illinois for a few hundred bucks. Turns out now people are starting to I and bobber them and now they are worth three times what I got! I never said I was smart, only that my bike runs good.....today.

As far as the bike show part of this event went I think it was more like Michael putting out all the bikes that he owns and saying, "hey, look what I got and by the way they are all for sale, too." Which is OK by me, cause it's his place and he is buying me beer. He told me to have another beer, so I did. He does have some pretty neat stuff, some very old and classic iron, some pristine and some rusty and moldy but for the most part way cool. I wanted to see which of the Schlafly beers I was drinking {not that it matters much, just curious} but somebody stole the plastic keg label. Maybe they needed it for a sidestand coaster. Who would

do that? I'll have to ask the King when I see him as he is an expert on such matters.

It's hard for me to be alone for long with people all around me and soon I found myself talking motorcycles with all kinds of interesting individuals. Many wanted to ask about my Norton and a few were taking pictures as it was the only Norton there. Of the other British bikes in attendance, most were Triumphs. Looking at bikes makes me thirsty too, so upon heading back to the tapper I saw Brent was done playing music and I said howdy. I guess playing music makes him thirsty also cause he was imbibing as well.

Soon after I had met and talked to anybody who would listen to me, it was time for me to be alone again. So I went over to my Norton and waited 'til no one was looking and kicked her started. The equation is: for every one person that watches you kick is equal to the number of times you will have to kick to start your bike. So I like to wait 'til no one is watching to leave. It took me four kicks so somebody was sneaking a look at me. Hope more of you will come out and play with me next time but if you won't I guess I'll have to go it alone again. I'm used to it.

That's all from here, pass me another beer,
Lonesome Steve

TRASH PICK-UP

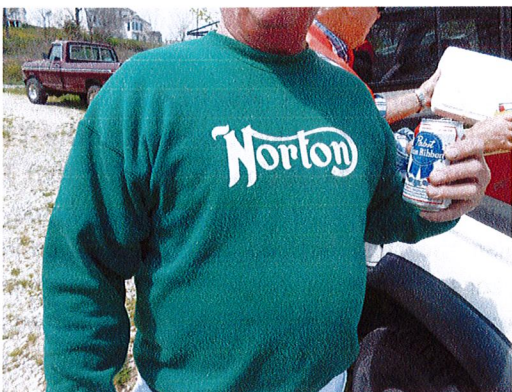
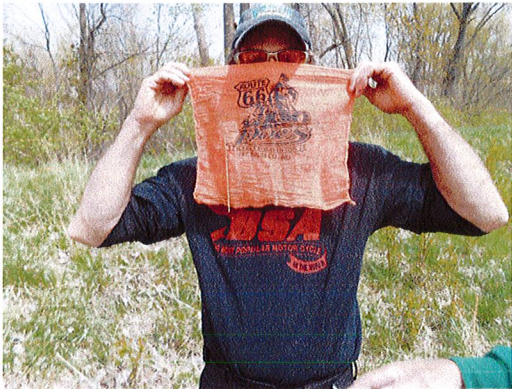
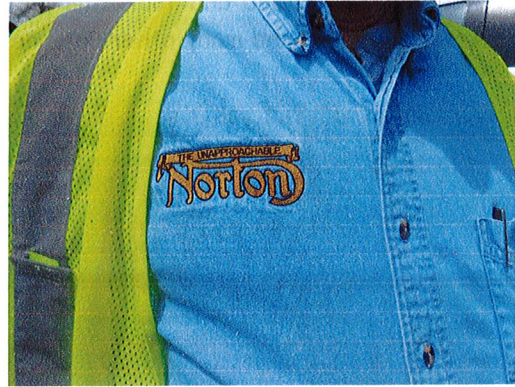
By Marty Dupree

April 21, Earth Day, found 8 Club members cleaning up our 1-mile stretch of Highway 79 in St. Charles County. I arrived first, around 9:45am, but Steve showed minutes later. Other members trickled in, just under the 10:00am wire. John Wuebbeling, Dale Knaus, and King Mike rolled up in their vehicles. While standing around, we heard a "blat - blat - blat" coming up the highway. It turned out to be Scott Dowler on his ATK. On the other side of the road, a car pulled off on the shoulder and I could see a woman behind the wheel. Steve said, "That's my brother Jeff." I asked if he had a sex change operation? Steve said "no", Jeff was on the passenger side. Gary Doherty arrived and we all took off with about 5 bags each. Some members drove to the other end of our stretch and we worked our way to the middle.

It was a long, trashy winter since we last did this. Within 100 feet, John Wuebbeling and I had already filled up one bag each. We could see full yellow bags on both sides of the highway, so it was obvious we were doing good.

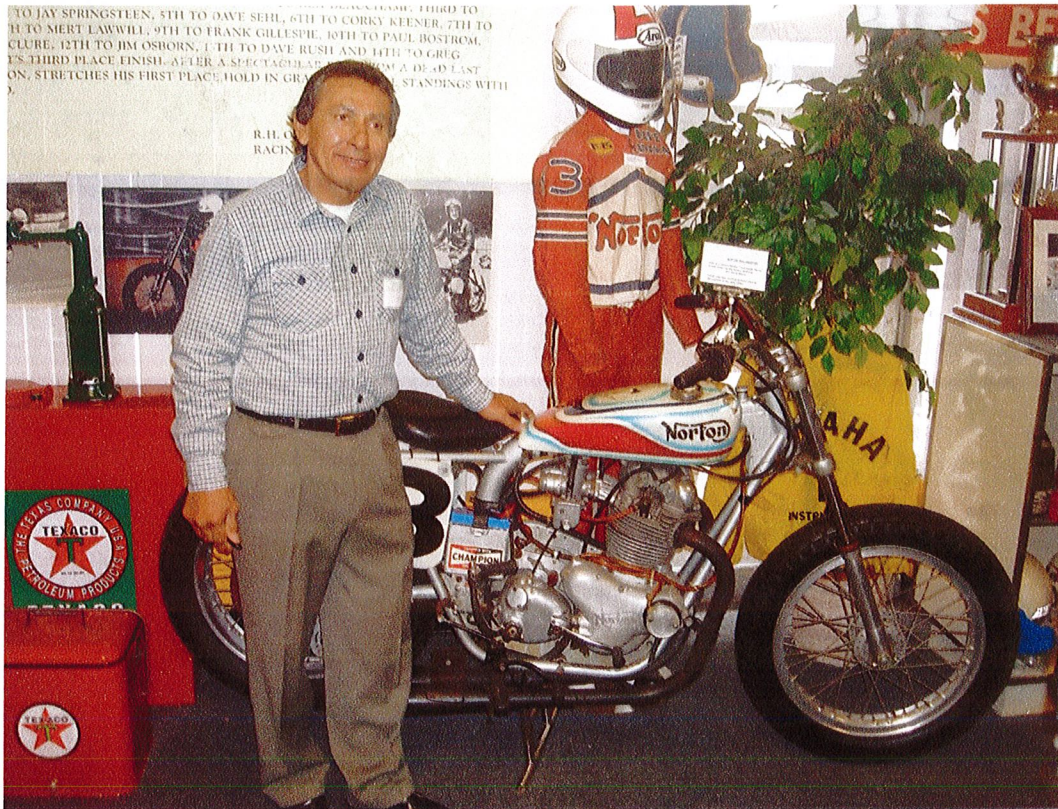
You never know what you will find, but the perennial favorites are beer bottles, cans, and "mystery" items. Some of our booty consisted of 3 hubcaps, a cricket container, a solid rubber tire on the rim from some sort of lawn implement, and other stuff. After about two hours we were done and met up at the starting point for beer and water. Dale had the quote of the day . . . "of all the things I picked up, a poopie diaper in a plastic bag was the only thing I thought could possibly be justified to be thrown out." And just think, we get to do this all over again in 3 or 4 months!

FASHION STATEMENTS" ON TRASH PICK-UP DAY



FLAT TRACK DAY AT DONELSON'S

Every year there is a reunion of flat track masters at Donelson's St. Louis store on the Rock Road. John Wuebbeling attended and took this picture of Dave Aldana and the Norton he raced in the 70's. This motorcycle and many others are on display in the museum portion of their dealership.



Here is an excerpt of an interview Marty found online with Mr. Aldana. It was conducted by Jamey Blunt on May 13, 2012. Do a Google search for the interview in its entirety.

You mention Ascot, what's your fondest memory of Ascot?

"I think it would be the weekend that I won the Yamaha Gold Cup on the Norton. Prior to the TT national that I ended up winning the following day, it was one of those exceptional weekends that I had never thought would happen in a million years and it all happened in one weekend. The Friday night $\frac{1}{2}$ mile then the Saturday national TT, then it was also the first national Norton had won in over twenty years, and then we all know that a couple years later Alex Jorgenson won another national on another Norton, a Ron Wood's Norton. But I was the first in twenty years so that was something I'll remember for a long, long time. Because not only did I win the race, something that hadn't been done in a long time but the bike caught on fire in the winners circle and that made it that much more spectacular. Where as now days you can go to Supercross and they have fires, and gas, and bombs, and rockets, that go off to accentuate whatever it is their announcing, well in this case it was accidentally induced by leaky carburetors on a good running Norton."