

Gateway Norton Owners News #1

"To Promote the Use and Pride of Norton Motorcycle Ownership"

August 1999

Published by J. Jump

First Club Meeting - July 11, 1999

The meeting took place in Mike French's basement. After the normal tire kicking and a demonstration of Mike's Spud Gun (named "Fast Food"), we came to order around 12:30 PM. In attendance were the following:

Mike Comfort, Marty DuPree, Mike French, Ted Hoyer, Joe Jump, Tom Mitchell, Bill Ruekert, John Wuebbeling

We discussed the following agenda as forwarded in my previous letter.

2. The types of things you want to do as a club, like:

Club rides: YES, YES!!!!

Attend events: PERHAPS?

Tech sessions: IF MIKE IS WILLING?!

Host a rally: NOT TOO MANY WARM & FUZZIES ON THIS ONE (sounds too much like work)

Sell club stuff to raise funds: WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' FUNDS!!!

Have monthly/bimonthly newsletters: KNOCK YOURSELF OUT, JOE.

Generally speaking, the only item that had broad appeal was the rides. Other than that, no one was too anxious to commit to anything. Seems that most in attendance want a Norton club but they want to keep it real loose. Mike French said he would gladly host a tech session and I would like to submit my bike (the Fatback) for an Isolastics rebuild. There wasn't an overwhelming response to a newsletter. I really believe that without one communication diminishes and the organization will quickly follow suit. So for now the only thing we need funds for is postage to mail a newsletter, which I will try to publish quarterly.

1. Create/Select A Club Name & Logo. We could use all the help we can get here, especially in the graphics department! Please be creative and give suggestions.

Some names suggested:

St. Louis United Touring Society (SLUTS)

The St Louis Oil Bath Society (SLOBS)

Gateway Owners Of Nortons (GOONS)

Gateway Norton Correctional Society

Bracebridge Street Boys

Mid-West Roadholder Club

The Unapproachables

I'm sorry to report that none of these catchy names were selected. The members present felt that we needed a geographic identity in our name, and the creativity slumped from there. Hence, the Gateway Norton Owners was adopted.

2. Where and when you hold meetings:

Bars, restaurants, members' homes?

How often?

I guess we're getting old. The idea of meeting at a bar was not accepted. We decided to try having quarterly meetings at members' houses. One good idea was to establish a communication tree for contacting one another in the event of a spontaneous ride. One person would call 2 or 3, and in turn, those would call 2 or 3 each, etc.

5. Dues.

What for?

How much?

As stated before, the only financial requirement identified was postage for a quarterly newsletter. A five-dollar fee annually was agreed to.

6. Elect/Assign Club Officers

If required. If we decide to go this route, below are listed some suggested offices and job descriptions. Recommend that the term of office be for 2 years. Call for candidates to commence 3 months prior to end of term. Recommend officers cannot be re-elected for two consecutive terms.

President/Chairman: Main POC for club. Will call meetings to order and facilitate (*not flatulate!!!*).

Vice President/Vice Chairman: President's/Chairman's Right hand man. Will fill in for president at meetings, assist president as needed.

Secretary: Take minutes at meetings, write and submit to Newsletter Editor, read minutes from previous meetings.

Treasurer: Responsible for handling of club's finances/account. Maintains accurate, up to date record book of all transactions. Give reports at meetings and submits summary for inclusion into newsletter.

Newsletter Editor: Responsible for assembling, publishing, and distribution of club newsletter.

Members present saw no need to have officers (other than a figurehead) if all we were going to do is an occasional ride and get together. Tom Mitchell nominated me as president/chairman (Thanks Tom, I think) and I volunteered to write a quarterly newsletter.

7. Charter Statement The following was heavily plagiarized from a charter statement passed to me from Mike Frick, and no objections were made to adopting it as is.

The *Gateway Norton Owners* 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. Ownership of a Norton is not required for membership but is highly encouraged.

The Club holds quarterly meetings for members. Membership in the club is available for \$5 per year. Annual membership fees are due in July.

The **Gateway Norton Owners** is a chapter of the International Norton Owners Association. Members are encouraged, but not required to join the INOA.

Group rides are not sponsored by the **Gateway Norton Owners**, and participants ride at their own risk. Motorcycling is a dangerous sport and the **Gateway Norton Owners** will not be responsible for individual rider's conduct or safety. Anyone riding on public thoroughfares is responsible for maintaining liability insurance. The **Gateway Norton Owners** assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of its members in connection with club activities.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

I want to encourage those who were not in attendance to give input on the issues discussed at this first meeting. Please do not consider these items closed.

As of yet, we don't have anything accomplished for a club logo. **We need a club logo guys!!!** Please, if anyone has an idea for a logo, or knows someone who is artistically talented, we need your help.

Vintage Motorcycle Days @ Mid Ohio

Although I didn't attend, Gary Creech, Mel Heffron, Dennis Spencer, and Kurt Baue did. In fact, Dennis entered the Vintage Motocross and he and Kurt both participated in the Trials event. Ask them about it next time you see them.

The VMD theme bike this year was the Norton. Rumor control has it that Speedvision spent lots of time videotaping at the INOA compound at Mid- Ohio, and promised a documentary focusing on the bikes and the people who own them. The INOA staff was quite excited about the attention they received and promised to let all INOA members know when the show will air. If you don't have Speedvision, there is a good chance it will air on other networks, such as Fox Sports Mid-West. Stay tuned for updates!

The INOA National Rally in the Blue Ridge

The National was held in Buena Vista Virginia July 13-18 smack dab in the middle of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The event was hosted by the Nation's Capitol Norton Owners and overall, I'd have to say they did a great job.

My son (Ryan) and I arrived Tuesday afternoon and were joined by Gary Creech, Mel Heffron, Dennis Spencer, and Charlie Hillyer on Wednesday. Friday afternoon we were joined by Mike French and John Wuebbeling. Steve Moose was there too but we didn't see much of him.

Things I Liked Best About the Rally

- 1) The Blue Ridge Parkway: Actually all the roads were fun to ride! The Fatback accumulated 400 miles 2 up plus another 80 solo.
- 2) My Neighbors: Billy Bob from Pensyltucky, retired Navy Photo Mate, equipped with an Airstream, a Spud Gun, a friendly & helpful attitude, great tunes, and a '70 S model. And Greg from New York-let Ryan borrow a leather jacket for all our riding, after Ryan fed him three servings of Spanish Rice with Beef. Besides bringing a great looking Roadster, he brought the best-looking Ducati 860 GT I've ever seen.
- 3) The General Store in Downtown Buena Vista. Checkpoint #4 of the 160 mile long Poker Run was there and included a free Ice Cream cone. Had a challenging game of checkers there with Ryan and actually drew an audience. A scene right out of the Waltons.
- 4) Friday Night's Catered Dinner: Part of the Rally Fee-great variety of tasty food, like a wedding buffet.
- 5) Thursday Night Get Together Sponsored by the Northern New England Chapter: Two half barrels of Newcastle Brown Ale and live Bluegrass! Met lots of folks & enjoyed the refreshments.

- 6) Group Ride to Peaks of Otter: Generally these things don't work, but our sponsors had placed staff at all the intersections on the route to stop other traffic from entering the flow, which worked well. Probably about 150-180 bikes participated.

Things I Didn't Like About the Rally

- 1) How Spread Out the Rally Campsites Were The campground had a large open area on the Maury River flood plane, then a limited number of campsites on top of an adjacent mountain. When we arrived Tuesday afternoon all the campsites up topsides were filled so we stayed on the low ground. I think we had the better sites down below. Having the two camping areas split up the rally, and I think I missed meeting a lot of folks and missed seeing a lot of cool bikes because of it.
- 2) The Showers: They just plain Sucked!
- 3) Saturday Night's Catered Dinner: Bar-B-Qued Pulled (your) Pork sandwiches, Yellow Cole Slaw, and I forgot what else. Unsavory, to say the least!
- 4) Awards Presentation: Way, way too many door prizes. How do you spell Boring?

Highlights

- 1) Charlie almost drawing a flush on the Poker Run. He had 4 clubs going into the 5th checkpoint. A small crowd gathered at registration to watch him pull his last card. But alas, a one in four chance of pulling the fifth club proved inadequate. Better luck next time, Charlie.
- 2) Gary winning the Bent Valve Award. Evidently the hardships he endured on the road to the rally paid off.
- 3) Dennis pulling out his harmonica at the campfire and improvising a blues song about the rally with Ryan.
- 4) Ryan experimenting with his Washers throwing techniques, which yielded three buckets and one board in one throw for a total of 10 points.
- 5) Temporarily swapping out the front Iso mount on the Fatback with the one off of Mike's 850 and discovering that the vibes can be made to go away.

INOA Web Page

For those of you who have Internet access, the INOA has a Web Page (<http://www.inoa.com>) which deserves a look-see. If you go to the page that lists chapters, you will notice the Gateway Norton Owners on the list. Another interesting feature is a link to Andover Norton, which has on-line parts catalogues for all Commandos, great for part numbers and determining differences between model years. A number of other chapters have links to their web pages there too. Check it out!

While checking out Norton Web Sites, check out Brit Iron. I've been reading stuff there for about 3 years, and I get a real kick out of it. Ever seen a Scowling Street Terror tee shirt and wondered what its all about? I saw a few at the Rally.

Nortons, Nortons Everywhere!

I hear that the September issue of Cycle World is heavily loaded with all sorts of articles on Nortons. Old, New, Custom, and even the lovely Norton Girls, I'm curious enough to seek it out.

Fall Campout???

As we were breaking camp at the National Sunday morning, I had the feeling that I wish it wasn't over. We started to discuss the possibility of organizing a Fall Campout for the Gateway Norton Owners. At this stage of our club organization, I think this event should be handled as an informal get together with participants responsible for their own everything besides identifying a place to converge upon. Presently we don't have a date or place identified. This is where I hoped the membership would step in. Please consider your interest in such an event. If someone were willing to step forward and undertake the task of organizing a date and place for such an event, I'm sure all the membership would appreciate and support your efforts. Give me a call if you have some ideas and perhaps we can get the ball rolling!

Communications

It has become apparent to me that while our club is in its infancy, we need to concentrate on communications between club members. In an effort to support that communication, I have compiled a listing of those I sent the first announcement and this newsletter to, listing their names, addresses, and phone numbers. I have included the list with this mailing. Please use it! Our first meeting had 8 guys show up. Let's try to contact one another, shoot the breeze, and talk up the club. If you know of another Nortoneer not on the list, get ahold of 'em & have them give me a call. Think about what you would like this club to be and voice your opinions. If you're not interested in becoming a member of the Gateway Norton Owners, please be considerate and let me know so I can take your name off the list and save postage costs.

And please, don't be afraid to volunteer your services to the club. It has been said that no greater honor comes from service to your friends and peers! That's the way I like to look at it.

Dues

As stated earlier, dues were established at \$5/year to cover publishing and postage of this rag. This one and the last are on me, but I expect that everyone will ante up in a timely manor, prior to the next issue. I expect that to be sometime this fall, perhaps following the proposed campout!

Swap Meet

There is enough space here to list items that members would like to sell/pass on. Just let me know and I'll list them. Please remember to help out our local members and give us first shot at your good deals.

For Sale: A bunch of '71 BSA Firebird Scrambler bits left over from a chop. Front wheel complete with TLS brake, rear WM-3x18 Jones rim, rear fender, and some other bits. Cheap, or trade for Norton junk or? Joe Jump (314)909-0712.

Mark Allen () 781-3755	Joe Jump 435 W. Argonne Dr. Kirkwood MO 63122 (314) 909-0712
Curt Baue 528 N. Benton St Charles MO 63301 (314) 947-3895	Charles Kell 3313 Marmary St Ann MO 63074 (314) 428-9097
Bill Bluemel 8278 Albin St Louis MO 63144 (314) 772-9589	Tom Mitchell 2309 Headland Dr. St. Charles MO 63301 (314) 946-0717
Mike Comfort 1659 Oakwood Dr O'Fallon MO 63366	Steve Moose 5026 Shady Ln. Jefferson City MO 65109 (573) 893-4413
Gary Creech 209 W. Rosehill Kirkwood MO 63122 (314) 822-4590	Charlie Hillyer P.O.Box 359 Cuba MO 65453 (573) 885-6897
Marty DuPree 2637 Sneakwood Ln. Foristell MO 63348 (314) 398-4049	Tom Moores 1211 Hepperman Wentzville MO 63385 ()
John Fenemore 3122 Chippewa St Louis MO (314) 772-5865	Bill Ruekert 11843 Aire Ct. St Louis MO 63138 (314) 741-1022
Mike French 861 Chestnut Oak St Charles MO 63303 (314) 940-9365	Jim Vassalli 5520 Grant Place St Louis MO 63116 (314) 353-7661
Derek Green Boeing S270-4265 (314) 234-0967 (work)	Dan Woerner 301 Prospect St. Louis MO 63110 (314) 533-0290 (work)
Mel Heffron 2015 S. Levis Lane Godfrey IL 62035 (618) 466-5487	John Wuebbeling 953 Millwood Dr. St Peters MO 63376 (314) 928-3268
Bill Henderson 206 Kirk Dr. St Louis MO 63135 (314) 522-3453	
Steve Hollingsworth 7373 Shephard Dr Barnhart MO 63051 (314) 942-3546	
Zoltan Horvath 4271 Glendale Rd House Springs MO 63051 () 671-1102	
Ted Hoyer 709 Greely Ave. Webster Groves MO 63119 (314) 968-4506	