

Peashooter

The Newsletter of the Norton Owners Club - Surrey Branch

www.surreynoc.org.uk

Issue 1 September 2008



"I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members".- Groucho Marx

Why do people join clubs? Clearly Groucho didn't fancy it! - yet thankfully for the majority of us we're social animals. The picture on the left tends to sum it all up: Dick's Frank's and my Commando's - Little John's beautiful Dominator, Alan's old Venom and Tim's Scooter outside an old Surrey Pub. Tim get's ribbed mercilessly of course but he's a delightful chap and we're all hopeful that he passes his test soon... Good company, friendly banter, technical assistance and shared riding experience on our Pride and Joy. Rides out, Real Ale -

This is the sort of experience that you can't buy at Tescos. But now you can sample it by coming along to the Royal Oak in Leatherhead on the last Monday evening in each month. We don't want a club which talks interminably about rules and regulations, where people are criticised because their bike is dirty or because they might have something better to do one night ... Let's make the new branch a friendly place where new members are made welcome and the talk is about life, and love, humour and beer and of course - Nortons!

Didn't the Marx brothers ride a motorcycle in Duck Soup? - It was probably a Harley but we wouldn't discriminate! - PW



Blast Off!

Welcome to the first issue of "Peashooter", the Newsletter of the Surrey Norton Owner's Club! The County hasn't had it's own branch for many years and if you enjoy old bikes, particularly of course - Norton's, this is your chance to get involved in your own local club.

Why 'Peashooter'? well apart from the famous Commando Exhaust - the music from which, got me involved in Nortons many years ago, I hope it can fire a gentle salvo at our world in a humorous, readable way which encourages comment and debate from club members. We're interested in your views about how the Newsletter (and Club) should develop! So why not join in the fun? - PW (Editor)

Blast Off	1
I dont care.....	2
Riding Again	2
The Peashooter Guide	3
New WebSite	3
News & Views	4
Adverts	4

Riding Again...

A

fter an early April weekend of house and yard work, I got out to the garage late on the Sunday afternoon to have a go with my Norton. The day was clear and sunny, but as the sun dropped low it rapidly cooled from a high around 60 F. I was a little worried about how the Commando would start and run. After my last ride in late October I had not done a thing except to throw a cotton bed sheet over it to keep dust and condensation at bay. I strongly believe every bike deserves an oil change before storage, but typically I get home from the last ride of the season half-frozen and the sun is going down and my wife has a hot dinner ready and a glass of wine and hot shower seems like a really good idea compared to rolling around on the floor in my garage looking for the drain plugs. And maybe there will be a warmer day next weekend and I'll do it then. But too often that doesn't happen, so once again my Commando was not properly winterized. The best I had done was, very occasionally, to brave the ice and cold to venture out and push the kick starter through once or twice, hoping to keep that old dirty oil from congealing in solid clumps.

So with an anxious mix of hope and doubt, I put on light boots and leather jacket, got gloves and helmet ready, swung the starter slowly through one stroke, and then turned the key. The voltmeter showed only 10.5 volts. Uh-oh, that could be trouble. The battery is only two years old, but I keep my only battery tender on my Honda. With electric start only, the Honda really needs that good battery. How would the cold, neglected Norton respond? Only one way to find out. Set full choke, tickle both carbs until fuel flows out. Raise up the right hip, KICK! Barra-vroom, two cylinders fire immediately, the garage echoes with that beautiful pulsing beat and the bike shakes back and forth on the center stand. Thank you, Lucas Rita ignition and Mike Gaylord sleeved Amal carbs. Ooops, what about the tires?

Back off the choke, flip the throttle lock on, set the twist grip for an 1800 rpm fast idle. Get the tire pressure gauge, check both tires, 30 psi all around, good to go. Jacket zipped, helmet on, gloves on, off the stand, on board, clutch in, first gear, off down the driveway, turn into the street, roll on some real throttle.

This is the magic moment. The longer it has been since my last ride the more amazing it always seems. Any motorcycle has a bit of the untamed beast about it, but a 36 year old British twin communicates a little more message of barely controlled violence than your latest model, fuel injected, counter balanced, computerized wonder wheels. Yet, and this is what astonishes and inflates me so much, I am in control, by keeping my wits about me I do control the wild machine, and oh boy, the things I can do! I roll off, swerve back and forth in my lane to feel the flow of my body steering and the bike responding, then hustle up on the my first corner laying hard into the brakes, the strong pull of deceleration almost as exciting as the acceleration of a moment ago.

After that it is up the road to the grocery store and stuffing oranges and bread in the saddlebags. Yes, I had a useful excuse for the ride, but no, I did not go to the nearest store. I did see 75 mph in a 45 zone, oops, the temptation is so hard to resist. Stop for fresh gas in the nearly empty tank, and that seems to be my spring tune up. Boy that wind is cold, glad I

am going home now, this temperature calls for full long underwear, leather pants, fleece liners, balaclavas, all that stuff I left home for being too much to bother with on this short zip.

In the lingering wind and cold of March in upstate New York, it can seem to be against all odds, but with the earth's inevitable wisdom, spring has come. And I am back

in my game, knowing that when conditions and time allow I'll be riding and riding again, life is good, life is real, my motorcycle runs well and I'll never get old.

Ben English - Albany New York

Reprinted with thanks to Frank Palmeri, Editor "Fourth Gear", newsletter of the Tri-State Norton Riders, the metropolitan NY City chapter of the International Norton Owners Association and to Ben English for the picture of his nice '72 Combat.

"I do realise its not Spring but reading this, the clouds parted for a while! - Ed



The Peashooter Guide

September

5/6/7th - **"Bike 'n' Beer Fest"** on 5th, 6th, 7th September 2008 in aid of Help for Heroes - The Royal Oak - Leatherhead - SNOC Members Meet at 12.30pm on Saturday - Colin 01372 807670

12th/13th **Netley Marsh Eurojumble** opens 9pm Near Southampton, Hants on the A336 between Cadnam & Totton Admission GBP7.00

Saturday 13th **Brighton Speed Trials**, Madeira Drive Brighton (where else?) Peter 07768 734200 (See Page 4 for more details!)

Sunday 14th September 2008 **THE 15th ANNUAL ACE CAFE REUNION** - The Brighton Burn Up & Ride With The Rockers, has been an integral part of Ace Cafe Reunions since 1996, and is a free, grand day out at the seaside on Brighton's famous seafront road, Madeira Drive. With trade and club stands, displays, live music and special guests, it's an experience not to be missed! - Peter -07768 734200

16th - **Thames Valley Club Night** at The Cricketers, Hayley Green - We're going to see how they do it! - Peter 07768 734200

29th September **Surrey NOC Club Night** - 8.00pm Our Launch Meeting with Special Guests from the NOC - Be there or be square! The Royal Oak - Leatherhead - Colin 01372 807670, Peter 07768 734200



October

Sunday 5th 9.30am **Big Brekky** at the Royal Oak Leatherhead with maybe a ride out afterwards? Colin/Tina 01372 807670,

Saturday October 18th **Kempton Park Autojumble** - 10.00am Kempton, Surrey Admission GBP5 - Peter - 07768 734200

Sunday 26th October - **South of England - Real Classic Motorcycle Show** - South of England Showground - Ardingly, West Sussex (15mins from Gatwick) - Peter 07768 734200



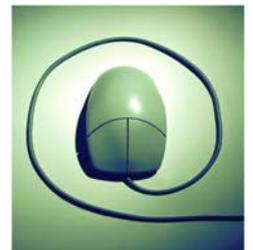
27th October Surrey Club Night - 8.00pm **Club Meeting** with Special Guest Speaker - The Royal Oak - Leatherhead - Colin 01372 807670,

Peter 07768 734200

New website for Surrey NOC!

Now you can go online for all the Gen on the Club at the New Surrey NOC Website - Check it out at www.surreynoc.org.uk.

Built by Acting Club Chairman Peter, the site should be up and running shortly with pics of all our Bikes, Stories, Free downloads, useful links and lots more. Let him know what features you'd like to see when you go surfin'. Call him at 07768 734200



Ace Cafe Reunion

The Ace Cafe London's 70th anniversary and Ace Cafe Reunion weekend kicks off on the Friday September 12th at 6pm with a bike night, live music and DJs. Saturday starts at 7am with breakfast, then ride out at noon to the London Motorcycle Museum. Awards for best café racers are presented back at the Ace at 2.30, with the new Ace Café Racer appearing at 4pm. Live music all day and into the evening. Sunday features another 7am start with a run to Brighton leaving the caff at 10.30am. Prizes, displays and attractions at Brighton seafront including the 59 Club, Triumph, Yamaha and BMW bikes plus Brooklands, the VMCC, Busy Bee Club, BMRC and more. See www.ace-cafe-london.com for more details.



5 Nortons at Brighton Speed Trials

On Sunday 13th September this year there are 5 Nortons competing in the quarter mile sprint down Brighton Seafront. Cars and bikes of all shapes and sizes fill every inch of Madeira Drive, near Brighton Pier for the National Speed Trials. Arguably the oldest motoring competition in the UK, the Brighton Speed Trials are a feast for the eyes of any petrol head. The event dates back to 1905 when Madeira Drive was resurfaced with the then-new tarmac material for the first speed trials to take place.



Booked to compete are:-

301 BOB ANDERSON	COTTON-JAP 500cc
302 FRANK CLARKE	BROOKLAND NORTON500cc
303 GARY CUNNINGTON	NORTON SS 650cc
304 BRIAN CURTIS	NORTON INTER 500cc
305 PAUL GREGORY	TRITON 500cc
306 MALCOLM HERWIN	DOUGLAS DT5 498cc
307 CHRIS ILLMAN	AJS 7R 350cc
308 MARK ILLMAN	RUDGE 500cc
309 JOHN LANDRIDGE	NORTON ATLAS 749cc
310 RICHARD MORGAN	RUDGE SPRINTER 499cc
311 ALLEN RANDALL	DUCATI MK3 249cc
312 TED READING	TRITON 650cc
313 ROY ROBERTSON	EGLI VINCENT 1272cc
314 SIMON WEBB	NORTON CS1 490cc
315 JOHN YOUNG	TRI/ JAP 500cc
321 WILF KELTON	AJS 7R 348cc

For Sale & Wanted

Need to Clear up the Shed? - Members can advertise here for free! E-Mail me at ads@surreynoc.org.uk See Example Adverts below:-



2003 Honda VTR Firestorm Red only 26 miles on the clock - hardly ever dropped (..recently) - maintained in unbelievable Condition by 'Collins of Morden' - MOT and Tax (I think) Call Doc Halliday (Cont. P94)

Collins of Morden

Don't let any DIY bodger butcher your Pride and Joy! Leave it to a professional!
Contact us today! (Cont.P94)



STAFF WANTED
Bar Person and Washer-up needed



-Free Bike Parking - No wages but possibility of tips and the occasional wet (water) Contact the Guvnor in the Rub-a-dub-dub (Cont. P94)

BLR Engineering

Let us look after your small engineering work - Excellent Quality and fantastic Value- Norton Cylinder Heads and Valve Guides a speciality - 143 Hershman Road, Hershman, Surrey KT12 1RR. Call Ian at:01932 224601 orCheck out our website at: www.blrengineering.co.uk

