



Northumbria Branch Newsletter *March 2013*

**This is the newsletter you never wanted to get!
Why?
Because it asks for more money than a Newsletter ever
asked for before!**

Well, why not get it all over now, and pay everything in one go and make the branch RICHHHH!!

The first thing you have to pay is the branch Sub. It has gone up by 30% (Shock, Horror!). At the AGM members were asked if they wanted newsletters by e-mail or by real mail on real paper. Since postal costs have gone up so much, e-mail would save a lot. They said, “keep sending them by mail. And – put up the subs to £6.50”. So you now owe £6.50! And it is subscription time! But that is not all – not at all – because –

The next thing is the National Rally (2-5 Aug 2013, Morpeth Rugby club).

We talked about possible concessions to branch members who helped set up the rally – but who helped? and how much? And who may help next? So everyone said, lets just pay the full rally fee. If the rally makes a profit we’ll have a “beano”. So the full rally fee is £25. You can use as little or as much of the rally as you like, but you get all the rally events, up to 3 nights camping. You still have to buy meals, sandwiches, etc. AND beer!

The next thing you have to pay for is a rally T-shirt. Only, here you do get a special deal - £5.00 instead of £9.70 cost price. Why? – because we want you to wear a green one (the normal ones are black). This way visitors can recognise branch members if they want any help or advice. Order them now! The order form is attached.

You can just pay the branch sub of £6.50, now, and the rest later, but if you pay the lot, then it really helps cash flow – we may get rally bills in before we have collected enough rally subs to pay them! Also you will have booked your place. If you just turn up on the day and the rally is full, then sorry, its full – we are saying the same to the others - - we’ll miss you dreadfully, but ---

Look in the following pages for a rally booking form, and the explanation that goes with it. It also gives T-shirt sizes etc.

PAY BY CHEQUE: DO NOT BOOK ON- LINE! This way we save the 5% handling charge by Visa/paypal. Anyhow there are no concessions on the on-line booking form. There are on this one. It’s better! Send cheques to ME!!!! (Address at end), Made out to: “Norton Owners’ Club, Northumbria Branch Rally AC”

That’s enough grasping! - what else? - -

Well, the main conclusions from the AGM, apart from the above are:

- Bob, Simon John keep their old jobs.
- Because the bank accounts need 2 signatures and because Simon is mostly not here, and John and Bob are away quite a lot, we could get stuck not being able to pay a cheque. So we created a new sinecure: Alan is now “Assistant Treasurer” and we are getting him set up as a signatory for cheques.
- There was a general interest in starting branch meetings earlier. So it now says 8 p.m. on the web site. But it would be nice if someone really was there from 8 p.m, to greet any visitors.
- Committee meetings will be summarised in the subsequent newsletters.
- Branch ride-outs to continue – Wednesday evening following the club night. Start at the “shoes”, 6.30 pm. Ride includes a pub break – food if you want it.
- Christmas club night to be Thurs 19th Dec. Members accepted they would have to pay a higher food price, (£6.50 was likely), though if we make a bomb on the rally, we can have a “beano”
- List of local events from Morgan’s Guide. Too much work to put together. It is not expensive to buy. Look up www.morgansyearbook.co.uk, or you can phone them on 01347 878198

Web site: Look up nortonownersclub.org.

Click on “branches”. A map appears. Click on Geordieland. The branch web site appears. At the foot of the text on the first page, or at the top left, click on a link: “National Rally”. Loads of Bullshit appears. Or you can click on “Bikes”. Maybe more shortly.

Then there is our own programme for the season: it looks like this.

Holiday Weekend 4-6 May. Camp or bunk house at Demesne farm Bellingham. There seemed no real interest at the Agm, but the Sec. (me) said he intended to go. Then Davie said he’d go – so we decided to put it in the programme anyhow. Maybe someone else will come too. . (Your sec will probably stop the Sat and Sunday nights, arriving early-ish on the Saturday). What’s on offer:

- Folk festival (The Bellingham “Baafest”) <http://www.baafest.co.uk/>.
- Enfield owners club have an annual camp on the same site. They are happy for us to join them. And there are super rides out on both sides of the border. (I had a great one last year)

If using the bunk house, you need to book - <http://demesnefarmcampsite.co.uk/>

Sunday 12th May: We’ve moved the Clive Taylor Memorial Run to this date. September was getting too crowded. So it won’t be heather. But Clive loved wild flowers so we’ll go and look for bluebells. Departing from the “Shoes” 9.30, with meal back at the “Shoes” 1 pm for those who want it. (Please let your sec. know in advance if you plan to stay for the meal so we can book).

15th-17th June. Wooler camping weekend. With free BBQ! Starting BBQ early so day visitors can ride home. Highburn House site :

Please be ready to present your NOC membership, or at least be on a Norton, or if neither, tell me (John) in advance if you are coming so the camp site is expecting you. Report in at the entrance. Site is at the North end of the town. If coming from the South there is a sign at the top of the main street. From North, small lane to right shortly before entering Wooler, with “Highburn House” sign. .

21st July: Otterburn show.

This show raises funds for the Northumbria air Ambulance and “Help for Heroes”. There is a huge programme of events. See www.otterburnfestival.com. We will put up a Norton gazebo.

We get in for nowt because we are exhibits (if you come as a visitor, you pay. - £10 last year). But for that we are asked arrive before the 10 a.m opening and to stay to 4.00 so we be on display to the paying public. – and to maybe ride the bikes round the ring and talk about them. The branch will be there on the Sunday, but the show is open on the Saturday too. We need lots of interesting bikes.

Camping from midday Friday – free to exhibitors. If non-exhibitor, just make a donation. Or do it anyhow. Food etc at the Mill or the show (day) or you’ll have to look in the village in the evening . The down side: The show must avoid claims from ambulance chasers. So there is pre-registration. **So please give your sec. your entry form before 15 June (Form enclosed)**. TO MEEE! Not to Wesley Turnbull, as on the form, but a self-addressed envelope would help . NB If you are camping, put it on the form. Let’s hope for no mud this year.

2-5 Aug: NOC National Rally hosted by ourselves, at Morpeth Rugby club.

13-15 Sept: Joint camp with Tayside and Edinburgh branches. Venue still being discussed with the Scots. Further info in due course. Choice seems to be between Salutation Inn (as before), or at Moffat.

29th Sept (Sunday) Kamtrek – competition and exploration, this year run by Simon Hadden, who many of you may know.

A plea for Kamtrek:

Kamtrek is an event open to all, but the branch has participated for well over 10 years, and maybe 20. It used to be organised by the “Seaton Sluice Geriatric Hell’s Angels”, but it has moved around. Recently NOC and Northumbria Advanced motorcyclists have been the main participants. But attendance has been getting dangerously thin. This is a thoroughly enjoyable event, and a great way to end the season. But it is a case of “use it or lose it”. And if “Lost” it will probably be gone for good. Yes, if you win, you have to organise next year’s! But that can be fun too! And the more people who join, the less your chances of winning!
So- the message is: Support Simon Hadden!!! and come to Kamtrek!!!

A note from Don Richards:

Don is very interested in the restoration and maintenance of the only flying Vulcan Bomber left. Among other things, it carried out the attack on the Port Stanley airfield in the Falklands war. It lives at Robin Hood International Airport (Don’t get on the wrong ‘plane for your holiday flight). You can see more on <http://www.vulcantothesky.org/>. Is anyone interested in an outing to visit this emblematic, adjectival machine? Contact Don – or me –

Invitation to talks at NAM (Northumberland Advanced motorcyclists)

Michael Sutherland came as a guest to the AGM, and invited us to come as guests to talks being held by NAM, free of charge.

Web site: <http://nam-online.org/>

The next talks, at the Wheatsheaf, by Callerton Parkway Metro Station, 1900 for 1930 start, are:

9th April: Derek Proctor and Geoff Toscano: “Touring Inland Spain”

14th May: Steve Brown from BMW, “Riding the new BMW GS at the launch in Marrakesh”

The rest of this newsletter more or less wrote itself – just “cut and paste”. But things have been happening and machines appearing: cut and paste ever onwards - - -

From Ian and Joyce Crooks

I just thought that I would update you as to what we have been up to last year.

Our Commander left to join the Lothian branch of the NOC in August following the previous departure of our much loved Panther via the Stafford Show in April. Acquired in July last our latest steed in the form of a Ural Dalesman, not new but in mint condition and huge fun to

drive, see photo.

Now a story. At Peel campsite during the Manx week we bumped into a gentleman from Sunderland heading for the gents. The usual greetings including 'what are you on' ? etc. Well, having just sold the Commander the week before and the Model 7 still losing lots of ergs we decided not to bring her over but to use the buses, trains and trams, great fun. John says, it's a cast head & barrel isn't it, I know where there's a spare at Herrington. So we arranged for John to speak to the garage as he was going back first and having obtained their phone No. When we got back, we arranged to go down and buy the barrel to replace our damaged one. No probs deal done but on the way, called in at Bro in Law John for lunch who lives at Harraton. John has been into bikes all his life and it turns out that he gets all his MOT's done at Herrington, small world is it not.

So the Model 7 is on the bench just now getting a boiler refit and will be ready for testing by next week or as soon as they stop dumping salt on the roads around here. Joyce and I will be available to help at the National so count us in with the other slaves. I'll send Simon a fiver to keep in the loop and thanks for all the newsletters, very informative and great fun.

All the best
Ian & Joyce



(You can see Ian's Norton on the branch web site – “And God said, ‘Let there be Nortons’”

Next:

Dear Branch Secretary,

My apologise for not sending an individual e-mail to you all ...

I am placing this ad in Roadholder (unfortunately not until March) but would it be possible to forward this request to your members locally please as I would prefer to find a machine through the club if at all possible

Wanted

Norton ES2, will consider any year and condition ...

Send details to David Henshaw - david@digitaldiving.co.uk

Look forward to your assistance

Best regards David Henshaw david@digitaldiving.co.uk T. 0034 971 358594 M. 0034 636 885085

And news and pics from Dave Wardle:

A few photographs of my new bike(s)! If you want to use them in the website/newsletter please feel free.

Spot the difference with the 850 commando (electric start) courtesy of Derek Turnbull my old bike is 'modernised'. I can't seem to get the electric start working though.

The dommie is from the 'Fraser' restoration workshop of course. Speedo now has a fresh start in life!

Best Regards

Dave

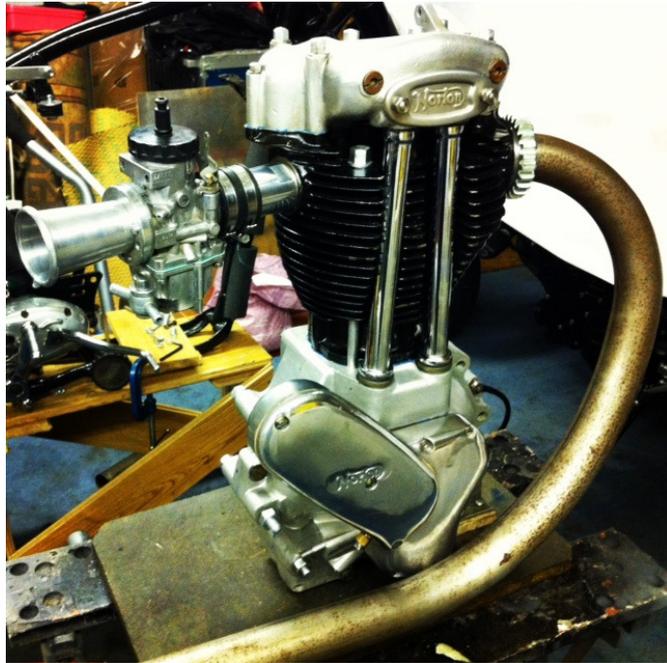
(Dave, the bikes are now on the branch web site! – one or both for Otterburn?)



And from John Park

Hello John,

Well the engine has now come back from Morpeth (Richard), so that's one less excuse. You'll notice that the carb is not quite standard, as are a few of the internals. I would hope to get it on the road this year, but as there are quite a number of parts that I am still missing, that maybe a little over optimistic.



Happy riding in 2013!!
John



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