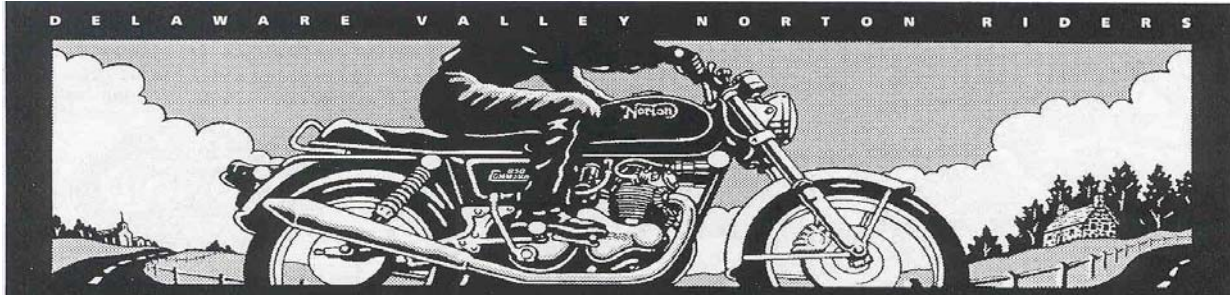


JULY 2008

RALLY EXTRAVAGANZA

1984 - Twenty-Four Years - 2008



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome INOA! – Wellsboro, PA
Photo – Blair Chapman

It is 2 months since the conclusion of the finest National Rally in the history of the INOA. Perhaps a bit of hubris on my part but what the hell, why can't I boast about our club, our members and friends!?

I have been suffering a serious case of writer's block with regards to creating this issue of the DVNR Newsletter which is my excuse for it's delayed issuance – not sure why, since of all issues this should be the most fun one of all to create since it's going to be long on images and short on story line! More along the line of 'let the pictures tell the story'.

This issue is a celebration of a successful event that was more than 2 years in the planning and a testimonial to the event and the people involved.



Editor and the '73 Norton
Photo – Chris Grimmett

This story begins in my garage the month prior to the National. Having purchased the '73 750 in May, 2007, Old Yeller languished in my garage as a non-runner with a short list of to-dos until this late spring when Motivation kicked in (I looked at the calendar). I had promised availability of OY to both Alan Goldwater and Chris Grimmett. Alan lives in Santa Cruz, CA and is the INOA VP. Chris lives in Cheshire, England and is Chairman of the NOC. Both were flying into the Philadelphia area the week before the event. While Alan quartered at

his sister's home in Quakertown, Chris was our house guest for two nights prior to and after the rally.

Long story short on OY – front braking system was rebuilt; phantom electrical ground was identified and rectified by installing new ground wire (rear fender assembly relies on a bolted connection for the ground path – the frame had been repainted), kick-starter shaft oil seal replaced; carbs cleaned; replaced aftermarket quick action throttle with OEM Amal throttle/cable assembly (thanks Rick), and the carbs tuned (again thanks Rick).

All the above were addressed, insurance secured, and registration obtained in time to load both Nortons on the trailer early Saturday morning July 19.

Side bar story – Friday afternoon, July 18 – Chris, Alan, and I head to Norristown to meet up with Ed Pologruto and Steve Belliveau who is a close friend of Ed's. Steve was instrumental in obtaining the tent for our use at the rally.



Saturday morning heading west on I-80
Photo: C. Grimmett

The challenge was 'how do we get this very large tent to Ives Run?' A very large tent in this instance measures 40' by 100' consisting of 5 fabric panels in separate canvas bags and a set of 20' aluminum poles to support the center peaks. 'Call Penske' was the answer. The 24' mover was already loaded with the tent when your editor and Chris drove it back to Langhorne while Alan drove the family car up to Quakertown.

Fast forward to Saturday morning – departed the Norum hacienda around 9 with Tari and Chris in the Yukon with Nortons in tow, your editor driving the Penske complete with 'air chair'. The 'air chair' is a devious device – too much air pressure in the snubbers and 'to the moon Alice!' when encountering a bump in the road. The seat required some fine tuning before finally finding the sweet spot. Via cell phone communication, Alan caught up to our convoy north of Quakertown on the Turnpike Northeast Extension.



Nortons in tow heading west
Photo: Editor

Our Saturday departure to the rally was dictated by our reservation for a 28' RV rental which had to be picked up before 1 pm that day just east of Williamsport.



Good Karma – 11,111.1 miles
Photo: Editor

Saturday afternoon and evening was spent setting up our camp/RV site at Ives Run and meeting up with early arrivals. A real surprise occurred when offloading the '75 Norton. Lo and behold, the bike's odometer

read 11,111.2 miles. Up on the centerstand, engage top gear, reverse rotation of the rear wheel resulted in 11,111.1 miles – so there you go.

Sunday early afternoon was the long awaited event – the raising of the tent. Ed arrived with Steve Belliveau who would supervise and assist in erecting the Big Tent.

The corners were marked and the process began.



Mail Call! – Oops - Tent Call!
Photo: C. Grimmatt

Did I mention Sunday afternoon was in the low '90s with plenty of sunshine?



Kevin – aka 'Mr. Muscles' – pounding the pins into the hard ground
Photo: C. Grimmatt

Our only concern with the tent raising was sufficient manpower – would we have enough volunteers to get the job done before the forecasted storm hits later that afternoon?



1, 2, 3 PUSH! The first of 3 poles goes up.
Photo: C. Grimmatt

Steve predicted we would have the tent erected in 4 hours. We did it in 3 – good thing we did 'cuz the high winds and heavy rain hit 20 minutes later!



Quite the accomplishment!
Photo: Editor



Registration during the Sunday blow – Treasurer Diane appears unconcerned
Photo: Editor

The tent survived the rain squall just fine but the folks over at Registration were scrambling for ballast to hold down the stacks of rally flyers, brochures, registration forms it was a madhouse!

Monday dawned clear and pleasant. Registration opened on time and stayed open throughout the day. DVNR club members checked in for their assignments.

Our RV was right off the main road through the campsites and it was tough trying to focus on a number of chores that needed to be done with the constant stream of Rally attendees passing by on the way to their sites.



Michigan Norton Owners staging area
Photo: C. Grimmert

The folks from Michigan were up and about early Monday morning prepping the machines for the first ride of the day.



Don Raulin, NCNO, caught in the lens
Photo: C. Grimmert

And by the time we fired the BBQ Monday evening for the CONO/NONO sponsored hot dog and hamburger eating contest, some folks were simply ecstatic just to be there.



Those irrepressible Canadians!
Photo: C. Grimmert

Our grill for cooking dogs and burgers was delivered by Mr. Harlan whose restaurant and catering business in Wellsboro would later prepare and serve the Thursday evening dinner – which was excellent in all regards.



Cooking on one end of a very long grill!
Photo: C. Grimmert

The grill on the other hand was a classic case of overkill – a 20' long hand built grill for BBQ'g 200 chickens at one time! The grill was coated with so much chicken fat that the sides caught on fire.



Frank Delmonte and Walt Branham looking bemused at the fire raging at the other end
Photo: C. Grimmert



Bertrand Haenggi and Serge Cote living the good life

Photo: C. Grimmett

Tuesday was the day of the guided tour to Watkins Glen International Raceway combined with a catered lunch lakeside in town. Bob & Linda Williams, owners of Canyon Vista MC Tours in Wellsboro, coordinated the event.



Linda Williams handling registration on Tuesday morning for Watkins Glen

Photo: Editor

Bob, Linda, and their crew did a professional job in preparing and providing a wonderful and exciting event.



Bob Williams explaining rules of the road

Photo: Bud Voorhees

By prior arrangement, Bud Voorhees, friend of the Williams and local photographer, documented the event on CD for purchase. How cool was that?!



The road to Watkins Glen

Photo: Bud Voorhees

An hour into the ride, the group stopped for coffee and snacks at a pre-arranged locale.



Mid-morning refreshment break

Photo: Bud Voorhees

Moments before preparing to depart our rest stop, the local Methodist Minister stopped by and gave a blessing to the bikes and riders. The one thing she didn't mention was the weather! The rain hit minutes after leaving town.

The rain intensified as we headed in the direction of the racetrack. My greatest concern was that track management would cancel our track time. We arrived at the track, dismounted, and had the required safety orientation under the grandstand as water dripped on us from the structure above our heads. Not to fear, we were told to get our gear back on and stage at the entrance onto the track.

Due to the size of our 50 plus strong group, we left Ives Run earlier that morning in two separate groups. In the same manner, we entered onto the track as two groups each with its own pace vehicle.

Bob Williams led the first group onto the track piloting his Honda Goldwing followed by your humble editor and the rest of the first wave.



Rain? What rain?
Photo: Bud Voorhees

The heavy rain, punctuated by numerous lightning bolts added a great deal of drama as we lapped the track.



DVNR's Chip Menz having a grand time!
Photo: Bud Voorhees

The rain theme continued to color the ride from the track to downtown WG. Fortunately the sun god came out while we were drying out inside over lunch.

The post lunch ride was a riding tour of the 1948 GP public road course with a stop at Cornett's stone bridge. In the 1948 Junior Prix, Denver Cornett flipped his MG into the creek. He rolled it over, borrowed parts from

his fellow competitors and was ready to race in the Grand Prix, finishing 7th.



Riding in the rain with black leather gloves
Photo: Bud Voorhees

Mr. Cornett's son, Denny, was along on the ride and told his side of the story from his family's perspective.



The road went that away and Dad went the other way
Photo: Bud Voorhees

Bob Williams gave a fine telling of the story of the first road race run in the US since before World War II.



Bob Williams - Cornett's bridge in background
Photo: Editor

Tuesday evening was Bike Night in downtown Wellsboro. The event was hosted by Randy Luckenbill, owner of the Frog Hut.



Tuesday Bike Night in Wellsboro
Photo: Bud Voorhees

The weather was perfect Tuesday evening for the event which was well attended by both Nortoneers and locals.



Jim & Karen Noll from NYS & Nathan Kimble from Georgia
Photo: Bud Voorhees

There were numerous sightings of DVNR members lurking about on Bike Night.



DVNR's irreplaceable Tony Morgano
Photo: Editor

Bob Oswald gave a tech session Wednesday morning on his primary and final belt drive conversions.



Bob Oswald explaining the finer points to Chris Grimmett, NOC Chairman
Photo: Editor

Field events were held Wednesday afternoon in the big field next to the tent. The Michigan Norton Owners were kind enough to plan and run the games. Weather was wet right up to starting time – then the sun came out. Those Wolverines went to work and set up in record time.



The wet rainsuit contest run by the MNO
Photo: C. Grimmett

Wednesday evening's chicken BBQ dinner was followed by live music provided by the **White River Band**

photo: Editor



At some point during the rally Tari was overheard saying the rally was all work and no play. Spy photos reveal the true story.



**INOA Prez & Membership Secretary
at off-site meeting**
Photo: Russell Johnson

Here's another spy photo of a senior leadership team building exercise Wednesday under the big tent.



The Nortie Girls
Photo: Russell Johnson

Thursday morning was supposed to have dawned sunny and warm for the group ride through Wellsboro to the west rim of Pine Creek Canyon. Instead of sun, heavy rain was pounding the area forcing the decision to cancel the ride.



Night time? Nope, 11 am Thursday
Photo: Chris Grimmert

Some stalwart riders rode off on their own rather than surrender to the rain god. As group leader, my primary consideration was the safety of the riders – there was no way we were going to go riding en masse in heavy rain with limited visibility.

Wouldn't you know it? By noontime, the sun was out and the roads drying off. A few of us were lingering about rally central and decided to do an ad hoc group ride to the west rim. Fun is where you find it.



Definitely not the Nortie Girls – West Rim
Photo: Lisa Lutwyche

After a quick photo session it was back to Ives Run for the mid-afternoon concours followed by the awards banquet.



Concours Thursday afternoon
Photo: Editor

'Norton twins' was the theme since there was a distinct lack of early Norton singles at the event.

The weather held until dinner when the rain made another pass. Fortunately the tent was large enough for everyone including the

caterers to stay under cover. Another great meal – we ate well that week.



DVNR's Kathy Gehrhardt calling the numbers for door prizes
Photo: Editor

unspoiled view of the campground, lake, and the big, red tent. Instant memory.



Friday – perfect morning
Photo: Editor

Sorry to see it all end so quickly.



Everyone hoping to hear their number called
Photo: Editor



Goodbye INOA – thanks Norton riders!
The Frog Hut, Wellsboro
Photo: C. Grimmert

The evening went quickly after the dinner plates were cleared. Award presentations were given out by the INOA; field events, concours, and other special class winners, and poker run best 3 hands announced – and more door prizes! (thanks Kathy) DVNR's John Brownell won the Bent Valve Award. That's another story for another issue of the newsletter!

Before I forget, DVNR was awarded INOA Chapter of the Year! Our club earned it the hard way – by actively promoting Nortons and the associated camaraderie for 24 years and counting!

Friday morning is for goodbyes and packing and well, you know packing. I took a quick ride up Rte 287 until I had an

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



Accepting the Chapter of the Year Award
Photo: C. Grimmert

- Bob Norum

'08 RALLY PHOTOS – A FEW MORE

All photos by Chris Grimmert



Di Glover helping a late night arrival



Share the Road with Nortons



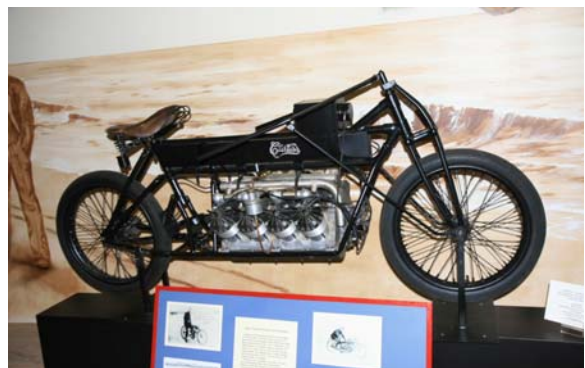
Jim & Lois Evans of Bracebridge Street Depot



Gary & Julie Bolduc of the Colorado Norton Owners



Former INOA Prez Art Bone addressing the Chapter Meeting



Glenn Curtiss Museum, Hammondsport, NY

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

A tremendous thanks to the following members of the rally committee for their dedication and commitment in seeing this rally through to a successful conclusion.

Tari Norum Rally - Chairman/Entertainment
Diane Glover - Registration/Treasurer/Regalia
Charlotte Sellers - Catering/Hospitality
Richard Casey - Concours/Tech Sessions
Dan Sellers - Tech Sessions
Bill Tietjen - Promotion
Bill Waddington - Trophies/Signage
Ron Ettinger - Security & Safety
Richard Collahan & Dave Glover - Road Riding Activities
Kathy Gehrhardt - Door Prizes
Ed Pologruto - Fundraising (and the Big Red Tent)
Pete Gallo - Graphic Design – Rally Shirt (awesome design)

Also, many thanks to members Mike & Desiree Forte, Nick & Lisa Lutwyche, Richard & Anita Colahan, Tony Morgano, Bruce MacPhail, Rosse Butterfield, Sunny Waters, Bob Katz, John Brownell, Hailey Glover, Hunter Norum, and Rick Hill for helping out when called upon!

Thanks to all our INOA friends who not only attended the rally but pitched in when needed.

Finally, let's thank the following INOA Chapters who assisted -

NCNO - preparing an awesome hot breakfast 3 mornings in a row

NYNOA & ONO – providing and making excellent hot coffee every morning

NONO & CONO – providing the victuals for Monday night's cookout

MNO – field events

- Bob Norum

- 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.

- **October 12, Brit Bike Bucks Back Roads Ramble** – Meet at the Oaks Family Restaurant, Rte 611 just north of Plumsteadville, ride departs at 10 am
- **October 18/19, Fall Foliage Rally** – Time & Place TBD.
- **November 16, Monthly Meeting** – Time & Place TBD.
- **Saturday, December 6 or 13 DVNR Holiday Party** - Time & Place TBD.

