

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

21st August 2007



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

National Rally

Total attending the National Rally was 224 booked in and possibly, a few extras snuck in for the day. TV attendance was 13 and we were 2nd largest branch as they didn't count Solent. (*Why not? – Ed*)
Barry Sykes won Best over 500cc for DSV 283 1956 Dominator 99

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Hunstanton Show

Did anyone attend this event - can you provide any pictures or a report for a future edition? Same goes for the National Rally (above) and Norton Day.

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Oil Levels

I have done some investigating into oil levels following our conversation last night (I feel an article coming on ...)

So when is the best time to check the engine oil level?

When it is cold, when it has been running 5 minutes from cold or when it's horribly hot.

Well if you are convinced that your bike does not wet sump and you have given it a good run since the last check then you can check it cold.

The best time is when it is horribly hot. You must never check the oil when it has been running for just a few minutes.

And here is why...

Here is some basic testing; this was done on my 1977 Commando 850 MkIII with 20 / 50 oil.

First take the bike for 30 miles good high speed running, stop the bike and immediately check the oil, if required top it up to the H line on the dipstick. Retire for the night. 20 hours later and with an ambient temperature of 21C recheck the oil; mine had gone down 4mm on the dipstick due to wet sumping. Start bike and allow to tick over slowly, initially oil return to the tank was a good flow as the wet sump is pumped out and soon settles down to a spit and splash. Check oil level regularly, note down lowest level, when it stops going down any further, stop the engine (less than 5 minutes). Measure the distance from H to new oil level (24mm). Using a graduated container, top the oil up to the H line on the dipstick. This took 530ml. Now suck the oil back out to get it back to where it was.

Other bits of info worked out:-

Oil tank capacity is 2.8Litres.

24mm of dipstick = 530ml

H - L on the dipstick = 16mm

so H - L = 353ml

If the oil tank had been checked and filled to the line after running for 5 minutes then the tank would be overfilled by more than 1/2 litre. It would also be an extra inch up the dipstick and no doubt pouring out of the breather into the air filter when the engine is really good and hot.

So where does this 1/2 litre of oil go when the engine is cold? Well it just sticks to all the surfaces, stays in the head, slowly running back down to the sump. It is not until it is really good and hot that it runs straight back down to the sump and then pumps back to the tank.

So, check and top up when it is really hot, not just slightly warm and you should never have a big pool of hot oil pouring out from the tank breather all over the road, and your back tyre.

Note:- The above calculations were done on my bike, with my dipstick, ruler, thermometer, watch and oil. If anyone tries to tell me that the 1972 dipstick was only 13mm between H and L I really do not want to know!

From Tony Ripley following a conversation with Chris Norton.

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Oxford Film Show

When Dick Huurdeman aged 72 and Des Molloy coming up to 60, decided they needed to visit Dick's sister in Arnhem for her 70th birthday celebration they naturally decided to take the bikes - Dick's much modified Norton 19S with the home built front suspension and Des' Panther M120, but to make it a little more interesting they decided to start in Beijing ! The trip took them 78 days, was over 10,000 miles with the last 3000 in a little over a week.

A film of their exploits is being shown in Oxford at the Old Fire Station theatre on Friday 21st September, starting at 8:00. (01865 297170) Tickets are £6.50 each but if we get a block booking of 10 or more this comes down to £6.00

For more details see:-

<http://www.panther-publishing.dsl.pipex.com/lasthurrah.html>

I (Tony Ripley) will be going and could provide transport for 3 others if they are on route or could get to my place by say 6:30

Let me know if you are going to go and would like me to book the tickets for you.

If you can't make the show the trip is available on DVD and/or a book from the publishers at the website above.

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2007 Events

<u>Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar</u>			
Date	Event	Contact	Status
August			
Tues 21 st	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
23 rd – 30 th	2007 International Rally on the Isle of Man - – see <i>Roadholder</i>		Confirmed
Tues 28 th	Manx GP reunion on the Isle of Man		Confirmed
September			
Tues 18 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
October			
Tues 16 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Tony Ripley	Confirmed

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The recent meetup with Solent Branch at Long Sutton was well attended judging from this photograph from Tony.

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