

## DVNR Joins the Triumph National Rally in Oley Pa

**June 25,26,27 - Post Pandemic**

At several DVNR meetings starting before the Covid 19 pandemic there were discussions about our club making a presence at the Triumph National Rally held at the Oley Fairgrounds. In 2020 our “Gathering of the Nortons” had to be canceled because of State meeting restrictions but then the Triumph National Rally suffered the same fate. This year we were hopeful that we would be able to resume the “Gathering” but alas there were no such contracts being given by Washington Crossing Historic Park. At an outdoor meeting held in March, hosted by Bob Katz, we discussed and decided to just ride to the Park unannounced and meet at 11AM to drop some oil, kick tires and chat. Masks would be optional considering that we were outdoors and there would be a limited number of attendees. There was to be NO public announcement. Reservations were made at the Wycombe Public House for lunch as they had sufficient outdoor seating and they always welcomed us in the past. Also at the March meeting there was further discussion regarding the Triumph meet. We decided that DVNR would purchase two vending sites and several members committed to helping to “man” the tables. We would keep the DVNR site open Friday and Saturday. Entry fees (\$10) to the meet would be on each member.

The plan worked well but we were somewhat surprised that there were nearly 100 visitors at the park on various makes of bikes who “dropped by to say hello”. During lunch we continued a discussion we started at the March meeting regarding “T” shirts for the Triumph Rally if we attended. Several preliminary designs were presented and discussed. In general the members present approved the shirt idea but time was getting short. Following the meeting, Pres Dave, Steve Doughty and Tres Dan had many emails to get the shirt design and purchase underway. A big thanks to Steve for seeing this shirt purchase through. A limited number (73) were purchased. The lunch turned out to be a great success unless you count the failure of Steve Doughty’s electric start gear train. The failure was overcome by Steve kicking the beast several times then roaring off to home.

As plans evolved, Pres Dave and Bob Katz decided that they would go to the Rally on Thursday evening to claim our spots and start the set up process. Brian Safer went on Thursday to help in any way he could to set up. Dave set up a tent and camped overnight. Bob Katz had his trailer with two bikes and he stayed in his trailer. Brian went home for the night.

Yours truly left home on Friday morning on a '79 Triumph T140D. Bike was loaded with one old man, fully loaded saddlebags, tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent stake hammer, lanterns, along with towel wash rag, personal kit, 2 changes of clothes walking shoes and a full tank of non-ethanol gas. I struggled with the decision on Triumph or Norton but choose Triumph in hope that perhaps I might get the oldest rider to attend the rally on a vintage Triumph. It worked but just barely.



When I got to the rally things were already busy at the Norton Table. Member Brian Gundry had a vending table right next to us as did Brian Safer on the opposite side. Jack Kimple was keeping things under control at the tables (note Jack's MG in the background). Promoter Al Hartman had given us a premo spot under a large open pavilion. We would be



in full shade and the June breeze was unobstructed. Dave Glover, Brian Safer and myself got busy setting up our tents on the lawn adjacent to the pavilion.

Our club table had our new "Norton" T shirt at a bargain price of \$20. Art of the Bike T's were on sale for \$5. There were various Koozies, Norton cups, some other odds and ends. We sold 3 memberships over the two days. The event was not exactly a marketing success but DVNR made a noteworthy presence.

Members I saw and talked to in addition to those mentioned in this report were Rich Casey who stayed for both days, Bob Gilifillan, Mike and Desiree Fort, Steve Doughty, Don Rank, Mitchel Green camping in another part of the Rally and in good spirits, Rick Hill, Don Kutterbach, Frank Mohr, George Roetenberg, Bob Trent, Tom Weisel and new members Chip Richardson, John Sheldon, and Bob Black, welcome to the DVNR and we hope to see you soon.

On Friday night 6 of us went to the Firehouse dinner run by the Fire Co Auxiliary. The food was good but the experience was trying. The staff were doing the best they could but like every post Covid 19 business they were understaffed. We finally got our meals but it was interesting to see how some of our group got testy Mind you, these are normally calm considerate, rational thinking men. Rally attendees who made the first sitting had an entirely different experience with no complaints.

After dinner we joined other rally attendees watching and listening to Chris Larose's band "The Hex Highway Blues Band" who were on stage. Being more of a doer than a watcher after a while I couldn't contain myself and Ryan Weisel's partner, Ashley, joined me in a retro swing. Ashley turned out to be a great follower!



Saturday turned out to be great day and the foot traffic through the swap meet started early. More sales, more people to talk to and time to visit other vendor's sites. Some of our members who stayed off site at a bed and breakfast started to rejoin our group. We had a visitor who was promoting an updated version of the story of the "Hogslayer". The new film is expected to be



complete by the end of the year. Our “Norton Girls” Des and Ashley are holding the promotional poster for the film. We’ll let you know when we know more.



Ryan Weisel (that’s Ryan second from the Right in the photo) was vending at his usual location next to his friend Randy of Randy’s Cycles in Central Virginia. Ryan’s very original 2 owner 1954 Triumph T100 was a hit of the show. Ryan stated that this machine made several trips to Laconia and one to Daytona. Imagine that, riding a bike to a motorcycle event instead of putting the bike in truck or trailer and taking the bike for a ride. Ryan acquired this bike in 2020 very near his home. At the Saturday evening Banquet Ryan won the top honor for Triumph Motorcycle Enthusiasm. Congratulations Ryan!



This rally was a Triumph event but to honor our club, there was a special category for any Norton. I think all our bikes were put into the show on Saturday. I need to mention as we were taking our bikes to the show we had a moment of excitement when Bob Katz was starting his Norton Combat. In an instant there was a ball of fire surrounding the back of the gas tank. It was extinguished quickly, partly because Jack was on the spot with a bottle of water, and there was no damage. Seems the battery’s charging pig tail ground terminal came in contact with the Norton’s positive frame. We did well at the show. Bob Katz, Brian Safer and David Behnken went to see who won. I stayed by the table. What a surprise when Bob came back and taunted me for not coming since I won First Place in the Triumph class which was the Rally’s Theme. Bob Katz won first place with his ’74 Trident which was sold a few days after the Rally. Bob also got third place in the people’s choice award for his fire salvaged Combat. Brian Safer also received 4<sup>th</sup> place with his great running ’77 Triumph T140.



On Sunday morning there was only Dave Glover and myself left camping. We packed up and made our way home by 7:30AM. A great motorcycle event to end the Covid pandemic!



Photos courtesy of Brian Safer and David Behnken.  
Written and submitted by Dan Sellers – Treasurer

As far as DVNR events go this is what I know at this time.

Sunday July 18 we will meet for lunch at the Tohickon Tavern in Ottsville. Pres Dave suggests that we try to get there when they open a 11AM to get seats.

Saturday August 7 Some of our members plan to attend the “Cars and Motorcycles of England” show at the Hope Lodge in Fort Washington. Perhaps get lunch nearby. Pre Aug 1 entry fee for motorcycles is \$ 10. Information:



<https://www.dvtr.org/cmoe#!event-register/2021/8/7/cars-motorcycles-of-england>

Friday, Saturday, Sunday August 20, 21 22: Chris Owen has invited us back to his cabins on Lake Wallenpaupack for a 1 or 2 night stay. Ride up Friday or Saturday and enjoy Chris’s hospitality. Meals will be on your own at nearby locations. We will be looking for individual confirmations before this event to decide how to proceed.

September 10 – 12. Nations Capital Norton Owners are holding their “Rolling Thunder” Rally at the White Rose Motorcycle Club in Jefferson Pa. Pre registration is now open at NCNO.org. A good number of our members attend this annual event of Norton Owners. Riding a Norton is optional. There is camping on site and accommodations somewhat nearby.



*Geof, I expect you to get a bike ready and join us for this event. You have been hiding much too long. Your Norton could use some exercise and I know you know how to bike camp. PS, there is only one Geof in our club.*

September 19 This is our normal meeting date. We are looking into a potential meeting place. We will provide information when available.

October 8 – 10 Barber Vintage Festival in Birmingham Alabama.

