



A Commando at the Salt Flats

-Jo Teague

Randy Johnson of Sanger, Texas ran his yellow '72 Norton 750 Commando at the 2013 Bonneville Salt Flats Speed Week. He holds the SCTA top speed record of 126.434 mph from Speed Week 2012. He runs #5060 in the 750 P-PP class which is a production frame with a production pushrod engine. It is a stock production bike with minor (not visible) modifications. It is similar to a John Player Special Norton with ~60hp at the wheel and 52# of torque.

Randy and the yellow Norton achieved other records on the way to this year's event.

Ultimately he ran 129.881 at the World Finals last year but was unable to back it up due to high winds and a loose float bowl.

His bike was restored by Steve Adkins of Big D Cycle in 2007, its first year at Speed Week. Big D of

Dallas, Texas is a British bike racing shop: <http://bigdcycle.com/blog/?s=randy>

Steve, Randy's regular crew chief was not available this year so Randy found volunteer Daniel Pierce, a photographer and contributing writer for Motorcycle Classics magazine to help. Dan takes beautiful bike pictures as seen at: <http://www.trickphotog.com/>

Randy hoped to achieve 130 mph this year, but fuel flow problems held him back. He wanted another chance this year, but the salt flats World Finals scheduled for September were canceled due to rain and a flooded track. Randy is a member of the North Texas Norton Owners Association: <http://www.ntnoa.org/Introduction.htm>

The complete story will be published as Salt Flat Commando in the January/February 2014 issue of Motorcycle Classics magazine.

