ROSPA ADVANCED DRIVERS
And **R**iders
North Wiltshire Group
www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk

Secretary: Mrs. Monica E.A.Graham,
114 Marines Drive, Faringdon,
Oxon. SN7 7UG
Telephone 01367 242377
Email; secretary.nwg.roadar@gmail.com

Patron: Her Maiesty the Queen

Newsletter July 2008

News and Information

Congratulations to: -
Glyn our bike co-ordinator on retaining his Diploma Bike Test.
Salah Hayek for gaining Silver in his bike test (Dave Hooper Tutor)
Mathew Carlsson gained Gold on his car test Mike Newman (Tutor)
Gerry Teirney Gold Car retest

Welcome to: -
Wendy Rose, a car associate to the group.

Hi Viz Zipped Vest & T shirts
We have these available to buy at the monthly meetings. White T shirts £10, Hi Viz Vests £15 both with our logo on. Please ask a Committee Member. I am hoping to order more of these but changing the T Shirt to a navy polo shirt again printed with a logo for £16

Comment from Mathew Carlsson
Just a note on the article 'Can This be Legal'. Since April 2007 safety camera partnerships can now site safety cameras anywhere they want, and they don't have to be visible to motorists. Hence the reason why North Wales Police are hiding cameras in horseboxes. I believe Scotland has been trialling cameras in the cats eyes on the road. I'm happy to say that for the moment the Wiltshire and Swindon Safety Camera Partnership are sticking to the old rules, putting cameras where there have been deaths and serious injuries and keeping them visible

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are all held at Liddington Village Hall opposite the church.

There is no meeting in August. Instead we have arranged to meet at Haynes Motor Museum. See details under events.

Monday 8th September 2008, 7.15pm for 7.45pm
Police Traffic Management Officer also involved with Incident Investigation Unit.

Monday 13th October 2008, 7.15 for 7.45pm
Annual General Meeting, Please think about joining the committee. We meet once a month, the more committee members we have helps make the group run smoothly. We will then have a talk

by David Brewer, Clerk to the Justices for Wiltshire. David is an extremely interesting speaker and well worth coming to hear him. Part of the report of his last visit: -

> David started his talk by introducing himself and the relationship within the legal structure. He is actually a barrister. His talk did not have the usual legal emphasis of 'this is the law and you have to follow it'. He questioned several aspects of the way the law had progressed and suggested that some recent events might prove to be a mistake and would need correcting later.

Monday 10th November 2008 7.15 for 7.45pm
Brendon Ball will talk about his trip to Vladivostock on his BMW motorcycle via Canada and Japan, taking dental equipment out to them.. This has to be confirmed when he returns in October. His last talk was fascinating with slides and anecdotes.

Monday 8th December 2008 7.15pm for 7.45pm Speaker to be arranged.

Do you have a Topic you would like discussed or know of an interesting speaker? Please contact Monica by email, or on the phone number above.

Events

We are trying to promote the group in various ways during the year. Help manning stalls would be very welcome. Please contact Monica if you can sparea couple of hours to do this please.

Castle Combe Under 17 Car Club

We have been invited to the Under 17 car club to help promote the group to younger drivers. It would be good to have a Rota of members who would be willing to go with a committee member for 2-3 hours on a Sunday from 10.30am. Food is available from the restaurant there. Dates 1st & 29th June, 27th July, 31st August , 21st – 28th September 19th October and 2nd November.

Wroughton Classic Car Show 2nd/3rd August 2008

We have a stand booked for this for the weekend. Can you help on either Saturday or Sunday please for a couple of hours? **We desperately need help for this.**

Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, nr Yeovil, www.haynesmotormuseum.co.uk

This visit has been set for Saturday 16th August. All welcome including partners. Meet at the museum café at Sparkford at 10.30. Entry £7.50 Senior Citizens £6.50

Pro Drive Banbury 5 00pm, Monday 1st September 2008

Tour last approximately 3 ½ hours. .We will be taken on a tour of the site including the Heritage Centre which has cars from the past 22 years and from the race teams of Aston Martin, Ferrari, also the Subaru World Rally Team. They ask for a £20 donation to one of their chosen charities. If you wish to go send a cheque for £20 to Monica made payable to RoADAR North Wilts Group **no later than 1st August.** This will book your place. 18 is the maximum.

Car Skid Control Course at the Actiondrome, Wroughton Airfield, August

Up to 6 people can participate at one time. I have booked Saturday morning in September 27th Cost £85. If you wish to go please send your cheque made payable to RoADAR North Wilts Group to Monica to confirm your place **before 15th August please**.

Karting at Andover

We thought this might be a fun thing to do. Competition between bikers and car drivers; 21 -31 people £40 each. This has been booked for Saturday 22nd November at 12 45pm To book your place on a first come first served basis please send your cheque made payable to RoADAR North Wilts Group to Monica. Your name on the list is commitment to do this so it means you will have made a note in your diary too. In September it will opened up to friends if we do not have enough response.

Bikers Trip to Scotland – June 08

This was clearly going to be long and challenging trip so there were no pillions on board. The whole trip was ably organised by Geoff Sumerling and Jon Gambles and the participants were Julian Burton, Carl Law, Liz and Tim Read and Dave Hooper, so 6 of us went up to join Jon but very unfortunately we had to leave Geoff in the hands of the hospital in Inverness, so let's deal with this first. Neither Geoff, me (I was riding only three cars behind him) or the witnesses can explain what happened. The important thing is that Geoff has a very positive frame mind and his injuries are repairing (two breaks in his right leg and a broken collar bone). Latest news Geoff hopes to be back at work in August, possibly walking unaided in September.
It is of interest to note that the police who attended the scene were very complimentary on the effective manner in which the incident was managed. In particular the way that Geoff was personally protected and secured with effective traffic management. Could be that the Group's recent First Aid training sessions were useful earlier than expected!

We travelled up to Jon's house in Dunblane on Friday morning and the 420 mile trip really took most of the day. It was great to meet up with Jon and Ann again as they were such active members of the club when they lived down here, they really made us welcome in their home – many thanks. As one would expect after a superb meal at home cooked by Ann we adjourned to a local pub for some well earned refreshment. No it was not quiet, a local duo were singing what I guess were songs, but it was not easy to identify them by name

On Saturday we set off north from Jons at 9.00am. At this stage when I started to prepare this brief write up of the our trip I was struggling with regard to which roads we took from Dunblane because anyone who has visited the highlands of Scotland will know that it's vast with the most wonderful changes in scenery and types and quality of roads. So if anyone is really interested in the precise route I suggest they contact Geoff and Jon because it was brilliant. I had not been further north than Fort William before and that was in a car with our young children and to think we thought that we had seen Scotland in all its glory – how wrong we could be. So my intention here is just to give you a flavour of the route

Throughout the trip we rode a variety of roads from dual carriageways to single track with grass/shingle in the middle and 360 degree bends. From Dunblane we went west of Perth through to Lairg for the overnight stop – a total of 220 miles on some fantastic A roads but also on some very narrow ones. We stayed at a great B&B and there was an amazing coincidence, when our group were gathered in the restaurant having dinner two of my neighbours walked past

the window, when I called to them I'm not sure who was the most surprised me or them. Also just prior to that a secretary from the company where I worked walked into the restaurant for dinner she was actually staying at the hotel

After a great Scottish breakfast we departed Lairg at 9.00am on the Sunday morning and continued north. The minor road up to the north coast at Durness was breathtaking, the road was a car width with magnificent views each side of the road, the main problem was the desire to stop frequently to take photographs. The other issue was the need to keep the fuel topped up whenever we could. We then altered direction by turning south and riding down the west coast which again is spectacular, finishing up at Ullapool for the Sunday B&B. A very pretty fishing and tourist town with ample restaurants to choose from, a well deserved break after the 200 miles clocked up that day

Monday saw us leaving Ullapool hugging the western coast to Gairloch, then through to Fort William, Glencoe and back to Jon's in Dunblane – again great scenery and a warm welcome from Ann. She even sang for us – the choir she belongs to had been singing in Dunblane Cathedral and then agreed to sing in a local pub, which of course we visited but just to give support you understand. The atmosphere was superb due to the singing of course but also the presence of a group of Texans, one complete with a Stetson, who were tracing their ancestors and of course were encouraged to sing along. Another 320 miles clocked up that day

We said our goodbyes and thanks to Ann and Jon on the Tuesday morning and set off for the worst part of the weekend the return journey south mostly on motorway. It's when one sees the sign that Carlisle is 100 miles that you think wouldn't it be better to come up by helicopter!
So enough said about this section, 420 miles got us back to Swindon

Total mileage was c1500

Dave Hooper

From Monica
I have also heard reports that the Police in Scotland were extremely impressed on how well everyone managed the incident, not only taking charge of Geoff's safety, but controlling the traffic and looking after the driver of the car involved. **Thank you all**, it just goes to show how good the first aid training course we held earlier in the year was and also how important it is for all drivers and riders to do such a course. You hope it may never be needed but the training kicks in when you do. So please consider it we hope to arrange another one for the bikers and car drivers later in the year. Contact Monica if you are interested.