



RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders North Wiltshire Group

www.northwiltroadar.co.uk



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Newsletter

November 2008

Secretary:

Mrs. Monica Graham
114 Marines Drive
Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7UG
Tel: 01367 242377
secretary.nwg.roadar@googlemail.com

Dates for Your Diary

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

**Monday 8th December,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Chris Ellis, RoSPA Car Examiner.



**Friday 23rd January 2009,
7.00pm for 7.30pm**
Christmas Meal at The Village Inn, Liddington

**Monday 9th February,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Dennis Cole, Head of Street Smart, Swindon Borough Council

**Wednesday 25th February,
7.30pm**

Chris Gilbert evening.

Do you have a Topic you would like discussed, or know of an interesting speaker? Please contact Monica!

Welcome!

Welcome to the following new members who have joined us recently:

Andrew Wright (bike)
Nick Coates (bike)
Kristan Richmond (bike)
Joseph Fernades (car)



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Gary Stanbridge** who passed his car test with a Gold.

Congratulations also to **Chris Dyer** who passed his bike test with Silver.

Bill Cork and **Bill Reed** both took their re-tests recently too, and both gained Gold – well done indeed!

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 8th December, 2008 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Chris Ellis, RoSPA Car Examiner. Come along and find out what is expected of both Tutors and Associates. He will answer any questions you may have.

January 2009: No monthly meeting instead we have our Christmas Meal!

Monday 9th February, 2009 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Dennis Cole, Head of Street Smart, Swindon Borough Council

Wednesday 25th February, 2009 7.30pm: Chris Gilbert will be coming to give a talk on 'In Car Training' for all Tutors and anyone interested in becoming a Tutor.

Watch this space for more details.

Merchandise

We now have a new Merchandise page on the web site. The following items are available to purchase:

Navy Polo shirts with stitched logo:
£7.50.

White T shirts (with our logo): reduced
to £5

Hi Viz Vests (with our logo): £15

www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk

Events

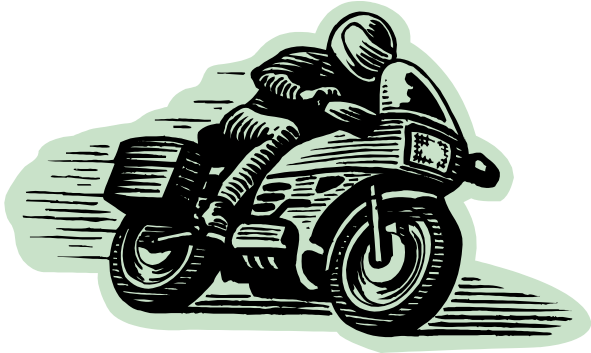


Christmas Meal: Friday 23rd January 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The Village Inn, Liddington. Three Course Meal: £15.95. The Menu is at the end of this newsletter. To reserve your place send your cheque made payable to **RoADAR North Wilts Group to Monica by 20th December. Include your Menu choices please!** This is very popular! Husbands/wives, partners and friends are welcome.



Skid School Wroughton: To be booked for early in the New Year. We have five members interested in this, and would like at least one more for one session. If more people are interested then another course will be arranged. This is a very worthwhile course. Cost is £85 per person (10% discount for 4 or more people). Please contact Monica if you are interested.

First Aid course: Saturday 18th April, 8.45am – 5.00pm. Liddington Village Hall. First Aid Course relating to car accidents. Weather permitting some training will be done outside. Cost £60 to include tea and coffee breaks, lunch and a contribution to the cost of the hall. This is excellent value and well worth doing. Please contact Monica if you are interested.

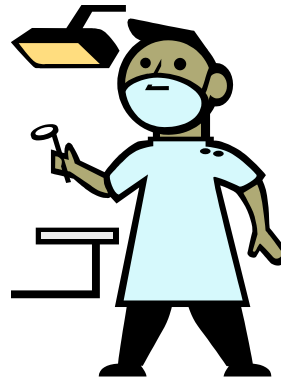


November's Meeting: Brendon Ball

As a long serving member of both local groups of RoADAR and IAM plus the fact that I have served as a committee member of both, including time as 'Chairman' for each group, I feel encouraged to comment on the RoADAR North Wilts Group meeting in November which had Brendon Ball as the 'Speaker' talking about his 'World Tour' by Motorcycle.

I am in fact the only original member left from those who initially started the group so I have seen and heard many speakers over the years. All different it must be said but this was in fact the most interesting and fascinating presentation and talk that I have experienced for many, many years. Although it finished at about 9.30pm, I could have listened to Brendon until midnight. It had me thinking that there could be many individuals who would not have achieved as much as Brendon and his wife and I do wonder WHY Brendon ever actually considered such a trip!

It must be said that the committee, (especially Monica), in their quest for speakers had in fact exceeded expectations in inviting Brendon to come and talk to us. His 'Character' was really evident during the talk and one could feel the 'intensity' of it all. I was actually 'buzzing' when I left and I spent ages when I got home telling my wife all about it and she will admit to being amazed by the whole story.



I must add that, although we had a fair attendance, we were sadly lacking a few members, I can only say to all of you who missed it.... 'You missed a cracker'!!! Thanks to the Committee for making it such an interesting evening.

Chris Gleed (MAIRSO)

A letter from a satisfied member!

Dear Monica,

I would like to personally thank you for all of your help in achieving my gold award that I sat today, 31 October 2008. I really appreciated ROSPA arranging my test at very short notice due to my work commitments.

I thought Mr Phil Lewis was a excellent ambassador for ROSPA.

Once again, many thanks.
Kind Regards

Gary Stanbridge

As Gary was about to leave the country for some time Monica had to personally liaise with Head Office to arrange his test at short notice. Well done Monica!

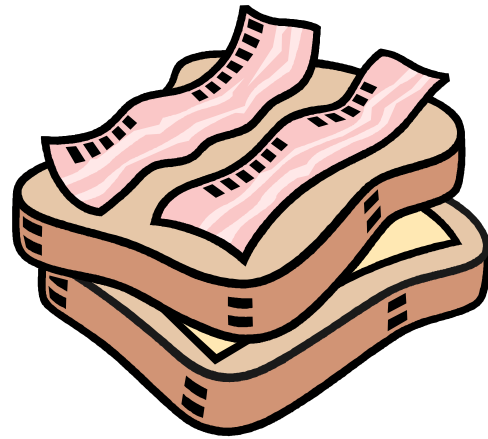
November Ride Out

November 15th 9.00am. Long way round to Ma Larkins, or in Search of a Bacon Butty!

Severn motor bikes met at Tesco's opposite the petrol pumps to go for a "genteel" ride out through the Cotswold's. Our leader for the ride out was Dave (complete with Sat Nav) and the rear "gunner" was Julian. As there were two new riders, Dave gave us a briefing on the 'Drop Off System', which I must admit I felt some trepidation with, but no, in fact it was fun, after the first time. It was brilliant for keeping us together, and in line. We left Swindon in a drizzle, but the sun started shining and that set the tone for the rest of the day.

We did ride on a mixture of roads, from A to single track, uphill and down dale, through some lovely villages and hamlets. We finally arrived at our destination Ma Larkins (which was originally a Little Chef). There we had lovely bacon butties some even had a FULL ENGLISH, washed down with tea and coffee. After a good old natter (that is what bikers do!) we made our way back through a mixture of roads again. The ride was just as enjoyable. As we got nearer Swindon riders started to leave and make their way home. I enjoyed the ride very much and will do it again as I learned a lot just watching my peers riding. There was no pressure to keep up or any criticism. I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who is coming back to motorcycling; in fact it is enjoyable riding with a likeable bunch of lads!

Oliver Graham Kawasaki W650



2008 Questionnaire Summary

Thanks to all of you who filled in the questionnaire earlier this year. It is useful for your committee to know if they are going in the right direction. The results and comments are set out below. The results pretty much speak for themselves but my summary is as follows: -

1. A strong desire to re-enforce the training to assist members improve their skills. Any organised events should aim to do this.
2. Bikers like riding their bikes at every opportunity – no surprise there then!
3. The monthly meetings and meeting content got the thumbs up.
4. Most people are comfortable with e-mail as a communication method but a significant proportion are not – we need to cater for everybody.
5. The web site got a cautious thumbs up but a significant percentage of people didn't know the web address.
6. The website forum had mixed reviews; a large percentage of people didn't find it easy to register for the forum.

So in the near future the message to the committee is to move forward with items 1, 5 and 6 above and maintain methods of communication suitable to each member be it e-mail, post, telephone or the web site.

Geoff Sumerling (Chairman)



2008 Questionnaire Results

Response

- 20 replies received, 8 from bikers, 12 from car drivers which represents ~25% of the membership

Main Interests in the group

- 95% said developing skills and taking the advanced test
- 88% of bikers said rideouts and 75% said that they enjoyed the longer UK trips and trips to Europe
- Only 17% of car drivers said drive outs
- 75% said meetings
- 60% said contact with other Advanced Drivers and Riders

Training

- 80% of those receiving training thought that it was taking place often enough the remaining 20% admitted that it was pressures on their own time that delayed training
- Usefulness of training was rated at 4.5 out of a possible 5

- Of those not already tutors 31% would like to become tutors after passing their advanced test

Ideas for improvement

- Theory teaching sessions
- Demo drives with commentary
- Observer refresher training
- Some associates need more sessions

Meetings

- 30% attended meetings often, 30% occasionally, 30% rarely and 10% never.
- 85% thought the meeting time was about right, 5% too early and 5% too late
- 89% attended for the speaker, 78% for social contact, 28% for administration
- 61% thought the meeting content about right, 28% would like more motoring or bike related topics, 11% more non – motoring related topics

Other ideas for meetings

- Meet the examiner
- Technical training
- Roadcraft sessions when no speaker
- HGV
- Visit to truck dealer
- EU driving regulations
- Work time driving directives
- SAFED, VOSA

Organised events

- 88% of bikers attended rideouts or long weekend trips, 71% thought that the frequency was about right, 13% too often, 13% not enough

Comments

- More rides suitable for all comers
- 23% of car drivers have attended car events, 85% would like to do so in the future. The preferred future activity is 69% instructional (skid pan, further training), 46% driveouts, 46% motorsport spectating, 31% motorsport participation and 8% family events

Suggestions for future events

- Motor shows
- Factory visits
- Fire station visit
- Gaydon museum

Web Site

- 60% used the website, 75% of those were happy with the content, 8% were not.
- Of those that didn't use the website 43% didn't know the web site address and 43% didn't have web access or preferred other means

Suggestions

- Committee to make more use of website for information distribution
- Add some training articles
- More authors required

- Put the web site address in all e-mails
- Use post and phone instead

Web site Forum

- 50% of bikers used the forum, only 8% of car drivers
- 50% overall didn't use the forum and 70% of those said this was due to difficulties registering

Other Comments and Suggestions

- Organise teach-ins.
- Observer meetings
- Growth required and new blood
- Bigger events with other local groups
- Improve image
- Have a bike sub-committee
- Advertise on radio and get personality into group
- Like newsletter
- Appreciates committee's effort
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work committee



Christmas Meal Menu 2009



Village Inn, Liddington

Soup of the day

Melon and Prawn Cocktail

Pate with Melba Toast



Homemade Beef Bourginon
Beef Cooked in Red Wine with Bacon, Mushrooms and Onion

Roast Lamb with Mint Sauce

Homemade Steak and Ale Pie
Chunks of Beef Cooked with our Local Beer.

Homemade Game Keepers Chicken
Chicken Breast Cooked with Mushrooms and Onion in Red Wine

Fish Cakes
With Creamy Parsley Sauce

Homemade Wild Mushroom Goulash
Wild Mushrooms with Walnuts in Creamy Sauce.

Lasagne Verdi
Served with a Crisp Salad Garnish and Garlic Bread

Sweet Board and Coffee

Three Courses £15.95

