



RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders North Wiltshire Group

www.northwiltroadar.co.uk



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Newsletter

May 2009

Secretary:

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Dates for Your Diary

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

Monday 8th June,
7.15pm for 7.45pm
Meeting: Colin Reeves, Bike Safe

Monday 13th July,
7.15pm for 7.45pm
Meeting: Julian Burton and Rob
Braybrooke.

Saturday 25th July
Calne Bike Event.

Sunday 13th September
Emergency Services Show

**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 the group recently...

Ursula Lawley (car)

Peter Preece (bike)



Have you ever considered becoming a Tutor?

Probably the most important aim of our group is to recruit new members and then to pass on advice on driver/rider training to them, in order that they may pass their RoSPA Advanced Driver/Rider test. We can only do this if we have enough qualified Tutors to accompany our Associate members on drives/rides and so we are always keen to train up more members to become Tutors. It needn't take up a great deal of time and can really help to improve your own driving or riding skills. You must of course have already passed your RoADAR test with at least a silver grade. Please contact a member of the committee if you are interested.

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 8th June, 2009 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Colin Reeves from Bike Safe.

Monday 13th July, 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Julian Burton and Rob Braybrooke on their trip to Morocco. Both are members of our group.

Note that there is no meeting in August!



Congratulations! (1)

Congratulations to **Mike Southgate** and **Mark Sealey** who both successfully completed their Motorcycle "On Road" Tutor Training recently. They have already completed the Theory session so have now both been appointed as Tutors. We wish to welcome them to our Motorcycle Tutor group!

Events

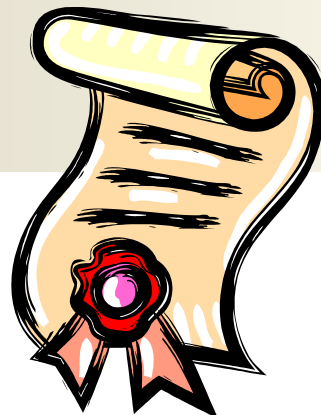
Saturday 25th July: Calne Bike Event. This proved very successful last year so we will be erecting the marquee again this year! **Help is required** to man the stall so please contact Monica if you can spare a few hours during the day.

Sunday 13th September: The Emergency Services Show, Hullavington Airfield. More details to follow soon, but we will be manning the stall again at this event so **offers of help** would be appreciated!

Bike Ride-outs: Don't forget that regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Check the Motorcycle Discussion section on the Web Site Forum for more details.

Congratulations! (2)

Congratulations also to **Paul Bennett** who recently passed his RoADAR car test with a silver grade. His Tutor was **Gerry Tierney** and his Examiner was John Coxtan.



May Meeting Report:

Dave Jones

(Author of “Not the Blue Book”)

Dave Jones is an ex-police motorcyclist. He has performed a number of different roles including traffic patrol and escort duties.

At a point in his career, Dave was working with external organisations and was always getting asked similar questions. That was what gave him the idea for a book. A friend of his encouraged him and collaborated with him to produce “Not the blue book”.

Strange title you may think. The current edition of Roadcraft or “The police riders hand book” has evolved from a publication that has a blue cover. In police circles this became known as the “blue book”. Only recently has the cover been brightened up.

Dave presented a sequence of slides that illustrated the approach and negotiation of a hazard. The hazard was a staggered junction in the countryside, on a bend near a single property. The junction also had a post-box at the roadside.

Dave walked through a series of photographs simulating the approach to the junction and asking what the rider should be considering at points along the way. Of course this cannot be done in slow time when one is actually riding, but it helps to talk through the thought process in slow-time and relate it to the system of motorcycle control to ensure the hazard is negotiated with risks minimised.

The approach was also examined from the perspective of a driver emerging from the

left hand junction. Much of their view was obscured by the hedge and impaired by a telegraph poll. The approaching rider would be invisible for a significant period of the approach and this could coincide with the driver’s observations.

One of the more subtle points highlighted was that cars emerging from your left will always look because they are either entering or crossing the traffic flow. Whereas a car emerging from your right and turning left to join opposing traffic may just look right because that is the only flow they believe they will affect.

Bikers represent 2% of the road population and have a disproportionate amount of incidents, many not involving any other vehicle. Dave is bike focussed and car drivers came in for a bit of stick; Bah, Bah! This was taken in good spirit and Dave did emphasis that advanced car drivers form a tiny minority of the car driving population on the road.

Mark Sealey



If you have ever wondered what it's like to have an exhilarating ride on a fast motorbike – but haven't had the nerve to try it – a new series of training films could be the answer.

Devon County Council is championing the YouTube initiative which involves RoSPA-trained motorcyclist Glenn Julian demonstrating how – and how not – to negotiate roads and hazards on two wheels. Astride the new Suzuki GSX-R1000 K9, his mission is to help viewers read the road ahead; to perfection.

The four films aim to help riders alter existing habits while giving tips and hints on how to improve their ride. Each film is shot in high definition from seven camera angles, so that viewers can follow Glenn's journey, while listening to live technical commentary and analysis.

The first film, out this week, is called "Cornering Clinic" and focuses on negotiating bends. Shot in Devon, the film captures opportunities for right and left-hand bends, taking in junctions and bridges. The "clinic" outlines correct positioning, gears, braking, speed and how to anticipate bends.

The next film looks at urban riding and will be released on June 1 and will highlight what to do when someone pulls out in front of a rider. Masterclasses in overtaking and junctions will follow.

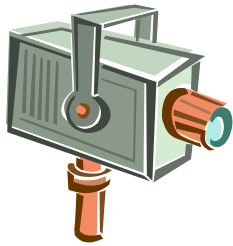
"Our aim was to produce a series of films to encourage seasoned bikers to improve their ability by making small behavioural changes to their riding techniques, improving their performance and making them safe on the roads," said Glenn.

The first film can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzn1GaJHZws&feature=channel_page or visit www.corneringclinic.com to see the whole series.

Taken from the Telegraph Motoring section

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/motoring/news/5323828/Bike-safety-videos-air-on-YouTube.html>





Big Brother IS Watching You!!!



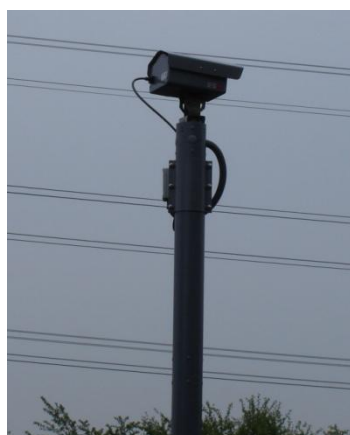
Have you noticed how many cameras seem to be pointing at you as you drive or ride along the roads these days? Have you wondered what they all are? Well Monica has! She recently sent me a number of photographs that she had taken, along with an instruction to “put them in the newsletter and find out what they are all for!” So, after a bit of research, this is what I think they are...but feel free to disagree with me and let me know if I've got any of this wrong...



This is a GATSO Speed camera which is the most common form of speed camera in use in the UK. These are rear facing and can only check one direction of travel. They flash when they take a picture. Other types of speed camera that are in use in the UK include the Truvelo Speed camera, which is a forward facing camera that uses an infra red system which doesn't flash like the GATSO, and the SPECS average speed camera system which is currently in use in the road works around Junction 16 of the M4 and uses video and Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to monitor a vehicle's average speed between groups of cameras.



These 'cameras' on top of Traffic Lights are not actually cameras at all, but sensors to monitor the flow of traffic and change the lights accordingly. Cameras that catch drivers who 'jump' red lights are positioned on a separate post from the Traffic Light itself.



I believe that this is an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera. These cameras scan car registration plates in order to provide information back to motorists regarding how fast the traffic is moving along specific roads on large electronic signs. Whilst the information collected could potentially be used to run registration plates through tax and insurance databases to catch evaders, as well as catching speeders by using groups of cameras, the information collected is currently not shared with the Police and the Number plate data is deleted.



These three pictures show variations of cameras installed by a private company called TrafficMaster. The cameras are used to monitor traffic flow speeds. They relay information on jams and hold-ups to drivers who have TrafficMaster in-car receivers or who subscribe to the other services that TrafficMaster provide for mobile phones and the internet. TrafficMaster cameras are painted blue.



These green cameras are similar to the TrafficMaster cameras but are installed by The Highways Agency. They are used for traffic monitoring purposes and are part of their National Roads Telecommunications Services Project.

I'm not 100 percent certain of this one, but I believe this is a CCTV camera which will provide a live video feed back to a control centre in order to monitor traffic conditions.



Note that Monica apologises if the pictures aren't the greatest, but she was busy trying to hide behind any available obstruction whilst taking these pictures, just in case those 'spying' on us noticed her, and became suspicious of her actions!!

Kevin Hugo

Have you seen anything else on the road that you're not sure what it is, what it means or what it is for? If so, send it in and we'll try to find an answer!

Merchandise

We now have a stock of merchandise that is available to purchase through the group. The following is a summary of the stock that we hold. For more information visit the Merchandise page of the web site at www.northwiltsoadardar.co.uk

Books

These are available through the group at a reduced published price!

Roadcraft: £9.00

Motorcycle Roadcraft: £8.50

Highway Code: £2.00

Not the Blue Book: £6.50

Clothing



Polo shirt with RoSPA logo and Group name (available in XXL, XL, L and M sizes): **£7.50**

High visibility jacket with RoSPA logo and Group name (available in XXL, XL, L and M sizes): **New lower price! £12**



White cotton **T-Shirt** with RoSPA logo and Group name (available in M only): **Last few remaining! £5**