



## RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders North Wiltshire Group

[www.northwiltroadar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltroadar.co.uk)



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

# August 2009

# Newsletter

### Secretary:

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## Dates for Your Diary

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

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
Emergency Services Show

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September,**  
**7.15pm for 7.45pm**  
Meeting: Roger Blythin, Wiltshire  
Police Accident Investigation

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October,**  
**7.15pm for 7.45pm**  
AGM. Guest Speaker: Paul  
Silverwood, U17 Car Club

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November,**  
**7.15pm for 7.45pm**  
Meeting: Steve Haley from SkillDriver

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December,**  
**7.15pm for 7.45pm**  
Meeting: Wiltshire Ambulance

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

## Calne Bike Show

Many thanks to those of you who helped man our stand at the recent Calne Motorcycle Show. The show was a huge success with hundreds of bikes turning up from all around the country. We were kept busy with a constant stream of visitors to our stand, so much so, that we found ourselves running short on leaflets and application forms!



Thanks to John King, Geoff Summerling, Kevin Hugo, Julian Burton, Doug Smith, Ciemon Dunville, Matt Carlsson, Salah Hayek, Monica Graham and Oliver Graham who all helped out during the day.

## Forthcoming Meetings

**Monday 14th September, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

Return visit from Roger Blythin from Wiltshire Police Accident Investigation. Roger's talk proved very popular last time so this should not be missed! This time the subject will be motorcycle accidents.

**Monday 12th October, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

**Annual General Meeting.** The guest speaker will be Paul Silverwood from the Under 17 Car Club. Come along and find out how young drivers should be taught!

**Monday 9th November, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

Steve Haley from the SkillDriver road safety project and the author of "Mind Driving" will be speaking. This promises to be a really interesting and popular talk so make sure you come along!

**Monday 14th December, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

A representative from Wiltshire Ambulance will be speaking. More details to follow.

## Events

**Sunday 13th September, 10am-5pm: The Emergency Services Show, Hullavington Airfield (near M4 Junction 17).**

We will be manning the stall at this event so **offers of help** would be appreciated. This is the first time we will be attending this show but it looks like it could be really good! See [www.emergencyservicesshow.com](http://www.emergencyservicesshow.com) for more details, and let Monica know if you can help.

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



### Welcome!

Welcome to the following new members who have all joined the group recently.

**Jonathan Penny** (bike)

**Brian McAdam** (bike)

**Stuart Hutchings** (bike)

**David Neal** (bike)

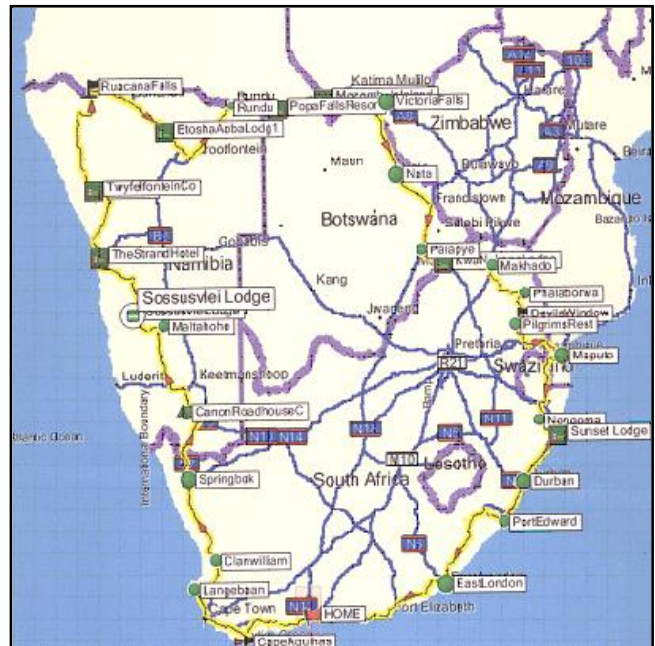
**Brian Jenkins** (car and bike)

## Southern Africa Circumnavigation

We were in Italy last year when the idea for this trip started with “I want to do a long challenging ride, something that would be an achievement and be memorable”. “So do I”, said my fellow traveller. Next morning he rushed in to breakfast, after a sleepless night, with a rough outline plan for circumnavigating Southern Africa. During the following months the details have gradually taken shape and two others have also joined the trip.

Our next thought was that we should use this experience to raise money for worthy charities. After a great deal of deliberation we decided that it would be appropriate to choose two charities: one based locally and one that delivers help to the South African region. After some deliberation, the following charities were selected (the donations will be divided equally between them):

- **NSPCC.** Covering Swindon and the local area. There are two centres in Swindon. One focused on helping children who have suffered abuse to recover, the other providing support to families and therefore aimed at preventing abuse.
- **Engage HIV Foundation.** Bringing hope to people affected by HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. More information can be found at: [www.engagehiv.org](http://www.engagehiv.org)



The outline of the trip is as follows:

**Duration and date:** The month of October 2009

**Start & Finish:** Wilderness (on the Garden Route), located on the coast 400k's east of Cape Town

**Riders:** Larry Smith & Pete Bath (both South Africa), Dave Hooper & Rob Braybrooke (both UK)

**Mileage:** 9,000km

**Bikes:** 3 BMW 1200GS's and 1 BMW 850GS

**Countries:** South Africa – Namibia (Caprivi Strip) – Zambia (Victoria Falls) – Zimbabwe – Botswana – Mozambique – Swaziland – South Africa

**Accommodation:** camping and guest houses

**Roads:** mixture of dirt and paved

## Sponsorship:

All the money collected through sponsorship will be forwarded to the two charities.

If you wish to sponsor us please get in touch by emailing **sueanddavehooper@talktalk.net** or **robbraybrooke@yahoo.com**. Don't forget to add the amount you wish to donate and your address if you pay tax so that we can claim 28% extra through the Gift Aid scheme.

Alternatively, please hand in any sponsorship money to our secretary, Monica, at either of the group meetings on Monday 14th September or Monday 12th October.

**Many thanks for your donations to these worthy causes!**

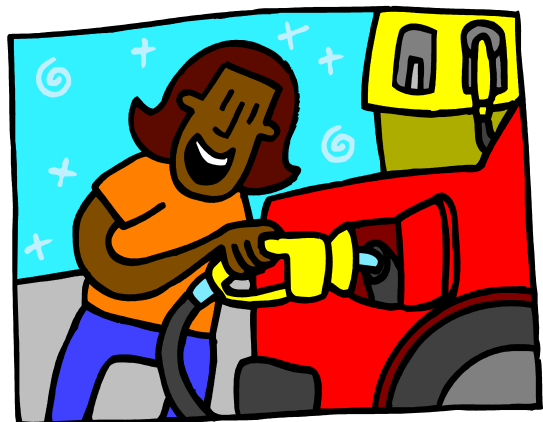
We will let you know how we get on.

**Dave Hooper & Rob Braybrooke**

## *Congratulations*

Congratulations to our Chairman, **Geoff Summerling** who, after passing his car re-test last month, passed his bike re-test this month with a silver grade!

Want to find the cheapest fuel station?  
Check out this web site  
[www.petrolprices.com](http://www.petrolprices.com)





## Ten Commandments for Motorists

### 1. Know the Highway Code by heart and put it into practice.

The Highway Code is the road users' bible and by adhering to its precepts you will do much to make our highways safer and more pleasant for all. Issued under the authority of Parliament, the Highway Code sets forth rules by which all classes of road users are encouraged to govern their road behaviour.

*“Drive according to the Highway Code and you drive safely and well.”*

### 2. Concentrate all the time and you will avoid accidents.

Concentration is the key-stone of all good driving. It is a primary duty but often a neglected one. Complete concentration will enable you to see and take notice of every detail. It is often the smallest detail that gives the clue to what will probably happen. If you miss such a detail, an accident, or at least an unpleasant experience, may result. Concentration will also ensure skilful handling of your car. It will prevent bad gear changes, and late and fierce braking, and practically do away with involuntary skids, which are usually caused by the locking of the wheels by fierce braking on bad surfaces.

*“Concentration assists anticipation.”*

### 3. Think before acting

The theory that a good driver drives automatically is a fallacy. To the uninitiated he may appear to, but the truth is that by continually concentrating and thinking he has raised driving to an art. Every corner, bend, gear change, in fact every driving operation, is a problem which, like every other problem, can only be solved by thinking. A thoughtful driver carries out every operation or manoeuvre in plenty of time and consequently is in the happy position of being able to accelerate away from danger, or stop to avoid it.

*“Think, and avoid accidents.”*

### 4. Exercise restraint and ‘hang back’ when necessary.

To “hang back” is to follow at a safe distance a preceding vehicle which you eventually intend to overtake, until you see the road ahead is clear for a sufficient distance to allow you to overtake with safety. This will call for the utmost restraint, especially when driving a fast car, but never be tempted to overtake or carry out any other manoeuvre, unless it can be accomplished with 100 per cent safety. By exercising restraint you automatically eliminate any tendency to impede other drivers by pulling in too quickly after overtaking an action often referred to as “cutting in”.

*“Whenever in doubt, hang back”*

**5. Drive with deliberation and overtake as quickly as possible.**

Good driving continually calls for the making of quick and correct decisions, all of which must be carried out with deliberation. Overtaking must always be accomplished in the minimum of time, so as to leave the road clear for others who may be travelling in the opposite direction or behind you. A driver with a negative complex will sooner or later hesitate at the crucial moment, possibly with fatal results.

*“Deliberation eliminates uncertainty.”*

**6. Use speed intelligently and drive fast only in the right places.**

It is not always safe to drive at 30mph in built up areas, despite the fact that the law permits you to do so. In some circumstances such a speed is definitely dangerous. Where conditions permit, it is best to drive at an even speed of 30mph as it assists in keeping traffic moving in an orderly and constant stream. High speeds are safe only when a clear view of the road ahead is possible for a considerable distance. The speed in all cases must be governed by the amount of road that can be seen to be clear. Remember that at 60mph a car travels a distance of 88 feet in one second. With many drivers a second elapses between the seeing of an emergency and the application of the brakes. Concentration and alertness are therefore absolutely imperative.

*“Any fool can drive fast enough to be dangerous.”*

**7. Develop your car sense and reduce wear and tear to a minimum**

Car sense is the ability to get the best out of your car with an entire absence of jerks and vibration. It entails smooth and thoughtful operation of the controls with hands and feet. This can only be achieved if the operations are carried out in plenty of time. Car sense adds to your safety factor as you will always be in the right gear at the right time.

*“Good car sense increases the life of your car.”*

**8. Use your horn thoughtfully: give proper signals: never black out headlights.**

Many motorists do not use their horns at all, some use it aggressively, others automatically and often unnecessarily. It is every bit as important that a person in front should be acquainted with your intentions as a person behind, yet many motorists who never omit to give hand signals consistently fail to give audible warning of their presence. Use the signals given in the Highway Code. An ambiguous signal is misleading and dangerous. Flicking the headlights at night is a very efficient form of signalling. Dip them but never black out. (To “Black out” is to switch the headlights off entirely, causing you to drive into a field of extreme darkness because the eye cannot readjust itself quickly enough after the glare of the headlights.)

*“Give good signals and earn the praise of fellow road users.”*

## 9. Be sure your car is roadworthy and know its capabilities

A defective car must never be taken out. Before attempting to drive a strange car fast, get accustomed to its controls, acceleration, braking capabilities and characteristics.

*"Car and driver must blend harmoniously to ensure good driving."*

## 10. Perfect your road craft and acknowledge courtesies extended to you by other road users

Road craft includes every phase of driving. It is something more than road sense. Many people possess the latter but do not make the best use of it owing to lack of control, inability to use the road and position their car to the best advantage. A driver with good road craft knows how to avoid awkward and possibly dangerous situations. Good road craft not only prevents accidents, but makes driving less arduous. The Highway Code urges all to be courteous; but a good driver goes further and acknowledges the courtesies extended to him by every class of road user. By doing this he sets a splendid example and does much to engender the spirit of chivalry so badly needed on our roads.

*"Courtesy is a great factor in road safety."*

This article was taken from *The Motor Schools Association Newsletter*.

## Merchandise

We still have a stock of merchandise that is available to purchase through the group. For more information visit the Merchandise page of the web site

[www.northwiltroadar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltroadar.co.uk)

**Books (all 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: £7.50; High visibility Jacket: £12.00

