

SEAX

The newsletter of the Essex Crusaders, Centre 19, Virago Star Owners Club.

July 2010 Issue 175

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COPY DATE FOR NEXT SEAX is MONDAY 26th July.

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Centre 19 website :

<http://www.essex-crusaders.org.uk>

VSOC website :

<http://www.vsoc.org.uk>

Rep's Rambling:

This has certainly been a busy month, firstly an inter-centre meet up at Box Hill with Centre 14 leading the ride-out which finished up at a canal side pub near Wisley gardens, where we sat out in glorious sunshine. Next was the International Rally in Holland with 18 Centre 19 members travelling to the rally, good to see old friends from other countries and make some new ones. It was very warm over the weekend, quite a few pink people by the time they left for the ports on Sunday morning. I decided to stay on in Holland and have a weeks holiday staying at Edam on an excellent camping site that I can highly recommend. The weather was at it's best; sun and more sun. I think there's a theme beginning to develop here. Then it was on to the Welsh rally at Tonna; something very unusual happened there which took the rally goers sometime to acclimatise to, the sun shone for the whole three days (rain what rain) and dare I say it was bordering on hot, no make that very hot. The theme was sun, sun and more sun, its been a very long time since we have been able to say that, may it continue.

At the Monday meeting at Stratford St. Mary it was my pleasure to present a fifteen year badge to Alan Ferry. For those who do not know him he is our SEAX editor; he was the clubs first treasurer, a post that he held for a number of years. He has been our Centre 19 rep and I had the privilege of being deputy rep with him, I think it was 9 or 10 years ago, who's counting. As centre rep I would like to say "thank you" from the reps and on behalf of the members, for all the work and time you have put into Essex Crusaders. There was also the 10 year member badges and congratulation letters to : Norman Collier, Andy Cullum, Sean Davies, Peter Gauntlett and Sally Swift. There are now twenty ten year members and three fifteen year members within C19 I think it says a lot about the members, Essex Crusaders and about the VSOC, may it continue.

On behalf of Essex Crusaders I would like to welcome new members Gary Mchiggins and Mike Smith to the club, Membership as of now stands at 70 with non renewals at 9, we are up 3 members from this time last year. The VSOC membership has fallen by about 140 from the end of May down to about 860 members.

It was decided at the reps meeting at C13's rally that C11 is to be closed down due to the lack of members, the two members will be transferred to other centres.

July is going to be another busy month, (see ride-out details).

Look forward to seeing you soon.

That's all for now

John

Deputy Rep (North):

C19 North meeting 7th June

Once again a week late due to the bank holiday but no MG club this time, reckon we frightened them off.

The meeting was very well attended with one or two faces from the South of the county in attendance.

Final arrangements for the International rally were discussed with everyone getting excited at the thought of approx 180 of us going across the water to party, there is no doubt that we will outnumber any other country in attendance including the hosts,

The C19 BBQ will be upon us soon and it would be nice if we could have some volunteers to help set up, provide some salad stuff and generally take the pressure off the few people that have done it in previous years, names to John and myself please (thanks to those that have volunteered already).

Just a reminder that the Welsh rally is at the end of the month, good weather is guaranteed I am assured !! see the ride out list for meeting times etc.

John then presented a 15 year membership badge to Alan Ferry and 10 year membership badges to myself, Norman, Andy and Sean, there is another new 15 year member and a new 10 year member that were not at the meeting. I am pleased to say that C19 now have 3 x 15 yr members and 18 x 10 yr members, not bad out of a membership of 67, we must be doing something right, thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Finally, 26 of us attended a rally in Bushey over the bank holiday week end, hosted by C13, very well organised, good venue and with over 400 in attendance a lot of fun was had by all, please see our web site for pictures taken over the 3 days.

Ride safe

Peter

Fowlers Offers

Don't know if this offer is still open but if you are interested then give Sue a call:

Further to your telephone conversation with a member of our sales team we confirm as agreed the offer that we are able to provide at Fowlers (Bristol). For a limited period we are able to offer the Yamaha XV1900 reduced from £12499 to £9999 otr and the XVS1300 reduced from £9599 to £6999 otr.

In addition Fowlers will provide free membership of the VSOC club for all purchases of these machines from Fowlers.

We hope this special offer will be of interest to your members and your biker contacts, in addition we would be happy for you to place this offer on your website for others to take advantage of.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact our sales team on Bristol (0117) 9770466 or via e-mail sales@fowlers.co.uk.

Many thanks
Sue Watkins
Sales Admin Supervisor

Box Hill & Newlands Corner

You may have seen my advertisement for the sale of my XVS 650 Drag Star in SEAX last month. I also placed the same text on V-bay and was spectacularly successful. I got two offers at the asking price (must have set it too low) and rode the bike to Gwent to swap it for a number of folding beer vouchers. I had been dithering for weeks about a change of bike, the sale and train trip home forced me to make up my mind rather quickly. I wanted a VSOC "qualifying" bike and a bigger engine than the one that I had been pushing hard for the last four years. The 650 was more than adequate for Sunday rideouts as long as I had no pillion, but had its limitations when trying to push on a bit on long motorway runs like the one to Wootton Bassett.

Found what looked OK on paper; and close by in Southend; an XV1700 Road Star but an odd looking specification. Went to see it, beautiful two tone blue metallic paint and loads of chrome. It was meant to be a Silverado, had the screen, sissy bar, engine guard bar, extra chrome trims, but no spotlights, no panniers, and was the wire wheel model, not the cast alloy wheels. Also almost the same mileage as the bike I had just sold. Not ever wishing to clean chrome spokes again left it alone.

Second attempt took me to Wigan in the car to look at another XV1700. This one in black; full Silverado specification with hard panniers; and was the Midnight version with part black and part chrome engine. Under 5,000 miles on the clock, a few marks on paint

and chrome, and in need of a more thorough clean than the shop had given it. Four days later went up on the train and rode it home.

Strange feeling riding a “new” bike home, four years, and 12,000 bike miles ago, I had ridden the Drag Star 150 miles back from Cheltenham to Essex. Wobble away from rest, roar down straights, and wobble slowly round junctions and roundabouts. Here I was doing it again, 260 miles to cover, an unfamiliar bike, and a horrid feeling that I might have made a mistake on my choice of bike. The Drag Star weighed 233 kg and the Road Star a massive 351 kg. Low speed manoeuvres (parking and backing into my garage) were going to be a problem.

First rideout, June 6 to Box Hill and Newlands Corner, met up with John and Garry from Center 19 at Thurrock Services. Bit better than the first time I went to Box Hill, three people, but only two bikes; this time three of each. Think the Friday and Saturday forecasts of rain had put people off; the Sunday morning forecast was for dry until late afternoon in both Essex and Kent. The Road Star is proving to be a great motorway mile cruncher, 70 mph is less than 2,500 rpm; licence removing speeds are just a twist of the right-hand grip away. Given a bit of time I will get the hang of corners and junctions.

Met up with a fair number of Center 12 and a couple of Center 14 at Rykas Café at the foot of the hill for a late breakfast. Some nice machinery in the car park including an early Ford Mustang. Then off up Zig Zag Road to the summit, about 170 meters up from the café, so by Essex standards a mountain rather than a hill. Stopped for long enough to admire the rather overcast view; but not long enough to have to pay and display for parking; then off to Newlands Corner.

New Barn Café is an altogether better place than Rykas, fresh prepared food at very reasonable prices. Sat out on the picnic benches under the trees and had either late breakfast or early lunch.

A few people then left for home and the rest of us set off to a “nice pub by a canal”. This was The Anchor pub at Wisley. Idyllic setting next to the canal; moored narrow boats; sunshine; good but a bit pricey food; and (based on only a single visit) bike friendly. Opportunity for non alcoholic beverages and lunch, for some this was the third meal on the ride.

The forecast had said rain late afternoon so time to head for home, made it to the Dartford tunnel in the dry. Silent trip through the tunnel, think I might buy some Vance and Hines Longshots to annoy the general public, and the poor sod riding immediately behind me. Out of the tunnel into the rain, A13 was a bit miserable, nearly home so couldn't be bothered to put on my waterproofs and just got wet. At home in South Woodham Ferrers it hadn't rained properly, just some light drizzle, a great day out, a lot of motorway but some good riding in Surrey.

Bob Owen

FOR SALE

Akito leathers: chest 44, waist 34. vgc £60



contact Bruce on 07811 468724
e-mail brucey_baby2@yahoo.co.uk

Germany here we come!

Ray & Pauline Rawlings

Terry and Christine Hobbs

Michael & Tracy Kinton



& Yoda came to!

It's Friday 21st May 2010 and the motley crew of six head off to Balzhausen near to Grafenhausen in the Black Forest, Germany. We all met up at Thurrock services and rode down to Folkestone for our 8.20 am Euro tunnel journey to Calais. Arriving safely we then embarked on our 200 mile journey to our hotel Balladins, Chalons En Champagne.

We arrived at the hotel around 4pm and checked in. After a wash and brush up we all met for some French cuisine and a small amount of red vino at the local restaurant. The next morning, Saturday we were up for a quick breakfast before heading down to the Black forest via Strasberg. After 290 miles we finally reach our destination Grafenhausen. So far the weather had been good to us with sunshine all the way, the roads excellent and the last few miles were all up hill via a mountain road with some pretty scary hairpin bends.

The four bedroom property c/o Wolfgang Englert (Email englert.wolfgang@t-online.de) was spacious and well equipped with excellent views across the countryside. Whilst the setting was idyllic and peaceful we soon found out there was no-where within walking distance to eat or drink, luckily Wolfgang had advised us to get food at Schmidt's supermarket in Schluchsee as we drove through. However, after venturing out for an evening stroll we discovered a small guest house close by and the owner "Karin" made us most welcome, cooking us some absolutely mouth watering German dishes on

Tuesday and Friday evening. Her guest house was most welcoming and to our surprise we were the first English she had met. She advised that mainly her guests were mostly from Germany and Israel! (www.loewen-balzhausen.de or Email tritschler-balzhausen@t-online.de)

The nearest village around 5 miles which was Schluchsee. This was a quaint village with a lovely lake and a biker's café. It was very apparent this was biker's country with excellent virtually empty roads and over the next week we encountered many bikers on our ventures across Germany, with bikers welcome signs in most villages.

Sunday:

All suffering from riders' bottom we thought we might take a light stroll through the Black Forest to Schluchsee – 10 miles later and aching legs our riders bottoms had surprisingly disappeared!

Monday:

Triberg home of the cuckoo clock! A lovely little town with again a biker influence, where we were forced to sample the black forest gâteau and apple strudel! Also, stopping at Gutach Falls a spectacular water fall, Villengen and Donaueschingen.

Tuesday:

Frieburgh a beautiful town with old and modern architecture. Also stopping at Todtnau to experience the fantastic Black Forest views from a chair lift and Titisee.

Wednesday:

More about riding through smaller villages like Schluchsee, Grafenhausen, Birkendorf and Banndorf.

Thursday:

A long day riding through the mountains and autobahns to reach Lake Konstanz on the Swiss border. Konstanz was another beautiful town, situated by the sea like lake; yet more sampling of German 'Apfel Torte' and a brief walk over the border into Switzerland.

Friday:

We rode to Waldshut via Seebroch across the single track dam that holds Schluchsee lake.

Saturday:

After breakfast we started our journey home, stopping off for an overnight stay in France. We arrived in the UK on Sunday after lunch.

For us both as complete novices, this was a very memorable experience and we would like to express our thanks to Terry, Chris, Ray and Pauline for being so patient with us as we struggled at times mastering the bends. However, after a week of winding roads and over 1500 miles we have now moved from novice to intermediate.

Anyone wishing to have a great week of biking with lots of mountains and winding roads, this is certainly the place to visit.

Tracy & Mike Kinton

JULY RIDE-OUTS AND EVENTS

SUNDAY 4TH

BATTLESBRIDGE MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Depart Boreham services 10-00am for Battlesbridge

ALTERNATIVE RIDEOUT

LONDON MOTORCYCLE MUSEAM 29 OLDFIELDS LANE SOUTH, GREENFORD, UB6 9LB

Depart Marks Tey 09-30 for Brentwood services (Total garage on the A1023, Brooke Street roundabout M25/A12), depart Brentwood services 10-15am for M/C museum. Entrance and BBQ. £8-00. Theme for the day is Triumph Thunderbird.

www.london-motorcycle-museum.org

SATURDAY 10TH

KELVEDON FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL RECREATION GROUND, THE CHASE, HIGH St. KELVERDON

If you like live music this is the place to be, and it is FREE. Starts 12-00 noon untill 07-30pm. Topping the bill are the HAMSTERS. www.kelvedonfreemusic

SUNDAY 11TH

DAY TRIP TO BRUGGE, BELGIUM

Depart Marks Tey 06-15am for Thurrock services, depart Thurrock services 07-15am for M20 J11 services to refuel, 75miles to Brugge, no refuelling in Calais. Do not forget your ref. Number and passport.

SUNDAY 18TH

BAR-B-CRUISE, CUDMORE GROVE COUNTRY PARK, MERSEA ISLAND, CO5 8UE

Depart Boreham services 10-00 for the Peldon Rose P.H.(at the junction of Colchester Road B1025 and Mersea Road) depart Peldon Rose P.H. 11-00 for Cudmore Grove.

This is a family day out, you can come by bike or car if you want to bring the family.

Bring your own meat and we will supply the rest, barbies, salad, bread, tea and coffee. Bring your own soft drinks, any out door games. We will have stall where you can bring, preferably motorbike related items to sell. If you could mark the items, size, your name and price, it would be very much appreciated. There will also be a raffle.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

FRIDAY 23RD

VSOC C12, BACK TO SCHOOL WITH THE VULTURES RALLY READING ABBEY RFC, ROSEHILL, EMMER GREEN, RG4 8RX

Depart Marks Tey 10-30am for Brentwood services (Total garage on the A1023, Brooke Street roundabout M25/A12), depart Brentwood services 11-30am for Reading.

For more information contact your reps
Please have sufficient fuel for rideouts so we can keep fuel stops to a minimum

Centre 19 meeting's dates:

July

North meeting.

8 pm Monday 5th July 2010.

The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.
West of A12, North of Colchester

South meeting.

8 pm Monday 19th July 2010.

The Bell Inn, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RF.

On the B1418 between Bicknacre and South Woodham.

August

North meeting.

8 pm Monday 2nd August 2010.

The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.
West of A12, North of Colchester

South meeting.

8pm Monday 16th August 2010.

The Bell Inn, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RF.

On the B1418 between Bicknacre and South Woodham.