

SEAX

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

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Centre 19 meeting's date

July 2014

North meeting

8pm Monday 7th July 2014
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 21st July 2014
The Rettendon Bell, Rettendon Common, Main Rd CM3 8DY

August 2014

North meeting

8pm Monday 4th August 2014
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 18th August 2014
The Rettendon Bell, Rettendon Common, Main Rd CM3 8DY

Reps ramblings

Hello to you all, I hope you have had some fun on those bikes, I know I have, from a wet ride to Tonna, to a great sunny ride in Germany. Thanx to Silver X bike shop in Braintree for fixing my bike a day before the trip, a rear flat tyre not good, but they plugged it, as it was in the centre, whew.

Hats off to the VSOG Germany who pulled off there first Intl rally, great site, even better food and caught up with old faces I haven't seen in ages.

There were about 500 in total and 110 bikes went on the rideout. I had a taste of leading for my first time abroad, it can be hard enough over here, but out there making sure when you make a turn its on the correct side of the road its a bit harder. I managed the first 150 miles back to the Hoek but due to a bad head that wouldn't shift I asked John to take over, so thanx for that John, in a way a bit of luck as well as 1 exit was shut by the police and Johns experience shone through, and we ended up doing an extra 30 miles or so still getting to the ferry in plenty of time, a nice shower and hot meal, couple of decent beers and I was ready for bed.

Here's to the next rally, C12 and not long to wait for that one, and then I can have a hair cut again, still at least I can still grow it, better than a hot wig lol.

Everything is in place for the centre BBQ on the 13th July, just need you all to turn up and have a great day.

Membership now stands at 62 with 7 non renewals, and 5 associates

TC Ride safe Bruce

C19 Xmas meal

As you know I have been tasked with trying to find an alternative venue for our annual Christmas party, I did ask for feedback and suggestions for an alternative venue but

have received very few replies.

In view of this and the fact that the Holiday Inn at Colchester is prepared to offer us competitive rates once again, that is where we will be going.

I realise that it won't suit everyone but finding alternative venues for such a large party is not easy so please bear that in mind.

Further details to follow.

Neil

TENA FOR THE INCONTINENT AND TONNA FOR THE SLIGHTLY DAMP

Friday May 23, 2014 and in Essex it is still rain free but the forecast does not look good for places to the west. Set off at about 13:30 and headed for the M25 under grey cloud cover, all was well up to the M40 junction where I joined a queue for the M4 and very light rain started. There had been an accident on the M4 westbound and an 11 mile queue. Tent and other luggage makes my bike top heavy and the damn thing is a metre wide so filtering is difficult. Rain fall increases and I have to stop under a bridge and put on my waterproof suit. Rain varies from light to heavy all the way to my refuelling stop at Leigh Delamere. Then a dry bit of M4 so that I can arrive at the end of the traffic queue for the M5 junction just as the rain gets very heavy. Queue all the way to the Severn bridge tolls, try filtering but it's an elderly bit of motorway and the lanes are narrow. Wonder why they don't fill in the holes where there used to be cats eyes in the road, the potholes are in the gap between lanes and make me wobble. Apologies to the bloke in a dark red Evoke whose mirror I clipped on the way through. As the rain gets worse I have to give up filtering and just wait in the jam. At one point standing water on the motorway is over the toes of my boots when I put my feet down. Rain eases off a bit after Cardiff and the traffic thins as I make my way to Tonna.

Get to the rally site at about 19:15; 252 miles in a bit less than 6 hours – and put my tent up in gentle drizzle with a large contingent from Centre 19. Boots and gloves have let the rain in but everything else is dry. Quick dinner and a beer from my pannier, change into a loud shirt and dry trainers, and off to the club house. Over 200 people have braved the rain and the place is packed and the band very loud. Odd thought – some of the numbers they played were in the charts before their parents had been born (Wilson Pickett - Mustang Sally – 1966).

Back to tent in the light rain and crash out – something to do with Brains beer at only £2.70 a pint. Morning and off to the showers and breakfast in the rain. No Saturday ride-out so I use my pensioner bus pass to go to Neath; it's an English pass and I am in Wales so it's not free but reduces it to child's fare. Neath is a dump, lots of boarded up shops, even The Castle Hotel has gone broke, I almost expected to see Poundland with a closing down sale but it seemed to have plenty of natives in it. The indoor market provided a break from the rain and a good lunch. Found a sign for boat trips on the Neath Navigation; 50 minute round trip on a boat with a roof seemed a good idea so I paid and went. I was the only

passenger and got a one-to-one commentary (history of the canal and observations on the wildlife). Back in Neath bought my dinner in Morrisons and got the bus back to Tonna in the rain. Amusing time when an ice-cream van turns up, he had been in Neath and got no customers, bikers try to eat him out of 99's. Tent still keeping the wet out but everything is now damp; dinner, a beer, another loud shirt, and off to the club house. Good to be in a building with a solid roof, good beer, and another really good band (great rendition of Deep Purple's Smoke on the Water). Back to the tent in very heavy rain and the camp site/second pitch is now becoming a water feature as rain runs off the hillside next to us.

A disturbed night, the rain varies from just heavy (when I sleep) to bloody silly (when I don't). Sunday morning is a bit of a washout with around half the bikers packing up their wet possessions and loading the bikes. At breakfast find that the Sunday ride-out is off, cancelled because of rain. Camp site is now a mass of mud and puddles; several wet tents have been abandoned. Tonna is no place for an Argos single skin festival tent. A proper double skin tent from an outdoor pursuits emporium is required (or a camper van with four wheel drive). Watch the Monaco F1 on the big telly and set off on foot to find a local waterfall. Find it in the middle of a particularly heavy cloudburst at a National Trust heritage site at Aberdulais. Waterfall is in an open air Tin Works museum. Am now very wet, trainers are soaked, jeans dripping wet, and I am getting cold. Back to camp site and the water level is rising but my tent is still holding it out. Another good band in the club house, think they may have been appreciated more if they stuck to covers of other peoples songs rather than playing some of their own numbers. Back to my tent in the rain.

By morning it has eased off and there is a glimpse of sun between the clouds. Pack everything away in a dry spell and load my bike. Riding boots are still wet from the trip to Wales but I have spare dry gloves. Breakfast in the club house and around 09:30 head off North into the Brecon National Park. Into Talgarth to visit the local mayor who happens to be my brother-in law. Nice dry morning, have tea outside on the lawn and put the world to rights for around an hour. Set off towards Ross-on-Wye and England. Refuel in Crickhowell on the A40 and marvel at the lack of rain. It is not to last, by the Witney bypass (before Oxford) it is pissing down and I stop under a bridge to put on my plastic over suit again. Refuel yet again (just half a tank to see me home) just before the M40 and continue in torrential rain towards London. Traffic speed is down to around 40 mph and standing water in places, much of the time I have no idea who I am sharing the road with until I see the one brake light that works come on. A thought for those driving vehicles with a roof and glass windows **turn your lights on in rain and heavy spray**. You are indoors and have wipers for the windscreen, I am outside in the cold and wet (increasing my reaction time) I am looking through my glasses, a visor, and much of the time through a windscreen with no wiper. As traffic speed reduces there is the potential for misting up of all three of these and there is no heater to clear them. Rain eases off as I get to the bottom of the M1 and I crack on to dry me, the bike, and my luggage. Travelling time a bit under six hours but it includes two petrol/toilet stops rather than the one on Friday.

515 miles in total, much of it in heavy rain, and the somewhat tatty facilities at Tonna RFC did nothing to spoil a great rally. Three very good bands; cheap beer; hot breakfast (if not hot showers); club staff with a sense of humour who did not make a fuss at cross dressing bikers or bikes ploughing up the second pitch; and three days of great company.

Thanks to:

Committee and members of Centre 7- for all the hard work

Management and staff of Tonna Rugby Football Club - worry not, the pitch will recover
 The bloke in an ice-cream van – great value and very tasty ice-cream
 The lady with the burger van – good food and a welcome smile in the rain
 The National Trust Tin Works and Waterfall at Aberdulais – would be good on a dry day
 The volunteers who crewed “The Thomas Dadford” on the Neath and Tennant Canal

Bob Owen.

International rally Germany June 2014

The Germany rally mill pond crossing with about 60 bikes from Harwich to The Hook at silly o'clock Wednesday night, a motorway ride to camp site on a clear bright day, 300 odd miles 27 in the group, afternoon arrival, tents set up except for those who booked luxury fixed tents about arrived Thursday during the day and evening.

Friday, 8 of us went for a ride out, country lanes Bruce leading did he have local knowledge that led us to a very nice riverside café or the satnav, the evening was live band time with the usual rubbish lager, a lively evening Saturday was an organised ride out with 6 armed police out riders and one car there was a wedding during this time bride and groom wore black, the evening again a live band it was a quieter evening as some had early start.

Sunday, time to leave so the heavens opened thankfully not for long a group of 7 of us set off about 11ish Bruce and Paula leading John and Carol, Barney, Dave Gary and I.

I think a nickname has been chosen, Bruce set his trusty satnav and off we set through miles of forest trails then it was tarmac all the way John took over the lead about half way but we had a 80 mile detour think it was to admire the fine motorway then another night crossing back to Harwich.

The 60 odd German crew were superb, working 24 hours a day, they all made sure all was well for us, the chefs did amazingly well feeding the 500, facilities were good, hot water did run out at times to be expected considering the numbers I know I had my mishaps but an excellent weekend with superb hosts and good people from the man with no name as yet, Editors note, I think Bounce would be appropriate !!

For Sale

AKITO JACKET – Black, Size L, textile waterproof, thermal liner, no armour, 5 outer pockets, 1 inner pocket. VGC £25

AKITO BOOTS – Black & red, Size 10/44, VGC inside & out. £25

BUFFALO GLOVES – Black & red, Size M, leather, summer weight. £3

ALL 3 ITEMS ABOVE FOR £45

PATHFINDER 65 RUCKSACK – Black with blue stripes, H80cm x W40cm x D30cm. 1 pocket within lid, 2 side pockets, 2 mesh pockets, 1 back outer pocket. Various clip straps. Waterproof cover in pocket at base £17

MOUNTAINLIFE MERCURY TENT – Grey & orange 3 man tent. Approx size: W 1.7m, L 1.9m, H 1.3m £20

EUROHIKE BACKPACKER AIRBED – Green, 800g, 185cm x 70cm. £2

COLEMAN LYRA SLEEPING BAG – Grey & red, Mummy design -width 80cm at shoulder, 55cm at feet. 1.5kg. +10C comfort, +6C limit, -8C extreme. £10

FOLDING CAMP CHAIR – Green, 2.2kg. All important mesh drinks holder £3

ALL 5 ITEMS ABOVE FOR £45

Joe Cooper – 07887 615274 pictures by request.

Rideout to Stowe Maries Airodrome

I left home at 9am filled up a local petrol station then headed for Romford and onto the dreadful A12 to Boreham, arrived at about 9.40, peter arrived a few minutes later dressed in all leather, very hot but safe I suppose, by 10am there was 8 of us on 7 bikes, including Trevor's very nice Indian vintage (I think I worried him when I mentioned I could smell something burning). Trevor led us out of Boreham, this is the point I tell you where we went from there, but to be honest I do not know, nice country roads, plenty of cyclists on a road race in the area that slowed us for a while but not to bad, oh and horses, I remember we passed Bradwell on sea to our left, nice blue sky and glowing green sea. Trevor almost head butted a coach as he was going round a sharp right hand bend, and Laurie nearly took out a traffic bollard? We all made it to the aerodrome some a little bit saddle sore due to the heat, and headed towards the café for tea and cake.

The café was a bit lacking on the food side,(no sandwiches for Peter). Myself and Bruce had a long chat with the blacksmith/welder that made a point in saying he did not weld up the plane outside the museum building, Looked ok to us?

Thanks to Trevor for leading the pack on some very nice roads.

The second part of the day was to Paper Mill Lock, as I had been there the previous weekend I gave that a miss and headed home.

Thanks to everyone that turned up, Had a very pleasant day. **Bob**



July Ride out's Ride out list 2014

6th July

Day trip to France [destination Brugge]

For those that are going John's going to email separately. For those that are not 10-00 Boreham for an impromptu.

13th July

Bar-B-Cruise, Cudmore Grove, E. Mersea CO5 8UE

10-00 Boreham, 11-00 Peldon Rose or make your own way.

20th July

Battle, E. Sussex

9-30 Marks Tey, 10-30 Thurrock

25th-27th July

Centre 16 Solent Rally, Headley Park Country House Hotel, Picketts Hill, Headley, Bordon, Hamps. GU35 8TE

10-30 Thurrock or make own way.

3rd August Museum of Power bike show meet at Boreham 10-00am

10th August

Yarmouth, Norfolk, carnival

17th August

Box Hill, Surrey, via Woolwich Ferry, meet up with C14

22nd to 25th August

Centre 4, Northern Raiders rally

31st August

Picnic at Thetford Forest, Norfolk

7th September

Air Ambulance Run, Basildon to Harwich

12th to 14th September

YCCNL Dutch Rally, Holland

14th September

Reedham Ferry, Norfolk

21st September

Comfort Cafe, Cambridgeshire

28th September

Greenford M/C Museum and Ace cafe,

5th October

Copdock, Suffolk, Bike show

11th October

Runcton Holme C10 charity party

12th October

Brightona? if it's still on

19th October

C19 AGM details to follow

From the Editor

I have just returned from the International rally in Germany, following on from the rally several of us went to a biker B&B in Bad Lauterberg www.pension-roseneck.com which is a town in the Harz mountains. We had a great time there riding mountainous roads , visiting places of interest, Colditz castle for one, 3 of us from C19 would like to go back so I wondered if there was any interest in C19 to have a holiday there say mid July 2015. It would need to be a group of about 10 to make it feasible so if you think you may like to join us please let me know. Thanks

Bruce mentioned the centre BBQ in his ramblings, if you are coming would you let us know if it is possible to help with the setting up and taking down, it is hard work for those that do it and ' many hands make light work ' springs to mind. Thank you.