

# SEAX

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

June/July 2019 Issue 272

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### **June 2019**

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 [ **Now Tuesday and not Monday** ]  
The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

### **July 2019**

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019  
The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

## Reps ramblings

Not a lot to report in this section that hasn't been said before, Meetings first Tuesday in the month and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month, details above.

Planned ride outs listed below, please try to attend something so we feel we are doing our jobs.

Let Trevor know if you are coming to lunch at the White Hart, Stisted on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, he needs to know numbers, don't book you don't get the subsidy, simple.

Some of us are off to Germany on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, back on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, plenty of miles to cover and hoping to go to Austria and the Czech Republic as well during the course of the holiday.

16 of us just got back from the C12 rally at Thatcham, see write up below.

The next one is C14 rally in July at East Grinstead, Sussex.

Alans BBQ and fete on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June so please let him know if you are going so he has an idea of numbers.

C19 Picnic at Cudmore Grove, East Mersea, on 14<sup>th</sup> July, a bit of help setting up would be helpful so arrive at 9.30 for that please. It is hard work for a few.

That is about it for now

## North meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> April

I had planned riding to the meeting on my bike [ first time this year as my bikes are sorned up to April ] but it turned cold and wet so I reverted to plan A and went by car, Captain Birdseye had the same idea but our hardy lady member Cynthia turned up on her bike, doesnt say much for us guys !!

A turn out of 5 for this meeting which is a shame as it is a nice evening, in a pleasant location, plenty of chat [ I should know ] and an update on what is going on .

By the time this Seax goes out we will be well in to the ride out, rally season so keep the write-ups coming.

The raffle went well this time, prizes were £7.50, raffle ticket income £3, sounds like a sound business plan to me !! but at least there are enough prizes left over for the raffle next time so all is not as bad as it seems.

## *First ride out of the year*

There was a good turnout for our first ride out on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – eight bikes ten people.

We met at Boreham where it was decided that the ride should be to Alton Water reservoir, Suffolk. Alan met us there. The weather was good to us and the ride there was scenic and led by Dave (our gang leader).

Did not see too much of the reservoir because of long queue for food and drink.

It was good to catch up with other members and to see an old friend – Brian – better known as Tulip or tea leaf which ever you prefer (Alan).

A good ride home with everyone eventually going their separate ways.

Terry



## *Alton Waters ride out 24/3/19*

First ride out of the year for me. OK yea I admit it I'm a fair weather biker. Well seeing as the weather forecast was for sun and not that cold I told our president [ or maybe Rep ] I will do ride out at the monthly meeting a few days before and I don't want to upset Dave, lol.

As I'm taking a few weeks off I thought why not. Well the day came and I had got the bike ready, tyres oil etc but being a bit of a softy I still thought it was a bit chilly but convinced myself it was going to warm up. I had ventured out a couple of times in the weeks previously but only round the block. I missed the few really nice days due to work.

Anyway I arrived at Boreham in plenty of time which is unusual for me. As I pulled in for fuel there was about half a dozen Harleys waiting there. I pulled up for fuel and once they knew I was not one of their group they pulled off, not even a wave goodbye. They're not very sociable these Harley riders are they, lol.

When I came out after paying I saw Dave had arrived then one by one the others turned up. 8 bikes 2 with pillions so after our little chats and discussions where to go it was decided for Alton waters with Dave leading and Trev being tail end Charlie.

Nice little ride there through the country lanes, I think it took just over the hour to get there but to be honest I'm not sure. I could feel in the way I was riding I was a little rusty but we all arrived at destination OK.

Car park was very busy but we found spaces quite easily. Dave said they don't do fry ups but do a mean pasty or rolls if you prefer. In we went, I thought about a bacon roll but was starving and thought the pasty option a quicker bet so went with it and it was OK, washed down with a nice cuppa. We did sit outside with a view of the lake, all very civilised and our old mate Stainless turned up while we were there.

When it seemed we had all had enough someone suggested leaving and we all drifted back to the bikes. I think we all headed home via the A12 but as this time, I was 2nd man behind Dave I'm not sure. I know once a ride out heads homeward we all tend to do our own thing.

So a quick blast down the A12 to really blow the cobwebs out of her and wave goodbye and the day was done and man did I know next day, my old neck and back ouch, lol

Gary

So..... Don't get those sort of aches and pains on a Yamaha, just saying

Joking aside, it is nice to get 2 write ups for a ride out, the end result is much the same but the effort is appreciated.

## *Rally in a hotel*

The first ' rally ' of the year on the windiest weekend of the year and based in the ' flats ' of Cambridge

An uneventful journey with a bit of traffic on the M11, A14 saw 5 of us get there in good time [ about 3/4hour from the rest area on the A120 at Takely ], why can't all rallies be so close.

Bike unloaded, room found, changed, gate fee paid, time to circulate and say

hello to the 80 odd other members.

The evening meal was buffet style with eat as much as you like followed by a very noisy band, time to retreat to a quieter area for me so I could hear myself think, well I don't hear very well at the best of times !!

Saturday started early for me as usual and breakfast was from 7:30, happy days, again, eat as much as you like so I did as did others.

The ride out was to Ely where parking outside the cathedral had been arranged by Chris from C10, it was OK ish when flanked by hedges but once out in the open the angle of the bikes changed from upright to slanting due to strong winds, a bit of a challenge but all 9 of us got back unscathed .

The evening meal had been chosen and was a la carte, I chose chicken which was very nice apart from the veg which was 2 small sprigs of brocolli some rocket to dress it up a bit and one yes ONE piece of potato, I spoke to the head honcho waiter and asked if we were getting some more veg and was told no, he did bring 4 more pieces of potato though which were quickly snapped up by hungry mouths. I am not too sure about this fancy food, give me a good plateful every time.

The evening band the 59ers was, as the name suggests music from our era, not too loud and music to sing along to, most of us knew the words and no need to retreat as we could still have a chat whilst they were playing, Sunday, brekkie as normal, bikes loaded and gone by 10am, travelling with our Dutch friends Nuno and Wendy as far as Stansted . Home by 11am in the dry.

It was a good weekend but question marks over if it is happening again due to drop in numbers over the 3 years it has been happening. A sign of the times I suppose, but give me a nice warm hotel room any time instead of a cold damp tent lol

Peter

Don't forget Alan's BBQ and village fete on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, speak to Alan for directions and itinerary. He needs to know numbers for catering.

### *Non ride to Hastings bike festival.*

May bank holiday [Monday 6th] 7 of us on 6 bikes met at Thurrock services. I decided to take the direct route M25/A21. All going well, M25 busy but moving ok, A21 good too but more and more bikes, sports bikes, overtaking us. About 3 or 4 miles before the Royal Tunbridge Wells slip road

a traffic jam started but we were able to filter, then about a mile before the slip road we stopped along with a zillion other bikes. A pretty serious accident involving three bikes where an air ambulance helicopter was needed for a 60 year old who was critical but stable when writing this.

Clive did ask me if I'd seen the signs on the M25 advising that the A21 was closed, I didn't, hence we were stuck for over an hour and a half. Even then they only opened the slip road, apparently the A21 was closed for about 5 hours.

We decided that Hastings now would be a bad idea, so once up the slip road we went back up the A21 to the M25 then back to the A2 and on to Greenwich. Clive took over once we got close to Greenwich and led us to park by the Cutty Sark. Immediately we were surrounded and out came the cameras, these bikes always cause stir. Once parked and helmets secured to bikes [Dave's chain is long enough for all the helmets, blimey] we strolled through the market and found a cafe, I'd have preferred something a bit more substantial and when we left the cafe there it was right in front of us, only a PIE & MASH restaurant, bummer. Another stroll through the market down to the river front and back to the bikes we decided to risk the Woolwich ferry, weren't sure if it was running, but if it wasn't we could carry on to Dartford. The ferry was running if only one boat so we sat in the queue for about 15 minutes before boarding. I looked at Helen and she looked a bit sheepish, she said she didn't like boats because she suffered from sea sickness. I told her it only takes 5 minutes and besides it wasn't possible to get sea sickness because it was a river, didn't help, I think she was a bit relieved when we rode off. From then on it was a fairly straight forward ride home as each peeled off at their respected turn off.

A bit of a strange one but worked out ok and was really enjoyable in the end.

Trev

### *Ride out on the 19<sup>th</sup> May*

Alan, Trevor, Phil, Chris, Terry and I turned up to go to the Ongar and Epping Railway rideout on the 19<sup>th</sup> May

Trevor led the way on a nice scenic route, despite a few hold ups due to the farmers market on the way.

Firstly we stopped off at Ongar station as it was the closest only to be told that there was no parking facilities there. We were then advised by a member of staff to go up to North Weald station. So back on the bikes for a five minute ride over to there. Bingo.

After having a hot drink and a jam doughnut, we bought our tickets for the journey. Somehow, I managed to get away with a senior citizen ticket. Jammy bugger. **Only cos you look old enough lol**

We ended up on the diesel train and managed to see the steam train on the other line. Off we all went down to Ongar station where we stopped for about ten minutes while some passengers disembarked and others joined us, before going back up the line to Epping station. There didn't seem to be anything there.

Anyway back we went to North Weald station where we all got off, saw a couple of the old red buses outside which travel between there and Shenfield station every Sunday.

After that Phil left and went off home, while the rest of us rode half a mile down the road to the nearest pub, The King's Head, for some lunch. Mmmm lovely. **Mars Bar and sandwich Sue**

Little Sue.

**Just a reminder that very few have said they are going to the Sunday lunch on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Trevor needs numbers for this, which is at the White Hart, Stebbing, CM6 3SQ.**

**Register now or don't get the subsidy that the Centre is offering for this event. You have been warned !!**

## **C12 Rally 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Friday morning a couple of Dutch friends arrived off the night ferry from the Hook and after a bit of brekkie Alan arrived and we left for Junction 28 to meet up with others from C19.

10am we left J28 for a leisurely ride to Reading Services which is only 12 miles from the rally site and after a bit of lunch and petrol we rode on and arrived at the rally site about 13.45, the sun was out and all was good.

In the end after Cynthia, Bob, the Aliens, John, Carol, Gary, Bruce, Paula and Katarina arrived there was 16 from C19 so a good turnout, well done to Cynthia making her own way there after missing the connection at J28, she called in at Boreham and went to see the Queen at Windsor !!

Before you hear it in the News of the World or Daily Mirror, Social Media etc I

made a slight error at the Services and went to the petrol station before the eaterie, well it wasn't an error, it was deliberate by me but pounced on by our normal ride out leader. No more to be said hopefully lol

Tents up, me last as usual due to being sociable with other rally goers who you havnt seen for ages.

The evening meal was acceptable although some went to the local pub, breakfasts were excellent and well worth the money, Saturday nights meal was also more than acceptable but again, some went to the pub, shame really as the caterers had a lot left over.

I didn't do the ride out due to meetings but I understand it was good although roads left a bit to be desired at times. It left at 11.30 and they returned at 4pm.

Friday and Saturday nights bands were as usual, too loud so a lot stayed outside or in another bar, shame these bands don't tone it down a bit.

We left as a group about 9.30 on Sunday and suffered the 50mph speed limit for about 30 miles on the M4, stopped at South Mimms for petrol and a stretch and then every man for himself to home, I got there just before 12 with Dave as my wing man.

If I have to be critical the car park was large loose gravel and I think it would have been better to have sectioned off a section of the field for parking, it was dangerous.

Lovely weekend with good company and good weather for a change

Mr K

### From the Editor

If you are planning to do any rallies this year it would be helpful if you pre purchased your ticket, they are available for all rallies now and it helps the cash flow for rally organisers.

Is it time to think about Retired Riders Group aptly re named Retarded Riders group again.

Some of you will remember that we started this group a few years ago for a mid-week ride out somewhere usually ending up with a drink and food. Any thoughts on this please. It suits retired members of course.... oh that is most of us !!!

## Ride outs

If the weather is inclement can you phone the reps to see if the ride is still on,

Please note that Ride outs from Boreham will revert back to 10.30am from the 1st December and back to 10am from the 1st March 2019, if anyone is up for braving the weather of course !!

June 6th-9th

International rally in Germany

Make own arrangements or speak to Peter if you want to travel together.

June 9th

Cafe Newt, The Old Brewery Road, Gillingham SP8 4NW

Meet at Thurrock services 10.30

June 16th

Felixstowe

Meet at Boreham 10:00, services junction 28/A12 10:30

June 23rd

Impromptu

Meet at Boreham 10:00

June 30th

Sunday lunch at the Whit Hart, Stebbing, Essex. Tell Trevor if you are going.

Meet at Boreham 11:00

July 7th

Maldon Vehicle show

Meet at Boreham 10:00

July 14th

C19 Picnic at East Mersea

Make your own way there. Don't forget your food and something to sit on,  
Tea will be supplied

July 19th-21st

C14 Rally, Grinstead RH19 4JU

July 28th

Shotley Marina, Suffolk

Meet Boreham 10:00, Langham 10:45

### **August**

4th Museum of Power bike show, Langford, Essex

11th Reedham Ferry, Norfolk

18th Saffron Waldon vehicle show

23rd-26th C5 rally, Pontefract, Yorkshire

### **September**

1st H's cafe, Canterbury, Kent

6th-8th YCCNL 25year celebration rally, Netherlands

8th Air ambulance, Harwich, Essex

15th Impromptu

22nd The Bike Shed, London

29th Horse and Donkey Sanctuary, Horning, Norfolk

### **October**

6th Copdock bike show, Ipswich, Suffolk

13th Brightona, Brighton, East Sussex

20th C19 AGM