

SEAX

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

August 2015 Issue 235

Contents:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. C19 Meeting Dates. | 2. Reps ramblings, Charsfield fete, |
| 3. Boat trip up the Thames, Retired riders | 4-6 .Summer Solstice, |
| 7. Picnic, Ride out to Godstone, | 7 From the Editor |
| 8&9 Rideouts | |

Centre 19 meeting's date

August 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 3rd August 2015
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 17th August 2015
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

September 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 7th September 2015
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 21st September 2015
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

Reps rambling

Bruce is away in Portugal and Trevor is away in Ireland so Bob took the meeting.

A brief resume of recent events where all got involved, other than that it was just a reminder of what was on for the rest of the year

A C19 Xmas meal/ party was discussed and Clive took the initiative to see what the pub could offer and dates, he provisionally booked Saturday 19th December, to be confirmed at the next South meeting. There are also rooms available if needed but would need to be booked early to guarantee a space. A sample menu was distributed for all to see. The venue holds 50 people so it would be first come first served with a sell buy date before opening it up to other centres.

Charsfield Village fete

It was my second day out on the motorbikes. Nan Clive and myself went to Boreham services to meet up with the others. Trevor Terry and Christine were the only ones to show up. Trevor led us to Langham services to meet the members from the North of Essex (no one there).

Trevor led the ride to Alan and Dawns house taking a scenic route (nice route Trev). Alan laid on lunch (sausage and beans followed by ice cream and cheesecake very yummy). Once Alan Ferry and Anna arrived we made our way to the fete field. There was a fire engine, hook the duck, tin can alley, a bouncy castle, bric a brac stall, beer tent, tea and cake stall, teddy bear catapult (us bikers had lots of goes on that), vintage cars and our bikes on show. The bikers entered a team into the penalty shout out (knocked out in the 1st round). Most of us left together but me Nan and Clive had to stop as I was starting to get tired so we decided to turn my intercom on which kept me awake by playing I spy. (Thanks Peter)

Adele age 8.

Boat trip up the Thames

We Met up at Thurrock services. Six bikes and seven people showed up, Sue, Terry and Chris , Kay and Mark, Clive and myself. Clive led the ride and managed to lose us all on the 1st roundabout as it was really busy but we all caught up by the next roundabout. We had decided to take the most direct route which was straight up the A13 , Blackwall tunnel and through Greenwich high street. We parked the bike next to the Cuttysark.

The weather was very hot so we decided to buy the tickets for the longer cruise. We travelled up the river to Westminster on top deck (got to make the most of the sun). We walked over Westminster bridge to get our lunch and sat in the park by the London Eye. When we walked back to the boat there were lots of dodgy guys gambling on the bridge but it was very busy. We boarded the boat and travelled back down the river to the Thames barrier but this time we had commentary pointing out the interesting buildings etc. (Made the journey much more interesting). We left Greenwich at about 3.30 but my bike would not turn over even though it had a new battery 2 days before. (Helps if you take it out of gear) lucky Clive was at hand.

We had more traffic on the way home but we all managed to stay together. Me and Clive caught quite a lot of sun I'm sure the others did too. Hope no one got burnt.

Tina

Retarded Riders Group 2nd July

This was supposed to be the hottest day of the year but we still decided to go for a ride, Trev, Norman, Gary who had bunked off work, John, AKA Shot Gun and myself, Southwold was the destination so we met at Langham at 10.45, a non eventful run to Ipswich [well it should be really, one straight road] led by Trevor of Trevor's Tours. Trev took the wrong turn at the Toys R Us roundabout, how can you do that, but he did, we didn't follow

though as the other bikes were in auto mode for Southwold.

It was decided in view of a previous discussion that we would go to the Pier, I don't quite know what the attraction was so you had better ask Trev !!

We had the statutory fish and chips and very nice they were too, followed by large ice creams, a mooch about, a chat with the locals about the bikes and a bit of sight-seeing, even though it was very hot, the cool sea breeze made it bearable.

I noticed how much warmer it got as we rode home coming inland.

Another nice mid week ride out with good company.

Peter

Summer Solstice Run 2015

My alarm clock forced me out of my bed at 2.30am on Sunday 21 June.

I dragged myself into the shower and did all the necessary business. My clothes were all laid out from the night before so I climbed into them and made a strong black coffee. Nothing like a good caffeine hit first thing in the morning.

It was still dark when I wheeled the bike out of the garage, the neighbours were going to love me when I started it up!

Barney arrived about 3.30am and after another cup of coffee, we started up and headed to Lowestoftness. Heavy rain the night before had left the roads wet in places but apart from that the going was good.

As we got closer to Lowestoft several cars came racing past us eager to get to Lowestoftness point as it turned out. We learnt later that these people were doing the run in reverse order to us. They had watched the sun set at Land's End the night before and then belted across country to watch it rise in the East the next day, which takes some doing!

Arriving at Lowestoftness I was surprised to see so many people

there as on the previous two occasions that I'd done this run the place was empty. We parked our bikes on the Prom, took some photos and watched the sun rise, along with everybody else. It has to be said that Lowestoftness is the most unattractive venue you could imagine as it is surrounded by industrial buildings and copious amounts of concrete etc.

It didn't take us long to get fed up with being there so we duly mounted up and headed off for the most boring part of the journey, the A12 and the M25.

After stopping for petrol at Woodbridge we rode the A12 & M25 without any troubles, then taking the M3 as far as Fleet for more coffee and something to eat. The A303 was next and I must say is far more interesting to ride than the motorways. We took our time travelling down to Cornwall with several stops throughout the day. The A30 is a real joy to ride on a big cruiser, especially up the hills where you can effortlessly steam past all the struggling traffic. The sound of the twin pipes burbling away, mile after mile, is very satisfying and enjoyable. The last 10 miles of the A30 from Penzance to Land's End is a smaller road with many twisting turns and I have to say was the most challenging part of the ride. All day was brilliant sunshine and we had an excellent ride down arriving at Land's End about 5.30pm.

We checked in, had a shower (not together I might add), we did have separate rooms. The rest of the day/evening was taken up by a couple of beers, a meal at the hotel, a few photos and chatting to the people we had met at Lowestoft that morning. This East to West stuff is more popular than I thought. We were struggling to keep awake by sunset so we both turned in for a good night's sleep, separate rooms again of course!

Next day, Monday, I looked out of my window to a very different picture, a thick sea mist and rain blowing in off the sea covered the whole area. Gone was the picturesque view of rugged coastline and rocky hills beyond, graced by the sheep and soaring birds of prey. Lowestoft could have benefited from this heavy wet fog to obscure some of its ugliness I thought.

I met Barney and we deliberated over the weather whilst enjoying our ample breakfast, the general consensus was that it was going to clear out, so we decided to take our time and head for home a

little later. The Land's End Hotel is a very nice place to stay and I would recommend it to anyone. We were in no immediate hurry to leave particularly as the weather outside looked so grim.

About 10am the rain had been downgraded to a heavy drizzle so we decided to go for it, we loaded up, left and gingerly picked our way through the first 10 miles of twisting bends, we even got through Crows-an-wra without mishap. Reaching the bigger roads past Penzance we opened up more, filtering through roadworks in one point, as the weather seemed to improve.

By the time we were into Devon there was brilliant sunshine which stayed with us all the way home as far as Chelmsford, but by then we were way beyond caring.

We came home via M5, M4, M25, A12 etc., quite boring but quicker and with several stops to ease the parts of my arse that needed easing on a long run, we both got home without mishap.

It was just over 900 miles round trip and I had a really good time, both bikes ran faultlessly, nothing rattled apart or fell off, no breakdown trucks were needed, no Sat-Navs were required and no-one got lost! Unfortunately 1 rabbit was killed in the making of this event.

Thank you to Barney for riding with me, maybe we can do it again sometime, others would be welcome to join us.

Regards
Stainless

C19 picnic 12th July

At the AGM it was decided by the membership that 2015 would be a 'picnic' instead of BBQ, I think most people know the reason why.

Instead of the usual marquee a selection of gazebos were put up and coped quite well, there were spares in case we had huge numbers and inclement weather,

It was a warm, sunny day and people brought their own chairs and tables, food, drink and utensils, there was tea and coffee available for those who wanted it.

Numbers were down unfortunately, it was good to see Barry and Audrey.

The bring and buy sale was well supported and I know a few items were sold, the raffle raised enough to cover the outlay so all in all a good day with very little outlay. Peter

Ride out to Godstone & Newlands corner *19th July*

The meeting place was Thurrock at 9.30am and 4 from C19 met up with 8 bikes from C13 for a ride to Godstone [J8 M25] to meet up with members of C14, a spirited ride along the M25 got us there in good time.

After the usual greetings and frivolity off we went for a 23 mile scenic route ride to Newlands Corner which is a well known biker cafe, there we also old Alvis motor cars on show to add to the interest.

After the usual food and drink [no fish and chips though !!] we headed back on a different route via Box Hill to Godstone where a charity cricket match was being played on the green, there were also various stalls selling their wares

It was a lovely warm, sunny day and we left for home as a group at about 3pm, I got home at 4.35

Another good example of an intercentre rideout coming together nicely,

Mr K

From the Editor

Using headphones on a motorcycle in France is illegal from the 1st July, but only those that actually fit in the ear, if they attach to the

crash helmet with a speaker in the crash helmet they are still legal, the law also applies to 4 wheel vehicles and push bikes as well.

I saw something recently which reminded me of something that seems to have been forgotten or not known at all. If a bike has stopped and the crash helmet is placed on the road behind the bike it is a sign that help is needed,

Ride out's 2015

July 31st, August 1st, 2nd. C5 Yorkies rally

Doncaster RUFC, Castle Park DN2 5QB

Meet at Takeley Rest area on the A120 ready to leave by 9.30am, we are then aiming for the OK Diner on the A1 post code PE9 4AD Stamford, about 72 miles for 11am ish, fuel stop, nosh, drink and meet up with some others. It is then only 77 miles to the rally site so we should be there just after lunch.

August 9th

Brooklands Museum American Day, American cars, hotrods and bikes. Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0QN. Meet Thurrock 10am

August 16th

Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Meet Boreham 10am, Langham 10.45am

August 23rd

Covent Garden, London. Meet Thurrock 10.30am

August 28th, 29th, 30th.

C17 Scrumpies Rally. Bournemouth Sports Club, Chapel Gate, East Parley, Christchurch BH236BD. Meeting arrangements to follow.

September 6th

Peterborough Show [all kinds of cars and motorbikes] meet Boreham 9.30

September 13th

Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

It is proposed to make this a 2 day trip, apparently you need all day to see it. So go up Saturday and come back Sunday. All depends what type of accommodation I can find !!

September 20th

Leysdown Via Minster on Sea, Kent Meet Thurrock Services 10-30

September 27th

Audley End Stately Home, Saffron Walden, Essex Meet Boreham 10-00

October 3rd [Saturday]

Ride to the Wall. details to follow

October 4th

Copdock Bike Show

October 11th

Brightona Bike Show, Brighton Meet Thurrock Services 10-00

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