

SEAX

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

October/November 2018 Issue 268

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Centre 19 meeting's date

October 2018

North meeting

8pm Monday 1st October 2018

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 15th October 2018

The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

November 2018

North meeting

8pm Monday 5th November 2018

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 19th November 2018

The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

Reps ramblings

Hi Crusaders,

Well this is going to be my last write up to you as Rep.

After nearly 6 years its going to be weird not having to worry about having to do this or get the clatter write up done.

You haven't got rid of me yet though as I will still help out and give support where I can.

The AGM

It would be nice to get a good turn out as this is when you have a voice to change things or make suggestions on how to improve the club/centre

It is at our South meeting venue, the Lodge Inn address at the top of SEAX, time get there from 7pm to start meeting at 7.30. 21st oct. Some will be eating before the AGM so come along and join us.

I have done a write up of my USA trip, I will get Bob to put some photos up on the web as we cant get that many on here,

It is still a constant battle to get Seax full, even though it is bi-monthly now, which I would think it will stay, at the moment.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the events throughout the year, and don't forget we still have Copdock on the 7th....

Ride outs

My first article for Seax but I felt it had to be done.

At the start of the year a few of us get together and plan a ride out calendar for the year [maybe it is time to do it differently to take in to account events that we dont know are taking place throughout the year , to be discussed]

Anyway, a lot of effort goes in to planning these ride outs and events and I have noticed that they are being supported less and less,

Today, we went to Aldeburgh, it was a lovely day, OK a bit overcast but warm and dry, there were 5 bikes and 7 people. A very poor turn out for what was a lovely ride through country lanes once off the A14 led by Alan who had come all the way from Woodbridge to Langham Services to lead the ride.

It would be nice if we could get some feed back as to why the ride outs are being badly supported and how we can do things differently, I realise that life doesnt revolve round the VSOC, C19 but we never see some of you and in fact we have members we have not seen at all, it would be good to meet you invisible ones, you never know, you may enjoy the company !!

Thanks for reading this and look forward to your feedback

Dave [some call me effing Dave]

Rideout to Aldeburgh 19.8.18

Five bikes and 7 people met up at Langham Services for the cross country ride to Aldeburgh, we turned off on the A140 and after a few miles left to Stonham... mistake..... as there was a car show on at Stonham Barns and the traffic was at a stand still, about turn and back to the A140 and turned off to Coddendam, Framlingham, Leiston and a few other villages in between to arrive in Aldeburgh in good time and parked right on the sea front for the traditional fish and chips, not for me though as I had bought a pic nic, got to think about my weight.

The weather was warm, dry, overcast and a bit Autumnal as Alan said, a big word for a Sunday !!

I left about 2ish with Little Sue in tow and arrived home about 3ish after a spirited ride to clear the nostrils, no speeding though.

Before we know it the ride out season will be finished so grab the chance while you can.

Peter

USA Road trip and Raider rally by Bruce Thompson

Hi folks well here is the start of a 5,225 mile trip on the east coast of America from the Keys up to Halifax Nova Scotia with some trips going in and then back out again.

First off there was 8 of us going out but due to health Kevin Hoyte could not make the trip so Kevin and Sally unfortunately had to back out, but our thanks go to them for all the hard work they put into this trip along with Janet and Steve Butterworth.

Yes, this was meant to be a bike trip where we shipped the bikes out to Miami, but due to the data protection act and all that bolony we could not get insurance, so luckily the bikes had not gone. After loads of calls by JB a hire car was arranged with a swap over in Portland where we were able to take this one over the border to Canada.

It all started at a Premier Inn on Wednesday the 11 July, Paula took me where we were to meet up with Adrian, Sue and Grumpy, well Adrian was there, but S and G were at another inn up the road, fancy having 2 premier inns with the same road name DOH!

So anyway we met up Thursday morning at the airport at 8am for the start of a 30 day trip, so 9hrs and 3 films later we arrive in Miami, over 2hrs to get through customs, what a palava, you have to go a computer finger prints scan when it eventually works then photo, questionnaire, then we have to que up again where the customs officer asks all the Q again phew we got through. JB already at the Hotel as they arrived a day earlier due to flights from oop north, gave G the details for getting the hotel bus to pick us up and transport to our first hotel, wow did that heat feel good when we came out the airport. After the wait and ride to the hotel met J and S got booked in and sorted we went for our first meal, was it as big as people say they are, no, I found them just right, and yes I got my first Guinness.

Day 2, all re packed and off to the airport to pick up our transport. After finding the Avis hire we are told sorry no car, 2 hr wait as they haven't been returned yet and there is people in front of you waiting. Well you can imagine we were not a happy bunch, so 3 hrs later and much moaning S and G went downstairs to see what was down there, oh a mini bus and a big GMC 6 seater now that was nice, so by luck the manager was there and we managed to get a deal on the GMC. so at last after all the fuss and we were on our way in a 6.2 monster truck lol.

Janet had arranged a visit to a gator farm in the everglades on our way to the 2nd hotel along with a ride on a big airboat, now that was good wet fun. After seeing all the gators being fed etc we moved on to do 120 mile drive down to Marathon on the Keys for a 2 night stop at the blackfin resort and marina.

Its funny how once booked in and sorted the time is always beer o'clock, so next door we tried the local food and beer and we were not disappointed, and live music was thrown in as well, cant be bad.

Day 3 we drove right to the end of the keys to Key West which is the furthest point south and only 90 miles from Cuba. After some pics of the local area we moved on back towards the hotel via some shops and a stop for lunch.

Back at the Hotel I took a walk down to the marina and jetty, where it was very quiet, nice and clear water with lobster and tropical fish and a good spot to come back later and get some sunset photos, which turned out great if I say so myself.

Day 4 was time to move on again heading for Naples, the roads were clear but slow as a 45 to 55 limit, saw a sign for an Indian reserve/spot called Miccosukee, but unfortunately it was shut, so on we went, just to mention the driving was shared between 4 of us Janet and Steve, and Grumpy and myself, and it worked out well as by the end of the day we were not knackered.

2 nights here so after the usual re fuelling of us, not the car, we turned in, I wont mention the beer and food all the time as it happened every day, so that being said Day 5 was a boat trip to see how the other half lived and hopefully get to see some dolphins, and yes we did, a dolphin came alongside the boat and swimming and jumping out of the water and all the shouts of woo hoo etc, apparently the more noise you make the better the dolphins like it.

Day 6 7 New Orleans

I must say I love the roads out here if you have 70 miles to do at 70 miles an hour that is what it takes, out of the whole trip there was 1 accident causing a tail back and maybe 1 other due to roadworks otherwise no complaints.

So again all booked in to a very nice hotel, and details on how to get to town, we were on our way on a tram to the French Quarter, now the tram tickets lasted 24 hrs so that was handy for our return home and back again the next day.

Bourbon Street is the main high street with all the activity, which we had to walk through in order to get to the French quarter, you had kids drumming on there upside down buckets spaced out so 1 would start then further down more would start, you get the jist. The bars all had music and live bands with there windows open competing for each other to get you in?

well as we got to the FQ Grumpy dreams came true as there was a fire station with a nice bright red engine parked up (pmsl).not sure who it was that got the officer out but he also drove the engine out so we could see it and G and S went inside for pics. After chatting etc he told us where to go and eat for some good food, he wasn't wrong mmm.

After we walked down the rd and stopped in a bar that had live music and where I was introduced to some nice bottled beer. Goose ipa was 1 and I cant remember the other, but on the trip I sampled a few as I could not always get a Guinness. Last tram back was 1am so we had to get our skates on, luckily S never altered her watch so it was only mdt, and we got the tram ok. next day was a trip down the Mississippi on a paddle steamer where we saw some of the damage done by storm Katrina along the banks. After we went to the French Market in the FQ and looked at all the local wares for sale, and of course more sampling of the beer, you may ask, you drank a lot, not really says I as we did a lot of walking and in 90 degree heat its thirsty work, and its not our fault that there are so many bars.

Days 8 and 9 Memphis

This was a long day 450miles ish, stopping at Tupelo first, well we were going to Graceland so it would be rude not to stop at the kings birthplace first. As I say it was a long day we arrived at our hotel opposite Gracelands (yes so not far to go when we visit it the next day) just in time to check in and go next door to watch a Elvis tribute was playing, not a disappointment he was good, so a great night had by all even Adrian singing away with his new bottle opener in his hand.

We were told the tour can take 5hrs, and the rest, as it just isn't Gracelands to look at, there is also a small complex of museums opposite to go round taking you through the years, all his cars, army side, other stars who were influenced by Elvis and sun studios, plus outside his 2 planes.

That evening we went into Beale street again this is the main drag where it is all happening, street performers live music and beer.

Day 10 Nashville

1 night stopover here so much to see in so little time, we split up here once we got into town as G and S had already been to the Johnny Cash museum they went shopping, the museum is well worth a visit if you go as it has a timeline of all his career etc, also a Patsy Cline museum upstairs. Now to find me a pair of cowboy boots, and yes I did get a lovely pair, onto meet G and S who had also bought boots each G even breaking his in already, S and J had arranged to meet up with a Mark friend from the Raider club who couldn't make the rally so being local told us where to go and we all had a nice meal before parting ways. we decided to have a night cap by the hotel and the 1 we went in was very different as it had old school video games, playable along one wall and all sorts of board games to play.

Day 11 - 16 Maggie Valley

10th anniversary Raider rally, now this is the main part of the trip and why we came here, now this is where the big disappointment of not having the bikes hit us, we pulled up and to see all those Raiders lined up, well they were just pleased to see us and welcomed us new bods in, this was the 3rd time for J and S. so a weeks rest of no travelling except of course for what we wanted to do, and get some much needed washing done. Tuesday was a chill out day, much like at our rallies, took a walk down the road taking in all the mountain views and local shops. Wednesday was time to pick up our 2.4 Polaris slingshots, J and S in 1 and A and myself in another, G and S decided to just use the car, well Wolf Creek rentals here we come. After all the paperwork etc was sorted it was off to do the tail of the dragon, 11 miles of mountain rd containing 318 curves and bends, Adrian and Steve first at the wheel and myself and Janet did the return trip back down. The views were breath taking, and the roads were smooth, yes no pot holes, at the turn around point at the top was a bike clothing store, not to be mentioned, oh go on then it was a Harley store, but who cares it had a loo and cold drinks, so after a few pics it was my turn woo hoo. After getting used to the gears (on the wrong side) I did go for the door side a couple of times lol, it was the 11 mile return trip to the bottom where Deals Gap as its called a café and the tree of shame where it is adorned with all sorts of plastic attire from various bikes who never made it back in 1 piece. The drive back to M V was noisy, yes unfortunately these machines are very noisy, but great fun, would I have 1 no is the answer to that.

on arrival we were swamped with people looking at these machines and on that note 2 more couples went and hired 1 for the day as they had some local as well, did they have fun, yes they did. That evening was the welcome party, so we all went to a hotel up the road where Gary the organiser had arranged food for all, very nice too and as it was a welcome night, it went around the room table by table everyone introducing themselves and where they came from, at this point I am fed up with being asked are you from Australia, not from the rally I might add.. so when my turn came I said Bruce not from Australia but the UK, THIS GOT A LAUGH...

Thursday

Last night J had asked if we fancied doing some horse riding, its only up the road, we all said yes why not, Adrian though had never rode a horse, nothing to worry about we said. so off we went to the stables, all getting our horses and Adrian very wary, I can understand that but give him credit he got on and loved every minute, hour and a half later after going up and back down the mountain I can safely say he will do it again. That night a shooting range had been booked for whoever wanted to go and let off some steam. I cant remember the name of what I chose but it was a pistol with a kick, it was fun but if you never got the stance right the shots were well out, we all different guns rifles, revolvers etc and J actually won a cup for best rookie.

Back at camp and chatting and mixing as everyday someone new to talk to, any way I went back to my room for a refill and J and S came out of theirs so we walked back to the front of hotel via a small grass slope and it was small, but the dew had started to form and Steve following me down, I heard arggh I broke me leg, turning round S on the floor, I said get up thinking he was pissing about, but soon realised he wasn't, his right leg went forward but his left leg stayed back as he went down on his rear end. Some old first aid came into use, after finding out where the pain was I supported his leg from the knee to ankle, by this time we had a crowd so 1 called an ambulance and I asked for some ice and towels, by the time I had just made Steve comfortable the Police were there and then the paramedics, 5 to 10 mins, wow that's a record, explained what had happened and continued to support while they did their job, in the meantime talking to Janet getting her busy by getting all the insurance docs etc. got Steve on the stretcher and in the ambulance, I found Janet, she had all the paperwork so they let her sit in front and soon were on there way, what a bloody shame, an end to their holiday and only half way as well, just as well we never had the bikes. We were in constant touch via messenger, so knew what was going on.

Friday, we got the news broke in 2 places needing to be pinned and plated, to be operated on @5pm ish. The 4 of us went up to the hospital to see them before we went out for the day to the bling shop where chrome bits were looked at and bought. That night Janet was at camp as she couldn't do anything at the H. With constant checks S eventually went under the knife I think about 6pm, and was a few hours in surgery, we had a good night and J more relaxed knowing that S was ok,

Saturday, we learned that the surgery went well so we went up to see the patient before having to go back to the bling shop as Grumpy bought the wrong pegs, A drove the slingshot with Sue and G and I were in the car, lovely and sunny, until we got there where it decided to start to rain, ok looks like I will get wet as I was driving the slingshot back, we pulled in to a Wendy's and had some lunch and outside it was pissing down, luckily Adrian had his wets so I put them on and enjoyed a nice wet ride to Cherokee where we stopped to have a look around and pick up some gifts, the sun came back

out and I had a dry ride back from there. The evening people were starting to get ready loading their bikes on trailers etc as some left, and others had very early start Sunday morning, if you ask how far have you got to go its not oh about 500 miles its 10 hrs or 12 hrs. back up the H to see S and J he was in good spirits and felt a lot better, we said we will pop back in the morning to say goodbye before we continued on the trip, now just the 4 of us so all the driving between Grumpy and myself. Stopped to get some late dinner and had to have soft drinks as no alcohol was served A had a heart attack lol, a few patrons were eating and then only us, I said are you closing then and yes it was 9pm, a good meal though, so back to camp for a drink.....

Sunday, well its the last day in the smokies Maggie Valley, after brekkie and farewells its up the hospital to say farewell to Steve and Janet. After they wished us luck for the rest of the trip which after the 4 of us had chats the last couple of days we decided to change course a little so bit we headed for Roanoke NC, for a 1 night stopover before heading for Washington DC for 2 nights, the hotel was a nice 1 a bit posh, but this was DC, the restaurant on the 17th floor gave a great view out onto the Potomac river and a flight path for the airport, you can watch a plane heading towards you then through another window see it(what looks like) is just missing the next building. The first evening we ventured onto the subway, now this makes the London underground tunnels look small, so half a dozen stops to get to the main drag and having our maps headed for the Ford theatre, (where Lincoln was assassinated)the Q was massive, so I went inside and enquired about times etc, well you had to book your slot and it was FREE yes free, all museums in DC are free, this goes way back, when it was said that in the DC area you don't have to pay, (the equivalent of national trust) sorry I cant remember all the names and details. So down the street where the tour bus start point was, leaflets and times etc were found out, tomorrow is a busy day then doing tourist bits. off to find food and a nice pint of Guinness woo hoo .

Tuesday morning then we set off again for the tube and the Ford theatre museum where we picked up our tickets for that afternoon, great off for the tour bus, hop on hop off all day if you wanted, the main 1 to get off for was the Lincoln statue and yes its as big as it looks, next stop the White house, well all roads blocked off and the only view we got was from a distance so a disappointment really, I mean to say I did let them know we were coming, how rude hehe.

All back on the bus and back to the start, we headed for the museum and looked at the history of Lincoln and Booth, then they took us into the actual theatre and the box where it all happened back in April of 1865, worth a visit if you go over.

All walked out, and just wanting to go back chill out for the evening we went back to our digs.

Ready for the next leg of the trip we headed for Canada, yes to see the Niagra falls from the Canadian side as that is the best views, and after seeing them yes I agree. Turning up to the hotel it was like being in Blackpool, all amusements and rides. so after the usual booking in etc and asking for the best place to eat and see the views we headed off for the falls and only a 10min walk too. Half an hour later or so we headed for the cliff lift to go up to the restaurant/hotel to eat, as we thought all the window views were taken, so half an hour for a table or hour and half for view, take the half hour please, not that we were hungry of course.

4 drinks ordered and that will be \$48 please, bloody hell, Grumpy says don't worry its only 56p to the dollar, so only 25 quid, that's ok then lol, but hey tourist prices, while waiting for our buzzer to go we took a walk round to look at the views, worth waiting for a table, in my view no, took some pics and came back to the bar. After a great meal we left for the lift again, got to the bottom in time for the start of a fireworks display, good timing or what, and now its dark the falls are all lit up on a changing colour system, which by looking behind us you could see the spot lights/beams pointing at the falls. I wish I had remembered my camera, but the mobile was good enough, I will come back in the morning before setting off to take some more.

This takes us up to our last week to go, with a stop in Stanford then Albany before a 2 day stop in Bangor Maine, Having stopped in Portland to change over from our lovely big GMC as we couldn't take that over to Canada, we then took charge of a Chevrolet ? a nice sized car and a big boot for the luggage which was important.

So here we are Stephen King Fans, Bangor Maine his home town and where most of his books are based, having done some research there was a tour but only twice a day and these were all booked, so googles help we did it ourselves from pet cemetery, It, Stephens mansion, Insomnia, Night shift, I think we missed 1 place out of 10, so not to bad, it was a hot day so in need of a pint, be rude not to, we found a place with outside seating and enjoyed a nice brew, talk about freehouse, the list was so big I gave up looking. back to hotel for a nice dip in the pool, a chat with some locals and some Canadians who were over for a concert down the road, never heard of him I said, to be fair nor had the others, talking about the trip etc and that we were heading for Halifax tomorrow, oh we are from near there, small world.

Halifax here we come our last 3 days, we did the duck boat tour round town and then onto the river, about how Halifax rescuers were the first to arrive at the sinking of the Titanic and how people were laid out to be identified on the river front, also how it was hit by the biggest man made disaster that destroyed most of Halifax, if you are interested google the Halifax explosion where 2 ships who thought they could pass in this narrow strait never and the incoming ship was loaded with all sorts of explosives, the crew of said ship were the only survivors as they could see what was happening and all jumped overboard and swam to a near island, after being hit the ship just carried on into port where it exploded, it was described as Hiroshima twice over.

All this and a titanic display was in there maritime museum, which we took in another day. to sum up this trip, yes it was a bloody good crack, I wish Paula could have made it, and yes I will admit I missed her and it took the edge off the trip, if you know what I mean.

Also SB breaking his leg and not finishing the trip after he and Janet had put so much into, so again thanks to them.

P.S.

The journey home was fun, a twin prop 80 seater from Halifax to Boston, great flight, landed and entered Boston at TERMINAL A, Asked for directions where we need to get connecting flights, yes you need T D. ok half an hour later we arrived ,go through customs bla bla . sat and had some lunch Adrian decided he wanted some duty free, came back and

said "guys were in the wrong place, they wont give me duty free on this boarding ticket", oh great so having found out where we should have gone, yes you guessed it back to bloody T.A. well we weren't happy but grateful for the 5hr stopover, well it passed the time a bit so half hour later back where we started , back through customs again empty pockets shoes off etc etc, yes it was beer o'clock, now just to wait for flight which was on time but took half an hour in a taxi Q before take off. 3 films later Heathrow and my ride home, thank you Jo for picking me up....

THE END

Ride out to Walton on the Naze with a twist 16.9.18

We were hoping for good weather as the ride out was going to be a bit different. I had a call from Cope Moto our local Yamaha dealer a couple of months ago asking if it would be possible to tick a box on an old boys bucket list and take him for a ride on a motorbike, which of course I said yes to and the plan was put in to operation. He is a resident of Milton Lodge in Colchester.

Dick is 84 but very frail, legs didnt bend very easily and he walks with a zimmer frame, but nevertheless we managed to get him on the back of Dave's stryker complete with crash helmet, gloves and as much safety gear as we could attach including strapping him on, he only wanted to go ' up the road ' so with Alan following with a carer on his bike, just in case, off they went, the staff were understandably very anxious, but also excited that Dick's wish was being granted. All was being filmed and photographed and 5 minutes later they returned with Dick smiling from ear to ear and one bucket list wish ticked off, I hope he doesnt have bungy jumping and sky diving on his list !!

Dave then took Dick's daughter out for a ride as she had never been on a bike before, too much excitement for one day

A great turn out of 12 bikes from C19, thanks to those that turned up, including Barry Tinson who will be 85 next birthday, well done Barry.

The ride out then carried on as planned to Walton on the Naze with the customary fish and chips on arrival and a visit by 25+ Hells Angels who obstructed the pavement outside the tea bar and I guess wouldn't be booked or asked to move on by the local traffic warden . For info, I saw them later at a cafe in Clacton so it seems as if they were on some sort of mission. No problems though.

It was a lovely day for a ride and well attended. Mr K

C13 Summer ish BBQ 14th October 2018

Old Owens sports and social club, Potters Bar, EN6 4NF

Previously cancelled but now back on 12 o clock to 5 pm

LAMB SPIT ROAST!

£5 which includes a real on spit lamb, OR beef burger, and salad, plus cakes

£2 for seconds

Bar open, undercover and indoor areas.

Please let us know if you are coming for catering purposes.

email vsocjkk@yahoo.com

or

John Knott: 07938227381

Please try and support this event as they supported ours and let JK know as soon as possible, thank you

Christmas Party 5th January 2019

If you remember back in November 2017 it was mentioned in Seax that we intended to host a joint centre post Christmas party at the Holiday Inn, Eight Ash Green, Colchester CO63QL. This has been booked so we just need to fill the spaces.

The venue is large enough to have 100 people [maybe slightly less for more comfort] and we are hoping to fill the function room which we will have to ourselves.

We have hosted Christmas parties at this venue previously with great success which is why it was decided to go back there

The cost for those deciding to stay over is £60 for a double or twin room with full, eat as much as you like breakfast, the Christmas meal is £24.95 for 3 courses and you will have use of all hotel facilities from 2pm on Saturday 5th January, swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi and gym for those feeling energetic !!

We also need to consider if we need a disco for the evening, our experience is that it was too noisy for the space and was very intrusive to chat, a lot of people left the room and went in to the reception area. This is a decision to be made by members of course so up to you.

Members of other centres have now been invited so please consider this event and put it in your diary now with a call to confirm your attendance

Thank you

Peter

From the Editor

Please note the change for venue for the North meeting which is now The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW.

We have some merchandise for sale, so please can you take it off our hands.

3 beanie hats with the C19 logo on, £5 each

56 centre patches at £4 each, discount can be arranged if you buy 5 or more !!

33 pin badges free of charge or 2 if you buy something else, bargain !!

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 !!

Centre 19 Rideouts 2018

7th

Copdock bike show

For those that are not putting their bikes on C10 stand we'll be meeting at Boreham at 10.00 and Langham 10.45. Otherwise make own way.

14th

Brightona bike show, Brighton.

Thurrock services 10.00

21st

AGM, The Lodge, Battlesbridge 7.00pm

28th

I have spoken briefly at the south meeting about an event being organised by a group called E.S.V. [Edwards Show Vehicles] to raise money for Essex Shed which is a charitable organisation that offers anyone the chance to learn woodworking and gardening skills and hopefully expanding into other areas and Air Ambulance. The show is to be held at Hardie Park, Stanford Le Hope SS17 0PB. The fee is £3.00 on the day or £2.00 pre-booked. Obviously it's all weather permitting but if we pre-book we don't pay until we get there and if it's raining and don't go we don't pay at all. The advantage of pre-booking is that they said they would reserve a place for us to all park together. I understand there'll be fast food stalls and there is a very nice cafe anyway. At about 5.00 they plan a Halloween ride out with all lights blazing, if anyone is prepared to stay that long.

What I'm gonna need is for you all to let me know if you are interested so I can get a list together and let the organisers know, think about it and I'll collect names at the AGM.

All other Sundays will be impromptu