

SEAX

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

August/September 2019 Issue 273 contents:

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Centre 19 meeting dates

August 2019

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 6th August 2019. [**Now Tuesday and not Monday**]

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 19th August 2019

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

Sept 2019

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 3rd Sept 2019

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 16th Sept 2019

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

Reps ramblings

The South meeting on the 15th July was cancelled as a meeting was held at the picnic on Sunday as most that attend the South meeting were there. The picnic was low in numbers with no one from C10 or C13 in attendance, 4 from C15 supported us as always and thanks for that. Maybe the 'picnic' has run its course and it is time to think of something different, ideas please by the AGM.

North meeting

2nd July 2019. Six of us at the meeting and 4 on bikes so that must be a first. Good to see Mr K amongst us again following his suspension and reinstatement, nothing changed really as he was at the last South meeting as well.

Just a reminder about up coming ride outs, rallies and events,

Mr K, Cynthia, and I had a good ride to the International rally in Germany including a little blast on the Autobahn, 5 of us on Raiders cruising at well in excess of the UK speed limit, well about 120 to be precise, I was glad to be in Mr K's slip stream as he was 'leader of the pack' it just had to be done as the opportunity never happens in the UK. Awesome lol We covered about 1600 miles in sunshine the whole time, a bit different to the UK at the time .

We need to think about something to do at Christmas, a meal, party, theatre trip, thinking caps on please and suggestions to me. Edit that last comment as I believe Clive has booked the Lodge for a meal on December 8th, put it in your diaries please.

Thanks from Cougy

I received the below from an ex member of C19 who moved t'up North and is now an active member of C4 Northern Raiders. He is well known to most of us and when he moved he asked to be retained on the Seax mailing list which of course I did.

These sort of jobs are often a thankless task and of course we are all volunteers at whatever level of club committee we sit on.

It makes the job all the more rewarding when a respected member takes the time to put pen to paper as he has, Thanks Cougy, much appreciated.

29.5.19

Peter,

Just wanted to say how much I enjoy reading about my old friends in Centre 19.

It's good to hear about the adventures and to see the photos, takes me back to all the good times I had with you all.

Wishing you all the best and many more happy days

Cougy

Rolling Thunder 12.4.2019

Hi all, before I start I would like to state this is not going to be political rant. Which way you sit on this subject is for you to decide. I am writing about the ride and experience on this day 12/4/19. And yes it's late I know but I got an excuse. I forget things, lol.

Right I start. From the start you probably know where I stand by even attending this ride. I decided to go and looked up the jumping sites [meeting places] for the ride. Again at this point we are dealing with ex forces personnel organising this and man did they do a good job.

Well Thurrock was my jumping off point. I arrived with a hour to go before setting off time. When I arrived I started chatting with this guy on a sports bike and we started guessing numbers. There was about 30 or 40 guys there mainly cruisers. So I said well if there is about 4000 that would be good. Little did we know. More and more bikes turned up. Then about 10 minutes from heading off with a police escort we all got called over by these 2 guys wearing berets. They told us the route we were taking and where the other contingents where converging on London .

It's funny but you did feel you were in a military exercise. Our ranks at this point had swelled to over a 100. We set off on the A13 towards London. More and more bikes joining us. I could feel the vibe and it was living up to the title. **ROLLING THUNDER**. Those of you who know the route into London via A13 will know how many traffic lights there are. We never stopped. Police waved us through. I knew then it was going to be big. I had ridden in similar demos back in the 80s in France and Belgium with Mag but this was bigger. Down the highway I was in among a group of patched Outlaws MC guys, they acting as Marshalls and kept pushing us through junctions. Then I was riding

next to Hells Angels full patch members. It was bizarre. Any way we weaved our way through London heading for converging point in Park Lane.

When I got there I couldn't believe my eyes the police had blocked the whole length of park lane heading south off to park our bikes. We just about got in on the end of it. 25 thousand bikes. That's not me saying this. This is the Met Police figures with another 3 thousand blocked on the Edgware Road because of numbers. These guys never got any further.

Saw loads of over heated bikes. Not a adventure for an old bike that's for sure.

We were stopped there for about a hour so plenty of time to get off and stretch our legs. Then the order came mount up and start your engines. I never served in the forces but it seemed most of the guys around me had. Navy, RAF. And army. Not forgetting the Marines. This guy marching around with his green beret, shouting come on boys let's go. Then I noticed the patch on his vest, Hells Angel. Who's going to argue, lol.

Well we rode across the river along the south side to cross again over Westminster Bridge to be greeted by cheering crowds. Some parked up some carried on down the mall. But the column was getting split up now by the crowds, and police.

. I pulled over by Cenotaph. Picture to prove it, lol. But I was done by now and I drifted away. What a day. Some of you might not even know that 28 thousand bikes converged on central London. The BBC chose to ignore the fact. So if I do make a possible political statement it's this. WHAT OTHER THINGS DON'T THEY TELL US. Well hopefully my tale is not to long to either bore you or not fit in our seax. And again my apologies for not doing this sooner. Tales from the dark side.

What a brilliant write up Gary, I feel the atmosphere just reading it and now wish I had gone.

International Rally, Germany 5-15 June 2019

The planning for this event and the UK attendance started way back in 2018, as always it was my job to book the ferries for the 27 people, 24 bikes to the Hook of Holland from Harwich at 11pm on the 5th June.

All booked and paid for 8 of us left my house in the pouring rain at about 7.30, filled up with petrol and arrived at Harwich to meet up with many other Brits who had made their way to Harwich during the day, not a good start to be honest and wet before we got passed the first hurdle !!

On the ferry, showered and bed for me, others had a better idea and went to the bar.

Thursday was sunny, warm and dry and we split in to 2 groups for the ride to Rosdorf, about 300 miles, 2 groups quickly became 3 as some of us got left behind at traffic lights and Steve who was at the front of the splinter group had his sat nav set to 'avoid motorways'. I knew we were going wrong but thought he will realise soon, but no and then he stopped, I took over and we quickly got on the motorway to Rotterdam, within an hour we caught up with the 2nd group who had left 15 minutes later than us.

Eventually both groups got together and we joined the first group again, I don't really know what happened but 5 of us got separated again and eventually found our way to the rally site, it is very rural and the roads are very small.

Once at the site we booked in and found our various 6 man tents that had been put up for us, caught up with foreign friends and then it was dinner time. Thursday night was quiet and most went to bed at a reasonable time.

Up at the crack of dawn for me and in to the shower which was hot and clean [always a good tip to shower early as eventually the hot water runs out] First cuppa down and more English appeared, always the English up early. Friday night was band night and it rained so many did a rain dance, a German guy who always wears a kilt at these events paraded up and down in Gestapo style with a multi coloured umbrella, quite comical for him really.

Saturday was dry and warm, very warm and the site was buzzing, it is great to catch up with friends who you havent seen for at least a year or maybe more. A large posse of bikes left about 11am for the ride out accompanied by 4 Police outriders as is the law in Germany.

Saturday PM was the Presidents Meeting which was over and done with in good time, I took the minutes and Kev chaired the meeting,

Saturday evening's early entertainment was a German Umpah band who played a lot of nostalgic English numbers, very nice if you like that sort of thing !!, The band was a repeat of Friday night but played at a noise level meaning a conversation could continue.

Sunday, up early as usual although I wasn't first up lol, packed up and left for Bavaria for the next part of our trip, 370 miles which all 24 bikes did in good style.

There were 206 through the gate which is a very low number for an International rally, will there be another one in Germany, I doubt it due to finances, they did very well and things ran very smoothly, food was good, facilities good and the site is very rural and spacious. All in all a good rally.

We arrived at our next destination in Bavaria a place called Bad Füssing in the South, first impressions very good, lovely tourist type town, rooms more than adequate with large balconies and a stones throw from the Austrian border, in fact on the Monday 5 of us walked to Austria, well 3 actually made it as we had already walked 8kms in 31c and I got a blister on my little toe so 2 of us stopped for something to eat and drink and caught a taxi back for an afternoon siesta, lol

Tuesday we all rode to Linz in Austria, had something to eat in Macdonalds lol and then 4 of us rode back earlier than the main bunch, it was very hot again and leathers were not so inviting.

Wednesday the local newspaper turned up as they had heard that a ' biker gang ' was in town, lots of photos taken. A ride round the block and an article in the local press that mentioned an extremely nice bunch of people, an accolade given by the hotel owner. I didn't go far that day.

Overall the hotel was very nice, good food and excellent service ,

Thursday we set off for Heidelberg [our stop for one night on the way to The Hook] about 270 miles, June's front wheel bearing exploded just as we reached the hotel but apart from that we got there in one piece.

Wheel removed and the local Yamaha dealer fitted a new bearing on Friday morning and off we went about mid day for the 330 miles to the Hook,

Cynthias 535 broke down at one of the services so unknown to Kev he left with the main bunch which left 6 of us fiddling about to get her going, it was an electrical issue, anyway a long story short it stopped again as we got on the autobahn and 3 of us continued leaving the others ' fiddling '

The 3 of us got lost as sat navs froze due to new roads and we found ourselves going round in circles, big circles, out came the map, fat lot of good that was as we didn't know where we were anyway. By the skin of our teeth we made it to the ferry and were the last ones on, I think we did close to 460

miles, I was the first one off the ferry and home by 7.10am on Saturday,

It was a trip marred by breakdowns starting with a crank position sensor needing repair, a wire had broken inside the side casing, a member of C6 had a soldering iron so a permanent repair was done. A fuel pump then broke and that was replaced in the hotel car park 1000euros, ouch. The wheel bearing as above and Cynthia's electrical problem .

One of the highlights for me was when 5 of us got split up from the main bunch by slow lorries and when clear we just had to catch up, I was leader of the pack so thought hmm, I will never get a chance like this again so went for it, 5 Raiders cruising at between 115 and 120mph on the autobahn for about 4 miles, awesome, comments at the end were, Dave ' I am glad I was in your slip stream, Sally what the f--k were you on Mr K, Grumpy, I don't know what fuel you lot are running but I couldn't keep up. As I said a chance you would never get in the UK so am pleased I had a chance to test the bike which didn't disappoint.

I have made a decision that I wont be doing any of these long trips again, so am thankful that I have had the opportunity to do them for all the years I have. Finland next year and we are thinking of flying and hiring a car for that one

As always, a good trip, great hotels in lovely locations, great weather and above all, good company and lots of silly banter.

Mr K

Sunday Lunch at the Holiday Inn - 30.6.19

The original plan was to go to the White Hart, Stebbing, a pub we went to last year and Management asked if we would go back.

A change of Management and the demands they put on us made it difficult, so at very short notice the venue was changed, it didn't please some but when put in a predicament with 2 days to spare alternative arrangements have to be made or cancel the whole deal. It is always hard to please all the people all the time but those of us that do the arranging do our best !!

15 of us ordered our lunch and took our seats, all seated together on a long table and it was served in good time, none of us had ordered puddings but the

pudding menu looked inviting so just had to be done by some, mostly with ice cream lol

It all finished about 2.30pm so a nice way to spend a hot Sunday lunchtime.

Thanks to those that came, shame for those that didn't.

Anon

Eight for Devon

At a dinner some of us had for Christmas it was suggested to book a cottage for a weeks getaway. We've done this before but hooked them onto a rally, the Arklow, Ireland rally a few years ago and last year at the Welsh rally. This time we decided to separate it from a rally so we can pick an area of our choosing, plus it would allow Terry & Chris to come as they don't do rallies.

So I Googled Sykes cottages with Devon as a preference and found a converted barn in a village called Sherford near Kingsbridge in the south of the county that can only be described as Grand Designs absolutely beautiful with no expense spared. Only three problems, 1, a gravel drive, yuk, like bleeding beach, 2, access from the village was via a winding narrow lane one and half miles to the main road and 3, NO PUB, nearest one a mile and three quarters away.

10:00am Friday Me, Alan, Terry and Chris, Dave Winning [Dave W] and Bernie, met at Thurrock services, Dave Enefer [Dave E] and Helen were riding down on Saturday, to ride round the Road to Hell [M25] to the M3 then the A303, which was fine on the dual carriageway but congested on the single carriageway. We arrived at the Barn at about 5:30pm. Once we'd claimed our rooms and unpacked we decided to go shopping, there's a Morrisons in Kingsbridge, that'll do nicely. We had a whip round, tenner a head, sixty quid, and nearly spent the lot which is alright if you've got a car with a boot we just had half empty saddle bags, but we managed. While we're in Kingsbridge we found a nice fish and chip shop which went down a treat.

Saturday we rode to Dartmouth, nice place, weather was good so had the obligatory ice cream and found out about the ferry across the river, apparently there's a bike meet in Paignton on Wednesday. Returned to Kingsbridge and spent an hour or so relaxing in the sun talking to passersby who were admiring the bikes. We then decided to visit Blackpool [no not that one silly], passed it going to Dartmouth and thought it looked quite nice. There was a wedding in process, photos being taken on the beach. It was here Dave E and Helen caught up.

Sunday we took a short ride to Salcombe. Didn't know where to park so found this taxi rank down a little cul-de-sac, a couple of excited young girls in a deli said we would definitely get nicked but there was a car park just round the corner and it's free for bikes.

Found the car park but the bike rank was full so we had to park in car bays but do we have to pay? yes. By the time we'd sorted all this out and walked up the high street it had started to rain. We stood under a bridge for about ten minutes but it didn't look like it would stop. A decision was made to head back home. All that faffing about parking just to stand under a bridge. Spent the rest of the day relaxing in the Barn. I thrashed Terry at pool.

Monday weather was better rode to Dartmoor via a Harley and Triumph dealerships, Dave W coming close to chopping in his Dragstar, common sense prevailed though. From there onto the B3212 through Princetown where the prison is, awful place wouldn't want to live there, to a crossroad called Two Bridges where we stopped for a nice pub lunch. We then carried on on the B3212 which is a steep twisty downhill, low gear and a fair bit of braking. A little way from the end Dave W stopped, his rear brake has packed up, it had over heated and cooked the hydraulic oil. After some time when it cooled down a bit it started to come back all but a bit spongy. When we reached Kingsbridge we found a garage who were very helpful and changed the oil.

Tuesday was a bit of a mixed bag really. First a short ride to Hope Cove, very pretty, typical Devon. Then on to Bigbury-on-Sea for a bite and a cuppa, giant rip off. Then off to Beesands for an ice cream. A few weeks earlier Alan had said in conversation, and it has become a bit of a thing, that all churches are built East to West and by and large he's been proved right with the possible exception of the new Coventry Cathedral, apparently they built it at right angles to the bombed ruin of the old one. And the church at Beesands which actually runs North to South. Gotcha Al.

It was when we were in Dartmouth we found out about this bike meet in Paignton on a Wednesday evening. After a late breakfast on Wednesday morning we made our way back to Dartmouth and got this strange little ferry across to Kingswear. It is basically a raft with boat tied from it's bow so it can push the raft and then swing round to push it back. From Kingswear we rode into Brixham. Parked up and had a couple of hours just walking round the harbour, of cause had to have an ice cream. Terry and Chris, Dave W and Bernie, Alan and me had a look round a museum while Dave E and Helen went off to look round the shops. Back to the bikes and off to Paignton, after a bit of jiggery pokery we found where this bike meet was, on the sea front, but we weren't allowed on till 6:00pm, it was about 5:30pm. They did let us park on the access road but only till 6:00 when we had to move them. Meantime we went and had something to eat. I asked one of the marshalls how many did they expect and he said the previous week about twenty bikes, the weather was crap, this week with good weather about a thousand and I don't think he was far out. We didn't bother with the ferry going back, took the main road which was quite busy. Once we got clear of the traffic as we headed up this hill with the low sun in our eyes a bloody motorcycle cop with a speed gun clocked us.

Easy day Thursday. Terry and Chris, Dave W and Bernie, Alan and me went for a short ride to Torcross, a little sea side village where they have an old world war two tank in the car park, a memorial. Dave and Helen fancied a walk round the shops in Kingsbridge. Dave W had suggested that on our way back we call into this pub called the Church Houses and book a table for our last meal. The Pub was called the Church Houses because during the second world war american soldiers were billeted in the adjacent

houses that was owned by the church [facing East to West] across the road, getting ready for the D Day landings.

That evening we all got dressed up in our best bike jeans and boots and rode back to the pub. We were greeted like pop stars, shown to a secluded table where we had lovely meal and a few laughs and congratulated ourselves on a really enjoyable week, and that we should do it again next year. There was a bit of an audience when we left, apparently there was a lot of interest in the bikes while we were eating.

Friday time to leave. All packed up and on the road by 9:30am. Dave E and Helen were extending their week into Friday night and Saturday night in the New Forrest so we parted ways on the M5 at Exeter, meanwhile the rest of us had decided to go A303/M3/M25 again which was again OK on the dual carriageway but congested on the single again. We stopped at the Fleet services on the M3 and said our goodbyes and once on the Road to Hell its every man for himself. The Road to Hell was a nightmare, mile after mile of filtering and when it thinned out an accident involving four cars made things ten times worse which then resulted in a ten mile tailback. We all got home safe and sound, that's the main thing.

For next year might consider the Cotswolds if I can find a suitable cottage. Watch this space. Trevor C19



From the Editor

Some good articles in this edition of Seax, please keep them coming.

C14 Rally 19th to 21st July

The weather forecast looked a bit iffy so cars were the order of the day in most cases, it was in my case as Fred and Wil were over from Holland in their car so no bike available.

There were 11 from C19 and then Chas rocked up from France on Saturday as he was on family duties so took time out to spend a day with us, always interesting stories to be heard from him and he was also presented with his 20 year patch on the Saturday night.

Tents up, gazebo up and the rally had begun, a nice venue in East Grinstead, Sussex which is a particularly nice part of the country and seems unspoilt by new builds.

Normal rally stuff, catching up with old friends, silly banter , the usual stuff until the evening when the rain started, the tea tent leaked and a bucket was strategically placed to catch the water from the join of the 2 gazebos, I say that loosely as about 10 buckets were needed really, it was coming in so badly,

To cut a long story short the rain continued until 3.45am by which time a lot of tents were flooded and people were bailing out, Even camper van awnings were flooded , no comment on that one he he.

The next morning it was time to assess the ' damage ', Clive and Tina dumped their tent, Trevor legged it although I believe regrets it now lol, I managed to dry out all my clothes and belongings as did Fred and Wil, Alan was unscathed and Dave bailed out , not too sure about Bob and the Aliens but they were there until the end so I guess were not affected too much.

Saturday was bright and sunny and most belongings got dried, we went off to Brighton and the South coast for a mooch.

Saturday nights entertainment was different to the norm with a DJ, sax player and a rather nice young lady singing ' blues ' for the first session and

changing the tempo for the last set, very good.

Considering C14 are a very small centre they coped very well and everything ran smoothly, food was good, the rugby club staff very obliging, showers and toilets clean and tidy, venue was good so all in all a good rally.

It is a shame that numbers for this rally were low by comparison and maybe the weather had an effect, it didn't stop 9 coming from abroad though so fair play to them and thank you for supporting this rally.

We packed up in glorious sun shine on the Sunday, left at 10am after a good breakfast and home by 11.30am No traffic on the M25 car park for a change lol

Peter

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 2020, if anyone is up for braving the weather of course !!

August 4th

Museum of Power bike show, Langford, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6QA. Make your own way - no Boreham start. We have a stand at the show (qualifying bikes only). The stand needs setting up and taking down, the gazebo is hard to erect with a couple of people. Dave and Mr K are not about next Sunday and would normally be part of the set up brigade. If you are attending this event, you turn up early enough to give a hand. Say 9am ish. C19 provide tea and coffee during the day so your efforts will be rewarded.

August 11th

Echos of History, Military show at Purleigh, Essex. This looks good but it's £15, £12 concessions on the gate or £12, £10 pre booked.

So if you're interested let Mr K know as soon as possible and I'll try and book.

Boreham services 10:00

August 18th

Saffron Waldon vehicle show. Boreham services 10:00

August 23rd-25th

C5 Yorkies rally Pontefract, Yorkshire

September 1st

Felixstowe. Boreham services 10:00, Langham services 10:45

September 8th

Air Ambulance run, Dunton to Harwich. Boreham services 10:00, J28 services [football ground] A12 10:45

September 15th

Impromptu. As the ride to Shotley Marina was missed because of rain, we could resurrect that. Boreham services 10:00 Langham services 10:45

September 22nd

The Bike Shed, 384 Old Street, Hackney, London EC1V 9LT. Thurrock services 10:30

September 29th

Donkey Sanctuary, Norfolk. Boreham services 10:00, Langham services 10:45

October

6th Copdock bike show, Ipswich, Suffolk

13th Brightona, Brighton, East Sussex

20th C19 AGM