

SEAX

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

June 2020 & July 2020 Issue 278 contents:

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Centre 19 meeting dates

June 2020

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 2nd June 2020

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW **Cancelled**

South meeting

8pm Monday 15th June 2020

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

July 2020

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 7th July 2020

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW **Cancelled**

South meeting

8pm Monday 20th July 2020

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

Please note that all Centre meetings are cancelled until further notice, sorry about that, blame Coronavirus.

End of the Garden rally May 2020

At the end of May, I was planning to go to the C9 rally at Matlock but the dreaded virus has messed that up. Lock-down is officially extended to May 7, but the next day (VE-75) I reach the age of 70 and official recommendations are that I then enter a more severe form of lockdown. No more driving into Maldon for shopping, the newspaper, or petrol for the farm "toys". If the lockdown starts to be lifted it will be a gradual process taking months with a fair chance the elderly (now including me) will be asked to follow a few months behind the rest of the population. **Bugger.**

We are lucky to have just over two hectares (five acres) of land so taking the dogs for a walk can be done round the paddocks. There are chickens to feed and water; a fallen tree to be recycled as logs for the fire; our on-site allotment to tend; plenty of farm "toys" with string-start petrol engines; sheds to paint; fences to repair; and a Honda powered (non-qualifying) lawn tractor as a substitute for my motorcycle. I can keep busy, but not socialising or going out on my Yamaha is driving me mad.

I need to plan around this. A solo rally at the far side of our little farm looks like an option. I have the official "End of the Garden Rally" rally patch. I intend to load up the bike as normal on Friday May 22 and ride about 180 metres to the top of the paddocks (bit less than 185 miles to Matlock) to pitch the tent and have a couple of beers. Catering and toilet/shower facilities will only be a short walk away in the club house (my bungalow) and I am currently on talking terms with the catering staff (Gill).

Possibility that my grandson (he and his parents live here as well) could join me on his little quad bike and use my small tent (pitched two meters from mine). Probably only a one night stay under canvas; as its costal Essex not Tonna a fair chance it will not rain. I will donate the Matlock ticket fee to one of the NHS support charities and hope to post some photographs in early June. **Bob Owen**

Keeping Busy

As I write this on the 25th May I am on day 71 of isolation, some of it self imposed before lock down as I have some health issues that I am sure Covid 19 would love and wasn't prepared to give it the chance.

I have kept myself busy ish, doing as much or as little as I want to do including stripping the cloakroom and en suite of all tiles [fully tiled walls so a fair amount] white goods and flooring. I have now prepped the room and decorated ready for new wc, basin etc, just got to wait until I can go out for the stuff.

I have also got the garden looking as good as it has looked since I have been here and the lawn is very green, shame I havnt got much colour, as again I cant get out for any bedding plants, the local plant place will deliver, minimum order £50 and £6 delivery, I cant imagine them getting much custom !!

I have played with my newish car, cleaned and done some mods on the Raider, cleaned all the windows inside and out including an all glass conservatory, boring job.

Never a dull moment here as long as I pace myself. **Peter**

Garmin Zumo 660

Got one of these Sat-Navs? Do not take the battery out or you will bugger it. The battery in mine had, at 9 years old, stopped holding a charge for long enough to use it in pedestrian mode or propped up on the dashboard of the car when the car mount was in the other car. Bought a new battery, put it in and charged it up in the car mount. Noticed that the time was wrong – 01:20 and went to change it. The date showed August 21, 1999 and there is no way to enter a date. Made sure the clock was on automatic – it had defaulted to manual and started at 00:00. Auto put the clock to GMT not summer time – one hour out. Now all the sunrise and sunset times were wrong – it's not August and the switch from daylight mode to night mode was wrong.

Research on the web revelled that there is an “undocumented feature” (or cock-up) in the Zumo 660 and some other elderly Garmins and TomToms. They do dates by counting in weeks since the operating system was baked into the chips in the device. The week count register starts at 1 and goes up

to 1024 then rolls over to start again. All is fine unless you take the battery out after April 6, 2019 (1024 weeks from finalization of the operating system software). Leave the battery in, and charged, no problem.

Statement from Garmin "The GPS system is world renowned for its ability to provide accurate and reliable positioning and timing information worldwide. The GPS satellites transmit to users the date and time accurate to nanoseconds. However, back in 1980, when the GPS system first began to keep track of time, the date and time was represented by a counter that could only count forward to a maximum of 1024 weeks, or about 19.7 years. After 1024 weeks had elapsed, this counter "rolled over" to zero, and GPS time started counting forward again. This first rollover occurred in August of 1999. The second rollover will occur on April 6, 2019."

My Garmin was made after August 1999 and missed that one. The second one has caught me. The counter gets to 1024 and rolls-over whilst writing the event of rollover to a bit of the memory that is not protected from "no battery". Leave it charged no issue, it remembers that rollover has happened and is OK. Take the battery out and it loses track and starts from week one again.

There is no fix. Garmin have told others who have asked for a fix that the device is around 10 years old, has given good service, and that Garmin have no plans to look for a fix.

The very worst of planned obsolescence, they knew full well what a problem the Y2K date issue could have been, but wasn't because it had taken thousands of man years to plan round it successfully. Yet they still went ahead with a date roll-over problem. Many of us have a £380 device that although it can still provide navigation correctly, can't access saved routes as it thinks that the file dates are years into the future, switches from day to night mode at the wrong time, displays the wrong time. If you use one of these with third party software installed for marine navigation the tide data is all screwed up and a major safety issue.

End of rant. **Bob Owen**

For Sale

Ladies Richa Odessa Leather Motorbike Jacket – good condition
Size 16 – Price £75



Harley Davidson Ladies blouse with Jamaica motives – brand new – never been worn – shop tag still attached
Size 12 - £15



Vango Beta 450 tent with two large lightweight sleeping bags and travel pillows
£75



Contact Terry Hobbs
01277 650935
07855 531243

Chrome saddle bag supports for XVS1300 [may fit an XVS 950] brand new
and still in the box, purchased in error, £25 contact Peter 07531614887

Hello everybody.

I hope your all well in these really difficult times. My sympathies are with Dave [our centre rep] who lost his dad to Covid 19 and to anyone else who have lost someone dear.

As of writing this I have not been out on the bike this year, in fact haven't been anywhere apart from Asda since March. It does look like things are slowly improving but we're certainly not out of the woods yet.

Last year eight of us had a weeks biking holiday in Devon. We stayed in a house I hired with a company called Sykes Cottages. We have used this company on previous occasions, once in Ireland and once in Wales, Peter hired houses as a prelude to a rally.

The trip was such a success that we thought we'll do it again this year, so I found a house in the Cotswolds for the 19th June, a bit bigger than last years so we increased the number to thirteen. Of cause because of this Coronavirus we clearly couldn't go, but Sykes terms and conditions are that if you cancel before six weeks from the start date you forfeit the deposit, within the the six weeks it's the full amount. And they were sticking to it regardless. After a lot of toing and frowing I have managed to change the dates to the same time next year but it was under protest from Sykes. Don't know if we'll use them in future, we'll have to see.

It has been hard this lockdown, not seen any of the family since March. Hard for my wife and I but still not as bad as for many others. My sympathies with anyone on their own and for those who have lost jobs or had their income severely affected.

On a personal note I've kept myself as busy as I can. The garden has never looked so good, dug over the flower beds, preserved the shed, summer house, pergola and painted the decking. I've revamped my trailer. Alan has bought this all singing and dancing new one and so I thought I'd challenge that, sadly after seeing some photos of his I've conceded defeat. It is a bit special. I'm also halfway through a jigsaw bought for me at Christmas, do a little bit get bored leave it and go back the next day for bit more.

Not sure what the future holds as far as ride outs go. None at the moment of course but if things improve enough we may be able to squeeze some in, fingers crossed. Peter will let you know by email as soon as it's possible.

That just leaves me to say PLEASE STAY SAFE and I'll see some of you in, hopefully, the not too distant future.

Trevor

International Presidents Meeting

As some of you may know there is a ' Presidents meeting ' at the International rally where all Presidents/Chairman's get together and discuss matters relating to all the bike clubs throughout the affiliated bike club fraternity to which we belong.

As there is no International rally this year it was decided to have a ' Skype ' group call and that happened on the 24th May, as a newcomer to skype I was a bit daunted at first but got there in the end.

An agenda was produced and the meeting followed the same protocol as a normal meeting but the emphasis was on International rallies for the next few years.

It has been agreed that the International rally will be in Finland in 2021, same venue as this years cancelled one with some tweaks to living accommodation, Norway 2022 in Lillehammer and arrangements are well under way. UK in 2023 and the venue is in the East Midlands, Spain 2024 at a venue not far from Santander and Bilbao if you don't fancy the ride.

The meeting only lasted 3/4 of an hour so the shortest Presidents meeting I have attended .

It was my last Presidents meeting as you should know by now that I am stepping down as Vice Chairman of the VSOC after 13 years at this years AGM in November, assuming it happens.

From the Editor

There is no intention to cancel the C17 rally in August as a lot can happen between now and then, I am sure if it happens it will be a bumper affair as members will be climbing the walls by then.

I have left the ride out list in Seax but until further notice no ride outs will take place. Sorry about that

Please note that flyers for next years rallies in Belgium and C9 [same place as this years cancelled rally] are already on the VSOC website.

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 7 Alton Water/Shotley Marina

12-14 International Rally, Finland **Cancelled**

14 Aldeburgh

21 Impromptu

28 Cressing Temple Barns Vintage Fair CM77 8PD

July 5 Maldon Vehicle Show, Maldon Essex

12 BBQ at Alan Ward's house. 6 Southview, The Street, Charsfield IP13 7PZ

17-19 Centre 6 Rally, Kendal RFC, Mint Bridge, Shap Road, Kendal LA9 6AZ
Cancelled

26 Deal Castle, Kent.

Aug 2 Museum of Power, Langford, Maldon. We have a stand annually and as many bikes as possible would be great

9 Saffron Walden vehicle show. Common Hill, Saffron Walden CB10 1JH

16 Felixstowe Landguard Fort

23 Greenwich

28-31 Centre 17 Rally. Castle Carey RFC, Somerset BA7 7PF

Sept 6 Ace - Brighton Burn Up

13 Harwich Air Ambulance

20 Barton Mills Cafe/Thetford Forest

27 RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon, London NW9 5LL

Oct 4 Copdock Bike Show