



VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB



MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

Yes Folks it IS happening!

23rd APRIL 2006

6th GATHERING OF THE CLANS



THE SIXTH GATHERING IS COMING

THE START OF A NEW YEAR OF RIDING WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS NEW AND OLD

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL

Meeting at:
HOLME PIERPOINT Carpark

OFF THE A52 NEAR NOTTINGHAM
10 O'CLOCK

FOR A SHORT RIDE-OUT STARTING AT
11 O'CLOCK

25 miles AROUND THE BEAUTIFUL VALE
OF BELVOIR

ENDING AT THE RUTLAND ARMS (MUDDY DUCK)
FOR 12 NOON

Ride-in details will be published next month

Lunch



If you require lunch please ring and book in advance 01476 870111

Sunday lunch starts at £8.95
main course only,
£15 three course



Also available:
Bar snacks & Hot meat baps
£4.25



Mention VSOC when ordering

Any questions ask Roy & Julie on 01780 460698

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CENTRE 9 CONTACTS

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MARCH

- 5 VSOC Lincs Area Meet, Castle Inn, Coningsby
 7 VSOC C9 Meeting & AUTOJUMBLE, Grey Goose, Gedling
 8 VSOC Leics/Northants meet, Walcote
 13 VSOC Derbys Area meet, Barlborough
 19  Ride-out - leaves layby Heanor side at 11 am. To run the "proposed Sherwood Shindig" route.
 22 Deadline for receipt of items for inclusion in the April newsletter.
 25-26  Webbs Triumph Classic Open weekend at their Peterborough Shop - possible ride-ins (see separate info)
 31-2 VSOC Centre 6 Jumpstart Party. Tickets are available from the 1st December 2005 and normally sell very quickly. Price **£7.00 each** and limited to 180, available form HD on 01704 562025.

APRIL

- 2  Bottesford Egg Run, leaving the Red Lion at 11.00am.
 4 **VSOC C9 Meeting and AGM at the Grey Goose, Gedling**
 10 VSOC Derbys Area meet, Barlborough
 12 VSOC Leics/Northants meet, Walcote
 23  **Centre 9's 6th GATHERING OF THE CLANS!**
Meeting at HOLME PIERPOINT Carpark Off the A52 near Nottingham- 10 O'CLOCK. Ride leaves at 11 o'clock (see separate ad. on front page)
 29-30 Centre 4 Northern Raiders to come to the Anchor Inn, Friskney. (see separate communication)
 30  Ride-out (moved from 2nd April) to join Centre 4 at the Anchor Inn Friskney, then on to Skegness. Leaving 10am Little Chef car park A46 east of Newark, picking up at the Cherry Tree Café, Sudbrooke (A158) at 11 am.

MAY

- 12-14 Centre 18 (Peninsula Pirates) Clotted Cream Party, Camborne Rugby Club (Off the A30, Cornwall)
 19-21 Memba Rally (Friday) plus the BMF Show, Peterborough Showground.
 26-29 Centre 7 Mutton Molesters Rally, at Tonna Rugby Club, West Glamorgan.

JUNE

- 9-11 Danish International Rally, Klinteborg.
 10-11 BMF GEMS Show, Kent.
 23-25 Cottesmore Camping Weekend, same format & venue as last year.
 30-2 Centre 13 Roadrunners 'Easy Cruising' Rally.

JULY

- 14-16 Centre 9 National Party - The Sherwood ShinDig
 28-31 Centre 2 Ireland - Laughin' Leprechaun Rally. Bike ferry places limited - don't leave it too late!

Advanced Warning recieved from Nick Lappage

Jane and I are getting married this year. Now don't fall off your seat or anything daft.



Anyhow, the date is Saturday June 17th. We managed to somehow fit it in between all the other VSOC events that are happening this summer.

What we'd like to know is - would you and other members be willing to escort our wedding car in a motorcycle 'motorcade' from the ceremony to the reception?

The reception is going to be at the Coach House Inn at the grounds of Mallory Park Race Circuit (near the pit entrance) and camping by the pub has been organised. So there's a rideout, rock band, disco and grub is free, but you'll have to pay for the beer (well, ask me nicely for a pint then)

We'd like to have the escort at about 4.30pm from North Kilworth, Leicestershire (near Junction 20 of the M1) to arrive at Mallory Park for 5.00pm. We'll need a couple of volunteers to help us in the organisation of this as well (route planning, receiving guests/bikes that aren't escorting etc.)

Anybody wanna help? Give us a shout and we'll get talking.

Email
nick@nlappage.freemove.co.uk
 or phone 07881 536454

GET IT A WEEK EARLIER!



We are currently trialing an emailable version of the C9 newsletter.

It will be in the form of a 6 page 'Word' file of about 2 or 3 mb size

and be (in part at least) in colour.

If you would like to receive your newsletter this way, please email me at: jayne.bell@hemscott.net and I will add your name to my circulation list.

The emailed file should reach you up to 5 days before the Gedling meeting. PS: PLEASE ASK FOR A READ-RECEIPT ON YOUR REQUEST SO YOU KNOW I HAVE RECEIVED IT!

MEETING DATES & VENUES

CENTRE 9

Grey Goose Public House
 Gedling, Nr Arnold
NOTTINGHAM
 1st Tues of the month from 7.30pm
 includes FREE BUFFET

DERBYSHIRE

Dusty Miller Public House
BARLBOROUGH
 (just off J30 M1)
 2nd Monday of the month from 7.30pm

LEICESTERSHIRE / NORTHANTS

The Tavern Inn
WALCOTE,
 Nr Lutterworth
 1 minute from J20 M1
 2nd Wed of the month from 7.30pm

LINCOLNSHIRE

Castle Inn,
CONINGSBY
 from 12 noon
NEXT MEETING: 5th March

WEBSITES
www.vsoc.org.uk
www.lostriders.co.uk



Male's Bit

Hi everyone I hope you're all fit and well, by the time you read this the signs that spring is here will be all around us and we'll all be planning wot we are going to get up to this summer. I know many of you have already bought your tickets for the VSOC Rallies and parties, it really is important to the organisers for you to buy in advance, obviously the money is a big factor in this but almost equal to this is the unknown factor of how many people are going to attend their event. We've seen examples over the last few years where almost 50% of the people at a rally hadn't bought their tickets in advance. The organisers then get a slating for having insufficient facilities ie portaloos - hardly fair, give them and us a chance to put on a good weekend for you and book early.

Last month we attended the 6th Classic Japanese Bike Show at Donington, as last year it was a two-day event and we tried to take as many different bikes and members as wanted to come. It was very important to us a club to fill our allotted space on both days as we were getting paid appearance money. As in the past we had a busy weekend talking to everyone and anyone, whether they wanted us to or not. It was especially nice to see some of our newer members talking enthusiastically about their bikes and life in the VSOC and to cap it all one of our members won Runner-Up in 'Ridden to the Show' category, well done.

Somewhere else in this newsletter there should be an item about our ride-out on the 19th Feb but our ride-out for March will be the proposed route for our 'Sherwood Shindig'. It is important that as many people as possible give their opinion of this route as is possible and then know the final route well. Several people have volunteered to marshal this event but have expressed concern about being traveling marshals, especially if they have a pillion. Their worries are of course my worries and our risk assessment of the event will prove they are not unfounded. So, unless you think different we should marshal it in a similar way to the 'Gathering of the Clans IV' (is that 4?) whereas our marshals ride a short distance ahead of the convoy and then either mark a deviation from the straight ahead prior to the junction or in some circumstances (if they wish) stop traffic so that all our group can get thro as unhindered as possible. This would actually cause less inconvenience to other road users and make it safer for us. The ride-out will be split into two halves so that the marshals can get back to the front without any need to overtake, boring maybe but far safer, which hopefully will make it a more relaxing time for everyone.

At last month's Centre meet at the Grey Goose we were honoured to have some of the VSOC's top names present, ok so their sole intention wasn't to see us, but Mr Kevin Hoyte (VSOC Chairman), Mr Malcolm Bland (Membership Secretary) and Mrs Anne Bland (Treasurer) stayed till the end of the evening. Rachel Atkins on the outgoing Merchandising Officer unfortunately had to leave as soon as their business had been done. Wot business I hear you say (ok I didn't actually hear you say it, but go with the flow) there'll be an official announcement soon, but well done Polly. Anyway the meet was well attended and very relaxed. I enjoyed it and hopefully you did too. Kevin, sorry My Hoyte spoke for a few minutes about the VSOC International Rally, this year to be held in Denmark, and reported that a couple of Centre 9's members have booked a cabin on the ferry and there are some beds vacant within that cabin, therefore making it cheaper all around, if this interests you give me a tinkle and I will forward that information to you. Oh yeh! what I was going to say, was that I came to the meet with an idea for a 'girlie weekend'. A real one for girls not men dressed up as girls, sorry, maybe next time. Where was I, a girlie weekend I thought aloud and before I knew it names were being scribbled onto a piece of paper, cool. Unfortunately for wot I have planned for them (MMmmmm. . .) I can only cater for a limited number (who do you think I am - superman) and by the time you read this I'm expecting it to be fully booked, if you are interested let me know, things 'appen, the phrase 'best laid plans ' come to mind.

Next month's Centre meet will also include our AGM, if you have any questions you require answering or any clarification on any point please ask, some questions tho' may need further investigation so if you feel your query falls into this category please give me some notice otherwise you may be disappointed.

You'll also see a flyer for this years 'Gathering of the Clans' I know I've said to some of you we wouldn't be having one because of finances; but we are. Ride-in details will be published next month.

That's it for me this month; enjoy the rest of your newsletter.

Male

Centre 9 Rep 'The Lost Riders'



TOP: the girls at the Reading Rally last year.

BOTTOM: was the runner-up at Donington (in the show not racing).
& CENTRE: I know has nothing to do with biking but . I like it.



Derbyshire Ride to Grindleford Station

Sunday 19th Feb

The Saturday dawned bright and fair and the sun shone all day, would it hold for our ride out on the Sunday? I had asked Leon if we could see some more of this lovely rural county that my wife Gina and I have adopted as our home, he came up with names such as Holmoreside, Cathole, and Wadshelf I couldn't wait!!

We met at Clay Cross Powersports -

13 keen souls, bikes all polished and shining in the FOG !! still undaunted we set off thinking it will clear..... It will!!!.

The first 22 miles were terrible, the further we got into the Peaks the denser the fog got. I then knew where "Lost Riders" came from I couldn't see the rider in front, still I thought as long as I keep going I will be alright.

The sun did burn through eventually and we arrived at Grindleford Station, I thought Train Spotting ??, no - a café, mugs of welcome tea and coffee and gigantic breakfasts for those big enough to take one on, well done Steve !

We were setting off when Malc gave us all a scare when hitting the starter button his battery exploded with a bang, I thought I was back in the Marines and took cover in a pile of leaves! Help was arranged and we were all told to "bugger off" which we did and set off on the return journey. This time we could see, and the scenery was great - passing through Chatsworth and onto Buckley Reservoir and finally back to Clay Cross for more tea and a chat before going our separate ways.

It just shows whatever the weather it's always good fun, its what we do best, RIDE our bikes. My thanks to Leon for the planning, and he has promised to repeat the ride again later in the year.

Ken (stand in Derbyshire rep.)



FUN TIME...FUN TIME...FUN TIME....

A minister was seated next to a biker on a flight to South Dakota.

After the plane was airborne, drink orders were taken.

The biker asked for a whisky, which was brought and placed before him.

The flight attendant then asked the minister if he would like a drink.

The minister replied in disgust, "I'd rather be savagely raped by brazen whores than let liquor touch my lips."

The biker then handed his drink back to the attendant and said, "Me too. I didn't know we had a choice!"

.....supplied by Tessa



Virago Star Owners Club

CENTRE 9 RIDE-OUT PROCEDURE

Getting everyone to a given destination is **not** always an **easy task**. It cannot be done by one man alone, it **needs everyone's co-operation**. To help things run as smoothly as possible we use a 'second man' (or woman) system.

Second Manning works like this:- The group rides in a staggered formation; this allows us to ride as a tighter group. The space between machines will depend on road conditions, speed and of course confidence. **Remember to try and keep your position**, especially when cornering. If the road narrows you will have to ride one behind the other, leaving a bigger gap between bikes.

The leader (and marshals if we are using them) will wear **YELLOW VESTS**, and the **LAST MAN** will wear an **ORANGE VEST**. The rider immediately following the leader is the 'second man'; it is their responsibility to **mark any deviation from the straight ahead route** and position themselves at the junction so as to mark which direction the leader went, taking up a **safe yet visible position to following bikes and waits, and waits, until the LAST MAN arrives and then rejoins behind the group but in front of the last man**. Occasionally on left turns if visibility is poor, it may be better to stop just before the turn. The new second person follows the same procedure at the next junction.

When marking, PLEASE position yourself so that bikes that may have become separated from the group can see you easily, and keep a watch for the Orange Vest of the Last Man when you see him approaching be ready to pull away swiftly as he will slow down for you and may be putting himself in a precarious position holding back other traffic whilst allowing you to pull away.

When you are at your destination, check with the organiser for departure time. On your journey home, the group often fragments as people turn onto their individual route home. It has been known for some of the group to follow another rider to their home - 20 coffees please !!!!

Sometimes we have to use motorways and experience has shown that occupying the centre lane is often safer than keep moving from one lane to another. Keep an eye on your mirrors, the group can on occasions move into another lane led by the rear marker.

Confused !! if it's not that bad. If in doubt start at the rear of the group, hopefully by the time it's your turn you'll have got the hang of it. If you are unclear about any of this procedure, please speak to the leader of the ride before you set off.

Enjoy your ride.

Centre 4 Northern Raiders to come to the Anchor Inn, Friskney. 29 & 30 APRIL

We have received this invitation from Tony & Stella Clark: Anyone wishing to join them camping, please contact Malc Newton so that he can forward numbers as they have requested.

From: "Tony and Stella Clark"
To: "Malc Newton Centre9"
Subject: Friskney 2006

Hi Malc
We are having a weekend at the Anchor Inn at Friskney on the 29th/30th of April, we have booked the field behind the pub and Andrea and Mick are sorting secure parking and camping in a field 5 minutes away, if you are any of your members would like to join us we would be only too happy to see you.
Please can you let me know numbers ASAP.

Tony
Centre 4

Webb's open weekend 25th and 26th March at their Peterborough premises

The triumph people will be there hosting their **Triumph classic weekend** with all that that entails, test rides, competitions, freebee's ect.

Anyone that's been to Webb's of Lincoln will know what sort of bike shop to expect at this newish venue.

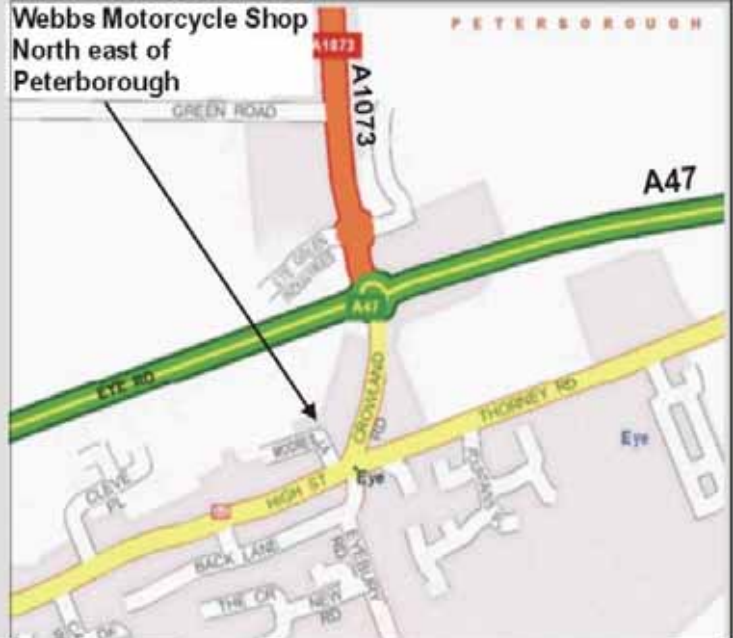
There will be a burger van outside and drinks machines inside.

It would be good for all the counties to have a ride out there and do a kind of 'Mini Gathering' and if it is geographically possible meet up and ride in together.

Anyone wishing to take part in a Ride In - please contact your County rep.

Malc

The address is :
Webb's
Yamaha
Centre
High St,
EYE,
Peterborough
PE6 7UR



For Sale

Dragstar Classic
 XVS1100A 2001, Y Reg 30,800 miles.
 Black with Silver & Black Pearl ghost flames by Pisces Paint.
 Full service history, Long Tax & MOT.
 Centre Rep / Enthusiast Owned.



£3500.00 ono

Extras include:
 DPM Sissy bar, back rest, rack.
 DG Hard Krome 3 1/2" Slips on (+ boxed original pipes)
 Meta 357 Alarm + Data Tag
 New brake pads all round.
 New Battery.
 Maintained regardless of cost.
 Totally Immaculate condition.
 (2610 Sat Nav Riser bracket + power & audio cable extra £75.00 if required)
 Top notch bike that has seen Europe been used in the rain and still looks great, and it's never let me down once, change of personal circumstances force very reluctant sale.

Dave Kenway
 01344 306652 (answerphone)
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THE 'SECOND MAN' SYSTEM - CUT IT OUT AND KEEP IT!

