



VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB

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

LOST RIDERS



JUNE 2008

Centre 9

East & North Midlands Derbyshire, Notts, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northants, Rutland

LOST RIDERS NOW IN FACEBOOK

We now have a **Facebook Group** started by **Mike Godwin**, who would like to invite as many members of Centre 9 as possible to join - this is a good way to stay in touch, let people know the latest details about ride-outs and events - and let everyone know what you are doing right now!

In order to join in, you first need to sign up for **Facebook** by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/r.php?>

Once you have done that, you can log in by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/login.php>

Or email mikegodwin@ntlworld.com

and ask Mike to invite you to join the **Facebook Lost Riders Group**. **It's fun!**

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1st June - Lincoln Big Bike Fest - We have had a stand at this for the past two years and members want to have one this year too.

8th June

Meriden Motorcycle Megaride

13th - 15th June

VSOC International Rally - Finland

13th - 15th June - VSOC Centre 7 Party in Wales

Friday 13th June - Ride-Out to Wales Party:

Please see Lost Riders website or contact -

Karl Tromans (Ride-out Liaison)

Tel: 01246 276754 - Mobile: 07853 733252

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20th - 22nd June

5th Swamp Donkey Rally

Wed 25 Jun – Lancaster Bomber Night at East Kirby, another popular night for Lincs members.

3rd July - Boston Bike Night - We usually have a stand here.

4th - 6th July - Third Essex Crusade

National Youthbike Finals Weekend

Wed. 9th July – Barton Bike Night and

Conningsby meeting unless we change for this month.

18th - 20th July

Centre 6 Camping Weekend and Bikeshow at East Kirby Aviation Centre.

Wed. 23 July - there will be a Cruiser Bike Night at Cadwell Park. Attendees will be able to 'Cruise' round the track - billed as 'Circuit Cruising' Evening starts from 15:30. Cost £10.00. Minimum dress required is: Boots, gloves, jacket, jeans and helmet. Anyone interested in attending should e-mail: bikeTrackdays@motorsportvision.co.uk in advance so that they can estimate numbers and the level of interest.

Sun 27 July – Yorkies are going to the Sherwood Visitor Centre and have asked if we are interested in joining them there for some activities.

1st - 3rd August

Grim Reaper Rally

8th - 10th August

Out of The Asylum

22nd - 25th August

Centre 3 Rally

Wot's On

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 1st Sunday of the Month Meeting - Clay Cross Powersports 10.00 am - but see see left panel as this is postponed to 25th for this month (May).

2nd Monday of Month Meeting - THE ARKWRIGHT ARMS, Sutton-cum-Duckmanton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S44 5JG Tel: (01246) 232053 (just off J29 of M1) - see Lost Riders website for Google Map. Includes free food such as chip butties with home-made chips

LEICESTERSHIRE / NORTHANTS

The Tavern Inn

WALCOTE,

Nr Lutterworth

1 minute from J20 M1

2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm

LINCOLNSHIRE

Castle Inn, CONINGSBY

2nd Wednesday of each month from 8pm ALSO

2nd Sunday's - various locations!

14th September

Brighton Burn Up

Ace Cafe

30th November

Bottesford Toy Run

December

Cold, cold, cold...

Christmas parties

I don't believe it! Feckin' Christmas - bah, humbug!



NEWS AROUND THE REGIONS & REPS

Probably most people are preparing for or are actually on their way to ride-outs and rallies, as it's that time of year, folks!

So no Reps Reports, except for Warren's → Our Reps are keeping it blessedly brief this month - no worries, Reps - you don't have to write an essay every month, honest! In fact I'm glad you don't, as sometimes it allows more room for other members' contributions. Hope you all enjoy reading Part Two of **Little Malc's Journey to Faro** and **Jayne Bell's** report of their freezing **Scottish Expedition** on pages 4-6...

MORE DARWIN AWARDS

An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an on coming train. When asked how he received the wounds he said he was trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

A man walked into a Louisiana convenience store, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer: \$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?)

Gothic rumblings

Hello there playmates,
Several people at the **Grey Goose** and at the **Arkwright Arms** last month asked me to pass on some reminders and points about ride-outs, so here goes:

The 'Second Man' Route Marking System

('Man' as used here is not intended to be a sexist term but means 'Man', 'Woman', 'Small Furry Animal' or any other gender designation, sexual proclivity, etc.)

1) Both **Leader** and **Last Man** always wear yellow or orange jerkins for easy identification;

2) **Second Man** (that is the person immediately following the **Leader**) marks any deviation from 'Straight On' taken by **Leader** as follows: **STOP in**



Warren's Words (Derbyshire)



Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all well.

May 4th saw me leading a ride out from **Powersports** to **Gunthorpe** to meet up with the **Nottingham Lads and Lassies**.

We left **Clay Cross** at 10.15am, and met up at **Gunthorpe(ish)** about 11.30am.

Liz, Malc and and Ken came to Powersports to see us off, and it was a bit strange not having them with us.

Hopefully it won't be long before they, and you, if you weren't with us, will be, maybe next time.

We had a small raffle before we left, and a bit of cash was raised, so thanks to all who had a punt!

I would like to say a special mention for **Leon** and **Bob**, who have both been a bit under par of late. It was good to see Leon at Clay Cross, even if you didn't feel up to a full ride-out. And if you are reading this Bob, I hope that you are O.K. We know you are a fighter.

Anyway, lots of changes in the club at the moment, hopefully we can all adapt and keep enjoying each others friendship.

Hope to see you next time.

If you have any ideas on any matters please contact me on : **07826 261 093**

Thanks,

Ride Safe Be Happy.

Warren

a safe place at side of road in a position where riders following can see you - eg. at a junction left or right, just into the left or right turning, or at/near beginning of exit road from roundabout, where following riders can see you;

3) **Second Man** waits until ALL riders have passed except the **Last Man**;

4) On seeing the **Last Man**, **Second Man** indicates and pulls out in front of **Last Man** if safe to do so;

5) **Last Man** is always the Last Man, and makes sure he/she has collected all riders, and no one is left behind;

6) **Speed limits** are always observed by **Leader** and all other riders, particularly in 30 and 40 mile per hour zones (that means you too - er - no names, but you know who you are...!)

gothic keith

Part Two of Escaping the UK by Little Malc

Monday 11 Feb

I should be feeling excited - I have an 800 mile ride in front of me; sunshine and Sue, my wife, at the end.

But after the last few days I wonder if I will get out of Kirkby, never mind arrive in Portugal. That said I set off with the trailer in tow. Waving a fond farewell to my home town as was.

Please God or any other power that be, let me get to that ferry.

Down the A5 to Towcester where I stopped for another all day breakfast; the girl behind the counter said, "I thought you were going to Portugal last Friday?"

"Yes, you me and everyone else I know."

It was a lovely day for a ride but it was lovely last Friday and look what happened.

It's not easy riding with all your digits crossed.

I made it down to the Ferry with sunshine all the way all the worry for nothing - it was a great ride - I even got there without getting lost.

I met a guy in the line going from a town not 3 miles from Kirkby and he was on his way to Africa on a Moto Guzzi to celebrate his 60th. Dave West from Sutton in Ashfield. Hope it all went well for you.

Monday night till Wednesday morning

The Spirit of Bilbao is not just a ferry, it is more like a cruise ship - carpets gaming rooms, cinemas, swimming pool and a gym. I was so stressed with the past few days I stayed in my cabin reading, playing music and relaxing; it was bliss. I did venture out a couple of time to do some dolphin spotting and whale watching. I spied a couple of dolphins, then went back to the cabin satisfied.

Wednesday 13 February

We docked on time in Bilbao to bright sunshine and blue skies - had to remind myself I was now in Spain and that they drive on any side of the road they want to - 'might has the right of way'.

I got 'Melanie' the Sat Nav going, and we were off. You don't need a Sat Nav, the roads are well marked and easy to navigate but anyone that's followed me

anywhere knows that I can get lost in a paper bag.

Once out of the docks the temperature dropped; there was frost on the ground and then the mist came down as well.

I have not been so cold since a rideout with the Lostriders last summer (hah hah! - Ed.).

Before setting off, I made a big mistake by going on the Net and finding somewhere to stay in Valladolid; it was only 100 miles into the trip but I thought that it would ease me into this leg of the trip. I wish I had not bothered - knowing what I do now, there are plenty of stops on route, with places to stay or camp aplenty, so I could have gone further, then stopped when I wanted.

However I did have a nice afternoon in Valladolid even though the area was run down.

Thursday 14 February

Early start, the breakfast I had was adequate. The Spanish girl that served it was lovely and spoke English with a Black Country accent; she had lived in those parts for a few years, she said.

It was so cold I knew that it would warm up soon so I just blasted on towards Salamanca, 400 miles to go. Turn right at Savilla then home in Tavira, Portugal.

The route is an easy ride - just a few detours for road works - nothing to write home about.

The closer I get to Portugal the better I feel. The middle bits of Spain where I stopped for fuel and food were lovely. The people I've met en-route are warming and endearing; I will have to go back sometime and show Sue what she missed.

Had she been with me we would have taken longer to have a better look around.

That's about it, the start of a new chapter for us, I will miss the brotherhood I feel for the Lostriders and I hope that we will meet up in the future.

When I did pull up outside our place in Tavira surprise surprise, Sue was out doing a walk around and I had to phone her to tell her.

"Honey I'm Home"

All the best,

Little Malc

EASTER + BIKING = MADNESS

by Jayne Bell

With Easter weekend falling about as early as it can, I suppose it wasn't ideal timing for going on a biking trip to the **Scottish Borders**. However having strived to get my brand new bike's 600 mile service in in the previous 10 days especially for this, the weather forecast started to look bleak. 'Snow, heavy in places, and to add interest - gale force winds.'

John and I were meeting the rest of the group at **Rainbow Motorcycles, Rotherham** at 9.30am on

Good Friday and on the Thursday night we lay in bed listening to the wind howling, and praying it would drop by morning and wondering how much credibility we would lose by turning up in the car!

Dawn, and the wind still howled. I finished packing and we set off for the rendezvous fully expecting to have to turn back. We made Rainbow and met the others, so it looked like the ride was on. The route to **Longtown** (near **Gretna Green**) took us through **Bradford, Keighley, Skipton, Kettlewell**, then up over the top of the Yorkshire Dales along unclassified roads. Once we got away from the traffic the riding was exhilarating and the wind wasn't as much of a problem as I'd feared. I felt a little under

cont. over...

pressure to 'stay with the pace' being (once again) **the only lady** and not wanting to let the side down.

Kendal, Windermere, Kirkstone Pass – the snow now covered the peaks and as we climbed, it covered us too. The roads were salted so it wasn't too slippery, the problem was the quick build-up of snow on the visor, which needed wiping about every 3 seconds.

Quite quickly we arrived in **Pooley Bridge** for our 2nd scheduled tea break and thaw out. From here it turned mucky - wet with snow falling intermittently as we took yet more B roads arriving in Longtown about 5pm.

The hotel was comfortable although our room was cold. We enjoyed a meal and drink in the bar and



John trying to get warm

discussed the possibility of the planned ride on Saturday, weather permitting. We were also joined by the couple that had decided to come by car, and that warm feeling of achievement in the face of adversity settled on me.

Saturday morning and the wind was still strong with snow forecast later. We decide the ride is on – after all it is a biking holiday so that is what we'll do!

So, into Scotland and along the **Solway Coast Heritage Trail**. Once again back roads were the preferred route and Mick our leader sets a brisk pace.

We visited **Sweethearts Abbey** for tea and cakes – met the friendly locals – and heard a story of why the Abbey is so named – Apparently when **John Balliol, founder of Balliol College, Oxford**, died in 1269, his wife, Lady Devorgilla was so distraught, she carried his embalmed heart with her at all times and founded this Cistercian monastery in his memory.

Then across the hills to **Moniaive**, lunch, and north-east over the **Lowther Hills** for a thrash along the A702 (best biking road EVER!) Out of **Moffat** on the A708, along the side of a loch where 'you'll believe a sheep can fly' and into the **Craik Forest**

Tibetan Monastery



where we visited the **Samye Ling Tibetan Monastery**. I know it was cold but... 'Tibetan'? By the entrance sat a huge **Buddha** statue, and as I rode past I'd swear its eyes followed me – what, never heard that '**Big Buddha is watching you???**' Anyway, jokes apart, it was a genuine place and the monks were real.



Big Buddha is watching you!

Back in **Longtown** we power-washed the bikes down. There was 1 other brand new bike on the tour and its owner too was grieving about the salt on it.

During the evening, some told of a close encounter with a camper van on a tight bend and swear the van now bears the name 'Dakar' along its side.

cont. over...

Sunday morning and the view of the hills resembled a Christmas card scene – so a ride is on then? Yes, out into the white wasteland (well the roads will be salted, won't they?) You do have to question your decision though when 15 minutes into the ride you pass a snow-plough. **Yes we rode through snow, yes it was very cold, yes it snowed more**, but we were still out riding for about 5 hours. Well-hard bikers, caused by permafrost mostly!

On Sunday evening we were joined by **Sue** who had ridden up alone that day just for the ride – now that's!

Happy Biking!

Jayne Bell

Footnote: The trip was organised by Adventure.gs and Mick and Sue (mentioned above) did the **Long Way Home** tour *unsupported* a couple of years ago, which followed in the footsteps of **Ewan McGregor** and **Charley Boorman**.



HOW TO DRINK SENSIBLY *by anon.*



Those who know me well will confirm that I am practically teetotal.

*Occasionally I have been known to fall from grace and drink alcoholic beverages like the rest of you piss-artists, and at times such as these, I choose **cask conditioned beers**, if there are any available.*

Why, I hear you ask?

Do I wear big fluffy jumpers and have a beard?

Do I Morris Dance at the drop of a hat?

No! These are common misconceptions about us real ale drinkers.

I drink real ale for two reasons:

1) I love the stuff;

2) I can drink 3 or even 4 pints (yes, that really is all I drink usually) without getting a splitting headache the next day. Is this true of John Smith's Creamflow (yuk!) or over-priced, chemical lager? I think not! My case rests...*

**apart from the whisky chasers, of course.*