



LOST RIDERS



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VSOC CENTRE 9 – EAST MIDLANDS – OCTOBER 2010

OWNERS OF: VIRAGO, DRAGSTAR, ROYAL STAR, VENTURE STAR , MIDNIGHT STAR, WARRIOR, RAIDER
(OWNERS OF OTHER CUSTOM BIKES WELCOME AS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)

From the Editor



Doesn't seem more than a few days since I was writing the last one but here we are again. Since then we've had a few good ride-outs a rally and I've had a holiday, no wonder it passes so quickly.

One of the ride-outs was the annual Air Ambulance run, well attended, we've now received confirmation that the money generated amounted to £1360, I'm sure it will be well received.

Looking forward the weather might be on the decline but it doesn't mean things will be quiet; there is still the monthly meetings, breakfast meets as well as some ride-outs so more than enough to keep you all busy so be sure to take part.

A few weeks ago one of our most active members, Steve Little, had a stroke and was admitted to hospital. I'm pleased to say that he is now at home and being well cared for by Claire. On behalf of all I wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on his bike soon. Steve, our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

Be careful out there!
Jim

Nott's Natterings from Chris & Jim



Well here we go again, arriving at the Goose for our monthly meeting we discovered a new manager has taken over, (most unusual?) The new tenants were very welcoming and told us that there are no known plans to close the pub!! They had put great effort into cleaning up the pub, you could literally see the difference and it looked very good. We were supplied with a nice selection of fresh sandwiches, which didn't last very long! We are planning to continue the meetings here until we get to know for sure that a closure date is announced. The venue is much improved, don't take our word for it come along and see for yourself. The dark and somewhat

cooler nights are coming, it doesn't mean you have to stay in front of the fire watching Eastenders – you're not that old yet, come out to the pub and keep in touch with what is going on.

We are still having our Breakfast meetings on the 4th Sunday at McDonalds in Arnold, often being the start of a good little ride, if you don't have the time for a ride just come and have a coffee. Normally there is no planned ride we just see what is happening and make a decision having discussed the options. It's a good way to get to know new people, just catch up if

Christmas Events

Lost Riders Christmas Party December 11th

*Mellish Rugby Club
Live band / disco & Chip supper
£8 Tickets from any committee member.*

Derby Christmas Dinner December 18th

*Arkwright Arms,
Sutton cum Duckmanton.
Information from Keith 07910
711 591*

you've missed any monthly meetings or simply have an hour out of the house. Weather not good, then come in the car, see, there's no excuse!

Now is the time to give some thought to next year, is there any event / activity / ride you would like to do and have company? Let us know and we'll see if we can get it into the calendar for a Nottingham day out.

~~~~~

From Jayne Bell a summary of the VSOC Colombian trip, (more pictures can seen on Facebook and our web page).

## **Custom Club Colombia through the Virago Star Owners Club in GB and YCC in Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.**

In total about 60 northern Europeans belonging to the clubs were invited to tour Colombia with the YCCC on a rally which would take 10 days and cover about 1600km. See map for route which we travelled anticlockwise from Bogota.

The Colombians had spent 2 years organising this and made meticulous plans covering every detail. The amount of time each one put in while we were there was amazing and went beyond the call of duty. They gave up their free time and holidays to escort us everywhere, advising, translating menus, shepherding along the roads and doing everything with a smile and tireless friendliness. YCCC we salute you! Wherever we stayed our Colombian hosts had organised entertainment – a party, dancing, food (chicken, rice and 'bone' soup) and beer.

We spent the first day in and around Bogota on an open bus with Colombian music playing – dancing, singing, waving to everyone, and visited galleries, the Gold museum, cafes and took a cable car up to Monserrate where we had a magnificent view of the city, and in the evening we visited some bars then had a welcome party in a restaurant and generally had a high old time.

It was becoming evident that our highly visible Police escort would be with us wherever we went – watching and keeping us safe.



The number of bikes available (which were loaned to us by members of the Colombia YCCC), meant that we couldn't all ride every day, so we allocated rider / pillion / car or minibus to people the previous evening. This could get a bit chaotic at times but usually worked out OK, and when we split into our national groups for riding it was easier to manage.

Instead of writing a day-by-day account here, I will just note a few of the places we went, sights we saw and times we had:

We visited the Salt Cathedral at Zipaquirá which is carved underground out in the salt mine there.

We stayed in Barbosa and were given Colombian flags by local fans before we left, which we waved wherever we could and were greeted by cheers from onlookers as we rode through towns.

We rode through Chicamocha National Park - magnificent scenery - and walked up the monument to the uprising of about 1790. While we were there we heard some bangs in the distance. We thought it was thunder although the sky was clear, but we heard later on the news that it was in fact a meteor strike in the area.

All the national groups plus as many Colombians, gathered on the edge of Bucaramanga and rode in convoy to the hotel in the town – motorcycles riding through reception! – it wouldn't be the last time.

We had a long ride along the Rio Magdalena river basin and finished at Doradel where we swam in the river rapids. I was in the car at this point and our journey back to the hotel with darkness looming; being led by an m/c cop with blue lights flashing was akin to the beginning of a 'Police Academy' movie – mesmerizing. I had started to notice today that our police escorts were carrying larger weaponry – assault rifles and two-up.



We went to La Penol which is a huge rock with stairs up one side, set amongst a beautiful sort of bayou area. Fabulous views.

We were invited to the Yamaha factory at Medellin where lunch and a tour of the factory was organised. In the evening we went out to a club in town and watched some dancing, then on to a bar where we had a great time partying and dancing till the early hours.

On the way to La Pintada we visited Amaga City where a recent mining accident killed 72 men leaving many children without fathers. Some of us took toys or clothes for them while others had a collection for them to spend as they wished.

The day riding to La Pintada had started damp and rapidly became the worst prolonged deluge of rain I have ever experienced. It was like riding through a

waterfall for several hours – and I hadn't got my 'wets' on. Up and down a mountain road, trucks swinging round the hairpin bends as we rode into the darkness. When we arrived at the camp site I danced under an overflow off a tented roof 'singing in the rain' – it didn't matter – I couldn't have gotten any wetter. Boots full of water and soaked to the skin. Then I found that my luggage had been on the roof of the 4x4 and I hadn't got any dry clothes, so I walked about wrapped in a tablecloth until Roz came to the rescue and loaned me some of her clothes. About 5 of us whose clothes had got wet spent the next morning hanging everything on fences and hedges to dry

I was pillion to Rob the next day on the Vmax which had not been running well from the beginning. A crunching sound from the gearbox and we broke down. A truck stopped and about 8 guys physically lifted the Vmax onto the back of the truck. Rob and I had to bag pillions the rest of the journey to Manizales. Another mass ride-in to the hotel near the central square – awesome. The Escorial Hotel was original Art-Deco and had a manual lift (hours of fun trying to hit the floor levels when the attendant wasn't there), and Harry, Roz, John and me had an excellent evening meal there.

We did some shopping around town the next morning then off to Armenia and the Hotel Cafe Real. We had a group meal out at a local restaurant that night.

The next day we rode to the National Coffee Park at Montenegro, the heart of the coffee-growing area. We had a guided tour showing us the various types of coffee plant, processes and history, followed by a show (fabulous costumes) and lunch. We then browsed the shops for gifts and went to the 'theme park' section where we just had time for a go on the roller-coaster before a sky-ride back to our gathering point.



We had to leave at 5.30am the next morning, but at around 4am I heard what sounded like volleys of shots in the streets out the back of the hotel. When we came to leave, the lobby and the street outside had a lot of 'heavy' police in flack-jackets – not our normal chaperones that we had become accustomed to. We had another 'interesting' ride up and down a mountain road known as 'La Linea' before breakfast, then out across a flatter landscape. We stopped en-route for a farewell party to say thank-you to the Colombians – dinner, a raffle for a trip to Europe, badges, photos and fond farewells. On the road again towards Bogota the road steepened as we wound up into the cool mountain air and arrived just as dark loomed and the rain started.

Colombia has the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen anywhere in the world. Hills and mountains covered in trees; banana, palm, bamboo, bread-fruit, coffee – covering the land like a thick green blanket. Because of the landscape, often views open up as you travel along and are obscured again just as quickly before you can aim a camera. I'm sure my photos don't accurately represent what we saw, but we did our best to bring the essence of it back for you.

Jane

## **AIMCC**

### **BONFIRE RALLY**

5/6<sup>TH</sup> November

Oxcroft Miners welfare,  
Stanfree, Chesterfield. S44 6AG

Live band/disco. Bonfire &  
Fireworks on Saturday.

Camping (Club doors open if  
weather very bad)

Tickets £14 (250 limit) Contact  
01246 573413/ 07908 981 558

## Darlington Rally

Last rally of the year and it was a good one. A strong presence from the Lost Riders made it even more enjoyable. Weather was good, a few drops of rain here and there but nothing that caused a problem. I didn't go on the ride-out but those that did said it was great, quite long, well planned and great scenery. Instead of the ride-out we went to the Beamish Museum and had an equally enjoyable day. Returning to the site we had a good meal, watched the many people getting prepared for the fancy dress in the evening. Walt Disney was the theme and there were some very creative costumes.



## Dog's Dinner Bash

Our first time attending, it offered a great ride from our own meeting point at the Bistro Cafe on the A52 near Grantham, (a very good place to start as they are open and offer breakfast etc. at a very reasonable price), to the event starting point just south of Market Harborough using the back roads. It was a quite long ride about 70 miles to Rockingham Classic & Sport dealer; they specialise in Moto Guzzi, Enfield and classic bikes. There is a small cafe open and it is well worth a ride just for the roads alone.



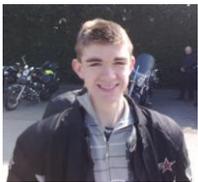
The event was to raise money for the East Midlands Dog Rescue. The trip from the shop to the rescue centre was only 30 mile but it was the longest 30 mile I have done in a very long time, taking about ninety minutes. The reception we had on arrival was very warming, a band, hot dogs, burgers and a "Birds of Prey" stand showing a selection of owls that were being trained or receiving medical attention in order to be returned to the wild. Very interesting. I would attend again but would very likely go straight to the rescue centre.

**October 2010:**

## Linc's Lyrical

Whilst I was busy riding round Columbia having the time of my life EJ kindly took the Lincolnshire meeting for this month, many thanks to her.

Columbia was well worth the visit and the wait and I enjoyed every moment of it. I am sure some of you will have seen some of the many photos that are on Facebook! Every day on our two week tour we experienced something new and exciting and made new friends. For those who didn't go you really did miss out on a fantastic opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone.



The Lincolnshire meeting is on the 12<sup>th</sup> October so look forward to seeing you there.

See you all soon.

Alexander Bridgwood (*Lincolnshire Rep*)

## SPECIAL DATES TO PLAN FOR

|          |         |                                                                                                                                        |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OCTOBER  | 29 - 30 | WEST MIDLAND (CEN 8) HALLOWEEN PARTY. THEME – HALLOWEEN STYLE COWBOY n' INDIANS. LIVE BAND / DISCO - £6. SEE CALENDAR FOR SULL DETAILS |
| DECEMBER | 11      | LOST RIDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY – MELLISH RFC. EXCELLENT LIVE BAND/DISCO. USUAL CHIP SUPPER. £8 PER TICKET                                 |
| DECEMBER | 18      | DERBY CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ARKWRIGHT ARMS. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW                                                                   |

## OCTOBER

|       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2     | Saturday | Anchor Inn, Church End, Friskney. PE22 8NB 01754 820212. Bands every Saturday night, no charge and free camping and showers. Tonight: Riff Raff – Rock band.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3     | Sunday   | <b>Derbyshire</b> breakfast (1st and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday) meet at Clay Cross Powersports. From 10am, food and or a ride-out. Contact Keith 07986 091109 or Jane 07910 711591 E-mail <a href="mailto:rumblyingstar@aol.com">rumblyingstar@aol.com</a>                                                                                                      |
| 5     | Tuesday  | <b>Centre Meet (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month) - Mellish Rugby Club, War Memorial Ground, Mapperley Plains, Nottingham. NG3 5RX. – from 7.30pm. Contact Terry 0115 939 9142 / 07853 235400 / <a href="mailto:billio51@hotmail.com">billio51@hotmail.com</a></b>                                                                                            |
| 9     | Saturday | Anchor Inn, Church End, Friskney. PE22 8NB 01754 820212. Bands every Saturday night, no charge and free camping and showers. Tonight: Gin House – R & B.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11    | Mon      | <b>Derby Meet.</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of month) Arkwright Arms, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Chesterfield. S44 5JG. Off M1 J29. Contact Keith 07986 091109 <a href="mailto:rumblyingstar@aol.com">rumblyingstar@aol.com</a> or Jane 07910 711591                                                                                                              |
| 12    | Tuesday  | <b>Lincolnshire meet</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month)<br>The Duke of Wellington, Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Sleaford. NG34 8JS<br>Contact: Alex 07815 972037 E-mail <a href="mailto:ajbridgwood@yahoo.co.uk">ajbridgwood@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                |
| 13    | Wed      | <b>Leicester / Northants meet.</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month).<br>Forge Inn, Main Street, Glenfield, Leic. LE3 8DG.<br>Contact: Pete Brown 0116 291 6809 E-mail <a href="mailto:leonebrowne@btinternet.com">leonebrowne@btinternet.com</a>                                                                                                    |
| 16    | Saturday | Anchor Inn, Church End, Friskney. PE22 8NB 01754 820212. Bands every Saturday night, no charge and free camping and showers. Tonight: Crossfire – Covers band.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 16/17 | Sat/Sun  | Stafford Classic Bike Show. Stafford County Show Ground. On the gate £10 (£9 pre-paid check out website)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 17    | Sunday   | Children in Need Charity Ride. Leave Clay Cross Powersport at 12, arriving at Radio Derby for 1pm. Donation 35 per bike.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 17    | Sunday   | <b>Derbyshire</b> breakfast (1st and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday) meet at Clay Cross Powersports. From 10am, food and or a ride-out. Contact Keith 07986 091109 or Jane 07910 711591 E-mail <a href="mailto:rumblyingstar@aol.com">rumblyingstar@aol.com</a>                                                                                                      |
| 23    | Saturday | Anchor Inn, Church End, Friskney. PE22 8NB 01754 820212. Bands every Saturday night, no charge and free camping and showers. Tonight: Storm – Great band!.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 24    | Sunday   | <b>Nott's breakfast</b> meet (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month). McDonalds Sir John Robinson Way, OFF A60 Mansfield Rd., Daybook, Arnold (Retail park opposite Sainsbury). From Nottingham turn right at CMC follow and Mc D on left. From Mansfield turn left at CMC.<br>From 10.30, food and or a ride-out. Contact Jim 07867 868 582 or Chris 07739 913 80 |
| 30    | Saturday | Anchor Inn, Church End, Friskney. PE22 8NB 01754 820212. Bands every Saturday night, no charge and free camping and showers. Tonight: Fathers of Rock – Not to miss!                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 29/30 | Fri-Sat  | <b>West Midlands VSOC Halloween Party.</b> Bruntwood RFC, Sports Way, Chasetown Staffs. W57 3TH Camping Fri/Sat. Live band and disco. £6 SAE (Cheques payable to "Centre 8") to Jan Orton 46 Shipley Close, Branston, Burton upon Trent. DE14 3NB                                                                                                            |

## NOVEMBER

|     |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2   | Tuesday | <b>Centre Meet (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month) - Mellish Rugby Club, War Memorial Ground, Mapperley Plains, Nottingham. NG3 5RX. – from 7.30pm. Contact Terry 0115 939 9142 / 07853 235400 / <a href="mailto:billio51@hotmail.com">billio51@hotmail.com</a></b> |
| 5/6 | Fri-Sat | AIMCC Bonfire Rally, Oxcroft Miners Welfare, Stanfree, Chetsrerfield. S44 6AG. Contact 01246 573413 / 07908 981 558 Bands Friday and Saturday. 250 limit, £14                                                                                                     |
| 7   | Sunday  | <b>Derbyshire</b> breakfast (1st and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday) meet at Clay Cross Powersports. From 10am, food and or a ride-out. Contact Keith 07986 091109 or Jane 07910 711591 E-mail <a href="mailto:rumblyingstar@aol.com">rumblyingstar@aol.com</a>           |

|    |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| 9  | Tuesday | <b>Lincolnshire meet</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month)<br>The Duke of Wellington, Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Sleaford. NG34 8JS<br>Contact: Alex 07815 972037 E-mail <a href="mailto:ajbridgwood@yahoo.co.uk">ajbridgwood@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                |
| 10 | Wed     | <b>Leicester / Northants meet.</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month).<br>Forge Inn, Main Street, Glenfield, Leic. LE3 8DG.<br>Contact: Pete Brown 0116 291 6809 E-mail <a href="mailto:leonebrowne@btinternet.com">leonebrowne@btinternet.com</a>                                                                                                    |
| 16 | Tuesday | <b>Nottingham Meet.</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month) Grey Goose, Arnold Lane, Gedling- from 8pm.<br>Contact Jim 07867 868 582 or Chris 07739 913 807 <a href="mailto:jimvtx1300@yahoo.co.uk">jimvtx1300@yahoo.co.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:oneostrider@yahoo.co.uk">oneostrider@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                                         |
| 21 | Sunday  | <b>Derbyshire</b> breakfast (1st and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday) meet at Clay Cross Powersports. From 10am, food and or a ride-out. Contact Keith 07986 091109 or Jane 07910 711591 E-mail <a href="mailto:rumblyingstar@aol.com">rumblyingstar@aol.com</a>                                                                                                      |
| 28 | Sunday  | <b>Nott's breakfast</b> meet (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month). McDonalds Sir John Robinson Way, OFF A60 Mansfield Rd., Daybock, Arnold (Retail park opposite Sainsbury). From Nottingham turn right at CMC follow and Mc D on left. From Mansfield turn left at CMC.<br>From 10.30, food and or a ride-out. Contact Jim 07867 868 582 or Chris 07739 913 80 |
| 28 | Sunday  | <b>Bottesford Toy Run.</b> Leaving Red Lion Bottesford for the usual ride to Grantham, then onto Melton Mowbray. Ken will be arranging a ride-in from Arkwright Arms at 9.15.                                                                                                                                                                                |

## THE COMMITTEE

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### Deputy centre rep

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Temporary contacts –  
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Chris Bostock 07739 913 807

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