



LOST RIDERS



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VSOC CENTRE 9 – EAST MIDLANDS – JULY 2014

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



What a great trip to Germany!

The Lost Riders expedition to the International Rally at Rosdorf was a fantastic and fun experience with a great group of people! I'm sure you will hear stories from those that went for weeks to come. A big thank must go to Terry for organising the logistics and guiding us all safely there and back. Chris also deserves a mention for acting as last man across three countries, making sure that no-one was left behind.

I have put together a DVD feature containing over 25 minutes of video footage and pictures from the trip. I am planning to sell copies at £5 each - the money going towards our nominated charity. I hope you will get chance to see the film at our centre meet. If you would like a copy please let me know.

Ride Safe - Tinker Steve



LINCS LYRICALS



A fairly busy month once again saw Mum, Dad and myself going to Germany on the 7th June following the main centre meet that week. A fantastic trip of around 2,500 miles which saw us going through 5 different countries and exploring the Harz mountain area. The International rally was good although the weather was disappointing considering what we had the week before in Germany. Cold nights which somewhat replicated what we might have had at a UK rally! Great to see so many UK VSOC members in attendance, biggest contingent by far.

A mention to Steve and Cath for covering the Lincolnshire meeting this month on my behalf, many thanks to you both.

So we come to the weekend after we return from Germany and I am writing this article the day after a brilliant test ride on the 1300 Custon (Stryker). See the write up later in the newsletter!

Looking ahead and we have Boston bike night on Thursday 3rd July where we will have a stand. If you'd like to put your bike on display then please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We also have the Lincolnshire rideout on Sunday 13th July. Meeting point is The Friendly Farmer, Lincoln Rd, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY. Meet from 10:30 with us leaving at 11:00. Rideout route is a mystery so please fill your tanks up prior to us leaving!

Stay safe out there and see you on the road soon.

Alexander Bridgwood - *Lincolnshire Rep*



RAIDER SCL

Hi All,

I have imported myself a Raider SCL 2012.

Number 24 of 500 made, only this colour scheme for 2012.

(Burgundy/black in 2013 500 made. Matt black in 2014 500 made)

Main features:-

Custom paintwork

Chrome wheels and belt pulley

Braided clutch and brake lines

Leather seats

SCL logos on tank with production no (24) and embroidered into seat

Steve Riglin



JUNE RIDE OUT

Thanks to Jayne and John Bell for organising what turned out to be a damp ride out to Cleethorpes. It went from damp to wet to downright soaked, however 11 bikes made the trip and braved the weather.

Well done to Mark Winterbottom



Mark's Dragstar was awarded the trophy for the Best Dragstar Custom at the event at the recent Vsoc Thames Vultures rally at Thatcham

Yamaha 1300 Custom (Stryker) first ride



After coming back from Germany I heard that Webbs had just received back the Yamaha 1300 Custom (Stryker) which they had sold the week before. Taking the opportunity I decided to give them a call to try and cheekily arrange a test ride. They've known all along I've been after one of these bikes since they first came out in the US 4 years ago and taking one out to test ride was something I wanted to do to reaffirm my eventual commitment to spending that much money on a motorbike. Setting off from Webbs and it felt good to be back on a cruiser again. I rode Dad's 1900 Raider a couple of months ago so the ride position is fairly familiar and it didn't take long to get used to everything.

At first it's a strange feeling riding through town. This is because unlike most cruisers you find yourself doing 20mph in first gear and only just get into second to do 30mph. Once you get used to this though it's an absolute pleasure to ride through town and to be honest it's actually preferable, who doesn't want to have to jump up and down the gears all the time?

Heading south out of Lincoln and away from the town traffic and it's onto the first stretch of the A46. Open the throttle a little bit, not too much as it's still being run in, and it literally just goes! Next thing I know I realise I'm doing 70 in fourth, since when did most cruisers manage this and handle like they're in fifth or sixth gear? The torque on this machine is impressive to say the least. Talking to owners of the Raider who have ridden the 1300 Custom/Stryker they have told me that the torque on it is comparable to the Raider. That's impressive considering the difference in the size of the engine.



I had decided to head over to Nottingham to Paul Burdass's Fat Skeleton open weekend to meet up with Mum and Dad who were manning a VSOC stand there alongside Dad's business. This meant a fairly relaxed and easy ride over on simple roads, getting used to how the bike handled round corners, acceleration and other characteristics of the bike. I stopped for fuel on the way over and a comment from the cashier at the petrol station saying "Nice bike". His

face lit up when I told him a little history of the bike and how it had just come to the UK market after 4 years of being available in the US! Coming back from Fat Skeleton I felt a lot more at ease on the bike without having to worry about directions for where I was going. Taking some back roads I could really start to push the bike and see how it handled round corners and on country roads. For a bike which is pretty long with a raked out front end and the weight it handles beautifully. I was taking corners with no hassle and the bike felt like it had plenty more in it. It corners smoothly and opening up the throttle after a long corner feels fantastic. I doubt it would match a kitted up sports bike but for the right riders I couldn't see why it wouldn't be able to easily keep up, in some corners it certainly could have matched my 600 Hornet.

The bike felt just right for me, the pegs were far enough forward that I didn't feel cramped and the handlebars aren't too far forward to make you feel like you're stretching to reach them. Riding along and you just literally sit back comfortably in the seat and there's plenty of support in that position for your back. You don't have to be tall to ride it either, Paul Burdass and Mum both sat on the bike and commented on how good the ride position was. With the bike being so well balanced on the weight there's no real limitations on who can ride it.

In conclusion though the bike handles perfectly in corners for country roads, has plenty of torque and top end for motorway riding and the ride position is comfortable in any circumstance. Vibration is no more than I would expect any V-twin motorbike to have and I didn't find it to be a problem when riding along in various gears and speeds. The suspension is fairly hard but then that's the characteristics of the bike, it's designed as a custom, aggressive motorbike which has plenty of torque, corners well and as such has low profile tyres. Having softer suspension just wouldn't suit this style of motorbike.

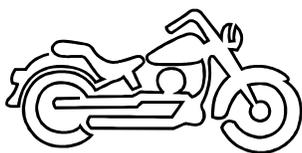
Gearing may be an issue for some riders, I've heard of people complaining about this on the 1300 Midnight Star but for me I didn't see any issues. Yes, it's a strange feeling doing 30mph in second gear or doing the smaller roundabouts in first but it's something you get used to. It may be because I've ridden round on a semi sports bike since I started alongside cruisers but for me it's no issue at all. Besides that if you have any major issues there are some easy fixes out there that others have done.

Speaking to one of the mechanics at Webbs when I got back he mentioned about the bike being similar to the Warrior. It's a derivative of the Raider with a smaller engine and as such it's kept the torque and mean look of the bike but I think he was right. It's a bike which was designed to be as aggressive as it looks, it handles like a dream and there's no way I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who wants a cruiser that performs at the twist of the throttle.

Will I be getting one? Yes, this test ride has confirmed my decision to purchase one as soon as I get the finances sorted. For those that have the money now Webbs have the one I test rode up for sale for £7999, £1,000 off the RRP with just over a 1,000 miles on the clock. Fancy it? Give them a call on 01522 528951, visit their website at www.webbsofcoln.co.uk or pop in and see them 117-121 Portland St, Lincoln, LN5 7LG.

Alexander Bridgwood

JOE'S TIP OF THE MONTH



When loading up for a rally make sure indicators and rear lights are clearly visible, go up stairs and look out of the window as this is the view an HGV gets of your bike.

If you have a spare yellow bib weave this into the straps and bungees on the rear. Check again at stops on the way.

Ride safe all the best Joe

Tony Hawkins has for sale a handlebar mounting clock suitable for a Dragstar, and other bikes I expect. If you are interested please contact Tony email: tonyandkendra38@btinternet.com



2014 RALLIES & PARTIES

Solent Rally – Centre 16, Headley GU35 8TE

25 - 27 July

Fourgasm IV – Centre 4, North Shields NE30 2BE

22 - 25 Aug

LOST RIDERS WOODTHORPE WEEKEND IS BACK!

SEPTEMBER 5 & 6th

WOODTHORPE HALL LEISURE PARK

Nr ALFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

A STEP INTO THE PAST - AS RALLIES USED TO BE - A WEEKEND OF FUN -
SIMPLE ENTERTAINMENT - LATE BAR - GREAT FOOD – GOOD COMPANY

BRING YOUR TENTS / CAMPER / CARAVAN OR CARAVAN HIRE AVAILABLE

IF YOU MISSED THE LAST ONE –

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!



CONTACT JIM (07867 868 582) TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AND PAY DEPOSIT
£5 /PITCH (FULL AMOUNT WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO EVENT)

PRICE: TENTS £10 per night / CARAVAN & CAMPERS £12.00 PER NIGHT. CARAVAN HIRE 4/6 BERTH
FRI/SAT £100 (Caravans subject to availability - book early) FULL VENUE INFORMATION AT
www.woodthorpehallleisure.co.uk

LOST RIDERS JULY 2014 EVENTS

1st	Tues	Centre Meet (1 st Tuesday of month) - The Park Yacht Inn, Trent Lane South, Colwick, Nottingham NG2 4DS – from 7.30pm. Contact - Chris 07739 913807
6th	Sun	Derbyshire Breakfast Meet. (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am. Contact: Rick 07828 801009
8th	Tues	Lincolnshire Meet (2 nd Tuesday of month) The Duke of Wellington, Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Sleaford. NG34 8JS Contact: Alex 07815 972037
9th	Wed	Leicester / Northants Meet. (2 nd Wednesday of each month). Nags Head, Station Road, Glenfield, LE3 8BQ Contact: Pete Brown 0116 291 6809
14th	Mon	Derby Meet. (2 nd Monday of month) Arkwright Arms, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Chesterfield. S44 5JG. Off M1 J29 Contact: Rick 07828 801009
15th	Tues	Notts. Area Meet. 3 rd Tuesday of the month. Rolls Royce Social Club, Gate 1 Watnall Road (B6009), Hucknall Contact Chris 07739 913 807 or Jim 07867 868 582
20th	Sun	Derbyshire Breakfast Meet. (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am. Contact: Rick 07828 801009

LOST RIDERS AUGUST 2014 EVENTS

3rd	Sun	Derbyshire Breakfast Meet. (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am. Contact: Rick 07828 801009
5th	Tues	Centre Meet (1 st Tuesday of month - The Park Yacht Inn, Trent Lane South, Colwick, Nottingham NG2 4DS – from 7.30pm. Contact - Chris 07739 913807
11th	Mon	Derby Meet. (2 nd Monday of month) Arkwright Arms, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Chesterfield. S44 5JG. Off M1 J29 Contact: Rick 07828 801009
12th	Tues	Lincolnshire Meet (2 nd Tuesday of month) The Duke of Wellington, Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Sleaford. NG34 8JS Contact: Alex 07815 972037
13th	Wed	Leicester / Northants Meet. (2 nd Wednesday of each month). Nags Head, Station Road, Glenfield, LE3 8BQ Contact: Pete Brown 0116 291 6809
17th	Sun	Derbyshire Breakfast Meet. (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am. Contact: Rick 07828 801009
19th	Tues	Notts. Area Meet. 3 rd Tuesday of the month. Rolls Royce Social Club, Gate 1 Watnall Road (B6009), Hucknall Contact Chris 07739 913 807 or Jim 07867 868 582