



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Robin Apps - 01953 488003

DriveLines

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The monthly newsletter for the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association.

www.roadanorfolk.org.uk

In This Issue

Forthcoming Events.....

Messages.....

New Laws.....



Here we are again another two months gone by already! The time does appear to go faster or are the days shorter? It certainly keeps catching up with me. Easter is just around the corner and then summer holidays and Christmas. Welcome 2016!!! I think it must be my 'old age'.

Talking about age, what do you think of the 'dinosaur' Jeremy Clarkson? You either love him or hate him. It does appear to be a bit of a storm in a tea cup. Obviously we do not know all the facts (and probably never will!). He is a very 'bluff' character but some consider him a mans man. He does put over a good show and I can tell you as one of the Group that went down and saw the televising of one edition of 'Top Gear' last year, that he was very professional although quite rude between takes. All three of the presenters gave their performances without 'auto-cue' and without many repeats. Jeremy's interview technique was very good, putting the guest at ease and asking the pertinent questions. I have seen him in other documentaries and he showed a different side to his character. I think it will be a shame if the BBC lose him to another channel, although I must admit I think 'Top Gear' has probably gone past its best with some of the improbable stunts they have been showing recently. Your views would be appreciated.

You have been warned! I read recently that Norfolk Police have been clamping down on 'inconsiderate' driving. The law as relates to Careless Driving has been widened to include inconsiderate driving and you can now be fined with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 and 3 points on your Licence. Norfolk Police have been one of the most active in this regard having issued at least 91 Notices during 2013/14.

The acts of bad driving ranged from driving fast and erratic overtaking on bends; driving through Police cones and a blocked road; a tractor causing traffic to build up failed to pull over, and my favourite, driver distracted through the acts of a female passenger (the mind boggles). I am glad to see that those senseless acts of other drivers which often niggle us can at last be dealt with. It was always a grey area before and the proof required to prosecute a driver was not always sufficient. My Gripe of course, as usual, is that there is now not enough Police on the road to enforce the law! I obviously do not include our 'drivers' in the above misdemeanours, our training should keep us more restrained!!!

DO NOT FORGET THAT THIS MONTH IS OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

What's On

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED
7.30PM AT THE PAVILION, OAKFIELD ROAD, CRINGLEFORD

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE MEETINGS ARE HELD ON
THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.
THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE LAST WEDNESDAY**

MEETINGS

MARCH

Wednesday, 25th March 2015

This is our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. Now is the time for you to have your say in how the Club is run and give us some ideas for the future. The Committee is elected and we do need some more of our Members to come forward to come onto the Committee. We need new faces and ideas. It is not onerous only a few meetings a year. Please put your name forward. As it is your Club and the meeting is for you it is hoped that as many Members as possible will turn up on the evening to give us your support. It is hoped that the meeting will be followed by a talk by **Chief Inspector Spinks, i/c Norfolk Police Roads Policing Unit**.

APRIL

Wednesday, 22nd April 2015

This is not confirmed but we are due to have a visit from **Ian Temperton, Norfolk Road Safety Officer**. Ian always gives us a very interesting evening and lets us know what is happening on the road Safety front in the county. One evening not to be missed. We hope as many Members as possible will turn up for this one.

MAY

Wednesday, 27th May 2015

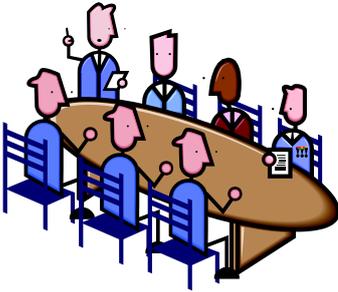
Again this is not confirmed but we have been promised that one of our 'Advanced Driving Examiners' will give many tips to help you keep up your standard to get through that test!

All members are reminded that our Social Meetings are for your interest, a chance for you to meet to fellow minded drivers, a gigantic raffle and free tea or coffee.

OUR CHAIRMAN WRITES:

Annual General Meeting 2015

The Annual General Meeting 2015 for the Norfolk & Norwich RoADAR Group will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th March 2015 at the Cringleford Pavilion. This is your opportunity to voice your opinions on the running and performance of the Group and committee members. Please find time to attend and have your say; it is quite frustrating if only a few regular attendees make the effort – we need your opinions. We look forward to seeing you there.



Committee Members and a New Webmaster **Still Urgently Needed!**



Our Committee's numbers continue to reduce due to retirement, relocation and personal reasons. We are now down to seven (mostly very long serving) committee members and desperately need more volunteers – your Group needs you if it is to continue as expected! The committee work takes little time with meetings being kept to the minimum (email helps us greatly!) but we need some new faces and fresh ideas to help us move forward

In particular, we need really need volunteers for the Drivelines Editor and Webmaster. Both Noel and Mike have been holding these reins for a considerable time and it is only fair to them to let them get some rest – there must be some members out there who have the expertise and skills to assist us. I fear that if volunteers are not forthcoming, we may lose our most important, means of the Group's communication.

Can anybody help us with either of these pleas, please?

Skid Pan Training

You should, by now, have seen the flyer that our Membership Secretary sent out to all members advising of the Skid Pan Training offer in order to ascertain interest levels. This has been masterminded by one of our committee members (Jamie Kaufman). . More details will be published when available. So far, 17 members have expressed interest so it looks as though it will go ahead but, please remember, the greater the numbers, the lower the cost. If you haven't done so yet, please register your interest with the Chairman (Robin Apps) on 01953-488003 or at roadar.norfolk@gmail.com by the cut-off date 20 March.



2015 - First Test Results

During February, our first two test-applicants of 2015 took their initial advanced tests and achieved the following grades:

Christopher Welling	GOLD	(Tutor - Brian Dack)
Kate Barter	GOLD	(Tutor – Robin Apps)

That's a fantastic start to this year, WELL DONE to both of them. Please remember though, if you take a test or retest, please let us know or we can't publicise it.

A PLEA FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Membership renewal was due on 1st December 2014 if you have not got a membership card with a 2015 date on it and have not sent your renewal in the last few days, please send your membership fee of £12 to our membership secretary Peter Matchett. Forms can be downloaded from our web site <http://www.roadar-norfolk.org.uk/apply0.htm>

NEW LAW:

Speed Limits for Goods Vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight (big artics and HGVs to us) are being increased on open single carriageway roads from 40 mph to 50 mph and on dual-carriageways from 50 mph to 60 mph. This is after the 6th April 2015. The idea is to try and keep traffic moving faster. I think most of you will agree with me that we will not see a great deal of difference on our roads as most seem to be travelling at these speeds already. As I understand it the Motorway speed limit for these vehicles remains at 60 miles per hour. I also understand that a large proportion of these vehicles are governed to a speed of 58 miles per hour. Have we any professional lorry drivers out there that can confirm my understandings!?

NOW A MESSAGE FROM BRIAN DACK OUR VICE-CHAIRMAN.

RESIGNATION

Hi All:

Regrettable as it is, I am fast reaching 80 years of age and feel its time I gave a little more time to my ever patient family, therefore I have decided to call it a day as far as my role within the Rospa Group. It goes without saying, I have had some great moments over the past 30 + years and met some VERY NICE people who I now consider my friends. It all started in the early eighties. I was reading 'Letters to the Editor', in the EEN. The request was for anybody interested in driving who would like to start a Rospa Group here in Norfolk. I went along to what was a poorly attended meeting at Lakenham Playing fields. The person who was trying to get it all started was a Norwich driving instructor. At the meeting I met Bill Smith OBE who I am sad to say passed away a few years ago. Bill had all the brains and I was just keen, ha ha, although I was an ex driving instructor. Bill and I followed up with what was proposed and formed a committee, we took over the running of the group and soon had it all up and running. We have had some great people within the group <passed and present> and having said that, I hope I played my part. My thanks go out to each and every one of you who, in one way or another, has contributed to the running of the group and hope it goes on for many years to come. I felt it was best to let you know in good time so somebody can be asked to take my place as VC and also take on the roll of doing Pre-Test checks. I will attend the March meeting so hope to see a lot of you there.

Kind Regards - Brian Dack vco

Brian in his humorous and patient way has always been a boon to the Club and a driving force behind keeping us going over the years. He was always very willing to help when he could with all sorts of jobs and he enjoyed selling RoSPA at outside events. He will be very hard to replace and I can say he WILL be missed. I just hope Brian you do not cut all your ties with us and will remain a Member for many years to come.

Editor.

'A' FRAMES IN EUROPE

For information we have learnt that if you intend using an 'A' frame to tow a vehicle (i.e. Motor Home towing a car using an 'A' frame) it will, on mainland Europe be an offence. It is all to do with new braking regulations introduced by the EU for light trailers. Guidance from the Department of Transport (dft) is that they do not intend to implement these recent changes to light trailer regulations. This means that 'A' frames will remain acceptable within the UK.

Therefore the advice is that it is recommended that if Members wish to tow a car behind a motorhome in mainland Europe then it must be on a trailer!

That is it for this month. Do not forget that it is your AGM on 25th. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. I still await contributions for your Newsletter, please send them through by E Mail or Snail Mail – Let us make it more interesting.

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Editor

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