



RoADAR CHAT

The Sussex Group of Advanced Car Drivers

Group Newsletter

October 2007

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If you missed the presentation at the May meeting, it's a shame because it was very entertaining and informative. John MacKessack from Rolls Royce turned up with a new Rolls Royce Phantom for us to play with.

Our first impression was 'its enormous' and there's no getting away from the impressive presence it created just sitting in the car park. As you would expect from the best car in the world it just oozes quality and the interior does not disappoint; we had a lot of trouble prising our members out of it. Unfortunately I could not arrange one on loan as the Chairman's car ☺.



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NEXT SPEAKER

Sgt Paul Masterson is the new Sussex Road Policing Casualty Reduction Officer. Hopefully he will bring along the Lotus Elise Police Car for its last outing. Paul has a wealth of experience as a Traffic Officer and this should be an interesting talk so come along and bring a guest.



Newsletter address: 30 Cabot Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex. BN23 6RT



MEMBER BENEFITS

10% DISCOUNT ON CAR CLEANING PRODUCTS

Another discount for our members and readers!

GP Wizard are one of the leading suppliers of car cleaning products in the UK.

I think it's important to keep your car looking presentable as it provides an outward indication of what you think of the car and also acts as an indication of your respect for your machine.

If you go to their website at www.gpwizard.co.uk and order the items you want, use the discount code **rospa** to receive 10% off your entire order. This also applies to items that are already discounted on the site.

There is no expiry date for this offer so you can use the code every time you purchase something.

They come highly recommended and both my brother and I have already taken advantage of the discount.

If there are any other products or services that you think other group members would benefit from (discounted or otherwise), please drop me an e-mail or give me a call and let me know.

Adam Field

SECRETARY'S CORNER

For those of you that don't know, I'm off to Brighton University in September to undertake a degree in Applied Psychology and Sociology. I've given up my day job and it feels weird spending so much extra time in the taxi although it gives me ample time to catch up on my reading ☺. I've transitioned to a new computer this month so you'll have to bear with me while I smooth out any issues with the layout of this month's newsletter.

For those of you that didn't make it to the May meeting, our speaker was fantastic and even brought along a new Rolls Royce for everyone to look at and play with.

Martyn Lock is trying to arrange a driving experience day where you can have a go at driving lorries and coaches. We have visited this venue before and everyone had a great time. If you're interested please drop me a line and if we have enough interest, he'll go ahead and book it.

I am pleased to announce that on the back page we have an article written by someone other than me ☺ Douglas Wragg has agreed to write articles for the newsletter from now on so please let me know what you think of the article.



Adam Field

MAY MEETING REPORT

At the May meeting, our guest speaker was John MacKessack who is a Health and Safety Specialist at Rolls Royce Motor Cars Limited in Goodwood and a Gold member of the group. John's presentation was on, as you might expect, Rolls Royce Motor Cars. The presentation provided a brief history of Rolls Royce up to the present day and then an in-depth look at the current two models, complete with some fantastic video reels.

I have been lucky enough to have a tour of the factory where they make the cars and it's a phenomenal place. We're hoping to arrange an event at Rolls Royce in the future so keep reading the newsletter ☺

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John on behalf of the group for a fantastic presentation.

Adam Field



NEXT MEETING DATE

Date: 29th November 2007 (Thursday)
Venue: Sussex Police HQ, Lewes
Time: 7.30pm-9.30pm

Details:

Sgt Paul Masterson Sussex Police
Casualty Reduction Officer .

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Details
29/11/2007	Meeting
January 2007	Speaker TBC
March 2008	2008 AGM

Directions: Sussex Police HQ is situated just off the A26 in Lewes.the address is Malling House, Church Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN72DZ

TRAINING OFFICER' S NEWS

Only one test pass to report in this issue. Basil Bigg achieved Silver on his re-test. Tutor was Anthony Platts. At the last Committee Meeting it was agreed that Anthony Platts would take over the role of Deputy Training Officer.

'Space Invaders'

No, I am not talking about those little green men but tailgaters. Recently, my work has meant that I have frequently had to use the A27, the A23, M23 and the dreaded M25.

The fact that the classic rear end shunt is the most common crash in the UK is something that has quite obviously escaped the attention of the majority of my fellow road users. I am not easily intimidated but my safety has been seriously threatened on several occasions by these dangerous drivers. I am unable to understand why drivers behave in such an irresponsible manner. Do they not realise that should anything occur that would require any rapid response on their part, they would still be thinking about what to do when they crashed?

So what advice can I offer that might help us to deal with these menaces that threaten all of us? The easiest solution is to remove ourselves from the problem. Look for the very earliest opportunity to move into another lane. As soon as you can signal your intention to the 'tailgater'. Letting them pass allows you to control the situation and leave as much 'safe space' as you require behind them or other traffic.

That's all very well if we have somewhere to go but that is not always possible in heavy traffic, and with other lanes busy we cannot always remove ourselves out of the way. If this is the situation we find ourselves in then the only choice we have is to create additional stopping distance between ourselves and the vehicle in front by very gently easing off the gas and letting our speed drop very gradually. Should it then be necessary for us to brake we can do so gently and smoothly giving the 'tailgater' more time to register what is happening by showing our brake lights for longer.

Whatever you do, avoid at all costs any behaviour that might antagonise the 'tailgater' It is not our job to enforce the speed limit on others and being deliberately obstructive will in all probability result in being 'undertaken' or cause a 'road rage incident' which could well put us in even more danger.

'Tailgating' does not just occur on dual carriageways and motorways. Keeping to speed limits also seems to draw the 'tailgaters' to me like a magnet. I have no different advice to offer for roads with lower speed limits or country roads. I deal with the situation in exactly the same way.

'Roadside First Aid'

What would you do if you were the first at the scene of a road crash? Call an ambulance and hope that the next person who arrived on the scene might know what to do?

More than half of all road deaths occur within the first few minutes of a crash and up to 85 percent of these may be avoided if first aid is properly administered. The British Red Cross in conjunction with the Driving Instructors Association have put together an all day course to deal specifically with 'Roadside First Aid' It costs £150 and will be held at Banstead. I have reserved a place on one of the courses to be held later this year. If any-one requires any further information please contact me.

Keep safe. **David Raine**



LATEST NEWS

Modified Car Road Rally Report

Toby Field, a Sussex Advanced Drivers member and Secretary of the East Sussex Branch of the Saab Owners Club, took part in the 2007 Modball Rally to raise money for charity.

The event started in London and was due to last 7 days and almost 3,000 miles with 150 teams travelling through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria and Italy. However, as you may have seen or heard on the national news, all did not go to plan.

Toby said "Obviously it will be lots of fun driving all day and partying all night, but our mission is to make as much money as possible along the way for our chosen charity, Cancer Research UK".

Companies have been kind enough to sponsor the team by providing vehicle spares and supplies.

If you are interested in sponsoring Toby and his team, either by supplying car sponsorship or donating to his charity fund, please visit his website at www.team.saabclub.co.uk or call him on 07989 236373.

Adam Field



Group Events

We are at present attempting to organise two separate events for you to enjoy;

Would you like to drive an Articulated Lorry, a 50 Seat Coach, a Heavy Goods Vehicle plus trailer, a fork lift and lorry mounted crane under instruction, off road in complete safety?

We are at present arranging this experience at Hills of Plumpton who are specialists in Driver Training based at Plumpton Race Course in Sussex..

You will be under the watchful eye of qualified instructors and if you have never driven this type of vehicle it will enable you to appreciate some of the problems these drivers face on a day to day basis.



NEWS IN BRIEF

The 25 millionth VW Golf rolled off the production line a few weeks ago, 33 years and five generations after the first one.

Lorries are now banned from overtaking on a stretch of the A14 in Northamptonshire. The ban keeps vehicles over 7.5 tonnes out of the outside lane between 6am and 8pm.

Car accidents in April are more likely to occur between 5pm and 6pm on a Wednesday evening according to a report from Accident Exchange.

Britain's most expensive car park, in Oxford Circus, charges £7.30 an hour. The cheapest paid parking in the country is in Reading at just 10p per hour.

A vibrating seat belt that alerts drivers when they get too close to the car in front would cut 0.4 sec from driver reaction times according to a report from the Transport Research Laboratory.

Jaguar has sold off its historic Browns Lane home, to an Australian developer which intends to turn it into a business park. Jaguar's wood veneering facility will remain.

A set of curves on the Nürburgring's GP track has been renamed the Schumacher S, in honour of the seven-time F1 world champion.

Our new website will contain brief news articles like the ones featured in this column.

Adam Field

Skid Detection and Control Training at Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit

As drivers, whether novice or skilled, the risk of skidding is there for all of us. Oil spillage, a puncture, loss of control or emergency braking.

The only place you can safely train or retrain is on a skid pan.

It is recommended that all members and associates attend this course as part of their training.

Colin Wells has been running skid training at Goodwood Circuit for many years and is also a qualified ARDS Motor Racing Instructor. Course duration is approximately 3 hours using the school cars not yours.

The course will be for a group of up to 10 participants and can cover, why skids happen, skid detection, front and rear wheel skids, skid control techniques, emergency braking, cadence braking.

At the end of the course there may be enough time for a short competition to test the new skills you have learned. To reserve a place on a first come basis please contact Anthony Platts on 07885096921. A date will be booked when we have a minimum of six people

