



# NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Sue Prutton - 01603 413890

## DriveLines

No: 4/10

APRIL 2010

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

[www.roadanorfolk.org.uk](http://www.roadanorfolk.org.uk)

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Spring is 'sprung' at last. Better late than never, and isn't it nice when travelling down our roads just coming round a corner and finding a clump, either wild or planted, of daffodils, crocuses etc.. And when the sun shines it really brightens up our day. I expect you all have your favourite spots and some of the local authorities have

made some of the verges and roundabouts very attractive. That is when it makes you glad to be alive, spring has been well worth waiting for. Unfortunately that cooler North wind is persisting and it is always some degrees colder on our North Sea Coast. Later in the year the verges start to look scruffy and with the cut backs by the Councils they receive even less attention. There is a scheme in America whereby, Companies, families or individuals take responsibility for the upkeep (not road maintenance) of short stretches of the roads around their location. As I understand it, it is for keeping the verges and roadside edges clean and tidy. Good idea or not, what do you think? Your comments would be appreciated. I feel that if people have more responsibility for their area, the litter and vegetation would be cleared and things would look a lot smarter. Let me have your ideas for one of our future editions. Would you be part of a gang to keep your road clear? Or do you think it is the responsibility of someone else and it is part of the duty of the Local Authority for which we pay Council Tax? You can see what I am doing, trying to provoke some correspondence for publication!!! Alternatively you could send me details of where you consider is the dirtiest/scruffiest part of our fair County of Norfolk? Elsewhere in this edition you will find details of our recent Annual General Meeting and also notes on the changes to your Drivelines. Read on.....

# 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 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.  
THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE LAST WEDNESDAY**

### MEETINGS

**APRIL - Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

#### **Guy McCurley, Chairman of the 'Think' Norfolk Road Safety Consortium.**

Guy is a serving Fire Officer. I am sure we all have seen the 'think' road safety signs erected on our major roads. Guy is Chairman of this road safety panel and I am sure his talk will be of great interest to us all. What happens behind the scenes with the reasoning behind the schemes and how a lot of people are working hard for road safety in our County. This will be a good evening so please support us and make it worthwhile for our outside speaker to come and talk to us.

**MAY - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

#### **Malcolm Cooper – Norfolk at War**

Malcolm gave us a very good talk on Norfolk Wherries, he now returns and reminisces on Norfolk at War. Stories about how the County coped, the numerous airfields and operations and those over here that thought they were in luck when visiting the 'Broads'. As usual this again will be an interesting evening, one for the diary not to be missed.

**JUNE - Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010**

Details to be confirmed – Driving theme.

**JULY - Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

#### **Mrs. Barrett. 'Follies'.**

Mrs Barrett will be giving us a talk on those, sometimes strange, sometimes beautiful, but usually just a show off, 'Follies'. I am sure we all know of at least one locally, but I am sure we will be surprised at the number in Norfolk and surrounding counties. Why are they there? What do they represent? This lady is very knowledgeable and again this will be a very informative and interesting evening.

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### **VISITS**

#### **Norfolk County Council Traffic Control Room.**

**Two visits – 10 people on each**  
1) Evening - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010  
2) Evening - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010

These visits are a spin off following the successful talk we had recently been given by a member of the Control Room Staff. The Control Room is based at County Hall in Norwich. I can remember visiting the Control Room when it was based at the St. Andrews Car Park and I found that very interesting. Well worth a visit, and you only get the chance here!

To book a place on either date contact John Laycock - Tel: 01603 720125

## ICE DRIVING

A comment on driving in adverse weather conditions from Member, Sarah Turner.

I think I can safely say we have got through winter, and what a winter it was. On a personal front I loved every minute but then maybe I'm not 'normal'. The 'extreme' weather brought out all kinds of advice in the press on how to handle the snow and ice, much of which amused me almost as much as the snow itself.

Back in November I persuaded Subaru UK to loan me a vehicle to take a trip to Norway, in search of testing conditions, well with hindsight we had more ice and snow back in the UK in December and January but it proved a good trip nevertheless. I guess I'm lucky, I've been on a skid pan and I've driven thousands of miles on ice and snow including the now infamous Ice Roads of northern Canada, I've even parked my car on the Arctic Ocean; So how does a little snow in the UK cause so much fuss?

Put simply the answer is lack of knowledge, experience and preparation. These days the amount of electronics to 'think' for us all is incredible, just before the snow hit I exchanged a 15yr old Toyota Land Cruiser, part time 4WD with no electronics, for a Subaru Outback, permanent AWD with ABS, VDC and EBD. As with most modern cars there is a button that allows me to turn off traction control but not one that allows me to turn off ABS. I understand the reasons why but ABS is about as useful as a chocolate fireguard once you're on ice. It is this very discovery that takes so many by surprise with the inevitable consequences. The 'I'm alright Jack, I've got 4WD' brigade, particularly the Chelsea Tractor owners being the worst, their lack of stopping ability being equalled only by their lack of understanding of their systems. (Note I said *stopping* ability not braking ability!)

I could give you some examples of mis-information dished out for the occasion by the press and their drawn on list of 'experts' but maybe I'll save that for next winter. In the meantime I'll leave you with a phrase I like to use...

"It's not the loss of control which causes the issues, it's the running out of space in which to pursue the occupation".

Sarah Turner

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A very interesting article and I am sure that Sarah has a lot more very interesting stories of her travels to tell us in the future.

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## **YOUR LOCAL GROUP ON TOUR!**

Soon after the local Norfolk and Norwich Group was formed a trailer was obtained so that we could tour round the various fetes and galas in the County to push our Advanced Driving message. Needless to say it was our good Brian Dack that obtained the vehicle and also was instrumental in getting it all signed up. Difficulties arose eventually over storage and other hiccups and it was disposed of. We have since tried to obtain a grant to acquire a new one but we were unsuccessful, and the same problems still arise over storage etc.so it is on hold at the present. Brian thought you might like to see 'his little house on wheels' and here it is below:



## HELP WANTED

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### **Kings Lynn Lions Fete, The walks, Kings Lynn**

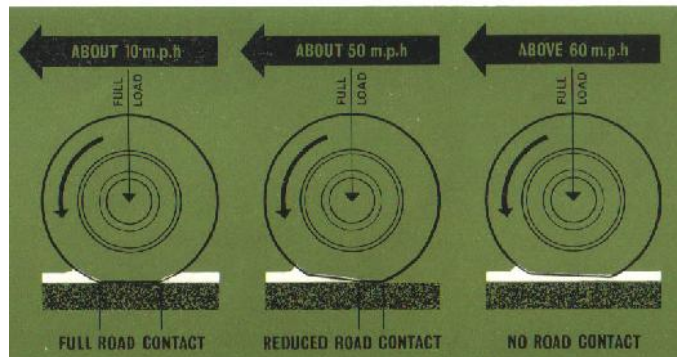
Tony Self and Brian Dack, with our Gazebo not trailer, will be flying our flag at the above fete and sending out our message to try and get some more Associates.

They could do with some help so if there is any Member out there who is willing to give up a couple of hours to help would be most welcome. This obviously would suit Members living in the west of the County, but any volunteers would be most appreciated. If you think you can help give Tony a ring on 01508 492686. They will be travelling from Norwich which means there is space in their vehicle which would save on fuel costs.

# AQUAPLANING

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# AQUAPLANING



### **LOSS OF WET GRIP AT SPEED**

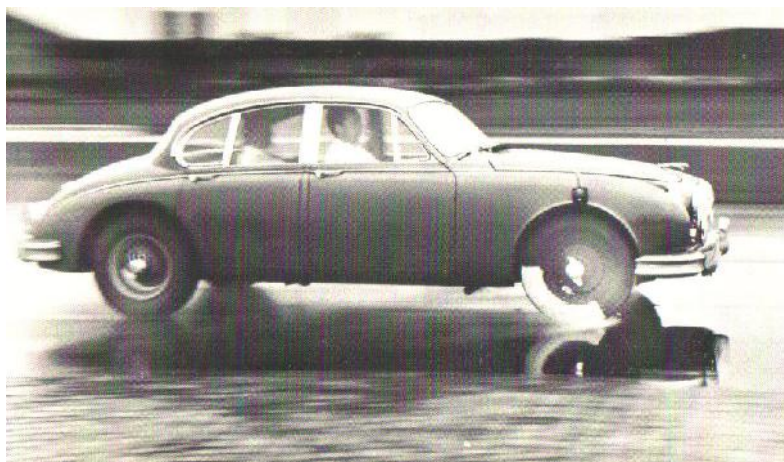
This is an illustration of water building up between tyre and road. The white area – the water wedge – penetrates further and further underneath the wheel until all contact between tyre and surface is lost. Aquaplaning effect depends on tyre conditions and, in this diagram, the suggested speeds are typical of badly worn tread patterns. All such tyres should be changed because such conditions can be met at any time.

### **This is aquaplaning...**

**Alarming hazard of wet roads and worn tyres – steering and brakes useless if wheels are waterborne**

This picture of a car aquaplaning at just over 60 m.p.h. on a wet surface at Dunlop Proving Ground in Birmingham. Fitted with smooth Tyres, the front wheels have no contact with the road and, as indicated by the white painted sector, are motionless.

**REMEMBER** - even with tyres with good tread pattern in poor wet conditions the tyres glide over the water and you have lost control.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For you information the minutes of the Annual General Meeting are herewith.

Minutes of ROSP Advanced Drivers & Riders  
Norfolk & Norwich Branch  
AGM 24/03/2010

18 members present

Minutes of last meeting accepted

Chairman's report

The chairman reported that we had had a satisfactory year. Most recruitment was via the Web Site but some were coming via organisations like Norwich Door to Door. We had attended Kings Lynn but had no takers the Day being wet. Norfolk Gala Day again no obvious success, but just by being there we hope to promote safer driving.

The Chairman expressed thanks to

John for his work in getting speakers for our meetings.

Sue for all her work in organising training

Peter for membership secretary

Jason for the raffle

Meryl for treasurer

Barry for washing up after every meeting

And the committee in general for all their work

He also expressed thanks to the tutors for their training work & Brian for his assessments before tests.

Treasurer's report

Meryl gave her report on the groups finances which stated we had an income of £1895.26 and expenditure of £1529.81 so we were solvent, she thanked Joyce Self for checking the accounts. The meeting accepted the report.

Training

Sue reported that we had 6 gold passes, 3 silver & 3 Bronze in the past year. We have 9 active trainer 3 prospective trainers. 13 members were waiting to be trained

Election of committee and officials

As all committee and officials were willing to carry on they were all re-elected with the following changes

Alison Crowhurst to join committee as Training officer

Sue Prutton to become Chairman

Thanks were expressed to Tony Self for being acting chairman for the last 2 years

AOB

It was suggested that the newsletter was published 6 times a year. This would make it easier for the editor to produce the newsletter and reduce the cost of production and postage to those who still had hard copies. This was accepted by the members.

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**ROADAR NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP**  
**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE - APRIL 2010.**

PRESIDENT	Noel Baker	01480 431722
CHAIRMAN	Sue Prutton	01603 413890 or 07786 103 575
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Brian Dack	01603 664294
TREASURER	Meryl Butcher	01603 743315
MEMBERSHIP AND MINUTE SECRETARY	Peter Matchett	01603 742238
TRAINING OFFICER	Alison Crowhurst	01493 393711 or 07739 535 180
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Tony Self	01508 492686
	Jason Smith	Ex Directory
	John Laycock	01603 720125
	Jo Bussey	01603 633814

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**CHANGE IN PUBLICATION OF YOUR DRIVELINES.**

As you will have seen in the above Minutes of the A.G.M. it was decided that the Newsletter will now be published bi-monthly. The main reasoning was the lack of material supplied by the Members for publication plus the costs of paper and postage. To get into a proper system I will publish Drivelines in May and then July, then September and November. Details of the meetings will be published far enough in advance so that you can make a note of those you consider the most interesting to attend.

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Notwithstanding the above I still want items for publication. It is always a struggle near the time to put the letter together I hope this way I can plan it further in advance. Please keep your contributions coming I would rather have too many than not enough.

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**Noel Baker**  
**Editor**

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