



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Sue Prutton - 01603 413890

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

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I think we are all shocked at another tragedy on our Motorways. The carnage on the M.5 recently was indeed traumatic, but what happened and why? The inquest on the reasons has now started, but I should think most of you can put some answers to the questions already! We of course cannot pre-empt any investigation, but we all travel at some time on our Motorways, obviously some more often than others, especially as we have none in our County, although we do have dual carriageway and just over the borders a three lane dual carriageway. As a result we have all seen the standard of driving which when a driver reaches a multi-lane road appears to lose all sense of driving behaviour. Excessive speed, tailgating (following too close to the vehicle in front), changing lanes suddenly and obviously lack of use of the mirror. I am sure you can think of more. With a multi vehicle crash it is unfortunate that often the responsible driver gets caught up with no fault of his. He has noticed the problem ahead and slows down accordingly and perhaps pulls onto the hard shoulder only to be struck by other traffic who are not concentrating properly. Conditions on the night were said to have been poor combined with possible smoke from a firework display nearby, but had drivers slowed accordingly? Obviously it was horrendous on that evening and at this stage we cannot apportion blame anywhere. We must offer our sympathies to all those bereaved families and to those injured. Some people will be suffering all their lives from their loss and others suffering for years from their injuries all because of an accident which occurred within a split second one foggy evening in November.

Just a reminder to our responsible, highly trained drivers to drive within their and the weathers limits, watch your speed and keep your distance.

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

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 23rd November 2011

Christmas Social Evening

All members are welcome to our final meeting of 2011 which is our Christmas Social Evening where you can meet fellow driving enthusiasts and have a relaxing evening. The evening will include some in house entertainment in some form, either a film, quiz or other competition, all informative and fun. There are free Christmas goodies., tea and coffee. A bumper raffle.

This should be an interesting and fun evening.
Everyone welcome, please bring your other halves and/or friends along.

(Gifts for the raffle would be most welcome.)



NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

JANUARY - 2012

Wednesday, 25th January 2012

Bev. Woolner Talk on steam locos - 'It Went By Steam'

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 22nd February 2012

The Group's Annual General Meeting followed by a Member's Presentation.

WHATS ON (continued)

MARCH

Wednesday, 28th March 2012

A special one this month. NO EVENING MEETING, but arrangements have been made for a **VISIT TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS at WYMONDHAM** at 2pm that afternoon. Only 20 Members will be allowed on the tour, so early warning for you to arrange time off from work as this visit only comes up very occasionally. This is obviously going to be a very interesting visit – names will be taken at forthcoming meetings. **Do not be disappointed.**

SUBSCRIPTION TIME

End of November subscriptions to the Group are due - £10 for the year. There is an exception. Those of you who joined after the 1st September and have already paid, are exempt further payment until November 2012. Please make your cheques payable to 'RoSPA Advanced Drivers Association, Norfolk and Norwich Group and send them to Peter Matchett, Membership Secretary at 61 Stylman Road, Cloverhill, Norwich, NR5 9ET or hand your fee to him at our monthly meeting. Please ensure you include your name and address. **If you are not going to rejoin this year please let Peter know on (Tel) 01603 742238.**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TRAINING OFFICER:

Hello to all our Group members

As current group members, do you remember that your advanced driver training is free? Apart from the initial training provided by tutors, we can provide refresher training for Gold and Silver grades prior to you undergoing your 3-yearly retest. For Silver grade holders, we can also help you to improve your grade if you so wish.

If anyone would like to arrange additional or refresher training, please feel free to ask. Of course, it would help if you don't wait until the last minute before your test – that would leave little time to practise any recommendations that could be made. If you are interested, please contact me at: roadar.robin@gmail.com or the monthly meetings.

As of late September, the waiting list for training has been cleared; however, we still have nine candidates actively undergoing training. My thanks to those tutors who have been kept so busy this year; my apologies to those tutors in the more distant areas of Norfolk for not having any suitably located candidates – be assured, you are not forgotten!

Finally, a plea to all of our tutors, please keep me updated on your candidates progress – I do need to keep training records up to date; email really is your friend!

Robin Apps

Training Officer

DID YOU KNOW?:

that a new law came into force in June 2011 which requires you to make sure your vehicle is insured! There are estimated to be about 1.4 million motorists without insurance, and, previously, these drivers were prosecuted only after they had been caught driving which required police time to enforce. The new offence will mean motorists can be prosecuted for simply owning a vehicle without insurance. Letters will be sent to drivers and, if they do nothing, they face a £100 fine followed by Court action.

Motorists who declare their car as 'off road' (SORN) will not be fined.

Increase in car insurance Premiums:

Fraudulent claims have caused car insurance to rise in the last year with recent research by the AA showing that the average cost of an annual comprehensive car insurance policy has risen by up to 40% to £892. This is the biggest annual increase ever recorded by the AA insurance index which has been tracking premiums since 1994.

However experts believe that future rises will be much smaller as improved fraud controls such as access to DVLA database for insurers and new measures to control costs associated with personal injury claims will help keep the lid on premiums.

Both of the above snippets were produced by the Insurance industry. The first one would have to be triggered if you had registered the vehicle with DVLA! Youngsters have found that they now cannot get insurance for less than £1500 pounds and in a lot of cases well over that figure. So get yourself a £200 runabout. Don't register it. If you get stopped by Police they will seize the car. You may go to Court and get a fine and points on your Licence. Add that up, save VED and Insurance it has only cost you £200 instead of probably well over a thousand pounds. With a fine you will still have change to buy another runabout and start it all over again! I do not honestly suggest that you should behave like this but it is one scenario pointed out to me by my daughter a serving Police Officer which does happen. We do expect our Members to be fully insured, taxed and hold a current driving Licence before any training or tests will be carried out.

IF MY BODY WAS A CAR..

If my body was a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull ...

But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close

My traction is not as graceful as it once was.. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather..

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it --

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

(I know the feeling! Ed.)

A MOTORWAY QUIZ

1.



- a) What is it?
- b) Where is it located?
- c) What do the numbers and symbol indicate?

2.



- a) Where on the motorway is this sign?
- b) What does it indicate?

3.



a) Where on the motorway is this sign?

- b) What does it indicate?

4.



- a) Where on the motorway would this sign be situated?
- b) What does it indicate?

5. Reflective road studs: What does each colour indicate?

- (a) White
- (b) Red
- (c) Amber
- (d) Green

6. Motorway speeds: What is the maximum speed permitted for the following vehicles?

- (a) Cars and Motorcycles
- (b) Cars towing trailers
- (c) Coaches
- (d) Goods vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes max.laden weight

7. Prohibitive vehicles. There are more than eight types of vehicle prohibited from using a motorway. Can you name four types?

8. Can you stop on the hard shoulder to go to the toilet?

All answers can be found in the 'Highway Code', and will be given in the January edition of Drivelines.

AN 'ACRONYM' FOR THE JOURNEY

I was given the following acronym as an aide memoir for our driving. I thought it would help all of us:

C oncentration	-	At all times
O bservation	-	Observation helps:-
A nticipation	-	Of what can be seen or what can be expected
S pace	-	Leave room for manoeuvre
T ime	-	To deal with hazards

Simple but it would help'

As this is technically our Christmas Edition, as the next Drivelines is not until January, may I wish all of you on behalf of the Chairman, Committee and myself a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. If you are going away for the holidays I wish you a safe journey for you and your family.

For all of us, if travelling, even locally, if the weather is bad leave more time for the journey. Whatever journey you are on do not forget the 'two-second' rule.

Can I ask our members to make a New Year Resolution to let me have some articles, photos, memories etc. for inclusion in this Newsletter to try and 'beef' it up some and make it more interesting for everybody.

I have wished those on holiday a pleasant time, but we must not forget those Members who have to work during this time. I hope that your days are not too stressful and that you are able to spend some time with your families.

Hope to see a lot of you at our Christmas social on 23rd.

Noel Baker
Editor

12 Pine Hill Park, Sawtry Way, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambs., PE28 2DZ
Tel: 01480 431722

E.Mail: noelbaker@live.co.uk

This Newsletter is produced for the interest of the members of the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association. It details forthcoming events and has articles of a general interest to our members, which have been supplied by the members, the committee and Editor. As a result any views expressed are those of the local Group only, unless so detailed and not of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents being the parent organisation.