

Rutland Chapter



NEWS

HOG Chapter
No: 6730

Newsletter
April 2012

SCRATCHY'S SCRIBBLINGS



Well this is the third time I've written this piece for the Newsletter. I've had to keep updating it whilst I've been waiting for Andy's Shop Torque write up. If only he was as slow when I came to selling bikes it would save me a fortune! More of that later! Well hasn't

the weather been brilliant, so far we have had three ride outs. Rutland Water/Foxton Locks, Nene Villages and our Easter Egg Run, with 40, 32 and 88 bikes attending them, it really makes the organization worthwhile, long may it continue. New additional rides are being added to the Events page of our website constantly so please keep checking for updates. If you aren't getting chapter text messages and want them please pass on your mobile number to Pete Hewitt (he rides a bright red fire engine!).

The Winter Party in February, which took place once again in Stamford, seemed to go down well, with approaching 90 members in attendance. Once again the ladies did a fantastic job with the Buffet and everyone was very complimentary about the whole evening. We as usual kept it free for members to attend and its timing in our calendar means that it gets everyone back together just before the riding season kicks off.

With everything booked and confirmed for our Rutland Water Rally in late July, we as a Committee were confident of putting on a great Event. Then I received a bombshell of a phone call from Andy at Sycamores. He'd received an email from Lyndon Top Campsite cancelling our confirmed reservation, with no explanation. We spent the next few days searching for an alternative site without much success. They were all either fully booked or just not suitable. One place we did visit on our search was the Fox & Hounds, which is set right in the heart of the lovely village of Exton, which is about a mile north of Rutland Water. The striking establishment is run by Chapter members Walter & Sandra, who, I was aware were keen to hold an event there. Concerns over the close proximity of the neighbour's were quashed by Walter, although camping space is at a premium, it was decided to hold a restricted numbers event there. The venue was not available for the previously arranged date, so the date had to be changed to the 13th – 15th July, which actually sits better in the HOG Calendar. With the venue and date sorted we have all

been hard at work either cancelling or rearranging everything. All seems to be sorted now and we have even managed to keep the same two bands, something we were keen to do!

I have had new Tickets printed and they were available for the first time at the Custom Show, where sales went extremely well. As mentioned above it is a restricted numbers event and we are not over advertising it, but I am pretty confident it will sell out. So please don't leave it too late in buying your Tickets. They are available from Sycamores direct, by post by downloading the application form on the Rally page of our website or from me at Chapter events and meetings. There definitely will be no on the gate admittance!

It was nice to see so many Chapter Members supporting the Sycamores Annual Custom Show in March, both at the daytime event and at their Saturday night Party. My highlight from the weekend was the Houndogs, who were as usual, top drawer entertainers. Special thanks must go out to Steve and Sue, Richard and Kath, Lucy and Richard who all put in stints over the weekend on the BBQ. Everything to do with the BBQ was organized by Janet, Mike and Ruth, and they also spent all weekend there making sure everything was set up and continued to run smoothly. As well as providing support to Sycamores for their event, the BBQ also raises substantial revenues for the Chapter. It is their time and efforts that allow us to continue to put on free or low admission events. Thanks to all those mentioned above your efforts are really appreciated

I'm sure some of you will have noticed my Heritage was for sale in Sycamores and will know that I recently sold my Sportster on Ebay. If you have not already seen what I am now riding. Well you'll have to get yourself on the Ride Outs to find out! Please though make sure you bring your sun glasses, failure to do so may result in you being Tango'd !!



Scratchy

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RICHARD'S MUSINGS



Scratchy said he was looking for some input into the spring edition of our magazine. Obviously as group we haven't been out much, also some of us hardy (foolhardy) souls have been out and about in November, December,

January and now February. I was talking with big Pete and Neil at the January branch meeting regarding the new proposed laws re motorcycling that could come in through the EU

I remember coming back from Isle of Wight last September and meeting some MAG guys taking



part in a day of protest. To be honest I don't think it concerned me too much although I accepted they had a point. Looking back now I feel a bit selfish that I felt that it would not affect my biking. I decided to do a bit of research and I give credit to the guys who put these on the net.

So what is proposed?

ABS compulsory on all bikes over 125cc - Switch-able ABS on large bikes might be okay. I haven't got it on my fat boy. Some might have it if they have relatively new Harleys. How effective is it? ABS allows you to steer with the brakes applied in a car. Are we capable of that on a bike? The juries out. Also it's something else to go wrong and will it be an MOT fail if the ABS light is u/s.

Anti-tampering rules - Proposed to stop us fitting any component not recommended by the bike manufacturer, i.e. exhausts, ignition tuners, air filters, choice of tires, etc. Could it mean that if it's not in the Harley parts manual then we could have problems?

Would it put Custom Chrome, Kuryakyn, etc. and all the suppliers and manufacturers of non Harley authorised parts out of business. It's also rumored that it would result in the banning of home maintenance, meaning that only qualified and registered professional mechanics could work on the bike. Might fall foul though of restrictive practices.

Compulsory emissions monitoring - Fitting bikes with electronic systems which monitor all aspects of a bike's performance. It would then limit them to a low-power limp-home mode if any 'issues' are detected.

And if we do decide not to adhere to proposals 1 -3, we could have random road-side inspections, aimed to make sure we are not breaking the rules. That will keep the police busy.

Banning of bikes (and other vehicles) over 7 years old from cities - This one is to be tried out in nine cities in France where vehicles will have to be Euro emissions compliant in order to enter. Hopefully Harleys will comply but maybe not a two stroke Lambretta!

Compulsory full-sleeve hi-viz clothing for both riders and pillions. (This is already planned I believe

for France and the Irish Republic). – I have started to notice more and more sports bike riders wearing hi-viz and I have a bright yellow waterproof jacket (it was free). I have also seen hi-viz hog waist coats for sale. This is definitely one I can see as being one that is on the cards. Unlike proposals 1-5, its one where the police can tell with minimal effort if your complying!

here might be others and I recommend that you view the MAG website and facebook sites for further details. Although the British government might say they don't intend to implement them, If the EU says there in, past form means we will get them here to the letter whilst everybody else then b****y ignores them.

As a footnote - If anyone has any more info on what we are likely to face and what we can do about it, speak up and the next HOG meeting.

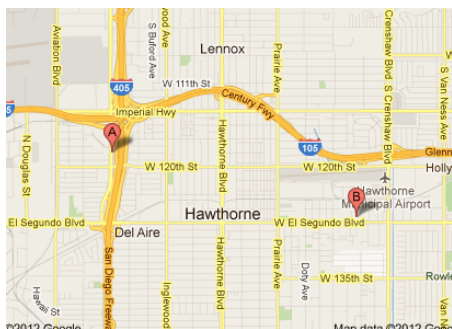
Richard

(Don't blame me, they are not my ideas)

CALIFORNIA

California was having a heat wave in January with temperatures 20 degrees higher than usual. This helped to make our 48 hour bike tour a joy.

Leaving Eaglerider's head office on El Segundo



Boulevard (remember to show your HOG card for discount on hire – 10%) ur journey started. To say the roads in Los Angeles

are well maintained is rather stretching the truth!

The initial destination was going to be the Big Sur but we knew it would be a long ride. Armed with two simple road maps (including a Hertz from hiring the Dodge Challenger – sigh from David), we headed north. Or shall I say tried to; the hand-drawn map could have been better. It took a while, but eventually we reached the coast via Vista Del Mar, Jefferson and Lincoln Boulevard.

Large sea swells were forecast that day so thoughts of a massive wave coming out of nowhere and dragging us into the sea were in the back is my



mind especially as the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) is, as its name says, next to the sea! Contrary to the weather reports the ocean was fairly flat with not enough power to satisfy the surfer dudes whose hundreds of RVs (recreational vehicles - great big camper vans), were parked, for many miles, close to the shoreline.

At one point, just north of Malibu we saw lots of cars, rescue vehicles, a crane and people with binoculars peering over the edge of the 'cliff'. We decided not to rubberneck

surmising that some sort of vee-hi-cal had gone over the edge and the emergency services were



retrieving it. This road wasn't strictly Route 1 but a stretch of coast road slightly to the west of the famous highway.

Some of PCH runs inland and there was a déjà vu moment when, all of a sudden, we were riding across reclaimed land which was set aside for farming; miles of it, just like being in the Fens! Each to his/her own. Once through this area it was time for a stop to stretch our legs and get some lunch in San Beunaventura (close to Ventura Naval Base). This would have been simpler had we been fluent in Spanish or Mandarin. With a lot of pointing and gesticulating we had a sandwich and set off again on the 101 again.

I cannot remember much about this section of the journey except being by the sea, which is much cooler on the bike than being inland, and that the quality of the roads was sooooo much better. Thirst was kicking in so it was time for a coffee break. We



headed off at Santa Barbara and stopped at Denny's (worth knowing as they

have free wi-fi which is really useful if you want to look at maps, find out what there is to do in the area). It was clear now that Big Sur was going to be a trip too far. We asked the waiter for recommendations around an hour's drive away. Solvang, a Danish

settlement in the heart of California's wine growing country sounded perfect. Using our iPad we found, and booked, a reasonably priced motel, The Hamlet, in the heart of the town.

Back on the 101/route 1 we headed up to Buerton and then took the 246E to Solvang. Wow! People may tell you that this place has lost its character in order to cater for tourists but it felt like we had ridden onto a film set complete with festive



lights, mini windmills, twee houses with a gingerbread feel and heaven, a high street and not a mall in sight! We pulled

into the motel's car park and saw we weren't the only Harley there. Gleaming in the moonlight was a Streetglide. We never did find out who the riders were or where they were going...

We are great believers in recommendations and asked the motel receptionist where we might be able to do some wine tasting and if there was a good place to eat nearby. Given our attire she suggested a steak bar about 2 miles out. Rather than get back on the bike again she suggested a smorgasbord restaurant (mmm, we don't eat fish) and another eatery that we never found. Solvang was lovely to walk round but where were the people? It felt deserted but maybe that was because it was just after New Year and being about 7pm the shops were closed. If we ever go back I would definitely spend more time exploring this region.

After visiting a local bar in the town and sampling their wine/beer we toggled up again and rode out to The Hitching Post

(famous hickory smoked steaks). The food was delicious and is home to split pea soup which we had for



starters flavoured with ham and fennel. In America salad is eaten before the main course. Personally I prefer mine with my main meal which confused the waitress but steak and chips without anything else? If you're in the area we would recommend eating here.

If you think, like us, that wine, especially the local produce, would be reasonably priced think again. No matter where we were, in a bar or restaurant, it worked out far more expensive than in the UK.

After a good night's sleep we read through the various local pamphlets and magazines and made outline plans for the day. The area of Los Olivos, a short trip north of Solvang was mentioned in all the literature and Los Alamos also piqued our curiosity. We knew that our next overnight stop would be Santa Barbara which gave us a timescale for exploring so as to arrive at our hotel early evening.



Before setting off we had the free breakfast using the vouchers supplied by the motel. This consisted of a Danish pastry and coffee at a fabulous authentic Danish bakery across the road.

Rather than travel on the main road towards Los Olivos we chose to go along the Ballard Canyon Road. This was proper riding! It was narrow, bendy and undulating with vineyards and ranches all around us. Being on the bike there seemed no point stopping at Los Olivos to sample the alcohol but the scenery was gorgeous so we thought we'd stay in the area for a while. Initially we turned onto the 154E and very soon after took the Figueroa Mountain Road which looked promising and turned out to be great. After a few miles of straight road we started climbing as the road got steeper and bendier. There were people out walking and we saw some on racing bikes. Passing over a cattle grid the mountain road became narrower and steeper as it snaked upwards. Arriving at the top we parked the bike and just stood there



marvelling at the view. It was stunning and one of those things that you know no matter how many

videos or photos you take, they will never capture something as breathtakingly beautiful as this.

Although we would have loved to continue through the mountains we were on a time limit. Retracing our journey back to the 154 we headed north and then onto the 101 to Los Alamos. The Union Hotel was all it was cracked up to be in the leaflet. It was like stepping back in time with authentic furnishings from the late 1880's. We could almost have been in the Wild West! After walking through the saloon doors we had a coffee and asked what sort of wildlife the area boasted. Well, raccoons, bobcats and mountain lions. The latter particularly liked bikers and there had been at least two attacks the previous year... Can they bite through Kevlar?

We had looked to see if there were any Harley dealers in the area but none were listed. It was with surprise therefore that, seeing one just before Santa Maria, we had to turn round and drop in. Men are like putty in your hands in a Harley dealer. Just flutter your eyelashes and point out some pretty tops with Harley on and they're magically bought for you!



David had always said it would be nice for me to have some cowboy boots to wear on the bike and we were in the right area to buy some, hence our detour to find the Boot Barn in Santa Maria. We didn't find the barn but we did find a pair of boots!

Our challenge now was to find Route 1 so that we could start making our way back down south. From Santa Maria we followed the 101 north to Pismo Beach which looked just like one of our seaside resorts. Now on the right road, Route 1, we looked for somewhere to have lunch. Because of the nature of Route 1 there is far less choice of places to stop for refreshments than being on a main road. When we saw a real American type diner in two railway



carriages we couldn't believe our luck and it was even better inside with 50's type furniture.

Revitalised we set off again, through Guadalupe and Vandenberg Air

Force Base. Back into the fen-like region with what seemed liked billions of fields growing crops, fruit, veg

etc. and miles of poly tunnels. Overall I was surprised at how few cattle we saw during our trip considering the number of ranches. The terrain became hilly again which was nicer once we changed from Route 1 to the 101 at Las Cruces. We followed this all the way to Santa Barbara where we checked in at the Best Western overlooking the marina. Not the prettiest of buildings, the Oceana looked nicer, but our room was very comfortable. We walked to the pier a little while later where there were a few eateries. If you like shellfish there was one place where you could pick your own live lobster or crab from the tank for your meal. We set aside 30 minutes to walk round the harbour and pier in the daylight. It appeared to be serene but we were, after all, in low season.

Today the sea was much choppy with a brisk wind so there were oodles of surfers hanging 5's and 10's (technical term – ask David). The bike had to be back at Eaglerider by noon hence an early start. Following the same road back, Route 1 and 101, we started looking for somewhere to stop for a coffee as the remit was to sit by the beach. It took a while! We found one just past Santa Monica pier and sipped coffee while enjoying the view knowing that our road trip was only a few minutes away from ending. Maybe another time we could cover longer distances if David hires an Electroglide!!! By the way, it was only as we handed the Heritage back that we saw it had a Florida number plate...

*Dawn
Hetherington*



**FOR CHAPTER TEXT
UPDATES CONTACT
PETE HEWETT**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun 1st Apr – Ride Out - Easter Egg Run to Peterborough Hospital and on to Harley Daze in Deeping

Annual Charity Ride Out to the Children's Ward at the "New Peterborough Hospital" to deliver Easter Eggs or Small Toys to unwell children. Buy yourself an Egg or Small Toy, get on your bike and come along ! Help make these unfortunate children's hospital stay a little less unpleasant ! Come rain or shine this ride will take place and the bigger the turn out the better. From there join other members attending the Harley Daze Event in Market Deeping
Organiser Pete Ward – Departs Sycamores 11am

Sat 14th Apr – Ride Out - Mayors Run, Northampton

Ride out to the Mayors Run or April Fools Run as it's also known. Join other Bikers as the meet at the Sixfields Car Park in Northampton. There is then an on Mass ride into Northampton where the bikes are parked on display. Please note for safety reason you can't leave Northampton town centre till 1.30pm.
Organiser - Mick Robinson - Departs Sycamores @ 8.45am

Wed 18th Apr – Chapter Meet & Social Evening

Monthly meet held at the White Horse Pub in Morcott (A47). Catch up with the latest updates on Chapter Activities and general chinwag with fellow members.
White Horse Public House, Morcott (A47) 8pm

Sun 29th Apr – Ride Out - Hunstanton

The first Seaside Ride for 2012, to the ever popular resort of Hunstanton. "Sunny Hunny" as it is nicknamed, is the only west facing seaside town on the east coast. It is a very popular haunt for Bikers, who park on the seafront and treat themselves to resorts "fish n chips" and ice creams.
Organiser - Scratchy – Departs Sycamores 10.30am – Pick up at 11am from Eye Green Services (A47)

Sun 6th May – Ride Out – Cromer & Sheringham

Another seaside ride out. This time we're off to visit the picturesque seaside towns of Cromer and Sheringham. Grab your Bucket & Spade and come and join us !
Departs Sycamores 10.30am – Pick up at 11am from Eye Green Services (A47)

Wed 16th May – Chapter Meet & Social Evening

Monthly meet held at the White Horse Pub in Morcott (A47). Catch up with the latest updates on Chapter Activities and general chinwag with fellow members.
White Horse Public House, Morcott (A47) 8pm

HARLEY DAZE REPORT

Over 350 motorcyclists from all over East Anglia and the Midlands converged on Harleys Diner in Market Deeping to attend the 2nd annual **Harley Daze** charity event on behalf of the Afghan Heroes. "Absolutely fantastic support from everyone, we are truly delighted with the turn out" said organiser Richard Swinscoe "We have had every type of motorcycle you could think of turn up to join the 125+

Harley Davidson motorcycles on display, the Vintage motorcycles were a real credit to their owners dedication and time in restoring them.

Bob Broughton, Mayor of Market Deeping joined the procession of Harley's as they rumbled into Market Deeping, on his own Harley Davidson and said afterwards "Its been a privilege to be involved with this unique event again, it brings more visitors to Market Deeping each year, entertains the local community and best of all raises much needed funds for our brave young service personnel in Afghanistan.

For the second year running Harley Daze was blessed with fantastic weather and that brought the public out in force, an estimated crowd of over 600 local residents



enjoyed a superb afternoon of traditional American food and beer as they listened to a wide range of music from "Chillin Jazz" provided by popular duo **Aint Misbehavin**, "Rockabilly and Folk" performed by the **Harry Ridgway Band** and classic "Rock and Roll" music brought to life by local legend **Jay the Jive**. "We are already being asked for the date for next years event" said Richard "Our visitors have had such a goodtime



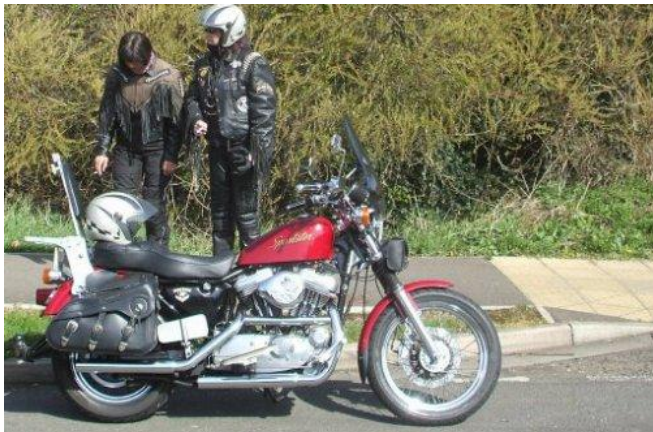
they want to make sure they don't miss next years event"

Terry Scroff, Area Representative for the Afghan

Heroes was on hand to tell everyone about the Charity and how it helps to support our troops and their families with the money raised. He thanked everyone for their generous donations and was lighted when the days combined total funds raised between Harleys Diner staff and the Afghan Heroes volunteers came to **£920.00** on the day with more to follow. Terry said "Wherever we go in the country we always seem to find that when we attend a Motorcycle related event we get tremendous support for our charity and the Bikers really dig deep into their pockets and want to show our troops they care and want to help, at the same time show respect for their courage and commitment to duty." Richard Swinscoe from Harleys Diner said " I would like to thank every

one involved with putting on today's event for their hard work and all the visitors for their generosity, every penny raised helps our men and women in Afghanistan and their families back home, I look forward to raising even more next year.

HORRIS LIVES



SHOP TORQUE

Here at Sycamores we have had some staff changes. As of April 1st Matt Milani will be moving from Service to the Sales Department and taking his place in Service will be Todd Meynell who will look after all your servicing needs from now on. We also have Chloe Fowler joining the Parts & Merchandise Department and she will be assisting Charlotte, Matt and Ben so please be sure to say hello to our new arrivals next time you visit.

As many of you are aware we held our Annual Custom Show on 3rd & 4th March and what a great success it was. A great big thank you goes to Barry and Sue Justice for organising and helping with the after show party and clean up operation the following day. I think you will all agree that Matthew and the rest of the staff really did a great job in organising the weekend and many thanks also to those of you who manned the barbeque which raised over £800 for club funds.

You will have all heard by now about the cancellation of our rally site at Rutland Water which came as a big blow to our plans. Moving forward we have had to scale down the size of the rally but in doing so have actually found a venue who are more than happy to accommodate us. For those of you who are not familiar with the new venue it is the Fox & Hounds Pub at Exton and I recommend you go take a look as it has a fantastic camping area, large garden for the bands and a courtyard for bike parking so all we need now is the sun to shine for what will be a fabulous weekend!

We have two great new models here at the dealership now, which are the Sportster 72 and Softail Slim so please come over and take a look as they really are stunning. Demo season is about to kick off here at the dealership so for those of you who were curious to find out how other models ride, or you fancy a change of model please speak to us as we have the full range of demo bikes available.

Big thanks goes to Scratchy for being the leader of fashion with his latest orange purchase! For anyone wishing to follow in his footsteps please note there is only one bike left in the warehouse - but there has only been three built and we have sold two of them!

As I write this I have just seen the photos of the Easter Egg Run which took place on Sunday 1st April. Many thanks to all of you who took part it looked like a great day and would have definitely made a lot of children smile. Hope to see you all over the next couple of weeks at the dealership now the sun is shining and you are getting out and about on your bikes!

Ride safe!

Andrew

Come and join us in the heart of Rutland for this our 6th

HORSESHOE RALLY

13th - 15th July 2012

Live Bands - Disco - Ride Out - Custom Show - Onsite Bar
Catering - Camping Inclusive

Limited Availability Pre-Registration Only @ £20
No On The Gate Admittance

Tickets available from Sycamore Harley Davidson or by post
by downloading application form from
www.rutlandchapter.co.uk

at the Fox & Hounds, Exton, Rutland, LE15 8AP