



Current Membership	
Oct 2009.....	92
Jan 2010.....	134
Apr 2010.....	146
Jul 2010.....	159

Newsletter
July 2010

RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – JUL 2010

SCRATCHY'S SCRIBBLINGS



Well can you believe its July, I can't, it doesn't seem like 5 minutes since I sat down to write the articles for the April Edition. Mind you as I think back quite a lot has taken place since April. We've had numerous ride

out's, a group have been away in Northern France, we attended Rallies at Naseby Field and the Big Brum Bash, and of course last but not least, we have hosted our own Horseshoe Rally at the Plough Inn, Farcet Fen.

As you can see from the chart on the Front Cover our membership continues to strengthen, which tells me that we must be doing something right. I am starting to receive more contributions from Members for the Newsletter, which is great and my thanks go to all that have done so. Thanks also go to Dave Goodger for organising a long weekend for Chapter Members in Northern France and from what I have heard, he did a fabulous job.

Well, the main event in our calendar, our 4th Horseshoe Rally took place earlier this month. Having pre-sold over a hundred tickets, it was obvious that we were going to beat last year's 82 attendees. However, we more than doubled that figure and more importantly the feedback received was all very positive. Obviously, as you would expect with a new location there were a few minor issues that we need to address, but when Chapter members and visiting guests are using words like great, fabulous and cracking when giving feedback, we couldn't have been far off the mark. At the AGM in September I'll hand out a questionnaire for a more detailed feedback from you the members, after all it's your Rally. Considering we provided an improved venue, had two good bands and disco, supplied a rally pin and a uniquely designed good quality rally T-shirt all for £20 and still managed to cover the costs is great, especially considering the losses of previous years. My thanks go to the Committee Members for all their hard work to make this event happen and also to you the members for supporting the event and for helping out at the event. Without this support the Rally could not take place and certainly would not have been the success it proved to be. Thanks also go to Sycamores who sponsored the Friday night entertainment.

As you may be aware we have been experiencing updating problems with our website and by the time you read this an all new Harley approved Chapter Website should be online. Unlike the old

website we will have access for updating, which will result in a much efficient information source for you the members. Sycamores have agreed to pay for the annual fee for this website, so thanks once again to them for their continued support.

At the time of writing the Sofer Rally has just sold out and with nearly 40 Chapter Members having registered I'm sure it will, as usual be a great event. Sycamores are supporting us with their van and Richard to drive it. Anybody that wants some luggage taking will need to have it at Sycamores by Lunchtime on Thursday 5th August. Don't forget the van will be bringing our Chapter BBQ and Gazebo so that we can have our own little party on the Saturday afternoon. We will be leaving the Brampton Hut Services (A1/A14) at 9am on Friday 5th August, in the hope that we can secure a spot allowing us all to camp in the same area. Should be great and I can't wait !

As you are hopefully aware the new Chapter T-Shirts is on display in the Chapter area of the Dealership and are available for purchase at £10 each. Remember the future is bright, the future is orange, even if you do have white hair and will look like a pint of Lager in it !

Please check out the article in this Newsletter from Chapter member Paul Spencer who is currently serving in Afghanistan. He has sent me a couple of emails with some photos of the locals out there riding their motorcycles. Unfortunately he missed this years Rally which prevented him winning the best Dyna Trophy for the third year on the trot. I'm sure all of us hope for his speedy and safe return.

On the August Bank Holiday weekend I and some others will be heading off up to Aviemore, to attend the Dunedin's Thunder in the Glens Rally. Anyone interested in joining us please contact me for details. We will be camping at the rally.

That great event RTTW, which is now in its third year, is open for registration. So get yourself registered at RTTW.org if you have not already done so. The Chapter will as usual have an organised ride to this event. As well as these events there are many more Chapter Rallies coming up as well as our planned ride outs. Make the most of the sunshine and get yourself out there and have some fun !

Scratchy



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SHOP TORQUE

Firstly I would like to congratulate Scratchy and the Committee for organising a great Rally, the feed back from Chapter Members and Neighbouring Chapters is that it was a great event, personally I thought the venue was also great too.

Currently at the dealership we have some great offers on 2010 models and ex demo models so if you fancy a change contact Stuart or Steff at the Dealership.

Next week Peter, Stuart and myself fly out to Las Vegas for the 6 monthly Harley-Davidson Dealer Show, this is where the new 2011 models are launched together with Parts and Clothing. Following on from this we will be holding an open event for the new models launch hopefully sometime in September.

If you have not logged on yet, when you do you will see the Dealership now has a new website and online shop. The Chapter website is also completely new. I think you will agree they are nicer looking and more corporate then the previous ones. Please bare with us on the forum it is something the designers are working on. Any articles or photos please forward to Scratchy. For those of you who fancy a New Sportser 48 we now have 2 available for immediate delivery.

Its great to see the Chapter membership growing and good turn out for events but please remember these events are organised by the Committee and if you feel you have the time to help and wish to join please speak to Scratchy or myself as we will be holding our AGM in October to form next years committee.

Any way best go and pack for Las Vegas.

Andrew

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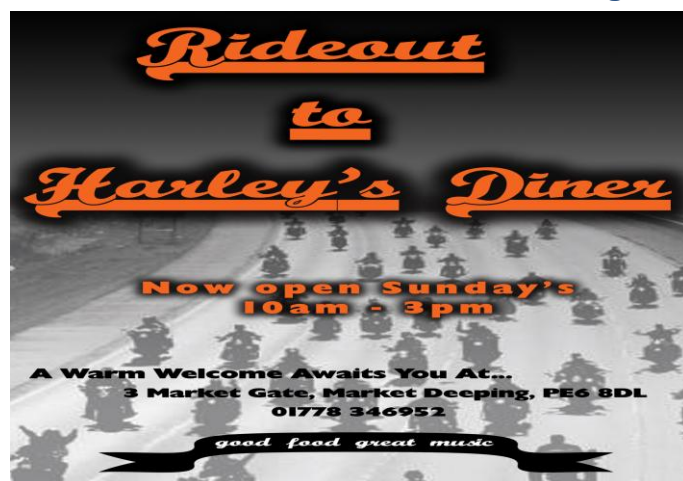
**For all the Chapter's latest Activities,
Please go to our website**

www.rutlandchapter.co.uk

or ring the Chapter Hotline

01572 824090

**Or pop into Sycamores and see our
Notice Boards in the HOG VIP Lounge**



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Naseby Field Rally

It was with great anticipation that I looked forward to this Rally and it was for more than one reason. After such a long harsh Winter this was to be my first Rally of the year and of course it was also the maiden voyage for my trailer. Add to this the fact that a good number of Chapter members were also attending, always makes it a good weekend. The weather also looked quite promising.

Myself, Paul, Daz, Shep and Janet met at Sycamores for 1pm and set off on the short trip to Market Harborough. Although there were only 5 bikes in the convoy the ride seemed longer with 2 trailers in tow. In no time at all we arrived at the Rugby Club, booked in and found ourselves a camping spot. I had bought myself a new tent (one I could stand up in) and soon got it up with a little help, only to be outdone by Shep and Janet, who had also bought a new one – it was



bloody massive ! With the tents all erected we decided to shoot off to the local supermarket and stock up on some refreshments – alcoholic ones of course !

Back at the tents, we cracked open some beers and waited for the rest to arrive. First to arrive were Wizz and Nelly, also with trailer, the Utility Body version, which looked very smart indeed – I can't wait to see the "Groovy Pod Conversion". Next to arrive was Richard and Kathy, closely followed by Lucy and we watched with great interest as they erected their tents. Shortly after Richard and Little Dave arrived , Richard commented that he knew where we were as he'd spotted Shep's Rutland County Flag as he'd come down the main road. I've never known anyone to be that excited by a Flag, but Shep was, in fact I'm sure Janet was quite jealous of it.

With all the tents erected and having drunk several Beers we headed off to the Clubhouse in search of some food, calling in to see Richard and Matt

on the Sycamore stand on route. They seemed to be quite busy but were still managing to grab a sherbert or two in between customers. At the food counter we were pleasantly surprised by the choice, I chose the home cooked ham, egg and chips, others were more adventurous, but we were all agreed on one thing, it was spot on and a bargain at £5. All that was now needed was a Beer to wash it down, the trouble was, we were there till nearly 2am washing it down. The band was an Irish Country Comedy Band which seemed to go down quite well and the Disco was also good. In fact I remember seeing two very drunk Sycamores Employees strutting their stuff late on. Somehow we all made it back to our tents, although nobody could remember doing so !

Next morning I awoke to the sound of Sheps kettle boiling, I staggered from my tent in the long johns I had put on during the night because it had been so cold, much to Janet amusement. Apparently I looked like a Morris Dancer, then shortly after Daz surfaced wearing the same gear, boy did he look rough. Janet then told us how she'd gone to the Toilets through the night and met Matt having a pee, apparently he was ever so embarrassed. She also said the thing he was holding in his hand , was just like a "Willie", only smaller ! I heard later that Matt had unknowingly set his car alarm off and it was going for 2 hours before he realised. Some people near there were very disgruntled, I don't understand why ! It wasn't long before we were all up, well all bar Little Dave, who as per normal, surfaced much later on.



It was whilst we were all trying to recover from the previous nights exertions that we were visited by Chris the Naseby Rep, who asked if we could rustle up a team for the Tug of War, that would take place later on that afternoon. Somehow we agreed, then realised what we had done. It was at about this time that our Scottish reinforcements arrived, and Fulton was soon signed up for the



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team, unfortunately Piper had a prior appointment with a tattooist otherwise he would have been roped in as well. Our opponents were busy discussing tactics, footwear and how to hold the rope, we were running back and forwards to the toilets, and our training was pulling the chain



In the afternoon, the gates are opened up to the public and also day visitors for a small charge. I was very pleased to see so many of our members turn up and I'm sure we must have totalled nearly 40 members there at one point. This allowed me to sign up a few more for the tug of war. As we lined up for the tug of war, the difference in sizes of the 2 teams was obvious, and so was the forthcoming result, but we put up a good fight and it was a bit of fun but very knackered !

With the tug of war over it was back to the place where we perform best – the bar !. Fulton and Piper appeared later on, with both wearing massive pirate hats and as always were quiet participants at the party. Daz was slowly coming back to life and was soon back on the beer, as we partied once again till late. Once again the night in the tent was chilly but not that bad.

Next morning we packed up, had a bit of breakfast, before making each of our own ways home. As a whole I thought the event was great, at a good venue and was well organised and was credit to all the team at Naseby. It will be a definite for me next year !

Scratchy

SKEGNESS – It's bracing !

Thirteen bikes set off from Eye Services in overcast conditions. We thought we were going to have nice weather and I'm sure if we'd had the good weather that was promised, we would have had a

bigger turnout. However, the ride to Skegness was completed in the dry with the only problem being spray from the wet roads. On arrival, we parked up on the scenic front – the car parks being full of motorbikes from the MCN event that was taking place at Butlins. Some interesting bikes in the car park that our members could remember from their youth. There then followed a forum over whether the Honda CBX 6 cylinder was 1200 or 1000 cc. Fish and chips were order of the day! No-one told two chapter members that you were supposed to leave something for the seagulls. Time for "follow our leader" around the town. After tea and scones at the local Ritz, we considered, as bikers do, whether we were up for any raping and pillaging but the leader excused us as someone had a letter from their GP regarding their urinary tract. Before making our way home in brilliant sunshine, in windy conditions we all partook of ice creams with plenty of sprinkles – Pete had crushed nuts but it didn't stop him leading the way.

Skegness – it's just like the Mediterranean except for the brown seas, offshore wind farms, and chavs in trackies

Richard

Paul Spencer – From Afghanistan

Below are some fantastic letters and photos I have received from Chapter Member Paul Spencer who is currently serving in Afghanistan.

Scratchy

As a member of the Rutland Chapter myself I wish to send my heartiest thanks to all those members who took part in the Wootton Bassett ride out back in March. But additionally I have an additional reason for thanking you. I am myself

currently in Afghanistan with the Scots Guards on a 6 month tour and have seen the footage of the ride out on BFPS TV. While the Forces looks after it's Serviceman, there is a limit to that help. It is here that Help the Heroes comes in to play. We have already seen a number of fatalities



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and injuries since we took over from the last brigade. This is why it is a subject close to my heart. So once again, a hearty thanks to you and everyone who contributed. Unfortunately I have not managed to get my mid tour R&R to coincide with the Horseshoe rally. Therefore, I would like to wish all members a great time. I hope the weather is good for it. I would like to congratulate who ever wins the best Dyna trophy this year breaking my run of 3 years. I think I was lucky last year, as there were some nice bikes there. Due to the



lengthy training schedule before this deployment I have not ridden the old Harley since Oct last year all bar a couple of hours before I left Blighty. So I am dreaming of getting back in to the saddle. I have attached a couple of bike photo's I snapped on my travels. The jangley trike is the nearest to a custom bike I have seen. Unfortunately I have never had my camera to hand when a bike with the 3 adults astride it has rode past. How they stay on riding down the dirt tracks I do not know. All the best

Paul Spencer

Scratchy,

Back from Ops for a while. Still fit and well. Just a tad



hot here hitting 51F at times. Attached are a couple of bike photo's, One with two locals who came to see me. Managed to get to ride a locals Motorbike while on

patrol in Lashkar Gah Yesterday. Not to safe but it amused the Locals

Paul Spencer

Hoggin the Frogs – the Return !

“ What happens on these France trips?” asked the prospective traveller in late September 2009?

“Well on the Thursday night we get a load of wine and beer in and we all get bladdered, until the hotel manager tells us it's time for bed” I replied.

“But I don't like the taste of alcohol!” says the prospective traveller

“Okay, Friday night we go into town and chase after the ladies and try to get lucky”

“I'm not really into that either “came the reply.

“You're not queer are you?” I questioned.

No, definitely not “ answered the traveller indignantly.

“Well you won't enjoy Saturday night either then.”

Despite this, nine Chapter members went to France. On Tuesday 8th June, 6 members journeyed in torrential conditions with 4 more bikes joining them travelling in the early hours of Wed morning. Road works on the A1 meant detours for Richard and Little Pete with them ending up in the middle of rural Bedfordshire, in the dark and without a map. Successfully negotiating to the M25, the latter band met up with the main group in Portsmouth, for the early morning fast ferry to Cherbourg. Although conditions appeared calm, a number of us were top and tailing in the toilets on the way over.



Arriving safely, we rode to Ste Mere-Eglise for lunch, appetites much restored, (not me, I couldn't eat a thing until about 8 in the evening, a possible record for me). The weather was kind on the Wednesday as we continued our ride to Utah beach before heading to our hotel on the outskirts of Granville, an attractive town on the Normandy coast. The only eating-place within walking distance of the hotel was a McDonalds. Little Pete is not a MaccyD fan but as we were ravenous, we all downed Grand Macs et Frites and cans of 1664.

Thursday was forecast to be the worst day of our trip weather wise and so it turned out to be. We rode to Le Mont-St. Michel and wandered around this impressive island in the rain. On leaving, the heavens really opened so it was into the nearest roadside restaurant. Richard & Kathys Road King had a leaking rear shock absorber so we cruised to the dealer in Rennes where, to their credit, they replaced his shock with one from a brand new bike while we waited like gods in the shop (Well Buddha's a god!) Normally when we



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visit dealers, we have a bit of retail therapy but not when the t-shirts are between 50-55 euros each!



We rode back into Granville to eat before returning to the hotel to consume our supermarket booze. The evening was spent perfecting our meanest looking biker faces but only until the hotel manager sent us to bed for being too noisy!

Friday was much better day and we visited Pegasus Bridge for proper tea, Arromanches, Sword & Omaha D-day Beaches. In the afternoon we paid our respects at the American cemetery at Colville as seen in the film 'Saving Private Ryan'. Recommend that you give the Buffalo Grill at Avranches a miss as we waited one and a half hours to be served and the meal was only mediocre. Saturday was a bright and sunny so we



took the scenic rout to St Malo where we had a fine lunch by the harbour. Saturday afternoon some people polished their bikes and some got lost

going to the bank. In the evening we all joined up for a meal in Granville and we watched England play USA. On Sunday morning we were awake bright and early to head for Cherbourg for a much calmer return ferry trip than the outward journey. We all arrived home safely late Sunday afternoon after an absolutely brilliant trip. Many thanks have to go to Chemical Dave for his excellent leadership. If you get the chance to visit this part of Normandy and Brittany, it is highly recommended and we are planning for another France trip next year.

Richard (not Pierre or Jean)

Wizz & Nelly's – Views from the Pod



Views from the Pod

Wizz and Nelly, our very own "Spaced Out" travellers, pass on views and trivia from the inside of their Pod

RUTLAND INVADE NASEBY!

A big "right on bros and sisters!" for those that made it to the rally at Market Harboro' for the Riders Club Naseby section rally. It was nice to see people support them! A bangin' time was had by all I think (even though we lost the tug of war due to Naseby tying the rope to an immobile lump of stone.....Dutch Rob!)

TRAILER FEVER....AGAIN!

It was nice to see a trailer fest at Naseby's rally too.....Our beloved pantless leader, Shep and your humble scribe all pulled them along for the weekend (my pod passed its road test by not even being noticeable, due no doubt to the pant wettingly high torque of the Road King!)

AN APPEAL TO THE BROS AND SISTERS

There are motions afoot in the house of commons to persuade a certain leader to get whitewall tyres for his trailer as it would match his Heritage.....Try and convince him that it will look cool as he doesn't seem to take my views seriously!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the first HD racing teams in America in the early part of the 1900's had a small pig as its mascot.....That is where the term 'HOG' is thought to originate from!

Discarded pizza boxes are a great source of free cheese.....useful to know in the current recession!

HORSESHOE AT FARCET

Our rally at Farcet Fen was I think, a total success including the weather! Great site, cool atmosphere and wicked bands! Platform (Sat night) were excellent, especially as they, like me and the Nelly seem to know that good music died out in 1982! A big 'high five' (six if you live anywhere rural) to everyone who organized it! It was also groovy to see some of the Nene Valley there.....feeling the love of the Vee!

Guess who had a ciggy at the rally.....hmmmm!

TAKING THE SOFA TO SOFER

Allegedly, a giant luggage eating van is taking all our crap to the SOFER rally for us! That means more room for more crap such as an inflatable sofa and possibly a portable electric chicken

Quote of the month:

"Wow Arthur! I think we're onto something here! (Willie G, 1903)



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Back Page Beauty



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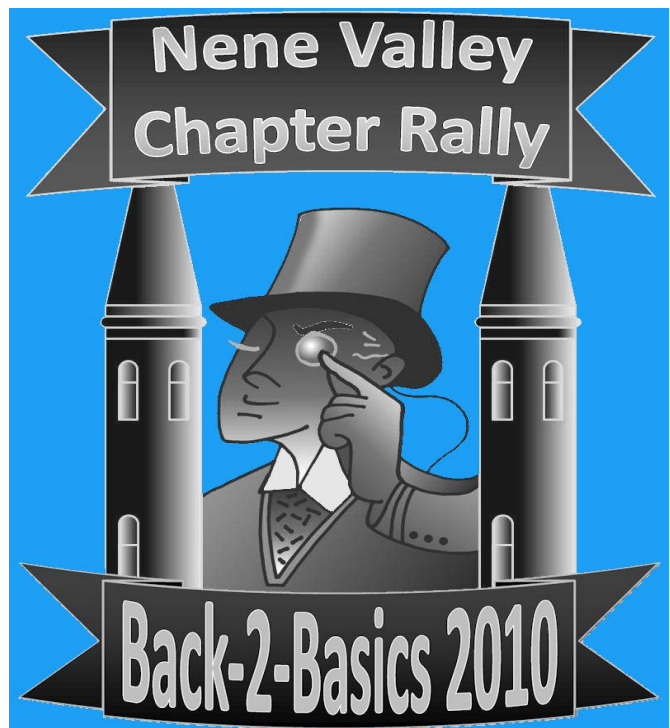
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