

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 281

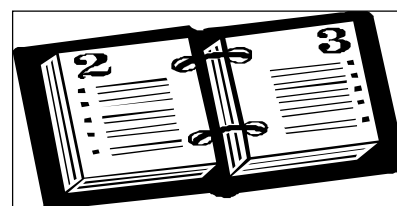
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Forthcoming Attractions



Monday, 18th February*; Cam Cunningham, Secretary of the West Lancs MG Owners' Club, will be telling us about **Living with a Classic Car.**

Monday, 25th February; Mid-Course Theory Session. This is the night when all current Associates, their Observers (and any other members) have the opportunity to iron out any difficulties prior to test.

Monday, 17th March*; tonight we have as our guest Inspector **David Keegan from the Roads Policing Unit.** His department monitors Sefton's roads aiming to halve the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by speeding vehicles by 2010.

Please make a note of these events in your diary and try to come along and support our guest speakers who give up their free time to come and speak to us. All meetings are at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, unless otherwise stated, and start at 8 pm.

*The speakers on these nights may interchange, but we will endeavour to advise you accordingly.

From the Chair

Our January meeting at the Royal Clifton was a pleasure. Our speaker Steve McKay, who was back by popular demand, gave us quite an insight into HGV driving. The main points I picked up were, keep as far away from HGVs as possible on roundabouts and be ultra cautious near left hand drive HGVs (especially when overtaking) as they have serious blind spots. He showed us quite a scary DVD! The evening got off to a great start with the presentation of a large number of certificates for test passes and Qualified Observer passes.



A reminder for current Associates, do come to the mid theory session on 25th February. The training team give up a lot of their time to run this evening which is for you. Observers, can you also help to remind your associate please.

Many of you reading this will remember Mark Revill Johnson. He was our Chief Senior Observer and gave us years of help and support. A few years back Mark moved to New Zealand to take up a post with their traffic police. Well, the news is he got married last year to a colleague on the force. She is originally from India but has lived in N Z for 10 years. I'm sure we all wish Mark and his wife the very best.

Stella Owen
(Chair)
Sefton Advanced Motorists

NEW ASSOCIATES

Sefton Group extends a warm welcome to



Craig Arnold	from	Liverpool
Adam Searle	from	Formby
Nigel Malyan	from	Birkdale
Peter Robinson	from	Hightown

Sefton Group gets off to a flying start in 2008

The first meeting of the New Year on January 21st just could not have got off to a better start . Not only did we have a very interesting talk from Steve McKay on the subject of Heavy Goods Vehicles but we had a series of presentations that would have rivaled the Bafta's, the Oscars and the Golden Globe.

There was one presentation that is probably unique to any group. Pictured below is Steve Bass who received both his Car and Motor Cycle Advanced Certificates on that same night. In fact, Steve passed the two tests within a week of one another. What an achievement!!

No wonder he looks so delighted holding both certificates and flanked by Alan Filson and Richard Hardie offering their congratulations. Extremely well done, Steve.



A Trio of Advanced Motor Cyclists

Continuing the motorcycling theme, we see Stewart Gaukroger presenting Advanced Riding Certificates to (from left to right) Andy Cave, Ian Richardson, and Ian Kerr.

Warmest congratulations to you all.



Three more Advanced Drivers!

Below we see (from the left) Adam Whitehurst, Mervyn Thomas and Peter Dunne proudly showing off their brand new certificates to the camera. They are accompanied by their Observers Mike Brown, Alan Stephenson and Fred Hampton, respectively.



IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

Another five Qualified Observers for the group.

Next up we see five gentlemen who have undertaken, and passed, the training to become Qualified Observers.

In the centre is **Alan Stephenson** who is now qualified to observe candidates for the car test.

The other satisfied chaps are **Kevin Rigby, Graham Lunt, David Miller and Graham Miller**. These four are now helping recruits to the motorcycle section prepare for and pass the Advanced Test.

The strength of the group really does lie in the unstinting efforts of people such as these.



Advanced Warning of a new diary date.

Southport Historic Car Show will be held in Victoria Park, Southport on Saturday and Sunday, 21st and 22nd June 2008. The show runs from 10-00 am until 5-00 pm on both days. Participants in the show travel from all over the country in an exciting and interesting array of historic vehicles.



FLOODS - Advice for drivers

During January we suffered some unprecedented amounts of rainfall here in the North West and Merseyside which we sincerely hope did not catch you out. One unfortunate (or, perhaps, foolhardy) motorist managed to get a Porsche stranded in some Scarisbrick floodwater almost up to the windows.

Had they been aware of the following advice from the IAM they may have avoided the trauma and, very likely a hefty bill for repairs and renovation.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said: "If the journey is unavoidable, motorists should take extra precautions when dealing with severe surface conditions. Torrential rain brings with it visibility problems as the car mists up in moments, just when you need maximum visibility."

Advice for motorists considering driving in flood conditions is

1. Don't go in if it's obviously too deep: consider an alternative route
2. If you have to drive through water try to drive in the highest section of the road and don't set off if a vehicle is travelling in the opposite direction. Leave time and space for each other, so you don't swamp someone else.
3. Drive only fast enough to create a small bow wave in front of the vehicle - driving at speed may be dangerous to other vehicles or pedestrians.
4. Keep going once you have started - make sure you have a clear run, put the car into first gear, keep the revs high and set off. Don't go in if you can't see a way out on the other side.
5. Under no circumstances take your foot even slightly off the accelerator, as this will allow water to travel up the exhaust pipe. As you go through the water, slip the clutch if you can. After you come out, dry brakes gently before you need them - the best way is to lightly apply the brake as you drive along for a few seconds. this is particularly important if your car has drum brakes.
6. At the other side, keep moving, continue to rev the engine to clear any water from the exhaust.



Photo courtesy of www.southportforums.com

The Bike to Buy with a Triple Roll-over Win?

What is your vision of the future of high speed transport? Jetpacks perhaps? Driverless pods, bullet trains, scram jets?

Well according to Dr. Peter Markus a former Mercedes-Benz and Porsche engineer, it is an enclosed hybrid motorcycle capable of 340mph and Lucerne to London in an hour and a half. Its maker intends it as a long distance commuter for a world in which city transport is provided by solar powered electric vehicles.



The Acabion GTBO looks remarkably like a 1950s Bonneville Speed Week contender, often fashioned from B-52 drop tanks, but its specifications sound bang up-to-date. An electric motor and 1.3-litre turbocharged petrol unit together produce a scarcely credible 750bhp making the GTBO capable of 100mph in first gear. Hitting the triple tonne takes 30 seconds and top speed is 340mph. But don't think the GBTO has run out of steam; that is simply the point at which the electronics rein things in—330mph is achieved on half throttle. A low kerb weight and very slippery shape makes it efficient as well as fast; fuel economy at 100mph is said to be 100mpg.

At a Veyron's top speed of around 250mph, the GTBO can still achieve 25mpg and unlike the Bugatti, the GTBO actually has some luggage space. There is accommodation for two and steering is by motorcycle style handlebars although with such a lengthy wheelbase, handling would be interesting to say the least; the two small drogue wheels retract at anything above town speeds. Although simply intended as an awareness builder for Dr. Markus' ideas for future transport solutions, the GTBO is fully functional and anyone willing to part with £1.4 million and wait three years can have one.



The article has been reproduced from www.cars.msn.co.uk

Test your Highway Code Knowledge

We know we should keep our highway code knowledge up to scratch and a fun way to do it is to Google "highway code quiz" and try the various test papers. It's quite revealing!

Remember Top Trumps?

Yes, those packs of cards that you played with to keep the kids amused and ourselves. Well, I rediscovered them on-line and spent (or wasted) the best part of an hour playing along. As you are warned they are quite addictive.



*I particularly found the set on Classic Cars was the one I kept going back to.
www.trumps.cars.uk.msn.com*

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