

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 303

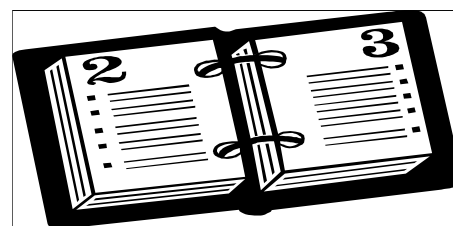
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December 2009

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Forthcoming Attractions



Monday 21st December; Sefton Group's Annual Christmas Dinner.

Monday 11th January; New Associates meeting.

Monday 18th January; Dennis Nicholson & Steve Moon our new IAM Examiners will talk about their work as Police Officers and also about their positions as IAM Examiners.

Monday 15th February; Gordon May, author and journalist, will speak on "**Overland to India by classic British motorcycle**".

Monday 22nd February; Mid-Course Theory meeting.

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.

Chairman Writes

Hello to you all,

First of all, a thank you to all those hardy members who braved the November chill to attend our driver open day at the Richmond.

Although we were short on numbers we managed to give our senior observers a spin around the countryside and coffees you could have a bath in. As it turned out the weather was kind to us, but sadly no tans.

If anybody couldn't attend and would still like a drive with one of our observers then contact a training team member and we'll do our best to fit you in.



This first attempt has given us a few ideas and insights into how to run future events. There have been mutterings about a manoeuvring competition to be thrown in next time out. Watch this space come summer time.

I noted with interest the IAM's suggested amnesty on overnight parking fees around the Christmas period to encourage people to leave the car behind after the works party, etc. I have my doubts whether it will be looked on favourably by the powers that be, but it serves as a timely reminder to plan your Christmas travelling early.

The alcohol limit is currently set at 80mg per 100ml of blood. What this means to the non-biology post grads amongst us, I am not sure. So, probably best to stick to the non-for-the-road policy. It is also worth noting that although it is rare, you can be charged with levels below 80mg if you are believed to be under the influence. Should someone be unlucky enough to be involved in an accident, even a lower reading could land them in trouble. What this means to me is an ample excuse for some truly record breaking lie ins, all in the cause of road safety you understand.

This brings me around nicely to the Christmas Dinner. I believe at time of printing we had 24 people due to attend. With all this Christmas cheer in evidence I'm almost guaranteed a lift home. If you'd like a place contact Paulette and I'm sure she will squeeze you in.

Please do remember that there won't be a monthly meeting at the Royal Clifton until January 18th. Our New Associates course will start on January 11th. If you are struggling for present ideas why not club together and get a loved one a Skill for Life.

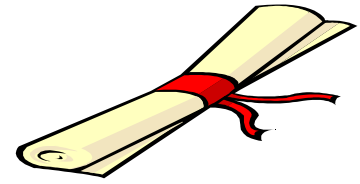
Hope you all have a great Christmas.

See you in the New Year,

Tom.

Test Passes

Hearty congratulations go to



Paul Newall

-

Advanced Motorcyclist

Senior Motorcycle Observers

David Miller

and

Jonathan Hall

Chief Examiner presents certificates.

The picture below was taken at our November meeting at the Royal Clifton Hotel where the group was addressed by the IAM Chief Examiner, Peter Rodger.

He was also on hand to present these newly qualified Advanced Drivers and Motorcyclist with their highly deserved certificates.

From the left we see Ernie Lloyd, Barbara Miller, Peter Rodger, Marie Byrne and Martin Charlton. Congratulations to them all and thanks to Dave Roscoe for providing the photograph.





Your last chance to book your place

at Sefton Advanced Motorists

Christmas Meal

21st December 2009

at

“Trattoria O’Sole Mio”

1 Avondale Road, Southport PR8 5DG

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Plenty of interest has already been shown by members wishing to join our annual Christmas Celebration and get-together, but Paulette can always ask the restaurant to squeeze In a few more if you have a late change of heart.

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Meet in the restaurant at 7.45pm for an 8 o’clock sit down.

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The three course meal will only cost you

£10.95

(No need to pre-order your meal: choose on the night)

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So all that is left for you to do is phone Paulette Haigh to let her know you would like to be part of the action. Have a lovely evening and get home safely.

Paulette Haigh

Home Tel No: 01772 816610

More Ideas on Aquaplaning *by Malcolm Towler*

Further to the item "Flying without Wings" in the November issue of the Newsletter, I have noted below my thoughts on this:

Although I have never heard of the phenomena described in the item "Flying without Wings" in the November edition of the Newsletter, and I do not have a car fitted with cruise control, I am sure the reason for the incident is fairly easily explained.

Obviously, the incident occurred through an aquaplaning effect i.e. a wedge of water building up under the tyres due to either excessive speed for the conditions or worn tyres, or, possibly, a combination of the two. As a result grip is lost between the tyres and the road and, hence, the wheels cannot rotate at the correct wheel rotation speed relative to the road speed. Obviously, the sensors monitoring the cruise control will detect this discrepancy and, to compensate, will adjust the throttle opening in an effort to synchronise the wheel rotation / road speed as, for instance, it must do when climbing a hill to maintain the set speed.

However, when the tyres regain some grip, the now too high throttle setting results in too much power for the still limited grip, resulting in the driven wheels then overcoming the available grip in a less wet / icy section of the road. This could then be compounded by varying grip levels, left to right, the resulting imbalance forcing the car to swerve to the left or right, dependent on the wheel with most grip. The effect would be similar if due to ice rather than aquaplaning.

This phenomena would apply to both front and rear wheel drive cars but is, I feel, more likely to affect front wheel drive, as the effect of any torque steer would be exaggerated in such conditions.

Whilst on the topic of cruise control, this facility does have its drawbacks in that recently, Ford, in America had to recall a number of their SUVs due to a cruise control fault. When a car was driven to a halt and parked, the cruise control should have cancelled automatically. In reality this did not always happen, so that on subsequently starting the car and engaging drive the cruise control tries to regain the previously set speed immediately and the car sets off at unexpected speed, resulting in a number of collisions.

The lesson of this is, obviously, turn off the cruise control in poor weather as recommended by the IAM and, to minimise risk, turn off the cruise control manually at the end of any journey rather than relying on an automatic cancellation function.

Regards,

Malcolm Towler



New Advanced Driving Course in January

2010 is only just around the corner and, with that, there is the opportunity for drivers in the area to take advantage of the benefits that Membership of Sefton Advanced Motorists can bring.

Most obviously there is the chance to improve your driving and road safety by taking the **Skill for Life Course**. Most people also find that their driving pleasure also increases. However, a real advantage in these difficult economic times is that there is, now, a very real chance that car insurance costs will decrease once the Advanced Test has been passed.

Members of the IAM are also able to avail themselves of various discounts from other motoring related bodies such as car hire, car purchase, airport parking and a range of motoring accessories.

From a more parochial viewpoint membership of the local Sefton Group provides the opportunity to keep driving skills up to date and, with this in mind, 2010 will see a greater emphasis on making this happen through events and open days.

Contact can be made through the Associates Secretary, Ray Woods, whose details can be found on page 7, opposite.

Invitation from Wirral Group

Hello everyone. It is time, once again, for us to invite you all to our

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT AND FREE FISH AND CHIP SUPPER!!

Those of you who have been before will know all about this event and we welcome new and old friends alike.

DATE

26th January 2010.
8.00 pm

VENUE

The Roundel Club, 17 Shrewsbury Road, Oxtou, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH43 1UU.

We need to know numbers please, we would not like to see anyone go home hungry!!! We need a reply with your numbers by 12th January at the latest. Please email Tony Stopforth with your information by that date. editor@wirraliam.co.uk.

It would help me if everyone replied to Tony and I did not need to send round a reminder nearer the date. Christmas and New Year is almost upon us, please join us for our celebration on 26th January.

See you next year, I hope!

Angela.
Wirral Group Secretary.

**SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP No. 5143**

NOTICEBOARD

SAM shirts available.

Polo shirts & sweatshirts are now available embroidered with the IAM logo. The red car roundel is illustrated but there are also green ones for motorcyclists.



Cam Cunningham has arranged the supply and orders can be placed with him at any of the Group's meetings or by ringing him on 01704 892816.



Disclaimer

The Editor and the Group Council wish to make it clear, that the views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter, are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or the Institute.

Data Protection Act 1984

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