



VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB Lost Riders Centre 9 Newsletter



www.lostriders.co.uk

Centre 9 East & North Midlands

www.vsoc.org.uk

June 2009

CONGRATS TO C9 MEMBERS - 15 & 10 year membership



LOST RIDERS CONTACTS

Centre 9 Rep.

Terry Warren
0115 854 5475
07853 235400
billio51@hotmail.com

Notts.

Paul Caine
0115 953 4073
07765 628 629
p.caine@ntlworld.com

Deputy Centre Rep.

Trevor Bridgwood
01522 750395
trac5641@yahoo.co.uk

Northants. (Vacant)

Facebook Coordinator

Mike Godwin
01246 276754
07853 733252
mikegodwin@ntlworld.com

Derbys.

Keith & Jane Mason
01246 236123
Keith: 07986 091109
Jane: 07910 711591
rumblingstar@aol.com

Leicestershire

Pete Brown
0116 291 6809
leonebrown@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor

Keith Mason (see Derbys.)
rumblingstar@aol.com

Treasurer

Rachael Bridgwood
01522 750395
trac5641@yahoo.co.uk

Lincs.

Alex Bridgwood
'Young Lord Alex'
07815 972037
01522 750395
ajbridgwood@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster & Merchandiser

E J
01529 414671
07872 075851
ej.darlington@googlemail.com



ON BACK PAGE New format for Wot's On

Jim Salmon has suggested that we feature venues for the monthly meetings in the diary of events rather than in a separate section, so you can see day by day what's coming up. We're trying it this month - let us know if you like it.



from 'AH BIG TEL'

Hi Everyone,

Second month coming up, and the scale of the job is starting to dawn on me. I must say, that during my various meets and ride outs over the past month, a real sense of excitement is all around the club, or is it just me?

The numbers at the meets continue to grow, so far the ride outs have been well received, even those at really short notice, and speaking to as many of you as I can, the thought seems to be favourable to us re-locating to our own room for the centre meet.

I intend to at least try to get the centre meet up and running as an event, rather than just a meet. Something we will all look forward to going to. I have ideas of a quiz night, a horse racing night, and even occasionally live entertainment.

I have spoken to the landlady at the Grey Goose, she has offered us the room back if we want it, still free, but only on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Do you think this is the way forward for the club?

I do not want change just for the sake of it, I do feel that we always did get good numbers there, and all of us know where it is. So we will not be starting again.

Our good friend, Paul Burdass has expressed his wish to help the club, and I hope he will be putting in a regular appearance at the centre meets. Don't forget we all enjoy a 10% discount from his Fat Skeleton biker goods internet site and when we see him in person at events, if Paul is willing to help us, we should be helping him.

More on this to come.

We have a new member, Jim Rice, and his wife Anita, make sure you say hello to them please. A few of us already have done so, they went to the Belgian rally, so they will have tales to tell already.

The Most Active Rider competition is going really nicely, I have to polish the collection of points yet, but so far it is coming together nicely. The first leaders will be on show at the centre meet, and on the web site.

All of this comes via a membership of just 34 pence a week, absolutely nothing. So help the club give you more, fill the events, buy those raffle tickets, and back your committee members, we only want to have fun.

That's all for now, Ride Safe People,

BigTerry

Centre 9 Rep.

Gothic rumblings

A special hello to Trev from Mansfield, who I happened to meet by chance at CMC Chesterfield last Sunday. Trev rides an immaculate blue Virago 1100 with alloy wheels and various lovely customised bits and



boobs. Trev has been a member of the VSOC for over 4 years but can't get to meetings or rallies due to shift work and working nights. I was the first member of the Lost Riders or of the VSOC he had ever met *in the flesh*, so to speak! Trev gets the Lost Riders newsletter through the post and this has been his only lifeline to the club since joining, as he doesn't have Internet access. This confirms what I said last month about the importance of the newsletter to C9 members who are unable to get to events and aren't on the Internet.

I told Trev about the Arkwright second Tuesday of the month meet for Derbys. members - we hope to see you there soon, Trev! And that goes to any other C9 members who have not been able to get to meetings and rallies in the past - DO come along to one of our C9 meetings. There hopefully will be at least one venue that is not too far from you - see **Meetings Dates and Venues** on the back page. We are a friendly lot, if a bit bonkers, and will make you feel welcome!

Deadline for newsletter is

Thursday before the following Tuesday C9 monthly meeting, which means it varies from month to month. If you get your contributions to me by the Thursday before, they will definitely be in the next month's newsletter.

And finally, a thank you to all the C9 members who responded to my call last month to send me your photos and write-ups for the newsletter. Well done, folks! Keep up the the good work! If you stuff isn't in this month's, don't worry - it'll be in a future month's newsletter.

Keep the faith & ride safe :)

Gothic Keith

C9 Newsletter Editor & Derbys. Co-Rep.

rumbilingstar@aol.com

Paul Burdass sponsors Lost Riders

Paul has offered a £100 + back pack for a 1st prize for the raffle on our July centre meet. Thanks for supporting the club, Paul. Paul's Fat Skeleton Website (which offers 10% discount to our members) is at:

<http://www.fatskeleton.co.uk/>



PAUL'S PONDERINGS

I missed the deadline for last month's newsletter so have got a few extra things to write up.

Wasn't the Gathering of the Clans great? Good turn out, weather was brill, ride was dry and Roosters proved a good destination. Thanks to EJ and the team for organizing. And we still have the Bubble Car museum for a future ride out destination. Shame about (Disco) Paul's mishap on the ride home but we are pleased that he is OK again and his bike is 'recovering' - hope you're soon back on the road.

The Donington Show was quieter than usual but got a good turnout from the Lost Riders. We all seemed to find some odd bits that we desperately needed to purchase - hope it keeps going in future years. Tony (Wax on; wax off) Hawkins did us proud with a win of £50 and a plaque for "Best Chrome at Show". Well done mate!

Quite a few of us have been riding in to the Grey Goose and the Unicorn meets so it is starting to feel that Summer is with us. The Saturday ride in from the Goose to the BMF consisted of 2 bikes (both 2 up) and (Bandana) Paul's car. Two really heavy downpours (yes, Summer is definitely here) on the way down didn't dampen our spirits, the sun shone throughout the rest of Saturday and the VSOC tent was a welcome oasis. We were very pleased that Paul was happy to fill his boot (with our 'booty'), we would have been struggling otherwise. Luckily (?) our wallets were much lighter for the ride home! We thoroughly enjoyed the day, there was loads of choice for clothing although less dealers present than previous years. Roll on the BMF Tailender, just time to save up and do it all again.

Jumpstart was a great start to the Rally/Party season and a meet up with the regulars from all over the country. Anyone out there who is not sure about Rallies/Parties should definitely give it a try. It took me and Lynn quite a while to take the plunge back in 2002 at Midlands Mayhem II where I arrived a Rally Virgin and left with my first tattoo and my first rally patch. I have long since given up trying to find any room for more recent patches (although I still have plenty of room for tattoos!). It's great to be at the start of the Rally season. Let's hope the weather is a bit kinder this year. The Jumpstart party, Irish Rally and the first BMF are behind us but still loads of events yet to come.

Just got in from the 3rd Basford McDonalds Sunday meet. What a day. Ged was showing off his Notts Xmas Party prize from CMC Chesterfield of the use, this Bank Holiday weekend, of a new XVS950. It looks very smart and he said it handed well. Megan was missing her 'backrest' but otherwise looked 'the part'. These bikes never come with enough 'chrome bits'. Our convoy of 10 bikes met up with Terry, Jane, Rod, Kath, Les and Janice in Skeggy. They had ridden in from a night's camping at the Anchor Arms, Friskney. Clear blue skies, a walk round looking at hundreds of bikes, fish and chips. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven! Three Yorkies members joined us for the ride back through Lincoln. Thanks to Chris and Wendy for leading expertly both ways and to Tony for 'last maning'. This is just what 'cruiser' biking is all about!

The VSOC International site is open from the Thursday (11th June) so a few of us are planning to make it a longer holiday and explore the Southampton area. Also got tickets for West Midlands Mayhem Rally (another tattoo planned!), Scrumpies Party (see below), North Stars Barlick Bash and we have confirmed with (Yorkies) Terry that Lynn and me plan to attend his and Sue's Wedding. I know that the organizers of the events like us to buy tickets in advance so they get confirmation of a decent number of attendees. The Scrumpies Party (31st July) is on a great site, next to a farm and is always very 'laid back' - I think we were a bit too keen as, earlier in the year, we got ticket numbers 001 and 002. Can't wait to continue embarrassing myself on the dance floor (anyone want lessons?). Aren't Rallies (and Parties) great? This year has started well and is looking full of brill events - send off for those tickets !!

Never felt a thing during the 'handover' at the AGM - quite painless - just as if I've still got the job. As you know, I am more than happy to carry on until late Summer so hope that a 'budding Notts Rep' is just waiting to step into my boots? Just let me know

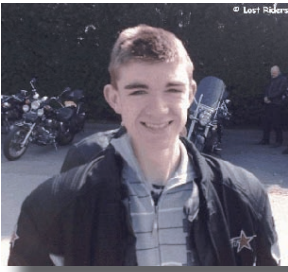
Don't forget that the monthly meetings fall early in June; Unicorn on the 2nd and Grey Goose on the 16th. See you there. Make the most of the Summer - it's far too short.

Paul Caine
Notts. Rep.

VSOC Lost Riders try XVS950 Midnight Star

Managed to get a lift to Ged's as pillion on my son's CBR600RR to collect the XVS950. I now know why I ride a Cruiser and not a 'Race Replica (RR)'. My knees resting against my ears, I slid backwards and forwards, digging my nails into his leathers in the hope that I didn't fly off the back at each junction. Was I glad to prize (get it, 'prize') the keys from Ged following his use from CMC over the Bank Holiday weekend. Ged was clearly disappointed when he realized that the prize was a weekend's use and not the bike itself!

Cont. on p.4



Lincoln News

Another busy month in the calendar for this year and it seems like the biking season is kicking off with a bang! So far we seem

to have been getting mostly dry nights for the bike nights and glorious sunshine the last May bank holiday. What a great start to the summer and let it continue I say! What a change to the miserable weather we have had for the past few years.

This nicely leads me onto the Lincolnshire Bike Nights. These are taking place every Wednesday at a different location around Lincolnshire throughout the summer months. So why not check out their website (www.lincolnshirebikenights.com) and see whether there is one near you.

So this month there was the Horncastle Bike Night on the 6th. Then came the first Lincolnshire meet at Roosters Café on the A17. This was a pretty miserable evening unfortunately but we had 6 of us turn up in the end. A good achievement considering the weather! I did however get absolutely soaked on the way home even with waterproofs on.

Then came the weekend of the BMF at Peterborough. Centre 9's Trevor, Rachel, EJ, Steve, Cathy and myself stayed over the weekend to help man the stand which was being run by Mick from Centre 10. The weekend was lovely with the odd patch of rain but that didn't dampen our spirits as the sun came out soon after! Got a few bargains there as well and it was good to see members from our Centre and others again.

The 20th was another Cruiser bike night at the Harley Dealership in Lincoln. This was a good turnout. There was a band playing although nothing like the bands we normally get at our rallies! It was a pleasurable evening although once again on the way back it rained and I got soaked (Starting to see a pattern here?).

Last but not least was the bike night held at Roosters Café on the 27th. A good turnout of bikes although I suspect there would have been a few more were it not for the football going on. Although you could have watched it on the TV they had set up there so next time no excuses for not going!

See you all soon.

Alexander Bridgwood
Lincolnshire Rep.

Lost Riders try XVS950 Midnight Star cont...

Having sat on this bike previously, I was not surprised how comfortable I was on the very low seat and how wide the handlebars were but I was surprised how confident I felt as soon I was familiar again with footboards and the heel and toe gear change. As soon as I had gone up and down the gears a few times, I felt as if I had 'owned' the bike for years. It was evening so we just did the 15 miles from Long Eaton to Arnold. My son and Lynn both said they liked the styling better than my 11 year old Virago – what do they know (race replica – ugh!). Checked the forecast for tomorrow – improving through the day and clear'ish sky by mid afternoon.



Quite surprised how excited I was in the morning. It was dry and 'promising'. Started up the 950 and wheeled it out of the garage – yes they were right – it did look good - matt black engine, wheels and frame, belt drive, small light and small front wheel with just enough chrome to complement it. Decided to head through Calverton, Oxton, Southwell and Newark and then on to (our) Roosters Café on the A17 near Sleaford. But first through Arnold so the shoppers could see just how good I look (note 1 - needs noisier pipes!).

The bike felt very responsive but I had to get used to changing down more as the Virago has that slightly bigger engine in a lighter bike. By the time I got to Oxton I was beginning to lean with confidence as I was happy that the footboards would not easily 'bottom', the wide bars made light work of straightening out after a corner and both brakes had the stopping power of a wall.

That road, each side of Southwell was made for bikes. The 950 pulled up the winding rise with ease, and I was soon humming (not that exiting surely!) "Born to be Mild" and "Going up the Country". With the instrument panel in the tank, as with all Stars, they have kept the area around the bars very uncluttered, and with no screen, it felt very 'open' compared with the 'busy' Virago clocks etc.,. The 950 swept very smoothly around the bends but was also very easy to handle as I passed through the centre of Southwell. Once clear of the town (and compulsory road works) I was back on the country bends towards Kelham Bridge and then onto the Newark By-Pass. Once past the roundabouts and on to the A17 the road was clear to enjoy the countryside freedom. I needed to drop down a gear to overtake 3 lorries, timed just right for the dual carriageway and the 950 provided more than enough grunt to quickly whip around the traffic and back to the open road. All too soon I arrived at Rooster's Café where I was made welcome with a 'sarni' and cuppa.

Paul Caine

YAMAMA UK FINALLY CATERING AGAIN FOR CRUISER RIDERS?

When I was recently at CMC Chesterfield I was pleased to see at least four Yamaha Star cruiser models on display that would appeal to our membership. They had the **new 950cc aircooled XVS Midnight Star (as test-ridden by Steve, Ged, Paul and others recently)**; a 1300cc liquid-cooled Midnight Star; a 1700cc *Road Star* U.S. import (in a stunning white and black livery that made it look like an American cop bike!) - the Yankie Roadie (badged *Wild Star* in the U.K.) had twin pipes and reflectors on the front forks; next to it was a 1900cc Midnight Star with the two into one pipes and huge chrome headlight housing (the same model that Disco Paul totalled after the Gathering recently - hope you're feeling better, Paul).

The first three were all in the £5000 - £7000 price range - in fact the 1300 was a similar price to the new 950, because it was pre-registered, so is something of a bargain if you fancy a liquid-cooled Star. All are belt-drive; Yamaha seem to have completely abandoned the shaft drive found on the Viragos.

I sat on all of them, and can report that they all have very comfortable riding positions, with risers where needed so as to make the handlebar position just right for someone used to Viragos or Draggies. I always found the reach to the handlebars on the original standard Wild Star 1600 cc rather too long - unless you were over 6ft. and hung like an orang-u-tan in their arm department, you got lower back ache fairly quickly. Fortunately my Wildy had risers on it which brought the bars back to a more comfortable position, and the 1700 cc Wild Stars / Road Stars now come pre-fitted with standard bars /risers which have a more comfortable reach.

Speaking of Viragos, Daz (Darren) at CMC Chesterfield tells me that they have a good 750 Virago in metallic blue livery about to come in (probably will be in by the time you read this); it has Remus pipes and is 'M' reg.

(Seeing as I've given CMC Chesterfield a free promo. for their stock this month, perhaps they'll offer me a test-ride of the new 950 model?! Hint, Hint!)

Gothic Keith
rumblingstar@aol.com



Yamaha's new XVS 950cc Midnight Star cruiser



<<< *Lynne & Derek on the Skeg Rally - more Skeggy pix next month*





DIARY OF MEETING
DATES, VENUES &
EVENTS

2009

Tuesday 2nd June
(FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)

CENTRE 9 MAIN MEETING -
The Unicorn Hotel, Gunthorpe Bridge, Trentside,
Gunthorpe, Notts., NG14 7FB - tel: 01159 663612/01159
664801

**WATCH OUT FOR WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY
CHANGE OF VENUE FOR CENTRE 9 MONTHLY MEETING
BACK TO THE GREY GOOSE AT GEDLING
(PROVISIONAL) Can someone please ask the landlady if
she can get some cask conditioned ale in?
- LORAD. (*Lost Riders Real Ale Drinkers*)**

Sunday 7th June
DERBYSHIRE 1st Sunday of the Month Meeting -
Clay Cross Powersports 10.00 am. Coffee and a chat;
possible ride-out.

Monday 8th June
DERBYSHIRE 2nd Monday of Month Derbyshire Meeting
- THE ARKWRIGHT ARMS, Sutton-cum-Duckmanton,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S44 5JG Tel: (01246) 232053
(just off J29 of M1). Includes free food such as chip butties
with home-made chips.

Wednesday 10th June
LEICESTERSHIRE / NORTHANTS
2nd Wednesday of month meeting
Forge Inn, Main Street, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8DG
2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm

Wednesday 10th June
LINCOLNSHIRE
2nd Wednesday of each month from 8 pm - Trev &
Rachel's or Castle Inn, CONINGSBY or Roosters
Cafe from 19:30 onwards, approx 5 miles north of
Sleaford on the A17. ALSO

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th June 2009
VSOC International Rally - C16 Solent
Download the flyer:
http://www.vsoc.org.uk/vsoc_rallies/vsoc_rallies2009/Int_Rally_2009_flyer.jpg

Sunday 14th June Lincoln Big Bike Fest – We usually have a stand here but Trev & Rachel will be at the International Rally. If anybody is interested in running a stand contact Trev ASAP.

Sunday 14th June
LINCOLNSHIRE
Lincolnshire 2nd Sunday's - various locations!

Tuesday 16th June
NOTTS. The Grey Goose Gedling - 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm; includes chip butties.

Friday 19th - Sun. 21st June (provisional)
Cottesmore Camping Weekend. Cost per tent per night £6.

Sun. 21st June
DERBYSHIRE 3rd Sunday of the Month Meeting -
Clay Cross Powersports 10.00 am. Fettle/Ride-Out

Friday 26 - Sat. 27th June
VSOC Centre 8 - West Midlands Alouettes

Sun. 28th June
NOTTS.
4th Sunday of month **Breakfast Meeting** at 10-30 am, in the MacDonalds on the Nottingham ring road near Basford.

Thu 2nd July 09 Boston Bike Night.

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th July
Wedding of Terry and Sue
Doncaster Rugby Club, Castle Park, Armthorpe. DN2
5QB - FREE Do Again From The Yorkies Bands, Hog Roast, Disco, Fancy dress. Friday night is Stag & Hen Night. Saturday is the Wedding. All Welcome, please let Terry know you are coming.
Download the flyer: http://www.vsoc.org.uk/vsoc_rallies/vsoc_rallies2009/Terry_Sue_wedding_flier.pdf

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th July
VSOC Centre14 Cockney Rejects Rally - Esher
Rugby Club, 369 Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 3PF

Friday 31st July to Sun. 2nd August 2009
Scruppies Summer Party - Court Farm Country Park, Wolvershill Road, Banwell, Somerset BS29 6DL
Disco, Band, Food available on site. Ticket prices £8. Guests by arrangement only via Centre Rep. Due to other events taking place at the Venue no arrival on site until 12pm on 31/07/2009 and Venue must be cleared by 3pm on 02/08/2009

Friday 28 August - Monday 31st August
VSOC Centre 6 - North Stars Rally
(more info. to follow.)

PLEASE CHECK LOST RIDERS WEBSITE AT:

WWW.LOSTRIDERS.CO.UK

FOR LATEST DETAILS