



RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders North Wiltshire Group

www.northwiltroadar.co.uk



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Newsletter

January 2010

Secretary:

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Dates for Your Diary

Monthly meetings are all held at
Liddington Village Hall opposite
the church.

**Monday 8th February,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: John Brown, author of
"Driving is more about Psychology
than Systems".

**Monday 8th March,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Julie Garbutt from the
British Horse Society.

**Monday 12th April,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Geoff Gregor, a RoADAR
Motorcycle examiner.

**Monday 10th May,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Speaker to be arranged.

**Monday 14th June,
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Phil Lewis, a RoADAR car
examiner.

**Do you have a Topic you would
like discussed, or know of an
interesting speaker? Please
contact Monica!**

Hope everyone has survived the cold weather!

We may be through the worst of it now, and spring may be approaching, but more winter weather is forecast for the coming weeks. It doesn't look like we should be expecting too much more snow, but ice and fog could remain a serious problem. So be careful out there...



Nigel Allerton

Christmas/New Year Meal

It was good to see so many faces at the Liddington Village Inn recently for the annual North Wilts RoADAR Christmas/New Year meal. It was a most enjoyable evening. We will have a full report next month, but we'd like to say a big thank you to Monica for organising it once again.

Welcome to the following members
who have joined the group recently:

Andrew Archard (bike)

Richard Chamberlain (car)

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 8th February 2010, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:

John Brown, author of "Driving is more about Psychology than Systems" will be speaking.

Monday 8th March, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:

Julie Garbutt from the British Horse Society will be giving a talk.

Monday 12th April, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:

Geoff Gregor, a RoADAR motorcycle examiner will be speaking. He will be offering advice to those preparing for their test.

Monday 10th May, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the previously advertised talk has been postponed. A new speaker will be arranged.

Monday 14th June, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:

Phil Lewis, RoADAR Car Examiner will be speaking.

Events

Saturday March 27th: Driving Day:

See below.

Bike Ride-outs: Regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Check the Motorcycle Discussion section on the Web Site Forum for more detail



Coming up...the second North Wiltshire driving day!

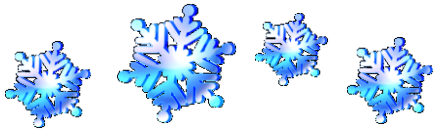
Following last year's highly successful driving day (see April '09 Newsletter), the next driving day will be held on Saturday 27th March. Come along and enjoy the fun! All you need is your car, a map, and a sense of adventure. Come prepared to spend an enjoyable day driving, give and receive friendly feedback, and enjoy a good lunch.

We need to know numbers as soon as possible so if you're interested, please let Monica or Nick know you plan to attend.

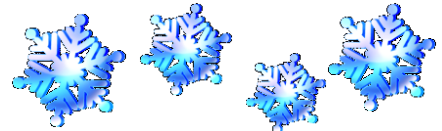
The only costs are for fuel and lunch. You drive only your own car. Routes will be provided (or you can make up your own).

Hope to see you there!





Winter Driving Tips



(...we realise these may be a little late now but remember them next time!)

During the winter months the variation in the weather conditions and visibility can be a serious hazard so make sure that you know the weather forecast.

If the forecast is for a particularly cold spell it's a good idea to leave your vehicle with the handbrake off and first gear engaged, and lift the windscreen wipers away from the screen to stop them freezing on the glass.

Depending on your choice of route and where and how far you are travelling it makes sense to include things like a hot flask and food (chocolate maybe), a reflective jacket for you and your passengers plus a seat belt cutter. Please do not store them in the boot though; it serves no useful service at all. They should be as close by as possible. You may need them urgently.

It also makes sense to carry a spade and some old matting; might seem a bit too much but these items can help to get you out of trouble, even close to home. Use the spade to break up ice patches, perhaps using the matting to help get you going.

When you defrost the windows make sure that you dry them off as well; it helps to stop them freezing up again.

Don't forget that wide wheels on lots of cars grip well in normal conditions but can be a problem in the snow.

As you drive away in frosty or snowy conditions don't forget the Moving Brake Test. Yes, you still need it to check your understanding of the available grip and possible stopping distance required in the conditions. Check those mirrors, no one about, up to about 20mph,

squeeze the brake pedal firmly and so check for that grip.

Make sure that, as you enter corners/bends, you do it gently and slower than usual, maybe just a hint on the steering as you enter the bend with the full steering movement coming very slightly later.

Smooth control is essential, with the need to even out the braking over a longer area whilst completing the braking slightly earlier. Lower gears for descending hills helps to keep the speed down but the engine compression will only be slowing two wheels so you have grip on only two tyres. Using the brakes gently will give you that helping hand with the grip on all four tyres.

Steer gently with your fingertips as this will give you more of a feeling of grip than you will get using the palms of your hands due to the nerve endings in the finger tips.

Let's not forget though that some Advanced Drivers are aware that their skills are generally higher than normal and because of that perception they can tend to drive with more risk. So don't be complacent!

So, this winter, don't take risks, be well prepared. Even a slight collision can cause an awful lot of inconvenience.

Be safe,

Chris Gleed



Some winter products that may be of interest

Snow socks (www.autosocks.co.uk): These can be used when snow and ice make driving difficult. Not to be used on tarmac as they will wear out. They slip on around the wheel and are quick and easy to use. If you have RWD it is recommended to buy two sets as they will help with steering.

Shoe grips (www.yaktrax.co.uk) for dodderly old folk like me who are petrified of falling. They are issued to postmen and women. They fit on over your shoes or boots and grip well in snow and icy conditions.

Monica

Merchandise

Don't forget that we have a stock of merchandise available for purchase through the group. Items available include:

High visibility jacket with RoSPA logo and Group name

New lower price! £12.00

Polo shirt in navy with RoADAR logo embroidered in Gold

£7.50

Roadcraft: The Essential Police Driver's Handbook

£9.00 (published price £14.99)

Motorcycle Roadcraft: The Police Rider's Handbook

£8.50 (published price £12.99)

Mind Driving by Stephen Haley

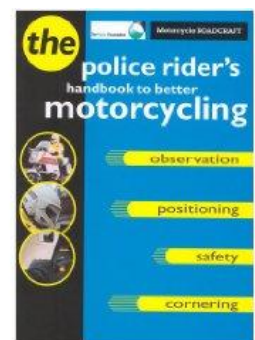
£7.00 (published price £12.99)

Not The Blue Book by Dave Jones

£6.50 (published price £7.99)

The Official Highway Code

£2.00 (published price £2.50)



For more information visit the Merchandise page of the web site.

www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk

First Aid anyone?

We are hoping to run another First Aid course, but need sufficient numbers before we can organise a course. The likely cost would be around £60 each. Let Monica know if you are interested.