



RoADAR Avon Group Newsletter March 2008

Editor's Piece

Chairman's Chat

By now you would have all had your Easter Break; I hope you all came safely through it with no scars! Appalling weather in places although I managed to dodge the worst weather when I trotted off to Selworthy on the Sunday, went through some of that white stuff and then into sunshine for the rest of the day and was actually able to see the scenery, unlike Weston-s-Mare I had left behind.

It is time to get out in the garden, but we must also make sure our cars are as tidy and safe, we will be getting a lot of holiday and day trippers down, some who rarely go on a motorway from one year to the next, so take great care when out on the roads, I know we are always on the lookout for others as well as ourselves but this is just to reinforce it.

So take care, look forward to seeing you all at the A.G.M.

*Best wishes
Val Clare
Chairperson*

Hello everyone,

I hope this Newsletter finds you happy and well!

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008. How time flies!

Please note the Events section and especially the AGM details. We look forward to seeing you at these events and next AGM.

Please can you send any driving articles to me by 14th May. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

The next Newsletter should reach you by the end of May. If you would also like a copy of the newsletter sent via email then please email me your request at Newsletter@roada-avongroup.org

Take care,

*Cheryl Lenny
Editor*

Articles about driving and riding

All letters in this publication are the views of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of RoADAR and/or RoSPA

Advanced Driving in Venezuela

On my trips to Venezuela I have been picked up at Caracas airport by Ali, the taxi driver. I would dearly love our Observers, Instructors and Examiners to sit in on a typical drive by Ali, so that they could adjust to local rules – here are just a few of them.

Tailgating – a must. Two metres is the maximum distance allowed when following another vehicle. Frequent headlight flashing not essential, but preferred.

Overtaking – wherever possible (or nearly possible). It doesn't matter whether you overtake on the offside, nearside, or even an exit lane. (On one occasion I thought we had reached our turnoff point on the motorway as we went up the slip road, but it turned out that Ali had spotted a gap in front of a vehicle in lane one, so he dived back down onto the motorway into it). As lane one on the motorway is normally in a very poor condition due to wear from lorries, it is considered the norm to drive in lane 2 or 3. Overtaking in lane one is permissible – but only if you have good shock absorbers.

Speed limits – not applicable. Vehicles should be driven at least as fast as the traffic conditions will allow, if not faster.

Traffic Lights – green is go, amber is prepare to stop. Red – stop is good, but it is not absolutely essential.

Night Driving – roads away from the coast and mountains are usually flat and straight two lane highways. As the edges are in poor condition and the potholes can't be seen in the dark, the technique is to drive flat out down the middle of the road. Naturally the guy coming the other way is doing the same thing. There is much headlight flashing, and in the last 50 metres or so vehicles usually move over to the correct side of the road.

Road Rage – there isn't any. The other driver may well have a pistol in his glove compartment, so we don't want to upset him do we?

Sadly I shall not be picked up by Ali any more – he has gone to that great three-lane highway in the sky. No, in the ten years that my son knew him he never had an accident. He died of cancer. In February I shall be picked up by his brother. I look forward to receiving more advanced driving tips.

John Miller

Driving Articles

If you would like to send in an article for the newsletter then please do. I will look forward to seeing them. Email articles to Newsletter@roada-avongroup.org

RoADAR Avon Group New Associates for 2008

Welcome to the following new associates who have recently joined us:

**Anthony Skrebys
Donna Williams
Adrian Hopkins
John Clift
Gareth Burnett
Philip Smith
Andrew Chivers**

Enjoy becoming a safer driver and good luck for your test. We look forward to meeting you. If your name is not there please let us know for the next time.

Test Passes

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Rob Jones** who has passed his test and achieved a fantastic high grade Silver Award at 17years old – Well Done! Rob was tutored by John Lee.

Also,

Congratulations to **Mike Page** who has passed his first R.o.S.P.A. test achieving an excellent Gold Award – Well Done! Mike was tutored by Innes Barron.

Have you recently passed your test at Bronze, Silver, Gold or Diploma level? Please let us know as we have no way of finding this out except by you telling us.

Please remember to let your Tutor know and ask your Tutor to pass this on to me for the Newsletter. Thank you.

Test Application Forms

Note for anyone ready for their test or re-test. Test application forms are available from Mark 0117 951 8008 Secretary@roada-avongroup.org. Or you can download your test application from the R.o.S.P.A. website www.roadar.org/drivers/members/ then click on “Download application form”.

The cost for an advanced car test is £48, advanced riding test is £54 and advanced LGV and PCV test is £58. Please enquire if you want to do more than one test as membership and re-test costs may differ.

Once you have completed your test you automatically become a Member of RoSPA Advanced drivers and Riders. Membership is subject to an annual fee of £20 and in return you may enjoy a range of membership benefits. Advanced Driving tests expire every three years and providing you keep up your membership then the re-test is free.

In addition, when you have passed your test we hope you will become a member of the Avon Group and perhaps become a Tutor.

Interested in being a Tutor?

If you are interested in becoming a Tutor and have a current certificate then please contact *Paul Gould* our Training Officer training@roada-avongroup.org

Annual General Meeting

Would you like to join the committee?
Come along to the AGM and become a
Committee member and volunteer to
help your group develop.

Events for your 2008 diary

Avon Group AGM. Meet at the B.A.W.A. club, Southmead Road, Filton, Britol at 20:00 hours on 14th May. Please ask at Reception which room the R.o.A.D.A.R. Avon Group has. **Guest Speaker will be Simon Protana,** Head of Driver and Fleet Solutions at R.o.A.D.A.R H.Q. Birmingham.

Road Safety Presentation by Alistair Andrews at B.A.W.A. club, Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol at 19:30 hrs on 11th June. Please ask at Reception which room the R.o.A.D.A.R. Avon Group has. This is not to be missed as he will show and discuss Australian Road Safety Videos.

Skid Pan Event. Details to follow soon. Contact James if you are interested.

Go-Karting Event to be arranged soon and with an inter group challenge.

Do you have any ideas for future events, guest speakers, and social events?

Please let us know your suggestions and contact *James* at events@roada-avongroup.org Thank you!

AGM Notice

Notice of Annual General Meeting of The RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders, Avon Group.

The following members will be seeking
Election to the Committee of RoADAR
Avon Group:-

Val Clare (Chairperson)
Mark Chamberlain (Secretary)
Mike Fairey (Treasurer / Membership
Secretary)
Paul Gould (Training Officer / Associate
Coordinator)
Cheryl Lenny (Newsletter Editor)
James Maggs (Events Coordinator)
Ian Tremlett (Police Liason)

Membership of the committee is open to
any full member of the Avon Group.

Nominations for any of the above roles
must be made to the Secretary no later
than 27th April 2008.

The AGM is open to all members and
any interested parties but only full
members may vote.

Directions to BAWA

From the A38 Filton roundabout in north
Bristol exit (heading west) towards
Henleaze. After a mile and a half and
two sets of lights, look for a sports
ground on your right. Turn into the
drive and over the speed humps. Make
your way to the pavilion building and
the main entrance. In the entrance lobby
turn to your right, go up the stairs and
the meeting will be held in Room 2.
For a map please see the Avon group
website. www.roada-avongroup.org

How to contact us:

RoADAR Avon Group COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2008

Chairperson

Val Clare

Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Mike Fairey

Police Liaison

Ian Tremlett

Secretary

Mark Chamberlain

0117 951 8008

Secretary@roada-avongroup.org

Training Officer

Paul Gould

training@roada-avongroup.org

Committee

James Maggs

events@roada-avongroup.org

Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Lenny

Newsletter@roada-avongroup.org

If you are reading this and you are interested in joining the Group, please contact the Secretary. Thank you!

Have you had a look at the Avon Groups website? Please do at www.roada-avongroup.org

Associate Membership of the Avon Group is open to any driver holding a full license. Associate Membership costs £10.00 per year. This entitles an Associate to free advice in preparation for the test. You also receive a newsletter four times a year and free admission to any of the Group meetings.

Full Membership is open to any driver who has taken and passed the Associations Driving Test and is currently £10.00 per year. As a full member you will receive our newsletter and free admission to our meetings. Full Members and observers can also attend our

'Three in a Car' sessions and get advice when your retest approaches.

The website has information about us, training for the test, how to join the group, events, motorcycles, newsletters, contacts and lastly www.RoADA.org.uk This last one is very useful for the associates especially the section about the advanced car test. This covers administration, the test, preparation, use of controls, driving performance and general ability. I found the information helpful and hope that you do too!