



Newsletter of The Kent RoSPA Advanced Drivers Group

MAY 2009

Hello!

....and welcome to our first newsletter for the group. We hope that you will enjoy the snippets, latest group information and share your own experiences and tips with us.

All feedback will be welcomed and you can contact any of the committee by the methods set out on our group website <http://www.kentrospa.org.uk/>

Best wishes
Editor

Introducing Your Committee:

John Corcoran
Chairman and Events Coordinator

Ray Davies
Deputy Training Officer

David Curtis
General Secretary

Rosina Denton
Group Clothing Coordinator

Lin Brooks
Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Julie Hawes
Newsletter Editor

Phillip Plant
Chief Training officer

Please refer to the group website for individual contact details. If you don't have access to a computer, then please call our Chairman on 07971 141908.

If anyone feels they could contribute to the group in any way, please let us know. At the AGM we try and encourage members to participate in the running of the group.

One of the most tricky jobs on the committee is that of events management. So if anyone has suggestions or ideas for things we can do as a group, or speakers for our meetings we urge you to tell us.

What would you like to do more of, less of or even differently?



Parking Tuition training session 9 July 2009

The group will be running a session on parking. Everyone welcome although places must be booked prior to the event. The accent is on having fun and improving your skills. If you haven't already confirmed your place please contact John Corcoran.

THE FEMALE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

Car Parking

The smallest kerbside space successfully reversed into by a woman was one of 19.36m (63ft 2ins), equivalent to three standard parking spaces, by Mrs. Elizabeth Simpkins, driving an unmodified Vauxhall Nova 'Swing' on 12th October 1993. She started the manoeuvre at 11.15am in Ropergate, Pontefract, and successfully parked within three feet of the pavement 8 hours 14 minutes later. There was slight damage to the bumpers and wings of her own and two adjoining cars, as well as a shop frontage and two lampposts.

Incorrect Driving

The longest journey completed with the handbrake on was one of 504 km (313 miles) from Stranraer to Holyhead by Dr. Julie Thorn (GB) at the wheel of a Saab 900 on the 2nd April 1987. Dr. Thorn smelled burning two miles into her journey at Aird but pressed on to Holyhead with smoke billowing from the rear wheels. This journey also holds the records for the longest completed journey with the choke fully out and the right indicator flashing.

Driving Licence Expiry WARNING

If you have the new style driving licence in 2 parts, Photo card and Counterpart sheet, please read on.

These licences are only valid for 10 years from the date of issue. There will be no reminders issued from the DVLA and you are liable to a maximum fine **of £1000 if you are stopped and found to be using an out of date licence.** Please check the date now and diarise it!



Motorway patrol Shadowing

Comments from our most recent participants in a day out with Kent motorway police.

I had a fantastic time thank you! It was really interesting seeing things

from "the other side" as they say. I would say it was definitely worth it,

and would jump at the chance at doing it again. A.H

Had a great day a very useful insight of what the traffic police do and its not just stopping people for motoring offences sometimes its a safety thing,also very good on what is expected if you want to achieve a Gold award ,we had 3 blue light runs ,these boys can drive and drive fast and safe at no time when on blues did you feel unsafe a credit to their instructor and of course the drivers .Would recommend it to anyone a real treat. G.S

PC 9818 SLOAN and PC 10125 GREEN both made me feel very welcome and fully explained everything that unfolded as the shift progressed. I now have far greater depth of knowledge than before it. V.L

If you would like the opportunity to sit in on a shift then watch out for emails as it is usually on a first come first served basis. It is our most popular event and highly recommended.

What's your question?

The training team recently received a question with regard to an advanced driving term which they thought was called Chiselling. It has mystified us so far. If anyone has any ideas on this please let us know!

If you have any burning advanced driving questions please feel free to ask and we will do our best to answer them.

What would make you come to a group meeting?

If you have never attended a meeting or need some encouragement or even a lift please let us know. We try to make them informative and fun. It's a good chance to quiz other members and associates about advanced driving and any other aspects of driving that you are curious about. If you have been before but don't like the venue or the format we'd like to know your opinions too.

We usually have a speaker and a raffle, sometimes a buffet too. Please feel free to contact any of the committee see contact details on our website or you can contact me at enquiries@kentrospa.org.uk or call me on 07990 555848 if you require any info or would like to see if there is a local car share opportunity.



Quick Eco Quiz

1. What should you check regularly to ensure better fuel economy?
 - A) Your rear view mirror
 - B) Car's oil level
 - C) Your tyre pressure
2. What can you do after starting your car to be more fuel efficient?
 - A) wait with the engine idling so it has a chance to warm up.
 - B) Drive away immediately
 - C) Avoid switching on electrical systems like the lights or radio to save power.
3. At which engine revs should you change up a gear to maximise fuel efficiency?
 - A) The red line on the rev counter
 - B) Under 1000rpm
 - C) 2500 for petrol or 2000rpm for diesel

Answers on last page.

News around the globe



Early learner?

Traffic cops pulled over a dawdling driver on a motorway and found a 10 year old boy at the wheel!

He told them he was going to visit his Grandma and he had already driven over 100 miles before being stopped.

A police Spokesman in Brno (yes that's how it's spelt) in the Czech Republic said 'we thought we would find a drunk driver not a boy'. He was too young to be charged so we had a strong word and took him home to his parents and told them to hide the car keys in future.



Speed Freak!

A Suffolk driver is seeking counselling for his extreme phobia of being snapped by a Gatso speeding camera. He regularly takes huge detours just to avoid them. The irony is he has never been flashed, but he doesn't say whether he uses excessive speeds?



Approved Driving Instructors

The number of ADI's applying to join advanced driving groups has increased dramatically since the introduction of voluntary CPD (Continuous Professional Development) by the Driving Standards Agency. Interestingly the DSA in its latest business plan also indicates that there will be monitoring of 'Advanced Driving Providers'.

Speaking to most of the ADI's in our group, my opinion is that those who choose to train for an advanced qualification do so for more than just CPD. Personally I simply love driving, like to think there is always something new to learn which will benefit safety in general

and enjoy the opportunity to meet like-minded people. I never stop learning and I hope to encourage my own students to join the group. The question is how do we get our students to develop their interests in furthering their driving when getting their licence is the most important thing on their mind. JH

Every Little Helps-Give us some Credit when you want to apply for your Rospa Test.

In these difficult days of credit crunch, we all know that every little helps.

Putting your application for your test via the group gives us an extra £3 per application.

The membership fee has been held since January 2008 to date. During that time the membership has reduced for young people under 21. This is to encourage more young people to join. The Tutor membership has also reduced, this is to show our gratitude to the time and effort put in and also to increase the number of tutors. Don't forget if you pass at silver or gold you are invited to apply to be assessed to receive free tutor training.

The £3 per test application helps to make up for the changes detailed above. All you have to do is make your cheque out for the full amount and send it to me. I can guarantee that the application will be turned around within 24 hours, you have nothing to lose and you can help to support the growth of the group. I hope to be hearing from you soon in your quest of going for gold. [Lin Brooks](#)

Eco Quiz answers

- 1. C Not only are under-inflated tyres dangerous but they increase fuel consumption by up to 3%.**
- 2. B Idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and is unnecessary if you drive away gently. Remember... a stationary car with the engine running is returning 0.0 MPG!**
- 3. C These are the perfect revs and are smooth, safe and use less fuel.**

The next newsletter will be published on 1st August all contributions welcome! Deadline for inclusion 21 July 2009.