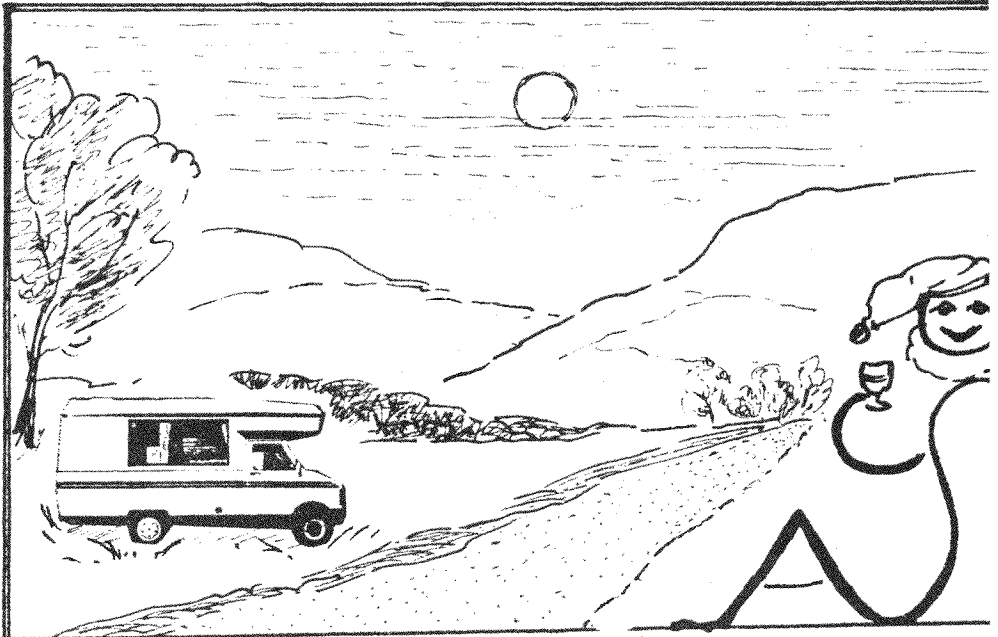


AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB



**Happy Christmas
and
Safe Journeys**

**NEWSLETTER 87
DECEMBER 1995**

Hello.

You may remember that in the October Newsletter *John Alexander* wrote to give details of external storage on a Trophy. He gave the address and telephone number for Graham Foxall who designed and built a drawer for him. I am now advised that Graham has moved and he can be contacted in the evenings only on 0138 683 0524. I'm sorry, I haven't got a current address.

#####

Last month I mentioned the Wash Cat mitten for van cleaning and jokingly said that I would have to try it on our Ginger Mog. Almost by return of post *Gordon Matthews* sent one specifically labelled for cat grooming. I can now pass on Ginger's thanks to *Gordon* and tell him that it creates a great deal of purr when used!


#####

Did you see the letter in the Camping and Caravanning Club Magazine which was "having a go" at A-S for their "lack of help"? At least two of our members have written to the Editor of that journal to point out that (a) A-S normally try to help out and (b) if they were members of ASOC they could have got help from us! (See letter from *Charles Trevelyan* later on.)

I am intrigued to learn that professional editors also publish items without reference to those complained about. But it would be appreciated if, should you decide to reply to any such letter, you do NOT include any Club officer's telephone number. Your Committee members haven't really got time to answer telephone calls from non-members. Thanks.

====ooo000ooo====

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



This annual competition is now almost upon us. Your chances of winning are excellent as so far *Nial Reynolds*, our PRO has received only a couple of entries. Time is running out and the competition needs YOUR entry! So send him your entry, which must include an Auto-Sleeper van, and see if you can win. *Nial's* address is 49 Arden Way, Market Harborough, Leics., LE16 7DB. Don't forget to put your name and address on the back of any photo sent, preferably by writing (typing or computer-printing even!) on a label which is stuck on.

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Companions Wanted

New motor caravanners (plus toddler plus mountain bikes) who have not taken our VW Trident abroad before seek others for a holiday to Norway, Spain or Holland in 1996. We also have a liking for wind-surfing, folk festivals and Le Roc Jive (not at the same time!). If you are interested please contact *Karen or Chris Tews* on 0122 540 1487 or you could write to them at 34 Elliston Drive, Bath, BA2 1LU.

I'm sure that someone will heed this plea and help - but I must say that the idea of wind-surfing around Norway sounds rather chilly to me!

====ooo000ooo====

THANKS

We would like to thank all our friends in ASOC for their good wishes, telephone calls and cards received when *Dennis* was in hospital recently. He was overwhelmed; it really helps to know that so many people care. Bless you all.

Eleanor and Dennis Oxley

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Peugeot-Boxer Diesel Caution

I would like to warn any fellow members who own a van based on the Boxer Diesel to have the brake servo tension wheel checked for safety. Mine fell off at 600 miles, leaving the brakes virtually useless at 4 weeks old!! I have spoken to two other people who have had the same problem. It would appear that they had not been securely tightened at the start. I wrote to Peugeot regarding the future safety of this system and received a very non-committal letter in reply.

I would also like to ask if any member has had any experience of buying and using outdoor covers for motorhomes and where to purchase them. I should like to winterise my Peugeot-Boxer Symphony. Advice will be welcomed by *Ron Mitchell* on 0127 458 2806 or at 78 Branksome Drive, Nab Wood, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 4BE.

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Van Curtains

The job I hate most is washing the Motorhome curtains. Getting them down and back is my idea of a very bad nightmare. After struggling for 45 minutes to get them down I gave up and gave a very hard look at them. Do I close them? No, we use the blinds. So I gave

them a very hard tug and down they came, rail as well!

I then took off the tape and cut the width down to 22". (This is for the curtains by the sink in our van.) I hemmed the sides and the top and put in a few pleats so that the top is now 8" wide. I then sewed on 7.5" of Velcro - the hooked version - on to the right side of the curtains. I placed them up behind the pelmet making sure that the curtain sat just on top of the sink unit and pressed home. Finally I tied them back, as usual.

You cannot tell them from the ones on a rail and my nightmare is over. Anyone who sees us out and about in "Lucy" can pop in and see the result.

Winifred Hopkinson.

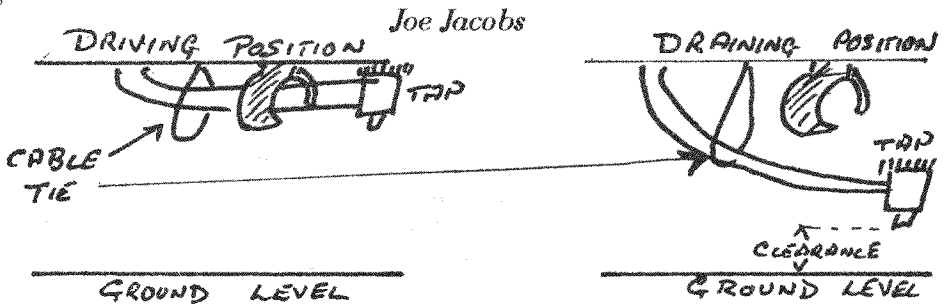
What's all this "washing"? I thought you just changed the van for a new one if the curtains get dirty or the ash-tray full!

-----ooOoo-----

Waste Outlet

I have an 'H' reg Talisman, circa 1991. During the time we have had the vehicle the waste outlet pipe has come out of the Terry clip on three occasions, causing the tap to drag on the road and become quite useless. Finally I have come up with a cure.

I have fitted a plastic cable tie round the waste pipe which is passed through a hole in the chassis just above the pipe. The cable tie loop is set to a length which allows draining to take place with the tap reaching the ground. So far it has been 100% successful. The sketch (below) will give some idea.



In his letter *Joe* also told me the very good news that *Betty's* health continues to improve after her heart attack last June. From all of us I say "Keep it up, *Betty*, we need you around to supervise any cross-stitch patterns for the newest vans."

Talking of which, here is the current list of patterns available from your Editor, by courtesy of the *Jacobses*.

Bedford CB22; Clubman GL (VW); Executive; Flair; Frisky; Harmony; Legend; Rambler; Rapport; Recro; Rimini; Symphony; Talisman; Trident Mk I; Trident Mk II; Trooper Mk I; Trooper Mk II; Trophy. Usual routine, please, if you want a copy. Send me details of which pattern you want together with two 19p stamps, one for postage and the other to cover the photo-copy costs, envelope etc., and I will send it to you.

#####

Clubman Waste

We experienced a very slow draining sink which resulted in the water eventually draining away leaving a sink full of soap suds. To cure the problem, I disconnected the waste hose from the holding tank and re-routed it where it passes through a chassis cross member. There are two holes in the cross member. The original routing was through the bottom hole leaving a dip in the pipe. Although the top hole has a water pipe running through it there is still room for the waste pipe, thus removing the dip in the pipe. The end result is a normal emptying sink.

Bryan Orchard

I'll have to crawl under our Clubman to see if I can see where the pipes run - and maybe do the same trick.

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POWER ASSISTED STEERING

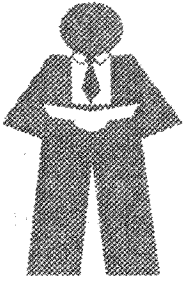
With reference to the letter from *Eileen Langman* regarding power steering for the Ford Transit, I can highly recommend the SVO Ltd Conversion. For our Legend I purchased a DIY kit from this company and the results have proved excellent making driving and parking much easier, especially as I have an arthritic hand/wrist problem.

I found the people at SVO Ltd to be very helpful and the cost of the conversion fitted by them is quite reasonable if compared with a similar purchase from a Ford dealer. All the parts used by this company are genuine new manufacturer's units and I would assume that the same applies to other makes of van.

Alan Chennells

Again, praise for this company who seem to be able to do the right thing. A telephone call also received from a member who was put in contact with *Eileen* for more advice.

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Chairman's Chat

Winifred and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that you will continue to enjoy your motorcaravanning in the coming year,

In October, *Sheila Henthorne and I* attended the Annual General Meeting of ACCEO (the Association of Camping and Caravanning Exempted organisations) at the Stafford Showground. We were there with delegates for 40 other member clubs - three of which were for motorcaravanners - out of a total membership of 185 clubs. The various ACCEO Officers, in their reports, gave us an insight into their work during the past year which proved most useful.

ACCEO is now represented on major working parties, set up by the Department of the Environment, looking into the various aspects of camping in tents and caravans as well as motor caravans. There are certain pressure groups attempting to limit camping in some areas of the country. Indeed, they would wish to stop all forms of camping in some places. They are pressing to have Exemption Certificates withdrawn or, failing that, to have the scope of the Certificate limited. ACCEO, with the other two major camping and caravanning clubs, are in opposition to these pressure groups and want to retain the Certificate in its present form. They are also attending (or will have attended) the South Lakeland Public Enquiry to put forward the views of member clubs.

It was reported that some Local Authorities are advocating the use of formaldehyde-free fluids in chemical toilets. It is alleged that formaldehyde based fluids are damaging to the environment. Two rallying clubs, using their Exemption Certificate, have had their site chemical disposal point inspected to see what fluid was being used.

In Teesdale, and some parts of Devon, the local Planning Authority is refusing to allow too many rallies to take place on the same piece of land. We were asked to ensure that our members, when planning a rally in England and Wales, enquired of the landowner about other rallies that would be using, or had used, the camping area. This is to ensure that it is not over-used. Additionally, it is incumbent on all Rally Marshals to ensure, when using a Licensed Site, that they are not being offered the use of land for which there is no local Planning Licence. Some site owners may be using rallying clubs to help circumvent the local

Planning authority. If any rallying club is used in this way their Exemption Certificate may be at risk.

ACCEO is a 'clearing house' for all applications to hold rallies in National Parks, even for a weekend or 5-day rally. Application must be made through the National Parks Officer of ACCEO. Applications for the Yorkshire Dales National Park must be with them by 1st April of the year preceding the rally and for the other National Parks by the 1st May of the year preceding the rally. So you can see that ACCEO must be notified very early on.

The above may appear somewhat gloomy, but when the full implications of the Environment Bill recently passed through the House of Lords are assessed it is certain that the new national Parks Authorities will be stronger and able to assume a higher profile in carrying out their work. ACCEO, on behalf of our Club and the other member clubs, is looking forward to working more closely with these Authorities on matters which relate to camping and caravanning.

Arthur Irving

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Early Warning

Kath Benyon has made a provisional reservation for 75 seats for Phantom of the Opera (on ice) in Blackpool on 9th March 1996. A rally at Eastham Hall will take place over that weekend. Anybody interested in attending the show should send **£16.00 per head** (that's a reduction of £3.00!) for tickets to *R Brindle* at 43 Welham Grove, Retford, Notts. DN22 6TZ. This is for the show only, details of the rally will be notified in the usual way.

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Whitchurch Cricket Club



First and foremost, a BIG thank you to *Audrey (Crouch)* and her helpers for a well run rally and the Saturday night supper of pie, baked potatoes and mushy peas (the latter being a delicacy which has clearly not yet reached all parts of the country) which went down well with the majority. The weather on Saturday was overcast and damp but didn't preclude a walk into Whitchurch for those who didn't go on the organised trip to Bridgmere Gardens. Sunday's weather was warm and sunny which encouraged many members to chat outside and make the most of it.

This was our first rally for twelve months, which gave us the chance to meet old (sorry, "of long acquaintance") friends and new ones. Everyone made us feel so welcome, reminding us why we enjoy being members of this Club so much. We are sure that a good time was had by all and we are looking forward to the next one.

Wendy & Peter Fisher

#####

East Horsley Cake

(using the Good Rally Recipe)

Ingredients

Take one small, worried-looking but smiling man, bustling around a field.

Put in front of serene looking woman (working hard doing "women's work" in the background, e.g. shopping, preparing food, making coffee, folding raffle tickets etc., etc.). Add, as support and back-up, two deputies (one male, one female) with pleasant dispositions, a sense of humour and a puppy.

Stir in 17 men and 17 women, pleasantly flavoured, assorted shapes and sizes but good mixers. (Dog/dogs will also add extra flavour to the dish.)

Essential item: 19 A-S motorhomes (any model).

Method

Mix together all the above ingredients. Pour into a nice rally site with a Lake and a Recreation Hall. Add plenty of sunshine (if possible arranged in advance by Marshal).

Stir on Friday evening with coffee, followed by Marshal and Deputy going off with orders for fish and chip suppers. Then add an impromptu darts match (helped if female team allowed to win!!)

Stir again Saturday morning with provision of Minibus (crack of dawn start for Marshal to collect it) for trips to Royal Parks and Hampton Court.

Stir vigorously Saturday evening, greatly helped with provision of Supper, Celebration Cake, plenty of Wine, music, darts, table tennis and two Wedding Anniversaries (40th & 30th) and a steady hum of conversation. Special presentations to both couples and hall decorated with balloons to add finishing touches.

Let dish stand overnight; add gently, pleasant coffee morning,



aided by raffle with lots of prizes and more conversation. Bake gently with gentle mixing of couples (and yet more talk) throughout the day.

The end result, whether we left on Sunday or Monday was a perfect rally. Not bad, considering that this was the first rally that the Marshal and his deputies had run.

Congratulation to *Sally and Jerry (Haxton)* and to *Joyce and Gordon (?)* and thank you very, very much. When you run another one, we'll be there!

Mary & Peter Hester

#####

We had a wonderful weekend at Horsley. This was our first rally and we were a bit apprehensive after reading some comments in other issues of the Newsletter. But we were welcomed by *Sally & Jerry Haxton*, who worked hard to make a pleasant weekend, and were introduced to everyone attending. We found people very friendly and by the end of the rally we knew everyone there. We shall definitely be going on to more rallies after such an experience!

Julie & Mick Clarke

#####

To everyone who attended the rally run by *Sally & Jerry* a very big "Thank You" for the "Get Well" card send to *Derek*. It made his day (and mine!!). We missed the company - and the wind-ups! We were very sorry we had to cancel but again thank you and hope to see you all soon.

Valerie & Derek (Sellen)

#####

Last April we decided to take the plunge and purchased a Harmony. To date we have covered some 5,500 miles in shorter and longer breaks. We attended our first rally at Eastham Hall, Lytham last weekend. To everyone who also rallied, thanks for a great weekend. Especially to *Barbara & Vic Kaye* (plus invaluable helpers) who ran the show. We met some smashing folk and no doubt we will again at other rallies in the future.

To everyone we have met, we wish you all "A Happy New Year, '96".

Val & Dennis Moulton

#####

Watermouth Cove

We would like to thank everyone who attended with 37 vans from as far away as Carlisle and with several new or first-time ralliers. A very

good turnout for the time of year. We hope that everyone who came enjoyed themselves. The weather turned out kind to us especially after Thursday's heavy rain. The sun shone all weekend and most people took the opportunity to explore the local area. A meal was organised in the club house and with most people attending it had to be taken in two sittings. Our thanks to Alan (the site owner) and all his staff.

All that remains is for us to wish everyone in the Club a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sandra and Bernie Wisely

PS. I am still collecting stamps for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Any spare stamps would be welcomed. *Sandra*. (*Sheila and I* also collect used stamps - for the same charity and for the Cats Protection League.)

====ooo000ooo====

Impressions after our first three rallies

We are fairly seasoned campers - since 1977 at least. We are also members of another club. Having (finally!) received our Clubman we decided to attend the Club and Company at Malvern as our first rally. We couldn't get there until Saturday so obviously we missed some of the entertainment. We were welcomed at the gate and then *Ben (Mansfield)* arrived on a bike, apologising that he wasn't there when we arrived and hoping we had settled in all right.

We managed a quick look around the Trade Stands and what was left of the hobbies and crafts. In the evening we joined everyone at the Barn Dance but felt that we were among a lot of strangers. There were other couples like ourselves and groups of people who obviously all knew each other. I am not grumbling, but decided that this is not the ideal rally for a first timer. I agree with *Arthur Smith* (Newsletter 85) that a meeting for first timers with the Committee would be a good idea otherwise no one knows that we are new and how do we get to know who the Committee are?

We then spent many weekends away with the other club or privately and also went to the Northern Motor Caravan Show at York. Our second A-S rally was at Sutton-on-Sea where *Bob Brindle* and *Gill Hardwick* made us welcome on the Friday evening. They came to us at every opportunity to check that we were OK and to ask what we had been doing. We took our bikes and cycled the length of the promenades between Sutton and Mablethorpe in very pleasant, warm weather. *Bob* had been thwarted in all his efforts to get a room or food from the local pub as they had a wedding reception. So it was a bit difficult to get to

Forthcoming Rallies.

31st January - 4th February; Stanmore Hall Touring Park, Stourbridge Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Your rally marshals: Gill Hardwick/Bob Brindle

Site fee: £6.30 per night including electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs G Hardwick, Rose Cottage, Chestnut Lane, Barton-in-

Fabis, Nottingham. NG11 0AF Telephone: 01159 830 193

Cheque payable to: G Hardwick

Attractions: Adjacent to Midland Motor Museum. Near Severn Valley Railway, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Cosford Aerospace Museum. 1½ miles from historic market town of Bridgnorth (bus service). Excellent Big Name shopping in Wolverhampton (bus service). Full facility, award-winning site with heated toilet/shower block and facilities for the disabled.

Shop on site for day-to-day provisions. Satellite T.V. hook-ups (extra cost).

Directions: 1½ miles from Bridgnorth on the A458 Stourbridge Road.

15th - 18th February; Valentine's Rally, Grouse & Claret Public House & C. P., Rowsley, Matlock, Derbys.

Your rally marshals: John & Irene Maltby

Site fee: £5.00 per night (including electricity) Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr J F Maltby, 28 Lansdowne Avenue, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbys. S41 8PL Telephone: 01246 558 224

Cheque payable to: J F Maltby

Attractions: Chatsworth Hall & Gardens, Matlock Spa, Bakewell. Private room for exclusive Club use.

Directions: From Junction 28 of M1 follow signs to Matlock then North on A6 towards Bakewell. Site approx. 6 miles at Rowsley, on right after sharp bend and signs for Chatsworth.

22nd - 25th February; Grouse & Claret Public House & C. P., Rowsley, Matlock, Derbys.

Your rally marshals: Don & Brenda Sampson

Site fee: £5.00 per night (including electricity) Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs D Sampson, 5 Churston Road, Childwall, Liverpool, Merseyside L16 9JS Telephone: 0151 722 9379

Cheque payable to: B M Sampson

Attractions: Chatsworth Hall & Gardens, Matlock Spa, Bakewell. Private room for exclusive Club use.

Directions: From Junction 28 of M1 follow signs to Matlock then North on A6 towards Bakewell. Site approx. 6 miles at Rowsley, on right after sharp bend and signs for Chatsworth.

YOU MAY NOT BOOK THIS RALLY IF YOU ATTENDED THE VALENTINE'S RALLY

1st - 3rd March; St. David's Day Rally, Tredegar House & Country Park, Newport, Gwent.

Your rally marshals: Brenda & Malcolm Edwards

Site fee: £6.00 per night including electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs M J Edwards, 31 Pine Grove, Lighthouse Road, Newport, Gwent. NP1 9TA Telephone: 01633 817 328

Cheque payable to: M J Edwards.

Directions: Follow Tourist signs (White on brown) from Junction 28 of M4. Entrance to touring site through car park.

Limited to 28 units.

7th - 10 March; Eastham Hall C.P., Lytham, Lancs.

Your rally marshals: Kath & Norman Benyon..

Site fee: £7.50 per night including electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr R Brindle, 43 Welham Grove, Retford, Notts. DN22 6TZ

Telephone: 01777 711 588

Attractions: Saturday: Pre-booked theatre trip to see "Phantom of the Opera on Ice" at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool. Coach provided. Theatre tickets £16 each, MUST be booked and paid for by 31st January.

Cheques payable to: R Brindle.

Directions: A584 to Lytham - on entering Lytham, at first mini-roundabout turn right over railway bridge to next roundabout. Turn right again, s.p. KIRKHAM. Site ½ mile down the road on the right.

Limited to 50 vans

15th - 17th March; Fell End Caravan Park, Hale, Milnthorpe, Cumbria.

Your rally marshals: Andrew & Betty Entwistle.

Site fee: £8.64 per night (van & two persons) including electricity. Extra

adults £1.59 per night, children (over 7, under 15) £1.18 per night

Rally fee: £2.50 (Includes charge for heat in hall)

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs A Entwistle, 8 The Dell, Mytholm, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. HX7 6DP Telephone: 01422 843057

Closing date 28th February

Cheque payable to: A Entwistle

Attractions: Excellent site in Lake District National Park. Pie & Peas on Friday evening (6.30 - 7 pm) charged at cost - order when booking, pay on arrival.

Satellite television hook-up available @ 75 pence per night.

Directions: From Junction 35 of M6 take A6 northwards; just after Esso filling station on left, turn left and follow signs to Fell End Caravan Park. Restricted by site to 45 vans.

21st - 26th March; Hidden Vally, West Down, Ilfracombe, North Devon.

Your rally marshals: Barbara & Jeff Worley.

Full details next month.

The Rally Supplement is prepared by Phil Daley, 46 Ulverley Green Road, Solihull, West Midlands. B92 8BQ. Telephone: 0121 706 1816

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name: Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name: Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name: Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂-----

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

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Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

know anyone until Sunday morning with the coffee and the raffle. As new members one does have to make some effort to talk to other people. At Sutton I passed three men on my way to the toilets who would not have spoken if I had not said "Good Morning" first. We noticed two very small folded bikes on the back of a van when we arrived and saw the same ones on the sea wall. So I spoke to the owners and had a good chat with *Maggie & Phillip Midgley* of Harrogate. The next weekend we went to the Banbury Rally. *Phyl & John Bates* were very welcoming from the minute we arrived in awful wet weather on Friday evening. We sat in their van with them and *Linda & Trevor Hargreaves* for nearly an hour enjoying coffee amid wet dogs! The weather remained very wet through most of Saturday but we did manage a walk to Cropredy in the morning. After coffee in the converted Old Coal Wharf a walk along the Oxford Canal and some farm tracks got us back before the rains started again. The evening saw us gathered in a large barn with a wonderful spread of cheese and wine, pate and pickles, grapes and apples and a most delicious home-made spicy fruit cake. And a well stocked raffle. This helped us to get to know a few of the members present. Sunday was a beautiful, warm, sunny day so we had coffee out of doors with plenty of chat. We had an excellent dinner in The Bell, just a few hundred yards down the road from the site. Before going home we retraced our steps from Saturday, but in reverse. This time we armed ourselves with bowls and picked over 2 pounds of blackberries. I don't think that we'll get to another A-S rally this year but will look forward to fitting a few into 1996.

Elizabeth Grimsley

#####

Just one small observation. The Committee members were all rather busy at Malvern with various tasks which, we hope, went rather un-noticed by the members present. But they all had to be done to keep things moving happily. We have previously issued windscreen cards showing which vans belong to first timers but many of these were not used and the others were often missing when a Committee member went to visit. It could be rather difficult to accommodate a meeting to suit the new members and the Committee - *Elizabeth* said she arrived on Saturday - and others arrived at differing times. But rest assured, the Committee will be looking at and for ways to improve things.

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Irish Holiday 1996

We intend to run a touring holiday again in 1996. We shall stay for 4 or 5 nights at each site and as this will mean quite a lot of moving on

I shall only take bookings for the complete three weeks. Provisionally, the route is: first stop Kinsail, on the coast 25 miles south of Cork: 2nd stop Eagle Point, Bantry Bay: 3rd stop Flesk Killarney, County Kerry: 4th stop Labinch, County Clare: 5th stop Ballykeeron Athlone, County Westmeath: 6th stop Roundwood, County Wicklow, just south of Dublin. Most of the sites cost £7.00 - £8.00 per night in 1995 and not all of the sites have electric hook-ups. Anybody who is interested please contact me on 0128 371 2934 or write to 73 Westmead Road, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., DE13 8JR.

Barbara Cox

I need hardly add, I am sure, that you should not send any money at this point. Just let *Barbara* know you are interested to start with and she will arrange further details with you.

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EMC/Third Relay

I think I can offer an explanation of the third relay mentioned in the EMC article in the September Newsletter. It's probably best to look at the job of each of the three relays in turn - don't worry - I've also drawn a diagram!

The first one acts as a split charge relay. This connects the vehicle and residential batteries together only when the alternator warning light goes out. This prevents the vehicle battery being discharged by using the residential appliances.

The second one provides 12 volts to the fridge, again only when the alternator warning light goes out. This prevents the fridge being accidentally left on and thus discharging the vehicle battery. Electrolux recommend that the fridge is connected to the vehicle battery to minimise voltage drop.

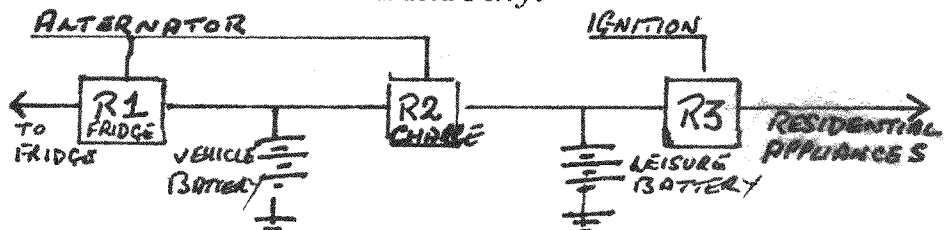
This leaves the third relay, which disconnects all the other residential appliances from the residential battery when the ignition is switched on. That means that the battery still receives charge from the vehicle alternator, via the first relay, but all the residential appliances (except the fridge) won't work when the ignition is turned on.

I think that still leaves the one appliance, the fridge, which will need to meet both the general EMC Directive and the Automotive Directive - perhaps Steve Riley would like to comment on that.

As a final note, has anyone else noticed the problem I have on my 1991 Talisman GL? When I turn the fridge on, the voltage at the fuse

panel at the rear drops by nearly 3 volts, from about 14 to 11 volts. This means that the fridge doesn't work very well. On further investigation I found that the voltage at the battery only drops by 0.1 volt, so all the loss is in the cables that A-S run between the battery and the fuse panel. I'm thinking of paralleling up both the standard cables for the 12 volt connection to the battery and adding a section of starter motor cable to chassis - that should cut the voltage drop to about 1.5 volts and make the fridge work better. Should I do it?

David Perry.



The final comment reminds me of the film "The Cure for Love" in which Robert Donat (who?) had a catch phrase "I've done it, Ma, should I have done it?"

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FRIDGE PROBLEMS AND A SOLUTION

This past summer has been glorious, but not without problems for some (or possibly quite a lot) of people with the van refrigerator. Now, before I continue, let me say that for the past four years I have known what the temperature is inside the fridge because I fitted a small digital readout thermometer with the probe into the freezer compartment. It was when I noticed that the temperature was not getting down to the usual minus 12-14°C that I realised that there was a problem. Most people without a thermometer do not realise that the fridge is not quite right until they find the milk is going off and sometimes blame the shop from which it was bought. I did all the usual things to service the fridge, i.e. remove, clean the flue, check the insulation, turn it upside down to remove any possible airlock inside etc. and when bench tested on all modes it was working perfectly. On refitting it was another hot day and it was still not at the proper temperature. My conclusion then was poor ventilation. I have always thought that the vent in the Talisman was not quite adequate, especially when abroad, but have always been loath to cut another vent lower down in the side which might possibly be an answer. I found a solution to be fan assisted cooling and this was achieved by using the same type of fan as used in cooling computer

equipment. The one I have fitted is available from Maplins, part no Y239N and costs about £12.00. It operates in the range 10.2v - 13.8v DC and only draws 300 ma of power. It has a brushless motor which means that it only operates in one direction so it is important to fit it the correct way round. It is extremely quiet in operation.

Method of Fitting. Obviously, you have to remove the fridge to fit the motor and it is important to ensure that there is enough room at the back for the motor box and that you can cut a hole in the floor to draw the air in. As every vehicle is different I can only give the method I used in my Talisman but this should not prevent others from adapting to suit their own model. Construct a suitable sized box with an open bottom and lugs to screw to the floor with a hole of a size suitable for the fan in the top. My box was made from aluminium but wood would suffice. This is then sited over the hole in the floor. Actually in my case, I made three 25mm holes in line which is sufficient for this size motor. As my holes come out into the wheel arch another piece of aluminium was constructed to form a baffle to stop the ingress of road muck. The siting of the fan is important as it should be put where it will blow air over the cooling fins and should not be put where it is likely to blow out the gas pilot light! (This is not likely on the RM 212 F fridge as the pilot is to one side - as it probably is on other models). The blue (negative) wire should be taken to a good vehicle earth point and the red (positive) wire to a suitable switch and a 1 amp in line fuse to any 12v supply point. You can use this fan to assist cooling in any mode and it really does work in the hottest of climates.

Solar Panels. I fitted a 30 watt panel on the roof 12 months ago and since then have not once used mains electrics. This time includes three periods each of 10 days when we stayed without moving or starting the engine. It also includes using a 10" portable colour TV (albeit selectively) and, of course, my fridge cooling fan almost continuously in the hot weather.

Bob Measom.

In our VW Clubman GL I feel that there is almost too much ventilation around the fridge. The draught that comes in from the various vents all too often comes out into the van - particularly if I'm getting dressed!

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A Visit To France

We went with my Grandma, Grandad, Aunty, Uncle, Mum and Dad to Disneyland, Europe, in October. We went across the channel by Hovercraft, very smooth and fast. The grown-ups, except Dad and Grandad were trying duty free drinks. Then we went down the Auto-Route to the camp site where we stayed. We were charged as a van going down and as a car coming back.

The first day in Disneyland was magic, a real fairy town with a real fairy palace. What a sight. We shook hands with Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Pluto, Donald Duck and all the others in their family. We went to Adventureland and Treasure Island where we saw the Pirates and their ships and a show with all the animals in it. We tried some of the rides which were fantastic. Next day we went to Futureland with the Star Wars Space Ships and the Space Mountain which looked a fantastic ride but we weren't old enough to ride it, so the grown ups said! Then we went to Wonderland with all the clocks and animals cut out of privet bushes. After that we went to the marvellous, fabulous Small World - we went round that five times. We saw the Sheriff of Nottingham, King John, Friar Tuck, Robin Hood and all the animals from 'The Jungle Book'. Around Main Street there were rides on the Police Paddy Wagon, the Fire Engine and a tram pulled by a horse who knew where to stop. We visited Aladdin's Cave, the Wild West, the Fairy Castle and lots, lots more. When we were in the Wild West we went on a train around Sugar Loaf Mountain and on an old Paddle Boat, Dixieland style. Dad called it a Gambling Boat and the Captain came and spoke to us. He said goodbye to us as we got off. We walked and walked and the grown ups were all shattered the next day.

If you go to Disneyland, Grandad says you can park on their car park overnight for 60 Francs a night. There are toilets and security and he says that the Germans stay there a lot. We went to Paris but my Grandad and Uncle couldn't stop because they couldn't park the van due to height barriers. It's far better to go to Disneyland and take a train into Paris.

Next day we went to the Champagne Caves. We enjoyed that 'cos we tasted champagne. On the way back to camp we were stopped by Gendarmes so we reckon Grandad now has a record with them but it was only a routine check. The grown ups kept moaning about petrol being £4.00 plus a gallon but we just enjoyed ourselves. Then we went back to Calais, the Hovercraft and home. Super! when can we go again?

Abby and William.

This was sent in by our Vice-President, *John Cox* and is a report from his grand-children. But I have a shrewd suspicion that the real child going over to France was in childhood for at least the second time around - but I won't mention *John's* name!

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Good Service

Whilst spending a very enjoyable five days at the Caravan Club National Rally (held in Tatton Park, Cheshire in May 1995) both *Barbara and I* entered the Baking Competition. This involved each of us making a Victoria Sandwich, filled with raspberry jam, and a batch of plain scones to be served with jam and cream, all to be baked on site in the van. This proved two things. It is not easy to store an extra two sandwich cakes and two dozen scones in a Rambler GL - and one shelf in the oven made for very slow progress.

This was our first National Rally despite being Caravan Club members for some years and we were hooked. Anticipating a repeat effort this year (shortbread and sausage rolls) we looked into the possibility of a second shelf for the oven - which would also help us when preparing one of our more elaborate meals. The makers of the oven, Leisure Products (Bolton) Limited, quoted a price and we sent our order by the last post of the day on Wednesday. The shelf arrived at 8.30 am on Friday of the same week.

If anyone else is interested the shelf cost £5.88 plus postage and packing at £2.50 and VAT £1.47. The address is Holly Street, Astley Bridge, Bolton, BL1 8QR.

Ray Whiley

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Solar Panels

Has anyone had a solar panel fitted professionally to their van? We should like a suitably sized solar panel on our Talisman GL as we are a little fed up with the electricity charges on the continent where one pays a high fee for very few amps. It is obviously more economical to use Gaz and keep the batteries charged by a solar panel.

I draw the line at DIY for anything electrical so would appreciate the name of a reliable expert to fit and wire a suitable system for us.

John Read

The telephone number for *John* is 0127 188 3064 or you can write to him at 3 Dan-y-Graig, Sunnyside, Combe Martin, Ilfracombe, von,

Devon, EX34 0JL. I seem to remember that I read of a solar panel which could be placed in the windscreen of a car and plug into the cigarette lighter to charge the battery. I have no idea whether this would work for a van, for the main battery at least.

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Top Boxes

I would like to fit a top box to the roof rack of my VW T4 Trident. The problem is that I cannot seem to find one that will fit as the space available is fairly small. Do any of our fellow members know if one is available and if so, what does it cost, where can it be purchased etc. Thank you very much.

Tom Somers

Tom's address is 64B Victoria Road, Crosby, Liverpool, L23 7XZ but we haven't a telephone number.

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May I say, once again, that there is **NO CHARGE** for advertisements in this section of the Newsletter. We do **NOT** accept adverts in the "For Sale" section from non-members and only in the "Wanted" section if they are actively seeking an A-S. We do **NOT** accept commercial advertising at all. So if you want an advert inserted, write it out, send it to your Editor and it will appear in the next available Newsletter, which may not be the immediately next issue!

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For VW T4 - "Taylor-made" screen, white, daylight type. Used one night only. Sale due to change of van. £50.00. Please telephone Ted Newstead on 0173 477 2797 or write to him at 41 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks., RG41 5AU.

#####

VW Trident, 'J' reg, 1992. MOT & Tax. 2.4 litre diesel. 55,000 miles. FSH. Alarm, blown air heating, hot and cold water, 2nd battery, 2 x bike carrier, 3-way fridge, mains hook-up (including 25 metre cable and adaptors), ramps. Non-smokers. £15,500.00 ono. Phone David Dron on 0176 958 0543 or write to him at "Thorncroft", Chawleigh, Chumleigh, Devon, EX18 7HQ. This is a reluctant sale of an excellent vehicle.

#####

2 Auto-loks to go over the gear stick and hand brake. £10.00 each. Set of head light covers for 1990-94 VW Polo. £10.00. 2 made-up TV co-ax aerial cables. £3.00 each. Rinnai Compact gas

heater - hardly used. £25.00. Folding bicycle - no gears. £20.00. "New Hudson" lady's bicycle, 40 years old, hub dynamo to front and rear lights, 3-speed hub gear, some rust. This is a collector's item. Any offers? Please contact Elizabeth or Bill Grimsley on 0116 269 2220 or write to them at 24 Paul Drive, Humberstone Lane, Leicester, LE4 9FY

#####

Items for Talbot Express. Owners Handbook, 4 x Bosch W7 DC Spark Plugs, Oil Filter, Air Filter, Rear Talbot Express sign, Spare wheel cover, Oil plug remover. £35.00 the lot. Telephone Norman Brice on 0148 356 2986 or write to him at 35 Halfpenny Close, Chilworth, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 8NH.

#####

Two Polywarm Romany 60oz all year sleeping bags. New. Cost £100.00, gift at £70.00. Telephone Ron Mitchell on 0127 458 2806 or write to him at 78 Branksome Drive, Nab Wood, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 4BE

#####

'G' reg VW Trooper, 1.6 litre turbo-diesel. 32,000 miles. Extras include Propex heating, factory-fitted towball and electrics, free-standing awning, swivel seats, sun canopy. Full inventory of accessories. One owner. Full service history. MOT July 96. No smokers or pets. Fine condition throughout. Kept under cover when not in use. £10,500.00 ono. Telephone Brian Page on 0124 267 4223 or you can write to him at 14 Greenway, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos., GL52 4HU.

#####

Renault Rapport Hitop. 1991. 1721cc petrol. Taxed 29/2/96, MOT 31/10/96. 18,000 miles. Excellent condition. Propex heating, hot and cold water, 4 berth, 3-way fridge. mains & 12 volt & second battery. Radio cassette, extractor fan, Porta Potti. Garaged. Non-smokers. With extras. Please phone Charles Bowen on 0168 641 3348 or write to him at Pont Hafren, Eastgate Street, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6HD.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Long Thule box, ideal for skis, fishing rods or other long items. Cost £250.00 - sell for £95.00. Ladder guard, stainless steel. Cost £20.00 - sell for £11.50. Please contact Bob Gumbley at work on 0121 373 4362 or write to him at 310 Slade Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 7LU.

#####

Trophy 1994, 2.4 litre VW diesel automatic. 9,000 miles. Fiamma awning, electric windows on cab doors, usual A-S goodies including shower, cassette toilet, oven, Propex heating, mains, etc. etc. An immaculate 2 berth go anywhere vehicle. £23,750.00. Telephone Douglas Dawson on 0180 360 6193 or write to him at 3 Forgeway Close, Torquay, Devon, TQ2 6SH.

#####

Harmony, July 1992. 12,000 miles. MOT and taxed until July. Very good condition. Waste tank, Air-Ride suspension, Spy Ball immobiliser/alarm, second battery. £16,500 or offers. Telephone Ralph Harding on 0173 276 1892 or write to him at 61 Pilgrims Way, Kemsing, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6TD.

Thanks for the donation.

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1984 - 1989 MMM. 50p per copy. Telephone Roy Raeburn on 0181 886 0941 (evenings only, please) or write to him at 8 The Close, Southgate, London, N14 6DN.

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STOP PRESS

We at Auto-Sleepers were very touched to say the least in the support that we have received from several members in respect of a letter of complaint in the Camping and Caravanning magazine. I can do no better than to quote replies to the magazine from members which described the attitude of the writer as pathetic and small minded. I fully concur with their views.

Such support from the Club is, as always, enormously appreciated and the response that we have received to this letter underlines yet again what a splendid Club you are.

Charles Trevelyan

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Obituary

Jeanne Witts wrote to tell us that her husband, *Arthur*, died suddenly at home on 26th October. He had felt unwell earlier in the day but his condition worsened rapidly and although the doctor was present there was nothing that could be done.

Our sympathy and condolences are extended to *Jeanne* and her family.

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It's a bit late now, but you DID remember to check your envelope before you threw it away, didn't you? And you **have** found, completed and returned your renewal form to *Sheila*. Oh, good!!

That's that for the 1995 year - here's to 1996!

From both of us, and our Ginger cat, have a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous, but above all safe and healthy New Year.

Your Editor
 Harry Henthorne
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