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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

*A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.
Registered No: 4616969*



**A Happy New
Year to all our
Readers**

NEWSLETTER 292

January 2013

From the Editor

Well, this is the first Newsletter of 2013, so I wish you all a Happy New Year. If you haven't renewed your membership, it will be your last Newsletter! So renew now if you haven't done so, to avoid missing the February Newsletter. (Remember labels go to printer before 10th January so be quick!)



Contained within the pages of this newsletter are important announcements regarding the AGM and also the National Rally. If you wish to attend this rally then there are a number of forms to complete and are included with the newsletter as well as a provisional Rally List for 2013.

Once again I am pleased at the number of contributions received for the newsletter and I hope to eventually fit them in this and following newsletters.

As always send your contributions to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or via the post at the address on the back page. **Deadline for the next newsletter is 10th January.**

Let us hope that 2013 will be of normal weather and we can have some good rallies and holidays in our Auto-Sleepers!

David Mayne

National Rally 2013

I am again looking for members to exhibit their hobbies and crafts in the Sir Stuart Goodwin pavilion on the Friday and Saturday of the AGM weekend.

Any member who is interested in exhibiting please get in touch with me, either by phone on 01484604133, or by email at stuwd@yahoo.co.uk.

**Thank you
Stuart Wood.**

Chairman's Chat

This is the time of year when it is traditional to make resolutions for the New Year so I wonder if I might suggest a few ASOC related possibilities.



If you have never attended a club rally why not do it this year. I know many of you are nervous and wonder what you would be letting yourselves in for. The short answer is nothing! If you attend a club rally you don't have to join in, dress up or make a fool of yourself. On the other hand if a few days in the company of pleasant, like-minded people appeals to you then why not give it a go.

There are two rallies in France this year. If you haven't been abroad in your van yet why not give it a go with the support of other club members around to ease the nerves.

Perhaps small rallies aren't your thing, in which case why not come to our National Rally at Newark. There will be a busy weekend of activities for you to enjoy including the dinner dance and live entertainment. The Club's AGM takes place during the rally and once the official business is over there is an open forum where members can have their say about the Club and the way it runs.

The experienced ralliers amongst you, who have yet to step up to the plate, might like to think about making this the year you organise your first rally. Neil Rogers, our Rally Coordinator will be delighted to hear from you and he and the rest of the committee will be happy to assist in any way we can.

Finally, and to try to ensure that the editor doesn't take his red pencil to this chat, why not write an article for the newsletter. It doesn't have to be a major opus, just something about a trip you've enjoyed, a special campsite you visited, motorhome based hobbies or anything you think other members might be interested to hear about.

So there's a few suggestions to get you started. I'm sure you can come up with others and I look forward to hearing about them.

In the meantime, Angie and I hope you all have a Happy and Prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you down the road.

Andy Cavell

Obituary:

Just as this issue went to press we learnt that sadly, Linda Hill had passed away, which will come as a shock to her many friends in the Club. We send our sincere condolences to John and the family.

Rally Reports

No More Food Parcels Please

We appreciate the concerns and have responded to sympathetic e-mails, but rest assured that we in Burnham are still ON SEA and not under it. Our near neighbours in parts of Taunton and across the Somerset levels have been less fortunate. Some parts of Somerset have experienced severe flooding mainly through rivers overflowing with water running from high grounds and further inland.

We have had our fair share of the rains both in the run up to and since the Carnival Rally in November. Our garden bird bath did overflow once but we coped. The Haven Site is no better or worse than when we left it.

Work will begin in the New Year to fully restore any damage done through this past, very wet year. A problem that has been common to many areas. We were fortunate yet again to have had a slot between the weather for the Carnival Rally and we managed all of our activities including our "school bus" trip to Street and the beach walk passing the cemetery and several other places of interest ? ? (long story)

The Carnival, as always, was a success and supported many charities. Our thanks to Brian and Ruby Sutton our co-marshals also Liz and Gill and all who helped as always too many to mention, but thank you all. We hope all who attended enjoyed the events and look forward to seeing you in 2013.

*Linda and Brian Ellis
Burnham On Sea*

Southport Rally

Congratulations to Dave, Wyn, Roger and Liz for running the recent Southport Rally. Although it was a very wet weekend - not unusual this year! - we had a great time. Hard standing and electric were a definite bonus - the showers and toilet block were warm and clean. The Cafe on site where we all met for coffee and some of us had meals over the weekend was great. The bus into Southport and Liverpool actually came onto site and was very handy. We didn't get as far as Liverpool but Southport has some very nice shops - good for Christmas shopping. Well done Dave hope the rally is run again in 2013.

Les and Pat Udale 6849

Southport Rally

Just a few lines to thank our Marshals at the Riverside Rally for their trojan efforts under rather wet & windy conditions. Dave and Wyn Crabbe were out in all sorts of climatic conditions to welcome the weather weary travellers from north & south not to mention those intrepid few from the far side of the Pennines.

Ann and I came down the day before and had spent a very peaceful night at the CC site at Meathorp Fell surrounded by but not under the trees; followed, en route, by a visit to the motor caravan dealers in Preston.

We had heard on the radio that the areas further south were suffering with the weather and only found by how much when we arrived at Riverside. The driving rain, standing water combined with the lack of the usual ASOC direction markers and absence of any signs of canopy awnings or gazebos gave us a fair indication of what the early arrivals had had to endure!

The rally, for us was a varied mix of sightseeing and greeting old & new friends, interspersed with a long bus detour due to me not seeing that our returning bus from Southport had no 'X' in its route number. (Memo to self, **Listen to Cedric!**)

The site café helped out with coffees etc for the rained off 'Welcome' get together on the Thursday and also was able to provide Sunday lunch, all be it a little late due to a site wide power outage, on Sunday afternoon.

That night it again rained hard and as a result Ann & I decided to leave before the coffee etc and make our way north, aided by a following wind at least as far as Gretna, only to find that in our part of Galloway it was surprisingly free from the problems encountered south of the border, all be it Portpatrick weather station having recorded a gust of 70kts on Thursday 22nd! All in all a pleasant social gathering due in the main to the marshals, their helpers and the local area.

Ricky & Ann Smith 1533

***Slàinte maith, h-uile latha, na chi 'snach fhaic!
(Good health, every day, whether I see you or not!)***

Best wishes to all our friends for 2013 and enjoyable rallies whatever the weather. Love from Di & Brenda.
--

A.S.O.C. Rallies.

After reading the article from a member in the November Newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to explain to new members how our Club rallies are run.

All A.S.O.C. rallies, except the A.G.M. National Rally, are run by unpaid volunteers from the membership.

Any members, who on their travels, find a commercial site or a Greenfield site eg: a cricket, rugby or football club which they think might be suitable for a rally, should contact me with the details.

Once the site has been given the all clear, negotiations are then done by the volunteer marshal with the site owner.

Help can be given in the form of a "Guide for New or Prospective Marshals" and once a rally is finalised I will place it in the "Provisional Rally List". This list is sent to members in the January Newsletter. Rallies may also be organised after the list has been published. These rallies will be advertised in the relevant Rally Supplement. A marshals' pack is then sent to the marshal prior to the rally taking place. This contains all the paperwork required to run a rally. Assistance can also be given by members who have experience in running a rally. In some cases I may be able to find a rally where a prospective marshal can assist experienced rally marshals.

I think it is a good idea for anyone who is contemplating becoming a marshal to attend some rallies to find out the kind of basic format that we use. All rallies differ in some ways due to the personalities of the marshals.

So it is up to you, the membership of A.S.O.C., to take up the challenge to run a rally for us in the future.

My telephone number, e-mail address & Fax No. are to be found at the end of the Rally Supplement. I look forward to hearing from you.

Neil Rogers (Rally Co-ordinator).

Oh Dear Me, Guess What?

Oh dear me, guess what? I wrote in the October Newsletter that I had spoken with a company at the Malvern Western Show, who repaired cracked shower trays by spraying them with a polymer coating. Mo & I spent September in France, and whilst in the process of

cleaning the bathroom, Mo discovered four fine cracks in the shower tray, all about 150mm (6") long. We knew that the area in front of the loo has always been flexible and have kept an eye on it since the Sigma was new.

Whilst visiting the NEC show, we again found the Speedcoat Europe Ltd Company and spoke with one of their operatives. Hr advised us that there was no-one carrying out such repairs in the south and that my nearest contact was in Leicester and whilst he travelled around doing repairs, could not come so far south due to time restrictions. After some thought and discussion, and knowing that I had to attend an ASOC committee meeting in November not far from Leicester, we agreed to meet on a recommended CL where he would carry out the said repair.

Neil Jaques operates under "thecaravanmedic" scheme, a very comprehensive mobile cosmetic repair and restoration company, with many varied skills.

I e-mailed photographs and a detailed sketch of the tray to him and arrangements were made that Neil would come to the van on Sunday evening about 5 pm and start the repair. He drilled a series of holes across the tray and then injected expanding foam to create a solid support, the void beneath half of the tray was between 8-10mm giving rise to the flexing and the inevitable cracking. Neil checked the area for movement, injecting more foam until he was satisfied that the support was sound; this was left to harden overnight. He arrived at the agreed hour on Monday morning, checked the floor again, injecting more foam into a suspect spot. He then started to prepare the tray by abrading the surface, thoroughly cleaning it, followed by a primer ready for the polymer coating. He very carefully masked the entire bathroom, the swing door and the living area so that no overspray would fall upon the various surfaces and furnishings. To be totally satisfied he applied four coats, finishing with a silicone bead to all of the edges thus stopping any chance of water ingress behind the coating. Total time taken was about nine hours.

We are both delighted with the finished job; we now have a non-slip textured surface which is anti-bacterial and guaranteed against mould, mildew and fungi contamination.

Speaking with Neil about limitations of tray repairs, there would appear to be very few; even where the plug hole area has dropped away from the main tray, can usually be repaired. The resulting job would be considerably cheaper than replacing the tray, if a replacement was available!

I have no hesitation in recommending Neil Jaques to any member of the ASOC club as he was both meticulous and tidy in his work. He can be contacted by phone 07791 772192 or enquiries@neilthecaravanmedic.co.uk or for further information, visit his web site www.neilthecaravanmedic.co.uk. Like us, we are sure that you will be more than satisfied. You are welcome to view our repair should you wish to do so.

Mike Valentine

NOTICE

THE TWENTY - FORTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Of THE AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Will be held on
SATURDAY, 4TH MAY 2013
At 10.30am.
At the National Rally
In the Cedric Ford Pavilion
Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society Showground.
Newark. Nottinghamshire.

Nomination forms for election to the Management Committee/Honorary Examiner and Proxy appointment forms are included with this Notice or are available from the Secretary. Who requests that Nomination forms and any resolutions for consideration at the meeting should be received by him, on or before **Monday, February 4th 2013**. In the case of **Proxy appointment forms** they should be received by him on or before **10.30am Thursday 2nd May 2013**.

Members are informed that they have a right to appoint a proxy.

Members are reminded that admission to the Annual General Meeting is subject to proof of membership, and that current membership cards should be carried at all Club events.

John Osland-Jones, Secretary, Flat 7, Oak Tree Court, 15 Pembroke Way, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9EX.

A company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Nr. Broadway. Worcestershire.

WR12 7QF.

Reg. No. 4616969.

FOR A FUN PACKED WEEKEND COME TO NEWARK SHOWGROUND

THE NATIONAL RALLY 2nd - 6th MAY 2013

This will be the 24th AGM

**Meals are available each day. The menus are included with the application form.
These are optional.**

The proposed Programme is as follows:

The Cedric Ford Pavillion

Thursday

Evening Meal followed by a get together to meet or make friends.

Friday

Gentle Exercise - Question & Answer Session with staff from Auto Sleepers - Line Dancing

Evening Meal followed by a Quiz. The results of the Photographic and Cake Competitions

then the Cake Auction

Saturday

Gentle Exercise - AGM followed by Open Forum - Line Dancing

Evening Dinner followed by The Raffle Draw and Dancing to VIVO Party Band

Sunday

Gentle Exercise - Sunday Service - Presentation of cheque to the chosen Charity

Followed by Tea and Coffee - Carvery Lunch - Egg Bowling Competition

Evening entertainment provided by Martin Barry

Stuart Goodwin Pavillion

Friday & Saturday

Hobbies – Crafts - Produce - Bring & Buy Jigsaws - Books and Regalia Stalls - Technical Advice - Photo and Cake Competitions. Tea & Coffee will be available

Sunday pm

Photographic Workshop

A free minibus service will run on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to 'Southern Motor Caravans' to see motorhomes for sale. There is also a small accessory shop. Some refreshments will be provided (to be confirmed).

National Rally 2013

This year as a new venture we will be having four separate stalls in the Sir Stuart Goodwin pavilion as well as the hobby & craft stalls.

(1) A bring and buy stall for books and DVDs, whether they be fiction or non-fiction , books you have read and no longer need , or simply reference books(cooking , gardening, hobby, craft, DIY etc.) that you no longer use and would like to donate for someone else to buy & any proceeds to go to the charity fund.

(2) As usual a stall for you to donate to and buy from for jigsaws, & any proceeds to go to the charity fund.

(3) A stall where you can bring your unwanted items to sell without a profit to yourselves and any proceeds to go to the charity.

(4)The ASOC gourmet market . Please see the article by Chris Mawdsley.

Please bring any donations for (1, 2, 3) to the Stuart Goodwin pavilion a.s.a.p. or see *Yvonne or Stuart Wood* to donate.

We are in the Nuevo II WIW 8525

As Stuart has mentioned we're going to try something new this year, a 'bring and buy' stall - the **ASOC Gourmet Market**. The idea is for all you cooks and bakers out there to donate something to our Market stall (suitably plated and wrapped please) which we will then sell on in aid of the charity, so....



*"Whether it's jams or chutney, cakes or scones
Tartes or quiches bring them along*



*If you've made them yourselves that would be great
But if they're shop bought, don't hesitate*

*Donate them all to Celia and me
And we'll sell them on for the charity".*



Chris Mawdsley

If you need more info call me on 07919 538622

The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club.

NOMINATION FORM

Annual General Meeting May 4th 2013

We the undersigned nominate,

Name.

Membership number.....

**For election:- Management Committee / Honorary Examiner of the
Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. DELETE AS APPROPRIATE**

Name of Proposer

Membership number

Signature of Proposer.....

Date

Name of Seconder

Membership number

Signature of Seconder.....

Date.....

I agree to accept nomination for election: - Management Committee /
Honorary Examiner. **DELETE AS APPROPRIATE**

**I understand that by signing this acceptance I am also confirming the
statements overleaf.**

Signed

Date

Please return this form to the Club Secretary: Mr. J.A. Osland-Jones, Flat 7,
Oak Tree Court, 15 Pembroke Way, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9EX

I understand that if I am elected to be a member of the Management Committee I will as such be appointed a Director of a Company Limited by Guarantee, a post that is regulated by the Companies Act and monitored by Companies House.

I also understand that I may from time to time be required to agree to be the subject of a credit or similar check by the Club's Banks, Insurance providers, suppliers, etc.

I confirm that I have never been convicted of or charged (but not yet tried) with a criminal offence other than (road traffic) motor offences nor have I received an official caution for a criminal offence within the last three years other than a (road traffic) motoring offence.

I also confirm that I have never been declared bankrupt and/or have been subject to any winding up order, insolvent liquidation or administration or have made any composition or arrangement with creditors.

I have never been a director or partner of a company which has gone into insolvency, liquidation, receivership or administration.

I have never been prosecuted for failure to comply with any Health & Safety or Welfare or Environmental Protection legislation.

In respect of any business which I, my partners or directors have been involved with, no insurer has ever declined, cancelled or refused any proposal of insurance. Nor have they cancelled or declined to renew any insurance or imposed special terms or conditions.

**AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB
PROXY FORM**

I, _____ Membership Number _____

Hereby appoint _____

**As my proxy at the General Meeting of The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club to be held on:
- Saturday 4th May 2013 and at any adjournment of the meeting.**

Signature of Member _____ Date _____

I confirm that I am acting as Proxy for no more than two members.

Signature of Proxy _____ Date _____

This form is to be returned to the address below to arrive before 10.30am Thursday 2nd May 2013. Any forms returned after this time will be deemed invalid.

**John Osland-Jones, Secretary, Flat 7, Oak Tree Court, 15 Pembroke Way, Hall Green,
Birmingham B28 9EX**

-----CUT ALONG LINE-----

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Birmingham B28 9EX**

NOTES ON PROXY FORM 2013

1. Appointing a proxy will not preclude you from personally attending and voting at the meeting (in substitution for your proxy) if you subsequently decide to do so. However if you wish to revoke your proxy at any time, you must inform the Club Secretary in writing before the meeting starts.
2. A person can only accept appointment as a proxy on behalf of a maximum of two members.
3. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be received by the Club Secretary on any day between Monday to Friday inclusive and no later than 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting at which it is to be used.
4. The proxy must be signed by the relevant member and by the proxy being appointed.
5. Any alteration to the proxy form must be initialled by the member.

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5. Any alteration to the proxy form must be initialled by the member.

REPRESENTATION BY PROXY

This is the fourth year of the introduction of Proxy Voting, and I therefore hope that this article will explain to old and new members the way proxy voting works for the A.S.O.C. Some who are reading this will see that I have cribbed parts from the previous years.

When the Club became a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2002, it followed the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and 1989. These Acts did not allow for proxy representation in a company with no share capital.

When the Companies Act 2006 was passed to consolidate the above Acts, cut down on red tape and simplify the running of companies, it introduced proxy voting.

Section 324 of the Act, Right to appoint a proxy, states “a member of a company is entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to exercise all or any of his rights to attend and speak at a meeting of the company”. This section overrules anything stated in the articles of Articles of Association. So at the AGM in 2010 we changed our Articles of Association to comply with the Act.

What this means for the Club, is that if a member wishes to appoint a proxy, they have to fill out a proxy form and get their proxy to sign the form, and then send it to the Club Secretary before the due date.

As this is a legal requirement you are hereby notified that you have a right to appoint a proxy to participate in the 2013 General Meeting, on your behalf, using the Proxy Form enclosed, which must be received at the address given on the proxy form before 10.30am Thursday 2nd May 2013.

May I make three things clear, the person who is nominated as the proxy does not have to be a member of the Club. I know that this may seem strange, but that’s the way the Act is written.

Secondly that you cannot just put down Chairman, Secretary etc. on the form, they will be considered invalid.

Thirdly it must be remembered that no proxy can act for more than two members. That is why they must sign the form.

As you can see this change though important, will not alter the running of the Club. It only means that the AGM the voting procedure will take a little longer while we count the votes.

John Osland-Jones (Club Secretary)

Summer Woes

We read with some sympathy the tale of woe by Mike & Helen in the November News Letter and thought that our experiences would make them feel better!

With our brand new Bourton, suitably tested on a couple of outings, we set off for a month's holiday in Europe. Sailing from Portsmouth to Santander our plan was to spend a couple of nights in Spain then work our way up through the Pyrenees, North through France returning via Ouistreham to Portsmouth.

All went well until coming down from the Col D'Aubisque we met Patrick driving a white lining machine preparing the road for the Tour de France; unfortunately his machine removed the left hand indicator lens from the mirror. Sometime later after a pigeon French / English conversation we had completed the French accident report, and had an animated demonstration by Patrick of his love of the Leicester Tigers! A temporary repair with a plastic bag made the lamp water proof and all was well for the remaining three weeks of our trip or so we thought.

About a week later travelling round the outskirts of Toulouse in heavy traffic we stopped and the lorry behind didn't! Another conversation in pigeon French and no English, more serious this time as we had extensive damage to the back of the van, bikes and bike rack. Assisted by a French road worker who coned us off we managed to arrange to follow the lorry to his depot, (the French Police didn't want to know as it was damage only,) where we were assured someone spoke English. I had already contacted Red Pennant who started working on our behalf. At the lorry depot we spoke with the boss's wife who had some English and telephoned our insurers and Red Pennant. Red Pennant helped me with the accident report form and offered very sound advice, they also arranged, with a local motorhome dealer, temporary repairs and contacted us later that day to see if all was well.

Two incidents, sufficient for any trip, not so, about a week later passing Chantonnay we had a near side rear blow out. We again contacted Red Pennant who arranged for a breakdown firm to come to our aid. This entailed a three and a half hour delay at the side of a busy main road in 38deg centigrade temperatures. We were again helped and had the scene protected by French road workers who stayed with us the whole time, they really were "Knights of the Road".

Fortunately that was the last problem on this trip; we had arranged to call at Auto-Sleepers on our way home so that we could have an insurance estimate as quickly as possible. That was in early August, the van went in for repair on the 17th September but we are still waiting for the insurance to be sorted out for our uninsured losses, electric bikes, and insurance excess, this we understand can take up to six months with foreign claims.

Out of the trauma of these events several good things emerged. We will be forever grateful to the great guys who work on the French roads who were helpful, courteous and had a great sense of humour; Red Pennant, who were well worth the premium and are now in speed dial on my mobile, they were calm, very efficient and very helpful and demonstrated a genuine concern for our welfare throughout our many calls to them; and Mark and his team at Auto-sleepers Service Centre who handled the estimate and repairs with consummate professionalism and good humour giving us back a vehicle that is as good as it was before the accident, for which we are truly grateful.

That was our long holiday in 2012. We look forward to 2013 with some trepidation!

Alan & Lois 7721

Re the Merc. radio reception problem

Sorry I forgot to reply at the time but we too have an intermittent problem strangely when listening to Radio 2. the signal cuts out for about 2 to 3 seconds, no pattern though, seems more often first thing, rarely when driving.

Kind regards and thanks for help and input as before.

Iain Munro 7179

I've had several responses on the radio and I would guess the problem of poor reception exists on most recent AS Mercs but is only apparent if listening to a radio station with a low level of signal at that particular spot. If the problem is noticeable at any time then it is much worse with the engine running and can be even worse with the rear view monitor switched on.

My radio was unusable in my locality on radio 2 but having now installed an internal aerial with an amplifier it is useable however on a recent trip to Brecon it was impossible to listen to radio 2 when west of the M5, other local stations were fine.

I don't take MMM so am not aware of the issues on Carbon Monoxide alarms.

Peter Brown

Fridge Installations

The other article by Roger on Fridge faulty installations worried us as a few months back on a windy site, Sue noticed a strong draught from around our pull-out work top above the fridge and we recalled a magazine mentioning fume entry from faulty sealing problems. We took our "Surrey" into Marquis last week and I showed the service manager the floppy bit of tin above the fridge through the access trap with no sealant strip either to stop fumes. His reaction was instantaneous, "we will fix it straight away" before we do your habitation service Sir ! ahumm.

I wonder why? Thanks Roger and the club Mag for keeping us in the loop and alive?

So motto, whatever Model you own, go out take off your top gas vent cover, then slide the left hand lock clip up on grill vent and gently pull the left side outwards, the right side sits on a flange ,put to one side carefully, with a torch give the sloping alloy at the top a gently push and see if its secure and sealed .,if not take it back before next season!

Lastly the comments on positioning of the Carbon monoxide alarms is featured in the latest MMM mag and seem to infer differing views??? UP-DOWN- MIDDLE.

Iain Munro 7179

From the Factory

There is a lot of debate about fridge installation at present and it's easy to get swept along with the notion that these are inherently dangerous. The simple fact is that they are perfectly safe.

Not sealing the fridge tightly to the surrounding structures poses no threat to the safety of the occupants because the ventilation system has a huge safety margin and can easily cater for any accidental spillage from the fridge. Actually it is typically 50 % greater than it needs to be because we fit lots of roof vents.

It is also worth noting that;

1. The burners on a typical gas hob, grill or oven are rated at 1.5kw each - a total of 7.5 kw for a typical three burner hob/grill/oven combo and these can safely be used for hours on end without posing any risk to the occupants of the motorhome because the ventilation system is designed specifically to cater for their use.
2. The burner on the refrigerator is rated at 0.02kw – about the same as the flame produced by one burner port (the small holes spaced around the edge of a typical burner) on the hob.
3. The “fumes” from the burner in the fridge (the correct technical description is “products of combustion”) are exactly the same as the products of combustion from the burners on the hob, grill and oven – water vapour and CO₂ – the water vapour is harmless and the CO₂ is only dangerous in very high concentrations in air (the technical term is a “vitiated atmosphere”) and it’s impossible to produce this effect with a refrigerator in a motorhome even if you deliberately set out to do it – they are simply to draughty and the flame is to small – think of a blow lamp in an aircraft hanger.

In practice the fridge flue could discharge all of its products of combustion into the living area and the effect would be impossible to measure – the total amount of products of combustion would rise by less than 1% and it would simply be absorbed into the background atmospheric humidity and CO₂ levels.

Alan Curry
Customer Service Manager

Editor: Excellent Item by Alan, but living in a motorhome with additional drafts is not pleasant. My first 2 vans had a 1 inch gap above the fridge and when the wind was on that side, a cold draft made living uncomfortable. Also new fridges often need to burn off the oily coating used to protect the flue from rusting and if the wind is hard on that side of the van, those smells end up in the ‘van, as can the exhaust. My Ford Ravenna fridge was room sealed but a large hole to cater for pipes and cables meant they ended up coming in via an adjacent cupboard where the Marigold gloves were also cooked due to heat build up! I ran my fridge for 24 hours to clear this coating on advice from an Electrolux Engineer and all was OK. I also reduced the size of the hole for the pipes and it’s been fine since. The Caravan Club Technical Dept do say that Fridges should be room sealed in order to work efficiently.

That's it, done it, Finished camping

We have had some fantastic times. We have camped on Cricket grounds, race courses and campsites. I won't be able to stick my ice cream in Cedric's face no more (Pam). Just think of all the tea bags we shall save. We have made friends all over the country. Good times and Good memories.

Pam and Mick Robinson 715

Truma Trauma continued

The Operating Instructions for the Trumatic heater include the following Special Instruction. I quote:

"Roof extensions as well as luggage stowed in the vicinity of the exhaust cowl impede the heater in its operation. **The flame may flash back, causing damage to the heater and the vehicle.** In this case additional cowl extensions must be used so that the top of the cowl projects at least 10cm above any objects. Failure to observe this instruction means that no guarantee claim will be entertained for resultant damage to the heater and vehicle."

Truma produce 15cm flue cowl extensions that cost less than £5 (part no 30010-20800) and I have found the installation of one essential on all 3 of my 'U' roofed Auto-sleepers for proper operation of the gas fire in wind. More than one extension could be installed to raise the cowl further but I would not recommend driving with more than one installed.

On a flat roofed van the addition of storage boxes, solar panels, aerials, etc. in the vicinity of the flue cowl can all cause problems. Angles of installation and wind direction all make the effect on the standard cowl unpredictable – eg: raising a satellite dish or adjusting a directional TV aerial to receive a vertical signal.

Peter C Brown

A REMINDER

If you haven't renewed your membership, and intend to do so, then you should send your renewal to Membership Secretary asap

Obituary - Keith Taylor

Sadly, Keith died on 27th November, just 5 days before his 67th birthday. This year has been such a struggle for him but he has been so brave and always grateful to all members and friends who kept in touch with us. After 24 years as his partner and only 8 months as his wife, to have to say goodbye to such a wonderful person will be devastating.

Donations, if desired, to Limeswalk Medical Practice, Oakengates, Telford TF2 6JJ or send to me to pass on.

Rita Taylor 4297

Technical Group & Website



Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group: Baz Wellard can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : baz.wellard@virgin.net

Prepared for winter? Hopefully you have prepared your motorhome ready for the winter? If not - it may not be too late and perhaps a re-read of last month's article might be of interest?

Technical Information:

December is usually a quieter month for technical matters and it may also be that David (*Editor*) is short of Newsletter articles. So I offer the following partly as a space filler; but with the added advantage of being able to advise our many newer members, and remind members generally, what is available from the Technical Group library & Club Website.

- **Model reviews:** Independent reviews for some 58 models. Covering most of the years when the models were in production.
- **Weights & sizes:** Weights & sizes for models from 2001 – 2013 are available.
- **Hints&Tips:** Hints&tips are a collation of technical & other articles that have been printed in the newsletter over the last 9 years. They are normally made available to new members on joining, and also to members (*on the website database*) with the website update on the first day of the New Year.

- **Ideas sheets:** Latest No. 225 with over 11,800 having been requested.
- **Fuel information:** Fuel economy is available for many models/chassis', however, not many for the new Euro 5 models! Do you have any records?
- **Deals for members:** We have 17 dealers who are willing to give discounts to members. If you can negotiate with any others please let me know.
- **VOSA recalls:** Formal list of model recalls authorised by VOSA.
- **Technical articles:** There is a wide range of technical extracts that have been collated over the latter years.
- **Spherical vision:** Spherical vision showing 360deg internal views of latter models – not 2013 models.
- **Second hand prices:** There are guides for resale prices for many pre-owned models
- **A~S Brochures:** Auto Sleeper brochures for 1984 to 2013 models
- **Older vehicles:** Various items are available for older models including paint codes; vehicle handbooks; list of vehicle dismantlers and instruction manuals, etc.
- **General advice:** Advice or guidance is available either by e-mail or by telephone, see back page of the newsletter.
- **Website:** Website content is self explanatory and updates are made, on average, 12 times a year. Content is self explanatory see:- www.asoc.uk.com

The above are either available direct from the Club's website or by contacting me at technical@asoc.uk.com

Website Update No. 01/13 contains:-

- 2013 formal rally list & spread sheet.
- Distribution of the latest consolidation of 'hints&tips'

And finally: Dorothy and I hope that you have all had a pleasant Christmas and New Year. We also trust that 2013 will be a good year for your health and happiness, and you have time and opportunity to enjoy your motorhome to the full. Hopefully we may see many of you during the year.

Baz

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 8095 to 8148

Paul & Linda Crookson	Woody Wood & Linda Berriman	Peter & Chris Hall	Rick & Jean Watts
John & Carol Cray	John & Enid Clinton	Stephen & Jane Moss	Graham & Annette Ashcroft
Trevor & Sally Hutson	John & Sheila Golightly	Tony & Maddy Nevett	Maurice & Linda Wilson
Bob & Sally Liddle	Paul & Ann Lock	John & Chris Walker	Russ & Jan Smith
Paul & Annie May	John & Jan Pepper	John & Jane List	Robert Hammond & Suzanne Nash
Bob & Vivienne Robertson	Alan & Wendy Phillips	Lesley Reed & Mike Pacynko	Nicholas Hodge
Peter & Pam Scarth	John & Rosemary Seddon	David & Julie Bassett	Geoff & Wendy Camber
Steve & Janet Guesford	Mike & Cathy Winn	Ted & Mary Cooper	Ron & Millie Evans
Jim & Chris Lamb	Stuart & Shirley Yates	Robin & Linda Mattock	Phil & Linda Hall
Richard & Ann Mann	James & Hilary Derbyshire	Graham & Marion Flippance	John & Pauline Broadhurst
Denis & Sue O'Leary	Geoff & Jean Coley	Frank & Carol Duckworth	Mick & Sue Jenkins
Janet Ottaway	Dave & Sylvia Fuller	Clive & Darryl Pennells	
John & Judy Salter	David & Heather Wilson	Malcolm & Sandra Russell	
John & Josie Thornley	Steve Hedges	Jerry Sayer & Wendy Kent-Woolsey	

Membership Secretary: Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Sunny Terrace, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6LQ or email: jbertlin@aol.com



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Contents		Nomination Form	11&12
From the Editor	2	Proxy Form	13&14
National Rally Hobbies	2	Representation by Proxy	15
Chairman's Chat	3	Summer Woes	16
Rally Report - Burnham	4	Re the Merc Radio	17
Southport Rally	4&5	Fridge Installations	18
Happy New Year	5	From the Factory	18
ASOC Rallies	6	Thats It	20
Oh Dear Me, Guess What?	6	MEMBERSHIP REMINDER	20
Notice of AGM	8	Obit - Keith Taylor	21
National Rally Programme	9	Tech Group and Website	21
National Rally Stalls	10	New Members	23
		For Sale	23

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Items for the newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 27 Mentmore Rd Leighton Buzzard Beds LU7 2NY or email to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com**.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit items. Advertisements for items to be sold or wanted by members are published free of charge, however, small donations to Club funds are appreciated and will be acknowledged. No guarantee can be given that any item will appear in the next, or any, issue of the newsletter. Cheques should be made payable to "Auto-Sleeper Owners Club" and not ASOC and send to the Editor.

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