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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Registered No: 4616969*



Rallying at it's best at Dartmouth

NEWSLETTER 342

March 2017

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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.

IMPORTANT: Contributions from Members are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove interesting and useful. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but no modification or suggestion has been tested by the Company, the Club or your Editor. Therefore no warranties are expressed or implied nor indemnities given. You try them out at your own risk.

From the Editor



Another month has passed by and although this is a quiet time of year, your committee is fully engaged in dealing with the management of the club especially our Membership Secretary and we are all looking forward to the Rally season and the upcoming National Rally.

Remember that the deadline for applying for this rally is 27th March so that our National Rally team can get everything in place to ensure another successful event. (Application forms were with the February Newsletter)

We are also in the process of making better use of our own website and the email facilities so you will notice that we are progressing to change the committee emails to reflect this.

I have decided to stick with my current email (set up especially) until the end of my turn as Editor, which will occur at the next AGM. I will act as Deputy Editor after that date subject to discussion with the new Editor.

Deadline for the next newsletter will be by 10th March and all contributions should be sent via email to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or via the post to the address below.

David Mayne

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**.

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications.

Please acknowledge both author and source.

Chairman's Chat

The Committee must meet during a small time-window in February to prepare for the AGM and approve the examined annual accounts so that they can be submitted to Companies House and accepted, again before the AGM, of course that is not all we do.

As I write, we have just had that meeting. ASOC committee members are all unpaid volunteers but are nevertheless extremely competent and focused on maintaining a society that provides a framework in which members can mutually enhance the experience of owning and using an Auto-sleeper Motorhome. Wherever a committee meeting is held, some members will have had to travel a very long way and then participate in a meeting that takes several hours, I trust that you are all grateful that some of your fellow club members are prepared to give their time and expertise so willingly for the benefit of all.

If any of you are interested in doing the same, we are very happy to invite those interested to attend a committee meeting as an observer to see what goes on. The next opportunity to do that will be during the Clubs National Rally when a committee meeting will be held on 29th April. I hope it is obvious that we would only cater for a small number of observers, so if you are interested please let me know via chairman@asoc.uk.com .

I am pleased to let you know that a long standing club member has volunteered to be nominated for election to the committee and, if elected, take on the duties of the Club's Membership Secretary.

Many of you will have read in the press that Auto-sleeper and their dealer network, Marquis have been sold to the French company Trigano and wondered what the implication of that are. We took the opportunity during a recent club liaison meeting with Auto-sleeper management to ask that question: Trigano have been a minority shareholder and represented on the board of Auto-sleeper for some years. They are happy with the performance and management of the company and have now procured a majority shareholding. Trigano have announced that the operation and management of Auto-sleeper will not change as a result of this change in shareholding.

Peter Brown

Just thought I would drop you a line to say how grateful I am for the continued life membership I receive from the owners club.

Being a part of the founding committee during its conception I now look back on some of the best years of my life being involved with the first 12 years of the club. The Club and Company Rallies became the highlight of our summers not because of the hard work involved from us volunteers from the factory but the memorable weekends we had. The hard work was all worth it solely because of the inter-action with the owners many of whom became friends, plus of course the odd glass of beer or wine.

I am now looking at retiring in the next couple of years and it would be nice to think that I might buy an old Auto Sleeper and join you once again. In the meantime thank you again for sending me the monthly magazines, it is much appreciated.

Regards

Neville Jelfs

New lands Meadow Malvern Rally July 3rd - 7th 2017

marshals Pat and Gary Wanklin

A tour of the Morgan Car Factory has been pre-arranged for July 4th and 5th at a cost of £20 per person

Further details in a future rally supplement

Gary Wanklin 1747

Baltic countries

Please does any one have information about travelling, camp sites, interesting places, fuel, credit/debit card and cash purchasing etc. in Poland and the Baltic States as we are considering going in our Nuevo this May/June?

ACSI discount books don't include this area so we don't have our usual sites book.

Mike & Carole O'Neill; miconeill@16fwd.eclipse.co.uk

THE NATIONAL RALLY
27th April to 01st May 2017

Come and join us at your club's National Rally at Newark Showground

The 2017 National rally is open for booking and the application forms are attached to the February newsletter

To obtain the best deal for all members we have agreed with Newark Showground that all pitches will be with electric hook-up. The application form shows the charge for a 3 night stay or a 4 night stay. Should you require a shorter stay please contact me on the telephone number shown on the application form

Meals and trips are optional

As last year you will find there are three forms (yellow) for you to complete and return

- 1 The Main Rally Application Form**
- 2 The Menu choice**
- 3 The Application Form for Trips**

Please send one cheque for the rally booking and your menu choices and separate cheques for each of the trips.

Please note: The cheques for the trips will not be passed to the bank until we are sure the trips are to go ahead and not cancelled for reasons beyond our control. If trips are cancelled we shall return the cheques at the rally.

Should you wish to volunteer for selling raffle tickets or marshalling duties please complete the Volunteers form and return it along with your application form

The proposed Programme is as follows:

The Cedric Ford Pavillion

Thursday

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

Friday

Question & Answer Session with staff from Auto Sleepers.
Line Dancing.
Evening Meal followed by live entertainment provided by Brenda Collins

Saturday

AGM followed by Open Forum
Afternoon Trip to Southwell
Evening Dinner followed by The Raffle Draw and Dancing to Phil Carr Music

Dress is as formal or informal as you wish.

Sunday

Sunday Service - Presentation of cheque to the charity organizer
Followed by Tea and Coffee - Carvery Lunch
Afternoon Trip to Lincoln transport museum
Quiz night

Stuart Goodwin Pavillion

Friday & Saturday

Crafts - Bring & Buy Jigsaws – Cake competition - Bring & Buy motorhome spares or equipment, Books and Regalia Stalls - Technical Advice - Photo and Cake Competitions.
Tea & Coffee will be available

Photographic Competition 2017

Photos will be on display at the National Rally and judged by a representative of Auto-Sleepers.

There are two categories as follows:

Category 1 is the Set Subject and *MUST contain at least 1 Auto Sleeper Motorhome. On or off a rally but preferably on*

Category 2 is the Open Subject and can be *anything at all, on or off a rally.*

Up to 2 images can be entered in each category. Sizes to be either 6 x 4 inches or 7 x 5 inches.

All members per motorhome can enter.

In each category there will be:

1st prize £15.00 2nd Prize £10.00 3rd Prize £5.00.

During the AGM a winner will be selected by attending members voting. The winner will be awarded a £20.00 prize.

Closing date: April 21st 2017, no entries will be accepted after this date.

Images will be returned at the AGM or posted back if a SAE is enclosed. However the winning images will be kept for any publicity by ASOC and will also be displayed on the club web site.

Entries to be sent to :

Jean Hollingsworth
24 Norton Grove
Kingston upon Hull
HU4 6HL

Please ensure the correct postage otherwise I need to go and collect them from the post office and pay additional postage charges.

National Rally Cake Competition

Prizes 1st - £30 2nd - £20 3rd - £10

8"/20cm Cake Tin

Cooking time : 1. 1/2 < 1.3/4 hrs

Oven Temp : 325/ Mk 3 Fan: 160< 170

Ingredients

12 oz/325g	mixed dried fruit
8 oz/225g	butter
8 oz/225g	soft brown sugar
14fl oz/400ml	milk
1lb/450g	s.r. flour
1 teaspoon/5ml	bicarb of soda
1 teaspoon/5ml	mixed spice
2 off large	beaten eggs

Method

Preheat oven to 160/325/3.

Butter and line tin.

Put fruit into large pan, add butter, sugar and bring slowly to the boil.

When melted, cook for 2 mins. Remove and cool slightly.

Sift flour with bicarb + spices and stir into pan.

Add the milk + egg mixture with fruit in pan.

Mix well together.

Pour into tin and smooth surface.

Bake Until firm, test with skewer

Leave in tin to cool for 20<30mins and then turn out onto rack.

Please take your cake to the Stuart Goodwin Hall between 2.00 and 4.00pm Friday afternoon for judging.

Mo Valentine

National Rally Tombola

For the 3rd year Chris Mawdsley and I are holding a Bottle and Can Tombola at the National Rally, in the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion.

All proceeds to the Club Charity.

We would be very grateful if club members could start collecting bottles and cans to donate to the Tombola. The more we have, the bigger the display and the greater the contribution to the charity.

Many thanks

Liz Irvin

A new motorhome service company opened

I read in the latest Practical Motorhome mag. that a new service company had recently been opened in the Chichester area offering a comprehensive maintenance service to both caravans and motorhomes. I went along to have a look at them, met with the Directors and heard all about their ideas and aspirations and during our discussion it was agreed that members would be given a discount on any work undertaken having shown their membership card. Approvals include the Independently Assessed Approved scheme, NCC, both Caravan and the Camping & Caravan Clubs.

The Reliance Caravan & Motorhome Services are fully insured and all their work will be guaranteed. Their workshop is within a new industrial complex enabling them to carry out every aspect of repair and maintenance. The staff are all manufacturer trained and have been in the leisure industry for many years. Additionally, they have a fully mobile service and will visit your home, storage or campsite to carry essential repairs at your convenience.

Reading through the very comprehensive list of services, including insurance repairs, warranty work (subject to approval) and regular maintenance work, I notice that they include the servicing of fridges and heaters within the Habitation Service, not offered even at the A-S factory.

Accessories can also be supplied and fitted. More information can be obtained via the website www.reliancecms.uk

Mike Valentine

Sargent EC500 Power Supply Systems : Vehicle Fails to Start

The Technical Group have become aware that in recent months some members who own and, when not used, store vans fitted with the Sargent EC500 power supply system installed are finding the starter battery flat.

By way of background, the EC500 has the ability to monitor the condition of both the leisure and starter batteries and, whether on mains hook up or using a fitted solar panel, ensure that both batteries are maintained in a charged condition. If neither charging option is available then there is a switch on the EC500 unit (this is not the on/off switch on the remote control panel) that allows the Sargent system to be switched off to stop the batteries being drained.

In the case of providing charge from a solar panel installation, then if the EC500 is left switched on, the output from the solar panel will charge both leisure and starter batteries. If the EC500 is switched off, then the solar panel will only charge the leisure battery.

Generalising, from late spring to early autumn it is best to leave the EC500 switched on and then the solar panel will keep all batteries charged, however, in winter, the power used by the EC500 in regularly checking the charged state of the batteries exceeds that available from the solar panel and the batteries become discharged.

The advice therefore is that, if you have either no charge facility or only a solar panel charge facility in winter, then switch the EC500 off. That will isolate the starter battery from the Sargent EC500 system and the starter battery will maintain its charge for longer. In that circumstance though, you must then consult the base vehicle manufacturer's handbook which will advise that, to protect the starter battery from discharge during storage, the starter battery should be disconnected. The base vehicle manufacturer will specify the longest time the vehicle can be stored without the battery being disconnected.

Peter Brown

Technical Group & Website



Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group: Baz Wellard can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : technical@asoc.uk.com

French Crit'Air Regulations.

The French have introduced a **Crit'Air** policy to tackle the pollution problem resulting from vehicle emissions. So far it is active in Paris, Lyon & Grenoble; and no doubt others will follow, or may have done so by now.

It requires all vehicles – cars, lorries, motorbikes and buses – to display a windscreen vignette, according to how much they pollute.

Vehicles registered abroad will be allowed to drive in central Paris without the Crit'Air vignette up until March 31st.

A vignette is a 'one-off' charge of €4.80 (approx £4.30) including postage. However, beware as some websites are selling vignettes for substantially more. They come in six (coloured) categories ranging from the very cleanest Crit'Air 1 – e.g. electric to the dirtiest Crit'Air 6.

See accompanying chart for relationship between Crit'Air numbering and vignette numbers.

The penalty for failing to display a vignette while driving in Paris is an on-the-spot fine of £58 - £117; directly relating to the category of the vehicle. The categories correspond to the six European Union emission standards for cars, dating back to 1992 when the Euro-1 was introduced. The RAC are saying that they understand the French police are likely to be lenient in the early days.

In future, vehicles may be banned from driving in Crit'Air areas on certain days based on which vignette (*emission category*) they have.

The English version of the application form has been available since the 1st February, which I used to order a vignette. I have received confirmation that it is being processed and £4.14 (*actual*) has been taken from my bank card. I'm now awaiting delivery.

The process was not difficult to follow. One small point was the need for a mandatory vehicle 'serial number' - I used the VIN number. You will also need a copy (png or jpeg under 200KB) of page 2 of the vehicle's V5C.

Go to <https://www.certificat-air.gouv.fr> select '**translate**' and click-on '**Request your Certificate**' (*at the bottom*) to go to the application process and application form.

Dorothy and I consider it a reassurance should we ever be obliged to, or by mistake, enter a restricted area.

Les différentes catégories du certificat sur la qualité de l'air

Date de 1^{re} immatriculation du véhicule - voiture particulière



Essence et autres

Diesel



Tous les véhicules
100% électriques et hydrogènes



Tous les véhicules gaz
et les véhicules hybrides rechargeables



Euro 5 et 6
À partir du 1^{er} janvier 2011



Euro 4
Entre le 1^{er} janvier 2006
et le 31 décembre 2010 inclus

Euro 5 et 6
À partir du 1^{er} janvier 2011



Euro 2 et 3
Entre le 1^{er} janvier 1997
et le 31 décembre 2005 inclus

Euro 4
Entre le 1^{er} janvier 2006
et le 31 décembre 2010 inclus



Euro 3
Entre le 1^{er} janvier 2001
et le 31 décembre 2005 inclus



Euro 2
Entre le 1^{er} janvier 1997
et le 31 décembre 2000 inclus

Pour obtenir son certificat qualité de l'air
www.certificat-air.gouv.fr

However, there is a 'get-out' if you are worried, or think it too complicated. The website states:

“The certificate is subject to a voluntary approach for users who so wish. It is, however, compulsory for traffic in restricted areas, where the circulation of the most polluting vehicles is restricted by a local decree.”

Checking MOT Test histories:

If you are thinking of buying a pre-owned motorhome (*over 3 years old*) you can now easily check all the MOT history since 2006.

Go to: <https://www.check-mot.service.gov.uk/> and simply enter your vehicle number and chassis make.

You can then view the vehicle's history (pass or fail), with reasons for any failure and engineer's advisory notes. Plus the test dates and mileage each year.

It might also be useful if you are selling your motorhome to have the details printed & ready?

Warning Triangles:

I mentioned this item quite a few years ago now, but as there's some space perhaps a reminder may not go amiss.

Where motorways are concerned the Highways Agency advises that warning triangles should not be used. I understand they can easily be blown about by the slipstream of large lorries; coaches etc.

Website updates:-

Update 01c/17* – Rally List & Rally Spreadsheet – Addition of Blue Lias rally

Update 01b/17* – Stop Press - French Crit'Air policy

Update 01a/17* – Rallies - Addition of Holmes Chapel, Cheshire.

Club Website 'Updates Page' always has up-to-date information, please visit regularly: - <http://www.asoc.uk.com/updates.htm>

Yours aye

Baz Wellard

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster 

A Warm Welcome to New Members



Membership Numbers from 9711 to 9740

John & Carole McGlade	Huntingdon	Executive
Jo May	Castel, Guernsey	Nuevo
Martin Lister	Brighouse	Nuevo
David & Yvonne Houghton	Bollington	Kingham
Dave & Allison Harrison	Dewsbury	Broadway

William & Janina Woodhouse	Nottingham	Kingham
Stuart Carr	Lytham	Fairford
Stuart & Janet Bridgeman	Awsworth	Stanton
David & Glynis Ion	Carlisle	Winchcombe
Martin Hall & Aloysius Lalloo	Sheffield	Warwick
Andrew Hamilton & Denice Palmer	Yarm	Duetto
John & Patricia Mander	Leatherhead	Kemerton
Viv Stanton & Mary Rive	Harrow	Duetto
Roland & Melanie Hinkley	Newton Abbot	Kemerton
Philip Tew	Matlock	Symbol
Christopher Stiff & Lynne Goodchild	Ipswich	Talisman
Alan & Ann Christopher	Doncaster	Kingham
Geoff Raistrick	Somerton	Symbol
Diana Marshall	Southminster	Wave
Graham Davis & Mavis Knight	Stafford	Broadway
Tim & Joan Crowson	Woodbridge	Clubman
Terry & Sue Wood	Milnthorpe	Broadway
Steve & Amanda Butler	Basingstoke	Trooper
Duncan & Lorraine Rossall	Heapey, Chorley	Stanton
Jeff & Sue Smith	Meopham	Broadway
Peter & Jose Allman	Derby	Bourton
Susan Dean	Llanelli	Symphony
John & Carol Cray	Benfleet	Broadway
Terry & Adrienne Robinson	Stone	Nuevo
John & Jane Davis	Herne Bay	Eton

Membership Secretary: Contact Peter at: details on Page 2



Thanks for your
Donations .

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Reprinted from page 2



LIGHT BLUE SHIRTS

with "little man" motif

Polo shirt £14.00

T-shirt £8.00

Sweatshirt £15.50

S. M. L. XL & XXL

Postage £3.00 per item

Cheques should be made payable to "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" and sent with your order to:

Stuart Wood (Regalia Officer)
26 Burton Acres Way
Highburton,
Huddersfield,
HD8 0RF

ASOC regalia

BASEBALL CAP

cream with ASOC logo
£10.50 including postage



Cheques should be made payable to "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" and sent with your order to:

Stuart Wood (Regalia Officer)
26 Burton Acres Way
Highburton,
Huddersfield,
HD8 0RF

Wanted:

An automatic Motorhome,
preferably Mercedes
engine. Around 6 metres in
length.

Will consider Coachbuilt or
Panel Van conversion. 2010
upwards.

Contact R.M. Doughty
tel: **07928 141275**