



RoADAR CHAT

The Sussex Group of Advanced Car Drivers

Group Newsletter

February 2010

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of RoADAR CHAT. Those attending the last meeting enjoyed an excellent presentation on the Mercedes-Benz Driving Academy, which is situated at Brooklands in Surrey. Nev Pooley an ADI who teaches there gave a comprehensive brief about the organisation and their work with young drivers. The interaction with the audience worked well and I think lessons, techniques and ideas were of significant benefit to both sides. Some interesting questions were asked, suitably fielded by Nev, and I think further visits to Mercedes World and the Brooklands Museum could well be "on the cards" for many of us.

To matters more mundane, POT HOLES. Whilst as advanced drivers we will be scanning well ahead for these sometimes, late to spot, dangers, I have not been aware, during my driving career, of the roads being as bad as they are this year. Night driving is the worst as you cannot see them soon enough in a dipped beam situation. The tailgaters will not see them at all in either daylight or the dark, another reason to be extra cautious especially when you deem it necessary to take avoiding action. There are Police Warning signs on the main A264 between Felbridge and Copthorne (the 50mph section), the road section is so badly broken up, it's an accident waiting to happen. Take care out there as they say, and with these road conditions watch out for uneven braking. It might be worth a look at Roadcraft page 71 onwards for a little light bedtime reading!

Safe driving **Malcolm Taylor**

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NEXT MEETING
25/03/2010

A presentation by

David Short,
ANPR (Automatic Numberplate Recognition) Manager
based at Sussex Police HQ

Newsletter address: Landhurst, Peelings Lane, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex, BN24 5AD

Training Officer's Report

I can now confirm that the next Tutor Training Session will be held on Saturday 24th April 2010 at Wellshurst Golf Club. This is the same venue as our last meeting as we always get a good 'buffet lunch'. Start time will probably be 09.30 with tea/coffee available from 09.00 but this will be confirmed by email to all my tutors nearer the time as well as details of what we will be doing. I am hoping that Stephen Haley author of 'Mind Driving' will be speaking about his book and ideas, I am waiting confirmation from Stephen that he can attend.

This issue congratulations to;- Richard Bray Re-test Silver

Alan Cooper Re-test Gold

Robin Speirs Re-test Diploma

Tristan Orr-Berwick Silver, Tutor - John Hews

Helen Adams Silver, Tutor – John Hews

Tony Wallington Gold, Tutor - Alan Cooper

'Overlapping braking and gear changing' has, once again, been raised with me by an associate in training. 'Roadcraft' Chapter 4 pages 69/70 deals quite comprehensively with this issue so come on all of you read it carefully and then I am sure that you will see that the situations when it might be acceptable will not occur very often. In my experience the need to 'over-lap braking and gear changing' usually occurs as a result of poor planning and/or approaching a hazard too quickly. The Chief Examiner was tackled on this subject some time ago and I seem to remember him saying something along the lines of 'an advanced driver should rarely need to do it' Seems clear enough. Advice from me is that if you are doing it ask yourself why you needed to use it. Be honest, you might be able to fool yourself into believing it was necessary but I cannot see any examiner being fooled.

Now that the festive season is behind us and the 'Drink Drive' campaigns are over for the time being I would remind you (and that includes myself) that 'just the one as I'm driving' may quite easily be too much. I know we cannot believe everything that we are told but recently whilst checking a driver's licence and seeing a drink drive conviction thereon I enquired of the circumstances. Here was the answer. 'I had only had a pint of Stella and thought I would be alright to drive. I got stopped as I had a brake light that wasn't working and could not believe it when I was over the limit'.

Question:- How much could that one drink cost you? Answer:- a 12 month driving ban, your job, up to a £5,000 fine and a criminal record. Is it worth it?

Watch out for P.C. 'Shiny buttons' That is the name he has been given by his colleagues. In case you haven't heard about this officer he is the one who issued a fixed penalty notice to a driver for blowing his nose whilst stationary in a queue of traffic. I am sure that will go a long way towards improving police and public relations.

I would just like to take this opportunity to remind you that Alan Cooper has agreed to look after the training records, so please inform Alan of your test results, his contact details are:

avajrcooper27@ntlworld.com and his telephone numbers are 07792390747 and 01903 506264

That's all folks'

David Raine

Training Officer

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Details
25th March 2010	David Short, ANPR manager at Sussex Police HQ
27 th May 2010	Annual General Meeting



NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

Directions: Sussex Police HQ is situated just off the A26 in Lewes. the address is Malling House, Church Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN72DZ

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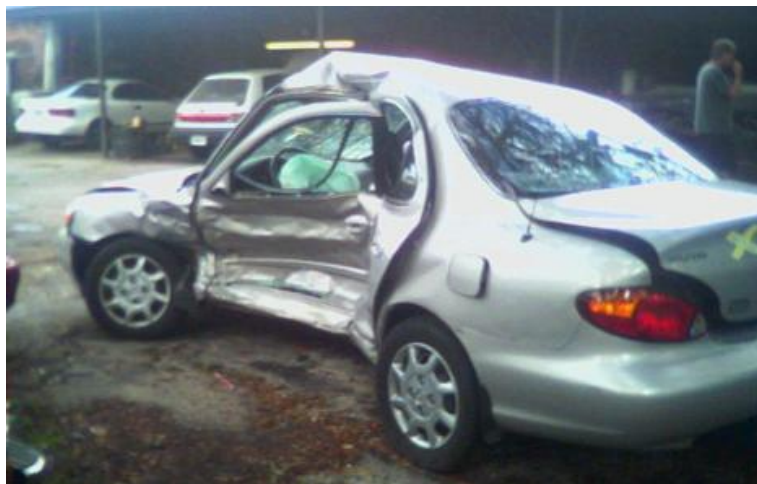
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MORE PENALTY POINTS FOR DRIVERS CAUGHT ON MOBILE PHONES

Motorists caught behind the wheel whilst using a mobile telephone could face increased penalty points. Lord Adonis, the transport secretary, has said the current level of three penalty points on a licence could increase to four.

This would mean that if a driver is caught three times using their handsets then they would be banned if convicted. Drivers currently also have to pay a £60 fine if they are caught using a mobile phone.

If a new nationwide study by the government shows that there has been an increase in people committing the offence then proposals could be put in place to increase the number of points placed on a licence.





We would like to acknowledge the help in producing this communication from the information supplied by The Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers (AIRSO) who have kindly agreed that we may reproduce the articles that in turn were supplied by The Department for Transport, Driving Standards Agency, PACTS, RoadSafe, RoSPA, SMMT, TRL, IAM, MSA, DIA, ADI/NJC, MCIA, The TTC Group, Fleet News, GEM, IRSO, Brake, Transport Times, ADI News, Fleet Safety Association, Norwich Union Risk Services, Motor Insurers' Bureau etc.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS WHICH ARE AROUND AT THE MOMENT AND WHO IS SAYING WHAT

97% of fatal or serious injured bicycle collisions on main roads happened where there were no cycle lanes says a report by Transport Research Laboratory.

Handheld mobile phone use has gone up despite tougher penalties introduced two years ago, finds research by the Transport Research Laboratory.

Young women are 13% more likely than average to be killed or seriously injured if they crash because they drive older and smaller cars, finds research by Monash University Accident Research Centre in Australia.

20mph limits save lives and should be more widely implemented, finds a longitudinal study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Up to 16% of cyclist deaths on roads could be prevented if cyclists wear an appropriate helmet according to research by Transport Research Laboratory.

Local authorities should introduce more 20mph limits on urban streets, says guidance from the UK's Department for Transport.

The UK Government hopes to introduce mandatory labelling on medicine packaging warning about the dangers of driving on prescription drugs and is starting with a pilot in partnership with Boots the Chemist, as part of a THINK! campaign

40,000 MORE TRUCKS AND TRAILERS MAY NEED ANNUAL TESTS

40,000 more trucks and trailers may need mandatory annual roadworthiness tests in Britain if a proposal from the UK Department for Transport gets the go-ahead. This may follow a consultation, with the DfT aiming to end to the exemptions that apply to many truck-based vehicles such as breakdown trucks, tower-wagons and mobile cranes. Also in the firing line for the first time are abnormal-load trucks and trailers run solely under the Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) Order 2003. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency data show that there are 14,300 breakdown vehicles alone registered on UK roads.

The consultation can be found on the DfT website and it closes on 19th March,

WIDER LIGHT TRAILERS

On 29 December 2009 the UK Department for Transport published a consultation on its plans to change the Construction and Use Regulations to allow the use of wider trailers behind cars and vans of less than 3.5 tonnes.

The DfT says "This proposal is a de-regulatory measure, to remove the restriction on the width of trailers." The consultation can be found on the DfT website and it closes on Tuesday 16th February.

Information kindly supplied by

