

The WRAG September 2011



Western Region MAG

EU Hands Off Biking

A raft of issues emanating from Europe will have a profound effect on riders and the motorcycle industry generally. We must stand up and be heard. Some of these are driven by the EU Commission, like the new Type Approval and Market Surveillance Regulation that will see the introduction of compulsory ABS, the sealing of powertrains from the airbox, through the engine to the final drive (including the diameter and aspect ratio of the rear tyre), restrictions on the aftermarket industry, possible roadside checks by police or other government agencies to inspect emissions, detect owner 'tuning' and more.

There's EU-funded development of electronics to control and govern

speeds through warning systems or, ultimately, actual throttle control.

Ireland plans compulsory, full sleeve day-glo jackets for riders and pillions; France

is debating compulsory reflective/day-glo clothing. Will UK insurance companies start saying that because we weren't dressed in day-glo it's our own fault that an inattentive driver drove into us? MAG says the onus should not be on the victim.

France also wants to ban bikes over 7 years old from urban areas for environmental reasons! Their congestion is already terrible and putting more riders into cars that pollute terribly when they are stationary, is bonkers.

Bikes are part of the urban transport solution, not problem.

Enough! There will be a vote by the MEP committee discussing the above Regulation in the autumn. We need them to listen. They're meant to represent us. MAG and many others in the motorcycle community are negotiating hard with our own Government and our European representatives, but in the meantime; Join us to keep EU Hands Off Biking; it's time for Action now!

On the 25th September you can make your voice heard. Starting from service areas across the country, we all ride at 1pm, 45mph, using the inside lanes and disperse 20 minutes later. Negotiations are ongoing and as citizens we must be considered. This is the first time. Let's show what we could be capable of.

The list of start points is changing all the time, but as of the time this newsletter was published, the following start points have been listed for Western Region and surrounding regions:

M4

- 🏍 Reading services eastbound
- 🏍 Leigh Delamere services westbound
- 🏍 J32 ASDA car park
- 🏍 J33 Cardiff Services
- 🏍 Pont Abram Services eastbound

M5

- 🏍 Michaelwood services northbound
- 🏍 Gordano Services
- 🏍 Exeter Services
- 🏍 Taunton Deane Services Southbound and Northbound

M40

- 🏍 Oxford Services
- 🏍 Warwick Services northbound

A38

Lee Mill Services, Ivybridge,
Plymouth

Closer to the date, we will be have a final, complete list of all the actual start points.

It will be here, on the www.ridersarevoters.org website and many other places. As you can see we've already got venues from Plymouth to Aberdeen on most M-ways and major trunk routes, but if you or your bike club would like to be a 'starter', contact us for co-ordinated action.

Bristol Bike Show

The show was more crowded than ever, due to the Street Art Festival about 150 meters away which brought in ordinary members of the public and which can only be good.

There was a lot of interest in MAG and we took 11 new memberships, two of which were joint - our highest ever at this Show.

We found people were coming up to us, rather than us asking if they were members, and asking to join up.

We had 2 enquiries about the 25th September and I told them to watch the websites.

Of course, we were without our Commander in Chief as the Troll was ill and we had many good wishes for him which I have passed on. However, we did him proud.

A personal **THANKYOU** from me to those who stepped up to the mark in the light of Troll's illness: - Mark et al from NABD, who shared our stand, worked and kept us going with coffee/tea/biscuits. Steve Bradford, John & Pippa Sweeney for working the stand - many thanks Chaps, couldn't have done it without you. Jules Palmer, who kept asking if I needed a break but thanks to those previously mentioned, I didn't need to take her away from other marshalling duties.

Thank you very much Chaps - much appreciated. Anne

Events

Sept 2 – 4. The chill Out Rally III **R4C (Riders for Charity)**

Sept 2 – 4. 21st Stormin' the Castle Motorcycle Rally and Custom Show:
<http://www.storminthecastle.co.uk>

Sept 2 – 4. Wakinyan Rally 2011 **Salutation MCC:** <http://www.wakinyanrally.co.uk>

Sept 9 – 11. GWR Rally 2011 **Weston & North Somerset MAG:** <http://north-somerset.mag-uk.org/gwr.html>

Sept 9 – 11. Wozwolf Rally 2011 - **Teenage Kicks Wozwolf RC:**
<http://www.wozwolf.co.uk>

Sept 16 – 18. "Spat out of Hull" **East Yorkshire MAG:** <http://east-yorks.mag-uk.org/events.html>

Sept 17. Bike Show Pre-Party **West Oxon MAG**

Sept 18. End of Summer Gay and Lesbian Biker Rally **GBMCC:**
<http://www.gaybikerrally.co.uk>

Sept 18. Autumn Bike Show **West Oxon MAG**

Sept 18. Mutt's Nuts Ride out **We Be MAG:**
<http://webemag.co.uk>

Sept 25. Demo

Sept 25. Rog & Lyn's Charity Ride:
<http://north-somerset.mag-uk.org/Rog%20%20Lyns%20Charity%20Run.html>

Sept 30 – Oct 2. "Yer Tiz" **Rally Devon MAG:**
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Devon-MAG-Motorcycle-Action-Group/177919692219560?ref=ts#!/event.php?eid=205005836210216>

Oct 7 – 9. 15th Kamikaze Cave Run **Mobile Chaos MCC:**
<http://www.mobilechaosmcc.co.uk>

The Motorcycle Action Group accepts no responsibility for the content of this publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or MAG.

A Demented Troll publication