



Wessex Hillrunners Off – Road Enthusiasts Newsletter September 2010



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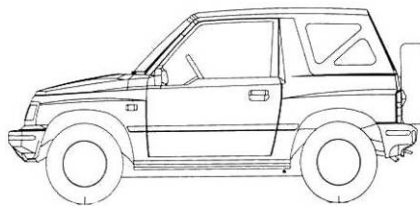
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Newsletter Edited by Bryan (Tonka)

Welcome to the Wessex Hillrunners off-road enthusiasts club newsletter.

As you may be aware the annual general meeting is 11th November and nominations for the committee must be in before 14th October. If you want to help run the club to benefit all members please do consider taking up one of the positions or become a marshal. It's your club run for and by it's members.

Contact List

Chairperson (acting) and Chief Marshal	Tim Taylor	07802 430483
Treasurer	Colin Holmes	01329 510722
Membership Secretary	Steve Cowling	01329 221179
Club Shop	Jen and Joe Joesbury	02392 647500
Rights of way officer	Patrick Manuel	02392 369660
Website and Forum	Jim Tyler-Mount	02392 353183
Events Co-ordinator	Sam and Sarah	new number to be announced!
Child Protection Officer	Richard Fletcher	01329 312092
Club Secretary	Jenny Joesbury	02392 647500
First Aid Co-Ordinator	Simon Blench	07717 376052
Newsletter	Bryan Matthews	07502 081856



From The Chair

The club has been fairly active this summer, not so many site days, but lots of other activities. The recent fun day at Nellies Dell was a disappointment, very poorly supported.

The club put on a good display at The Berkshire 4X4 show, and also at Gosport Show.

The good season should begin about now, with mud and standing water on most sites, so please ensure your recovery points are sound, and your tow ropes in good order. We have a trip to Core coming up in October, and it should be nice and sticky!

Could you please check that you have informed Steve Cowling, membership secretary of any changes to the information we hold, so that we are able to contact you when required.

THOUGHTS OF A NEW MEMBER.

Forum name: markandkaz Joined: March 2010 Location: Fareham
Current Vehicle: Range Rover/Land Rover 3.5 V8 Hybrid

How I found the club....

Back in February, Karen and I started looking around for a second run around, and came across a Vitara in the New Forest.

After a short test drive I fell in love with it and handed over my £700 (my valentines day present). After driving it to work for a week, I decided that it was time to test out the 4wd, so started to look into where I could go to do this. After doing some research on the web I found a forum and signed up in the hope I'd meet some like minded people in the local area who could show me the ropes. It wasn't long before I realised that this wasn't going to happen so I kept my eyes open for a club whose members actually get out regularly and also could help me find the green lanes in the area.

Signing up and first experiences.....

When I stumbled on the Hillrunners, I couldn't believe my luck. There appeared to be lots of people from the local area, and there were lots of events on the calendar. And it only got better really. Almost straight away Steve popped round and gave me a warm welcome along with my members pack. I was still itching to get out and try some off roading, so it wasn't long before I posted on the forum asking if anyone wanted to go green laning.

By this point was actually fully prepared to go out on my own, but luckily I ended up meeting Rob, Steve, and Andy. With Andy leading we headed of up through the Meon Valley. To this day, that remains to be the most fun I've had in a 4x4. I was very proud of the unmodified Vitara as she managed to keep up though some fairly challenging muddy lanes, well at least up until the last one, when I got stuck! I felt very safe and well looked after by the guys though and got home in one piece. Some videos of this day can be found on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/puffin9888#p/a>

Change of vehicle.....

A couple of trips to CORE left the Vitara slightly battle damaged, with a busted fuel tank, snapped prop shaft, and a blowing manifold. While it was a great truck, it was clear it was time to move on to something more fit for purpose, so I sold it to a couple of Romanian chaps, which was an experience I'd rather not go through again. I eventually found the landy. It's the best off roader as it's been off road ever since I've owned it (on the drive!).

I've had all sorts of problems, and breakdowns with it. Luckily Steve introduced me to Colin who has given me some invaluable advice and help. Although there are still various issues with the truck, I have managed to get out laning and got it up to Nellies dell recently where we camped for one night and felt very welcome and at home.

Conclusions.....

Well, in summary I feel very lucky to be a member of the Hillrunners. It's not clicky in any way, and all of the members I've met have been really friendly and easy to get on with. The advice and help I have had is unbelievably useful, and don't know where I'd be without it. The club regularly holds events, so every month there is some fun to be had, which is what it's all about!!

HOW TO JOIN RECOVERY STRAPS.....

ALWAYS USE SNATCH STRAPS WITH EXTREME CAUTION AND ENSURE THAT ONLOOKERS ARE WELL OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE.

Many different methods are used to join recovery straps, i.e. snatch straps, winch extension straps and tree protectors. These methods have ranged from "downright lethal", through "very dangerous" to "acceptable" and "best".

Snatch straps can be **dangerous** if they break during a recovery operation and if more than one is needed and they are joined incorrectly, and they break, or the joint fails then they can be **LETHAL**. Remember, in all cases where a snatch-strap is used, place a damper on the strap(s) midway between the two vehicles to dampen the strap should it break etc.



DANGER !!!

In this **INCORRECT** method, the end of one strap is inserted through the eye of the other strap and a stick inserted through the eye of the first strap. The problem here is if the stick or strap breaks. There is nothing left to join the straps and they will fly back with tremendous force cutting through anything in their way. Being inside the vehicle will not guarantee your safety. This method may be quick but is extremely **DANGEROUS**.

DO NOT USE THIS METHOD

DO NOT USE A SHACKLE TO JOIN STRAPS:

If the strap breaks then the unbroken strap, and shackle, will fly back toward the vehicle with enough force to cut down anything in its way, including the human body. Being inside the vehicle will not guarantee your safety. This method may be quick but is extremely **DANGEROUS**.



This is an acceptable method of joining straps, but is not recommended because the joint will become incredibly tight under use and will be almost impossible to undo.

In this method, the end of one strap is passed through the eye of the other strap and then the other end of the second strap is passed through the eye of the first strap and pulled all the way through to form a strong joint. This method is acceptable as it will produce a strong joint, but will be extremely difficult to undo after use.

THIS IS AN ACCEPTABLE METHOD, but the joint will be nearly impossible to undo after use

A BETTER WAY!!!

This method is similar to the above method except that a strong stick is inserted, as shown, to prevent the straps pulling tight together. After use, the stick can be removed creating enough slack in the joint to allow easy separation.

THIS IS AN ACCEPTABLE METHOD, but the stick will still do damage if one of the straps break.



This method is similar to the above method except that a rolled up towel, or similar replaces the stick. After use the towel can be removed creating enough slack in the joint to allow easy separation.



THIS IS THE RECOMMENDED METHOD, as the towel is not likely to cause too much damage if one of the straps break.

Researched by Steve C W.H.R Membership secretary



GOSPORTEERS VEHICLE RALLY 2010

On Monday 30th August, some members attended the Gosporters Vehicle Rally at Stokes Bay. It was a lovely sunny day with many different vehicles on show ranging from minis, a tractor, dumper truck, classic and custom cars, motorbikes, trikes and even a bus.

The Wessex Hillrunners put on a good stand which received a lot of interest from the general public and even a few new members. Andy Taylor came second to a tractor with his hybrid (still not sure what category that was, but well done Andy!)

Andy did his show lap of the arena, closely followed by our son Jack in the Toylander, at the request of the mayor who wanted to see it in action and find out more about it.



Many thanks to all who attended, Colin and Penny, Paul, Barry, Chris, Andy and Adam, who made it a good day out and were great company. Looking forward to next year.

Steve and Helen C



Patrick's Country File

By Patrick Manuel

Home: 02392 369660 Mobile: 07866 297543 Email: patrick@manuel.org.uk

Well summer has been a bit of a mixed bag as far as the weather is concerned but there have still been plenty of opportunities between the rain showers to get out on the lanes. I have even managed to drive a few myself which has made very a welcome change from talking and writing about it! If you have not yet ventured out into the wilds of the countryside why not give it a go? All you need is a map, a 4x4, a copy of the club's green lane guide and a sense of adventure! You don't need a fully tricked up truck to go laning as there are plenty of local lanes that can be driven without difficulty in shiny road biased vehicles. If you would like to find out more about how to go green laning then contact myself or talk to any of the other regular green laners in the club.

Green Lane Maintenance Days

Green Lane Maintenance Days are all about extreme gardening, having fun and putting something back into the lanes that we use. The club started organising and running these events in 2001 and since then we have undertaken some 20 projects on lanes, mainly in Hampshire but with the occasional foray over the border into West Sussex. Over the years we, supported by a number of other local 4x4, motorcycle and equestrian groups, have provided over 225 man days of volunteer effort – that's equivalent to a year's full time work! The club is a full group member of Hampshire Paths Partnership (HPP), a scheme run by Hampshire County Council that enables volunteer groups to carry out work in the county. HCC provide tools and training, we provided the manpower. All the events have a site survey and risk assessment undertaken before hand and there are always qualified first aiders on site just in case.

The next maintenance day is Sunday the 31st of October. The target lane is 'Selborne 66' (OS map reference SU 754339 to SU 755331), a Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT) just west of the pretty village of Selborne. Details will be posted on the Forthcoming Events/Rights of Way pages of the Forum nearer the time.

Repeal the NERC Act?

One of the things that the new government has promised to do is to repeal unfair and unneeded legislation. And what better to be struck from the statute book than the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act? This is the outrageously unjust Act that overnight reclassified Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs), which generally had unrecorded vehicular rights, to Restricted Byways (RBs) which specifically do not. In Hampshire, where the vast majority of the RUPPs were acknowledged to be vehicular, we lost somewhere between a third and a half of the usable lanes in one fell swoop. So if you feel like doing your bit for the restoration of the democratic process and the return of our lanes go to <http://yourfreedom.hmg.gov.uk/repealing-unnecessary-laws/nerc-legislation> and make your views known. Don't hold your breath though!

Treadlightly UK A new national scheme encouraging responsible use of green lanes has been launched in the UK to '... protect motorised recreational access opportunities through education, partnership

working and conservation initiatives'. Treadlightly UK is supported by all the major national organisations including the Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA), the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) and the Green Lane Association (GLASS). More information is available at <http://www.treadlightly-uk.org>.



Forthcoming Events

Date	Event	Type
25th/26th September 2010	Bovington	Charity Sponsorship
14th October 2010	Club Meet	Social
24th October 2010	CORE	Site
30th October 2010	Halloween	Green Laning
31st October 2010	National Green Lane Clearance	Byway Maintenance
11th November 2010	AGM Club Meet	Social
28th November 2010	Brick Kiln Farm	Site
9th December 2010	Club Meet	Social
31st December 2010	New Years Eve	Green Laning

To keep up to date with events, put forward any suggestions or to book onto events, please contact Sam or Sarah by PM through the forum on Sam&Sarah1 or contact any other committee member. The full calendar is also available at www.wessex-hillrunners.co.uk



Size doesn't matter in our club



Club Site Rules When Off Roding

- **10 mph** speed limit on site, **5mph** in car park
- **No alcohol or drugs** (unless prescribed by a doctor or cleared by Committee) to be consumed when on site (spectators/drivers).
- **Follow instructions from Marshals and Officials** – they are there to help keep you and everybody else safe.
- **All loose items to be fastened down** (a high-lift jack, toolbox or even your flask of tea flying around can be lethal).
- **Check that you have adequate recovery points and ropes**, plus that your vehicle battery and fuel tank are securely fastened.
- **Kinetic Recovery Ropes are not permitted at any of our events.** These must not be used under any circumstances at any event run by us.
- **Winching Blankets must be used at all times whilst winching.** This includes the use of “Kevlar” or “dynema” style winch lines, minimum weight 2KG
- **Keep a safe distance** from other vehicles at all times.
- **When ascending or descending steep hills check that your way is clear** and allow plenty of room for vehicles already on slopes, always follow any direction signs on site, i.e. one-way routes.
- **Give way** to vehicles on steep slopes – you can stop, they can't.
- **Obey all signs posted by the club**, “no entries” and “one way” for example.
- **Be aware** of spectators (especially young children – they don't realise the danger) **YOU** are responsible for your family.
- **If you see a taped-off area please do not enter with a vehicle** – it may be for spectators, or the owner of the site does not want it driven on.
- **Keep** animals under control (all dogs must be on a lead).
- **Have fun, be safe** and if you see anything that gives you cause for concern speak to a Committee Member or Marshal who will deal with it.
- **No Bikes, Motor Bikes or Trikes** etc unless permission granted prior to event by the committee.
- **All vehicles must be roadworthy**, marshals or committee member's decision is final, and this includes brakes, handbrakes and tyres! All trailered vehicles will be inspected before taking part.
- **Seatbelts Must be worn at all times by all vehicle occupants, no exceptions for age related vehicles.**
- **You are responsible for your Passengers**, make sure they are safe, sitting on proper seats etc, if in doubt ask them to get out whilst you tackle that tricky manoeuvre.
- Everyone who enters the site must sign in at the gate.
- All drivers must produce a **Membership Card** (temporary cards available at a cost of £1).
- **Any child under 4 years old must be restrained** in an EU approved car seat.
- **All passengers under 16 years old must have a consent form** signed by their parent or guardian (these are available on the gate and on the Website).
- **All drivers must hold a Full Driving Licence.** We can permit drivers without a driving licence, minimum age 17 years old, if accompanied by a Committee approved competent 4x4 driver with a Full Drivers Licence. They must also request permission at least 24hrs prior to the event from Tim Taylor/Sandra Jerrim.
- **All drivers in any one vehicle must make themselves known on entry to the site.** We may ask you for a small fee to cover insurance cost per driver.
- **REMEMBER** what we do can be dangerous and fatal, **BE SAFE.**
- **The Committee members have the final word, you will be asked to leave any event if we feel the rules of the club are being broken or you are acting in an unsafe manner, this includes green lane events as well as club site days.**

Discounts for Member's and Services offered

Ed's Land rover Spares Hermitage farm, Colemore, Nr Alton, GU34 3PU 10% Discount for all members on production of membership cards. Tel: 01428 725589 Mob: 07922 213853

Gill of Dial-a-Dog-Wash Waterlooville, covering Portsmouth, Denmead, Emsworth, Havant, Cosham, Paulsgrove etc and Dave of DADW Sussex, covering Hayling Island and east into Sussex, will offer a competitive price to club members on confirmation of membership of the Wessex Hillrunners, please mention when enquiring that you are a Wessex Member! **Call Gill on 02392 717803 or 07725 489384**

Auto Tyre Centre unit 1,11-12 Dock Rd Gosport PO12 1SL (near the asda store)
Gives the best Deals on Tyres for both on and off Road, Servicing and MOT preparation They offer 10% Discount to all club members on production of a valid Membership card
Call Joe Joesbury on 02392 520343

Fareham Tyres 160 Fareham Rd Gosport PO13 0AT **01329 233723** Fareham Tyres will price match anyone locally for the same specification tyres etc, will also give discount to club members on production of your membership card.

Alternative Windscreens we offer a range of automotive glass repair and replacement services, including:-
Windscreen replacement, Total automotive glazing for all other windows
Fast call out, Emergency replacements and repairs Home or office assistance
We can work with any type of glass, with heated windows and rain sensors quickly and easily replaced.
We charge realistic prices for our services, and throw our experience in at no extra cost. **(01329) 823005**

Fareham Biodiesel a small local business offering biodiesel to local customers and businesses.
Our fuel is produced from recycled vegetable oil, which is supplied locally. We have a forecourt style pump which is open 8.30 till 6 Monday till Friday, and sometimes at the weekend.
If you'd like to know more, or get a quote then email us at info@fareham-biodiesel.co.uk. If you are local then pop by and see us at Unit 5 The Boatyard Industrial Estate PO16 0TA, or call us on **01329 220044**.

Essentials Hardware Your local Hardware store situated in Bridgemary, Gosport, Hampshire. Supplying a wide range of Power and hand Tools including Draper and Silverline, Plumbing Goods, Electrical Goods, DIY Products, Adhesives, Cycling goods, Cycles, Cycle Repairs, Car Accessoires, Key Cutting,. Bolts, nails fixings and fasteners. Discount offered on production of membership card.
54 Gregson Avenue, Bridgemary, Gosport, Hampshire PO13 0UR

Express Maintenance (Fareham) Handyman repairs, Door hanging, Flat packs assembled, Painting (inside and out) and Gardening services. Discount for Members Contact **Bryan on 07502 081856**



Club Shop - Is available at most events and at club meets. The shop Supplies Club t-shirts and stickers tow ropes, strops, first aid kits, fire extinguishers and lots of other useful bits of kit. To find out about new products and goodies do have a look on the forum or website

Stop Press Breaking News

For the latest news of events happening or to get help and advice have a regular look at the forum on www.wessexhr.freeforums.org It's free!





Tonka tows a tank!!!