

THE TRECKER



Issue No 101

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Editor's Corner

I'm sure I'm not the only one wondering if it will ever stop raining. Down in the south east this winter we've had no snow and very little ice, but after the turn of the year we've had storm after storm and almost endless grey skies. Surely it won't be too long before the weather brightens up and at least the new rally season will be kicking off soon.

It's always good to have something to look forward to so this year we decided to go through the new programme nice and early and start booking a few rallies. Maybe just as well we did as quite a few seem to be filling up quickly, let's hope this is a sign that things will be busy this year.

We also have Monty's continental rallies to look forward to, back in France this year, and we've decided to take the plunge and run one of the overseas rallies for the first time. Hope you can join us at Devèze!

Geoff Heyes
Editor

New UK rally season

The new rally season will be starting immediately after easter. Here are a couple of "plugs" to get us in the mood!

RALLY 20 - WOODSIDE FIELD, OLD SODBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. THURSDAY 23 MAY TO TUESDAY 28 MAY.

Come and join us for a celebration rally. Yes, we will be celebrating our 50th time as rally officers. Mega exciting activities are being planned, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Terry and Lesley Jackman

RALLY 33 – KINGFISHER FARM – Thursday 27 June to Tuesday 2 July and RALLY 51 – SUNGROVE – Thursday 29 August to Tuesday 2 September.

We will have a Sixties theme with fancy dress, a quiz and games during the weekend of both rallies. Also both rallies will be around the time of our Golden Wedding, so you can expect cake and wine!

Richard and Stella Sivill

RALLY 39 – GALA RALLY & AGM, CANDY FARM, FINNINGLY, DONCASTER – Wednesday 17 July – Monday 22 July.

Don't forget to book early, particularly if you require an electric hook-up (5A), as these are in limited supply and are going quickly. Cost for all five nights is £60 plus electric before 31 May and £70 plus electric thereafter. A £10 non-refundable deposit is required but there is no rally fee payable.

Editor's Note:

I would encourage all rally officers to consider promoting their rallies (or advising if they are already fully booked) in TheTrecker in this way. To do this just send details by email to thetrecker@suntreckers.org.uk and I'll do the rest. However please bear in mind our usual publication dates of March, June, September and December as there is no point in trying to promote a rally too close to a publication date.

Continental rally programme

There are three early summer rallies and one late summer rally (all in France) in this year's continental rally programme, kindly put together for us by Monty.

RALLY 16 – DEVÈZE, GASCONY – Friday 10 May to Monday 20 May

We have a few bookings for this rally but are looking for more, there should be plenty of space available but please consider letting us know if you are thinking of attending, so we can keep the site informed.

Geoff and Eileen Heyes

RALLY 19 – LE COUDERC, DORDOGNE – Monday 20 May to Thursday 30 May

Again there are already some bookings for the rally. However as recently posted on the Suntreckers Facebook page, Le Couderc was extremely busy at this time last year. To ensure that we can get pitches for everyone in the same area, please let us know as soon as possible if you are thinking of attending. Official bookings can be done later.

Malcolm and Hazel Brushett

RALLY 24 – LA PETITE BRENNE, INDRE – Friday 31 May to Sunday 9 June

A popular site in the heart of the Brenne Forest not far from the A20 south of Châteauroux, well known to many Suntreckers.

Mike Bennett and Sue Watts

RALLY 52 - LE COUDERC, DORDOGNE – Sunday 1 September to Tuesday 10 September

As with Rally 19 it would be useful if those interested in attending the rally could let us know as soon as possible as Couderc is always busy at this time.

Roger and Libby Cook

Some sad news

Long-standing member Len Jones passed away in the middle of February. Len and Ann have been members for almost 35 years and are well known for the many excellent rallies they have run for us over the years. We received this contribution from his granddaughter Hannah:

Hi everyone. My nan - Ann and the rest of the family wish to now share with you all the funeral arrangements to celebrate the wonderful and fantastic life of my granddad Len.

This will take place on 19th March 2024 at Amber Valley Memorial Park and Crematorium, Derby Road, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1BH @12pm.

This is followed by a wake at Alfreton Golf Club^[SEP], Wingfield Rd,^[SEP] Alfreton^[SEP] DE55 7LH to celebrate his amazing life.

The family have asked instead of flowers etc we will be collecting donations for Treetops Hospice care who provided nurses for Len during his final days. Love The Jones Family x

Suntreckers with BN Membership

I often wonder how many of our members are also members of British Naturism. No doubt somebody has that information somewhere and I and I suspect many others would be interested to find out. As a member of both organisations, I hope to achieve as much as possible regarding the 60 Challenges posed by BN for members during 2024. The purpose of the challenges is to promote Naturism and, at the same time, celebrate 60 years of British Naturism.

BN, in the introduction to the challenges, states it is appreciated that almost nobody will be able to complete them all. It also states the challenges are for fun and that is the approach I will be adopting. I am also going to adapt some of the challenges in such a way that I can “tick my personally modified boxes” thus increasing my own enjoyment as well as promoting naturism.

One of the challenges is to ‘display a sign at home so that visitors know you are a naturist’. This is very easy for me as during the Suntrecker rally at White Rose Club last August, one of their members had several wood-carved notices on display. I bought some of them and one, ‘Clothing Optional’, is now on view by the main entrance to my home, leaving visitors in no doubt.

Incidentally the rally was most ably organised and led by Ann and the late Len Jones. Len can be seen busy with his BBQ in the picture – notice the wineboxes!

It is good to see just how many rallies are in the pipeline and thanks to all who volunteer as rally officers. Going through the list I have pencilled two or three in my diary which will allow me to tick off a couple more of the challenges as well as meeting other members of Suntreckers.



Have motorhome, will travel!



Sign now on display by my front door



Len busy with his BBQ at WhiteRose

One challenge I am really looking forward to is being photographed at six well-known UK landmarks - have motorhome will travel! I wonder how many other Suntrecker members will be taking up some of the BN challenges and I look forward to some of the conversations we might have about them.

Alan Flux – West Yorkshire.

A warm welcome

A warm welcome is extended to the following members who've joined us since September. Look forward to seeing them on a few rallies in the coming year:

Eric & Debra G	Somerset
Roy K	Hampshire
Terry & Ruth H	South Gloucestershire
Will B & Chrissy H	Cambridgeshire
Michael M	Berkshire
John C	South Lincolnshire
Michael T	Yorkshire
Don S	Hampshire

And a fond farewell

As usual at this time of year, there are several long-standing memberships that have not renewed for various reasons. Some of the members that have been in Suntreckers for more than 7 years are listed below and no doubt many of you will know them.

Member(s)	Years	Member(s)	Years
Al & Val Judge	38	Peter & Dorothy Lawrence	26
Mark Atkinson	36	Philip Dent & Tricia McLeod	14
John & Ann Edwards	35	Colin & Emmie Hardwick	12
Michael & Charlotte Smith	34	Paul & Janet Beverley	9
Graham Hicks & Shirley French	32	John & Jenny Maddern	8
Paul & Judith Kirby	32	Roger Bell & Eva Harding Bell	7
Alan & Carol Cook	29	Mike & Ivana Parkinson	7
Bruce & Elaine Hickman	29	Dell & Thalia Statham	7
Edward & Christine Colman	27		

One of the couples listed above, Michael and Charlotte Smith, wrote to us to say their goodbyes:

We joined Suntreckers 34 years ago having enjoyed a family holiday that included visits to Studland. Our first rally was at Green End Lodge (now Croft) with John Rowland as rally officer. It was attended by many of the great and good of Suntreckers and they made our family of five very welcome. On our very first rally our children did a sponsored walk for Motor Neurone Disease and were hugely supported by fellow ralliers! Ken Webster, legend of Suntreckers, came round all the units recruiting rally officers but assured us we were excused this time as it was our first rally but promised our turn would come and indeed it did not very long afterwards!

Over the years we have attended rallies from as far afield as Sunnybroom near Aberdeen to North Devon, from Heather House to Tything Barn and many many places in between. We have acted as rally officers from Tando to Marsh Farm to Golygfa to Manchester Sun and Air. In 1990 we first rallied at White Rose and have visited it many times since then, sometimes as rally officers.

It was after 12 years as members that we first made it to the AGM and Gala rally and then we had to leave first thing Sunday morning! The most memorable Gala rally has to be the silver celebration when the weather just before the rally was appalling and Clive and Colin plus many others had to do an awful lot of work to ensure the rally went ahead. We just about managed to park on our pitch and filled the awning up with hay to soak up the puddles. It's strange how these experiences bring people together.

Rally 42 Cambridge Outdoor Club 1 – 6 Aug. Rally Officers now Kathy and Chris Genn, M: 07708 899943
Email: kathchrisgenn@gmail.com

Rally 51 Sungrove 29 Aug – 3 Sep. Rally Officers now Richard & Stella Sivill, 6 High Street, Tattershall, Lincolnshire, LN4 4LE. T: 01526 345388 M: 07359 299963 Email: richardsivillgallery43@gmail.com

Rally 59 Greenhill Park 25 – 27 Oct. Fee will be £16 per night to include use of the chicken shed with lighting and heating.

Suntreckers Committee Vacancies

There are currently several vacancies for Suntreckers committee members. The commitment is not arduous and you have a chance to get involved and set the future direction of Suntreckers to make your club thrive. Committee meetings are normally held online using Zoom, so there is no requirement for regular travel to the meetings.

Appeal for assistance

We are looking for someone with website search engine optimisation (SEO) experience to assist the webmaster in raising the profile of our website on Google etc. You may or may not also wish to join the committee as there are currently numerous vacancies waiting to be filled, it would be an individual decision.

The reason for this appeal is that there is a real need for our profile to be raised to encourage a younger membership, and I do not have the knowledge to do this, but I'm sure there must be those among our membership who do, and maybe someone would like to help. I will continue to handle the day to day running of the website so the time given should be minimal.

If you feel you can help please email me at webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk

Clive Allen
Webmaster

And finally...

Members' contributions for *The Trecker* are always welcome, as are photographs, which should be sent as separate files and not embedded in a document. Please remember that you need permission from everyone in your photograph.

Please send all contributions to thetrecker@suntreckers.org.uk

Thank you to John for sending this newsletter by email, as well as to John and Lyn for printing and sending out the paper version. Also, thanks to Clive for putting it on the website.