



THE SUNTRECKERS TRECKER



ISSUE NUMBER 74

www.suntrackers.org.uk

EDITORS COMMENTS



This Trecker is the spring edition, where we all look forward to bouncing around like new born lambs dreaming of all things bright and beautiful and thinking of new places to visit, talking of which is a new site to Suntreckers in Cornwall so try to visit.

This edition of the Trecker has articles from members relating to the rallies they have attended or are running in 2017 which if memory serves me right contains one or two updates which came to light after the yearbook was published.

There is also an article from our roving diarist Fritz.
So, have a read and enjoy all the articles.

Oh by the way no one sent in a photograph that they would liked to have been placed on the front of the Trecker so you are stuck with one of mine again.

IF ANY OF YOU WANT A PHOTOGRAPH TO BE PLACED ON THE FRONT OF THE TRECKER THEN PLEASE SEND THEM TO ME. THEY SHOULD BE ON A NATURIST THEME, FOR EXAMPLE, PICTURE OF YOURSELVES, FRIENDS ETC WHO HAVE GIVEN YOU THEIR PERMISSION OR OF A NATURIST SITE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TO ETC.

(Cover photograph is of the Willow Farm Rally near Skegness in Lincolnshire)

Please let me have for the future Treckers any articles and photographs of your rallies and experiences with Suntreckers please email your articles photographs etc to: ppo@suntreckers.org.uk.

Steve Wagstaff
Part Time PPO

*As always thanks to Malcolm, Maureen
and their team
for printing & distributing the paper version of Trecker.
and
Thanks to John for sending out
the electronic version.*

CHAIRMANS CHAT

Hi fellow Treckers,

Well we have some good rally locations arranged for home and abroad this coming year. Here on the Island it has been a mild and mostly wet winter, in fact today it is damp and misty grey, but the spring flowers are coming into bloom and the squirrels are out and about, and the winter sun has been shining a lot of the time. So, dust the cobwebs off the vans and venture out to the country side and enjoy the season of rallying.

Ann and I look forward to meeting some of you out and about, enjoying the hopefully sun filled days.

Remember this is your club, and we do need your help to run it. So why not take on running a rally or joining the committee, we really do need your input and help.

Don't forget to make a date to join the Gala Rally and have your say, as well as a lot of fun and fellow ship. We will be there so why not come and join us for a fun packed weekend.

Remember keep telling your friends about us and maybe they will come and join the Treckers.

So, all the best for what we hope will be a hot and sunny year of camping natural.

Ron Twining, Chairman.

March 2017.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER



All planned 2017 rallies are in the web diary for easy reference when you do not have your year book handy. The website is continuing to be updated, particularly with regard to security. In the near future users of the website may get an email informing them their password has expired and needs updating. You should not be concerned, just follow the instructions but if you have doubts then please contact me webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk

A recent post on the forum by a new Suntrecker notes that the forum is little used with very few new posts. The website and the forum are there for the members. What will it take to get more members to use the website and more often too? I am happy to hear your suggestions.

The website is free for all to use, so let's use it?

RALLY ORGANIZERS COGITATION



Well here we go for another fun filled rallying year both here in the UK and in Europe. Let's hope for lots of sun, sea, sand and sangria but if not all those then there are plenty of club sites and beautiful field sites that will grab your attention.

I'm not going to detail the cancelled rallies because this is a constant irritation to you, me and the site owners, there is one cancellation which has caused some sadness though and that is the loss of Maxs Garden due to the illness of the site owner it was a very popular site and I hope you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and hopefully with fingers crossed we can resume our rallies there.

While I am on about rallies don't forget to keep an eye out for the Winter 2017/2018 rallies organised again by Malcolm and Maureen Burland.

So now I come to one of my favourite topics and that is the Gala Rally which for 2017 will again be held at Nunnery Farm in Rothwell. The theme for the 2017 Gala rally which you should all know by now but I will repeat here is 'Circus' and the Ken Webster photographic theme will be 'Fairgrounds' which should give all you budding and experienced photographers out there a substantial subject to get your teeth into.

Now you all know the gala rally theme then there can be no excuse for failing to decorate your caravans, tents and motorhomes, there will be a prize for the best dressed unit so can we all make an effort to improve on what has been a disappointing few years in that area.

The entertainment this year will be supplied by 3 girl singers called the Lovetts who will be belting out the songs from the 1950's to the modern era so please book up for the gala and enjoy what will be a fantastic night all supplied at no extra cost to you.

So now you know everything you just need to get out there and enjoy what your committee have provided for you.

Steve Wagstaff
National Rally Organizer

EVENT OF THE YEAR

THE GALA RALLY

I have spoken briefly about the gala rally, those of you who regularly attend the gala know how we arrange the days, the informality of the week and the enjoyment you gain from it, but those of you who are thinking of coming to your first gala the following is what happens (when everything goes to plan) the theme for this years' gala is 'the circus'. I entreat you to smell the sawdust of the ring let your imagination run riot use your skills for the fancy dress parade and the caravan / motorhome decorations.

For this years' entertainment, we have excelled ourselves with a trio of ladies



singing all your favourite songs from the 50's & 60's right up to the modern era with a fantastic repertoire of songs ranging from the Supremes, the Rolling Stones, Manfred Man and even Amy Winehouse so make the effort to book your place at the gala.

The Lovettes are made up of some of the very best female musicians in the

UK, with a long and trusted reputation touring with the likes of Florence and the machine, Gary Barlow and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

They look great and they sound fantastic and we have them for most of Saturday night but that's not all the whole of the gala will be games centered around the circus theme, some of those games will involve a certain wetness to those who take part. of course, there will be the hard-fought boules competition which will take place over two days and my usual easy to do round the caravans' quiz and general quizzes.

Don't forget to bring your raffle tickets along, together with items you want to sell at the auction and of course items you may wish to donate for the raffle.

The main raffle prizes this year as in all previous years are fabulous so dig deep into your pockets and purses and buy several tickets, don't forget you have to be in it to win it.

TO SUPPLEMENT THE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, WE NEED A DISCO SO IF ANY OF YOU ARE BUDDING DJ'S OR ARE ESTABLISHED AS DJ'S AND WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT THEN PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

MAIN RAFFLE PRIZES



SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB 7”



2 DIRECTOR CHAIRS



LIGHT STREAM – 60 COB LED

The main raffle prizes this year as in all previous years are fabulous so dig deep into your pockets and purses and buy several tickets, don't forget you have to be in it to win it. Tickets will be on sale up to and including the Gala rally at all rallies.

2016 RALLY ANALYSIS SUMMARY

During 2016 around 60% of members rallied, well down on previous years. This was largely due to the smaller number of rallies taking place each year. The number of rallies arranged in 2016 was 89 but 27 were cancelled, mainly due to lack of rally officers which was regrettable. However, members are, on average, spending longer on a rally, just over 5 nights. Three members, Eric and Denise Webster, Stuart and Janice Dowson and David Poole had the highest attendance but Ray and Patricia Moore spent the most nights. Continental rallies continued to be very popular with 15% of members going on a continental rally with 45% attending just one rally, the remainder attending between 2 and 3. Whilst there were only 6 winter rallies in 2016 attendance was up with an average of 7 members per rally. Winter rallies have their devoted followers with 24 members supporting. Terry and Lesley Jakeman officiating at the most rallies.

The average number of members on a rally remained as 10. The total number of rallies attended was 589. In 2015 it was 679. The total number of nights was 3002. In 2015 it was 3279. The number of members attending at least one rally in 2016 was 186 compared with 213 in 2015. In 2015 62% of ralliers were in caravans, 37% in motor homes, 1% in tents and trailer tents indicating that the move to more use of motor caravans has established. In 2016 37 members attended 5 or more rallies compared with 46 in 2015 and 59 in 2014.

Members attending a significant number of rallies and number of nights were as follows:

MOST NIGHTS ON RALLIES

Ray and Patricia Moore	58	Ray & June Jones	44
David Poole	55	John & Janet Wilson	44
Graham & Maureen Fox-Dowden	51	John Barnett	43
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	51	David Le Maistre	42
John De Lloyd & Neil Sutton	50	Sue Beck	42
William Boardman	50	Michael & Lynne Ward	42
Eric & Denise Webster	49	Terry & Lesley Jackman	40
John & Jenny Maddern	48		
David & Jane Wilcockson	45		

MOST RALLIES ATTENDED

Eric and Denise Webster	12	Terry & Lesley Jakeman	9
Stuart & Janice Dowson	12	Ian Sinclair	8
David Poole	12	Grahame & Maureen Fox-Dowden	7
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	11	Ray & Patricia Moore	7
John De Lloyd & Neil Sutton	10	John & Lyn Furley	7
John & Janet Wilson	10	William Boardman	7
Geoff & Eileen Hayes	10	Mike Parkinson	7
John Clayton	10		
John Barnett	10		

In 2016 there were 8 winter rallies organised (excluding the 2016/17 New Year Rally) but one was cancelled. Therefore this analysis is based on 6 rallies. Whilst there were only 6 rallies they were well attended with an average of 7 rallies per rally, higher than in the previous 2 years. However, winter rallies still only account for 7% of the total number of rallies attended in the total programme and 4% of the total number of nights. 7% of the total membership went on a winter rally

TOP WINTER RALLIERS

Rallies attended

Malcolm & Maureen Burland	5
Eric & Denise Webster	4
Brian & Barbara Morgan	4
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	3
Geoff & Eileen Heyes	3
Peter & Jenny Chapman	3

Nights on Rallies

Eric & Denise Webster	12
Malcolm & Maureen Burland	11
Brian & Barbara Morgan	11
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	9
Geoff * Eileen Heyes	9
Gordon & Ann Neve	6

In 2016 6 continental rallies were organised and all took place. The profile of continental rallies in 2016 differed from earlier years with less members on average attending rallies but staying for longer times, mainly to the longer rallies in Croatia and Spain. Continental rallies accounted for 15% of the total number of rallies compared with 16% in 2015 but 31% of the number of nights compared with 27 in 2015. Around 15% of the total membership went on a continental rally in 2016 down from 17% in 2015.

TOP CONTINENTAL RALLIERS

Nights on Rallies

John & Jenny Maddern	45
David Le Maistre	42
Sue Beck	42
Grahame & Maureen Fox-Dowden	38
Fritz Henning & Maria Frank-Eiffert	37
David & Jane Wilcockson	37
Ray & Patricia Moore	36
Lennie & Yvonne Betts	31
Michael & Lynne Ward	31
Richard & Rachael Thompson	31
William Boardman	31
Malcolm & Hazel Brushett	27

Rallies Attended

John & Jenny Maddern	3
David Le Maistre	3
Sue Beck	3
Grahame & Maureen Fox-Dowden	3
Fritz Henning & Maria Frank-Eiffert	3
David & Jane Wilcockson	3
Ray & Patricia Moore	3
Lennie & Yvonne Betts	3
William Boardman	3
Malcolm & Hazel	3
Alan & Ann Beck	3
Richard & Julie Farthing	3

Compiled by Pam & Ken Wilson from returns by rally officers and the Treasurer

(Apologies to Pam, Ken and the membership should any typo's have crept into this comprehensive report. Unfortunately my printer threw a serious wobbly every time I tried to persuade it to print using the original spreadsheet layout. Malcolm)

RALLY 89 NEW YEAR RALLY AT KINGFISHER FARM

The day before New Year Eve dawned crisp and bright with a thick white frost covering to the Kingfisher Farm summer camping area framed by dark skeletal trees in the distance all very reminiscent of a traditional Christmas card scene. Throughout the day this scene was shared with each of the eight Suntrecker units as they arrived. These were then all readily accommodated on the hard-standing area, topped up with water and connected to the site electrical supplies.

In the evening, everyone found their way to the upstairs room in the barn for a meet and greet evening. The Rally officers had been hard at work in advance putting up extensive festive decorations. As usual the extremely well insulated room soon achieved a beautifully warm temperature encouraging members to strip off their outdoor layers.

Since Suntreckers previous visit the site owner had acquired some new chairs, a member had donated a wheeled coffee table and suitable background music was coaxed from the ancient music centre. (The trick is to know where to thump it!) All combined to make a pleasant evening.

On New Year's Eve afternoon tea was rapidly followed by a sociable evening of chat, music and dancing with more and more members stripping off completely as the bewitching hour approached. At midnight, the chimes of Big Ben were heard followed by traditional songs and dances including Auld Lang Syne and the Hokey Kokey. Weary Suntrecker legs did though rebel at the high kicks required for the Can Can!

The following day after not getting to bed until the early hours after the New Year celebrations there was not much movement until another afternoon tea and an evening social. This included a musical quiz based on the introductory bars only of well-known songs. The tune may be familiar but putting a name and an artiste to it can be an entirely different matter.

The following day some had to depart for the dreaded return to work whilst others enjoyed another pleasant day.

As usual those who had not previously visited the site were amazed and in awe of the site owners engineering facilities and collection of hand built / restored vehicles. His current project in progress was the building of a truly enormous box body mounted on a lorry chassis.

The whole-body tilts and in conjunction with the tailgate forms a ramp so that his restored 1913 Austin lorry can be winched totally inside for taking to shows. He then intends to tow his caravan behind the lorry to stay in whilst at shows. Should you ever meet this road train en route then it is recommended to keep well clear.

Would encourage all members to visit this most interesting of sites by booking themselves on to one (or all) of the Kingfisher Farm rallies this year viz No12 28April-3May No64 18Aug - 23Aug and next New Year's Eve. Note for steam enthusiasts the August rally dates have been especially arranged to coincide with the Lincolnshire County Steam and Vintage Show. For full details see their website www.lsvr.org

The 2017 Kingfisher Farm Rally Officers look forward to welcoming as many members as possible where they may be assured of a warm welcome and an interesting rally.

Eric and Norma C12822

Gill and Les C12729

FRITZ OUR VERY OWN ROVING DIARIST

Monday 8th August

The Olympic games have started in Rio and we have won our first two medals. This autumn will see Maria, Schiloh and I visiting the Black Forest, Dordogne and then if the weather is ok, Provence.

Extra checks at Dover, following outrages in France, has meant that we are required to arrive at the port a lot earlier. There were horrendous queues a couple of weeks back (14 hours!!) as someone, deliberately or otherwise, miscalculated big time. Surprised no one has been hauled-over- the- coals, or seem to care, for that.



14 hours queueing



Maria and Schiloh

Sunday 14th

The Olympics are in full swing and Team GB are winning a hatful of medals. No longer are we relying on the 'gifted amateur' to compete against the 'professionals' of the USA, GDR and USSR, but we are investing heavily in our sports men and women. I suppose this does encourage a healthy lifestyle for our young but it also provides more fodder for our TV couch potatoes. A noticeable feature of these games are the many, many empty seats at nearly all of the events!

News that George has cried off running the Courderc rally with a broken wrist. Anne and Len have quickly volunteered to fill the breach. I read that the Belgium 'seriously frown' on wild camping which makes me change my plans where to spend my first night. I have a week to prepare myself, the house and 'van for the 'off' next Sunday. Another 'cry off' is Schiloh, who has to stay at home for injections.

Tuesday 23rd

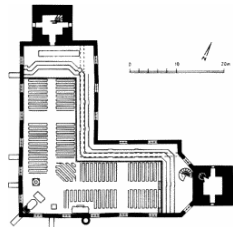
Fast forward the Olympics are over with Team GB winning a record number of medals. Well done one-and-all. We're now camped on one of my favourite sites – Schiltach in the Black Forest – and the weather is marvellous.

It was a 9-hour drive from Calais to Grunberg to pick up Maria. I slept in a lay-by 'somewhere in Belgium' and arrived at noon.

Now after 3 days of almost 'solid' driving I'm able to relax. We have free public transport throughout the Black Forest 'thrown-into' our camping fee so we shall take the mountain railway to Freudenstadt today. Freudenstadt was virtually destroyed 3 weeks before the end of the war by the French in what appears to have been a revenge (and needless?) attack by the French on a town that wanted to surrender.



Pretty houses in Schiltach



Freudenstadt church

It's a long uphill walk from the station to the centre of Freudenstadt, but well worth it as the centre was alive with everyone out enjoying the sunshine. The town has the biggest 'square' that I have seen and is surrounded by colonnaded buildings reminiscent of St Mark's square in Venice. We enjoyed a very naughty-but- nice ice-cream extravaganza before visiting the Stadtkirche, which maybe is unique in that it is 'L-shaped'. Photographs inside the church showed the destruction of the town by the French.

Friday 26th

We spent three excellent days in Schiltach taking in forest and town walks, bus and train journeys along the Kinzig Valley and several restaurant meals in comfortable Gastst tte. Our departure proved to be difficult as stupidly I had allowed myself to get hemmed in and it took much toing and froing to get me out. I also managed to scrape the side of the 'van and dislodge the door trim. It could have been worse. It was a short journey to our next site at Himmelreich, 15 km to the east of Freiburg-in-Breisgau. It's a site I stayed at some 10 years ago and remains just as ram-shackled, but it has all the facilities and is only €12 per night....and the weather and scenery remain perfect.



In with the apples



Schluchsee

Sunday 28th

What a glorious few days we spent amongst the apple trees in Himmelreich. The weather was perfect and it was a short stroll to the station where the train took us up into the Hoch (High) Schwarzwald to the lakes of Titisee and Schluchsee. The trains were packed as the townsfolk made the most of the good weather and came into the hills to either cycle back down, walk through the forests or merely laze on the many beaches that surrounded the lakes. On Sunday, we took the train the other way – into Freiburg - where we strolled through the town and visited the magnificent cathedral followed by a delightful lunch in one of the numerous squares.

Monday 29th

Today was a long drive down the Doubs valley out of Germany and heading for the Perigord region of France and our first rally. We stopped off at a pretty canal-side aire by the most boring town of Molinet. The town's central feature was a hairdresser's salon and zebra crossing but we found some lovely juicy blackberries.



Freiburg



Dom

Wednesday 31st

It was a long drive across the centre of France, mainly along new highways, to our next stop St Yrieix-la-Perche (still don't know how to pronounce it!) where we stayed on the pretty campsite above the man-made lake. We visited the local pottery showrooms – the Limousin region is famous for its pottery – with room after room filled with wares for sale. Then it was a short hop down to our first rally at Laulurie in the Perigord. This is a delightful part of France with gently rolling hills, pretty villages built of yellow-ochre stone and invariably warm sunny weather. Even though there was still a day before the official start of the rally there were plenty of friendly familiar faces to greet us.



St Yrieix-la-Perche



Laulurie

Sunday 4th September

September already and the weather is still hot. The rally quickly settles down as we all enjoy the fine weather, company and peaceful surroundings. Dick (sans Julie on family duty back at home) is an ace rally officer keeping everything smoothly running. We enjoy the evening meal get-togethers first of duck and then our own burnt BBQ offerings. Francois and Yonne (our hosts) are celebrating 35 years at Laulurie having moved down from Normandy to set up the place from a derelict farm all those years ago. They can justly feel proud of what they have accomplished. Maria and I find oceans of blackberries on our walks. One load goes to Yonnie who presents us with a jar of blackberry jam that evening. This afternoon we will share our spoils with the rest of the campers.



The Courtyard Laulurie



The pool

Saturday's boules was a long drawn out affair as no one wanted to play on the unshaded pistes. We managed to have 3 winners (including Stewart and me) as exhaustion set in! Market day in La Douz.

Tuesday 6th

Keith Vaz is 'considering his position' following a male prostitute 'sting'. Liz and I were runners-up in the boules and my quiz seemed to have been well received. The weather continues to be perfect and fruit of all sorts is there in abundance. William sends me a couple of You Tubes of him doing funny things! England beat Slovakia with a last-minute goal in what was by all accounts a lack-lustre match. Now where have we had that before, and before, and before..... (repeat ad nauseum)

Friday 9th

September is racing by but the weather remains hot. We say goodbye to Laulurie with an evening of laughter and a farewell message (pinned to the toilet door!!) from Francis and Yonnie. Most of us make the short trip to Courderc but a few head for the Med. Courderc is fuller than I can ever recall. The Dutch must have seen that the weather was going to be good and hurtled down the motorways – a 2-day trip. Thank you, Dick, for running Laulurie, thank you Len and Ann for being ready for us at Le Courderc.



The Terrace



Camping by the lake

Tuesday 13th

The weather has remained perfect, some say too hot. We do all the usual things, boules (losing in the international against the Dutch 3-9); visiting the large Sunday market at Issigeac, coffee mornings and afternoons, blackberrying and plenty of swimming. Friends leave and friends arrive, warm evenings and plenty of chatter. News from home is that everything is back to normal, the little ones are back at school and the oldies back at Uni. Summer is over for them. We still have much to look forward to.

Wednesday 14th

I spoke too soon. In the middle of a pleasant communal meal in the restaurant the heavens darkened and opened and the wind blew. The site's power supply also blew and we were left in total darkness save for some emergency lighting and candles, all good fun. We managed to find our way back down the hill, now very slippery, and the safety of our 'vans. This morning a number of our group left for more southern climes.



Images of Issigeac Sunday market

Friday 16th

The forecast for today was not good so we piled everything into the overhead lockers and headed for the Bastide town of Montpazier. Bastides are fortified towns and Montpazier is a splendid example of the ilk. It is a perfect quadrilateral in shape and was founded in the 13th century.

And all good things come to an end. On Saturday, we wound in our awning and took leave of our friends, most of whom were heading either for home or for Spain and pointed ourselves towards the east and Provence. We had enjoyed Courderc but time to move on.

Sunday 18th

We drove eastwards from an overnight stop at Limogne-en-Quercy to Millau and camped on the bank of the River Tarn. The famous Millau bridge is a backdrop. We walked round the town this evening, a mixture of old and new and ate an ok meal in a Brasserie. The old town was similar in layout and feel to a north African souk, all narrow alleyways and interesting shops. It has also become the immigrant quarter of the city. Prior to the new bridge being built across the Tarn Gorge all through traffic had to make the perilous descent and ascent of the steep cliffs which surround the town. This traffic managed to clog up the town to the detriment of all concerned. The construction of the bridge (2.46 km long and 343 m high it was completed in 2004) was a marvellous feat of engineering and is capable of withstanding winds of 200 km/hour



Millau Bridge



Millau 'Souk'

Monday 19th

We scooted down the free A75 motorway and then across to a small town (Lansargues) to the east of Montpellier where we parked up for the afternoon and night. I had been checking up on the driving rules in France and found to my consternation that you could not have (let alone use) any device which spotted speed cameras. Now this had always struck me as batty as if I lived in a village with a speed camera I would want everyone to slow down as they passed through! Apparently though the powers that be (and also in Germany and Switzerland) think that everyone goes rushing around and - when the speed camera spy starts beeping – jams on the anchors thus causing a massive pile up. I don't buy it, preferring to think that they don't want to be thwarted of their fines, but then what do I know.

Anyway, I read that having one of these spy devices leaves one open to a fine of €1500 and the confiscation of one's licence, too heavy a price to pay to test out one's theories of battiness. However, there was nowhere in the instructions of my new satnav to say how I should turn off my camera beeper. Eventually I plugged it into my computer and found an appropriate shut-down device. I feel happier now but not safer!



Gotcha

Tuesday 20th

It should have been an easy drive to Carpentras, but with 237 roundabouts and a couple of height restrictions (in Avignon) to navigate I made hard work of it. Nevertheless the site was pleasant, the weather warm and the town inviting. We shall stay here a few days with Mont Ventoux (a famous climb in the Tour de France) as a backdrop. There is a wind about, I hope it's not the Mistral! The mornings are coldish now, I must try and work out how the heater operates as the 'garage' gets quite hot but we don't!



The Papal Palace in Avignon



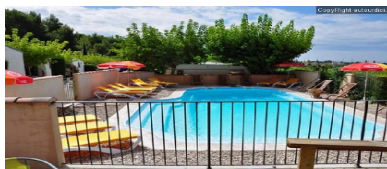
Carpentras with Mt. Ventoux

Thursday 22nd

We drive the short distance to Caromb and a lovely little site on the edge of this hill-town. It has a dinky little pool, free Wi-fi and good views over the surrounding countryside. And the sun continues to shine. Four enjoyable days are spent in this sleepy little town. When I looked closely it was apparent not only that (historically) this quite a large town but also a wealthy one with its own chateau, wall, gate-houses and look-out belfry. Many of the doors and building embellishments told of grander times.



Caromb



A pool all to ourselves

Wednesday 28th

'Big' Sam has been sacked as England manager following another sting – when will they ever learn. We're currently at a nice site 1km outside the town of Grillon. We arrived here after a short trip from Visan which included a detour around a ploughed field (my mistake)! Both Visan and Grillon are old hill towns and very pretty to boot. The weather has been gorgeous and we have made much use of the pools, the local footpaths and sight-seeing opportunities. It's clearly coming towards the end of the season as the sites are $\frac{3}{4}$ empty, plenty of room, but also still a lot of people around enjoying the late summer weather.

The harvest has begun (Cote du Rhone) and the fields and roads are alive with pickers, large machines, tractors and trailers. Will it be a vintage year?

Thursday 29th

The weather shows a dip for the weekend so we have decided to stay put for another couple of days before heading direct for the Mosel.

Saturday 1st October

And the rains came but not before we had had a memorable day exploring the old walled hill town of Grillon and enjoyed a super leisurely lunch in the town square.



Maria is tempted by the super pud



Grillon

We upped sticks early on the Sunday morning and began the long drag up the Rhone and Soane Valleys, not much fun until we left Lyon behind us. Being Sunday there were very few lorries about but nevertheless it was a hard slog with innumerable round-a-bouts, traffic lights and junctions. Of course, we could have used the A7 motorway, the Route-du-Soleil but that does work out rather expensive. We stayed the night at a small aire in the town of Cousance and made it to the Mosel the next day.

Tuesday 4th

It is distinctly autumnal now with cold mornings but warmish days. Our first stop on the Mosel was at Palzem located on the opposite bank from Luxembourg. We are back amongst the vineyards and oceans of apples and walnuts. Then we drove along the river (via Luxembourg diesel = 0.93!) to Wintrich for a couple of nights. Again, the camping sites on the Mosel are full as motorhomers enjoy the last warm weather and the Octoberfest. Tomorrow Maria's son come to whisk her back to Grunberg and I will head westwards for Calais and home. Meanwhile the pound slides to €1.12 OUCH!

Friday 7th

We took Maria to Brauneberg yesterday where she was picked up by one of her sons. I got on my bike and cycled to Piersport, a well-known Mosel wine town. It really is autumn now and time to head for home. I have a late ferry on Saturday and I shall park up near St Margaret's Bay in Kent before starting early on Sunday for the haul back to Matlock.

A memorable trip with excellent rallies, weather and company. The hill towns of Provence deserve a second (and third) visit.

SUNTRECKER FACEBOOK GROUP

I have been volunteered to write a piece for the Trecker about the Facebook Group:

As there are only 31 members on the Suntrecker Facebook Group we were wondering if there are members who are fairly new to the club who do not know about the group.

It is a closed group so members can only join by invitation. It is also a secret group so would not be found in a search.

This is a really good way to communicate with other members and pass on information quickly. You can post photos of rallies you attend (don't forget to get the permission of anyone in the photo) and let everyone know what a good time you had.

If anyone would like to join the group please contact either Steve Wagstaff or myself and we will make you our personal friend and then we can enrol you in the group.

Once done we can then defriend you on our personal pages.

My email is di.david14@yahoo.com

Let's see if we can get lots more members posting on the group.

Diane Howard

ITEMS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

A little help goes a long way

It's a new year, new season and many of you will already have made plans for the time ahead. I would like to suggest that part of those plans should be consideration for the future of Suntreckers. As is the norm, at the AGM this year the membership will be looking to elect new committee members.

There are five posts due for election having ended their biennial term; Chairman, Treasurer, Webmaster, PPO and General Member1. There is also the role of Equipment Officer still currently vacant.

So, could you do any of these roles? Do you know someone who could? Maybe you or they just need a bit of encouragement to volunteer.

I am still in my first year on the committee but have to say it is not as onerous as I had imagined and indeed I am finding it an enjoyable experience. If you want to know any more about what is involved, please feel free to talk to any of the committee.

There are 3 committee meetings between AGM's for which travelling expenses are paid.

In the past there has, on occasions, been more than one volunteer for a post. It would be great if that was to happen again this year as I believe that shows support for the club from the membership. So, whatever the role, let's find those helping hands and have a full election! Don't assume current post holders will stand for re-election.

The form for "Nominations for Suntreckers Committee" can be found on page 5 of the year book and need to be submitted no later than 31st May 2017

As the title of this post says....

"A little help goes a long way"

Alan Ingram (Webmaster)

ITEMS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE – Cont

A discussion item at the last committee meeting explored the reasons why members were not rallying as much as they used to certain suggestions were put forward for example the cost of fuel was important when travelling to those rallies not in your area, the cost of rally fees and maybe they could in some way be reduced or perhaps shorter rallies, the committee would very much like your views so please email, write or telephone the national rally organizer or any member of the committee with your suggestions, they will then be put to the committee.

PROPOSED SUNTRECKER CONTINENTAL RALLIES 2018

I know, I know – you've only just filled out your Rally Booking forms for the 2017 Continental Rallies and here I am saying 'Where do you want to go in 2018?'

To date, I am getting good, positive feedback for the 2017 Continental Rallies and it should be another good year. 2016 Rally attendances were good and the only problems that I experienced were in getting Rally Officers for 2017. So, for 2017, I introduced a slight change.

I have tried to still maintain a balance of old favourites and new sites. But, I decided to retain one group of three closer to home for the benefit of those of us who may not wish to travel too far. The second group, further afield, I reduced to two Rallies (and only 2 Rally Officers) but with a week's break in between.

This worked well in Croatia in 2012. When we regrouped for Rally 2 – everybody had a 'tale to tell'.

So, 2018: These are only proposals. I have not yet approached any site. If you know of any reason not to go to any of these sites, or if you know of a better, suitable site, then please let me know.

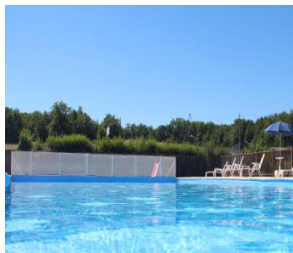
Firstly, I received only 3 'yes's' for a return to Croatia in 2018. So, can't really do I'm afraid.

However, on the other hand, by popular demand, how about kicking the year off with a return to **Le Clos Barrat**?

Rumours of its demise have been greatly exaggerated. Johann has not sold up. Instead he has now been joined by his wife, Yolanda, and has worked away extremely hard in making many improvements – see BN Winter mag. (I have placed a copy on the website)

We have held several rallies here and it is a very popular site with Suntreckers.

For those who do not know of it: This site is southwest of Cahors (with a Sunday market not to be missed), in ten hectares of forest and pasture



amongst the rich countryside of the Lot/Quercy area. This is a family run naturist site where we always receive a warm and friendly welcome. It offers spaciousness and tranquillity with 90



generous pitches (over 120 sq.m), all with 10A electricity. There are also ten mobile homes, chalets or apartments to rent. The site is on a gentle rolling slope and this is reflected in some of the pitches although most are mainly level, and access for larger units is not a problem.

The site has a 200 sq.m. swimming pool and a smaller pool for children. The restaurant offers very reasonably priced food which is of a good standard



and takeaways are also available. There is a wide range of leisure activities available. Themed evenings are organised together with a weekly barbecue. The bar opens out onto a terrace where you can enjoy a drink in a



convivial atmosphere. The medieval town of Cahors offers good sightseeing opportunities, as do the caves and museums which are not far away. The Lot valley to the north is a popular choice for canoe trips, walking and cycling. I suggest an 11 day / 10 nights Rally to arrive on Thursday May 31st 2018 and depart on Sunday 10th June 2018.

Then, a 4 day break to do a little exploring (if you wish) and to cover the 260 miles (4 ½ hours) to the 2nd Rally at **L'Oliverie**.

The owners contacted me following a meal that they had shared with their friends Francis and Yonne of Laulurie. We come recommended.....

La Ferme Naturiste L'Oliverie, is a beautiful naturist site in a rural location, with spacious pitches and a heated pool. Located at the heart of Poitou-Charentes, the hospitable owners provide a friendly family and preserved environment.

It offers 25 camping sites and high quality accommodation: B & B, Roulotte and Guestrooms. (We may have to limit numbers here)

Due to the Oliverie's location, you will be able to



take in the sights of the area: the Futuroscope, the Puy du Fou, the Marais Poitevin, the Medieval city of Parthenay, Vasles and its "Sheep Village" park.



I propose an 11 day / 10 nights Rally with an arrival date of Thursday 14th June 2018 and a departure of Sunday 24th June 2018.

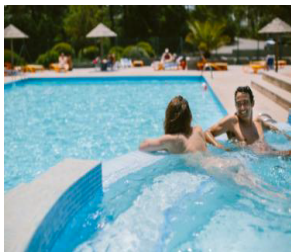
Then, another 4-day break before the 3rd early Rally, 194 miles (3½ hours) at **Pallietter** in Brittany.

Pallietier is a 3 -star naturist family campsite, with 92 large plots and comfortable rental accommodation. It is situated in the west of France in the magnificent region of Brittany, known for its beautiful coastline, lovely towns and rich history. It is only 4 kms from the town of Plancoët and 12 kms from the sea with 3 popular naturist beaches.

I am hoping that its close proximity to St. Malo may entice some Suntreckers looking for an easier-to-reach Continental Rally.

I propose an 11 day/10 nights Rally with an arrival date of Wed 27th June 2018 and a departure date of Saturday 7th July 2018.

So, to the late 2018 Continental Rallies. How about kicking off with another new site? **ARNA.**



Arna, is a naturist resort situated in the beautiful pine forests of Les Landes de Gascogne in South West France. It has the added advantage of being right next to the Atlantic Ocean.



You can enjoy the naturist experience on the vast fine sand beaches of the Côte d'Argent combined with the delicious scents of the pine forests. In the aquatic area, you'll find 3 vast swimming pools one is heated and covered. There is also 1000 m² terrace with sun bath, heated solarium, Jacuzzi and the Arna Forme Spa with the flavour of the East I have stayed here and it is a lovely site. It is not hilly but it does undulate and I would have to take care to select a good Rally area.

I propose an 11 day / 10 nights Rally with an arrival day of Sunday 2nd September 2018 and a departure day of Wednesday 12th September 2018.

We then take a week's break.

Nearby is the beautiful City of Biarritz. I can personally recommend a day spent on the fantastic La Rhune railway – a small train to the top of hills near Biarritz.

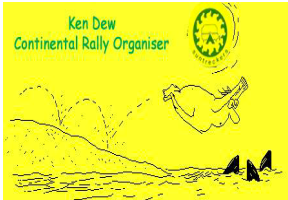


140 miles (3 hours) away is **l'Eglantière**. Sited between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, in the Hautes-Pyrenees, l'Eglantière is a 50-hectare site of nature and rivers • Peace and



quiet, friendliness, with large naturally defined pitches, to give you that relaxing feeling of being “at home” The Swimming pools are all heated.

Organic products from their farm are served in the restaurant. Activities include canoe excursions on the river, ghost hunt, hiking, mountain biking, and guided hikes in the Pyrenees. I propose an 11 day / 10 nights Rally with an arrival day of Wednesday 19th September 2018 and a departure day of Saturday 29th September 2018. Both Arna and l'Eglantière are ACSI sites (€15 and €17) I am hoping to negotiate similar prices.



So, there it is. What do you think? Am I being over ambitious?
I await your comments....

CONTINENTAL RALLY UPDATES

Free event at Le Clos Marot

If you are considering the Le Colombier Rally but not the RelaxNat Rally, then this could be for you.

I have just received an invite from Michel Delise, Président of the Naturist Association of the Cote d'Amour. (A N C A.)

On Saturday 3rd/ Sunday 4th and Monday 5th June 2017, the ANCA are having a large gathering of Naturist Clubs in the Pays de la Loire and Brittany, on its campsite "Le Clos Marot" in Piriac sur mer.

This is a very popular Suntrecker Continental Rally site.

see <http://www.anca-piriac.com>

They are pleased to invite Suntrecker members along.

During these 3 days, the campsite will be free. On site meal assured on reservation. There will be boules contests, various games, swimming pool, etc.

This ties in quite neatly with a Le Colombier start date of Thursday 8th June 2017.

If you are interested in this, please could you let me know asap on kendew@talktalk.net or 01793 823077?

An article you may want to read fully if so then see the link below:

It was entitled '**Feeling down? Take off all your clothes: Being naked makes us happier and more satisfied with our bodies**'

It's well worth a look on:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4156788/Being-naked-makes-happier-bodies.html>

Something to do with my grandmother sucking eggs comes to mind.

All they need really is a suntrecker membership form.

CONTINENTAL RALLY CORRECTIONS

I've made a slight error with dates, Details are:

Rally 67 - Domaine Les Lauzons.

Arrival date should read Friday 25th August 2017. Depart date is correct.

Ken

UK RALLY UPDATES

BREAKING NEWS

LOWER POULZA POST IN CORNWALL HAS CLOSED DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THEREFORE RALLIES 23 & 60 WILL NO LONGER TAKE PLACE.

EAST MIDLAND SUNFOLK

RALLY NO. 18 - 5th May, and RALLY NO. 59 - 4th August.

Green Chemicals only, and Late Bookings Accepted.

Although its already in the yearbook Fred & Marion would like to reiterate that dogs are NOT allowed at the club.

Rally officers are: Fred and Marion Newman

Telephone number if you want a chat. 01427.677694.

SAD NEWS

It is with regret that I have to announce the death of Jean Flack who died on the 5th December 2016. Our thoughts are with her husband Shamous and family.

It is again with regret that I have to announce the death of Roy Stowe who was a serving member of Suntreckers and a rally officer, Roy died on Boxing Day 2016. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

It is again with regret that I have to announce the death of Wendy Slade wife of Cliff this sad information was sent to me on 9th February 2017. Our thoughts are with her husband Cliff and family

WINTER RALLIES UPDATE



The weather for the last winter rally of the season was not sure if it was still 'winter' or if 'spring' had arrived. It cycled between wet, windy, warm, sunny, chilly but at least we had no snow this year. Thanks Eric and Denise for providing



your awning for us to shelter in on Friday evening. The pegged repair proving to be both ingenious and effective.

The number of members attending the winter rallies was the highest it's been for some time and well up on last year. (For the statisticians among you the minimum attendance was 8 units) With new faces, others re-appearing on the winter scene, and the hardy 'regulars' it was good to keep in touch with fellow trekkers enjoying each other's company and various activities, with and without our clothes.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the rally officers who make it possible.

So, if like me you're planning your summer rallies you might just like to add a few more dates following on from the main rally programme. So here we go: -

October	13 – 16	Baston Fen
November	3 – 6	Stoney Stanton
December	1 – 4	Greenhill Park
December	30 – Jan 2	Kingfisher Farm

A few of us have looked at a 'new' site near Newark, which is in easy distance for the Edwinstow Swim. The big plus is that they have a comfortable room we could hire for our get-togethers.

Of course, nowhere is perfect. We could use their level rally field, which has a gravel type track loop so minimal chance of getting stuck. There is a toilet block, but no electric hook ups. (We all seem to survive on batteries and solar panels at Stanton and Greenhill Park) Depending on numbers this would work out at about £10 per unit per night. Should we want hard standing, electricity and a shower block the fee would be in the order of £20 - £22 per unit per night.

We've also got a couple of members investigating possible sites outside our 'traditional' winter areas. THANK YOU again to them and everyone who helps make organising these rallies so easy.

Remember it's your club, so please let me know what you would attend and how you can do your bit to keep the club flourishing.

Malcolm (text, call or e-mail)
See Candy Farm Rally for details