



SAM Weekly Newsletter - 3rd November 2023

Biking news for ALL our advanced riders, their family and friends

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Editorial

Is the rain ever going to stop? Is the UK becoming a new rainforest? Possibly, but without the stifling heat. At the moment, the UK weather is certainly turning out to be challenging for bikers. It will probably break all records for the wettest Autumn since records began. For bikers this means being able to get the wet weather gear on quickly, so it might help if we practise at home. If it's raining, just go outside and see if there are any leaks.

Some SAM members are still having a hard time. Keep up the phone calls and visits to show our support. To anyone having a hard time, we are thinking about you. Do you want grapes, chocolate, something to read, or simply a phone call to chat?

Many congratulations to Paul Black on successfully becoming an advanced rider. Many thanks to his Observer, Steve Wild, for all the hard work and support given during training.

We definitely need to train as many bikers as possible. The police-backed 'Vulnerable Road User Operation', is getting a very mixed reception. It offers nothing in the way of 'new initiatives'. Police operations are generally the things that most people want to avoid! The 'operation' seems more a case of they 'have to be seen to be doing something'. SYRP has information on storms and using Winter tyres.

A report came out this week of a 5-year study comparing motorcycles versus cars for personal transport. We all know that, when purchase price, running costs and maintenance are compared, motorcycles win every time. To help improve sustainable personal transport, you can read about how to get kids into motorcycles. The future will then look a little brighter. When they get older and start adventure riding, you'll be able to tell them what you've read about riding the Himalayas. If they

want to start them a little more sedately, you can tell them about a scooter-riding life. For the speed freaks amongst them, there is a story about a land speed racing sidecar outfit. If you are feeling generous toward the off-spring, it's up for sale. It can become an heirloom!

From one of my favourite motorcycling writers, Liz Hardy (pillioness.com), there is an article about the top 10 riding hazards. Another favourite writer, Kevin Williams (ko-fi.com/survivalskills/posts) has articles about riding past HGVs, teaching and learning, training the bike trainer, riding in twilight and darkness. This week we exchanged practical ideas on how to avoid/cope with being dazzled by headlights. There is more information that puts the use of modern biking aids in context.

Sometimes I wonder whether bikers REALLY care about biker safety. IAM RoadSmart began a petition to remove UK VAT from riding safety gear. So far, ONLY 4,140 people have signed the petition. That's just 3% of the 1.4 million bikers in the UK today. If we want change, to help bikers afford better safe riding gear, by making it 20% cheaper, we have to engage in the process of change; and, this change is designed to save us money. Well, we are from Yorkshire. We would urge ALL bikers, their family and friends, to help make riding safer and [sign the petition NOW!](#) Happy reading.

Ways to stay in touch with your Club!

It's really easy to stay in touch with your Club! We provide emails, a website and use social media accounts for you to contact us. All of which is free of any cost to the Club. If you are not getting the Club information circulated, or simply want to tell us something, just let us know at sam-editor@iam-sheffield.bike. We'll be happy to ensure that we stay in touch with you. You can

also now sign up for Club emails on the [SAM website](#). Paul Conway
Editor & Webmaster, Sheffield Advanced Motorcyclists

FOR SALE: [2019 BMW R1250GS Adventure Exclusive TE](#).

Mileage: 3,711. **Location:** Bolsover

Accessories: Top box, panniers, sat nav, battery charger (specific to bike model)

Genuine reason for selling: owner no longer riding.

Price: **£12,500**. **Phone:** Christopher - 07767 048 148

Help needed: For the SAM Club, I've been doing the Editor and Webmaster role for 11 years now. It is a joy and I really get a lot of satisfaction from writing and sharing my thoughts with you each week. Sadly, life sometimes doesn't help and my health is getting worse. In the new year I'm having more treatment for my cancer. This treatment will be daily for the following two years. At times, it may make me feel a bit poorly. I have offered to carry on with my Editor and Webmaster roles as long as possible. However, someone will have to take over. If you want to know what is involved and can help the SAM Club, just email me. Many thanks, Paul.

Biking News Online



One of the many uses of this space is to highlight odd, strange, or interesting motorcycles that are for sale on the internet – or even to highlight clever for-sale posts of otherwise ordinary motorcycles. Today, I think we've definitely achieved our goals for Friday Forum Foraging. This land speed racer was originally built in New Zealand, where it took multiple top-speed records. It was brought to the US in 2013, where it currently holds a speed record of 188.6 mph. All this from a 1,000cc four-cylinder engine plucked off a 2006 Suzuki GSX-R1000 (granted, with a couple of modifications). Not bad, eh? [Read more](#)

Andy's scooter life from boy to man

Over nearly five decades, scootering has given Andy Saggars so much – his wife, Sandra; adventures all over Europe; friendship with Edwin Starr; and grass track racing fun, along with a few broken bones.



His fascination with the scooter scene started as a boy in the '60s – his older sister had a Vespa, and his father Arthur was a photographer with an office opposite The Chalet coffee bar in Gorleston, which opened in 1963 and is little-changed today.

[Read more](#)



Scheme to improve biker safety. You never stop learning – which is why a new police-backed plan is encouraging bikers to improve their road safety with some additional training. Here's the lowdown.

The scheme is part of a new 'Vulnerable Road Users Operation' instigated by the National Police Chiefs' Council – following the release of a batch of figures which show a disproportionate number of bikers are killed or seriously injured on the road. [Read more](#)

Cars vs. Motorcycles - Which Is a Better Transportation Option? We compare the costs of motorcycles versus cars to find out. On its face, asking if motorcycles are cheaper than cars is a no-brainer. In just about all circumstances the bike is going to have the more palatable price tag. For

example, one of the cheapest cars (brand new) in 2023 is the Nissan Versa with an MSRP just over \$17,000. That kind of money can get you two, even three [new motorcycles](#) if you throw a [Grom](#) or other [minibike](#) in the mix. [Read more](#)



Planning To Ride In The Himalayas? Watch This Video First. If you plan to ride the highest mountain range in the world, you're going to need a bit of preparation first.

What kind of rides have you been planning lately? Do you want to ride some of the highest mountain trails in the world? If so, you might be headed to the Himalayas, and going that high takes planning and that includes luggage, gear, and even physical conditioning.

Climbing up mountains is part and parcel of the [adventure](#) rider package. What makes riding special for adventure bikers is not just the trails that will be tracked, but also the sights, sounds, and smells on the way up. A bucket list [destination](#) for some of the most hardcore adventure cyclists out there, the Himalayas ranks high on many's lists (pun intended). As the highest mountain range in the world, it's a very different experience and one that shouldn't be taken lightly. [Read more](#)

Motorcycle dangers are everywhere when you're out on the bike! Every time you head down the open road, there are threats coming at you. Some days it's like trying to ride through a real life video game.



All that's missing is the loud beeping noises and animated explosions. If you're a biker, you're pretty used to riding around all the dangers on the road. But have you ever sat down and thought about how many of them are out there? Motorcycle dangers are all around you when you're out riding.

From car drivers too busy doing their makeup or texting to watch the road, to maniacs on skateboards and roller skates.

Then there are angry cyclists and suicidal pedestrians.

There are plenty of motorcycle dangers waiting for you out there...Let's take a look at the top 10 hazards we see all the time when roaring through the world on two wheels. [Read more](#)



The Comprehensive Guide to Kids Motorbikes

Looking into the world of kids' motorbikes can be daunting with so many choices out there.

But don't fret!

Whether you're a concerned parent or an eager grandparent, this guide is here to unravel the maze and help you find the perfect ride-on toy for your young adventurer.

So buckle up, because we're about to embark on an exciting journey through the world of [kids' motorbikes!](#) [Read more](#)



Electric motorbikes ridden 'recklessly' in Swanage. ELECTRIC motorbikes are causing havoc in a town centre after a rise in reports of "reckless" behaviour. E-motorbikes are being ridden on pavements, the wrong way down roads and even failing to stop for officers in

Swanage town centre. One rider has even been identified by CCTV as riding without insurance, MOT, a licence and further reported for dangerous riding. [Read more](#)

SAM Meetings



Paul Black received his Advanced Motorcyclist certificate from Observer, Steve Wild (and a few others) this morning. Congratulations to both. [#iamroadsmart](#)

***SAM Club Saturday Meetings, Meadowhall Retail Park
9am every Saturday throughout the year.
Come and join us - you know you want to ride!***



Next SAM Club night: **6th
November 2023 meet at
7.30pm for an 8pm start at
[Treeton Miners Welfare, Arundel
St, Treeton, Rotherham S60 5PW,
UK](#)**



Always carry your **FREE Biker I.C.E. Card**. It gives emergency services staff vital information about the right treatment for you, should you be involved in an accident. Don't forget to update it if your health and/or social circumstances change. *SAM Club - dedicated to helping YOU to be a safer rider.*

Whiteknights Blood Bikers


Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes would like to hear from people who are able to become volunteer fundraisers for this vital charity that benefits patients in Yorkshire.



Please get In touch. Even if you can only spare an hour to volunteer for us - we really need people to help us. Hope to hear from you soon.


Message us through Facebook or email:

[fundraising@whiteknights.org.Uk](mailto:fundraising@whiteknights.org.uk)



In Memory of
Vic Siswick
Honourary Founding Member of
Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes

Died on 27th October 2023
at the age of 76



This morning Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes were participating in another FMT national relay. Pictured is Yorkshire's only female Blood Biker, Ann, at the handover with Neil from neighbouring Blood Bike group Blood Run Evs. Well done team!



[#bloodbikes](#) [#womensday2023](#)



Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes say a huge "Thank You" to our friends and supporters at Revs N Relics.

They have serviced another of our bikes, only charging us for the parts. Your support for our charity is very much appreciated [#revsnrelics](#)

South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership



Flood warning - Act

- turn off gas, water and electricity
- move things upstairs or to safety
- move family, pets and car to safety

FLOOD WARNINGS FOR SOUTH YORKSHIRE: The [Environment Agency](#) has issued 4 flood warnings and 18 flood alerts for our county. [Find out more](#)

Call Floodline for advice:

Telephone: 0345 988 1188

Textphone: 0345 602 6340

[#barnsley](#) [#doncaster](#) [#sheffield](#) [#rotherham](#) [#stormbabet](#)
[#flooding](#) [#roadsafety](#)

END OF SUMMER TIME:

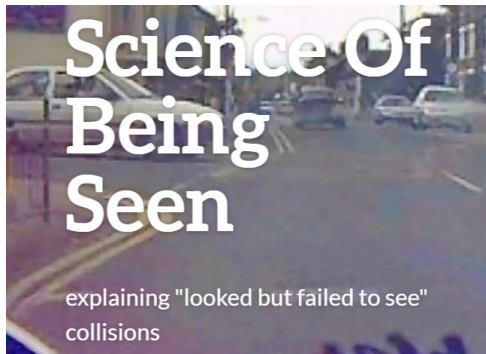
It is now officially the end summer time which means all road users need to be prepared for additional challenges. Rain, wet leaves, snow, black ice: winter brings its own set of hazards. Fitting winter tyres to your car improves driving safety – but only in certain conditions. [Find out more](#)



BetheBest – we have created a generic logo to encourage all riders to take additional training in one format or another; such as IAM, BikeSafe or ERS. The new logo and #BetheBest tagline has been printed on promotional snoods to promote the campaign ([available at SAM Club Nights](#)). The snoods have been produced

in a series of different motorbike brand colours, (Red, Orange, Green and Blue), to test if this approach is more appealing to riders.

Kevin Williams



For many years road safety experts, police and motorcyclists have known that the most common collision between a motorcycle and another vehicle happens when the motorcyclist has right-of-way and another driver turns into the rider's path. All the way back in 1977, US researcher Harry

Hurt stated:

"The most likely comment of an automobile driver involved in a traffic collision with a motorcycle is that he, or she, did not SEE the motorcycle..." [Read more...](#) Also, see all Kevin's posts at ko-fi.com/survivalskills.

LAST WEEK'S ROUND-UP



Newbie mistakes #1 When not to pass an HGV. Over the last couple of months, I've been running a series of posts that looked at everything from preparation for CBT to tips on passing the motorcycle test. Unfortunately, passing the bike test is far from the

end of learning the ins and outs of riding and the fact is that many crashes and near-misses involve newly-qualified riders. So to follow up, my new series looks at some of the mistakes that newly qualified riders often end up learning the hard way. Here's the first, as we take a look at how not to get squashed when passing manoeuvring HGVs. [Read more](#)

Elevenes 378 Wed 25 Oct Sep -
motorcycle news, tips & views

in today's show... bikes worth £120k
stolen from motorcycle showroom in
Wigan... gone in 20 seconds - how to
steal a Yamaha... France introduces

'MOT' for motorcycles next year... Lithium deposit in Nevada could
be huge... Moto3 rider started race despite being knocked-out in
warm-up crash... Yamaha and CFMoto link up... airbag shirt
comes without airbag... do motorcycles really need 'lean assist'
technology... electric race mini-bike from Yamaha... in-depth
today - the science of staying warm... [Watch here](#)



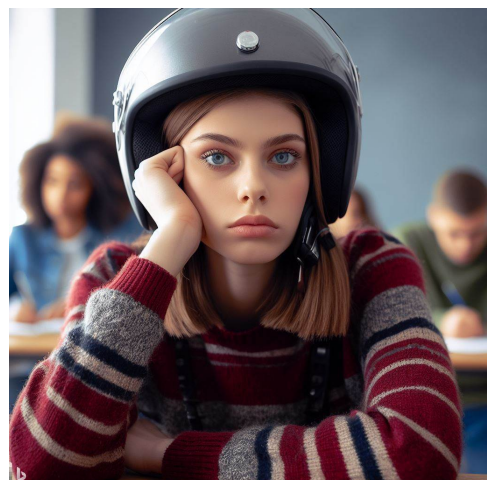
*** 60 SECOND SAFETY ***

Quick-quick-slow - the classic bend trap
GOING LIVE IN 10 MINUTES - the latest
in the 60 Second Safety series of short
videos from Survival Skills.

Whilst you are waiting, why not take a look at a few of the
preceding 106 videos in the series? [Watch here](#)

Teaching's one thing, learning is
another!

A few days ago I got a message from
Mike, in response to one of my FOCUS
on FRIDAY posts where I was looking
at what constitutes competence, how
we know what to look for and how we
would assess it. They're all vital
questions but can easily be overlooked



as we focus on delivering 'training content' and checking that the trainee's doing what we wanted them to do. Hopefully you can see there's a genuine difference. [Read more](#)



Some years ago, I found this statement on the internet:

"I've just passed my full motorcycle test and now I'm considering becoming an instructor, it seems like a pretty easy job.

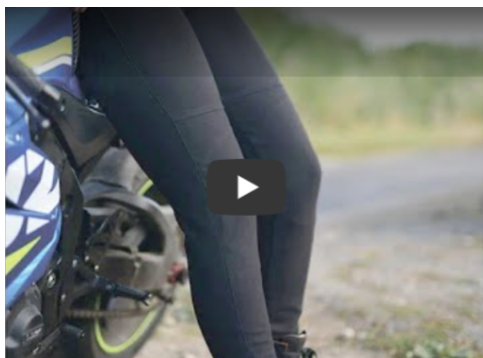
"I have found a few training packages that seem good but most of them are about 5 or 6 days, has anybody done instructor training?" That statement really sums up my motives for creating content to 'TRAIN THE TRAINER'. [Read more](#)

*** SKILLS ON SATURDAY ***

Autumn exercises #4 - Into Darkness

Right now I'm in the middle of the latest mini-series about problems we might encounter in autumn. And today's topic - just in time for the clocks to go back - is about riding in twilight. Although we tend to talk about the issues of riding in daylight as being different from riding in the day, we often ignore twilight - and that's a mistake, because in many ways twilight is the most difficult of all the riding conditions we'll encounter. [Read more](#)





Elevenses 379 Sun 29 Oct -
motorcycle news, tips & views

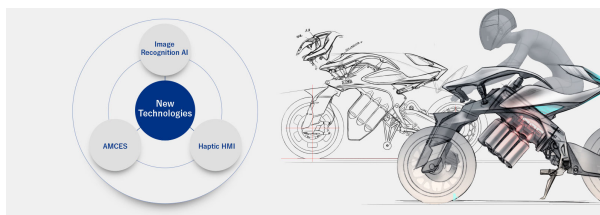
GOING LIVE AT 10AM TODAY & don't
forget the clocks went back!

in today's show... testing permit for
General Motors driverless cars
withdrawn in California... bystanders
prevent bike theft in Bristol... recall for Oxford AA Original
Approved Leggings ladies leggings... graphite export controls by
China could impact battery production... Toyota close to
producing solid state batteries... Bosch to reveal improved
radar-based vehicle detection system for bikes... CFMoto show off
new 675 triple... in-depth today - are motorcyclists unfairly
targeted by the stepped licence system? [Watch here](#)

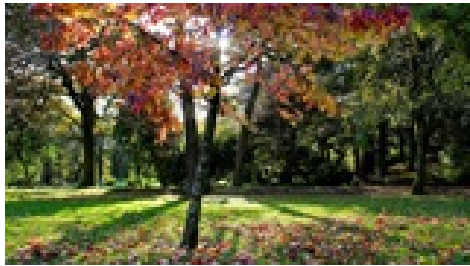
"Modern bikes will get you out
of trouble"

I don't know whether you
spotted it, but Yamaha have
been working on a 'droid bike'

which responds to voice commands and can move and steer itself
without the rider needing to be sat on it. The 'Motoroid' machine
appeared at the Tokyo Motor Show in 2017. Yamaha say: [Read
more](#)



IAM RoadSmart News



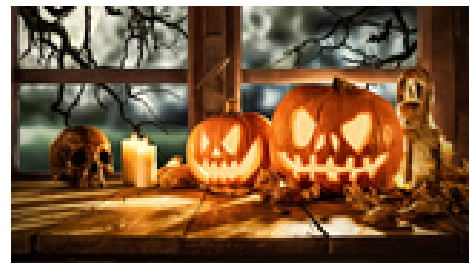
[The twilight zone, tips for riding in the dark](#)

With the clocks going back on Sunday, October 29th, you may be getting an extra hour in bed, but you are also going to be riding in the dark a lot

more. [More information](#)

You've ghost to be kidding me!

Halloween is an exciting day of the year for many, so if you're out enjoying the festivities make sure you try your best to stay safe. We've put together a few key tips to bear in mind.



[More information](#)



Motorcycles make up 3.5% of all licenced vehicle types, yet riders represent a fifth (21%) of all fatalities and 2.5% of all casualties.

We have created a petition to scrap VAT on life-saving motorcycle air vests, arguing that they should be treated as other essential life-saving equipment which are zero or lower VAT. Our CEO, Antony Kildare, [shares his statement here SIGN NOW!!](#)

Want to become a better rider? Our Advanced Riding Course can help. The roads can be a dangerous place, even for the most alert and cautious riders. While you can never be 100% safe, becoming an advanced rider will equip you with the skills to correctly anticipate, and plan for, the hazards you encounter on your rides. [Find out more](#)



SAM members have you got some news to share? Send it to sam-editor@iam-sheffield.bike and share it with all your SAM Club friends...

Stay healthy and ride safe

Paul Conway (on behalf of the SAM Committee) Sheffield Advanced Motorcyclists

Charity no. 1089671 IAM Group no. 4152



Saturday Meetings - talking, learning, riding, eating, repeat!

Saturday Meetings are for club members, observers, associates and ANY biker interested in taking an advanced rider course. Meetings are usually for one of these purposes:

- members take the opportunity to catch up with each other and generally socialise
- observers will be taking their associates out as part of their preparation for the advanced test
- other members will form smaller groups and ride out usually for breakfast somewhere
- Bikers who want to learn about how to become an advanced motorcyclist

If you'd like to find out more about us, join us at 9am any Saturday throughout the year, at Meadowhall Retail Park, Sheffield S9 2YZ, just off J34, M1.

Being a member of the SAM Club

To be a member of the SAM Club you should also be a current member of IAM RoadSmart. As a registered UK charity the SAM Club has charitable objectives to encourage and support the wider use of powered-two-wheeled transport in the UK. We provide advanced motorcycle education and training to help all bikers ride more safely. Our charity has to abide by the national standards, testing and liability insurance cover to continue these activities. Liability insurance ensures that, within the events covered, both the SAM Club, its Trustees and members are safeguarded against most untoward events. This includes all formal training and social events. Also, the SAM Club is dedicated to promoting the education and training of bikers in advanced riding knowledge and skills, both locally and nationally. At a total cost of £55/year, i.e. £1.06p/week, you help ALL your fellow bikers to improve their riding knowledge and skills. Thank you.

Associates: SAM's highly trained, dedicated, self-funding, volunteer Observers, meet all their own expenditure in providing your training. When you go out on observed rides with your Observer, we are asking you to donate £10 to offset a little of

their running costs in helping you to become an advanced motorcycle rider. Thank you.

Extra bits

- Next SAM Committee Meeting: **6th November 2023**
- Next SAM Club Night: **6th November 2023 meet at 7.30pm for an 8pm start** [Treeton Miners Welfare, Arundel St, Treeton, Rotherham S60 5PW, UK](#)
- **Gift Aid Form:** Gift Aid allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations. This means we can claim back from the government on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of the donation by a quarter. Use this link to fill in the form on the SAM website and send it to treasurer@iam-sheffield.bike.
- **Not getting your SAM emails?** If any member is NOT getting SAM Club emails, first check your junk folder, then send a request to sameditor@iam-sheffield.bike. Pass on this message to any members who are complaining about not getting their SAM Club emails.
- **Changing your email address:** If you change your email address then let me know so that we can keep you informed of all the exciting things
- happening in your club.
- **IAM RoadSmart member discounts:** SAM members, are you making the most of your IAM RoadSmart membership? There are lots of discount savings that can offset your IAM RoadSmart and SAM membership fees, so grab a bargain TODAY!
- **Share with your friends:** Know someone who is interested in biking? Why not share this SAM Update and help them to be an advanced rider.
- **Follow us on** [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#).

What are we about...

The Sheffield and District Advanced Motorcyclists (SAM) are an independent charity that provides public education and training in advanced motorcycling skills. Its aims are to increase public awareness and understanding of motorcycling and the advanced knowledge and skills required to ride safely on public roads. It is an affiliate group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM RoadSmart) and works closely with statutory and non-statutory organisations in promoting public information and education on motorcyclists and motorcycling in its designated region. SAM's volunteer motorcyclists are all trained to and maintain national standards of advanced motorcycle riding. They provide ongoing guidance and support to prepare motorcyclists for UK nationally recognised advanced motorcycling tests. SAM works closely with other charitable groups who require advanced motorcyclists to support public events, NHS dispatch rider services and many other socially responsible activities. SAM provides an essential public service in encouraging, promoting and marketing improved safety on public roads in the UK and internationally through IAM RoadSmart. SAM also has a very active social events programme that encourages its members, family, friends and the public, to both support the charity's socially responsible objectives and enjoy the camaraderie and support provided by the club.

Club Merchandise

"YOU can proudly support YOUR Club"



Clothing can be ordered online direct from:

APRINT LTD

138 Morthern Road

Wickersley

Rotherham

S66 1EA

Telephone: 01709 709977

Fax: 01709 709987