

Chairman & President's Report ~ 2012 – 2013

Firstly, welcome to the AGM and this report of Synchronaut happenings over the last year. The individual thanks are spread throughout the year's activities, so please read to the bottom to see who has helped out and made the Synchronauts' a better experience for everyone. Fuller & more picturesque descriptions of the year's activities can be found on the relevant threads in the Syncro (Events) forum

However, an important thanks is due straight away, to all committee members, officers and particularly everyone who has attended our events this year.

Three things stood out in 2013, we think:-

- we seem to have a very similar ethic on driving and camping with Syncro Club de France members. *Trés compatible*, so something to be nurtured;
- the continuing theme of extending Syncropendence and Devon August events a few days before and after the weekend, for the diehards (or retireds);
- the Adventure Overland exhibition seems to be confirmed as an excellent event at a good time of year for us as a club to put a lot of effort into a stall, displays and a strong presence.

We seem to have inadvertently set a record this year: an event every month for 7 months, starting with:

Coney Farm April

Thanks to so many for coming, which made it a very good start to the Syncro season.

A very convivial meet, lots of children that seemed to be having a whale of a time ignoring the weather that definitely had its moments, good, bad and quite ghastly. Lovely around the campfire both nights we thought.

Features:

- 54 people altogether... 4 caravans, 2 tents, a centrally heated tarpaulin Nissan hut, a real outbreak of beards, estimated at 14.5... .
- 23 Syncros on site and 20 on the hill at one time, 16 on Sunday morning, probably a record for an April Coney. Oh! One Land Rover and a Ford Focus, the former driving everywhere and the latter nowhere ☺
- Wet & Slippery grass
- Caravan Culture

Thanks to all those who brought firepits, firewood, fuel, club eqpt, shelters, cakes, puddings and nibbles, the bag lady, the Irish for getting the ferry & charitably fitting interiors; the bringing and the swapping of parts; those who marshalled, inducted, recce'd, set up and ran the trials; and of course those who observed the Friday night fish'n'chips tradition set many years ago now.

...not forgetting those first timers who took a chance on us..OK:

Normandy (banks of La Seine) May

Hosted and organized by Syncro Club de France – A Grand Mayday Bank Holiday tour.

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5 Anglais, 1 Irlandais and varying 10 to 25 Francais, depending on the day.

Really lovely time of year if you are going to drive the banks of the Seine, and especially if you like to see fruit tree blossom.

We were given a roadbook. with 2 distinct types of navigation: Tulip diagrams and coloured maps. Started at Honfleur ended at Panilleuse.

A really fantastic 9 days of full on driving and camping French style, with many memorable moments - some driving, some sights, some sounds, but mostly eating dinking and looking forward to...

Time for an Apéro >> *It's the mellowest moment of a day in France, a delightful interlude between the day's activity and a pleasurable meal:* << l'heure de l'apéro.

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=113965&start=45>

Of course, a very big thankyou to Jean-Francois, Jean-Claude, Jean-Luc and the whole SCdF Committee for inviting us and organizing such a fantastic tour de force.

Syncropendence June

A very good turnout seeing as several regulars couldn't make it this year, as well as being brought forward a week to fit in with CamperJam so clashing with Glastonbury, our main competitor these days ☺

Thanks all for enjoying yourselves, which I think everyone did, detected a less frenetic and nicely laid back atmosphere; what a contrast to the challenging and annoying rain last year... rain's alright beforehand, but on the way up and whilst there not so.

Good to see several first timers to SP this year, helped make up for the regulars who couldn't make it - punch hunt was good fun again even though a couple must have been buried six foot under! ☺

Jed and Simon TooManyToys, with help from a few others ran a (very interesting and educational) recovery techniques workshop. Safe connections, equipment stowage and long line winching and vehicle stabilizing. Definitely to be repeated.

Dai, Patrick, Paul, Neil & Jenny did most of the organizational background work, Aidan made his workshop and ablutional facilities available as well as storing essential equipment. Simon TMT needs mentioning again for arriving early with the beer (will change supplier next year!) and for taking on the scrutineering.- not the most enviable job first thing. Aidan setup a trial.

Week in Wales. Post Syncropendence Tour Group (a fairly Diehard band of brothers & sisters)

This year the diehard band of brothers (& sisters) constituted 7 vehicles and 9 peeps, headed for the Llyn Peninsula up near Snowdonia...finding a near perfect coastal campsite. Until the wind blew , and blew and blew... a good week living, cooking and touring together or in smaller groups, ending with ropewalks and off-road Segwaying, before leaving for...

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CamperJam July

As last year, this followed the weekend after SP.

Terrific festival atmosphere again, much less mud this year (none), great field to camp. No offroading but we have started discussions early on remedying that for next year.. A good contingent turned up to make the Syncro enclave lively and fun,

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=120068>

Devon August

Plenty attended, a very nice cabal forming as the weekend approached.

Did the early doors Thursday pub walk to the Wyndham arms for their steak and wine deal.

Amazing afternoon out on Friday with CJ down some rare and private lanes ending with a stunning thunderstorm on the Blackdowns with pleasance & conviviality later in the (amazing) Drewe Arms.

Saturday lanes turned into a can we/can't we build bridges and navigate down a washed away lane, we could! Then an overgrown one...thanks to Pete & Sharron the bramble pruners on that one.

Set off for Dartmoor on the Sunday, taking in group lunch at Fingle Bridge Inn, the bridge crossing and then the scramble up the steep unclassified track on the south slopes. Ended pretty wet but with some good lane driving nevertheless.

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=120379&start=45>

Adventure Overland Show September

Well, by all accounts a very enjoyable show again, featuring:

- The new 4.5 m Colman shelter; created a good presence;
- a very fine display of people's expeditions this and previous years. Mostly and mainly done by Jenny many thanks;
- what started as a suggestion (MaxKharisma) for just Mexican nibbles turned into a full blown themed meal for 30, an eclectic range of drinks, dips and main courses with good company made a very memorable Sat evening;
- forum members new to our shows and events putting their heads around the corner, lovely to meet you all at last;

So thanks to the many, indeed most who helped or contributed to the Syncro stall and happenings; those who cooked, prepared or brought food and drink.. esp the Margaritas that kicked the evening off to a good start !

Being opposite CvC worked well, as Al & Harriet's Amazeen Chilli was still piping hot on arrival... will do our best to get 4 pitches next year for stall + all the vans together.

So this will be booked for next year...☺

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Salisbury Plain October

Secretary Neil organised this with help from Barry (campsite), & Tom (NJT) & Patrick helped navigation with MM.

Weather was had by all, as well as a good time with minimal cloud cover..

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=122640&start=45>

Major purchases this year:

- 2 handheld CB radios (one put to good use at SP and in Devon)
- Rapid-charger & rechargeable batteries (for handheld CBs)
- Flipchart/whiteboard easel (mainly for SP)
- Slackline (mainly for children)
- Archery set for the children (mainly for adults ☺)
- Aluminium collapsible table (more display or food footage)
- {Used last year's Colman purchase this year at AO Show at Stratford racecourse)

ExtraSpecial Thanks

Thanks again to Dave Dunne (CrankinWagen) for the screen stickers.

All Synchronauts Members...