

# MOTO GUZZI



## HIGHLAND

### Summer 2022 Newsletter

#### Present

August is almost upon us and with it the old Gaelic festival of Lughnasadh - the festival of the harvest.

Rural roads will be full of large farm machinery - be careful - the drivers will be busy, perhaps tired, and unable to hear you.

Give them plenty of time and space on the roads.

#### Future

Events for the remainder of the season are:

August 21<sup>st</sup> - Grampian Transport Museum run out.

September 18<sup>th</sup> - Circuit of the Scottish NW coast - NOT the NC500!

October 15<sup>th</sup> - a local "twisty" run, taking in several roads in various stages of decay and challenge - more later.

December tba - Festive lunch - possibly the North Kessock hotel - tbc.

#### Enjoy the festive "Lughnasadh"

Past events so far in 2022 were fine catch ups for the group members. The Goodbrand and Ross meet up was well attended by folks from Aberdeenshire and Angus areas as well as the Highlands. It was held in April and the weather was pretty miserable but a score of hardy souls pitched up with "viz-nil" over the Lecht and about 5°C - pretty rubbish motorcycling to be honest.



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On May 28th the author set out and did the round trip to Skye and back - the planned "2 Ferries tour" in late May.

There were no other takers and, as ferry tickets had been booked, and with a fine forecast it seemed churlish not to do it. Firstly was down the A82 to An Gearasdan - surprisingly light of traffic and pleasant until the outskirts of the town. West coast weather was much nicer than the dull east with its viking winds and, as the day wore on, it became progressively sunnier but breezier. Reaching Mallaig a picnic lunch was had in the shelter of the harbour wall before boarding the ferry for Armadale. Once on Skye it was time for picture at a personal favourite viewpoint, on the A851 just south of Sabal Mor Ostaig college. Thereafter there was a bit of a rush of blood to the head and the Audace didn't come out of 4th gear until reaching the A87 at Sheil Bridge.

The fiddly roads to Glenelg ferry and over Mam Ratagan seemed to cause traction control and rev limiter to kick in a few times for some reason unclear to the author - not.

At the Glenelg ferry the local sea eagle flew past accompanied by some irate seagulls. The crossing was at the flood tide and as warned it was "bumpy". 300 kgs of motorcycle was held close to the handrail and front brake held tight.



On disembarking a rather fine latte and slab of lemon drizzle cake was had at the new (to me) cafe overlooking the narrows.

At the junction of the Mam Rattigan road and the A87 I went south and made "good progress" to Invermoriston where a rather more sedate pace was applied up the Great Glen and home. All in all a rather wonderful trip.



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Highland Classic Motorcycle Club hosted the Loch Ness Rally on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June which by all accounts was up to its usual high standards.



On returning home from 10 days of touring the Wild Atlantic Way on my V7 a long overdue visit was made to see David McMillan near Dumfries. David and I hadn't met since the late 80s when both of us took part on MGCGB Scottish branch runs. His rather fine Lemans was on the deck to guide me to his home. There was an hour or two of fairly intense catching up and; biscuit eating on my part apparently.

The LeMans has no throttle cables fitted - to stop David yielding into temptation and taking it for a spontaneous thrash.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> July there was a run out from Inverness to meet up with the Aberdeenshire folk at Cullen for a bowl of Skink in the Rockpool Restaurant. Weather once more proved kind and about 12 souls pitched up.

After leaving Inverness refreshment was taken at Findhorn Foundation Phoenix Cafe. They are not exactly quick at coffee making with long waiting times so most opted for tins of juice. It was great to meet up with Allan Wilson (Alloa) on his 1200 Sport who was camping at Findhorn with some friends. Then it was off along the coast route to Burghead and Lossie before heading to Cullen for lunch.

The Rockpool staff were excellent and everybody seemed to enjoy the skink or alternatives for lunch. After the skink ice creams were eaten in the Square, eaten rapidly, not because of greed but of necessity due to the heat. This was an opportunity for folks to further mix and discuss stuff guzzi. Neil Cormack of Buckie pitched up on his V7 Racer to meet us and has subsequently joined the mg-h facebook group. Welcome Neil!



Then the plan was for tea at the Fire Station at Tomintoul but by the time we arrived it had just shut. The consensus then was to just head home. Don, on his V7 850 headed back to Forfar over the Lecht and the rest headed home via Grantown and Dava moor. It stayed dry the whole way and was a rather fine day.



Allan Wilson (1200 Sport) trying to pull his double chins in resulting in this very superior look!

Cullen Square with 3 Guzzis and Don McLean the owner of the V7 850.



**Reminder of the remainders...**

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** - Grampian Transport Museum visit and lunch. R.V. at Deans of Huntly at 11:00

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** - a run around the less used roads about the north west Highlands. R.V at the Pier, Lairg at 10:30. Coffee, blether and off on the run.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>** - a run around some "devious" roads around Inverness and Loch Ness. Not for the faint hearted nor suitable for lardy machines.

**December** tba - consume a dead bird with maseratis and sprouts, then a dollop of plum duff sort of meal at the North Kessock Hotel, North Kessock, by Inverness.

**2023 Plans**

Events being explored for 2023 are:-

1) Host a guzzi exhibit stand at the SMVC Glamis Extravaganza in 2023. Awaiting details from the administrator. Held in early July.

In the mean time anyone who would like to display their moto guzzi please contact me. Looking for a good spread of machines through the decades.

Please let me know if interested in being an exhibitor. I have 4 machines / owners possible so far!

2) Hold the second alt-Raduno - hall and camping ground have been reserved for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023. More details in due course. The band we had in 2021 have been contacted and I await response....

Several runs being considered too;

Loch Laggan circuit in May 2023

Loch Ness circuit one evening in summer

Isle of Mull weekend

More detail of all of these will appear in the Autumn / Winter newsletters.

The mg-h Facebook group is slowly swelling in numbers - almost at 90 at time of writing.

The MGCGB forum is vastly improved and information from mg-h will be shared on there for the meantime.

**Please send in any items for inclusion in the newsletter. It is emailed out on a blind copy list.**