



NEWSLETTER No. 32 – SATELLITE NAVIGATION RUN September 2017

This year's 'Summer Sun Run' deviated from the majority of our previous 'tulip' runs which are invariably planned by Deryck. Anybody who has navigated a 'tulip' run knows that it is impossible (or certainly not recommended) to try to both navigate the map oneself and drive at the same time. 'Tulip' style navigation is nothing to do with flowers, but the style of instructions used on the Tulip Rally, a road rally that went from the Netherlands to the Alps and back in the 50s and 60s. With 'Tulips' the route is illustrated by a series of small drawings showing each junction along the route. These are supported by additional information like road names, numbers or landmarks that you will see, such as a pub.

There were a couple of reasons why I decided to plan a different style of event. First and foremost the construction of the 'tulip' map is quite labour intensive and Deryck not only plans the route map, drives the route and then plots the tulip instructions but frequently goes over it all again a couple of days before the 'run' to check there are no deviations to his proposed route. He deserved a rest! Secondly as will be gleaned from the foregoing, it is very difficult to come and enjoy the drive unless one has a navigator and it can be a disincentive for people like myself (Billy No-mates) to join in the fun.

My simple plan was to construct a Sat-Nav run which would simple require inputting a destination (post-codes are easiest) which once reached could then be replaced by the next way-point etc etc which also, as it turned out, made it a very interesting drive during which the driver could also enjoy the beautiful scenery. Having devised the run I did actually drive it to check the route out and I am glad I did as one part of the run I had designed proved to be extremely 'built-up' and boring so I simply left that out by omitting one of the post-codes. The beauty of using a series of half dozen or so locations is that the sat-nav allows you to put the list in and then plots the route-map for you and gives you accurate mileages and approximate timings thereby saving a huge amount of 'leg-work.'

Since I refused to give any of the participants the route, or even the final destination, before we met as usual in the Kingfisher car-park, I think it made it all the more interesting and it took the inputting of a few of the way-points before everyone realised that a definite theme was emerging! I will not go into any further detail as I have printed the route below for anybody who missed it and decides to try it out. If you do give it a go I think you will agree with me that some of the scenery en-route is breathtaking.

Starting from the Kingfisher Pub in Greenfield (but obviously you can start from anywhere) we drove to:

78 Old Road, Tintwistle, Glossop SK13 1JY

28 Buxton Road, High Lane SK6 8 BH

Wilmslow Road, Mottram St. Andrew SK10 4CH

2 Oak Lane, Kerridge, Macclesfield SK10 5BD

12 St. Peter's Road, Buxton SK17 7 DX

Church Street, Monyash, Bakewell DE45 1JH

Buxton Road, Blackshaw Moor, Leek ST13 8TW

Around a 3 hour run dependent on traffic.

I had booked the final destination (surprise, surprise - a pub) and everyone who arrived seemed to be quite taken with the different format so I will use it again when Deryck runs out of runs. Given a bit of practice it should be quite easy to compile such runs and theoretically with some of the modern satellite-navigation systems which alert you to both roadworks and congestion it may be unnecessary for the poor soul compiling it to have to do a 'dummy-run.' I realise that this method dispenses with the need for a navigator but someone still has to operate the sat-nav! Whilst the majority of our participants used Tom-toms the couple that seemed to make the easiest progress simply used Google-maps on an I-phone. Modern technology. No need for sextant and compass any more!

Happy navigating, Tony.