

# Gauteng Offroad Community Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2006 Edition

Published by: 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng  
in the spirit of Positive 4x4 & Outdoor Adventure.

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**DO NOT PRINT THIS NEWSLETTER – EXCEEDS 40 PRINTED PAGES!!!!**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Any 4x4 related articles / letters are more than welcome from anybody for inclusion in this newsletter and will be included in the language submitted. Only articles submitted via E mail will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter and all communication is strictly via E mail. This email is Gauteng based and of general interest. The editor in no ways necessarily supports any of the views or facts publicised within and all input hereto, is placed without any prejudice or malice intended. Any issue with an article should be taken up the source supplying the information.

Newsletters are now archived and available from our website - [www.4x4offroadclub.co.za](http://www.4x4offroadclub.co.za) - select Newsletters. Note: Change your email viewer to **RICH TEXT** format and view this email in a more user friendly manner!

If you are receiving this newsletter and want to be removed from the mailing list, just reply with **REMOVE** in the subject field (and return the email without content, or it will not work!) and you will be deleted from our list.

It is sent in good faith to promote positive 4x4-ing and sharing of much needed information in the industry. It is not deemed to be SPAM mail and is sent in the spirit of creating a better 4x4 and outdoor related industry in South Africa.

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### **TRAILS & TRIBULATIONS:**

Hi all outdoor enthusiasts!

**DO NOT PRINT THIS NEWSLETTER – OVER 40 PRINTED PAGES!!!!**

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do... Explore. Dream. Discover." (Mark Twain)

Yes, is that not true? And here we are in the beginning of November, late again due to work travel and Telkom line faults which take forever to fix! But another bumper edition before year end, so enjoy. As Mark Twain said, do it before it is too late, so did Kingsley Holgate. See his commentary to the Getaway sub editor further on. The time is now and you must plan and set goals. Don't go through life saying "I wish I could go to the Serengeti". Set a date into the future and start planning, and before you know it – you will be on the journey of a lifetime.

We discovered the private Nature Reserve of Ezemvelo just 20 odd km's outside of Bronkhorstspuit and had an enjoyable weekend there with good friends. The reserve has so much to offer, and on Saturday morning, after a major, and I mean major, electric and rain storm, we were lucky enough to see an abundance of plains game, and even the Rhino cow and a sibling. Awesome – if you live in the greater Gauteng area, make sure you visit their website and go and see what they have to offer. We will be back.

We had an awesome final of the GPS Challenge and a full report is contained herein. A thanks goes to Bridgestone SA and Garmin / Avnic for the main sponsorship of prizes. Contestants really walked away with great prizes throughout the event. Make sure you enter next year.

This month we have 2 weekend away trips, 1 to the Doornrivier 4x4 farm in Zeerust, and thereafter, a weekend to the lion breeding farm near Coligny. This event is open to the public, and we still do have space. It is a catered event, and camping is the method.

Looking back on a year nearly over, we have published almost fifty different events for members and non members alike. And yes, there are only 52 weeks in a year and we close in December and half of January. So, I am definitely looking forward to the holiday break. But guess what – we gonna go camping again! Once the lifestyle has bitten you, there is no other!

Finally, enjoy this version of the newsletter. And diarise the Tuesday 28 November 2006. This will be our last, Christmas edition Interest meeting at Kempton Caravans, with humongous prizes and a chance to do your Christmas shopping in their new shop, which is believed to be the biggest camp shop under one roof. For those who have not been there before, bring your credit card. You will not be sorry. We also gonna have great speakers on the night.

Well, lets get this newsletter out their with my new snail mail – Telkom's ADSL service which suddenly introduces undocumented features to people like me – and hampers the delivery of this newsletter!

Yours in 4x4ing.

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)  
Editor (voluntary!)  
4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

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#### **SHOW / TRAINING / OTHER EVENTS:**

Herewith a range of activities for the enthusiast. It will be updated monthly, as we discover more things to do, new training courses and club events that change. So actively watch it. All the big shows are listed here for 2006 already – so diarise!

- Auto Africa Show ends
- Doornrivier 4x4 Weekend
- Lion Breeding Farm Camp Weekend
- GPS Training (last course of 2006)
- 4x4 Interest Meeting
- Final 2006 Newsletter

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#### **ADVERTORIAL (March 2006):**

#### **NAVIGATORS FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE ADVENTURES**

Navigators specialises in exclusive yet affordable 4x4 safaris and expeditions in Southern Africa, with the emphasis on professionalism, service-excellence, and value-for-money tours. With either our fully-inclusive "Booked-Seat", or tag-along "Self-Drive" options to choose from, we meet the needs of adventurous local and international travellers who want small-group or private

tours to wilderness and wildlife destinations, in a non-competitive environment where safety and service is key.

To retain the small-group nature of our tours and enhance your enjoyment and bush experience, we offer a limited number of places only on each tour – we therefore encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. Below is a selection of some of our “set departures” in the coming months that still have places available.

Visit our website at <http://www.navigators4wd.co.za> for general details on our tours and services, or e-mail us at [info@navigators4wd.co.za](mailto:info@navigators4wd.co.za) for specific details and pricing on our safaris and expeditions. Alternatively, contact our office on landline +27 (0) 21 689 1825 or Chris Schlimper on mobile +27 (0) 83 675 3484.

**NOVEMBER 2006: "Kalahari Black-Maned Lions" Wilderness & Wildlife Safari – 10 Days**

*Tour highlights include: The Mabuasehube Pans region of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park; great wildlife viewing with possible sightings of the magnificent Kalahari lions; 4x4 Wilderness Trail with fantastic bush camp. "The remote and unspoilt beauty of the Botswana side of the Park is what makes this safari truly special..."*

**Dates: Friday 10 November to Sunday 19 November 2006 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Saturday 14 October 2006.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**DECEMBER 2006: "Baviaanskloof & Addo" Wilderness & Wildlife Tour – 7 Days**

Tour highlights include: Great wilderness areas & bush camps; excellent elephant and general wildlife viewing; interesting yet relaxed off-road driving challenges. "This tour is a must for nature lovers, and anyone who enjoys peace and solitude..."

**Dates: Saturday 2 December to Friday 8 December 2006 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 20 October 2006.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**DECEMBER 2006: "Richtersveld Mountain Desert Wilderness Experience" – 6 Days**

Explore this unique and beautiful wilderness area with its amazing rock formations and spectacular scenery. Other highlights include: The solitude of a unique mountain-desert wilderness; scenic campsites next to the Orange River and on the plateau; interesting driving challenges.

**Dates: Sunday 10 December to Friday 15 December 2006 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 27 October 2006.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**JANUARY 2007: "Bushmanland, Caprivi, Vic Falls & Kubu Island" Expedition – 14 Days**

This expedition-style tour incorporates many highlights and photographic opportunities, including: Khaudum; Popa Falls; secluded reserves in the Okavango panhandle (Caprivi); Victoria Falls (Zambia); Chobe River and Kubu Island (Botswana); opportunity to see rare and interesting wildlife; great wilderness campsites; varied and interesting driving challenges...

**Dates: Monday 8 January to Sunday 21 January 2007 (Windhoek to Francistown).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 9 November 2006.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**FEBRUARY 2007: "Kalahari Black-Maned Lions" Wilderness & Wildlife Safari – 10 Days**

**Dates: Friday 9 February to Sunday 18 February 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 16 December 2006.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**MARCH 2007: "Richtersveld Mountain Desert Wilderness Experience" – 6 Days**

**Dates: Saturday 3 March to Thursday 8 March 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 19 January 2007.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**MARCH 2007: "Kalahari Black-Maned Lions" Wilderness & Wildlife Safari – 10 Days**

**Dates: Friday 16 March to Sunday 25 March 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 26 January 2007.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

**APRIL 2007: Kaokoveld "Desert Elephants & Himba" Tour – 12 Days**

**Dates: Monday 9 April to Wednesday 18 April 2007 (Windhoek to Windhoek).**

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 16 February 2007.**

**Maximum of 6 vehicles only.**

E-mail us at [info@navigators4wd.co.za](mailto:info@navigators4wd.co.za) for further details and pricing on this tour.

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**HIT THE TRAIL – NEWS, EVENTS, PLACES & FEATURES:**

**BUY PROPERT IN MOZAMBIQUE ON A GOLF COURSE!!!!**

IMPORTANT NOTICE - *Investment opportunity of a lifetime*

*"Almal wil 'n Huisie by die See he!!!!!!"*

You can now afford to realize this dream

Invest from as little as R 220 000 for your own home in a golf estate in Mozambique

For a mere R 220 000 you will receive the following:

1. A two bedroom chalet with a kitchen, living area, shower, washing basin, toilet and verandah.
2. Stunning sea view or lake view depending on your choice
3. Walking distance from beach
4. Access with vehicle to beach for launching
5. Private beach for owners
6. Access to stunning tidal pools
7. Access to boat houses for boat owners
8. Membership of a 9 hole golf course
9. Access to swimming pool
10. Access to clubhouse
11. Wide variety of water sports on a fresh water lake of approximately 39 km.
12. Excellent deep sea or beach angling
13. Swimming throughout the year.
14. Whale and dolphin watching
15. Magnificent scuba and diving opportunities
16. An excellent income of up to R 25 050 if you don't use chalet yourself

To find out further details, using the club as your reference point – send an email addressed to [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za) with MOZ HOUSE in subject field.

**29mHz RADIOS**

Everything you need to know about buying, licensing, installation, checking, call signs, usage protocol etc. is now available on our website under a 29mHz button on the menu. Visit [www.4x4offroadclub.co.za](http://www.4x4offroadclub.co.za) for further details.

We have listed some recommended installers, who are being extensively used by readers – see Dr Mark Walker's comments below:

*Hi Alan - some feedback regarding the installation of my radio. David organised the installation - very professional - he has some serious kit to test radios and he knows his stuff. This is pocket money for his company as he does installations for Vodacom and services SAA radios. I would*

*definitely recommend him. He did not use the magnet aerial as I wanted a fixed one - his guy did a very neat job which can be easily removed and attached.*

Regards

Dr. Mark Walker

Another outstanding service to the 4x4 community brought to you by the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club Gauteng.

### **MAPS, BOOKS, CDs & DVDs CATALOGUE AVAILABLE**

The 4-buy-4 direct stores' catalogue of products is now available in full colour on the club's website. Select [www.4x4offroadclub.co.za](http://www.4x4offroadclub.co.za), and then select the page by clicking the logo in the top right hand corner. A PDF document with a full order and price list is available for all to use.

### **EXPERIENCE ROARING LIONS, CLOSE UP AND PERSONAL**

Join Alan Goodway & Alex Smit on a Lion Breeding farm in the North West Province for a fully catered camping weekend, at low low rates, where you will be 'in touch' with breeding lions and their offspring – only a fence away in fact. Play with the cubs, see the tigers, crocs, wild dogs etc. Go for a game drive. Hear the roar of the dominant male, the calls of the females, all in an idyllic camping site – this is open to anybody, with a maximum participation of 15 families camping. There is a pool and electricity, and grass camping sites. Excellent ablutions.

Send an email to [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za) with LION in the content field. Dates are 17, 18 & 19 November 2006, and at a total cost of approximately R400 per head for the weekend. No 4x4 needed. Camping only. 2 meals per day.

### **GPS COURSE – BOOK NOW (LAST COURSE IN 2006!!!)**

**Training:** GPS Training – A MUST DO COURSE!!!!

**Date:** Saturday 18 November 2006 – Course with basic practice  
Sunday 19 November 2006 (**optional** extended practical) – 3 hours from 08h30 – 11h30 (FREE)

***Please indicate if you will attend BOTH sessions.***

**Time:** 08h30 – 16h30

**Area:** Pretoria / Centurion

**Venue:** To be advised - – final venue details to all attendees once bookings and payment received

**Target Activity:** Theory & Practical training in GPS Technology & Usage covering:

Satellite Navigation theory

Faults and error in the system and problem areas

Datums, Projections, Co-ordinate systems (Includes practical)

GPS screens

GPS menus

Configuration of your GPS

Practical route (GoTo's, Routes and BackTrak)

Etc.

Includes 35 page manual & 1:50 000 map

Lecturer is the navigation guru in the Gauteng industry – Kevin Bolton

**Cost:** R350 (AAWDC aligned club membership)

R630 (non 4x4 Club members), inclusive of a light lunch & cooldrink, map, certificate, manual

*Minimum 8 candidates to host course, this year MAXIMUM 15 people per course*

Certificate issued.

**RSVP by:** 1 November 2006 – [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za)

**Payment by:** 1 November 2006 – details will be sent to all candidates

### **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE**

Good morning, if you are going to, or know someone that is going to Mozambique in the near future please read or let them read this. For emergency services in Mozambique please visit our website at [www.mozhelp.co.za](http://www.mozhelp.co.za) . We have an extensive network of service providers in Mozambique that will be able to assist you in every possible emergency from medical emergency, legal, vehicle breakdown, and security. Please consider this for your own safety and well being.

### **2006 GPS CHALLENGE – FINALS FEEDBACK**

The 2006 GPS Challenge Final was held over the weekend 21 and 22 October 2006 beginning at Kempton Caravans Edenvale and ending at Stoney Ridge in KwaZulu Natal.

The event planning commenced months prior to the event with a lot of detailed planning going into the different route options. Early in October the route recce was completed with some waypoints being added and some of historical interest, removed as they no longer exist. This is what is so tragic about our country that we allow our history to slowly fade away and later disappear.

On Sunday 15 October 2006 all the contestants were notified of the start co-ordinates by means of a SMS. The beginning point was Kempton Caravans who presented the contestant, sponsors and organisers with a tremendous spread of muffins, scones and good old strong coffee. At 07h30 the briefing commenced with a word of thanks and encouragement from Alan Goodway the owner of the 4x4 Off-road Club and co-organiser of the event. The rules and routes details were conveyed to the group before Johan from Bridgestone handed out some stylish warm Big John jackets and a goodies bag for each contestant. Before the contestants were allowed to disappear the normal group photo was taken. The finalists were only 5 teams, as the first Gauteng Heat winners had to withdraw due to business commitments and the rules do not allow new comers to the team once a heat has been won. The route extended over 577 km on the shortest route and 578 km on the fastest route each with 16 points to visit. The route was planned with about 220km on dirt road but which were good enough for Sedans.

The weather was overcast to start with a bit of rain en route but the temperature rose considerably as the day went on.

At 08h00 the contestants were let loose to plan their route. It was interesting to note that each group planned their route using a computer and this is where the gadgets and software programs appeared. What was also interesting was that numerous software packages were used: Garmap Street Map Version 4, Garmap Topo & Rec, Fugawi, Ozi Explorer, Tracks 4 Africa and Google Earth. The first vehicle to depart with a V8 burst of power was that of Anthony De Bruyns and Barto de Koning in Barto's (winners of the Eastern Cape heat) newly revamped Toyota Hilux. During the next 30 minutes the vehicles departed in a more dignified manner with the last being Mike Lauterbach and Peter Zagel in their Land Rover. The first point was the now closed Transport Museum or Old Railway Station in Heidelberg. From there everyone moved onto Villiers to a filler point. The third point was a distance, a little more than 45km from point 2 to point 3. This was a tough section. If the distance was not exactly correct and you used a software program different to that used by the organisers, it could have ended at one of 2 points 100m apart. The actual point was the old bridge over a river.

From point 3 the contestants moved to point 4 an old house in Vrede used by the British Forces during the Boer War to store up to 600 live sheep that had been confiscated under the Scorched Earth policy of the British. Here they had to record the two street names of the intersection, where the house is located. The spelling of two street names are incorrectly recorded in our history books.

What was also interesting was that in addition to the computers all vehicles travelled with more than one GPS. This was in line with the policy that when travelling in the country or such areas as Botswana back up GPS's must be carried. The value of GPS's in the contestants vehicles was estimated to be in the region of R120 000. In our control car we carried seven. One, for the

confirmation of the quality of satellite signal, one loaded with the Garmap Top series, one with the new about to be launched Street Maps of Southern Africa (Garmap V), the new Garmap mapping running on a Nokia N70 with a Garmin blue tooth GPS, one recording our trip information like speed, max speed, distance to go, time to go, GPS accuracy, battery strength, distance travelled etc. and the other two just for fun. The Garmin GPS receivers used on the road during the event ran from:

- a. Garmin Quests,
- b. GPS MAP 276c's,
- c. GPS MAP 60Cx and 76Cx
- d. GPS MAP 60CSx's,
- e. GPS 60's,
- f. GPS V,
- g. Garmin GPS MAP 96C (an aviation receiver)
- h. eTrex Vista,
- i. GPS 10 and,
- j. Garmin GPS MAP 76 CS
- k. Street Pilot C550

The satellite signal we received during the event generally gave a 4 metre accuracy. Most of the time we received signal from 11 satellites of which 6 to 7 were at full strength. On occasions for 5 to 10 minutes we received a signal from an EGNOS satellite with the differential correction D in the barograph but the accuracy did not improve the previous accuracy to 1 to 2metre as in the past.

From point 4 the contestants made their way to Memel which had to be located under the "Cities" FIND button of the GPS and then make their way to a Boer War Blockhouse outside Harrismith. Unfortunately each vehicle had to pay R55 to enter the area which is now a Game Reserve just to visit the Blockhouse for 5 minutes but nothing is for free today even if it is a historical national monument. The next point was a distance and direction again to a Toll bridge at Swinburne (Montrose) dating back to 1884.

Point 8 at Van Reneen's was the halfway cut off point which was made by all at the smallest privately owned Roman Catholic Church in the world. Nick Botha from Polokwane manned this point and each team was put on the spot by having to answer a few questions regarding the GPS and its information before being allowed to proceed to the next point. Some of the questions were: the GPS's height above sea level at the church and what was the distance from the church to the centre of Cape Town. All the contestant got these questions correct but with maybe a bit of prompting from Nick.

Mike Lauterbach and Peter Zagel who had left last were now in the lead. On checking there speed under their track they had not exceeded the speed limit other than to overtake for no longer than 45 seconds.

The next two points were De Beers Pass east of Van Reenen's and Colling's Pass on route to Elandslaagte north of Ladysmith. When planning the route driving over De Beers Pass was breath taking. I had lived in Ladysmith for all my High school years and had never ventured over this pass. It was one of the best views I have ever seen in my travels in South Africa. A must for anyone who enjoys nature and our beautiful country. I cannot find words to describe what I experienced when driving over the pass.

At the bottom of De Beers Pass Mike and Peter took a wrong turn which ended in a 27km detour and cost them first place.

At Elandslaagte the site of last charge of the British Calvary during the Boer War, where the Boers were slaughtered on the battle field by the British. The Boers had never experienced a cavalry charge on the battlefield before. The point was the Naval cemetery south of Elandslaagte.

From there the contestants made their way to Ladysmith. In Ladysmith the point was the Tollgate house, behind the Anglican Church which was a hospital during the siege of Ladysmith. Lastly the contestants made their way to the old bridge crossing the Tugela River at Colenso, also of Boer War fame.

Once this was found the contestant made their way to Stroney Ridge all arriving at sunset within 45 minutes of each other.

On the 21 October 2006 there was no moon so the night was pitch black. At 19h30 everyone was bundled into the vehicles and taken to a point to start the night adventure which was maybe the most chilling of the whole event.

Arriving at a unknown point, unloading without time to settle in, bundled into a car with some strange woman driving, and who then drops them off in the middle of the bush on a game farm 30 minutes later and then being told that this is where a Leopard was spotted three weeks prior to the event, was enough to make anyone a bit jumpy. As it happened, that was where Ian from Leisure Wheels found a 1m snake, less than a meter from his feet that had just consumed a field mouse. No white light torches were allowed as this then frightens the animals so red lights had to be used just to make it a bit more airy. While out jackal, impala, blesbuck and tsetsibi were spotted.

The night route was 4, 5 km between nine points, all down hill (next year will all be up hill something like the Comrades Marathon). The contestants were either hungry or terrified as they had nearly completed the route before I could return to the second last point by car. At the second last point again after much adrenalin pumping and much sweat they had to answer a few questions. After this it was back to the boma for a well deserved supper. Before retiring the results of the day's events were posted on the boma door for all the contestants to see including the summary of the point allocation at that stage.

Sunday morning was coffee as normal and at 08h00 the written phase commenced. The contestants were given 90 minutes to complete a navigation questionnaire of 150 points.

At 10h00 the well-known traditional Stone Ridge brunch of game worts, bacon, eggs, tomato, banana, onions, mushrooms, muffins, juice, cereals etc was served.

The weekend event was a learning curve for most of the contestants but at the same time fun was had and interesting places in our beautiful country were visited.

At 11h00 prize giving was held:

- First prize. 2 Garmin Quests, a set of five Bridgestone tyres, Leisure Wheels subscriptions to both entries, a tent and a few other goodies valued at R25 000. Won by Dirk Lombard (Navigator) and Willem Van Der Merwe of Polokwane (two friends).
- Second prize was two weekend vouchers for two, one at Hogsback and one in the Katberg, two New Edition Bridgestone watches, Leisure Wheel subscriptions to both entrants and a tent valued at R8 000. Won by Mike Lauterbach (Navigator) and Peter Zagel (two friendly)
- Third prize was a Bridgestone Collectors Knife each, a tent, Leisure Wheels subscriptions and a weekend at Mazeppa Bay Hotel for two, road atlases and a tent worth R4 000. Won by Morne Van Der Westhuizen and Natalie Olsen (recently engaged)

A special thanks must be made in thanking the sponsors of the event:

- Bridgestone for the jackets, tyres, watches, caps and goodies in the goodies bag at most of the events
- Avnic Trading for the GPS prizes
- OFS Canvas for the tents
- MapStudios for the Atlases for those that did get lost
- Mazeppa Bay Hotel for the weekend away
- Kat Leisure the weekend away in the Katberg and at Hogsback
- Leisure Wheels for the free subscriptions
- PDA Zone for sponsoring the website.
- KJ Bolton Consultant for sponsoring the weekends accommodation at StoneyRidge
- 4x4 Offroad Adventures for prizes throughout the competition
- LED mini torches from Kempton Caravans

### **1st Place participant's comments**

Ek en Willem wil net baie dankie sê vir een heerlike en **UITDAGENDE** naweek met die **GPS CHALLENGE FINALS**. Ons het dit ongelooflik geniet en julle het dit baie professioneel hanteer. Die reelings was uitstekend en nogmaals baie dankie vir al die moeite en tyd wat julle in gesit het.

Dit wys weer dat jy van die hoof paaie moet afdraai om al die mooi plekke van ons land te kan sien. Die natuurskoon by Memel en De Beer's pas was besonder.

**GROOT DANK** aan die borge wat betrokke was en hier wil ek **GARMIN** en **BRIDGESTONE** uitsonder vir die fantastiese pryse wat ons ontvang het. **GPS** groete want sonder n **GPS** sou jy die naweek verlore gewees het.

Dirk en Willem.

### **3rd Place participant's comments**

Alan / Kevin

To you (the main organizers), the sponsors (Bridgestone, Avnic, Leisure wheels, Stoney Ridge, OFS Canvas, Mazeppa Bay Hotel), my fellow competitors and everyone who was involved in this years GPS Challenge, a huge thank-you! Although this was our first Challenge, I must congratulate you on a job well done and a very well organised event, we truly appreciate all the effort, planning and time that went into making this such a huge success. You can be proud of what you have accomplished and I can assure you, we will definitely be back next year, for what I'm sure of, will be even bigger and better.

Personally I think everyone who owns a GPS should enter the Challenge. We tend to fool ourselves by thinking we know how to use a GPS and consequently tend to neglect the importance of navigation. I mean, it's easy; you enter the co-ordinates, stick it on the dash and off you go. No problem, right? Well, what are you going to do in an emergency, your loved ones trusting you to keep them safe, when the rescue helicopter tells you to meet them at Arc1950 35JQU E87466 N10577. Do you even know what that means? Or the police tell you that your location is 6.5mi on a heading of 127TN from them. Easy, right? We are avid geocachers and used to think that getting from point A to point B was as easy as following the GPS. The GPS Challenge really opened our eyes. And even today, after going through the semi-finals and this weekend, the finals, I'm still shocked at how little I know, and how much more there is to learn, before I can honestly tell myself that I know how to use a GPS.

We are not competitive people by nature and have never entered any 4x4 related challenges. So when we entered the GPS Challenge, we did it in the spirit of fun and adventure. We enjoy the outdoors, exploring new areas and taking the road-less-travelled. We never imagined we will make it to the finals. For all of you who think of this as just another competition, or challenge,

please do yourself the favour and just try it, once. The entrance fee can't possible deter you, being only R350. And if you are not a competitive kind of guy, do it for the fun, you will NOT regret it. Your only competitor while driving on the back roads, through some of the most beautiful, scenic landscapes, is you.

Thanks again for an awesome time; we will be at the starting point next year. Can't wait!!  
Morné & Natalie

PS: For those of you who like to get stuff for free, for our measly R350 entrance fee, we walked away with the following, all high quality, prizes from the sponsors:

- Garmin GPS 60
- 2 Bridgestone/GPS Challenge jackets
- 2 Bridgestone caps
- 2 Bridgestone multitools
- 2 Bridgestone pocket knives
- 2 Bridgestone lanyards
- 3 Bridgestone pens
- 2 x 1year Leisure wheels subscriptions
- Weekend for two at Mazeppa Bay Hotel
- 2 man tent
- 2 x Southern African Road Atlases
- 2 x mini LED torches
- Windscreen sunshade
- Bottle of Spruitdrift Red Muscadel (for those cold Gauteng winter nights)
- And excellent food and lodging at the beautiful Stoney Ridge

All this and we only managed a third place!! Thanks again to all the sponsors!

#### **5th Place participant's comments**

Good day Kevin

I just wanted to say THANK YOU for another wonderful GPS Competition. This was, in my opinion, the best and most enjoyable GPS competition so far... even though there were complications and we could not complete all the points!

It was also great to do some real dirt road driving and getting to see scenic parts of our country otherwise overlooked. Having to be at certain points by a specified time to answer the question made things very exciting! It encouraged good discipline in watching time and speed and made for more of a challenge for both navigator and driver. I also found it most useful getting the score sheets back to see where we went wrong. Hopefully it will help me improve for next time!

The night hike was another pleasant addition and it would be great to see it as a permanent inclusion in the event. I really enjoyed the walk and it highlighted how to trust your GPS. My dad commented that he too enjoyed the night hike the most.

Over all, the whole weekend was well organised and both my dad and myself thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Thanks again to you and your team. I know how much work goes into organising an event like this and I take my hat off to you for all the work.

Kind Regards  
Anthony Bruyns

**FORBIDDEN LAND TOUR**

I would like to inform you of two dates that are available in November for the Forbidden Land tours with Volke. 12 – 18 Nov and then 18 – 24 Nov.

Included in both is Dune Academy training and also a trip to Kolmannskop. 3 nights guesthouse accom is also included as well as 2 meals per day. 3 Nights in the desert in tented accom. Cost pp R4 950 kids under ten R1 950.

Regards  
Bernie Williams  
Tel: (051) 430 1758  
Cell: (083) 300 5442

### **VULTURE SURVEY**

Vulture populations in South Africa are under extreme pressure. Changing agricultural practices have resulted in fewer carcasses in the veld and those carcasses that are available are often poisoned by farmers to kill predators such as jackal and caracal. Nesting sites, whether cliffs or trees, are being encroached on by burgeoning human populations and a variety of developments. The current threats to vultures include power line collision and electrocution, shooting and poisoning for the traditional and cultural medicinal markets.

Most importantly is our lack of thorough ecological understanding of the vulture species in KZN and their environmental requirements. In an effort to better understand their requirements and life history traits, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has embarked on various initiatives in an effort to save the species.

These programs include the development of a monitoring program for Vultures in KZN which incorporate research based on colour ringing. The success of the colour ringing program is directly related to the sighting and resighting information that is received from members of the public and ornithologists who are urged to download the PDF form at [http://www.kznwildlife.com/vulture\\_form.htm](http://www.kznwildlife.com/vulture_form.htm) when they see ringed vultures and post it to the address on the form

### **SPECIAL ASTRONOMY LECTURE**

It has been confirmed, that the Director of the Comet and Meteor Section, Mr. Tim Cooper, will be giving a lecture on comets and meteors on Saturday evening the 11th November 2006 at the conference centre, Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve.

This is in preparation for the all night vigil on the Leonid Meteor Shower of the following weekend, the 18th November 2006. Please call should you like to attend. Telephone number 011 957 0106 / 09.

The normal talk/open evening costs of R35.00 per person applies.

Your Sincerely  
Bill Hollenbach  
Astronomysa© Est. 1983  
Astronomer @ Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve  
Cell: 083 227 3144  
Email: [wjh1@absamail.co.za](mailto:wjh1@absamail.co.za)

### **ACCOMODATION AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS IN MOZ Hi Everybody,**

I still have the following accommodation available in December.  
1<sup>st</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December  
8 x Sleeper Wooden House on the Beach R2800.00 per night

1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December  
1 x 6 Sleeper Wooden House on Stilts R1600.00 per night

1<sup>st</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December  
1 x 6 Sleeper Wooden House on Stilts R1600.00 per night

1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
1 x 6 Sleeper Wooden Chalet Ntsuty Lodge R1200.00 per night

1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December  
1 x 6 Sleeper Wooden House with Air-con R1600.00 per night

1<sup>st</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December  
1 x 6 Sleeper Wooden House R1600.00 per night

1<sup>st</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December  
1 x 6 Sleeper Wooden House 50m from the Beach R1800.00 per night  
1 x 4 Sleeper Wooden House 50m from the Beach R1200.00 per night

16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
2 x 4 Bed Rustic Chalets on the Beach R720.00 per night

Camping - 10 Pax 26<sup>th</sup> Dec - 2nd Jan R120.00 p p p n

1<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December  
14 x Sleeper House R3200.00 per night

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional info  
Kind Regards  
Rose Bilbrough - travelbug@absamail.co.za

## **NEW DINOKENG GAME RESERVE**

17 October 2006

### ***GAUTENG'S ONLY BIG FIVE GAME RESERVE GETS CLOSER TO REALITY***

Gauteng Provincial Government's Dinokeng Blue IQ project has appointed Siyaya Fence and Gate JV to fence the start up area of 17 000ha of the Dinokeng Big Five Game Reserve.

After months of negotiations by the Gauteng Provincial Government with the privately managed Dinokeng Big Five Game Reserve Land Owners Association the reserve is at last taking off, with opening for business scheduled for December this year.

The 17 000ha area is only the beginning, with the possible future growth to 125 000ha extending into the neighbouring provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Siyaya Fence and Gate JV, the appointed contractor will complete the perimeter fencing by 15 December and internal fencing and infrastructure by 28 February 2007.

Internal fences surrounding properties that have signed up for inclusion into the game reserve will be dropped after the perimeter fence, road access control and security measures are put into place. The big five game will be introduced into the reserve as soon as internal fences have been removed.

Mr Paul Mashatile, Gauteng MEC for Economic Development says, "The construction of the fence will result in 340 casual jobs, 228 of them will be from the local community – and this is only the beginning. Therefore the long negotiation processes with over 200 land owners, finalizing various legal agreements, assembling land, detailed implementation planning and the

appointment of an infrastructure construction company in making our dream come true is well worth the wait.”

Dinokeng Big Five Game reserve Land Owners Association Chairperson, Mr Gys du Plessis says, “The aim of the reserve is to ensure that it has positive economic spin off effects on all communities in the area in terms of job creation and poverty alleviation. The LOA is proud to be personally involved with such a project.”

Issued by the Cradle of Humankind and Dinokeng Blue IQ Projects of the Gauteng Provincial Government.

For more information contact:

Ms Reshma Lakha-Singh 082 852 8405

Dinokeng Marketing manager

Mr Alan Roxton Wiggle 083 328 8802

LOA Marketing Chairperson

Background notes:

- Dinokeng is an initiative of the Gauteng Provincial Government to establish a new tourist destination in the north east portion of the province, close to Johannesburg and Tshwane, with natural, cultural and historical attractions. It also borders on Mpumalanga and Limpopo and has the potential to benefit those provinces as well.
- Dinokeng is aimed at boosting tourism development in the region, and to enable many South Africans to experience tourism for the first time. Dinokeng means ‘a place of rivers’ as it lies in the catchment area of two rivers that flow into the Olifants and Limpopo rivers.
- Dinokeng is a Blue IQ project which aims to stimulate new investments in the area through public-private partnerships and sustainable development practices.
- Blue IQ is a multi-billion Rand initiative of the Gauteng Provincial Government to develop economic infrastructure for specific major projects in the province.
- Dinokeng will therefore promote economic growth and social upliftment, relieving the burden of poverty on communities, particularly for the historically disadvantaged communities living in the area.
- The start-up area of the Dinokeng Game reserve is situated on private and state-owned land and will include Africa’s Big Five (elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo).
- The Dinokeng Big Five Land Owners Association (LOA) is made up of all individuals whose land has been offered for incorporation into the game reserve, a Private Nature Reserve which will apply for Protected Natural Environment status. LOA has an EXCO which manages their affairs and is governed by a constitution. The LOA is in the process of establishing a Section 21 DGR Management Company which will employ up to 34 full time staff to manage and operate the game reserve.
- Dinokeng is one of two geospatial tourism development of the projects of the Gauteng Provincial Government. The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site in the north west of Gauteng is the other.

Reshma Lakha-Singh

Marketing and Public Relations Manager

Cradle of Humankind and Dinokeng Blue IQ Projects

Tel: (011) 355 1402

[www.cradleofhumankind.co.za](http://www.cradleofhumankind.co.za) / [www.dinokeng.net](http://www.dinokeng.net)

#### **HELP WANTED ON MALAWI INFO**

I am researching the possibility of a trip next year to Malawi. Could you please put a request into your next newsletter for any members who have been there to advise me of their best experiences / places to visit and those to be avoided. email [cjcolin@brakeout.co.za](mailto:cjcolin@brakeout.co.za) or call mobile 082 442 7193.

Many thanks,  
Colin Murphy

### **MORE HELP WANTED – SA to MOZ**

Goeie dag,

Ons beplan om vanaf 1 Desember 2006 deur die Kruger Nat Park te ry na die Pomene noord van Inhambane.

Weet julle van enige iemand wat ons meer info kan gee mbt die best roete om te volg, toestand van paaie (of tipes) en moontlike oornag geriewe (ons kamp hoofsaaklik), kontaknommers ensv.

Enige raad sal waardeer word.

Baie dankie, groete  
Kobus du Plessis  
Mobile: +27(82) 7726921  
Fax: 0866879665  
Skype: panoramasa

### **A MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND**

When - The weekend of the 24th of November.

Where - Vista Vistas Private Nature Reserve is hosting a murder weekend.

How - In the group of guests there would be some actors that would act as normal guests, during the course of the weekend one or possibly more people would brutally come to their end.

Participation - You as guest would actively participate in the investigation and cross-examination by the "Police" to try and solve the mystery.

### **Cost**

*Luxury Chalet* - The cost would be R650.00 per unit that sleep 4 people (R162.50 per person per night). Additional R100.00 per person for dinner Saturday night

*Bush Camp* - The cost would be R1100.00 for the camp that sleep 8 people (R137.50 per person per night) - Additional R100.00 per person for dinner Saturday night

Warm Bushveld Greetings  
Albert Kriel  
015 453 0693  
[www.vistavistas.com](http://www.vistavistas.com)

*(Please note that no children under the age of 16 are permitted to attend)*

### **GETAWAY EDITOR SPEAKS TO KINGSLEY HOLGATE**

Here's some advice from possibly the most subversive person a stay-at-homer is ever likely to meet: Kingsley Holgate. But first a brief biography in case you don't know who he is.

Kingsley and his family (Gill and son Ross) have done Cape to Cairo up Africa's waterways (why do it the easy way and drive?), circled the planet along the Tropic of Capricorn (that means some African deserts, the South American jungles, the Andes, the Australian deserts and the Madagascan jungles), followed great African explorers like Livingstone, Stanley and Teleki (down the Zambezi, the Rufiji and the Congo rivers) and sailed up the East Coast to the Somali border in a dhow. His next expedition is top secret but expected to be a whammy.

He gave this advice to a friend who had done well in business, was 57, but was feeling somehow unfulfilled. They were on a beach and Kingsley took seven pebbles and placed them in a row. "These are your life," he told his friend. Then he took the first three and threw them away: "Lived so far. Gone. Nothing you can do about that." Then he threw the last one away, saying "your

seventies, too unpredictable and maybe too old to do anything meaningful."

He picked up the final pebble and handed it to his friend. "That's the life you have left: 10 years. Keep that in your pocket. Put it next to your bed at night. Finger it. Let your sweat polish it smooth. Think about it."

I was sitting on Kingsley's patio in Zinkwazi in KwaZulu-Natal, drinking Captain Morgan rum when he told me that story. He's a great story teller. He sipped his rum and Coke and let the impact sink in.

"What happened to your friend?" I asked.

He laughed his huge, beard padded laugh. "Sold his business after a year. Bought a farm in Zululand and is happy as a pig in sh\*t."

We watches the sky darken over the moody Indian Ocean for a while. "When I give talks," said Kingsley, "people come up to me afterwards and say: 'It's all very well for you. But where would I get the money to have adventures like you? Where would I get the transport? Where would I find the time?' I say to them, set a date, anytime in the future. Decide what adventure will begin on that date. Start working towards it. Make it your dream and focus on that date. You will make it happen. The day you leave you will feel the exhilaration of adventure and you will have a new regard for yourself. You'll be living."

"Some of them do that, most don't. It's a shame, Africa is such an extraordinary place."

He poured another rum, raised his glass and said: "Let's toast to the passion for adventure . . . "

Don Pinnock  
Associate editor

#### **RESPONSE RE LESOTHO BIKE ISSUE**

Hi Alan  
Hope you are well!!

Please note that the Bike SA did publish the response from Lesotho Tourism Development Cooperation in the October issue.

Best regards  
Hermann Siegling

#### **NEED GAS APPLIANCES – HERE IS JUST THE PLACE!**

I added some new stove -, hobs -, extractors hood – and, oven - models to our website at <http://www.seebots.sa.gs> New categories, DIY and INSTALLERS have been created and I will be adding some more items as we go along.

Also and regrettably so, prices on some existing units have increased due to our (RSA) currency performance versus major currencies and worldwide steel price increases.

Johan  
Seebots Distributors cc  
Wholesaler LPGas Appliances, Fittings and Accessories  
81 First Avenue, Linden 2195, Johannesburg  
Tel: 011 888 3050  
Fax: 011 782 0338  
Cel: 082 492 9254  
Web: <http://www.seebots.sa.gs>

### **SHARKLIFE UPDATE**

Sharklife has teamed up with SASSI (South Africa Sustainable Seafood Initiative) to help increase awareness of the major problems facing fish populations around the world and in South Africa. 90% of the large ocean fish have been wiped out in the last 50 years and 75% of the world's major fisheries are either fully or over exploited. Fish species simply cannot reproduce fast enough to keep up with an ever growing human population.

Each Sharklife member is given a Seafood Watch DVD and booklet detailing which seafood is sustainable and which should be avoided. This campaign is designed to give you, the consumer, the knowledge to make the right choice and play an active role in the conservation of our oceans.

Please support SASSI, you can download the pocket guide and use it when you shop or go to eat in restaurants: [click here](#)

### **LAND ROVER SA RELEASE THE BLACK BEAUTY**

Land Rover Defender 90 Limited Edition has been released in South Africa and is called Defender Black. Although it is available in a variety of colours. This comes after the moving of all Defender production back to the UK since the beginning of 2006. This limited edition Defender 90 is packed with extras and only available from selected dealers.

The limited edition vehicle is more up market, but the Defender is still available in various guises in South Africa. It is one of the few if not the only country where the Defender is still available with a Tdi engine. Called a Defender 110 Station Wagon, this utilitarian model is fitted with the Tdi engine and only the basics in terms of the interior.

The Defender limited edition on the other hand uses the newer TD5 engine and has a few added luxuries and a long list of extras.

Bull Bar, Spot Lights, Front Floor Mats, Load Bin Mat, Spare Wheel Cover  
Leather Gear Knob, Leather Transfer Knob, Facia Switch Surround, Silver Radio Bezel  
Under Ride Protection, Side Chequer Plate, Silver Radiator Grille , Silver Headlamp Surround,  
Left and Right, Silver Instrument Cluster Surround, Anodised Aluminium Fender Plate Kit  
Leather Seats, Leather Steering Wheel, Black Painted Eyebrows  
More information from [www.landrover.co.za](http://www.landrover.co.za)

### **MOZAMBIQUE ACCOMODATION OPPORTUNITY**

Good Day Alan

Thank you for your emails much appreciated! Here is opportunity for people deciding at the last minute they need a breakaway – We have a 8 sleeper fully equip. cottage at Paindane beach Mozambique, there is still space available for the beginning of December and January!! Only 4x4 accessible. I will attach further information.

The price for the cottage is R1000.00/day for the unit!

Regards  
Mariki Nel

#### *Details - Dorado @ Pandaine beach, Mozambique*

Dorado at Pleasure Bay Resort is situated 28 km South of Inhambane and approximately 500km north of Maputo. The chalet is nestled amongst plantations of Coconut palms and miles of sun-bleached beaches. The chalet is only accessible with a 4x4 vehicle.

The self catering chalet on the dune is a stone throw from the beach with a magnificent sea view. Our Mozambique style chalets cater for a number up to 8 people in one chalet. The chalet is self cater, however we offer different packages. Fly in packages to Inhambane is also available. The accommodation offers an eight bed fully equipped chalets. Two bath rooms with gas geysers & electricity supplied by generator. Contact and Booking Info

Contact Frikkie Rall on 082 897 7571 or Mariki Nel on 083 273 4512  
Email: [frikkie@electricalgenie.co.za](mailto:frikkie@electricalgenie.co.za) or [marikin@pearlauto.co.za](mailto:marikin@pearlauto.co.za)

### **VISTA VISTA PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE OFFERING –DECEMBER 2006**

As the reserve changed hands a while ago and the new management team is firmly in the seat, we thought it good to offer a special rate for the December period so that we could meet the faces that hasn't visit since the take over.

1. Should you book for 3 days we would offer an additional 2 days at 20% less than the standard rate of R785.00
2. Should you book 5 days an additional day would be free.
3. Should you book for 9 days or more you would receive 2 days free of charge.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm Bushveld Greetings

Albert Kriel

015 453 0693

[www.vistavistas.com](http://www.vistavistas.com)

### **AD BREAK....ARTICLES CONTINUES THEREAFTER...**

#### **ADVERTORIAL (March 2006):**

#### **NICA TOERE**

NICA TOERE spesialiseer in gefokusde toere vir klein groepe mense. Hier is van ons toere – skakel gerus:

#### *Pilansberg Nationale Park*

(2 nagte, 3 dae) 4 ster verblyf

- Groot 5
- Ideaal vir Senior Burgers
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R2550 per persoon

#### *Ski "Midweek" Lesotho*

(3 nagte, 4 dae) 3222m bo seevlak – sneeu gewaarborg!

Vanaf 1 Junie – 27 Augustus 2006

- Ideaal vir Senior Burgers
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R3600 per persoon

#### *WEGBREEK NAWEEK – Clarence & Lesotho*

- Besoek Katse Dam
- Doen inkopies in Clarence
- Besoek Basotho Village
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys vanaf R2150 per persoon

#### *"MIDWEEK" na LAEVELD*

(4 nagte, 5 dae) 4 ster verblyf

- Besoek ook Wildtuin
- Ideaal vir Senior Burgers
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R2950 per persoon

### *Ski Naweek in Lesotho*

(3 nagte, 4 dae) 3222m bo seevlak – sneeu gewaarborg!

Vanaf 1 Junie – 27 Augustus 2006

- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R2900 per persoon

### *GHOLF TOER - SUIDKUS*

(4 nagte, 5 dae) Luukse Akkomodasie. Speel op:

- Wild Coast
- San Lameer
- Selborne
- Alles insluitende prys van R4250 per persoon
- 8 persone per groep

Kontak Nico – 083 725 9372 / Gert 083 232 1436

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### **More news items....**

#### **MORE MOZ ACCOMODATION**

Dear Valuable client,

If you have been disappointed due to lack of availability, good news just arrived. We have accommodation available during Dec/ Jan due to late cancellation.

Pomene lodge: 2 x 6 bed chalet (from 23/ 12/ 06 for minimum of 10 nights)

Nhambavale lodge: 2 x 2 bed + 1 x 4 bed chalet (from 15/ 12/ 06 - 25/ 12/ 06)

For more information and costs please view the attachment (contact her directly for attachment). If you wish to book please don't delay contact us immediately because this accommodation will not be available for long period.

We looking forward to organize your December holidays

Sheila Victor (MAS team)

mozaccm@netactive.co.za

#### **ANGOLA ON A SHOE STRING – Submitted by Ben Cillier – Newsletter Reader**

DAY 1 - On the 1st August 2006 at 02h00 seven intrepid explorers and fisherman begin their long journey to Angola under leadership of Alphonso Gresse of KISIUSULI SAFARIS. The vehicle convoy consisting of a Mitsubishi Colt ClubCab, a Ford F250 double cab and an Isuzu, laden with provisions and equipment and all armed with 2-way radios and GPS systems. The convoy leaves Centurion at about 02h00 and drive through to the border post at Skilpadsnek to enter Botswana. We arrive at 05h30 in the morning at the border post, half an hour before its opening at 06h00. Cliffie casually puts on his new (forgotten) car license disk before going through. We enter Botswana with no hitches and head off to Kang. We pull over shortly afterwards to watch the sunrise, have a cold beer for breakfast and enjoy the padkos that Niel's wife had packed. Piet comments "die weiding is so sleg hier so dat die skape die sagte klippe eerste eet". The weather is very cold and everyone dons their jackets.

After picking up the radio microphones in Juaneng, the vehicles were quickly nicknamed as follows. The F250 becomes "Bigfoot". The Colt is named "Bottlestore Galactica" and the Isuzu is named "Playboys". These names were soon to be changed however. The Colt picks up a problem with a universal joint on the prop shaft and we luckily manage to find a spare in Kang for 400 Pula (including fitment). We continue our journey to Kamanjab and drive through most of the night. We took the shortcut via Steinhausen and Hochfeld which is a dirt road, but highly

recommendable as the road is in perfect condition. Thank goodness for the 2 way radios we installed in our vehicles as this keeps us awake and going, with various jokes, singing and general banter. The cars are renamed "Pinkfoot", "Battlescar Galactica" and "Play with Boys". We arrive at Kamanjab after 25 hours of continuous driving at 03h30 and squeeze in 3 hours sleep while waiting for the butcher to open.

DAY 2 - We pay R50 (bargain) and manage to get a hot shower at a campsite in Kamanjab and then proceed to the butchery to collect our meat, biltong and dry wors which Alf has organized a month earlier. We also stock up on a couple of cases of Tafel Lager; a few large bottles of Old Brown Sherry and other odds and sods. The group spends about R5000 at this general store and the owner kindly throws in the smallest packet of chili biltong I've ever seen for free. We then proceed to hit the long dusty road to Ruacana. We get stopped at a roadblock and Cliffie gets a R300 spot fine for not having his driver's license handy. Ben is declared the "kudu drol spoeg champion". The guys enjoy a few cold bottles of Tafel which went down well on this dusty section. We arrive at Hippo Pools campsite in Ruacana later in the afternoon where we meet up with the rest of the group from Cape Town. The campsite is beautifully situated next to the river with "normally" hot showers and clean ablution. We set up camp next to the Cunene River, and Graham the only "soutie" on the trip, wears his donated "*Praat Afrikaans of Hou Jou Bek*" T-Shirt. Here we finished half of Fanus's brandy stock before hitting the sack.

DAY 3 - We wake early and Niel greets us with an Amstel toothbrush and we have a very cold shower before breaking up camp. We proceed through the Angolan border post, where we had to have our beers "skelmpies" behind the bakkie in order not to show disrespect to the boarder police. The Angolan officials took three hours to process the seventeen passports and seven vehicles... apparently next year they want to get computers... Was it not for our guide, this would have taken a whole day. Cliffie smacks a hole in his longrange fuel tank which we manage to temporarily seal with soap. A few more Tafels are consumed en route and we see people from the Himba tribe. The youngsters run next to the vehicles shouting "Schweeet" or "Sigare" and other variations thereof. We pass out a few sweets to them and stop to take photos. These are very primitive people that live under harsh conditions, although their cattle are in tip-top condition. We eventually make temporary camp in a dry river bed next to the road. Alf prepared us a much enjoyed chilli boeliebeef pasta potjie for supper with some more Tafels. We sleep under the stars in weather that is a bit chilly in the evenings. Fanus is dubbed die "Graaf" (as in "spade") van Monte Christo... We are amazed at the lack of any wildlife around, not even birds. Jaco, our guide informs us that during the civil war in Angola all forms of wildlife were trapped or shot for food.

DAY 4 - Break up camp and we continue our sojourn into Angola. Piet establishes regional radio 521, "die beste onderbroke Afrikaanse musiek in Suid Angola", he proclaims. This keeps us entertained with music and bad jokes for most of the day. We manage to get only two flat tyres on these bad roads. The vehicles are mainly operated in high range notwithstanding the thick sand in places. We notice some Himba huts which are very small and crude and are put together with branches and mud. Some of the guys went right into these huts to find nothing but a few pieces of wood, presumably for pillows, and some very tatty blankets. We continue slowly through Angola and establish camp in another dry river bed. We now have only +/-100km to go before our destination at Foz Du Cunene and we are anxious to reach our destination and put some lines into water.

DAY 5 - We wake early, have coffee and rusks, pack up and head off for Foz. The guys are dirty and dusty and haven't had a shower for 3 days. We are pleased to see our first Springbok on the road. These springbok were already standing under the poles as usual (they just needed green jerseys)... The landscape changes quite dramatically over the last 3 days from thick sand and bushes, to rocky with small scrub. Today it is very desert like, with no trees to be seen. The valvticia's are very impressive and Cliffie keeps looking for a small one, about 600 years old, to

take home with him. Piet says even the birds' fly upside down here because there is more to see in the sky than on the ground.

At last we arrive at Foz, unpack hastily most things and put up tents for the first time. Foz consists of a few small rustic houses with about five local policemen around. We go fishing at last at about 15h30. The fishing is awesome. Graham & Alf get to the water and Graham gets the first fish of the tour, a kabeljou of about 5KG. Alf gets his first kabeljou of about 6kg about 30 seconds later. Together they get about 40 kabeljou between them in 2 hours of fishing. The rest of the group arrives about half an hour after them and catches about 70 kabeljou between them in a very short space of time. Fanus catches 3 kabeljou before his own rod is in the water - being his first time fishing saltwater. The kabeljou are thick and we are catching them with almost every cast. Fanus catches the first Steenbras of the trip, a beauty of about 7 kg. Graham gets one of 9 kg a few minutes later. These fish put up an excellent fight for their size. The kabeljou on average weigh from about 4kg - 7kg. We keep 3 small size kabeljou and the smaller of the two steenbras for the pan whilst the rest are released to fight another day. The local residents fishing technique is to use thick hand lines with a pendulum casting technique (David would be proud of them). We assist them in taking bags of kabeljou back to the camp, which we are told they hang up to dry. We have a much needed (ice cold) shower and Niel deep-fries the fresh, recently caught fish, which was delicious (it had to because it took so long to prepare!). Around the campfire with cold Tafels in hand the guys plan the next days fishing with enthusiasm and expectation. The "discussions" linger long into the night.

DAY 6 - It is a misty morning in Foz as we prepare to go fishing. After a quick cup of coffee and a few rusks we head off to the beach which is about a 4km drive from the campsite. Kabeljou are still plentiful and we are catching them with every cast. A piece of chokka as bait lasts for about 5 fish before being replaced. The fishing is unbelievable and Niel catches the record kabeljou so far, a beauty of 12kg. The competition is on for the biggest kabeljou and the guys are pulling the fish. Cliffie also gets a good size kabeljou of 10kg. Fanus, Graham and Cliffie each catch a good size Blacktail. Alf and Graham get a small leerie each. Cliffie gets the mother of all overwinds on one of his reels. The weather is misty almost the entire day and the sun has hardly made an appearance. We also tried fishing for Bronzies but the side-wash was very strong, making it impossible to keep big baits in the water. We notice plenty turtles in the water. We are fishing close to the estuary today which is vast and the birdlife is abundant. Seagulls, pelicans, and different types of herons are to be seen. We head back to camp to have another kabeljou braai and Ben makes a welcome pot of pap. Most of the guys have an early evening after a few quiet ones around the campfire.

**DAY 7 - It is a chilly morning so far and the wind is blowing making it even colder. We go fishing** at 08h00 and the kabeljou are thick again. The group catches over 150 kabeljou between them. Piet catches the biggest kabeljou of the day, one of 7.2 kg. Alf gets 3 small leeries and Cliffie gets 1 as well. Alf tried various fishing techniques as he is "gatvol" of the normal way... we could not believe that one can actually get tired of catching kabeljou. These kabeljou are caught using spoon as well. No more steenbras were caught since the 1st days fishing. Guys head off for camp earlier than usual because of the wind blowing harder and weather becoming colder. We head back to camp and make a bonfire and enjoy a few good mouthfuls of Ou Bruin Skoene. On our arrival, we meet our host who came all the way from Flamingo Lodge with some of his guests. We argue late into the night about how many kabeljou we caught. One of the local policemen really makes a nuisance of himself and takes full advantage of our humble hospitalities by virtually hypnotizing Niel's lamb chop into his plate.

DAY 8 - We wake up at 05h00 to the noise of Alf clanging tin pans, to break up camp and head north to our main base at Flamingo. The beach drive had to be undertaken early so we could catch the spring-low tide to make the beach drive passable. The drive was awesome with huge sand dunes on our right and the sea in very close proximity to our left. We come across lots of whale bones and scores of dead turtles with their heads bitten off. We presume that the turtles

are killed by jackals and strandwolve (brown hyenas) present here, that attack the turtles when they come to the beach to lay eggs. We also come across large stranded jellyfish and huge mussels which a few of us pick and eat off the rocks. We also come across a funny shaped crab which rolls itself into an impregnable ball. There is plenty of fishnet buoys lying on the beach. We also see a lot of dead seals rotting on the beach which are apparently shot by the fishing vessels. Two of the vehicles get stuck in the thick sand and we have to use a snatch rope to pull the Isuzu out. It was a bit more difficult with Pinkfoot and we had to dig her out. This was truly a memorable drive. This area is called Baia dos Tigres and it is obvious that fishing in the bay would be unbelievably good. Unfortunately we could not fish in the bay itself, because of the very narrow beach which is only accessible during spring-low. We drive until the afternoon and find a good spot on the beach for an overnight stay and to fish for Bronzies. The rods are baited and we manage to get 12 spotted gully sharks between us, the largest being about 20kg but no Bronzies around. Fanus wearing his Blou-Bulle rugby jersey eventually caught his 3rd spotted gully (after losing the others) on a normal nylon trace, using no steel. Unfortunately posing for his photo he wouldn't go closer than 3 meters from the shark (the big wuss). Alf caught the first two big spotties, and then decided he had had enough and decided to play a bit and sent out Graham's smallest spotted gully of about 5 kg's for live bait, really looking for trouble... unfortunately none of the big "tannemanne" were around to pick it up.

A few Blacktails are also caught. We noticed a jackal hanging around our camp. It wasn't afraid of humans at all, coming to within about 5 meters of us looking for bait scraps. We were all tired after the days drive and all went to bed early.

DAY 9 - It is a cold and windy morning and it takes ages for the water to boil, but when it did the coffee tasted fantastic with some accompanying rusks and biscuits. We then headed off towards Flamingo Lodge and noticed the vast abundance of ghost crabs on the beach. We came across a wrecked trawler named the "Consortium Alpha" en route and stopped to take photos. A few km's further on, we come across another wrecked trawler named the "Vanessa Seafood" of which we also took some pics. The Isuzu runs out of diesel near a town called Cerucao and we stop to transfer fuel using the hippo-jack's pipe. We come across a fairly decent tar road at the last stretch of road to Flamingo. One notices that the locals are battling to grow crops in this barren land. A few mielies and unidentifiable crops grow sporadically in places. Interestingly we saw locals selling chokka (lulas) next to the roadside. Piet and Niel make their own unique toilet which only a photograph can explain. We also notice that pylons and power lines have all been shot to pieces with power cables hanging everywhere.

We arrive at Flamingo Lodge which has the main lounge and pub built on the rocks overlooking a stunning bay. The chalets are small and made of reed mats but have all the amenities required. We were however camping so we would have to make do with our tents. The "camper's" hut had hot showers and a kitchen with gas. We were received by our host Rico who promptly gave us an introduction and the do's and don'ts and the way to handle fish for release. That is when we heard the best two words we had heard on the entire tour: "Free Draught". The guys promptly poured themselves an ice cold N'Gola draught and enjoyed chatting while watching the sunset over the bay. The FD's, as they were aptly named, flowed freely into the night. The food was excellent and we ate fresh kabeljou, shad and leerie sushi complete with wasabe and soja sauce. We contrived a bet with the Capiers that we Gautengers would catch more fish than them. A brave bet indeed induced by the free FD's. The guys go to bed late into the evening.

DAY 10 - Today there was a cold breeze and the water temperature has dropped considerably. We fish for only a few hours to catch a few strepies and Blacktails. Today there are hardly any big fish around induced by the cold weather, we think. Most guys go to bed early.

DAY 11 - The fishing competition is on against the Capiers and we leave camp early in the

morning to begin the competition. The competition is on from sunrise to sunset. The group catches a few sand sharks and bull rays in the morning. All range from 5 -15kg size. Niel stands as the man with the fishing touch this morning and catches plenty of these rays and sharks. Fanus, Piet and Clifford get 3 nice kabeljou each ranging from 10- 13kg's. Fanus catches his Kabeljou on the smallest rod and reel and fights the fish like a pro for about 30 minutes before beaching it. Piet and Graham both lose Leeries that drop their live Blacktails. Ben catches the first small Bronzie of the trip, weighing in at about 5kg's. The guys also catch strepies and Blacktails and Niel catches a Blacktail that is pitch black in colour which is very unusual. The group catches 28 fish on the day and head back to camp at about 19h00. Ben rescues us from the cold weather with a few sips of OBS on the way back. We hastily pour 7 FD's and ready ourselves for prize giving with prizes sponsored by Pratlapi Fishing Tackle and Pepper Chair. Fanus hauls out the lie dice box to play a few hands. Alf announces prize giving to start and the Gautengers win the prizes for most fish caught and biggest inedible. The Capies win the prizes for the biggest edible (kabeljou of 15kg's) and the most species 11. All the prizes were handed out by Alf and some banter and chirping are the order of the rest of the evening.

DAY 12 - Alf, Piet and Fanus go out in the lodge ski boat to fish the deeper waters of the Angolan coast. Cliff and Ben decide to head off to Namibe, a small town about 50 km away, to get some supplies and fill up with diesel.

Alf catches a mother of a leerie of 22kg which gives him one helluva fight. The fish is carefully tagged and released to fight another day. Piet also gets a good size leerie of 8kg's which is also released. The bait fish are abundant and pretty close to shore and you can see the birds and seals diving between them in a feeding frenzy. The guys on the boat reckon the water was very clear and you could see the bottom at most stages. When the leeries went off the bait some attempts were made to get bottoms, this however delivered nothing more than bay blacktails and some pink carpenters. Graham catches a leerie of 5kg's from the side on light rod and this is kept for fresh sushi for later in the evening. The guys head back for the pub and break out the lie dice and FD's. Niel makes tasty Calamari to go with the sushi which everyone consumes with relish. Piet prepares Ben a very special "quarter chicken a la charcoal da Flamingo", which he refuses to consume. Kim's (Alf's wife) birthday is celebrated long into the evening with a song for her and a cake. The guys are enjoying the hospitality of the lodge as fish; salads etc are all prepared for us by the local chefs and onsite marine biologists Warren and Amber, with Niel overseeing proceedings. It is decided that tomorrow is going to be Bronzie shark hunting day and on the advice of the locals we are advised to proceed to a point about 1km north of the lodge.

DAY 13 - Alf and Piet decide to go fishing at about 04h00 that morning to the designated point and the rest of the group joins them at about 07h00 with Fanus and Graham walking a good 3 km to where they are parked. We hear that Piet had performed the notorious LeeuLoop the previous evening. Clifford catches an octopus which we kept as bait as it was badly hooked. Graham gets a 10kg diamond skate and a small bull ray. Niel cooks us a tasty brunch on the beach. It was good to taste some red meat for a change. Niel gives us his seagull impersonation and swims with the Bronzies.

Later in the afternoon the group hooks into a few large Bronzies but lose them after some hectic fighting. These sharks are immensely strong and fight like hell. Just when you think the fight is over they proceed to take out another long section of line and so begins the slow process of retrieving line again. Piet manages to hook and land one of these Bronzies after a fight of 1h22. The shark is measured and the weight is determined at 76kg's. A proud Piet poses for a few quick photos and the Bronzie is quickly released. Alf picks up a monster that nearly spools him, but broke off, just to show that your tackle must be in excellent condition. Fanus is the next person to hook into one of these submarines as they were aptly named and took 1h40 to land his specimen, a beauty of 80kg's. A beaming Fanus poses for a few quick photos and the Bronzie is released as well. The wind starts picking up again and the guys leave the waters at sunset. The

guy's drink quite a few more FD's that evening and the lie dice are out again and stories about the days fishing are discussed with enthusiasm. The guys are pretty tired after fighting Bronzies as they give one a good workout, especially your back and arms taking most of the strain. As the evening went on Piet's Bronzie had grown bigger by at least two feet, he had to impress those Italian visitors in some way or another. Fanus performs a memorable fishing "Haka" for the group. Piet and Ben eat an Oyster the size of a rugby ball (this is not a joke!).

DAY 14 - The wind is blowing hard today and the guys go back to the point to see if there are any more Bronzies around. All rods were sent in but there were absolutely no bites. The guys decided to play a few more hands of lie dice and we sat on the beach enjoying the last of our beers. Rods were re baited and casted in but there were no fish around due to the drop in temperature. We pack in at about 16h00 and decide to go and seek shelter from the cold at our favorite haunt. We enjoy our last and best seafood dinner so far with Oysters, Crabs, Calamari, California Rolls, leerie sushi, kabeljou, cheeses and a welcoming salad. What a spread.

DAY 15 - We wake up early, have a quick cup of coffee and start to break down camp to prepare for our long trip back. At about 10h00 we have a final FD and say our farewells and thank you's to the lodge staff that treated us with so much hospitality. Our convoy heads off to a small town named Namibe. We stop at the market and buy a few memorabilia and pump the tyres of all the vehicles. Fanus plays checkers against the locals and loses hands down. The market place is very big with mainly Taiwanese products of clothing, shoes and gadgets for sale. There are various species of fish covered in flies for sale as well, and charcoal is sold in small bundles. Price negotiations and haggling are the order of the day. All residents speak Portuguese and pricing is settled by writing values of the local denomination (Kwanza's) in the sand. We find a small bar on the outskirts of the market where we have quick cold beer before departing. The local bottled N'Gola beer tastes like watered down Black Label, but tasty never the less. We go over Leba pass which is one of the steepest mountain passes in the world. The view is spectacular and we stop to take a few photos. We drive into Lubango, the largest town we have seen in Angola so far.

Driving is on the right hand side of the road and you need to be cautious of taxis and motorbikes that drive through busy intersections like "bats outta hell". There were no signboards indicating the directions of the next town and thank goodness we had GPS road directions available. The tar road into Lubango is the best we have driven on so far; however the road from there to Xangongo, on the way out, is probably the absolute worst we have encountered. Potholes are everywhere and very deep; we could only manage an average speed of about 15km/h. The roads are made out of potholes, with a little tar around them. The convoy takes an entire day and night to cover about 300km. Driving mostly beside the road, the going is very slow and frustrating and the drivers needed to be on their toes for this stretch. We joke that something looked like two rats crossing the road, but when we came closer we found a giraffe in a pothole with only his horns protruding. We stopped at around 02h00 to set-up a quick camp just off the side of the road.

Some wood was hastily gathered and a welcoming fire was soon warming us up. Everyone was tired at this stage and a quick sip of OBS and after some hastily braaied boerewors and pao (local bread rolls) we were all soon fast asleep under the stars.

DAY 16 - We were awoken the next morning to the sound of the locals chatting and approaching our temporary camp. We manage to rustle up some scrambled eggs and leftover boerewors and pao for breakfast with a good strong cup of coffee. We filled-up with fuel at the next small town (Xangongo) from where the roads started improving slightly. We manage to buy some Windhoek Special beers from the locals which none of us have encountered since our military days. The guys are starting to miss their better halves now and are missing their home comforts. A shower would also hit the spot at this point. We come across a few destroyed Russian military tanks and stop to take a few photos. We watched an Antonov Russian cargo plane taking off from the Ongiva airport, which used to be an international airport before the war broke-out in 1974. You

notice a strong military presence in the town with flags and soldiers everywhere to be seen. The roads are ever improving and we drive hard to reach the gates at Etosha Game Reserve before closing time. We manage to reach the gates in time only to be informed that the campsites are already full and decide to set up camp right next to the gates. Alf, at last, gets his opportunity to prepare a delicious chicken curry potjie which was enjoyed by all. The evening is chilly and we make a large bonfire to warm us while we enjoy a few drinks with the gate guards.

DAY 17 - The morning is cold but a quick cup of coffee and some leftover potjie inspires us to head into the game reserve. There is an abundance of wildlife everywhere in the park and this offers a welcoming relief. The following animals are identified en route through the reserve. A few herds of Blue Wildebees; plenty herds of Springboks; Blue Cranes; Gemsbok are everywhere; Black backed jackals; warthogs; elephants; zebras; ostrich; kudu; guinea fowl; spotted hornbills; giraffe; Kori bustard; two lionesses; Ovambo sparrow hawk; red hartbees; steenbok; impala; secretary birds. We stopped at Namutoni rest camp which resembles a fort like structure. We continue through the reserve and proceed to a waterhole where we see 6 species of animals drinking. We stop at the next rest camp. The weather has warmed considerably and we notice a swimming pool with the water looking too inviting to resist. All the guys have a refreshing swim and a cold beverage at the nearby pub while enjoying the local birdlife. After having toasted samies which tasted like manna, we decide to push the driving through to the Botswana border. We reached Buitepos at around 02h30 in the morning where we laid down our mattresses under an awning at an abandoned filling station to catch a few hours sleep. After about 3 hours sleep we proceeded to the border post which opened at 06h00.

DAY 18 - Drive through the border post at Botswana at 06h00 and stop for diesel and buy a cup of coffee. The guy's beards are long and grey at this stage as no one has shaved the entire trip. We continue our driving through to Kang where we stop to fill up with diesel and we all enjoy a cheeseburger; chips and a cold drink. A long days driving through Botswana and at last we enter the border post into South Africa. We take some photos of us kissing the ground like the pope normally does and proceed to the nearest town, Zeerust.

Guys get home at about 20h00 that evening. It's going to be good to sleep in our own warm, soft beds.

A special thanks to Graham (Spliffie) for keeping this journal. And a very special thanks to our sponsors: Niel (Flash) of BB TRANSPORT for the fuel, Org from the Pepper Chair for the case of Brandy and Pratlapi Fishing Tackle for the prizes.

### **VAN DIE OORSPRONG VAN DIE ZAMBEZI TOT DIE MONDING BY CHINDE IN DIE INDIESE OSEAAN. Submitted by Kobie van Heerden – Newsletter Reader**

'n Droom, ideaal van Anton om in die voetspore van Livingstone die roete te doen van die oorsprong tot die monding in die Indiese Oseaan. Al met die Zambezi of so na aan die rivier as moontlik. So het ons 5 Anton, Kobie, Marion, Hans en Rentia vertrek op die 29 ste September 2006.

Dag1:

Slaap te Nata lodge, Hoogte punte besoek die Pyramids in Sua Pan, ry 'n deel van Hunters Road sien baie wild by Kazuma pan.

Dag 2:

Kamp te Maramba Kamp in Livingstone.

Dag 3:

Vertrek uit Livingston om 08h00 ry met teerpad met geweldige slaggate tot by Kalomo en draai af om na die huis vd eerste administrateur van Noord Rhodesie te gaan kyk wat in 1901 gebou is, wat tans gerestoureer word. Van daar af gaan ons noord op 'n grondpad wat redelik verspoel is na Suid Kafue.

Brue het hier en daar weggespoel. Ons het 'n Ielkraanvoel en sy maat gesien 'n baie skaars spesie wat redelik uitgesterf het in RSA en as bedreig beskou word. Barstergemsbok, rooibokke bobbejane twee oribi, s waterbokke vlakvarke en zebra, blouwildebeeste en bromvoels ook.

Slaap te Masungwa langs die Itezhi – Tezhi dam. Pragtige oord op sy dae, die personeel sluit vir ons twee chalets oop om as ablusie te gebruik. Ons gaan probeer om more tot by die noordelike deel van die Kafue te ry tot by Solwezi. Ons verwag koeler weer agv laagdruk wat inbeweeg, dit sal lafenis bied aangesien dit ongelooflik warm en droog is tans. ons het gem. temp van 38 grade C beleef. ,n Gemiddelde spoed van 33 kph is gehandhaaf, geen probleme met voertuie is ondervind en 'n totale afstand van 300 km is afgele. Goeie gees heers in groep

Dag 4:

Soos goeie oorlanders word die eerste bondel wasgoed in die hotpoint gesit en op Anton se dakrak staangemaak om te `wishy washy'. Ons beweeg in die Noordelike Kafue in en sien baie wild.. Ons gem. spoed wat gehandhaaf is was 39.9 kph. Diere wat waargeneem is was puku bokke wat sterk aan ons rooibokke herinner net ligter en wollerig. Vlakvarke, rooibokke bobjane, rooihartebes, lichtensteine rooihartebes, baster gemsbokke, seekoeie in die Kafuerivier, saalbekooievaar, waterbokke, kudu en natuurlik die hoogtepunt was die wyfie leeu wat dig by die pad op ,n reuse miershoop gele het in die koelte, en 'n pragtige maanhaar en 'n wyfie ook naby die pad.

Laagtepunt was natuurlik die tsetsivliee wat ons so gekatazza het. Anton se voorruit het ongelukkig in die slag gebly na 'n onderonsie met die klein vente. Hulle steek flippen seer. Slap in die Scout Camp by die noordelike hek van Kafue. Ons het ook 'n passasier gehad wat saam Anton gery het om by die hospitaal uit te kom. Hy het klaarblyklik 'dead water' gedrink en het geweldig maagpyn.

Statistiek huidig aangaande dieselprys R11.00 p/l; petrol 6302; exch rate 3500 Q vir 1\$; 50 Q vir R1 Groete van die Zambezi-oorlanders

Dag 5:

Ons het vanoggend vanaf die Noord hek in Kafue NP vertrek en byna onmiddelik 'n baie nat pad gekry. Daar was groot poele water en taamlik modder maar almal het darem deurgekom sonder probleme. By Kasempa het ons op 'n pragtige teerpad gedraai na Solwezi. In Solwezi was daar diesel ingegooi en trollie gevat in Shoprite. Geld was gewissel aangesien hulle net Kwachas neem by die garage teen 'n koers van 3800 Kwachas vir 'n US Doller. Die "teerpad" tussen Solwezi en Mwinilunga het verskriklike "potholes" en die feit dat alles nog is waar dit moet wees aan die kar is 'n wonder.

Ons slaap vanaand in 'n plaaslike village by die Chief se paleis. Ons het 'n rustige nag gehad by 'n village 'n ent van van Solwezi. Prins David Mpasela seun van Snr. Chief Sailunga het ons vriendelik ontvang en laat tuis voel. Ons moes 'n paar tree weg van die paleis se omheining kamp aangesien dit disrespekvol is om te na aan die heining te staan. Hulle was redelik rustig en teen 8 uur was als stil. Ons het ook lekker water uit die put gekry.

Hoogtepunt: Vanoggend se nat grondpad en inheemse woud.

Laagtepunt: Vanmiddag se baie slegte teerpad. More is dit volstoom voort na die oorsprong van die Zambezi en ons sal probeer om so ver as moontlik na Zambezi dorp te vorder.

Diesel in Solwezi is nou net R10/liter

400km gedoen vandag teen 'n gemiddld van 45km/h

Dag 6:

Van die village het ons al agter die prins gery met sy Toyota Hi-Ace (taxi). Hy het sy eie bestuurder en die Hi-Ace is uit SA ingevoer, waarop hy baie trots is. By Mwinilunga het ons hom gegroet. Hy het sy pa daar gekry want hulle is oppad na 'n jaarlikse vergadering te Kabompo,

waar die nuwe chiefs en elders weer bevestig word. Daarvandaan ry ons na die oorsprong van die Zambezi 'n pragtige gesig. Willie ons gids het ons rondgewys. Hulle is besig om die plek baie mooi te ontwikkel, Koisk en selfs 'n kamp met ablusiegeriewe word gebou.. Vandaar ry ons na Kalene heuwel waarvandaan mens al drie lande gelyk kan sien - Angola, Zambie en DRK wat 'n pragtige gesig! Ons het besluit om sommer net daar te kamp. Dit het effens gereen om die ergste hitte te breek, maar ons het 'n afdakkie staan gemaak, nou sit ons heerlijk en gesels en die reentjie het opgehou. Die voorsitter en sy sekretaris van die Wildlife society van Nchila was hier, hulle bestuur die Kalene Hill. Hulle het gereel vir 'n wag vir die nag en het vir ons 'n hoop hout gebring.

#### Dag 7:

Die pad tussen Mwinilunga en Kabompo loop langs die Angolese grens en ons het nou begin Suid beweeg op hierdie pad, maar die vordering is stadig agv baie slegte pad toestande. Die dag het basies bestaan om in digte stof deur baie potholes te ry wat meestal vol water is. Ons het gisteraand by 'n skool in Kabompo geslaap en sal vanoggend 'n sokkerbal, boeke en penne aan hulle oorhandig.

Anton se lugversorger se v-belt tensioner pulley het die gees gegee en die v-belt is nou verwyder. Die lang stowwerige paaie en baie warm en bedompige weer dra ook nie by om maklik te ry sonder lugversorging nie - maar wat kan mens nou maak.

Hans se pomp waarmee hy die diesel uit sy kanne agter op die bakkie se bak mee inpomp in die tenk het ook die gees gegee. en die diesel word nou direk uit die kanne in die tenk ingegooi. Die stadige vordering agv padtoestande het die groep genoop om die doelwitte van die trip 'n bietjie te verander. Dit is op hierdie stadium duidelik dat as die groep die mond van die Zambezi wil haal die trip in 'n teerpad jaagtog gaan ontaard wat niemand wil he nie. Die groep het besluit dat hulle by Karibameer in Zimbabwe sal ingaan en Mana Pools besoek. Daar sal dan deur Zimbabwe teruggerig word. Ons sal weer by die Zim ruines aansluit by ons oorspronklike roete en sny dus die Mozambiek gedeelte van ons eerste roeteplan uit.

Die groep is in goeie gees en sien uit na die rusdag naby Zambezi dorp. Dit is nog so drie ure se ry en ons hoop om laat oggend by Makandukunda te wees.

#### Dag 8:

Ons het vanaf Kabompo vertrek en het by Mark Hillhorst en sy familie in Zambezi dorp aangekom. Hy is 'n sendeling en doen baie werk vir die rooi kruis en Food aid skemas, asook landbou projekte onder die plasslike bevolking. Hulle het getrek na 'n nuwe huis maar die groep het bietjie rondgevra en hulle gou opgespoor.

Die padtoestande vanaf Kabompo na Zambezi was weereens nie goed nie maar die groep het so 12:00 in Zambezi aangekom. Kobie het 'n maag probleem ontwikkel en deur die dag swakker gevoel. Lorna (Mark se vrou, opgeleide suster) het hom medikasie gegee wat baie gehelp het en hy is nou weer piekfyn.

Ons het as groep met Wato's (kanoe) oor die Zambezi gevaar na 'n pragtige strand aan die weste kant van die Zambezi waar ons lekker geswem het. Die hangbrug oor die Zambezi besoek en die plaaslike Mkisi mense gesien, hulle glo hulle is lewende geeste daarom die maskers en kamofleering. Return fare te Wato taxi oor die Zambezi in Kwatches 1000 0).

Ons kamp in die Hillhorst se agterplaas met 'n pragtige uitsig oor die Zambezi. Die plaaslike werktuigkundige het Anton se lugversorgings tensioner se pulley reggemaak en die aanvanklike toetse is positief. Die lugversorging werk weer mooi. Kobie se lugversorgings tensioner pulley het ook die gees gegee. Hy het hom nou afgehaal en daar is nie verder probleme nie. Almal sien uit na die rusdag en neem die asemrowende natuurskoon in. Ons het nog nie weer reen gekry nie en die groep is in goeie gees.

Ons ontbyt was een van die hoogtepunte met eiers en spek wat nog nooit sleg was nie. Kobie het vir ons klomp 'n manjefieke beespotjie gebou waarvan daar niks oorgebly het nie. Anton het versiening op sy pakstelsel gedoen en die tweerigting radio se "remote face mount" weer vasgemaak met 'n pop-rivet of twee. Kobie het bietjie lugfilters skoongemaak en gekyk dat alles nog steeds goed funksioneer. Ransoene is aangevul by die plaaslike winkels en geld geruil sodat ons kwatshas kon kry vir die ferries.

Dag 9:

Met ons vertrek vanoggend uit Zambezi was daar 'n kragonderbreking en kon ons nie by die vulstasie Diesel ingooi nie. Een of twee oproepe later het ons uit kanne volgemaak teen 'n prys van ZKW 6250/liter dus so +- R12/liter. Die vulstasie vra 6700/liter. Sover het ons nog nie probleme ondervind met die kwaliteit van die Diesel nie.

Die groep het rustig langs die Zambezi rivier afgery via Chitokoloki en toe weer die Kabompo rivier gevolg tot by die pond. Hier is ons gou oorgehelp na 'n besondere slegte stuk pad wat na Lukulu gaan. Op die pond het Anton 'n paar druppels olie onder die agterste ewenaar gesien le, en vars ratkas olie aangeskaf in Lukulu vir ingeval. As ons tyd het sal ons die seel vervang aangesien Anton 'n ekstra een saamry.

Ons is op die oomblik by die Ferry by Lukulu en word een een oorvervoer. Ons sal vanaand boskamp en more in Liuwa plains ingaan. Die groep het 'n boskamp gemaak net voor ons in Liuwa Plains ingegaan het vanaf Lukulu. Ons wou Liuwa Plains van Noord na Suid deur ry, iets wat nie baie gedoen word nie.

Dag 10:

Dag tien het begin met die gesig van 'n sonsopkoms oor die Lala palms wat op die grasvelde staan. Groot grasvelde wat onderbreek word deur eilande vol bome was die algemene gesig deur die dag. Ons het van watgat na watgat gery en die volgende gesien: Hyena, Blouwildebees, Oripi, Maribu, Lelkraanvoels, Mahem, Oopbekooievaars.

In Kalabo het ons die duur parkfoeie van USD40/persoon/dag (kamp is nog USD10 extra) betaal en besluit om aan te stoot af Suid langs die Zambezi. Tien km uit Kalabo het ons gestop om na 'n paar geluide aan die voertuie te ondersoek. Kobie het toe ontdek dat die agterste "universal joint" op die agterste dryfas van die \Colt baie los is. Ons het terug gegaan na die park-kantoor se werkswinkel en nood herstelwerk gedoen.

Die nag was spandeer by Nalusheko Lodge wat in 'n vervalde toestand is - maar die storte en spoeltoilet werk nog. Die plan is om vanoggend na Mongu te ry en te sien of ons ander "universals" vir die Colt kan kry. Die groep is in goeie gees en sien uit om die herstelwerk vandag af te handel

Dag11:

Ons het vertek vanaf Kalabo na Mongo. Die pad is ongelooflik sleg en meeste van die kere word daar langs die pad in dik sand gery. Kobie se regemaakte U-joint het gehou tot op Mongo. Die westelike grens van die Kafue-park was ons tuiste gisteraand en daar was boskamp gemaak naby die ingangshek, met toestemming van die Parkbestuurder.

Dag 12:

Ons is op pad Lusaka toe vandag en sal hopelik die nodige onderdele en dienste daar kry wat verlang word om ons almal weer padwaardig te kry. Anton se ewenaar lek nog steeds olie en hy gooi maar bietjie in so dan en wan.

Zambia Afrika - wat 'n ondervinding dis asof mens ligjare verwyder is van jou land en mense. Ons almal mis ons geliefdes baie, omdat dit so totaal anders is as by ons. Anton mis Ilse en hulle dogters erg. Hy is so dankbaar teenoor haar dat sy hom die vryheid gun om sy passie uit te leef in Afrika. Hy se ook byvoorbait baie geluk met die huweliks herdenking

die 15de Okt. Gelukwense ook van die toergroep. Terwyl ons die lang strekke afle vertel hy ons per radio van die afrikane en hul gewoontes. Ook van Livingstone en sy ervaringe tot en met sy dood hier in Afrika, sy algemene kennis het ons verbaas.

Die oorsprong van die Zambezi was vir my die hoogtepunt. As ek daaraan dink dan herinner dit my aan die geboorte van 'n teer baba. My hele gedagte was dat dit hierdie wonderlike skouspelagtige fontein sou wees wat met mening uit die grond borrel. Inteendeel was dit net die teenoorgestelde. 'n Nederige stil klein ontstaan van 'n magtige rivier het ons begroet. Onder 'n dik blarekometers in 'n asemrowende woud kyk jy na die helder skoon kolletjie water wat skaars beweeg soos dit uit moeder aarde verskyn, tot dit verder aan in 'n baie klein stroompie ontwikkel en dan verder aan geluidjies maak (soos 'n baba) terwyl dit begin kabbel oor klippe en boomwortels. 'n Heerlike vars geur van woud en verrotte plantmateriaal vul die lug. Terwyl mens langs die stroompie beweeg voel dit asof jy op sponsagtige materiaal loop agv die digte blarebed.

Sommige plekke is Zambia baie droog, warm en stowwerig - ander dele ry jy weer deur hierdie lieflike inheemse woude. Oor die Lehuwa vlaktes het ons deur dik sand gery in temp van 45-50grade C Zambia het ook baie groot standhoudende riviere wat dit 'n waterryke land maak. Agv die voertuie wat probleme opgetel het moes ons roeteveranderings maak Ons het met slakkepas van Kalabo na Mongu beweeg op die slegste pad in menseheugenis die hele pad het weggespoel. Ons het gisteraand boskamp gemaak toe ons deur die Kafue Park beweeg het oppad Lusaka toe.

Dag 13:

Vertrek vanaf Lusaka na kariba meer. Al die voertuie 100% herstel. Doen die nodige Diesel en ander aankope aan die Zambiese kant en gaan Zimbabwe binne. Oornag te Makuti Lodge. 'n Pragtige Lodge wat soos al die ander in Afrika aandag nodig het, nie te min, eet lekker, slaap lekker dit was 'n befderf en die girls het dit geniet.

Dag 14:

Vertrek na Mana Pools, arriveer ten 11h00 en sien uit na die res van die dag. Ons kampplek is op die Zambezi en Seekoeie vermaak ons. Dit is ongelooflik droog maar ons sal seker bietjie later na Long pool toe ry waar hulle se die wild laat middag kom drink. Die pad in Mana pools toe is ongelooflik sinkplaat en dreineer die energie uit jou bendere uit. Nou wel hiervandaan is dit net Suid en ons sal probeer om by die Ruines te slaap more aand.

Gisteraand se ete by die Mukuti Lodge was heel aangenaam en die ontbyt vanoggend. Die mense kla hier in Zim en se dit gaan maar ellendig met hulle. Dit wil lyk of toerisme baie afgeneem het. Eers florerende lodges en hotelle lyk verwaarloos en het aandag nodig. Die personeel wat jou ontvang is welbesproke en praat werklik goed Engels, maar mens kan sien hulle kry swaar. Verder voel ons heel veilig want die mense is vriendelik. Die voertuie is nou weer in tip-top kondisie.

Breeklys (hoofsaaklik agv baie slegte paaie):

Anton:

- Pinion seal het begin lek
- Packing system se vertikale aluminium paaltjies het gebreek.
- Yskas se Furnlock sliders se ball bearings het begin uitkom
- Remote mounting bracket van radio se pop rivets het afgebreek

Kobie:

- Agterste Universal joint
- Aircon tensioner pulley bearing
- Aircon uit gas uit

Hans:

- Agterste bladvere het gaan le
- Yskas trek battery taamlik vinnig dood
- Towbar maak ploeg groewe
- Airbag liggie flikker
- Pompie wat diesel uit kanne in tenk in moet pomp

Dag 15:

Alle goeie dinge eindig ook. Gisteroggend vroeg vertrek ons vanaf Manna Pools na Zimbabwe Ruines. Die teerpad is baie goed. Terwyl ons van die Zambezi-plato af suidwaarts beweeg ry ons by verskeie groot tabakplase verby. Dit kan jy sien aan die baie tabakoonde wat oral te sien is. Hier en daar is daar boerdery aktiwiteite en die plase is met elektriese draad omhein. Andersins staan groot plaashuise leeg en vergaan.

Harare het ons almal verbaas. 'n Mooi netjiese stad met moderne geboue. Opvallend was die min voertuie wat in die stad rondry. Daar is dus geen stadsgedruis en lawaai en geen toeters word geblaas nie. Lieflike groot huise met mooi tuine begroet jou as jy die stad binnery. Meeste van die petrolstasies was buite werking en by enkeles het lang toue motors gestaan.

Dag 16:

Ons eintlike doelwit om vanaf die oorsprong van die Zambezi tot en met die mond in die Indiese osean by Chinde te ry het ons nie bereik nie. Ons beskou die toer egter as 'n groot sukses en sien uit om deel b van die tema op 'n volgende geleentheid te voltooi.

Afrika is 'n ETA-breker t.o.v. ponte wat baie tyd vat, slegte paaie en min beskikbaarheid van brandstof. Ons het dus gou agter geraak met ons skedule en aanpassings moes gemaak word. Almal stem egter saam dat ons weer Mana Pools sal besoek. Ons kampplek was op die walle van die Zambezi. Dis totaal ongerep daar en olifante en rooibokke loop deur die kamp terwyl seekoeie lui lekker lafenis in die Zambezi soek. Deur die nag brul die leeus en hyenas en ratels kom aas in die kamp. Die 44 km grondpad tot by die kamp is egter 'n nagmerrie.

Die toerlede het goed bymekaar aangepas sonder enige dwarstrekery - dit maak 'n toer suksesvol.

Daar word skalks verwys na die toer as 'n 'slawetoer' omdat in sommige gevalle/plekke die omgewing maar baie onvriendelik was, as mens na die padtoestande en versengende hitte dink. Maar eer aan elke lid - die toer was 'n groot sukses, al swat gesien en beleef is, en die nuwe vriende wat gemaak is!

Almal so 16:00 tuis in Pretoria.

Bepanning begin om die laaste deel tot by Chinde so gou as moontlik af te handel.

### **SAFARI CENTRE NEWS**

Moet nie vergeet om elke Woensdagaand om 18:00 te kyk na "Hier Gaan Ons Alweer" op KykNET nie! Safari Centre gaan met elk van die 13 episodes 'n maklike vraag aan kykers stel, waarvan u die antwoord moet SMS na **34186**. U kan ook inskryf via ons webwerf, deur te gaan na [www.safaricentre.co.za](http://www.safaricentre.co.za), waar u ook die kompetisie reëls sal kan besigtig. U sal die kans staan om FANTASTIESE PRYSE te wen, met komplimente van Safari Centre, so MOET DIT NIE MISLOOP NIE.

Die Tracks 4 Africa GPS Sagteware, Oktober 2006 weergawe, is beskikbaar teen slegs R570-00 by u naaste Safari Centre!

- Akkurate, noukeurig gekarteerde inligting.
- Relevante en onlangse inligting rakende veranderde en potensieël gevaarlike terrain.
- Hoogte en kontoer details vir geselekteerde eko roetes en bergpasse.
- Bevat voetslaan en MTB roetes, kampering, verblyf, visvang, uitsigte, winkels, vulstasies ens.

- Toer en “waypoint” bestuur vir afgeleë gebiede, Suid Afrikaanse dorpe en stede.
- Kode: TFA-MAPV6

#### **SAFARI CENTRE FACTS/FEITE OF THE DAY**

- A Flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down!
- A Shark can detect 1 part of blood in a million parts of water!
- Scorpions can withstand 200 times more nuclear radiation than humans can!
- The Penguin is the only animal that can swim but can't fly!
- More than 10 000 known Ant species occur around the world!
- Grasshoppers have five eyes!
- A Lady Bug's top flying speed is about 24 kilometres per hour!
- The largest Antlions can be found in Africa and has a wingspan of 16 cm. The smallest Antlions can be found in Arabia and has a wingspan of only 2 cm!

#### **SNAKE COURSES ON OFFER**

The courses are the regular courses that I run monthly - 18 November. That is at 08h00 the snake id & snakebite treatment @ R630, and at 14h00 – 17h00 the snake handling course @ R385. You can do the first, the second or both.

Call:

Mike Perry, African Reptiles & Venom, PO Box 70564, Bryanston 2021, Gauteng, South Africa.  
Tel: +27 11 464 1450, Fax: +27 11 464 2341, Mobile: +27 83 448 8854

#### **THE LATEST LAND ROVER DELIVERY**

Tough, but not too tough. That was the design philosophy behind Land Rover's all-new Freelander and it's a sensible approach in today's 4x4-sceptical world.

(The new Freelander was launched in South Africa at the 2006 Auto Africa expo). Yes, too many people who don't need one buy an SUV but Land Rover has only ever made 4x4's so there's an authenticity here; this is a proper 4x4, able to tackle tough terrain without breaking.

Few Freelander 2 units will be required to do that, true, but an owner can feel confident in his - or her - escape fantasies. "Terrain Response" will be the driver's off-road friend and those in the rear "stadium seats" will have a fine view of said terrain.

There's room for three standard adults here, says the information pack (am I a standard adult? Are you?), plus space for a Labrador in the boot.

Land Rover is now part of the greater Ford empire. The new car, built at Halewood in England, is based on Ford's "EU-CD" (European, upper-middle-size) architecture. Much is changed for the Freelander, though, to suit its taller body and off-road purpose; the rear suspension, for instance, is entirely different.

The Freelander 2 is bigger than Freelander 1, of course; new models almost always are. It's only 5cm longer but that's misleading because there's no longer a spare wheel bolted to the tail door; which now opens upwards instead of sideways to make it more car-park and garage-friendly. And there's no three-door any more.

What the new Freelander does have is much more cabin space. That boosts its chances in the US where corpulent buyers couldn't fit in the previous car. Frightening, but true.

The extra width makes room for a transverse, Volvo-designed, Welsh-made, in-line, six-cylinder engine in the top-level Freelanders. This 3.2-litre, 174kW unit sounds way over the top for a compact SUV but it's intended mainly for Americans who didn't think much of the feeble old V6.

They'll like its standard six-speed auto transmission, its 8.4sec 0-100km/h and the glitzy grille.

### **Surfaces are softer**

Most European buyers will opt for the TD4 turbodiesel with its plainer grille. The 120kW, 2.2-litre engine is a Peugeot design and appears in the least-expensive Freelander that costs (in the UK) £20 935. However the priciest, the 3.2 HSE, costs a breathtaking £33 990 (about R480 000) - way up in BMW X3 territory.

You realise the new model is posher as soon as you climb in; surfaces are softer, the design less cluttered. Avoid the ghastly fake wood option and instead specify the "brushed aluminium" look. There's plenty of storage space and an excellent view out.

I'm driving a TD4 HSE with a six-speed manual gearbox (a TD4 auto will follow). First impression? The sound is clearly that of a diesel but it's smooth and quiet and it picks up cleanly from low speed to deliver a surge of acceleration.

Second impression? The steering is unexpectedly quick and positive. The Freelander stays flat and composed through curves, all of which suggests that the suspension must be very stiff. But it isn't: the ride is quite firm, but not choppy.

There's a clever electronic trick that gently brakes the outside wheels to widen the turn radius if it detects more body lean than the speed and steering angle should have caused - in other words, an imminent rollover.

### **Setting variations**

Most of the time the Freelander behaves like a front-wheel drive car but the rear wheels chip in when the fronts start to lose grip. This system is most useful on the slithery surfaces of an off-road course where the Terrain Response (except on the base model) helps tailor traction to the surface.

There's a normal setting, plus variations for grass/gravel/snow, for mud and ruts, and for sand (just like the bigger Landys). There's no rock-climb setting or low range.

Still, the Freelander bounded around the Solihull off-road course with gusto, sustaining no more mishaps than a misplaced exhaust when I landed heavily on a rock and a detached bit of rear bumper caught on a log.

All easily fixed.

It waded happily; clambered over a collapsing log bridge; trickled down a steep gradient with the clutch fully engaged; and the TD4's torque pulled it away again. "Hill Descent Control", which applies the brakes automatically and individually as needed, is now augmented by a "Gradient Release Control" that releases brake pressure gradually when you take your foot off the pedal down a very steep slope. It got confused when I was driving down steps, though.

So that's the new Freelander. I'm not a fan of SUV's but, if you must have one, it should be compact, capable and credible as a 4x4. The Freelander, especially in TD4 form, is that car.

And at least £85 (about R1200) of its price will go to Climate Care for its CO2 offset programme. There; you can even salve your conscience.

### **NOW YOUR CELLPHONE CAN TELL YOU WHERE TO GO**

Dutch company Route 66 has introduced a navigation system for cellphones; users of Windows or Symbian phones, such as the Nokia N80, will now be able to add satnav to their handsets.

South African sales manager Harry Klein explained: "Mobile 7 determines its position using a

GPS receiver and guides the user to a destination with verbal turn-by-turn driving instructions, as well as a display on the cellphone screen.

"Millions of people worldwide rely on their cellphone as a primary means of communication so it makes sense; most of us have our phones with us all day and using them for navigation just makes life easier." There's a safety aspect too, Klein said, given the alarming increase in vehicle hijacking.

"You don't need to stop to ask a passer-by or look at a map for directions, each is potentially dangerous." Mobile 7 was developed for cellphones; no installation required - just insert the memory card provided with the Route 66 package in the phone, switch on the GPS receiver and the software will automatically connect the GPS to the phone.

Type in the first three letters of the street and city in order to find the destination and you're on your way, not just to the right street but to a specific house number on that street.

A new navigation display has been developed that provides the user with all travel information on one screen, including 3D map display, exit and turn information and full route statistics.

The map also includes a "point of interest" database with restaurants, hotels, petrol stations and thousands of other useful destinations. You can even dial directly from the map to a point of interest to make inquiries or a booking.

The system costs R2999 and can be installed on all cellphones and pocket PCs that use Symbian Series 60 or Windows Mobile 2003 (or higher) operating systems.

Check the [Route 66 website](#) to see if your handset is compatible.

## **GM SA GIVES A TASTE OF HUMMERS TO COME**

By Les Stephenson – [motoring.co.za](#)

It's been quite a week for General Motors SA. On Tuesday the company announced the start of production of the Hummer H3, on Wednesday it stunned the auto industry by announcing the return of Cadillac and on Thursday it let 40 motoring writers loose in technically illegal left-hand drive Hummers in the Outeniqua mountains of the Western Cape.

The idea was to give us a taste of what South Africa will be exporting around the world and, in 2007, will itself be driving when the build programme includes right-hand drive assembly.

The event, as was the launch of Cadillac the previous day, was based at the Fancourt golf estate in George but the action was out at the mountainous Kouma Fynbos 4x4 farm on the Kouma River.

The Hummer H3, GM says, represents the next chapter in the Hummer story that began back in 1991 when actor Arnold Schwarzenegger took delivery of the first "civilianised" version of the US military's High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle – abbreviated to HMMWV and then quickly to Humvee and, for civilian use, Hummer.

### **90% the size**

GM bought the brand off AM General in 1999 but soon the huge, high-riding and really go-anywhere 4x4 monsters began to draw the wrath of Earth-friendly people around the globe. In May, 2006 [GM announced that the Hummer H1 would be discontinued](#) and replaced by the less outrageous [H2 and H3](#) – the latter "only" as long and wide as a large car but still about 90 percent the size of the H2.

So, is the "baby" Hummer really socially acceptable, or will it single-handedly destroy the

atmosphere and suck down the last few drops of refined crude oil? Will it soon be poking its high and squared-off backside out of the garages of the well-heeled across our major cities and gather in small but mutually admiring herds in the nation's game parks and wilderness areas?

To the second question my guess is: "You bet!" To the first, GM claims the H3 has a general fuel consumption of around 11.5 litres/100km (heavyish, but not unacceptably so), runs a "clean" exhaust and, for my part, its looks, luxury, huge cabin space and sheerchutzpah will tempt buyers right across South Africa's social, racial and lifestyle strata.

GM SA isn't yet able to quote a price for these wheeled blockhouses with their high sides, giant wheels and almost tiny windows except to say "they will be competitive". That would put the H2 in the R350 000 - R400 000 bracket and up against Jeep's Cherokee, Land Rover's Discovery and Mitsubishi's Pajero.

The H3 is the first Hummer to offer manual transmission. It's a five-speed box instead of the four-speed, electronically controlled auto that was standard. Beneath the huge bonnet, tightly packed, is a five-cylinder GM Vortec petrol engine that displaces 3.7 litres and employs two overhead camshafts and variable valve timing.

### **Diesel coming later**

It's capable of 180kW at 5600rpm and 328Nm at 4600rpm and, despite the wagon's rugged looks, the package runs very, very quietly at freeway speeds. All the vehicles were designated, because of their LHD "for export" status, as test units and were limited to 120km/h but the silver auto unit I drove had a speedometer so wildly inaccurate that at one point on the N2 past Brak River it was showing almost 180km/h.

A diesel version will come later.

The transmission employs full-time all-wheel drive with a 60/40 percent bias to the rear wheels under normal road conditions. Three rectangular buttons on the upper fascia control its three main functions: high-range 4x4, high-range 4x4 with the centre differential locked and 4x4 low-range – also locked. A locking rear differential is an option if you're planning a trip that involves unusually severe conditions – though our trip through the Kouma farm's two routes was handled easily without it.

The auto will hold a manually selected gear so crawling under engine braking down a steep gradient is possible and won't exceed slow walking speed.

The trails include severe gradients, several modest river crossings, deep sand, black mud and a seriously scary squeeze between a huge rock and an abyss. Only timidity and inexperience halted a few of the 20-strong convoy; that, and bad luck when a tree stump deposited in the river sand by the recent floods sliced cleanly through a front tyre and, at the same crossing, a vehicle had to halt in the water and sank into the soft, sandy bottom.

A snatch rope sorted that – but later snapped while marshals tried to recover a Hummer that went axle-deep into black mud whose crossing needed more revs and speed than the driver was prepared to give. All good, dirty fun enjoyed from the air-conditioned comfort of a super-large cabin with power-adjustable leather seats and a transmission that throws traction control into the mix – right down to directing all available drive to only one wheel should the others lose grip and start to spin.

### **Climbing ability**

Four underbody protection plates will keep it all moving.

"The Hummer H3's interior is stylish and modern," says GM, "with a blend of premium cues and world-class craftsmanship. A comprehensive list of options is available to further extend the

driving experience."

Standard, however, is the H3's compatibility with water and its climbing ability, thanks to very, very short front and rear overhangs. The former allows it to ford water 400mm deep at 30km/h (though why one would want to hurry the experience is not explained) or 600mm deep at eight km/h.

The engine's air intakes suck through two vents, one on each front wing right up against the windscreen.

The short overhangs allow the H3 to clamber over a 400mm high vertical step and the wagon's wheels are so far apart that the outside tyre treads are also outside the bodywork - hence the requirement in some markets for plastic wheel-arch extensions.

The track width, GM says, equips the H3 for horizontal travel along a 40 degree slope.

Ground clearance is 231mm, maximum break-over angle 25 degrees, maximum approach angle 40 degrees and maximum departure angle of 37 degrees – this is one off-road that won't get hung up on obstacles.

"The H3 is easy to drive in an urban environment," GM says, "while the legendary Hummer off-road capability provides exceptional crawling and climbing capabilities in off-road use as a true sport utility vehicle.

"The H3 has a turning circle of 11.3m so urban driving and manoeuvring in tight off-road conditions is a cinch."

#### **Full specs later**

Even a Hummer, however, might have to come to a sudden stop so each has a full suite of advanced safety systems to assist in both crash avoidance and protection, including a reinforced cabin safety cage, two front dual-stage crash bags, tyre pressure monitors, anti-lock brakes and stability control.

Full specifications for the South African version will be made available when the local models are launched mid-2007. Meanwhile, if you'd like to hear more or get in early with an order, you can call 0800HUMMER toll-free.

If you'd like to sample the pleasures of the Kouma off-road trails call Neels Meyer on 082 824-8603 or 044 695-3190.

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#### **ADVERTORIAL (April 2006):**

#### **MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS:**

#### **MASAZANE BREAKAWAYS – UP TO 8 DAYS:**

An opportunity to unwind from the general mayhem in our lives, without having to dig deep into your leave, if at all...

#### **SOUTPANSBERG FOREST TRAIL (SFT) (LIMPOPO, RSA) - best at 3 days or longer**

4x2 WELCOME !!!!

The trail goes through the Hanglip, Roodewal, Entabeni and Thate Vonde Plantations with various indigenous sections in between. Highlights are some of the tallest trees (Redwoods) in RSA; the Fruit Salad Picnic Spot; the Angels' Steps to Wim's View; a tea plantation; Botha's Pass; and so much more... This trail improves by the day as we venture deeper into the forests and discover new places not generally seen before by the public. We are also discovering places of interest, such as the hidden caves, that very few know about. The Soutpansberg is particularly beautiful this year after the good rains we have had in the area... Explore the magnificent secrets

that the forests have to offer and sample the vhaVenda culture. The following dates are ideas to give the family that deserved unwind:

16 – 19 Nov 2006

Please remember that these dates are only guidelines and your Club, group or circle of friends can come through at any time for a uniquely allocated tour.

### **CAMP AFRICA – THE BEST BREAKAWAY IN THE SOUTPANSBERG!!!**

#### **CAMP AFRICA HUTS AND CAMPSITE (LIMPOPO, RSA)**

Now if driving too far is not your 'thing'... and you just want to mellow for a few days... why not join us at **Camp Africa**. **Camp Africa** is situated on the fringes of indigenous forest and has a beautiful view over Louis Trichardt. By road it is approximately 5 km from the centre of Louis Trichardt. **Camp Africa** has five (5) huts and many camping spots. Each hut is a 'family-unit' with two (2) single beds and a double bunker, i.e. four (4) beds. **Camp Africa** has a fully licensed bar and there is a kitchen area with two fireplaces and a double sink. The ablution block – each of the ladies and gents has a toilet, washbasin and two showers with hot water from a 4kW geyser. There is a large boma that holds a 'kuier-fireplace' so that the beautiful evenings of this region can be enjoyed. Of interest to children, will be the animal pen with rabbits, chickens, goats, geese, ducks, guinea fowl', etc. There is much else to see and hear... so bring the family anytime for a short break from the mayhem of city life...

Activities include the vehicle trail, birding, tree-spotting, hiking, cultural tours, historical tours, mountain biking, butterflies, moths... to name but a few...

### **MASAZANE EXTENDED EXPEDITIONS - MORE THAN 14 DAYS:**

#### **ANGOLA EXPEDITION (ANGOLA) – 11 days – 18 to 28 Nov 2006**

Experience Angola before it becomes too commercialised... Excellent fishing opportunities; legal beach driving; Iona National Park; Cunene River mouth; 'The Killing Zone'; Furado; Leba Pass; Humpata home of the Dorsland Trekkers; and much more...

### **CHRISTMAS SERENGETI EXPEDITION (TANZANIA) - 24 days - 18 Dec 2006 to 10 Jan 2007**

#### **!!CHRISTMAS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!!**

Let Serengeti take you and your family into the 2007 New Year ...

The Christmas Serengeti Expedition starts in Kasane (Botswana) and runs through Zambia and Malawi to Tanzania. Christmas Day is spent on the island of Zanzibar and Old Year's Eve at the Ngorongoro Crater (or in the middle of the Serengeti NP, depending on the first rains). The expedition returns via Zambia. Other highlights of the expedition are Lake Malawi, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Kapishya Hot Springs (Shiwa Ngandu), Lake Waka Waka, etc.

### **JOIN US FOR A ONCE IN A LIFETIME DREAM EXPEDITION:**

#### **CAPE TO LONDON EXPEDITION (AFRICA) – 4½ months – May to mid-Sep 2007**

#### **UNFORTUNATELY NO CHILDREN UNDER 15 WILL BE ALLOWED ON THIS EXPEDITION**

#### **!!! DEADLINE IS 15 NOVEMBER 2006 !!!**

The Cape to London Expedition officially starts at Cape Agulhas (RSA) - the southernmost point of Africa. The expedition will be divided into two legs – firstly Cape to Cairo and then secondly Cairo to London – so that you can choose whether you want to go as far as London... The general route is as follows: RSA, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Spain and London. Enjoy the thrill of experiencing Africa in your own vehicle!! Watch thousands of flamingos; seek out the only true wolf on the African Continent – the Simien Wolf; the historical Lalibela rock churches; experience the harshness of the Sahara Desert and still live to tell the tale; experience the history buzz of Egypt and Tunisia; experience the warm colours of Morocco; and much, much more... Complete self-sufficiency is the rule for this entire expedition due to the lack of ablution facilities, water and fuel. **Please note that this expedition will be an expedition where participation in duties (e.g. cooking) will be required!!!**

**MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS PREFERS FAMILY ORIENTATED EXPEDITIONS. HOWEVER VERY "ROUGH" CONDITIONS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS MAKES SOME OF THE EXPEDITIONS DIFFICULT EVEN FOR ADULTS AND WE THEREFORE ARE FORCED TO EXCLUDE CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE.**

We hope to hear from you and/or see you soon...

**Dave (GP 0838) and Jacqui (GP 0773) van Graan**  
**MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS**  
**CAMP AFRICA**  
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**FROM THE TRACKS - READER FEEDBACK:**

**NEWSLETTER**

Baie dankie vir die uitstekende nuus brief.  
Groete  
Allan Hepburn

Hi Alan,  
Thanks for the mention in your news letter; it has prompted 5 enquiries to day.  
Regards,  
Charles Ineson  
Cross Country Caravans

Hi Alan,  
Your newsletter refers. Please note that quad bikes are required to have third party insurance at the Kozi Bay border to Mozambique and will not be allowed to enter without it.

Regards

Dr Charles Lubbe  
Managing Director  
**Wild Africa Adventures**  
 0861 236873  
 086 6158355  
 [info@wildafrica-adventures.co.za](mailto:info@wildafrica-adventures.co.za)  
web: [www.wildafrica-adventures.co.za](http://www.wildafrica-adventures.co.za)

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**ADVERTORIAL (April 2006):**

**River Hill Lodge - Komatipoort**

We are situated 500m off the N4 Toll Road on the Komati River just 2.5kms from the Lebombo order Post with Mozambique and ideally placed for overnight accommodation on your way to or from Mozambique.

Accommodation consists of:  
5 private air-conditioned chalets.  
2 three bedroom air-conditioned self-catering chalets

Breakfast and dinner are offered in the open dining room or Lapa. Swimming pool and Bar overlook Komati River, Kambaku Golf Course and Kruger Park

Other offerings in the immediate area are: Crocodile Bridge Gate to the Kruger Park (12kms), Golf (2 minutes), Tiger fishing, bird-watching horse riding, Swaziland 65kms and Maputo 100kms.

For more detail please visit our web site on [www.wheretostay.co.za/riverhilllodge](http://www.wheretostay.co.za/riverhilllodge) or contact Michele or Richard at the Lodge directly on telephone no.: (013) 793-7855 or Cell: 083-272-2224. Email: [riverhill.lodge@worldonline.co.za](mailto:riverhill.lodge@worldonline.co.za)

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### **FRESH FROM THE BUSH - NEW PRODUCTS:**

None...

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### **ADVERTORIAL: (June 2006)**

#### **AFRICAN SAFARIS WITH ECO4X4AFRICA.COM**

Alex and Alta Smit are your hosts during your visit to our website - [www.eco4x4africa.com](http://www.eco4x4africa.com) –and also when we lead you on tour in Africa.

Visit our website and acquaint yourself with all the safaris on offer, for a safari of a life time in Africa including: NAMIBIA / BOTSWANA / SERENGETI / MOZAMBIQUE / KENYA / AFRICA.

All our tours are self drive tours with your own 4x4 or 4x2 (or rent from Alex at @R495 per day while on tour with us.)

You supply your own vehicle, fuel & drinks, camping equipment, bedding, drinking water & cool drinks (can be supplied on request).

We supply all the food & catering, washing water & campsite accommodation on these participation self camping tours. We also supply radios for communications and first aid medical support on tour.

Let us help you make the most of your safari – we have been guiding tours since 1990!

Upcoming tours for next year:

6 February - 25 February - Lesotho

16 March - 25 March 2007 - Northern Namibia

7 April - 15 April 2007 - Kalahari Kgalagadi (During Easter & School Holidays)

6 May - 3 June 2007 - Serengeti Migration

24 June - 22 July 2007 - Serengeti Migration (During Winter School Holidays)

9 August - 12 August 2007 – Lesotho (Long Weekend)

22 September - 30 September 2007 - Kalahari Kgalgadi (During September School Holidays)

14 December - 31 December 2007 – Namibia

Contact:

Alex Smit (Gp2227)

Eco4x4africa.Com

TEL +27 12 3244010

CELL +27 82 570 6010

FAX +27 12 3232953

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## **FEEDBACK FROM ASSOCIATION OF ALL WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS -SOUTHERN AFRICA:**

None

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### **COURSES FOR 2006:**

Please email a BLANK email with the course title in the subject line, to be notified of industry leading courses to be presented in the Pretoria Area this year, at competitive pricing. The club is running these as a service to this newsletter reader. EVERYONE WELCOME.

### **2006 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

#### **4x4OAC/02 NOVEMBER – Last course of 2006 !!!**

##### **Navigation, Basic Mapping & GPS by Kevin Bolton (1 day)**

A course covering much more than just how to use your GPS. Learn about the base principles of mapping, plotting of location, the GPS as a unit, how it works, and practical application of lessons taught. Course also of an exceptional standard, by an industry guru. Full manual provided. Recommended for Driver & Navigator.

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## **THE DUSTY WAY: CLUB TRIPS, TRIP REPORTS & FEEDBACK:**

### **GREASE CLUB SOCIAL**

Over 40 members & their families attended the final show of the Grease show as a social function. It also happened to be the Alan's birthday, so all food was on his account and the drinks for our own pocket. Well, we had fun, sang, clapped and enjoyed. A great day for old and young alike.

### **EZEMVELO RESERVE CLUB WEEKEND**

Man Oh Man! From the minute we arrived on Friday afternoon we set our systems into "high relaxed" mode and planned to keep it at just that throughout the entire weekend.

The storm that hit us on Friday night came with vengeance and as you know, sent us all scurrying to our caravans and tents. Judging by the size of it, it must have been percolating over the East rand for at least three days before it struck. It rolled in with colours of deep purple, navy blue, black and even some browns which made up the angry clouds in the late afternoon sky. However, even if the storm put a damper onto the social spirit for Friday evening, it did not damper our spirits for the rest of the weekend. The best thing to do with a storm like that is to crawl into bed where it was warm and dry and wait it out, which is exactly what most of us did. Some didn't even appear until early the next morning. Now, when anyone retires to bed extra early, then obviously they end up awake extra early the following morning. Who heard of anyone being awake at 05h00 on a Saturday? Frans D was! He even had to shake the trees to wake up the birds that were still fast asleep!

Well us? Once the sun was up and still in "high relax" mode, we managed to put together enough energy to make the 200 meter walk to reception area and get our permit stamped and this only so that we could exit the next day. This was about the extent of what our "relaxed mode" would allow for the day.

Saturday lunch time and a beautiful day after the previous night's storm saw us parked in our chairs in the shade of the bush willows and why not!. We hauled out the blue cheese, some snacks, biscuits and a crisp bottle of frosty cold Sauvignon Blanc.

The night the group had a communal braai (yes we could actually get together unlike Friday nite).

Sunday saw us doing the game drives and when most were packing to go home we then started our braai. We felt we still needed to catch up on the Friday nights braai which was disrupted by the storm and late that afternoon we very reluctantly left Ezemvelo, to go home.

We thoroughly enjoyed an extra relaxing weekend spent with old and new friends, great fellowship and fun. Thanks, Alan and Charmaine, for organising another great weekend!

Thank you  
Jonathan & Jill Greengrass

*Alan,  
It was a great weekend with great people at a great venue. Thank you once again for organising.  
The place will see us again.  
Regards  
Johan Marx & Family*

Hello Alan, thanks for a lovely relaxing weekend at Ezemvelo. This was our first camping weekend with the club as new members and we really enjoyed the warm friendly atmosphere. Thanks also to Frans and Kevin for their assistance on Friday evening in getting our tent up before the storm broke.  
Regards, Derrick and Ruth-Ann Nicoll.

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### **THE TRADING POST - SWOP, SELL OR BUY:**

#### **BAKKIE FOR SALE**

2001 Toyota Hilux D/Cab 4x4 KZTE diesel (Suzuka Red)  
170 000km, Full service record  
Colour coded Canopy, Nudge bar, Roll bar, Tow bar  
R140 000.00 neg

Coenie Human  
Mobile: +27 (0) 82 535 6563

#### **TRAILER FOR SALE**

**2005 Conqueror Supra Off-road trailer** (registered in March 2005 - purchased directly from Mega Manufacturers in Heidelberg.)

Has done +/- 7000 km's and had been upgraded in the Conqueror factory to 2006 specs and has a full spec list of accessories, which includes:

- 2 x 55l water tanks - 2 x external taps - 1 gravity feed, 1 with electric pump.
- Fully kitted out kitchen - 6 people
- Bar
- National Luna fridge - 80 litre
- Dual battery system - fitted to be charged during towing
- Awning - 49 sq metres
- Fold-out tent
- All tent pens, pegs, ropes and hammer
- 2 x ground sheets
- 1 x side wall - works very well on the kitchen side when windy
- 2 x jerry can holders with jerry cans
- 2 x jerry cans extra
- 2 x gas bottle holders - with 2 x gas bottles included

- Gas stove - 2 burner
- Gas shower - never used
- Braai grid plus cover - fits onto spare wheel
- Spade, axe, grass slasher
- Standard lamps fitted plus extras
- 6 x wolf packs
- Cargo tent on top with all tie-downs
- Air compressor
- All kit in the trailer - inclusive of gas lampsetc, etc

I am willing to let everything go that I have available which also includes wind protector screens (6m), camping chairs, high-lift air jack (never been used), brand new gazebo, and many more.

Total value of trailer and extra kit +/- R 100 000. Please circulate if possible and people who are genuinely interested can contact me to arrange for a visual inspection.

Thanks in advance and kind regards  
 André Sonnekus  
 082 787 4774

#### **COOLBOX & DOME CANVAS TENT FOR SALE**

Techni ice coolbox 55l New price R 1495-00 My price R950-00  
 Mike Collinge  
 082 822 0241

#### **FRIDGE FOR SALE**

Almost brand new National Luna 4 x 4 Weekender, fridge/freezer unit.

- 52 liter capacity.
- Ability to change the lid opening direction.
- Built-in battery capacity meter, low-voltage alarm.
- High strength carry handles
- Interior light
- Lockable lid
- Digital thermostat
- Automatic speed control

NB! This is a proper portable freezer capable of freezing to minus 21 degrees Celsius, not just a portable thermal cooler!

Voltage: 12v and 240v Weight: 23kg Size: 83.5x49.5x75.0cm

MY PRICE ONLY – R5 000.00 (Price at Makro – R6 499.99)

CONTACT WYNAND on 0836261884

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#### **FLAT WHEEL - LIGHT RELIEF:**

**Die uieskilsalaris:** As jy daaraan vat begin jy huil.

**Die Dieëtsalaris:** Laat jou elke keer minder eet.

**Die Kulkuns-salaris:** Kul jou hier en kul jou daar en siedaar, hy's weg.

**Die Donderstormsalaris:** Jy weet nie wanneer dit gaan kom nie en hoe lank dit gaan hou nie.

**Die Galghumorsalaris:** Jy lag histories om te verhoed dat jy huil.

**Die Konserwatiewe salaris:** Ontneem jou van enige inspirasie.

**Die Impotente salaris:** Laat jou in die steek wanneer jy dit die nodigste het.

**Die Arktiese salaris:** Is al vir 30 jaar lank gevries.

**Die Vrystaat salaris:** Gee jou eenkeer elke 26 jaar rede om te glimlag.

**Die Bloubulsalaris:** Jy was so seker dat dit goed sou wees maar toe stel hy jou teleur.

**Die WP-salaris:** Pateties maar jy troos jousef dat jy ten minste by 'n lekker plek werk.

**Die Springboksalaris:** 'n Ligpuntjie hier en daar maar oor die algemeen teleurstellend.

**Die Tsoenami-salaris:** 'n Hoë salaris maar jy versuip in die poef wat jy moet verduur om hom te kry.

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## **ADVERTORIAL:**

**This space available for hire....**

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### **PREFERRED SUPPLIERS - GAUTENG:**

If anyone has any good things to say about suppliers I would like to include them here. Lets support those who do a good job for the club. Similarly if anyone has had a bad experience lets share it and vote with our wallets by avoiding them.

#### **1) ECHO ACCESSORIES 4x4 CENTRE – NEW STORE!**

Visit Willie, Rochelle, Neil, Phillip or any one of the other professional representatives at the new Echo 4x4 Centre situated in the Route 21 Corporate Park, 9 Regency Avenue, Irene (off Nelmapius Drive (off the R21)).

Echo can supply you with all your 4x4 requirements from offroad trailers, quad bike trailers, Echo Chobe Campers, roof top and trailer top tents, full 4x4 fitment centre, custom products, 4x4 accessory shop, trailer rental and even more. Be sure to visit the new instore refreshment café.

Call 012 – 345 3333, Fax 012 345 3343 or email: [echoacc@mweb.co.za](mailto:echoacc@mweb.co.za). Web: [www.echo4x4.co.za](http://www.echo4x4.co.za)

#### **2) 4x4 INSURANCE**

Phillip Viljoen Insurance Brokers has a special deal for all 4x4 enthusiasts, if you tell him you saw this advert. Qualify for great discount. Contact [leisuresure@webspeed.co.za](mailto:leisuresure@webspeed.co.za) or on 083 306 5657 / Fax (012) 542 3564.  
Speak to Phillip (club member)

#### **3) KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS**

For top deals, training and advice on GPS equipment contact Kevin (club member).

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

[kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za](mailto:kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za) / [marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za](mailto:marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za) / [www.gpsconsultants.co.za](http://www.gpsconsultants.co.za)

#### **4) FRONT RUNNER**

Front Runner will offer any club member, on production of their club card, a 10% discount on the purchase of any Front Runner produced product.

Call Wayne Heath-Coombe (club member) now.

1 Forssman Close, Dytchley Road, Barbeque Downs, Kyalami

011 466 0155

[www.frontrunner.co.za](http://www.frontrunner.co.za)

#### **5) 4x4 MEGAWORLD**

10% on ALL products in their larger than ever warehouse. What an offer. From camping gear, 4x4 gear, outdoor gear, the lot!!!! Their warehouse is now bigger and better and definitely worth a visit.

Club members, as one of the few places that give is 10% on anything!, it is well worth the visit. Speak to Colin, John (the band player!) or any of their well trained staff!

Unit 5, Herman Road, Meadowdale (off Barbara Road)  
011 454 2875  
megaworld@oldmanemu.co.za

#### **6) SAFARI CENTRE - NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD DEAL**

5% discount when paying with a credit card & 10% discount for cash.

Products excluded for discount:

- \* GPS's
- \* Leatherman products
- \* Any specials currently running
- \* Magazines, books, maps

#### **7) HONEYDEW TOYOTA & RV CENTRE**

Contact Johan Kruger (club member) for all your Toyota and other accessories at their RV Centre. New Honeydew Toyota Showroom (opposite THE COCA COLA DOME) - refer [http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/lmg Upload Departments/3674\\_441636.gif](http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/lmg Upload Departments/3674_441636.gif) for map. Address is Olievenhout Street, off Northumberland, which runs parallel with the N1 & the R28.

#### **8) KEMPTON CARAVANS - KEMPTON PARK - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS**

The discount to the 4x4 community and members of our club is 10% off their listed prices. This will be on presentation of the club membership card. This shop has EVERYTHING. Customisation of tents etc. on site! Speak to Larry, Brian (both club members) or any of the staff in the shop.

#### **9) M-CENTRE - Quality Mechanics - Centurion Area**

These are the guys I have been using for 3 years after I walked out of the local Toyota Work shop in Centurion one day. Quality service, excellent workmanship and unbeatable pricing. Any make, but great on Toyota's. Also the Merc or the BMW - these are their specialities. Call Les or Danie on 012 653 7855 now for a booking or discussion on your vehicle.

#### **10) OUTDOOR WAREHOUSE - CENTURION**

The suppliers of a wide range of camping, climbing, paddling, hiking and 4x4 accessories and goods, this store is a worthwhile venue to spend some quality time in. Close to the highway (N1), off the Old Johannesburg Road in Centurion. No discount offered, just good service!

Contact their sales people on (012) 661 0505. Visit unit 4, Highway Business Park, Park Road South, Rooihuiskraal.

#### **11) GOING PLACES 4x4, CENTURION - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS**

14 Botha Avenue, Lyttleton. For your entire 4 x4 and camping needs. All members get 5% on presentation of club card. Contact Ron or Christo on (012) 664 7609

#### **12) 4x4 Offroad Adventure Mail Order Outlet**

Rent a 29Mhz Radio for your next trip. Special price for club members. Also able to provide 29Mhz Radios, GPS's, SUUNTO Watches, Clothing, Solar Panels and plenty more at cost cutting prices...Give us a call - 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

#### **13) LA SPORT 4WD MEGASTORES AND TJM PRODUCTS – FOR SERIOUS 4WD EQUIPMENT**

When you're serious about four wheel driving, we can supply you with serious 4WD Equipment. We are the distributors for TJM Products from Australia. Our main products are TJM Aluminium and Steel bull bars (Airbag compatible), Airtec Snorkels and XGS Suspensions (3-year or 50 000

km warranty). We also supply and fit a wide range of other 4x4 accessories and camping equipment.

All LA Sport 4WD Megastores branches will offer a 5% discount on presentation of club card, except items on specials or with net prices.

Please phone us at:

Head Office, Pretoria: 012-3294515, Menlyn: 012-3480826, Eaststrand: 011-8285381,  
Johannesburg North 011-4678210, Bloemfontein: 051-4478360,  
Cape Town 021-5552790 and Nelspruit 013-7553391

## **12) ONLY FOR MEMBERS - HAVANAH CAFÉ (MENLYN)**

Invitation to all club members: ***When they arrive at Havana Café in Menlyn Shopping Centre and they produce proof of their club membership, they will receive a 10% discount on their total bill.***

For those of the members who visit the Barnyard for one of their excellent shows, members can also contact us to find out more about our platters that we provide for Barnyard functions - at very competitive prices. Once again, a discount could be considered for tables of 8 or more.

André and Thea Sonnekus

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### **EDITOR:**

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)

Registered DEAT Tourist Guide - National

Owner - 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng)

Committee Member - Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs SA

Member Club - Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs SA

[4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za)

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[www.4x4offroadclub.co.za](http://www.4x4offroadclub.co.za)

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