

# Gauteng Offroad Community Newsletter

NOVEMBER 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!!!!**

Finally the year comes to a close (well certainly for the club). It seems most people are taking a different approach this year and it seems the old holiday buzz is low on juice this year. Many a family seem to be working till the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and may a take a few days off here and there.

Does not matter! Remember the tiding and the message, and whatever you do enjoy! So, if you are not sure what to do with the kids then, check out the opportunity for them to be Zoo Keepers for the day at Lory Park Zoo in Midrand. Or, contact us to go and view those houses on the 9 hole golf courses in Dongane in Mozambique. We certainly got a raving response, and hopefully some of the interested customers are visiting Mozambique with the estate agents in December and January.

Then, what a success our last 4x4 enthusiasts meeting was in Kempton Park this week. It all ended in a bit of a rush for me landing from Walvis Bay and having to come straight into getting the meeting going, but my trusted and loyal family was there to pull it all together at the start. Well, we catered for 300 said the owners and fellow club members from Kempton Caravans, and we I lost count at about 220 people. And did they participate in full spirit. The speakers were brief and to the point, informative and fun loving, and the crowd loved it. Then of course the raffle draw which saw in excess of R20 000's worth of prizes, with final prizes including Bridgestone Dueller

4x4 Tyres, petrol generator, weekends away, fridge and much much more. Man, it was awesome and thanks to all of you for the support.

The latest magazines will be filling our Christmas stockings and then these gifts. Well, hope you get some useful things. And guess what, in less than 30 days it is 2007 again.

Herewith an invite to all suppliers, manufacturers, service providers et al. These meetings of ours are growing intensely, get good support and are an ideal launching. Ask those who just participated in 2006 (and the last 4 years). So if you have something to offer, shout. We will gladly discuss a slot at our meetings in 2007 with you. Does not matter what it is.

Well, not going to bore you too much. Have plenty of real work to do this week, and this news letters should keep some of you busy during these quieter times.

This leaves me to say – happy holidays and if you are driving, be safe! May your spiritual celebrations be a joyous one.

We will be back in force in 2007!!!!

Yours in 4x4ing.

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

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#### **CONTENTS:**

Trails & Tribulations, Advertorial, Hit the Trail, From the Tracks, Advertorial, Fresh from the Bush, The Dusty Way, The Trading Post, Advertorial, Flat Wheel, Advertorial, Preferred Suppliers, Feedback from the AAWDC, and Contact Details.

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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!

- Club Closed!

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

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

Navigators specialises in exclusive 4x4 safaris and expeditions in Southern Africa, with the emphasis on professionalism, service-excellence, and value-for-money tours. With all-inclusive “Booked-Seat” or tag-along “Self-Drive” options to choose from, we meet the needs of adventurous local and international travellers for 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, a maximum of 6 places only are offered on most of our tours – we therefore encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. Please note that it is possible to join any of our tours at alternative points along our route to those as shown. This month we are highlighting a number of set-departure tours from our 2007 schedule.

Visit our website at <http://www.navigators4wd.co.za> for general details on our tours and services. E-mail us at [info@navigators4wd.co.za](mailto:info@navigators4wd.co.za) to subscribe to our Newsletter, or to request specific

details and pricing on our various safaris and expeditions. Alternatively, contact our office on landline +27 (0) 21 689 1825 or Chris Schlimper on mobile +27 (0) 83 675 3484.

***"Kalahari Black-Maned Lions" Wilderness & Wildlife Safari***

One of our most popular tours, and an especially unique experience during the summer rainfall months in this arid region, as the ephemeral rivers and pans in the Park are often greener and well populated with wildlife during this time. Highlights include: The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, specifically the Mabuasehube Pans region with its grassland areas and standing water in the normally-dry pan areas; great wildlife viewing; 4x4 Wilderness Trail with fantastic bush camp. "The remote and unspoilt beauty of Mabuasehube is what makes this expedition truly special..."

Dates: Friday 9 February to Sunday 18 February 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).  
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 16 December 2006.

Dates: Friday 7 December to Sunday 16 December 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).  
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 14 August 2007.

***Kaokoveld "Desert Elephants & Himba" Expedition***

This is a 'must-do' adventure for anyone interested in an unrivalled wilderness, cultural and driving experience! Highlights include: Khovarib Schlucht; desert elephants of the Kaokoveld; Epupa Falls; cultural interaction with the Himba people; Van Zyl's Pass; the Marienfluss; Hartmanns Valley; Puros; Warmquelle; Twyfelfontein area; varied and interesting driving challenges; great photographic opportunities. "Don't miss one of these opportunities to join us on a small-group expedition to one of Africa's most rugged wilderness areas..."

Dates: Monday 28 May to Friday 8 June 2007 (Windhoek to Windhoek).  
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 16 March 2007.

Dates: Friday 22 June to Tuesday 3 July 2007 (Windhoek to Windhoek).  
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 30 March 2007.

Dates: Saturday 14 July to Sunday 29 July 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).  
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 30 March 2007.

***"Central Kalahari & Kgalagadi" Safari***

This tour showcases the best of the Kalahari wilderness, combining the remote central areas of Botswana with the Mabuasehube region of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Highlights include: Khama Rhino Sanctuary; the northern areas of CKGR, including Deception Valley; Mabuasehube in KTP; varied wildlife; interesting off-road driving challenges; remote bush camps. "A wonderful tour that combines great wildlife viewing with plenty of time to relax in fantastic wilderness areas. Bring your sense of adventure and be prepared for an experience that delivers many magic moments and highlights..."

Dates: Friday 10 August to Saturday 25 August 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).  
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 1 June 2007.

***"Khaudum & Liuwa Plain Expedition"***

This is your opportunity to secure one of the limited places available on what will be a memorable experience! Highlights include: Khaudum Game Park; Caprivi; Ngonye Falls; Liuwa Plain, the focal point of this expedition, where at this time of the year, Liuwa's larger mammals emerge from the surrounding bush and congregate in large herds on the plain; excellent birding (around 320 species) in Liuwa; Vic Falls; Chobe River; Kubu Island. "This varied and relaxed small-group expedition will appeal to adventurous and self-sufficient travellers who love the excitement and unpredictability of travel in Africa..."

Dates: Saturday 20 October to Tuesday 13 November 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).

Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 29 June 2007.

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

### **RENT A CUTTS OFFROAD TRAILER FOR Rxxx/DAY (to ridiculous to publish)**

The 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club has a robust 2-bin CUTTS steel off road trailer, with lid roof racks, spare wheel etc. to rent out for the summer holidays. Recently upgraded by Echo 4x4 – the masters in offroad trailers. Interested? Contact Alan on 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za. The longer the period, the better the price. Why pay excessive holiday rates. Next year we will have several other units, fully kitted for rental purposes too. This trailer will then also have a roof top tent on it (maybe even this week thanks to us collecting it a few hours ago!).

### **LEISURE WHEELS IS OUT!!!**

The December/January issue of Leisure Wheels is on sale, jam-packed with the latest sport-utility vehicles seen at Auto Africa and launched in this country. It spotted an awesome Dodge Ram in right-hand drive, and features a scoop drive with the Sprinter 4x4 from Mercedes-Benz -- the Unimog of Vans.

Intrepid reporter Mike Slater reports on parts of Mozambique rarely visited by tourists, while Vanessa Burger experiences three four-by-four trails first hand. Mike Eaton tells readers how he prepared his Ford Ranger for the rigours of Angola, while KwaZulu-Natal's John Rich gives good advice on how to plan your off-road adventure and what to take. And there's a first-hand report on the final of the 2006 GPS Challenge.

In the road test section the spotlight falls on Hyundai's new Santa Fe, the Audi Q7 and SsangYong's Actyon.

Destinations include Chobe in Botswana, where wonderful photographic opportunities await, Mozambique's Banhine Nature Reserve and, closer to home, North-West Province's Heritage Route.

With the print order upped to 30 000, Leisure Wheels shouldn't be hard to find...

### **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.

***SPECIAL – En Route Namibian booklets (5 of) + Free Camp Site/Accommodation Map for only R200.00 (normally R340). Limited stock –everybody welcome!!!! Only till 31 December 2006. Ideal Christmas Gift! Send email to [4buy4direct@mweb.co.za](mailto:4buy4direct@mweb.co.za) with details and travel pack orders.***

### **CHRISTMAS PRESSIE PROBLEM SOLVED!!**

#### ***The Original Bushlite***

Available in solid brass **or** powdered coated aluminium, **The Bushlite** uses a standard household candle, spring loaded for long life (up to 6hours) plus kills mozzies via the nifty "Mozzie-Clip" attachment, plus **The Bushlite** is wind resistant, perfect for that bundu bash!

#### **Prices:**

Solid Brass - R260 each

Colours - R220 each (only Landrover Green in stock at present)

Deluxe Canvas Bag, includes Mozzie Clip, candle case (with candles) R130 each

Mozzie clip separate - R35

Available direct from **Bushlite Randburg: (011) 794 1446 or 083 453 3774 -**  
[mapad@cybertrade.co.za](mailto:mapad@cybertrade.co.za)

We post anywhere in SA overnight. [www.maplanga.co.za](http://www.maplanga.co.za)

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

Join 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. Next dates are 26-28 January 2007. No 4x4 needed. Camping only. Catered. Hurry, bookings already received, only 15 camp sites.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Although hippo's feed on plants, they are responsible for more human deaths than any other animal in Africa, this is because they are very territorial and will come into conflict with anyone who enters their space. Hippo's once flourished in the waters of the Nile River, but are now extinct in this region. From [www.africa-adventure.org](http://www.africa-adventure.org)

### **URGENT CONVOY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY LADY TRAVELLER**

Dear Alan

Thank you for your lovely news letters!!

I wonder if it will be something I can ask? I need to drive to Vic Falls around the 15th of December 2006 and I come back again around the 15th of January 2007 again. I have a Land Rover Defender Tdi 1996 and thought to take the N4 from PTA, go in Gabarone to Botswana, travel the A1 to Zambia. I thought to do it in 2 days time.

I am a woman and will be travelling on my own. I would really not like to do that. Is there perhaps some one that will be travelling there, that I can just be sure there is some one if my car breaks down or I get a flat tire or just to feel safe. Maybe if they are coming back sooner than the 15th of January, is there maybe someone else again that will be coming back around the 15th of January.

I will appreciate it if someone can help me in this way?

Kind regards  
Nicci Koen  
Tel 012 345 4558  
083 2355 310

### **NEW GPS DATA FOR DARKEST AFRICA**

20/11/2006 12:19

Although much of Africa still remains effectively unmapped, all that is rapidly changing thanks to a South African-based GPS data company - and the help of ordinary travelers.

The latest layer of data provided to the famous Google Earth Internet satellite maps by Tracks4Africa now provides accurate information on roads, recreational trails, camping sites, lodges, businesses, information centres, and places of interest in rural Africa.

The significance of this is immense for travellers, especially since the information has been provided free of charge by an international community of people who have a shared passion for Africa.

It is this community that drives Tracks4Africa's process; people who enjoy to travel and experience Africa contribute their collective travel experience to Tracks4Africa which then validates this data and incorporates it into a unique map of Africa.

"The people at Google have recognised a synergy between Tracks4Africa's information and Google Earth, which lead to an even more amazing and complete view of Africa," says Wouter Brand, CEO of Tracks4Africa.

The detailed mapping system has far reaching benefits for adventure travellers, business operators, conservationists, researchers and other entities working in many of the rural parts of the continent.

Tracks4Africa's initiative, in close consultation with conservation authorities, the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, the Peace Parks Foundation and NGO's affiliated with the United Nations, resulted in the release of the Tracks4Africa layer on Google Earth.

Google Earth is a free 3D mapping service from search engine Google which enables anyone with a computer and an Internet connection to view satellite images and map data of the entire world.

In addition to satellite images the user can also reference information such as roads, points of interest and so on.

The Tracks4Africa Mapping Africa initiative is not aimed at mapping major urban centres - where good quality data usually already exists - but rather focuses on rural and remote Africa.

Tracks4Africa also serves to impact positively on the small business initiatives (craft markets and community rest camps) of rural people. Tracks4Africa supports itself by selling T4A Maps Pro to the public for use on recreational GPS devices

Visit [www.tracks4africa.co.za](http://www.tracks4africa.co.za) to learn more about this initiative.

### **EXCITING NEW BOOK LAUNCHED BY READER OF NEWSLETTER**

Soul of the Wild - by Johnny Meeser / (Consulting Editor Dr BuL Lombard)

Walk through the Kruger National Park of South Africa; touch the animals, trees and birds; hear the sounds, get the smell and taste of it more closely and intimately than any visitor could ever dream of experiencing this vast game reserve, through the senses of Og, the baboon. This is a journey packed with scientific facts and the hidden powers of the animal kingdom and environment, ingeniously interwoven with heart-rending, almost human drama and ethos.

Johnny Meeser has spent many decades in the African bush to share Soul of the Wild with you. He is one of the rare people who can not only communicate with nature, but is prepared to share his passion with those who do not necessarily have regular access to the areas that he dedicated his life to.

This book is a first: truly not only your guide and introduction to the Kruger Park, but to the African animal kingdom. It is also a lovely gift and sells at R130,00 plus postage and packaging R20,00 = R150,00.

Get your copy of Soul of the Wild  
by contacting the publisher at

Publisher's banking details:  
Account: Publiself Publishers

telephone 012 998 5600 or  
e-mail publi@publiself.co.za ,  
and supply your name, delivery address  
and contact telephone number.

Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch: Castle Walk  
Account number: 414 525 132  
Branch code: 014645

### **ENGEN EXCITES CONSUMERS – WHAT THE CONSUMERS SPREAD ON THE INTERNET**

ENGEN DISCRIMINATION - ENGEN Head office has just decided that no ENGEN Garage will be sold to any White person in the future. ENGEN will not allow any ENGEN garages to be managed by any White, "they don't need Whites".

When you fill up your car use any other garage and not a ENGEN garage. If they don't need us, they don't need our support either !!! Please send this to all your friends who will think it's mad !!!

Engen hoofkantoor het so pas besluit dat geen Engen vulstasie in die toekoms, aan 'n Blanke verkoop mag word nie.

Staan saam en vul jou voertuig in die toekoms by een van die ander brandstof voorsieners. Dit is definitief nie te veel gevra nie. Engen het nie meer die Blanke nodig nie, dus hoef hul dan ook nie deur blankes ondersteun word nie.

Stuur aan al u vriende wat so geraak sal word.

### **ENGEN RESPONDS TO THESE STATEMENTS**

Dear NAC & RAC Chairman

By now you may have read or heard about the circulation of an email which purports to outline that Engen has taken a decision to no longer sell service stations to members of the "white" racial demographic. Our response to this has been that such content is circulated with malicious intent and that more importantly, absolutely *no truth is contained therein*. Such email further asks members of the "white" population to boycott Engen forecourts and fill up at competitor sites.

We would like to take this opportunity to communicate our stance concerning the allotment of service stations to new operators, whomsoever such entity may be:

Firstly, Engen as with any major company operating within the borders of South Africa, including our competitors, is committed to *Black Economic Empowerment*.

Secondly, within the context of petroleum retailing, enacted legislation addresses this very issue; legislation which you are in fact very familiar with, i.e. the March 2006 amendments to the *Petroleum Products Act 120 of 1977*. This legislation compels all existing and **new** service station operators to apply for a retail licence. Furthermore in such application, the Department of Minerals & Energy requires that applicants outline equity insofar as it relates to previously disadvantaged individuals.

The allotment of service stations is invariably a lengthy process with a myriad of other factors also coming into play. The above two considerations are hence not viewed in isolation. In the end therefore and after thorough consideration to all factors, Engen will strive to ensure that the right operator is in place to represent its great brand in the retail arena - however in doing so, will give required consideration also to economic policy and legislation.

Sincerely

**Navin Reddy**  
Retail Business Manager

### **A RETAIL OPERATION OWNER BACKS THE ENGEN POSITION**

Bul

Hierbo is die reaksie van Engen Hoofbestuur op die e-pos wat jy ontvang het. Soos ek aan jou genoem het, pas Shell en BP (en ek meen Caltex en selfs Sasol ook) die beleid al vir jare toe, alhoewel ek van 'n paar uitsonderings hier en daar weet. Ook by Engen praat hulle al 'n jaar of drie daarvan dat as 'n Blanke sy vulstasie sou verkoop, dit aan 'n anderskleurige sal moet wees. In my geval by Oberon Motors, waar my kliënte uit hierdie area meestal uit ouer Blankes en Blanke pensioenarisse bestaan, is ek seker sal hulle 'n uitsondering toelaat.

Dit sal miskien die moeite werd wees om elke Oliemaatskappy se bestuursverklaring oor die saak te kry voordat mens een uitsonder. Sover ek weet is die BEE beleid (iets soos 60% anderskleuriges teen 2010) vir alle Oliemaatskappye deur die Regering en die Dept van Mineraal en Energiesake vasgelê en het geeneen van hulle 'n keuse as om daaraan gehoor te gee nie.

Laat weet my ASSEMBLIEF as jy iets nuuts oor die aangeleentheid uitvind.

Vriendelike groete

Henning van Wijk  
Oberon Motors

***(So, with these 3 views, you are all grown up and make your own decisions. My take on it all is to support the local garage owner closes to you. He needs the support and is doing you a service. The further you may drive to seek petrol / diesel by choice, the more you may just pay (and waste!!! – Ed.)***

#### **ENVIRUBACK TRAVEL KIT**

Germ Free Toilet Seats and Hands

Applications:

Travelling, Use of Public Toilets, After Changing Baby's Nappy, In your First-Aid Kit, Schools, Nursery Schools, Crèches, Hospitals, At Home, In the Office, Kitchens

#### *Importance of Hand Sanitizing*

Clean hands prevent the spread of disease.

The Solution?

Use Complete Hand Sanitizer on hands to kill the harmful bacteria that spread disease. Alcohol-based sanitizing gels, like Complete Hand Sanitizer, involve no washing. The gel dries quickly and kills germs. Complete Hand Sanitizer is not to be used as a cleaning agent to remove dirt. There are times when using soap and water is definitely more appropriate.

When using the toilet, washing your hands are not enough. After touching the tap and/or door handle, your hands are full of bacteria again.

When illnesses like tummy bugs are around, make sure to use Complete Hand Sanitizer every time after using the bathroom. Using Complete Hand Sanitizer is an excellent method for hand hygiene!

Complete Hand Sanitizer is an instant hand sanitizer with a refreshing scent. The product contains no dyes that could contaminate food. All ingredients are safe when in contact with food and the human skin. Wash your hands with Pearly Hand Wash to remove the dirt.

Apply a small amount of the product to clean, dry hands. Rub lightly until dry. Do not rinse.

#### *Importance of Sanitizing Toilet Seats*

Public toilets are the ideal habitat for harmful bacteria!

Did you know?

Flushing toilets 'sneeze' dirty water and faecal bacteria over toilet seats, toilet paper, seat covers, handles and into the air in the washroom. This action produces a bacteria fall-out over several hours. Frequent toilet flushing ensures that toilet surfaces are an ideal surface for bacterial colonisation!

The Solution?

Make use of CitruShield. Citrusshield is an air-sanitizer, odour-eliminator and powerful surface disinfectant. CitruShield is extremely effective wherever airborne germs are present and surface disinfecting is needed.

Spray CitruShield on the toilet seat and in the cubicle, wait 30 seconds and wipe the seat with clean, dry tissue paper. The toilet seat will be free of bacteria. Airborne disease will also be minimized.

Active Ingredients in CitruShield: Blend of Organic Acids and Bioflavonoids

Enviruback Travel Kit is available at the Echo 4x4 Centre (012) 345-3333

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

### **TRY BEFORE YOU BUY – FULLY KITTED 4x4 / MOTORHOMES**

Good day to all 4x4 club members / interested parties

Rainbow 4x4 & Motorhome rentals are offering cost effective rentals, on the "try before you buy" concept exclusive rates for SA residents only. 6 variations of 4x4's in our fleet namely: Toyota Hilux single cabs, Toyota Hilux double cabs, Toyota Landcruisers and Landrovers.

All are fully equipped with all camping equipment and fitted with long range fuel tank, water tank and compressor. Nation wide depots. Please visit our website at [www.rainbowcamperhire.co.za](http://www.rainbowcamperhire.co.za) for further info.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards

Sue Rocha

Marketing & Sales

Rainbow 4x4 & Motorhome Rentals

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Email: [sue@maui.co.za](mailto:sue@maui.co.za)

Website: [www.rainbowcamperhire.co.za](http://www.rainbowcamperhire.co.za)

### **GET THE LATEST SA STREETMAPS v1**

Southern Africa Streetmaps v1 includes a comprehensive update of Cape Town and surrounding suburbs, close to 60 additional South African towns, 23 000 more points of interest, a routable road network of nearly 450 000km in six neighbouring countries, and a tool for differentiating between tar and untarred road conditions.

"Our main focus in developing Southern Africa Streetmaps v1," says Heinrich Schoombie of Georigin, "was to provide maps for the capital cities of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, and Namibia down to street level.

"We sent field workers to each of these countries to verify data, and in the process we picked up a lot of Points of Interest on the regional roads and in the towns themselves."

## **African Capital Cities and Towns included in Southern African Streetmaps V1**

Botswana: Gaborone

Zimbabwe: Harare

Mozambique: Maputo

Namibia: Okahandja, Ondangwa, Oshakati, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Rosh Pinah, Luderitz, Rundu, Gobabis, Grootfontein, Keetmanshoop, Mariental, Omaruru, Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb, Windhoek, Katima Mulilo.

Swaziland: Mbabane

Lesotho: Maseru

## **South Africa Cities and Towns incorporated into Southern Africa Streetmaps v1 Cities**

Mossel Bay: Western Cape

### **Towns**

Arniston: Western Cape, Aston Bay: Eastern Cape, Beacon Island (Near Plettenberg Bay): Western Cape, Boekenhoutskloof (Near Jeffreys Bay): Eastern Cape, Brandwag (Near Mossel Bay): Western Cape, Bredasdorp: Western Cape, Cape St. Francis: Eastern Cape, Cornelia: Free State, Cradock: Eastern Cape, Dana Bay: Western Cape, Dealesville: Free State, Dundee: Kwazulu Natal, Edenburg: Free State, Elandsrand: North West, Fauresmith: Free State, Greytown: Kwazulu Natal, Groot Brakrivier: Western Cape, Hartenbos: Western Cape, Hotagterklip: Western Cape, Humansdorp: Eastern Cape, Infanta: Western Cape, Jacobsdal: Free State, Jagersfontein: Free State, Jeffreys Bay: Eastern Cape, Klein Brakrivier: Western Cape, Koffiefontein: Free State, Kokstad: Kwazulu Natal, Koppies: Free State, Kranshoek (Near Plettenberg Bay): Western Cape, Kruisfontein (Near Humansdorp): Eastern Cape, Ladysmith: Kwazulu Natal, L'Agulhas: Western Cape, Langebaan: Western Cape, Louterwater: Western Cape, Mafikeng: North West, Molshoop: Western Cape, Natures Valley: Western Cape, Newcastle: Kwazulu Natal, Oranjeville: Free State, Oudtshoorn: Western Cape, Paradise Beach: Eastern Cape, Parys: Free State, Petrusburg: Free State, Plettenberg Bay: Western Cape, Reddersburg: Free State, Robertson: Western Cape, Rooigrond (Near Mafikeng): North West, Slurry (Near Mafikeng): North West, St. Francis Bay: Eastern Cape, Steadville: Kwazulu Natal, Struis Bay: Western Cape, Tulbagh: Western Cape, Ventersburg: Free State, Vrede: Free State, Waenhuiskrans: Western Cape, Witsand: Western Cape, Wittedrif (Near Plettenberg Bay): Western Cape,

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 / marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za / www.gpsconsultants.co.za

## **GOOD SERVICE FROM 4x4MEGAWORLD**

ALAN,

I managed to return my Toyota Fortuner towbar (the one that you said would catch) and had a 4x4 Megaworld one fitted which increases the departure angle. I must say that I received great service from both Craig and Nick and the very pleasing 10% discount being a club member.

Regards

JOHAN MARX

## **NGONYAMA CAMPER RENTALS SAY - 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU DEPART ON YOUR DECEMBER HOLIDAYS**

1. Make sure that you have properly serviced your car.
2. If your trailer or caravan was not used regularly through out the year it will need a very good service. Tighten the wheel nuts to between 90-105 Nm. Over tensioning is just as bad as under tensioning. Pump the tyres to more or less the same as those of your towing vehicle, but in off-road situations you should always lower the tyre pressures.

3. Check the following for its expiry dates:
  - a. Your driver's license
  - b. Your vehicle's license (this includes the trailer or caravan if you are going to tow)
  - c. Your passports.
4. Make sure that your home has a proper alarm system with somebody to respond to it should it go off. It is rude and annoying to your neighbours if they have to listen 24/7 to an unattended alarm.
5. If you do have pets that will stay at home, please make sure that they are properly taken care of.
6. If you are crossing the borders into neighbouring countries make sure that you have a copy of your vehicle's registration documents as well as a copy of the proof of insurance plus a "border letter" from a financial institution if your vehicle is under a finance transaction.
7. Update your first aid kit.
8. Make use of packing lists and pack your vehicle accordingly. Do not overload.
9. Plan for shorter distances to travel and more stopovers.
10. Keep your licenses, passports, credit cards and cash apart.

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

***We have had a huge interest and response – but they aint sold till the money is paid – so you can still apply. Site visits in December and January by interested parties***

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.

### **PRAIA DE OURO SUL**

Praia de Ouro Sul is situated in southern Mozambique, approximately 30 minutes drive from the Kosi Bay border post between KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique. The resort is situated less than 500 km north of Durban, and approximately 710 km from Johannesburg, South Africa. The estate borders the South African border, and is five minutes drive from the coastal village Ponta do Ouro, one of three key diving spots in southern Mozambique.

*Permanent tents*

The permanent *tents* accommodate four people in an open area. Two three-quarter beds and one bunker bed for two children with bedding is supplied. Tea and coffee making facilities, a kettle, a refrigerator and towels in the en suite bathroom area, consisting of a shower, basin and toilet, are supplied.

No braais (barbeques) are allowed at the tents. A boma with thatched roof, basin, electricity and a large braai area is available for braais and cooking. The restaurant serves brunch and dinner daily. Tents are serviced daily. If you require more information or would like to make a booking, please do not hesitate to call.

Kind regards  
Rose Bilbrough  
The Travel Bug  
travelbug@absamail.co.za  
E. & O.E

### **KZN WATERS – SKIBOAT OWNERS TAKE NOTE**

Several years ago the National Small Boating Regulations were revised. The period of grace has passed all too quickly. Now, craft operating on restricted tidal waters (harbours, lagoons and estuaries) are required to be licensed, carry a set of basic safety equipment and operators of such vessels must hold a basic Skippers Ticket. Already during the last festive season, many a boat owner was turned away from certain areas for non compliance.

There have been far too many unnecessary accidents and incidents to date. They could have been avoided with a basic understanding of the general principles of good seamanship, safety afloat and a few rules of the road. It is not the intention of the authorities to spoil anyone's fun but to make the waterways safer for all users. Standards required are very basic and will easily be achieved through experience and good responsible tuition.

Skippers of all craft are responsible for those onboard. A buoyancy aid must be readily available for each person and worn by non-swimmers and those under 16 years old. The operator must ensure that each person carried, knows how to don a buoyancy aid correctly and what to do in an emergency. While out on the water a good look out is very important at all times and the skipper must avoid any close-quarter situations. Alcohol and its misuse on hot sunny days hasten the effects and will lead to unnecessary mishaps.

For further information contact the NSRI Office 031 332 9772 or nsri-kzn@iafrica.com

### **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.

### **MERRIMETSI 4x4 STILL OPEN!!!!!!!**

Greetings from the warm Free State

The bad news is that Merrimetsi has been sold, but the good news is that the new owner is allowing us to stay open until 31 December **2007**.

Until you hear differently, we are still **OPEN** and you do not have any excuses why you cannot come and visit – friends do not stay away for so long.

I am also starting to write for a new 4x4 website, namely [www.4x424.com](http://www.4x424.com) – go check it out.  
Regards

Danie & Annelize

### **McCARTHY BREAKS NEW GROUND IN MOTOR INDUSTRY RECRUITMENT**

McCarthy Limited, part of the Bidvest Group of companies, has introduced a new online initiative to recruit employees for its various business operations. Careers at McCarthy is a dedicated website backed by a recruitment team aimed at promoting employment opportunities within McCarthy Limited.

"It has always been our philosophy to reinvest a meaningful portion of the profits we make from our business into our people and our facilities in order to create a platform for long-term sustainability and to stimulate job creation," said Brand Pretorius, chief executive of McCarthy Limited. "McCarthy is also continually challenged when it comes to rising performance expectations, which places a high demand on quality labour skills. The establishment of this new venture will go a long way in fulfilling this demand."

McCarthy Limited currently employs 5 757 people across South Africa and is the second largest motor retailer in South Africa. In 2005, the company promoted nearly 400 people and invested a total amount of R11 million in 12 400 training days in order to support the personal development of its staff. It is estimated that McCarthy is responsible for the training of one third of all of the country's technical trainees in the motor industry, and is currently training 1 100 technical learners.

"Through McCarthy's business growth plans, we are expecting to create an additional 900 jobs during the period July 2006 to June 2007," said Pretorius. "Through Careers at McCarthy we have taken an important step towards building a substantial and easily accessible database of talented career seekers."

McCarthy currently has 217 business units that span over 12 industries, with activities covering vehicle import and distribution, new and used vehicle sales, parts and service, financial services and fleet support, vehicle auctioneering, online retailing and vehicle and truck rental. Careers at McCarthy therefore offer job opportunities in a wide variety of fields, including sales, technical, financial, administrative and managerial or specialist support.

The Careers at McCarthy website with its own proprietary database of CVs, uses the same software as used by Career Junction, an online recruiting site established in 1997. Jobseekers are able to load their CVs onto the McCarthy database and search through an attractive variety of jobs.

McCarthy is one of the first companies to introduce a dedicated website with a proprietary database at the same time as launching a major job advertising campaign. The job opportunities are updated regularly, providing jobseekers with only the latest offerings, and applications are handled by McCarthy personnel and not by recruitment agencies. CVs are linked to a job watch system that automatically emails job alerts to applicants when the sort of jobs they are interested in becomes available.

"McCarthy is very excited about this new addition to the business and we truly hope to assist in the national drive for job creation by providing dynamic career opportunities through this new venture," said Pretorius.

"I believe that at McCarthy, the difference lies in the passion, skill and commitment of our people - the determination to continuously provide our customers with a world-class service that exceeds their expectations. Through innovation, a commitment to excellence and quality, and an unrelenting belief in what we do, McCarthy is poised for meaningful growth into the future."

Visit the Careers at McCarthy website at [www.careersatmccarthy.co.za](http://www.careersatmccarthy.co.za)

ISSUED BY WILKEN COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT  
TEL NO: (012) 460-4448  
FAX NO: (012) 460-4514  
E-MAIL: [flip@icon.co.za](mailto:flip@icon.co.za)

ON BEHALF OF: MCCARTHY LIMITED

### **DEFENDER TROPHY CHALLENGE 2007**

As a lot of you already know once a year we have our "Famous Defender Trophy Challenge". Next year we are all heading off to the Kalahari. So to all the Defender owners out there that want to join us for this great event next year please contact me as soon as possible.

I have only x2 openings left for the second rotation, the dates being 28<sup>th</sup> February to the 04<sup>th</sup> March 2007. If you would like more details on what the event is all about and what to expect, please let me know so that I can forward it through to you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards  
JESSICA SNYMAN  
PRO/CUSTOMER CARE  
LAND ROVER CENTURION &  
LAND ROVER CENTURION ADVENTURES  
TEL NO: 012/6780066  
FAX NO: PRIVATE LINE: 0866427617 OR 012/6780049  
E/MAIL: [jessica@landrovercenturion.co.za](mailto:jessica@landrovercenturion.co.za)

### **BUTTERFLIES – FROM THE RHINO CLUB NEWSLETTER**

As a young ranger in Hluhluwe many years ago I was startled by the behaviour of some of the research staff who, in the middle of a conversation, would suddenly bolt into the surrounding vegetation waving a large white net. All was revealed when it turned out that they were catching butterflies to build up a definitive species list for the reserve. Hluhluwe with its large variety of habitats, especially the dense rain forest in the north, had an abundance of these brightly coloured insects.

On our visits to the wildlife parks of KwaZulu-Natal we tend to forget these small and fragile animals, yet butterflies have such beauty that they seem to be creatures from a fairytale. More than 800 species of butterflies from 9 different families can be seen in Southern Africa. The reign of the butterfly is all too fleeting. Because of the danger of a host of predators, which include birds, other insects, reptiles and mammals, the average life-span of a butterfly is no more than four weeks. Some of these creatures live only for a matter of hours. The most common of the species found in Southern Africa are the Acraeidae, Danaidae, Nymphalidae, Papilionidae and Pieridae.

The Acraeidae family are small to medium sized and renowned for being distasteful or even poisonous to predators. To warn would-be enemies of this fact, acraeas are often coloured bright carmine or brick-red. Other more palatable butterflies often mimic acraeas to avoid being preyed upon. Some live in the warm forest and bush country along the eastern seaboard and elsewhere, but others are found in open tracts of country.

The Nymphalidae family is a large group, including some of the most beautiful of all the butterflies. Reds, blues yellows and violets are their most common colours, often blended in complex patterns and shades. They live in forest and thick bush country.

Possibly the most interesting nymphalid is *Hypolimnas misippus*. The males and females are so different that they not only have separate names, but were also once thought to be different species. The females are known as mimics because they model themselves on four different

forms of the African Monarch. The male is appropriately named diadem because of large white hindwing spots surrounded by brilliant violet rings which are only visible when light strikes the ring's prism-shaped scales from the correct angle.

The Papilionidae family are the popular swallowtails and swordtails, which include the largest butterflies in the world. Not all of them have the tails on their hind wings that give their family its name. They are commonly yellow, black and white. One of Southern Africa's rarest, and indeed most beautiful butterflies is the mocker swallowtail (*Papilio dardanus cernea*). Different forms of this gorgeous insect can be found. Its name came about because, to escape being preyed upon, the female mimics some member of the unpalatable *Acraea* family.

The Pieridae family are generally white or yellow. They are medium-sized and numerous in southern Africa. The remaining five butterfly families in Southern Africa are the Satyridae, or browns; one species of Libytheidae; the Lycaeridae or blues and coppers; the Hesperidae, or skippers and the Danaidae, or monarchs, of which there are six Southern African species. Their day-flying habits and attractive colours make butterflies easy to identify and it is almost impossible to tour through our province without seeing a number of these beautiful creatures along the way. They may not be as spectacular as the Big Five, but they're bound to enrich any visit. The much anticipated book, "Bring Butterflies Back to your Garden" was launched by the KZN Coastal Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa on 12th August 2006 at the Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors' Centre. This pioneer in its field is a follow up to Charles and Julia Botha's acclaimed Bring Nature Back to your Garden and is aimed mainly at gardeners who already have some interest in indigenous plants. South Africa's most comprehensive butterfly gardening guide, it is indeed an encyclopaedia of butterfly gardening, yet easy to use and full of humour. In the words of eminent scientist Dr John Ledger, this wonderful book contains an astonishing amount of information and it has descriptions of over 500 indigenous plants to please our butterflies. In fact, all known indigenous butterfly larval food-plants have been included.

***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 Nasionale 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

**More news items....**

**COLLECTERS – TAKE NOTE**

Good morning Alan,

Thanks for your informative newsletter. Would you be so kind as to place the following adverts in your Trading Post section in the next newsletter.

Many thanks.

LeRoy Mängels.

(082) 880 6050.

Getaway magazines for sale. Complete set of Getaway magazines from first edition, April 1989 to current. All in excellent condition. R 1250.00 o.n.c.o. for the lot. Phone LeRoy: (082) 880 6050 (Pretoria).

SA4x4 magazines for sale. All issues from November/December 1999 to current. All in excellent condition. R 450.00 o.n.co. for the lot. Phone LeRoy: (082) 880 6050 (Pretoria).

LeisureWheels magazines for sale. All 38 issues from first edition to current. In excellent condition. R 200.00 o.n.c.o. for the set. Phone LeRoy: (082) 880 6050 (Pretoria).

**LIGHTNING RISK REDUCTION OUTDOORS**

*When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!*

This document has two main sections: lightning safety when a safe location is nearby and risk reduction--not safety!--when a safe location is NOT close. No place is absolutely safe from lightning; however, some places are much safer than others. The SAFEST location during lightning activity is a large enclosed building, not a picnic shelter or shed. The second safest location is an enclosed metal vehicle, car, truck, van, etc., but NOT a convertible, bike or other topless or soft top vehicle.

## **Safe Buildings**

A safe building is one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, such as a home, school, office building or a shopping center. Even inside, you should take precautions. Picnic shelters, dugouts, sheds and other partially open or small structures are **NOT** safe.

Enclosed buildings are safe because of wiring and plumbing. If lightning strikes these types of buildings, or an outside telephone pole, the electrical current from the flash will typically travel through the wiring or the plumbing into the ground. This is why you should stay away from showers, sinks, hot tubs, etc., and electronic equipment such as TVs, radios, and computers.

Lightning can damage or destroy electronics so it's important to have a proper lightning protection system connected to your electronic equipment. The American Meteorological Society has tips for protecting your electronics from lightning.

## **Unsafe Buildings**

Examples of buildings which are unsafe include car ports, covered but open garages, covered patio, picnic shelters, beach shacks/pavilions, golf shelters, camping tents, large outdoor tents, baseball dugouts and other small buildings such as sheds and greenhouses that do not have electricity or plumbing.

## **Safe Vehicle**

A safe vehicle is a hard-topped car, SUV, minivan, bus, tractor, etc. (soft-topped convertibles are not safe) . If you seek shelter in your vehicle, make sure all doors are closed and windows rolled up. Do not touch any metal surfaces.

If you're driving when a thunderstorm starts, pull off the roadway. A lightning flash hitting the vehicle could startle you and cause temporary blindness, especially at night.

Do not use electronic devices such as HAM radios during a thunderstorm. Lightning striking the vehicle, especially the antennas, could cause serious injury if you are talking on the radio or holding the microphone at the time of the flash. Emergency officials such as police officers, firefighters, security officers, etc., should use extreme caution using radio equipment when lightning is in the area.

Your vehicle and its electronics may be damaged if hit by lightning. Vehicles struck by lightning are known to have flat tires the next day. This occurs because the lightning punctures tiny holes in the tires. Vehicles have caught fire after being struck by lightning; however, there is no modern day documented cases of vehicles "exploding" due to a lightning flash.

## **Bolts from the Blue**

There are times when a lightning flash can travel horizontally many miles away from the thunderstorm cloud itself and then strike the ground. These types of lightning flashes are called "Bolts from the Blue" because they seem to come out of a clear blue sky. Although these flashes are rare, they have been known to cause fatalities.

### **When a Safe Location is Nearby:**

- Seek safe shelter when you first hear thunder, see dark threatening clouds developing overhead or lightning. Count the seconds between the time you see lightning and hear the thunder. You should already be in a safe location if that time is less than 30 seconds.
- Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear thunder.

Plan Ahead! Portable weather radios are handy for outdoor activities. If you don't have NWR, stay up to date via internet, TV, local radio or cell phone. If you are in a group, make sure all leaders or members of the group have a lightning safety plan and are ready to use it.

Determine how far you are from a safe enclosed building or a safe vehicle. As soon as you hear thunder, see lightning or see dark threatening clouds, get to a safe location. Then wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before you leave the safe location. If you are part of a group, particularly a large one, you will need more time to get all group members to safety. NWS recommends having professional lightning detection equipment so your group can be alerted from significant distances from the event site.

When groups are involved, the time needed to get to safety increases. So you need to start leaving sooner. Your entire group should already be in a safe location when the approaching storm reaches within 5 miles from your location.

*Here some two common scenarios with suggestions on how to safely respond.*

### **Family at the Beach**

You plan to go to the beach or lake later this morning with the kids. The weather forecast calls for a nice morning followed by a 30 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms. You decide to head for the beach in your minivan. The beach is about 5 minutes from the parking lot. The only nearby buildings are picnic shelters. By early afternoon you notice the skies darkening and hear distant thunder. What would be your lightning safety plan of action?

In this case, the best place to go is your car. Do NOT seek shelter under the beach picnic shacks because these are not safe in lightning storms. Wait 30 minutes until after the last thunder crack before going back to the beach or driving home.

### **Camping**

You and your family are camping. As you and your spouse are preparing dinner on the camp stove, you here rumbles of thunder in the distance. You look around and you see your tent is nearby, and a large picnic shelter is just down the trail. Your car is about ¼ of a mile away parked at the trail head. What should you and your family do?

In this case, the smartest thing to do is to round up your family and get into your car. The tent is not a safe place to be as it offers NO protection from a lightning flash. The picnic shelter is also not a safe location. (Both the tent and picnic shelter will keep you dry...but they offer NO protection from a lightning flash). It is best to remain in your vehicle for about 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder is heard.

### ***When a Safe Location Is Not Nearby***

**The lightning safety community reminds you that there is NO safe place to be outside in a thunderstorm. If you absolutely can't get to safety, this section is designed to help you lessen the threat of being struck by lightning while outside. Don't kid yourself--you are NOT safe outside.**

Being stranded outdoors when lightning is striking nearby is a harrowing experience. Your first and only truly safe choice is to get to a safe building or vehicle. If you are camping, climbing, on a motorcycle or bicycle, boating, scuba diving, or enjoying other outdoor activities and cannot get to a safe vehicle or shelter, follow these last resort tips. These will not prevent you from being hit, just *slightly* lessen the odds.

- Do **NOT** seek shelter under tall isolated trees. The tree may help you stay dry but will significantly increase your risk of being struck by lightning. Rain will not kill you, but the lightning can!
- Do **NOT** seek shelter under partially enclosed buildings
- Stay away from tall, isolated objects. Lightning typically strikes the tallest object. That may be you in an open field or clearing.
- Know the weather patterns of the area. For example, in mountainous areas, thunderstorms typically develop in the early afternoon, so plan to hike early in the day and be down the mountain by noon.
- Know the weather forecast. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, curtail your outdoor activities.
- Do not place your campsite in an open field on the top of a hill or on a ridge top. Keep your site away from tall isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees. If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine, or other low area. A tent offers NO protection from lightning.
- Wet ropes can make excellent conductors. This is BAD news when it comes to lightning activity. If you are mountain climbing and see lightning, and can do so safely, remove unnecessary ropes extended or attached to you. If a rope is extended across a mountain face and lightning makes contact with it, the electrical current will likely travel along the rope, especially if it is wet.

Stay away from metal objects, such as fences, poles and backpacks. Metal is an excellent conductor. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances.

If lightning is in the immediate area, and there is no safe location nearby, stay at least 15 feet apart from other members of your group so the lightning won't travel between you if hit. Keep your feet together and sit on the ground out in the open. If you can possibly run to a vehicle or building, DO so. Sitting or crouching on the ground is not safe and should be a last resort if a enclosed building or vehicle is not available.

**Motorcyclist/Bicyclist:** So has anyone been hit riding a bike? Here are just a few real examples from the last few years.

- Virginia Beach, VA: Motorcyclist killed while traveling on Route 58.
- Altoona, PA: One motorcycle rider killed and three riders injured when they took shelter in a woods from a thunderstorm.
- Wyoming: Motorcyclist injured while driving home on I-90 from Sturgis.
- Taylor Park, CO: Dirt biker injured while heading down mountain pass.

Protect Yourself when on a bicycle, motorcycle or dirt bike.

- Carry a portable Weather Radio or listen to commercial radio.
- If you see threatening skies in the distance and you are passing a safe location, pull over and wait 30 minutes after the last thunder crack.
- If you can turn around and get away from the storm, do so!
- DO NOT ride into a lightning storm!

If you absolutely cannot get to a safe building or vehicle, here are some last resort choices:

- Wait out the storm below an overpass. DO NOT touch steel girders. Move away from your bike. Remain on dry surfaces if possible. Overpasses are engineered structures and are likely to be properly grounded. Although an overpass is likely to be higher than the surrounding landscape, if it is struck by lightning, the electrical current will likely be channeled safely into the ground.
- Look for a bridge. Stay away from water. Stay away from any metal surfaces. Be alert for rapidly rising water if under a bridge.
- High tension wires: If high voltage electrical tension wires cross the road, you may want to seek shelter directly underneath these wires. Do not get too close to the large metal towers which hold up these wires. Stay at least 50 feet away. Electric companies design these high tension wires for lightning strikes. If lightning should strike the wires or towers, the current is designed to safely go deep into the ground.
- If you are caught in the open and lightning is occurring within 5 miles, **STOP** riding, get off of your motorcycle/bicycle, find a ditch or other low spot and sit down.
- Motorcyclists should move at least 50 feet away from their bike. Bicyclist should lay their bikes on the ground.

**IMPORTANT: These recommendations are a last resort. You are NOT safe in these places just marginally safer than in the open.**

### **On the Water**

The vast majority of lightning injuries and deaths on boats occur on small boats with NO cabin. It is crucial to listen to the weather on a small aquatic vessel without a cabin. If thunderstorms are forecast, don't go out. If you are out on the water and skies are threatening, get back to land and find a safe building or vehicle.

Boats with cabins offer a safer but not perfect environment. Safety is increased further if the boat has a properly installed lightning protection system. If you are inside the cabin, stay away from metal and all electrical components. **STAY OFF THE RADIO UNLESS IT IS AN ABSOLUTE EMERGENCY!**

What should you do if you are on a small vessel and lightning becomes a threat? If the vessel has an anchor, then you should properly anchor the boat then get as low as possible.

Large boats with cabins, especially those with lightning protection systems properly installed or metal marine vessels are relatively safe. Remember to stay inside the cabin and away from any metal surfaces.

### **Scuba Divers**

If the boat you are in does not have a safe cabin to be in during lightning activity, then you are safer diving deep into the water for the duration of the storm or as long as possible. Your first choice is to head in and get in safe building or vehicle.

## **WHAT THE DO IN ZIMBABWE AS FUEL & BATTERIES ARE PRICELESS**

### **WATER IN DIESEL**

I had water put into my Patrol tank by some low life and the cloudy mixture had to be syphoned out. Not much help was offered when I asked for a way to get rid of the water in 80 – 90 Ltr of expensive diesel fuel. I did try leaving it standing for several weeks but this had no effect. What did work, for me, was to heat up 3 or 4 ltrs in a metal container on the gas stove. By heating it stated to clear and small bubbles moved on the surface and traces of what looked like steam arose. It stayed clear and I used it without trouble. Hope this helps you.

### **STORING CAR BATTERIES FOR A LONG TIME**

This was taken from an article about renovating batteries.

I cannot say it works but we know that a car battery will die if left for a long tome unused. "With just a little effort a battery can be stored for many years. Firstly drain the electrolyte by turning the battery over in a plastic bowl; do not use metal because you may gat a short on the terminals. You will get about 1.5 ltrs of acid that can be stored in a screw top bottle, the dirt should settle. Now keep flushing out the battery with lots of cold water, many times to remove every trace of dirt and acid. Acid left will affect the plates. The battery can now be stored on it's side, with the caps off, for many years. When the battery is to be used again the acid can be poured back in and check charged."

## **FINALLY, IN SOUTH AFRICA, THERE IS A SOLUTION FOR WOMEN ON THE GO WHEN THEY JUST HAVE TO GO...**

Now in South Africa, there is a solution for women on the go, when they JUST HAVE TO GO...and inspection of the garage stop-over toilet finds them hygienically wanting and a threat to their health were they to use it. That was the experience of award winning British product designer Samantha Fountain, when backpacking through South East Asia, and resulted in the invention of the Shewee. Sam, as her product's strap line states, is passionate about helping women 'stand up and take control'. She patented her design in 1999 and entered the annual New Designers awards, where she won the James Dyson Product Design Award.

Shewee is a lightweight, pocket-sized, moulded plastic device that allows women of all ages to urinate while standing up, without removing clothes, in situations where squatting is impractical or unhygienic or potentially embarrassing. It comes in a hygienic re-sealable pouch and by holding it against the crotch directs urine away from the body.

The reusable Shewee is an essential item for every active woman including those who travel, run, hike, cycle, sail, mountain climb and much more. And the user isn't just the active woman or women with a disability; the reusable product is set to become an essential item for every family. Shewee is great for mums to have in a handbag or glove box! On a family day out, with Shewee it is now just as easy for girls as it is for little boys to disappear into the bushes, no more squatting, wet feet or bare bottoms! Shewee is also useful for helping mums and daughters to avoid contact with unhygienic public toilet seats – both can now stand, keeping their distance from the germs.

*Shewee is designed at just under 17cm long, it is lightweight enough to be carried in a woman's handbag or pocket and can be easily washed or sterilised. It is made with a smooth liquid repellent coating to ensure cleanliness and hygiene at all times.*

Shewee is sold at [www.shewee.co.za](http://www.shewee.co.za) at a price of R99,00 excluding postage. For more information visit the web-site or call 011 608 4760.

Testimonials/Positive Feedback:

Martie Maartens from Farramere –

"Just arrived back from the Kruger National Park. I used Shewee when we went on game drives and it was really a pleasure not to get my feet wet!!! I would recommend Shewee to all my friends that travel and enjoy the outdoors."

Martha from Kempton Park

"My husband and I travel extensively to Botswana and Namibia and I used Shewee which I found very convenient and comfortable."

### **INTERESTING FACTS BY NAVIGATORS FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE ADVENTURES**

#### **Warthog (family: Suidae)**

These pig-like animals range widely within Central and Southern Africa, and are usually found in savannah and lightly wooded regions where they feed on grasses, roots, berries, bark, and sometimes carrion. They are beneficial to the land by churning up the soil and allowing it to be aerated, thus aiding plant growth.

Weighing anywhere from 50 – 150kg, with a shoulder height of between 63 – 85cm, warthogs are usually black or brown in colour, with coarse but sparse hair covering their body. Their face is long with fleshy warts and protruding tusks – boars have more prominent warts than sows, and these are primarily used to protect the face during fights. Although they look fierce, warthogs would rather run than fight, but they can be fierce opponents if forced into a confrontation.

Warthogs reach sexual maturity at around 18 – 20 months, with a gestation period of around 170 – 175 days. Warthogs live for up to 18 years. They travel in groups called 'sounders', consisting of one or two sows and young offspring. Males usually travel alone.

Warthogs use burrows for shelter and often enter these by backing into them. This allows them to defend themselves, if required. They often burst out of their burrows at top speed in the mornings, to get a running start on any predators that may be in the vicinity...!

Warthogs allow birds, such as the yellow-billed hornbills, to eat parasites that live on their bodies. This symbiotic relationship provides the birds with a constant source of food, and allows the hogs to rid themselves of unwanted pests.

### **SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**

Newsletter reader Nic Nel offers:

Hi Alan, me again. Spoke to my friends and we definitely want to do a longish trip, even braving the heat of the Richtersveld, so would either invite others to join us or be invited to join them on the period 15<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> or so, if they have room for us on their trip.

Contact: Nic Nel

Cell: 0846082026 Tel: 0116082026 Fax: 0866711349

Nelton Farm, 68 1st Road Linbro Park 2065

Private Bag X02, Kelvin 2054

### **4X4 HANDLING IN WATER**

#### **Rivers**

A river can be dangerous to cross. When you come to a river that you want to cross, carefully evaluate the situation. If it is shallow and has no strong current - you can be pretty sure you can cross it on almost any 4x4 - just go slowly with the 4x4 low range engaged. A little bit downstream is usually the best method if possible. If you see another truck crossing - watch how he handles the situation and try to imagine how your 4x4 will take the same depth of water and strength of current. Always be prepared to back away and try again later when there may be less water or when you are better equipped. If you are alone - nobody to help you out - take extra care. Best is to wade the river on foot - if you can't stand on you feet your truck won't be able to handle it either.

## **Snow**

Snow is a beautiful and magical substance. Naturally it is made of frozen water but takes up a lot more space. It takes 8 parts of fresh snow to weigh the same as about 1 part of water. Time, wind and rain make the snow denser.

Even the same snow covered land can change over a single day. In the beginning it is soft. Frozen snow gets a hard surface. Pressured snow gets slippery. Wet snow or slush makes it behave like mud. Sometimes a thin hard layer on the surface hides thick layers of powdery snow.

Due to its nature snow can hide rocks or ice or other damaging objects.

Snow is one of the most difficult terrains to get through on a 4x4. Thin layer of soft snow is easy to get through just by engaging your four wheel drive. As the depth increases and other factors come into play it gets increasingly more challenging. Airing down to 1-2 psi is sometimes just not enough. Slow speed and large tires that allow the extremely low pressure is a necessity. Knowledge of the underlying landscape and its inherent dangers can make or break the day. Lockers, winches and the old shovel along with a high-lift jack can help you get unstuck.

Water is not your 4x4s best friend. It can get into various parts of your vehicle and cause problems. Things like the ignition, intake, fan belt, exhaust, vents and brakes. Water can shut down the engine. Getting water in a diesel engine will KILL it! Water in the axles brings with it sand and other small particles and you need to get it out at least when you get back.

*Thrandur Arnthorsson is a 4 wheeling enthusiast and the webmaster of 4x4OffRoads.com.*

## **TIPS FROM MOZAMBIQUE RE HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

***Traveling with kids: Ensure both you and your children enjoy:***

Ensure that taking your kids does not prevent you from having a good time when on vacation and learn how to occupy them while having fun yourself. Here, find the three most important ways how to do this and still have a joyful vacation.

Parents with children often postpone vacations with their kids or at least plan vacations at hotel resorts that offer various activities such as water sports, clowns, billiard tables, tennis and soccer grounds and many more such as basketball courts and swimming pools. But this is not the most appropriate way to go about things when you have children. In fact, it is harmful. A child needs a vacation just like an adult but you need to use that time to bond with your children on different levels than you would when at home.

In order to help young parents enjoy exclusive vacations with their children but in a way that will also improve their own relationship, I have detailed a few of the most important things that a parent should look out for when planning a vacation. Here are the three most important things a parent should do when they go for a vacation with their kids:

1) Travelling is not just a time where you reenergize yourself, but you must try and re-energize your relationship with your children. Find out what they like and then go with them and take an active part in their activities while making sure not to cross the parent-child boundaries that you have already set. Some things you could do is swimming or playing fetch in the pool using a rubber ball. You could also take them to a billiard table or tennis court and teach them how to play. In any case, prefer the physical sports over the computer ones.

2) Take along a few board games and set up a time to play them outside either by the pool, by the seashore or on the grass. The best time for such a thing is in the early evening at around six or seven. This is usually the time when the activities are about to take a break and people will be going to get ready for dinner which is usually served at around eight. In any case, arrange it so

that you have at least an hour of playing time and then stop when you finish the allocated period. Do this and your children will wish you did not stop and will not get tired.

3) Do not head for the dining room immediately but rather go when it is about a half-and hour before the end of the meal. The children will have less time to fool around and most of the tables will be empty thus saving you any embarrassment even if they do make a mess.

At all times, please remember that you are on vacation so lax the rules a tiny bit but not too much. Once your children realize that all the behavioural rules still apply, they will act accordingly and will not start misbehaving. But never make a scene when their friends are around. Instead. Wait till they return to their room and then explain why their actions were harmful and why you will not accept such behaviour. If they refuse to listen, discipline them. Remember that a vacation is just a short time, but your kids are forever.

#### **Family Travel: Grandparent-Grandchild:**

The idea of grandparents traveling with grandchildren ("grand--travel") is a lovely thought. The grandparent(s) get to enjoy the little darlings, perhaps in a way not possible in the hectic days when they were raising their own children. The grandkids experience a special vacation that hopefully they'll remember all their lives. And the parents get a breather, and time for themselves. And another bonus: the intergenerational travelers might get to combine senior's discounts with children's fares

#### **CAMP AT KZN's DAMS**

SUMMER! The sun is shining-the whole province is green-four magnificent dams beckon-its time to get out on the water. Whether its traditional sailing or the thrill of power boating, high tech board or kite sailing, there is a great place for you to get wet and get an adrenaline rush! These wonderful bodies of water are spread through the western side of the province from Midmar near Pietermaritzburg in the south, Wagendrift near Estcourt, Spioenkop near Ladysmith and Chelmsford near Newcastle in the north.

They are set in stunning natural landscapes with a wealth of bird and animal life, excellent facilities and really safe surroundings for you and your family. Each dam is divided into user zones so the impact of loud speeding jet skis does not interfere with sailing boats or other water users. Movement through the zones is via a corridor where speed is regulated.

#### **MIDMAR**

Midmar chalets are comfortable and well equipped and have DSTV as well. The rustic cabins are very affordable and comfortable for the budget-conscious.

The two campsites stretch along the water`s edge and there are ample ablution facilities. Positioned at the start of the Midlands Meander, Midmar offers a whole plethora of additional activities so that a holiday there is absolutely fun filled.

#### **WAGENDRIFT**

Catching the mighty Bushmans River before it passes through the town of Estcourt to meet up with the Thukela River, Wagendrift, as the name implies, is the site of the river crossing of the old transport rider`s wagon road to the gold fields of the Witwatersrand. Makhabeni, the hill that towers over the western end of the dam, is one of the oldest iron age sites in KwaZulu-Natal dating back to AD 1300. On the southern side of the dam are large fossil beds, with many fossilised trees lying exposed on the surface of the ground.

Accommodation consists of a well equipped campsite, a four bedded cottage and an education centre that can accommodate large groups of up to 80 people.

#### **SPIOENKOP**

Spioenkop is in the heart of 'Battlefield' country and is the site of one of Britain`s worst defeats in the Anglo-Boer war. Set on the Thukela River in 'valley bushveld' it has a wealth of wildlife and beautiful scenery. In winter you can stand in tropical thornveld and with rhino mand giraffe in the

foreground, look across the waters of the dam onto the snow covered Drakensberg Mountains. Accommodation is in a comfortable campsite on the waters edge. For those that do not want to camp there is the four bedded iPhika bushcamp set below Spioenkop Mountain or 3 six bedded chalets.

#### CHELMSFORD

Situated on the Ngagane River, Chelmsford is one of the biggest dams in KwaZulu-Natal. Its large flat expanse of water is ideal for all water sports and is a favourite venue for water skiing. Set in 'southern tall grassveld' country with typical flat crown paper bark acacias scattered through the landscape, there are large herds of springbok, blesbok and red hartebeeste as well as one of the most viable population of Oribi in the Province.

Chelmsford Camp has eight fully equipped five-bed chalets set close to the water's edge, with magnificent views across the water. It also boasts two fully electrified campsites, Leokop with 10 sites and Sandford with 21 sites, which are placed with views of the dam and the waterfront.

#### **SKIBOAT FISHING COMPETITION – MOZAMBIQUE**

Paindane fishing ski species bonanza - 14 – 20 may 2007

*Cost per person: chalets*

##### 7 night package- **competitors**

Accommodation	R880.00
Brunch/dinner each day (r130.00)	R900.00
Prize giving dinner seafood buffet	R150.00
Chalet levy	R50.00
Competitors entrance fee	R370.00
T shirt; fishing licence; launching fees; Stealth organising commission	
<i>Total: R2350.00</i>	

##### 7 night package **non-competitors**

Accommodation	R020.00
Brunch/dinner each day (r150.00)	R1050.00
Prize giving dinner seafood buffet	R150.00
Chalet levy	R50.00
<i>Total: R2270.00</i>	

##### 4 night package **competitors**

Accommodation	R580.00
Brunch/dinner each day (r130.00)	R520.00
Prize giving dinner seafood buffet	R150.00
Chalet levy	R50.00
Competitors entrance fee	R370.00
<i>Total: R1670.00</i>	

##### 4 night package non-competitors

Accommodation	R660.00
Brunch/dinner each day (r150.00)	R600.00
Prize giving dinner seafood buffet	R150.00
Chalet levy	R50.00
<i>Total: R1460.00</i>	

#### Camping

Competitors	R45.00pp pd
Non-competitors	R50.00pp pd
Campsite levy	R50.00 once off

Casita (own ablution & kitchenette)	R230.00 Pd
Baracca (with prep bowl, plug point, work surface & light)	R125.00 Pd
Plug point for electrical freezer only	R 65.00 Pd
Prize Giving Dinner	R150.00

Extra nights available self-catering R120.00 per person per night

Due to the popularity of the competition, please note that participants and their families will have to share accommodation where necessary.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the safety of our clients, no responsibility can be accepted for any accident, illness, loss or damage to property or any other expenses incurred from your reservation at Paidane Beach Resort. We reserve the right to change our policy, terms and conditions and prices without written notice

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

- Giraffes breathe at only a third of the rate that humans do!
- An Elephant's ears on average each weighs an astonishing 20 kilograms!
- Hippos have a sweet tooth and are known to like sugarcane!
- The longest recorded Rhino horn was 158 centimeters!
- Lions usually spend about 16 to 20 hours a day sleeping and resting and the rest of the time hunting, courting or protecting!
- The elements oxygen and hydrogen make up about 96,5% of ocean water. The other 3,5% is dissolved elements such as chlorine, sodium and other salts!
- About 97% of all of the earth's water is saltwater!
- The temperature of most ocean water is about 4°C, which is just above freezing!

### **NEW CAMPSITE OPENS IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK**

The new Tsendze Rustic Campsite has been designed for those campers who wish to break away from the more modern campsites available in the KNP. Veteran Mooiplaas Section, Ranger Johann Oelofse, said "Like Maroela Campsite near Orpen Camp and Gate, Tsendze Rustic Campsite, like its name suggests, will offer campers their very own camp that they do not have to share with their brick and mortar-orientated fellow visitors." The facility is conveniently located seven kilometres south of Mopani Rest Camp and about 20 kilometres north of the Giryondo/Makhadzi turn off on the H1-6 main road between Letaba and Mopani rest camps.

The Tsendze Rustic Campsite, designed with a back-to-basics theme, includes 34 camp sites, two ablution facilities and two camp kitchens. Keeping with the theme of a rustic campsite, services provided have been kept to the basics with warm water from gas geysers and lighting in the kitchens and ablutions provided by a solar battery system. There will be no electricity supplied to the campers at the camp and generators will not be allowed to operate, thus ensuring that noise levels are kept to an absolute minimum. Each campsite is equipped with a refuse bin and braai facilities with taps shared between every three campsites. Ablution blocks feature two unique "open-to-the-skies" showers.

Tsendze Rustic Campsite is scheduled to receive its first guests from November 1, 2006 onwards. Bookings can be made by calling +2712 428 9111 or via the SANParks [website](#).

### **ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE 'UNTRUE' INTERNET SPOOFS?????**

**PIN NUMBER REVERSAL (GOOD TO KNOW)**

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your Pin # in reverse. For example if your pin number is 1234 then you would put in 4321. The ATM recognizes that your pin number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine.

The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to help you. This information was recently broadcasted on TV and it states that it is seldom used because people don't know it exists.

Please pass this along to everyone possible.

***(Untested by us. But let us know if it is true or not!!! Ed)***

### **RICHTERSVELD AFTER THE RAINS.**

It was rather chilly leaving home at 05:30 to meet up with the rest of the group at the N7 Engen station, but then again it was the Easter weekend and we all know how without fail the winter weather patterns seem to set in over Easter.

Bruce our tour leader welcomed us on arrival and all drivers then set about the usual refuelling and oil, water and tyre checks that pre-empt a 600km journey. Thereafter we were introduced to our companions for trip and briefed on the days' activities. Bruce (with pals Hugo and Andre) in a 100 series Cruiser, Mark Stevens (and his three boys) in a Sani double cab, Nazier Hassan (2 sons and a daughter) in a Disco, Vernon Houston (and daughter) also in a Disco and yours truly Philip Scott (with my two sons) in a VW Syncro made up the group. Roger French, his wife and their two young children were originally part of the group, but left us at van Rhynsdorp when it became obvious to them that the youngsters weren't going to cope with all the travelling. A pity to lose them, but with the benefit of hindsight, a wise decision based on the condition of the roads we were to come across.

Having overcome a leak from one of the vehicle's long range fuel tanks, we hit the road a bit later than planned, and set off for the breakfast stop at van Rhynsdorp, some two and a half hours away. The pace was set at a conservative 115kph, more as a fuel conserving measure than anything else, and we were able to witness a dramatic and beautiful sunrise just as we started to ascend the Piekeniers Pass. Although one of the vehicles suffered a burst tyre, which caused some damage to the left rear fender, the rest of the journey to van Rhynsdorp and then on to Springbok where we arrive at about 13h00 was, thankfully, uneventful. Constant updates via the 29 Meg radios kept us informed as to the status quo of all vehicles in our small convoy and entertained us during the long boring stretches.

Browsing through the artefacts at the Springbok Café is the perfect introduction to this strange region with its rich mining history, harsh landscape and interesting flora. The minerals on display are fantastic in their nature and diversity and this really sets the scene for the rest of the trip. (And their milkshakes are the best in the world!) After lunch and having replaced the burst tyre at the local Tren Tyre, who especially opened for us to attend to our Good Friday emergency, we left Springbok at about 14h30 and headed for Port Nolloth on the west coast.

The road from Port Nolloth to Alexander Bay, which was once restricted due to government paranoia, lead us into this small town, where diamond mining activities are to be seen all around and as far as the eye can see. We were even able to drive down onto the beach and view the mouth of the Orange River, which was an unexpected bonus attraction. A small flock of Flamingos foraging in the shallows of the lagoon provided an excellent photo opportunity on the way back into town.

By this stage the sun was on its way down, further chilling the icy onshore breeze and we hurriedly left Alexander Bay for our first campsite on the Orange, some 30kms inland from the sea. Major flooding had washed away all the usual campsites, and our choice of overnight spot was further limited due to the high river level, but after some bush clearing and tight manoeuvring, we were able to get everyone a reasonably level site for the night. The most amazing sunset ended the day and the evening was spent being entertained around the braai fire as new friends got to know each other better. Being rather tired after the many hours of driving that day, we all turned in relatively early.

Day two started with a swim and a wash in the Orange. As it would be two days until we returned to the river, everyone made the most of enjoying themselves in the fast flowing waters. What a way to start the day! Having packed up camp we headed off to commence the real offroading. The track wound its way up river beds and over rocky terrain as he proceeded higher and higher into the mountains. Severe down pours had caused wash-aways on several sections of the track and the convoy often had to halt and pack rocks so as to get the vehicles through safely. And there were no moans from anyone; with work to be done we all chipped in and did our bit to help. This is probably as good a time as any to mention that the teenagers in this party were particularly helpful and their positive attitudes (which aren't always in evidence at home) made the conditions pleasant to work in and lead to us conquering some extreme offroad obstacles calmly, safely and with ease.

As we neared what would have been our lunch stop, we encountered a very bad section of track. Water erosion had caused dongas of half a meter deep along a particular steep stretch of the ascent. It is a fairly technical section as it is, without the drivers having to cope with the additional difficulties presented by the erosion. Many vehicles "fell out" of the tracks and had to be guided back over the "middle mannetjie". The spades were out and much road building was done. Having eventually guided all five vehicles through this section, we soon encountered an even worse section. It is a fairly technical section as it is, without the drivers having to cope with the additional difficulties presented by the erosion, which left large rocks unsupported by earth, as it had been washed away by the rain water. What was left, was high "rock steps" of loose rock, which we had to climb up and over. The convoy suffered many punctures through this section, with one vehicle alone getting three! Fortunately two of the three could be plugged, but the third hole was too large and the tyre had to be replaced by the spare, in possibly the worst imaginable situation. The vehicle was close to the side of the track and on quite a steep slope. Out came the high-lift jack and with a bit of huffing and puffing the pit crew did its job. This was one of three occasions when high-lift jacking was necessary and by the end of the trip, every vehicle had experienced at least one flat tyre. We certainly got to practise those skills so important to off-roaders.

Bruce's help and expertise ensured that no serious damage was done to any of the 4x4's and the only bruises were to egos! He later mentioned to us that earlier in the year he had successfully lead an 11 or 12 vehicle convoy through that section in 45 minutes, whereas we battled for four hours to get out five cars through, such was the degradation of the roadway. The result of these delays was that we eventually arrived at our lunch spot, at 18h00, so this was where we camped. The main, and in fact the only feature of the camp is a well for drawing water for animals drinking. It requires portly middle aged men to climb down 2 meters or so into its rocky confines, but once successfully negotiated, provides the weary traveller with the most refreshing bathing opportunity. After the day we'd had, it was a most welcome respite indeed despite the resident frogs' indignation.

The camp whose name presumably translates as "level plot" and is a misnomer of biblical proportions. Not only is it not level by any stretch of the surveyor's theodolite, but it is strewn with rocks and boulders making sleeping in a tent a most uncomfortable experience for those unfortunate to have neither a rooftop tent, nor a Syncro to sleep in!

Anyway, the day's experiences had bonded the group nicely together which made for another enjoyable, if more mellow, evening around the camp fire as we rested our tired muscles and fed our resolves for the day that lay ahead.

And then it started to rain. From about nine o'clock on the Saturday evening it rained constantly until nine o'clock on Monday morning. A typical Cape "hard drizzle", it came down non-stop, for 36 hours. The Richtersveld was certainly testing us.

We were fortunate in that there was a brief hour or so break in the rain just as we needed to pack up camp, which allowed most of the tents to dry out sufficiently.

Day three saw the group wend its way down to Eksteensfontein, after which we stopped briefly to view the Rooiberg Guesthouse, with its two traditional Nama huts, and then climbing up the hillside to photograph the 'Halfmens tree", which is quite a landmark to the area. Thereafter we meandered down the sandy riverbed, all the way down to the Gariep, where we were thrown our last challenges of the trip. The high level of the Orange River had caused the usual track to be underwater and a new road had to be chosen through the black rocks that line the banks. Without too much fuss or bother, we made it through and settled into our camp site at the old Peace of Paradise.

Because of the rain, we parked the vehicles close together and opened awnings and spanned tarpaulins together to provide a large enough area for us all to spend our last evening together under one roof and warm and dry. Sure it leaked like a sieve, but it turned out to be the most sociable evening of the trip and suitable rounded off a most pleasant long weekend.

The next morning we were once again provided with an hour or so window of no rain, in which to pack up camp. And so began the long trip home via Vioolsdrif and Springbok where we once again stopped for a burger and a milkshake. Others chose KFC and the Wimpy. The one Discovery had developed a severe propshaft vibration and upon closer inspection we realised that the rubber "donut" had been so badly damaged by the beating from the rocks, that it was only hanging on by a thread. It was decided to remove the shaft and for the vehicle to proceed back to Cape Town in front wheel drive only. Once that had been done, we hit the long road back for home and it was a very weary, yet thoroughly fulfilled group that gathered in the darkness by the side of the road just outside Malmesbury to bid each other farewell.

What an experience. This is certainly not a trip for those wanting a quiet weekend lounging next to the river, but I wouldn't have swapper it for anything. I marvel after each trip off-road at the levels of assistance and co-operation that exists amongst 4x4'ers. Whenever one of us needed help, the whole group was there to lend a hand.

Thank you to you all and especially to Bruce for making this a most enjoyable trip.

Philip, Derek and Andrew. – 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club Cape

### **WANNA DO SOMETHING WITH THE KIDS THIS HOLIDAY?**

#### **CALLING ALL 6 - 16 YEAR OLDS!! - BECOME A ZOO RANGER FOR A DAY...**

- \* Do you really enjoy animals?
- \* Have you always wondered what it would be like to be a Zoo Ranger?  
... then sign up for Lory Park Zoo's next Ranger Day workshop.

#### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED ON THE DAY:**

##### **The Younger Crowd**

- \* Animal enrichment (toys for birds)
- \* Assisting with basic feeding and cleaning
- \* Guided tour of zoo: identifying animals
- \* Colouring in ... with the REAL animals as models

##### **The Older Crowd**

- \* Animal identification, feeding, body structure, habitat & status
- \* Routine feeding, enclosure cleaning & cage enrichment

**\*R100 per child per day** (one day course)

**\* Includes lunch** (hot dog, chips, cold drink and ice cream)

\* Tuck shop will be open for snacks etc.  
\* Your booking must be confirmed and an indemnity form must be faxed to Lory Park Zoo before the deadline given for each Ranger Day.

\* PLEASE NOTE NO CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND WITHOUT PRE-BOOKING RECEIVED

\* **Payment must be brought in on the day ONLY!**

**For more information call:**

**(011) 315-7307**

**083-679 0584 - Eddy OR 082-960 6415 – Matty**

### **BRIDGESTONE TARGETS PERFORMANCE 4X4'S**

Bridgestone SA has launched its first 4x4 tyre developed using the company's Formula 1 technology and called it the Dueler H/P Sport.

The rubber is essentially for high-performance 4x4's such as BMW's X5, Mercedes-Benz M-Class, Range Rover, Land Rover Freelander, Porsche Cayenne, VW Touareg, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Audi Q7, Volvo XC90, Lexus RX330 and Nissan Murano.

Bridgestone SA's vice-president of sales and marketing, Johnny Kuroki, said: "Many luxury 4x4's are driven predominantly on tar and that's why we've extended our Dueler range to ensure we cater for them.

"The H/T Sport meets the performance standards of these premium vehicles with exceptional on-road wet and dry handling, precise steering and maximum comfort."

The tyre has a tread pattern based on Bridgestone's premium high-performance tyre, the Potenza RE050, and combines the pattern advantages of Bridgestone's Formula 1 Potenza dry/wet tyres.

The Dueler H/P Sport is available in 16 sizes, from 35 to 65 series and in 16 to 20" rim sizes.

### **WE DRIVE: LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4**

November 27, 2006

By Michael Booth

**Would suit:** Keen walkers.

**SA price:** R279 000 - R319 500.

**Performance:** 180km/h, 0-100km/h in 10.3sec.

**Combined fuel consumption:** 7.5 litres/100km.

Computer says "No" or, at least, the automotive equivalent: "Transmission fault". How many Land Rover owners have sat and stared in impotent fury at that message, I wonder?

The man from Land Rover Assistance arrives quickly but spends a fretful hour trying to get his computer to talk to the new Land Rover Freelander TD4 that is sitting, bonnet up like a dozing crocodile, in a service station on the M20

He is still there when my alternative ride arrives and, guiltily, I leave. "Sorry about that," the man from the Land Rover media office phones to tell me later that day. "It's a software problem we've had with pre-production cars. It's sorted now."

Well, that may be true, but they sent me a replacement and its electronic key fell apart in my hand as I tried to remove it from the slot in the dash (the Freelander has one of those pesky starter button set-ups).

By this stage, personally, I wouldn't want a new Freelander if it came wrapped in a ribbon with a year's supply of fuel and a Sugababe in the boot.

There are some people who probably think I shouldn't be telling you all this. "This is the kind of unpatriotic rot that did for Rover!" they will harrumph to the passing ward sister, forgetting that company's woeful and greedy mismanagement, zero investment and outdated models.

"Land Rover is a great British success story. Newspapers ought to be supporting it! Where am I?" and so on.

Well, yes, Land Rover has been a success story in terms of sales over the last decade but that success has come despite raging reliability problems.

The original Freelander did an excellent job of tapping in to the modern motorist's vanities and fears by offering the ride height and aristocratic estate-romping abilities of that poshies' favourite the Range Rover at half the price.

Unfortunately, the price-cutting was obvious to anybody with a radar for shoddy materials and ham-handed construction, and became painfully evident to those who bought them and endured the recalls and breakdowns.

Though the price of the new car has increased, price-cutting is still very much a part of Freelander DNA. So, we've had the breakdown and the dodgy key: let's look at the rest of the interior...

That wood trim has got to go for starters. It's the most fake-looking wood to grace an automobile since the side panels they used to fit to Cortina estates.

If, as I suspect, the price rise was intended to pitch the Freelander against the BMW X3, well, the men in Munich must be laughing.

The X3 is better designed, better built and more spacious.

### **What's the point?**

Shall we drive it? What's the point? We know it will accelerate like a walrus and roll like a Weeble through bends, and it does, but I hadn't expected the steering to be so bad. I never thought a car's steering could be over-responsive but this one's is and it exacerbates the Freelander's lack of poise.

I'm sure it's wonderful off-road, but who cares?

The last time I drove a car off-road it was because I was in the Gobi Desert and had no choice. Why would anyone actively seek to drive a car off-road for fun? I can't think of anything more tedious than slowly crawling across a rocky field or ploughing up the heather on a hill in Scotland.

Why don't you just go for a nice walk?

Then again, I suppose if you buy a Freelander that is most probably what you will end up doing. -  
The Independent, London

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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...

### **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:**

#### **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**  
CK 1996 / 015766 / 23  
PO Box 3357, Makhado, 0920, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)  
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+27 - (0)82 - 829 - 5421 Jacqui mobile  
+27 - (0)82 - 772 - 6682 Dave mobile  
+27 - (0)82 - 542 - 8492 Nico mobile  
+27 - (0)15 - 516 5717 Telephone number  
+27 - (0)15 - 516 4819 Facsimile number

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**FROM THE TRACKS - READER FEEDBACK:**

**LION WEEKEND FOR PUBLIC**

*Alan,*

*Van my en Natalie ook 'n groot dankie vir 'n baie lekker interresante naweek. Dit sit maar swaar in die hart om sulke mooi diere agter draad te sien, maar dit help darm as mens eers vir Gerhard en Carina ontmoet het en sien hoe goed hulle na elke dier omsien. Dit was 'n besondere ervaring om so naby die leëus te kon kom en aan hulle te kon vat. Mens sien hulle net gewoonlik daar doer in die veld of hoor hulle net iewers vêr in die nag. Nou weet jy darm hoe hulle van naby lyk en voel, sonder om 'n hand te verloor.*

*Vir Alex en Alta ook 'n besondere dankie vir hulle gasvryheid; en soos altyd, die smaaklikke etes!*

*Morné & Natalie vd Westhuizen*

Hi Alan

Just wanted to say thank you for a most memorable week-end. Good grub, good company, nice venue. Great stuff. Could I ask you to please send me a club application form. Herewith please find attached photos of the week-end.

Kind Regards

Glen & Linda Macquet

*Hi Alan,*

*Ann and i had a great time, it was great to get out and meet different people. We will be going back with our friends and family, as for the food, well lets just say we are sorry to have missed todays brunch*

*Greg Koch*

**LAST 4x4 & OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS MEETING**

What a ripper. In excess of 220 people. All the raffle tickets sold out. Great meal and drinks from the sponsors, Kempton Caravan. One of the bigger venues available, with a shop full of great goodies in over 100m2 floor space.

Thanks to all of you for the great support. Thanks to all the speakers who made it a great event. We will be back in 2007 with more on offer.

Hi Alan,

THANK YOU for the opportunity! I want to congratulate you with the smooth running of the event!

Thanx for the exposure. Regards,

Carla - Enviruback Infection Control CC

*Morning Alan,*

*I found the meeting an absolute pleasure. Thanks very much for the opportunity. The interest level was rather surprising. More for the larger diesel generators than the little petrol ones which are suited for camping.*

*Regards,  
Graeme*

Hello Alan

I hop this mail finds you doing well. - Thank you for the opportunity to present Flexopower and products to this great audience! Will stay in touch with you and let you know once new products are available that may be of interest to your club members.

Best wishes

Werner Fischer

Flexopower (Pty) Ltd

*We congratulate you on organising the fine evening, and wish you well in 200. May we also thank you for inviting us to the function Alan.*

*Warmest regards*

*Mike Jackson*

Alan

Thanks again for the very informative meeting held last night. I really enjoyed it. Pity I did not win the tyres – again!

Regards

Stefan Kruger

Dear Alan

Thank you for helping me out last night! If the Getaway show had a response as good as your meeting, it would have been profitable! Very nice people, thank you very much.

Kind regards

Linda Bently

#### **NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK**

Hi Alan!

Thank you for all the wonderful bush news/stories/facts/ know hows and friendship. I thoroughly enjoy the contact via e-mail.

Enjoy a restive Xmas season.

Mariana Maree

*Hi Alan,*

*Thanks for all newsletters, friendly helps and ideas throughout the year from your club. Best for 2007 and enjoy your festive season with the family.*

*4x4 Groette uit die Wesrand*

*Solly Grace*

Many thanks – yes the newsletter is great.

Thanks

Peter Levey

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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:**

#### **How To DVD - Dune Driving DVD.**

The "**Workshop**" is now available and is the third in my series of workshop DVDs. The workshop is a 4x4 Offroad Adventure club event and gets presented by the leading sand driving expert that has revolutionised dune driving to what it has become today in Cape Town, Johann Viljoen (aka Johann Tyres) of 1st Allignment Centre. Greg van der Reis and Russell de Wet are the other guides that completes the trio of instructors. More experience in three people you will not get under one roof...

The DVD is a 40 minute presentation of practical dune driving techniques and was shot on location in the heart of Atlantis Dunes.

Some of the topics covered are:

- Tyre Deflation
- Stopping in sand
- Approaching a dune
- Cresting a dune
- The slingshot
- Sand crawling
- Tyre repairs
- Airjacks
- Recovery gear
- Safety
- Using a spotter

. . .and it all gets rounded off by some practical. For the more adventurous drivers there is a short section on advanced driving techniques.

To own your own copy email me at [morne.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:morne.stevens@gmail.com)

The cost to own your own copy is R120. Postage is R15 (snail mail with tracking number) or R50 for an overnight bag.

You can now also make use of opportunity to own the whole series of workshop DVDs for only R330 (Save R60). These are the

- Dune Driving Workshop
- Tyre Repair Workshop
- Toyota Land Cruiser Bush Mechanic Workshop

Other DVD's for sale

### **Workshops**

Land Cruiser Bush Mechanic Workshop = R150  
Tyre Repair Workshop = R120

### **Movies**

The Cruiser and the Hex = R70  
Mapping Buffelspoort = R70

Orders can be placed with myself.

Cell 082 410 2656

[mstevens@metropolitan.co.za](mailto:mstevens@metropolitan.co.za)

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### **ADVERTORIAL: (January 2007)**

### **TOURS FOR 2007/2008 – PRESENTED BY [WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM](http://WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM)**

Reference is made to the abovementioned and your planning for 2007/ 2008. In this regard, please find herewith further details regarding the tours for Africa proudly presented by [WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM](http://WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM) and the [SERENGETI TEAM - ALEX AND ALTA](#)

#### **2007**

1. Lion Weekend: 26-28 Jan 2007: Coliny – 10 vehicles
2. Lesotho Tour: 16-25 Feb 2007: Start in Clarens – 10 vehicles
3. Pilansberg Weekend: 2-4 Mar 2007: Bakgaltla – 10 vehicles
4. Namibia Tour: 16-25 Mar 2007: North Namibia – 6 vehicles
5. Kalahari Tour: 31/3 – 9 Apr 2007: Easter / Botswana – 10 vehicles - Full
6. Lesotho Long Weekend: 27/4 – 1 May 2007: Start in Clarens – 10 vehicles
7. Serengeti Tour: 6 May – 6 June 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles -Full
8. Serengeti Tour: 24 Jun – 25 Jul 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles Full
9. Lesotho Long Weekend: 9 – 12 Aug 2007: Lesotho – 10 vehicles
10. Bird view Tour: 25 Aug – 1 Sep 2007: Okovango Delta – 10 vehicles
11. Kalahari Tour: 22 – 29 Sep 2007: Botswana – 10 vehicles
12. Mozambique Tour: 17 – 26 Nov 2007: Inhambane – 5 vehicles
13. Namibia Tour: 14 – 31 Dec 2007: From North to South– 10 vehicles

#### **2008**

14. Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 4 May – 4 June 2008: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles
15. Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 1 July – 31 August 2008: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles (60Days)
16. Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 7 Dec – 7 Jan 2009: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles

Just a quick preview of what you can expect for 2007/2008. You just can't beat our flexible and affordable tours, all with catering included. Please come and visit our walk-in Eco Shop in Silverton on the c/o De Boulevard & President streets from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2007

Kind regards

Alex & Alta

0825706010 or [alex@eco4x4africa.com](mailto:alex@eco4x4africa.com)

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

None

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## **COURSES FOR 2007:**

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.

## **2007 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Watch this space**

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

### **DOORNRIVIER 4x4**

Hi Alan

Thanx for a WONDERFUL weekend. Its just what Nina and I needed. We were very stressed during that last week, and the two days just helped us unwind.

Regards

Mike and Nina Collinge

### **FINAL MEETING OF 2006**

We had a very successful public weekend, which as resulted in a few new members joining the club. A very good DVD was made of the weekend by one of the members. Friday night everybody arrived, braaied and then the storm hit us. Everybody huddled under the lapa and generally got to know one another.

Saturday morning after a brief introduction and talk by the owner, the guests were introduced to the lions and the cubs. It was an awesome experience by all. Sunday a delicious potjie was served by Alex before everybody left for home.

There will be more of these weekends next year, open to all. The first one is already set (see newsletter) and bookings can be made. Read what some of the guests had to say:

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

Hi All

The vehicle is an 1983 Nissan Safari and it was the RSA 84 champion. Now it's a fun only vehicle as there are millions needed to be competitive. It has the standard capacity motor, 2.8 L but with hotted motor (cams) with triple weber side carbs. The gas tank has been moved behind the cockpit as well and is huge.

The engine has been moved back 6 inches to get better balance but the gearbox and 4x4 transfer case are still in place. The vehicle has been standing for about 4 years but was serviced just before being parked. The bodywork is all fiber glass and there are a few spare body panels and parts (rebuild-able shocks, points,etc).

The trailer is not included unless you are willing to add about R15 000 to the price!

The price is still negotiable. I am trying to judge interest and get a fair value for her so REASONABLE offers are considered.

Regards,

Graeme - GraemeC@Nedbank.co.za

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

### **You Work for a South African IT Company If...**

- In the last 4 years, you have reported to at least 5 different people.
- You have not changed jobs for 4 years and worked for four different companies.
- In the last 4 years, your company has had 3 different addresses
- In your foyer, your company name is attached with Velcro.
- Your resume is on a diskette in your pocket.
- You get regular e-mails with the latest company logo.
- You order your business cards with fill-in boxes for Company Name and Title.
- One week's supply of pre-printed stationary is ordered at a time.
- Your company regularly donates dated unused stationary to the Salvation Army.
- Your company owns a race-horse or racing car.
- Your company owns at least one sports club.
- When someone asks about what you do for a living, you lie.
- You get really excited about a 2% pay raise.
- You learn about your companies dealings on IT-Web.
- Your biggest loss from a system crash is that you lose your best jokes.
- You sit in a cubicle smaller than your bedroom closet.
- Salaries of the members on the Executive Board are higher than all the GDP of most Third World countries.
- You think lunch is just a meeting to which you drive.
- It's dark when you drive to and from work.
- Fun is when issues are assigned to someone else.
- Communication is something your group is having problems with.
- You see a good looking person and know they're lost / a visitor.
- As a rule, all people who work there has older cars than those who don't.
- Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.
- Weekends are those days wear jeans to work.
- Art involves a white board.
- You're already late on the assignment you just got.
- You think that Dilbert works in your company.
- Profit share is the only time when division by 0 is legal.
- Executives say " Ask not what your company can do for you, but what you can do for your company

### **WATCH WHAT YOU EAT!**

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
4. The Italians drink large amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.

6. Ukrainians drink a lot of vodka, eat a lot of perogies, cabbage rolls and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you. Nou praat ek net Afrikaans...

### **KULULA CHIRPS**

Kulula is an Airline with head office situated in Johannesburg. Kulula airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

On a Kulula flight, (there is no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"

On another flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane."

"Thank you for flying Kulula. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Durban Airport, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in the Karoo, a flight attendant on a flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

From a Kulula employee: "Welcome aboard Kulula 245. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Kulula Airlines."

"Your seats cushions can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

"As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Kulula Airlines is pleased to announce that we have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

Heard on Kulula 255 just after a very hard landing in Cape Town, the flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump and I know what you all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

Overheard on a Kulula flight into Cape Town on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain really had to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to The Mother City. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline. He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment.

Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?"

"Why, no Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?"

The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

After a real crusher of a landing in Johannesburg , the attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Captain Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we will open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of Kulula Airways."

Heard on a Kulula flight. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing. If you can light 'em, you can smoke 'em."

A plane was taking off from Durban Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number 293, non-stop from Durban to Cape Town, The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax... OH, F\*&^% !" Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"

A passenger then yelled, "That's nothing. You should see the back of mine!"

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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](mailto: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/Img Upload Departments/3674\\_441636.gif](http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/Img 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 high way (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

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