



Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there enthusiasts,

One cannot believe that 2010 arrived so quickly. There we were sitting in the rain at our Camp Site in Knysna, close to the heads. The meal & outing to town was great, but the time was not right. So, we crashed, and nearly slept through it. 2009 was a hard year, and the start to 2010 has definitely not gone a lot better. But hey, its here, and we have to deal with it. The holidays were great indeed.

We were again privileged to drive the Knysna Forest 4x4 Route with Bhejane 4x4 from the area, as well as head off to Die Hell in the Swartberg. Awesome, we will be back. Based on all the drama about operating licences (Botswana i-Licence at US\$2000!!), compulsory country guides to be employed on our trips, temp work permits in Namibia and increased accommodation and campsite prices across the border due to outsourcing of camp sites, You would swear they don't want our business no more. If you are not up to date with the latest developments, start reading and calling the authorities in Botswana and Namibia! Maybe it is tiem we venture into Zim now, with serious projects and participation to get the tourism industry booming again in their beautiful country.

I have vowed to my members that 2011 will be the Year of SA. We will do our long hauls locally. We will explore the Western Cape, the Northern Cape, the Wild Coast, the hills of KZN, the eastern / southern Cape Area and such likes. We have so much on offer here, so lets go and get it.

Unfortunately our plans for our 2011 Kilimanjaro excursion has fallen flat due to a few valid reasons, so instead, we have started to plan our 2013 month long excursion to the Serengeti and surrounds. This time, we will go in a different season, we will take longer to get there, we will chill and experience it for longer, and catch some sights on the way. Once again we will take a good leader with us to get us through the obstructive parts. The clan is keen indeed.

Coming back home, I did something unusual. I had collected some books along the way during the holidays, viz. The Elephant Whisperer, The Secret Elephants and a book on Die Hel. Man, have I been engrossed between these pages. I was greatly gripped by The Elephant Whisperer. I read it in 4 days flat (at night that is....have to work you know!).

Our year program has been launched and the club will be very active against this year. We have some new service offerings from our advertisers in the newsletter this year, and they have great deals available – make sure you inspect their great selection indeed.



We are blessed to start the year with 5 long hauls already fully booked for the year, and I am no doubt convinced that as soon as our mid-year Botsana trip is launched, it will be booked up instantly.

We are going to have to get used to this 2010 football thing as the time creeps closer. Man, can I hear those vuvu's blasting in my ears. But we as South Africans must be proud of the fact that we have such a worldly recognised event in our beautiful country. I will attend a game, as the 'been there, did that' list must be ticked off. It's not all that bad hey!

We launched our Serengeti DVD of our 2009 trip on Saturday to our members. Man did it bring a lump in the old throat. Its just such a blessing to be able to travel Africa indeed. We often assist people realise these dreams with advise, facts, equipment and such more.

Locally, we still await action on the DCC training, and about 4-6 vendors have tabled their registration application. The area is alive and well, as those who come first think that they will dominate etc. Don't be caught by any of this hype. There is one standard, there will be plenty of providers one day and the pricing will be stabilised. Assessors are being trained and the whole bang shoot will come together once the dust settles.

Due to the trainer at Masazane taking a very long African overland tour this year, there will most probably only be 2 4x4 & Overland Guides courses this year, now in February and March. So if this is one qualification you still wanna get, then you better book now. See details within.

Finally, it is my wish to all of you that you have an enjoyable 201 in the outdoors, whether you camp, 4x4, overland, train or simply lodge. Get out there. Don't be taken for a ride. Set your standards and enjoy bthe outdoor environment, responsibly. Mother Earth needs all the help she can get.

I look forward to seeing many of you out there again this year.

Yours in 4x4ing.

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)
Editor (voluntary!)



A banner advertisement for Pioneer Plastics. The top part features the company name 'PIONEER PLASTICS' in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below this, the slogan 'Anything's Possible' is written in a blue script font. Underneath the slogan, it says 'WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner, the website 'www.pioneerplastics.co.za' and the phone number 'Tel: 012 541 6000' are listed. The background of the banner is yellow and features several images of various plastic mouldings and containers, including a red one, a blue one, and a white one.

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Calendar of Interesting Events

Herewith find events, as collected in the market place. By no means are any of these events necessarily linked to / supported by / associated with 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, and they are being placed here as public service only. Errors and omissions reserved.

Date	Event	Venue
19 – 21 February 2010	Beeld Outdoor Show	Gallagher Estate, Midrand
26 – 28 March 2010	Aim Shooter Show	TBA
30 April – 2 May 2010	Wild Expo	Tshwane Events Centre
28 – 30 May 2010	Outdoor Adventure and Travel Expo	Coca Cola Dome
10 – 12 September 2010	Getaway Show	Coca Cola Dome

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Calendar of Training Events

Herewith find training opportunities with the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, and its professional associates, offered to the public. Courses only run if sufficient numbers subscribe. Errors and omissions reserved.

Date	Event	Venue
10-14 February 2010 (Only courses in 2010!!!!!!)	Masazane 4x4 & Overland Guide Training Course	Louis Trichardt
27 – 28 February 2010	Level 1 First Aid Course	Centurion
13 – 14 March 2010	GPS & GPS Software Course	Centurion
24-28 March 2010 (Only courses in 2010!!!!!!)	Masazane 4x4 & Overland Guide Training Course	Louis Trichardt
17 April 2010	Map Orientation and Usage	Centurion
15 May 2010	Fire Fighting for Campers	Centurion
15 – 16 May 2010	GPS & GPS Software Course	Centurion
8 August 2010	Map Orientation and Usage	Centurion
28 – 29 August 2010	GPS & GPS Software Course	Centurion
20 November 2010	Map Orientation and Usage	Centurion
27 – 28 November 2010	GPS & GPS Software Course	Centurion

Roads to Roam Adventure Holidays

“All Roads lead to Rome”... until one reaches Africa. ***Roads to Roam*** is an Adventure Travel Company that focuses on Adventure Holidays and Events in South Africa and neighbouring countries. Although many of our tours require 4x4 capabilities, we also do route planning and book accommodation venues for sedan vehicles.

Our portfolio includes:

- Guided **self-drive safari's**: join an existing tour with qualified and professional adventure guides
- Guided self-drive safari's: **tours can be tailor-made** according to your destination, length of stay and level of comfort required (groups of 8 or more)
- Safari's in **8-seater Landcruisers**: catering, all equipment and camp team provided
- **Non-guided self-drive tours for sedan vehicles and 4x4's**: includes route planning, road conditions, reservations and information on points of interest and activities at the destination
- **Fly-in safari's**: packages for individuals or groups
- **Adventure bike tours, Scuba diving tours, Weekend breakaways**
- **Ladies only** tours by request
- Nature and adventure **training**
- Destinations include South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland as well as tours to Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Serengeti and other destinations in Africa

Upcoming Tours and Events:

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30 January 2010:	Training – Nature:	Snake handling an identification course
29 – 31 January 2010:	Hike:	Kgaswane Mountain Reserve
29-31 January 2010:	Wellness Weekend:	Mpumulanga
8 – 13 February 2010:	Recce Tour:	West Coast
19 – 21 February 2010:	Birding Weekend:	Golden Gate
19 – 21 February 2010:	Training – First Aid L1	Woodmead, Johannesburg
19 – 22 February 2010:	Training – First Aid L1&2	Woodmead, Johannesburg
26 – 28 February 2010:	Weekend Breakaway	Lion Weekend, Coligny
19 – 21 March 2010:	Hike:	Pilanesberg Wilderness Area
2 – 5 April 2010:	Weekend Breakaway	Botsalano Game Reserve, Zeerust
22 – 27 April 2010:	Safari	Central Kalahari Game Reserve
23 – 26 April 2010:	Safari	Northern Tuli Block

For a complete list of our tours, send an email to info@roadstoroom.co.za, contact Lizette Swart on +27 83 22 631 22 or visit the website at www.roadstoroom.co.za.

Roads to Roam... Africa waits...

January 2010

Hit the Trail – NEWS, FEATURES and the REST...

OBITUARY

A very good friend of Greg van der Reis, a legend in our youth in the Cape as well as a friend of 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, Mr John Spence, the owner of Tygerberg Zoo passed away from a heart attack recently. John was 75 years old and still owned, managed and ran the zoo. The stories he told at the breakfast meetings often had the sensitive folks heaving but his exploits were amazing. RIP John.

HURRY – VALENTINES WEEKEND IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Come and enjoy a romantic evening inside the Kruger National Park. Special only valid for 13 February 2010. Special includes Dinner Bed and Breakfast and a sundowner drive on the Saturday Night, R1200.00 per couple

www.nkambeni.com / res1@Nkambeni.com

Tel: +27 (0) 13 798 4300 / Fax: +27 (0) 13 798 4400



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THE KHWAI RIVER IS KWAAI MY BROER!!!

Extracted from the Weg Magazine by reader Malcolm van Coller:



"Johan Schoeman van Mababe skryf:

Ons bly in die noordelike deel van Botswana, naby die Khwai-rivier op die grens van die Moremi-reservaat. Ons het vir 'n wildsrit gegaan en op dié Landrover wat vasgevang is in die water, afgekóm. Daar was niemand in sig nie. Ons het 3 dae later gehoor die Landrover is uitgesleep en na Maun gevat.

Wees versigtig vir die Khwai-rivier in Botswana!" **(Ed. One big EISH!!!!!! Be careful this year guys – wet feet are easier to fix than busted egos!)**

NEW LODGE IN BOTSWANA FOR THE TRAVELLER

SELF-CATERING LODGE/ACCOMMODATION GABORONE NORTH, Lot 2368-KO Gaborone North, P.O.Box 403854, Broadhurst, Gaborone

4 Luxury chalets available only 10 minutes from Gaborone. 4 x Comfortable fully furnished chalets available only a few minutes from the city situated in Gaborone North, just passed the Phakalane road offering a fitted kitchen with all the necessities, 2 single beds, ensuite bathroom, TV, braai facilities. Breakfast cereals, tea and coffee included. P 300.00 per chalet per night. Ideal for the businessmen or traveller. Camping also available.

Directions:

From Gaborone, take the A1 North highway to Francistown. First turn-off after Phakalane robots to the left. 850 meters on the right

Contact details: +267-713 08092 Gideon
+267-717 20337 Ann

E-mail: gfrousseau@yahoo.com

BOTSWANA PULA - OVERLANDERS BEWARE!!!!

Dear 4X4 enthusiast.

Old Pula will no longer be accepted as of 31 December 2009. All old notes are being swapped at the Central Bank of Botswana (phone nr 002673606000). All old notes will be null and void as of 2014. Any person with old notes may swap them at the Central Bank.

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Kind regards and happy 4x4 adventures
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NEW GAUTENG NUMBER PLATE SAGA
By Jesse Adams

There are big changes coming for Gauteng's GP number plates. As of January 2010 new-car registration numbers will start with the letter Y so it's easy to see that Gauteng's alphanumeric registration system will simply run out of letters and digits soon. October 2010, to be exact.

However plans have been in place since 2007 for a high-tech new, "intelligent" number-plate system to be introduced from mid-June 2010. The new plates will be made of aluminum rather than plastic, be "permanently" attached to the vehicle and have a radio-frequency identification tag.

More importantly, they will be traceable back to the manufacturer, making it much more difficult to manipulate the system, which now sees fraudulent plates produced on nearly every street corner. The new number plates, if successful, will provide a more tamper-resistant link between a car and its owner. In theory it should be almost impossible for the bad guys to walk into a signage shop and simply create any number plate they want.

The Gauteng transport department says the new system "is linked to the provincial crime reduction strategy", "will curb the practice of car cloning and vehicle theft" and will "sanitise the current vehicle registration information system".

A new way of fastening number plates to vehicles has also been introduced recently; it's commonly called "permanent" but "theft resistant" might be more accurate. You may have seen the new (often yellowish) backing plates on the front and rear bumpers of new cars in dealers' showrooms.

The new law states that number plates on vehicles registered or re-registered from January 2009 must be attached with rivets. Most people don't want to rivet directly to their car's body so the bracket is more of an aesthetic go-between.

Rivets can be drilled to remove a number plate but, for this purpose, provide more of a theft deterrent than anything else. However the new system will cost you. Initially the department said there would be no extra cost to the driver but more recently admitted that plate prices would be around R50 higher than the current cost (R250 to R280) of a new set. And that's without the optional intermediary mounting plates.

However one of South Africa's six SABS-approved makers of number-plate blanks said the chips alone would cost R50 each (your vehicle will need two) and that he expected the price of a pair of plates to be between R400 and R800 because of more expensive embossing materials.



He also said stringent regulations for registered number-plate makers would see many existing companies forced to close. So far 203 out of about 300 registered in Gauteng have survived the first stages of audit.

There are 3.5-million vehicles in Gauteng and about 43 000 are registered or re-registered each month so it will be an enormous task to get all vehicles fitted with new plates. The process will take about three years with current registrations broken up into alphabetical due dates. It was to have started in March 2010 with registrations beginning with C (the first letter prefix for private owners) and Z due in December 2012, but has now been delayed.

A spokesperson for the Gauteng transport department said a revised schedule would be released in June, 2010. Notices would be sent by post and vehicle owners must bring a copy of their ID and their vehicle licence document to a registered number-plate provider to get the new plates.

New vehicle registrations will be in a two-letter, then two-digit, then two-letter format. Existing registration numbers will be renewable but must be reprinted on the new "chipped" plates.

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURES (PROOF OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE PURCHASE)

Please be advised that it has come to our attention that the South African Revenue Services (SARS) have on an ad-hoc basis, requested South African residents to provide proof of purchase of their foreign exchange. This would apply to both airports and border posts.

South African Customs and the South African Reserve Bank may also request proof of foreign currency purchases at any stage. Failure to provide proof could lead to the foreign exchange being confiscated.

We therefore strongly recommend that a copy of the foreign exchange invoice be carried by the traveller when departing from South Africa.

Thanks
Gerhard Esterhuysen
GM - Management Consulting
Tourvest Travel Services

NEW PRADO A BRILLIANT OFFROADER

By John Simister

What is the vehicle you're most likely to see in news clips from Middle Eastern trouble spots or tales of discovery in Africa? Probably a Toyota Land Cruiser, the 4x4 of choice for everyone from game ranger to terrorist. It's become the world's universal off-roader, not least because it seemingly never goes wrong and is apparently unbreakable.

And now there's a new one, launched in South Africa in October 2009. Before I continue, let me explain which Land Cruiser we are examining. Confusingly, there have been two strands to the breed since 1985, when this new car's ancestor arrived as the Prado to supplement the yet more rugged Land Cruiser line that began in 1955 as Toyota's rival to the Land Rover.

That earlier line is currently represented by a V8-engined behemoth, while the merely large one under examination now is called the Prado VX. So what's new? Most of it. The three-litre, four-



cylinder engine is an evolution of the previous one and the basic architecture - a body attached to a strong, heavy, separate chassis by noise-insulating rubber mountings - is the same.

So is the suspension design, a heavy, solid axle at the rear, double wishbones at the front. However, the shock-absorbers are larger, the joints are more flexible and the top VX model has "active" anti-roll bars. The body is a tall, seven-seater construction with impressive space, the expected driving position of high command and, from the mid-range model upwards, automatic push-button folding of the rearmost row of seats.

Scattered pieces of wood trim attempt to lift the ambience of the posher Land Cruisers but they sit ill with the machine's resolute air of functionality. That said, for the R637 900 asked for the Prado VX, you might expect some sweeteners, and these include an impressive sound and DVD system, leather upholstery and various devices to make the traversing of seemingly impenetrable terrain almost ridiculously easy.

Switches for such things and the screens with which to monitor them fill a very busy fascia. Most of it is entirely unnecessary for the way most 4x4 owners use their vehicles but, if you're in the depths of Borneo, you'd welcome them.

Put simply, the Land Cruiser matches all the selectable terrain-detecting technology of a Land Rover Discovery then adds tricks of its own. At the heart is a permanent all-wheel drive system with a limited-slip centre differential to apportion torque to front and rear axles.

This can be locked solid if needed, as can the rear differential in the VX. These functions, and the high and low ratio ranges, are selected by buttons ahead of the selector for the five-speed automatic transmission. You can also select from Mud and Sand, Loose Rock, Rock and - yes - Mogul, which is a compromise setting. All allow different amounts of wheel slippage according to what is needed to keep moving.

Then there's a new use for the active anti-roll system. Instead of the system resisting suspension compression for both wheels on the same side, as it does on-road when cornering, it does the opposite and allows maximum freedom of movement, and therefore, optimum traction, by in effect, disconnecting the anti-roll bars.

And there's a "crawl mode" in which the Land Cruiser will pick its way along at a selected low speed, almost regardless of obstacles or gradients, with no need to touch brake or accelerator. And all the while you can see what's going on around and beneath on displays fed by all-round cameras and by sensors showing exactly where the front wheels are pointing. As an off-roader, the Prado VX is completely brilliant.

And on the road? It feels big and reluctant to be hurried but the steering is accurate, there's little sloppiness in the suspension and bumps are smothered effectively. You wouldn't buy the Land Cruiser as a status-symbol 4x4 or for regular road transport but neither role is its purpose. It's a proper 4x4 intended for proper 4x4 things and at those things it is superb. The Prado VX is expensive, though. What I'd like to see is a lower-trim version with the VX's extra off-road systems. Over to marketing, then.



THE RIVALS

Land Rover Discovery 3.0 TDV6 HSE: R725 000. More expensive than the Prado, more car-like on the road and luxurious inside. V6 engine is smooth and powerful, off-road ability among the best.

Nissan Pathfinder 2.5 dCi Tekna: R499 900. Prado LC-matching outputs from smaller engine, but bakkie roots show in poor refinement and a choppy ride. Good off-road.

VW Touareg 3.0 V6 TDI: R603 000. Shares genes with Porsche Cayenne and Audi Q7. Capable on and off-road, looks good, feels good.

TEMBE ELEPHANT PARK

Dear Friends of Tembe - A brief news update

Tembe now has a Facebook group page where you are welcome to post your park and wildlife photos and receive regular updates. Please join. Tembe Elephant Park Facebook Group <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=21218920631>

"Isilo" the largest Tusker in the Tembe Elephant Park is now also the largest "Tusker" in Southern Africa. He is a gentle giant and is very visible as he spends most of his time in the southern section of the park. He has his own Facebook page where you can interact with him and view his photographs. He would welcome you as his Facebook friend. Isilo aElephant <http://www.facebook.com/people/Isilo-AElephant/100000119321503>

The Tembe webcam is now streaming and will undergo further upgrades in the near future. Currently it is only operational during our daylight hours but will soon be lit 24 hours. The best viewing times are 10h00 to 15h00 Zulu Time . To view the largest elephants live go to www.elecam.org

Our information office is available on the contact page on www.tembe.co.za

SHORT-TERM INSURERS CANNOT REFUTE ON NEGLIGENCE ALONE (4x4 CLAIM)

12 January 2010 - Gareth Stokes: gareth@fanews.co.za

If you thought short-term insurance decisions were simple, then the following case study, reported on in *The Ombudsman's Briefcase: Official Newsletter of the Office for Short-term Insurance (OSTI) December 2009* will help change your mind. This case reveals the complex legal precedents that often swing the balance of a particular case in favour of either insurer or insured... The case also demonstrates why the average consumer – and in some cases experienced insurance brokers – are left 'up in arms' by their insurer's decision to refute certain claims.

Due care and precaution

In August 2008 the insured ran into trouble while crossing a drift on a dedicated 4x4 route on a farm. His vehicle stalled some distance into the water – which was reportedly 75cm deep – and had to be towed to a place of repair. A claim was lodged with the insurer to cover the cost of repairing the engine (which had seized) and water damage to the vehicle interior. "The insurer rejected liability of the insured's claim for damage to the vehicle on the grounds that the insured had failed to exercise due care and precaution to prevent loss or damage," reports OSTI.



Was the insured's behavior 'reckless' as alleged by the insurer? And did he 'wilfully' expose the vehicle to circumstances that could cause damage? Before we discuss the legal aspects of this case we should consider the insured's behaviour in the run up to the loss. The OSTI says the insured had been on a number of specialised 4x4 driving training courses since 1998. At the time the incident occurred the insured was travelling in convoy with a friend who drove an identical vehicle. And both drivers carefully inspected the drift before concluding it could be "easily traversed."

The insured also took additional steps to traverse the obstacle safely, by setting his vehicles suspension as high as possible. The Ombudsman concluded that an element of recklessness was required for the insurer to refute the claim. In other words, the insurer had to prove that the insured acted recklessly, and in addition, this recklessness had to be shown to be "by reason of the insured being covered by a policy of insurance and with that knowledge refraining from taking measures which he knew ought to be taken to prevent loss or damage from arising." Had the insured recognised the dangers and then deliberately courted them by failing to take measures which he himself knew were inadequate to avert the danger from arising, the insurer would have had a leg to stand on.

Setting legal precedence

One way to test the merits of an insurance decision is to consider previous court rulings. For this the Ombudsman turned to Santam Limited versus CC Designing cc 1999 (4) SA199 (C). In this hearing the court held that "the test to be applied was whether the insured had deliberately courted a danger, the existence of which he recognised, by refraining to take any measures to avert harm." The court further stated that the insurer couldn't refute a claim based on negligence alone. "It was not enough that the insured's failure to take any particular precautions to avoid the danger should be negligent, as the insured was entitled to be indemnified against the consequences of his negligence." **The Ombudsman decided that the insured in this case had taken the relevant precautions to cross an obstacle on a recognised 4x4 trail.**

In addition, the insured had both the experience (having attended numerous courses) and equipment (a sophisticated vehicle) to tackle the obstacle. Upon further deliberation the insurer agreed to accept liability for the insured's claim. What can we learn from this case? The most important lesson is never to accept an insurance decision that seems unreasonable. The insured was paying an insurance premium to comprehensively cover his vehicle in the event of damage or loss. Had he accepted the initial decision and let the matter stand he would have been severely out of pocket.

Insurance consumers should approach the OSTI if they have the slightest doubt about the fairness of their insurance. Short-term insurers cannot refute on negligence alone

Article Editor's thoughts: The various financial services Ombudsman were established to resolve disputes between consumers and financial services companies, and protect consumers from unscrupulous practices. In the event an insurer's decision seems unfair it makes sense to progress the case to the Ombudsman for a possible favourable outcome. Do you think it fair to seek assistance from the short-term insurance Ombudsman with a 50:50 (where the decision could go either way)

Send comments to gareth@fanews.co.za



NATA LODGE FIRING AGAIN!!!!!!

Good Day All

As some of you may or may not know, Nata Lodge burnt to the ground in a devastating bush fire on the 25 September 2008. Fortunately the decision was taken to rebuild the lodge and we are proud to tell you that we reopened our doors on the 1 September 2009.

We will be distributing a Nata Natter every 2 months in which we will keep you informed of what is happening at Nata Lodge as well as giving you information about places of interest in and around Nata.

Should you like us to remove your name from our mailing list, please email james@natalodge.com. For bookings please email reservations@natalodge.com.

Looking forward to welcoming you to the new NATA LODGE.

Thank You and Regards

James and Diane French

General Managers

Nata Lodge

Botswana

Web: www.natalodge.com

THINK YOU CAN WRITE?

Don't you just hate it when large international magazines refuse to publish the work of budding new authors? "Give us a list of where your articles were published and we will consider you." they write in their demoralising emails.

Everybody has to start somewhere. Talk about Catch 22. Well, enough is enough. We feel rookie writers need to get a chance to strut their stuff, so we negotiated with The Ultimate Field Guide to sponsor a Rookie Writer article in our next issues to help those authors who are not famous - yet. You won't be paid but if you are good, that may happen with later articles

Readers will get a chance to vote for you and you will be able to see how popular you are. **Give it a shot.** [Click here](#) to see our writer's guidelines. Submit your best article with 6 hi-res pictures to editorafrica@africanxmag.com

GREED THREATENS WORLD CUP

Soccer worldwide is the game of the working class but, thanks to rampant greed, the Fifa World Cup being staged in SA in June will be affordable only to wealthy foreigners. Don't be surprised if fewer than the hoped-for 500 000 tourists arrive in June.

The greed is by no means only South African. It starts with airlines eager to make good on their multi-billion dollar losses of the past two years, includes SA hotels and B&Bs and extends to Fifa itself, which is charging up to \$900 (R6 849) a ticket for the final. Airlines and hotels have doubled and trebled their normal prices.



If Fifa is wondering why ticket sales are slow, if the hotels are sitting with empty rooms, perhaps they should ask themselves if soccer fans are all related to Bill Gates. Did anyone notice there's a worldwide recession going on?

MALARIA CASES CLIMB IN LIMPOPO

More than 156 cases of malaria have been confirmed in the high-risk areas of Vhembe and Mopani in Limpopo during the first week of January 2010. Spokesperson for the Limpopo Department of Health and Social Development Selby Makgotho said four deaths from malaria-related complications were also confirmed during the last week of December. Communities are urged to immediately consult the nearest health facilities should they experience flu-like symptoms such as body pains, headaches and fever

HOLIDAY ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLIER THIS YEAR!

Here are some tips on making sure your holidays cause as little damage to the environment as possible:

- Holiday close to home and reduce your carbon footprint.
- Check the eco-credentials of the place you're booking into.
- Make sure the food you eat at restaurants is not damaging to the environment. Visit www.wwfsassi.co.za for guidance on what seafood is ok to eat.
- Support conservation areas - visit a game reserve or other natural area.
- Do your holiday research and bookings online - it takes trees to make flashy brochures.
- While you're away, switch off home appliances that won't be used such as your geyser.

Once you're at your destination, walk or cycle rather than drive.

Thanks to EWT!

CHEETAH FACTS

- The Cheetah is the fastest land mammal, clocking up to 110km/h.
- There are more spots on one Cheetah than there are Cheetah in South Africa.
- The King Cheetah is a colour form and not a different species.
- The Cheetah is an apex predator and a vital link in the food chain.
- In South Africa, the Cheetah is classified as Vulnerable, with less than 1 000 individuals remaining.

The biggest threat facing South Africa's Cheetah is conflict with humans - Cheetah do sometimes take livestock, and even on game farms they are seldom tolerated

NAVIGATORS TOURS & SAFARIS

We specialise in personally-guided small-group tours and safaris to remote destinations in Southern Africa. Bring your equipped 4x4 vehicle, camping equipment, accessories, food, drinks, enthusiasm and sense of adventure! For anyone who doesn't have their own 4x4 vehicle, we also offer an all-inclusive booked-seat option on many of our tours – please visit our website or contact us for details.

Space still available on the following self-drive tours:

Kalahari : Black-Maned Lions – 8 Nights



Tour Dates: 22 – 30 January 2010 ([read more](#))

Central Kalahari Game Reserve – 9 Nights

Tour Dates: 22 February – 3 March 2010 ([read more](#))

Kaokoveld : Desert Elephants & Himba – 14 Nights

Tour Dates: 3 – 17 May 2010 ([read more](#))

Zambia : Explorer Tour – 19 Nights

Tour Dates: 23 July – 11 August 2010 ([read more](#))

Tour Schedules for 2010

Click on the following highlighted link to view our [Guided Self-drive tour schedule](#) for 2010, available on our website. To travel with us in our vehicles on an all-inclusive tour, click on the following link to view our [Booked-Seat tour schedule](#) for next year. Alternatively, contact us with your plans and travel dates, and ask us to design a tailor-made package for you.

For further details on these and other tours, e-mail us at info@navigator4wd.co.za. Alternatively, contact Karen at our office on **landline: +27 (0) 21 689 1825** or contact Chris on his mobile at **cell: +27 (0) 83 675 3484**.

March 2009

Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

KALAHARI ADVENTURE (RACE) 2010

3000 km- 9 days-Botswana

The allure of Africa has long evaded many competitors world-wide, and the need for an all out, challenging adventure in the form of a World Class Cross Country event in Southern Africa has been long in coming.

Our aim is to bring the sport of Off Road Racing to the man in the street. Make it possible for the man in the street to feel part of something that is truly Africa's alone.

- The Kalahari Adventure is going to challenge your navigational skill's
- The Kalahari Adventure is going to put you and your vehicle to the test.
- The Kalahari Adventure is going to take you on the road less traveled.
- The Kalahari Adventure is going to introduce you to lots of interesting people.
- The Kalahari Adventure is going to make you or break you.
- The Kalahari Adventure is going to develop and grow like no other event.
- The Kalahari Adventure is going !

If you are curious to know more.

If you own a 4x4.

If you own an adventure bike



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Tel: 012 541 6000

If you have a nose for direction.
If you have a need for adventure.
We will be launching early Jan 2010.

Send email address and we will keep you updated. Email: kalahari@instramac.com

Kind Regards
Sharon MacDonald
Kalahari Desert Adventures
Cell: +27 (0)83 709 7777
Fax: +27 (0)11 941-2363

LIMPOPO MARULA FESTIVAL

Held over three days in the picturesque town of Phalaborwa since 2008, the festival will stretch over the period, 26th to 28th February 2010 at the Impala Park Stadium, Grosvenor Crescent & Combretum Avenue Phalaborwa .

The activities that will be taking place over the Festival include the Marula Golf Challenge that will be taking place at the renowned Hans Merensky Golf Estate. There is also the Marula Festival Half Marathon scheduled for the 27th February 2010 and with the proposed route which incorporates Kruger National Park.

The festival will also include the Marula Open Air Music Concert, which is the highlight of the festival. The concert will feature local acts and acclaimed musicians across a wide spectrum of all genres of music and live performances. Scheduled for the 27th February 2010, the open air concert has been hailed as the culmination of the 3 day event, bringing young and old together in dance and song. Freshly Ground, Thomas Chauke, DJ Mahoota v/s Vetkoek, Jay and various Local Artists are billed to perform at the show.

This event will be used to increase market access and raise awareness on available marula products, Cultural and tourism products within the region involving enterprises and cooperatives from Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North-West, Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe. This will present an opportunity to various marula bi-products manufacturers, emerging tourism products as well as those cultural product owners to exhibit and sell their products during the three days of the festival.

ORGANIZER CONTACT: Moses Ngobeni PHONE No.: +27 15 293 1085 CELL No.: +27 82 800 2666 EMAIL: ngobenim@ledet.gov.za

VISIT OUR LODGE IN ZIM!

Our lodge and separate camp site are an ideal gateway to Zim, and we border the Matobo Hills National Park, within the World Heritage area. We are situated about 100km from the (Bots) Plumtree border, and is a perfect way to start a trip through Zim. From us you can easily go to Hwange and on up to the Falls, and then back into Bots. Alternatively, you can go back to S.A. via Beitbridge. Question from my side is what is the best way of reaching the 4x 4 market, and I am happy to pay for advertising within reason. I really do believe that Zim now offers exciting prospects for the more adventurous 4 x 4 enthusiast who does not want to see a 100 cars in a National Park (Pilansberg after Hwange was a bit hectic!!) In addition I think Zim offers great value for money if you know where to stay!!



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Have a look at our website, and if you have the time I would very much appreciate your input..

Many Thanks,

Regards

Dave Waddy

Mobile : +27 82 579 8822

E-mail : info@bigcave.co.za

Web site : www.bigcave.co.za



LIFE'S A BEACH – THAT'S WHY ALAN NEEDS A UNIMOG

The first new-generation Unimog U4000 in South Africa has been delivered, complete with a driver training session at Sodwana Bay, one of the buyer's favourite fishing spots. When Grant Estman of Vereeniging approached Mercedes-Benz for a vehicle to tow his fishing boat Unimog demonstrator Ferdi de Beer, who'd recently launched the U4000 at a dealer road show, was happy to show Estman what it could do – and an order for a U4000 double-cab was confirmed.

Each U4000 is custom built, which can take up to six months. Mercedes-Benz-accredited bodybuilder TFM made and fitted a dropside body with a 6800kg winch to Estman's requirements. Estman takes his hobby very seriously, taking part in a number of international fishing competitions including a recent one in Mexico, and the Unimog is perfect for his boat and trailer. It has a 160kW, 810Nm diesel engine and can tow up to 10 tons.

De Beer said: "The Unimog has unique off-road ability thanks to its rigid ladder-type frame and amazing suspension travel, superior all-wheel-drive and portal axles with a differential lock front and rear for outstanding ground clearance – it'll get him to any fishing spot in toughest Africa!

"It has a 44-degree approach angle, a 51-degree departure angle, can climb a 45-degree slope and even when wading through water 1.2m deep the electrical systems and 160-litre fuel tank stay dry thanks to special seals that keep out water and fine sand.

Estman said: "As soon as I drove the Unimog I knew I'd made the right choice – I'm even more impressed now that I've discovered all the convenience features such as the quick reverse function - a huge benefit when launching the boat - and the central inflation system that allows you to inflate or deflate tyre pressures to suit the surface you're on at the press of a button."

LIMPOPO MARULA 4x4 CHALLENGE

Good day Sir / Ma'm

My name is André Kellermann and I am the presenter of the annual Limpopo Marula Festival 4x4 Challenge held during February at Phalaborwa. The Challenge for 2010 will happen on the 20th February and herewith I would like to extend an invitation to your club members to come and support us and enjoy a hot fun day with us.

The planning is as follows:

We are negotiating price packages to the value of R60 000.00 or more made up to

1 st price in 3 classes @ R10 000.00 value each	= R30 000.00
2 nd price in 3 classes @ R6000.00 value each	= R18 000.00
3 rd price in 3 classes @ R3000.00 value each	= R9000.00
Most spectacular moment	R2000.00
Blunder of the day	<u>R1000.00</u>
	R60 000.00

Classes to compete will be long and short wheelbase 4x4 and special built 4x4, competing in each own class. A minimum of 10 entries per class will qualify for these prices. If insufficient entries for any class happens, the organizers reserve the right to reduce prices accordingly.

This invitation goes to 40 clubs in Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga, and we will accommodate max 60 vehicles on a "First come, First serve" basis.

Entry fees will be R400.00 per vehicle, including driver and co-driver, both to receive different hand-outs like a Marula Festival T-shirt & cap, etc. Entry for Spectators: Adults R40.00 and School Going Children R10.00. Ample food and drink will be available for sale. Camping and Lodge accommodation can easily be arranged.

For enquiries, bookings and entry forms contact:

André Kellermann

083 458 5746 Cell / 015 – 781 0589 / 0568 Tel / 015 – 781 0632 Fax

Bundu@era.co.za E-mail

OTTERS MEAN CLEAN WATER

Known as environmental indicator species, otters require fairly pristine habitats, so if they occur in an area, you can be sure that it is environmentally clean with functioning systems. There are two species occurring in South Africa. The rare to very rare, Spotted-neck Otter and the much more widespread Cape Clawless Otter. The smaller Spotted-neck inhabits higher montane habitat with fairly deep, clean rivers and streams containing good populations of crabs, fish and frogs

The larger Cape Clawless has a much wider distribution occurring even on the coast in the Cape where they hunt in the sea and feed on lobsters, octopus, fish and marine crabs. Over most of their range they inhabit rivers, streams and dams surrounded by dense riparian vegetation (long grass, reeds, bushes) which is essential to provide cover for resting places and holts. They also require other suitable shelters such as holes or overhanging rocks. Favoured freshwater habitats in KwaZulu-Natal are the rivers and streams in the midland and highland, high-rainfall areas.



Dams, both large and small, appear to be secondary habitats, which they visit for food, but where they rarely live on a permanent basis. The diet of Cape clawless Otters in freshwater habitats consists of between 60 - 70 % crabs, 20 % frogs, and 3 to 8 % fish. The Spotted-neck Otter consumes 40% crab, 40% fish and 20% frogs.

Both species of otter are extremely elusive and very rarely seen so if you are lucky enough to see one, it is a major tick!
Rhino Club

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL EXPO

Gauteng - 28th May to 30th May 2010

Cape - 8th October to 10th October 2010

Outdoor Adventure and Travel Expo – Gauteng and Cape, South Africa's leading expos, moves into its 18th Year in 2010! The Outdoor team is looking forward to ensuring that our communication next year is even more streamlined and relevant to your specific interests. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact

Yours in adventure,
Shirley Shearer,
Director : Exhibitions and Events
shirley@outdoorexpo.co.za
www.outdoorexpo.co.za

VISIT THE SAN – TRADITIONAL KALAHARI GUIDED BUSHMAN TOURS

GhamaGhoe San Tours Cc (GGST) herewith wish to take the opportunity with a saying "go straight through the door into the house – val met die deur in die huis", we believe that due to the exposure and experience of Johnny Burger, our chief executive gained unmeasured goodwill that constructed an acceptance of trust and believe amongst the community of **Andriesvale # Khomani San Bushmen (AKSB)** over the past 3 years!

More specifically the past 19 months as the project manager of the now well known and established "**Devils Claw Job Creation Project - GhamaGhoe Job Creation Project**" situated near Witdraai in the Northern Cape between Askham and Andriesvale in collaboration with the CSIR in Pretoria during his work and stay there!

As a nature man with his wide knowledge of birds and veldplants, his wanderings through the Kalahari over the years the opportunity came about to research and investigate the sustainability and viability for the need of a "unique" type of a traditional guided boesman tour operation!

After long months of endless meetings and negotiations with members of the Andriesvale # Khomani San Bushmen Council (AKSBC) in conjunction with the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KOP-SANParks) eventually a "Unique - Right of Access Concession" were awarded to GGST late in November 2009!

Based on the fact that one will enter a "**sacred and protected**" area, the management, protection and control of the restoration and convalescing of the sensitive eco system is an absolute requirement for the benefit and survival of all living organism, bird and plant life in the park due to the constant impact of 4x4 vehicles and overcrowding!



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Offroad driving from the main roads in the park tend to make deep trenches and tracks in the riverbeds, the dunes are left unsightly whilst it takes nature sometime time and even a season or two to recover naturally, therefore limited tours are been awarded per year and are constantly monitored before a permit to a tour group to access the area are granted! GGST are kept constantly informed by KOP-SANParks of any changes regarding an approved permit for a confirmed booking of a scheduled tour group!

Therefore this is a one time opportunity, offered only to a few privileged number of 4 x4 vehicles per year! **"Men who know"** will go overboard and to all ends to experience such a 4 x 4 tour in order to achieve the utopia thereof!

GGST's existence are based on two pillars on which the first is based on the fact that a tour of this nature is a true 4 x 4 test and challenge for any 4 x 4 owner (***specifically for the famous "I don't get stuck that easy" ones!!***) and nature adventurers in search for that something ***"special and unique"*** to experience!

Due to the location of the operational area of GGST, 90% of the tours as offered are in the vicinity (20-200km as the crow flies) ranging from Andriesvale to the KTP, part of the Central Kalahari and eventually ends at the Augrabies National Park!

Upon entering the ***"sacred and protected"*** area (traveling 25km from Twee Rivieren gate (northwards to Mata Mata) leaving the main road and then travel 20 km in a northwestern direction} one will travel through the now known S Zone area of 25.000 ha in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (The guides ancestors hinterland now known as the famous restitution claim - ***"Ae! Hai Kalahari Heritage Park Agreement-31 August 2001"*** was given back to them!) be guided by a well informed and travelled tour leader and his well experienced and seasoned Khomani San Boesman trackers!

The Kgalagadi, TWICE the size of the Kruger National Park and one of the best venues worldwide for large and small cats, cheetah is relatively common and with a little luck one might see them in daylight!

The notorious black-mane Kalahari Lions and Leopards are plentiful and are generally seen! In addition a rich variety of larger mammals clustering, including some that are not in the less remote reserves found, such as Kruger, viz. Oryx / Gemsbok (The ***"Prince"*** of the Park), Springbok and Meerkat (Internationally known Vodacom TV Ads ***"Meerkats"*** and the ***"Bushmen playing rugby"*** were produced in the vicinity of Andriesvale area!)

GGST believe that, although a newly established tour operator in the said area, they have gained vast amount of experience and exposure over the past 18 months as 4 x 4 vehicle enthusiasts as part of four (4), 1 x 10 Day ***"Church Outreach"*** tours with Witdraai Boskamp as our base camp from where we travelled to the KOP, thereafter to the other surrounding six (6) private owned farms by the # Khomani San Bushmen (***40,000 hectares part of the 1st restitution claim -31 March 1999***) which we visited and made camp!

GGST offer 4x4 clubs and its members a ***"once in a lifetime and privileged"*** opportunity now open and available to South Africans and Foreigners 4 x 4 enthusiasts, ecologists, botanists, bird watchers and nature lovers in search of the unknown hidden jewels to be discovered and viewed in ***"one of the world's last pristine natural wildernesses"*** - The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and neighboring Southern Kalahari!



From the Sebobugus campsite (*unfenced*) situated in the heart of 4.000 sq kilometers (the sacred endangered and protected area where the graves and sacred places of the # Khomani San Bushmen's ancestors to be found), one will be guided and accompanied by a honored elderly guest of the tour group (*he / she to be one of the elected elders of the AKSB community who used to live in the Park before evicted*) who will use the " *Unique //URUKE Path* " technique whereby you will experience the opportunity to participate in the seek and discovery of the ancient medicinal herb plants, food and water (ghamaghoie, Hoodia, Tsammas and many others!!) above and under the red sandunes as done, used and lived on by the ancient bushman!

A "*privileged not to many*" to experience camping in the untamed wilderness overnight, to sit and relax around a camel thorn tree camp fire taking in the galaxy of stars that are so clear and close they reach right down to ground level, listen and admire the howling of jackals, the ghekos calling their mates and the clamor of the other smaller night animals, perhaps the roar of a lion, a passion that you will be forever take with you to share!

The second pillar on which GGST justify their existence is an "*Outreach Program*" based on 4 x 4 clubs, foreign and local tour operators and other parties continued booked tours!

GGST believe collectively with all visiting parties they can make a difference through the creation and establishment of at least 22 -26 permanent jobs opportunities within the next 3-6 months employing individuals from the \pm 142 Khomani San Bushmen families been evicted and removed from the KOP and now living on Andriesvale and the surrounding settlements situated between the red sand dunes, trying to make ends meet!

The AKSB community consists of \pm **785** people from whom \pm **51** persons (**6.45%** of the community) are permanently employed by the nearby Molopo Kalahari Lodge, Kopano General Dealer and Shell Service Station, Kalahari Agricultural Co-op, South African Police, South African San Association, Andriesvale Khomani San Bushmen Council and a few private entrepreneurs (farmers, craftspeople and "woodsmen"!).

The average income per family (**5 -7 persons**) is approximately **R 750.00 per month**, it include most of the time a pension payment of an elder and or a welfare grant for an orphan child! GGST anticipate and based on the scheduled and unscheduled tours as offered, the potential projected income as a direct result of tour group's income to GGST and their reinvestment thereof, the potential intended money they will be spend whilst on tour in and around the area a potential target of \pm **R1, 200,000.00** to be generated within the next 8 -12 months which will have a monumental influence on the peoples lifestyle, meaning and the comprehensive upliftment of the community as a whole!!

In light of the above and detailed information as to be seen at www.komanisan.com, GGST take the liberty to request the management of **4x4 Offroad Adventure Club** to forward the information herein contain and on the website to its members for their perusal and notice!

GGST invite all **4x4 Offroad Adventure Club** members, their family and friends to take up the "*unique opportunity*" to arrange a 5 vehicle tour group for a "*stunning and awesome*" once in a lifetime Kalahari 4 x 4 tour!



Should you require more information with regards the above do not hesitate to contact us! We anticipate reading your welcome return mail soon at your convenience! Thank you for your interest and time reading the above!

GhamaGhoe regards,
Willie Vogel
Secretary
tours@komanisan.com

KZN 4x4 CHALLENGE SERIES

Hi All,

As we have been making you continuously aware throughout 2009, we have attained Regional Challenge status for our annual club challenge series for 2010.

So, does this mean that you would have to drive obstacles the likes of the National Challenge? No – the obstacles will be of a similar nature to the Club Challenges. All this means, is that we will be running the challenges under the banner of MSA, thereby complying with all of the rules associated with a MSA event.

In order for the series to be successful, a lot of planning and organization has to go into each event, which has already started early last year, with the implementation of the new rules at Club level. However, even with all of the effort put in at the planning stage, the execution involves a lot more people; more important people; **the competitors and assistants.**

Competitors and assistants will find all of the info required on our website from Tuesday 26/01/2010, and a pre-inspection / pre-scrutinizing session will be held at the Umzinto quarry on Saturday 06/02/2010 at 14hH00 (this needs to be attended by prospective competitors and assistants). We also require assistants in other regards on the day of the Challenges for various activities including Marshals. Anyone keen to assist in any way, please contact me on **082 8837 482** or ikg@absamail.co.za.

In order for anyone to compete, they would need to be a registered member of a MSA affiliated club. For this reason, we have decided to offer “**Country Membership**” (R200.00); this limits membership to the Regional Challenge Series only, and participation to other Club events will not be allowed.

I trust that we will have the support of all the members of the Club, in whatever form of participation, and look forward to a rewarding year of Motorsport within our Club.
Best wishes and Regards,
Kevin

ELECTRICITY PRICE WORRIES? WELL MONITOR IT!!!

As of July 2009 everyone in South Africa is paying more per Kilowatt Hour for electricity. This is because Eskom increased tariffs by 31.3% and municipal service providers have had to do the same.

Cheap electricity is a thing of the past. While the increase is obviously not welcomed by consumers, there is an easy way to go about making home or business more energy efficient in order to reduce electricity bills.



The solution is simple and enabled by a revolutionary [energy monitoring device](#) that makes it possible to monitor and so manage energy consumption. The [Electricity Monitor](#) makes it possible for people to systematically monitor, test and go about reducing the amount of electricity they consume in order to realize significant savings.

For most home and business owners the biggest problem with electricity bills is that you never know how much you have consumed before the bill arrives. By that time it is too late to reduce consumption. Moreover, it is very difficult to guess exactly how much electricity is consumed by each device in the household.

When you start looking into energy efficiency measures, you need to start measuring each device and monitor electricity consumption. Though one could safely guess that switching from regular light bulbs to energy saving light bulbs could save quite a bit, this does not calculate how much electricity your kettle, iron, television set and other devices in the house consume.

What's more, many appliances such as play stations, battery chargers, digital radios with LCD monitors, cellphone chargers and more, all have a standby mode. While these devices are in standby mode they continue to draw a small amount of power. These are called "ghost loads". Individually these power loads don't seem like much, but collectively they do amount to a reasonably large and constant draw of power.

In a family household, people politics makes it even more difficult to save on energy. To conserve energy one needs to engage and educate all family members. However, remembering to do simple things like switching lights and devices off can prove problematic. People simply don't remember and need to be reminded from time-to-time.

The [Electricity Monitor](#) does exactly that. It has a large, clear LCD screen that communicates using wireless technology with a transmitter installed in the electrical distribution board. Because the LCD is wireless, it can be placed anywhere in the home or office where everyone can see it. When the device is constantly visible, energy conservation is brought to the forefront of each family members mind each time they see the device. It's a gentle, yet very real reminder to switch-off unnecessary lights and generally be more aware of what devices are on that do not need to be on.

For some households just the awareness of energy consumption is enough to bring about changes in how people use electricity. For others, a clearer more visible reminder of how much electricity is being consumed is needed. Enforcing responsible usage habits from the start can save you the amount you are now paying with the 31% tariff increase.

This could mean that the electricity price increase should not affect you or have very little affect on your budget. Though not everyone can save 31.3% on their monthly bill, even a 10% to 20% saving on a bill of R500 per month could mean R600 to R1,200 savings per year. Some households, especially on freehold property, spend in excess R2,000 per month on electricity alone. Considering the security lights and other devices are often on all night, a saving of even 10% in this case is R2,400 savings per year.

Using a simple [Electricity Monitor](#) device, you don't need to make any massive investments, you don't need life-style changes, nor learn to use a complicated device. With an [Electricity Monitor](#) any household member can just check how much electricity a device is using. The OWL even



tells you how much electricity you have used over a period. Our point is that this is a really simple household device that makes measuring and so managing energy easier.

Many home owners want to opt for municipal prepaid meters for their homes. The common misconception is that prepaid electricity is cheaper. This is not the case. Prepaid Electricity costs the same as non-prepaid electricity. The reason why people think that Prepaid Electricity is cheaper is because they can see how much electricity they are using and so become more aware of their consumption habits.

Installing a [Wireless Electricity Monitor](#) has the same effect on people. It's a proven fact that when people see how much electricity they are using, that they take steps to reduce the load. The Electricity Monitor can be used in any home or business, single phase or 3-phase, whether the property obtains prepaid post paid electricity.

Whether a property obtains electricity in prepaid or post paid mode, the fact remains that one can still become more energy efficient. To do this one still needs to know which devices are consuming the largest amount of electricity so that you can choose to use them less often or replace them with more energy and cost effective devices.

In summary, even though electricity prices have increased, it is important to understand that your electricity bills can be significantly reduced and you can continue saving on your electricity bills. With electricity prices looking to go up every two years and government confirming that cheap electricity prices are a way of the past in South Africa, it is important to start conserving electricity. For more information on Energy Saving Monitors please visit: www.ElectricityMonitor.co.za

LAND ROVER RECALLS RANGE ROVERS IN US

Land Rover has been forced to recall more than 4000 of its 2010 Range Rover models in the US because of fears that the passenger crash bag might not inflate in a crash. The Range Rovers were [launched in South Africa](#) in September 2009.

A report from the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said: "The Range Rover 'may experience crash-bag warning lamp illumination on the instrument cluster'", indicating that the bag is disabled because of the defect."

US dealers have been asked to upgrade the vehicle's restraints control module using a diagnostics system tool on its software. There's no word yet on whether the issue will affect UK or European models.

Many owners in the US could find themselves without their pride and joy over the Christmas holiday with recalls scheduled to start on December 21. – Reuters

NEWS FROM KALIZO LODGE IN NAMIBIA

We are in trouble with a lot of our regular customers for not sending out a newsletter for so long. We wrote and sent a newsletter in December but seem it got lost on the airwaves. Sorry about that?

The Sparg family has been at Kalizo for almost 13 years and this year 2009 was the toughest yet. The river rose to the 2nd highest in recorded history from low water it rose 7.85m. The river at Kalizo was approximately 30km wide and approximately cubic 6000 square meter per second traveling at 11km per hour. Our main district road was washed away in 10 places and we were



forced to close for 2 and ½ months. All the chalets were approximately 50cm deep in water and only the most important things were left out of the water that being the restaurant; bar and our houses. We were forced to travel by boat to Katima for at least 6 weeks. The flood was really impressive, with water in the office; chalets; ablutions and even Granny's house. Thank the Lord we survived and then the mopping up operation started with repairing chalets; fences and pathways. Our biggest problem was our grass and smaller trees died. Everybody living along the river were in the same boat, even Kasane had problems.

But I think if you see how Kalizo Looks like now you would all admit it looks better than ever. Our staff here done a wonderful job repairing Kalizo by replanting grass; trees and things are looking really well.

About 10 weeks ago Gavin & his wife (sure you all know her) Vangie Cocker who is a great South African singer. Thank you for the CD which you gave us.

New Developments

We sold four of our smaller older boats and our fleet now consists of 9 boats; the majority has 4 Stroke Yamaha's. Our 2 new Parana's are now in action both fitted with new 80hp Yamaha's. They are really terrific boats and having 4 strokes is a fisherman's dream.

Robert has now a fully fledged work shop at Kalizo and repairs all types of outboard motors and selling spares and engines. He is fixing and servicing boats from Kasane and Rundu with a lot of support from the lodges.

Robert & Cindy are really doing well with their Caprivi Marine business and rob is in high demand, so if you need your boat/motor attended to either while on holiday or if you live in the area, please contact Rob on + 264 (0) 812354085 or land line +264 (66) 686803.

We have built new shade cloth garages in the car park for all our Self-catering guests. Other development that's happening regarding our main district road is going to be tarred in the new year!!!!

As always we have a special running from January though to May of 15% discount on all accommodation so book now and get your surprise discount once you have paid your deposits.

For further information on the Sir Osis please visit our webpage: www.kalizolodge.com

BHEJANE 4x4 TOURS

All the prices quoted include

- All guest-house, lodge and or tented accommodation
- All camp fees
- Three meals a day
- All park entrance fees
- All advertised activities
- Bhejane Adventures provides all the tents, cutlery and crockery
- Coffee & Tea – all day every day whilst in camp

What you need to bring

- You and your family
- Your passport
- Your vehicle & fuel



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Your own mattresses and sleeping bags
Your own fold-up chairs
Your own drinks and in-between snacks

2010 Tours:

Central Kalahari & Mabuasehube/Kgalagadi Trans Frontier Park

6 to 15 February 2010 (111) / 19 to 28 February 2010 (112)

9 night adventure (tented accommodation)

Cost: R9650, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Towards the end of summer, presuming reasonable rains have fallen in the area, the Kgalagadi is noted for its large number of resident eagles, such as the Martial, Tawny, Black Breasted, Snake and Bateleur. These are joined in February and March by the migrant raptors, the Booted Eagle and Steppe Buzzard, and the rare Lesser Spotted Eagle.

Join us on "The Highwayman's Adventure Route" on deep sand tracks through the vast expanse of Southern Africa's largest conservation area. Staring at Khama Rhino Sanctuary in the north, we wend our way south through the parks, camping "rough" in the bush, to where the adventure ends in Nossop.

We hope to be there when the numbers of eagles will be at their highest. However, we must not forget all the other wildlife we expect to see in the harsh but magnificent Kgalagadi Trans-frontier.

Sani Pass – Trans Lesotho Adventure

14 to 17 March 2010 (113)

3 night adventure (guest house accommodation)

Cost: R4000.00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

This long weekend is a must for any 4x4 or sports utility enthusiast; if you have not yet "tamed the dragon" you can now safely do so in the comfort of your own vehicle. Though the Sani Pass is awesome, no previous 4x4 experience is required.

This adventure traverses Lesotho from east to west over the highest mountain passes in Africa and includes a visit to the mighty Katse Dam. Our overnight stops are spent in the comfort of Cariad Heights Guest House in the Natal Midlands and the Bella Rosa Guest House in the Eastern Free State.

This Sani Pass tour can conveniently be combined with the Drive Out Reader's - Lesotho Kingdom tour below

Lesotho - Kingdom in the Sky - Drive Out Reader's Tour

19 to 23 March 2010 (113A)

4 night adventure (guest house accommodation)

Cost: R5550. 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

You and your family will enjoy the experience of navigating mountain tracks with names such as "Jockstrap Pass" and "God Help Me Pass" which sit at an average height of over 2 500m above sea level. Join us on our self-drive trip in Western Lesotho.



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Not only is this one of the most scenic parts of Southern Africa, but the cultural and historic secrets that you will discover will intrigue you. You will gain an appreciation of this beautiful little country in the sky with its friendly people that are the protectors for most of South Africa's fresh water.

This is a wonderful adventure for all types of 4-wheel drive vehicles and offers excitement for the whole family.

Trans Botswana, Caprivi, Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

2 to 12 April 2010 (114) / 14 to 24 June 2010 (119) / 25 June to 5 July 2010 (120) / 12 to 22 July 2010 (123) / 23 July to 2 August (124) / 24 September to 4 October 2010 (130)

10 night adventure (tented accommodation)

Cost: R7950, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Follow the contrast from the vast sand flats of the Makgadikgadi Pans, to the papyrus lined canals of the Okavango Delta and experience the magnificent Chobe National Park on a game drive, in an open safari vehicle and a boat cruise on the Chobe River.

Join us to discover the marvels of this geological intrigue as we travel from Kubu Island on into the Caprivi Strip via the mysterious Tsodilo Hills, eastwards along the Chobe River and on to the mighty Zambesi at the Victoria Falls.

Hluhluwe, Umfolozi & Maputoland – Refuge of the Rhino

29 April to 4 May 2010 (117)

5 night adventure (chalet accommodation)

Cost: R6950.00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Take this opportunity to drive and walk in South Africa's oldest game reserve, and royal hunting ground of Shaka Zulu. Frank and one of his former Zulu colleagues will enhance this experience and share anecdotes of rhino protection, game capture and Zulu history.

Accessible to only 4X4's, Maputoland's sand tracks meander past fresh-water inland lakes, under tropical tree canopies and to beaches lined with coral reefs.

Faces of the Namib Desert

23 to 28 May 2010 (118) / 17 to 22 October 2010 (134)

6 night adventure (tented accommodation)

Cost: R6000, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Do you believe that travel should be about more than "just looking" – and that every journey should be a life-enriching experience? Do you yearn to go off-the-beaten-track and experience unspoilt nature? If you answered YES, then you MUST experience the Namib.

The Namib Desert is a unique part of Southern Africa, which on first impression looks dangerous, uninviting and devoid of any life. This impression however, is very deceiving, as the Namib is full of surprises with a rich treasure of discovery for those fascinated by its unique beauty and to safely traverse these mighty dunes is a truly humbling experience.

Reported to be the oldest desert on earth, the Namib is approximately 80 million years old. Completely devoid of surface water, it is bisected by several dry riverbeds and is characterised by extensive, undulating dunes.



Mozambique – Big Game to Coral Reefs

25 June to 3 July 2010 (121) / 4 to 12 July 2010 (122) / 25 September to 3 October 2010 (132) / 4 to 12 October 2010 (133)

8 night adventure (tented & chalet accommodation)

Cost: R8250. 00 or (R7650.00 for tented & room accommodation)

(children under 10 @ 50%)

Starting in the magnificent Kruger Park, we travel east into the lush lowlands of Mozambique, we cross the mighty Limpopo and on to the coastal flood plains.

In chalets almost on the beach, near the town of Ihassoro, overlooking Bazaruto Island, we can experience the true feeling of this tropical paradise.

Having obtained permits to do so, we explore the tropical beaches, discovering the wonders of the coral lined coast, and with luck, we may encounter the elusive dugong.

Ivory Trail & Greater Kruger National Park

8 to 14 August 2010 (127)

6 night adventure (Tented bush-camp with on suite accommodation)

(Limited to ten persons only)

Cost: R7350, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

South Africa's premier game reserve KNP has in recent years become extensively larger as its boundaries shift into transfrontier parks and conservation areas in the form of conservancies.

Three of these areas are exclusive due to their 4x4 access only. The Makuya area in the northwest, the Letaba Ranch area in the central west and the Manyaletie area bordering the Sabi Sands . We spend two nights in each area, in private camps with tented bush lodge accommodation that only sleep ten people.

This is a private safari with high-tech game viewing, guided drives and walks, at a very competitive rate.

Lesotho - Kingdom in the Sky

17 to 21 September 2010 (129A)

4 night adventure (guest house accommodation)

Cost: R5250. 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

You and your family will enjoy the experience of navigating mountain tracks with names such as "Jockstrap Pass" and "God Help Me Pass" which sit at an average height of over 2 500m above sea level. Join us on our self-drive trip in Western Lesotho.

Not only is this one of the most scenic parts of Southern Africa, but the cultural and historic secrets that you will discover will intrigue you. You will gain an appreciation of this beautiful little country in the sky with its friendly people that are the protectors for most of South Africa's fresh water.

This is a wonderful adventure for all types of 4-wheel drive vehicles and offers excitement for the whole family.



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***Etosha – Skeleton Coast, Land of the Desert Rhino
20 to 31 August 2010 (128) / 2 to 13 September 2010 (129)***

11 night adventure (tented accommodation)
Cost: R8950.00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

After the brief summer rains have come and gone the Etosha becomes a great, dry ghostly place, with mirages shimmering over its vast 130 x 50 kilometre expanse. The verges of the lake are however, well treed and grassed, with several springs providing water for the numerous animals and birds which live permanently around the pan.

A visit to Etosha, Damaraland and the Skeleton Coast is a never to be forgotten experience for the connoisseur of scenery, atmosphere and the unusual that only the “dorsland” of the Kalahari and the Namib can offer,

***Zambia – Liuwa Plains Wildebeest Migration
1 to 10 November 2010 (135)***

9 night adventure (tented accommodation)
Cost: R9450, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Our route takes us from Kasane in Botswana to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, where we catch our first glimpse of the Mighty Zambezi. Following the course of the Zambezi past the Sioma Falls we cross the Barotse Floodplains and on through the town of Kalabo in Western Zambia.

From Kalabo, we enter the Liuwa Plains National Park where we will encounter the second biggest wildebeest migration in Africa. At times, wildebeest and their calves can be seen in their hundreds, followed by the predators that stalk them.

Contact Frank or Dennis on info@bhejane.com

January 2010

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Dear Alan

As committee member and driver trainer for the FWDCSA I have been wanting to comment on your E-Zine for some time now.

“BRILLIANT”

Thank you so much for the work you do for us.

Kind Regards

Andre van Wyk (M08) 4697

FWDCSA - Driver Training & Estates Portfolio



Hi Alan

Tx for your most comprehensive and informing newsletter. Do you have information on self drive, guided safaris in Botswana (including Okavango, Vic Falls etc) for 2010 ? I see the email address of Roads to Roam – will email them.

Regards
Esta Morkel

COME TO ZIMBABWE!!!

Hi Alan,

Thank you for your most informative newsletter. I especially appreciate you placing our brief on Sunpath Safaris in the edition. I see you have also had correspondence from Dick Pitman (Zim 4x4), who is a good friend of ours. We will be running the canoe trails for Dick on his proposed tours to Zim and Mana Pools.

We are off to Mana together for a week, leaving on the 4th Dec - cant wait!. Thanks again and keep in touch.

Best regards,
Craig Chittenden
SUNPATH SAFARIS P/L
PO Box Wgt 416, Westgate, Harare
Tel: (263-4) 304043
Email: sunpath@mweb.co.zw
Web: www.sunpathsafaris.com

MADIKWE IS AFFORDABLE!!!!

Alan,

We went to Madikwe and stayed at Mooifontein for 3 nights. We had an awesome time and saw the Big 5 on one game drive on Christmas day, even saw a cheetah and wild dog kill. Mooifontein is a self-catering lodge where everything is included except food/drink -- I can braai my own steak and open my own wine!

It is sold as a complete camp with 10 beds (5 x 2-person sleeping units w/ A/C) for R6500/night. A central building and lapa are flanked by the sleeping units all overlooking a waterhole with constant activity. This isn't cheap, but is considerably less than the standard fully-catered rack rates that easily cost R2000/person/night.

Might be something for the readers to consider if you can get 10 people to commit.
John Scholtes

PRIZEWINNERS THANK SUPPLIERS

Hi Gerard (Wash Ezi)

At the last Enthusiasts Meeting of 2009 held at Kempton Caravans, I was fortunate to win the WASHEZI Washing machine as a prize on the evening. I would like to thank you for supporting our club and sponsoring this prize. I appreciate your friendly and efficient service. I am sure my wife will enjoy her bush outings more by having more time to spend exploring and not to worry about the washing.



Once again I thank you and wish you all of the best with this wonderful product.
Regards
Ronald Emmerson

Hello Martin (Rope Construction)

I want to thank you and your company on the generous prizes I received at the 4x4 club meeting last week. I was overwhelmed by the contents of the boxes and the smaller duck billed anchors have already been placed inside my tent bag ready for the next trip.

*Again, thanks for the prizes.
Jonathan Greengrass*

FEEDBACK FROM MASAZANE 4x4 GUIDES COURSE ATTENDEE

I arrived on Friday afternoon to find that we were 14 people on the course. 5 from our club. The great thing was the way the lectures were presented, more a discussion forum than a lecture, this meant we were able to obtain a huge amount of knowledge from everyone involved.

The area is really beautiful and worth a long weekend trip at some stage.
Neville Black

FEEDBACK RE GOOD SERVICE IN INDUSTRY

Hi Alan

I would like to mention the name of Herman Timmerman at LA Sport Centurion for the exceptional service and good prices on equipment bought and fitted at their premises in Hennospark. Ask Herman for a quote and you will be surprised what they can offer.

Kind regards
Brian Brynard

ECO4X4AFRICA FOR SAFARIS AND TOURS IN 12 AFRICAN COUNTRIES 2010

This Tour program is for the 4x4 Off-road Club and for members receiving the E-Zine newsletter

The following Terms and Conditions apply for **Club Members only**

1. Adults – Listed price LESS 15% **for members and included for family members**
2. High School Children 13-18 years 50% of the listed price
3. Primary School Children 6-12 years 25% of the listed price
4. Not in School Children – 10% of the listed price
5. All tours for members are Non Catered Tours

The following Terms and Conditions apply for **Non Club Members but E-Zine Readers**

1. All persons – Listed Price LESS 5% - Adults to 6 years old's
2. All tours for Readers are Non Catered Tours.

General

1. Nett prices are Nett and confirmed as Nett

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2. Catering is possible and can be included at roughly 15% of the Listed Price

Tour 3: 18-22 Mar 2010 Sutherland Star Gazing R2500pp Bus and Chalets
R1500pp Own veh & Chalets
R1000pp Own veh and Camp
Cars and SUV's welcome

1. Pretoria 2. Bloemfontein 3. Beaufort Wes 4. Sutherland and back.

Tour 3A: 14-23 Mar 2010 Botswana North R9500pp Bus and Chalets
R8000pp Own veh & Chalets
Cars and SUV's welcome

1. Francistown/2. Kasane/3. Chobe/4. Boat Cruise/5. Nata/6. Maun and same route back

Tour 4: 11 Apr – 13 May (35) Serengeti Migration R27500pp-35days&7Countries
21 Apr – 2 May (12) Serengeti Fly-in R24750 Nett Price Per Person
21 Apr – 6 May (16) Serengeti + Zanzibar Fly-in R27750 Nett Price Per Person
Flight Tickets & Tax included

1. Vic Falls/ 2. Kilimanjaro/ 3. Ngorongoro Crater/ 4. Serengeti/ 5. Masai Mara/ 6. Zanzibar 7. Malawi 8. Mozambique. No children on this tour, June for school children and parents.

Tour 5A: 22 May-6 Jun 2010 Botswana All over R8500pp Own 4x4 & Chalets
R9900pp 4x4 Passenger &
R6900pp Own 4x4 & Camp

1. Ganza/ 2. Maun/ 3. Moremi/ 4. Delta/ 5. Caprivi/ 6. Chobe

Tour 6: 13 Jun-14 Jul (35) Serengeti Masai R27500pp-35days&7Countries

1. Vic Falls/ 2. Kilimanjaro/ 3. Ngorongoro Crater/ 4. Serengeti/ 5. Masai Mara/ 6. Zanzibar 7. Malawi 8. Mozambique. We stay on the longer Tour via Malawi and Mozambique

Tour 6B: This is the school holiday Serengeti Tour and the prices are NETT Per PERSON

Tour 6B: 13 Jun-11 Jul Serengeti Migration Same Route there and back

1. Vic Falls/ 4. Kilimanjaro/ 3. Ngorongoro Crater/ 4. Serengeti/ 5. Masai Mara/ 6. Back
In the National Parks for Tanzania, 16 and older are Adults and prices are listed as such
In the National Parks for Kenya, 12 years and older are Adults and prices are listed as such
Adults: 16 years and older on 13 June 2010 Nett price R22500pp Own vehicle&Camp
High school 13-15 years on 13 June 2010 Nett price R11000pp in a family vehicle
Prim school 6-12 years on 13 June 2010 Nett price R5000pp in a family vehicle
Not in school till 13 June 2010 Nett price R1000pp in a family vehicle

Tour 7: 17-31 Jul 2010 Kaokoland North Nam R7500 Own 4x4 & Camp
1. Etosha/ 2. Ruacana/ 3. Swartbooi/ 4. Epupa/ 5. Van Zyl/ 6. Puros/ 7. Swakop/ 7. Windhk

Tour 10: 21-29 Aug 2010 Namaqualand Bus Tour only and now cars/4x4's

This tour is for elderly people who want to go and see the flower in Namaqualand

Nett Price R6500 Bus and B&B

1. Augrabies/ 2. Springbok/ 3. Garies/ 4. Lambertsbaai/ 5. Vanrhynsdorp/ 6. Calvinia/ 7. Upt

Tour 15: 29 Aug – 19 Sep Angola Luanda Tour R19500-23 Days **Catered**

This tour is a fishing, beach and scenic tour from Ruacana to Luanda on the coastline & back via the best routes down to Leba Pass, Huambo and Lubango

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1.Cunene mouth/ 2.Doodsakker/ 3. Flamingo Lodge/ 4. Benquela/ 5. Cabelado/ 6. Kwanza Lodge/ 7. Luanda City/ 8. Brug 14/ 9. Huambo/ 10. Lubango/ 11.Leba Pass Down&Up/
Planning for this tour starts on 1 June because of Visa requirements

All price include VAT and if you are register for VAT – Please request a VAT INVOICE
Some of these Tour can be used as a Corporate Reward Programs

Contact Detail

Alex Smit

Professional Tour Operator & Guide

Registered: Adventure (4x4 & Overland), Nature (FGASA) and Culture (SA(DEAT Registered: GP2227)

Mobile: + 27 (0) 82 570 6010

Tel: + 27 (0) 12 743 5111 (Computer Office 1)

Tel: + 27 (0) 12 804 2701 (Office 2)

Fax: + 27 (0) 12 804 9382 (Office)

Email: alex@eco4x4africa.com

Skype Name: eco4x4africa

Skype Number +27127435111

Membership of:

Field Guide Association of SA

Four Wheel Drive Guides Association SA

South African Guests: www.eco4x4africa.com

International Guests: www.eco4x4safaris.com

COMPANY: ECO4X4AFRICA CC (2006/162954/23)

VAT: 4320235056

January 2010

Emergency Break!

This new section will focus on a monthly update in the world of First Aid for the Outdoor Enthusiast, based on a successful presentation at each Enthusiast Meeting during 2009. Information is voluntarily presented by Joke Wandrag from the SA First Aid League.



Do you know ICE? ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. Who do you want the emergency services to contact in case of emergency? Upload this number on your cell phone or the cell phones of your family under the name ICE. This name is well known and used by members of the emergency services, and an easy link to the next of kin of the patient. Some handy numbers below

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Cut this out & laminate & leave in car cubby.....

Medical Emergency Number	10177
Medical Emergency Number	082 911
SANCA (South African National Council on Alcoholism & Drugs) www.sancanational.org.za	011 726 4210
Epilepsy www.epilepsy.org.za	011 816 2040
Poison info Centre	011 642 2417/ 021 689 5227
Child abuse www.childlinesa.org.za	0800 055 555
Gender violence stopwomanabusehelpline.org.za	0800 150 150
Snake bite www.sareptiles.co.za	0800 333 444
SANBS (South African National Blood Service) www.sanbs.org.za	0800 119 031
Suicide Helpline (lifeline) www.sadag.co.za	011 922 9999/ 021 430 1122
Organ Donation info@organdonor.org.za	0800 226 611
Medic Alert www.medicalert.co.za	084 194 4444
Medical Emergency numbers for neighboring countries: Mozambique	117
	997
Botswana	994
Zimbabwe	2032276
Namibia	118
Angola	

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Did you know that you can find the emergency numbers for each town on an information board alongside the road just before you enter the town?

Tip: Keep Emergency number at hand.

Safe & Healthy 4x4ing

Joke Wandrag
Head of Training / Accredited Assessor and Moderator
South African First Aid League
Accredited with DOL & HWSETA

rwandrag@mweb.co.za



www.firstaidleague.co.za

REMINDER TO ADVENTURERS

Masazane Expeditions will present the 4x4 Trails and Overland Tourist Guide Course as follows:

LOUIS TRICHARDT COURSE : 10 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2010
LOUIS TRICHARDT COURSE : 24 TO 28 MARCH 2010

AN IMPORTANT NOTE:

DUE TO OUR 2010 TRANS-AFRICA EXPEDITION, THESE WILL BE THE ONLY PLANNED COURSES ON OFFER FOR 2010. DAVE IS ONLY EXPECTED BACK MID-NOVEMBER TO EARLY DECEMBER 2010 SO WE CAN ONLY SAY IF THERE WILL BE ANOTHER COURSE CLOSER TO THE END OF THE YEAR.

The training course is very comprehensive and subscribes to the highest guide and 4x4 industry ethics and codes of conduct. The course is designed to accommodate any level of experience. Every person that completes this training course successfully SHOULD BE a better 4x4 Trails and Overland Tourist Guide and a benefit to the 4x4 tourism industry. The 4x4 Trails and Overland Tourist Guide Training Course covers all aspects of being a 4x4 Tourist Guide – 4x4 Driver Training terminology; 4x4 Vehicle Recovery terminology; Environmental Aspects; General Guiding Aspects; Expedition Planning and Organisation; Border Post Formalities, Navigation; Communications; First Aid (African diseases are covered); Basic Survival Skills; Cooking; etc. Wherever possible, **Masazane Expeditions** also include various lectures from various specialists in their fields on subjects of interest to us as 4x4 Trails and Overland Tourist Guides – Snakes; Scorpions; Insurance; Marketing; etc.

Please bear in mind that this course is **not** a 4x4 driving training course but a tourist guide training course. The course is designed around the assumption that you already can drive a 4x4 vehicle. However should it be required special arrangements can be made before the course – please contact Dave for more details. Since the 4x4 Driver Training US was registered in 2008, **all persons wishing to attend the 4x4 Trails and Overland Tourist Guide Course must be able to provide certified copies of a Level I and a Level II 4x4 Driving Training Certificate, i.e. basic as well as advanced 4x4 driver training, from a reputable driving school/organisation.**

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Corporate 4x4 driver training sessions can be arranged – we have completed many 4x4 driver training sessions for Anglo Platinum and Anglo American over the past few years – basic as well as advanced courses. If you are interested in a group training session please contact Dave for further details.

As you can see this is a very diverse course and covers a wide variety of subjects. Much hard work is anticipated. We will try and make the course as comfortable as possible but you must realise that we may be busy right into the evenings to be able to complete everything in a timely fashion. Please note that lectures may continue after supper, depending on how far we progress and how many questions/discussions there are. **Masazane Expeditions** tries to involve everybody as much as possible.

Our contact details are:

015 516 5717 Tel / Fax
082 829 5421 Jacqui's mobile
082 772 6682 Dave's mobile
info@masazane.co.za
dave@masazane.co.za

April 2009

Fresh from the Bush – New Products

NEW 4x4 SNORKELS ON MARKET FROM R2700!!!

Dear Sir,

I have imported some 4x4 Snorkels, the Snorkel material is made from UV protected LLDPE, Polyethylene material with full accessories namely bolts, nuts, brackets, and template.

The price for the Snorkels start from R2, 750.00 we can deliver the Snorkels free of charge in the Gauteng area. The range of Snorkels that we have imported is extensive ranging from Toyota, Land Rover, Nissan, Mitsubishi, and Jeep. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me on 082 4728908 or Fax No: 012 6545221

Bruce Tait. - arnoxtrading@hotmail.com

LED LIGHT STRIPS – 1-5m LONG

It comes in lengths of 1 to 5 Metres Long 8mm Wide 2mm High - can be trimmed and joined every three LEDs (or every 40 mm). I bought a meter to use as lights for camping. I will be sticking it to the poles of my tent, 6 LEDs at a time. It only uses 4.5w per metre.

http://shop.rabtron.co.za/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=41_%20409_393_420&products_id=4986

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EFFICIENT FUEL STOVES

These fuel efficient wood/charcoal burning stoves are great to potjies amongst other things. Do you bit towards reducing carbon emissions. I'm organising a group buy, so send me an email if you're interested.

- R230.00 for the wood only unit.
- R260.00 for the charcoal/wood (2 door) unit.

The StoveTec efficient wood and charcoal stove is a product designed by the Aprovecho research centre in the USA (www.stovetec.net).

There are two models available:

One-door wood stove which is priced at R230 (VAT included) and
Two-door wood and charcoal stove priced at R260 (VAT included).

Some quick facts on the stove:

- It won the 2009 Ashden Award for Green Innovation
www.ashdenawards.org/international
- The stove uses at least 50% less wood/charcoal and produces at least 60% less greenhouse gasses.
- Smoke from the stove, once it has been lit, is virtually non-existent.
- It is safe, rugged, mobile, simple to use and easy to clean.
- It keeps its heat for hours

An example of the stove's efficiency: 3 small (30cm x 3cm diameter) pieces of wood is enough to prepare 1,5kg of pap in 20 minutes.

Philip and Lesley Sackville-Scott
Tel: +27 21 558 3930
Mobile: +27 82 446 1981
Web: www.sackville-safaris.co.za

The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedbacks

2008 TAU 4x4 TRAIL TRIP REPORT

The Tau 4x4 Trail is located in the Krugersdorp Game Reserve and boasts a wide variety of antelope species including Kudu, Zebra, Eland and the magnificent Sable Antelope. The reserve also boasts four of the Big Five – Elephant being the only species not on show in this 1600 hectare game reserve on the West Rand, a mere 45 minutes drive from the Johannesburg CBD.

The day started off at 08h30 with a welcoming and brief description of what the days programme would entail by Jannie Rykaart, owner of Protea Eco-Adventures and our guide for the day on the Tau 4x4 Trail through the Krugersdorp Game Reserve.

Trail goers were supplied with two-way radios for communication throughout the day – this way all trail goers are aware of all wildlife spotted whilst on the “game-drive” section of the Tau 4x4 Trail. The convoy of 10 vehicle, with Jannie Rykaart in his Mitsubishi Pajero Sport in the lead,



started off on the trail. Our first stop – one of the dams in the game reserve that the two local Hippopotamuses call home.

On our way to the hippo pool we passed a lane of large oak trees that used to line the road leading up to the old Du Toit family farmhouse in the 1800's when the land that the game reserve is on used to be their farm.

A bit further on we passed the Du Toit family cemetery where graves date back to 1805, also buried here is Dirk Brink, the deceased owner of the Krugersdorp Game Reserve that was attacked and killed by the lions in their enclosure in 2006. His son, Derrick, who recently passed away in a car accident, is buried by his side.

We spotted the two female hippos, both 25 years of age and originally from the Phalaborwa area in their dam and after a few pictures, proceeded to the grass plain section of the game reserve where we saw a large herd of Blesbuck as well as some Springbuck and the strange-looking Black Wildebees – the clown of the Bushveld.

We then proceeded down a rocky slope towards the Sable Antelope enclosure housing seven of these majestic animals with their scimitar-like horns.

Adjacent to the Sable Antelope enclosure is the very popular Lion Enclosure with its various prides – 4 adults and 3 cubs in the main enclosure, another pride of 4 in the large quarantine camp, as well as two rare white lions in one of the quarantine camps.

The reason why the second pride of lions kept in a separate enclosure from the adults and cubs in the main enclosure is the fact that the alpha male lion will kill of all other lions in his territory to make sure that his bloodline faces no competition when it comes to mating season.

The feed, normally cattle that have died from natural causes from surrounding farms, are brought into the feeding ring where our convoy parked to witness these glorious beasts in action.

All the while, Jannie is giving us some information on the lions and their hunting tactics and how they are specialised with killing in mind.

We then proceeded to the large quarantine camp to see the second pride of lions close-up whilst feeding and finally the white lions also getting their fair share of the bait! The lions in are fed at 10h00 every Sunday and it is an event not to be missed!

Leaving the tarred roads of the lion enclosure, we convoy goes offroad again to tackle some more technical offroad sections that require low range and differential lock to help your vehicle through the rocky climbs and descends causing minimal damage to the environment by preventing wheel spin by making full use of our offroad systems.

On this offroad section, the rare sight of a giraffe lying down and the white rhino cow with her calf could be seen close-up whilst they were feeding in between the thorn trees.

At about 11h45 the convoy stopped for a break at the old movie house – a replica built for a documentary on Dr. Hans Merensky, who first discovered Platinum in the Transvaal in 1923.



After spending a few minutes there whilst stretching the legs sharing stories amongst one another, we headed off to the Protea 4x4 Track where the real fun would begin – the 5km obstacle course simulates most of the offroad terrain that you will encounter in Southern Africa and also includes two river crossing, one of which you actually have to drive upstream!

Mitsubishi Motors Gauteng West also made one of their new Pajero Sport's available for the day to show what it could do in offroad conditions and it handled the entire trail with ease!

The obstacle course section of the Tau 4x4 Trail caters for both 4x4 and 4x2 vehicles with "escape routes" for the latter clearly marked at all obstacles.

With Jannie in the Pajero Sport in the lead, trail goers started with the first of many 25 minute laps in their vehicles, swapping drivers so that everyone could experience the thrill of tackling the various obstacles that the course offers.

After everyone had had a chance to go around the track, the convoy moved up to the day visitors area of the Ngonyama Caravan Park in the game reserve and had a braai to end off a day in the bush.

2009 GUIDES PLANNING WEEKEND

The 2010 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club Guide Planning Weekend was held at the Koro Koro Safari Lodge outside Bela Bela – a beautifully laid out and clean bush camp facility. The experienced guides and new wannabe guides started arriving on Friday afternoon and set up camp, 23 families in total. It was wonderful to have the whole camp to ourselves. Friendships were rekindled after the December break.

We started our planning and discussion sessions early-ish on Saturday morning with theory on the practical side of guiding within the club. Cupcakes were served at tea time by Natalie to celebrate Morne's birthday.

Our normally organized, fearless leader left some paperwork behind but that didn't mean a free session. It was extremely hot and we sat under the shade of beautiful bushveld large trees and continued our sessions. A quick break for lunch meant the opportunity for a swim to try cool off. Soon we were back under the trees for informative demonstrations on tyres (given by Alex Smit), tyre repairs (Greg van der Reis) winching (Peet Koekemoer), recovery and useful guides gear (Alan Goodway) and camp site fire fighting (Frans Glanvill). We discussed the difficulties that may occur when Botswana brings in new tour guide legislation. We are fortunate in our club to have well connected people who are able to offer solutions to some of these problems. We ended the day's "work" and before long were all in the pool. The kids had a wonderful time, switching between the warm and cold pools, riding bicycles, playing pool and enjoying the camp's playground. The bar ice cream and cool drink business sky rocketed while moms and dads attended lectures.

Just as Jonathan Greengrass had the fires going a tremendous wind and rain storm started. A strong wind drove the rain in and within about 20 minutes we had 12 – 15ml of rain (measured in our high tech rain-gauge – mug and ruler).

Duncan Kenney and his camping gals were sitting in the pub when the storm started. On their return after the storm they were shocked to find the remains of two mangled tent poles - bent at 90° angles. Malcolm and Linda van Coller's flysheet blew loose and everything in their rooftop



tent got soaked – luckily Koro Koro had a spare chalet available for their use. The Greengrass van also suffered some damage but this was only discovered when they were packing up.

By early evening the storm cleared and the fires were again lit. Little Rynhard Koekemoer had such fun on his bicycle riding through a mud puddle. When he fell and landed in the puddle we all held our breaths waiting for him to start crying, instead he splashed about and had even more fun – nothing a bath can't sort out!

At 1am in the morning laughter could still be heard from around the campfire.

We were awoken by the coffee crier when Grant and Karine Keenan walked around the campsite offering boiling water out of one kettle and coffee out of another – this is taking back-door duties to the extreme and will be a hard act to follow, especially at 6.00am in the blooming morning!

It was wonderful to have Greg van der Reis with us for the weekend – Greg is the owner of the Cape Town based 4x4 Off-road Adventure Club. He shared his knowledge and experience on how to use a high lift jack with us – a non-cooperative jack at that, so we even learnt how to jack down a vehicle when the jack fails.

A skottle brunch and a leisurely packup saw the weekend draw to a close. Finally everybody had left. A great weekend and good ground work laid for an exciting year ahead.

Jvlian, Di and Josh Jarvis

I was invited by Alan Goodway of our gauteng club to join them at Bella Bella (Warmbaths) for a weekend of fun and a training weekend for prospective Club (Gauteng) guides. The weekend was fantastic and although I am an ex Vaalie I was amazed to see that they could be in a semi wilderness area within 1 hour. We had thunderstorms, had great braais and in general it was a great weekend. Although the members are great people just like our Cape members it was interesting to see that most members own offroad caravans or trailers. Thanks Alan it was great.

*Greg van der Reis
Cape Town*

Hi Alan,
Thanks for the very interesting and informative weekend, we had a great time.
Regards,
Nigel & Denise Wilshire

*Hi Alan
Thank you for a great weekend and all the effort that went into it to make it so successful.
Regards.
Koos & Audrey vd Merwe*

Thanks Alan for a great weekend, we really enjoyed it!
Elmarie & Jan Swanepoel

*Hallo Alan
Just to say thank you again for a lovely weekend , for your hospitality and also that coming from fellow members. You have indeed managed to bring an elite group of people together. They were all very open to receive. And welcome us as new members.*



*We are sure that we will have a great time with you and the club in the years to come, God permitting. You can count on me should you need me for something. Have a great week.
Kind regards Pieter en Joelna May*

Hi Alan,

Thanks for the camp this weekend, Helen and I really found it so informative. The speakers you arranged really made it interesting. Aside from the heat we really enjoyed it and came away a lot wiser. May I make one comment though, I'm not sure if you had a plan b for if the weather had not played along, but I was worried for your part after all the preparation I know you had put into it.

Neville and Helen Black

Hi Al,

I just want to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and the information sharing session yesterday and the training / familiarization session yesterday and today. Thank you for allowing me to attend and benefit from the proceedings – the guides are a great bunch and its really warming to hear the passion coming out. I hope I can build on my skills and give back to what I regard as one of the best decisions I have made in my life – to join the club and participate in the outdoor activities.

Thank you for making the outdoor experience Sean and I have had over the past 5+ years , as fabulous as it has been.

*Warm regards,
Jono Owen*

Alan

On behalf of Berni and my self I would like to thank you again for a well spent weekend. It was great to spend time with all again and refresh our minds on all the demonstrations presented. We enjoyed meeting new friends and to spend time with old friends. Thank you for all you did for us, the planning, the notes and advice you gave us, it is appreciated.

*I must say we fee honoured to be associated with you and such a great club" family"
Thank you once again.*

*Regards
Duncan Kenney*

RHINO PARK 4x4 DAY TRIP

4x4 Offroad Adventure Club Kick Off Braai and Get Together

Annually, to start of the new year, the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club holds a kick-off braai and get-together. Although the focus of this event is on socializing with other members and friends, it's also when the much anticipated club calendar is released and the members in attendance have the privilege to be the first to see what's planned for the year ahead. For those who want to lubricate their vehicle's 4x4 systems, the day also included a 4x4 trail.

This year, the club's annual kick-off braai and Get Together was held at Rhino Park, home of the McCarthy 4x4 Club. This venue was chosen for its excellent facilities, 4x4 track and their huge lapa, should the heavens open.



With more than anticipated interest in the 4x4 track, two groups were formed, with the first group leaving the clubhouse at 8:30 and the second an hour later, at 9:30. Both these groups were led by an experienced McCarthy Club guide. Due to the heavy rains the area had the week before; the track leading up to the mountain was muddy and extremely slippery, with a vehicle recovery just as the track started. Once past the slippery clay track, it was up the mountain. Even getting up some of the rocky sections was quite tricky, as the rocks were still wet and traction on the bigger rock surfaces was almost non-existent.

The McCarthy guides had safety as their number one priority and some obstacles were given a miss due to the conditions. This did however not mean that the track was at all easy and some sections called for serious concentration and careful guiding. Once on top, everyone turned around on a steep flat rock surface and we started to head back. Getting down the mountain also held its own challenges and some sections were truly "as slow as possible – as fast as necessary". With all the vehicles safely down the mountain, the first group had some time to spare and was led to the "sand-pit"; a sandy, muddy area usually used for training, before they too headed for the lapa at the club house.

Once the two 4x4 groups arrived at the lapa, the fires were already lit and some of the other members were already preparing their meat. With about XX families in attendance, there was a lively buzz as everyone tried to catch-up on the latest news, holiday destinations, and possible trips for the year ahead. When everyone was done braaing, Alan called everyone's attention, handed out the proposed club calendar and briefly went through some of the highlights for the year. This included several long haul trips to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia. Some exiting weekend and day trips as well as several non-4x4 trips and events, including training, social responsibility and "chill" events.

Everyone was amazed by the amount of trips planned for the year and if you were really quiet, you could almost hear the grey matter going in overdrive as plans were made to attend some of the events. With a quick glance at the calendar there is on average 8 events per month with still many on the cards to fulfil every member's needs.

The formalities were concluded by Johan Ungerer, who thanked Alan for his dedication to the club and the opportunities he gives to the members. He also thanked Charmaine for her behind-the-scene support and dedication and reminded everyone of the age old saying: Behind every great man, is an even greater woman. A saying which could not be more true!

Once everyone finished their meal and socialised with fellow members, they slowly started packing up and one by one left for the concrete jungle, full of plans, anticipation and excitement for what promises to be another spectacular 4x4 year with the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club!

See you out there ...

Moren & Natalie vd Westhuizen

Hi Alan,

Thanks for organizing yesterday; we enjoyed the trail and the socializing afterwards. It is always great to be out with members doing what we love.

Regards,

Nigel and Denise Wilshire



Hi

Many thanks for a great day Well organised and a good venue. Great to see so many new faces and like minded families,
Cheers – Stu Richter

Hi Alan,

thanks for a fabulous day today, a bit slippery on the first bit but super thereafter, Helen and I really had a great day and the two young ladies we had along thought it was great. Please convey a special thanks to Antonie (McCarthy 4x4 Club) from us for his guiding and advice as well as to Nigel for his patience (maybe Denise won't agree). The social afterwards was really relaxing, and a thanks to Eric for his help with the skid plate.

Neville and Helen Black

2009 CLUB AWARDS

Congratulations to all award winners. They were:

1. Bridgestone Ambassador Award 2009 – Alan Goodway
2. Vendor Support Appreciation Awards – Griesel Nel Auditors & Accountants, Kempton Caravans, Honeydew Toyota, Golden Pipit, Escape Gear, KJ Boltions & Boltions GPS Warehouse, Echo 4x4, Piet van Jaarsveld, Phillip Viljoen Brokers, Bridgestone SA & Cross Country
3. 40% and above Participation & Attendance Awards – Families Black, Collinge, vd Merwe Kim, vd Merwe K, Wilshire, Jarvis, Swanepoel Johan, Pistorius, Greengrass, Glanvill, vd Westhuizen, Goodway
4. 5 Year Membership Awards – Families Romijn, Odendaal, Snyders
5. Big 5 Awards –Families – Snyders, Koekemoer, de Vries, Skeggs, Owen, vd Westhuizen
6. Driving Team of the Year 2009 – Bridgestone Fundi 4x4 Challenge – Philip Viljoen Trophy – Allan & Louise McCormack
7. Guide of the Year 2009 – Bridgestone SA Floating Trophy – Nigel Wilshire
8. Enthusiast Family of the Year 2009 – Boltions GPS Floating Trophy – Swanepoel (Johan, Mary & Kids) Family
9. 4x4 OAC Support Award 2009 – Griesel Nel Auditors & Accountants Floating Trophy – Black (Neville & Helen) Family
10. Member Family of the Year – Cross Country Floating Trophy – Nigel & Denise Wilshire

Hi Alan And family

Thank you so much for a wonderful evening . We really appreciate the effort that you put in to make this such a special evening .

Di & Jvlian Jarvis

Hi Alan and Charmaine,

Last night was a most memorable occasion for Denise and I. Being part of our club is such a wonderful honour for us. Winning such prestigious awards is so easy and so enjoyable when we are with such esteemed folk such as the clan. Since the club entered my life, I have never had such great fun on my weekends and in my spare time. I live for my 4x4 Offroad Adventure outings.

The reason why we have such a high attendance figure is that I have put Denise on email guard and she will be in serious trouble if I miss one of your trips ☺ Thanks for the wonderful evening



last night. Your special touches never go unnoticed. We know that you put a huge amount of effort into everything you do for this club and the members. We appreciate the sacrifices made by the Goodway family in order to bring this excellent quality to us.

Many thanks and Blessings to you all.
Nigel and Denise Wilshire

HEIDELBERG 4x4 TRAIL

Hi Alan

Just to say thank you for the opportunity to act as the back door. I did not realize that it was so much work but I believe that it helped Morne to make the convoy work well together. With technical parts of the course we were working in tandem to make the flow of the vehicles quicker so that they did not have to stand and wait there turn to long.

Once again thank you.
Kim van der Merwe

The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy

PAJERO 3.2 FULLY KITTED

2006 3.2 DiD Pajero, White, Diesel
+/- 111500km's, with full maintenance plan till 120000km - Full Service History (Mitsubishi Midrand and Brooklyn)

Includes:

Front Runner Roofrack (worth R4K)
ARB Bull Bar Replacement (worth R13K)
KC Spotlights (worth R1500)
GME GX 300 29Mhz Radio & Aerial Fitted (worth R2500)
VHF Radio & Aerial will be removed
Old Man Emu Suspension replacement (coils & shocks) (Worth R15000)
Escape Gear Spare Wheel cover
Escape Gear Seat Covers
Escape Gear Dash Cover with pockets (worth R2800 for E/Gear lot)
Front Runner Packing System with 4 ammo boxes (small) (worth 4000) Fridge slider will be removed- custom made
Custom made rack system for back space by Big Country (aluminum) (worth R4000)
Firestone Air Shock Assisters fitted to rear (worth R2100)
Front Runner Extra fuel tank underneath (+/-38l) with electric pump over mechanism (worth R4000)
Roof rack gas holder, 2 x jerry can holder and water tank will be removed)
Purpose built dual battery system and caravan charging unit will be removed.

Due to conversion at purchase, the 2 jump seat at the back were removed and disposed of.



All stickers will be removed and the car will get full valet. It does have minor scratches, which with a good polish will be sorted, but accept that the car has been used for trip regularly. It eats Dunes for breakfast. AS SEEN IN BRIDGESTONE DUELER ADVERT IN LEADING OFFROAD MAGS!

Offers of around R250 000.00 will be considered.
4x4offroad@mweb.co.za (Gauteng, Centurion)

OUTDOOR WAREHOUSE TYPE INFLATABLE BOAT

Inflatable boat, with blow up seats and add on transom (wood), bought new in November 2009, and used 4 times during holidays. In excellent condition. New – about R3000. Now available at only R2000. Great for kids, has oars, and works superb with Electric Battery Motor. Upgrading boat for next holiday.

4x4offroad@mweb.co.za (Gauteng, Centurion)

MINN KOTA TRANSOM MOUNT TROLLING MOTOR

Ideal for bass fisherman, or for use with boat above. 36lb thrust, runs off battery. Brand new, used briefly once (owner migrated to 2HP Petrol Motor!) In original box, 3 year warranty. Retail for over R3500. Now only R2000.

4x4offroad@mweb.co.za (Gauteng, Centurion)

BRAND NEW SPORT BATTERY (12V)

Bought for above boat, used once – New R800. Selling for R650.

ECHO 4x4 BATTERY BOX, WITH CHARGING SYSTEM & INVERTER

To house battery for home, car or other use. Retail for over R3200 new. Brand new. R2500 – absolute bargain. Has a waterproof / dust proof bag custom made from PVC which will ship with box.

Buy boat, electric motor, battery & battery box for R6300 the lot! BARGAIN!!!

15" RIMS & TYRES 4 SALE

I have a set of 15" steel rims and tyres that I used to fit to my Colt when going off road. I am willing to sell them as a single lot of 5 rims with tyres for R4000. The tyres range in age from 2 with about 30 000 kms to 2 with only 8000 kms. 30x9.5xR15

Regards,
Pat Dillon - 20242493@worldonline.co.za

JURGENS XCAPE CARAVAN 4 SALE

I have a 2008 Jurgens Xcape off road caravan that we have used twice while in JHB. Its in mint condition and comes with the built in geyser, water tank, National Luna Freezer, awnings etc. The new price is R149 000 and I am looking in the region of R120 000. I have advertised it here but no response so thought there may be more interest up there. If there are serious buyers, I can send photos and will tow it up for them if required.

Rgds
Gary Oelofse (Cape Town)
GOelofse@distell.co.za



WANTED – ROOF TOP TENT

Do you have a facility to request to members for equipment?, I am looking for a Roof top tent to purchase.

Davin Webster
0828077351

LAND CRUISER CAMPER WANTED

We are planning on touring africa for at least 6 months and possibly a year. i would like to buy a Toyota Landcruiser camper. i would prefer a solid used 4.2 diesel, 2 spares, winch, sand ladder. Would you be interested in selling one or do you know someone who is? I could sell it back once we are finished with it.

We would like to start in Cape Town February 2010, but would consider picking it up anywhere in Africa. Here is the type of setup I am looking for: <http://www.britz.co.za/15.Bushcamper.htm>

If you have any leads I would appreciate it.

Thank you,
Glenn - glennvaca@gorge.net

Flat Wheel – Light Relief

SPRAY & COOK!

Saw this on a forum where someone asked about tyre shine products

Spray And Cook.

If that runs out then cooking oil.

If that runs out then anything with oil in it like salad dressing, mayo, tomato sauce etc.

Just don't use the juice from a bottle of gherkins or you'll be left in a pickle.

I once used some left over braai marinade but won't make that mistake again. I was ribbed about it for ages and felt like a real chop. I was even accused of being a menace to sosatie.

ONLY IN THE US of A!

Just in case you need a laugh: Remember it takes a college degree to fly a plane, but only a high school diploma to fix one. After every flight, UPS pilots fill out a form, called a 'gripe sheet,' which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews, albeit they may lack a formal higher education, has ever lacked a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by UPS ' pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers.

By the way, UPS is the **only** major airline that has never, had an accident.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.



S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Probably because auto-land is not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit

S: Something tightened in cockpit

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode has a 200 ft. per min. descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.

S: IFF IS inoperative in OFF mode..

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft acting funny

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed..

And the best one for last

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: Took hammer away from midget.



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!

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.
NO DISCOUNT OFFERED!

Call 012 – 345 3333, Fax 012 345 3343 or email: echoacc@mweb.co.za.
Web: 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 phillip@leisuresure.co.za or on 083 306 5657 / Fax (012) 542 3564. Speak to Phillip (club member)

3) BOLTONS GPS WAREHOUSE / KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS

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

GAUTENG:

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

PORT ELIZABETH:

Anthony Bruyns - Anthony.Bruyns@halbergsa.com

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

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 any of their well trained staff! megaworld@oldmanemu.co.za

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Anything's Possible
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS
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Tel: 012 541 6000

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 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, Isobelle (club members) or any of the staff in the shop.

09) 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 John Voster turn off in Centurion. **No discount** offered, just good service!

10) 4-BUY-4 DIRECT STORE - Mail Order Outlet

Special price for club members. Also able to provide 29Mhz Radios, VHF Radios, GPS's, Photographic Window Bags, SUUNTO Watches, Clothing, Solar Panels and plenty more at cost cutting prices...Give us a call – 4buy4direct@mweb.co.za **BEST PRICES**

11) PB ENTERPRISES – HIGHEST QUALITY POWER SYSTEMS & INSTALLATIONS

Manufacturer of high quality Power Systems, Dual Battery Systems, Fully Equipped Battery Boxes, Power Converters & Battery Chargers for Trailers & Caravans, Solar- and Generator Amplification Chargers! They can definitely help you with the right electrical power products for ANY 4x4 vehicle, Off-road Trailer or Caravan/Camper.

Talk to the expert, Pieter Barnard, and **receive 5% discount on any of their products by supplying a copy of this page, PLUS the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club receive a 3% donation**. Just **print out THIS PAGE**, and give them a call. Let them do everything right, the first time. Have a look at their website! www.pbeproducts.co.za

Contact: Pieter Barnard / Tel/Fax: 012 658 5538

Mobile: 083 749 0445 / E-mail: info@pbeproducts.co.za

12) BIG COUNTRY 4x4 – CUSTOMISED 4x4 FITMENTS AND PRODUCTION (Under new ownership)

10% discount for members on all manufactured products from our factory. Excludes labour costs. Please visit our website at www.bigcountry.co.za for more information, or even better come and discuss your requirements over a cup of tea. The factory is situated in Strijdom Park, Randburg, just off the highway. Big Country really can be your 1-stop shop for all your 4x4 equipment!



Contact Richard on 011-791-7275 or info@bigcountry4x4.com

13) SECUREFIT

Members get preferential rates at all SecureFIT branches in Gauteng. Please enquire with your specific request to Alan, and pricing will be supplied. This can then be taken, in writing, to your nearest fitments centre for action. See their website for more details on what services they offer.

Editor:

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)

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Professional 4x4 Trail & Overland Guide - National

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