



SPOKE & PISTON

BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB PRETORIA

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FROM THE CHAIR

It seems that the business end of winter is upon us, presenting us with the opportunity to wear thermal clothing, huddle around warm fireplaces and drinking some sherry. We had a very busy two months. Apart from the normal Sunday rides we also had two long rides. Eight bikes embarked on the nine-day long Canopy Tour, which included some nice passes and a Zipline tour in the Tsitsikamma over the Kruis river. The group had a very traumatic incident just outside Phillipstown, where the backup vehicle hit a suicide runner. We are very thankful that the incident did not involve any of the motorcycles.

The GS guys had a very lovely trip to Mozambique, which included 19 people, 11 bikes, 11 days, lots of fun, sand and sea. Unfortunately our communications specialist, Dani, had an incident with a cow on a chain on a sandy jeep track and Dani and the chain came second. We wish Dani a speedy recovery.

We lost Cobus Pienaar who had a fatal motorcycle accident in which his youngest daughter Juanita also sustained very serious injuries. Our prayers go out to Annemarie and the family. The incident once again illustrated the fragility of a human life. I urge you to wear the protective gear and get the rider training. It might just be that little bit that can save your or your pillion's life.

The club is growing at a rapid rate and it seems that our numbers are testing the current infra-structure. We are in discussions with Bavarian Motorcycles and several plans are reviewed to make sure that we have enough space on the Friday night socials.

A new rosewood showcase/notice board is currently being installed at Bavarian Motorcycles. Please watch out for information on rides, regalia and other Club issues on this board.

Warm greetings, Pieter.

TRAINING DAY

8 JUNE ZWARTKOPS

This is our annual Club Training Day. Any member or guest of a member on ANY bike is welcome, as long as your bike is roadworthy. . R200 for members, show your membership card and pay only R150. R250 for non-members.

WINTER CHILL-OUT RIDE

13 - 16 JUNE TO NATAL SPA

Departure 8:30 on a 430km route through some winding roads in the Amsterdam area and then on to Paulpietersburg via Piet Retief. We'll be in time to watch the Springboks take on Wales at 15:00. A ±400km ride on the Sunday or you can laze in the heated pools, go bird watching (feathered variety), go hiking etc. Monday sees us returning via Newcastle, Bothaspas & Memel. So far we have 10 bikes and 12 people confirmed. Please contact Dave Swart if you are interested in joining us.

Warning:

Don't try this
at home ▶

This occurred during a race. It was later found that there was nothing wrong with Mr. Smit's front wheel.



Mr. Smit doing an elaborate inspection, in the finest detail of his front wheel. An inspection



tion of the front disk brake did not seem to show any problems there either . . .



Now the next thing to check would actually be the oil in the sump . . .

BMW'S, BOOMTOPPE EN BOXERS



Agt BMW's en 11 klublede het die roete via Bloemfontein, Koffiefontein en Beaufortwes na die 'Dijembe Backpacker's lodge' in Stormsrivier aangepak. Hulle het in 7 dae meer as 3250 kilometers deur van die mooiste dele van Suid-Afrika getoer. Die groep het uit drie RT's, twee 1200GS'e, twee 650GS'e en 'n RS bestaan.

Verskeie passe, onder andere die Swartberg-, Bloukrans- en Outenikwapas is verken. Die natuurskoon was oral asemrowend, maar die toestand van die paaie soms skrikwekkend. Die Bloukranspas - die oorspronklike roete deur die Tsitsikammawoud tussen Sedgfield en Stormsrivier - is huidiglik gesluit vir motors. Motorfietse mag op eie risiko die pas gebruik en soms het aaklige verrassings (foto links) om die talle haarnaalddraaie gewag.



Die Klub het onder leiding van Johan en Trudie Maree einde April 'n 7dae-toer na die pragtige Tsitsikammawoud onderneem. Hier volg 'n paar hoogtepunte - daar was ongelukkig ook teëspoed - maar lees Johan Maree se volledige artikel op sy webtuiste - www.maree.co.za onder 'Leisure Biking'.

Zipline Toer

Die groot motivering agter hierdie toer was om in die boomtoppe van die Tsitsikammawoud oor die Kruisrivier te gaan rondswaai. Alhoewel sommige aanvanklik maar redelik senuweeagtig was, het dit net 'n paar glye gekos vir almal om te besef "Dit is groot pret!"

Vrye tyd

Saans is heerlik gekuier rondom 'n braaivleisvuur of by die plaaslike Armach Restaurant. Aan lagstories, skreeusnaakse insidente, splinternuwe 'tolpaaie' en kameraderie het dit hoegenaamd nie tekort geskiet nie!

Teëspoed

Net buite Phillipstown op die 2de dag het Lindie bestuur toe 'n onbekende man in 'n selfmoordpoging reg voor ons bystandvoertuig inhardloop. Chris en Lindie en hulle erg beskadigde Peugeot Boxer moes terug Gauteng toe en Johan moes vinnig planne beraam sodat die sleepwa die res van die toer kon meemaak.

Volgende jaar:

Hoekom nie?

Wie gaan saam?

BIKE TRAIN TOUR

21 - 27 SEPTEMBER

Dave Swart reports that 8 bikes and 11 people have confirmed so far for this Bike Trip with a difference.

You and your bike will get on the train at JHB station and will spend one night on the train to Cape Town. There will be hotel accommodation in Cape Town until the Friday; riding different routes every day covering 29 mountain passes. The train will arrive back in Pretoria on Saturday, 27 September.

This is a public tour and numbers are limited to 30 bikes, therefore it is essential to book as soon as possible.

Contact Dave (dave@bmwclubs.co.za) if you are interested in this fantastic trip.

GS CHALLENGE 2008

24 - 27 SEPTEMBER



The venue for the 2008 GS Challenge will only be disclosed nearer to the event, but we can confirm that the location will be somewhere in the north!

A RAY OF HOPE FOR BIKERS AT TOLL ROADS?

HENRI HEYNS

I have previously lamented on the unfair treatment of bikers at toll roads having to pay the same for thoroughfare as a motorcar with a caravan or trailer. In these columns the attitude of SANRAL (South African National Roads Agency Limited) has been explained. Despite serious representation from motorcycling bodies to allow for a differentiated approach, SANRAL gave a number of reasons for their uniform tariff decision which with respect, in our view, borders on the ridiculous. (Refer to S`n P of May/June 2007 for a discussion in this regard .) Now, at last the penny seems to have dropped with SANRAL at last appearing to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards two-wheel riders. This follows the involvement of the Competition Commission.

The three parties (AMID, the Competition Commission and SANRAL) held a number of discussions on the matter and it was agreed that SANRAL conducts research on how many motorcycles pass through their tolls coun-

try wide. The result showed the number to be relatively small (probably due to motorcyclists avoiding toll roads for all sorts of reasons as one can well imagine).

Following further discussions, SANRAL declared themselves prepared to review and revise their toll strategy, from which follows that motorcycles could be incorporated at a differentiated rate.

It is believed that further news could be forthcoming a little later on this year. So, biking brethren hold your breaths. Good news may be upon us sooner than we think and just imagine the thrill of traversing our free-ways once again and hopefully at only a fraction of the toll road levies we are confronted with presently.

For further information please refer to Maurice Britten`s letter in the May 2008 edition of Bike SA magazine. Maurice is the National Director of the Association of Motorcycle Importers and Distributors (AMID).

BMW BIKER GATHERING

DEON PROMMEL

This year it was announced that the ABBG would be held in the Drakensberg. I immediately booked knowing the area from previous trips with the club to Drakensville. It was the 3rd ABBG that I have attended and I can definitely state that this was the best ABBG ever.

What a relief to get out of Gauteng for the weekend. We made a stop to meet up with Leon Tromp but unfortunately had our first and only breakdown. Malcolm`s bike started leaking oil from the rear shaft assembly. This could not be left as the oil was spraying onto the rear tyre and road. He decided to go to Auto Alpina in Boksburg to see if they could assist. He left the group, but later joined us a few hours later after Auto Alpina replaced the whole rear shaft assembly. This is why I own a BMW – what great service!

From there we stopped off at the Sterkfontein Dam for a leg stretch. What a wonderful sight!

We stopped for fuel at the most trustworthy garage ever where we filled our own tanks, reset the pump, handed the hose to the next person, and then paid the petrol attendant. Shawn and I both realised that it looks easier that it is and that we shouldn`t lose our day jobs. Next



time you fill up and the guy spills petrol on your tank. Try yourself !

After a day of the most wonderful day of riding led by Renier, we arrived at the Champagne Sports Resort. We were greeted with hot steaming towels, and orange juice at the reception. The welcome was fantastic. Walking though the reception area seeing the view of the mountains we knew that this was going to be a very special weekend. Everywhere you looked, there was a BMW Registration area, a BMW Boutique for clothing and accessories, a BMW workshop, BMW demo bikes. This was my kind of ABBG.

Friday evening was a very informal Welcoming Dinner where Lachlan Harris welcomed everyone to the ABBG. Saturday was a day filled with demo rides, outrides, stunt demo and a fantastic Gala Dinner with live entertainment. Well done to BMW!

GS TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE -- ELEVEN DAYS OF BLISS

UWE & JUNE LUDWIG

This trip report could easily become 10 pages long if we had to describe all the wonderful experiences we have had. The prawn braai, two evenings at Fatima's, camaraderie, laughter, Colin and his "all-in" poker strategy, Pauli's organisational skills, the girl's food preparation and many more memories will be with us for a long time.

The 1st of May 2008 finally dawned and it was very apparent from all the communication leading up to the departure that our tour leader Pauli, had every eventuality covered and that the trip was carefully planned.

We felt like storm chasers all the way into Mozambique with dark heavy cloud cover all around us. Pauli timed his smoke breaks to perfection and we hardly got wet.

The first night was going to be spent a few kilometers inside Mozambique at "Casa Do Campo".

Anybody that has ever been away on a trip with like-minded people knows that the first night tends to be the night people let their hair down. Well on our trip it was a case of letting the hair fly, Jan "dubbel-dubbel" plied his craft with the clippers to great laughter and the "real bikers" emerged with Mohicans and the sort of haircuts, one is only able to wear on holiday.

We left Casa Do Campo very early, our destination Tofo, some 600km away. We negotiated Maputo's morning traffic, some of us taking photos while riding through mud puddles, taxis pulling out in front of us, swerving out and making sure not to hit the cattle on the road. Johan, you must be crazy.

Heading towards Xai-Xai we had our first incident and we can confirm that the first thing to break down on a BMW trip can only be a KTM! Stefan's bike had a rear wheel bearing problem and the backup vehicle became the official KTM support vehicle.

I was amazed at the discipline of the group when it came to the speed limit and dropping from 100km/h to 80km/h to 60km/h and back to 100km/h between settlements every couple of kilometers. Apart from negotiating thousands of potholes, our destination was reached by about 4pm. Chalets were allocated according to snoring levels.

The plans for the week were very informal, the only condition being that two to three days would be reserved for group riding sessions in and around the area. Our first ride took us to Barra/White sands, not too far away from where we stayed. The order of the day was predominantly sand riding and playing in the thick sand with our

big machines. Anybody watching us must have thought that we were mad, but we had lots of fun with only minor spills. The most spectacular spill belonged to Johann when he and his bike quite literally disappeared into the sand for a moment, reappeared and flung him off his bike in spectacular fashion. All in the good spirit of GSing.

Two days later we headed off the back way to Guinjata Bay. The back way, turned out to be thick sand Jeep tracks that Pauli had found on Track4Africa. Some of us handled the track better than others and the rules of group riding simply went out the window when it came to turn offs. (Me thinks the chairman needs to reacquaint himself with his own rule book.)

Some club members had to find out the hard way that



tyre pressures at 3bar make for difficult thick sand riding. Many spills and Dani's fractured hand later, we arrived at the most spectacular destination. We spent the afternoon in Guinjata Bay and took the more conventional dirt road back home.

Activities that we participated in at our leisure varied from Whale shark snorkelling, deep sea fishing, diving, beach horse riding, poker, partying, group games, swimming, eating etc. Thank you to a great bunch of people that once again have shown how a group event should work.

We would like to extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to all the participants of the Mozambique 2008 trip, friendships have been formed and forged and all trips such as these should be done on a BMW GS.

LADY NAME TRAIL

9-10 AUGUST

The ladies of our Club take the lead on Woman's Day 9 August.

Join us on the **Trail of Lady-Names-Towns!**

The route will take them to Sannieshof for breakfast and they will overnight in Christiana. The route back to Gauteng will be via Shannon for scones & high tea. Stella, Amalia, Leandra and Cornelia will have to wait for a next time . . .

The men are welcome but will be limited to sweeping, backup and other minor duties.

Non-members are also very welcome.

Please contact trudie@maree.co.za for your accommodation arrangements or put your name down on the forum - ASAP.

More info and route map on www.bmwclubs.co.za

YEAR-END FUNCTION

31 OCT - 2 NOV

Badplaas

This year's Year-end function will be held at Badplaas. This award-winning resort lies at the foot of Mpumalanga's Hlumhlu mountains ± 280km east of Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Bookings can be made on Club Nights or with [Dorothy](#) (082 339 5142).

A 25% deposit is required on booking, the balance to be paid no later than Friday, 5th September.

TIPS FOR THE LONG DISTANCE ROAD TRIP

RICHARD HUSSEY

Richard and 3 friends completed the Club's Extreme Gold Trip recently in 11 days.

Here are a few tips that can make a long ride easier.

Bungee cord tie-downs: Forget them – they're either too long or too short! Too long, they allow slack, too short they'll snap when you can least afford it. I use good old-fashioned 25mm nylon webbing straps with friction buckles. Loop the strap over the load and back again, push the end through the buckle and pull tight. Tug at the straps again to remove any slack and pull tight again. Repeat this until the load is really secure and then tie the loose end around the strap above the buckle, away from the lever using a half-turn knot.

Check each strap when you get off at each stop along the route and, if the load shifts or the straps stretch a little, retighten before you ride on.

Big Ziploc bags: Put a folded t-shirt, socks and jockeys in each, expel the air and seal. This keeps the clean clothes dry and separate from the dirty stuff, which should go into their own mesh bag to air. You can unpack a bag completely and repack it all again in a minute, without having to re-fold a thing. Use it to store and separate just about everything in the

panniers and bags. They're cheap, useful and reusable...

Pack drip-dry bathing trunks: Something cool to change into after the day's ride and you can swim in it too! Wear it to the ablution block when it's hot. It dries fast and packs small. Cotton shorts may be more comfortable, but they take an age to dry after a swim!

Antiseptic: Mouthwash is a good antiseptic, but antiseptic is a poor mouthwash. Pack the mouthwash only and use it for both purposes.

Soap: Soap uses copious amounts of water to rinse off again. I only use shampoo on a trip. Plain water is usually enough to clean you of dry sweat. If it is dirt, use a drop of shampoo. That way, you actually use far less water.

Shaving: It really is optional on a road trip. People you meet half expect you to be a little unkempt – it underlines the story of your ride so far. Now you can really see what you look like with a beard without your boss sending you home to shave.

Chafing: Use cornstarch baby powder

to dust the sweaty parts of your body before you dress them. It really prevents chafing and makes you feel more comfortable too.

Foot rot: Dust your socks each day with a good antifungal powder before you put them on and dose the inside of your riding boots as well. Foot rot can hurt like hell - and your nose won't want to sleep in the same tent, bed or sleeping bag as your feet.

Wet-wipes: Get a baby pack for your tank bag, in the Ziploc bag with the half-roll of toilet paper. It's almost as good as a bidet after going to the toilet. Dust with cornstarch baby powder for the ultimate comfort care.

Washing: Plan a washing day every three days or so and visit a Laundromat to wash and dry your clothes. That way, you can keep the clothes to a minimum and carry less bulk – especially if you are two-up on the bike.

Towels: Pack a towel and drape it over your luggage when you strap down. It'll dry in an hour as you ride. If it looks like rain, pack it away in a big Ziploc bag in good time.

THIS & THATS



◀ Pierre Rousseau and Wahl Fitzgerald both received their GOLD Extreme Awards at a previous Club Evening. Pierre recently moved to Perth, Australia and we hope his Dakar has arrived!?

Extreme Awards



◀ Hennie & Mary Martens completed their Silver Ride in March this year when they visited Alexander Bay and Cape Agulhas for the second time! They've already received their GOLD award when they visited all 4 extreme points in May 2007. Now that is well done!

Short report: Magalies Ride - 4 May

It rained. Very hard.
Only two arrived at Atterbury Shell – fully kitted out in biker gear – Jamie (in the car), Dave (on the bike).
Cancelled!

Regalia



New Fleeces

Come get yours
in the Club Shop - R260
Warm polar fleece ideal for cold days
and thin enough to wear under your
riding jacket.

Don't forget our Club's TREASURE HUNT on 6 July!

Ride Calendar on the Website www.bmwclubs.co.za

CONGRATULATIONS

Chris Hanekom & Claudette de Lange got engaged earlier in May - very romantically, during a breakfast run to Cullinan.



The happy faces of the members that went on the Club Trip to Mozambique in May.

PAASNAWEEK PONTDRIFT TOE

ANDRÉ BOTHA

'n Klein groepie klublede (Leon Lubbe en sy vrou Melanie, Albert Poneelis en Danie Peach) het saam met my vir paasnaaweek die pragtige roete oor Brits, Thabazimbi en Ellisras na die noordelike grenspos Pontdrift, aangepak. Ons moes lelik bontstaan om slaggate en verspoelde paaie te hanteer.

Danie moes ongelukkig by Thabazimbi omdraai weens ander verpligtinge in die Vrystaat. Albert het besluit om nie vol te maak op Thabazimbi nie en ongeveer 2 km van Ellisras het sy fiets begin winde sluk.

Hy het gelukkig die vulstasie gehaal en ons die moeite gespaar om hom te tou.

Machauka Lodge was soos altyd puik en ons het gou die lafenis van die swembad opgesoek. Die volgende oggend na ontbyt het Albert nog 1 liter ingegooi - net vir ingeval!

Die rit tot by Pontdrif was baie aangenaam met die mooiste natuurskoon en die vriendelikste mense en almal het dit terdeë geniet.

Na die foto-formaliteite by die Pontdrift grenspos, het ons deur die pragtige Kremetartboom (Baobab) area gery tot in Musina. Daar het ons onself tuisgemaak by die Limpopo River Lodge, klein kamertjies, maar baie netjies en skoon. Nadat ons die nodige "voorraad" gaan koop het, het ons die warmte van die noorde afgeskud rondom die swembad.

Ons plan was om Sondag-oggend na Tshipise te ry vir 'brunch' en dan tot by die Pafuri hek van die Nasionale Kruger Wildtuin. Ongelukkig werk menslike planne nie altyd uit nie. Ek het vroeg die oggend gaan



IN MEMORIAM

COBUS PIENAAR

Cobus had a fatal motorcycle accident on the afternoon of 28 April.

Juanita, his youngest daughter (10), was riding with him and she is still in a semi-coma.

Our sincerest condolences to Annemarie and daughters.



draf en toe ek terugkom was Leon besig om sy fiets te was. Dit is toe dat ek blase op my agterband opmerk. Nadat ons

tevergeefs na 'n band in Musina gesoek het, het ons as groep die opsies bespreek en besluit dit is beter as ons die pad terug huis toe aanpak.

Ons terugroete het ons weereens deur pragtige landskappe geneem en aangesien ons vroeër teruggedraai het, het ons geen verkeer gehad nie. Na ons 'n reënbus of twee naby Warmbad moes trotseer, het ons almal veilig tuis gekom, (en my band

het ook gehou alhoewel dit nogal stresvol was!).

Alhoewel ons min was, was dit 'n heerlike ontspanne toer saam met gawe mense . . .

SHARED RIDING PLEASURE

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All runs and events are subject to confirmation at the prior Club social meeting. This is a work-in-progress schedule and may be altered at any time. No responsibility will be accepted for changes to the programme.

IMPORTANT: Non-Club members are welcome to attend Club riding events as guests.

Non-members, however, are required to sign an *indemnity form* before participating. The form can be downloaded from the Home Page.

The Club has an official policy regarding the use and financial compensation of support vehicles on

official overnight club trips. (Details on the Events Page.)

Spoke & Piston also appears on our website. Visit us there with newsy bits, information on new products, what is happening on the motorcycling scene, etc. Please send articles, pictures, comments, etc. to the Editor, Spoke 'n Piston, PO Box 40422, Arcadia, 0007 or email to henrih@telkomsa.net

INDEMNITY: Although reasonable care has been taken to ensure the correctness of all material contained herein, the publisher cannot be held liable for any inaccuracies that may occur or damage/loss sustained as a result of advice given.

Club evening: Every first Friday of the month @ 18:00

“Shared riding pleasure whilst fostering fellowship by the safe, supportive, responsible and courteous enjoyment of BMW motorcycles.”

page 7 for Club contact details



Stefan



Simon



April Club Activities



Committee Dinner



Etienne



Elaine



Members' Images

▲ Stienie Rossouw, Deon Prommel and Shawn Rowley at the BMW Bikers' Gathering.



Faan



Gerrit



▲ Faan & Gerrit Geyser: Trip na Alexanderbaai / Kp Agulhas.
 “Wat 'n heerlike toer! Ons het weggespring op Maandag 14 April en in sewe dae 4300 km afgelê. Party dae oor die 800 km gery en die gerief van die GS waardeer om te kan staan en ry!
 Geen voorvalle, behalwe dat ons geen petrol in Alex kon kry nie weens beurtkrag. Ons het Port Nolloth net-net gehaal met slegs 2 km oor op ons reserwe (senutergend!). Ons het by die heerlikste gastehuse geslaap op Upington, Springbok, Kp Agulhas en Victoriabaai. Sover is die boetekaartjies net sowat R450 vir die twee van ons!”