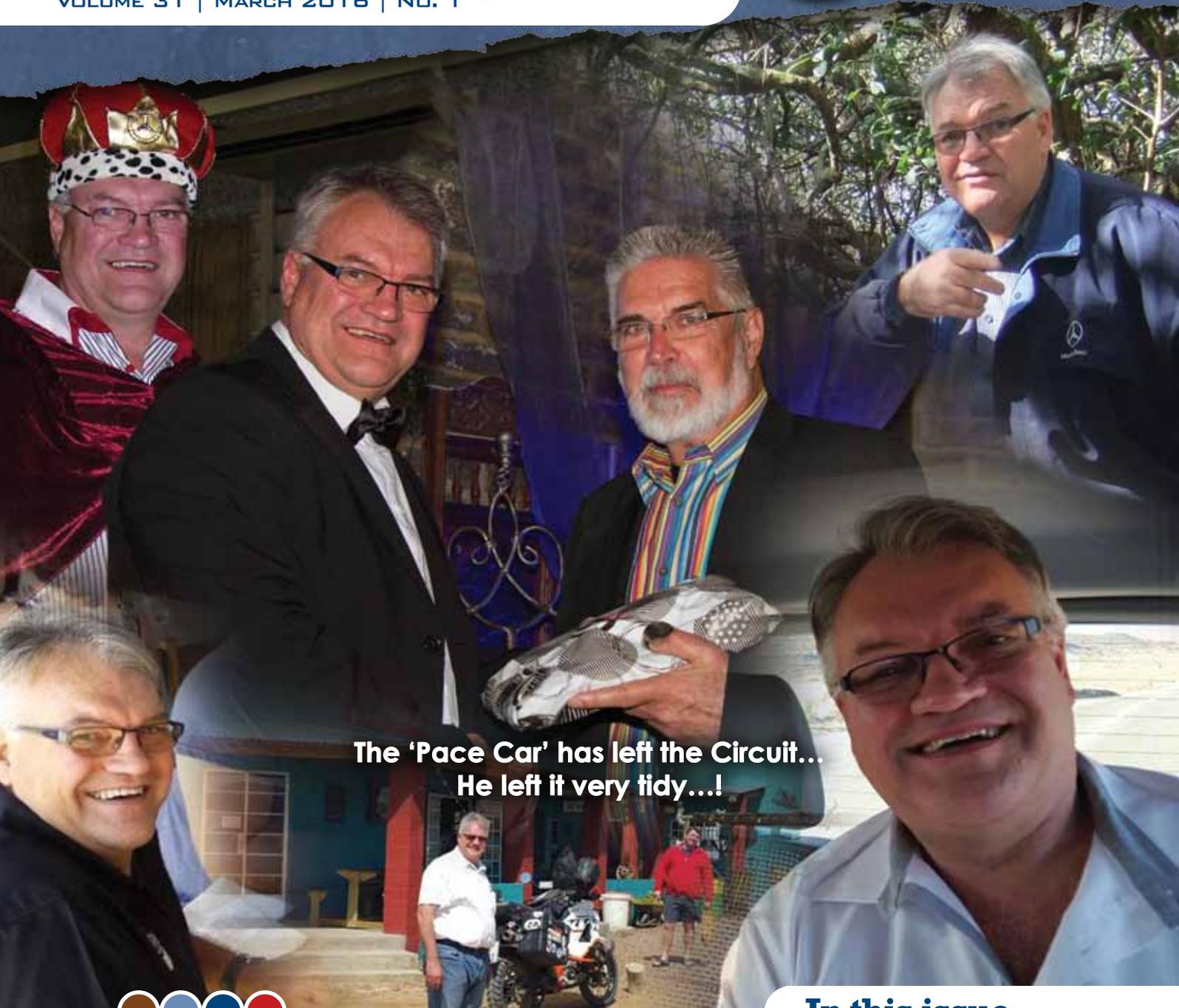


THE | DIE BenzFans



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA
VOLUME 31 | MARCH 2016 | No. 1



The 'Pace Car' has left the Circuit...
He left it very tidy...!

In this issue ...

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From the DESK

Club President:

Dirk van der Westhuizen

I am sure everyone is looking forward to our 31st AGM and National Gathering at the Glenburn Lodge in Muldersdrift. This proves to be an exciting program, as we will be going on the cable car at Hartbeespoort dam, and also a visit to the Mercedes-Benz Dynamic Driving Centre at Zwartkops.

The South African weather service has announced that the country is experiencing the lowest rainfall and driest summer in more than 110 years. Adding that the country suffered its driest year on record in 2016, which is threatening food security. If you are at all able to provide water or animal feed to these devastated farmers, PLEASE ASSIST.

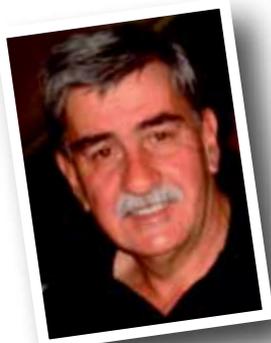
As this will be my last report as President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member and National Committee member for all your assistance, friendship and advice over the last six years. This has been a huge personal experience for me. Best of luck to all the new office bearers.

I saw a long list of impressive do's and don'ts a few weeks ago, but I would like to leave you with these 5:

- When playing games with children, let them win.
- Once in a while, take the scenic route.
- Wave at the children on a school bus.
- Send your loved ones flowers. Think of a reason later.
- Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.
- When someone hugs you, let them be the first to let go.
- Give people a second chance, but not a third.

I wish you all happy motoring and safe journeys - All the best until next time we meet!

Follow us on



Pat Smythe
- The Editor

Editorial

This year has started off at a hundred miles an hour and doesn't seem intent on slowing down anytime soon.

February presented us with another record breaking edition of the George Old Car Show. April will bring us an AGM held in the Northern Region and a changing of the guard. May will confirm the change in seasons and herald the onset of Cars in the Park gatherings across the length and breadth of our colour-filled country.

Our Club has been well served over the years by a series of outstanding leaders who selflessly gave of their time in

order to preserve and maintain the premier position our club occupies in the South African Classic Car Club arena.

Dirk van der Westhuizen is one such leader, who earned the respect afforded him and repaid the faith placed in him with a genuine desire to attend to the needs of others before his own.

His Karoo Crossing adventures epitomised the man in many respects, all of them in a manner that spoke of a deep desire to serve the needs of the MBCSA with wholehearted intent.

Thanks Dirk – working with you was a pleasure!



Central Region



'Ze Benz Barn – Garage Braai' 22 January 2016

Chris Kuhn

A new year and a new garage for Jaco & Annalie Kachelhoffer! What better excuse for a braai?

The fact that it was a Friday presented no obstacle – Paul and Tia van Wyk made the journey from Frankfort, Koort du Toit made the great escape from Kimberley. Everyone it seems was hungry for a 'lekker Benz kuier' after the holidays!

Jaco's new cave is the ideal spot to share one's passion for the Star of Stuttgart! It was designed with all the seasons in mind and after the usual 'who arrives in what' outside, we moved inside to enjoy the beautiful cars the Kachelhoffers have on display, whilst partaking of a wonderful meal!

Thank you very much Jaco & Annalie for hosting us!





Eastern Cape

A DREAM COME TRUE:

By: Lawrence Kropf

The restoration of a big ticket item, such as a classic car - is not for the fainthearted. It requires a variety of skills, a little blind luck, in-depth knowledge of the product, as well as a flair for making the end result look original and as appealing as possible.

After cutting my teeth doing major restoration work on a 1967 Daimler 250V8 - a W111 280se Coupe Automatic and a W108 280s - I felt confident enough to look for a Pagoda and restore it to a condition that could be admired and enjoyed.

Let me, at this juncture, qualify the statement above - without friends from the Mercedes-Benz Club and help off the Internet, I would not have found it possible!

Finding the right Pagoda was easier said than done. The price of these iconic cars has skyrocketed, making it difficult to find a solid unmolested example that can be restored without major mechanical or body repairs.

Fortunately I found a solid rust free 250sl that needed a full cosmetic restoration with no

major mechanical problems, at a reasonable price.

This was in August last year and I set a target to complete the restoration for the George Old Car Show of 2016, a little optimistic considering the amount of work to be done.

It only took a week to strip the car down to bare shell which was then sent to a Mercedes-Benz approved paint shop where the doors, boot, bonnet and hinges were separately prepped and painted. No rust was found, except surface rust in the boot, which was treated and painted. All the spot welds were original.

After researching suppliers on the Internet, I ordered a full authentic interior, soft top, all the rubber seals including the soft top and hard top seals plus various other items that needed to be replaced.

Next came the task of cleaning, painting and repairing all the bits and pieces.

Most of the chrome was sent for restoration, engine compartment pieces sent for electroplating and windscreen and side window

ordered.

The woodwork was sadly, beyond repair to a top standard, so I hand carved solid oak to look the same as the original and made a center console with arm rest to match.

If you have long arms and deep pockets, it is easy to buy one - 'Fully restored' - but this robs you of the sense of pride and achievement in doing the job and knowing - deep inside - that you did it well!

The end result was eye candy that is an absolute pleasure to drive, so much so, that after the George Car Show we made a spur of the moment decision.

We turned south, toward Cape Town, before returning to East London covering an additional 1600 miles with no problem at all!

I now appreciate why these cars are so sought after... What a ride!

From East of London to George – good old boys having fun!

By: Johannes Coetzer.

Friday morning required an early start for Team MBC Eastern Cape en route to our annual appointment with George Old Car Show. Erald Hohls towing his magnificent 170, led the convoy, followed by Colin (W111 220SE Coupe), Dick in the W108 280SE, Malcolm in his C107 450SLC and Norman delivering Andrew's W116 350SE to its new owner from CPT.

The first leg of the journey took in Port Alfred, where Joe Janssens and his wife joined us in his W113 Pagoda. Cannon Rocks was our next stop for a quick breakfast at our beach house and then it was onward to Jefferies Bay where Lawrence joined the convoy in his W113 Pagoda.

We had a lovely cruise to Knysna where we visited Frost Brothers. They had some stunning cars for sale at eye watering prices. We arrived in George and freshened up for the usual Friday night braai at the Protea Hotel the "skilpadjies en pampoenkoekies" were unbelievable and we went back for seconds and thirds. Saturday morning we were up early cleaning cars. The show itself was great. The most people I have ever seen at the show in the last seven I have attended. It was great to catch up with all the enthusiast club members from across the country. The day could not be over without the annual spitbraai and world famous ice cream and chocolate sauce at Waldo and Rene's house. Over a 100 people attended this year.

As Waldo mentioned on the forum "What a party!" Sunday we were up early and ready for the road back to East London. Erald was driving the 170 and I was the lucky passenger, we took some wonderful pics and had a stop at the lookout point over Wildernis. What a stunning morning and view. We stopped for a scrumptious breakfast at the Knysna waterfront. We filled up at Storms River and worked up

an appetite for some delicious pies and roosterkoek at Nanaga Farmstall outside Port Elizabeth. We were ready for the last stretch of 200km to East London. All the cars had run flawlessly all the weekend. Unfortunately, the W108 decided to throw out a challenge for the last 200km.

It developed an intermittent problem where it would start jerking and then eventually come to a stop. After standing for about 10 minutes it would start up again and run for another 30 km or so before coming to a halt. After some discussion between us we decided it must be the fuel pump as it was also making an unusual noise. Luckily Colin had a spare one in the boot of the Coupe, so after limping into Grahamstown the pump was quickly installed at the side of the road, with two wheels up on the pavement! With that the 108 roared back to life and took off like a scalded cat! So eventually everybody arrived safely back in EL Sunday evening.

Thanks for a unforgettable weekend, gentlemen!



KwaZulu-Natal Region



A Journey to the Southern Cape – By George! Pat Smythe

The Southern Cape Old Car Show is, without much doubt, the premier Old Car Show in South Africa and the 2016 Edition did absolutely everything to confirm this belief.

The school ground setting, in concert with the backdrop of the Outeniqua Mountains, provides a suitably timeless stage for the many glorious examples of motoring excellence on show – to capture, as they do, the hearts and imagination of the large crowds in attendance – year after year!

I decided against flying to Port Elizabeth and hiring a car for the onward leg to George. Instead I invited Miss Mercedes to convey me, in her regal manner, on a journey along the lesser known roads of the Transkei via Dordrecht, through Graaff Reinet,

Aberdeen, Willowmore and Uniondale... down the Outeniqua Pass to George.

There is something about my old Finny when she settles into an easy gallop along the back roads. It is almost as if she remembers the many wasted years spent trapped on blocks in a lonely garage.

Her new found freedom and restoration has seemingly given birth to a presence within her - a presence that turns heads and

creates joy in an otherwise drab world for many.

For company I decided to invite Avish Maharaj, the new Chairman of the KZN MBC SA – Avish proved to be a wonderful choice of companion for such a journey - his upbringing provided an early introduction to all things connecting motoring and Mercedes-Benz – he kept me royally entertained and alert throughout the journey!

We broke the journey from Durban with an overnight stop at Ian Smith's new home just outside Dordrecht. Our route had brought us via Kokstad, skirting under the foothills of Lesotho, through Mt Fletcher, Maclear, Ugie and Elliot to Dordrecht.

It was delightful to see my old mate Ian and his lovely wife Sandy again, they have settled



Pic of Miss Mercedes at George Old Car Show



A very comfortable overnight stop!

into the community very well and Ian has wasted no time setting up a workshop dealing with the needs of classic cars and their owners.

(It was particularly nice to reunite Miss Mercedes with Ian's '36 MG – Ian restored both of them from the bottom up – a great testament to his skill.)

The second leg of our journey began with 'boere beskuit en plaas koffie', sincere gratitude for the wonderful hospitality received and an early start to the rest of our journey, under a big and cloudless sky.

Molteno – 'the birth place of 'Ouma Rusks' – brought with it thoughts of my younger days, working the area as a 'smous' for Total Oil – Memories crossed my mind like flood waters over a low level bridge.

Graaff Reinet served breakfast to two hungry men.

Aberdeen presented the opportunity to introduce Avish to the wonder of 'lei-water' – open drain irrigation – that directs water, by

means of gravity and a simple time table, to irrigate the gardens in the town.

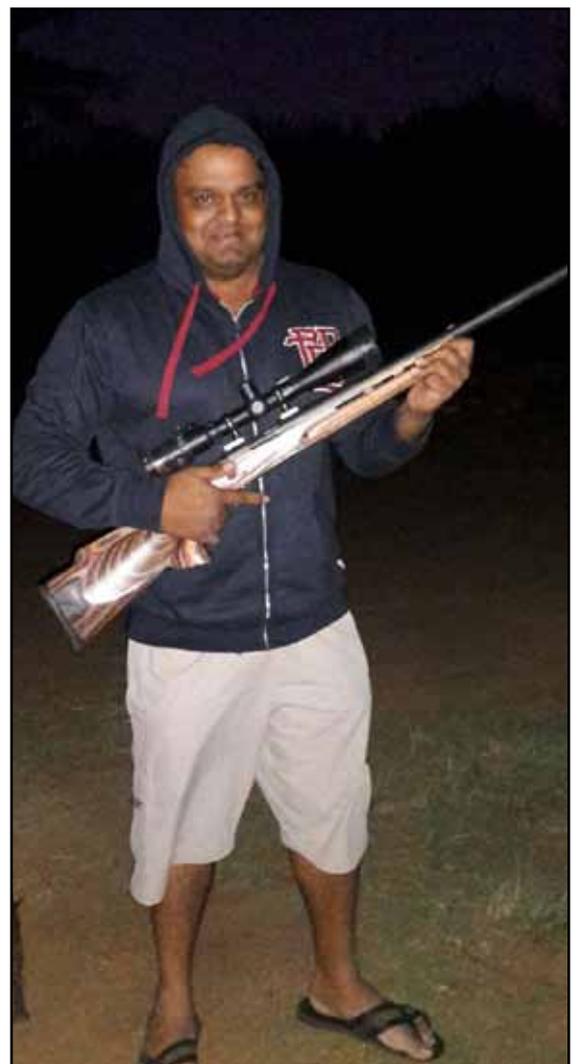
Willowvale was set down as a stop on the return journey and Uniondale provided a very necessary pit stop for a number of reasons, including petrol.

The Outeniqua Pass provided me with the opportunity to drive down a mountain, without brakes, in busy traffic...

The return journey allowed us the pleasure of spending another wonderful night with the Smith family in Dordrecht – the discovery that 'Twin Carbs' are by no means related and do not engage in conversation very regularly... and that Oil Pressure is a relative term, similar to 'in laws', missing when you most need them!

She stuttered, but she never stopped – She took the Umkomaas Valley and Key Ridge in her stride and got us home safe.... 'Yes Sir, She's my Baby – No Sir, I don't mean maybe – Yes Sir, She's Miss Mercedes Benz!'

... We are gonna play it against Sam!



Night Rider 1 - Jackal...0



Killarney 4X4 – Right off the Wall:

By: Richard Tudor-Owen

What a great start to 2016! New Chairman of the KZN branch of the MB Club, Avish Maharaj, and his wife Mira hosted the traditional Chairman's Braai on the 16th January at the Killarney 4x4 off-road facility near Durban. It was also very nice to see ex-chairman Chris Carlisle-Kitz supporting his old region.

An enthusiastic contingent of about 25 members and partners plus a handful of kids made the journey to Killarney 4x4. Those in the know and the more cautious elected to arrive in our 'everyday' cars - but a few who'd brought out their collectors pieces were less than impressed with the last couple of kilometres of rough dirt road.

Thankfully it didn't rain, the road was passable at slow speed and it certainly didn't dampen anyone's enjoyment of the day. Our venue was a perfect lapa with full braai and bar facilities set up by a small army of helpers, led by Avish's mom Nisha, who saw to all the cooking and catered to even the most fastidious taste.

Killarney 4x4 is situated in the beautiful Shongweni Valley,

Outer West Durban in KwaZulu Natal. The complex, open 7 days a week and to anyone, is run as a closed corporation by Estelle and Neels du Preez on the family and Neels du Preez on the family with funding supported by a modest entry fee of R100 per vehicle with 2 adults.

Surrounded by breath taking mountains, there are a variety of trails and obstacles ranging from sand, rocks, river crossings and mud, to steep uphill climbs, sharp descents and some serious axle twisters.

Excellent ablution facilities, the lapa and a swimming pool with water-slide make the venue a delight for a day away from suburbia for the whole family.

Throughout the afternoon, 4x4 experts, Kenneth Jones and colleagues, Brendan, Gary, Theo, Richard and Haig, treated us all to laps of the various trails.

If we hadn't seen it and experienced it for ourselves most of us wouldn't have believed any vehicle could have negotiated the routes. Precipitous inclines both up and down, littered with rocks and boulders and many with severe erosion were handled

with confident ease by vehicle and pilot. Perched on the middle 'seat' between driver and MB member John Oliver, I was amazed at the skill and dexterity with which Kenneth operated his 4x4. I wouldn't bet against him climbing a vertical wall! It just shows with the right 'design' a vehicle can be made to do almost anything – (this particular vehicle had been developed specifically for extreme off-roading events in Lesotho of which there are several a year).

Perhaps the main characteristic of rock crawling is the slow, almost gentle, approach required to traverse the rough terrain. Skilled manipulation of engine and transmission are key to applying the torque required to progress up steep rock strewn tracks or mud filled depressions. Kenneth is a master at doing just this!

To Kenneth and his colleagues at Killarney 4X4, huge thanks for a marvellous day out and for letting us experience something totally different.



Northern Region



Valentine's Run 2016

By: Sven Krassnokutski

In the latest rendition of what is fast becoming a Northern Region tradition, a group of about 30 Northern Region members and their families gathered at Buitengeluk Restaurant in Broadacres for the annual Valentine's Run on 21 February.

(Unfortunately the Valentine's weekend this year clashed with a long-standing and most prestigious event on the classic motoring calendar – The George Old Motor Show – necessitating a delay in our celebration of the occasion.)

Valentine's Day has been celebrated since Ancient Roman times, and while there is much mystery surrounding the exact origins of the celebration,



February has for a long time been acknowledged as the month of love.

The elegant Cape Dutch restaurant set in serene, lush gardens made for the perfect setting to mark the day - added to this, water jugs full of rose petals and the abundance of white roses blooming in the gardens created a wonderful ambience which was complemented by Bee Krassnokutski's finishing touches of pink long-stemmed roses for all the ladies and cranberry nougat on the table.

As this is an event which enjoys better than usual spousal and familial representation, topics of conversation were not limited to the usual car-illness-symptom

diagnoses, best-brand-of-fuel discussions, main-bearing-fitment hints and the like, which are staples amongst Mercedes-Benz Club members, and included engagements across a broad field of interests and activities.

Any regrets about being seated inside on such a glorious morning were firmly washed away – quite literally – when we were treated to a brief downpour during which all the other patrons had to scurry inside and try to find seating.

The breakfast options were commensurate with the lavish setting and were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The French toast - positively DRIPPING with syrup - went down a real treat with the young Krassnokutski ladies (Dad's note: Sugar Rush City for the rest of the day!) fortunately they were able to run off much of their excess energy in the gardens.

A gathering of friends is always a special occasion and this is what Club events have become for me. It was great to have an opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy a little time out and some indulgence together. We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in April.

A 'Special Thank You' to Bee Krassnokutski for organising a most enjoyable morning!



Southern Cape Region

DIAZ FEES 2016.

Hierdie geleënhed wat elke jaar vroeg Februarie plaasvind, het ook nou reeds 'n permanente tuiste op die Suid-Kaap se jaarlikse kalender gevind, ten spyte daarvan dat een van die streek se hoogtepunte, die George Ou Motorskou, slegs 'n naweek later plaasvind.

Ons ou staatmaker, Kobus Harris, wie terloops, indien dit nie bekend is nie, vanjaar die



president van die Suid-Kaap Ou Motorklub is, het weer die werk gedoen om die lede uit beide Mercedes- en Suid-Kaap Ou Motorklub op te kommandeer en het daar 40 voertuie opgedaag om die optog van ou motors mee te maak.

Vanjaar se roete was betreklik kort en vroeg-vroeg was ons reeds op ons, nou tradisionele staanplek, en gazebo opgeslaan.

Baie vinnig was die pannekoek, koffie en ontbyt stalletjies uitgesnuffel.

Die fees bied 'n vol program van vermaak, wat insluit musiek en valskerm-spronge en ander aantreklikhede.

Daar was terloops vanjaar 'n stalletjie wat tydelike "tattoo's" verkoop het. Een van ons senior gerespekteerde lede het dit goed gedink om sy vrou te terg

met 'n skerpioen op sy boarm. Sy was nie werklik baie in haar skik daarmee nie. Ons hoop maar vir sy onthalwe dat die ink vinnig afwas.

As gevolg van ons ligging kon al die aktiwiteite met min moeite gevolg word en lui-lekker en in gemak is die dag deurgebring.

Volgende jaar sal ons weer daar wees.





THE GEORGE OLD CAR SHOW: 2016

By: Kobus Harris

Were you at the 20th George Old Car Show 2016 held by the Southern Cape Old Car Club?

If not, you missed out on the best show ever!

On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th February – Thousands of people flocked to the P.W.Botha College in George to view the 1050 vehicles on display at the 2016 Edition of the George Old Car Show.

One of the pivotal attractions was a wonderful collection of 35 American cars. The rest of the field was a sight for sore eyes, with virtually every marque imaginable on display.

As usual the Mercedes-Benz Club had a fantastic display of 80 vehicles. Their aim this year was to showcase the older vehicles and the oldest on show was Waldo Scribante's 1936 230.

The star of the show was definitely Peter Boshoffs 1952 170 V Bakkie which drew a lot of attention

Almost certainly the most photographed vehicle on the entire show!

Centre stage of the MBCSA stand was shared by Pieter and Wilna Lourens's 1968 - 280 SL (113) that won the Southern Cape Region concourse in December 2015 and Andre Fourie's 1958 300 SL roadster.

The 300 SL roadster was certainly the most expensive car on the entire show!

In line with the '50's theme



a special display of 1950's 300's sedans with a 220 Cabriolet B and a 300 Cabriolet C were contrasted in the company of the more modern 600, 6.3, 6.9 and a very modern Maybach. This quirky comparison was well received by the enthusiast's.

Hopefully we will see the finished product at a future show in the not too distant future.

A warm Thank You must also go to Erald Hohls who selflessly transported his 1950's 170V all the way from East London to grace our stand!

In all we had 23 SL's on display - starting with the 1955 190 SL of

Dave Purcocks to the 2006 -SL65 AMG Black belonging to Eddie Venter... and then there was Donnerwetter – brutal power shoehorned into an iconic body. Thank You Steve Rademeyer for making the journey!

A separate display of Pontons and Fintails, in the company of Waldo's K319 and L319 commercials secured a show on their own and were joined by a selection of very well presented sedans and coupe's ranging from the popular 114/5's to a 2003 S320 and a pair of very nice W140 V12's – Sedan & Coupe together!

A selection of well kept sedans

and coupe's ranging from the popular 114/115 range to a 2003 S320 where a feast to the eye. Nice to see a pair of W140 V12 – Sedan and Coupé together!

We thank all our members who came from as far as Natal, Eastern Cape, WP, Northern Cape, Free State and Gauteng to make our display the success it was. We would love to see you all again next year!

Breaking News! – Waldo and Renee have secured stocks of Ice Cream and Sheep in readiness of next year's show...Don't miss it!







Western Cape Region

A Return to the Hills, the vines and the 'ville's of Durban

By: Kurt Stassen

To celebrate the arrival of 2016, the choice of 'first run venue' was a fairly unanimous decision in favour of Durbanville Hills Wine Estate. The setting of the estate, with its magnificent views overlooking Table Mountain, is a marvellous accompaniment to their excellent selection of white wine and sumptuous lunches.

We gathered at the club house in Parow, filled with intent to celebrate the first outing of 2016 in style! We departed from there, to our destination, in a convoy consisting of, Dirk's 190 Ponton, David's 190SL and Coenraad's 116 along with a variety of SL's and other sedans.

On our arrival we were tempted with a variety of breads, served in baskets and a wonderful selection of appropriate wine matched to each of the bread varieties. This was followed by a little more wine and then a little more wine of course, to herald the arrival of our selected 'main courses as ordered.

We had a choice of dessert and being the chocoholic, I definitely made the right choice by ordering the chocolate torte – Superb!



After lunch some were tempted to walk through the market which was held in the parking area of the wine estate, while others chose to take the direct route home and rest after a most enjoyable run!



National Gathering & AGM

28 April to 1 May

Hurry, it's your last chance to book!

Events:

- > Night at the races – charity event
- > Track day with many activities, Ladies' event
- > Hartbeespoort Cableway, Gala dinner

See you there...



REGOLIA

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