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4-Words December/January 2008

Message from the Chairman: NOW

I have to start by saying thank you to all those that have forwarded feedback on the Draft Self-Regulation Strategy Framework (DSSF), as well as the debating questions that I forwarded with the DSSF. All the suggestions will be consolidated by the end of November and forwarded to the Grant Thornton for incorporation. We are still on track to finalise the Strategy by the end of January 2008 and we will publish the final Strategy then.

AAWDC WEBSITE

The development of the new AAWDC website will be completed in the first week of December. We are already working on content and images to go onto the website – this is the hard part though but we are working on finalizing within the first quarter of 2008.

AAWDC PRO

We are sad to say that Loftus Viljoen has resigned from the AAWDC Public Relations Officer (PRO) position. On behalf of the AAWDC we would like thank Loftus for his effort over the past period to establish the Monthly newsletter.

We are looking for somebody to fill this Committee position. The responsibility includes putting together the monthly newsletter. It involves amongst others gathering socio-, environmental and community projects/activities that the various clubs are busy with to be included in the newsletter. Experience in MSWord would be a great advantage.

You also have to be a paid up member of a club that is a member of the AAWDC and you would be required to attend the monthly AAWDC committee meetings, mostly on the second Tuesday of every month. Candidates that are interested should forward a short motivation to Isla at members@aawdc.org.za by the end of December. Anybody that would like to get more info on this position is welcome to contact Jakob Jordaan at 082-808-1422 or jakob@global.co.za.

AAWDC MEMBERSHIP FEES 2008

The AAWDC will contact the various clubs from December onwards to get membership numbers. During January 2008 the clubs will be invoiced for membership fees based on R5 per member and membership fees will be due within two months of invoicing. Any questions about membership fees could be addressed with Isla at 08611-AAWDC.

FESTIVE PERIOD and NEW YEAR

On behalf of the AAWDC we would like wish all our club- and associate members a peaceful festive season and a wonderful time with those people close to you. May you travel and get back home safely!! We hope that 2008 is going to treat you well and that your dreams would come closer within reach.

In the meantime, happy off-roading!!

Jakob Jordaan
Chairman

Create a logo competition

Thanks to all those who have sent in their contributions so far. We have



decided to extend the closing date for entries to the 15 January 2008. Come on, its holiday time, so let your creative ideas flow and see what you can conjure up using the name 4-Words with 4x4ing!

Alan Goodway of the 4x4 Off-road Adventure Club of Gauteng will be sponsoring the prize - a photographic windbag and Garmap Update DVD.

Email your entries to

members@aawdc.org.za.

How to order Driver Training Manuals

Driver Training Manuals cost R50 each (excluding postage or courier fees). Please send your request with the number required, delivery requirements, and delivery address to members@aawdc.org.za or fax it to 08611 AAWDC. An invoice will be generated and on proof of payment, the manuals will be posted or couriered, as per your request.

News from AAWDC:



AAWDC CAPE: GETTING THE WHEELS ROLLING

Following the recent establishment of the AAWDC Cape, the elected Committee had been working hard behind the scenes to get the wheels in motion. After only three meetings there is a sense of direction and the Committee is settling down in a good rhythm, with portfolios allocated to each member. Committee membership was extended to include Johan Marais from NOW fame, as it was felt that he could play a significant role due to his inside knowledge of the NOW

processes and general knowledge of the environment.

The Committee was visited during October by Jakob Jordaan, during which guidance was given on a number of issues pertaining to the establishment of the Cape branch, as well as a brief on NOW activities.

Apart from the promotion of club membership and creating a platform for communication between local clubs, the AAWDC Cape will also focus in future on projects with nature conservation and community service as an aim. A number of possibilities are being explored... watch this space.

News from our Members:

Land Rover Owners Club

Songimvelo Bridge Project

Stay where?

When casually asked if camping could be arranged, manager of Songimvelo, Property Mokoena thought Bernard was mad – “You know that the nearest facilities are 20kms away and you want to camp – with no food, drinking water, ablutions, fuel or anything?” he said.

Back in April 2004, four LROC Southern Africa members stumbled across a game reserve in the Mpumalanga area. What was to be a short look-and-see turned out to be a three hour expedition as there were no maps and the maze of overgrown dust roads were at times hard to find under the long grass. But the abundance of animals was mind boggling, the scenery spectacular and the sheer beauty of the reserve was what had prompted the question: “Can we camp in the bush?”

On a long weekend in June 2004, 35 Landies entered the park, all totally



self sufficient to spend four days camping in the bush. The group had a sublime weekend exploring the parks many tracks, enjoying the wide open spaces, the abundant wildlife and the joy of being in the bush (no cell phone coverage, no luxuries, no time schedules). The group left the area in the same condition as they found it – LROC members “tread lightly” and are considerate, eco-aware individuals. Property was impressed and had no reservations about having the LROC back for another weekend.

It was the day before the next trip in March 2006, with 30 Landies packed and ready to go, that Bernard received a frantic call from Property, - we would have to cancel. The rainy season had arrived and the rivers were bursting their banks. Bernard explained to Property that “Land Rovers go anywhere” and the trip was back on. The swirling, muddy waters of the Komati were flowing strongly, making the low level bridge impossible to cross. The Sandspruit crossing was also impassable, but scouting the river bank, a possible crossing was found a kilometre downstream. Two Defenders winched themselves across the river and then helped winch the remaining Landies across. It was a glorious weekend, but the day before leaving the heavens opened again and the rain bucketed down all night long. The Sandspruit River had risen significantly, making it impossible to cross. But all was not lost, one of the GPS fundi’s in the group came up with the idea that the park fence had to have gates and maybe one could find a route which would not involve a low level crossing. A gate was found and contact made with the game wardens to open the gate.

The devastation by the rains after that weekend was significant and Property commented to Bernard that their game viewing and capture trucks would not be able to cross those swollen rivers for quite some time. This conversation started the ball rolling.....

Bridge Building

Understanding Songimvelo’s plight, the LROC offered to upgrade the bridge across the Sandspruit river, as they had the expertise among the members – all they needed from the Parks Board were the materials and the heavy machinery.

It took two years of planning and motivating the parks authorities to get funding for the project, but finally in July 2007 Bernard received that long awaited call from Property. Yes, yes, yes! Even the heavy machine needed to clear the riverbed had been fixed. Kosie Combrink and Charl Smit, civil engineers and members of the LROC, set off with Bernard and together with casual workers from the area; cast the retaining beam in the riverbed.



Then it was back again in August 2007, with a full contingent of LROC members to help build the bridge. A Wolf Land Rover was used to move the huge concrete pipes into position and the Landy Club volunteers happily filled sandbags, tied the wire reinforcing and packed the rocks on the banks and around the structure, while the Songimvelo crew mixed the concrete (heavy work this – all done by hand!).



It was very satisfying to see the concrete poured on the causeway, completing the bridge. At the end of the weekend, the final product bore testimony to the hard work which was put into the bridge by the team: workers, engineers, LROC members and their families.



The LROC received a magnificent certificate from the CEO of the Mpumalanga Parks Board for contributing to the accessibility of Songimvelo.



By:
Bernard Cohen
Vice Chair LROC SA
And
Jenny Plunkett, Member LROC SA



AMATOLA OFFROAD CLUB

Reach for a Dream Kids Day

A fantastic day for a super charity event, not too hot not too cold just 'lekka'. The kids and their parents arrived at 11:15am with Lionel and the Mazeppa Bay Hotel sponsored bus. After a quick chat the kids climbed into various bakkies, with Peter, Mike, Andre, Dean, Royden, Grant, Connie and Annette.

We took a very casual drive down to the river and picnic spot. A really peaceful place and the kids and parents enjoyed the abundance of quiet and serenity. We proceeded around the perimeter and up the ridge stopping frequently for the kids, following the circular route and descended with wide eyes and clutching the dashboard down the steep hill back to De Kraal. Upon arrival the kids and parents were presented with a well laid on spread from sponsors. Sandwiches - Gonubie Spar ; Spargs Spar - Sweets; Gira – Soccer Balls; City Stationers - coloring in books; WHBO - Beanies ; Johnson & Johnson -various products; Darling Dairy's - yoghurts ; Real Beverage Company - Quali Juice and Dean collected a huge cash donation of R1900.00.

Peter Funck said a few words of thanks and welcomed the kids back again. Dean expressed his thanks to all of the folk that attended and gave of their time and money willingly to help the kids.



What we take for granted, others just dream of.



Goodie bags for those who had to stay behind.



What a smile!

HISTORY OF THE AAWDC

The Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs of Southern Africa (AAWDC) had its inaugural meeting in 1993. It was formed under the guidance and efforts of the three major Four Wheel Drive Clubs in South Africa, namely the Four Wheel Drive Club of Southern Africa, the S.A. Jeep Club and the Land Rover Owner's Club of Southern Africa.

Today the Member Clubs and Associates are spread over all the provinces of South Africa, Swaziland, and Botswana.

OBJECTIVES OF THE AAWDC

The main objective of the Association is to promote and support the activities and interests of 'all wheel drive clubs', hereinafter referred to as 'Clubs', in Southern Africa who are members of the Association, relating to the protection, preservation and conservation of our fauna & flora, natural resources and places of off-road recreation in Southern Africa.

The ancillary objectives of the Association are:

1.1. To have a voice and to liaise with any person, body, authority or Government structure for the purpose

of achieving the main objective of the Association, including but not limited to:

1.1.1. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

1.1.2. Road Traffic authorities.

1.1.3. Civil Defence authorities.

1.1.4. Nature Conservation authorities and bodies.

1.2. To institute a code of conduct for the members of the member Clubs.

1.3. To promote safe practices and procedures with member Clubs

1.4. To gather and supply information to members of the Association.

1.5. To establish or to assist in establishing new Clubs.

1.6. To co-ordinate and encourage Clubs to get involved in Civil Defence/Search and Rescue.

1.7. To communicate and benchmark on a global & local level with associations, member clubs, associate members and other decision makers on matters relating to the all wheel drive vehicles and outdoor lifestyles.

1.8. To professionally develop a Driver Competency qualification programme, Driver Training programme and Instruction manual.

1.9. To develop, maintain and promote an Associate programme where related businesses can join the AAWDC as Associated members to the benefit of those Associates and the AAWDC member clubs.

We urge all four-wheel drive owners to join a club affiliated to the AAWDC, and we request that all clubs join the AAWDC for the benefits listed above. Clubs or individuals that are interested to join or want more information on the AAWDC can forward their requests to Isla Blasa at 08611 AAWDC or members@aawdc.org.za