



Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs - Southern Africa

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4-Words November 2007

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FELLOW 4x4 CLUBS AND 4x4 OWNERS – THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE FUTURE USE OF OUR 4x4's IN THIS COUNTRY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY!! **NOW**

The month of November is probably one of the most important months in our 4x4 history!!!! What is going to happen during November could have an impact in the way which we would have access to off-road areas in the future. This is the month which is going to make or break it for us – whether we will be allowed the opportunity to regulate and organize ourselves, or whether the government will carry on to make unilateral decisions in future on where we can go with our 4x4's. (Remember the beach ban!)

The AAWDC has been representing 4x4 clubs and 4x4 club members on the National Off-road Workgroup (NOW) structure for more than the past two years. We have now reached the point where we are going to need your input in finalizing the framework of the Self Regulating Strategy (SRS) that we are going to submit to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in February 2008.

The draft framework for the SRS has been developed

in a joint effort by NOW, DEAT and Grant Thornton (GT). GT being the service provider that NOW appointed earlier in this year to assist in the development of the SRS. Let me get to the opportunities that you have to be an active part of the process.

Via the NOW website. The draft framework SRS will be published on the NOW website as soon as we have received it after Friday 2 November. Go to the NOW website www.now.org.za. Click on "Forum" under Main Menu on the left hand side. You might be welcomed as a guest and then you will have to register. The draft framework SRS will be published under: "Draft Self Regulating Strategy (For Stakeholder Review) under the "Self Regulating Strategy" heading. Please post your suggestions there and then on the site. Otherwise you can forward your suggestions to me at chairman@aawdc.org.za. (While you are on the website, you could also go to the "AAWDC (Clubs)" link under "Industry Focus Areas" and comment on the "AAWDC: Strategic Focus Areas") as per NOW objectives.

Attend any of the three Stakeholder Consultation Workshops that will be held

during November. **Johannesburg** Date: 8 November 2007 Time: 16h00 – 19h00 Location: Delta Environmental Centre, Delta Park, Road no. 3, Victory Park, Johannesburg Tel: (011) 888 4831 Website Map:

<http://www.deltaenviro.org.za/contact/index.html>

Cape Town Date: 12 November 2007 Time: 16h00 – 19h00 Location: Seapoint Civic Centre, Civic Centre, Sea Point Main Road, (Across from Sea Point Traffic Department) Tel: (021) 462 4864 Website: http://cybercapetown.com/Maps/CapeTown/capetown_2.php

Durban date: 15 November 2007 Time: 16h00 – 19h00 Location: Durban Botanical Garden, 70 St Thomas Road, Durban Tel: (031) 201 1303 Website Map: http://www.durban.gov.za/durban/services/services/parks/dbn_botanic_gardens/map_of_the_gardens If you need more info on the Stakeholder consultation workshops, or would like to book a seat, please send an Email to Leah at leahb@felehetsa.co.za.

It is a great opportunity to go and represent the AAWDC at these workshops and to listen and raise the issues pertaining to 4x4 owners and 4x4 clubs. Go for it!!!

Message from the Chairman:

“Some of the press releases state that some ecological sensitive areas may require that off-road drivers must be accompanied by a qualified off-road adventure guide. ”

“We are looking forward to your planning for the year and hopefully we could be getting a few good ideas to implement here in Gauteng.”

MEDIA

Some of you might have seen press releases in the media about the NOW process, talking about “Crit 4x4 laws” etc. I am concerned that the press has sent out the wrong message, so let me put a few things in perspective:

- The NOW process is **NOT** about imposing new legislation with the aim to limit 4x4 use. It is about changing existing legislation that would accommodate 4x4 use. An example is that a Driver Competency Certificate (DCC) will allow entering an Eco Sensitive Area (ESA), currently out of bounds. DEAT is busy finalizing attributes for ESA at national level, and it might be left to the provinces to implement it. That might lead to an area being identified as an ESA not previously identified as such and that could prohibit you and me entering that newly identified area, currently open to us 4x4 owners. Changes in legislation will then allow a driver with a DCC to then access that newly identified ESA.
- Some of the press releases state that NOW is a representative grouping of off-road clubs. Although off-road clubs are represented on NOW through the AAWDC, there is actually a much wider representative group on

NOW. It includes 4x4 clubs (AAWDC), vehicle manufacturers (NAAMSA), Motorcycle and Quad importers (AMID), vehicle renting and leasing companies (SAVRALA), four wheel drive guides (4WDGA), property and trail owners (SAROOF) and professional trainers (SANOTA).

- Some of the press releases state that some ecological sensitive areas may require that off-road drivers must be accompanied by a qualified off-road adventure guide. Although that possibility exists in the minority and very special cases, it will not be the general rule. A lot of off-roaders have contacted me about this issue and you can be assured that we will not allow that as a general rule.

If there are any other issues reported in the press that you feel uncomfortable with, please forward it to me and I will try to put it in perspective.

AAWDC - WESTERN CAPE REGION

I had the opportunity to meet the new committee of the AAWDC Western Cape Region. What a bunch of good guys! The clubs in the

Western Cape can sleep well – I am convinced you are in good hands. Do not leave it all over to the committee to look after the clubs in that region. Volunteer to help, participate and attend the AAWDC meetings. It is after all for your own benefit. We are looking forward to your planning for the year and hopefully we could be getting a few good ideas to implement here in Gauteng.

ORRA

We have resolved the issue with the ORRA bank account and our administration and feedback around the radio licenses for 2008 have already improved drastically. Thanks to Cobus and Kim for their hard work.

AAWDC WEBSITE

The committee has seen the first of what the new AAWDC website will look like – stunning work Renzo!! We are still on track with the development project and hopefully I will be in a position to offer more info in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, happy off-roading!!

Jakob Jordaan
Chairman

News from our members: McCarthy 4x4 club

Many of our Member Clubs do have a reach out or charity event they support. Often the public forget to give recognition to these Clubs. This month we would like to say thanks to the McCarthy 4x4 Club for the sterling job they do in association with the Boksburg Rotary Club to give a memorable 4x4 day for the disabled people of the Vita Novus Home.



Over the last couple of years this Club provided the facilities and vehicles and took these people on a 4x4 trip to their old base at Wolwehoek 4x4 trial [it is now called Delft Sand. Delft Sand has put in some game on the farm and the people of Vita Novus Home will have the opportunity to have a game drive as well as a 4x4 experience simultaneously.



This year's event will take place on Sunday the 25th

November 2007 from 10:00 to approximately 15:30.



The Vita Novus 4x4 Day is an event that they [the disabled people as well as the staff/helpers of the Vita Novus Home] look forward to with great anticipation.



The Club mobilizes between 20-25 4x4 vehicles from their club members/volunteers to participate in the event as they do have to cater for up to 120 people from Vita Novus [disabled persons as well staff and helpers].



This annual event is organized by the Rotary Club of Boksburg Lake

and their President is Anthony Baker tel: 011-7874141 cell 0828520928 e-mail

bakert@pbpower.co.za if you would like further information or you can contact Anthonie Coetzee at the McCarthy 4x4 Club tel 012-6539428 or cell 0829287702.



Donations for this event are always welcome and the Club indicated that they would donations like:

- Ice Cream for 120 people
- Packets of chips, snacks, peanuts etc.
- Packets of sweets
- Refreshments
- Boerewors and bread rolls
- Charcoal /briquettes

Donations of any kind are more than welcome and if you can support this initiative please feel free to do so.



"Donations for this event are always welcome..."

THE KUOMBOKA-FESTIVAL

Story by Loftus Viljoen

An annual dramatic ceremony of community and religious renewal

Previously the Northwestern area of Zambia was known as Barotseland, home to the Lozi, a proud people who pledged their loyalty to their king, the *Litunga*. Friendly but poor people. The area is wild, undeveloped and lies barren with a huge tourism potential. One of the reasons this area has received very little attention, is the Lozi's contention, since independence, that they are a sovereign state with their own kingdom. The Lozi king, King Imwiko II, is one of the representatives of this area in the Zambian Government.

The biggest part of Barotseland is gazetted for forestry, as forest areas, national parks or the grasslands, locally called *dambos*. This is also the origin of the mighty Zambezi River – the River of the Gods. The Zambezi, climate and rainfall have a great influence on the rich cultural heritage of the Lozi.

The rainy season starts in November with a build-up of mighty cloud formations on the horizon and magnificent thunderstorms. After the first rains, the plains and especially the areas around the pans are covered with flower blankets.

At the end of the annual rainy season, usually February/March, the Zambezi is so swollen that it overflows its banks. The once green grasslands are flooded and become a giant

lake of water. The cyclic flooding gives rise to a remarkable African traditional ceremony, called the *Kuomboka*. The name means 'to get out of the water onto dry ground'. This is probably the most remarkable and dramatic traditional spectacle in Africa.

The *Litunga* (Lozi King) signals the start of the *Kuomboka* Festival by having the three massive royal African war drums (*maomas*) taken from his palace to the royal barge, the *Nalikwanda* (which means: 'for the people'). These three drums, named the *Kanaona*, *Munanga* and *Mundili* are said to be over 170 years old. The *maomas* are over a metre wide and deep and their low resonance can be heard far over the plains of Barotseland. The staccato rhythm of the *salimbas* (xylophones) adds to the atmosphere of the ceremony. This is the symbolic summons of the king to his subjects to follow him from Lealui to the safety of the higher ground at Limulunga. In the Liuwa National Park alone, there are approximately 108 villages that must be cleared.

The *Nalikwanda* is a remarkable and enormous craft with a protective canopy for the king, his attendants, and the royal orchestra of xylophones and drums and over 100 traditionally-clad paddlers. It is considered a great honour among the Lozi to be chosen

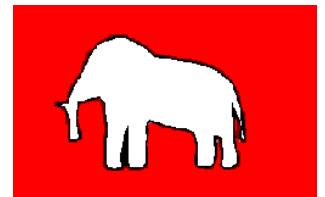
as a paddler and they come from the furthest corners of Zambia hoping to be selected. If a paddler is not exerting him enough, the *Macabula* drum is sounded and he is immediately thrown overboard by his fellow paddlers.

The *Nalikwanda* is painted black and white stripes which symbolize the people and their spirituality. On top of the king's shelter, is a big black *paper Mache* elephant with the *Litunga's* flag, depicting a white elephant on a red background, flying above. The *Nalikwanda* is followed by the queen's barge, other royal craft and a multitude of dugout canoes.

One of the main centres of the area is Mongu where the Lozi King heads to spend his winter at Limulunga. The main activities in Mongu are it social of economical, take place in the vicinity of the harbour, Mulamba, which is a fish trade point.

There are no hotels of note in Mongu, but along the south western banks of the Zambezi, there are several beautiful lodges and camping sites. We found pristine white beaches from Sioma Falls to Maziba Bay. When visiting this area, you have to be completely self-sufficient with regards to fuel and especially water. It is extremely foolish and potentially dangerous to venture into this territory alone.

THE REAL AFRICA STARTS IN ZAMBIA.



"We would like to know what our members do."

Upcoming Events

NGONYAMA SAFARI CLUB:

GPS COURSE: A quick reminder that we will be presenting our 2nd T4A GPS course for this year on **SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2007** with Theo Meyer from Tracks4Africa.

The cost is R400.00 per

person and R700.00 per couple.

For those who want attend the following are essential: Your GPS instrument [please advise type and make when booking], your laptop computer, your MapSource software [latest version] for purposes of setting up the formats etc.

We have only a couple of spaces left for our last course of the year – book early to avoid disappointment. Phone Annette/Larochelle on 08 444 10 33 or 012-3479824

Venue: 406 Cliff Ave, Waterkloofridge, Pretoria.

Contributions for forthcoming editions

Your attention is drawn to the Committee's decision that all contributions for the newsletter must reach us not later than the 25th of a month and that the publication of the newsletter shall not be later than the 5th of the

next month.

We would like to know what our members do. Whether it is outings or courses or charity events please let us know and we will gladly publish it.

It is open for all clubs to send us their club profiles

Create a logo

Although we have a name for our Newsletter "4- Words" it was felt at the last AAWDC meeting that we should have a logo containing the newsletter name. Judging from the inventiveness of our members when we had to name this newsletter we are eagerly awaiting entries for this competition from our members.

Alan Goodway of the 4x4 Off-road Adventure Club of Gauteng will be sponsoring

the prize which will consist of a photographic windbag and Garmap Update DVD.

The closing date for entries is 9th November 2007 and the winner will be announced in our December 2007 Newsletter.

BRIDGESTONE FUNDI CHALLENGE 2008:

Bridgestone SA, one of the AAWDC associate members, has announced that they will continue with the Bridgestone Fundi Challenge

in 2008.

The challenge is open to all clubs and individuals and consists of a series of events on which the participants are judged on.

There are great prizes to be won.

The entry fee is R200.00 per v vehicle per event.

For more details and entry forms contact us or go to their website www.bridgestone.co.za



"The closing date for entries is 9th November 2007."

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.aawdc.org.za

AAWDC BENEFIT STATEMENT

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 Owners 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 Defense 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 Defense/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 program, Driver Training program and Instruction manual.
- 1.9. To develop, maintain and promote an Associate program 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

About Our Organization...