

BUSH TELEGRAPH

December 2007



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SEASONS GREETINGS

To all the club members and their families, we wish you a peaceful festive season and loads of good luck for 2008.

It has been a hectic year by most accounts. We look forward to an interesting new year in anticipation of new and exciting club activities.

Apart from inviting all our members to attend and partake in the club activities, I would like to ask you to provide us with more input on the web site / newsletter side of things.

Die raamwerk is nou daar, nou het ons julle bydraes nodig. Skryf julle ervarings neer, stuur vir ons daai interessante foto's.

Mag almal veilig reis en vreugde ondervind.

**Groete
Johan Westraadt**

FEEDBACK - Vleikloof

What does 4 x 4 mean? Vleikloof Or Bust!

So an old high school buddy of mine , Johan Westraadt phones me up and says they are planning a weekend 4 x 4 trip in the Baviaans kloof . Now I ve been on one or two of these trips, where we drive a ridged old dirt road to a camping site about 100 km in to the Baviaans, unpack, erect tents, light the fire and then return the Sunday morning with a time laps memory of what was a “ lekker “ weekend and then sit with a headache threw Monday and Tuesday. But, as he explained this one would be different. Carrying on about the best unknown terrain himself and the rest of The Four Wheel Drive Club of SA -Port Elizabeth has encountered. According to reliable sources the previous attempt to drive down the tierkloof 4x4 track , left only 7 out of 19 vehicles brave enough to continue. Well as a pretty adventures non 4x4 enthusiast, I agreed to be assistant bar man for the weekend.

A two vehicle convoy fetched me early Friday morning. Johan in his 1999 Land Rover Deffender TD 5, and a father and son team, Michael and Duncan Bezuidenhout in their Isuzu KB280 double cab. Fully kitted to the roof , fridge and all . Apparently a number of other members from the club was going to meet us on route. So all excited to hit the bush we are of , but as it so happened the Isuzu lost its rear wheel just outside of Hankey, long before we even entered the Baviaans Kloof. Not much was said why or how it might have happened , or who tightened the wheel nuts the previous day after adjusting the emergency brakes, but with R8 worth of spares bought at a local tractor dealer and our new found local , not so sober, friend Daniel we where back on track and moving again. Just for the record Daniels assistance cost us R5, a Savanna and a cigarette. Much more than R8 , got to love this country of ours !

Traveling threw the Baviaans Kloof , you get the feeling of freedom that our city dwellers seek , but seldom find. Made me think that these 4 x 4 junkies might be up to something here. No Cell phone reception might make you miss your loved ones , but that's good , never a bad thing for a day or two.

So after about a 120 km from the last tar road outside Patensie we reached the farm at Vleikloof. Already a bit shaken up from a seriously bad section of dirt road , I was actually very excited to see what comes up next, and the fact that I personally have never been this far up the Baviaans Kloof was al ready a big up for me. We greeted the farm people and set of to concur this apparent Everest of 4x 4 trails. With in the first kilometer it was apparent that this was not any ordinary track. In fact , according to the local farm worker the last people up this Kloof was Nature Conservation, when they came to fetch the “ Tiger” , found in the Baviaans. Hell yes , feeling much safer already. Are they sure there was only one, and that was also much of the debate as the Land Rover idled threw beautiful rock surroundings.

I remember the Question “ waar nou? “ coming up frequently as we steered into almost non assessable terrain. And beyond every obstacle there was a hell of a lot more to come. It took us about an hour to reach our first camp site, which was only 2km into the 22km trail I so bravely volunteered for. We were later joined by only one other brave 4 x 4 club member . Willie and Jannie Malan , Roche and David Wentzel arrived in a new , yes very new 4lt Toyota Hilux . Now this thing was shiny , smart , luxurious , big, sounded good and kitted to the limits. Seriously this vehicle had more in it than my first bachelors flat, and even more on the outside. Immediately convinced that these people are serious about their sport, and rightly so. Its not for “sissies” .

So after a good nights banter , story's , a few cold ones , good food and the odd joke or two we were up early and ready for what the day may bring, I mean there's only 20 km left so lets do it!

Willie took the lead and it was clear why he had all his seats full in that double cab of his. Somebody had to clear the path and with his new Hilux it seemed fitting that they tried to avoid really bashing it up by cutting down the most protruding branches in our way. Thanks guys !

This gave me lots of time to reflect on just what does a 4 x 4 trail, course , trip , what ever entail.

Not just any one can do this. It's a specialized sport ,that's for sure. You need the best equipment, accessories, tires , shocks , diff locks, traction control, but if you don't have a lots of guts and the same amount of experience to back it up , you are stuffed. This is no drive around the farm road avoiding pot holes or splashing mud puddles at a construction site. Hell no, this is hard core 4 x 4 guts and glory stuff. Unimaginable that any one would attempt to drive a vehicle threw the sections we did , but more astonishing the great planning and team work that goes into securing that each and every vehicle gets threw every section safe and secure. Even if at one stage we were only doing a kilometer per hour.

The further up the kloof we went , the hotter and the more intense the obstacles became . We were actually driving up a river bed that runs down from the surrounding mountains of the Baviaans kloof. And the sheer thought of trying this when its raining forced me to access the little fridge in the Land Rover more frequently. With the temperature reaching up to 43 degrees Celsius . we eventually concurred this challenge we set out to do . There was high fives all round and joy in every sweaty face , great to be part of it boys ! Five and a half hours of serious concentration , negotiations with rocks , trees and even a donkey or two paid of. I take my hat of to you all.

The descent was almost like a ant climax to two days of excitement , but also kind of a relief to tired body's. The owner of the farm informed us that to his knowledge no one has ever driven up the Vleikloof ridge, but he will be sure to record it thus way. Makes it kind of monumental doesn't it ?

We camped at a more comfortable site the Saturday, after driving from camp terrain to camp terrain for the rest of the afternoon. Apparently there are over 74 camp sites in the Baviaans Kloof alone.

So what does 4 x 4 mean to me know? Well its not a cheep sport , but can be moderate for those who can have a vehicle that can serve as a work as well as a weekend vehicle. For me as an avid motorbike off roader, its clearly a different approach to driving threw the bush or even just playing around . One thing is for sure if you don't know what you are doing don't even attempt a serious 4 x 4 track not even to mention , the mighty Vleikloof .

Written by :

Jaco Engelbrecht

FEEDBACK - CHRISTMAS RUN 2007

Congratulations to all the organizers of the 2007 Christmas Run for all your hard work in making a huge success of the weekend. Although one tries not to mention names, for fear of leaving someone out, we must in this case sincerely thank Willie Malan, affectionately known as “Chainsaw Willey”, for his hard work, dedication and enthusiasm in making this Christmas run the most enjoyable ever. Chainsaw, the slides, music, tent and Christmas lights were bakgat!

Bennett - gathering the children around and telling them the true meaning of Christmas was humbling. To the chefs and cooks – what a wonderful feast - we could have fed the entire Africa. It was indeed the nicest “ondersteboskaap” we have ever had – not even to mention all the side dishes. The company, friendships and camaraderie, the 5 star accommodation and all the laughs made it all the more special – it was just great fun! To those of you who missed out on this one ... you really missed out a lot.

Photos can be viewed on the website.

Kudu Kaya

Toe ek die naam Kudu Kaya hoor, was my eerste gedagte : Is dit nou nodig dat ons vir ons Kersfees uitstappie in n stroois loop bly? Die enigste rede hoekom ek tog saam is, was omdat ek saam met my 4x4 vriende wou wees vir daai lekker gesels , voertuie kyk en natuurlik daardie doodeet !

Sommer met die wegtrek was al my negatiwiteit weg. Net om weer te skud, stamp, die bande wat raas en die ander voertuie wat verby jaag het my tuis laat voel. Met ons aankoms daar was ek stomgeslaan. Ek het nie gedroom dat daar sulke pragtige kamplekke op ons drumpel is nie. Die meeste Geelhoutbome bymekaar wat ek nog gesien het! Die ablusie geriewe was genoeg, prakties en netjies skoon. Daar was genoeg speelplek vir die kinders, heeldyd in die oog en veilig. Een van ons lede het tot sy eie kinderoppasser saamgebring. Nogal 'n man hoor! Mooi man Mike! Ek sal weer langs jou kamp.

Met almal se vertrek op die roete, het daar 'n salige stilte oor die kamp neergedaal. Ons kon in rus en vrede ons tent opslaan, styf teen 'n Geelhoutboom wat heelwat ouer as ek is! Met my rondloop in die kamp het ek net my kop geskud vir al die moeite en voorbereiding. Niks maar niks is ontsien nie. "No names no packdrill" Hoe sê mens dankie vir sulke mense? Enige persoon wat oor iets wou kla, hoort nie daar nie. Van kombuistent, liggies, krag, speelplek, tafels, stoele en braaidromme. Al wat ek nie kon kry nie, was 'n "landing strip" vir Vader Kersfees se sleë. Hy het wel geland met geskenke en lekkers vir die kinders. Party grootmense het gebrom omdat hulle nie iets gekry het nie. Ek ook! Ons bly maar almal kinders! Die looitjies het vergoed daarvoor, veral toe iemand anders as Hans en Willie ook iets gewen het. Gelukkigste blikslaters wat ek nog teëgekome het. Tot ek het iets gewen! Ironies dat al die Landrovers karwas koepons gewen het. Wonder hoe nat was hul voertuie binne na die wassery!?

Dit was heerlik om ou bekende gesigte weer te sien. Fortuner moes kom wys hy kan ook en Datsuki dat hy weer herleef. Ek wonder net hoekom daar sommer twee Isuzus reg in die begin tou opgegooi het. Verskonings was volop. Los maar die wat sommer van die begin af in die kamp agter gebly het.

Die aandete was heerlik. Soos baie mense het ek net gewens dat ek meer kon inkry! Die liggies was pragtig, die atmosfeer gesellig en die geselsskap uit die boonste rakke.

Aan almal wat beplan het, gereël het, gemaak het, geeët het, opgeruim het en vermaak het, 'n groot DANKIE! Aan al die borge, 'n baie groot dankie. Aan almal wat gaan soebat het, 'n groot dankie. Dankie ook aan almal wat spontaan gehelp het. In geheel laat voel die naweek my trots daarop dat ek 'n lid van die FWDCSA kan wees.

Welkom aan die wat vir die eerste keer op 'n kersfunksie was. Aan "Beep Beep" se nuwe drywer net iets, ons sal êrens kry waar jy ook sal gaan staan! As ek iets vergeet het, SORRY!

FEEDBACK - JAMBOREE

LOOTJIE PRYS WENNERS / RAFFLE WINNERS

10. Horlosie A15 – Nannie
9. Bed & Breakfast S27 – Willie
8. Horlosie K23 – Yolande (ex Nat)
7. Portable Gas Stove S30 – Willie
6. Heated towel rail Q6 – J.Koen (ex Pierre)
5. Horlosie U12 – Hans
4. Charcoal Braai J5 – Bennett
3. Cooler Box N14 – Sandy Walland (ex Pierre)
2. Portable Gas Stove R19 – Willie
1. Stainless Braai U4 - Hans

FOOD ON THE RUN!

Soup Bread

500g Self Raising Flour

500ml Buttermilk

1 Packet of Brown Onion soup (You can actually use your favourite soup)

Mix all together, Split dough in two and place in 2 small bread pans.

Decorate with grated cheese, parsley and paprica and bake at about 160 Degrees Celcius for about 30minutes. (Or test with sharp item)

Couscous Salad

Cook 1 cup of couscous in the microwave (1 cup couscous, 1 cup boiling water, 3ml salt and 5ml oil - on high for 2 minutes, stir twice)

Cool and add chopped black olives, chopped spring onions, chopped tomato, chopped garlic and parsley.

Mix dressing and stir in just before serving - 50ml oil, 50ml olive oil, approx 35ml lemon juice, 2ml dried organum, salt and pepper (adjust all to taste).

We want to encourage everyone to send in his or her own trusted recipes & ideas. By sharing we all get new ideas to make LIFE ON THE RUN interesting.

Forward any recipes to me at: drocher@absamail.co.za

Daleen Rochér

Braai Wood for Sale

10 bags (Streepsakke) for only R220, Delivered (Port Elizabeth only)
Phone Andre 0847046938

Code of Conduct : Members to abide by

- Be considerate and helpful to all
- Keep your vehicle mechanically sound
- Adhere to laws and regulations
- Obtain permission before entering private or state land
- Leave all gates as found
- Keep to roads and tracks
- Drive responsibly at all times
- Prevent soil erosion
- Respect wildlife, plants and trees
- Prevent fires at all times
- Safeguard water supplies
- Leave no litter
- Respect the right of others to peace and solitude

Runs Protocol

- Every driver to ensure they can see the following vehicle & always wait at turn-offs for the following vehicle.
- If and when you lose sight of the vehicle behind you - stop and wait for them to catch up again.
- Every following vehicle to endeavour to keep the leading vehicle in sight.
- Take note of who is leading and trailing you. If they disappear, inform run co-ordinators ASAP.
- Remain in the order in which you set out.
- Stops will be planned for the route, these to be adhered to.
- At obstacles, leave the vehicle in front of you sufficient room, enough to reverse if he needs to. When stopping on steep hills, bear the following vehicles in mind, which might have to pull away against that incline.

Members details (NOT updated) : for use by members only.

| LastName | FirstName | MobilePhone | | LastName | FirstName | MobilePhone |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Bergmann | Bennie | 082-444-5656 | continue... | McClealand | Braddon | 082 461 6054 |
| Bester | Hans | 082 555 2754 | | Pieters | Dawie | |
| Bezuidenhout | Michael | 082 372 8498 | | Naude | Willem | 082 9301 396 |
| Booyesen | Attie | 083-451-1165 | | Pietschman | Thomas | 082-371-2711 |
| Botes | Bennett | 083 996 9141 | | Postma | Adrienne | 082-787-7598 |
| Bouwer | Barry | 082-657-4612 | | Potgieter | Nat | 083-656-3771 |
| Burchardt | Thomas | 0825571862 | | Reyneke | Braam | 082-3219120 |
| Classen | Johan | 082-576-5415 | | Rocher | Pierre | 082-873-9127 |
| Corlett | John | 084 4221565 | | Saunders | Ross | 082-7701653 |
| Croney | Winston | 082-868-4240 | | Saunders | Trevor | 083-6615094 |
| De Jager | James | 082 778 9931 | | Schoombie | Sarel | 084-5829494 |
| De Kock | Mike | 825529195 | | Scott | Shane | 082-6112581 |
| De Vos | Andre | 083-2751792 | | Shaw | William | 083 270 4396 |
| Deyzel | Robbie | 082-557-5761 | | Smart | Gordon | |
| Dreyer | Jasper | 0823701557 | | Smith | Freek | 083-227-4125 |
| Dreyer | Suzy | 083-320-6007 | | Smith | Ivan | 083-4592242 |
| duToit | Tertius | 0836266332 | | Stapelberg | Frans | 082-7736205 |
| duToit | Barry | 082-650 1629 | | Stavast | Christiaan | 083-455 7615 |
| Dwyer | Kevin | 082 5533 713 | | Stock | Robin | 082-9054738 |
| Ferreira | Kevin | 082-3246200 | | Strydom | Deon | 082 773 2224 |
| Futter | Graham | 0833072125 | | Swanepoel | John | 082-822-5307 |
| Friend | George | 082-7829816 | | Terblanche | Henk | 082-3202488 |
| Gouws | Ryno | 082-800 9282 | | Theron | Jacques | 082-450-1999 |
| Gouws | Gavin | 082 3737609 | | Theron | Riaan | 082-653-0443 |
| Grobler | Hannes | 084-450-3679 | | Van Den Berg | Sam | 083 243 0386 |
| Harth | Trevor | 082-6599898 | | van Heerden | Eugene | 082-4126918 |
| Hayes | Zane | 082-774-8198 | | Van Niekerk | Jan | 082-573-1431 |
| Higgs | Aubrey | 082-8001476 | | Van Niekerk | Maruis | 082 955 3934 |
| Jenkinson | Dennis | 834535743 | | Van Rooyen | Helgard | 083-3603833 |
| Joubert | Rosemary | 083-218-6488 | | Vlok | Anton | 082-8890664 |
| Kleyn | Gys | 083 261 5474 | | Vosloo | Derick | 082-656-2999 |
| Leo | Wesley | 082-6191750 | | Wentzel | David | 083 452 0822 |
| Louw | Andre | 084-7046938 | | Wepener | Hennie | 0828078343 |
| Mackenzie | Dion | 0834540629 | | Westraadt | Johan | 082-770-9077 |
| Maarschalk | Henri | 082 5004 901 | | Wiseman | Ronald | 083-6567525 |
| Malan | Willie | 082-804-5770 | | | | |