

Newsletter 382 August 2013



2013 Showday



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MG Car Club-Northern Centre

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Meetings usually on first Monday of Month, check by phone.

www.mgcc-north.co.za

Or

www.mgcc-north.co.za/mobile

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Jacaranda Jottings

Steve Eden

Past halfway through the year and things just get busier, Showday at the end of June was, despite my misgivings about entries, a fantastic day. The venue was well accepted, the weather couldn't have been better, and the turn out of MGs amazing. A quick count showed an attendance of 80 plus cars, an even split between Northern Centre and Johannesburg. The low key concours maybe an indication of which way to go in future. Most people seemed to just enjoy the day with their friends and cars. We are looking at what is being done in the UK. They seem to have drastically reduced the number of classes, and introduced a Pride of Ownership section for people with non concours condition cars, that is most of us. Once we can get hold of some rules, we can see if they can be adapted to the SA situation.

Public interest in Showday was high, with people phoning or e mailing for details, and lots of people coming on the day. I am sure the Gardens and restaurants had a profitable day. There were some issues with slow service at the latter, but the numbers probably greatly exceed what was expected.

I must thank the NC team for their efforts in producing a well organised event, and of course the members from NC and Johannesburg for their support on the day.

July 13 saw the running of the Cats Eyes Trial, organised by the Pretoria Triumph Club. The format returned to a short run, from the Clubhouse to a shopping centre, this year the Grove, and a return to the Club for homemade soups made by the ladies.

Nick and Rita had excelled themselves with their cryptic clues which created a great deal of head scratching, and a lot of oohs and aahs when the answers were announced. How about "What do you use to ignite your classic? The shop was called "Old Khaki"! Do you get it?

MG put on a good showing with 5 teams taking part. We were all careful not to come better than second, as first prize includes the privilege of organising next year's event! MG and PTSCC member Bill Sales came out top, and promised to wreak his revenge on Nick and Rita next year. Thanks to PTSCC, Nick and Rita and the ladies for some delicious soups.

A non Club event in the month was a trip to the Scottburgh Classic Car show, 10 MGs met just south of Heidelberg on Friday morning for the run down. Avoiding the N3 where possible taking roundabout route, via Ladysmith and Colenso, we made our way to Rawdons Hotel, in Nottingham Road for an overnight stop. The diversions off the N3, plus a number of stops for various reasons, none associated with car trouble, grew the travelling time for this 500km to nearly 10 hours. A most enjoyable run, with no pressure on cars, drivers or passengers.

The accommodation at Rawdons was excellent, and the beer from Nottingham Road Brewery just to my taste. The weather was superb, but very cold in the early morning with the mist rising from the lake.

We took a leisurely drive the next morning, joining the highway for the final run to Scottburgh, an easy 200km, leaving plenty of time for beer and chat before supper.



For those, like us, who have never visited the Blue Marlin Hotel in Scottburgh this is an experience not to missed. The hotel, which must have been fairly grand in its heyday, is like a time warp. Now a little run down, with paint and plaster falling off the outside walls, the interior is fairly well maintained, and the rooms basic but acceptable. The enormous dining room harks back to the days of full or half board family holidays "by die see".



The food at dinners, left a little to be desired, the breakfasts, however were good. The first night saw a local group of entertainers amuse us with a number of skits and songs dating back a good while. It was absolutely hilarious and everyone enjoyed themselves.



On Sunday after a wholesome breakfast we travelled the short distance to the show in the grounds of the local country club. A large variety of cars was present from all over the country, some 400 of them. All makes and models were present, MG, Triumph, Jaguar, Ferrari, Rolls Royce, Healey, MX5, big American metal, etc. and some Classic Bikes. The public were present in large numbers, a park and ride available to ferry them from distant car parks. MG were probably the best represented marque with around 60 cars present.

After the show we had lunch in a local restaurant and returned to the Blue Marlin for a rest before the evenings activities.

An unfortunately mediocre curry, (we were in Natal after all) was followed by a sing along in the bar, old, and I mean old, favourites were sung along to with gusto, especially by Alex Dewar when "I belong to Glasgow" came up. (It was his birthday!).



An early night was followed by a relaxed start to Monday, we left Scottburgh at about 8h45, and were back home at 16h30.

If you have not been to the Scottburgh Classic car show and experienced the Blue Marlin Hotel, put it on your bucket list, it is well worth the trip.

Thanks must go to Peter Fielding, the show organiser and all his helpers. Thanks also to the other Gautengers who made the trip relaxed and enjoyable.

Now back to the future, this month events, we have a talk on the MMM Gathering at Franschoek, Cars in the Park at Zwartkops, and the Charity run to METTS, and some are going to the Nest in the Drakensburg.

Please, if you are in the area support the Charity event, we do little enough for our community.

At the last Exco, Ivan de Clerk tendered his resignation, the time spent for Exco was interfering with his business. This I can fully understand. His expertise and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. This means that we need to co-opt some one to perform his duties, Ivan was responsible for membership and the Club's database. We need someone who is computer literate and with the time to attend meetings and update the database on an ongoing basis. If this is you, please let me know, we are a very small exco, and cannot absorb this portfolio.

Steve

Club Banking Details

Account Name "MG Car Club-Northern Centre"
FNB Bank
Account Number 62363284359
Branch Code 250655 Menlyn Square

New Members

Welcome to Isaac van Niekerk and Hasie Botha.

From the Editor's laptop



Another interesting month of things MG. After missing showday, the highlight of my month was the combined MGCC Johannesburg Centre; PTSCC; Mercedes-Benz Club and Porsche 356 club gathering at Swartkops airforce base earlier in the month. I was lucky to win a trip in an Alouette helicopter—a most spectacular experience.

My “new” B has thus far been performing faultlessly, and having done our first long journey in it this weekend I'm glad to say that using her as a daily driver is proving to be a success. Although perhaps I won't be singing the same tune come summer!

The month ahead stands to be another busy month for those looking for entertainment, with the principle problem being deciding what to attend. The POMC is hosting “Car's in the Park” again, with the same familiar format. Wee are trying to put together a good showing this year following the appeal make at the last Natter & Noggin by Carel Wilkins. I haven't attended the event in years, but will be making a plan to to be there this year. I hope to see many familiar faces there.

Unfortunately, I will be missing most of the month's events due to being in the United States. While I am disappointed to be missing the Metts gathering, as well as the Combined Centre's gathering at “The Nest” it is all rather overshadowed by Pebble Beach concours d'elegance and the Mullin Museum in Oxnard.

As a result of my travels next month the newsletter will be somewhat abridged, but I will be sure to send it out to keep everybody in the loop with regard to the club activities.

However, before head off on my travels I will be doing a brief presentation on the MMM gathering held in Franschoek earlier this year at this Monday's Noggin. It should be interesting, so try and brave the cold to attend.

As always, if you have any comments on the newsletter, or something that you would like to contribute, it would be appreciated.

Yours Octagonally,

Steve Grover

MG Mart

1981 MGB Roadster. No body damage, inside clean and very good condition.. Contact Emma Bosch 0822696040. Benoni (1)

Wanted:
Oil filler cap for MG TC. (Fell off while returning from the George Old Car show somewhere near Somerset East.) If anyone could help I would appreciate it very much. Contact Ed Hillary 0836317175. (Limpopo) (3)

Semi-personalised registration number 000 MGA GP, R500, contact Alan on 011-849-7355 or 082-875-5446 (3)

Event Detail

More detail on events that are coming up soon



POMC Cars in the Park — Sunday August 4.

Carel Wilkins, a member of our club, has appealed for our attendance at this years “Cars in the Park”.

The event takes place at Zwarktops Raceway, and we have had two stands opposite the pits reserved for us.

The event is unique in it’s sheer size as well as the variety of special interest vehicles on display. Last year over 3000 cars were on display, with over 15000 visitors in attendance.

We will be making pan-cakes on the day, with a gazebo for some shade.

Let’s try and get some cars there and add something unique to the event.

Charity Support Day — Saturday August 17.

Location, Silverton Primary School cnr Pretoria & de Boulevard Road, Silverton , Pretoria . MGs need to go down de Boulevard, right into Jasmyn and then right into the School Field. School location S25,43’54.12”, E 28,18’6.84”. To find the school, leave the N4 highway at the Watermeyer exit and turn towards M14 Mamelodi. Travel about 2.6km then turn left at the robots into Pretoria Street, in 1.3km turn right into de Boulevard.

Cars need to be in place by 10h00, we have celebrity judging for a “most Desirable car” at around 10h45 by Hildegardt Whites (Bonita in 7de Laan).

Some snacks will be provided for us, I suggest people bring picnic chairs. The main event is in a Marquee next to where we will be parked. The judging results should occur at about 13h00 and we can start leaving at 13h30. MGNC has organised a 30km “Treasure Hunt” back to the clubhouse for a bring and braai, which will start from the school at around 13h30.

All we are asking is for 3 ½ hours of members time, with their cars to support this major fundraising event. METT provides counselling services for abused and deprived children, and trains teachers to help the children.

More detail on METT can be found on their website www.mett.co.za.

Combined Centres, KZN, Northern and Johannesburg Weekend Away—9 to 11 August 2013

This event is coming up soon.

For those attending, detailed route instructions and a map have been included at the end of the newsletter.

SAAF Museum Run @ Swartkops

Steve Grover

Following a most embarrassing day at Swartkops airforce base last year, where the Blue car decided that it was a appropriate moment to deposit most of it's oil onto the tarmac, I was hoping for a better day out this year!

Unfortunately the day was planned for the weekend after show-day this year, which I suspect may have kept some folks away, as well

as the cold weather, but there was a strong turnout of Northern Centre cars this year, and I was excited to have my "New" B'GT out and on display after missing showday the week before. She was sporting a fresh "Clay, polish and wax"



treatment and I was very happy with how the paint had turn out.

The event represents fantastic value and a great day out. For the R50 entry fee one

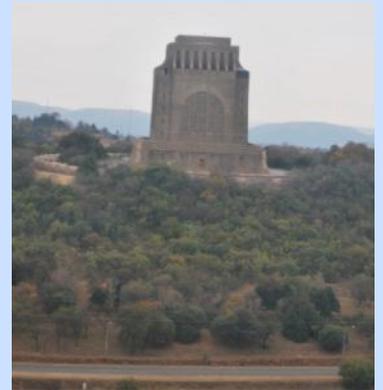
receives a complimentary hat, cup of coffee, soft-drink, beer and a worsroll. But by far the biggest appeal of the day is the entry into the draw to win a scenic trip in one of



the South African Airforce Museum Society's aircraft. This year they were flying two Alouette helicopters and a Kudu aeroplane.

I was lucky enough to have my number drawn from the hat and got onto the second last trip in the Alouette. I was lucky to get the centre seat at the front, where the wind-screen stops almost at your feet, sitting between the pilot and the flight engineer.

The flight took us out over the Voortrekker monument, over the CBD and in front of the Union Buildings. We then circled Loftus a few times before heading down Atterburry road and directly overhead our club-house. We circled Menlyn a few times—thinking about the poor men being dragged



around the shops on a Saturday morning, and then headed west over Waterkloof airforce base, and over over the Centurion Gautrain Station.

All in all the trip was about 25 minutes long—all at low level, no more that 500ft. What a thrilling experience, and certainly something that I would have not experienced if it were not for the MaGic that is the MG Car Club.



Forthcoming Events in Brief

Point allocation c=Clubman, v= Victrix/tor Ludorum, RR=Regularity Rally, HR=Historic Racing

August

Sun 4	Cars in the Park— Zwartkops Raceway	NC		c
Mon 5	Natter & Noggin MMM Gathering Presentation	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
17	METTS Gathering & “Treasure hunt” thereafter	NC	Meet at 10h00 in Silverton, “Treasure Hunt” run back to the clubhouse after.	c v
16-18	Combined Gauteng & Na- tal Centres Gathering		See End of Newsletter	

September

Mon 2	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
Sun 15	Frostbite Breakfast	NC	Rietvlei Dam Dam 08h00	c
20-22	Cape Centres Gathering		Stellenbosch	

October

Mon 2	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
Sun 20	Jacaranda Run	NC	TBA	TBA

November

Mon 4	Natter & Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19h30	c
Sun 17	MGCC NC Driving Tests	NC	Rallyesport	v

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the MG Car Club Northern Centre or the Executive Committee.

Cape Centres' Gathering 2013.

It's now only five months to the big Cape event of the year – the Cape Centre's Gathering!

To whet your appetite, the provisional programme looks as follows:



Friday 20th September:

Arrive at the Stellenbosch Protea hotel, just outside the historic city. Dinner will be in the Hotel and will be a chance to catch up with old friends.

Saturday 21st September:

Up for an early breakfast followed by our first outing! Leaving Stellenbosch we'll go down to the coast at Gordon's Bay and along the beautiful coast road to Rooi Els to Hermanus for lunch. Then on to Franschoek for a visit to the Franschoek Motor Museum

<http://www.fmm.co.za>

Return to the Hotel by 5 for a quick cuppa (or an early tippie!) then dress for the gala dinner!

Sunday 22nd September:

Up for breakfast and then off the sea! The drive will include the incomparable Chapman's peak, the charming village of Simonstown and spectacular views of the Cape vineyards with the possibility of a little wine tasting on the way!

Back to the hotel in the evening for an informal supper with new & old friends.

Monday 23rd September:

The last breakfast and then it's **your** time – explore the Waterfront, go wine or olive oil tasting in and around Stellenbosch, explore the old town.

If you haven't booked yet, please contact Roger Lewis or myself urgently – we need to finalise the arrangements with the hotel in the next few weeks.

Brian Aslett

Brian Aslett – 083 267 3742 brazzle@iafrica.com

Roger Lewis – 082 887 7509 roger@syntell.co.za

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