

Newsletter 384 October 2013



Jacaranda Jottings

What are we doing wrong? Poor attendance at the driving test, poor attendance at the METTS Charity function, and an even worse turn out at the Breakfast Braai. Obviously we do not have a clue what the members want. I am sure everyone has an excuse, " my grandmother's uncle's sister's cat died" or something similar.

A turn out of four cars for the breakfast braai, which had taken a lot of thought and effort to arrange is really disappointing, especially when many people had agreed it was a good idea. Those who were there really enjoyed it, the weather was superb and the location beautiful. Thanks to Gus and Yvonne for their help.

I am beginning to think that we should abandon runs and just meet at the Clubhouse twice a month. Anyway enough moaning.

A very short JJ this month as Hazell and I have picked up Dave Wheeler's booking for the Cape Centres gathering, so will be off the Stellenbosch on Thursday the 18th. We are also doing the SAVVA National sealed odo rally in Fouriesburg the following weekend, so will travel across country stopping in Beaufort West and Springfield on our way there. We should be back in Pretoria on Sunday the 29th.

Don't forget the Jacaranda Run, the Gliding Club Run and the Gymkhana coming up. Let us try for some enthusiasm. Why did we buy our MGs anyway?

Steve

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MG Car Club-Northern Centre

PO Box 11430, Silver Lakes 0054

Clubhouse c/o Umgazi Road & 26th Avenue, Menlo Park Pretoria.

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

www.mgcc-north.co.za

GPS S 25 46.495 E 28 16.035

From the Editors Laptop

I am developing an annoying habit of putting the newsletter in all manner of far out places. After last the September edition being put together in Frankfurt , this month is being finalised in Zambia, within spitting distance of the DRC.

My "new" MG is beginning to feel less new, and so far I am still enjoying the daily adventure of taking it to work and back. This month we headed down to Clarens for the "long weekend" - she didn't disappoint, and performed faultlessly.

There are a few exciting events coming up on the MG calendar as we begin to look towards the end of the year. Jennifer is putting an event together for early November where we will join the Maggabiesburg gliding club for a morning, Dave is putting together the Jacaranda run for this year as well as a dirt Gymkhana in November, and George is doing a "table raffle" at this month's Noggin. All should be good events.

I'm certainly looking forward to returning from deepest-darkest and continuing the work on the Blue Car. Knysna is beginning to loom large ahead! Time to get cracking...

Octagonally,

Steve Grover

From Under The Crash Hat

Dave Westaway

After a lengthy silence due to work commitments, I have managed to find my way back behind the computer and give you some good news regarding upcoming events.

Unfortunately the turn out for the METT'S event did not meet expectations, very disappointing, so we decided to postpone the "treasure hunt" to a later date. What I will do is lengthen the route with a few more clues and maybe add a few discreet omissions just to make it more of a challenge and more exciting. Those of us that were at the METT'S event wandered back to the club house as arranged for a braai and had a wonderful afternoon enjoying each others company and fantastic conversation. (MG and non MG related)

The next run on the calendar, although not competitive, is the annual Jacaranda Run. The event will start from the union buildings at 10:00 am sharp. We will take a leisurely drive through Tshwane (Pretoria)? taking in some of the historical sights, and of course the wonderful spectacle that is the sight of 75 000 Jacarandas in full bloom. Naturally we will not miss out on the very rare WHITE Jacarandas which are only found in one road in Tshwane. The route will be between 30 to 40 Km with no time limit so you will be able to stop and smell the "Jacaranda's", finishing back at the club for a thirst quencher and picnic/braai for lunch, SOO.....bring your car, spouse, family and friends, sun block, hat, defiantly your camera, picnic basket or braai meat and salads, eating tools, and come and enjoy a relaxing day amongst fellow enthusiasts in the Highveld sun. Diarise **SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 09:30am UNION BUILDINGS.**



Our next competitive event will be a dirt driving test to be held at the Rallystar Motorsport Academy on the 17th November starting at 9:00 am.

This event will consist of three traditional driving test courses with a “special” course at the end just for a little more excitement. Crash helmets are not compulsory but if you feel happier to use one, please feel free to bring one along. Being on dirt and low speed, this event is designed in such a manner that it is not a car breaker and anybody can enter safely. You do not have to be an expert racing driver to enjoy the event. There will be different classes for different vehicles. Although blanket indemnities have been sighed by most of our members, these will not be solely valid on the day so all competitors must sign one for the event on the day, available at the start. Due to not knowing how many competitors and spectators there will be, Rallystar will not have their kitchen open so there will be braai fires available for the prize giving/lunch after the event so bring along your favoured poison. The bar and club house facilities will be open for our use so let's support them as they have graciously not charged us for the use of their facilities. Those family members that would like to come along for a relaxing morning will be able to lay back at the club house out of the dust. Rallystar is located on the R51 between Petit and Babsfontein (across the road from the Broodblik and Koffiepit restaurant, unfortunately closed on Sunday's) Entrance at GPS 26°02'34,02”S : 28°23'45,45”E. There are huge signs at the entrance so you can't miss it. I will have more detailed instructions with distances in next months issue.

Keep the shiny side up and the oily side down.

Dave.

THE CAPE CENTRE'S STELLEN- BOSCH GATHERING 20 TO 22ND SEPTEMBER

Trevor Beddy

A pleasurable Odyssey to the Cape, or a bridge too far? Well, I must have had a rush of blood to the head when, on hearing of the Cape Centre's offer, I decided to tackle this long journey solo. Frankly, I had expected quite a lot of Gauteng MG club members to subscribe to this event, if only to escape the past dreariness of the Highveld Winter. Sadly, I could not have been more mistaken. The only other takers were Alex Dewar, Alan Uzzell and Denise, and Dave and Maureen Wheeler. We also had different cars with different performances as well as individual time constraints. This meant that we would be going down individually and not as a convivial MG group. Dave then pulled out for business reasons and generously offered his booking as a “freebee” to our Club members, which was accepted by Steve and Hazell Eden. In the event, we all took off at different times and headed South to be in Stellenbosch at the given date.

Here are some cautionary comments to those contemplating this journey in their little cars. Be prepared for interminable road works from Bloemfontein onwards, stop- go's galore and lots of heavy-vehicle traffic moving at high speeds. From here on it's not fun to be on the road until you reach the scenic Cape. There are of course other route options which are usually longer, more scenic and more expensive fuel wise. “You pays your money and you takes your choice”. I would also not advise using Beaufort West as a stopover for a host of reasons. Further, trust the online weather report and do not bank on what the AA tells you about road works. Their reports are dated and decidedly unreliable.

I also sourced along-the-route logistic support from a motoring friend who gave me the following contact persons: Bloemfontein, Alan Dickenson, 083 7253161, and in Beaufort West, Brian Zechlin 023 4143542. Both these gentlemen are prepared to render assistance if one has big problems. I was fortunate to have a trouble-free journey there and back, other than a burst tire 15km beyond Soweto, and a burnt generator bush once in the Cape. I might add that this incident spoiled the trip for me as my B was out of action for four days. Beware out there! Your run-of-the-mill Auto Electrician is no longer into Lucas generators and spares are not readily available. I was fortunate in sourcing a very good facility in the Strand.



The beautiful Church in Philadelphia

adelphia with its trendy boutique shops, Café and superb restaurant.

This was essentially a navigational exercise where there were check points where we were given a map which offered clues as to how to reach the next check point and so on. The route took us around Milnerton, over Kloof Nek and into Hout Bay with its plethora of sea food restaurants; thence via Fish Hoek to Simon's Town where the final check point was situated in the Seven Seas Club. Overall a great day was had by all.

That night was the prize giving in the hotel and the farewell dinner. Obviously a great time was had by all and the organisers could feel well satisfied that they had done a great job. Pity it ended so soon and that the Cape weather could not have been better, but that's the Cape for you!

The drive home after an extended stay in Cape Town waiting for my generator to be repaired was pretty dismal. The only good thing about it was that my '65 roadster performed beautifully. I never cease to be amazed at the robustness and reliability of these of these little cars forty, fifty years on.

Any amusing incidents along the route? There were a few. One being in Beaufort West as I was about to leave my B&B. A grandfather and his 6 year old grandson were watching my departure. The young lad shook his Oupa's hand, looked up at him and said, "Oupa, will that man fit in that car?" Another one was when I was seated in a rudimentary WC in Hanover (not a recommended stopover either) when a local and his buddy walked in. One said to the other, "Het djy daai klein MG gasien? Daarem 'n plat karretjie, né?" I sat quietly in my stall and offered no comment, but silently agreed with him entirely.

The Cape Centre's organisers did a splendid job in presenting this event for over forty cars. Everything flowed smoothly and we were made to feel very much at home as visitors. The Protea Hotel venue on the R44 outside of Stellenbosch was an excellent choice. It was well situated on the top of a hill overlooking a beautiful green valley and offered very comfortable accommodation with stunning views over the snow capped Stellenbosch and Hottentots Holland Mountains.

The next day dawned bright and sunny and more importantly wind free. We all set off for another scenic drive in splendid weather. Marcelle and I were in a rental car which was a bit of a damper. The route was spectacular though as we were offered beautiful views of Table Mountain and a trip through the Cape's wheat lands and the charming hamlet of Phil-



Simon's Town from Red Hill

MGA in Natures Valley

George Dehlen



Johan Kruger retired in July, and he and Ilse have sold their house in Pretoria and moved to Natures Valley with their two dogs and of course the MGA. Johan, with the assistance of Ivan, drove the MGA from Pretoria to Natures Valley, averaging 100 km/h overall, and 9 liters/100 km.

Restored over a period of eight years, the MGA 1622 has many upgrades - including an aluminum radiator, an aluminum cylinder head, a Nissan gearbox, telescopic shock absorbers, built-in Holtrip, and extensive anti-rust weather-proofing.

On a visit to Natures Valley in September, Johan gave

George drives in the MGA - up and down the beautiful winding Groot River and Bloukrans Passes. Participants in the MGA 50th Anniversary Tour in 2005 will remember **this** portion of their route. With Johan at the wheel the MGA showed its power and excellent roadholding - especially on the Bloukrans Pass which is temporarily closed to traffic and Johan pushed the car to its limit. What a wonderful area for Sunday MG runs – all of us very jealous.



For the last 18 years, Johan and Ilse have been planning and preparing their house for retirement day. Included in the plans was a double garage for two MGs, but this has been taken over by Ilse as her art studio. Undaunted, Johan has built another garage, and the MGA will now reside cosily in a sealed garage with humidity control.

Johan plans to join the South Cape Centre of the MG Car Club, and is looking forward to meeting the Northern Centre participants at the Knysna Indaba in May 2014 and the MGA 60th Anniversary tour in 2015.



Club Banking Details

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

Combined Centres Gathering at The Nest 16 - 18 August 2013

Ashley Chapman

Where do we start when it comes to an amazing week-end away to the Drakensberg with the MG's. Oh wait I know where to start... right at the beginning! My Car... (Sexy Red MG ZR) against my wishes that was the car we took along for the trip – but it's the only MG 'Family car' that we have.



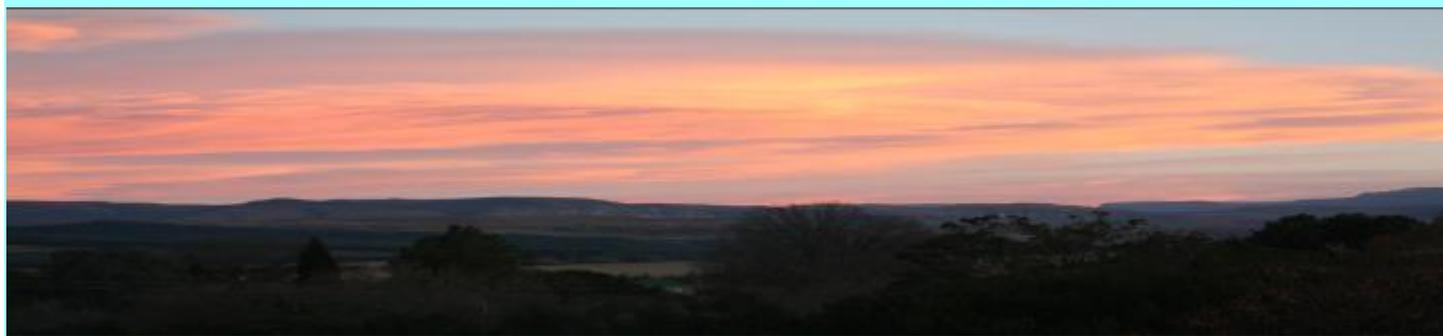
We arrived at the nest to unusually beautiful weather for that time of the year in the good old berg, and the beautiful weather continued throughout the whole weekend, despite the freezing cold weather forecast that everyone had anticipated. After greeting all old and new friends from all three centres it was unpacking time. The



chalets were cosy and comfortable with an outstanding view of the mountains. All the men were no-where to be found, the obvious place was to look where all the cars were parked, but we forget... we are a drinking club with a car problem and to the bar we went in search of them, and there they all were. And to get them out of the pub for supper was a challenge. Talking about supper, the food was to die for and it never stopped coming. We all ate ourselves into a coma over the duration of the weekend.



Day number two dawned another beautiful, hot day. After breakfast, there was a number of activities to choose from. These activities included a raptor demonstration, a battle-fields lecture then a field trip to Spionkop, a canopy tour was also an



option. The option which we decided to go with was playing bowls, and thanks to Aunty Denise Salter we are now 'pro bowlers'. Who are we kidding; I think it was just beginners luck. Then it was back

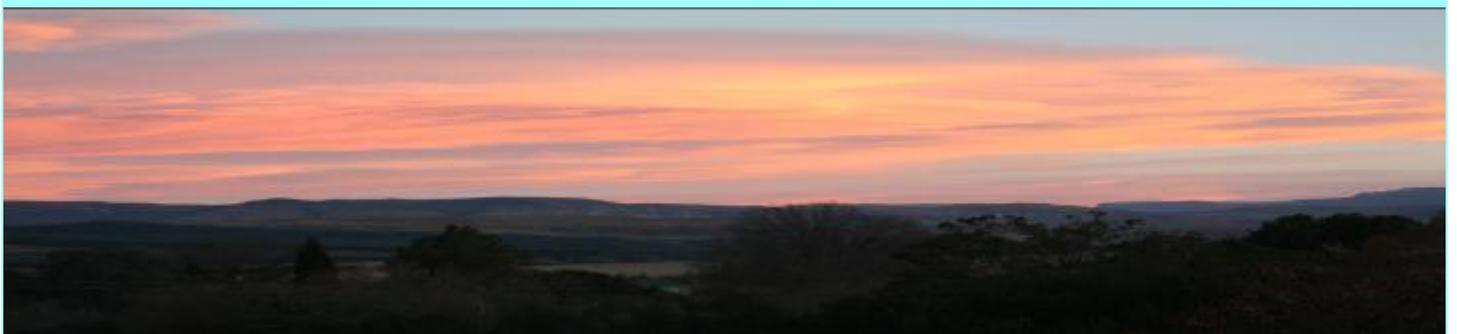


breakfast, we all said our goodbyes and we were off on our merry way homeward bound.

Overall it was a weekend full of fun, laughter, and old friends. Many thanks to Uncle Glen Parker for organizing an amazing weekend – we are all looking forward to the next one. And thank you to my Daddy, Gary Chapman, for finally allowing me to attend an MG weekend again.



to the dining room for more food. After lunch and then a well needed afternoon nap, we tried our luck at another round of bowls. I decided to quit while I was ahead and sit this round out. During the day the members came back slowly from all the different activities, and it seemed a great time was had by all. On Saturday evening there was a dinner dance and then back to... yes you guessed it... to the bar! The dance only had two participants, Myself and little Matthew Nuttall (from Durban Centre). Unfortunately the next day was Sunday, home time. So after



Event Detail

More detail on events that are coming up soon

CANSA Survivors Relay Rally Saturday 5 October 2013

The CANSA is again having their annual CANSA Survivors Relay Rally on Saturday 5th October at the Denel HQ in Nelmapius Drive Irene, on their sports field.

The celebration this year takes on a theme of "A CARNIVAL", and the idea is that as the CANSA Survivors have made it through another year, they will "walk" a celebratory relay around the sports field.

The survivors who are unable to "walk" by themselves, are then driven around behind the "walkers" in our classic cars. (Very emotional)

We have been asked for some 20 cars, Triumph's and MG's, or whatever you have in open top, to give the young and old survivors a "ride of their lives."

We need to be there by 3:30pm to get our cars arranged in the convoy to follow the route around the sports field. The "walk" starts at 4pm. We drive very slowly, so be aware if your car tends to overheat – but only for 15-30 minutes.

After the parade, we are requested to remain in convoy, as they are doing a video of this "carnival parade" for use by them to promote this event nationally.

As this is such a worthwhile celebration, I have taken the liberty to confirm that we WILL be there with at least 20 cars and I feel sure that between ourselves Johannesburg and our MG friends, I will not be let down.

Please all who are willing again to "celebrate the Cansa Survivors" phone me personally 082 921 3854 or e-mail us flynnstones@wol.co.za for confirmation.

We thank you.
Bill & Helen
PTSCC

Table Raffle October Noggin, on 7 October

We are reviving an event which has proved popular during the past few years. At the Noggin on Monday 7th October we will be holding a Table Raffle in the Clubhouse at 8pm.

What?

Donate any MG items for which you no longer have a need (spares, tools, memorabilia, books, regalia, . . .) but also any other items which might interest members. Anything.

When?

Bring them to September Noggin or deliver them to the Clubhouse before the afternoon of Monday 7th October to allow time for the organizers to set up the tables before the Noggin that evening. Alternatively contact George at 0824921806 to collect them from you.

How does it work?

Buy raffle tickets (R2 each) – many of them preferably – 10 is a good start. The raffle master will draw numbers at random, and the ticket holder may come forward and select any (yes ANY) one item to take home. And so on until the tables are empty.

Event Detail

More detail on events that are coming up soon

Jacaranda run—20 October 2013

What?

An annual run, organised by our club, around the city of Pretoria to look at the famous Jacaranda Trees in full bloom. The run will be followed by a Braai, for with the club will provide the fires, or a picnic if you would prefer at the clubhouse. The bar will be open, and a good time should be had by all.

Where?

The run will start at the Union Buildings and finish at the clubhouse.

What time?

Meet at the Union Buildings at 10:00.

MG Boot Sale 2 November 2013

Where do you pick up second hand and scarce parts for your MG, Jag, Healey, mini etc besides on the MG Forum?

Well here is the answer.

Roger Pearce of EmGee Workshop is cleaning out his Aladdin's Cave . Hidden therein is used and new bits and pieces he has accumulated over many many years. On Saturday 2nd November, starting at 8am it will be opened for the first time to the public where you can browse around and select what you want. Roger will give you price and its yours.

You will find , engines, gearboxes, steering racks, starters, generators, interiors, door handles, bumpers, wheels, glass, Lucas goodies, the list goes on and on and on. There is also a lot of new slow moving parts that he wants to get rid of. This is the first time that this cornucopia is being opened to the public. Don't miss this opportunity!

All the proceeds are going to the MG Youth Programme .

Not only will we have these bits and pieces for sale but you are invited to bring your treasure and offer them for sale, so this is the opportunity you have been waiting for to clear out your stash of goodies . Bring them in your boot and park your car in the parking lot and offer them to people who need them. We are not expecting the proceeds to go to anybody but yourself. Naturally a donation to the project will be appreciated.

The Abingdon Arms will be open and we are asking the ladies to organise tea to quench your thirst and some delectables to feed you while you are hunting or selling.

The Jag, Triumph, Healey and other clubs will also be receiving an invite to attend.

Get there early before the really good stuff is gone and bring lots of the blue and brown stuff.

For more info contact me at 0837950000 or pet@iafrica.com

Clive Winterstein

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

Event Detail

More detail on events that are coming up soon

Magalies Gliding Club Day out 2 November 2013

Magalies Gliding Club have invited us (the MG Club), the Airforce Museum Flying Club and the EAA Chapter 322 to drive and fly-in on Saturday the 2nd of November.

There will be breakfast available and lots of interesting aircraft and beautiful cars to look at. One of the members of the gliding club owns a Tiger moth and he has assured me he will be there with it on display.

Lastly there is the possibility (unconfirmed at this stage) of arranging flights in motorgliders for anyone interested.

More information will be available at the October Noggin, as well as in the November Newsletter.

MGCC Northern Center Driving Tests 17 November 2013

What?

Traditional Dirt Driving Test, involving three tests.

The test shouldn't be hard on the vehicles as it is to be hosted on dirt, and will be run at low speed.

No additional safety equipment is required.

The competitive event will be followed by a braai, and the Rallystar bar will be open for our enjoyment.

Where?

Rallystar driving academy.

R51 between Petit and Babsfontein (across the road from the Broodblik and Koffiepit restaurant, unfortunately closed on Sunday's) Entrance at GPS 26°02'34,02"S : 28°23'45,45"E.

What time?

Meet at Rallystar driving academy at 09:00.

REGALIA NEWS

Dear Members

Over and above the recently sourced regalia, I have purchased more quality branded items at knock-down sale prices via a special arrangement from our Regalia suppliers (L&A Promotions). These items comprise golf shirts, ladies and gents, as well as a selection of winter jackets and knit wear. All of these items are presently at the embroiderers. I envisage retailing all golf shirts at R120.00 ea. and the winter jackets (for next winter) at R220.00 ea. These are bargain basement prices dear members that you will not find elsewhere and I would advise all members, active and passive, to avail themselves of this never to be repeated offer. Remember that all profits go to club funds and there is no service fee whatsoever. As they say in the retail world, "Hurry while stocks last". This will be the last regalia purchase until after the next AGM early next year, when it will be up to the next regalia portfolio holder to source new and exciting items.

Safety Fast Greetings

Trevor Beddy

Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

October

Sat 5	CANSAs marathon walk with PTSCC	PTSCC	Meet at Denel HQ at 15:30. See body of N/L for details.	
Mon 7	Natter & Noggin. Table Raffle	NC	Clubhouse 19h30. See N/L body for details	c
Sun 20	Jacaranda Run	NC	Meet at 10:00 at the Union Buildings. See details in body of N/L.	c

November

Sat 2	MG Boot Sale		From 8:00 onwards at EMGEE Workshop in Randburg.	
Sat 2	Gliding event near Magaliesburg	NC	Breakfast and combined club gathering at Magalies gliding club.	c
Mon 4	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	19:30 at clubhouse. Dave Westaway to host a talk on types of vehicle tracking systems.	c
Sun 17	MGCC Diving Tests	NC	Driving tests at Rallystar Driving Academy. To start at 09:00. See N/L body for details.	V

December

Mon 2	Natter & Noggin Year end Meeting	NC	A bring and eat as per last year. Details to follow in the next newsletters.	c
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