

# Newsletter 385 November 2013



## A Drenched Jacaranda Run

This year's Jacaranda run took place on Sunday October 20, organised by Dave Westaway. The weather was not kind - the first rains after a long dry winter fell over the weekend and limited the number of MGs participating to 12. The MGs all had their hoods up, the drivers and passengers had umbrellas, and the briefing took place at the entrance to one of the tunnels under the Union Buildings. An excellently-prepared route schedule with interesting accompanying facts made the run enjoyable - starting at the Union Buildings, passing the White Jacarandas in Herbert Baker Street, and ending at the Clubhouse, where more members who had not been brave enough to face the drenching rainy drive were warming their spirits with toddys..



## Committee Members

Chairman / Treasurer Steve Eden	082 372 8740	stevejreden@gmail.com
Secretary/Acting Chairman George Dehlen	082 492 1806 012 991 1754	gdehlen@iafrica.com
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### MG Car Club-Northern Centre

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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](http://www.mgcc-north.co.za)

GPS S 25 46.495 E 28 16.035

# Jacaranda Jottings

## Mad Dogs, MGs and Englishmen (and women) go out in the African Sun

An account of our recent tour.



With thanks to Dave Wheeler who, unfortunately could not attend Cape Centres and passed his ticket to us.

You will have seen Trevor Beddy's account last month, this is ours.

Thursday morning, September 19, we left home, at 04h00, to miss the commuter traffic in Johannesburg, en route to our first overnight stop in Colesburg, the first 740km! As the sun rose the temperature increased to around 36°C, and a 60-80km/h semi tailwind threatened to cause the MG overheating

problems. The wind created a 100km dust storm, so the windows were closed. It wasn't just the engine that got warm! At around 100km/h, the engine temperature stabilised just below the danger zone. Stopping twice for fuel and refreshment we arrived at our destination by mid-afternoon. By then, the weather had turned, and we had a light hail-storm, not enough to do any damage, but very cold. This three weeks after the official start of spring! In the bar, we met Alex Dewar also going to Stellenbosch; Brian Askew on his way to a Jaguar meeting in Plettenburg Bay and some Hell's Angels en route to a Harley meeting in Graaf Reinet. Much talk occurred about the following day's weather, with a cold front threatening to bring snow to the high ground in the Cape.



07h00 Friday we were in the car for the leg to Stellenbosch, just 720km. We soon stopped

to put on extra clothing as the temperature fell to below 10°C. At Hex River Pass we ran into rain, sleet and snow, with poor visibility. Of course, the car's heater does not give a breath of warm air. The mountain peaks were all snow covered and quite spectacular. A long and cold day but the day's trials were soon forgotten as we met old MG friends and made new ones at the excellent Protea Hotel.



Saturday we toured the Cape interior and visited Franschoek Motor Museum, four large halls filled with a variety of Vintage, Veteran and Classic cars and bikes, with many more stored elsewhere.

The weather was not particularly pleasant, but we enjoyed the museum and scenery.



Sunday, a tour around the Cape Coast, with better weather bringing local residents out in force, creating some of the longest traffic jams I have seen. The scenery was magnificent with views of the ocean and snow capped peaks.



A gala dinner on Sunday night ended the MG gathering.

The next stage of our journey started on Monday morning. We were competing in the Free State Veteran and Vintage Car Club's 3 day sealed odo rally based in Fouriesberg. This started on Thursday, so we had decided on a fairly leisurely two days to arrive refreshed on Wednesday evening.



We retraced our steps through the Western Cape to Beaufort West, with a stop in Maitjiesfontein, just a 500km drive. We had booked into a game lodge, which was 5km from the main road up an unsurfaced road. The B coped easily, though with lots of squeaks and rattles. The views from the lodge were incredible and went on forever. Possibly the best stop of the trip.

Tuesday we travelled back through Colesburg, turning east across the Gariep Dam. A further 400km through the Free State to our overnight stop in the tiny village of Smithfield. Quirky, but pleasant accommodation, with the hosts into vegetarianism and alternative life styles.

Wednesday, an easy drive. Less than 300km, to the Fouriesburg Country Inn, the base for the next four nights. Thursday and Friday were full day's rallying. Saturday's rallying finished at lunchtime in the tourist trap of Clarens.



A prize giving dinner took place on the Saturday night, we had not done well and went home empty handed. A good time was had on the rally, seeing even more unfamiliar parts of the country.



A quick four hour, 400km drive on Sunday saw us back home, tired but elated with what we had achieved.

11 days, 4200 km, 380 litres of petrol, in a 41 year old car without a single problem. No coolant added, only 500cc of oil.

Truly MaGnificent!

Steve and Hazell Eden

## From the Editors Laptop

Writing an editorial on the same page as Steve Eden this month is certainly a tall order! It certainly sounds as though they had a wonderful time.

This month has been particularly busy, as October somehow always seems to be—although generally occupied with things un-octagonal (or square, some might say) I am still enjoying the MGB. While it cannot compare to Steve and Hazell's outing, Bronwyn and I went Hiking with some friends a family and took the B, filled with our hiking gear. Naturally, she performed faultlessly and dispatched the 15km of gravel road without a problem. I've included a pic of her in the company of the double-cabs and SUV that joined us. An MGB, especially a Rubber-Bumper, really is a fantastic car to tour in—it is hard to find a path which it will not manage with grace, and the overdrive gearbox makes for comfortable and economical cruising. There is no excuse for not using one regularly!



This month stands to be a bumper one with club activities every weekend bar the last. Unfortunately I will be missing the first, but the gliding promises to be great fun. I'm particularly excited to put my car through it's paces at Dave's Driving Test, and then I am really hoping to see loads of folks at the Pub-Evening that Gary and I are organising. These are my favourite events, and I hope that the familiar faces, as well as some new ones, pull through for a cold one!

Octagonally,

Steve Grover

# From Under The Crash Hat

Dave Westaway



Well, well, well, what can we say about the weather! Considering the rain not a bad turn out for the Jacaranda run. When I was asked why I didn't organize better weather I pointed out that I had, we drive British sports cars, therefore I arranged British weather. Being in South Africa nobody seemed to agree with me.

Never the less a number of people who did not do the run did manage to join us at the club after the run for a lunch and cold drink. Thanks to all who attended, especially those who came through from JHB centre, we had a fantastic afternoon.



Next event is the driving tests near Bapsfontein. As we mentioned in last month's mag it will be run at low speeds and on dirt so as not to be a car breaker. There will be different classes to cater for different engine sizes and vehicle "age groups". Let's get as many entries as possible as the Triumph Club will be joining us on the day. Even if you would not like to enter the tests please feel free to join us as Rallystar. They will have their club house open for us to enjoy with the bar open for some cold drinks. There will be braai fires available after the event at prize giving so you will be able to bring along some meat and salads and enjoy a relaxing afternoon.

**Diarise: Sunday 17 November, 09:00 Hours. (9.00am South African time)**

Rallystar is located on the R51 between Petit and Bapsfontein (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.

From the club house take the N1 south, come off at the Rigel/Delmas Rd off ramp. Turn left towards Bapsfontein. Travel to Bapsfontein, at four way stop turn right on R51 towards Petit/ Benoni, Rallystar is 4,6km (2.8 miles) from the stop street.

If you are approaching on the R21 from Pretoria or JHB, take the R25 Kaalfontein/ Bapsfontein off ramp. Turn towards Bapsfontein, at T junction Delmas rd turn right to Bapsfontein, at 4 way stop right, 4,6km to Rallystar.

If you are coming from JHB on the N12 take the Snake rd off ramp, left towards Petit, M44 Pretoria Rd, Rallystar is 7.7km (4.8 miles) from the Shell garage in Petit.

See you there.

Keep the shiny side up and the oily side down.

Dave.

## **Club Banking Details**

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

## REGALIA NEWS

Dear Members

After a rather damp and chilly Jacaranda Run on Sunday, due to the persistent but very welcome rain, a small number of doughty participants gathered at the clubhouse for a convivial meal and cheery libation. However, the less than expected numbers were a disappointment and I expected sales of my new regalia stock to be very low indeed. Big Surprise! The cold weather played in my favour in a most unexpected way, and our excellent quality cold-weather jackets were almost completely sold out, with only a few of the windbreakers remaining. A few shirts were also sold. Tough luck to those who missed out on never to be repeated bargains. Don't say you were not advised. On the positive side though, there are summer shirts still to be had as well as a few caps and pullovers, all of which are at bargain basement prices. Perhaps umbrellas would be a good idea?

Safety Fast Greetings

Trevor Beddy

## Event Detail

More detail on events that are coming up soon

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## Magalies Gliding Club Day out 2 November 2013

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2013 the Magalies Gliding Club has invited the MG Northern Centre, the South African Airforce Museum and the EAA Chapter 322 flying club to an open day at the gliding club near the town of Magaliesburg. We are meeting at 7:45 am at the Total Garage on the South-western bound N14 (between the R511 and R512 exits) and will then leave for the Gliding Club. They are providing breakfast for us at their clubhouse at 9:00 am. There will be a variety of aircraft on show, as well as the opportunity for a flight in a motor-glider, this will cost R200 (which is the cost to join the gliding club for day, the flight in the glider is free). American-style pulled pork barbeque rolls and cold-drinks will be on sale for lunch.



I will have maps printed to hand out on the morning that we meet but below are the directions. Both of which have also been posted on the club website. For any questions or further information please feel free to call Jennifer Bradley on 0833999077.

### DIRECTIONS

From the Total Garage on the south-west N14 (Between exit 309, R511 to Diepsloot and exit 295, R512 to Lanseria)

1. Head the southwest on N14 for 10.6 km
2. Take exit 287 for M5 toward Zwartkop/Randburg for 1.0 km
3. Turn right onto M5 continue for 3.1 km (signposted to 'Kromdraai')
4. Turn left onto R374 and go through 2 roundabouts (the second roundabout is at the entrance to Kloofzicht Lodge), continue for 7.6 km
5. At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto R540 and continue for 2.3 km (the opposite direction takes you to The Lion and Rhino Park)
6. Turn right toward R563, continue for 6.3 km (signposted to Sterkfontein/Hekpoort)
7. You will come to a T-junction, signposted to Krugersdorp(left) and Hekpoort/Maropeng(right)  
Turn right onto R563 towards Maropeng, continue for 6.2 km
8. At the first opportunity to turn-off the R563 there is a signboard to Magaliesburg(R24)/Maropeng. Here turn left onto R400, continue for 12.0 km
9. Approximately 11km down this road, you will come to an intersection with the road to the town of Magaliesburg, this road is the R24 to Rustenburg/Krugersdorp. Continue straight across the intersection, shortly thereafter the road crosses a railway line and bends to the left.
10. This road then continues to bend to the left and you will see an area of Blue gum trees on the left, this is Magalies Gliding Club. after 2.0 km and once you have passed Golden Harvest Retirement Village on the right, there is a signboard for Magalies Gliding Club on the left. It is on the edge of the trees.
11. You are now on the airfield, continue on the dirt road until you reach a T-junction, there will be some hangars ahead. Here you can turn left to the club house or turn right to the runways/ launchpoint.

The airfield is known as Orient Aerodrome, Krugersdorp and if you search for that using Google Maps, you will find it. Co-ordinates for the airfield are:

26°02'39.55"S  
27°35'49.17"E

### A note on the National Constitution

There has been a call from some of our sister clubs to review the National Constitution governing the MG Clubs in South Africa.

Please read the constitution, which is available on our website, and contact a committee member should you have any comments in this regard.

**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.

**Pub Evening — Saturday 23 November 2013**

Gary Chapman and Steve Grover will be hosting another pub evening at the club house on **Saturday** 23 November.

The bar will be open (naturally), and we will be serving wors rolls at R15 a piece.

These events are very informal—purely a social gathering to strengthen existing friendships and make new ones.  
Please come along with the family and join us—they are always great fun and a good way to make use of the club's facilities.

At the last one that we hosted a few folks commented that getting to the clubhouse on a Friday is challenging. This time we're running it on a Saturday to see how they compare.

Where: Clubhouse  
Time: 17h30 till late.

## Forthcoming Events in Brief

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

### 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
Sat 22	Pub Evening	NC	Social Gathering at the Clubhouse. Bring the family for a wors roll at 17:30	

### 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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## MG Mart

<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>For MGTC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two front shock absorbers</li> <li>• One starter motor</li> </ul> <p>Phone Trevor 083 6525151</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>MGA TWIN CAM (YDH 5/930) ROADSTER</p> <p>All mechanics and hydraulics overhauled, new carpets and upholstery, fitted WEBER 40 DCOE's on a Peter Wood Manifold (S.U.'s go with the car). Heritage Certificate.</p> <p>Asking R330 000-00.</p> <p>Phone Trevor 083 6525151</p>
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