



GARDEN ROUTE MOTOR CLUB

FOR THE LOVE OF CARS

NEWSLETTER

January 2022

Dear Members,

For now, we have neither an editor nor an events' organizer. So for the time being we will publish a regular Newsletter through which we hope to keep members informed.

Firstly, may we take this opportunity as your committee, to wish members, spouses, and friends everything of the very best through the new year ahead.

A number of our colleagues who sought election at the AGM have since resigned, leaving just myself, Abigail and Ann to build a committee that meets the new constitutional minimum of seven members. Fortunately, we are authorized by the constitution to appoint our secretary and treasurer from outside the membership. So pending approval of her application for membership, Abigail has been appointed Honorary Secretary and we are in the process of appointing an Honorary Treasurer.

Ms Roshni Gajjar from Port Elizabeth has volunteered to serve on the committee and we are in discussion with a few other members. Our aim is to serve the Garden Route Motor Club and the classic car movement, through a committee that is both diverse and representative.

I started writing this first Newsletter on 16 December, which for most South Africans heralds a change-point between work and play. It marks the start of a great social migration between hinterland and coast, city and country, work to home, and for some, a holiday destination.

The motor vehicle is our primary form of mobility in South Africa. Cars, taxis, busses and even trucks take on the mass transport burden that in most developed countries is the public duty of functioning railway systems.

The impact is severe. Traffic congestion is pervasive. Frayed nerves, frustration and those most notable of South African characteristics, impatience and aggression, are the harbinger of inappropriate driving, persistent breaches of the rules, accidents, injury and death.

Of course, the covid-19 pandemic is now pervasive to everything once considered "normal" in our lives. So much has been written and said on this subject. But I must state upfront that the health and safety of our members and the public is paramount, so we will only do what is deemed appropriate within the regulatory framework. However, this does not limit members in their personal capacity from exercising their own discretion and taking the opportunities that present themselves to enjoy their classic and collectible cars.

Here in the GARDEN ROUTE, we live within and enjoy one of the great environmental treasures of our country. We have seen less of our overseas visitors for now, but from what we have experienced, our town and region has benefitted from an increase in intra-national travel. And it is still possible that as we exit this omicron fueled Fourth Wave of Covid, our overseas visitors will return for our real summer, from February through to Easter.

Besides the seasonal ebb and flow of tourism, we have over the past decade, experienced a more permanent southwards migration into the Western Cape and Garden Route. Both rich and poor, each with different purpose, have made this relocation commitment, increasing demand on public services and infrastructure.

One such is the N2, for which the centre of Knysna acts like a venturi to the surge of through traffic, including a reported 600 to 800 trucks per day in both directions.

Financially secure retirees make up an important sector of this relocation. This has brought new members to our club, which has grown almost fourfold in size over the past decade. During this period, the Knysna Motor Show also developed into a major event on the national calendar, alongside the Simola Hillclimb. We have been very fortunate over this period to benefit from the hard work and extensive network of our former chairman, Peter Pretorius, who with a small team devoted a significant portion of his life to the club's affairs.

But Peter and his committee are no longer in office. No succession was put in place and the revised constitution makes it more difficult to form a committee. But one person stayed with her longstanding dedication to the club and its members. Thank you to Ann Griffiths. You carry the baton from past to future.

There are a number of club formalities that demand our immediate attention as a committee.

- Three members must volunteer to accept an appointment as fiduciary officers of the club on behalf of the membership. They must be involved in the management of the club, so membership of the committee is a prerequisite.
- An independent review of the club finances has been commissioned. This will establish the baseline accounts for adoption by the new committee. Also, tax returns not yet signed off by SARS will be reviewed and if necessary, the appropriate risk profile will be accounted for. We will keep members fully informed of progress in this respect.
- Once it is properly constituted, the new committee must elect its chairperson.
- One of the first items to be placed on the committee agenda is to initiate a competent review of the constitution.

I will circulate separately in due course, a summary of the key background regulatory issues we have to comply with as a club. In addition, I will share my involvement in those bodies associated with our movement to whom we are formally affiliated, where a great deal of work is being done on a voluntary basis by countless enthusiasts worldwide, to ensure that the freedom to use classic and collectible vehicles remains secure into the future.

Finally, we must get to grips with the fundamental purpose of Garden Route Motor Club.

- This is not necessarily about what it might have been.
- Nor even what it is currently perceived to be.
- This is about how we choose as a club to play our unique part within a broader national community of recreational clubs that are associated with the ownership, preservation and restoration of historic, heritage, vintage, classic and future classic vehicles.

Our vehicles and their period associated equipment, tools and automobilia, represent an important part of the industrial and automotive cultural heritage we have inherited; through which we have lived; and that we plan to pass on to a future generation.

There are essentially two forms of historic vehicle club.

- Those dedicated to a specific marque, such as the MG Car Club South Cape, which is part of a national and global network of MG clubs;
- Local or regional clubs that bring together owners and enthusiasts with a common interest in classic and collectible cars, independent of marque, origin or era.

Garden Route Motor Club is a local area recreation club that caters for owners who primarily reside, or have seasonal homes, within the Bitou and Knysna municipalities. The origin of the club goes back to the early 1980's in Plettenberg Bay and we achieved stand-alone status as an affiliate of SAVVA in the mid-1990's.

Our common interest in classic and collectible cars is facing an increase in modern regulatory trends that if unchecked, will impose severe environmental and technical constraints as part of a drive to optimize safety and efficiency and minimize carbon and hazardous emissions.

Our demographic profile as a club presents both opportunity and threat. We have a range of capacity and capability within our current membership to contribute meaningfully to a resolution of the above. But the battle itself may require the mobilisation of modern engagement tactics that perhaps only a new generation of enthusiasts might understand.

This is the modern world of classic car ownership that lies ahead for us and our successors.

So the immediate future may be less about the interminable small things that bedevil our individual historic, veteran and vintage vehicles and more about our collective contribution to the fight for preservation of our greater common interest. Community over individual.

The New Year will bring time and opportunity to enjoy our classic and collectible cars. We may do this together with MGSCC, in support of SCOCC or other clubs like ours, representing national marque clubs such as Austin Healey, Morgan, Jaguar, etc., or simply on our own in the form of public displays, mini-tours or technical gatherings.

Brian Bruce

PROVISIONAL EVENTS CALENDER FOR JANUARY TO JUNE 2022

January

16	Sunday	Social	New Members Get Together * <i>* Event Postponed *</i>	GRMC
30	Sunday	Social	Breakfast Run	MGSCC

February

10/11	Thurs/Fri	Rally	Veterans Tour Calitzdorp to George	SCOCC
12/13	Sat/Sun	Display	George Old Car Show	SCOCC
20	Sunday	Social	Jakkalsvlei Lunch	GRMC
27	Sunday	Social	Breakfast Run	MGSCC

March

16	Wednesday	Social	Lunch Run to Enrico's	GRMC
27	Sunday	Social	Breakfast Run	MGSCC

April

2	Saturday	Technical	Scribante Collection George	GRMC
24	Sunday	Social	Breakfast Run	MGSCC
28/5	Thur/Thur	National Tour	Wilderness & Garden Route	AHCSA

May

1	Sunday	Display	Knysna Motor Show <i>* Event under review</i>	GRMC
6/8	Fri/Sun	Competition	Simola Hillclimb	
21/22	Sat/Sun	Social	Last Night of the Proms PLZ	GRMC
29	Sunday	Social	Breakfast Run	MGSCC

June

8/11	Wed/Sat	Technical	Tour Eastern Cape	GRMC
	Sunday	Social	Breakfast Run	MGSCC

Social Events may not qualify for SAVVA sanction

We will add more detail to the above list in the new year and finalise the second half-year events calendar in due course, but the following dates have already been set

MGSCC	Breakfast Runs	Last Sunday of each month.
GRMC	Annual General Meeting	21 August
GRMC	Heritage Day Bonnets Up	27 September
GRMC	Year-end Lunch	4 December
MGSCC	Gasoline Ally Braai	9 December

George Old Car Show: 12-13 February 2022

Registrations are open for the owners of classic cars and bikes, modern and vintage machines of many a kind, to take part in the SCOCC George Old Car Show driven by Scribs BENZeum (GOCS) 2022, scheduled for February 12 and 13 this year.

Registration is now open and interested parties must please get in touch, either through the SCOCC website (www.scooc.co.za) or by calling GOCS chairperson Alewijn Dippenaar on 082 457 5675.