



Garden Route Motor Club

Registered Recreational Club
Ref # 930066685

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FOR THE LOVE OF CARS

GRMC 6189
22 February 2022

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Members,

It is more than 4 months since the AGM, including a month of summer holiday in Knysna. Your committee has had a full agenda of items to deal with, including our club's annual return to the Southern African Veteran & Vintage Association (SAVVA), to which we are affiliated and from whom both the club and some members purchase insurance cover.

Through SAVVA we are affiliated to Motorsport South Africa (MSA) and international body, The Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA).

GRMC had 143 members in good standing at year-end. Our annual fee to SAVVA is calculated at R 20,00 per member. There are about 4500 members in all affiliated clubs and probably the same again in other associations such as the SA Motor Clubs Association (SAMCA) to which the MG Car Clubs are affiliated, as well as Heritage Racing South Africa (HRSA).

SAVVA has engaged a strategic review (*Quo Vadis*) testing both its purpose and offering to its affiliate clubs. These clubs and their members represent the collective interests of enthusiasts and owners of classic and collectible vehicles. We have offered input concerning the several challenges our movement faces going forward. One such is integrating the diversity of modern youth with that of traditional club cultures. I have appended a South African Millennial's perspective on this matter, which I lifted from a recent SAVVA Newsletter.

BREAKING NEWS

KNYSNA MOTOR SHOW

The committee has resolved that it will organize a Knysna Motor Show on the original planned date of 1 May 2022. This is subject to regulatory permissions and authorisations. After an absence of 2 years and with the covid pandemic still in play, the show will no longer follow its recent format. New ideas are being explored between the committee and sponsors. We have received a number of requests to hold the show in any format, and the interests of members are paramount. We anticipate that the Knysna Motor Show will be just one of a number of display-type events that will be planned over this and future years.

Committee: Abigail Brooks; Adrian Hodgkinson; Ann Griffiths; Brian Bruce; Roshni Gajjar

The committee will shortly present its plan to members and thereafter seek volunteer support for certain tasks that will need our involvement. Our plan is to arrange a high-profile event that has low physical impact, at a special location and easily accessible to participants and public.

GEORGE OLD CAR SHOW

The George Old Car Show is back after a one-year absence. The historic vehicle community responded enthusiastically to the event and the fields were filled with an array of cars from individuals and clubs across the country. GRMC and MGCCSC had a good response to the call for voluntary participation, with about 45 cars on display. As usual, it was a very hot day, but our club tent offered some respite from sun, heat and loudspeakers.

In recent years, we have seen a welcome shift in the planning of this show, to club as opposed to individual participation. There were almost a thousand cars on display and 6000 visitors attended the first day.

JAKKALSVLEI SOCIAL EVENT

Our Secretary, Abigail Brooks, has arranged a Road Trip outing to Jakkalsvlei for this Thursday 24 February.

Jakkalsvlei is 160km from Knysna, about a two-and-a-half-hour drive. It is situated 40km inland below the Langeberg Mountains. There is a lovely airy restaurant with beautiful views over the vineyards towards the mountains. This is the grape picking season, so along with lunch, fine wines and good company, members will be able to pick their own table grapes for R15/kg!

Fifteen members have signed up to this social event. You are always encouraged to drive your classic cars; however, temperatures can be high at this time of year and modern airconditioned vehicles may be the order of the day. If possible, ride sharing is an option to reduce our carbon footprint and energy consumption. Especially with the ever-rising cost of fuel!

TECHNICAL VISIT TO THE SCRIBANTE COLLECTION

Dr Waldo Scribante has a significant collection of primarily Mercedes Benz vehicles. This event is planned for Saturday 2 April. It follows the MGCCSC T-Type Tour which ends earlier in the week. We will conclude this visit with lunch at a venue still to be determined.

Details and arrangements will be circulated closer to the time.

SIMOLA HILLCLIMB

Entries have closed for the 2022 running of the Simola Hillclimb on 6 to 8 May. There is strong interest in this event and this year, Classic Car Friday will see a change in classification criteria that brings a sharper focus on the period authenticity of entrants. The H1 class for Pre-War cars will be run on a handicap formula, which has brought many more participants to the class.

As always, MGCCSC will provide volunteer Pit Lane Services to the event and a call has been circulated seeking pit-lane duty volunteers from GRMC members.

Committee: *Abigail Brooks; Adrian Hodgkinson; Ann Griffiths; Brian Bruce; Roshni Gajjar*

SECOND HALF CALENDAR

The Committee is working on the Events Calendar for the remainder of the year. Please find the draft calendar for the year at the end of this newsletter for your information.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

The Committee commissioned an independent review of the club's financial accounts and tax returns as part of the handover of fiduciary responsibility between past and current members. This review has been finalized, all relevant parties have been included in the process, and a final report has been received. The Committee will share the recommendations with members and put in place whatever measures are required to fulfil the club's obligations into the future.

We are pleased that Adrian Hodgkinson, who undertook the review, has agreed to join the Committee as Honorary Treasurer, pending the appointment of a member to fill this role.

Interested members are invited to step forward for service to the Club. This can be in the form of taking a committee responsibility, or simply to organize or arrange an event on behalf of the committee that will be of interest or value to our membership. There are many ways in which we can do this, and we are committed to ensure that no responsibility is too onerous.

A single event could be a Technical Visit, a specific Marque or Era Gathering, a Guest Speaker on some relevant matter of interest, etc.

The Austin Healey Club of Southern Africa is holding its National Tour in the Garden Route between 28 April and 5 May. It has been planned to coincide with the Knysna Motor Show and Hillclimb. There are currently about 25 cars on the tour, with some overseas participation.

We plan to continue the tradition of hosting these tours as a club if they pass through or stay over in Knysna. The Knysna Motor Show is an ideal opportunity to showcase the participants in these events where they are scheduled to coincide with our planning.

Brian Bruce
GRMC Committee

A Millennial's Comments

By Mike Wyatt

I recently read a newsletter article by John Booth on the future of the 'Traditional Car Club'. As someone who was born in 1982 and therefore unfortunately categorised as a 'millennial', I wanted to stress that whilst the days of the traditionally structured social car club he described may be numbered, the loose affiliations of friends focused on the automotive scene has never been bigger, both internationally, and at home here in South Africa.

Whereas before one would have had to join an officially run local 'Rover Club' or 'Toyota Club' to gain access to the members' experience and access to their cars, nowadays the community interest is largely organised online due to the rise and proliferation of social media since the early 2000's, starting with Face Book groups, then Instagram and now You Tube channels.

What these online forums & social media have done is give every car enthusiast, no matter who they are, what they drive, what their budget is, or where they live, instant access to more visual content and 'How To' knowledge than ever imaginable or consumable in one's lifetime. This change has forced an unintentional rejig of how car enthusiasts interact with each other, how they share their passion, and ultimately how and when they meet up to look at or work on cars.

What may previously have been limited to a monthly 'Bonnets Up' day to share news and show build progress, now these same enthusiasts can post their own content online and gather millions of views and comments from people all around the globe. If you want to figure out how to cram a 6.0 LS V8 into a TDI Land Rover for example, no problem, someone has done it and posted online already. Or if you want to figure out what that annoying rattle in your rear suspension is? Just 'Google it', and you will probably read 1000+ people who have discussed, analysed and already figured out what Toyota apparently could not fix in the damn first place.

So now no need to wait until the next club event. At any given moment this online access also allows the car enthusiast to follow car scenes they never would have even dreamed about.

Something as strange and niche as the 'Bosozoku' car culture in Japan via Instagram or keeping up to date with the Land Rover club of Singapore, or simply even sitting back on their couch in South Africa and watching a You Tube of Jeep fanatics 'wheelin' up Black Bear Pass in Colorado, USA.

These different global scenes and ideas are then embraced and filtered down into their own local car builds, meet ups, and cultures. This globalisation of information and style is reinterpreted at a local level helping to drive the home scenes to expand further and bring more people on board.

Another area that has gone hand in hand with the growth of car culture globally is the popularity of designer and speciality coffee. Whilst living in Melbourne we would often drive through to the monthly 'Cars & Coffee'. The same goes for events like 'Caffeine & Machine' in the UK. None of these are 'Traditional Car Club' meetings per se, just looser affiliations of people who have interesting vehicles and want to meet up, have a coffee, and talk about their machines.

One far more organised aspect of the modern scene is the annual car show calendar circuit.

Events similar to our 'Cars in the Park', but on steroids. 'Raceism' – Poland; 'Players' – UK; 'H2O International' – US; 'The Boogaloo Camp Out' – Australia; 'Woertherseetreffen' – Austria; even our own 'VW Campfest' -South Africa to name a few.

These events are booked out a year in advance and draw people from around the world to see the latest builds. Last year a young Chinese chap drove 12,000km from China to Austria in a Chinese made and modified VW Passat to attend a car show. Another gentleman flew out from the US to South Africa, bought, built and swapped in a VR6 engine into a locally SA made City Golf and then exported the car back to the US & Europe to put on car shows there.

These undertakings are of course shared and spread virally on social media often allowing other car fans to meet up with the owner during the journey, offer technical support, a warm meal, even a bed along the way. If those are not signs that the youth are committed to cars then I don't know what is! And if anyone thinks Millennials are totally broke, wait until you see some of the work that has gone into these cars. They may not be 'Vintage' by age and definition, but the sheer time, money and effort put in is incredible.

How people are starting to modify classic cars has started to change dramatically (much to the disdain of purists I would think). A few years back EV's were in the realm of fantasy, now guys already have merged a 1949 Mercury with a Tesla, so 'Hot-Rodding' is very much alive, it's now just going green I believe.

So, for the future of 'Traditional Car Clubs', it's not really the distance, or the money, it comes down to opening your doors to younger generations and their vehicles, reducing the red tape, and simply allowing enthusiasts a safe space to meet up and show off their creations.

I don't want to attend an AGM, I just want to look at engines. If you build it, they will come. If any of the club's members are keen (and brave enough) to take a look at what the youth are doing with their cars, google these headlines.

Caffeine & Machine – UK
Boogaloo Camp Out – Australia
Vintage Mercury - Tesla Powered
Ferrari-Powered Toyota
USA 'Weelin' Scene
Raceism - Poland
Worthersee - Austria
H2O - USA
VW Camp Fest - South Africa

The cars are for sure not everyone's cup of tea, but the effort is alive and well!

GRMC Events Calendar 2022 *(some events may be subject to change)*

February

24	Thurs	Social	Jakkalsvlei Lunch	GRMC – All
27	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Plett	MG – All

March

16	Wed	Social	Loafer's Lunch, Enrico's	GRMC – All
27	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Zucchini's	MG – All

April

2	Sat	Technical	Scribante Classic Collection, George	GRMC – All
24	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Plett	MG – All
28	Thurs	National Tour	Wilderness & Garden Route	ACHSA

May

1	Sun	Display	Knysna Motor Show	GRMC – All
6-8	Fri - Sun	Competition	Simola Hill Climb	
29	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Zucchini's	MG-All

June

8-11	Wed - Sat	Technical	Tour Eastern Cape	GRMC – All
26	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Plett	MG-All

July

17	Sun	Rally	Tsitsikamma Memorial Run	GRMC - All
31	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Zucchini's	MG – All

August

21	Sun	AGM	GRMC AGM	GRMC – Only
25-28	Thurs – Sun	Tour	Eastern Cape Tour	MG – All

September

4	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Plett	MG – All
c.24	Sat	Tour	Heritage Tour with CHC	GRMC – All
25	Sun	Tour	Distinguished Gentleman's Drive	GRMC – All
25	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Zucchini's	MG – All

October

27-30	Thurs - Sun	Tour	St Francis Concours Sur Mesure	GRMC – All
30	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Plett	MG – All

November

27	Sun	Social	Breakfast Run, Zucchini's	MG – All
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December

4	Sun	Social	GRMC Christmas Lunch	GRMC – Only
9	Fri	Social	Gasoline Alley Braai	MG / GRMC

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