



# Smiles for your Miles

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Thank yous
- Annual Motorcycle Show
- Southern Cross Endurance Ride
- Knobel Run
- Skeleton Coast Rally



## Time Flies When You Have Fun!

With the 2023 AGM being around the corner, this will be the last Newsletter of the fiscal year.

Two years in office seems like a long time, but when we reflect on what we had done and achieved, then we realise that the time flew by in a heartbeat.

We made an effort to maintain the traditional activities, such as pack-riding skills, Knobel Run, Skills Riding training, and monthly get-togethers, but had also come up with a few new ideas.

What comes to mind are :

- One-Nighters with a Theme
- Charter Day celebration
- Motorcycle Show in support of our Charity of Choice

- Southern Cross Endurance Ride
- Marshall training

It would be remiss of me not to thank the team that stood behind these events of success. It was an absolute team effort and each and every one pitched in , giving time, expertise and support to make this HOG Chapter, the success it is.

We maintained a stable and committed level of members, all in good standing and even showed a slight growth curve. This in my mind shows that the HOG Namibia Chapter is noted in our community as a bunch of like-minded people who have a common objective to ride their Harley in a family-oriented, a-political and non-sectarian environment.

With the forthcoming AGM a new group of Primary Officers will be elected and Secondary Officers appointed. I know that they will be supported in their efforts and I know that the Chapter will grow from strength to strength.

Fun will be had!



## 2nd Annual Motorcycle Show

I suppose things do not always work out the way it was planned, but given that last years' Motorcycle Show was a great success, we had expected the same this year—it was not to be. Nevertheless, we managed to collect some items for Ruach Elohim and we know that we are on to something good. Earlier planning, more advertising, different format? So many variables but we aim for better.



# Southern Cross Endurance Ride

According to the Collins English dictionary, endurance is used to describe nouns such as hardship, strain or deprivation. After the Recces tested the Run, nine Pioneers tackled the Endurance Run on August 26, 2023, all aiming to complete the 2030 km run in the Gold Category—i.e. between 24 and 27 hours. When speaking to the Pioneers, they will concur with the descriptive nouns. The morning was cold (-3°) on some stretches, the Lafrenz Shell Garage was robbed

some five hours earlier and could not dispense fuel, and the complimentary coffee had to go down without the toasted sandwiches. But the Pioneers were hyped and excitement was in the air until they were given the go-ahead to fill up their bikes and record the time of departure, with the clock starting to tick.

The vibe in the Hub was chilled—friends and family of the Pioneers came by and we kept the proverbial fort. Shortly after 10:00

, most riders came back, having completed their first leg of the Southern Cross, putting on average, 500 km behind them., but all still bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. But the hardship, strain and deprivation would soon set in (except for Jaco).



Between 14:00 and 15:00 the Pioneers were half-way to completing the Endurance Run and the mood was still .....continued on pg. 3

# Knobel Run

“We are going to Germany ...we are going to Germany...” they kept on shouting in their state of slight inebriation. NEIN ! Germany is coming to

Na-mibia, natuer-lich. You may have deduced that Udo won



the Knobel Run and as per tradition, he is saddled with planning the 2024 Knobel Run. Well done Udo! Und the Knobel Run will take place in Namibia. (This time with some miles under the tyres, we hope)

But after the Run (or was it a Walk?) the resinous knobling started

Some were prepared to play for money, they said, but luckily not as the professional “Knoblers”, were once again wiped out by the social players.

Competition was tough and four tables with up to six players each pitted their skills against each other over five rounds. Many a Jaegermeister and other straf doppe were the order of the day.

Of course, after such heated competition, most ended up in the swimming pool which, given the hot day, was in fact a relief.

But, as the adage goes, there can only be one winner.



Congratulations to Adrie in taking the sought-after trophy - and she said she did not know how to knobel??

But thanks go to Bertie (and Martha in her absence) for the organizing. Great prizes for runners– up, and a T-Bone steak for supper, the size of it, which had never before been seen in Outjo.

It was a great run and once again enjoyed by all.

See you next year—



## Southern Cross Endurance Ride ..... continued

positive—but they came to realise, that from the perspective of the Run, they were only 1/2 way there.

Thus far, most Pioneers had ridden in darkness for approximately an hour and when they all returned from their respective third leg, the sun started to set and any further riding would entail night-riding. Decisions needed to be made—shall we head out and sleep on the out-bound leg? Shall we sleep in Windhoek and get up very early next day? A minimum of a further 3 hours night riding

would be the order of the day if the 27 hours cut-off was to be achieved.

Caution won the day but some Pioneers were determined (you could see it in their blood-shot eyes), and pushed on.

Sunday morning 09:00 all nine Pioneers had clocked in. some making the cut-off time for Gold, with few minutes to spare.

Congratulations and for a first time, this was a superb effort.

A big shout goes to Carine and Jaco from Vivo Shell for them believing in this adventure and hosting us that the Lafrenz Service Station.



## Southern Cross Fund

Whilst the Southern Cross Endurance Ride is the physical (and fun) part, the core purpose of the ride is the establishment of the Southern Cross Fund. The Endurance Ride is for now, is just one form to raise funds for the Southern Cross Fund. The Ride itself may one day become boring or too strenuous to undertake, but the Fund will go on for ever.

The purpose of the Fund is to

raise funds to be of assistance to riders who, as a result of an accident, are faced with medical expenses which they themselves cannot bear in totality.

The Fund is independent from the Ride and from HOG and funds can be collected, donated and contributed the whole year through.

The Fund is administered by four riders from various riding groups

and our thanks go to

Janine Hearne Twenty82 MC (Chairlady)

Nick Diener— Stone Cutters MC

Peter Hearne—BMW Motorrad Klub

Holger Sircoulomb HOG Namibia

The balance in the Fund now stands at N\$ 26 835.

Keep Safe !!

## Maltahohe—the One-Nighter that wasn't .

Too much fun can also be detrimental to your health.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Maltahohe Hotel had to accept a group booking on the night we were going to take over the town again.



The hotel owner did their best to accommodate us on a lodge outside Maltahohe, but it would entail leaving the bikes at the hotel and sleeping on the lodge, 25 km away.

Some things are not to be but such little set backs will not deter us in future.



## Newsletter for HOG Namibia Chapter

If you wish to contribute personal stories or anecdotes to the Smiles for your Miles Newsletter send your article to [holger.sircoulomb@gmail.com](mailto:holger.sircoulomb@gmail.com) (and you might be published)

Correspondence to the Primary- or Secondary Officers should please be addressed to the Secretary, Bertie Gagiano, at [b.gagiano@gmail.com](mailto:b.gagiano@gmail.com).

## AGM 2023—Swakopmund.

Notice has been given of the AGM, to be held in Swakopmund on November 4, 2023, as at 09:00. The financials and agenda will be sent out in the week leading up to the AGM.

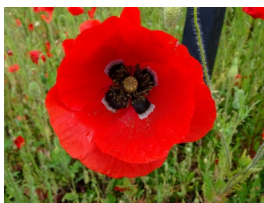
We have the traditional meet-and-greet on the Friday evening and the Poker Run on the Saturday, after the AGM.

## Smiles for your Miles



## Bits and

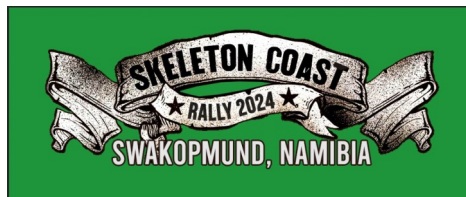
### Poppy Run—11/11/2023



Introducing an annual Poppy Run on motorcycles, the MOTH, HMC and HOG Namibia have initiated the first ever Poppy Run in Namibia in memory of all people who have been affected by armed conflict, dating back to WW I.

It is a motorcycle run and all bikers are invited to participate.

On the day, bikers, friends and family are invited to lay a wreath, a cross, or flowers at The Cross of Sacrifice. The program of the day is available on the WhatsApp Group created for this purpose.



The Rally Crew is very busy putting the 2024 Skeleton Coast Rally on the map. Registrations have opened and can be accessed on the HOG Namibia web page [hognamibia.com](http://hognamibia.com) under the Skeleton Coast Rally banner.

The rally will traditionally take place in Swakopmund, but will be hosted by The MTC Dome. Something different.

Register now—communication channels are open and discounts for adventure seekers have been arranged.

Don't miss out.

## Pieces

### Primary Officers 2023/2025



Once again, my heartfelt thank you to the team of Primary- and Secondary Officers that had put time, energy and passion into administering the HOG Namibia Chapter over the last two years.

Thanks to Guillaume, who must be the most accommodating and easy to please Dealership owner, for always having our back.

Best of luck to the next group of Primary Officers and we look forward taking the Chapter from strength to strength.

Keep smiling!