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#7968

Smiles for your Miles

One-Nighters—What's the Point

Okay, so we received much unhappiness that the planned One-Nighters are all scheduled to take place in the Southern dorpies in Namibia. That then becomes a potential “Three-Nighter” for our members in the North, given the distances. Should one then even attend these? Is it worth it?

The One-Nighters are designed to bring the extended family of our members together—the respective spouses who are not members, the kids, and the dog, if need be. We want to have fun and extend it to the family who are not riders, so that they too feel part of HOG Namibia Chapter.

That is also the reason why we have this year given the One-Nighters a theme. Once you reach the destination of the

One-Nighter, you don the theme clothing (keep your cut on, if you want), but this puts everyone more or less, on the same level.

But the truth remains—a One-Nighter in Maltahohe from Oshakati is a distance of 920 km or thereabouts and then, of course the question of whether it is worth it, becomes relative.

A get-together amongst friends and Chapter members is not so much about the venue, as it is about the ride. That is why some Chapter members go all the way to Cape Town, Hermanus, Port Elizabeth, Clarens or Pretoria, to attend a Rally. Yes, we meet old friends and make new ones, but it is about the ride; and then distances become a side issue.

The things that the One-Nighters are not, or not supposed to be, are :

- ◆ A pack-ride to the destination
- ◆ A Thunder parade through the town
- ◆ A concourse to judge bikes

This in essence means you can arrive there in your car with family. You can take your “other bike” for the run if it is gravel you want to ride (Why would one?). You will not be judged—as long as you get there, with family in tow, and have a great party. **Prepare to have the Hawaii party at River Chalets, Mariental on February 26, 2022—Aloha!**

(The event calendar is not cast in stone and the Primary Officers will look at having one of the One-Nighters in a Northern dorpie)

HOG Namibia Charity Runs

So, the question has come up as to what Charity Runs will the HOG Namibia Chapter support? I agree it is important to give support to those in our community who are less privileged, and few things are more impressive than a pack of thundering Harley Davidsons bringing the much anticipated relief. That is also why the bikers (including our Chapter) are always “called upon” to assist in the endless charity runs. But Whoa, stop the horses (or rather, hit the kill switch). We, the HOG Namibia Chapter, should not be “soldiers in another’s army”. If we, as a HOG Chapter, want to become synonymous with an annual charity event, **let’s identify it and make it our own.** (As an example, many years ago we supported the November initiative to create awareness and prevention of prostate cancer)

Apart from the proceeds raised at our HOG rallies, where auction income is earmarked for a specific cause, I will ask you to come forward with a worthy charity organization that we can take on board and support in our own way. This, however, requires volunteers and the ball is in your court. (This call to action does not preclude any of us to attend any charity runs throughout the year, We are free to do so but then let’s not do so under the banner of HOG Namibia Chapter, if someone else organized it).

Feedback from EMEA (H-D International)

EMEA is an acronym for Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Operation Hardwire brought about many changes in the world of Harley-Davidson, and we have felt the brunt thereof. Our Dealership closed down, thereafter HOG Africa closed down and we, as with many other Chapters in Southern Africa have now become part of EMEA.

Is this a bad thing? Not necessarily, because now we at least have a port of call—even

though it is based in London. We know where we can go to if we need help.

At a recent HOG Southern Africa Directors meeting, we invited Tom Robinson the Consumer Experience Manager at EMEA to attend the meeting (via Zoom) as the Chapters in Southern Africa had many unanswered questions.

Tom was very candid and made no excuses for the lack of communication, but undertook to put the Southern

African HOG Chapters on his personal agenda. Having said that, he also pointed out that things have become somewhat unpredictable with firstly, Operation Rewire, where many changes to the better are still coming, secondly the Covid Pandemic caused havoc in businesses across the world, and thirdly, Brexit, where the UK no longer has free access to the European countries. It makes his job challenging, but with reciprocated cooperation he assured us that not all is lost.



€75—That's a lot of N\$

As expected, the hot topic of international membership dues came up at the Zoom meeting with Tom. We suggested that our dues should convert to US\$ (25 per annum) and complained that at Chapter level, we are competing with wallet content. What benefit does one get for the amount of membership due, at international and local level? Tom showed em-

pathy and said he would look into it, but was also very candid by saying he works off a Income and Expense statement. He needs the income of international dues to meet the expenses of running the EMEA offices (not only his). With less staff, greater reliance on agents, translation cost into numerous different languages, salaries and monthly administration costs, to

mention some.

Recently I filled up two bikes for a Sunday ride to Boom-pie—N\$ 451. That is 1/3 of the annual international dues, and it was only the first Sunday of the year. Makes you think.

This is the bottom line—you want to be a member of the greatest Riding Club in the world? The gate is having to pay your international dues, first.

Event Calendar



We have now received the events from the other Chapters in South Africa, incorporated them in the HOG Namibia events calendar, and attached for your convenience. So much to do in such little time. Anyway, it gives you an idea of what you can do as per your time schedule. Bubbling under are,

the first meet and greet of new Harley owners at the MOB Bar on February 4, 2022, followed by the first Pack-rider training on February 5, 2022, allowing new members to qualify for their Rocker and oldies to sharpen their skills again. Meeting at the Old Wheelers on the first Saturday is a standing event—

see you there. Thereafter of course the Clarens Rally, which will be attended by Kenlis, Janine, Peter, Colwyn and Holger—safe rides and we will await feedback. The next is the River Chalet One-Nighter, which promises to be loads of fun with a Hawaii Theme, live music, good food and great company.



Back in 2014 -2015 Herman Vlok [who happens to be an old school teacher of mine] bought his late wife a 1200T Superlow Sportster from SA . At that time, Guillaume and I used to service and customize HD's as a hobby. The bike was later sold to Frank van Straten who resides in Mariental but he did not ride it too often and sold it to Tiaan Horn, as Tiaan wanted a bike for his wife, Heidi. Much like Tiaan and Heidi's daughter Marelize, (the YouTube sensation " My f@k Marelize") Heidi also

Did you Know? (By Vincent van Rooyen)

veered off her course and took the bike on an unintended off road route. (No YouTube of this incident, though)

Fast forward a couple of days, and I received a phone call from Guillaume, who asked me if I still wanted to own a Harley, which at that time was still a distant dream, but I decided to have a look at the bike.

Seeing that the bike had only suffered cosmetic damages we decided that this will be the perfect rebuilt project. So I purchased the Sporty from the Insurance Company, and Guillaume, Maree Smit,

Chesley Saal and I took on the task to bring the Sporty back to life.

The result is what I now proudly own this Sportster with a history that no other Sporty has, she is the only one in the world, she has brought strangers together and bonded friendships for life



You cannot sit in your own shadow!

An absurd statement, but if you think about it, it makes sense. If you want to seek shade you have to find someone or something else's shadow.

This thought-provoking statement is also true to riding bikes—alone. Sure, we have the "Lone Wolves" and the super adventurers that take the road to themselves, but the truth is, if you have a mishap, you need help. Have you ever had

your battery die on you? Have you ever gotten a flat next to the road? If not, count yourself lucky—if yes, you know what I mean.

The undeniable advantage of belonging to a riding club, is that help is never far away. As brothers and sister of HOG Namibia Chapter, we are on stand-by for you, should you need assistance. Hav-

ing said that. I also want to inculcate the notion of helping any biker next to the road, especially when the helmet is on the ground behind the bike. No matter what bike or whether they ride under a different colour. When you stop and assist, word will spread that the members of HOG Namibia Chapter will help bikers in need.

That's the kind of club I want to belong to.

A helmet on the ground behind the bike is the international signal of "I need assistance!"

EMEA feedback continued

Tom's office is focusing on seven areas where the impact on HOG Chapters are most evident. He agreed that not all are immediately to the benefit of the Southern Africa Chapters, but this is an area where he can work on.

1. Membership Touchpoints. (Enthusiast and e-newsletters)
2. Loyalty (extended bene-

- fits)
3. Personal Contact. (New member and renewal packs)
4. Events. (International for now)
5. Training. (Local support)
6. Customer Care.
7. Dealerships. (The bridge between HOG and H-D International)

He went into much more detail as to what these seven points entail and I will share this with you in future Newsletters.





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 (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.

Get to know your members



Basie Oosthuizen, aka Oubie—Past Director of HOG Namibia Chapter Cheers



Colwyn van Rensburg, aka Skrik—Assistant Director HOG Namibia Chapter

Smiles for your Miles



Skeleton Coast Rally 2022

Registrations are pouring in and if you have not registered yet, now is the time to do so. **There will be no late registrations after March 31, 2022.**

The rally crew is hard at work to make the 2022 Skeleton Coast Rally a memorable event again, and I am pleased to share with you the program highlights.

Wednesday, 4 May, 2022, the HOG Chapter will have a “Meet and Greet” at Joe’s beerhouse for those

who are over-nighting in Windhoek.

The rally is based at the Swakopmund Football Club (SFC) and on Thursday, May 5, 2022, registrations open at 11:00, followed by the bar opening at 12:00 and food stalls at 13:00. From 18:00 to 23:00 live music in the tent with Lucky Draw at 19:30.

Friday, May 6, 2020 mass-ride briefing at 09:45 followed by the Thunder parade through Swakopmund at 10:30 and then the outride to Wal-

visbay on road behind the dunes and back again along the coastal road. Free lunch at the Paintball Arena at 13:00. Live music at the rally site again from 18:30 till late and the charity auction will commence at 20:30.

All proceeds to go to the Swakopmund Township Dog Project.

Saturday, May 7, 2022, starts off with the ladies participating in the International Female Ride Day. The popular Concourse takes place at 11:30 at the rally site, live music as from 12:00, and Harley Games at 15:00, **all open to the public.** After prize giving and good-byes at 19:00, the party goes on till late.

The happy revelers will then gradually make their way home again on the Sunday.

Register now, because if you snooze, you lose. (At time of this newsletter registrations already exceeded 200 and it promises to be an awesome rally again).

Visit the rally site at skeletoncoastrally.com

