



Solar Panel Review for Camping



R.I.P



THE TURKANA CHALLENGE



THE ODYSSEIAN



Good day fellow members,

Well, there is a chill in the air most mornings and evenings, so Winter is definitely approaching. Time to start digging out that wet weather riding gear soon.

Another month has gone by and a few more great biking experiences under the belt. Firstly the 2025 Buffalo Rally is behind us. I won't say too much about it here, as the Buff report is below. That being said, I must say a big thanks to Des & Denise for taking the club Gazebo and feather flags to Hartenbos for us. Also thanks to Huey and Heefy for taking our kit.



Peter had a club run on the Sunday of the Buff for those who did not attend the rally, but I don't have any details at this stage (we were at the Buff) - perhaps Peter is doing a report for this issue?

Following that was Iain's run to Hillcrest Berry farm. It was a nice ride, good turnout and a stunning venue. Unfortunately the service left a lot to be desired this time, with some members (including myself) waiting an hour for our breakfasts to arrive, while others had long since finished eating. I must say I was rather surprised by this and was not expecting it at all, considering how well known and popular this venue is.

Going forward, the Poker Run is fast approaching and I have been scouting for some more prize sponsors. So far I have got items from my local Liquor City, Mo from Wicked Cycles has agreed, I have sent an email to the manager of Bike Kings and I have sent an email to my bud, (Guy Salmon) at SAB. I also spoke to Elaine at The Viper and she has agreed to give us a few meal vouchers to give away. Rob Todd also asked me to draw up a sponsorship request letter on our letterhead (which I have done and sent to him) and he was going to be going around to see what he can scrounge too. Other than that, a few of us did a scouting run of the planned route (and made one or two minor changes), the start and end venues are organized, the band is prepped and ready. I think this one is going to be our best one yet, so spread the word - hoping for a good turnout. Also, thanks in advance to everyone who has agreed to help out on the day - from the card dealers to the ride marshals - it wouldn't be possible without you. Also, a big thanks to Lord Heefy for setting up the registration form on our website and Basil for setting up and designing the pamphlet. Much appreciated all.

Other than that, we have accepted a new member into our fold, namely Peter Hayes, who received his patch at our last meeting. His wife, Sandra has agreed to join now too. Congrats and welcome on-board Peter. I am still working on Cyril's mate, Garth, so we'll see. I would also like to congratulate Tony Kyle on being presented his Platinum badge at our last meeting - well done!

That's it from me - enjoy this issue and see you around.
Devin

OUR OBJECTIVES AS A STRONG CLUB

**To help aging bikers to stay active, alive and well.
To encourage others who look like they could be getting old to stop it and to do things to enjoy life, preferably on bikes. To encourage members to keep on biking or to enjoy biking activities. To foster an interest in motorcycles and to promote unity amongst bikers. To encourage and support all forms of road and off-road biking activities. To enhance relationships between bikers and those less fortunate.
To organize social biking events**

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

Channel details
www.youtube.com/@OdysseusMC-WesternCape-kz9gb
6 subscribers - 18 videos (many more to come) - 33 views

EDITORS NOTE!

NOTE: The editor or any club member shall not be held liable for errors and / or omissions in any article and / or drawing contained in this newsletter. Furthermore, any view expressed is not necessarily that of the Editor, and committee member or other members of the club. If copyright is infringed, it is not intentional but, is published as a free service to the Odysseus Motor Cycle Club (Cape Town) Member and friends, and is not for profit or gain.

ODYSSEIAN



what to expect

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BUFFALO RALLY 2025
what happens at Buff
Stays @ Buff



Pg 9

Were Back
ODYSSEUS AIDS
GET YOUR ITEMS SOLD HERE



A Club member winner @

BUFFALO RALLY 2025



Platinum Member - Tony Kyle



New Member - Peter Heyes

General MEETING

HELD ON
27 MARCH 2025
AT PBC @ 19H30

ATTENDEES INVITED:

All Members

WELCOME: All present

APOLOGIES:

Heath Coleman, Basil Forbes, Rodney Comacho, Michele Davis, Colin Pike, Linda & Hector Groves, Graham Aldis..

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

None.

PREVIOUS MINUTES ACCEPTANCE:

Anne Bareham, Dave Roux.

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT: 24 April 2025

MEMBERSHIP:

Dave Georgiou recovering from illness, Peter Hayes new member, platinum badge presented to Tony Kyle.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

LUCKY DRAW:

No cards available.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Charity fund: R1260, plus Cycle tour earnings to come. Fallen Angels nominated, need to be contacted. Proposed ride date 12th October.

ODYSSEIAN:

Nothing to note.

BIRTHDAYS:

Annette Comacho 29th, Paul Schuter 30th, Phillip Kaplan 9th May, Don Ferguson 29th May.

REGALIA:

Caps R95. Old regalia for sale at discounted prices.

PAST RIDES:

30.03.2025 - Die Nag Uil Oude West Hof (Dave). Nice venue, good food, slow service, good ride, 6 bikes.

13.04.2025 - Toeka Stoor Restaurant. Good weather, good food, motor museum, 9 members. (Peter).

FUTURE RIDES:

27.04.2025 - Hillcrest Berry Farm. (Iain). +/- 20 members, route via Helshoogte.

11.05.2025 - The Palms Restaurant, Bottelary Road.



General MEETING

HELD ON
27 MARCH 2025
AT PBC @ 19H30

PAST EVENTS:

11.04.2025- Buffalo Rally. Well received, numbers down from previous, Thanks to Desmond for erecting tents/gazebo and Heath & Huey for transportation. Cyril won Concourse d'elegance.

FUTURE EVENTS:

08.06.2025 -Poker Run: Start-Viper Lounge- breakfast buns @ R65, free coffee. 'War Pigs' live band, food stall 'Chicken on the go' serving chicken, beef and vegan burgers, chicken strips and curries at end venue.

Volunteers assigned:

1. Devin Corney and Keith Reeves at Viper Lounge.
2. Steven Bentley & Penny Randall and Rob & Lizl Todd at Die Werf.
3. Heath? at Potbelly Pantry.
4. Anne & Rob Bareham and Michele Davis & Francois Bothma at Lyndoch Garage.
5. End venue 'Red Barn' Shellhole by Keith Reeves, and Rob & Lizl Todd.

Prizes donated Cyril Somerville-3lt wine, 2x Helmets, 2 x bike jackets from Rob & Lizl Todd, Whisky from Liquor City. Devin to circulate sponsorship form.

25.07.2025 - Brass Monkey Weekend - Nuy Valley Guest House.

GENERAL:

Thanks to Dave & Ellanore Roux for organising Brian Botes memorial. Also to Michele Davis and Francois Bothma for the catering platters and to Heath Coleman and Susan James for the pamphlets.

MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:25

NEXT SOCIAL MEETING: 22.05.2025



Platinum Member - Tony Kyle



New Member - Peter Heyes

OUR COMMITTEE



Devin Corney
083 310 2485
SPOKESPERSON



SECRETARY
EVENTS COORDINATOR
Jacki Cowman
082 444 7426



Chief Ride Coordinator
Peter Cowman
082 444 7426



Ride Coordinator
Dave Roux
083 658 2163



TREASURER
SUSAN JAMES
082 353 7531



RIDE COORDINATOR
IAIN FERGUSON
083 555 5787



Editor
Basil Forbes
084 513 2730

MONEY MATTERS FINANCIAL REPORT **Odysseus Financial Report @ 20 February 2025**

CLUB BANKING DETAILS: BANK:ABSA, ACC Name: Odysseus Western Cape Savings Account Account: 9263536308 Branch Code: 632005

May BIRTHDAYS

Annette Comacho 29th, Paul Schuter 30th, Phillip Kaplan 9th May, Don Ferguson 29th May.

Diary 2025

Rides Planned

General Meetings:

22 May 2025
26 June 2025
22 July 2025
28 August 2025
25 September 2025
23 October 2025
27 Nov 2025

Year End:
6 Dec 2025

Brass Monkey 25-27 July

11 May - The Palms - Bottelary Road, Kuisliver



EVENTS

VENUE: DOOLICANS MC CLUBHOUSE 5 KINKEL ST.
BRACKENFELL INDUSTRIAL
MAY 10 - 2PM

DAY JOL

Enrty: R100 including metal badge & lucky draw.

EXPAT RIDERS

Presidents enter free

WESTERN CAPE

FAMILY FUN FRIENDS

KIDS WELCOME AWESOME PRIZES GAMES TO PLAY

WESTERN CAPE ODYSSEUS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

4th ANNUAL POKER RUN

8 June 2025

R95.00 per entry included a metal badge
R25.00 for extra cards

This is not a race, but a fun ride & event, marshalling and stops.

WIN PRIZES

Start: Viper Lounge 9 am
Stands up @ 10 am
Coffee & Breakfast Roll for R65.00
then 3 Additional stops - TBC

End: MOTHS Red Barn Shell Hole
39 Tramore Rd, Plumstead

Live Band: War Pigs

Bar available, Food Stall

scan me to register

For more details please contact:
Devin - 083 310 2485 or
www.odysseusmc.co.za

OUR SPONSORS: BEYOND INTERMOBILE LIQUOR CITY WICKED CYCLES

SAVE THE DATE!

GREMLIN RALLY

12 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2025



Saints & Sinners

NIGHT JOL

25 JULY 2025

Venue: Killarney Race Track - Main Club House
Entry Fee: R80 including Badge, entry into Lucky Draw - Adult entertainment & free shooter on entry

1st Prize R10 000 Cash

Dancing on tables.. Drinking ponchos & smiling at the cameras will be compulsory!!!

18:30

For more information contact Roger 082 578 59 10
For food stalls contact Miles 072 260 50 56

OH SHIT!
SAVE THE DATE!
NOV 28 2026
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW



PATCHLESS
EST 2016

KLEIN KAROO RALLY

MCC - CT

VENUE:
LADISMITH GOLF CLUB
27 - 29 SEPT 2024
PRICE @ GATE R290

KING OF KLIEN KAROO
DRAG'S
FOOD STALLS
MR AND MRS SMITH
CONCOURSE
CASH PRIZES

pre entry R240 until 30 aug

More info contact: Jeninah 083 971 6574
Vendors: Nikki 079 641 0477
Camping Adventures: 082 441 1559

Date: 28 - 30 November
Venue: Cango Mountain Resort, Oudtshoorn

Pre-entries @ R300pp
Before 31 July = 3 lucky draw tickets
Before 30 Sept = 2 lucky draw tickets
From 1 October entry fee is R350pp = 1 ticket

Main prizes
3 motorbikes

R150 pppd for day visitors
Kids under 12 yrs = FREE
Kids 13 - 17 yrs @ R150pp for the weekend

All clubs and individuals welcome

For more info contact
Alex: 064891937 or
Justin: 0728369425 or
info@grootvoelrally.co.za

Bikers Heart Riders PRESENTS

De GrootVoël Rally 2025

Save the date!!!
28 - 30 Nov 2025

Venue: Cango Mountain Resort, Oudtshoorn

Same venue as last year ☺



Our New 'Lifestyle & Outdoors' Section

For South African campers, What Solar do you buy, here is a few options available, but its only my recommendations.

Recommendations:

Goal Zero Nomad 50: This 50-watt panel is a good option for car camping or basecamping, offering a larger capacity for multiple devices.

Built tough for mobile base camps and off-grid adventures, the Goal Zero Nomad 50 Solar Panel is perfect for longer trips when you need more power without sacrificing packability. The versatile four-panel design makes it easy to unfold and collect solar power while stationary, then quickly pack away in tight spaces in your vehicle while traveling. Pair with a Yeti Power Station to keep laptops charged, run portable fridges, and power essential electronics.



Jackery SolarSaga 100: GearLab tested this panel as being lightweight and efficient.

The Jackery SolarSaga 100 is an inexpensive, highly functional, and very portable 100-watt solar panel that's perfect for your solar camping setup. Most importantly, though, it converts energy from the sun better than most other solar panels we tested. Whether in full sun or on a cloudy day, the SolarSaga charges devices the fastest of any panel we've tested. It's easy to set up and plugs directly into most large battery banks. This is one of the less expensive 100-watt solar panels we tested. We'd still recommend this panel if the price tag were closer to its competitors, but we doubly recommend it since it costs less. See our best solar panels for camping review to learn how the rest of our lineup measured up.



EcoFlow 110W Portable Solar Panel: This panel is part of the EcoFlow system, known for its reliability, particularly in South Africa during loadshedding. The EcoFlow 110 is the best solar panel for foul weather. This model is fully waterproof, so no matter what's happening outside your tent, you don't have to worry about your solar panel. This way, you can sleep soundly during that afternoon nap without worrying about the weather outside. You may not pull the most energy during the rain, but rest easy knowing you won't be left with a broken panel from that storm rolling through. It uses the universal standard MC4 solar cable

connectors, which are waterproof and allow for easy chaining of solar panels. This will enable you to multiply the amount of solar charging possible endlessly. All you need to do is connect the cables and hook them to your power station. This panel is very efficient on both sunny and cloudy days. It's an excellent option for anyone looking for the right solar panel to charge a lot of tech.

Consider your needs:

If you need a portable solar charger for your phone and other devices, a smaller solar panel like the Goal Zero Nomad 5 might be sufficient.

Other Factors to Consider:

Portability: Consider the weight and size of the panel for easy transport.

Efficiency: Look for a panel with high efficiency to maximize energy conversion

Durability: Choose a panel with durable and weatherproof construction

Warranty: Check the manufacturer's warranty for peace of mind.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Brian Botes

21 SEPTEMBER 1948 - 16 MARCH 2025

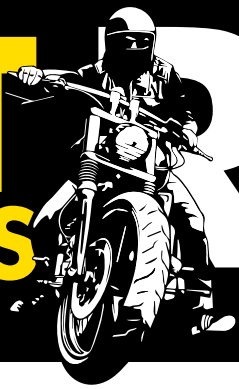


MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD AT
15H00 ON THE 5TH OF APRIL 2025 AT
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 15
BARROW STREET, MONTE VISTA.

**R.I.P. Brian Botes. We gave you a good
send off today.
Thanks so much to everyone involved.
So glad that we could do it for you
Megan Botha.**



LAST MONTHS RIDES



Club Ride to Toeka Stoor (Domaine Brahms Winery) Sunday 13th April 2025



I am pleased to say that we had 9 members and 1 guest attend the ride, especially as it coincided with the Buffalo Rally. (Maybe we should rename this as "The four Peter's Ride"). The weather was perfect for riding and with a small group very easy to keep all together. We took the country roads to the venue and were only slightly held-up by a cycle tour.

The venue was new to a few of the members and it's attractions of old vehicle etc found to be very interesting.

The food was reasonable, although some meals were served up rather cold, but were happily re-heated with apologies, and in general was enjoyable.

After lots of chit chat we headed back to our homes to enjoy the rest of the day.



LAST MONTHS RIDES

Hillcrest Berry farm 27 April



The ride for Sunday 27 April 2025 was to Hillcrest Berry farm between Hellshoogte and Pniel.

Departure was the usual, 0830 meet for side-stands up at 0900. The weather was awesome, clear sky and mild temperatures, with no wind. The briefing was held as normal with the noteworthy absence of our Spokes and Mrs Spokes, who I understand had trouble starting, surprisingly NOT their bikes, (Kawasaki), but themselves.. After the briefing and a short delay, the group, 11 bike set sail for the Berry farm. Route via the N1 to Paarl, then Klapmuts, with a smoke break at the Potbelly restaurant on the R44, then via Hellshoogte pass to the Berry farm. The usual side stand scraping occurred racing up Hellshoogte, lots of fun.



After a ride of about 1hr 10 from Mac Ds we arrived at the Berry Farm. Steep driveway to the restaurant, but all negotiated it with aplomb..The restaurant was expecting 20 people, but 24 came by bike and car. There were 11 bikes, 5 cars, 20 members, 1 prospect member, 3 visitors guests and 3 pillions.. wonderful turnout.



LAST MONTHS RIDES



The Resturant has wonderful views of the Hottentots Holland mountains, the Hellshoogte valley and down into the Franschoek wine area, and as the weather was so good, it was glorious. The only issue that we had, in spite of the good food, was the shockingly slow service, which spoilt an otherwise epic ride. Thanks to all whom attended, for those tha didn't, you missed a wonderful experience. Stay safeCheers



BUFFALO RALLY ***2025***

what happens at Buff **Stays @ Buff**



**CERTIFICATE OF
AWESOME**

BUFFALO RALLY 2025
Review by:
Thanks Susan

Firstly, I am sending big thank you's to Des, Denise, Heefy, Huey & Hans for offering to take the club gazebo, etc and our kit to the Buff! Thanks also to Des who found a great spot to set up camp and for putting up the gazebo.



We left the house to start our journey on Friday morning at around 9am. The weather was perfect riding weather and after lane splitting through cars in the city traffic, we were soon on the Du Toitskloof Pass.

We encountered a stop & go as we started the pass, but thankfully we did not wait too long before we were let through and managed to catch the other 2 stop & go's on green! After a brief stop in Rawsonville we hit the road again. A part of Devin's bumbox came loose, but after trying to glue it in Robertson we eventually managed to stuff it in the rucksack. I had a nasty experience just before Albertinia when something flicked up off the road and hit my right toe with such force that I thought my foot was gone - eina pain! That left me with a very bruised and blue big toe for the remainder of the weekend!! But buffers are tough and we arrived safely at the Rally site, collected our tickets and found our campsite.



BUFFALO RALLY 2025

what happens at Buff Stays @ Buff

Quite a few of the Odysseus members had already arrived and once tables & chairs were set up we were enjoying the vibe and conversation. As usual, when walking down to the main tent, we met a lot of our old biking friends. The gees there was great and I thoroughly enjoyed the Friday night entertainment. Once back at camp a few people stayed up talking and joking into the wee hours of the morning!



Saturday morning (and Sunday morning) I was woken up by "Hop Hop Spinnepop" being blasted from the speakers of the campers above us - they just played that one song & turned it off, quite hilarious!!

We mainly chilled around the campsite and in the main tent for the rest of the day and went to give Cyril and Garth moral support whilst they were polishing their bikes for the Concours d'Elegance.

Both bikes looked amazing when they were finished and congratulations to Cyril for winning 1st Prize in the custom class - well done!



BUFFALO RALLY 2025

what happens at Buff
Stays @ Buff

The Prize Giving was good and did not take too long, but yet again, after decades of wishing.... I did not win the money, oh well maybe next year!! We remained in the main tent for a while to listen to War Pigs, they were really good as expected. Heefy ran up on stage to give the audience a "show" and then disappeared again - absolutely hilarious!! Eventually we made our way back to camp to chill and retire for the night.



BUFFALO RALLY

2025

what happens at Buff Stays @ Buff

Sunday's ride was not pleasant at all! It rained from Albertinia to Swellendam and we were absolutely soaked when we arrived at the Barrel & Blues. They kindly lit a fire for us to dry off - and on which I unfortunately melted my gloves. 2 hours and a couple of drinks later, the rain stopped. We had booked into the guesthouse behind the Country Pumpkin in Barrydale, so we back-tracked to Suurbrak and rode over the Tradouw Pass. We were alone with only the 2 bikes on the pass, it was eerily beautiful after the rain and the sound of our exhausts echoed in the valley, spectacular!



After spending a relaxing night in Barrydale, the ride home was pleasant in the dry, except for my throbbing toe and cramped fingers in shrunken gloves!

All in all I had a great fun, many laughs and just an awesome weekend at the Buff. The gees in our Odysseus campsite was terrific and that just added the cherry on the top!

Here's looking forward to the next rally!!

Cheers from Susan





Story by: Steven B

I was welcomed by a smiling Penny, and the first question "Where have you been?"

THE TURKANA CHALLENGE

The Turkana Challenge is a year long challenge for all sorts of motorcycles, whereby you have to visit various places, and carry out long bike riding adventures. In early April I chatted with my Buddy BL, and we decided to complete the challenge of having to accumulate 10 000 vertical metres of mountain passes.

My Buddy advised me that the average height of mountain passes in the local area is only 400m, which means we would need to find 25 mountain passes, and where better than visiting the Garden Route and Little Karoo. Anything for a bounce around in the top box on a 660 Tenere excites my Buddy.

By the way, the Odysseus Club has Iain and Heath who have also entered. The departure Tuesday was one hell of a rain storm in Cape Town, so Wednesday became a straight ride to Wilderness Parks Board Camp, to pitch a tent and shiver the night away.

Thursday the challenge began with a ride to Knysna, and up the gravel Phantom Pass, rutted out by bakkies, and teeth rattling in the helmet. Beautiful crisp early morning air as I summited, to turn right towards gravel Homtini Pass, now beautifully repaired after the floods. With a canopy of trees over the road, it was like going down a worm hole. The river crossing at the bottom a ginormous splash of water!

Then onto the gravel Karatara Pass, a bit more worn out, with logging trucks making huge dust clouds. By now the bike has rhythm and the top box is quiet obviously Buddy was asleep. Hunger pangs arrived and I found a quaint hippie style farm stall before the next mountain pass.

I had to laugh when the lady dressed in beads, and colourful clothes went into the garden, lifted an old oil can and collected the two eggs for my omelette! The coffee was moerse lekka, and soon I was back in the saddle. It is only on these back roads that you meet interesting people.



Next gravel pass was Hoogekraal Pass, with road works on the bridge abutments. These are all road repairs from the big floods in 2022 and 2023. This was a labour-intensive repair job with stone gabions being placed on the river approaches of the bridge. No splash as the bridge was guarded by flagmen.

By now the ride needed a tarred road so I turned down towards Wilderness over the Hoekwill Pass. This pass takes the rider alongside the spot of the tourist hang gliding launch site. Down into Wilderness was a shocker to be on the N2 when the previous mountains had been so quiet and peaceful.

Kaaimans River Pass is under construction, so the look out point served as an opportunity to relieve my Buddy of his contents, under the midday sun.

Quick ride to George, a pie and a steri stumpe, (for heart-burn) and the Montaque Pass lay challenging. This pass is closed with heavy concrete barriers, but it is possible to squeeze the Tenere thru the pedestrian gap on the side of the barriers. Little did I know hat I was letting myself into. The mountain pass is absolutely destroyed by the floods. A lack of drainage holes in the roadside stone walls resulted in the flood waters flowing down the gravel road.





Story by: Steven B

I was welcomed by a smiling Penny, and the first question "Where have you been?"

THE TURKANA CHALLENGE



The dongas are huge, having to dismount, put in first gear, and walk thru the strewn rock. I crabbed walked long sections in low gear and mounted rocky sections to get thru. Then the pass condition improves only to be met by worse road conditions. After hours of slow riding, I reached the end and was shaking from fear and exhaustion. My Buddy was silent, shocked, and bewildered as I popped him with a light fizz.

Out came the Slings by map, and I found a link road across to the tarred Outeniqua Pass. Oudtshoorn was a welcome sight at 17h00 for fuel and a place to sleep over. I just did not like what I saw for camping, so decided to again explore Slingsby, and routed down the tar Robinson Pass towards the coast, passing childhood favourites Highgate and Safari Ostrich Farms.

As the sun started setting, the heavens opened with an enormous thunder storm. Not what you need on a mountain pass now also covered in mist. I was stopped by the Farm Watch flashing orange light to be informed that a small school bus was stranded on a blind bend half way down the pass.

After 20 minutes of chatting about farming, and a very sweet cup of coffee, still sopping wet, I proceeded slowly down the pass in the dark and rain. The Farm Watch recommended the 'Eight Bells Inn' near the bottom of the pass, which loomed invitingly in the mist. Harry Potter style!



By now it was 8 pm, and doorman would not let me inside as I was sloshing water as I walked. The night lady assistant took pity on me, and I booked into a room for half price. After a long hot shower, I just made the 9pm kitchen closing and ordered the meal of the day. "Regte boere kos, en sommer 'n groot bord vol." I battled my way thru an absolutely tasty meal, leaving my Kassala tjops for a take-away. Adjourning to the lounge with a fireplace I chucked a few logs on the fire and quaffed a few Black Labels. I could not find my Buddy anywhere so I reminisced on a great day of adventure riding. Riding alone has its challenges and loneliness, but nature and the outback people fill those spaces.

Next day, after a farm breakfast and armed with my take-away it was back into the saddle. By the way, the Chef on duty dried my clothes in the kitchen overnight.

I dropped down to the coast again to fill fuel at the Mossel Bay Engen and then took the first right off the N2 to Herbertsdale. At the entrance to town is the original 1895 school room, now converted to a coffee shop.



Story by: Steven B

I was welcomed by a smiling Penny, and the first question "Where have you been?"

THE TURKANA CHALLENGE

First cup of coffee for the day, and a delightful English farm lady behind the school desk making the coffee. A time warp room complete with blackboard, wooden desks, and school canes in an ammunition shell alongside the coffee station. I stayed chatting too long, and soon I was off quickly onto a gravel road for the next 180kms, riding down the mountain range into the Gouritz River valley. I have done this pass a few times, in the rain it is tricky with potklei, and on hot dry days slippery with tiny marble stones. Today I had confidence, my trusty Tenere was well balanced with my new saddle bags, the tyre pressures correct, and my mind thinking of you guys at work on a Friday.

The midday sun called for a swim at the low-level river crossing. A kalgat swim in the river and not having seen a person for nearly 2 hours, a farm bakkie stopped to ask if I was okay.? Of course, you are okay when the farmer in the bakkie is female. I had earlier eaten my Kassala tjops and quaffed a Black Label. As the bakkie pulled away, my Buddy Black Label, fell over in the river sand laughing at me!

The opposite side of the river bridge is a very steep uphill, twee spoor, and if you meet an on coming car there is nowhere to go, cliff on the left and huge drop off on the right. A further 20kms and I went thru Van Wyk's Dorp, stopping at an Olive Farm for much needed food and drinks. Slings by maps out and plotting the next part of the days travel.

With a now heavy cloudy sky looming above, Barrydale via the Tradouw Pass was an option. Having messed with my brain on the corrugated gravel road near Van Wyk's Dorp, I decided to eat and drink all the food I was carrying and drink all my refreshments in the Tradouw Pass. This led to a decision to re-ride the pass three times. What a pass, what engineering, what great sweeping bends, and what a way to end the day!

The Karoo Saloon is closed and looking very sad for itself, so time to speed up heading for Montagu. On entering the town, I discovered it was the beginning of the school holidays and the municipal caravan park was fully booked. I tried Iain's B&B in Montagu also fully booked, so I back tracked to the Montagu Guano Cave campsite.

Nothing like a smile at the reservation window, telling the young lady she was pretty (she was a plain jane stunner) and I had a site on the lawn, up the hill, near the hot pools. Tent up, two beers down, and Tarzan speed off to the hot pools.

I bought a bag of wood, blitz, lighter, a pizza, and six beers, and lugged this up the hill to my campsite. Fire blazing, night sky of stars, and my buddies falling over one-by-one, it was a great evening! This is why we adventure ride, a day of contrasts. Later that evening the lady in the campsite next to me said I could get coffee in the morning from her.

That coffee was delicious as I surfaced after a long-tired sleep on the ground. A small talk chat around coffee led to discovering that her husband was the manager of a resort in the Slanghoek valley, and Penny has since visited and booked out the resort for the Landrover Winter Warmer weekend (Similar to the Odysseus Brass Monkey weekend).

Never go home early when you have a week long pass from the wife. So, in search of more mountain passes, to accumulate height, I tracked back to Ashton, Bonnievale, Robertson, and thru to Villiersdorp. Breakfast was at the Steam Tug Alwyn Vincent Café, and now the journey was almost over, as I stopped at the Elgin Train Market for a pint, and a bowl of loaded fries. I dawdled over Sir Lowries Pass into rain, and gusty wind getting home along Baden Powell dodging sand drifts and standing water. At home I was welcomed by a smiling Penny, and the first question "Where have you been?" Turkana Challenge accomplished with 12 400 vertical metres of mountain pass, 1640 kms of riding, and not a single traffic police officer!

Adventure biking is a new gateway to the soul, think before you ride, plan each move by stopping, looking, select the safe pathway thru the poor road condition, and have a very good Buddy with you. Where will your next ride take you?

MUST HAVE BEER



BRASS MONKEY

25th to 27th JULY 2025

All reservations will be on a first come first service basis.

The Odysseus Brass Money event is the highlight of our social gatherings each year. - Come and enjoy.



We Organized your trip !!!

The Nuy Valley Guesthouse is a family owned wine farm with a boutique wine cellar, is situated in one of the most beautiful valleys of the Cape Winelands on the popular Route 62.

Prices all-inclusive for two nights' accommodation;
2 x breakfast and
2 x evening meals.
Per couple R2620
(price for additional person in room R1310)

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- 1) Full payment before the end of April to secure the reservation
- 2) 30% before the end of April to secure the reservation, 30% before the end of May, 40% before the end of June.

En-suite rooms selections:

Double bed, Double bed & 1 single bed, Double bed & 2 single beds, 3 single beds, 2 x single beds.



Cellar rooms with shared ablutions: Rooms with either 4 single beds, or double bed plus one single bed. Prices are all-inclusive for two nights' accommodation; 2 x breakfast and 2 x evening meals. - R1070 per person

EXTRAS:

There will be a fully stocked bar excluding wines. Since the bar no longer stocks wines, we have organized delivery of your selection of wines from "Nuy Valley on the Hill" to your room at "Nuy Valley Guest House". Wines available:

*Sauvignon Blanc 2024 & Chenin Blanc 2024 at R70 a bottle
Dry Rose 2023 at R85 a bottle
Pinotage 2024, Merlot 2024, Cabernet Sauvignon 2024, Shiraz 2022 all at R90 per bottle.*

Please note that bringing other than Nuy valley wines may result in a corkage charge.



When confirming your reservation, We will supply order forms to participants to enter their selection of wines early in June. Once completed and paid for the orders will be placed with the winery.

All payments to be made to:
Odysseus ABSA BANK
9263536308. Use your ref:
Brass & Surname

WHY GO WITH US:

Itinerary Friday:

Welcoming drinks - settling into rooms Bar opens at 6 PM

Dinner - 7 PM Buffet. Chicken pie, Beef stew, Yellow rice, Sweet pumpkin, Garlic potatoes, Beetroot salad with Feta

Malva pudding with Custard.

Dance - till late to our very own Disco

Itinerary Saturday:

Breakfast - 8:00 - 9:30 Buffet.

Fruit & Yoghurt, Cereals with hot and cold milk Coffee / tea and juice, Bacon 2 p/p, sausage with onion and tomato, scrambled eggs. Toast, muffins, jams, cheese, butter.

Chaos Run - for bikes & cars:

10:00 for 10:30 start. Routes will be provided with clues that need to be solved en-route. End point will be at Nuy on the Hill restaurant for lunch. Rest of the day: Relax and do your own thing.

Bar opens at 6 PM

Dinner - 7 PM Barbeque. Lamb chops 1 p/p, Chicken Kebabs 1p/p, Sausage 1p/p Oven Baked Potato, Oven baked vegetables, Greek salad & salad dressing. Chocolate pudding with custard

Entertainment: Quiz, prize giving, dancing to disco.

Itinerary Sunday:

Breakfast - 8:00 - 9:30 Buffet as above Pack-up and enjoy the journey home.

Please direct your orders any queries to Peter or Jacqui Cowman:
secretaryodysseuswesterncape@gmail.com
or WhatsApp 0824447426

The Brass is not a journey but an Adventure

Tiki's selling his bike = 2012 Kawasaki GTR 1400
mileage 69971kms full service history excellent condition.
for more info and pictures please contact Tiki 0820564774



Tyres for sale:

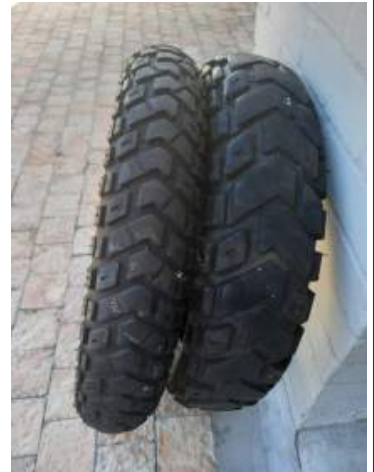
For GS 1200 Adventure
Both Heindenau (Germany)
Rear: 150/70B 17 M/C 69T K60 –
normal retail is approx. R2800

Front: 110/80B 19M/C 59T K60 –
normal retail is approx. R2200

R500 each

Phone Julie

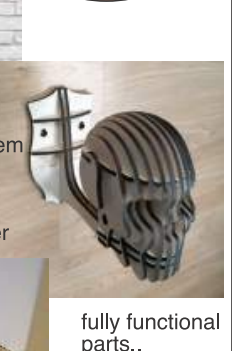
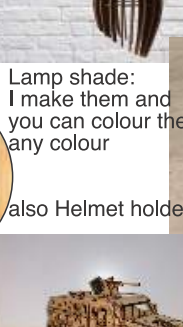
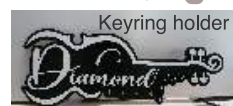
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Hobby Projects

Contact me: Basil Forbes
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basilforbes@icloud.com

some of my previous and
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MotoGP bans 2027-spec bike tests until conclusion of 2025 season

A ban on tests of 2027-spec MotoGP bikes has come into force, but the move will not impact Pirelli's scheduled test of its tyres ahead of its arrival in 2027



Germán García Casanova
May 6, 2025, 6:06 PM



The FIM (Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme) announced a series of changes to the 2025 MotoGP World Championship regulations earlier this week. The changes, which took effect on April 29, most notably included the introduction of a test day for riders returning from injury and clarified startline procedures sparked by the recent debacle in Austin. In addition to the modified regulations, the FIM also announced an agreement regarding testing of prototype bikes that manufacturers are already developing in anticipation of the 2027 season. A major technical overhaul of MotoGP is coming in 2027, including a shift to 850cc engines, reduced aerodynamics and simplified ride-height devices.

While some manufacturers have already made significant progress on early prototypes for their 2027 challengers, it was agreed in a meeting on the recent Spanish GP weekend that these bikes cannot be tested on track until the conclusion of the 2025 season. According to the FIM announcement, "An agreement has been made between the manufacturers that they will not test 2027 specification machines during the 2025 season. This means testing a motorcycle of 2027 specification will only be allowed from 17 November 2025.



The 2025 season concludes in Valencia on 16 November, but the first 2026 pre-season test is scheduled for the same circuit on November 18.

MotoGP teams agree on new rule for riders returning from injury



The 'Jorge Martin rule' Aprilia requested earlier this season has arrived earlier than expected - along with clarifications designed to prevent a repeat of Americas GP startline chaos

In a surprise development, MotoGP teams have agreed to tweak the championship's strict testing regulations to allow riders coming back from long injury breaks to test ahead of their return to race action. Such tests were a hot topic of debate among teams ahead of Jorge Martin's ill-fated MotoGP comeback at April's Qatar Grand Prix. This followed an unsuccessful request from Martin's Aprilia team to adjust the rules.

Now, effective from this weekend's French Grand Prix, an optional single day's running will be allowed for permanent MotoGP competitors who have missed three or more consecutive events or who have been unable to participate for 45 days during the season. The season start is defined in this case as the first official IRTA pre-season test. (Martin's injury woes this season began during pre-season testing in early February.) The choice of test venue must align with a manufacturer's testing concessions. Restrictions also apply with regard to circuits still set to host races in the same season. No additional tyres will be added to the relevant manufacturer's testing allocation. While Aprilia's initial call for an in-season rules tweak - one that would have benefitted Martin at the time - met with resistance and expectations that it would only come in for 2026, the new regulation is effective immediately. With Miguel Oliveira set to return to action at the French Grand Prix this weekend, the testing rule comes into force with a clean slate as there will be no riders missing from the grid.

**SEE YOU IN THE
NEXT ISSUE**



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