

Monthly Newsletter of the LROC of SA KwaZulu-Natal

P.O. Box 70650, Overport, 4067

Find our Home Page at www.landroverclub.za.org

FEBRUARY 2013 EDITION



LANDROVING IN KZN



Ed's comment, "The newsletter is published regularly on an irregular basis every month, printed as and when it seems fit and delivered when it suits. It will be late on your time, **but on time, on my time.**"

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Club's Committee, Members or the Editors and may be incorrect

LROC KZN 2013 Committee

Newsletter Editor Brian Moore

Cell: 0828420064
Newsletter@landroverclub.za.org

Vehicle: Defender 110 Td5 "Dusky"

Mike Cullen Secretary

Tel: 0824473699
xxx@landroverclub.za.org

Vehicles: Defender110 pickup td5, Defender110 hi-capacity pickup Tdi, Freelander2, Series 3 3door109, Series3 5 door 109

Brendan Mitchell Webmaster/Treasurer

Tel:031 7678150
Cell: 0832824318
web@landroverclub.za.org
Vehicle: Defender 110 TD5 Disco 11 v8

George Goswell Events/Trails/Gates

Tel: 031-7002300 (h)
Cell: 0836581324
trails@landroverclub.za.org

Vehicles: Series 111S HT Range Rover 3 door

Johan Scheepers Social Events

Cell: 082 3552 344
social@landroverclub.za.org

Vehicles: Range Rover P38 Defender 110 v8 Disco11 v8 Series

Kenneth Jones Chairman

Cell: 084 509 1427
Chairman@landroverclub.za.org
Vehicles: Defender 110 DC TD5 Defender Hybrid "Snail" 1957 Series 1 "Jenny"

Leon Jacobs Regalia

Cell: 073 214 7756
Regalia@landroverclub.za.org
Range Rover V8

Paul Stanley PRO

Cell: 082 7777 976
pro@landroverclub.za.org
Vehicle: Puma 90

Pierre Joubert ???

Cell: 0823238372
Membership@landroverclub.za.org
Vehicles: 96 Defender 90 TDI "Tilt" 1955 86' Series one "Frikkie"

Justin Leach ???

Cell: 0799644414
???@landroverclub.za.org
Vehicle: 1980 Strange Rover (Range Rover Classic) 3.5 V8 1989 Defender 3.5 V8

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PART 1 OF 2

THE “BULL” BAR

Well “Hi there!” readers. Welcome to the New Club Year and welcome to a new look newsletter format. Change they say is as good as holiday, and I need one already! I hope it is pleasing to your eyes as it is to my failing ones.

Recently, as we sat gazing at the Milky Way, a number of readers asked where on earth I get my inspiration from, when filling page 1. Well, it has been a closely guarded secret until now, but is one which I will now share openly, free and gratis for Mahala!

Between my furrowed brows, exists a solitary hair, which is oft want of protruding at odd angles, to the point where by just squinting enough into my Pepsi bottle bottom bi-focals, I can see the tip.

Around the second week of each month, in a galaxy not far from here, located just right of the fourth hole in Orion’s belt, ZOG, gatekeeper of the Intergalactic Dumb-bods Interior Orifice Transformer Society’s (I.D.I.O.T.S) offices, and my mentor of some many Uh-Duhrs (the Dumbbod-ian equivalent of an earth month) pushes the transmit button on his Wakkadumbnutta panel on board the good ship Wotachop .

A rapid series of bursts of encrypted code is then fired by a 50mm Dumtwitzer, generally in the vicinity of the nearest hole in the ozone layer. That is assuming the rest of the Dumbbods have primed the thing properly after their mid-day romp with the Dumblonds. Once penetration has been successful, the signal is bounced from the surface of the mother planet, ricocheting off the clouds saturated in depleted uranium, high in the stratosphere, just south of Saddam Hussein’s summer palace (or what is left of it anyway!). The accelerated particle collider effect, forces the inbuilt decryption package to unlock, issuing a command instruction which loosely translated says “Locate Idiot”. Now activated, the signal aggressively hunts the receptor cunningly inserted in my cranium without anaesthetic, during my last sudden abduction from restricted Area 71 overlooking Panty Valley, De Aar. (It used to be called Area 69, but now has 2 car guards watching!)

Around this time, the hair sprouting from my gleaming fore, or is it now five-head, begins to quiver excitedly, and then all at once assumes the position of a scorpion missile on a launching dolly primed for orbit, and as it oscillates seeking the optimum signal wavelength, it begins to emit a faint whine, audible only to an extremely rare and endangered species of man eating Bat, and I.

In the odd instance, the bat hears it first, and then, as if possessed, she subjects me to a rapid plucking of the hair with her pair of scaled down water-pump pliers leaving a

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crater the size of the Little Boy test detonation at Bikini Atoll in my forehead, which is not good, as all I then see for days, is a stellar test pattern of galactic proportions.

On luckier-for-you days however, the signal hits the tip of the hair first, culminating in the transmission of the decrypted text via its superconductive flaxen stem into my cranium, where it reverberates around the zero gravity void until eventually, it latches onto my sole remaining brain cell, just like Lucky the home team super swimmer that spawned me!

Voila! There you have it....next month's edition is born.

Simple is it not?

Erk! If you will kindly excuse me, I have to run; I hear the flitter flutter of batwings approaching!

Ed.

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OBSERVATIONS, RESERVATIONS, COMMENDATIONS

The Good

Texting codes for seniors

- * **ATD- At the Doctor's**
- * **BFF - Best Friends Funeral**
- * **BTW- Bring the Wheelchair**
- * **BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth**
- * **CBM- Covered by Medicare**
- * **CUATSC- See You at the Senior Centre**
- * **DWI- Driving While Incontinent**
- * **FWIW - Forgot Where I Was**
- * **GGPBL- Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low**
- * **GHA - Got Heartburn Again**
- * **HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement**
- * **LMDO- Laughing My Dentures Out**
- * **LOL- Living on Lipitor**
- * **OMSG - Oh My! Sorry, Gas**
- * **TOT- Texting on Toilet**
- * **WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?**

Hope these help. GGLKI (Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!)

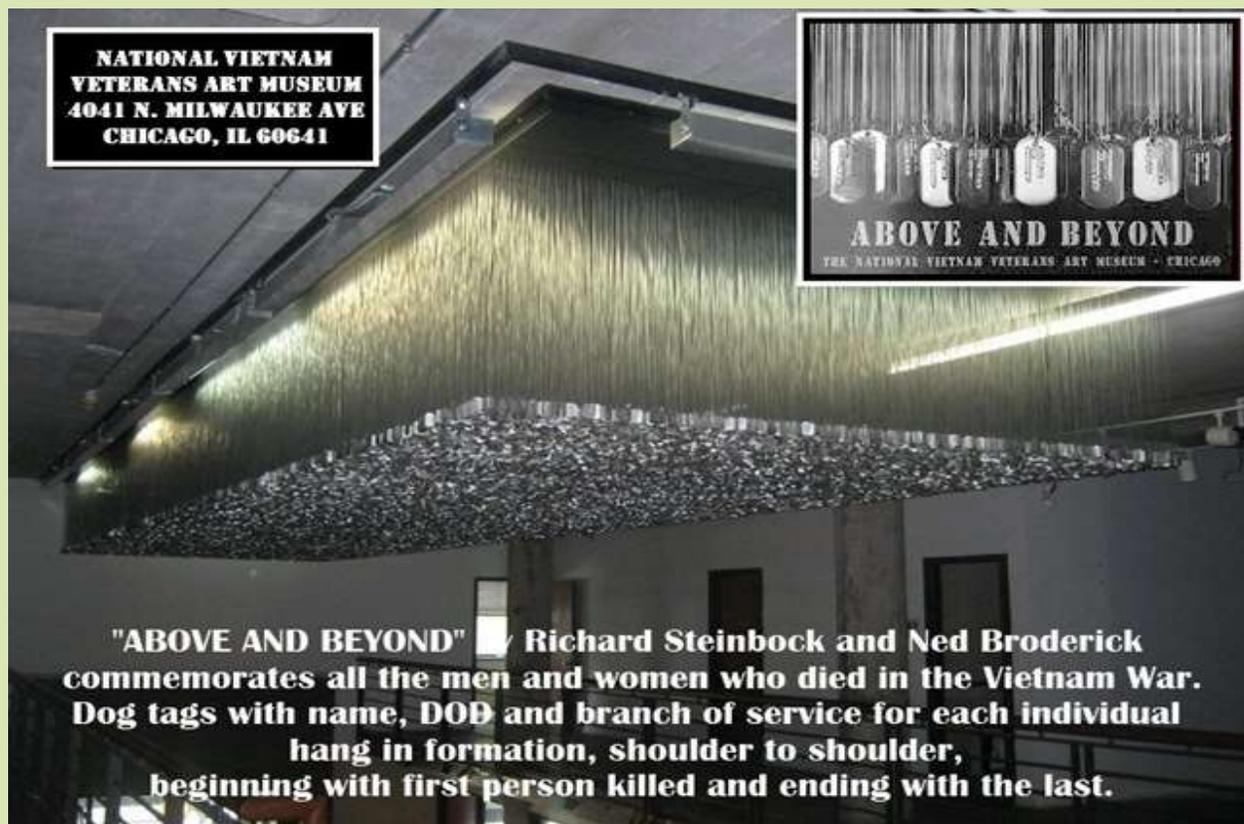
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And the Bad.....



This must be something very moving to behold

When visitors first enter the museum, they will hear a sound like wind chimes coming from above them and their attention will be drawn upward 24 feet to the ceiling of the two-story high atrium. Dog tags of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War hang from the ceiling of the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. The 10-by-40-foot sculpture, entitled Above & Beyond, was designed by Ned Broderick and Richard Steinbock. The tens of thousands of metal dog tags are suspended 24 feet in the air, 1 inch apart, from fine lines that allow them to move and chime with shifting air currents. Museum employees using a kiosk and laser pointer help visitors locate the exact dog tag with the imprinted name of their lost friend or relative. Dog Tag's

Wonder if anyone has considered doing this with the keys of every trusty Land Rover which has expired in service? Now would that not be a brilliant idea?

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(.... now for the Ugly)

Dear Electricity Consumer

Just a little note to let you know we understand your anger in the recent price hike and power cuts.

But it should be noted that you have no choice.

We are a big company and you will pay what we tell you.

We **have** the power, you **need** the power.

So sad, too bad! Sucks to be you!

We have enclosed a little picture to help outline our response.

Have a nice day and keep those cheques coming!!!

Regards

Oh and HAPPY 2013!!

EISHKOM



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TECH TALK

RECENT EVENTS

The AGM

This years AGM held at Killarney was probably the worst attended AGM I have seen in my relevant short history with the club, which I think was a bit of a disappointment for the Committee, and dare I say a bit of a poor show, on behalf of those who chose not to attend. To those who did, a big thank you from the Committee for your support.

Possibly many members were unable to attend owing to the date being so close to the December holidays, and hopefully the low numbers were not a reflection of a mass vote of no confidence in the venue, which had been specifically chosen for its suitability for family togetherness and it's fine facilities. Heinz and Belinda had done a sterling job to prepare the campsite for our gathering, and I think it is a real shame that not more members attended. Many thanks Belinda and Heinz for all your effort in sprucing the place up for us, and for hosting us again.

Nevertheless, a substantial number of regulars did attend, and a fun time was had by all.

The Rhino Charge event for Saturday had to be abandoned owing to poor response and lack-luster turnout and it is evident that more planning will have to be done to run an event like this in future.

For those who had taken the opportunity to camp over, a communal braai was held after which those who dared, undertook a nocturnal drive to the nearby Shongweni quarry Waterfall. All in all Pierre, Brendan, Johan and Kenneth, 4 vehicles in convoy, with co-drivers, spouses and others ventured off into the inky black darkness. The ride through to the waterfall was fairly easy going, but not without some humour. Having cadged a ride with Kenneth in Jenny, securely wedged among the myriad of tools in the footwell, some great mirth was caused, when during a particular stretch of the river, Jenny was tilted over at a rather precarious angle with yours truly hanging on her crash bars. Suddenly, without warning the door flew open and all of Kenneth's toolboxes

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unceremoniously slid out of the front of Jenny and promptly disappeared in the muddy torrent. Brendan behind with a bird's eye view, had a good laugh as Kenneth & I groveled and ultimately retrieved his waterlogged toolboxes, as Johan and Pierre trundled on ahead. Just as well little Allegra was sound asleep in the protected bin at the rear otherwise we possibly would have lost her as well! In fact, it is just as well I was hanging on her clang bars, otherwise I would have been a tad damp too!

The ride culminated in a 20 minute sojourn at the waterfall in the dark, as we switched off the lights and took in the majesty of the Milky Way in all its twinkling splendor, as a myriad of luminescent fireflies danced in the moonlight, to the sound of the tumbling waterfall in the dark. It was a rather magical moment, and after a complimentary Drambuie or two, we wended our way back in different order. Night driving is certainly a different experience, as the trail and obstacles take on vastly different proportions in the dim light of the headlights, making for some interesting, and dare I say, nerve racking moments. Yet again, my camera played up, so I was unable to do proper photographic justice to the trip, but it was highly enjoyable nevertheless.

Arriving back at the campsite, which was in almost total darkness, save for the disco lights adorning Paul Chantler's vehicle, a rather pleasant evening was had by all, chewing the fat around the "reprobate" camp. The music was at a decent level, and a great number of yarns and tales were swapped among the resident revelers until the wee hours of the morning. Richard "Wobbly Wobs" took a fair amount of stick with his new Citroen panel van, (he being temporarily sidelined from riding his Defender due to recent surgery) and despite a number of challenges, he flatly refused to emulate Don in his Kango and try the mudhole. There were a number of volunteers to do it for him, but he would have none of that. Paul Chantler had an awesome selection of music, and it was great nostalgic fun identifying all those numbers, that one last heard so many years ago. A phenomenal range of music there Paul! I think you could market that CD selection. At least this time round there were no complaints around volume levels!

Those not chewing the fat around the music, were admiring Wesley's new baby, his Range Rover. May you have many miles of smiles in her Wesley! Tanya and kids I am sure will appreciate the comfortable ride, but Slap Chip will be missed.

Early Sunday morning saw the camp arise for breakfast, and those who could face their post toasties did so. Mike Cullen, having braved some of my overnight "paint stripper" coffee brew, was in fine form as he entertained Gunther Kanz and wife, Ken, his wife Sherry and I, and in typical Mike form. He was as hilarious a breakfast speaker as one could find. A most enjoyable time spent digesting the Weetbix, and a rare moment to identify a possible replacement editor one day! Thanks for the laughs Mike, you are a natural comedian, with a phenomenal command of the art of true wit.

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Around 10am the clan gathered for the AGM, as Hans prepared the huge spread of food laid on the spit braai. As the smells of beef and gammon on the spit, wafted through the Boma, the AGM got off to a start.

Once the formalities were over, the awards were presented for service, and the various accolades for the year that was (see below for full list of awards and recipients). We had a number of new volunteers for service on the Committee, which is encouraging, and it is with great happiness and thanks that we welcome Justin Leach, Mike Cullen and Pierre Joubert to the Committee. Mike was press ganged into becoming Secretary, and at time of writing Justin and Pierre's portfolios have yet to be allocated, but we welcome them and wish them well in their service to you as a club. A special word of thanks was made for Wesley, who has had to step down for personal reasons.

Inez Goswell, paid a moving and justly proud tribute to her son Ryan, who celebrated 15 years of involvement with the club, but could not be there to collect his award on the day. Hopefully in the future, some more younger members will fill his enthusiastic shoes. Thanks also to Inez for the organizing and delivery of all the award certificates and I assume trophies, which had all been spruced up for the occasion.

In the words of our Chairman, there is so more to our club than just the current serving Committee members, and any suggestions for venues, events, outings etc. are encouraged from the general membership, as is the need for members to willingly do their part on the Committee, to give some others a chance to step down. Similarly, there is absolutely no restriction on any member organizing a "non-committee" type event, as we have the Facebook page as a useable tool to rustle up an impromptu get-together outside of our organized calendar. So members!.....Don't be shy, and take the initiative, whenever the need or mood grabs you to do something different. It does not have to be an off-road event either.

Without further ado, proceedings were brought to a conclusion and the much awaited lunch was served. And what a glorious meal it was, with so much food to go around, there being so few takers this year. Yet again a fantastic day at Killarney!

The AGM over, many people left early, but others stayed to play, and I heard later that in a return run to the waterfall, Jenny had a sheared gearstick which resulted in a major rescue effort for Ken.

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Wally Awards - Certificates

Richard Wylie	For setting up camp for the night in the river bed
Wesley goldstone	For displaying the underside of his Landy during the Land Rover versus Toyota Challenge.
Leon Jacobs	For attempting a hill in the Land Rover vs Toyota Challenge with the Hand Brake on.
Justin Leach	Trail breaking in the middle of the night with a single vehicle convoy

Floating Trophy

Chairmans Award	Byron Tonkin
Technical Award	Alfred Shilton
Gates Top Score	
Modified	Byron Tonkin
Standard	Cameron Carr
Gates Spirit Award	Heather Powell
Newsletter	Brian Moore
Wally Award	Justin Leach

Other Certificate Awards

Wesley Goldstone Committee appreciation for serving 1 year on the committee.

10 Year Membership

Alfred & Nicola Shilton
Ricky & Birgit Black
Dennis & Mikaela York
Lesley Rayson
Lyle & Jana Lange
Michael & Gundrun Lauterbach
Richard & Jackie Hodsdon
Rob & Carol Larkan

15 Year Membership

George, Inez & Ryan Goswell

20 Year Membership

Chris & Jan Ramble

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Now if I could just see the track!



I think it is that way Ken!



En-Chan(tler)ing music

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Breakfast at Mike's Kitchen



Great expectations



Why it's called a meating!