

DIZZY

Volume 2 Issue 4

**New adventurer:
He-Man! Exclusive
Footage of Gras &
Dried-Jeep-Track
Up Close & Personal**



**The Latest Trip
Review Inside!
A Passion for Adventure!**

**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
with Captain Chaos!
Stand Up; Look Up
Open Up; F%\$#@d Up!**

***Thought of a Dirtchick! I decided that
adventure was the best way to learn.....***



20 – 22 March 2010

Riders: Chrissie; Emile; Janes; Schalk

Bikes: F800GS; F800GS; Transalp 750; 650 DAKAR

Day 1: Saturday 20 March: Goodwood – Ceres – Calvinia – Brandvlei - Verneukpan: 634km

It's a beautiful morning. Cool and fresh; high temperatures were forecast for the rest of the day and weekend. The excitement was pretty high as we were on our way to another weekend adventure. We got up at 5am, the bikes were already loaded the Friday evening and we were just awaiting Janes to arrive on his Transalp 750. Schalk was already at our house, ready and just as excited.

Janes arrives, one could see the excitement in his body language. It's his first bike adventure so we want to make it extra special so I threw in as many dirt roads as possible as my game-plan was to get his nice clean bike as dirty as possible. "Bosvark" looked way to clean and needed some much needed dust and dirt to represent his name. We off, just turned 6:30am; the bikes woke half the neighborhood. We on our way to Verneukpan and our adventure has just begun.



We took the N1 to Rawsonville via Slanghoek to **Ceres**, had breakfast at the Ceres Wimpy and headed over Theronberg Pass and onto the first dirt section, the R46.

We stopped and deflated the tyres. Had a quick sip of water, discussed speeds, riding formations and we off, the blokes were riding ahead; I recorded the 3 dirt riders in front of me. We passed the Sutherland turnoff and hit the long stretch on the R355 to **Calvinia**. It was dusty and hard, pleasure to ride and all were having a good time.



We stopped after about 100km and took a break. The guys were sharing their thoughts and having dirt-covered-mouth-smiles everywhere I looked. We all surely were enjoying the fun and pure pleasure of riding in nature. After another long stretch we drove into the town of **Calvinia**. We took a break and stretched our legs. It was hot, extremely hot, temperatures were in the high 37°C for the weekend.



INFO: **CALVINIA**: is situated in the Hantam Karoo, at the foot of the Hantam Mountains, which is part of the largest province in South Africa, namely the Northern Cape. The original name of the town and the area was "Hantam". This name originated from the Khoi people that lived in the area and named the mountain !Han=ami, with means "the mountain where the red bulb grow". Later the people started calling it by the name it is now called - Hantam Mountain.

We stopped for refreshments. Janes and Schalk refueled and we took the tar stretch from Calvinia to Brandvlei. We entered the town of **Brandvlei**, we now deep into the Northern Cape; I love the NC, got so many dirt roads. INFO: **Brandvlei** was developed near a Sak River 'vloer' in the heart of Bushmanland where 'Ou Brand', a 19th century trekboer, settled. The town was cut in two by a flash-flood in 1961, recovered, and a municipality was formed in 1962.

We drove into **Brandvlei**, parked the bikes at the popular **Windpomp**; know to be "the best pomp in town"; we had something to eat and drink. Refueled for a last time as our next stop will be Verneukpan; got some snacks as we Sunday the whole day on the pan so we need enough food to last until Monday morning. Our last part of 115km of dirt were awaiting us to Verneukpan. After being well refreshed we drove out of Brandvlei at 17:30 to take the boy's to Verneukpan.



We turned off at Swartskops, by now it was already dark, we drove through 7 farm-gates to the reception farm house where Louis was awaiting our arrival. By agreement Emile and I always said to never ride in dark but we were entering Verneukpan at night and we still need to go through the awaiting sand monster stretch before the pan appear. The road surface suddenly started to change. The last bit of road to Verneukpan become pretty tricky and challenging with deep sand tracks that threw us around like rag-dolls. We entered the sand monsters pit, bikes were out of control, Schalk came through like a Dakar opponent, Janes thought this man got skill and suddenly Schalks bike with him disappear into the bush over a massive sand bank, we all awaited in anticipation is he okay...suddenly lights appear, his bike flew over the high sand bank and Schalk went down.

By now sweat is dripping out of my helmet, we all struggling, Emile help Schalk up. We got on the bikes and tried to carry on in darkness, sand monster were extremely violent, Emile went ahead, Janes followed, I followed, Schalk went again and done what is told how to ride sand, Stand-Up-Look-Up-Open-Up but that just cased another big fall against the high sandbank. I helped him up.....we paddled to the end, Emile came walking back to support us. We laughed, we suffered, our new slogan were, Stand-Up-Look-Up-Open-Up-Fucked-Up. We all agreed on the slogan as sand riding is one of the most difficult terrain to ride, if you good or not its just not possible to ride with a full load of luggage and 200kg+ bikes. Even Louis the owner told us that as far as he knows no one have ever done that sand bit without a few falls. We left amazing sand-struggle-tracks behind.



The rest of the group was also experiencing their difficulties with the sand in their own personal ways. We all going through the same fear and fun at one time. We have driven onto **Verneukpan**. Its pitch black, I could find the entrance gate but now we have to search in darkness the accommodations site as there is no road to follow. Emile took the lead and took us right to our spot. I was drenched in sweat from the sand riding; we parked the bikes, everyone were half dead from suffering, we unloaded the bikes, pitched our tents, chased away some scorpions and lit a big fire for a BBQ.



Day 2: Sunday 21 March: Exploring the Pan and Surroundings: 52.8km

Janes, myself and Schalk were up early to watch the sunrise at the pan. What an amazing sight to see. Verneukpan is awesome. I got on my bike and drove onto the pan, rang the "Bell". When I returned Emile was up....we all got onto our bikes and we started to explore the pan. We drove over a massive distance to explore, we made awesome riding recordings. We took the boys to the "bell" to welcome them to the pan.



Verneukpan is a widespread dry salt pan south of Kenhardt, between Swartkop and Diemansput in the Northern Cape. Verneuk is Afrikaans for to trick, mislead, screw or swindle. The pan is ideal for aero-towing operations as you can launch and land in any direction you choose. The surface is completely flat, claimed to be estimated 57 kilometers (35 mi) long and 11 Kilometers (7 mi)

wide. Verneuk (pronounced FUR-NEE-OOK) Pan is located in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa and is something over 20 miles long. It is famous for being the site of Malcolm Campbell's ill-fated bid for the World Land Speed Record in 1929.

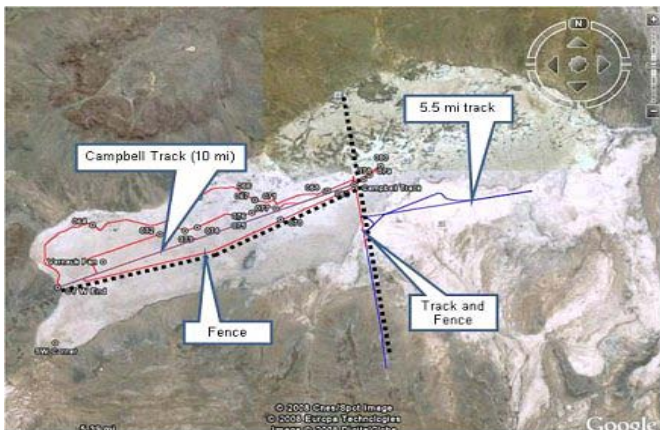


After about 45min of riding in the early morning hours, we headed back to camp and made breakfast. After breakfast we all on the bikes again to ride more and explore more and the recordings are awesome. We were riding for about an hour, headed back and relaxed the rest of the day, playing few games of Rummicup and the boys decided to go for an afternoon rest, I could not sleep and headed out onto the pan by foot.



While doing my walks in the far distance I saw a bike approach, Emile wanted to give me a lift back but I had some amazing photo opportunity I choose to do than to sleep. It was so hot as well about 38°C on the pan. He drove back and I carried on with my pan-photography. I went back about an hour later, hot, tired. Some friendly farmer came by and chatted to us, he left us cold drinks, beer, juices.

GPS Coordinates: S 30.00.299 E 021.08.772



Aerial view of Verneukpan



We sat for the rest of the afternoon in the shade and talked about the sand monster and more....we waited for sunset and got on the bikes again....done more video recordings and by times you feel as if you flying in a fighter-jet. The pan is so amazing and so beautiful. The group had more than enough freedom to ride in any direction they choose. We headed back and started a big fire, chatted the evening away and had many laughs and many jokes and amazing stories to tell.



Day 3: Monday 22 March: Verneukpan – Brandvlei – Loeriesfontein - Nieuwoudville – Vanrhysdrop – Klawer - Goodwood: 642km

We up very early, think just before 5am. Monday morning broke. We packed up our tents, loaded the bikes. We on our way home. We headed back via a different route, next to a fenced section on the pan to Louis house. Awesome ride we had, here and there a challenge and deep dried out jeep-tracks. We had awesome recordings again and suddenly Janes, riding in front of me, entered a grass-covered-mud section and his bike took a sudden line which made his bike starting to go mad, I knew what was coming and it happened, Janes had a slight slip.



Luckily I had it all on video to show him and it was also worth a photo for his collection. We carried on with the road to the farm house. We had a coffee and headed on. Emile, myself and Janes drove off slowly. Schalk is not showing, Emile drove all the way back and came back to where Janes and I was waiting, Schalk got a flat front tyre. We all drove back to the farm again. We helped Schalk to fix his flat and about an hour later we headed off to Brandvlei.



We refueled at Brandvlei, had a pie and coke and headed in the Loeriesfontein direction on the dirt. We drove a few meters then Janes had slight problems with his Transalp. Schalk and Janes decided to take the tar road to Nieuwoudville and Emile and I took the dirt road to Loeriesfontein – 120km. We split and will meet at Janes's mother-in-law in Nieuwoudville. Emile and I had an awesome ride, long dirt road with amazing scenery. We drove into Loeriesfontein and inflated the tyres for the tar stretch to Nieuwoudville.

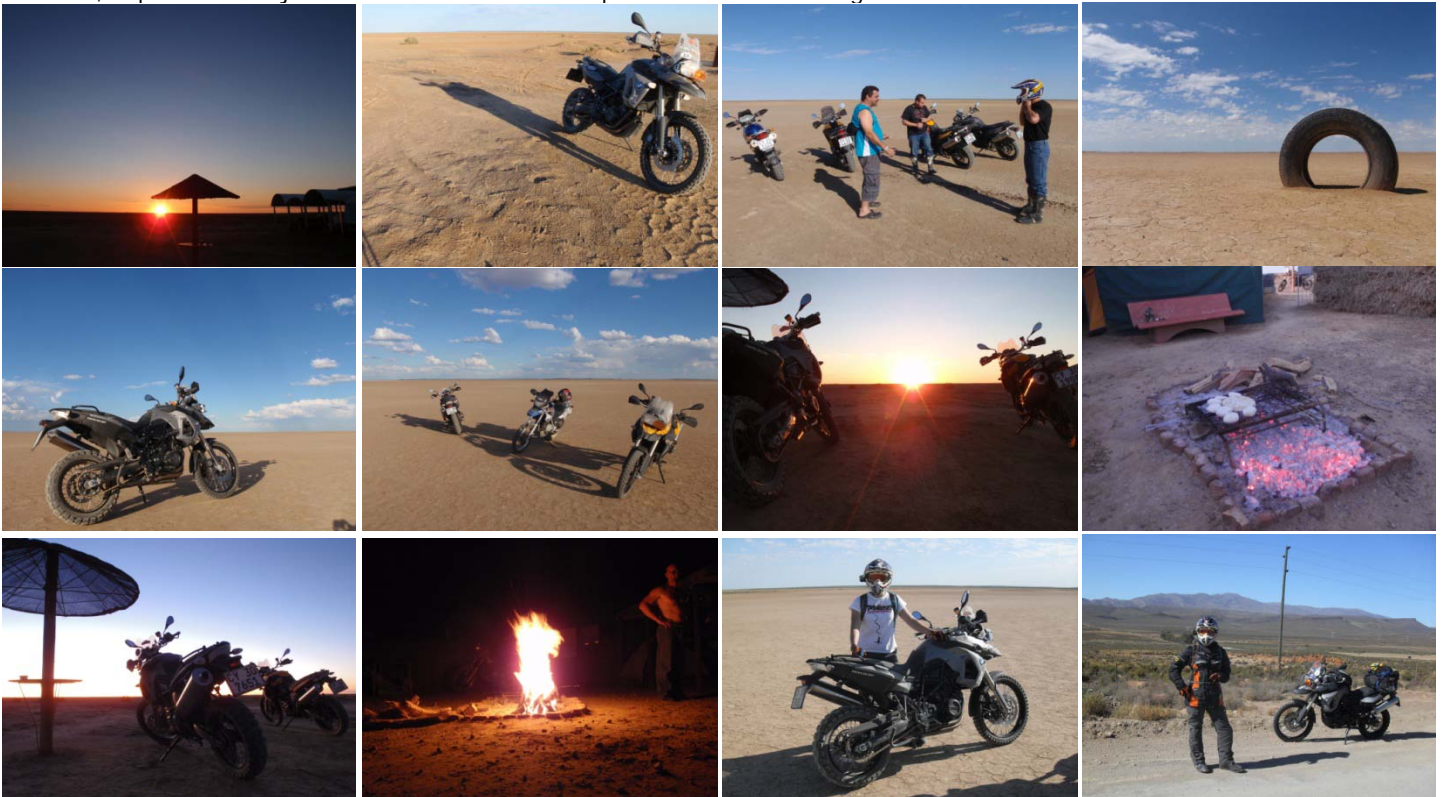
Loeriesfontein. 121km Southwest of Brandvlei and 63km Northeast of Nieuwoudtville. Said to have been named after a Jewish travelling salesman named Lurie or alternatively it could be named after the Loerie bird (Turacu corythaix).



We drove from Loeriesfontein to Nieuwoudtville. IN the far distance we could see two bike riders from the Brandvlei road almost driving into Nieuwoudtville, it was Janes and Schalk, we all met up at the same time from two different directions, now that is what you call, good timing. We drove to Janes's mother-in-law's house, she greeted us and had a fantastic late lunch made for us. We ate like kings, she had lambs-neck, greenbean-salad; beetroot salad, potatoes, rice; sweet-potatoe. We all got 2nd helpings and it was such a beautiful effort from her to spoil us like that. We could not stay long as it was approaching 15:45 and the road is still long back home. We greeted and off we went.



We drove pass Clanwilliam, Janes and Schalk refueled and we drove pass Citrusdal and over Piekenierskloof Pass and on the N7 back home. We stopped at Piketberg. I swopped my yellow goggles for clear goggles. It was dark, night came fast and we tired and there is still a long road home. We don't like riding in darkness but we did not have a choice. We drove into our driveway at 20:30. Tired, exhausted, sore butts, hands, legs BUT amazing memories. We pushed the bikes into our garage and unpacked a few bags. I went for a shower, Cape water are just the best. I took a sneak preview of the recordings and its awesome stuff.



What a trip, what a load of fun we had, the boys had such a good time and myself. Until a next trip....i share more memories.

VERNEUKPAN: 20-22 MARCH: 1328.8KM