

DIZZY

Volume 1 Issue 1

**EXCLUSIVE
TRIP STORY
When HELL
FREEZE Over!**

**4 Days of Extreme Riding in
Calitzdorp; Seweweekspoort;
Anysberg Nature Reserve**



Become a possibilitarian. No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see possibilities, always see them, for they're always there.



<http://www.calitzdorp.co.za>

A "HEL" OF AN EXPERIENCE IN THE SWARTBERG MOUNTAINS
"WHEN HELL FREEZE OVER"

Date: 16-18 June 2010

Riders: Chrissie; Emile; Schalk; Hein; Dennis; Erica; Brent; Kevin; PeterO'H

Bikes: F800GS; F800GS; DAKAR; 1150GS; Dakar"Zebra"; F650GS; F800GS; R1200GS; 650Dakar



WEDNESDAY: 16 JUNE: DAY 1: GOODWOOD – CERES – TOUWSRIVIER – LAINGSBURG - CALITZDORP: KM

It's the morning of 16 June. A public holiday and I have thrown in two extra leave days completing a nice long weekend. All the riders are gathering at the Engen One Stop N1 after 07:00am. A freezing and wet morning. My excitement is high. We all had breakfast and made up some time for the rain to stop and bit later the sun came out. We ready to leave. The roar of the bikes gave me thrills of excitement as another exciting trip is about to start. With goose-bumps of excitement and cold covering my body, we heading in the direction of Paarl to Wellington then Ceres. In Ceres we made a stop at the Wimpy for coffee. We head off in the direction of Matroosberg, hoping for snow but now snow, just in the far distance on the mountains. We took a short dirt road to Touwsriver, slippery and sliding but fun, all managed it perfectly. We would have driven on the dirt road starting at the R46 but not taking any risks as it might have been too muddy and slippery. The roads and mountains surrounding us were covered in snow. We drove into Touwsriver, had lunch and Schalk had to fix an oil leak so wanting to do the Anysberg route it was getting late so we headed in the direction of Laingsburg then Seweweekspoort to Calitzdorp.



Engen One Stop N1



Start of the Seweweekspoort pass

RIDING VIA LAINGSBURG; SEWEWEEKSPOORT PASS INTO CALITZDORP: AMBER LAGOON:

Entering the Seweweekspoort pass from the opposite direction is **AWESOME**; the 14km road went smooth. We have done the first long dirt stretch, while riding small snow patches were next to us. We entered the Seweweekspoort Pass at almost dawn and with snowcapped mountains surrounding us and the riders ahead of me it was a beautiful sight to experience. The 8 riders in front of me were riding in a passionate formations, enjoying the beauty of the pass. We got to the tar stretch to ride to Calitzdorp. After a beautiful day we entered Calitzdorp at night and it started to drizzle softly leaving us to enter the last dirt stretch of 7km in mud but a good ride as everyone handled the dark mud ride very well. We booked into our accommodation for the next two days. Amber Lagoon is a backpacker's dream buried in the heart of the Klein Karoo, bordered by the Swartberg Mountains and the Gamka Nature Reserve. It have various possibilities to sleep, each of them self made and unique. You want to experience something completely different? Then come to Amber Lagoon and discover why your German hosts fell in love with this area.



THURSDAY: 17 JUNE: DAY 2: CALITZDORP EXPLORING DIRT ROADS TO OUDTSHOORN AND BACK: KM

We up early as we have a long day of exploring and many dirt roads to ride. We went for breakfast at the Amber Lagoon Restaurant. After breakfast we loaded our camelbacks's, waterbottles; energy snacks and off we went. We drove through Calitzdorp to Calitz Street where the dirt road connects. We took the Groenfontein via Kruisrivier to Oudtshoorn dirt road. **AWESOME** roads, breathtaking valley's. We made few stops for leg stretches, sharing thoughts on the beauty of the surrounding area. We headed into Oudtshoorn. Because we entered the dirt bit late in the afternoon at 1pm we wanted to take the group to a beautiful waterfall but entering Oudtshoorn at close to 16:30 we had to give that opportunity a skip. Myself, Emile, Schalk, Brent and Kevin drove off to our friend Johan, owner of the Swartberg Adventure School and had a quick coffee and head back to Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp. We started a fire and had a nice BBQ.



The day was just AWESOME. The ride was AWESOME. The company of friends was AWESOME.

The evening being together and safe with no injuries as that is always our goal were just AWESOME. We ended the evening off with great stories of the day. Everyone shared their thoughts and everyone had a great day. All that mattered. We understood why the German hosts fell in love with this place. Damn but its colddddddd.....

Thursday Exploring Route: Calitzdorp to Oudtshoorn via Groenfontein and back on the Route 62 to Calitzdorp!

FRIDAY: 18 JUNE: DAY 3: CALITZDORP: SWARTBERG MOUNTAINS: KM

RIDING INTO SWARTBERG MOUNTAINS: Completed by Thomas Bain in 1888. The winding road of the Swartberg Pass with the most amazing rock formations formed over millions of years. The valleys are breathtaking. The road winds up the mountain to the very well known and famous turn-off, "Gamkaskloof – Die Hel. This valley is approximately 20km long and 600meters wide and runs in an east-west direction.



We left Amber Lagoon, taking the back road to Calitzdorp, refueled and off we went doing a small section of the same dirt road to where we came to the tar section almost entering the Swartberg. A stunning dirt ride up to a certain point when the wind came up and we had to fight against a strong wind and a snow-covered mountain to Hel. We made a stop at the start of the pass, with sign-boards saying "SwartbergPas Closed", many cars and 4x4s still entered the pass as we planned to do as well, that is why we here. We headed into a very strong unpleasant wind, im fighting my way through it, trying to stay upright, being pushed over the road and back, everyone else suffered the same difficulty and stresses but we here to complete an adventure to Hel. 6 of us decided to carry on, as I don't give up easily when committed to an adventure until I do realize it will be an impossible task but until I have come to that point, I will turn around but before I turn around I first go and explore the task then I will decide.



A snow covered Swartberg with ice roads awaited us around the corner. Vans were sliding around, bikes falling over, Dennis was the best laugh of the day. He came down the mountain against 40km/h, plowing into the ice covered road and still introducing himself to the guy wanting to help him saying: "Hi I'm Dennis and shaking the guys hand while being pinned down underneath his bike". This is an experience I will never forget. This is something I did not expect to experience. We had some slips and some had falls but the faces of the people on the mountain had smiles that were unforgettable.



After few memorable photo moments with the guys, we turned the bikes around to ride down the Swartberg back to Oudtshoorn to look for new accommodation as Hell Freeze Over and we have to enter this part of the trip, in a couple of months when its hot and sunny. We all decided to go to Kleinplaas and booked into a 6-man house. We got out of the bike clothes, I got on the back of Emiles bike playing pillion and we headed off to a restaurant to celebrate our adventure we had on the mountain and all the nice thoughts of the trip were shared around the table. We head back to Kleinplaas after supper and chatted the night away until late.

SATURDAY: 19 JUNE: DAY 4: KLEINPLAAS VIA CALITZDORP – SEWEWEEKSPOORT – ANYSBERG - TOUWSRIVIER: “HOME”: KM

We got up early, Emile prepared breakfast, somehow the eggs and bacon he prepared had a strange smell to it, I usually have a few bottles of either tomato sauce, chutney, salt, pepper, sugar, dishwasher-liquid and olive oil, well as you can guess, instead of taking the olive oil bottle looking much the same like the dishwasher fluid he used the dishwasher fluid thinking it’s the olive oil.....long story short, we had to make new bacon and eggs. We drove out of Oudtshoorn to the Caltex garage, meeting up with 2 GS riders, a father and son. They asked if they can ride with us as they also going through Seweseekspoort and would be nice to follow us. We welcomed them to ride with us.



Start of the Seweweekspoort Pass from the Route 62 direction

Inside the Seweweekspoort pass

When turning off onto the first dirt section towards Seweweekspoort, in the far distance the mountains were covered in snow and close to us the mountains were also burning. We entered the poort, driving through the beautiful roads, slow and enjoying the beauty surrounding us, stopping for a photo to always remember a special trip with great friends. We came to the end of the Seweweekspoort pass, greeting the father and son as they turned back to do the poort again. A man doing his last bike trip with his son as he is on his last ride after 50 years of riding and exploring and being sick with terminal cancer. They trying to do 33 mountain passes through the country together.

We greeted them and wished them a beautiful trip, we turned away and drove off towards Anysberg to Touwsrivier. Through beautiful mountain passes and a nice hot sunny day, we turned off at the Anysberg turnoff. We stopped to have a quick bite to eat, the boys shared my smoked mussels and some energy bars. The long curvy stretch of dirt road that will take us into Anysberg looked interesting and beautiful.

We got on the bikes and started a new exciting dirt road through Anysberg. When going over the first few passes and coming around a corner a massive wide spread open landscape greeted us, I felt as if I was in Namibia. I sight so beautiful I could not thank Kevin enough for suggesting this specific route to end off our trip. He said he knew I would enjoy it. It was pretty technical at times but what better way to learn riding your bike. While riding wild Gemsbok ran in front of us, what a sight to see, Namibia were all the time in my head. The road is extremely beautiful. I can’t wait to ride it again,

We made a stop at the Anysberg Nature Reserve. Wild horses were grazing in the fields. Two more riders came our way and headed in their own direction seeking the beauty we are exploring and on their own adventure path. What a beautiful country we have, what a way to enjoy life in nature with your friends and on our bikes. The path just carries on and on and the landscapes become more beautiful.



After a short break we carried on. Brent and I drove through every mud patch we could get. why do we do that, its because we enjoy our bikes and so does the rest of the group enjoy their bikes. The rest of the group followed and had their own thoughts and smiles coming with a great time. What a fantastic 4 days. Fantastic dirt roads, great friends, new paths, big challenges but we got through it. That is what makes us true adventurers. Thanks to you all that came with us. Emile and I would have done this trip by ourselves but we glad we shared it with you: Brent; Kevin; Schalk; Erica; Peter; Hein; Dennis!!

