Past Events:

Sunbeam Jamboree 2014 At Gariep

What an adventure, a fun loving, historical information gathering run to meet the Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Free State Sunbeam owners at the Forever Resort at Gariep.

But let's start at the beginning.



The Stellenbosch Guys met Malcolm and Lynn at the tunnel and then they met Abie and Lesley at Worcester who had come from Pringle Bay via Villiersdorp. At approximately 08:30 we set off in convoy toward Laingsburg with the cars running ice cold in freezing weather as can be seen by the ice on the mountains near Heksrivier.
Upon reaching Laingsburg, we stopped to fill up and have a good old unhealthy "Fry Up" for breakfast.



Then on to Three Sisters where we intended to spend the first night, Don't be fooled by the sunlight, In the picture you can see the water temperature on my Rapier hardly moving from the zero position.

Early afternoon we reached Three Sisters after an uneventful drive with the Beamers behaving impeccably. We were pleasantly surprised at the Travalia Lodge where we were to stay. Nice, clean chalets and a store that had every kind of meat you could wish for for a braai. It was totally unnecessary for us to have brought our own meat along. Over and above that, they make the fire for you and clean up everything once you had finished with your braai.



Really excellent service.

So the evening we got our things ready and started our braai.

As I mentioned before, it was bitterly cold in the Karoo that evening and we huddled around our fire, occasionally stoking the fire. Amid roars of laughter, Thys poured some of Deon's single malt Whisky over the fire, much to Deon's disgust. It was so cold that we had decided to cover our car bonnets to prevent engine blocks from cracking. Abie even secured a cloth in front of the radiator to prevent the ice cold wind from getting into the engine bay. The next morning we were to see that the guys had shaped it like a skirt and taken a photo of it as you will see.



Starting the Braai



Abie's Rapier with a Mini Skirt



Breakfast at the Travalia "Padstal"



Sunbeams parked outside the "Padstal"

So after a hearty breakfast at the Travalia "Padstal" we set off for our final destination, Gariep. We had no sooner left Three Sisters when the heavens opened up and we dove in pouring, freezing rain for the whole trip until we reached Colesberg, where the rain stopped. From Colesberg we set off for the Gariep Dam resort and checked in.

The Forever Resort at Gariep is something else. Beautiful surroundings, clean, serviced chalets, great central building with a bar and a restaurant. Here we hung around and awaited the arrival of the Free State and Gauteng Club members.

After their arrival, we were welcomed by John Allison, Gauteng Club Chairman and some of the crowd decided to have an informal braai in front of the chalet belonging to the Stellenbosch guys that had three braai's and a lovely lawn overlooking the dam.

The next morning, after breakfast, the whole crowd met up and drove to Bethulie where we stopped on the bridge over the mighty Orange river and then went on to visit the little historical museum at Bethulie with our friendly hostess, Trudie Venter, who supplied us with all the facts and figures of this area. It was quite a revelation to see where the British had placed the concentration camp that housed over 5000 Boer women and children. Standing in the ice cold morning in Bethulie, I couldn't help wondering how cold it must have been for the occupants of the camp in the winter. As it turns out, some 1700 women and children died in that camp. For the first time, I actually wondered if the deaths of the thousands of woman and children that died during the war would have had an effect on the size of the current Afrikaner population.



Sunbeams on the bridge over the Orange



Listening to our guide

After our tour, we went to the "Ou Kar" restaurant for a lunch and while waiting for food, some went to look at the unusual Royal Hotel with it's thousands of books. At the lunch you had a choice of either venison or beef cottage pie and it was without doubt one if the tastiest lunches I have ever tasted. The afternoon we relaxed and in the evening, as a result of the successful braai the previous evening, we all had another braai on the lawn in front of the chalet of the Guys.

The next morning, to every ones surprise, the Stellenbosch guys not only polished their own cars but also polished Harry Boys' car, my Rapier and Malcolm's Alpine. Working as a three man team, they finished the cars in no time.
Then we all set off we set off for the harbour area to take part in the simplified "Concourse" event.
It was quite a nice concept in that everyone walked around and put tokens into a cup on the car that they thought were the nicest. It was well organized and enjoyed by all. First prize went to Duncan Miller's Tiger, Second prize went to Harry's lovely original Series II Rapier and third prize went to Thys' Alpine. Because nobody would have stood a chance against John and Barney's Talbot Alpines, they were excluded



Cars parked for the mini concourse

There are far too many photos to include in this write up but please go to our web site www.capesunbeamownersclub.co.za and see all the photos in a slide show with the write up.

I must however include two more photos of some of the cars that were at the “Concourse”

The first one is of the beautiful and extremely rare Sunbeam Talbot Alpines belonging to John Allison and Barney Curtis.

The other is of the Rapiers, if Thys had decided to come with Tessa’s Series IV Rapier we would have had a full house of Rapiers. As it is we had a Series I, Series II, Series III and a Fast Back Rapier at the event.





After that, we had some free time and in the afternoon some of the members went on the boat trip around the dam and going near the dam wall. An interesting fact was that in the late ‘60’s, the cost of that huge dam wall was three million Rand. Shows you what has become of the Rand.



On the boat



Stellenbosch “Se Boys” kom weer

The evening we all enjoyed the Gala dinner that comprised a great buffet and prizes were handed out.



john and Barbara



Malcolm, Johann and Clare

The next morning everyone left for their separate destinations and we left for Klaarstroom. This time we were joined by Duncan and Clare Miller in their Tiger, who were on their way to Knysna,
At Hanover we enjoyed a large rather oily but tasty breakfast and arrived at Klaarstroom in the early afternoon where we were met by our host Jeremy.

Klaarstroom was the location chosen for the very successful Afrikaans film “Faan se Trein”.
We stayed in the large old house that was very prominent in the film. It has massive rooms and according to Koos Roets, the director of the film, the house is supposedly haunted. We must have been tired from the trip for the ghosts did not bother us
Koos had joined us for drinks at the evening meal and we the enjoyed very tasty “Boerekos” made by our hostess, Sharon. It was a most pleasurable stay at Klaarstroom.



Klaarstroom Guest house



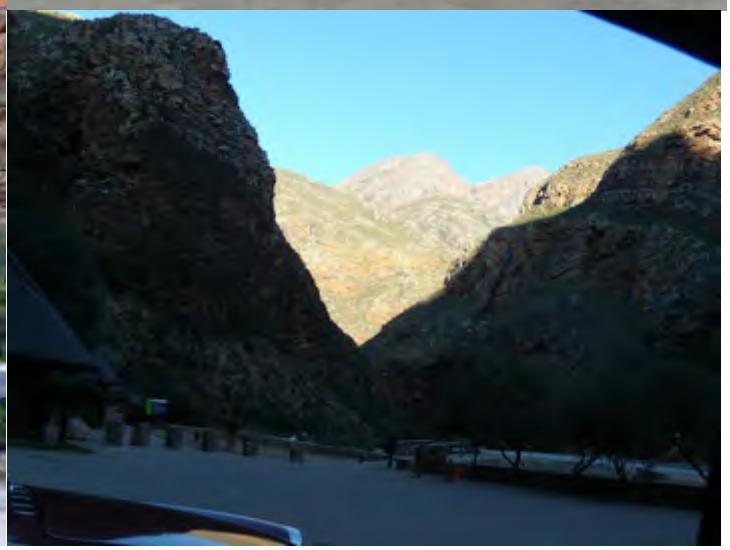
At the evening meal

Next morning, after breakfast, we set off to stop at Meiringspoort for a photo shoot, after which we drove on and said Good Bye to Duncan and Clare at Oudtshoorn.









Later, we stopped at “Ronny’s Sex Shop” for a bite to eat. At Barrydale, Abie and Lesley turned off to Swellendam and the N2 and the rest went on to Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

Hats off to our Sunbeams that did the near to 2,000 Km trip with no hassles, proving the well earned reputation for reliability.

The trip was so enjoyed by all that we are already in the early stages of planning the next Jamboree at Knysna.