

Snowball rally 19 June 2013

By Liaan Jordaan, Editor

I want to start off by saying: "AWESOME". This was our second Snowball and also my first on my own bike. We were geared and ready to leave at 5h45 on Friday morning. It was dark, misty and very cold. When we left the house, I honestly thought that I would be fine because I had enough thermals on to keep me warm (did not think that one through).

As we got to the R52 on the way to Babsfontein, there was fog everywhere; it was so bad that we could not see more than 2 meters in front of us. We had to ride with open helmets and it was freezing cold.

Then we had to do a detour, and we ended up about 25 kilometres further than the departure point. Again I have to say this was so cold that I could not feel my fingers and I drove Steven crazy because I did not have my following distance right. I understood why people die on mountains that they want to summit (they just freeze). When we stopped at the Total on the N3 everybody was already there, we had time for coffee but no breakfast.

There were about 53 bikes, a trike, Zelda in her BMW, the back-up vehicle and a medic in our own ambulance. We were heading towards Heidelberg when we were stopped in a police blockade just before the De Hoek Plaza. They were checking licenses and complaining about our number plates (which some of us produced with velcro at the back). Then my friend Fanie came to the rescue, he gave me "Jeripico" courage and for the next 80 kilometres I had no care in the world. Near Harrismith, Wesley guided all the bikes with small tanks to a much needed petrol stop.

Then we stopped for lunch and everybody could choose where to have their refreshments. It was still very cold and the air-conditioned restaurants were a welcome sight. After the refreshments it was time to go to Bergville, but first we had to get over Van Reenen's Pass. We encountered a terrible wind all the way over the pass and towards Bergville. We stopped again for petrol so we could ride the last leg of our trip to the Orion Hotel. We still had to ride in heavy winds to get to our final destination.

As we stopped at the hotel, we were welcomed by Bennie and his team. The registration went fast and without any hiccups, we got our keys and could start our weekend in the Drakensberg. Everybody started to relax, especially our Marshall Corps who had a hard time getting everybody safely to their destination. We want to thank everyone for their hard work and effort.

Then we had our "formal" evening at 19h00, we were in awe because the hall was beautiful and suited the "110 Birthday" theme. Thank you Elsie, Priscilla, Janet and Tersia for all the trouble you went through to create an unforgettable evening with fantastic food, great music and fine people. The party went on 'till the early hours of the morning. Our birthday boy Martin even got serenaded by our party group lead by Janet with "LLHEKKRR VERJAAR OU MAAT, LLHEKRR VERJAAR". I enjoyed that one, seeing that it was right at my window.

The next morning we slept late and had breakfast at nine, so that we would be ready for our outride to Little Switzerland. Keith was our road captain and we had a nice, slow and safe ride there. Even though we had to dodge cattle, goats and even a leopard that some of us saw striding a hill near the village. After a petrol stop and group photo at Little Switzerland, we had an easy ride back for a wonderful lunch with soup, vetkoek and mince.

When we returned to the hotel, some people went to their rooms to rest, some for a scenic drive and others (like us), sat in the midday sun to admire the fantastic view. Before we knew it was

time for the evening function. It was also time to pay all the fines that some of our members got. Zelda for driving BMW style, Tersia for letting the cops know that we were on our way, Schaga for towing his Harley and Martin for never leaving his room (just to name a few). Everyone paid in good spirit and we raised R2000-00 to tip the staff at the hotel. I would also like to thank Cornelle for all her hard work and everyone that contributed towards the charity.

Before we knew it was Sunday and people started to check out. The pack left at 10h00. Keith lead the pack again and did an AWESOME job, I eve made it without a hiccup. We had to do off road riding past the dam and even had a stint where we had to cross the highway because of an accident. Two hours later we arrived safely in Pretoria.

The Snowball rally 2013 was over... Everyone enjoyed it. Thank you again to everyone that organized it, it couldn't be better. If you were not there, you surely missed out.