



The Crankhandle Club at the George Old Car Show 2024

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Photos Viv James, Peter Truter, Tony Bruton

It was cars and cars as far as the eye could see

The VETTOER - A big THANK YOU to Philip Kuschke and Phillip Rosser for organising this pre-show tour which started in Calitzdorp on the 9th February, a day before the annual George Car Show. Cars started arriving from all over the country in Calitzdorp on Thursday 8th February some on trailers and some under their own steam. The final count was 25 cars and 52 people of which 18 were members of the Crankhandle Club. The organiser's had arranged accommodation in different B&Bs and on Thursday evening everyone got together at the Rose Restaurant where a most delicious meal was enjoyed by all. On Friday morning, after a tasty breakfast at the same venue, the cars set off for George. Morning tea was served at the Eight Bells Restaurant in the Robinson Pass, thereafter we drove through Hartenbos, Groot Brak, Klein Brak and along the coast to George. Notwithstanding a few hiccups (including some cars running out of petrol!!) all arrived safely at the showgrounds where the cars were parked in readiness for the show the next day.

Our Benz on the Show - The Show organisers approached the CHC asking whether the Club 1901 Benz could be brought to the Show as part of the German car theme. This was particularly significant because the replica 1886 Patent-Motorwagen (the

world's first car) which is owned by Mercedes Benz in East London would also be there. The opportunity to have these two historically significant vehicles together does not happen often. A massive Crankhandle Club team effort was launched. A suitable panel van was found after much effort by Colin Greyvensteyn and after much more effort it was arranged for it to be driven to George by Bruce Stewart and Johann Rust. Once at the show the Benz was looked after by a team effort by Johann Rust, Bruce Stewart and Harvey Metcalf who also found themselves showcasing / baby sitting the Patent-Motorwagen. Our Benz was presented in two Show parades - in the veteran parade by Harvey and Johann and the German car parade by Johann. Thanks are due to the all the Crankhandle Club members for the effort to get the Benz safely there and back and Waldo and Rene Scribante and the Southern Cape Region of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa for covering the cost of transporting it.

In parallel with this another group consisting of Hilton Franz, Ryan Walker and his Father, Harvey and daughter Aynsley travelled to the Show in vehicles fitting the German theme of the 2024 Show - Harvey's 1960 Karmann Ghia, Ryan's 1962 VW Kombi and 1974 VW Kombi. This group did an impromptu run with an overnight stop at Buffeljagsrivier and then through the

Tradouw and Garcia Passes and then on to George. The routes for the Tour, which vary each year, are dictated by the choice of venue for the Thursday night stop-over; historically being Albertinia, Calitzdorp, Klaarstroom, Oudstroom or Uniondale. A significant number of other members including Colin and Megan Greyvensteyn, the James family, Tony Bruton, Adrian Denness, the Middelmans, Bjorkmans and others, made their way to the show in a variety of vehicles, both old and new.

The Show - Every year needs to be kick-started with a series of events to which one can look forward to. Of course, one is always planning ahead but for those of us involved in the CHC, each New Year invariably heralds a flurry of activity - the Timour Hall Car Show, the Veteran Run, The Southern Cape Old Car Club's Vettoer and The George Car Show.

A pleasantly cool day dawned for the show where the theme was vehicles manufactured in Germany, and the number of German cars on display was spectacular, ranging from a 1886 Benz to the latest Mercedes on the market and even a two-door Maybach. The parade boasted a 300SL Gullwing and a host of SLs ranging from 1955 to the latest models.

Now, whilst the show is extremely well organized, has countless old cars, old trucks, hot-rods, new

cars, motorbikes, scooters, tractors, stationary engines, of all marques, shapes and sizes, a lively auction of all things for petrol-heads, auto-jumble stores, and promotional stands, all are eclipsed by the journey to get there! The journey from Cape Town is highlighted by the company of Veteran and Vintage cars and their dedicated custodians. So it's always a big milestone to get to the Show, especially if one is driving a vehicle that is actually going to be on display!

As always, the show was well-organised with lots of food stalls, a beer garden and plenty of well-maintained toilets. Access to the show was also well thought-out with different colour arm bands for spectators, stall-holders and exhibitors. The Veteran cars were parked in the front row, followed by the classics, individual clubs, private exhibitors, motor bikes, hot rods etc. Although the show was very well attended, the annual auction did not attract the usual attention with only a few cars sold. A big improvement this year was the extra public parking which is now next to the show grounds.

As always, the George Car Show is a MUST for all petrol heads and we all look forward to meeting again next year. But, above all, it is the camaraderie amongst old friends, some of whom one have may not been seen since the last show, that is the high point; the magnet that makes annual attendance so important, and memorable.

Invariably, there are a multitude of activities to be enjoyed by different groups; the Vettoer braai on Friday, the Stock Car Racing on Saturday (even the George Park Run for a few!), or simply get-togethers amongst old friends.

As a good start to the year, the George Car Show clearly has a very special appeal for members of the Crankhandle Club. ➔PTO



Eight Bells for tea and scones



A very rare 1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL soft-top



A trio of Pre-war Morris 8s



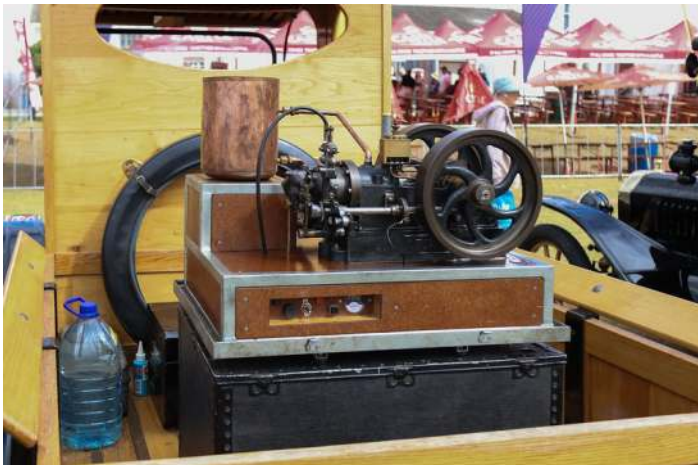
1931 De Soto Doctors' Coupe



Ali van Jaarsveld and Darryl Simpson in the Model 7 roll into Calitzdorp



An enthusiastic lady motorcyclist



Johann Rust's stationary engine



Triumph taking a break at Eight Bells



The fabulous Ford Model Ts line up for a photoshoot



It seems as if business might have been a bit slow in Twyfelvlakte...



Iconic Model T noses; Brass and later painted



The Willy's Jeep was one of the more utilitarian vehicles on show



Aynsley Metcalf and Liam in Harvey's 1960 Karmann Ghia



1938 Mercedes-Benz Cabriolet - a beauty



A happy trio: Darryl Simpson, Peter Truter & Ralph Jury in the 1931 Ford Model A



Replica of the first Motor Car - provided by Mercedes-Benz, East London



Left: Placard attached to the Replica of the 1886 Benz Patent-Motorwagen



Right: Harvey Metcalf and Johann Rust present the Club's 1901 Benz Ideal.