



Hi Chaingangers

Argus # Sabie Experience # Upcoming races # ARGUS Chainsuck! (and its serious children!)

Sappi Mankele 18 March THIS WEEEEEEEEEEKEND BABYEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!

Mark and his crew have been busy scurrying around those Sudwala mountains cutting grass and raking single track like they on a mission! The incredible kick ass trails are ready for your knobby rubber! Mark has all the usual tricks to make sure you get proper mountain biking and great value for yer bucks, none of them wussy excuses, get entered and get on yer bike! Its got a great 'family day out' kinda vibe with loads of stalls courtesy of the Kerk, from home made cookies to plants and pancakes, added to this there are distances for all ages from embryo's to coffin dodgers - 2km, 15, 22, 34 & 70, Mankele is *THE* place to ride this weekend! Entries Friday afternoon between 15:00 and 19:00 or Sat morning from 6:00 to 7:30, racing from 8:00 for 70km, 8:20 - 34km, 8:30 - 22km, 8:50 - 15km & 9:00 for 2,4km.

BTW - 2017 A3 Race calendars are available from Valencia for FREE!!!

Argus 2017, well now the dust has settled (somewhere out in the ocean!) we can say that it was a real shame for the guys who made the trip all the way only to stay in bed in many cases! The race was eventually cancelled at 6:38 so many riders simply turned back or pulled up the duvet and hoped it was all a bad dream. I must say that we managed to get within a couple hundred meters of the start line and the wind was howling, it wasn't possible to ride your bike and a couple of our guys got blown off trying so it was dangerous. Whether it was too bad to ride is subjective, the start itself is not great being that the tall buildings create a vortex effect that amplifies a moderate breeze to a full on tornado, the Elite Men, after a hectic first 100m managed to get out onto the road as did the first three groups and seemed to be able to ride without too much difficulty. Obviously experienced riders can handle the wind but I sending 35000 novices out may be asking too much. Anyway I guess the deciding factor

was the various protests out on the course, handling wind is one thing but putting people in harms way would have been reckless.

We were all dressed up with nowhere to go so took a leisurely spin out to Camps bay for coffee and selfies so at least we got to ride our bikes, there was some wind that took a bit of handling but more ominous was the pall of thick smoke flowing over the mountain from Hout Bay, a reminder that however bad the cancelled ride was for us at least we have a roof over our heads to go home to.

Upcoming!

Lydenburg Heritage 25 March



This is one of those little gems that's worth heading over the mountain for, the 40km might sound too short for the effort to get there but its definitely worth the trip! With a terrain that is all bushveld and game reserve it mixes climbing and single track with jeep track and wagon trails to create a mix that will keep you wide eyed for more than a few hours! Whilst the Epic has you motivated to be a better rider this will fuel the fire!

SCHOOLS RACE !!!! _ a fantastic new initiative is the Inter Schools Competition! This handsome floating trophy above will be awarded to the best school along with some other goodies to help with their biking! Schools wishing to participate must must contact Sheena! Sheenac@intekom.co.za

Sabie Experience 2017!! 29 May to 1st April

ENTRIES are open and filling up! Don't miss out on this local Classic!

Guys this is the ideal race to either one those stage race skills or test the waters with your buds! Entries are super cheap and all the best Sabie trails are covered, go to the website and get registered before it fills up! Get that Cape Epic Experience without all the travel hassle - oh and the small matter of R70000!

www.sabiexperience.co.za

MANKELE AVALANCHE -

Ok I know this seems to be aimed at mental down hill type guys but seriously, its exactly what your mountain bike was made for, stunning single track, no uphill (well only slightly in places!) and enough spectacular riding to tattoo a grin over your face you'll need surgery to remove! And if you think its only for said nutters think again, last year we had a dozen chicks doing it! If you think the Mopani race is too technical then maybe rather go play at the Hippo race but if you love to rip the best single track in the SA and ride for kicks not posing then get entered and get stoked!



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vbike.co.za **AVALANCHE**

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RIDE!

CHAINSUCK!

Without getting too political or depressing, here is something that a guy posted on FB, in the light of our Gov latest SASSA, PRASSA and Commonwealth Games debacles its s sobering perspective..

Geoff Hookins Facebook post:

"If it hadn't have been the wind that shut the cape town cycle tour down today, it would have been this. 5km down the road from where I live is a huge informal settlement named Masiphumelele.... Without having to explain the difficulties of living in a tin house with no municipal services, one of the real plights of the people living there is perception. Both their perception of their situation, and other people's perception of their situation. This is every informal settlement in south africa. So many opinions on my fb feed about situations like this. In the end, everyone is fighting to be heard in a massive argument of who needs help the most. You get the people who use Facebook to show pictures of grizzly farm murders, you get the people who share a cause and get a month old kidnapped baby found in 3 days, you get black lives matter, and legalise dagga and the illuminati is coming to a kill us all, and it's easy to carry on with your day after you have contributed your submission to the massive argument of who needs help the most. But then you get people who have been asking. Their questions become pleas and their pleas become anger and their anger becomes violence. And still no one thinks they need help the most. So one year they decide that they will destroy a gem of the rich and hopefully then they will be heard. They plan to come out onto the road at lam the night before the biggest sporting event on the cape town calendar and burn it and fill it with bricks and rocks. When all the tv cameras come to see what stopped the race maybe then they will be heard. So they go for it. They throw everything in. The race may actually stop and the country will have to look for answers. And the residents of Masiphumelele truly believe that they will finally be

heard.

But then.

The wind stops the race before it starts.

And the country is only looking at videos of rich people being blown off their bicycles.

And once again, the residents of Masiphumelele are forced back into their horrible little tin houses.

Dismissed and Unheard.

At least until this time next year.

Masiphumelele is, after all, a Xhosa word meaning 'We Will Succeed'

Social rides:

MTB

Our longstanding stalwart of our MTB rides - Alan Livingstone is still the man in Nelspruit when it comes to finding trails out in the Kaapsehoep valley, add to this our ability to use Mankele as and when gives us unique riding spaces to enjoy with trails for all abilities!

ROAD For 2017 there will be dedicated road rides every Saturday from Halls Gateway, we already have quite bunch of riders participating and it will be opened up for all from this year. The ride is supported by a back up vehicle so you can have extra kit or nutrition on board for those longer epics!

All the rides will be communicated via SMS so keep checking your phone and if you aren't getting any then please check with Sandy that we have your number correct.

Cheers Brett.

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