

Date: July 2005

Object: Customer Report on 650 cc Joyner Buggy.

Author: Australian Customer.

Well the moment had finally happened, 4.30pm Friday the 650cc Joyner arrives at my work. With the work day nearly over and plans for the evening, the best I got was to get the top of the crate with the new red SS 650 Joyner in. Saturdays is normally my day of leisure or shopping with the wife buying furniture for the new house but, this Saturday was different, at work waiting was a new project. Normally my morning starts with a kiss and cuddle for the wife, but not this morning as there was a new girl in town and she was forgotten.

7.00am came and I was off to the workshop to start with the assembly, with a move of the tool box, the last mouthful of coffee, I was ready for task ahead. The assembly of the SS was a pleasure, the guys at the factory did a great job with the packaging and the instruction manual for assembly. I had help from an engineer next door who was supposed to be working on a special project all weekend of whom, once he saw the SS unpacked before him, could not help himself but get involved. My brother was there by 11.00am to help and the buggy was already 70% done.

Once the buggy was assembled, we added 20 liters of fuel, fitted the battery that was charged 30 minutes previous and vroom she started. At 40 years of age, after the turn of the key I was 16 again. Next to the workshop I was fortunate to have a small paddock where I could run the SS briefly. As the weather was bad and the wind cold, we arranged to meet Sunday for an adventure drive in the outback.

Sunday morning came and once again I was up and out of the bed fast much to the wives dismay. My brother has an on/off road buggy licensed for the road with a modified 173HP VW engine to drive and fiber glass body, we will refer to this as Herby the love bug. My brother with he's cowboy hat and sunglasses and me with a full face helmet we hit the trail. As we started off with Herby taking front spot, I could hear the theme in my head of the music from Top Gun when Maverick was going for the Top Gun title, I was ready for the big haul and a whole lot of fun.

With the Australian outback we are exposed to all track conditions, many 4wd tracks carved into the sand, gravel, sandy hills, shrubs with spikes and the friendly Australian fly. In the first half an hour it was a time to get to know my new girl and to be honest I thought she was a bit slow. Herby was clearly ahead with only dust in it's wake. We stopped at a local water hole to discuss the adventure as far and spin the wheels in the some mud. It was at this point my brother thought that something was wrong with SS.

After our second beer, we decided to pull the top of the cabby, with only 4 screws (don't be dirty) we found some fluff in the bowl. We put the top back on, advanced the timing slightly and the race was back on. On the flat ground Herby was a clear winner, with a VW 173HP and the driver mad as a hatter he was hard to find. On the sand and deep ruts carved out by the heavy 4WD's Herby was no match, whilst he was bouncing side to side trying hard to stay in line, SS was taking them in full stride, 3rd gear foot down, no deep tracks, sand or water holes were about to stop us, we were flying.

The great thing about this machine was if I didn't want to stay in the 4WD ruts, one small turn of the wheel and the SS carved a new line, no fuss, no steering wheel trying to pull out of my hand, just the direction I pointed her. Even the deep tracks was no match, with the skid plate SS skimmed over the top of mounds and wild shrubs like a flat pebble to a milk pond. Herby eat my dust.

After 4 hours driving and 20 liters originally in the tank, the game of cat and mouse came to an end. 4 hours of hitting the pedal hard, launching, swimming, carving up new ground or making easy work of existing SS brought me home. I stepped out of the SS with a feeling of satisfaction, my brother stepped out of he's buggy feeling like he had just done 12 rounds with Rocky, very sore.

Our next adventure is to travel by car 6.5 hours to a gold town called Kalgoorlie, where the red bull dust gets home before you do. :P Where the road ends the fun begins, a saying I picked up on this fantastic website

I have read the forums on this great site and my opinion regarding the SS is, fun, great suspension, roomy, fantastic for Australian outback. In regards to the engine, in some ways I am glad for the current power or there could have been some issues with trees and wildlife. However I am excited reading about the modifications to the engine and I am starting to look into some mods of my own. You guys and girls on here are helping me re-live my childhood and I cant wait to get stuck into some of the great ideas on upgrades.

I think we have to be aware of why we buggy, fun and adventure, don't take it all too serious, serious is for off road racers of whom money is no consideration and all about competition.