

# MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

## NEWSLETTER

May to July 2001

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Find more about us and the MCSA on the website: <http://www.mcsa.org.za/mcsahot>

## SOCI AL AND SLI DESHOW

20:00 hours on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May,

Ulli will give the slideshow titled “Don` t die in the Mountains”.

The evening starts at 19:30 for 20:00h at the Enviro-Centre in the Helderberg Nature Reserve. The theme is what and what not to do in the mountains. The slides were made some years ago by our section, but many of our members have never seen this audio-visual show.

For the social, we would like you to bring some snacks along.

## DRAKENSBERG - JULY CAMP 2001

at Kamberg from 7<sup>th</sup> July

The KWAZULU NATAL SECTION OF THE MCSA will again offer their famous July camp.

This year will be at Kamberg. The site is owned by KZN Wildlife and base camp will be next to the Mooi River. From this site parties will be able to traverse south to the Loteni and north to Giants and Injasuti or further.

The area is renowned for its Bushman paintings and many of them are not far from base camp.

For the climbers some routes on the Giant offer challenges particularly if there is some ice. The camp will run from **Saturday 7th July to Saturday 21st July**. Each member is expected to join and go out with one of the recognised parties. Children under 16 are not permitted.

The cost, paid in advance, will be **R45.00** per person per night, which includes permits, portorage and gratuities for the kitchen staff.

However, if you stay for one week (seven nights) the cost is only **R300** and for two weeks **R600.00**. Car owners must pay an extra R10 per week for parking and persons who are not members of a recognised Mountain Club, an extra R35. All food will be provided.

**CLOSING DATE:** Application forms and money must be returned on or before **4th June 2001**. Late entries will be accepted only if the camp is not fully booked.

**For entry forms, information and queries please contact: your Secretary or Chairman.**

**This will be their 81st camp - come and enjoy it with us**

### Final Call to pay your membership fee:

This year we will not wait again for those who pay the membership fee as late as September or October, but will scrap their membership end of this month.

<b>The membership fees for the year 2001 are as follows:</b>			
Single	R65	Couple	R85

Over 60's	R50	Over 60's couple	R75
Country	R55		
Junior	R50	Newsletter only	R20

## PAST MEETS

### **ROCK CLIMB AT STEENBRAAS MOUNTAIN**

4<sup>th</sup> March, Ulli Deutschländer

This one seems to become an annual event. The weather was not as chilly as last year when we lost half of the group returning to their wind-free houses. Unfortunately Wojitek injured himself badly on the walk up to the rock-face and returned frustrated after some first aid to have his wound stitched up. Wayne, Stephen and Kierran climbed happily their own advanced route, whilst the rest, including some guests from the CT section, experienced some old fashioned trad-climb. The route includes traversing, easy chimneys, some gardening and circumventing several quite brittle rockfaces. Frits, also took over some leading. Everyone helped to get the six climbers up and down before a spectacular sunset ended another glorious day at the Falsebay. For me, the views over the bay and the good old sandstone, always turn this climb into meditation with rock, sea, sky, wind and sun.

### **COASTAL WALK : ONRUS TO KLEINMOND**

11<sup>th</sup> February Adri Gericke

The walk was attended by a total of 16 walkers. It took about 50 minutes to move some of the cars to Vermont for a happy ending to the story. After a few very warm days we were lucky to start at Kleinmond under a thickish fog layer to protect us from most of the daily February ultra violet rays. The first half of the trip was under these conditions, but from the mouth of the lagoon the sun started coming through. We had a swim at Hawston and some sandwiches (closed breads for my Afrikaans friends) and continued along the coast with kelp and smells galore. We inspected the CPA holiday houses from a distance and all seemed kosher. No perlemoen smugglers were apprehended. The second half of the day had (as the English cricket commentators say) gloriously sunshine and some of the more experienced ones were fairly worried that the younger (read German) "Mit-Wanderer" was getting too much of old father sun on their backs, but as we know by now, the youth knows so much better. Some nice flowers and seashells were found near Vermont. The day was closed with a cold beer on the stoep of the hotel at Kleinmond.

### **STEENBRAAS RIVER MOUTH (Crystal Pools) -**

18<sup>th</sup> February, Mary Comrie

Twelve people met at the Checkers car park on a very windy day. As the hike to the main pool is only three quarters of an hour, most people wanted to explore further up the gorge. Some climbed to the top and over the other side, while a couple stayed at the pool. After losing a couple of members (and thanks to the Polish contingent and to Jeff for going to the rescue), we all ended up back at the big pool, swam and had lunch. We were entertained by youngsters leaping off the high rocks into the pool and decided to start going back, as literally hordes of kids started arriving (presumably without permits). We stopped and swam at pools on the way back as the wind had died down and it was very hot. An enjoyable day!

### **ANNUAL SERVICE OF THE MCSA AT MACLEARS BEACON**

25<sup>th</sup> February, Len Coles

A somewhat different route was chosen up the southern slopes of Table Mountain, led, by Oliver, a friend of David's. Our group of eleven, all classified as over 50's, left Upper Paradise Road, heading for Hiddingh Ravine. Two members got left behind as the party set off (no names mentioned), apparently to re-park one of the cars. With such a maze of paths, the two late starters took a different route, eventually catching up with the rest at the contour path, with the help of some modern technology (cell phones). From Hiddingh Ravine, we negotiated Ascension Ravine and the Pulpit. What a challenge for us oldies, having to make use of a safety rope and also having to watch out for loose boulders, one having struck one of our party. The weather was lovely, with plenty of shade. Due to the lack of a distinct path and the nature of the route, we only reached the top of the mountain after six hours of climbing, much too late for the service. Two of our party returned via the cable car, while the rest opted for Skeleton Gorge. An easier route will no doubt be planned for next year.

**"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!**

**Live the life you've imagined."**

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

### **MORDENAARS KOP**

18 March 2001, Stephen Tilleman

The weather in Grabouw was overcast and drizzling slightly but those brave enough headed off from Eikenhof country club to concur Moordenaars Kop. Ulli left us early in the day to go visit his daughter in Kleinmond while the rest of us headed up the steep forestry roads and then along Buys se pad. At the neck below Moordenaars Kop we were supposed to head up along an old emergency path but due to the fact that the weather was terrible and that we could not see the path we decided to walk the circular route. At the T-junction of the tar road heading up Hans-se-kop Howard, Jeff and myself decided to go for glory instead of just going home. We headed up the Hans-se-kop along the tar road. Howard had too much energy and began running up the mountain, I couldn't let him get away and so I ran after him. Those of us that walked/ran up there were very glad that we did. The day was enjoyed by all and we all went home tired.

### **HELDERBERG TO JOHNSON HUT**

24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March, report by Noeline Francis

On the morning of 10th March, eighteen members and friends met at the Helderberg Nature Reserve, in good weather, and set off for the gorge. At the gate (start of the two roads leading up to the gorge), a slight altercation arose as to which route was better; to the left the slope was milder, and to the right the route was quicker. Our leader, Mike O'Keefe gave us the choice, and so we split in half, the group taking the right route arriving much before their compatriots who took the left route.

After a short break and a drink we set off along the Helderberg, all being well until we had to traverse almost straight up the mountain with not much of a pathway. With much moaning and groaning, we arrived at a leafy gorge high up on the Helderberg, and after a short stop to wait for the stragglers we set off along the contour road of the Hottentots Holland range.

A short break for lunch and then another stop to view the rock painting about half way on the route. We then made our way to Diepgat, a distance of eighteen kilometers (we understand from our members with their GSP's). By this time the party was strung out along the way, the back enders arriving about an hour behind the leaders.

A good swim and then the braai was started with much entertainment from two particular young men, using "traditional" methods to braai sausages by threading eight pork sausages through a stick and hanging them on supporting forked sticks over the fire. The sausages being successfully cooked in record time, and all who predicted it would not work, having being made to publicly apologize, everyone turned in for a fairly early night.

On Sunday morning bright and early we made our merry way to the Johnsons hut, a distance of approximately five kilometers and a nice cup of hot tea. As we reached the cars dark clouds started forming, heralding the start of autumn, and hopefully some much needed rain for the Western Cape.

### **UITSPANKRAAL, BIEDOUW RIVER VALLEY**

Fritz Scheffler 27 April to 1 May

Owing to problems finding accommodation in the Cedarberg, the venue was changed to the farm Uitspankraal in the Biedouw River Valley where seven members and two prospective members arrived on Friday afternoon. The next morning the weather was pleasantly cool and we had a beautiful walk up Watervalkloof, eagles circling above us. We went as far as the waterfall, which was quite dry although there were small pools of water lower down. Leaving the kloof, we returned to the farmhouse via the crest S.E. of the kloof. On the Sunday morning while following the Doring river we stopped to investigate the ruins of a shepherd's shelter, beautifully built with natural stone walls and thatched roof, when the party was startled by the sudden appearance of a wild man clad only in animal skins and bones. Fortunately it proved to be a benevolent witchdoctor called Ulli-Ulli who made some weird and wonderful predictions

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after throwing his bones. Continuing along the river, we reached Bakleikraal kloof without any fighting. Above the river embankment we found the remains of workshop from stone age people and found several stone axes, scrapers and arrow points. We followed the kloof for a distance, then went over the top and across rugged stony terrain, to reach the farmhouse in a thirsty condition. We spent the evenings chatting and singing at the braai fire and several enjoyed sleeping outside under the wide and wondrous African sky. The next day more than half the party had to depart, the remaining four lucky ones stretching the weekend still further with a leisurely morning stroll, a swim in the river and returning home on Tuesday. A most enjoyable extra long weekend.

## **REPORT – MONTAGUE WEEKEND ( Hiking and Rock climbing)**

30<sup>th</sup> April, Richard Loos

Friday evening saw eight club members and one visitor, Fiona from Berlin, gathered at De Bos in what was unusually cool weather for Montague at this time of the year. We settled in "the Barn" which proved to be very comfortable dormitory style accommodation, the only exception being Ron who kept the side up by camping.

Saturday morning being overcast with a low cloud base we did the Cogmanskloof Trail. After a steep initial ascent to approximately 500 m height it was downhill most of the way offering views of Montague town as well as various kloofs and mountains in the vicinity. The trail wound back on itself which gave us an extra hour's unexpected exercise, however we still managed to arrive back at De Bos in good time to have an afternoon sleep.

Apart from the hiking, Stephan and his rockclimbing group were active on the bolted slabs near town, where they were joined by Fiona who was introduced to sports climbing. They joined us at braai time, then went to investigate the nightlife in the surrounding towns. The "forty plus" age group did not join them.

After a good nights sleep on comfortable beds the party awoke cheerfully on Sunday morning and we were on our way before eight. Bobby and Noeline unfortunately had minor orthopedic problems and decided not to join us on the Bloupunt Trail. Stephen and his group went off in the opposite direction to do some "trad" rockclimbing.

The weather being overcast helped for the long uphill toil to Bloupunt which took about four hours. The cloud lifted as we ascended and we were rewarded with good views in all directions over the Breë river Valley and the Little Karoo. We had lunch in a sheltered spot below the summit and then began the long descent, which gets fairly steep as on re-enters the Kloof. We saw evidence of Black Eagle's nests on the cliffs which tower above one on the lower sections of the trail. We also saw klipspringer and dassies but not much in the floral line, probably due to the dry weather since the last fire. Back in the Kloof things were not so dry when we were caught in a thunderstorm but we dried out on the road to De Bos. After a quick shower we had to face the Sunday afternoon traffic for the trip home after an enjoyable weekend.

## **THE CLIMBING AND MOUNTAINEERING MEET - IN NAMIBIA**

**Easter 2001**

What a feast of activities were offered to us, from hiking through African bush, past huge boulders of orange granite, to sport climbing multitudes of rockfaces and then the highlights of big wall climbing, The desert sun, thunderstorms starry nights, campfires, stories, songs, fun and very good friends rounded the experience of this fabulous get together of over 70 mountaineers from Namibia, South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe in the Namib desert under the quiet giant Spitzkoppe.

After some days of practicing on the for us unknown granite, with half a finger holds instead of handholds, we went onto the "normal route" of the Spitzkoppe, first scrambling up, squeezing us through dark chimneys, abseiling to circumvent steeper rockfaces, ogling up and down the erotically curved immense orange walls, friction climbing the higher, very exposed boulder type

rock, getting stuck in another chimney and laughing with euphoric joy on the top of the last pitch, having finally conquered this immense beauty of nature.

It was good to be with Fiona, Howard, Kierran and Stephen, who travelled the many miles from the Cape, swam over the mighty Orange river, camped and climbed with me. Ulli

### Mount ain Club News / snippets

- The **Annual dinner** , hosted by the Stellenbosch section will be at “de`l Aire” (Helshoogte) on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001
- There will be a show of the **BANFF best films** on 18<sup>th</sup>,19<sup>th</sup> October in Capetown .
- An **electronic Journal index** is now available on the WEB site <http://mcsa.org.za> covering the 1894 to 1991 Journals.
- The editor for the proposed book “**History of Mountaineering**” is still expecting material from members. Could we have some **feedback** if you would be interested in such a book?
- **Mount Kilimanjaro** has lost 82% of the ice cap it had when it was surveyed in 1912.
- 70 drug smugglers from Lesotho turned **Drakensberg** into a **battle field** in a lengthy shootout with police,soldiers and conservation rangers. Better duck and run when you are hiking though the firing line.
- Cherry is on the way to Gundula to climb together in the Atlas mountains , Morocco.
- if you want to climb in June with SA climbers in north west Mocambique, check the Web.
- Joy and Gavin Bell went to Bristol, England for a year
- Eddie and Elizabeth Busse, founder members of our section are emigrating to New Zealand.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Some tourists were helped down the Helderberg after they got lost there.

### JOHNSON HUT

**Ron du Toit** is our hut convenor. He can be contacted at 852 3867 (h) for hut bookings, which should be done at least 3 working days in advance. The hut fees are R5.00 per member, R10 for non members and R3. per child under 18.

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### Access to Cape Nature Conservation (WCNCB) Areas :

The new TELEPHONE Nr. In Bellville is 945 4570/71 Fax:945 3456

**For trails at Nuweberg** ( Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve) you can book now directly at the gate there or phone 028 840 4301/2, 028 840 4826

### **Please carry your permit and membership card with you at all times!**

If the club permits are not available, and/or if non members are in the party, the required fees must be paid at the WCNCB booking office. Our Year Permit is also valid for Wilderness areas.

**MCSA car stickers** and felt badges are available from the secretary in English or Afrikaans. Phone Noeline at 851 3190.

### **Update on Voyager Miles scheme:**

Another appeal to members to join the SAA Voyager Scheme (all it takes is filling in a form from any travel agent) and then sending on the membership number to Fran. The procedure to be followed when booking is:

Booking can only be made through SAA to SAA destinations (overseas or local).

Only individual reservations - no groups.

Once the reservation has been made, send the details to Fran, including booking code. She will arrange for payment to be made. When this is done the ticket must be collected within 24 hours. Airport tax to be paid in cash when collecting ticket.Let Fran know you have collected the ticket. Then send the payment to the Hon Treasurer - Lester Coelen.

**E-mail Fran at [Highlife@iafrica.com](mailto:Highlife@iafrica.com)**

then the MCSA could gain free air miles for expeditions and travel to climbing competitions.

**WELCOME** as prospective members:Drs. Viljoen and Stinel Thom and as new member: Francois van Niekerk.

"... he had gained his remarkable proficiency on slab and serac not by battling against the natural world but by embracing it. The mountain was not an enemy; it was an enchanted realm of peace and harmony, entered into a spirit of communion..."

David Roberts about the great climber Gaston Rebuffat

## MEETS LIST MAY to JULY 2001

- WORK MEET AT THE JOHNSON HUT** **Saturday / Sunday , 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
Please contact the Hut Convenor for details of departure at Vergelegen. The hut roof will have to be repainted. We will need some able hands to finish this job before more winter rains set in. What about some Glühwein for the evening!  
Ulli Deutschländer 8875393(h)
- WOOD BUTTRESS, Table Mtn.** **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
A popular B rock scramble with a visit to the Tranquility Cracks and climbing down Corridor.  
Frits Ensink 854 6911
- SOCI AL / SLI DESHOW helderberg n. r. (see front page) 20hours Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May**
- SIMONSTOWN to SMITSWINKELBAY** **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
Pictures high traverse from Simons Town up Swartkop (678m) and walk to Smitswinkel Bay. Beautiful fynbos and great views. Bring water bottles. Reasonable level of fitness required.  
Fritz Scheffler 855 2718, 082 8790303
- PERDEKOP-GREYTON** **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
Climb up Perdekop or Abdulskop, depending on fitness of the party. Beautiful views over the rolling hills of the Overberg.  
Alfons Kiefer: 028 2549477 or 0825345045
- DRAGON BUTTRESS -** **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
Fairly strenuous and longish, but an interesting and varied climb with some mild scrambling. Dragon Peak may be climbed but the real highlight is the spectacular view into the Duiwels - Kloof.  
Ulli Deutschlander, 808 3365 (w) 8875393(h)
- SLANGHOEK RIDGE PEAK** **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
Bains Kloof area, above Bobbejans Kloof. ...-berg may be climbed. The Club hasn't been there for a number of years. A full days walk.  
Mike Clemenson 8554229(H) 073 140 9780
- PANORAMA ROUTE, Jonkershoek** **Public holiday! Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
Popular circular route in Jonkershoek, with the option for the not so fit, to go down Kurktrekker.  
Len Coles, 762 8873 (h) 083 2616373
- CONSTANTIA BERG** **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
Traverse from Nordhoek over Chapmanspeak and down to the Manganese Mine (bring a torch) and past the Old Fort.  
Ralph Raad 683 5506 or 083 261 1952
- DASSIESHOEK TRAIL, Robertson** **Weekend 30<sup>th</sup> June/1<sup>st</sup> July**  
Stay Friday at the trail hut at Silverstrand. Saturday a gentle 23km walk to Dassieshoek's lovely social farmhouse. Sunday pleasant 15km walk back to Silverstrand.  
Booking by 29<sup>th</sup> May!!! Ron Northey 855 3074
- JULY CAMP – DRAKENSBERGE – NATAL** **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July**  
See front page and phone Ulli for more information and entry forms
- LEFT FACE B ROUTE , Table Mtn.** **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**  
B – type easy rock scramble , going down India Venster  
Frits Ensink 854 6911
- VICTORIA PEAK** **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July**  
Some snow will really make this pleasant climb worthwhile (bring plasticsheets and pray for snow). A long, fairly strenuous day, with some nice walking across vlaktes after a fair amount of the normal upwards climbing.  
John Saunders 851 5530
- KOUE BOKKE VELD – Geelberg & Bakenkop** **WEEKEND 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Camp at the cars, climb to smaller Geelberg on Saturday afternoon and to Bakenkop on Sunday. Splendid views of the Olifants River valley. Reasonable fitness essential.

Di Wilson 797 6631

### **HOUWHOEK PEAK**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**July** A relatively mild day in the mountains above the well known Inn. Long views from this lesser known, but interesting peak.

Adri Gericke 852 1912 (h)