

# MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2001 to JANUARY 2002

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

## JOINT MEET – WESTERN CAPE SECTIONS:

Hosted by the Stellenbosch section  
10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> November 2001

Saturday: Meet at the Jonkershoek gate 7h30.  
Camping on the Dwarsberg plateau.  
Climbing Victoria peak and Emerald Dome.  
Contact: Teuns Kok 487 2315 (w), 883 8946 (h)  
E-mail [tkok@cmc.gov.za](mailto:tkok@cmc.gov.za)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2001  
18h30 for 20h00

**Everybody please keep this date open!**

The AGM of the Hottentots Holland Section will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the **Environmental Centre**, Helderberg Nature Reserve.

A bring and braai will start at 18h30. Drinks will be provided.  
A slide show of the past year's meets will be held after the AGM.

## SOCIAL AND SLIDE SHOW

20h00 on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Ulli will give a slide show titled “**My holiday in Morocco and France**”.  
The evening starts at 19h30 for 20h00 at the Enviro-Centre in the Helderberg Nature Reserve.  
For the social, we would like you to bring some snacks along.

**“Action may not always bring happiness, but there is no happiness without action.”**

Benjamin Disraeli

## PAST MEETS

### **PANORAMA ROUTE, JONKERSHOEK**

Len Coles, 16th June

Who thought we could have such a great day in the middle of winter. Instead of snow, we were blessed with lots of sunshine and hardly a breath of wind. Our party consisted of 7 members and two eager prospective members. We opted to take the "Kurktrekker" route. On the way we stopped to admire the waterfalls, where Ulli filled us in on a tragic climbing accident that happened some years back. As we approached the top of our route, most of us just stood there, mouths gaping, as two young ladies, wearing the barest essentials, came jogging past us at great speed, followed by their male chaperons. It appeared that the ladies could have been practising for some triathlon event. We also observed birds of another kind, those with beautiful songs and those, like the black eagle, soaring majestically overhead. On our way to Swartboskloof, we noted that the route signboards, which had been badly damaged during the fire some years back, had still not been replaced. We chose a lovely spot for lunch where we could thoroughly absorb the tranquility and beauty of nature, far away from the maddening crowd. It was from this spot that we went out in search of Diepgat cave, with its beautiful view of False Bay and beyond. It was an easy stroll down Swartboskloof. A great day had by all.

### **HOUWHOEK PEAK**

Adri Gericke, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2001

A group of 9 attended the climb. A permit for 12 maximum from Nature Conservation was necessary. The weather was clear and cool with a very cold southeastern wind blowing at the top. There was no lingering at the peak and the descent quick. The mountains are not seldom climbed, I was told, but it is very easy to climb and some variation possible.

### **HELDERBERG**

Cherry Deutschländer, 5<sup>th</sup> August

It must have been an all time RECORD for our Section, to have Stinel's and Viljoen's 10 day old baby GIDO on a hike up the Helderberg! 14 adults and children (baby included) joined me on an absolute glorious winter's day. I think for most of the group it was interesting to see how quick and easy it is to get to the "top" of the mountain (sort of). We had a picnic near West Peak and then we split up in three groups: some to explore further, me to go down via the Nature Reserve and others straight down again. It was fun and should be done regularly.

### **NURSERY BUTTRESS**

Viljoen Thom, 19<sup>th</sup> August

The weather was too bad for a rock scramble above Kirstenbosch and so an ascent by five brave ones up Nursery Ravine was followed by a visit to the Restaurant below.

### **AASVOELKOP (Hermanus)**

Adri Gericke, 15<sup>th</sup> September

The start was somewhat slow with concessions made to ones that wanted a longer night's sleep and bachelors that needed a farm stall to buy some "koeksisters" for lunch. A windless cloudless day after promises of rain and a few walkers to arrive, for a beautiful walk with fynbos and flowers that could not be beaten anywhere. Remember mid-September for a Fernkloof visit.

The peak was a joy to climb and the paths in the reserve kept in excellent condition. There is no need for a permit to visit the reserve and no number restrictions. We were back at the parking area at 16h00 and after some coffee and ice cream on our routes homewards. Die leier het die vuurpeloton tuis net-net vrygespring, nadat hy 'n paar ompaaie geloop het saam met 'n paar onverbonde manne.

### **KOUE BOKKEVELD WEEKEND**

Ulli Deutschlander/Ralph Raad, 22/23/24<sup>th</sup> September

Ralph managed to get some 40 people, from different sections of the MCSA and The Ramblers into The Zooridge area, this inspiring world of sculptures, formed by the wind and rain through sandstone erosion. Walking through this "Natural Art Gallery" one's comparative's imagination was tickled with hundreds of views of different rock sculptures. Some saw animals or cartoon figures in it, others saw beautiful human body parts displayed here in most sensuous form. To stop our dreaming a sanddigger warns us with her pop eyes all camouflaged in grey sand coloured markings. The party and singing was good, till deep in the night and I tried my best to keep the singers tune right with my mouth organ. Next day, in 3 groups, over the vlaktes and down to the river side! Steep descent, but beautiful vistas. The Witriver: a torrent, full of energy and joyfully gliding over the boulders, waterfalls and through tunnels. It was a good feeling

wrestling with the currents in the cool water. Everybody happy in this most beautiful nature scenery! Ralph takes a group down the river for a recci. Too difficult to cross the wild river several times with the packs on, so we discard the idea to travel downstream. After slogging up the hill we could walk to the camp site with the apple trees in white blossoms.

### **SURPRISE WALK**

Ulli Deutschlander ,30<sup>th</sup> September

When I stopped below the Kramat at Macassar, my team first didn't want to get out of their cars, till I convinced them that they will be all safe with friendly Muslims around there. Then we "climbed" the steps up to the holy place, where Sheik Jussuf by the "colonizing" Hollanders here in exile from his Batavian islands some 400 years ago was the first to read the Koran to his followers. From there we went on to the Wolvegat Nature Reserve, with its fantastic Cliffs, populated by yelling seagulls

### **STOEKES PASS, Hottentots Holland Mountains**

Helmut Meyer, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Starting from Eikenhof dam through the forests up Stoekes pass, we reached the plateaus in quite windy conditions; but Ulli convinced us with John Ruskins sayings that "there is no bad weather, but just different types of good weather" and so we walked all Helmut's shortcuts wrestling with the wind. Whilst having a very fast lunch break, Ulli entertained us with songs and his little bamboo flute. Although a somewhat strenuous hike, tough Elaine was still chatting all the way downhill and Helmut proved to be a good leader and so we celebrated the day in the next farmstall with coffee and ice creams.

### **THE TWINS, JONKERSHOEK**

Ulli D.and Frits Ensink, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

We convinced everybody to climb the south face route, even against the silent opposition of Noeline. With the help of a rope, Frits and Stephen we got the whole group safely over the sometimes-difficult rock face. There was much cheering when we arrived at the top of the Twins, for some the first ascent (Noeline and Ruth) of this beautiful mountain. We went down the Fensterbank route and couldn't resist climbing on top of the rocks above the grand window. The Nerina gorge was fascinating as ever with overwhelming tree ferns, like a little "Garden of Eden". Pity that Noeline's knee packed up with all the downhill. Celebrated our successful ascent with a big chocolate cake down in the valley.

### **DIEPGAT CAVE WEEKEND**

Len Coles, 20/21st October

Our group of 5 consisted of 3 HH members from Cape Town, plus Oliver from CT Section and Richard from Grabouw. Again, we seemed to be the 50 plus brigade, 4 of us having done Hiddingh Ravine together in February (see MCSA Annual Service report). Starting along the Swartboskloof path at Jonkershoek at 13:00, it was a fairly easy hike up to the viewpoint overlooking False Bay and the Peninsula. Arriving at Diepgat Cave at 18:00, we soon settled down to enjoy the fantastic view and reminisced about the days long past. Richard told us about the days during his youth, nearly forty years ago, when they used Diepgatkloof to gain access to the HH mountains, also visiting the cave then. I myself had done this trip about 13 years ago as a member of Jack's party. The cave sheltered us from the chilly wind outside and we spent a comfortable night there.

Sunday dawned bright and beautiful. Setting off at 8:30 down Diepgat kloof, the source of the Lourens River, it was a relief to get off the treacherous scree. Hugging the left side on the way down, we boulder hopped in and alongside the fast flowing stream, (2 hours 30 min). Turning left up the first kloof, we had doubts about whether it was indeed Staircase (Trappies), there being no resemblance of a stepped path. The ascent of staircase took about 5 hours, far longer than anticipated, but it was so beautiful and worthwhile. Both streams had an abundance of waterfalls, pools, rapids, tree ferns, interesting plants and flowers.

Entering Sneekop Gorge, we started our next decent. There wasn't much time to look for Chipaway Cave, but vowed to find it on another occasion. With no path in sight at first, the going was rather taxing. What a relief to arrive at the causeway where the kloof meets the forestry road, (2 hours 30 min). A further hour or so hiking, mostly in the dark, took us back to the parked bakkie, a total of 11 hours, 30 min for the day. Overall, they were two strenuous days, in excellent company, in exquisite scenery. Do join us early next year, especially some younger folk, we could possibly start at the Johnson Hut, and do a round trip.

## Mountain Club News / snippets

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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?

**MCSA Calendars** will again be produced for the year 2002. It is hoped that the Department of Environmental Affairs will endorse the publication in view of 2002 being UN 'International Year of the Mountains', and with this added incentive it is hoped that sales will be increased.

Every effort will be made this time to distribute by the end of October. We will be covering 'Mountains of Africa' and some stunning slides have been selected of most of Africa's mountain ranges. It is hoped that more corporate orders can be concluded, and anybody with corporate influence for the ordering of calendars should please contact me ASAP! The price for the Multi Page Gift Calendar will be R 65.00 each and the Single Page Gift Calendar, R 18.50 each.

### **ROCKCLIMBING**

**Stephen Tilleman** is responsible for rock meets. Contact him at **082 548 8414**

### **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**Wayne Kitney** is our new rescue Convenor ! His cell phone is **082 335 3896**

Ulli wants to thank all those who helped at the BOLAND 90 challenge

### **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.

### **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 new members:** Rene` Auer and Jacques Jordaan

## MEETS LIST November 01 to January 2002

### JOINT MEET, JONKERSHOEK

**Saturday / Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Come along and meet members of other sections of the MCSA! This Year the host is the Stellenbosch Section. Camping Saturday on the Dwarsberg Plateau, climb Victoria Peak and Emerald Dome. Bring :Tent, membership card, food, cooker etc. Leave 7:30h at Jonkershoek Gate  
Teuns Kok 487 2315 w , 883 8946 h or email [tkok@cmc.gov.za](mailto:tkok@cmc.gov.za)

### KOGELBERG CIRCUIT

**Sunday, 18 November**

A long day (25kms); reasonable level of fitness required. Circular route through magnificent fynbos area with last hour along the Palmiet River.  
Richard Loos 859 0366 or 852 7427

### THE LEDGES, TABLE MOUNTAIN

**Sunday, 25 November**

Climbing up Silverstroom Ravine and traversing to the ledges, then a short rock section, circumventing the tourist areas, we hike to Fountain Ledges and then return over Yellowstone Gully.  
Viljoen Thom 8555647, 072 1786918

### KOGELBERG(1268m)

**Saturday/Sunday, 1/2December**

Meet Saturday afternoon and camp under the stars near the summit. Climb the peak on Sunday and return for an early afternoon braai at Steenbras Dam.  
John Saunders 851 5530

### RIVIERSONDERDEND/ SUICIDE KLOOFS

**Sunday, 9th December**

It has been a while since the Club went down these kloofs. The more adventurous members in the group will part company at the Red Hat Crossing and head for Suicide Kloof .  
Wayne Kitney 082 335 3896

### CEDARBERG

**Long Weekend 15/16/17 December**

Camping in Sanddrif, we will do routes up to Sneeuberg, Tafelberg and Wolfberg arch.  
Stephen Tillemans 0825488414

### DU TOITS RIVER - Franschoek Pass

**Sunday, 23rd December**

An easy, short and fun kloofing trip. Strops and takkies are fine.  
Ulli Deutschlander 887 5393

### WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT YEAR 2002 - ULLI AND COMMITTEE

### DU TOITS PEAK

**Sunday, 6 January**

A feast for the mountaineer up the nearly 2000m high peak overlooking all the over peaks around. Fitness required!  
Neil Hoy 8516862

### KROM RIVER - Du Toits Kloof

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> January**

Shortish walk along the river and later in a magic kloof with hanging fern gardens and bright red Disas this time of the year. Lovely pools culminating in an enormous one. A small section of rock scrambling otherwise no particular difficulties.  
Noeline Francis 851 3190

### COASTAL WALK, QUOIN POINT TO DIE DAM

**Sunday, 20 January**

A lot shorter than the previous walk from Pearly Beach. An easy day's walk along the coast, east of Danger Point/Gansbaai.  
Adri Gericke 852 1912

### WOLFKLOOF - Franschoek area

**Sunday, 27 January**

Something new! We have not previously been up this kloof . It will involve in a fair amount of rock scrambling but are rewarded by lovely pools and waterfall (plus disas) at the end.

Dependant on where we are allowed to park the cars, may be a longish day.

Mike Clemenson 855 4229

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION OF  
THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Friday 23<sup>TH</sup> November 2001, 18:30 for 20:00 h**

**At the *ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE,*  
*HELDERBERG NATURE RESERVE, SOMERSET WEST.***

**AGENDA**

000: Bring and Braai from 18:30 to 20:00

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurers' Report
6. Search & Rescue Co-ordinator's Report
7. Johnson Hut Report
8. Amendment to the constitution
9. General
10. Election of the Committee for 2002
11. Slide show of past meets in 2001

All members and visitors are welcome to join us for a:

**BRING and BRAAI from 18:30h to 20h00**

Drinks provided by the Club.

Members are requested to bring a plate of eats to supplement the snacks.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION OF  
THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**ELECTION OF 2001 COMMITTEE  
NOMINATION FORM**

Notice is hereby given that the above meeting will take place on

**FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2001 at 18h30 for 20h00**  
in the ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE,  
HELDERBERG NATURE RESERVE, SOMERSET WEST.

Nominations are invited for the honorary offices of:  
Chairperson  
Vice-Chairperson  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Plus 3 other Committee Members  
and must reach the Secretary on or before the 8th November 2001.

Each nomination must clearly indicate the name of the nominee, the office to which he/she is nominated, the name of the proposer and seconder, and it must be countersigned by the nominee as an indication of acceptance.

Please use the form below and detach by cutting along the dotted line.  
If you wish to make more than one nomination, photocopies are acceptable.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The following amendment to the constitution will have to be voted for:  
"The membership fees will include the annual journal of the MCSA"

.....  
NOMINEE'S NAME (please print).....

OFFICE TO WHICH NOMINATED .....

PROPOSED BY (Sign and print) .....

SECONDED BY (Sign and print) .....

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE .....

DATE