

# MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2002

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Find more about us and the MCSA on the website: <http://www.mcsa.org.za/mcsahot>  
and in the UIAA website: [www:uiaa.ch](http://www:uiaa.ch)

## HEX RIVER 2002

### A WESTERN CAPE MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE:

#### Hosted by the Stellenbosch section

#### Easter Weekend 28<sup>th</sup> March to 1st April 2002

The rugged terrain and spectacular kloofs are a wilderness experience not to forget.

1 day and multi day hikes of varying degrees.

Basecamp on "Erfdeel" Farm in your own tent or by hiring a bunkbed from the farmer: tel (023 3122282)

Application forms attached with this Newsletter!

Contact: Elsbeth Verhoeven 021 887 4113

E-mail [vchemie@sun.ac.za](mailto:vchemie@sun.ac.za)

**Closing Date 28<sup>th</sup> February**

### YEAR OF THE MOUNTAINS !!!

The United Nations proclaimed 2002 as International Year of Mountains (IYM) to increase International awareness of the global importance of mountain ecosystems. IYM promotes the conservation and sustainable development of the mountain regions.

Your section's committee invites you to come up with ideas and suggestions of how to create this awareness in our community, schools and local press right through this year.

### Demonstration of Hiking / Mountaineering Equipment:

An introductory evening about Hiking/Mountaineering will be held at the Sport Science Building , Hall A, Coetzenburg , Stellenbosch on Friday 28 February, 19h00

A short talk by Jannie Malan will be followed by a demonstration of hiking equipment by Dave Davies. Bring a friend along!

#### The membership fees for the year 2002 are as follows:

Single	R110	Couple	R130
Over 60's	R95	Over 60's couple	R120
Country	R100	Honorary & Life members	R45
Junior	R95	Newsletter	R20

**Please send your subs as soon as possible and we'll send you the 2002 sticker for your membership card. The fees also include the latest available journal, as voted for at the last AGM.**

Members who receive their journal through other sections should subtract R45, the same counts for juniors, who are children of a "Mountain club family". In case of doubt, phone Rene`.

## PAST MEETS

### KOGELBERG CIRCUIT

**18 November-Richard Loos**

After leaving Oudebosch we gained height by way of the scenic kloof leading to the valley behind Platberg. Taking our time through the indigenous trees we stopped for a breakfast break beside the stream before leaving the protection of the Oudebos. On the trek up the valley we experienced Scottish weather: overcast and slightly misty which later turned to light rain saturating the dense fynbos vegetation, resulting in our boots filled with water. We squelshed our way past Platbos, condition improving when we began descending towards Wynand Louw's bos. After a brief lunch-break we deviated to look at a rare colony of erica and then carried on to the jeep track next to Louw's river. It was a relief to leave the track at the Palmiet river junction and take the path along the river, where the mimites were at their best, dominating the landscape. We arrived back at the cars after nearly 9 hours on the go in a state of semi exhaustion, everybody declaring it had been a good day in spite of the wet feet.

### THE LEDGES, TABLE MOUNTAIN

**25 November- Viljoen Thom**

Ons is die oggend vroeg weg, het begin stap by nuwelandsbos. Op die kontoerpad besluit ons toe om met Hiddings Ascension op te stap, wat n lang en harde klim is. Op die preekstoel het ek en Jaques op n groot klip langs n krans gaan sit, toe dit skielik beweeg. Bo gekom het ons met Carrels Legde na die bopunt van The Ledges gestap, waar ek en Francious geswem het. Oppad af het ons 5 Himalayan thars teegekome, waarvan een n lammetjie was. Ons is af met Ledges tot by the saddle, en verder tot onder met Newlands Ravine.

### KOGELBERG(1268m)

**1 & 2 December- John Saunders**

The weather forecast for Cape Town for the afternoon of 1 December was 70% chance of rain, but when our group of six met in Somerset West at 2 o'clock that afternoon, the sun was shining from an almost cloudless sky. The party comprised John Saunders, three Scouts from the 2nd Somerset West Troop, together with Di Wilson and friend, Lewis, from the Cape Town Section. We were to meet Ulli and a Belgian student, Ruth, at Steenbras, after they had dropped a friend at the Airport. The intention was to leave Steenbras at 3 o'clock and to climb to the Neck about 1 hour's hike below the summit of the Kogelberg, where we were to spend the night before completing the ascent and a circular route back to Steenbras on Sunday morning.

Unfortunately, or, as it turned out, fortunately, it was after half past four before Ulli and Ruth joined us, by which time there was a distinct change in the weather. The expected cold front had arrived! We decided, therefore, to spend the night at Steenbras and review the situation in the morning. Well, it RAINED that night and was still raining at 6 o'clock on the Sunday morning.

By 7.30, however, there were signs of it clearing so we set off, knowing that we had a long day ahead of us. After 2 hours of stop - start hiking, during which we had progressed about 5 km, Di decided that, as she had a function to attend in Cape Town that evening, she would have to return. She and Lewis accordingly left us at that point to return via the Forestry Road. The rest of us headed off into the cloud, the base of which was about 900m, and there we stayed until 2 o'clock with occasional rain and with visibility sometimes reduced to a few metres. We reached the summit at 1 o'clock, where we had a hasty lunch before descending via the north ridge, it being impossible to see the more direct route down the west flank of the mountain.

When, eventually, we could see what lay ahead of us, we quickly joined the road and completed the 9 or so km back to Steenbras in steadily improving weather. Looking back, the Kogelberg remained shrouded in dark cloud. Maybe this year?

### CEDARBERG

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

We camped at Sanddrif: enough men for two campsides, but no girls for the boys! Till later Ulrike Kiefer arrived, who got them working by leaving them her kayak : Eskimo rolls over and over! Till at least Kierran got the technique right! The mountains looked down on them patiently, whilst Ulrike, Hans-Peter and Ulli climbed "Satisfaction guaranteed" an interesting grade 18 route with lots of variables. Stephen climbed a tough 19 route, called "Omega" with Hans Peter. But on other days we hiked up the Wolfsberg Cracks and abseiled in the Wolfsberg Arch (for fun and for tourist's photos? So, Ulli chatted up some German girls to join in with the abseiling

and to come along on next weeks kloofing trip; what they did). The rest of the time was spent “chilling out” at the Maalgat Pool and at the campfires in good company.

### **DU TOITS RIVER - Franschoek Pass**

**23rd December- Ulli Deutschlinder**

That was a kloofing trip full of fun and sunshine in a lovely environment. After the first jump into the coldish water the “ice” was broken and everyone got used to the balancing over the boulders, contemplating here and there a leap from a slippery rock into the “tea water” and laughingly swam through deep channels. We had the brave Fourier’s from the Free state section as guests and three German girls with us, the latter found such kloofing really ‘kiff’, although they were a bit nervous as their plane for Europe left only a few hours later. Thanks to the generous help of Ulrike Kiefer (from the Jo-burg Section) even the most fearful managed to scramble down precipices and slide over wet boulders. The most fun probably had Nina’s little daughter Marsha, who got quickly more and more adventurous in the for her so unknown terrain.

### **DU TOITS PEAK**

**6 January - Neil Hoy**

We woke up at 6 in the morning to find it raining! It was decided by all not to go. The attempt in 2002 was also cancelled but we did climb up the first bit of the way. We arrived on the other side of the tunnel to find black clouds all around and lovely water falls on both sides of the mountains. We climbed up the first section of the mountain where we became unsure of our way in the clouds. The rain started coming down then too. It was decided it was safer to go down. The 4 of us were happy to be back at the car but disappointed not to have reached the top of Du Toits peak.

### **ELANDS RIVER - Du Toits Kloof**

**13 January- Noeline Francis**

Having been told by CNC that unfortunately the Kromrivier gorge was fully booked for Sunday 13th, nine of us set off up the Elandskloof which is on the opposite side of the highway from the start of the Kromrivier hike. It was a beautiful day, and we followed the course of the river until it was time to cross. Usually an easy crossing in summer, but because of the heavy rains we had just had, the river was running fast, and some members had to be helped across, while other took a “dunking”. We made our way to a good spot to stop for lunch, dropped our bags and set off to see the magnificent series of waterfalls falling from high up in the mountain. We made our way up the lower series of mini waterfalls, dropping out one by one as the route became too difficult. Having been as far as we could (no one actually getting in site of the top waterfall) we scrambled back to the lunch stop, ate, swam, slept and chilled. Apart from our group the only other person we saw was a lone fly fisherman looking like he was straight out of a scene from “A River Runs Through It”. After lunch we reluctantly made our way back to the cars and civilization (!) A memorable day!!

### **COASTAL WALK, Buffeljagsbaai – Die Dam**

**20 January- Adri Gericke**

The walk was attended by a total of 17. We left Somerset West at 6h30 and were able to start walking at 9h00, after the vehicles were moved. It was made much shorter than the previous walk in this vicinity, that started at Pearly Beach. So, it was a rather short walking day with enough time for swimming. The beach is still unspoilt (except for the debris from ships) and the scenery splendid – strong aroma from the local seals. The weather was fine with a slight of breeze, picking up later in the day.

### **The joy of climbing well:**

The climber is face to face with the rock up which he wants to climb. To do this he must make certain gestures, just like a sculptor must, when working on his block of stone. There is a contact between the flesh of the man, controlled by his mind, and matter. That is the important point. Touching granite is pleasant and reassuring like touching a piece of fine wood. Perhaps there is even a sensual side to it. (Gaston Rebuffat, Starlight and Storm, 1954)

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### **KZN MOROCCO EXPEDITION**

From 4-25 April 2002, Gavin Raubenheimer will lead a trip for climbers and trekkers consisting of trekking through the High Atlas and rock climbing in the Todra and Dades Gorges. Time will be also spent in the Sahara and the ancient cities of Marrakesh, Fes and Casablanca. The trip will be done budget style using trains and other local transport. The airfares are R6500 (BA) depending where you fly from with in SA. (Moroccan air lines are cheaper and worth asking about). An extra R4000 will probably do all the rest. The Atlas mountains will still have snow on them and so warm gear will be needed. At some point the highest peak Jbel Toubkal (4167m) will be attempted. Contact Gavin: [peakhigh@futurenet.co.za](mailto:peakhigh@futurenet.co.za) or 082 9905876

**Summit Ventures** offers trips to the Himalayas, Everest and K2 Base camp, Mount Kenia / Kilimanjaro. Contact Ulli for details.

An **electronic Journal index** is available on the WEB site <http://mcsa.org.za> covering the 1894 to 1991 Journals.

**MCSA Calendars 2002:** Available through your secretary or from the CT office, Hatfield street Tel: 465 3412 the price for the Multi Page Gift Calendar is R 65 and the Single Page R 18,50.

### **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**  
There are quite regular rescue meets on Helderberg College, concerning ropework, helicopter approach, search strategy etc. Please phone in if you are interested to join.

***In case of an mountain accident phone: 082 677 66 66 or 082 956 56 66***

### **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 still valid for Wilderness areas. Even, if you have the club permit, you must still give the forester of the area a courtesy call !

**MCSA car stickers** and felt badges are available from the secretary in English or Afrikaans. Phone Rene' at 850015 (h) / cell:082 6989082

### **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).

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.

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

**WELCOME:** Nina Nezura and Elvira Holler as prospective and Jeff Longley as full member !

## MEETS LIST

February to April 2002

### WESSELSGAT

Sunday 3 February

A short kloofing trip in the Grabouw area - waterproof packs & suitable footwear essential.

Richard Loos 859 0366 after 29<sup>th</sup> January

### LOWER KROM RIVER, Du Toits Kloof

Sunday 10th February

A lovely and easy walk in fynbos along the Krom river with a magic big pool and high waterfall at its end.

Stephen Tillemans 0825488414

### SWARTBOSKLOOF, JONKERSHOEK

Weekend 16/17 February

A walk to see the disas in full bloom - sleep at the top of Swartboskloof, alternatively walk in very early on Sunday morning. Bring small tent or bivy bag.

Ron du Toit 852 3867

### ANNUAL SERVICE OF THE MCSA AT MACLEARS BEACON

Sunday 24 February

Len will choose a suitable route (Skeleton Gorge/Nursery Ravine) up to the summit of Table Mountain. This will be a good opportunity to meet up with members of other sections.

Len Coles 762 8873(h) 0832616373

### WORK MEET AT THE JOHNSON HUT

Sunday 3 March

Please contact the Hut Convenor for details.

Viljoen Thom 855 5647, 072 1786918

### HELDERBERG TO JOHNSON HUT

Weekend 9/10 March

Mike's annual traverse from the Helderberg Nature Reserve to the Johnson hut. Sleepover at the Diepgat campsite. Enjoy this sociable weekend during one of the best times of the year.

Mike O' Keefe 851 2300, 083 2283442

### BETTY'S BAY BEACH WALK

Sunday 17 March

Easy walk around Sea Farm to the Hangklip Lighthouse.

Mike Clemenson 855 4229

### CEDARBERG

Long Weekend: Thursday 21 March - Sunday 24 March

Rambling and climbing in the northern part of the Wilderness area, around the Krakadou berge and Heuningvlei. Another wilderness experience!

Ulli Deutschlander 887 5393

### HEX RIVER 2002 : SEE FRONT PAGE !!!

Easter: 28 March to 1 April

Applications close 28 February

### HELDERBERG

Easter Monday 1 April

A walk for those not going to the Hex River Mini Camp.

Rene' Auer 082 6989 or:8500015

### LANDDROSKOP

Weekend 6/7 April

Sleep at the Johnson Hut on Saturday evening. On Sunday, climb up behind the Hut past the Needles to the peak - fitness a prerequisite.

Viljoen Thom 855 5647, 072 1786918

### STELLENBOSCH VINEYARD TRAIL

Saturday 13 April

This trail in the Winelands (past Devon valley and over the soft hills above Kuilsriver) will commence at the Oude Libertas Centre. Bookings closes 10 April

Richard Loos 844 0366

### CAPE POINT BEACH WALK

Sunday 21 April

Away from the cars, an easy walk in the Nature Reserve. Should see some animals and birds. A dip in the sea should be still warm enough. Park fees apply.

Gudrun Anderson a/h 851 1475

### CHIPPAWAY CAVE AND BEYOND WEEKEND ADVENTURE

Sat/Sun 27/28 April

Meet Saturday morning (public holiday), stop over at the Johnson Hut (or stay over Friday night if you dare), on our way up to the cave, down Staircase and the lower portion of Diepgat Kloof, then a gentle walk back to the Hut. Be prepared for adventure and sleeping under the stars. A reasonable degree of fitness required.

Len Coles 762 8873, 083 2616373