

MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

NEWSLETTER

August to October 2002

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

THE ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 7th September

This year our Section is hosting the MCSA Annual dinner and we hope that many members of the country's sections will be joining us!

It will be held at the cosy Restaurant "*La Fineta*" which is half way between Somerset and Stellenbosch on the R44, at the Flying Club turnoff.

The cost for the dinner is R95.00

Please book your tickets long before the 24th August with Maoliosa o' Keefe:

maoliosa@westacre.co.za 8527035(w) 8512300(h)

or Ulli Deutschländer (contact: see NL-heading above)

Slideshow

Environmental Centre: Friday 20h00 2nd August

Dr Guillaume du Toit will share his adventures of an Expedition in the Karakorum

They were a team of four medical doctors and the chairman of the C.T. section climbing the challenging peak Spantik 7000m and trekking to the end of the Chomo Lungma glacier.

The Karakorum mountain range in Pakistan houses the largest collection of very high pinnacles and mountains in the world (K2, Broad peak, Gasherbrun...). The views must be awesome!

The slideshow will be held at the Environmental Centre of the Helderberg Nature Reserve.

Please bring some snacks, drinks will be provided by the Club.

MCSA GOLD BADGE AWARD to ED FEBRUARY

The Central Committee of the MCSA resolved unanimously that the Gold Badge of the Club be presented to Dr Edmund February in recognition of his services to the cause of mountaineering in South Africa over the past 30years: his opening and recording of numerous rock routes; his participation in and achievements on many overseas and African climbing expeditions; his promotion of climbing, by his encouragement and development of young and disadvantaged climbers; his active voluntary role as climbing ambassador to international groups, events and individuals; his energetic work over many years in conservation and his pioneering role in creating a social environment that welcomes all climbers.

PAST MEETS

CHIPAWAY CAVE / DIEPGAT GORGE ADVENTURE

27/ 28 April - Len Coles

In fine weather, the party of five, consisting of three older members and two young prospective members, left the hut at 09:00 on the Saturday, crossed the river and headed along the forestry road. Pausing briefly to gather themselves the group made their way up Sneekopkloof. The going was reasonably tough with no apparent path and quite a lot of debris and fallen trees. After two hours, several river crossings and about two thirds of the way up the kloof flattens and here the group turned left away from the river and headed up the steep slope through the light fynbos towards the top of Staircase. One of the objectives of the trip had been to find Chippaway cave and this we managed! Some investigation of the ridges on the left enabled us to lunch at the cave about 200 metres from the top. The cave is in good condition and still contains a fairly ancient canister of medical supplies and food - not to be relied on in emergencies! The next stage down Staircase was at first easy going, with plenty of flowing water around. The going then became somewhat heavier and after several slippery-rock accidents and having to traverse often to avoid some splendid looking waterfalls, we joined Diepgat Gorge. By now we had wondered if we would be spending the night propped up between boulders. Thirty minutes later, we came across the ideal spot, a rock-free, grassy enclosure surrounded by low rock walls, obviously built with some care many years ago, giving us the chance of a good night and the full moon as an added bonus. The next day we continued down the river for a couple of hours but decided that as we had not had enough adventure, a bit of bundu-bashing was required. Leaving the river on the right-hand side, we beat across fynbos and forest arriving with great skill in the middle of Picnic Bush. Following a long pause for lunch, we strolled back to the hut, some of us a little wide-eyed and others of us perhaps just a little wiser.

NOORDHOEK PEAK

12 May Neil Hoy

The six of us arrived at the start of the hike in cold windy weather. But fortunately we had little rain during the day. We walked up to the top of Noordhoek peak stopping at the lookout hut on the way. From the lookout we had spectacular views of the sea below and Kommetjie in the distance. And from Noordhoek peak we had a really spectacular view of Houtbay and Karbonkleberg. We decided in the group to walk to the top of Constantiaberg as we still had the whole day ahead of us. From the top here we had a good close up view of the cloud that was covering the peak. We were all trying to figure out what the spherical building on top was. We then went down to Elephants Eye cave. It was my first visit here and was something to see. Thanks to all and it was a great day.

CECELIA WATERFALL

19 May, Rene' Auer

Six members and one guest set off from the parking area at Cecilia State forest. It was a beautiful day, blue skies and no wind. We followed the footpath all along the little stream and up the steps (many of them) in Spilhaus ravine. The original idea was to follow the circular route just inside the forest, but when we got to the top, everybody felt that it was still too early to start the return half of the journey. So up we went following the jeep track to the De Villiers Reservoir. Here we had some tea while admiring the gorgeous view of Orange Kloof and Hout Bay. From there we walked to the Waterworks Museum following a bit of an overgrown footpath instead of the tarred jeep track. The museum holds samples of the equipment that was used in the building of the reservoirs and I must say this was quite a conversation starter. We had lunch overlooking the whole of the Cape Flats before traversing down the one million-and-one steps of Nursery Ravine to arrive at the cars just before 3pm.

STELLENBOSCH VINEYARD TRAIL

26 May, Richard Loos

Our party numbering 12 left the Oude Libertas Centre on an overcast Sunday morning. The surrounding mountains being enclosed in mist, visibility was limited to the immediate wine lands. This enabled us to focus on the autumn colours, which showed up with great intensity as the weather improved. Morning tea was under the olive trees, the route passing through vineyards, olive groves and protea plantations giving it a Mediterranean flavour. We tackled the steep half hour slog up Bottelary kop (476m) before settling down for lunch at the top. In the afternoon it was downhill all the way passing through coastal renosterveld before reaching the vines in the valley below. The trail eventually reaches the Stellenbosch Kloof road where it is advisable to have a car waiting to prevent a long hike on the tar road back to the starting point.

WEMMERSHOEK PEAK (1766m)

9 June, Stephen Tillemans

It was announced as "something for Mountaineers" and so bravely we went off on an overcast morning, but had to return after one hour of walking in heavy and heavier rain. At least we tried.

KOGELBERG AREA -Oudekraal to Wynand Louw's Bos

16 June, Helmut Meyer

Although our tour was properly booked, we found the gate to the Kogelberg Reserve locked. Therefore we had to add another 3km to the 24km hike around the Platberg. The previous day it had rained, the fynbos was very wet, and we, Wulf with wife Innes, daughter and her boyfriend, Fritz Scheffler and me decided to do the hike in the opposite direction, hoping the sun would dry out the vegetation. The tracks along the Palmiet River and the Louws river were easy going, but we still got sopping wet boots and shorts. After the halfway mark a strong wind came up drying out the fynbos. With blue and clear skies we enjoyed the landscape. After having come down the Oudebos kloof we decided that under normal conditions it is advisable to do the hike in the recommended direction. It was a long and memorable day.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF 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, thereby ensuring the well-being of both mountain inhabitants - whose livelihoods, opportunities and overall well-being are at stake - and lowland communities.

Our section will invite schools for guided walks up the Helderberg / Westpeak on the UIAA Mountain Protection Day : 14th of September.

The aims of the MCSA's events for IYM are

- to promote awareness of the objectives of the International Year of Mountains 2002
- to mountaineer, climb and have fun
- to see how many peaks can be summited and how many people can summit peaks during the period of 14-24 September 2002

Independent parties will bag peaks of their choice over this period, especially over the long weekend of 21-24 September.

This will be a National Initiative and we hope to reach most of the highest peaks in the provinces and neighbouring countries.

Register your peak with petrogroble@icon.co.za or join a party planning to bag a peak!

For a list of peaks already booked check the website: <http://mcsa.org/iym.html>; click on "EVENTS" and click on "BOOK AND BAG YOUR PEAK" on the relevant date.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Wayne Kitney is our rescue Convenor !

His cell phone is **082 335 3896**

There are regular rescue exercises on Helderberg College, concerning ropework, stretchers, 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 !!!

ROCKCLIMBING

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

JOHNSON HUT

Viljoen Thom is our hut convenor.* He can be contacted at **855 5647 (h)** or **072 1786918** for hut bookings, which should be done at least 3 working days in advance.

*(Whilst Viljoen is in England in August, Ron du Toit kindly offered to do the hut bookings!)

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 not 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' cell:082 6989082

An **electronic Journal index** is available on the WEB site <http://mcsa.org.za> covering the 1894 to 1991 Journals **or as a booklet** from the secretary Hatfield street C.T.

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

“SA Mountain Magazine” : A new full colour, full size climbing -cum- mountain magazine (Editor: Tony Lourens) is on the market! Available at Outdoor shops and certain bookstores . Published 4 times a year. Price : R 19,95 (stories&fotos excellent! Ulli)

Why climb?

It's that sense of complete, total engagement with a mountain that attracts people. Mountaineering takes you into situations which you would not achieve in any other way. You experience just extraordinary emotions, at a pure aesthetic level, at dawn or sunset, and you're feeling a sense of total commitment to what you are doing. (Stephen Venables)

MEETS LIST

August to October 2002

SLIDESHOW: Environmental Center, (See front Page)

20:00h Friday 2 August

Du TOITS PEAK

Sunday 4 August

Perhaps this time we will be in snow up there. Possibility to sleep over the night before at the du Toits Koof mountain hut. Fitness required. Neil Hoy, 8516862, 0823908143

GIFBERG , VAN RHYNSDORP DISTRICT

long weekend: (9th) , 10th & 11th August

Mild walking out of the winter rainfall area from base camp every day. Lovely rock formations, a "grand" Canyon and Bushman paintings. Cost R30/night for sleep over at the Huisamen's Guest Farm. Try to arrive Friday evening. Please book early! Erina Vorster 853 7762(h)-8504173(w)

SIMONS BERG

Sunday 18 August

If you haven't been up this magnificent island in the vineyards here is your chance. Not too strenuous. Eugene Mabile 9753466, 0824426923

ROOIKAT TRAIL, Mc GREGOR AREA

Weekend 24/25 August

A circular 19 km trail in the Vrolikheid Nature Reserve. Sleep over Saturday night at the 'De Bos in Montague. Immediate booking is essential, due to Muscadel Festival same weekend.

Bookings with Richard Loos 8440366 or Bobby Campbell 8527427

DIKKOPTRAIL,KOEBERG

Sunday 1 September

See the "Sea fynbos" on the West coast in springtime. Family meet. Wulf Eilers 8524967

:: ANNUAL DINNER, book in time! see front page Saturday 7 September ::

WORK MEET AT THE JOHNSON HUT

Sunday 8 September

Please contact the Hut Convenor for details. Viljoen Thom 855 5647, 072 786918

IYM EVENT: HELDERBERG, WEST PEAK

Saturday/Sunday 14/15 September

Celebrating the International Year of Mountains a climb of the West peak is planned with school children, members of the public and You. Smaller groups will be guided up the peak from different directions. For details contact Ulli closer to the event. email or 8875393 or 0723423615

BRANDWACHT- FONTEINTJIESBERG

Weekend 20/21 September

Spectacular views on your way up to the Thomas Hut (Worcester Section). Climb Brandwacht on Saturday afternoon and Fonteintjiesberg on Sunday morning. Those who take of the Monday could do a bit of the Hexriver Traverse & return on Heritage Day. Stephen Tilleman 0825488414

VICTORIA PEAK

Sunday 29 September

The fynbos should be flowering lavishly and with some luck there could be still snow on top. A longish but worthwhile hike. John Saunders 851 5530

BOLAND 90

Thursday 2 to Saturday 5 October

We need helpers! A good way to spent a fresh spring day. Ulli 8083365(w) 887 5393(h)or email

KOGELBAY

Sunday 6 October

Not sunbathing at the beach this time, but discovering the valley behind the bay. Should be interesting vegetation there. Ron du Toit 852 3867

GRASSY DOME

Weekend 12 / 13 October

Walk to Krommrvier hut on Saturday, grill your steak at night and climb on Sunday over Krommrvier peak towards Grassy Dome. Ulli 8083365(w)8875393(h) ugkd@sun.ac.za

SEVEN WATERFALLS, JONKERSHOEK

Sunday 20 October

A climb in the First and Second Ridge Peaks area - will involve some abseiling on the way down. Fitness a requirement. Wayne Kitney 082 335 3896

T M: GROTTO - FOUNTAIN - CAIRN RAVINE TRAVERSE

Sunday 27 October

A classic traverse above Camps Bay, but not for one with a fear of heights! Descend at Kloof corner. This will be a long day.

Fritz Ensink 8546911