

# MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

## NEWSLETTER

February 2003 to May 2003

Secretary: Nina Nezura 855 4174(h) 8597000(w) or:07314638454 NinaN@appletiser.co.za  
Chairman: Ulli Deutschländer 887 5393 (h) 808 3365 (w) or: 0723423615 ugkd@sun.ac.za

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

### Slideshow and Social 20:00h, 21<sup>st</sup> February 03

at the **Environmental Centre**, Helderberg Nature Reserve  
Richard Loos and Bobby Campbell will talk about their  
voyage to St Helena.

*Pic of St Helena*

Joy Bell will show slides from her climbs in Nepal (Mt Mera).  
Cherry Deutschländer will talk about travelling Eastern Turkey

**A bring and braai will start at 18h30.**

Please bring some snacks, drinks will be provided.

### INTERNATIONAL ROCK CLIMBING MEET, 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 03

For the international climbing meet to be held in Du Toit's Kloof invitations have been sent out to most climbing organizations worldwide and hopefully an "interesting crowd" will be attracted.

A fair number of competent trad climbers are required, who can give advice about local climbs, grades and approach routes and who can act as climbing partners or guides to foreign climbers if necessary.

**Help is required** with transport CT to hut; transport around local crags during the meet; and accommodation for an odd night before and after the meet.

Details and a booking forms can be found at <http://jhb.mcsa.org.za/> or contact Ulli 8875393.

### SPITZKOPPE MEET IN APRIL:

Namibia Section invites climbers from all sections to join them at their meet from **18 - 21 April** 2003 at Spitzkoppe; climbing & hiking.

Meet Leader: Hasso Gantze, Namibia tel: 064 462514

#### The membership fees for the year 2003 are as follows:

Single	R130	Couple	R160
Over 60's	R115	Over 60's couple	R145
Country	R120	Country couples	R145
Junior	R115	Newsletter	R20

**Please send your subs as soon as possible to MCSA, PO Box 1100 SSW 7129 and we will send you the 2003 sticker for your membership card. The fees also include the journal.**

Members who receive their journal through other sections should subtract R50, the same counts for juniors, who are children of a "Mountain club family".

Electronic banking at: Standard Bank SSW, Branch Nr : 03 30 12 42, AC No : 07 231 011 1

## PAST MEETS

### **Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Hermanus**

**2 November, Wulf Eilers**

4 Mountain Club members, 1 prospective member and 7 others (including 4 youngsters) started the hike in overcast and cool weather. After an early lunch at Galpin hut (where the youngsters enjoyed clambering over the rocks) we sadly could not walk on as all the higher peaks were still in the clouds. We had to turn back (the kids gladly, the adults reluctantly), but then the sun came out and all the "sewe jaartjies" - closed on the way up - now opened their petals. It was a pretty sight, as were the magnificent views over Walker Bay and Hermanus. One could even spot a few whales in the bay. It is such a wonderful nature reserve, with free entry, and one where one should go more often. A pity that the hike was such a short one.

### **SPOOK NEK**

**17 November, Richard Loos**

We had a full complement for our trip over the Three Sisters peaks to Spook Nek. As it was a warm day we were thankful for the light breeze on the steep path leading to the various summits. Being on a ridge visibility was good with views ranging from Fisherhaven, Kleinmond, across the bay to Vermont and over session on the big sister (632m) we descended to the head of the valley before the last slag of the day up to Spook Nek. Di and Barbara took the old Perdeberg Trail back down while we lesser mortals kept to the conventional path. In spite of a number of freak accidents that are reputed to have taken place at Spook Nek we all arrived safely back at the lunch spot. After a leisurely break we hoofed it down the valley to the stoep of the Sandown Hotel for light refreshments before joining the rush back to civilization.

### **Wessels gat exploratory trip**

**30 November Ron du Toit**

Present on walk: Ron du Toit, Alfons Kiefer, Len Coles.

We left the Eikenhof Country Club on Saturday morning and walked up to the start of the Wesselsgat kloofing trail, but instead of coming down the kloof, we went up towards Moordenaarskop. The water was low and warm, which was pleasant as the day was very hot. The intention was to go as far up the kloof as we could get and sleep there, then to return on Sunday, but it soon became plain that unless we slept sitting on boulders, this was not going to be the possible.

We stopped for lunch and left our packs and carried on up a truly unspoiled kloof with no signs of humans. There were a few swims but most of the trip was wading, boulder hopping and scrambling over big boulders. As the kloof narrowed we saw Paradise Flycatchers amongst the Rooiels trees, which became bigger as we progressed. There were pines higher up the slopes, but no hakea.

At three o'clock we reluctantly turned back and made our way down to our packs. We were proposing to go back to the starting point and climb out to spend the night next to the road, then go back in and do the normal route down next day. On the way we passed a site we had missed on the way up, and made spent a comfortable night.

At first light on Sunday morning the weather turned cold and a thick mist came down, but it cleared by 9.00h and we were able to enjoy the swims on the way back. We exited the kloof at our starting point and were back at the Country Club at 16.00h.

### **Kleinmond na Vermont "The Poaching Run."**

**8 December Viljoen Thom**

Die strandstap van Kleinmond na Vermont was op n lekker warm dag. Ses van ons het gegaan, met Alfons wat spesiaal ingevlieg het van Switserland. Die sandgedeelte van Kleinmond tot by Botrivier strandmeer was vir my en Schalk baie strategies, aangesien ons vroeg in Januarie hierdie deel gedraf het as deel van n tipe driekamp. Die volgende deel tot by Hawston het die gebruiklike skermutselings met perlemoenstropers ingesluit. Ons het een gewond voor hulle die aftog geblaas het. Sowat n duisend ongeskulpte perlemoene is gevind. Naby Hawston have het ons geswem en perlemoen gehad vir ete. Daarna het ons effens weg van die water gestap, aangesien die kuslyn rotsagtig geword het. Heelwat melkhoutbome staan nog sterk teen die erge rooikrans indringing. Dit het heel warm geword op die duine, waarna ons kon afkoel met nog n swem by Vermont se strand.

## **CEDARBERG**

**14-16 December, Stephen Tillemann**

Almost 25 people from our Mountain Club met up at Kromriver in the Cedarberg for the long weekend. The variety of things to do in the area meant that everybody could do what they most enjoyed. Using Kromriver campsite as our base we went hiking and climbing from there each day. On Saturday Hans-Peters and Dirk Versfeld went rock climbing near the Wolfberg cracks, Erina Vorster and others walked up to Truitjieskraal while most people went sports climbing at Truitjieskraal. On Sunday Hans-Peters, Dimitri, Ulrike and Sue went climbing near Wolfberg cracks while most people hiked to the top of Tafelberg, with its amazing "landscape" up there. On Monday some people went sports climbing at Truitjieskraal while others hiked up though the Wolfberg cracks and went swimming at Maalgat. In the evenings we braaied and just enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere of the campsite. The weekend was very successful thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## **DU TOITS RIVER, FRANSCHHOEK**

**22 December, Nina Nezura**

The weather was slightly overcast at the beginning of the hike. The most thrilling event, of course, is the first jump into the pool. Amazing feeling as you hit that water and then it closes over your head, cold and dark. And you pop out of it as a cork from the champagne bottle. Softly the rain came down as we had our first dip and it carried on for a short while. We were shivering with cold but still proceeded further. Most welcomed was a short refreshment break under the branches of the trees which protected us a little from the rain. And then more water, more rain, more fun, more jumps, more swims. For some of us it was a completely new experience and the most enjoyable one. Half way through the weather changed and the sun came out. We were happy. The very last jump some of us repeated several times. We just could not get enough. The youngest member of our party, Marsha was very brave this time around and done some high jumps. We were back home around four o'clock in the afternoon, a bit tired but full of excitement from the experience. PS: By the way, there is no equivalent for term "kloofing" in Russian. The dictionary specifically refers to it as South African term.

## **ELANDS RIVIER PAD**

**5 January, Ulli Deutschländer**

On those hot summer days it's the best to stroll along a river or a beach and having a dip from time to time to cool down. The many beautiful kloofs in our vicinity are inviting for such outings and the Elandsriver is one of them. The highlight for me, is always the excursion into one of the side kloofs, where after some balancing acts over boulders and squeezing oneself through holes or chimneys one suddenly stands in front of this high and fantastic waterfall. A breathtaking sight! After the first "wow" normally everyone gets quiet and just listens to the ever changing sound of the falling water and absorbs the energy laden atmosphere. The water in the pool was ice cold but the swim towards the end of the kloof was worthwhile and "breathtaking" again, as there was very little oxygen to breath in the spray and gushing water. An amazing experience being part of that element: Water!

## **Bobbejaanskloof**

**11 Januarie, Adri Gericke**

'n Permit van Wes-Kaapse Natuurbewaring was nodig vir die besoek. Die uitstappie moes ongelukkig van Sondag na Saterdag verskuif omdat die besoekersgetalle vir Sondag reeds vol was.

Seven people attended the outing. We reached the centre pools just after ten and some members of the group complained about too short a walk. So we made a rather longish day of it by exploring further up in the kloof.

Met Wim Peter se hulp is ons tot by die waterval en is ons beloon met disas in blom (ook op ander plekke in die kloof) en baie koue water om ons af te koel op die warm, byna windlose dag.

Although we neither saw nor heard a single baboon, Ron's water-consuming BMW provided entertainment on the way back.

## **HILANDS TO KLEINMOND**

**19 JANUARY, Helmut Meyer**

A party of 12 left Highlands Forest (Iona Farm) in lovely hiking weather. We compared the different patterns in the Roella flowers and admired the view over the Botriver lagoon and

surrounding on the way down. We had lunch on the edge of the lagoon, watching a flock 100 or more flamingos and other birds as well as 12 horses. We argued whether they were wild or not (or perhaps both?). A strong Northwester had developed, nearly throwing us over when we waded through the side arm of the lagoon. Then we had to battle to cover the 5 km along the beach to Kleinmond, facing straight into the wind. Some tried to move behind the sand dunes, but then got stuck in the thick bush. It was a different experience not easily forgotten.

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### **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

Our Rescue team saved a very frightened dog, who was lost for days since the New Years Eve fireworks from above porcupine buttress on the Helderberg. Well done!

**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 Metro: 948 99 00 or 948 9917 !!!***

### **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.

The **hut fees** are R5.00 per member, R10 per nonmember 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 or certain Kloofing trips. Even, if you have the club permit with you, 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.

### **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: [Hunziker@mweb.co.za](mailto:Hunziker@mweb.co.za)

**“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)**

**Welcome to:** Tim Ross as a new member and Sue Jackson as a prospective member

## MEETS LIST

February to May 2003

### SUICIDE KLOOF

A popular kloofing trip for the more adventurous members of the club.  
Early Booking necessary!

**Sunday 2 February**

Wayne Kitney 082 3353896

### BUCHU KLOOF

Lovely pools after some hiking through Nuweberg forestry. A good time of the year to see Disas and enjoying the HH Nature Reserve Richard Loos 844 0366 or Bobby Campbell 852 7427

**Sunday 9 February**

### WESSELS GAT

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

**Sunday 16 February**

Wulf Eilers 852 4967

### ANNUAL SERVICE

Len will choose a suitable route to the summit of Table Mountain. Good opportunity to meet with members of other sections.

**Sunday 23 February**

Len Coles 7628873h 7615192 or 0832616373

### JAN DU TOITSKLOOF

Magnificent kloof! Sleep over at Overhang Camp, situated in a lovely spot with a set of pools to choose from. Sunday: longer or shorter hikes higher up the kloof.

**Weekend 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Louis Williams 8553555

### HELDERBERG TO JOHNSONHUT

Mike's annual traverse from the Nature Reserve to Diepgat for a social evening and hike next morning to our hut, whilst overlooking the Helderberg basin & Falsebay. Mike o Keeffe 8512300

**Weekend 8<sup>th</sup> /9<sup>th</sup> March**

### INTERNATIONAL ROCK CLIMB MEET

See front page- contact Ulli if you want to join or help 8083365(w) 887 5393(h)

**Week of 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

### AGTER TAFELBERG

Hike to the Agter Tafelberg hut , relax, climb next days the Agter Tafelberg and Elephant in the Wemmershoek Mtns.

**Long Weekend 21- 23 March**

Ron du Toit 852 3867

### SIMONSTOWN TO SMITSWINKELBAY

Pictures high traverse from Simons Town up Swartkop (678m) and walk to Smitswinkelbay. Beautiful fynbos and great views.

**Sunday 30 March**

Fritz Scheffler 8517073 or 0726064241

### GREYTON MOUNTAINS

Details from Alfons closer to the time.

**Sunday 6 April**

Alfons Kiefer 028 2549477(h) or 082 5345045

### YSTERVARK CAVE

A cave experience in the stomach of the T M. Bring torches!

**Sunday 13 April**

Wayne Kitney 082 3353896

### TOWERKOP –Ladysmith area

With and without rock climbing. Camp at the shelter for the first night and climb next day to Nels cave, then rock climb the E-grade or the F-grade peak.

**Easter weekend 18 to 21 April**

Stephen Tilleman 082 5488414

### KRISTAALKLOOF, RIVERSDALE

A circular walk in a magnificent fynbos area. We go in the opposite direction of the Stinkhoutsbos hike. One climb near the start, otherwise reasonably easy. We will overnight on Friday at the Ou Toll Huis Hut. Please book early, so we can get the permit.

**long Weekend 26 to 28 April**

Mike o Keeffe 8512300

### GROOT WINTERHOEK MTNS.

With a day's leave we have got 4 days to hike to "the Hell" with its deep pool, try to climb the Groot Winterhoek 2077mtr. and return over Perdevlei. Ulli Deutschlander 8083365, 8875393(h)

**"long" Weekend 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May**

### SOCIAL HUT MEET AT THE JOHNSON HUT

Enjoy a late autumn evening & potter around the hut next day.

**Weekend 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Viljoen Thom 855 5647