

MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

MCSA HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION

NEWSLETTER

August to October 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 the MCSA on the website <http://mcsa.org.za> and www.uiaa.ch

ANNUAL DINNER Saturday 20 September

Hosted by the Paarl-Wellington section at Restaurant 101 at the SIMONS VLEI Winery.
A full course dinner and friendly, joyous atmosphere between mountaineers from many sections are offered @ R120pp.
Contact Paul Erens (021-887 7131 or 0825521112 ; cpt@iwc.co.za) to book in time!

SLIDESHOW 7:45 for 8:00pm, Friday 10th October

Correne Coetzer will give a slideshow about her adventures skiing (110km) from the last degree of latitude to the South Pole and some months later from the last degree of latitude to the North pole, hauling her sledge in freezing conditions, in white-outs over drifting pack ice, pressure ridges. The Antarctic is the highest (4000m) driest, coldest and windiest continent on earth.
We will have to warm you with some Glühwein whilst listening to her extraordinary trip
Meet at the **Environmental Center**,
In the Helderberg Nature Reserve
Please bring some snacks and friends along.

BOLAND 90 at Nuweberg

2nd to 4th October

Take a day or two off to cheer on and have an watchful eye over the many hikers taking part in this annual challenge in the Hottentots Holland Mountains. Contact Ulli for planning purposes.

MINI CAMP Jonkershoek

20th to 28th September

Stellenbosch Section is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. They will host the 2003 National Meet in the Jonkershoek Mountains from 20-28 September (There are options to attend from 20-24 or 24-28 with the 24th being a public holiday).

Base camp will be at Assegaaibos. Cost: R190 per half week or any part there-of, R380 full week. The camp is self-catering except for a braai on Wednesday 24 September. One and two day hikes/climbs from easy to strenuous will be offered.

Bookings before 8th August (100 persons max).

Children (accompanied by a parent/parents) are welcome.

For further details including a list of activities and an application form: Jaap van Wyk (minicamp@ste.mcsa.org.za or phone: 021-887 5335) or: <http://ste.mcsa.org.za/Minicamp.htm>
Details about the Jonkershoek mountains and all routes therein can be found in the booklet, "Jonkershoek en sy berge", available at the camp at R27.00

PAST MEETS

Perdeberg, Kleinmond

Ulli 18 May

Meandering up the slopes in lush fynbos six of us and little Guido in the back carrier enjoyed the beautiful views over the Palmiet lagoon and Kleinmond. No whales down there, but a buzzard, crows and other birds up there, which were quickly properly named by Saartjie the birder. Opposite us in the cracks we watched Stephen, Woijtek, Craigh and Jacque rockclimbing in good weather. Later in the valley again Viljoen couldn't resist to try some climbing himself and so Stinel and me joined him, whilst little Guido wondered about his parents swinging strangely above his head.

Bat Cave, Helderberg

Ian 25th May

The weather did not look promising. Some how it never does for the annual Bat cave trip. We met at the Duck Inn at about eight. Our party was a large one. Things became interesting when we head out of Disa Gorge towards the Bat Cave. I was temporarily confused to our where about to the relation to Bat Cave. This confusion was soon overcome with the help of Duane. Bat Cave lived up to its name. There where loads of bats. The younger members of our group especially enjoyed the "flying show". Then Dimitri's friend got stung by a bee. There was a hive in the entrance to the cave. We moved. Cherrie and her friend moved down back towards the Duck Inn. The rest of us did a rock scramble. Which was really great fun. As the last of our group where finishing, it started to rain. It got cold. The walk down was rather pleasant even though it was drizzling. I quite enjoying hike in the raining. Once we reached the Duck Inn we all took our own paths.

Stellenbosch Berg

Ulli 1st June

Although I did announce the climb as steep a group of eleven accompanied me up the various route from the Paradyskloof in fabulous weather. The views between the rock formations over the low-lying clouds towards the Simonsberg and Banhoek mountains were dramatic. A sandwich-eating lizard amazed us all. Has he learned such easy food gathering from other mountaineers? A new species created? I love ascending from this side of the mountain. A pity just, that the alien hakia is taking over more and more the western slopes.

Kromrivier Hut

Viljoen en Stinel, 7/8 June

Ons was net 3 wat die noordwester aangevat het oppad na die hut toe die saterdag middag. Die limietberge se afsondering is besonders. By die hut het ons basies die area leer ken, dit was ons eerste keer daar. Die aand het ons n vuurtjie gemaak en wyn gedrink. In die nag het die reen uitgesak, maar teen laatoggend was daar n opening in die weer, waarin ons toe weer uitgestap het.

Greyton 50

Ulli 14/15 June

This hiking challenge may become an interesting annual event. Some 70 hikers in teams of two scrambled up the Abdulskop in thick morning mist and hiked over hills and through valleys around Greyton, inclusive an hip deep river crossing. Congratulation to Neil Hoy, who with his partner finished far ahead other teams, won as mixed team and received a beautiful gift.

Krakadouw, Cedarberg

Stephen 14 to 16 June

Three of us namely Viljoen, Henry, a prospective member, and myself were the only ones to visit the magnificent Groot Krakadouw in the Cedarberg. We left Cape Town Friday evening and stayed at Kliphuis campsite that night. Saturday morning we drove though to Heuningvlei, where we left the cars and hiked up to the neck between Groot and Middle Krakadouw. We used the rest of the day to explore, we hiked around Groot Krakadouw and took a look at the main amphitheater, we also tried to find water. We set up a base camp in between some of the huge boulders in the nek; unfortunately the only water was a slow drip a short distance from our camp so we had to use water very sparingly. On Sunday we hiked up Middle Krakadouw and did some of the short trad climbs there. Although we would have loved to climb some of the routes on the main amphitheater they were beyond our capabilities. On Monday we packed our

rucksacks and hiked back down to the vlakke below Groot Krakadouw from there we followed the path back up to the top of the mountain where we explored the maze of cracks and crevasses. It was a fantastic weekend, and an amazing mountain, I would really love to return there soon and climb the main amphitheater.

Johnson Hut, Workmeet

21/22 June

Wayne got a good group of volunteers together to carry wood to the hut for the proposed "Mezzanine deck" there. This will extend the sleeping area and members will hopefully no more have to balance in the morning between long-sleepers mattresses. It will be also less dust up there. Thanks to all the input from Wayne and Viljoen!

Montague

Stephen 28/29 June

A small group of rock climbers still went to Montague to climb despite the hike being cancelled. The group included Viljoen, Jacques, myself and Siobhan (who didn't climb but did a good job as belayer. We drove through on Saturday and spend the day climbing at Legoland. At night we slept in one of the very cozy cottages at De Bos. On Sunday we went climbing at the Steeple and in the afternoon we went a new crag called Ramset. It was an excellent weekend.

Drakensberg July Camp

Viljoen en Stienel, 5to11 Julie

Ons was die eerste week by die kamp. Kate Nixon en Ismael se organisasie was soos verwag heel goed. Die saterdag om die vuur is die groepe gefinaliseer. Daar was drie weekstap groepe wat bo sou gaan bly. Ons was 10 in my groep en het sondag by centenary hut gaan slaap op die kontoerpad. Die maandag is ons op met Bannermans pas, met heelwat sweet. Die meeste nagte was minus 10 grade celsius, wat tente en donsslaapsakke gewild gemaak het. Ons het 2 volle dae bo gestap, in pragtige sonskyn weer. Die Inyasuti pieke met die trojan wall was die hoogtepunt van die week. Daar by die Inyasuti grot het ons Todd se groep gekry wat ons roete agterstevoor gedoen het. Mafadi piek moes die knie buig, dit is op 3450 m die hoogste berg in die republiek, net sowat 30 m laer as Lesotho se hoogste piek. Die laaste aand het ons bo leslies pas geslaap saam met n meerkat kolonie, op 3000 m seker die hoogste in die land. Daarna was dit n lang stap af na centenary hut, en basecamp vrydag oggend.

-The 2nd week of the July camp was attended by Mark Berry, his wife and Ulli which had a fabulous time traversing the same peaks as above in sunshine days and very fresh nights, enjoying the magnificent views from these great mountains, the friendship of fellow mountaineers from all over the country and the excellent organization by Kay Nixon and her team.-

West Peak, Helderberg

Nina, 6 July

The party of 10 started off in the morning. We could not believe the weather - what a lovely warm day it was! As we scrambled up the path Neil Hoy with his four-legged friend overtook us. We caught up with Neil and his lovely and protective dog much later on the top. It was a magnificent view! Even some entertainment was provided for us during our lunch break on the West Peak - a private air show! Some small aeroplane was practicing and when seeing a grateful crowd, us, decided to show off with loops and mock attacks. We also met three very energetic women from Cape Town section who are currently practicing for the Kilimanjaro meet. Amongst us was a Kilimanjaro expert, Megan Ford, who was prepared to share her experiences with them. On the way down we met Craig Anderson who was casually jogging! On the mountain. As we went through the forest to get back to where we left our cars we saw two beautiful horses on the path. It was a wonderful day and everyone enjoyed the walk.

Somerset Sneukop

Neil, 13 July

Walking from Nuweberg, 9 of us started off on a very fresh morning. Lots of the vegetation was iced in the forest. It was really beautiful. The climb up to Landroskop hut warmed everyone up. After a quick breakfast we went on to look over the valley below the Landroskop neck. After the last climb up to the top of Somerset Sneekop we could enjoy the view. It was a crisp clear day and one could see forever. The view was awesome. After lunch the climb down was quick, to finish off the hike in 9 hours. A hike I believe enjoyed by all.

Aasvoelkop, Hermanus

Adri, 19 July

The group of four attacked the mountain at 9h30 with a north-western wind plus some rain. The weather kept us wondering all day, but allowed us to get to the top of the peak (and that

includes Francis, although I have a “spesmaas” that it was too cold for her to sit still for 40 minutes waiting for the rest of us.) The veld was fine, but flowers much less than in September or October. Mike Clemenson is back after his cycle accident and went all the way to the top with the rest of us. The Fernkloof Reserve is very well maintained. The paths in the reserve are kept in excellent condition and no exotic plants were observed.

Chipaway Cave

Len, 27 July

Arriving on Saturday evening at the Johnson Hut, Craig (with a brand new guitar), Mark, a visitor from Tableview and Len soon got the fire going and enjoyed a lovely evening together braaiing, having a few “dops” and listening to Craig strumming his new guitar. Sunday morning dawned with plenty of cloud and some drizzle. At 07:30 Wulf and François were able to contact us from Somerset West via this technology we just take for granted these days – namely cell phones, to hear the news that we had unfortunately cancelled the trip to Chipaway Cave. Due to this they decided not to join us. Again, the cell phone become a useful tool, receiving an SMS, “Ek en Jaques is op pad. Wil saam kom stap. Viljoen.” We enjoyed a couple of walks in the vicinity of the hut before calling it a day. Note that the outing has been rescheduled.

Cordillera Blanca Meet, Peru 2004

To book or get more info for this 4 week meet in the Peruvian Andes in June 2004 organized by Greg Devine for the MCSA contact Ulli Deutschlander 887 5393 ugkd@sun.ac.za

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Wayne Kitney is our rescue Convenor !

His cell phone is **082 335 3896**

Our S/R team was involved in several rescues, a body recovery and searches. To mention is the 3-day search for a young man in the Tulbagh Mountains, where Wayne was successful to find the lost and badly frostbitten person hiding under an overhang on top of a peak.

There are regular rescue exercises on Helderberg College, concerning rope work, stretchers, helicopter lift off, 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. He wants to organize a climb on Africa ledge TM in the coming months. Contact him at **082 548 8414**

JOHNSON HUT

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

The **hut fees** are R5.00 per member, R10 per non-member and R3 per child under 18.

Access to Cape Nature Conservation (WCNCB) Areas:

Book at 021 483 3500

IMPORTANT NOTE:

SAN Parks and WCNCB are launching the controversial “**WILDCARD**” that gives SA residents reduced entry fees to National Parks and /or CNC areas. See their website www.parks-sa.co.za A discount of about 10 % is offered to MCSA members, if these cards are bought through the club. **This will be the end for our annual permit for the CNC areas** and everyone will have to buy his/her Wild Card or buy a daily permit for the particular meet. See details on attached flyer. We will appreciate your comments on this system forced onto us.

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 the secretary).

Welcome as prospective members: Megan Ford and Tillette Berry and as new members : Paul & Simon Ackermann, Sue Jackson and from the Vrystaat Section Johan & Martie Pappendorf

“It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves” Sir Edmund Hillary

MEETS LIST

August to October 2003

Johnson Hut Work/Social Meet

Weekend 2nd & 3rd August

Enjoy the atmosphere at our Mountain hut on a winter evening after some work at the hut and finish with a leisurely walk on Sunday.

Viljoen Thom 0721786918

Slideshow, Mt Everest and the seven Summit bid

18:30h - Friday 9th August

Famous mountaineer Alex Harris will talk about his experiences. R20pp at Somerset College

Bailey's Peak, Baines Kloof

Sunday 10th August

Some fitness required to climb the mountain, but shorter excursions available. Walk-in to Base-camp on Saturday also possible. Stephen Tilleman 0825488414

Du Toits Peak

Sunday 17th August

Fitness required for this full day climb to nearly 2000m, hopefully with snow on top. This is a proper mountain with many facets.

Neil Hoy 8516862/0823908143

Chipaway Cave & Workmeet

Weekend 23rd & 24th August

Visit the Chipaway cave via Sneukop gorge. The ideal opportunity for newer members to get to know this area. Sleepover at the Johnson Hut. Len Coles 7628872 (h) 7615192 or 0832616373

Haelhoek Sneukop

Sunday 31st August

A not too strenuous scramble up Miaspoort and a leisurely walk across the vlakke. Hopefully we can enjoy snow on the peak.

Ian Thompson 8515490

Kromrivier Meet

Weekend 6th & 7th September

Sleep over at the Kromrivier Hut on Saturday night and climb the surrounding peaks according to the fitness of the members.

Viljoen Thom 0721786918

Table Mountain

Weekend 13th & 14th September

Ascent Skeleton Gorge, spend a cozy winter night at the fireside in the Table Mountain Hut. Walk to the Grootkop. Descent via Nursery Ravine. Ulli Deutschlander 8083365(w), 8875393(h)

Annual Dinner – see the front page, book ahead!

Saturday 20th September

Jonkershoek Minicamp – see the front page

20th – 28th September

Boland 90 – Volunteers needed, see the front page

1st – 4th October

Nooienskap, Greyton

Sunday 5th October

A not too strenuous hike up the scenic hills with spring flowers above Greyton.

Alfons Kiefer 028-2549477 / 0825345045

Karbonaatjeskraal

Weekend 11th & 12th October

Combined meet for hikers and rock climbers in a beautiful Karoo area past De Doorns. This is a rock climbing paradies, but hiking, horse and fossil trails are also available. Fees to be paid for camping or guest house accommodation. **Book early!** Ulli Deutschlander 8083365 (w), 8875393

Dikkop trail, Family Walk

Sunday 19th October

A lovely walk in spring flowers in the Koeberg area.

Wulf Eilers 852 4967

Haelkop, Jonkershoek

Sunday 26th October

Energetic climb with very rewarding panoramic views over Boland and Hottentots Holland.

John Saunders 8515530