

MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

MCSA HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION

NEWSLETTER

November 2003 to January 2004

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 GENERAL MEETING

6pm !! SATURDAY 15th November 2003

The AGM of the Hottentots Holland Section will be held at **6pm!**
in the **Environmental Center, Helderberg Nature Reserve.**

See attached Agenda and Nomination forms !

A slide show of the past year's meets will be held after the AGM.

A bring and braai will be held afterwards.

Drinks will be provided.

Why not have a stroll through the reserve beforehand?

The section committee decided to keep the Membership fees the same as last year. As we will be no more able to buy a year permit for access to CNC areas we will use an equivalent part of the fees to subsidize entry to those areas on official clubmeets. Those who are often in the mountains may find it worthwhile to buy a "Wild Card" which are available through the Club at a reduced rate. Details are at the end of this Newsletter. The membership fees for the year 2004 are as follows:

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

Please send your subs as soon as possible to MCSA, PO Box 1100 SSW 7129 and we will send you the 2004 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". Please use attached forms.

PAST MEETS

Du Toits Peak

Neil Hoy, 17th August

The group of 12 was quite big for this hike on a perfect day. We expected snow and ice on top, as the previous year we had 2 meter long icicles. Half way up the mountain we came past a place where a few years previously we had to walk through fire and smoke to get back down the mountain.

On top we had quite a bit of ice, which made the going slow but the view from the top made the climb worthwhile. There were several snow fights on the route up. After lunch Ulli brought out his harmonica and entertained us all, we could then not get him off the mountain top. A member of the group took a photo of the snowman they had made. The descent was quick and we caught up with our Russian section of our party who only came up a bit of the way. The Russian lady had hurt her knee and everyone was helping her down the mountain. That's why we came back to the cars in the dark.

Haelhoek Sneukop

Ian Thompson, 31st August

On 31 Augustus approximately 15 of us set out to Haelhoek Sneukop in rather misty weather. Unfortunately or perhaps fortunately, as we had some tired legs, we never made it there. We took the wrong path and landed up walking to the cross. Helmut amazingly knew the way even though he had last hiked the route in the 1960's. The wind was blowing strong and we couldn't see very much except for some beautiful yellow flowers that shone through the mist. The cross that was erected in memory of the Italian POW is no longer standing erect. We could not decide whether someone had taken it down or if it had blown over. We managed to find a sheltered spot to have some lunch and share some laughs. The two ladies that had walked down earlier because they had done the hike the previous week were missed. From time to time we had to do head counts to make sure that no one was left behind in the mist. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hike and I think that new friendships were made.

Kromrivier Meet

Viljoen Thom 6th & 7th September

Only three and little Guido slept over at the Kromrivier Hut on Saturday night and the rain was all around them.

Table Mountain Hut & Grootkop

Ulli, 13th & 14th September

A pity that not more came along to spend a night at the cozy fireside in the TM hut after a beautiful sunset over the reservoirs. The Skeleton Gorge was full of little waterfalls, but it was fun to climb all the ladders (WCNCB could learn from that about enviro-friendly path upkeep). In a fresh morning breeze we walked towards the Grootkop visiting several TM surprises: the excitement standing on the protruding rock above the Kasteels-poort, the Jesus cave, the Saucy Dog, the vistas into the ravines and the many spring flowers. We took it all relaxed over the vlaktes and through the fynbos and descended via Nursery Ravine into the grand Kirstenbosch gardens.

Annual Dinner by Paarl Wellington Section

Saturday 20th September

Where were all the men of our section? But three ladies from our section and Ulli joined a happy crowd at Simonsvlei Winery, enjoying good food, joyous conversation with other mountaineers and were treated by many lucky prizes (from Beenies to Down-Sleeping bags).

HITEC Boland 90

Search & Rescue team, 1st – 4th October

The weather was great and so was the atmosphere of the 220 hikers who roamed for 3 days over the mountains and through the valleys of the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve. There were orienteering and environmental tasks to be handled. The highlight was probably the task to swim with their packs for 70 meters in the very cold river, which feeds the Nuweberg dam. Our S&R team was very much involved in the river crossing event, having set up a Tyrolian traverse system for the many non swimmers. There was a lot of hauling forward and backward and the girls did also their good share. But there was also lots of fun on both sides of and in the river. Some even dared to laugh about the chairman swimming in his Chinese boxers! A big thanks goes to all who helped at the river and with the sweeping behind weary or lost teams till late.

Nooienskop, Greyton**Alfons, 5th October**

Only a small party joined Alfons on his hike in the lovely Greyton landscape. Probably too many were involved the days before in the Boland 90 event and the weather at home looked bad.

Karbonaatjeskraal**Ulli&Wayne , 11th & 12th October**

The combined meet for hikers and rock climbers on the peaceful Karoo farm was a big success. 9 Hikers and 12 climbers had enough to do to “verken” all the possibilities of that area. The first day the hikers visited a hill top where we could find hundreds of fossils of marine origin. In the evening there was good braaing and singsong thanks to a variety of artists on Ulli's guitar. Next morning we climbed up and down the hills and watched with amazement how Stephen and Jacques climbed a very difficult route in the over 100mtr high orange yellow amphitheatre. Black eagles were nesting not far away, falcons and pigeons sailed above us. A short rock face was overcome with some breath holding, slings and helping hands. The lunch and well earned siesta was held underneath majestic oak trees. We drove home into the spectacle of a big thunderstorm. Saartjie said: the weekend was like a holiday! How right she was!

Wayne in the meantime held a rescue exercise with his strong and enthusiastic team, setting up rope systems, where they climbed up with jumars and prussiks and also abseiled a 100m wall.

Dikkop trail, Family Walk**Wulf Eilers 19th October**

13 of us (including two pre-teen girls) set off across the peninsula for a late spring walk of the Dikkop trail. Wim Peters had brought his pigeons along for the ride but they had to fly home on their own. The weather was sunny and hot at times, but the breeze provided welcome relief. Normally scheduled for the beginning of September, we hoped the late rains this year would have preserved some of the flowers for us, and we were not entirely disappointed. This time we didn't attempt the usual shortcut across the dunes, which made it a rather long 16 km hike. The walk along the beach, with its stunning view of Table Mountain across a deep blue Atlantic ocean, refreshed sufficiently for the last haul through the sandveld. Noeline was the only one that manfully (womanfully?) followed the proper trail right back to the cars. As we returned later than planned, we had to refuse the Jones family's kind offer of a cup of tea at their house in Duynefontein. Some of us were quite exhausted from the long hours in the sun. This hike is best attempted much earlier in Spring.

Haelkop, Jonkershoek**John Saunders, 26th October**

The energetic climb with very rewarding panoramic views over Boland and Hottentots Holland was done in overcast weather, which cleared up only when we returned. The Watsonias, Aristaeas, Irisses, and other spring flowers were most magnificent and in wide variety. On the saddle we found a Bonsai like “garden” with superb Aaron Lilies next to rock covered with intense green moss under very old mountain yellowwood. The outing has shown again that one shouldn't shy away from some clouds, but enjoy them whirling and shooting over the mountain tops. As the philosopher John Ruskin once said :

There is no bad weather, only different types of good weather.

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 are the search for a young lady from Pniel who fell tragically on the slopes of Simonsberg. A search for a man at Crystalpools/ Steenbraas kloof.

There are regular rescue excercises 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 will organize a climb on Tafelberg in the Cedarberg in December. See Meets list! 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**.

We expect that all Club members do their share in the up keeping of the hut especially as we will celebrate next year the 40th anniversary of the Johnson hut.

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 have introduced the “**WILDCARD**” that gives SA residents “special” entry to National Parks and /or CNC areas. See their webside www.parks-sa.co.za

This is the end of our annual permit for the CNC areas and everyone will **either** have to buy his/her Wild Card **or** buy a daily permit for the particular meet.

A discount of about 10 % is offered to MCSA members, if these cards are bought through the club. See details at the end of this Newsletter.

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).

“SA Mountain Magazine”: The full colour, full size climbing -cum- mountain magazine (Editor: Tony Lourens) is on the market!

Available at Outdoor shops and certain bookstores . Published quarterly. Price : R 19,95

SERPENT SPIRES, by Duncan Souchon is a coffee-table book focusing on the last 50 years of Drakensberg mountaineering. Including memorable stories, over 70 color pictures Maps and route descriptions. Special price before 31 December: R210.00, contact Ulli or Nina.

A wall Calender by the Mountainclub should be available at the end of November.

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

A warm Welcome to the new members: Ian Bredell, Tillette Berry, Nicki Green and David Wright

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All Members

MEETS LIST

November 2003 to January 2004

Chipaway Cave

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

Sunday 2nd November

Caledon Botanical Garden

An easy round walk through the Gardens and up to the Hillside with lovely views.

Sunday 9th November

Alfons Kiefer 0282549477 ; 0825345045

JOINT MEET OF WESTERN CAPE SECTIONS:

Weekend 8-9 November 2003

The annual joint meet of the Western Cape Sections will be hosted by Worcester Section at Stettynskloof. The meet is suitable for older members and families too and will offer hikes of different degrees of difficulty.

Contact Tom Jourdan (023-347 3816).

Annual General Meeting (see front page)

6:00pm Saturday 15th November

Johnson Hut Meet

Enjoy the atmosphere of a Sunday Morning stroll in spring time at our Mountain hut, climb the Landroskop Needles or lend a helping hand to the renewal of the hut. We expect that all Club members do their share upkeeping the hut especially as we will celebrate next year the 40th anniversary of the Johnson hut Viljoen Thom 0721786918

Sunday 16th November

Kogelberg

A sleepover and braai at the Steenbraasdam may be possible before climbing the Kogelberg with its pristine flora. You may see the nearly extinct marsh rose and other rare species. For the fynbos connoisseur! Great vistas over the Falsebay.

22nd /23rd November

John Saunders 8515530

Haelkop Cracks

Short and easy walk to these relatively unknown cracks on the lower slopes of Haelkop. Abseiling into cracks is optional. See 1996 Journal p.94. Fritz Scheffler 8517073/0726064214

Sunday 30th November

Gansbaai

Afternoon drive past Whales and perlemoen poachers to Herman Fourie's country house at Gaansbaai with a braai under the stars. On Sunday a walk over the hills to the sea and along the coast.

6th & 7th December

Ulli 8875393 / 072 3423615

Cedarberg Meet

Camping at Driehoek farm or sleep in cottage.

Tafelberg climb through the crack or on rock face; diverse hikes and climbs on the Wolfsberg and to Maltese Cross. Book in time

13th to 16th December

Stephen Tillemans, 082 5488414

Social Christmas Meet at the Johnson Hut

Have lunch and bring gift (under R5.00) to swop with others!

Lunchtime, Saturday, 20th December

Cherry Deutschlander 8516365

Du Toits river, Kloofing trip

The traditional "Avoid the Christmas-Shopping Stress" by easy kloofing in the du Toits river.

Sunday 21st December

Alfons Kiefer 0282549477; 0825345045

Elands Pad

Easy walk upstream the Elands river with lots of swimming and a visit to the magic waterfall in a side kloof. There should be Disas flowering!

Sunday 28th December

Mike Clemenson 855 4229, 082 6740822

Luiperds Kloof

Climb the Luiperds Kloof in Harold Porter Botanical Garden at Bettiesbay and then the hills above the waterfall for a lovely view over the Palmiet area.

Sunday 4th January

Wulf Eilers 8524967, 0829406478

Jan Wessels Gat

Excursion into this relatively unknown but interesting territory.

10&11th January

Wayne Kitney 0823353896

Social Hut Meet

Enjoy the summer at the mountain pool, braai under the stars, walk up the kloofs and help a bit with the upkeep of the hut.

17th & 18th January

Viljoen Thom 0721786918

Suicide Gorge

For the kloofing enthusiast, here is something daring and sporty !

Sunday 2⁵th January

Viljoen Thom 0721786918

Access to Western Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) Areas

Members will either have to pay for access permits or purchase Wild Cards.

Please carry your permit and membership card with you at all times.

The cost for most day hikes (excluding wilderness areas) is currently R18 (Juniors under 18 years pay R9-00. Once there were discounts for pensioners, but CNC scrapped that too)

The costs for the Wildcard if bought through the MCSA are as follows until further notice. (The normal prices are in Brackets)

	Single	Couple	Family
One CNC Reserve	R75 (95)	N/A	R175 (195)
All CNC Reserves	R100 (120)	N/A	R220 (245)
All CNC Reserves+Wilderness Areas:	R430 (480)	520 (580)	R610 (680)

There are 2 types of Combo Cards:

1. from CNC for all CNC areas & Western Cape SAN Parks for R195
2. From SAN Park for all CNC areas and all SAN Parks for R220

If you want to have access for only "All SAN Parks", then buy a card for R120 pp directly from SAN offices at Pinnacle Tourist information (crn. Castle & Berg Str) Tel 4264260

There is lots of fine print with these cards, so phone the CNC office for advice. Happy spending!

1. Limietberg, Hottentot's Holland, and Kogelberg Reserves

General Climbing/hiking booking procedures.

If climbing "off trail", phone the relevant reserve manager (or deputy) to confirm arrangements, letting him know where you will be and when.

Phone the **CNC- Cape Town booking office on 4832949 or 51** (or fax 4833500)

and pay for any permits, if applicable. Preferably ask for Fundile or Helen.

They will then fax their permit to you. Standard trails have to be booked.

If going "off-trail", inform them that you already have permission from the reserve manager.

The names and contact numbers of the relevant reserve managers are set out below:

Limietberg (Tulbagh Road to Bain's Kloof to Du Toit's Kloof to Franschoek Pass)

Deon Rossouw or Anelle van Noie 8711535 or 6 or 082 4949707 (fax 8725785)

Hottentot's Holland (Sir Lowry's Pass to Nuweberg to Franschoek Pass to Brandvlei)

Leon Lourens 028 8414301 or 2 or 082 4135258

Kogelberg (Betty's Bay/ Kleinmond to Sir Lowry's Pass)

Mark Johns or Melanie Koen 028 2715138 or 082 7838585

NOTE: Hiking/climbing "off-trail" is generally not permitted on the Kogelberg Biosphere.

Accessing MCSA property which necessitates crossing CNC land (Springstuygbeugel and Kromriver Hut)

If not intending to hike on CNC land, and only crossing their land in order to access our property, a courtesy call to the reserve manager will suffice, and non-members may accompany members. If accessing Springstuygbeugel from Bain's Kloof, CNC will allow members with 4*4 vehicles to drive up the jeep track, provided that the reserve manager is informed in advance.

If however, you plan to hike on CNC land from our properties, (and this includes Du Toit's Kloof and Agter-Tafelberg huts), normal booking is essential per the booking procedures above.

2. Jonkershoek Reserve (Includes Jonkershoek Valley catchment area, plus Groot Drakenstein Mountains, including Berg River and Banhoek catchment areas)

Booking procedures

If climbing in the Jonkershoek catchment area, pay at the gate or show your Wild Card. A separate fee of R10 to SAFCOL is payable there for driving your car in plus R5pp. (May be the Wildcard will cover that, but I doubt it, because they also want to snatch your money).

If climbing off-path anywhere in the reserve, a courtesy phone call is necessary to the reserve manager Patrick Shone or his deputy Juanita Albert, or to their assistant Ashlyn, to let them know where you plan to climb. Phone 8661560 or 082 4670405.

3. Weekend Access - Special concession for above mentioned reserves.

If you only decide on a Saturday for example, that you would like to climb on CNC land that weekend you can phone the relevant reserve manager for permission at the phone numbers listed above.

4. Cederberg and Winterhoek Wilderness areas, and Hex River Mountains

Phone the Porterville booking office on 022 9312900 or 022 9312088. They issue their own permits. For a three-day trail, and sleep over in the wilderness area on two nights, you pay R135 (3 days x R45) Juniors R25pd. Day hikes R25 for adults and R15 scholars. Pls. confirm.

Permits will also be sold at the Nieuwoudts farm at Sanddrif in aid of CNC.