

• MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

MCSA HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION

NEWSLETTER

May to July 2004

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

SLIDESHOW:

Mt KINABALU AND THE JUNGLE IN BORNEO

by Ulli Deutschländer Saturday May 8th 20h00

At the Environmental Center, Helderberg Nature Reserve

He will talk about his recent travels in Malaysia where he climbed several peaks on the highest mountain range (4100m) in South East Asia, visited an Orang Utan rehabilitation centre and trekked over the Crocker Range. He will also share his impressions from the great Taroko Gorge in Taiwan.

Please bring some snacks, drinks will be provided. Visitors most welcome!

JULY CAMP 2004 at MZIMKHULWANA

3rd July to 17th July

This years July camp will be held in the southern Berg next to the Mzimkhulwana river not far from the hut of the same name on the Giants Cup trail. It is an excellent area for the little Berg with a generous number of caves in which to shelter and rock paintings to see. The area is also good for long escarpment traverses from the Sani Pass to the Rhino or even further if you are fit. For the climbers there is the Rhino and Hodgsons and others and if we have severe cold weather there could be some ice routes.

Each member is expected to join and go out with one of the recognised parties

The KZN Section is hosting the formal annual dinner of the MCSA which is to be held on Saturday 10th July at the Fleur-De-Lys Club at Hilton College.

The cost will be **R80.00** per person per night or **R500.00** per week (inclusive of permits and gratuities for the kitchen staff.)

CLOSING DATE: Application forms and money must be returned on or before **31st May 2004**. Late entries will be accepted only if the camp is not fully booked.

Details and an Entry form are attached to this News letter.

GREYTON HIKING CHALLENGE

19th –20th June

Test your hiking skills over 40 to 50 km in the Riviersonderend Mountains together with 50 teams of two hikers each. Entry forms and details from Ulli. Closing date 28th May. Sleepover in tents in Greyton Bergzicht School grounds.

PAST MEETS

Groothoek Kloof, Matroosberg

Nicki Green 31Jan&1February

The plan was that Ulli, Donovan Bredenkamp, Alvin Page and I would arrive at the Matroosberg at eight on Saturday morning, however due to a time shift on Ulli's watch we succeeded in arriving late, setting the scenes for the weekend. The weekends hiking, abseiling and kloofing experience included members from both the Hottentots Holland and the Stellenbosch section.

The first day began with an endless hike, at least for some of us followed by eight abseils into the Groothoek kloof. I admit that the views when in the kloof were the most beautiful I have seen in a long time. Towards the end of the day and after many hours on foot we approached the last abseil of the afternoon. At this stage it needs to be said that thanks to the persistence of Ulli and fellow rescue members I had bought myself a helmet and in the end when at this spot I found that I really needed it. The rope that we were abbing off slipped from its original position, with me on the rope, slipping and sliding, banging my head and landing upside-down in my Harness. Quite amusing to say the least, although at the time we all got a little/big fright. After the excitement we progressed to our campsite half way down the kloof. Most members found a soft spot on one side of the kloof, while three younger members chose beauty over comfort. They found a rock shaped like a bathtub and squeezed into, and slept with a magnificent view of the Stars.

The second day was considerably longer. First we had some more abseiling that had to be conquered and then we took to the water with some kloofing. For the duration of the two days in the Matroosberg we came to realise that Alvin is a perfectionist and needs a little longer to pack his bag than the rest of us. So when he took somewhat longer with the kloofing it was just assumed that he had stopped to get something out of his bag and then pack it again. When in fact he had slipped and received a nasty cut behind his ear, which was seen to by a doctor in Worcester later that evening. With all the aches and pains the rest of the day seemed to take even longer reaching our final destination only at seven that evening.

So, looking back on the weekend, it was a great experience...with ups and downs, but yet a time well spent with much laughter with good friends. If you are planning on doing this hike in the near future then you should contact Donovan for he compiled a list of things one needs and does not need. One most definitely does need a panga for at times one is hiking through elbow-high bushes, which is of course when Ulli is leading.

Du Toits River kloofing trip

Donovan Bredenkamp, 8 February

As the party of 12 dropped in altitude from the road to the river, the sun shone warm on us. An interesting group of people: as seven were MCSA members and five visitors. The visitors chose the right meet to join in as the trip was moderately easy with diverse terrain which included a short walk on a ledge and some swims with short jumps. To conclude: it was a short but fun filled hike.

Tiergaat Kloof, Greyton

Alfons Kiefer, 15 February

After a relaxing cup of coffee at Alfons' house seven of us ascended the hills of Greytons Nature Reserve in lovely sunshine. There are lovely views in hidden canyons. One of them is Tiergat Kloof where we could see beautiful intensely red Disas with water trickling over the rock faces covered by moss and Watsonia leaves. Below are some small pools with lush vegetation around them. A little Oasis in the otherwise harsh fynbos!

Rotsklim by laer Silvermyn

Viljoen Thom, 22 February

Almal was welkom, dit is gereel juis vir beginners. Sowat 20 mense het opgedaag, die cronjes en thomme was almal daar. Die reddings afdeling se jongklomp was sterk verteenwoordig. Aangesien die sportklim roetes wissel van graad 10 tot graad 23, het almal iets gehad om te doen. Die reddingspan het besluit om hul nuwe lede met n graad 19 intewy. `n Moeilike 19 met `n oorhangkrans daarby. Nodeloos om te se, was daar geen redpoints nie. Wel `n paar rooi vingers. Die ander van ons het matigheid voor oe gehou, en topropes opgesit waarop almal kom klim, en leer van die eenaardige effekte van swaartekrag. Met die uitklimslag was daar n paar interessante oomblikke . Familietwiste het ook voorgekom, maar eindelijk was almal veilig bo. Op die spesifieke dag het ons niemand verloor nie.

Annual Service, TM

Mike Clemenson, 29 February

Seven members ascended by Cecilia Forest past the Mc Clears Beacon for the service.

Groot Winterhoek

Ron du Toit, 20-23 March

Seven of us left the parking area on a beautifully clear morning and set off towards Groot Kliphuis. The temperature was comfortable and we made good time. We didn't know if there would be water en route, and carried enough with us just in case, and as it happened the smaller streams were dry. At the large stream - name unknown - but about halfway to Kliphuis, however, there was water aplenty, with the added bonus of pristine Disas flowering along the margin.

We arrived at Groot Kliphuis at about four in the afternoon and set up our beds under the oaks, with the exception of the myself, who elected to sleep in a grotto on the far side of the rock outcrop due to a sensitivity to criticism for snoring. A good night's sleep was consequently had by all.

Next day dawned bright and clear again and after a pleasant walk down the valley we arrived at De Tronk in the middle of the afternoon. We settled in and the more energetic ones walked down to Die Hel. Towards evening a young man came walking down from the mountain behind the hut and told us that he had just climbed the Groot Winterhoek peak after spending the night in the rocks above us, having left the parking area the previous day. He was on his way back to his car and was then going to drive to Langebaanweg Flying School that same night as he had to be back the following day. An epic effort, although he said that he was tired!

On Sunday morning we packed up and set off along the road, crossing the Groot Kliphuis river dry shod and swinging right onto the path up the valley. As always, the rock formations kept us all fascinated, seeing everything from Stegosaurus to Polar bears along the way. After a leisurely lunch at a crystal-clear pool we made our way slowly back to the cars, having had a thoroughly relaxing weekend, with weather that could not have been kinder. A welcome bit of good news is that the Dasklip Pass is in the process of being tarred and this will make the road up much easier when it's finished.

Easter weekend at Mary

Mark Berry, 19th -12th April

Three of us, including myself, Stephen Tillermans and another, headed out to Mary on Thursday afternoon. Being a faraway dolorite crag in the Eastern Cape interior, we decided to overnight in Mossel Bay. We camped out on the farm in a secluded valley below Mary. The next couple of days were spent climbing sport and traditional routes, ranging in grades from 18 to 24/25. The cherry was climbing The Myth (24/25), an old Mike Roberts route that was recently retro-bolted by Keith James. It tackles an imposing slab to the left of The Legend and sports 19 bolts! Other routes climbed included Classical Manoeuvres (21), Musciline Delusions (20), Screech of the Bra's (22), Line of the Sun (21) and Dreamer (22). We returned via P.E. and also spend some time at the Lady's Slipper, climbing a route and bouldering on the famous Chockstone Boulder.

Helderberg to Johnson Hut Meet

Mike o Keeffe, 17&18 April

After weeks of clearing the path below the Helderberg Dome we had to change the meets route. Eight people and Ian's baby arrived at the hut on Saturday to walk to Picnic Bush in light rain. Lots of water ran in the streamlets. A new and shorter route was found returning to the hut. Others did some bouldering at Langklippie. Later we had a jolly musical evening with lively drumming by the rescue team, let by Wayne. Next day a group of four went for a stroll to the Sneukop gorge but the weather was not good enough to climb to the Chipaway cave. Next year we will have this annual event a bit earlier in the year to stay clear of rain.

Cape Point Nature Reserve

Richard Loos, 25 April

Our party of ten left the Smitswinkel Bay viewpoint in the Cape Peninsula National Park for the scenic walk along the False Bay coastline to Rooikrans. The first section is along the cliff tops traversing around behind Judas Peak and Paulsberg to Kanonkop. Alfons, Joy and Paul being true the spirit of mountaineering conquered the two summits, the rest of us being content with the official path. After examining the canon on Kanonkop (1806 and all that) we descended to the sea shore at Booi se Skerm for a picnic "Langs die see". The afternoon walk followed the shore via Buffels Bay to Rooikrans. Baboons, Bontebok and Tortoises were the "Big 3", sea-birds along the coast plentiful and the fynbos looking good for this time of the year. This is a scenic walk which should be taken leisurely with sufficient film in your camera.

The membership fees for the year 2004 are as follows:

Single	R130	Couple	R160
Over 60's	R115	Over 60's couple	R145
Country Members	R120	Country Members 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".

Those who are often in the mountains may find it worthwhile to buy a "Wild Card" which is available through the Club at a reduced rate. Details were given in the last Newsletter.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Wayne Kitney is our **Rescue Convenor**.

His cell phone is **082 335 3896**

Our S/R team was very busy in several rescues and searches. There are regular rescue excercises on Helderberg College, concerning rope work, stretchers, helicopter lift off, search strategy etc. Please phone in if you are fit, available day or night and willing to give your best.

!!! 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 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

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

A discount of about 10 % is offered to MCSA members, if these cards are bought through the club. From this year on we can no more purchase an annual permit for the CNC areas and everyone will either have to buy his/her Wild Card or buy a daily permit for private meets. Permits for members at our section's official club meets will be sponsored this year by the club.

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 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.

A colourful Wall Calender by the Mountain Club is available through your secretary.

A warm Welcome to the new members Nilly Galyam and Jonathan Arensburg.

MEETS LIST

May to July 2004

- The Twins , Jonkershoek (1494m)** **Sunday 9th May**
Frontal route, some exposure, fitness required Ulli 8875393 / 072 3423615
- Somerset Sneukop (1590m)** **Sunday 16th May**
Early up the Jeep track to Landroskop, return via Sphinx. Ian Thompson 0823408988; 8515490
- Topside – Bouldering / Hiking** **Sunday 23rd May**
Lots of fun with bouldering for the rock climbers (Newcomers welcome!) Hikers could stroll leisurely in the forests next to the Ou Kaapse Weg. Stephen Tilleman 082 5488414 or 5566880
- Helderberg Dome** **Sunday 30th May**
For all who haven't been on our town's guardian mountain. Wulf Eilers 8524967, 0829406478
- Johnson Hut Meet** **Sater-/Sunday 5th/6th June**
Enjoy the crisp atmosphere of a winter day at our Mountain hut and lend a helping hand to the upkeep of the hut. We would like that all Club members do a bit, as we will celebrate this year the 40th anniversary of the hut in November. Viljoen Thom 0721786918
- T.M. Contour path** **Sunday 13th June**
Kirstenbosch to Rhodes Memorial. A leisurely winter walk. Ron du Toit 852 3867
- Greyton Hiking Challenge, -Weekend 19th 20th June-**
See attached Info. Cut off date for entries is 28th May!
- Aasvoel kop (824m), Hermanus** **Sunday 20th June**
Not to strenuous hike above Walkerbay. Whales below! Adri Gericke 8521912(h)8502547(w)
- Mordenaarskop (1340 m)** **Sunday 27th June**
From Eikenhof (Country Club) to the saddle at Verkykerskop, then along the old Boland Trail and through low fynbos to the top of Moordenaarskop returning by the Boys'se Pad. Aprox. 16 km, 6 hours, entrance fees R10 per car and R6p/p. Helmut Meyer 855 2694 or 855 2762
- July Camp Drakensberg; -Weeks 3rd to 10th & to 18th of July-**
See front page and attached Info. Cut off date for entries is 31st May!
- Devils Peak (1000m)** **Sunday 4th July**
Enjoyable hike if "van Hunk" and the Devil are not busy with their Smoking contest, which may result in you being blown over the top. Richard Loos 8527427, 8440366
- Landroskop (1515m) from Johnsonhut** **Sunday 11th July**
Fitness required for this interesting route. Sleep at our hut the Saturday. Donovan 0721763286
- Du Toits Kloof to Baines Kloof** **Weekend 17/18th July**
Arrive at Kromriver Hut Saturday afternoon and hike next day past Junction Pool amongst the famous Slanghoek Berge to Bains Kloof. Viljoen Thom 0721786918
- Karbonatjies Kraal, Rock climbing and Hiking** **Weekend 24/25th July**
Over the day, it should be sunny there with ample rock faces to climb and varied routes to hike at the edge of the Karoo. Stephen Tilleman 082 5488414 or 5566880
- Sir Lowries Pass to Jonkershoek** **Weekend 31st July/1st August**
Something for "toughies" f.e. our Rescue Team to check out their survival skills in probably not to clement winter weather. Wayne Kitney 0823353896

ps. If you want to hike the **Boland 90** get details and entry form from Ulli.
Entries close end of June!

2004 GREYTON HIKING CHALLENGE

SUPPORTED BY KARRIMOR

19 – 20 JUNE 2004

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nature of the Challenge: The **GREYTON HIKING CHALLENGE** is not a race but a test of hiking skills.
It can be both a physically and mentally demanding event being held in the winter. Participants must be fit and fully equipped to hike in weather conditions that can range between the extreme opposites that might be expected in the high mountains of the Cape.

Venue: Bergsig School Hostel, Greyton

How to get there: Follow the N2 from Cape Town towards Caledon. Turn left on the R406 towards Greyton approximately 4 km before Caledon. In Greyton, some 30 km further down the road, keep on the town's main road and turn left into West Street just after the Dutch Reformed Church. The hostel is at the top of the road.

Organisers: The Boland 90 hiking challenge committee under the patronage of the Greyton Winter Festival Committee. Organisations involved:
Hiking South Africa (Western Cape)
Delta Search & Rescue

Medical service Milnerton Medi-Clinic: Trauma & Emergency Unit

Contact information:

Postal address: P.O. Box 376, SANLAMHOF 7532

E-mail address: greytonhc@webmail.co.za

Inquiries: Laurette Smit 028 254 9303
Ameen Lagardien 083 441 8438
Daniel Rousseau 082 492 0559

Accommodation: Hikers and supporters are responsible for their own sleeping arrangements such as tents, etc. on the hostel grounds. It is advisable to bring a mattress of some sort – either an air mattress or a “normal household” one. Ablution facilities will be available in the hostel.

Food: Teams & supporters should provide all their own meals and drinks.

Fees payable: **Challenge R150,00** per team to be paid with the entry form.
R10,00 per person per night payable on arrival

Cheques / Postal Orders to be made payable to
Greyton Hiking Challenge

Important date: **Entries close on 28 May 2004**

JULY CAMP 2004

MZIMKHULWANA

We are back in the southern Berg again but finding sites for July Camp is not as easy as it used to be even in the less populated southern Berg. So we will hold the camp next to the Mzimkhulwana river not far from the hut of the same name on the Giants Cup trail and covering some of the same ground as our camp two years ago. It is an excellent area for the little Berg with a generous number of caves in which to shelter and rock paintings to see. The area is also good for long escarpment traverses from the Sani Pass to the Rhino or even further if you are fit. For the climbers there is the Rhino and Hodgsons and others and if we have severe cold weather there could be some ice routes. An added bonus is that the road to the car park is tarred.

The camp will run from **Saturday 3rd July to Saturday 17th July**. Each member is expected to join and go out with one of the recognised parties. Children under 16 are not permitted but children aged 13 to 15 may attend the first weekend provided they are accompanied by their parents

The KZN Section is hosting the formal annual dinner of the MCSA which is to be held on Saturday 10th July at the Fleur-De-Lys Club at Hilton College. This is about a 2 hour drive from the car park (and all on tarred road!). So it is all happening in KZN this July and we hope that members will be able to attend both events.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CAR PARK AND BASE CAMP

From Underberg follow Bushmans Nek and Swartberg signs for a few kilometres out of Underberg turn right onto the Drakensberg Gardens road and travel for about 15kms to a farm called 'The Ottery' and signposted MCSA on the right hand side of the road where the cars will be parked. This is private property and **no camping or sleeping is allowed at or near the car park**. Follow the signs to base camp which is 50 minutes walk (if you are fit) along a track. No private vehicles will be permitted beyond the car park.

PORTERAGE

Members kit will be ferried to and from base camp at the following times :-

Saturday 3rd July - 10.00am and 2.30pm

Saturday 10th July - 9.00am from base camp and 2.30pm from the car park

Saturday 17th July - before 10.00am from the car park

PERMITS AND PASSPORTS

Our base camp is on KZN Wildlife land and it will be necessary for each member to carry a permit to enter the area and to produce it if required. The cost of these permits which will be issued at base camp is included in the camp fees. To avoid international problems, members intending to traverse on the escarpment must carry passports valid for Lesotho as well as membership cards

BASE CAMP

Members are requested to bring their own tents. A Club tent will pitched for storing excess kit when personal tents are taken to sub-camp.

All food will be provided and, in base camp, cooked and served by Ishmael and his staff. Hot water will be available for ablutions.

KIT SUGGESTIONS

In addition to bedding, first aid, torch and spare batteries, each person must bring litter bags for carrying rubbish back from sub camps, two enamel plates, two enamel mugs and two sets of cutlery. One plate, mug and set of cutlery should be handed to the kitchen staff for use at base camp and retrieved on leaving camp. A large container or plastic bucket for carrying water and for laundry is always advisable because the river

must not be polluted with soapy water. Be prepared for snow which is not uncommon at this time of the year in the southern Berg.

Proper footwear is essential as leaders are not prepared to take out persons without boots. Veldskoens and sports shoes are not suitable for snow and ice conditions which are not uncommon in the Berg in July.

Subcamping parties must provide their own cooking utensils and food containers. Those who intend climbing should also bring the necessary equipment. Lightweight tents are essential as camping in some of the caves is not permitted. Under no circumstances will subcamping parties be allowed to make fires and stoves must be used for cooking. Benzine and methylated spirits for stoves will be available in base camp.

The use of radios, walkmen, cellphones etc is not permitted in camp

COST

With the prevailing escalating costs we unfortunately have to increase the cost of the camp. The cost will be **R80.00** per person per night or **R500.00** per week (inclusive of permits and gratuities for the kitchen staff.) Car owners must pay an **extra R10.00** per week for **parking** and persons who are **not members** of a recognised Mountain Club, an **extra R50.00**. The Club reserves the right to retain a 20% booking fee to defray expenses when making refunds to persons who cancel their bookings.

PAYMENT

The total amount due must be paid in advance and should accompany the application form. Cheques must be made payable to **The Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu Natal Section**. Alternately, money may be paid directly to the Club's account at the **NBS in Pietermaritzburg (Branch No 720026 Account No 9126509293)**. However, if you do transfer the money directly via the bank remember to include the transfer fee in your payment **but PLEASE send a photocopy of the deposit slip with your application so we know who has deposited the money.**

CLOSING DATE

Application forms and money must be returned on or before **31st May 2004**. Late entries will be accepted only if the camp is not fully booked. For additional forms, information and queries please contact:-

The Convener, July Camp Sub-Committee

Miss K Nixon, 20 Phipson Road, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg,3201

Telephone : 033-3460003(H) or 033-3862314(W) mornings)

Fax : 033-3868905(W)

e-mail : kay@icfr.unp.ac.za

After 30th June any very urgent messages in connection with the camp may be telephoned to Chris Wex the ranger-in-charge at Cobham

Tel- 033-7020831 or fax 033-7020171

APPLICATION FORM FOR JULY CAMP 2004

(Please delete alternatives which are not applicable)

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE !

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

_____ Code |_|_|_|

Telephone (code and number) _____

e-mail _____

- I wish to attend the camp from July.....to July.....
- I am a member of thesection of the MCSA/Club
- I am not a member of any Mountain Club
- I wish to do climbs up to grade
- I am prepared to lead climbs to grade
- I wish to sub-camp in the little Berg with optional one-day trips to the escarpment.
- I wish sub-camp with 1 or 2 nights on the escarpment
- I wish to do day trips returning to base each night.
- I do/do not climb/hike regularly
- I am/am not proficient at abseiling

Camp charges for nights @ R80.00 per night = R.....
Or @ R500.00 per week

Non-members fee (R50.00) = R.....

Parking (R10.00 per week or part thereof) = R_____

Total = R _____

I enclose a cheque for R payable to **The Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu Natal Section**

or
I have made a direct deposit of R to the **MCSA KwaZulu Natal Section account (Branch no 720026, account no 9126509293) at the NBS Pietermaritzburg and include/ have faxed a copy of the deposit slip**

SIGNED **DATE**

Please return on or before 31st May 2004 to :-

**Miss K Nixon
Convener, July Camp Sub-committee,
20 Phipson Road,
Scottsville,
3201 PIETERMARITZBURG**

**Tel 033-34-60003(H)
033- 38-62314 (W)
Fax 033-38-68905 (W)
e-mail kay@icfr.unp.ac.za**