

MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2005 to Jan. 2006

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 12th November 2005

**At the Environmental Center, Helderberg Nature Reserve
See attached Agenda and Nomination forms!**

All members and visitors are welcome to join us for a:

BRING and BRAAI before the AGM at 6 pm

Some drinks will be provided by the Club

The official AGM will start at 8pm

Slides of the meets in 2005 will be shown afterwards

New Rules at Vergelegen:

The driver of each car entering the farm must fill in the Mountain Club log book at the security gate!

The new 'fire access road' to the hut is closed with chains and may only be used by foot!

The membership fees for the year 2005 / 2006 are as follows:

Single	R140	Couple	R170
Single over 60	R125	Couple over 60	R155
Junior	R120	Newsletter only, by post	R20

Please send your subs as soon as possible to MCSA, PO Box 1100 SSW 7129 and we will send you the 2006 sticker for your membership card and 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 payment can be done to: MCSA HH Section,

Standard Bank Somerset West, Type: Current, Branch: 03 30 12 42, AC No: 07 231 011 1

PAST MEETS

Wemmershoek Sneukop

Ulli Deutschländer, 21st August

A small group of four joined me going up Mia's Poort on an overcast morning. Again this weekend we missed the expected snow experience. At least we could see some snow on the opposite mountains of the du Toits peak. Rob and Alvin made the ladies and me some tea sheltered behind the "postbox" on the saddle from the strong wind. With rain clouds threatening above us we ignored the Wemmershoek Sneukop and visited the Italian cross, where we had some views of the Boland, whilst I told the stories of the POWs here 60 years ago longing for their Italian mountains and mammas.

Protea Ridge

Richard Loos, 4th September

The day started out looking as if we were going to end up wet, but after two hours the occasional showers abated and by afternoon the sun was shining. Our party of ten left the Elgin Country Club and walked via the Eikenhof forestry house for about six kilometres before ascending the ridge overlooking Nuweberg. Mainly due to the chilly wind we completed the ridge route and dropped down into the forest for lunch. In the afternoon we returned via the waterfall and the adventure trail which involved two "perilous" river crossings. A varied route of reasonable length and not too well known by the general public.

Twins, Jonkershoek

Ian Thompson, 11th September

The "long day, fitness required" must have frightened some members and so on that lovely spring day only four of us attempted the south frontal route. After some protea bush whacking we arrived at the rock face and found the ground very loose in the kloof, because of the good rain in the previous weeks. And as the lady with us did not feel well with the exposure at the rock we retracted and went over to the Nerina kloof. The steps of the reconstructed path are much too high and so our lady was quickly exhausted and Ian and Rob went on for a while in the kloof, but then returned. The next time we will go up the Langkloof. (Ulli D.)

Rocklands, bouldering & sports climbing meet.

Stephen Tillemans, 17/18 September

We left Cape town early Saturday morning and arrived in the Cederberg at about 10am. After getting our permits at the Kliphuis campsite we headed to the top of Pakhuis pass to go sports climbing at Rocklands. We visited a number of crags during the day. In the morning we visited the Island sector and the beginners top roped some of the easy routes. Later in the afternoon we went to the Orange Plasma wall where Howard tried his 'project'. In the evening we enjoyed a braai back at the campsite. Sunday we visited a few more crags including Ceder Rouge. The weekend was awesome. Everyone went home with sore finger and tired arms. Thankfully work gives us time to recover for the next weekends climbing.

Paarl Mountain Stroll

Alfons Kiefer, 18th September

Whilst the climbers where at Rockland we thought it would be good to get the other members into the fresh air and we were very lucky to have a lovely spring day walking through the botanical garden to the top of Britannia Rock. I was astonished that several of our group never have been there up before. So, there is still much to discover in the area very closed to us. We watched the Stellenbosch section on their rock climbing meet on Gordon Rock before we descended and "joined" the locals for a picnic. (U.D.)

Stokoe's pass

Helmut Meyer, 2nd October

A party of eight went for the Eikenhof gate. As Mordenaarskop was in clouds (and remained so for the whole day) we decided on Stokoespass. We went by car another seven kilometres into the forest and then followed in the footsteps of the Boland 90. We stopped at the highest point at 1204 metres to admire the all-round view before descending to our lunch spot and returning via the Palmietpad. Many flowers, in particular the display of Four Sisters Heath, slowed us down on the way back to our cars. Weather was perfect and the day enjoyed by all

Simonsberg, Stellenbosch

Eugene Mabile, 30th October

A group of twelve left in good weather at the Tokara vinyards and made it in good time to the top, although track on the eastern side was barely visible. The views over the Groot Drakenstein berge and towards Franschoek were spectacular. This is a great mountain! U.D

Boland 90 Hiking Challenge

29th September – 1st October

This year we had lots of sunshine and the challenge to cover in three days 90km in the Hottentots Holland mountains, with tasks in first aid, orienteering and river crossing was done in great spirit by most of the 39 teams. Our Search and Rescue team was again very active from morning to late at night caring for hikers struggling with injuries and exhaustion. One of the marshals had to be airlifted to the hospital because of an accidental rock fall. A big Thanks goes to all those who helped so willingly and cheerfully with this annual event. (U.D.)



Boland 90, starting of the third day



Part of the rescue team at Boesmans kloof hut

Vergelegen verwyder indringer plante van plaas

Ulli en myself het vroer vanjaar n vergadering met Vergelegen se bestuur gehad.

Daar het ons die sake rondom die hut bespreek en uitgeklaar. Donald Tooth het ons die geleentheid gegee om van ons probleme te lug, en so is die nuwe pad bespreek.

Die plaasbestuur onder Stewart Vermeulen het toe twee kettings opgesit op die nuwe pad.

Verder het ons ook nou 'n boek by die plaasingang wat ingevul moet word deur elke motorbestuurder wat na die hut toe gaan.

Gerald Wright was die derde persoon op die vergadering, en hy het ons ingelig oor 'n 10 jaar projek waarmee die plaas besig is. Hulle gaan alle uitheemse indringers op die plaas verwyder, en die plaas voortaan skoonhou daarvan.

Vergelegen is sowat 3000 hektaar groot, waarvan 2000 hektaar nie gebruik word vir boer nie. Dis 'n massiewe stuk aarde, en is meestal toegegroeie onder indringers. Hulle is reeds 2 jaar besig met die ontbossing. Aangesien hulle begin het in die gebied om en agter die wynkelder, het ons nog nie baie daarvan gesien nie.

Ek en Gido het een middag saam met Gerald gaan ry op die plaas met 'n bakkie. Hy het my toe gewys wat al gedoen is. Sowat 500 hektaar is reeds skoongemaak, alhoewel dele hiervan net gedeeltelik besmet was. Daar is 'n span kontrakteurs van 60 werkers, waarvan 15 met kettingsaie werk, wat bome en bosse saag. Die bruikbare hout verkoop hulle as brandhout, terwyl die res op hope gepak word en verbrand word. Die veld word dan ook in blokke gebrand, en sodra die indringers weer opkom, word dit met gif gespuit.

Ten tye van my besoek was daar ook 'n ontbossings stootskrapeer doenig in die veld. Dit is gehuur deur die plaas teen R1000 per uur. Dis 'n monster van 'n masjien, wat eenvoudig alles opkap wat in sy pad kom. Ongelukkig is die bergagtige terrein en baie groot klippe nie geskik vir die monster nie.

Sy gebruik is toe gestaak, maar die span kontrakteurs, wat gedeeltelik 'n bemaatigings projek is, werk nog voort. So 200 meter voor die slang gat aan die linkerkant, kan mens sien waar die masjien bosse en bome verwoes het.

Dit is baie bemoedigend om te sien dat Anglo American, deur die Vergelegen bestuur, so 'n reuse projek begin het. Hulle is duidelik bereid om groot bedra geld te bestee om die natuurlike veld weer te laat floreer. Die fynbos kom vinnig op in die dele wat al skoongemaak is.

Ons sien uit na die dag dat Vergelegen skoon gaan wees van indringerplante.

Ons het die Bergklub ook bereidwillig verklaar om te help met van die projekte, as dit nodig sou wees.

Viljoen Thom

SEARCH AND RESCUE:

Wayne Kitney is our **Rescue Convener**.

His **new** cell phone Nr: **0766047444**

Our S/R team was again busy in several rescues and searches.

There are regular rescue exercises, concerning rope work, stretchers, radio coms, search strategy etc. Please phone in if you are fit, available day &/or night and willing to give your best.

In case of a mountain accident phone Metro: 948 99 00 or 948 9917

ROCKCLIMBING:

Stephen Tillemans is responsible for rock meets. Contact him at **082 3757940**

To encourage rock climbing, our section will sponsor 2 teams taking part at the:

2005 SA Mountain Cape Peninsula Rock Rally , Sat. 5th November

All crags will be climbed on Ou Kaapse Weg (Silvermine, Peers cave)

More info under: http://www.samountainmag.com/news/peninsula_rock_rally.php

JOHNSON HUT:

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

To collect the hut key, visit him at 10 Arlington Street, off Fairmead Street, Helena Heights.

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

Will those using the hut doing their best to pay the Hut convener or secretary ASAP!

Please do not use open flames (candles, cookers, smoking etc.) in the loft!

Close the shutters thoroughly after your visit, combating break in.

New Rules at Vergelegen Farm:

The driver of the car entering the farm must fill in the logbook at the security gate!

The fire access road is closed by chains and may only be used by foot!

Access to "Cape Nature" Areas:

Those who are often in mountains "belonging" to Cape Nature or visit National Parks may find it worthwhile to buy a "Wild Card". **Wild Card Enquiries at 0861234002**

The type "Cape Cluster" will cost R170 per individual, R 295 per couple and R395 per family.

The price for **day permits went up again: to R24** pp for Cape Nature areas and R60 pp/night for Wilderness reserves, like the Groot Winterhoek berge and the Cedarberg.

NOTE: Although if you own a Wildcard: We still have to book for hikes in CNC areas through the Cape Nature booking office at 021 6593602!

Permits for members at our section's official club day - meets will be sponsored this year by the club, as arranged by the Meets Leader.

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).

Mountain Literature: (perhaps your Christmas present?)

- SERPENT SPIRES, by Duncan Souchon

South African climbers profile the Drakensberg`s finest peaks.

This long awaited great book will be released on 15 November.

The pre-purchase cost is R150 + R15 postage.

Payments can be made to: FNB Northcliff: Branch code 253705; Acct Nr: 62092203802

Account name: Serpent Spires.

- "SA Mountain Magazine":

This full colour, full size climbing -cum- mountain magazine is published quarterly.

- "Sport routes in the Cape" Tony Lourens brought out this excellent Guide book (

- The 2006 MCSA Calendar is now available from the Secretary and at the AGM for R25.

A warm Welcome to the new members: Kim Williams and Dirk Kruger

MEETS LIST

November 2005 to January 2006

Vlakkenberg Peak

Lovely views and spring flowers on this gentle hike south of the Constantia Nek.

Alfons Kiefer 8527467, 0720203033

Sunday, 6th November

AGM , for details see front and last pages

SATURDAY 12th November 2005

Three Sisters

Superb views from this mountain ridge overlooking Kleinmond. Whales may be seen even from this height and distance. Not too strenuous. Bring Wild Card!

Adri Gericke 8521912(h)8502547(w)

Sunday, 13th November

Kogelberg / Palmiet Rivier

Easy walk with a big variety of fynbos. Possible swimming! Probably coming down in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

Nick Le Maitre 0721463845, 8661421(h)

Sunday, 20th November

Johnson Hut Meet

Some aliens have to be eradicated to keep the environment in shape and the path to the hut has to be cleared. Later on Sunday: venturing into the interior

Viljoen Thom 0721786918

Saturday & Sunday, 26th & 27th November

Kleinmond

Rock Climbers will have fun climbing above Palmiet rivier whilst the hikers will walk up to Perdeberg.

Sunday, 4th December

David Wright 0823279721

Landdrooskop Needles

Rock scramble above the Johnson Hut on this classic route of the HH mountains. Some exposure and fitness required.

Sunday, 11th December

Ulli 8875393, 072 3423615

Cederberg

Hiking and climbing meet with the Base camp at Kromrivier. **Book well in advance!**

David Wright 0823279721

Weekend, 16th-18th December

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members!

Cederberg

For those who could not make the previous meet: Stephen will lead rock climbing routes at Wolfberg, Truitjieskraal and other areas. Base camp at Kromrivier. **Book well in advance!**

Stephen Tillemans 0823757940, 5566880

27th- 31st December

Johnson Hut New Year Eve Meet

Bring and braai at the hut and be jolly going into the New Year.

Viljoen Thom 0721786918

31st December

Elandspad

Easy hike up the Elandsrivier. Lots of swimming and an excursion to a magic waterfall.

Mike O'Keeffe 8512300 (h) 0832283442

Sunday, 8th January

Wessels Gat, kloofing

Fun kloofing trip with a few jumps and many swimming pools.

Sunday, 15th January

Keeroms River route

An easy family hike in the Eikenhof forestry area, with some swimming. Just the right thing for a hot, but relaxing summer's day.

Richard Loos 8440366, 8527427

Sunday, 22nd January

Suicide Gorge / Riviersonderend

A kloofing trip par excellence! One or both will be done.

Sunday, 29th January
Viljoen Thom 0721786918

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION OF
THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA**

SATURDAY 12th November 2005, 6 pm

**At the Environmental Center
Helderberg Nature Reserve**

All members and visitors are welcome to join us for a:

BRING and BRAAI before the AGM

Some drinks will be provided by the Club

The AGM will start at 8pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurers' Report
6. Search & Rescue Coordinator's Report
7. Johnson Hut Report
8. General
9. Election of the Committee for 2006
10. Slide show of past meets in 2005

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND SECTION OF
THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Notice is hereby given that the above meeting will take place on

SATURDAY 12th November 2005, 6 pm

**At the Environmental Center
Helderberg Nature Reserve**

Nominations are invited for the honorary offices of:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Plus additional Committee Members

and must reach the Secretary on or before the 12th November 2005.

Each nomination must clearly indicate the name of the nominee, the office to which he/she is nominated, the name of the proposer and seconder, and it must be countersigned by the nominee as an indication of acceptance.

Please use the form below and detach by cutting along the dotted line.

If you wish to make more than one nomination, photocopies are acceptable.

.....
Nomination Form for MCSA HH Committee

NOMINEE'S NAME (please print)

OFFICE TO WHICH NOMINATED

PROPOSED BY (Sign and print).....

SECONDED BY (Sign and print).....

DATE **NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE**.....