

# MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

## NEWSLETTER

February to April 2006

Secretary: Nina Nezura 8418119 (w) or: 073 1463845 NinaN@appletiser.co.za  
Chairman: Ulli Deutschländer 887 5393 (h) 808 3365 (w) or: 0723423615 ugkd@sun.ac.za

Find more about the Mountain Club on the websites <http://hot.mcsa.org.za>  
<http://mcsa.org.za> and [www.uiaa.ch](http://www.uiaa.ch)

## IN MEMORIAM

**It was with great sadness that we heard that Jack Davies passed away in December.** Jack joined the Mountain Club in 1975. He was very active in our section and was our Chairman from 1989 to 1992. As a meets leader, he was very well known for his endurance and sense of fun. He was good in encouraging young people to come to the mountains and staged events like the HH Marathon from Steenbras dam to the Helderberg and multiday meets in the Cederberg, Grootvadersbosch and Groot Winterhoek mountains. At the campfire he had a vast repertoire of jolly songs. He used his management skills successfully in negotiating environmental matters and access problems with landowners and forestry. He was operative in the Search and Rescue team for many years and was very inventive in fund raising for the club. He was a great example! Our condolences to Margaret and the children.

## SLIDE SHOW

### **“Backpacking on the shores of Lake Tanganyika”**

Cornelius and Francois followed some way in the footsteps of David Livingstone, when they hiked from Zambia to Tanzania, travelled by bus, bush taxi, bicycle and on fishermen's boats along the shores on this longest freshwater lake in the world. They visited the amazing Kalambo waterfall (230m) and made a quick detour to Zanzibar.

*(“ Mr Weyers I presume?”)*

**Listen to Cornelius Weyers on:**

**FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 20h00**

**Environmental Center, Helderberg Nature Reserve**

Please bring some snacks for this social gathering

Visitors are most welcome

## Mt KENYA MEET

This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Johannesburg Section of the MCSA and as a celebration we have decided to have a meet to Mount Kenya. This will be for approximately 2 weeks in July 2006. Contact Ulli D. or Greg Devine on **083 378 2587**, [devine@mega.co.za](mailto:devine@mega.co.za)

## SPITZKOPPE MEET

Jacques van Greunen (0834865005) and Graham Terrell (0832412828) of the Johannesburg Section will be leading a meet to Spitzkoppe, Namibia from the 13th to 23rd April 2006. Please contact them on the abovementioned numbers to get the necessary arrangements.

**Membership fees for 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

|                   |
|-------------------|
| <b>PAST MEETS</b> |
|-------------------|

**Constantia Berg****Alfons Kiefer, 6<sup>th</sup> November**

The small group decided not to climb Vlakkenberg Peak but went up Constantia Berg instead. They had many spring flowers on this gentle hike.

**Three Sisters****Adri Gericke, 13<sup>th</sup> November**

The group grew to eight on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, no whales were sighted. The group walked/climbed well and the weather was ideal ht on Sunday morning. The plants and wild flowers were at their very best and many were in bloom – a recommended time of year to repeat the walk.

**Palmiet River to Harold Porter Nature Reserve****Nicholas Le Maitre, 20<sup>th</sup> November**

About 12 of us set off for the Oudebos Cape Nature Office on the Palmiet River. It was overcast and cool, a pleasant relief after the previous hot days, which made for easy hiking but the cloud obscured the beautiful views. After about an hours' hike along a good trail we entered Oudebos itself, a beautiful remnant of riverine forest with spectacular Yellowwoods, Alders and Assegai trees. Another half an hour and we reached the top of the Luiperdskloof waterfall where we had lunch and looked down on Betties Bay through a gap in the clouds. We returned to the Oudebos Office because we had been told that the trail to the Harold Porter was closed due to erosion. We then drove to the Harold Porter Nature Reserve where we had tea in their restaurant and found out that in fact the trail had just been reopened. A very enjoyable, easy hike which we recommend to everyone.

**AGM****12<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

The AGM was well attended, starting with a very social Braai and ending with a slideshow of last years meets. The Committee for 2006 is as follows:

Chairman: Ulli Deutschländer; Vice chairman: Mike O'Keeffe; Secretary: Nina Nezura;  
Treasurer: Wulf Eilers; Search and Rescue: Wayne Kitney; Johnson Hut: Viljoen Thom;  
Rock meets: Stephen Tilleman; Meets: Alvin Page; Additional: David Wright.

**Kleinmond Climb****David Wright, 4<sup>th</sup> December**

It was a very laidback morning climbing at the Kleinmond Crag. We arrived in dribs and drabs and did some of the old favourite routes. Even the hard core amongst us stuck to the easier routes as they introduced a beginner to some real rock. Around 13:00 we decided that the weather was more conducive to swimming and so gave in to the calling of the river below. Ulli arrived just in time to join us for a refreshing dip in the cool dark waters of the Palmiet river. The outing was enjoyed by all and we left plenty of routes to return to next time!

**Landroskop Needles****Ulli Deutschländer, 11 December**

Having climbed the route with an Arab and a Berber from Algeria the week before, I could easily retrace my footsteps with an appreciative group. For some it was the first time up this varied route: with a hike, some bundu bashing, rock scrambling, slogging up a long slope, bouldering where one threads the needle eye, enjoying great views at the top and then bum

sliding down the “Arsenic route” between the two needles. The young and brave were a bit too brave by climbing up the northern needle without ropes. I was especially happy to show John Saunders this route, which he managed very well.

### **Cederberg Trip**

**David Wright, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December**

Only four of us managed to get away and into the awesome wilderness of the Cederberg for the long weekend. We were joined by a camping fridge which made the trip all the more pleasurable. The Kromriver campsite was used as our base and from there we planned our movements. We enjoyed some good climbing routes at Truitjies Kraal on the Friday afternoon. On the Saturday we strolled through the Wolfberg cracks, did a wine tasting at the Nieuwoudts and looked at the Stadsaal rock formation. Sunday we drove up to Rocklands for some climbing and exploring. All in all, a fantastic getaway!

### **Johnson Hut New Year Eve Meet**

**31<sup>st</sup> December**

We had a big crowd and lots of fun at the hut. There were even people who for a change could play their guitar and knew today's songs. The south-easter was shooting down the kloofs. A bit chilly for those who slept under the magnificent starlit sky into the New Year.

### **Elandspad**

**Maoliosa o Keeffe 8<sup>th</sup> January**

A party of 11, of which four were guests hiked up the Elandsrivier on a cool overcast morning. As we reached the “big’ pool reasonably early we decided to carry on up to the Waterfall. Some boulder hopping and scrambling ensued before we got there. On the way we saw a few beautiful red Disas's but none at the Waterfall itself, which was truly magnificent – lots of water thundering down. Not everybody braved the cold water as the sun was still hiding behind clouds. We came back to the big pool for lunch and a swim and watched the trout jumping – maybe they were looking for some lunch as well! Long hot walk back to parking area which had been badly burnt in the recent fire but thankfully it had not spread beyond the car park.

### **Wessels Gat, kloofing**

**Ulli Deutschländer, 15<sup>th</sup> January**

The weather was doubtful, but we started in any case as there was no wind. This is always a fun kloofing trip with a few short jumps, many longish swimming pools. The ‘tea water’ coloured the white rock beautifully in the sunlit pools. We could even see some pinkish multiflora Disas next to the river and listen to all the little waterfalls and the happy frogs. But the sun played hide and seek with us and some of the jolly, but shivering kloofers hugged the still warm rocks and tried to avoid the swims where possible. Finally the sun came out for some lunch at the deep pool. There the younger ones tried the big jump with lots of our encouragement. A scenic trail is now laid out high above the riverbank, which brought us to the ‘foefie slide’. There was more excitement for those brave ones, speeding down the long rope and aiming for the deepest spot in the now quite shallow river.

### **Keeroms River route, Eikenhof**

**Richard Loos, 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Starting in some drizzle, we hiked up part of the Wesselsgat jeep track and turned then right into the pine forest. Over the ridge, a well marked footpath (adventure trail) brought our small group to a little waterfall above a lovely rock pool. Such one, many would like to have in their garden. After Ulli swam and the sun came out to warm him, Bobby, Gudrun and Richard tried it and also enjoyed the refreshing deep brown water. The trail then brought us to the “Big Washbasin”, which is a giant circular rockpool, one would never expect in such ‘boring’ pine forests. It would be great if one day these pools and river may be surrounded by an indigenous forest! (U.D.)

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“ ...but we mountaineers are only different in the activities we choose because we have found, within ourselves, something that all are seeking. It is hard to live without that feeling, once experienced.

Perhaps we are only different from those who have dreams - but do nothing about them.”

Silvo Karo

### **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**

### **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!**

**When making fire in the braai area have buckets with water and fire beaters next to it.**

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

### **New Rules at Vergelegen Farm:**

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

### **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

**NOTE: Although if you own a Wildcard: The meets leader still has 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 our 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:**

#### **- SERPENT SPIRES, by Duncan Souchon**

South African climbers profile the Drakensberg’s finest peaks.

This long awaited great book was released on 15 November 2005.

#### **- “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 Complete Manual For Rock Climbing, Tony Lourens +-R190**

#### **- The 2006 MCSA Calendar is available from the Secretary for R25.**

**A warm Welcome to our new members: Hazel, Jeremy, Michael Woodward and Schalk Smit**

**and the prospective member: Marrelie Bredenkamp.**

## MEETS LIST

February to April 2006

### **Buchu kloof**

Easy hike for a hot summer's day in the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve with many pools to swim and a spectacular waterfall. Mike O'Keeffe 8512300 (h) 0832283442

**Sunday , 5<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Bobbejanskloof**

From Bainskloof we hike to the waterfall, visit and swim in several pools along the river. There should be some disas to admire along the route. Nick Le Maitre 0721463845, 8661421(h)

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Crystal Pools**

Visit to the many pools of the Steenbraas river. Family outing!

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February**  
David Wright 0823279721

### **Annual Service on Table Mountain**

Not too strenuous hike from Kirstenbosch to Maclear's Beacon with a detour to see the disas at the Aquaduct. Richard Loos 8440366, 8527427

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Voelstruiskloof, Groot Drakenstein**

Hike up the Devil's kloof until we split into two groups: one for an adventurous abseil in the Voelstruiskloof and the other to swim in the rock pools and return. Viljoen Thom 0721786918

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Bat Cave, Helderberg**

A hike plus a bit of rock scrambling and abseil for beginners.

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
Alvin Page 0725919953

### **Silvermine**

Sports climbing with daredevil Rob and easy hiking for the others in the Silvermine Nature Reserve. Rob Nel 0849073981

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Johnson Hut, Work Meet**

Lots to do for everybody and especially for the prospective members. Viljoen Thom 0721786918

**Saturday/Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Helderberg to Johnson Hut**

Traverse from the Nature Reserve to Diepgat for a social evening under the stars and hike to our hut enjoying the views over the False Bay. Dwight Juby 0844034476

**Saturday/Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

### **Twins , Jonkershoek**

One of the magnificent peaks of this area. Up Langrivierkloof and down Nerinakloof. Long day, fitness required. Ian Thompson 0836161195

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Towerkop, Ladismith**

Hiking to the Mountain Club refuge and next day to the rock band to pitch tents. Go for short climbs or prepare for a tyrolian traverse. Sunday climb Nefdt's, Jackson's and other famous routes. Hikers could circumvent the Towerkop massif or visit the surrounding peaks. Fitness required. **Book well in advance!** Ulli Deutschlander 0723423615, 887 5393(h)

**Easter Mountain Experience, 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Easter Hike: Helderberg West Peak**

Check if there are still Easter eggs hidden on top of Westpeak!

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
Nina Nezura 0731463845

### **Chipaway Cave**

We invited the Stellenbosch section to join us on this meet. After an evening braai, we will sleep over at the Johnson hut and on Sunday hike to Sneukop gorge. There we scramble up in the river bed to finally find this mystique cave. Armand Smit 0846293473

**Sat/Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

### **Cederberg**

A circular route from Driehoek farm to Crystal pools over Engelsman kloof to Welbedacht cave and back. The route may be changed if necessary. Fitness required. Bring a tent. Book before 10th April! Alvin Page 0725919953

**Long Weekend, 29<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May**

## **Mt KENYA MEET JULY 2006**

This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Johannesburg Section of the MCSA and as a celebration we have decided to have a meet to Mount Kenya. This will be for approximately 2 weeks during July 2006. The meet is open to all members as well as non-members either in the process of joining or going with a member. There is no qualification although it would help to have camped out in cold conditions before. Both climbers and walkers are welcome.

We will fly to Nairobi and travel by minibus to Naro Moru River Lodge, where we will stay one night in the back-packers facility. The next day we go by Landie to the Park gate, complete formalities there and walk up to the Met station at about 3450 m. The next day sees us take a slow but quite hard schlep up the Vertical Bog to camp at the river near Picnic Rocks (3950m). Day 3 is a short walk up to Mackinders Hut where we will camp. That afternoon we will go up to the American camp and the black hole bivy to see the Darwin Glacier. Day 4 we will climb Point Lenana (4900m), the highest point to which one can walk.

The weather should be reasonably dry then, with days being pleasant and nights being cold higher up. You will need a stove, tent, a decent sleeping bag, sturdy boots, rain gear and warm clothing plus food for 8 to 10 days. Climbers will require ropes and gear. We will sort all this closer to the time.

When in the region of Pt Lenana, we will judge which would be the best side of the mountain, and best route to climb. The south-east standard route is sometimes out of condition at that time, but we will have to see. Anyway, we will then plan accordingly. Parties of stronger climbers can go off on their own, as can walkers. There is a lot of both hiking and climbing to be done.

We will aim to exit by the very scenic Chogoria route and head back to Nairobi for a bit of a jol at Buffalo Bill's Saloon.

It is hard to give an estimate of costs at this stage with currency fluctuations and airfares going up. The current airfare is somewhere around R3500, transport will be about \$50, Park fees \$100, accommodation about \$50. Food and living expenses say another \$100 makes a total of less than R6000. Porters are available if required. People can stay on afterwards and go to the game parks or the coast. Here is a great opportunity to visit a very beautiful mountain.

**Contact: Greg Devine on 083 378 2587 or [devine@mega.co.za](mailto:devine@mega.co.za).**