

# MCSA Hottentots Holland Section

## NEWSLETTER

December 2006 to February 2007

Secretary: Nina Nezura 8418119 (w) or: 073 1463845 NinaN@appletiser.net  
Chairman: Ulli Deutschländer 855 5453 (h) 808 3365 (w) or: 0723423615 [ugkd@sun.ac.za](mailto:ugkd@sun.ac.za)

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

### **Slideshow: Your Best..... Photos Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Everyone gets a chance to show twelve only of their funniest, interesting, kitschy, magic, most boring, nostalgic, super-romantic or best loved Photos in form of a slide, on disc or memory stick.

Let us have a social evening, full of fun, amazement, tears and laughter.

Meet for Bring and Braai at 6h30 for 8pm at Dr Viljoen Thom's house: 10 Arlington Street

Contact Ulli at 0723423615 to inform him on the format of your photos.

### **Annual General Meeting of 11 November 2006 ( a short report back)**

The evening went very well with a lively crowd enjoying a braai at our mountain hut before we went ahead with the procedures AGM.

Members will be glad to hear that the yearly membership fees will be not increased this coming year. (So there is no reason why members should not pay their subs asap.)

The Rescue convenor, Dwight Juby, read his Search and Rescue report, stating the most generous donation of a Rescue Trailer by 'Tompson Motors' and donations from the Rotarians and others, which helped to update the costly rescue equipment.

The SR Team, operating under the umbrella of Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR) is well trained and in good shape and responded to many callouts in any sort of weather and any time in day or night. One of their fast responses was experienced by the chairman himself, when he was rescued and lifted out by helicopter after a near fatal fall on a traditional rock climbing route on the Paarl Mountain.

All together 43 meets of a wide variety (hikes and rock climbs) were offered, which should have been of interest to most of the members. The hut is in good condition. Chains were installed on the firebreak road leading to the hut.

A generator was brought up to the hut for the evening and so we could see meets photos.

The committee members port folios were announced: All as per last year, except now: Dwight Juby for Search and Rescue and David Wright for Rock climbs.

Thank you to those who came to the AGM and helped to make it a stimulating evening!

#### **The membership fees for the year 2007 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 2007 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

### **Dik kop Trail / Koeberg**

Wulf Eilers, 3 September 2006

Planned as a spring flower walk over flat terrain on the Dikkop Trail north of Koeberg Power Station, the event attracted little attention from the youngsters, but we were a sizable crowd of 14 aged 25 to 79 who set out expectantly on a sunny Sunday morning. After the initial dry and sandy part, we emerged onto the beach north of Koeberg, and could enjoy the sight of the Atlantic waves with Table Mountain in the hazy distance. The dunes at the northern stop rewarded us with beautiful views of colourful flowers, pelicans flying overhead like a fleet of 747s, and of course Table Bay. The expected gale force South Easter did not materialise and it remained pleasantly warm (giving some an unplanned sun burn). Some returned to the cars by cycle track, others via the beach (so Ulli could have his skinny dip). Some of us could accept the kind offer of John and Anneke Jones of Duinefontein of tea and cakes, before we headed back home, tired but satisfied after the 18km walk. Just a pity this place is so far from the Helderberg.

### **Hellfire Meet**

Nick le Maitre, 10 September

We arrived at the Huguenot Tunnel with the weather looking threatening. But on the other side, at the lodge, it was only partly cloudy and cool, perfect climbing conditions! The walk-in lived up to its title: "The Walk-in from Hell", as the path that was already faint has now disappeared in the regrowth after the fire. Several chairmen of CENCOM, who had overnighted with Ulli at the Du Toits Kloof Hut as well as some members of the Stellenbosch section, joined us. We climbed quite a few routes, both trad and sport, with everyone enjoying the quality of the rock and the wild setting of the crag, high up of the southern side of the kloof. If only the N1 wasn't there, it would be perfect...

### **Tier kloof**

Ulli D. Weekend 24<sup>th</sup> September

On a sunny Saturday we made our way to this remote place in the Karroo. There we enjoyed the generous hospitality of John Rudd on his interesting farm, using "The Gazebo" as our quarters. Easy walks lead one up little hills with wide views over the peaceful, now semiarid landscape where hundred thousand years ago the Diictrodon and other amphibian/mammal type animals roamed fertile plains, whose fossil remains may be found here. Unfortunately the rock climbers did not take up the chance to check out the many rock faces in the kloof. We all had a relaxing and very social weekend.

### **Bat cave hike**

Marrelie Bredenkamp, 19 November

We hiked up from the Nature Reserve with the threat of thunderstorms looming and reached bat cave after some bundu bashing and scrambling just before it started raining. Another party of hikers on West Peak (Duane and company), were thoroughly soaked when they got back to their car. Marsha was stung by a bee while she was at the cave entrance, but fortunately no-one else was hurt. We had lunch and enjoyed a much needed rest while we waited for the rain to abate. Shortly after we left the sun came out and we spent the rest of the day rock scrambling up the side of the mountain to the top of porcupine buttress. The walk back down was uneventful, and we arrived back at the cars tired and glad to have spent another day in the mountains

### **West Peak, Helderberg**

Nina Nezura, 8 October

On that Sunday morning eleven of us started the walk from the Nature Reserve full of energy and determination. This time the group decided to walk up the West Peak via Disa Gorge and Porcupine ravine. On the way up as soon as we got through the top gate we were met with the most amazing and beautiful display of flowers. The magnificent palette of colours captivated our attention. At 12h00 we reached the peak and enjoyed lunching with the best view in the world before coming down via Woodies Walk into the Nature Reserve. It was great to share the experience of this walk with Ron, Wulf, Elena, student from Paraguay, Lindy, Magda, Alfons, Narina, Marsha and her friend Jessica!

## Hangklip, Rock meet

Wayne Kitney, 26 November

Six people booked for the climb and 11 arrived at 07h30 at the Hangklip Hotel. The hotel was closed so we went climbing instead. 4 roped pairs and one of three launched themselves up the Hangklip on the Original Frontal route and the Variation, Darwin route and the Pinnacle route. The second last pitch provided the excitement with numerous rock falls. Rocks that would be too big to move, fell too close for comfort! Wojteck provided blood but not enough to get the attention of Christian (who is a doctor on the Red Cross Rescue Helicopter) or his trauma doctor friend! John, originally from the KZN section, displayed interesting hardware developed and collected from the Yosemite Valley in USA! The day ended with cold drinks at Christian's house overlooking the Brides Whales and Dolphins hunting a school of fish in the kelp of the Pringle Bay rocks.

(Note: It is strongly inadvisable for more than one party to climb the same route at a time on Hangklip due to the high rock fall)

On the same day our hikers under Richard Loos had a lovely day circumventing the Hangklip on a beachwalk from Bettie's Bay to Pringle Bay. A report will be in the next NL.

## Boland 90

Our Search and Rescue Team was again very actively involved over the three days on this 90km trail Hiking Challenge. They secured the river crossing, controlled the movement of some 150 hikers and marshals, set up an obstacle course and a night orienteering event. For a change we were lucky with very good weather this year. Thanks to all who helped with dedication and in good spirit!

(The Chairman)

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## ANOUNCEMENTS:

### **BMC / MCofS International Winter Climbing Meet 2007: 23 February – 2 March**

The last Winter Meet in 2005 saw 50 overseas climbers representing 21 countries pairing up with a similar number of UK Hosts to enjoy the full diversity of Scottish winter climbing. At another level it is a rare chance for opinion leaders from around the world to gather together and discuss issues of mutual concern. Guests will climb during the day and take part in lectures and discussions in the evening.

The aims of the meet are:

- To promote international friendships and increase communication between National federations.
  - To give overseas guests an opportunity to experience the full diversity of Scottish winter climbing.
  - To give guests an insight into British Ethics and Traditions.
  - To provide a platform for international debate and discussion on current topics of concern in climbing and mountaineering worldwide.
- Venue – The National Mountain Centre, Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore, Scotland
  - Dates – 23 February to 2 March 2007

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

- The BMC: [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)
- The Meet: <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/world/intern/winmeet.htm>
- The Venue: [www.glenmorelodge.org.uk/](http://www.glenmorelodge.org.uk/)

For more details contact Ulli.

## Hiking tour in Greece 11<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Hike in spring with Annelize le Roux in the Zagoria area in Central Greece. There are 44 villages along the route, some of which can only be reached by foot path. Afterwards we will walk the monk's route to the famous cloisters of Meteora. And then travel by ferry to the beautiful island of Skopelos. There is only space for 20 hikers. Contact Annelize of Senior Tours in Franschoek. Tel 021 876 3095 / 083 261 1300. [seniortours@mweb.co.za](mailto:seniortours@mweb.co.za)

## **SEARCH AND RESCUE:**

**Dwight Juby** is our **Rescue Convener**.

His cell phone Nr: **084 4034476**

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:**

**David Wright** is responsible for rock meets. Contact him at **0823279721**

## **JOHNSON HUT:**

**Viljoen Thom** is our hut convenor. He can be contacted at **082 6550775** 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 do their best to pay the Hut convenor or secretary ASAP!**

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

**Close the shutters thoroughly after your visit, combating theft.**

## **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 the 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: You still have to book for hikes in CNC areas through the Cape Nature booking office at 021 6593602!

## **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:**

- **SERPENT SPIRES, by Duncan Souchon**

South African climbers profile the Drakensberg`s finest peaks.

- **“SA Mountain Magazine”:**

**This full colour, full size climbing / mountain magazine is published quarterly.**

- **“Sport routes in the Cape” Tony Lourens brought out this excellent Guide book**

The full manual for Rock climbing Tony Lourens +-R190

## **A warm welcome to the new members:**

**Barbara and Shawn Thompson, Johann Papendorf, Jeanne Gouws and the prospective members: Lina Lizzi, Conrad Zygmont, Nicole du Toit.**

**“ Mountain Rescue is not a Job, but an Attitude”** (Mike o’Keeffe 1994)

## MEETS LIST

December 2006 to February 2007

### Table Mountain Ledges

A scramble on the left face of the TM.

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Ulli Deutschländer 0723423615, 8555453

### Witteberg

After a cosy evening at the Kromrivier hut, climb past the Dome up the Witteberg. Some fitness required. Those not so fit can join us up the Dome.

**Weekend 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Armand Smit 0846293473

### Paarl Rock

You can choose between rock climbing or hiking.

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December**

David Wright 0823279721

### Wesselsgat

This easy kloofing trip will keep you away from shopping. Alfons Kiefer 8527467, 0720203033

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**\*\*\* You all must have a very happy Christmas! \*\*\***

### New Years Eve celebrations at the Johnson Hut

The hut will be booked for you over the whole New Year's Weekend. Enjoy the jump into the New Year! Arrange key with Viljoen or any Committee member.

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

Viljoen Thom 0826550775

### Skeleton Gorge

A beautiful and not too difficult way to ascent the Table Mountain.

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Nick Le Maitre 0724925315

### 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 group will hike in the kloof and enjoy the cool rock pools.

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Viljoen Thom 0826550775

### 7 Watervalle, Jonkershoek

Rock scramble; fitness required.

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Wayne Kitney, 0766047444

### Buchukloof & Suicide Gorge

Mixed meet for hikers and kloofers. For the hiker the Buchukloof will provide for swims and for the kloofing enthusiasts will be lots to do in Suicide Kloof!

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Alvin Page 0725919953

### Arrow Final

Traditional rock climbs on historical routes.

**Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

David Wright 0823279721

### or: Keeroms Rivier for the hikers

Enjoyable walk in the forest above Eikenhof Dam.

**Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Richard Loos 8440366, 8527427

### Elandspad

Easy walk upstream the Elands River with lots of swimming and a visit to the magic waterfall and the Disas in a side kloof.

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**

Ian Thompson 0836161195

### LK Needles & Johnson Hut Work meet

Lots to do for everybody and especially for the prospective members. Enjoy the atmosphere of a Sunday morning stroll at our Mountain hut or climb with Ulli and the Stellenbosch Section the Landroskop Needles.

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Ulli D. 0723423615, 8555453 Viljoen Thom 0826550775

### Table Mountain Annual Service

Richard will lead an interesting route up the mountain.

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**

Richard Loos 8440366, 8527427

### Wesselsgat

We will explore this relatively unknown but interesting canyon.

**Weekend 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February**

Wayne Kitney 0766047444