



October 2000

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1 Land and Access

Kaalbooi property (WATERVAL BOVEN) – Sale of portion with house. The property was subdivided and the portion with the house was sold.

A **new servitude** to climb, bolt, etc, has been arranged for MCSA members on the property south of the MCSA property at **Waterval Boven**. In broad terms, this servitude includes all the crags that can be seen when looking South from our property (the N/S crags that face East, and the W/E crags that face North). The servitude allows us to use the land at the top and bottom of the crags (within 20m of the crag) for the purposes of climbing. Please exercise the normal courtesies towards the landowner (that is, look after his land and don't annoy him). Parking arrangements for the area remain the same.

The area is known as OLD MACDONALDS FARM and climbs such as "Quack- Quack" and "Oink Oink" have been opened.

Please note that the servitude has been arranged for MCSA members only, and not for the general public.

2 Events and Items: Expedition 2001

This is a very preliminary enquiry. For some time now I have been investigating expedition options for next year. The best seems to be **western China** around Kara-Kul lake, that is Kongur (7719m), or the Muztagh Ata (7546m) area, taking into account access routes, political situation and climbing possibilities. Before I can start with more detailed planning I need to know approximately how many people are interested in taking part in one, or any, of the following options:

Option 1: trekking in the area around Muztagh Ata / Lake Kara-Kul, duration appr. 3-4 weeks, time July/Aug 2001, budget price US\$ 1600.- to 950.- depending on number of people, excluding flights.

Option 2: climbing Muztagh Ata, duration 4 weeks, time July/Aug 2001, budget price US\$ 2200.- to 1400.- depending on number of people, excluding flights.

Option 3: climbing Kongur, duration 6 weeks, time July/Aug 2001, budget price US\$ 2700.- to 1800.- depending on number of people, excluding flights.

Option 4: climbing some, to date, unclimbed peaks in the area, such as Kokodak Peak (7210m), or Koskulak Peak (7028m), or Peak 6355 (6355m), or a number of others around Muztagh Ata. There are numerous peaks between 6000m and 7000m which are all unclimbed!! I have seen pictures of some and they appear to be possible. Duration 5 weeks (6 weeks?), time July/Aug 2001, budget price ?! guess about the same as Kongur.

I would like to get some feedback as soon as possible, preferably by email to ukiefer@icon.co.za. Please indicate which option you are interested in, if it is more than one (alternatively) then list them in the order of your preference. Please add a rating as well: r1=vaguely interested, r2=interested, r3=very, very interested.

Ulrike Kiefer

3 Events and Items: Greg Child visit

This is some background information about Greg, who will be giving a talk and slide show on Wednesday 15 November 2000. Aside from the exploits listed below, those of you who read National Geographic will recall his article on big wall climbing on Baffin Island recently.

Entrance fee is R30.00 pp for all. Greg has also been invited as guest speaker at the MCSA Annual Dinner on 28 October in Cape Town.

"8 000-meter peaks, A5 big-walls and 5.13 sport climbs are all part of Greg Child's climbing repertoire. It's no wonder that many consider him to be the most accomplished all-round climber in the world.

Child began climbing as a teenager in the Blue Mountains of his native Australia. He came to the United States at the age of 20 to climb the granite walls of Yosemite and immediately established two of the most difficult and classic routes on El Capitan – "Lost in America" and "Aurora" – both A5's.

Not content to push his limits only in California, Greg Child has taken his climbing skills to such far-off places as the Karakoram in Pakistan. He completed the first ascent of Pakistan's 19,800 foot Shipton Spire – a 36 pitch, 4,400 foot big-wall that is certainly one of the longest rock climbs in the world. Also in Pakistan, he climbed the first ascent of Lobsang Spire and put up a new route on Nameless Tower.

In India, he climbed the east pillar of Shivaling, a 50 – pitch, mixed big-wall and Alpine Ridge that pushed him and his partners to the very edge of human endurance. Child has climbed Everest and K2 – the latter without supplementary oxygen. Less known but much admired by Himalayan veterans, was his climb of Gasherbrum IV in 1986, the first success on this difficult 7000m peak in 28 years.

Closer to home, Child climbed an extremely technical route on Alaska's Mount Hunter. The 5000 foot route Wall of Shadows involved extreme -aid climbing, mixed climbing and seven hanging bivouacs.

As significant as his climbing is Greg's gift of being able to bring those experiences home to the rest of us. His countless articles over the years have been an inspiration to climbers around the world. He has also authored three books: "*Thin Air: Encounters in the Himalayas*", "*Mixed Emotions*" & "*Postcards from the Ledge*" In 1987, he was honored with the American Alpine Club's Literary Award for his prolific and insightful mountaineering literature."

Cencom Memorandum

4 Club News

4.1 General

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2001: At the committee meeting held on 2 October 2000 it was decided that the subscriptions for 2001 will be increased by +7½% (rounded off to the nearest convenient figure), as follows:

Single membership R 225.00

Married membership R 337.50

Single country R 170.00

Married country R 215.00

Student R 112.00

Junior R 55.00

Family member R 10.00 (up to 13 years of age)

Temporary/Associate considered individually by General Committee

ENTRANCE FEE: remains R 200.00 per applicant.

GRANT TO MEMBERS:

The following grants were made from the expedition fund and the training fund:

Voytek Modrewski

attended the UIAA Youth meet in Spain – R 800

Alard Hufner & Mark Seuring

Mozambique R 3600

Jhb section members

Bolivia meet R 2500

Greg Devine (in the capacity of meet leader)

Bolivia meet R 4609

Herman Dorland & Duncan Souchon

Shakara R 4000

A high altitude first aid kit was put together for the Bolivia meet and this will be available for other expeditions/meets. Speak to Graeme King.

1998 Journal – a reminder that these are available on Wednesday evenings at the clubroom. Please collect yours or contact Uschi.

Patrollers for Cedarberg/ Tonquani for the holidays (Christmas and New Year). Any volunteers? Please contact Uschi if you are able to do a day or two.

Belated congratulations to **Cathy O'Dowd** who, successfully climbed **Lhotse** (8501 m) in May 2000. Cathy will present a slide show at our clubhouse on 1 November.

New members: Welcome to Kandise Turner, Surina Dannhauser, Lisa Steingold, Bill McIntosh (re-joined), Janet Hudson (re-joined), Greg Hofmeyr (re-joined), Colin and Jennifer Cane, Yvonne Riester, and family members: Mickayla & Tristan Kiefer and Frankie & Jesse Hossack.

Resigned: Charlotte van Zyl

Patrollers and members: **Tonquani/ Cedarberg**: we have had reports of people with a dog/s (black) being in this area. If you meet them, please get name and contact telephone number so that we can follow up on this **transgression**. Once again a reminder that no dogs are allowed.

4.2 Specifics

2000 MCSA JOURNAL - CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2000 Journal will be jointly be produced by the Magaliesberg and Johannesburg Sections. All contributions (articles, drawings, sketches, cartoons, photos/slides for fillers/cover etc) have to be in on 15 December 2000: text in electronic form to petrocroblet@icon.co.za plus accompanying hard copy (and photographic - no electronic images please - and other material) per snail mail to:

The Editor, Postnet Suite #193, Private Bag X21, Sunnyside 0132.

Early contributions would be much appreciated. Please supply full contact details (telephone numbers, fax no, cell phone no) and your postal address.

For tips and more detail on requirements, conditions etc, see: <http://mcsa.org.za/jnlcontri.html>

For further information: Petro Grobler petrogrobler@icon.co.za 012-341 1804 and Russ Dodding rdodding@mj.org.za 011-407 6620 (w).

Any ideas or contacts for advertisers? Please contact Neil Griffin (011) 614 3755, grafost@icon.co.za

The Gauteng Journal Editor's Collection - a fixed collection stored at Johannesburg Section for the use of the two Gauteng Sections' Journal Subcommittee(s) - is still short of the following Journal issues: 1894-1918, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1931. Donations will be much appreciated.

The success and quality of the Journal is determined largely by the articles submitted, so please get going!

5 Conservation- WATER WARNING!!

Recently there have been a few cases of illness after people drank water from the pool near the tea spot next to the monkey cage in Tonquani. A sample of the water has been tested and the results reflect that there is **Coliform bacteria present**.

Coliform bacteria generally lives in middle temperatures, similar to that of humans. They are ubiquitous in nature and are usually found in the guts of warm blooded animals, and in the soil. Amongst that group of organisms, some of them may be pathogenic – meaning that they cause disease of a diarrhea nature. E.coli bacteria is a Coliform bacteria and is an indicator of fecal contamination. To use a very simple analogy: in a group of dogs, E.coli can be a vicious dog, but not all dogs are vicious! However, the tests conducted for MCSA showed **NIL E.coli bacteria**.

In any event you are asked to please be careful when drinking water from any of the streams, and especially if giving that water to babies/ young children without first having boiled or treated it in some other way (eg: water purifying tablets).

We also ask that any cases of gastro intestinal trouble – which could have been attributable to the water – be reported to the Committee, detailing where and when the water was collected and drunk.

We appeal to hikers/climbers/visitors to be especially careful when nature calls: go as far away from the streams as possible (in fact one should not defecate in a kloof or water course area at all) and be particularly conscientious about digging a deep enough hole that is to be covered again.

The committee has arranged a testing program to test the waters of some of our other Kloofs.

Finally, and in spite of the illnesses encountered, we were assured that the water sample taken from Tonquani is excellent for natural water!

Jenni Paterson

6 Expeditions - Policy Details

The committee has adopted a detailed policy with regard to sponsorship of expeditions. This should help the committee to come to fair and consistent decisions. Anyone wishing to apply for sponsorship must have been a member of the JHB section for at least two years. The "Application for Grant/Approval" form must be filled in and submitted to the committee not later than two months prior to departure, and the objectives of the expedition must be such that they comply with the principles specified in that policy. Expeditions to remote mountain areas qualify as well as attempts of a new and significant route on rock or ice or events that impart knowledge, skills and experience to the participants, that they could not otherwise acquire within South Africa. After returning back to South-Africa an "Expedition Feedback" form has to be completed. Our intention is to collect valuable information about routes, access, permits etc which may assist other climbers in the future.

If you think you qualify for sponsorship or if you require more information, contact the committee or Ulrike Kiefer.

7 Search and Rescue

Search and Rescue is a combined effort from MCSA members of the Johannesburg and Magaliesberg Sections. Training takes place on Thursday evenings at Wits Technikon (Doornfontein campus) in room 4222 from 19:00 to 22:00. Weekend sessions are also arranged from time to time at various venues in order to improve area knowledge. Please contact Graeme King on 082 579 3693 should you need further details, or should you wish to get involved.

Training Programme October 2000 - March 2001

5 Oct: Belaying skills & load drops.

12 Oct: LEVEL I skills: Knots & harness improvisation only.

19 Oct: Navigation theory & grid systems.

21-22 Oct: Navigation & 48-hour pack test, Castle Gorge.

26 Oct: Stretcher evolution practise.

2 Nov: Personal Helicopter skills & stretcher work.

8 Nov: Helicopter training: WEEK-DAY!

9 Nov: Pick-offs / Snatch rescues.

16 Nov: Team leader skills: Briefing, assembly and trooping.

23 Nov: Stretcher rigging (incl. improvisation) - all stretchers.

25 Nov: Gear placing/ snatch rescue: Tonquani Kloof.

7 Dec: End of year get-together. Location TBA

14 Dec: Last training of the year: Ascending - 3 Floor prussik race.

4 Jan: Search planning theory & exercise.

11 Jan: Team Leader skills: Team management in the field.

13-14 Jan: Weekend: Search practise: Wolkberg hut area.

18 Jan: Level I skills: Ascending, knot-pass & change-over.

25 Jan: Simple tyrolean rigging.

1Feb: Level I skills: Descending & knot passing.

8Feb: Types of natural equipment and anchor systems.

10 Feb: Day: Gear placing and aiding: Location TBA.

15 Feb: Movement skills for mountain-walking (rivers, slopes).

22 Feb: SAR Skills Fun Quiz - Test your theoretical knowledge!

1Mar: Patient packaging.All methods.

8Mar: Stretcher evolution.

10-11 Mar: Weekend: Tech rescue - Graskop?

15 Mar: Callout process update. prioritisation of resources.

22 Mar: LEVEL I skills: Practise & test.

29 Mar: LEVEL I skills: Practise & test.

Additional weekends: (2001)

21 April Day: River crossing, Semi-tech: Wilgepoort.

12 - 13 May Weekend: Team leader training - by invitation.

2-5 June Wolkberg training session.

15July Day: Tyrolean rigging: Grootkloof.

17-18 August Weekend: Sekorora: Long technical rescue.

9 September Day: Team leader training - by invitation.

13-14 October Weekend: Tech Rescue/climbing: Kransberg.

10 NovemberDay: Cederberg Kloof - Quick tech rescues.

1-2 December Weekend: Nav & 48hr pack test: Grootkloof.

With regret we wish to advise that Murray Boyes passed away in August.To Margie, Liz and family our sincere condolences.

8I learned about climbing from that...*Flying and other lessons*

KINDLY SPONSORED BY

Check out the CRAZY half price sale on selected goods.

Wild Country Ascent Quickdraws:R 109.00

DMM Eclipse Quickdraws:R 119.00

North Face Trek Bivvy bag:R 1799.00 (around R1000.00 saving compared to other makes)

Exciting new range of Hammocks!

Remember that MCSA members can get a 10% discount on production of a valid membership card

A couple of months ago my boyfriend, Alan (more famous as the Chief Assistant Warthog and the Bolting Boff), two friends and I were climbing in Grootkloof. Whilst we were climbing, a second group of friends arrived, including Jay Hyde (the equally famous and revered MCSA newsletter editor) and they began climbing Chameleon Crack.

After a great morning of climbing, our group of four congregated for lunch at the meeting point. Unfortunately, we had left our freshly baked bread in the car. Not to be deterred, Alan began scouting around for some bread in the packs of the newly arrived group of climbers. Not finding their packs (they all knew Alan's tendency for practical jokes), Alan headed downstream towards Chameleon Crack.

About ten minutes later we heard shouting. Thinking Alan and Jay were fooling around, we ignored them, and got on with serious task of eating lunch and making tea. But when the shouting carried on, we went to investigate. Nearing Chameleon Crack we saw Jay absailing down at great speed.

Turns out Alan decided to solo up Chameleon Crack after Jay and company wearing only his sandals (and they're not even Rockies).

Did Alan manage? No he did not!

Can Alan fly? No he cannot! (*Alan's possible motivation- trying to find out whether Pigs, er, Warthogs can Fly? – Ed.*)

He **fell** the equivalent of about **two stories** - bounced off a ledge and then landed on some rocks on a ledge below, where he sustained a very deep cut to his forehead, about a centimeter from his left eye.

With help from all in the Kloof, and Alan's amazing determination (he walked out), we got him to the car and rushed him to hospital. Here, the doctor we saw, having had Alan x-rayed from head to foot, said the only thing really wrong with him is that he has no brain - he can't have one after doing something as stupid as what he did.

After a number of stitches to his head and knee, we brought Alan home. He demanded pizza for dinner, which, he claimed was on doctor's orders.

A few reflections on this experience

•Don't wear sandals when soloing!

- Tell people when you plan to solo a route.Alan was lucky that Jay and company heard him falling, and could actually see where he landed from the top of Chameleon Crack.But if they hadn't heard and seen him, it could have been quite hard to find him as he landed well above the base of the Kloof.
- Carry a whistle.If Jay had whistled to us, we would have known something was wrong straight away, and so would have responded much faster.Luckily, Alan did not require CPR, so the time lost through not being alerted fast enough was not life threatening.
- Have a space blanket handy.We were lucky as we had a down jacket with us, and so could keep Alan warm straight away, as shock and a severe temperature drop set in very quickly.But carrying a down jacket in case of emergencies is not very practical.Instead have a space blanket handy, this folds up very small, and can be used to keep an injured person warm.
- The first aid dump was fantastic. All that sterility to deal with much blood and dirt. One suggestion would be to include non-stick gauze in the dump, as we ended up using a piece of plastic over Alan's head wound before bandaging it, which was less hygienic than sterile gauze would have been.
- Remember that every single person in a kloof where someone has been injured can help.Carrying packs, giving support and advice, and thinking but not panicking all assist a rescue.

To end, thanks are very much due to everyone who helped Alan, particularly Jay and Claire (Keeton)

Claire Taylor

9The Editors Corner

There are several issues of interest in this edition of the newsletter.One of the most glaring ones that should affect all of you is that of water pollution at Tonquani.Although we have not found large, or in some cases, any, concentrations of dangerous nasties in the water there have nonetheless been some upset stomachs caused by drinking the water in the kloofs.

As our kloofs get more usage we will probably have more such incidents- time to buy a water filter?

Another item, not mentioned, but vaguely related to what I want to say here, is that a clean up of Northcliff Hill, arranged by Jenni Paterson, was very poorly attended.On the same line of discussion, meets are also poorly attended by members, and meet leaders are hard to come by.Just a reliable and stalwart few are regularly leading meets for the club.

Although Northcliff is not an MCSA property one would hope that members would be concerned with such issues.Unfortunately it is not confined to Northcliff; work meets are generally very poorly attended.

In the last committee meeting we had to decide on what the fees increase for next year would be.There are two schools of thought, one, that the increase should only be in line with inflation, two, that we should substantially increase the fees in order to build up cash reserves, and to service commitments (such as those that should be tackled in work meets) that the club has as a land owner.

All of these issues above pose some concern for the committee- what should we be doing as a club- I think that it is our duty as a committee to, not only administer the club, but also to provide direction and vision for the club.

As I mentioned in one of my past editorials, a small club with few assets will have different goals and direction to the same club when it is bigger and has assets and financial 'means.'

The issues I have mentioned above are, I think, all related.We, as a club, need to review our direction and goals; not necessarily change them, nor not change them, but certainly review them given the problems that are posed by the issues above.

For example, should we make work meets mandatory for all members, and could members pay a 'levy' instead of attending a work meet?To answer that question we need to know what we intend doing in the future- will we buy more land?Will we support bigger expeditions?How will we conserve our cash reserves; should we conserve them?

In order to answer, or at least begin to answer these questions, the committee will be having a 'Bosberaad' where we will attempt to approach these questions from a fundamental and businesslike point of view, keeping in mind the spirit and aims of the club, as it was founded.

I invite you to suggest topics or issues that you feel are important for the club to consider.Provide some suggestions as to possible solutions.Barbara Massingham felt strongly about an issue and wrote to us- that issue will be one that we will be considering in the Bosberaad.

Of course we do not have the power, nor should we, to change the constitution, aims, or general structure and direction of the club- that would have to be decided at an AGM or similar; however, we are going to discuss issues that are important to what this club will be in the future, so we need input from you, the members, the owners, of the MCSA.

On other points, there are a few good show's coming along between now and the end of the year- Greg Child will be presenting a slide show, Cathy O' Dowd too.For those of you who saw Axel Wachtlers show of his Africa trip – the second half of that is going to be shown as well; catch it if you can as Axel leaves to return to Europe soon after that.

Till next

Jay

Newsletter Editor and Vice Chairman