



ISSUE NUMBER 5

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1 Land and Access

TRIDENT: A letter has been received from the owner of Trident. The following is an excerpt from the letter. "On the farm Groenkloof where the Mountain Club members visit the area known as "Trident" we have experienced some problems with unauthorised entry to the farm." There have been instances of theft, poaching of small game and birds, calves caught in snares set for game, littering, and also unauthorised entry and use of the area as a picnic spot. Security is of great concern to the owner and workers. This has made it necessary for security measures to be introduced to control access to the area.

The following security measures will be enforced:

As from 01/12/2000, any club member entering the area must be in possession of:

- 1) Identification as a club member
- 2) A fax booking for the visit

A booking can be made by faxing the following details:

- 1) Member's name and number
- 2) Car registration number
- 3) Date of visit

Fax to: (012) 362 0227 and a confirmation fax will be sent, within office hours only.

All members must park in the designated parking area.

All members must use the designated entry gate.

NOTE: members must stay in designated area of the mountain, as neighboring properties are privately owned, and access to these properties is prohibited without the owners consent.

Also from the letter, "We urge the Club to ensure that members visit the Trident are, as stipulated in our agreement, only for the purpose of climbing and practicing the sport of mountaineering on the krantzies in the kloof. No picnicking, pets, firearms, littering or bathing are allowed.

We trust that this would not be an inconvenience to members, as we do not see true club members as part of the security problem"

KRANSKLOOF: when visiting Kranskloof please note that you must inform the owner of your visit. Andries and Uchi have the relevant number. The fees for members/visitors are R10 per car and R2.00 per person per day. The fees must be paid to Uchi. These are then forwarded to the owner.

Access via Utopia: get code number and particulars from Andries/ Uchi.

Reminder: members may take one guest to the areas we administer. If you wish to take more guests please apply for a permit from the relevant permit secretaries.

Please carry your membership card.

## 2 Club News

### 2.1 General

First Aid Kit in green bag not returned by a meet leader. If you were a meet leader in the last three months, please check whether you have this kit and return immediately to club room.

Meet leaders - have you returned your meet report and forwarded all moneys to the administrator or meets convenor?

Subscription reminders are included – your early settlement would be appreciated.

Also included the latest Mountain Emergency Call Out list – please replace the old green one with this blue one.

New Members: We welcome the following new members: Gavin and Cynthia Turner, Mike du Toit (as from 2001) and family member Kushra Cooper.

Resigned: Jane & Rod Green, Ari Beux, Heidi Lafegan, Rudi de Groot, Paul Rangelcroft.

Transferred: Mc Farlane family to Cape Town, W. van der Merwe to EP.

26 members have been taken off the membership list due to non-payment of their 2000 subscriptions.

Members if you decide you no longer want to retain your membership please let us know soonest.

### 2.2 Uschi's Annual Corner

This is the last newsletter for 2000. Some eventful things happened this year. The successful climb of Cathy O'Dowd on Lhotse, the meet to Bolivia, the attempt to climb Shakara, Mark & Alard's further climbs in Mozambique.

This year: 45 ordinary members, 1 country member, 3 student members, 4 junior members and 9 family members joined our section.

23 members either resigned or transferred.

1 member passed away.

We wish to thank members who were meet leaders, patrollers, bar/tea duty, those who presented slide shows or talks and members who helped in other fields. The landowners who allow us to visit their properties.

Thank you to Harry Barker for all his work dealing with our legal matters.

Thanks to the committee members who keep 'things' going

Wishing you all a joyous festive season and the best for 2001.

### 2.3 Specifics

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Mountain Club of South Africa, Johannesburg Section will be held on:

Wednesday 14 March 2001 at 20h15 at the Waverley Girl Guide Hall, Scott and Stirling Streets, Waverley.

Nominations for committee for 2001. If you wish to nominate someone or you yourself would like to serve on the committee, please contact Roy or Uschi.

### 2.4 Bosberaad Feedback

A committee bosberaad was held on the 4th of November. Pau Fatti was invited to attend as facilitator. The decisions that have been made during this bosberaad were substantial and important for the future of the club. Some of what has been decided will need to be voted on by the club members in order for the suggestions to be enforced. This will be presented at the AGM. Since one of these issues involves cash it will be in your interests to attend the AGM.

The key issue that was debated was "where are we going as a club?" After deciding what we, as a committee, think that this ought to be, the remaining decisions and changes were made to support the direction we wish to take.

In our minds the issue of access to the Mountains is an important one and one that will require careful and deliberate planning to ensure that we continue to have access, specifically in those places that we do not own or have legal access rights to.

In order to be able to plan and execute plans we will need to have financial muscle and it is proposed that a specific levy be introduced in order to build up this muscle. This will be presented at the AGM.

Another significant change is to the admission requirements. These have been expanded to allow alternative means of joining the club- not only through the requisite 4 meets. In doing so we have not made it any 'easier' (for those of you concerned about lowering of standards), we have merely introduced alternatives. These alternatives are outlined on a new application form and are being introduced at the moment.

All of these topics were thoroughly discussed and debated and there was a balanced spread of viewpoints. It proved to be a valuable and useful day, and one which has properly set the scene for the next few years I think.

Jay Hyde

### 2.5 Crofton Weed Problem

Crofton weed (ageratina adenophora), a multi-stemmed soft shrub originally from Central America, has been making its appearance the past five years in many Magaliesberg kloofs near and in water streams. It has been spotted at Dome Kloof (some eradication has been done there), Mhabatini and Castle Gorge, and there is a major infestation at Easter Kloof. (It is also present in

Krstenbosch, UCT's gardens etc).

Some biocontrol measures are currently in place in the Northern Province (Tzaneen area), KwaZulu-Natal and the Cape, and host-specific gall flies and a leaf-spot fungus from Mexico are being released. Because of low priority on a national scale (but not so for the Magaliesberg and for other inland mountain ranges!), research funding for more destructive, effective natural enemies (insects or diseases from the areas of origin) has not been forthcoming.

Recommended measures in the interim: 1) manual, 2) chemical control where there are large infestations. First go for sparse distributions. (Info from Stefan Naser [riets@plant2.agric.za](mailto:riets@plant2.agric.za))

So, please be on the lookout for it and PULL IT OUT!! – including shoots and roots! More info in respect of identification (including photos) and eradication methods can be found at: <http://mcsa.org.za/crofton.html>

The weekend of 27-28 January 2001 will be 'War on Crofton' weekend and work will be done at different kloofs. There is a special need for climbers and rope access specialists to assist with spraying crofton on steep terrain at Easterkloof. Contact Petro Grobler:

[petrogrober@con.co.za](mailto:petrogrober@con.co.za) (012) 341 1804.

Let's all muck in there as see if we can make some impression on the invader that is threatening to take over the Magaliesberg Kloofs!! For general work - even if it only is to learn to identify the weed! - to be done at Castle Gorge: contact Jenni Paterson:

[jpaterson@fhb.co.za](mailto:jpaterson@fhb.co.za) (011) 371 1156 (h ah)

## 2.6 uKhahlamba- Drakensberg Park a World Heritage Site!

South Africa now has a fourth World Heritage Site following the inscription of the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park by the parties to the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage meet in Cairns.

The uKhahlamba-Drakensberg site is South Africa's fourth World Heritage site after the successful inscription of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park (natural), the Cradle of Humankind at Sterkfontein (cultural) and Robben

Our congratulations to all who were involved in the preparation of the application to UNESCO.

## 3 Expeditions and International Meets

### 3.1 Proposed trekking trip to Nepal

Is there anyone out there who has been dreaming about trekking to Everest Base Camp? and perhaps doing one or two of the dozens of other interesting things that there are to do in that amazing country? Here's your chance to make it happen!

I'm planning a trip to Nepal in October 2001. We will fly to Kathmandu via Singapore on Singapore Airlines, arriving there at about 11h00. We will have the rest of that day, and possibly the next, to do a bit of exploring, and visit the famed Monkey (Swayambunath) Temple. We will then fly from Kathmandu to Lukla (provided that the airstrip there has been re-opened) and spend the next 9 or 10 days walking up the Khumbu Valley to Gorak Shep. Along the way we will spend 2 days at the amazing Namche Bazar and 2 days at Dingboche, to allow for acclimatisation. This trek will be porter/ yak supported.

At Gorak Shep we will climb to the top of Kala Pattar (5,643 metres) for brilliant views of Everest (which is otherwise hidden) the Khumbu Icefall and Glacier, Nuptse, Lhotse, Pumori and other peaks. The next morning we will walk up to Everest Base Camp (5,320 metres) and return to Lobuche (4,930 metres) – you don't want to spend a second night at Gorak Shep unless absolutely necessary!

Then there will be a couple of options: if short of time, you can return to Lukla and fly back to Kathmandu, or you can go up to the beautiful Gokyo Lakes and then return to Lukla and Kathmandu – add another 5 days for this.

Lukla Airstrip will be closed for several months from January for upgrading. If it is still closed by the time we go there, it will mean having to fly to a village called Phaplu and an extra 4 or 5 days have to be allowed to walk to Namche Bazar – excellent for acclimatising!

Anyone interested please contact me either by e-mail on [jpaterson@fhb.co.za](mailto:jpaterson@fhb.co.za) or on telephone (h) 888-3693 or (w) 371-1156. Flights into Kathmandu are always at a premium, so I'll be making reservations towards the end of January – far better to have seats that can be cancelled than not being able to get any seats!

Hope you can join me!

Jenny Paterson

### 3.2 Western China 2001 Expedition

The planned climbing expedition to the Kuksay area in western China is going ahead. We now have a strong team of climbers from the JHB section, from Natal and from the Cape. Our objective is to climb at least two unclimbed peaks in the Kuksay glacier area. First we will tackle a peak of over 5000m, thereafter when we feel sufficiently acclimatised we will attempt a peak of close to 7000m. That's the plan.

The trekking itinerary has not quite been finalised. This is partly because there was a slow response only, partly because I was concentrating on the climbing first. The total time for the trekking will be 2-3 weeks in late July / early August, plus a few days for the flights both ways. If you are interested and haven't contacted me yet, please do so soon. If I haven't got enough team members on my list by January, I might have to cancel the trekking part. My address is [this email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.](mailto:Ulrike.Kiefer@con.co.za)

Ulrike Kiefer

### 3.3 Southern African climbing and mountaineering meet- Namibia: Easter 2001

Dates: 12-22 April 2001

Place: Harmony, Spitzkoppe & Omandumba Erongo (and more).

Invitation also to Mountain Clubs of Kenya and Zimbabwe.

See <http://mcsa.org.za/hambmeet.html> for the preliminary itinerary.

## 4 Replies and Stories, factual and otherwise

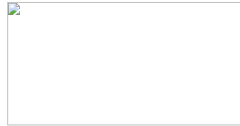
### 4.1 Climbing with Greg Child.

One of the first things Greg liked about Fernkloof was the hike in, only 15 minutes compared to the hours of walking he had done in the Cape. The sport climbing in this gorge was what we were here for. The choice of warm up routes is limited to grade 24. So Greg started up "Strong arm of the law" 24, and on-sailed the route, commenting "this is a bit hard for a warm up". I agreed as I worked my way up the route. Next on the list was the classic route "Faberge" 28. Greg had heard much of this route and of "Snapdragon" 28 (at the restaurant) from the climbers hosting him in the other parts of South Africa. We both worked the route on Tuesday, figuring out the sequences and moves. The climbing was a bit difficult for Sally, but she top-roped "Strong arm of the law".

The evening was spent around the fire eating lots of meat and potatoes so that we would be strong for the next day. The beer from Roger Natress also went down very well. Wednesday morning Joffrey and a host of other strong climbers arrived and we got on with the climbing. Due to a little hitch Joffrey had to cancel his day of climbing. Greg, Sally and I warmed up on another 24. Greg who had been climbing now for 4 days in a row decided to give "Faberge" one attempt. Well he did a superb job of re-pointing the route, he looked solid all the way to the top! I think this is a superb effort for some one over 40. Climbing with Greg showed me that age does not need to limit your climbing ..... too much!

Alard Hufner

## 5 Editors Corner



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

A short corner to allow for a 4 page newsletter. The bosberaad was particularly fruitful in my mind and I feel that we have developed a vision of where we want to go as a club. Please attend the AGM so that we have a representative spectrum of members to make the decisions required. It will be in your interests to do so.

Thanks to all the committee members and the Chairman for their support and help, throughout the year and at the Bosberaad.

Last year I climbed a route at midnight on Christmas Eve- I hope that I get to do something similar and as fun this year, and I hope the same for all of you.

'Till next year .....

Jay