



May 2004

### 1. FROM THE NEW EDITOR

A warm welcome to the newly elected committee, in particular, Terry White the former editor of the news letter, who has moved on to bigger and better things, and now resides as chairman over the JHB section. My suspicions are that at the end of the year, his speech may be as follows "last year we said 2 545 385 223 words at the committee meetings, of which 12 439 resulted in action!". Being new on the committee, I am impressed at the dedication and hard work of all the committee members to their portfolio's. Having to deal with everything ranging from land claims on MCSA property, to the purchase of milk and cookies. By far, most of our time is still occupied by land and access issues. This situation is unlikely to change, as the pressure on our mountain areas continues to increase, and we are constantly challenged by the dynamics of land ownership, and new legal developments. Vigilance is the key.

In this edition, we thank "Boltz Frost" for his articles on bolting and his organisation of the ice climbing activities in the club, and Kerry-Ayn Feldman for her organisation of the Search and Rescue portfolio.

Peter Adrian

### 2. LAND AND ACCESS

Members, once again we emphasize the importance of familiarizing yourselves with our access. If you are not sure/don't know please contact Andries Lategan or Uschi.

#### Some of the do and don'ts.

Make sure you know the relevant access directions and rules. Carry your membership cards. Get extra permits for your guests if more than one member per guest. Only camp in the designated areas. Don't camp in the kloofs. No fires are permitted in the Magaliesberg. Operate your stoves with care. Pay the relevant parking/entrance fees. Be nice to the land owners.

TRIDENT: when wanting to visit TRIDENT, please ensure that you organise the necessary permit in advance from Dr Luyt.

GROBLERSKLOOF: no access there at present

### 3. SOCIAL CLIMBING

*Due to the lack of newsworthy articles covering hard climbing, by the Johannesburg section, an anonymous member has been bold enough to dish up this spoof, in a feeble attempt to belittle the belay bunnies of the club, who, as I have been told, "have shorter arms, and curves less suited to climbing". I think the gauntlet has been thrown to you, and I expect a savage rebuttal in the next news letter!*

Response to: [newsletter@jhb.mcsa.org.za](mailto:newsletter@jhb.mcsa.org.za).

#### Climbing with chicks

I hope the female members of the club don't find this too offensive, but since there are probably more women who are closet readers of Men's Health, and more men who read Cosmo than you think, you may as well see it as one of those "for the boys" discussions you would love to eve's drop on!

Sitting on a belay ledge, it all started with one significant question, "If your partner said that she didn't like you rock climbing, would you give up climbing, or would you leave her?". "I hope I'd never have to choose", came the reply, and hoped to leave it at that. But the discussion continued and eventually we came to the conclusion, there are too few female climbers in the club, which probably explains why there are so many single guys in the club. This brought us to the next topic of conversation, the solution: finding a non-climber, turning her into one, and hoping she stays that way! I nodded with the kind of grimace of a wise man of experience, and decided that I'm getting too old for this process. Gone are the days of, 'if the wench doesn't like sleeping on a 1cm thick blue matt in a leaky tent, and eating toppers and smash, then she can love it or leave it'. Well, the first girlfriend was like that, (in the beginning), but had this strange addiction to drinking tea. At one stage during a arduous walk in, the significant other was developing a considerable amount of inertia. It was my engineer friend with a slightly sadistic streak who suggested leaving a trail of tiny cups of tea, spaced every 50m, each cup small enough, that if you took too long to get to it, it will be cold. Eventually, the tea drinking, the ever increasing inertia against clambering up the impossible, and the increase in the number of blue mats underneath her, became too much to bear, and number one got replaced by number two.

Number two was different, enthusiastic and determined, but one snag, she had no gear! So began the process again, the birthday harness, the climbing shoes for Christmas, the Easter egg in the chalk bag, the size five Camelot... (just kidding, but its been done before!) and so on. I should have realised, that when she rolled over onto my therm-a-rest, and stayed there, the rot had set in! After four years of duplicating my patronage to the outdoor retail industry, she was equipped and trained for everything. Alas, in her eyes, I had become redundant, and shortly afterwards, I was demoted back to the ranks of the single men, with the freedom/necessity to climb every available weekend. Hmm, I wondered, perhaps it would have been cheaper just to rent the gear.

And so, we finally came to the conclusion, that our great solution is in fact not the solution after all, and it is time for plan B: while number three is challenged by some serious route finding through suburban shopping malls, braving traffic jams, parking attendants, and sale obsessed hordes, and trying desperately to complete the almost impossible project, of finding stylish, comfortable shoes, and harder still, a hand bag to match, we will wander through those shaded gorges, ease our way up those appealing jam cracks, with the help of our trusty friends, convinced that she thinks, that this is the only thing in the world that is able to keep us fit, trim, and youthful. Did I mention that I have just bought a double bed inflatable mattress, to impress number three, when I take her to our 'five million star' hotel.

Anonymous

#### **4. BOLTING**

For those of you who had ever wondered how all those lovely sport routes get made and our club's relationship with sport climbing, here is an explanation of how it all works in JHB section of the club.

A few years ago the club was convinced by some of the regular sport-route equipers to assist financially with the development of bolted rock climbing routes. Developing sport climbs is quite a costly exercise and since most of the routes were being opened on land the club actually owned or had servitude access to, it was seen to be in the club's interest to assist the bolters with purchasing equipment. A bolting sub-committee was formed to manage this new portfolio of the club.

The primary task given to the bolting sub-committee, which consists of members who are regularly involved in bolting, was to oversee and regulate all bolting activities within the section. A policy was drawn up to govern these activities and to which all route equipers must comply if opening routes with MCSA funds. The policy outlines: safety standards in opening sport routes, identifying and researching the best and most cost effective methods and equipments to be used, regulating where bolting takes place and also environmental considerations for bolting.

During the first year of the bolting sub-committee much time was spent researching the products to be used for equipping sport climbs. In the past it was up to the individual to decide which bolts to place and as a result there are some really suspect routes out there. The bolting committee decided to standardise the gear used to make sport climbing as safe as possible. Much testing was performed to determine the strengths of bolts in rock. Glue-ins, expansion bolts and other anchor types were rigorously tested in various rock types to find the best equipment for the job. As longevity was also a consideration for sport climbing, stainless steel anchors became the new criteria for bolts to avoid having to replace rusted bolts in time. For most rock types the Hilti stud anchors were proved to be the best option and contacts were made to source the bolts at the best prices.

Basically what the bolting sub-committee does today is manage the money for gear. Each year there are funds allocated for equipping and maintaining sport routes. Gear is bought in bulk, to save costs and distributed to the guys who are opening routes. Once the routes are opened they are updated in the relevant route guides for the climbers to know about. As all the bolters are responsible for adhering to the policy, we check each others work and criticize where necessary to ensure that routes are safe and fun to climb.

Quite a few more bolters have joined the ranks since the formation of the bolting fund and numerous routes and areas have been developed. Now that we have standard equipment types for bolting routes it has made it easier to open routes. This year the Magalies section has joined our bolting fund with contributions for purchasing gear. A national fund could be something to see in the future that would be set up from which all sections can draw to develop sport crags in their areas and even formulate training programs in route opening techniques for prospective bolters. For the time being though it is really just a handful of keen climbers that make the effort to open bolted routes.

Happy clipping.

*Lofty Frost*

#### **5. SCAVENGER BUYS BACKPACKER**

Almost all of us have owned a Back Packer, pack, used one of those one size fits all, no frills Scavenger harnesses, or dipped our hands into a funky coloured Scavenger chalk bag. Well, there have been some interesting new developments on the locally manufactured gear scene. We had a chat with Ralph Brucher from Scavenger Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd about their latest investment. Scavenger started in 1996 manufacturing mostly rock climbing related products and then diversified into manufacturing products for fall arrest, rope access and security markets. Scavenger was presented with the opportunity to take over Back Packer products in November 2003, and is now in production of the existing range of Back Packer products, including the complete range of rucksacks, tents and sleeping bags which will be sold under the Back Packer brand name. They also hope to continue exporting Back Packer products into Europe.

When Scavenger took on the manufacturing of the Back Packer range last year with some installed capacity and resources to manufacture and service within their facility. They are now expanding their production capacity on a continuous basis to accommodate new products. Scavenger Manufacturing is committed to design, manufacture and manage according to ISO 9001:2000 an International company management system standard. Each product undergoes production inspection and a final full inspection on completion to make sure all products are manufactured to the highest possible standard. To minimize delivery times, Scavenger services all customer enquiries as quickly as possible by manufacturing on an order basis. Back Packer products are distributed nationally by various outdoor shops, cycling outlets and the distribution network is growing on a monthly basis as the brand is being reintroduced into the relevant markets.

More good news for MCSA members, is that Scavenger Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd will look after all Back Packer customers and take full responsibility for product guarantees previously offered by Back Packer products. They will also be glad to see Back Packer supporters getting in touch with them with regards to product upgrades and repairs and are proud to say that most repairs will be seen to within a week or two from receiving the product.

Glenn Harrison, their product design and developer is currently working on expanding the existing range, and has introduced a few new products, like camera bags (Campack 25L, Campack 45L), a range of day / hydration bags for adventure racing, mountain biking and trail running. Since customer satisfaction is one of their core objectives, Scavenger believes in working very close together with the end user not only to improve products but to develop new ones and welcome any new ideas from any one using Back Packer or Scavenger products.

I hope that the MCSA continues to have a good relationship with the guys at Scavenger, and support the local gear manufacturing market. It also gives us a chance to have a say in the design of dependable gear for local conditions.

Contact Details for feed back.

Scavenger Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 9523, Centurion, 0046

Tel: 012 653 2299 or 012 653 3376

Fax: 012 653 6843

E-mail: [r.b@scavman.com](mailto:r.b@scavman.com)

or [info@scavman.com](mailto:info@scavman.com)

## 6. SEARCH AND RESCUE

You may wonder why MSAR would be called to crime scenes, but as we are involved in searches too, we can potentially find ourselves on a crime scene. Some hints if you suspect foul play (did he jump or was he too chicken??):

- don't touch anything if you can help it
- protect the area (cordon it off and stop people walking all over evidence)
- guess what happened
- make notes and draw diagrams
- take photos, but don't move anything unless you have to
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Date	Time	Dur	Subject	Venue	Topic
Thursday 2004-05-27	19:00	3hr	Medical	Flora Clinic Trauma Unit Training Depart	Medical Respiratory failure. Bring Kari-mats or blankets, one way face valves if you have one.
Sunday 2004-05-30	07:30	8rr	Search	Walkerville	Extended Wilderness K9 Search Training Extended Wilderness K9 Search Training Open to all interested. Meet at Blockhouse One-Stop. Details from Robyn on 083-279-3981. (K9 SAR Association)
Thursday 2004-06-03	12:00	3hr	Helicopter	17 Squadron By Invitation Only	Helicopter skills. Please note that you have to be part of the team to take part in hell training. Contact Rob Thomas 082 652-1490.
Thursday 2004-06-10	19:00	3hr	General skills	Delta Park School	Working with Dogs Interactive session hosted by K9 SARA on use of and interacting with search dogs. For details of venue contact Kerry on 082 337-8508 or Jenni on 082 449-5782.
Thursday 2004-06-17	19:00	3hr	Technical Rescue	Wits Technicon	TBA To be announced.
Thursday 2004-06-24	19:00	3hr	Medical	Northcliff Hill	Body recoveries Legal aspects, Equipment and Techniques used for body recoveries.
Sunday 2004-06-27	07:30	5hr	Search	TBA	Extended K9 Wilderness Search training Extended Wilderness K9 Search Training Open to all interested Details from Robyn on 083-279-3981 or John on 083-584-1706(K9 SAR Association)
Thursday 2004-07-01	19:00	3hr	Search	Wits Technicon	Field Searcher Techniques Techniques to be applied by searchers in the field. Includes type of search, tactics, record keeping and search-specific communications. Also includes desired behaviour in a search base when not in the field.
Thursday 2004-07-08	19:00	3hr	TBA	Wits Technicon	TBA To be announced.
Thursday 2004-07-15	08:00	4 Days	Full exercise	Blouberg (Proposed dates)	** Annual combined technical rescue and search exercise. Arrange attendance beforehand.
Thursday 2004-07-22	19:00	3 Hr	General skills	Wits Tech	Blouberg Feedback And Lessons Learnt

Our schedule for the next few weeks:

Training is open to anyone who is interested- Thursday nights 7-10pm (usually at Wits Tech). Join us if you'd like to sit in on a lecture or find out more about what we do.

For mountain rescue emergencies, call 011 315-0203. For information on the team and training, call Kerry on 082 337 8508 or email me at [kerry@hpl.co.za](mailto:kerry@hpl.co.za)

## 7. MCSA ICE CLIMBING

### COURSE 2004

Due to the increasing popularity of ice climbing within the section, with more new comers to the sport every year, it has been decided to run a beginners course for budding ice climbers this year.

The course consists of a lecture session with an instructional video, a training day to practice ice climbing techniques and finally a trip to Lesotho for a weekend of ice climbing and good fun. Each participant will be able to learn the skills and gain the confidence to enjoy ice climbing and continue exploring this unique medium.

There are only 10 places available for this training event so please book early. Please make sure you are able to attend all the sessions.

Session 1: 30 June 2004 – instructional video, safety and gear training.

Session 2: 3 July 2004 - ice technique training.

Session 3: 17-18 July – the real deal in Lesotho.

Conditions for attending:

- Must be a paid up member of the MCSA.
- Have at least one years rock climbing experience and be able to belay well.
- Have the following gear: helmet; climbing harness with karabiner and belay device; good boots that are quite rigid and waterproof; water proof gloves, jacket and trousers; warm clothes and sleeping bag for the trip to Lesotho.
- Must have a valid passport to enter Lesotho.

The course will cost R300 excluding the accommodation in Lesotho which should be in the region of R100 for the weekend (self catering).

The club can provide axes and crampons but if you have your own feel free to bring them along.

Please contact Gareth Frost (Lofty) if you wish to attend this course: [frostg1@telkom.co.za](mailto:frostg1@telkom.co.za) or 082 564-4171.

## 8. MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome the following new members: Debbie Stocks, Jonathan Jacobs, Raymond Rott, Paul Shelley, Grant Talmage; David Crabtree; family member Wade Oberholzer, Margaret Archibald, Barry Tame, Alida Pienaar, Lisa Garson, Brahm du Plessis, Nicole Sanders and Gillian Brollo and son Floyd.

Transfer to EP section: Inez Jamieson.

Resigned Thomas and Romey Provini. They have relocated to Switzerland.

With great sadness we record the death of Gavin Wright, who passed away suddenly in April. Our sincere condolences to Jan and children David and Michelle.

Our sincere condolences to Margaret Hammond -Tooke on the passing on of David.

## **9. CLUB NEWS**

### **Thank you**

We thank the Lowther family and friends for donations sent to our Search and Rescue fund in memory of Rory.

**SA Climb Inn:** the new climbing gym will be opening in May 2004. Fully paid up Section members will have the following benefits when using the facilities of the gym.

15% discount on daily fees; 20% discount on monthly/annual fees; the Search & Rescue team as well as the Outreach will have certain benefits.

### **Week at Hamerkop**

1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June. Members wishing to use the house during this period, please contact Uschi 011 807 1310. Club meet on weekend 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **Invitation from the JHB Hiking Club**

Members of the MCSA JHB section are hereby invited to the JHB HIKING CLUB annual Mid-Winter Camp at Foothold, 26-27 June 2004.

Can you imagine better ambience than sitting around log fires enjoying a scrumptious meal in the company of our club members?

RSVP not later 11<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

Inge Meets: 869-0961 or 082-471-1862

Milly Saffer: 882-6588

What to bring: Own tents, Hiking gear, Sunday breakfast and braai goodies for after the Sunday hike.

### **Ice climbing meets 2004**

Please take note that bookings will be required for the ice climbing meets to Giants Castle (23-26 July) and Sani Pass (6-8 August) this year. The Giant's Castle trip will not be open for beginner ice climbers, please try booking for the ice climbing course instead.

Closing dates are: Giants Castle, 14 July 2004, Sani Pass, 7 July 2004.

Please contact the meet leader, Gareth Frost (Lofty) for more information on 082 564-4171 or [frostg1@telkom.co.za](mailto:frostg1@telkom.co.za).

### **Events**

Alard's slide show on their 'Central Tower of Paine – 30 years later' will be shown on 10 August at the Johannesburg Hiking Club and 16 August in Pretoria at the CSIR. If you missed this fantastic show, here you chance to see it/again.

### **Peru**

A group of MCSA members and non-members are heading off to Peru on 5 June under the leadership of Greg Devine.

### **Chogolisa**

Ulrike Kiefer and group is heading off to Chogolisa in July.

### **New Committee, and dates of Committee meetings:**

Names of the new committee 2004/05 appear on last page.

21 June, 2 August, 13 September, 25 October and 6 December.

### **New email address of administrator:**

[admin@jhb.mcsa.org.za](mailto:admin@jhb.mcsa.org.za)

Uschi is heading off to Peru for the month of June. Contact numbers of person/s who will 'man' the office will be on the answering machine.

**Prospective members talk:** please note that for a trial period we will give this talk on the FIRST Wednesday of a month at 20h00 only.

### **Congratulations**

To our committee member, Julia Davies, on winning the woman's section of the Bouldering competition recently held at Swinburne.

### **AMAZING SPOTS:**

Ivan Ginsberg has reported: A leopard was spotted near the twins in Mountain Sanctuary Park in early March.

Erica Davies saw a leopard at Wolkberg recently.

#### 10. GENERAL MCSA NEWS

KZN July Camp: 3 July to 17 July this year the camp will be held at Mzimkhulwana, Southern Berg. For application forms contact Uschi [mcsajhb@global.co.za](mailto:mcsajhb@global.co.za) or Kay Nixon [kay@icfr.unp.ac.za](mailto:kay@icfr.unp.ac.za).

Annual Dinner: Only a 2 hours drive by tar road from July Camp base camp, KwaZulu-Natal  
Section will be hosting the MCSA's Annual Dinner as part of their 85-year anniversary.

Date and time: 10 July 2004 at 19.00 for 19.30

Venue: Fleur de Lys Club, Hilton College

Dress: Lounge Suit

Cost: R140.00 per person

Guest speaker: Ilan Lax - chairman of the Drakensberg Federation of User Groups (DFG), Board Member of KZN Wildlife.

Contact: Allison Gansat 082-900 3944 or [mgans@iafrica.com](mailto:mgans@iafrica.com)

Vegetarian meals by arrangement.

Book by: 15 June 2004

#### 11. FOR SALE:

**Dome Property For Sale:** Owner wishes to sell Portion 160 of Elandsdraal 470JQ, being a 6 kilometer strip running North to South approximately 150 meters East of Dome Pools, + 40 hectares in extent and comprising of one luxury 3 bedroom open plan house with large loft and one 2 bedroom cottage together with staff housing and storage. Suitable for joint ownership/time share.

Call Oliver Oppler : (Office) 011 x 789-2831 or Cell: 083 603 3665

**MCSA shirts for sale:** 100% cotton bush shirts with an embroidered MCSA logo onfor R120 each. Sizes (quite a large cut: measurements underarm to underarm on shirt laid out flat provided):

-Small (58cm). Colour: sand with brown/blue on pockets and shoulders

-Medium (60cm). Colour: sand and forest green on pockets and shoulders

Available at Club evenings (Wednesdays) or phone Uschi 011 807 1310 weekday mornings.

**MCSA expedition kit bags:** a few are still available at R390 (R35 extra for postage). This will be the last lot that will be ordered, so if you want one, do so soon. They can be viewed at club evening. Contact Ulrike 011 907 7438 or Uschi 011 807 1310.

**MCSA journals:** 1 Set for sale as a job-lot, comprising 1903, 1907, 1909 and 1914 onwards except 1920. Contact Tony Bowen: Jhb section 082 652 0372 or [tbowen@icon.co.za](mailto:tbowen@icon.co.za).

**Portaledge:** single, Black Diamond, brand new R6000. Contact Sean Mikula 082 679 0091.

#### STOP PRESS

The website for the CHOGOLISA EXPEDITION, to be led by Ulrike Kiefer, is up and running: Check it out and follow the Expedition. Updates and eventually their progress at:

<http://chogolisa.net>