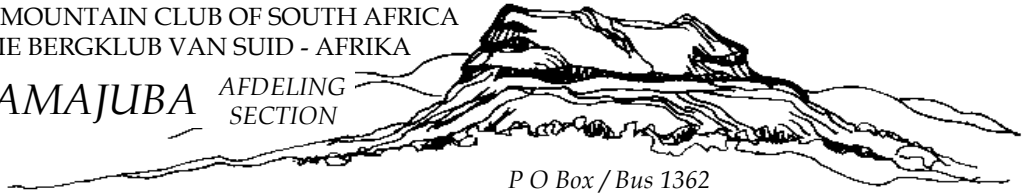


THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA  
DIE BERGKLUB VAN SUID - AFRIKA

**AMAJUBA** AFDELING  
SECTION



P O Box / Bus 1362  
Newcastle 2940  
<http://ama.mcsa@mcsa.org.za>

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## **JubaJabber - Monthly**

**May 2010**

**News items**

### **Lief en Leed**

I have not heard of anyone being sick or otherwise, so to everybody out there that might be sick or sad that we do not know of, hope you get/feel better soon.

### **Committee and Membership matters.**

Your committee for the year 2009 is as follows:

Chairperson: Thea Groenewegen – 0343123703 / 083 378 7655.

Vice-Chairman: Johan de Villiers – 072 712 7022.

Treasurer: Ruan Adendorff – 082 577 7555.

Secretary: Ria Kotze – 082 682 8646.

Social Convener and Publicity: Debbie Behrens - 083 357 2636.

Climbing and Rescue: Paul Behrens – 0343151168 / 083 677 1080.

Juba Jabber & e-mail: Adriaan Dippenaar – 082 337 2970 / [adriandip@telkomsa.net](mailto:adriandip@telkomsa.net)

Additional member: Len Stoop – 078 598 1643.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2010**

**Family membership is R250 per year**

**Single member R160 per year**

**Family pensioner R180 per year**

**Single pensioner R130 per year**

Members can pay their fees via cheque, cash or electronic transfer. Our banking details are as follows:

<b>Bank:</b>	<b>Nedbank</b>
<b>Account Holder:</b>	<b>MCSA Amajuba Section</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>1337163309</b>
<b>Branch Code:</b>	<b>133724</b>
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>Your initials and surname and Subs 2010</b>

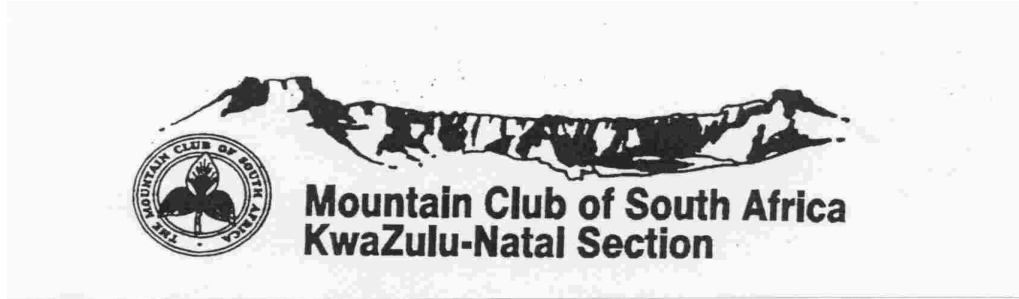
Accounts for 2010 membership will be sent out ASAP.

## Recent outings by Amajuba Section Members.

*As I have not received any items/articles of past hikes there will be no outings articles in this news letter.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### OF INTEREST



#### **90<sup>th</sup> JULY CAMP 2010 - Crystal Waters**

The site for the 90th July Camp of the KwaZulu-Natal Section of the Mountain Club of South Africa will be in the Crystal Waters area of the southern Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park. This site offers opportunities for trips north to Garden Castle (with its iconic Rhino Peak) and south towards Bushman's Nek, a relatively unexplored area. It also offers superb hiking in the Little Berg, along the Giant's Cup Trail and, for the relatively fit and energetic, on the Escarpment from Wilson's Peak to Thamatu Pass. There are rock climbing opportunities and, if the weather conditions are suitable, there could be opportunities for ice climbing. The area has some examples of rock art, areas of historical interest and an abundance of bird life. Those who enjoy trout fishing could even indulge in their favourite pastime.

The Camp will run from Saturday 3 July to Saturday 17 July, 2010 and Campers can attend for the whole period, either week, or for just a few days. The Base Camp will be on Crystal waters, the farm of Mr and Mrs Arthur Cole, close to where it adjoins the Garden Castle Reserve portion of the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park. The beautiful, spacious, terraced Campsite overlooks the Mzimude River, which rises in the vicinity of the Mzimude Cave in the high Berg.

July Camp 2010 will offer:

- superb sub-camps and long hikes in the Little Berg and/or on the Escarpment
- satisfying day walks with views, forests, waterfalls, streams and spectacular rock formations
- tempting sandstone cliffs for those interested bouldering
- excellent opportunities for game viewing, bird-watching and Berg photography
- visits to sites of historic and rock art interest
- opportunities for rock parties to do some climbing
- tempting spots for trout fishermen with collapsible rods and valid permits

Applications to attend the Camp

Please apply to attend the Camp on the enclosed form. Each prospective Camper is asked to indicate his/her preferences, abilities, and membership status (visitors are very welcome). Campers are assigned to parties according to their ability and preferences. Prospective leaders are asked to indicate the type of party they would like to lead. For their own convenience and safety, all Campers should be reasonably fit and well equipped. Children, accompanied by a parent (or another adult) taking full responsibility for them at all times, will be welcome and, like all other Campers, should be reasonably fit, well-equipped and carry their own kit, according to the type of trip. Younger children will be assigned to the same party as one of their parents (accompanying adult).

## DIRECTIONS TO THE CAR PARK and BASE CAMP

NB. Campers are advised to approach from Underberg. **Please do not assume** that the approach through Nottingham Road is preferable. This road is shorter and very scenic, **but it is in very poor condition**, very time consuming and **should be avoided**.

**From upcountry**, pass the Howick/Tweedie and the Howick/Midmar turn-offs, and then, at Merrivale, take Exit 99 (617) to Underberg and the Southern Berg. **From PMBurg and Durban**, pass the Hilton and the Cedara/Mount Michael turn-offs, then, at Merrivale, take Exit 99 (617) to Underberg and the Southern Berg. Continue to and through Underberg, taking the Swartberg Road (R617) and drive for about 4 kilometers, pass the Garden Castle turn-off, and then take the Bushman's Nek turn-off. Continue for about 20 kilometers and turn right to Crystal Waters (D288) Keep going to the Crystal Waters sign at the cattle grid. Follow signs to the car park. **From the South**, drive towards Underberg and about 4 kilometers before the village, take the Bushman's Nek Road, and then follow the directions given above.

**The car park**, which will be sign posted, is a little way beyond the farmstead and will be protected by a firebreak. Parking will cost R5 per week or part thereof. If you arrive in time to use the transport provided, please sign the register at the car park and find out where to put the stuff you want to have transported to the Camp. Those arriving on other days carry their own kit to the Base Camp site which is a pleasant walk from car park and will be signposted. Leave the car park on the farm track and continue until you see the Base Camp site. At a comfortable pace, with a pack, and allowing some time for admiring the view, the walk takes about 40 minutes.

**Please note that the access to the farm, Crystal Waters is restricted from 07:00 to 17:00. NO overnight camping is allowed at the car park.**

**Campers' kit will be transported between the car park and Base Camp at the following times:**

<b>Saturday 3 July</b>	<b>from the car park to Base Camp at 12h00 and 15h00</b>
<b>Saturday 10 July</b>	<b>from Base Camp to the car park at 09h00</b>
<b><u>Saturday 10 July</u></b>	<b><u>from the car park to Base Camp at 12h00 and 15h00</u></b>
<b><u>Saturday 17 July</u></b>	<b><u>from Base Camp to the car park at 09h00</u></b>

In the event of very bad weather, if the tractor transport cannot negotiate the track, **it may be necessary for campers to carry ALL their own kit to and/or from the Base Camp**, so please bear this in mind and arrange your kit accordingly. Although usually just a precautionary measure, it is wise to carry everything you need for the first night into Camp with you.

- *To maintain transport costs and reduce environmental impact, please ensure that your kit is limited to a suggested maximum of 5 clearly marked items (e.g. two rucksacks, stuff-bag, tent and camping stool or small folding chair). NO armchairs please, they take up too much space at the fire and keep others from sharing the warmth of the fire.*
- Campers arriving, or leaving, at times other than those shown above must be prepared to carry ALL their own kit to and from the Base Camp.

**If you need any further details, please phone Rikki Abbott Wedderburn on 082 538 5389 or 033 330 8412 (home) or Margaret Brown on 082 055 2143 or 033 344 1833.**

## HIKING FEES, CARDS and PASSPORTS

- **The Camp is required to pay hiking fees for Campers** to hike in the Ezemvelo KZN-Wildlife area.
- MCSA members are required to carry their current membership cards with them.
- To avoid international problems, **Campers intending to traverse the Escarpment must also carry passport documents.**

## BASE CAMP

Campers are required to bring their own lightweight suitable tents - sub-zero temperatures can be expected and strong winds and snow or rain are not uncommon.

**If you plan to take your own tent sub-camping, there is a large MCSA tent where you can store excess kit**

*Please bring TWO sets of cutlery and leave one in the kitchen for the duration of the Camp, and keep the other to use on trips.*

**All Base Camp meals are prepared and served by the kitchen staff, but Campers wash their own mugs, cutlery and dishes.**

**After supper, weather permitting, Campers gather around the fire in the campfire enclosure for a singsong and hot drink.**

Limited hot water is available at the rustic bathrooms.

#### **KIT REQUIRED:**

- 1. Lightweight tent and bedding suitable for sub-zero temperatures with** wind, snow and/or rain clothing (generally, the days are sunny and mild, but the nights are intensely cold).
- 2.** Water-proof and windproof gear.
- 3.** Personal first aid kit, sun-hat and sun-barrier creams.
- 4.** Torch and spare batteries.
- 5.** Toiletries.
- 6.** Boots - sturdy, supportive, water repellent and with strong Vibram-type soles. **Veldskoen, tyre-soles and sports shoes are NOT suitable for snow and ice conditions, which can be expected.**
- 7.** Water bottle.
- 8.** Rucksack appropriate to intended activities.
- 9.** Two mess kits - one for use in Base Camp (retrieved at the end of Camp), the other for your trips.
- 10.** Plastic bucket/ basin to carry water and to wash clothes.
- 11.** Biodegradable soaps and shampoo.
- 12.** A clothesline is useful.
- 13.** Campers wishing to bring a chair to sit on, may bring a folding stool or a **small folding chair** (not an armchair).
- 14.** Preferred sweets, drinks and snacks to share at the campfire or while out on sub-camps/day trips.
- 15. Two large rubbish bags - the principle of 'carry in, carry out' applies. Each Camper is expected to carry out and take away ALL the rubbish he/she generates both in Base Camp and on day-trips or sub-camps. PLEASE carry all YOUR rubbish back to the cars and take it away.**

**# Since NO OPEN FIRES ARE ALLOWED in the Drakensberg, ONLY STOVES may be used. Both benzene and methylated spirits for stoves are provided in Base Camp.**

**If you plan to join a sub-camping party,** please bring cooking utensils/billies, containers, plastic bags, and stove plus spare fuel container. Then the leader can select the best equipment for the trip.

**If you are keen on rock-climbing, please bring your own harness and climbing equipment. Then if there is a rock-climbing party** the leader can select the best equipment for the climb/s.

**# Camping stoves MAY NOT BE USED IN BASE CAMP because of the fire hazard.**

#### **FOOD:**

- Camp fees include a standard selection of food for all meals in Base Camp and on day trips
- Pre-packed, lightweight food is provided for sub-camping trips
- **However, Campers with specific dietary needs are advised to provide for their own requirements.**

#### **COST:**

**PLEASE NOTE there has been NO INCREASE IN THE COSTS since last year, but TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCESS, the KZN hiking fee has been included!**

**R 160 per person per night or R 1040 per week;**

If you are not a member of MCSA, or an affiliated Club, there is an additional **Visitor's Levy of R80**, which can be redeemed against future membership of the KZ-N Section of the MCSA.

**Parking costs R5 per week or part thereof.**

**The Camp reserves the right to retain a 20% booking fee when refunding cancelled bookings.**

**Refunds will only be made if cancellations are received before or on Sunday 20 June 2010, as all the food for the Camp will be ordered during the following week**

**PAYMENT and CLOSING DATE:**

Application forms and full payment must be received on or before Sunday 20 June 2010

Please make cheques out to **Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Section, July Camp.**

Alternatively, if making a **direct deposit**, please include the **applicable cash deposit fee. Account details are:**

Standard Bank  
Howick Branch code: 058325  
Account number: 058122133  
If needed, the Swift Code is SBZA ZA JJ [www.standardbank.co.za](http://www.standardbank.co.za)

**PLEASE INCLUDE PROOF OF PAYMENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

**Late entries** (after June 20, 2010) will be accepted only if the Camp is not fully booked.

**FURTHER INFORMATION, QUERIES AND ADDITIONAL FORMS**

**The Convener, July Camp Sub-Committee,  
Rikki Abbott,  
P O Box 557,  
Hilton, 3245**

**Telephones: 033 3303921 (home) 082 538 5389 (cell) Fax: 033 330 8412**

**E-mail: [ronwedd@netactive.co.za](mailto:ronwedd@netactive.co.za) OR [rikki.abbott@kzndae.gov.za](mailto:rikki.abbott@kzndae.gov.za)**

**URGENT MESSAGES**

**From Monday 29 June to Friday 2 July, 2010, the July Camp sub-Committee will already be in the Berg preparing the Camp and will probably be out of cell phone range.**

**Any very urgent messages in connection with the Camp, may be telephoned to the Senior Conservation Manager, Mr. James Mthembu of Garden Castle**

**Telephone: 033 701 1823 OR 083 962 3934**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE EZEMVELO KZN-WILDLIFE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**July Camp endorses a comprehensive system of environmental practices that address, *inter alia*, conditions of access, admissible structures, services, monitoring, auditing and decommissioning, reinstatement and rehabilitation, pollution and the impact of the event on soil, animals, vegetation and other area users. For example:**

**Water quality**

The Berg is the main watershed for KZN, so all Campers are required to use biodegradable soaps and shampoo and to ensure that grey water is dispersed directly onto a grassed area and not into a watercourse.

When out of Base Camp, all Campers are required to observe bush etiquette.

**Soil conservation**

Palettes or duckboards must be used in the bathrooms to prevent soil trampling and compaction.

**Waste**

**The principle of ‘carry in, carry out’ will apply. Participation in July Camp is on the understanding that each Camper will carry out and take away ALL the rubbish he/she generates both in Base Camp and on day-trips or sub-camps.**

Women please note that this applies particularly to items best described as 'hygiene products' and that they should bring suitable ziplock bags. While Campers are encouraged to 'pack-out all waste' a designated bag for such products is provided in the Women's toilet at Base Camp.

**Climbing**

Any leader intending to undertake rock climbs is required to be fully familiar with the Bolting Policy as developed by the KZ-N Section of MCSA and KZN-Wildlife.

**Safety:**

Each Camper leaving the Camp (whether for a day trip or a sub-camp) must ensure that he/she clearly joins a recognized party and clearly indicates his/her destination on the Mountain Register in the Camp.

All Campers leaving Camp must carry water, adequate warm and waterproof clothing, a torch and spare batteries.

**Noise:**

The sense of peace, animals and other visitors must not be disturbed by noise. No radios (or loud music) shall be permitted.

**Monitoring:**

The site will be monitored before and after the event

**Flora and fauna:**

If any sensitive species (*e.g.* vulture, lammergeyer or oribi) are seen, please inform the Reserve Management promptly so that the appropriate action, as advised by the KZN-Wildlife specialists, can be taken.

**Fire:**

No open fires may be made by day trip or sub-camp parties. Special concession is given for the Camp to cook on open fires and to have a campfire, if conditions permit. Gathering of firewood is not permitted.

**General:**

All standard conservation codes must be practised.

**STOP PRESS**

For those Campers interested in flying to KZN, I have JUST heard of a tour operator who runs an Airport - Underberg shuttle and will transport from one to ten (1 - 10) hikers from the airport for R1000! For groups larger than 10, he asks for a R50 per person surcharge.

This puts a very different picture on the cost of the Camp for those travelling long distances, especially if flights can be co-ordinated!

## APPLICATION TO ATTEND JULY CAMP 2010

## PLEASE:

- Delete alternatives that are not applicable
- Use **BLOCK LETTERS**
- Use a separate form for each person

Dr / Miss / Mrs / Mr: .....

Address: .....

..... Code: .....

Telephone (code and number): ..... Cell: .....

E-mail: .....

In the case of a child, Age ..... Countersigned by parent/guardian: .....

I wish to spend only one night in Camp on ..... July 2010

I wish to attend Camp from ..... July to ..... July 2010

I am/ am not a member of the ..... Section of MCSA/ Mountain Club

- I wish to **hike in the Little Berg with optional one-day trips to the Escarpment.**
- I wish to **sub-camp with some nights on the Escarpment.**
- I do/do not go on regular sub-camping trips.
- I wish to go on **day trips, returning to Base Camp each night.**
- I do/do not go on regular day-hikes.
- I wish to **lead a sub-camp party.**
- I wish to **climb** up to .....grade.
- I do/do not climb regularly.
- I am/am not **proficient in abseiling.**
- I wish to **lead a climbing party** up to ..... Grade.

## CAMP CHARGES:

MCSA July Camp Camping Fee; ..... days @ R 160 per day / R 1040 per week R

Parking fee of R 5.00 per week, or part thereof R

Non-member levy of R80 R

Total R

I enclose a cheque for R ..... payable to Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Section, July Camp

OR

I have made a direct deposit of R ..... to the Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Section, July Camp, Standard Bank, Howick Branch code – 058325, a/c no 058122133.

\*If making a cash deposit, PLEASE INCLUDE the CASH DEPOSIT FEE.

Proof of payment has been faxed to The Organizer at 033 330 8412

YES/NO

OR Proof of payment has been posted to the Camp Organizer, PO Box 557 Hilton, 3245

YES/NO

OR Proof of payment has been e-mailed to [ronwedd@netactive.co.za](mailto:ronwedd@netactive.co.za)

YES/NO

PLEASE return booking form and confirmation of payment ON, OR BEFORE, SUNDAY 20 JUNE, 2010 to:

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .....

Contact details and enquiries to Rikki Abbott Wedderburn

Cell 082 538 5389

Or [rikki-abbott@kzndae.gov.za](mailto:rikki-abbott@kzndae.gov.za)Or [ronwedd@netactive.co.za](mailto:ronwedd@netactive.co.za)

Or 033 330 8412

## SOMETHING ELSE OF INTEREST

Thomas & Joanne Mann have self catering accommodation available in Clarens for the members of The Mountain Club and their guests. The cottage has six single beds and the terraced lawns are ideal for camping. Clarens has some wonderful hikes and some fun bouldering too. The price is a flat rate of R300 per night. For bookings or more information email Thomas at [meninperu@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meninperu@yahoo.co.uk)

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### *On the Lighter Side:*

#### Letter to Dad

He was astonished to see the bed was nicely made, and everything was picked up.  
Then, he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow.  
It was addressed,

**'Dad'.**

With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope and read the letter, with trembling hands.

Dear Dad,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend, because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I've been finding real passion with Stacy, and she is so nice, but I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercings, tattoos, her tight Motorcycle clothes, and because she is so much older than I am. But it's not only the passion, Dad. She's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods, and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children. Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't, really, hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves, and trading it with the other people in the commune, for all the cocaine and ecstasy we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS, so Stacy can get better. She sure deserves it!!  
Don't worry Dad, I'm 15, and I know how to take care of myself. Someday, I'm sure we'll be back to visit, so you can get to know your many grand children.

Love,  
Your son, John.

#P.S. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than the school report that's on my desk.  
I love you!  
Call when it is safe for me to come home.





### Identity Crisis

.....

<b>Programme 2010 Program</b>			
Date / Datum	Description / Beskrywing	Activity / Aktiwiteit	Contact / Kontak
08 June	Social, Newcastle Club	Slides of past hikes	Debbie Beherens 083 357 2636
12 June	Ncandu Forest	Day Hike (3)	Thea Groenewegen 083 378 7655
26-27 June	Kranskop	Rock Climbing	Thea Groenewegen 083 378 7655

*\* Dates to be finalized. The programme is subject to change.*

*\* Datums moet nog bepaal word. Die program kan verander.*

#### **Rating System**

1. *Family weekend.* Children, prospective & older members. Easy, short hikes often-good facilities.
2. *Easy hike.* Footpaths present or otherwise flat open terrain.
3. *Average difficulty.* Path over varying terrain, often steep. Sometimes paths, route finding necessary.
4. *Difficult hike without footpath.* Might incl. bundu bashing, serious scrambling, kloofing or exposure.
5. *Technical climb.* Requires climbing gear (sometimes ice climbing gear).

**Enigiemand wat voorstelle vir 'n uitstappie het en/of vir ons die uitstappie kan lei, kan gerus vir Ria Kotze kontak by 082 682 8646.**

**General Interest**

*If anyone has anything of interest they would like to share in the news letter or wants me to put an article about anything in, then please contact me. It has to be relevant to hiking, mountaineering, camping or the outdoors. Ideally the article or request should reach me within the first 12 days of the month.*

**Trading Post:**

**For Sale:** XXX

.....

**Wanted:** XXX

.....

**If there is anyone not receiving the Jubba-Jabber via e-mail and wants to receive it that way then please send me a mail at: adriandip@telkomsa.net and let me know your e-mail address so I can add it to the mailing list.**