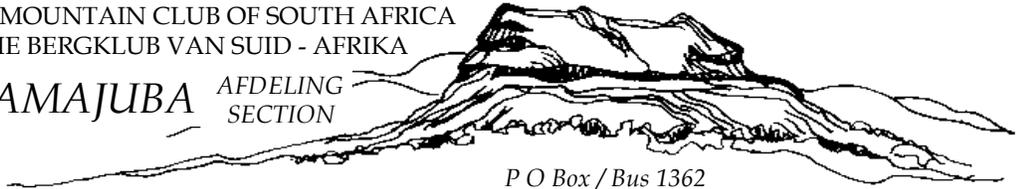


THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA  
DIE BERGKLUB VAN SUID - AFRIKA

**AMAJUBA** AFDELING  
SECTION



P O Box / Bus 1362  
Newcastle 2940

<http://ama.mcsa.org.za/>

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## **JubaJabber - Monthly**

**April 2011**

**News items**

### **Lief en Leed**

Have not heard of any illnesses or deaths or otherwise, so I am assuming that all is well with our members and their loved ones.

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

Your committee for the year **2011** is as follows:

Chairperson: Thea Groenewegen – 0343123703 / 083 378 7655.

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

Treasurer: Len Stoop – 078 598 1643.

Secretary: Inalize Oosthuizen – 073 240 9647

Social Convener and Publicity: Jandri Barnard – 084 580 3501

Climbing and Rescue: Ruan Adendorff – 082 577 7555.

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

Additional member: Estie Gunter – 072 325 5078

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2011**

**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 2011</b> |

## **Recent outings by Amajuba Section Members.**

1) 12 April: Social and slides / Talk.

### **2) Ncandu Hike – 2011.04.09**

Present: Martie, Inalize, Louis, Len.

Apologies: Thea, Adriaan, Maira Peruzzo.

Duration: 1 day.

Grade: Moderate to Strenuous.

Entrance fee per day: R20.

On Saturday morning we met at Game at 07:00. We waited a while for more people, but after a while we left for the farm Moorfield. This farm is situated at the top of Mullers pass, ±25 km from Newcastle. The trail starts there and carries on into the adjacent Ncandu Forest reserve, which is supposed to be managed by the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (the old Natal Parks board).

There is the main 2 day trail that takes a person to the 2 overnight huts, then into the gorge through the indigenous Ulumbe forests and back to Moorfield. Then there are various other day hikes to waterfalls, into the side gorge, through forest and around the top of the mountain. The road is quite bad, especially the last part leading from the main road to the farm house. Luckily my old Nissan made it with the four of us inside it.

When we arrived at the farm house, we paid our dues to Shadrack, the attendant. The new owner, Anne Muirhead, was in Johannesburg at the time, so we could not find out what the progress is with her plans to restore what was neglected, plans to create a greater nature reserve in the area with the help of neighboring farmers, work that botanical and wildlife researchers are doing in the area, etc.

It was cloudy and cool when we arrived, so we dressed warm. We decided to walk to the small waterfall and pool close to the house, then to the top of the high waterfall. There we had something to eat and enjoyed the view of this side gorge. From here we walked back to get out of the valley and walked along the eastern edge of the gorge. My plan was to climb down into the gorge, in order to get to the bottom of the high waterfall. There a person can walk behind the waterfall. I found the place to descend, but it was too dangerous, because the soil was wet and slippery and the anchor rope was missing. The westerly wind started to pick up and it was really chillies.

We carried on along the edge to the eastern side of the mountain, where we had a view of Chelmsford dam, Leo kop and the whole area towards Newcastle. The clouds cleared at this stage and the warming rays of the sun was very welcome.

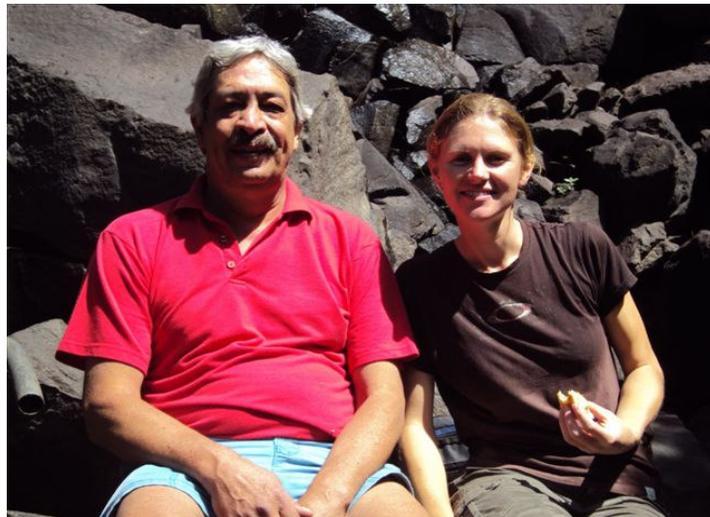
There we saw some antelope – they looked like Ribbok. From there we walked back to the farm house via a different route, through the bush along the stream, past the dam, to the waterfall which is west of the house. There we had lunch. Inalize and Louis even braved the cold water by standing under the waterfall.

After lunch, we walked back to the house, where we got into the car and returned to Newcastle.

This area is the most beautiful in the Newcastle area, especially in summer when all the streams are running. The trail needs some work and as soon as the huts are renovated, we should go there for a 3 day excursion.

See you soon.

Len Stoop.



# OF INTEREST

## The Mountain Club of South Africa KwaZulu-Natal Section

EXPLORE • DISCOVER • CONNECT • PROTECT

### 91st JULY CAMP 2011 - INJISUTHI

This year, after an absence of 31 years, once again, July Camp will be held in the Injisuthi area (in the Central Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park. This area is described as 'being cradled between the Injisuthi (Little Tugela) and Cowl Fork rivers at the head of the Injisuthi valley; surrounded by magnificent scenery and dominated by Cathkin Peak, Monk's Cowl and Champagne Castle'. The Injisuthi area offers a dramatic and scenically rugged terrain with superb hiking in the Little Berg; backpacking on the Escarpment from Giants Castle to Champagne Castle and beyond, with a range of mountain passes in between; rock-climbing opportunities; and, if weather conditions are suitable, even opportunities for ice climbing. It has some superb examples of rock art (e.g. Battle Cave to which there are conducted tours), abundant bird life and the antelope for which the Berg is renowned.

This will be a Base Camp with a difference! The ruggedness of the terrain has precluded the development of any road beyond the small, hutted Camp, so Base Camp will be in the minimally developed Injisuthi Camp site.

It is very simple, just with mown areas, ablution facilities, running water and sufficient longer grass and trees for a pleasing degree of privacy. The Camp will run from Saturday 2 July to Saturday 16 July 2011 and Campers can attend for the whole period, either week, or for just a few days. Space will be limited, so please book early.

#### July Camp 2011 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.
- Excellent opportunities for game viewing, bird-watching and Berg photography o visits to rock art sites.
- Opportunities for rock parties to do some climbing, provided there are rock leaders in the group.

#### Applications to attend the Camp:

**Each prospective Camper** should apply to attend camp on a separate copy of the enclosed form and to indicate his/her preferences, abilities, and membership status. N. B. 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. All

**Campers**, for their own convenience and safety, should be reasonably fit and well equipped.

**Children**, accompanied by a parent (or other adult) taking full responsibility for them at all times, will be very welcome.

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE BASE CAMP:

**From Durban or PMB, take the N3** and continue through the **Mooi Plaza** and, after 36 kms, **take Exit 179, Estcourt North**. At the top of the glide off, turn left to Loskop. **From Jo'burg and upcountry**, take the N3 and continue through the Tugela Plaza and, after 65km, take Exit 179, Estcourt North. At the top of the glide off, turn right towards Loskop.

From there on, the directions are the same. Please be aware of the speed restrictions. Pass the Draycott / White Mountain Inn and Giants Castle signs. Pass Loskop, now difficult to distinguish from its surrounding area. Carry on till you reach an area of light industrialisation with a very prominent sign, 'KwaZulu Shoes'. Just after that, at an intersection with a very busy bus stop and taxi rank, turn left on to the road signposted to Injisuthi. (Spelling varies!) From there, follow the road signs to Injisuthi. (Due to the high population density in this area, it will be inappropriate to put up the usual MCSA signs). The last 12 kilometres of the road

before the Reserve gates are rather rutted, but an ordinary sedan manages quite well if driven appropriately. Please be aware of pedestrians and livestock on the road. Inside the Reserve, the road is good. Please note that the access to the Injisuthi Camp is restricted from 07:00 to 17:00.

As you approach the hutted camp, the Base Camp site is discretely tucked away to your right. Cars will be parked as far from the tents as we can get them. Since the distance from the car park to the actual Base Camp site is truly minimal, campers will be responsible for transporting ALL their own kit from their vehicles to their chosen tent site.

From upcountry, one can approach Injisuthi over Oliviershoek, then via Bergville and Winterton, and turning towards Loskop, then taking the intersection mentioned above, but approaching the Injisuthi turnoff from the other side. **WARNING!** The surface is extremely potholed.

If you need any further details, please phone Rikki Abbott Wedderburn on 082 538 5389 or 033 330 3921 (home) or Margaret Brown on 082 055 2143

#### **HIKING FEES, CARDS and PASSPORTS:**

- Each camper is required to pay KZ-N Wildlife an overnight fee of R50.00 This is included in the fee paid to MCSA and will then be paid over to KZN Wildlife.
- Leaders wanting to stay in caves will have to take potluck and book them at the Office during the Camp or let the Organiser know so that she can make an early booking.
- MCSA members are required to carry their current membership cards with them.
- Campers intending to traverse the Escarpment must also carry the necessary documents.
- Since we are camping in an official KZNW campsite, for EVERY TRIP, be it a day walk or a sub-camp, campers will have to complete the appropriate mountain registers at the Camp office.

#### **BASE CAMP:**

Campers are required to bring their own lightweight mountain tents - sub-zero temperatures can be expected. Strong winds, 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.
- In Base Camp, meals are prepared and served by the kitchen staff, but we wash our own mugs, cutlery and dishes.
- After supper, weather permitting, we can gather in the campfire enclosure for a singsong and hot drink.
- Limited hot water will be available at the bathrooms.

#### **KIT REQUIRED:**

- 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).
- Waterproof and windproof gear.
- Personal first aid kit, sun-hat and sun-barrier creams.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- Toiletries.
- Boots (sturdy, supportive, water repellent and with strong Vibram-type soles. **Other shoes are NOT suitable!**).
- Water bottle
- Rucksack appropriate to intended activities.
- Two mess kits - one for use in Base Camp (retrieved at the end of Camp), the other for your Trips.
- Plastic bucket/ basin to carry water and to wash clothes.
- **Biodegradable soap and shampoo.**
- A clothesline is useful.

- If required, a folding stool or **SMALL** folding chair (**NO ARMCHAIRS**). **Space at the fireside will be limited.**
  - Preferred sweets, drinks and snacks to share at the campfire or while out on sub-camps and/or day trips
  - **TWO (2) large rubbish bags - the principle of ‘carry in, carry out’ applies. Please carry out ALL the rubbish you have generated both in Base Camp and on day-trips/sub-camps and take it away with you.**
  - **If you want to plan your trip in advance or acquaint yourself with the area, the relevant maps are Hiking Map no. 3, Giant’s Castle and Injisuthi as well as Hiking Map no. 2, Cathedral Peak and Monk’s Cowl – both available from Ezemvelo, P O Box 13609, Cascades, 3202 or customerservice@kznwildlife.com**
  - **These maps, as well as the MCSA Berg maps, will also be available for sale in the Camp.**
  - 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 containers and gas, if using a gas stove. 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 rock-leader can select the best equipment for the climb/s.
- NOTE: 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.
- If leaders want to plan their catering, a copy of the food list can be sent via e-mail or posted.
- Campers with specific dietary needs are advised to provide for their own requirements.

#### **COST – PLEASE NOTE:**

- a) The FEES FOR THE CAMP ARE R 200.00 per person per night or R 1400.00 per week
- b) KZN Wildlife has given us a 33% discount and have agreed that the basic camping fee covers nights in the tent site, or nights out sub-camping, whether in tents or caves. (But caves must be booked through the Office).
- c) If you wish to visit Battle Cave, you have to join a guided party that costs R 235.00 for the first three people and then R 60.00 per person. The round trip takes 5 to 6 hours.
- d) If you are NOT a member of MCSA, or an affiliated Club, there is an additional Visitor’s Levy of R 80.00, which can be redeemed against future membership of the KZ-N Section of the MCSA. July Camp reserves the right to retain a 20% booking fee when refunding cancelled bookings. Please note, refunds will only be made if cancellations are received before or on Saturday 18 June 2011, as all the food for the Camp will be ordered during the following week.

#### **PAYMENT and CLOSING DATE:**

- a) Application forms and full payment must be received on or before Saturday 18 June , 2011.
- b) Please make cheques out to Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Section, July Camp.
- c) 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 18, 2011) will be accepted only if the Camp is not fully booked.

**NB: This year space will be limited.**

● **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, QUERIES AND ADDITIONAL FORMS:**

The Convenor, July Camp Sub-Committee,

Rikki Abbott, P O Box 557, Hilton, 3245

Telephones: (Home) 033 330 3921 (Cell) 082 538 5389 (Fax) 033 330 8412

E-mail: ronwedd@netactive.co.za

● **URGENT MESSAGES:**

From Monday 27 June to Friday 1 July, 2011, 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 Resort Manager at Tel: 036 431 9000

**REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE EZEMVELO KZ-N 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 KZ-N, 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 KZN 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 joins a recognized party and clearly indicates his/her destination on the Mountain Register in the Camp. Wandering around on one's own is against all hiking codes.
- All Campers leaving Camp must complete the Camp register at the office and 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 KZN Wildlife specialists can be informed.
- Fire; No open fires may be lit 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.
- General; All standard conservation codes must be practiced.

**APPLICATION TO ATTEND JULY CAMP 2011**

PLEASE:

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

Dr/ Mr/ Mrs/ Miss/ .....  
 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, 2011  
 I wish to attend Camp from ..... July to .....July, 2011  
 I am/ am not a member of the.....Section of MCSA/  
 Mountain Club  
 I wish to sub-camp with some nights on the Escarpment  
 I wish to hike in the Little Berg with optional one-day trips to 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

**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.  
 Proof of payment has been faxed to The Organizer at: 033 330 8412 **YES/NO**  
**OR:** Proof of payment has been posted to Camp Organizer, PO Box 557, Hilton, 3245  
**YES/NO**  
**OR:** Proof of payment has been e-mailed to ronwedd@netactive.co.za **YES/NO**  
 PLEASE return booking form & confirmation of payment ON or BEFORE,  
 SATURDAY 18 JUNE, 2011

SIGNED:..... DATE:.....  
 Contact details and enquiries to Rikki Abbott Wedderburn on: Cell: 082 538 5389  
**OR:** ronwedd@netactive.co.za OR: 033 330 8412 or 033 330 3921

**CAMP CHARGES:**

MCSA July Camp Camping fee \_\_\_ days @ R200 per night/ R1400 per week **R** .....  
 Cash deposit fee, if applicable: **R** .....  
 Non-member levy of R 80.00: **R** .....  
 I enclose a cheque for the amount: **TOTAL R** .....

## On the Lighter Side:



*Irish Paramedics*

.....

| <b>Programme 2011 Program</b> |                              |                       |   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Date / Datum                  | Description / Beskrywing     | Activity / Aktiwiteit | Contact / Kontak                              |
|                               |                              |                       |   |
| <b>Cancelled</b>              | Ntendeka State Forest, Ngoma | Hiking (3)            | Johan De Villiers 072 712 7022                |
| 28 May                        | Leokop, Normandien           | Hiking (2)            | Ruan Adendorff 082 577 7555                   |
| 16-19 June                    | Steylkranz                   | Hiking (3)            | Thea Groenewegen<br>0343123703 / 083 378 7655 |
| 2 – 16 July                   | July Camp                    | Hiking (3,4,5)        | Information attached                          |

\* 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).

## 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 15 days of the month.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Trading Post:

**For Sale: Nothing**

*Remember, you can sell anything here, not only hiking or camping related.*

**Wanted: Nothing**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If there is anyone not receiving the Juba-Jabber via e-mail and wants to receive it that way then please send me a mail at; [adriandip@telkomsa.net](mailto:adriandip@telkomsa.net) so I can add you to the mailing list.**