

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/>

JubaJabber - Monthly

May/June 2012

News items

Lief en Leed

Have not heard of any illnesses 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 **2012** 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: Christine de Villiers – 072 712 7022.

Social Convener: 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

Publicity: Estie Gunter – 072 325 5078

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2012

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:

Bank:	Nedbank
Account Holder:	MCSA Amajuba Section
Account Number:	1337163309
Branch Code:	133724
Reference:	Your initials and surname and Subs 2012

Recent outings by Amajuba Section Members.

Dagstap by Wide Hope – 17 Maart 2012

Die volgende 12 mense het meegemaak met die stap; Ina Blom, haar seun, skoondogter en hul twee kinders, Horst Bauer en sy seun en skoondogter Estelle, Martie en Robbie Robertz en Johan (leier) en Christine de Villiers.

Ons het om 08h00 by die uitdraai na Lentevlei langs die Memel pad bymekaar gekom. Daarna het ons na Mary-Anne Wessels se plaas Wide Hope, aan die voet van die berge wes van Newcastle vertrek.

Ons het onder die groot koeltebome by die huis geparkeer en omtrent 08h45 begin stap. Die eerste paar kilometre was redelik gelyk en almal het saam gestap. Toe ons die steiltes begin klim het Horst hulle vooruit geloop want die pas met die kinders was vir hulle te stadig. Hulle het van bo af vir ons gewaai en ons het hulle nie weer die dag gesien nie.

Die berg was steil en ons moes kort-kort rus en water en wat nog drink. Op 'n stadium het ons onder 'n groot kiepersol boom gerus.

Voor die laaste steil gedeelte het Ina se familie besluit om daar te bly aangesien die kinders moeg was. Teen die tyd was dit al taamlik warm, maar gelukkig het die wind gewaai om dinge af te koel. Ons was teen 12h00 bo-op die berg, die lug was skoon en ons het ons verlustig aan die mooi uitsigte na alle kante.

Na middagete het ons begin terugstap. Ons het besluit om 'n korter roete terug te stap, dit was baie steil en hier en daar het dit gly-gly gegaan. Dit was Robbie se eerste hike saam met die bergklub en op 'n stadium het hy gevra of ons dit doen vir ons plesier! Ons hoop dit was nie sy laaste stap saam met ons nie.

Dankie aan almal wat saam gestap het en ook baie dankie aan Mary-Anne en die huurder wat ons toegelaat het om op die mooi plek te stap.

Johan

OF INTEREST

93rd JULY CAMP 2012 - COBHAM

This year, July Camp offers another new Base Camp site! This time in the beautiful Cobham Valley, that most people only know, if at all, from crossing through it on the Giant's Cup Trail which runs South from Sani to Bushman's Neck. Our campsite lies in the chi-chi ('nchu-'nchu) bush on the banks of the Polela River some way above the Cobham office complex that includes the Giant's Cup Trail Overnight hut.

It is arguably one of the most beautiful areas in the Southern Berg and is drained by the Emerald, Pholela and Mzimkhulwana streams and abounds with good caves. The most popular way to the top would probably be the Msubasuba Pass that bisects the gap between the Hodgsons Peaks.

This area of the Southern Berg offers a dramatic and scenically rugged terrain with superb hiking for sub-campers in the Little Berg which has a number of excellent caves for over-nighting; backpacking on the Escarpment; and, of course, delightful, varied and memorable day-walks, for those who are thus inclined; opportunities for rock-climbing and some superb examples of

rock art (e.g. eSiphongweni Shelter and Pinnacle Rocks), abundant bird life and the antelope for which the Berg is renowned.

After the relative luxury of last year's Base Camp with hot and cold running water and flush toilets, this year we will be back to the traditional style July Camp, but with additional extras in the form the elegant 'stove' which made its debut last year and which promises to boast the 2012 revisions and innovations. We also will be offering state of the art bathrooms and loos.

The Camp will run from Saturday 7 July to Saturday 21 July 2012.

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 2012 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
 - visits to rock art sites
 - excellent opportunities for game viewing, bird-watching and Berg photography
 - 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 July 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

NB. **Campers are advised to approach from Underberg.** Please do not think 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 at all costs.

From upcountry, pass the Howick/Tweedie and the Howick/Midmar turn-offs, and then, at Merrivale, to take Exit 99 (R617) 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 (R617) to Underberg and the Southern Berg. Continue to Underberg and at the Shell garage bear right towards Himeville. On entering Himeville, take the first turning left to Cobham (beware the bump in the road). Travel to the end and park at the designated July Camp parking site. From this site, your personal kit will be taken by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife transport to the campsite.

NB: Please note that the access to the Cobham Reserve is restricted from 07:00 to 17:00.

If you need any further details, please phone Rikki Abbott Wedderburn on 082 538 5389 or 033 330 3921 (home), Margaret Brown on 082 055 2143 or Mike Coke 083 321 8841. This year, Mike will be handling the applications etc.

● HIKING FEES, CARDS and PASSPORTS

- Each camper is required to pay Ezemvelo KZ-N Wildlife an overnight camping fee of R45 per person per night. This is included in the fee paid to MCSA and will then be paid over to Ezemvelo 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, well in advance, so that she can make an early booking.
- MCSA members are required to carry their **current membership cards** with them.
- Campers intending to go on to the Escarpment must also carry their passports with them.
- For **EVERY TRIP**, be it a day-walk or a sub-camp, **campers will have to complete the appropriate mountain register before leaving the Base Camp.**

● 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 to store your excess kit.**
- **Base Camp, meals are prepared and served by the Camp staff, but we ALL do our own washing up.**
- **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 superior, state of the art, camp-style bathrooms.

TRANSPORT OF CAMPERS' KIT

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

Saturday 07 July from the car park to Base Camp – 12h00 and 15h00

Saturday 14 July from Base Camp to the car park - 09h00

Saturday 14 July from the car park to Base Camp – 12h00 and 15h00

Saturday 21 July from Base Camp to the car park – 09h00

However, in the event of very bad weather, if the tractor transport cannot negotiate the track or is involved in fighting fires, **it may be necessary for campers to carry ALL their own kit to and from the Base Camp. SO, in your own interests, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR KIT TO REASONABLE AMOUNTS.**

NOTE: NO ARMCHAIRS, NO BIKES!

Campers arriving, or leaving, at times other than these must be prepared to carry ALL their own kit to and from the Base Camp.

● 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-repellant, 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 and a few pegs are useful
- If required, a folding stool or **SMALL folding chair (NB: NO ARMCHAIRS will be accepted** because 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 large rubbish bags - 'carry in, carry out' principle applies. Please keep ALL the rubbish YOU generate 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. 5, Cobham, and possibly Hiking map no 6 Garden Castle and Bushman's Nek - available from Ezemvelo, P O Box 13609, Cascades, 3202 or customerservice@kznwildlife.com (OR) on arrival, from the office at Cobham.
- 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.

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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** R200 per adult per night (13 to 18 years R175, 6 to 13 years R125 and under 6 years R100)
- b) **Caves must be booked through the Office. Booking of trail huts will have to be negotiated**
- c) 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 in respect of cancellations. Please note, refunds will only be made if cancellations are received before Saturday 23 June 2012, 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 23 June, 2012.**
- 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

● PLEASE INCLUDE PROOF OF PAYMENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Late entries (after 23 June, 2012) 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 Wedderburn,
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 2 July to Friday 6 July, 2012, 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 Cobham Office at Tel: 033 702 0831 (during office hours).

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 KZ-N Section of MCSA and KZ-N 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 KZ-N 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 the camp stove, to heat the bath water in the 'donkey' and to have a campfire, if conditions permit.

○ **General**

All standard conservation codes must be practised.

Please take note:

The application form for the July Camp will be attached to the e-mail as well.

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MAY MONTH MADNESS - SAVE R20 PER PERSON PER NIGHT AT JULY CAMP 2012

Best news yet about July Camp!

Early Bird Registration for the 2012 KZN July Camp.

For the first time that we know of in the history of July Camp, we are offering an 'early bird registration bonus' to try and limit the rush of last minute applications.

At our July Camp committee meeting on May 1, we decided to thank those who do register early and express our thanks is a tangible way to them, and to encourage more to follow their example. **SO** we are offering you a saving of **R20 per person per night** if you register your attendance early, in other words, before the first day of June.

This year's Camp site on the banks of the tranquil Pholela river (floods are rare in July in KZN!) allows easy access to some of the most beautiful walking country in the Southern Berg. Add to that an abundance of caves and you have a great venue in which to dust off those cobwebs and rejuvenate the spirit and the calf muscles.

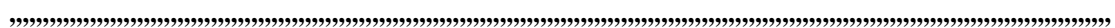
Yes, sniff the breeze a second time, and you will get assurance from that faint smell of the high Berg and burnt dung of Lesotho that the 93rd July Camp is going to be better than special (okay I shouldn't qualify superlatives) but, "if a lot is good then more is better" and there are **lots** of excellent day trips and even **more** excellent cave sleep-outs to exhilarate and enthuse the lovers of the great outdoors.

More good news, we had 8 prototype adults attend the 2011 July Camp and that went down a treat with all the Campers, thanks to the parents keeping a watchful eye. In short, you can bring the youngsters of any age. We also had a couple of Campers above the 80 year mark, so this really is a Camp for all ages!

Another bonus is that the drive "on dirt" from Himeville (14km) to the Camp parking area is also very car-friendly, unlike last year's suspension-testing drive to Injusuthi. Yet another bonus is that this Camp will be a July Camp in the tried and true, time-tested, traditional style! All the signs are good. We really want you to join us for the 93rd July Camp.

'Early bird registration' costs per person per night for applications received in MAY will be:

Adults	R180
13 to 18 years of age	R155
6 to 13 years of age	R105
Under 6	R80



Hi All

Please distribute this information to your membership in case there is someone who would like to attend: anyone interested should contact secretary@mcsa.org.za for further information and registration forms.

Thanks.
Jenny

KOSOVO MOUNTAINEERING AND ALPINISTS FEDERATION
FEDERATA BJESHKATARE ALPINISTE E KOSOVËS



Kosovo Mountaineering Federation have organized a special event through the borders of Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania to promote mountaineering in that area of the Dinaric Alps - a mountain chain in Southern Europe spanning areas of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro. The highest point is "Maja Jezercë" (2694m) in Albania.

They are inviting mountaineers from all UIAA federations to join in the event (maximum 4 per country).

The program is:

Place: The expedition will start in Kosovo (July 01-02) through Montenegro (July 03-04) and Albania (July 05-06) and end again in Kosovo (July 07).

Accommodation and food: Lodging and/or camping, breakfast, lunch and dinner provided by the organizer and is included in the cost - except for the picnic lunch on one of the days.

Participation: will be limited to 100 - maximum 4 per country.

Ages: 18 - 30

Cost: 240 EURO per participant, payable on arrival to the organizer.

Entry visas: Not required for Kosovo.

Registration deadline: 20 June 2012.

Meeting point: Bus station in Pristina Kosovo on Sunday afternoon, 1 July 2012 at about 4pm.

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On the Lighter Side:

The Patient Grandfather

A woman in a supermarket is following a grandfather and his badly behaved 3 year-old grandson.

It's obvious to her that he has his hands full with the child screaming for sweets in the sweet aisle, biscuits in the biscuit aisle; and for fruit, cereal and cool drinks in the other aisles.

Meanwhile, Granddad is working his way around, saying in a controlled voice, "Easy, Christo, we won't be long, easy boy."

Another outburst and she hears the granddad calmly say, "Its okay, Christo, just a couple more minutes and we'll be out of here. Hang in there, boy."

At the checkout, the little terror is throwing items out of the cart, and Granddad says again in a controlled voice, "Christo, Christo, relax buddy, don't get upset. We'll be home in five minutes; stay cool, Christo."

Very impressed, the woman goes outside where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy into the car.

She said to the elderly gentleman, "It's none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time, you kept your composure, and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. Christo is very lucky to have you as his grandpa."

"Thanks," said the grandfather, "but Im Christo ... The little bastard's name is Kevin."



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Program for 2012

Date	What/Where	Contact person	Contact number	Details
8 – 10 June	Royal Natal National Park	Thea Groenewegen	0833787655	Family weekend with day hikes. (2)
07 – 21 July	July Camp Cobham Southern Drakensberg	Thea Groenewegen	0833787655	Varied; Day hikes to multi day hikes (3)
21 July	Ntshela Wakkerstroom Area	Len Stoop	078 598 1643	Day hike, pack your own lunch. (2)

** 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: MSR Dragonfly Multi Fuel Stove = R 1600.00

MSR 975 ml Fuel Bottle = R 200.00

Both are brand new and have never been used, the bottle has not even had fuel in it.



Contact: Adrian Dippenaar 082 337 2970 or adriandip@telkomsa.net

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 so I can add you to the mailing list.