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 2013

News items

Love and Woe.

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 **2013** is as follows:

Chairperson: Hermann Kuhne - 0845600613.

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

Treasurer: Len Stoop – 078 598 1643.

Secretary: Christine de Villiers – 072 712 7022.

Social Convener: Thea Groenewegen – 0343123703 / 083 378 7655.

Climbing and Rescue: Ruan Adendorff – 082 577 7555.

Juba Jabber & e-mail: Adriaan Dippenaar – 082 337 2970 / adriandip@telkomsa.net

Publicity:

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2013

Family membership is R260 per year
Single member R170 per year
Family pensioner R190 per year
Single pensioner R140 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 2013**

Recent outings by Amajuba Section Members.

Ngogo Hiking Trail. Vulintaba 20-21 April 2013

Who were there: Hermann, Gerhardt, his dad Gerhardt, Adriaan, Hermann(jnr) and the guide Johannes.

We arrived at Vulintaba, a rainy cool morning greeted us. After everything was organized and ready we headed on towards Donkie Pass.
We didn't have much of a view, because of the misty rainy conditions. We turned away from the Donkie pass route and continued on a sort of contour path to the foot of Baboons Pass. We had a break and then ascended the pass. After “a huffin and a puffin” we reached the top, head on with an ice cold wind from the west. Less than a km due west we descended into a valley that leads to the overnight hut. It is cold, windy and wet. I just want to get to the hut and get dry.
Arriving at the hut Johannes our guide started organizing. He made a nice fire, pumped water out the river for hot water, made fire under the donkey and sorted the generator. He took out tables and chairs and we could sit happily with our feet nearly in the fire.

Later we had a braai; after we ate the fire was made again. We sat around chatting and Gerhard was arranging all his wet clothes around the fire to get dry.
It was a exciting day, rain, wind and near the hut a very slippery experience, sometimes quite funny. With that thought I went to sleep in my warm sleeping bag.

Sunday morning, the sun is out and the wind is blowing from the west, we had breakfast and started packing up. What a pleasure...no tent, no mattresses or cooking gear. So the packs were lighter this morning.

We hiked out into a valley heading east, crossing a river several times. One place there is a rope where one has to climb about 20meters.

The higher we ascended into the valley to the escarpment, the more vicious the wind became. Just arriving at the top of Ice waterfall, I had to put on my outer jacket, beanie and gloves. It sure was cold.

We hiked on and about a km on we had a snack break, the wind was still howling. We hiked due south towards a pass going down, before descending we had another break enjoying the views.

We took it slow going down and could see all the development at the Vulintaba Estate, sure are going to be an awesome place.

Gerhardt decided to race ahead and get his bakkie to pick us "older folk" up, yeah right.
It was an enjoyable hike which I can recommend; everybody enjoyed it to the most and had fun. Even in the rain and icy cold wind….it was fun!
We should support our local venues; we live in a lovely area.

Local is lekker

Hermann

Cathedral Peak Organ Pipes pass via the Camel Traverse 25-26 May 2013 Hermann and Gerhard

Hike at Cathedral Peak was great, we started a bit late. There were two groups of hikers before us that wanted Roland's Cave...so next time be the early birds!! Couldn't believe how warm it was! We took the path up past Mushroom Rock and on to the Little Berg contour. The views were awesome, saw Rhe-buck, Secretary birds and some other small brown birds (LBJ's) you could never identify. We had lunch at the junction where the Camel path goes up...and up it goes!!!

Halfway up the traverse I was honestly quite exhausted, sometimes you wonder why you drag yourself up mountains, carrying gear, sweat and sometimes curse. I guess the prize awaits you on top! The path goes up and around the Camel and ascends up some sort of chimney. And then over that you're in Organ Pipes pass, 500 meters up and the escarpment meets us. Towards Roland's cave we hear fellow hikers singing something to us? Intimidated I did feel, they even scared the Basotho's. We saw a couple of dagga traders hiding their bags out of sight. We traversed around to the valley beneath Cleft peak. It was getting dark; we found a spot to pitch the tents.

I was so tired, climbed in my sleeping bag, had some Tequila (serious, it just went down better than making coffee!)

Later we made some supper and crashed early. The wind was blowing throughout the night and was cold but bearable.

Sunday morning I was sitting on the edge of the escarpment ready with my camera to catch some sunrise pictures!
After coffee and breakfast we packed up and left for Organ Pipes pass, we met other hikers up there too and so we descended to the route to enter the Camel route. Downhill we went enjoying the views and taking the hammering on the knees....
I descended a bit fast and by the time we got to the river I was knackered!

Had a very long lunch break and then descended into the valley towards Cathedral Peak hotel. At one stage we had a rest in the shade of trees along the way. That was so good we just wanted to stay there and sleep!!
The hotel got closer, and the will to finish got stronger. We arrived at the hotel, Gerhard ordered a coffee and I had a beer. Sitting there on the stoep of a four star hotel, we could only agree...we'll do it again.

Insane...no just love scrambling up and down mountains!
Hermann Kühne

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So het ek begin stap

Stap was nog nooit vir my ‘n probleem nie. Ek hou van stap. Maar dan praat ek van sommer op die strand ‘n end gaan stap. Of winkel toe. Of sommer in die buurt rond terwyl ek kyk hoe elkeen sy blyplekkie inrig. Nuwe paaie stap is veral opwindend.
In 1998 lê ek my hande en oë op die boek van Jon Krakauer – “Into Thin Air”. Die verstommende verslag oor die dodelikste seisoen in die geskiedenis van Everest – oor hoe mense alle waarskuwing in die wind slaan en met hul lewe of ledemate boet vir (vir wat nou eintlik?) – was aangrypend, maar nie vir my nie, dankie!
In 2012 lees ek weer ‘n boek oor Everst. Hierdie keer Sibusiso Vilane se hoogs motiverende boek “To the Top from Nowhere”. Vilane vermag wat ‘n mens dink onmoontlik is. Sy nederigheid ten spyte van sy sukses gryp my aan. Sy woorde inspireer my … “*It’s not your background or your race, nor even your social standing that wins in a challenge. It’s your determination, perseverance and courage to face the almost impossible with the greatest of self-belief”.* As jy glo dat jy in staat is tot hoer hoogtes, dan is jy. Uiteraard is die waarde van Vilane se storie nie beperk tot stappers of bergklimmers nie. Dit geld vir elke sfeer van die lewe. Bo en behalwe Vilane se motiveringsboodskap, oortuig hy my toe ook dat dit lekker moet wees om myself ook fisiek ‘n bietjie uit te daag en verder to klouter as die gewone. Nou net wag vir die regte geleentheid.
In Mei 2013 klim ek een koue aand met my *Newcastle Advertiser* onder my verekombers en kom opgewonde af op Hermann Kühne se advertensie vir ‘n staptog in Giants Castle. Een oproep na Herman bevestig my insluiting in die stap-geselskap te Giants Castle. Saterdag ontmoet Hermann my by Trappers en hy deel vrygewelik sy oorlewingskennis. Als wat nodig is vir oorlewing in die wildernis in die winter word aangekoop.
Vir die volgende week tel ek elke môre die dae af tot die bestemde datum uiteindelik aanbreek. Fyf uur in die more is Hermann voor my hek en ons val in die pad. By Giants Castle aangekom ontmoet ons vir Gerhard. Mak dassies begroet ons by die ontvangslokaal terwyl Hermann die nodige vorms invul.
Gerhard en Hermann sit albei hand by om my rugsak te balanseer en bied stapstokke aan. Eers ‘n paar kilometer verder sou ek die waarde besef van ondersteunende stap stokke en ‘n goed gebalanseerde rugsak. Met die oorsteek van die eerste bruggie neem Hermann ‘n foto van my en ek voel soos ‘n ware “hiker”.
Op, op, op teen die eerste skuinste. My termiese onderklere rem aan my bene en ek besluit om dit uit te trek. Weer op, op, op teen die volgende skuinste en ek wonder of dit nou regtig nodig was om ‘n warmwatersak, boek, grimering en soveel kos saam te vat. Ek begin wonder of ek nie die helfde van my besittings iewers onder ‘n bos moet bere en met die terugkom weer oplaai nie. Skielik voel soveel goed heeltemal oorbodig.
Op, op, op teen die volgende skuinste. Ek voel my hakke is nerf-af. Gerhard kom tot my redding met ‘n paar dun sokkies en pleisters. Middagete hou ons piekniek in die veld. Wanneer laas het ek so iets beleef?!!!

Soos ons verder stap noem Hermann die bobbejane, bokke en voëls by die naam. Op die plato raak die stap gemaklik. Die stilte is heerlik. Ek verstaan nou nog nie die ding tussen Gerhard en sy iPod nie.
Teen agtermiddag begin ek uitsien na die hut. Oorlewingdrang laat my aanhou stap. Uiteidelik sien ons Bannermans Hut – aanlokliker as enige hotel wat buite bereik is. Ek kyk vir lang rukke voor my in die paadjie waar ek trap. As ek te veel rondkyk trap ek in ‘n gat of iets dergliks en verloor balans. My bene is lammerig en ek kan nie bekostig om te struikel nie. Toe ek weer opkyk is die hut nêrens in sig nie. Hermann ken die pad en verseker my ons loop nog reg. Ek voel veilig met die twee ervare klimmers by my. Die laaste end is uitmergelend. Die hut is teen ‘n styl opdraand. Nou stap ek nie meer nie - ek tree een voet vorentoe en bring die ander een tot langsaan. Dan weer die volgende voet voerentoe en die ander een langsaan. Ek wil nie rus nie, EK WIL BY DIE HUT KOM!
Salig was die hut toe. Gerard het nog genoeg energie gehad om ons al drie se watersakke te gaan volmaak by die rivier.

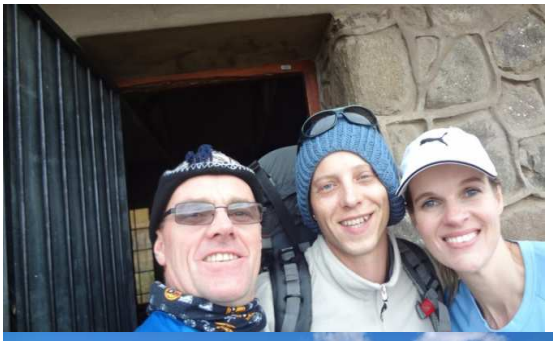
Die uitsig is so mooi dat ons ons slaapsakke voor die hut gooi en daar uitspan tot aandete toe.

Toe vier ons fees! Braai *steak* op ons gas stories, drink wyn en koffie, braai marshmellows en doop dit in sjokelade mousse. Lag en gesels by kerslig. Kyk sterre tot laatnag.

Die beddens in die hut was nou wraggies hard – sonder om doekies om te draai. Die gras buite die hut was baie sagter. As dit nie vir die koue en dou was nie sou ek lekkerder buite geslaap het. En net toe ek lekker warm geword het in my slaapsak, voel ek die natuur roep en moet ek weer uit in die koue. Teen dié tyd was ek nou weer baie bly dat ek wel so oordeelkundig was om my warmwatersak saam te bring.

Vroeg Sondagoggend word ek wakker met die geloei van die wind in my ore. Dit klink soos stormsterk wind. Ek begin bekommerd raak vir die terugstap teen die hellings af met winde wat aan my gaan ruk en pluk. Sê nou ek stort teen die afgrond af! Buite gekom besef ek dat die wind glad nie so erg is soos wat dit vanuit die hut klink nie. Dis ‘n heerlike en pragtige dag buite. Ons maak koffie en eet ontbyt op die gras terwyl die son opkom. Toe kamp ons nou eers lekker uit! Tot 11h00 toe.

Die terugstap was makliker as die vorige dag se stap op teen die berg. Te gou was die naweek verby. My eerste amptelike *hike* is op die kerfstok. Ek voel trots op myself. En verskriklik dankbaar teenoor die manne wat so mooi na my gekyk het. Ware here. My hiking buddies. Ek dink ons gaan dit nog baie doen. Kom saam. Dis lekker!



MINKA TERBLANCHÉ

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OF INTEREST

94th JULY CAMP 2013: WONDER VALLEY

This year the July Camp will be at Wonder Valley with the base camp on privately-owned land alongside the Spitsberg Stream. Hosts, Jonathan Bass and Colin Barrow, have offered a superb Base camp-site well away from the popular Berg trip routes. The area has dramatic and scenically rugged terrain, stunning ridge walks, easy access to the contour path as well as the opportunity for sub-camping and backpacking. There are also relatively unknown examples of rock art, wonderful bird life and the antelope for which the Berg is renowned.

PLEASE NOTE: The camp dates have been changed to accommodate two full weeks of school holidays. It will run from **Saturday 29 June to Saturday 13 July.** For detailed information and application forms, contact your Section or the July Camp Convener: Rikki Abbott Wedderburn (082 538 5389; 033 330 8412; ronwedd@netactive.co.za). PAYMENT AND CLOSING DATE: On or before Monday 3 June 2013.

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MCSA Central Committee 2013

The national affairs of the MCSA are seen to by a Central Committee consisting of the chairmen of 14 Sections as well as an Executive Committee. At the MCSA AGM held on 13 April 2013, the following persons were elected to the Executive Committee:

President: Petro Grobler (president@mcsa.org.za). MCSA CV: http://tinyurl.com/d669pv5

Secretary: Jenny Paterson (secretary@mcsa.org.za)

Treasurer: Petrus Nel (treasurer@mcsa.org.za)

Deputy President: Brian Lambourne

Additional members of the Executive Committee: Dobek Pater and Bill Uren

All the chairmen of Sections are represented on the Central Committee (see the Section Web Pages for their contact details):

Amajuba: Herman Kühne; Cape Town: Brian Lambourne; Eastern Province: Lars Strydom; Free State: Charlotte Augustyn; Hottentots-Holland: Viljoen Thom; Johannesburg: Dobek Pater; KwaZulu-Natal: James Voortman; Magaliesberg: Piet/Petrus Nel; Namibia: Roland Graf; Paarl-Wellington: Wouter Jordaan; South Cape: Bill Uren; Stellenbosch: Peet Badenhorst; Tygerberg: Johan Botha; Worcester: Tonie Roux

The conveners of the MCSA national standing committees are: Access: Roy Kendall; Conservation: Maretha Alant; Expeditions: Ulrike Kiefer; Medical: Eckhart von Delft; Safety: Alan Jarvis; Search and Rescue: Rob Thomas; Youth: Jenny Paterson.

If there is any information on the Club's national affairs or contact details that you cannot find on the MCSA Web Page (http://cen.mcsa.org.za), please contact the MCSA Secretary, Jenny Paterson (secretary@mcsa.org.za).

The MCSA's Facebook page is on: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mountain-Club-of-South-Africa/181163071916739

The 2012 Annual Report can be read at http://cen.mcsa.org.za/news-briefs/agm2013

On the Lighter Side:

I will rather hold it

Irish Paramedics

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Program for 2013

Date	What/Where	Contact person	Contact number	Details
?	?	?	?	?

** 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.

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Trading Post:

Nothing

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