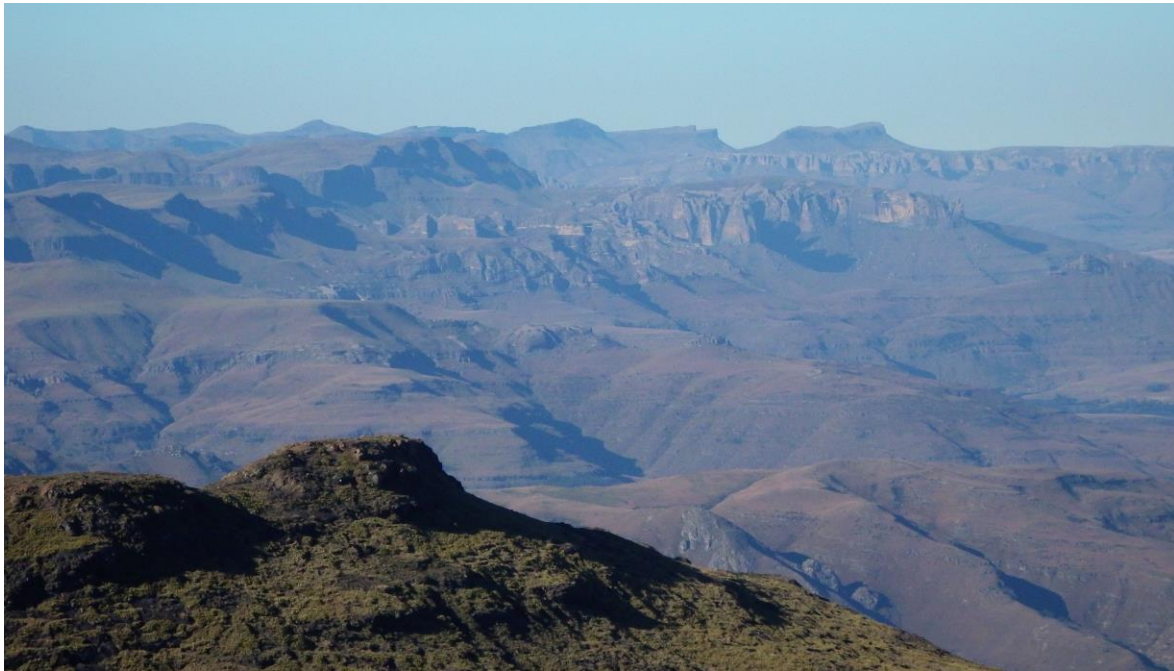




MEET SHEET: WINTER 2021



- **Newcomers and friends are welcome to join the Club.**
- **To all interested in the outdoors the Club offers:**
 - **A friendly and entertaining Social from time to time. Watch this space.**
 - **Adventure mountaineering and hiking** – see overleaf for details of these meets which happen every weekend and vary from easy walks to real adventures. If you are interested you must contact the meet leader either at the Thursday evening social or by phone.
 - **Rock Climbing** – a very active group of rock climbers organize meets almost every weekend. This is co-ordinated by e-mail. Some of their meets are in this meet sheet. Contact Dale Gathercole 079 624 7090
 - **Search and Rescue** – the Club has an active Search and Rescue unit as a service to the community with regular training and practises. If you are interested contact Tim Jones 082 781 1770 or Francois Searle 082 904 3086 or email on sar@epmcsa.org.za .
- **Check our website for details – www.epmcsa.org.za**
- **Visit us on Facebook** at Mountain Club of South Africa – Eastern Province Section.
- **If you need more information about the EP Section** – please contact Club Secretary, Debbie du Preez on 076 703 3659 or by email on info@epmcsa.org.za .

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL MEET ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COVID-19

At the time of completing this Meet Sheet it is not clear what COVID-19 regulations will apply in the months ahead. Consequently, meets may be cancelled or may have to be adapted to comply. Please take note of messages sent out by the Club and remain in contact with the leader of any meet you may go on. Please be aware of whatever regulations are promulgated and assist us in making sure that we comply.

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICES Co-ordinators: Tim Jones 082 781 1770 & Francois Searle 082 904 3086

Details of any practice will be announced nearer the time. This may be in the form of a full S&R practice possibly involving other emergency services as well. These are major exercises and we encourage all to participate.

ROCK CLIMBING

Co-ordinator: Dale Gathercole 079 624 7090

There are rock climbing meets virtually every weekend. These vary from beginner's rock meets to challenging rock climbing and may include bouldering. These meets often get arranged at short notice. The co-ordinator is Dale, if you are interested in joining them contact Dale and find out what is going on.

MIDWEEK MEETS

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

From time to time there will be an ad hoc midweek day meet on a Wednesday. Watch your emails and WhatsApp messages for details.

LADY'S SLIPPER

Leaders: Cliff Hopkins, Cherry Bosworth, Albert Schultz, Tertius Coetzee 082 927 0440

Every Wednesday afternoon a group meets at 4:15pm at the Lady's Slipper property and climbs the Lady's Slipper. The climb is over by 6:15pm. The group often follow the climb with an inexpensive meal at a country restaurant.



SCHEDULED MEETS:

1 – 2 MAY

WITTERIVIER

Leader: Trefor Lloyd 083 966 0636

The leader aims to spend the weekend in our property at the Witte, camping at the campsite above the big pool and exploring the kloof.

8 – 9 MAY

FORMOSA HUT AND ROBBERG

Leader: Cherry Bosworth 084 730 4561

Some will spend Friday and Saturday night at the Hut, others will drive down early on Saturday. The day hike around Robberg is a delight not to be missed. There is a fee for entering the Robberg Reserve. There are also lots of hikes, etc around the hut.

16 MAY

BUFFELSVLEI

Leaders: Tom Proudlock & Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

Buffelsvlei in Groendal is on top of the southern plateaux. The route is up via Elephant Cave. Bring binoculars in case of birds and game if there is water in the vlei.

22 – 23 MAY

TYGERHOEKBERG FROM THE SOUTH

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Access to this stunning route up Tygerhoekberg is dependent on permission to cross and camp on private land. We camp near an abandoned farm cottage in the upper Zunga after a drive over on a farm track. The route up is steep, but does not involve any rock climbing. Fine views and lunch on top before descending via the same route.

30 MAY

HAMERKOPNESKLOOF

Leader: Trefor Lloyd 083 966 0636

Hamerkopneskloof in Groendal is one of the kloofs that Trefor and his FROG colleagues have been working to make more accessible. Bring sun block, water and lunch for what will be a most enjoyable day hike up the kloof.

6 JUNE

THE ISLAND

Leader: Graeme Pienaar 081 412 5018

There is an EC Nature Conservation fee to enter the Island Reserve. The trail is 14km long through delightful coastal forest with birds and flora of note. Also, some surprising views of the coast. Bring water and food for the day.



12 – 16 JUNE

MURRAYSBURG MEANDER

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

This is going to be a bit of a mini-camp in Murraysburg. I hope to climb Ouberg 1710m, Spitzkop 1997m, Die Duiwel 1909m and Meelberg 2244m. We may be able to camp, but otherwise it will be accommodation we will have to rent in Murraysburg. There is an excellent butcher (if you like Karoo lamb) in town and we will braai quite often. There is also a coffee shop restaurant in town. More details nearer the time.

20 JUNE

CROSSWAYS

Leader: Tony Hill 083 675 1870

The party will start at the restaurant parking in Crossways (there is a modest charge) and climb the nearby Witteklip Peak afterwards descending into the van Stadens Gorge and then back to the vehicles for refreshments for those who want.

26 – 27 JUNE

COCKSCOMB FROM THE NORTH

Leaders: Angela & Roland Gathercole 078 189 7868

This is a great opportunity to spend some time in T'Numqua Cave and to climb Cockscomb. Saturday morning, we drive out and park at the base, climbing up to spend the night in T'Numqua. Sunday, we climb the peak and then return to the cars. There are parking fees at the Rudmans.

4 JULY

MAANHAARAND TO FERNKLOOF

Leader: Paul Martin 073 252 4111

The party will park in the Rooikrantz picnic area and cross the Zunga climbing up onto the Maanhaarand then dropping into mid Fernkloof. Lunch at the kloof pools after which we return. Groendal fees required.

9 – 18 JULY

DRAKENSBERG JULY CAMP

Organizer: Rikki Abbot-Wedderburn & Committee KZN Section

Not to be missed! This year's July Camp will be in the Injisuthi area of the main Drakensberg with excellent access to both some of the finest of the little berg as well as to some of the most magnificent parts of the main Berg. Book early to make sure of your place. A number of EP Section members are going so transport should not be a problem.

10 – 11 JULY

NARDOUSBERG

Leader: Jeff Ferreira 082 678 8217

We might drive out on Friday afternoon. We base ourselves on a farm to the north of Nardousberg and climb the peak the next day. Returning to PE later.

17 – 18 JULY

HADLEYS DRIFT ERASMUSKLOOF

Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

There is accommodation for those who don't want to camp and it is fairly priced. We spend a night there and explore the drift as well as Erasmuskloof, returning on Sunday afternoon.

24 – 25 JULY

BERGKRAALS POORT COCKSCOMB

Leader: Francois Searle 082 904 3086

Time to explore and use our new property that lies on the south-eastern side of Cockscomb giving access to Eyrie Cave and the majestic southern route up Cockscomb Peak. This will be our first official meet to this wonderful new property. More details nearer the time.

7 – 9 AUGUST

BALLOCH, BARCLY EAST

Leaders: Richard Grant 083 237 8752 & Helene Gabriel 079 695 6164

Balloch is a magnificent valley in the southern Drakensberg near Elliot. There is a cottage that can be hired as well as a campsite with a massive overhang cave. The leaders aim to explore the area and to do a circuit of the ridges around Balloch.

15 AUGUST

LADY'S SLIPPER TO VAN STADENS GORGE

Leader: Matthew de Lange 072 561 4405

We climb the Lady's Slipper then make our way along the ridge to climb down near the gorge. There is no path on the ridge which is quite rugged. The views are stunning. We will need to leave one vehicle at the van Stadens end. Bring food for the day and water.



22 AUGUST

ZUURBERG TRAIL

Leader: Tim Jones 082 781 1770

This day trail is in the Zuurberg section of the Addo National Park and there is an entry fee. One hikes on a well defined path down into a valley with a stream and forest and then slowly back up to the vehicles. Afterwards tea and scones with jam and cream at the Zuurberg Inn.

27 – 29 AUGUST

SCHOLTZBERG

Leader: Paul Martin 073 252 4111

Drive out on Friday and camp in the northern foothills of Scholtzberg. Saturday we do the fairly long climb up our region's second highest mountain. Lunch on top with stunning views. Then return to the camp site and drive home on Sunday.

5 SEPTEMBER

GAMTOOS TO VAN STADENS MOUTH

Leader: Cherry Bosworth 084 730 4561

Celebrate the first day of Spring with Cherry by hiking from Gamtoos Mouth to van Stadens Mouth. Lots of Oyster Catchers, whales and big dunes, and a great 16km stretch of unspoilt beach.

**12 SEPTEMBER
BOULDER SHELTER**

Leader: Neill Purdon 082 655 7582

A day hike in Groendal up via Nerina Ridge onto the plateau and down to Boulder Shelter in upper Skelemskloof. Back the same way. Bring sun block, water and food, and Groendal fees.

**18 – 19 SEPTEMBER
SAPTOUKOP & KOUGABRONNE**

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

The party will camp near a deserted farm house in the Bo Koga valley and hike up a long ridge to Saptoukop. Weather permitting, we will continue along the ridge to Kougabronne. Unique eastern Protea Mymetes bloom on the ridge and there are great views down into the upper Sapree and over to Smutsberg.

**24 – 26 SEPTEMBER
GROOT WINTERBERG**

Leaders: Lizelle Niit & Richard Grant 083 237 8752

The party will base itself on a farm in the vicinity and climb Groot Winterberg as well as doing some other hikes and exploring nearby. Details will be announced nearer the time.



**2 – 3 OCTOBER
BERGPLAAS & THE BAVIAANS**

Leader: Stephen & Mariana Lear 072 253 6028

This meet will be a combination of 4x4 driving and hiking. The idea is to book the hut at Bergplaas, do an easy hike there and spend the night there. The next day to drive further enjoying the sights and sounds of the Baviaans with possibly another easy hike before exiting and driving home.

**4-10 OCTOBER
HAWEQNAS NATIONAL CAMP**

Organizer: Paarl Wellington Section

The National Minicamp is at the Scouts Adventure Centre, Hawequas, Wellington. Please save the dates and book your place as soon as booking opens! Looking forward to you joining us at Hawequas. Gaye Hosking & Nick Mentoor
Paarl/Wellington Minicamp Committee

**17 OCTOBER
BLINDEKLOOF**

Leader: Graeme Pienaar 081 412 5018

The party will spend a fairly easy day exploring the lower Blindekloof and possibly, depending on the weather, taking a dip in the pools. Bring food and water for the day and Groendal fees.

**23 – 24 OCTOBER
WATERFALL CAVE, COCKSCOMB**

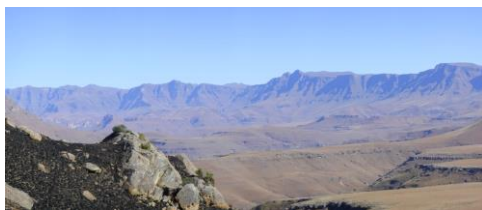
Leader: Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

The aim is to hike over from Bergkraals Poort to Waterfall Cave on the northern side of the ridge. Spend a pleasant night there and then return on Sunday.

**30 – 31 OCTOBER
SMUTSBERG FROM HOREE**

Leader: Lizelle Niit 083 462 0633

The plan is to drive out late on Friday and to use our servitude at Horee to camp either at Dial's Camp Site or in Cardiac Cave and to climb Smutsberg on Saturday. Sunday we explore the Huisrivierkloof looking for Steenbokkie Cave. We return late on Sunday afternoon.



MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA EASTERN PROVINCE SECTION

P.O. Box 5578, Walmer, 6065 e-mail: info@epmcsa.org.za www.epmcsa.org.za

	Position	Name	Contact Number
	Chairman	Francois Searle	082 904 3086
info@epmcsa.org.za	Hon. Secretary	Debbie du Preez	076 703 3659
	Hon. Treasurer	Chris Jones	082 559 4356
	Entertainment	Elaine Witcher	083 230 3333
	Formosa Hut Warden	Lars Strydom	076 205 2560
	Meets Convenor	Gavin McLachlan	083 272 6300
	Rock Climbing	Dale Gathercole	079 624 7090
	Search & Rescue	Francois Searle Tim Jones	082 904 3086 082 781 1770
	Without Portfolio	Jeff Ferreira	082 678 8217
Grahamstown	Mountaineering co-ordinator	Richard Grant	083 237 8752
East London	Rock Climbing co-ordinator	Garvin Jacobs	083 961 0044

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ◆ Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend Club meetings on Thursday evenings (see our entertainment programme). 19:00 for 19:30 at the Veteran Car Clubhouse in Conyngham Road, Port Elizabeth. Entrance is at the junction of Conyngham and Ascot Road.
- ◆ A sign-up list for outings may be put out at meetings and leaders provide briefings as to requirements and what can be expected. One may also contact leaders prior to Thursday evenings. Briefings on each weekend's meets are held on Thursday evenings at the Club. Completion of a sign-up list may possibly be required. Participation on any meet is subject to the discretion of the leader and to any other limitations restricting attendance.
- ◆ It is up to participants to gauge their own abilities and fitness levels. It is best to start off on easy outings and to progress from there. It will also give you the opportunity to find out what equipment and clothing is needed.
- ◆ Inform the leader of any medical condition that should be known, prior to the meet taking place.
- ◆ Mountaineering has many unknowns and dangers. If getting lost, suffering vertigo and battling inclement weather and scratchy vegetation are your scene in your pursuit of great adventure, you are at the right place. However please note that the Mountain Club cannot be held responsible for any misfortune or accident that may befall you.
- ◆ Leader's decisions are final and are to be respected at all times.
- ◆ Leaders must acquaint themselves with the Club's guidelines for leaders. All members of a party must complete the meet register and indemnity form before all meets.
- ◆ The meet register and indemnity form can be downloaded from <http://epmcsa.org.za/hiking/resources/>
- ◆ All Mountain Club and Nature Conservation rules and regulations are to be strictly obeyed. Membership cards to be carried on meets at all times.
- ◆ MCSA Properties: Visits to all EP Section properties except the Lady's Slipper must include an MCSA Member.
- ◆ Cockscomb, Witte River, Lady's Slipper, Formosa Hut, Hoeree servitude: speak to Hut warden or the Secretary about current regulations.
- ◆ Hut permits are now issued electronically. Applicants must apply a minimum of 3 days before going to the hut in order to allow time for the Hut Warden to inform the foresters.
- ◆ Groendal Wilderness Area: 041 9919912
- ◆ Kouga-Baviaans Area - Komdomo office: 042 2830227
- ◆ Accommodation bookings: Kondomo, Doodsklip, Rooihoek, Bergplaas, Geelhoutbos and Doornkraal – phone (043 7424450) or e-mail (reservations2@ecparksboard.co.za). Hiking permits are also available from this number.
- ◆ Before crossing privately owned land ensure that you have permission to do so.