



MEET SHEET: SUMMER 2021-2022



- **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.** Currently once a month on the 3rd Thursday evening at the Walmer Scout Hall.
 - **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 or Thursday. Watch your emails and WhatsApp messages for details.

LADY'S SLIPPER

Leaders: Cliff Hopkins, Cherry Bosworth, 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:

7 NOVEMBER

LADY'S SLIPPER TO VAN STADENS GORGE

Leader: Marilyn Zimmerman 082 561 9910

The aim is to hike from the Lady's Slipper along the hills behind and to drop into the van Stadens Gorge where we may swim in a suitable pool. We then hike down the Gorge exiting up the cement road and out past the dam keeper's house.

13 – 14 NOVEMBER

HADLEYS DRIFT ERASMUSKLOOF

Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

Erasmus kloof is the big kloof that comes around the southern end of Cockscomb and discharges into the Grootrivier at Hadleys Drift. There is accommodation in a cottage for those who don't want to camp and it is fairly priced, let Chris know beforehand if you want to use it. We spend a night there and explore the drift as well as Erasmuskloof, returning on Sunday afternoon.

20 – 21 NOVEMBER

KUDU KHYA

Leader: Trefor Lloyd 083 966 0636

We will be based at the camping ground at Kudu Khya and from there will explore the kloofs and paths. We will also look for the old path up Mac Peak from Kudu Khya.

28 NOVEMBER

CANON ROCKS TO CAPE PADRONE

Leader: Cherry Bosworth 084 730 4561

There is a delightful trail from Canon Rocks through the dune forest to Cape Padrone, which is the north-eastern end of Algoa Bay. We hike the trail through the dunes to Cape Padrone and then hike back along the beach. It is not uncommon to find nautilus shells and other interesting flotsam on this beach.

5 DECEMBER

BLINDEKLOOF

Leader: Mike Craig 073 871 0322

We will be exploring lower Blindekloof in Groendal and swimming some of the pools. Hats, sun block, costumes and food for the day required. Groendal fees are currently R66 per person per day.

12 DECEMBER

KLEINRIVIER

Leader: Graeme Pienaar 081 412 5018

Kleinrivier is Brad Sharp and Partners' private reserve about 22km down the gravel road to Steytlerville. There are a number of trails some up on the ridges and others in the beautiful kloofs. The flora and fauna are diverse and very interesting. Bring food and water for the day and there is a modest charge for the use of the trails.



16 – 19 DECEMBER

FORMOSA HUT PRE-CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

Leaders: Trefor Lloyd 083 966 0636 & Lars Strydom 076 205 2560

A long weekend of fun for all at the Formosa Hut with swimming in the pools, hiking, visiting the big trees, braaing and socializing there. If the hut itself is full, there is plenty of space around about for tents. Come equipped for a relaxing few days.

8 – 9 JANUARY

BUSHMAN'S RIVER CANOE TRAIL

Leader: Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

Some will drive out on Friday and overnight at Gavin's holiday house at Bushman's, others will drive out on Saturday morning. We meet at the Kenton Marina and depart from there at 9am. There is a fee payable to the Marina for the use of their canoe and for the use of the hut. The route takes one up about 2 kilometres above the old Ngciyo bridge to the trail hut where we stay for the night. Sunday, we paddle back and then those who want to, will meet for lunch at the floating restaurant before driving home.

16 JANUARY

BLINDEKLOOF SWIM & HIKE

Leaders: Paul Martin 073 252 4111 & Trefor Lloyd 083 966 0636

The route is up the jeep track to staircase ridge, down the ridge into the kloof where we spend the day swimming through about 9 pools and then hiking out. Waterproof your gear, a hat and waterproof sun block will be needed and tackies that you can walk and swim in. Should be a memorable day.

22 – 23 JANUARY

ASSEGAAI TRAILS

Leader: Marianne Lear 082 770 9887

Assegai Trails are privately run trails on a farm in the Albany district. The trails wind around the gorges and pools on the upper Kariga River. There is a hut at the start, so we will drive out on Friday afternoon spend Saturday hiking through magnificent indigenous forest to the second hut which is itself quite special and is located on a large pool. Sunday we hike back and return home. Costs and other details to be announced later.

29 – 30 JANUARY

NATURES VALLEY TO KEURBOOMS

Leader: Neill Purdon 082 655 7582

Saturday we drive down to the Formosa Hut and spend the night there. Sunday we drive down to Natures Valley and follow the coast from Natures along to Keurbooms. Beautiful rugged coastline with wonderful views. Bring water and gear for the day and sun protection. Costume and towel too.

5 – 6 FEBRUARY

ZUURBERG EXPLORATION

Leader: Dave Zimmerman 083 630 4593

We might gander in the Zuurberg towards the end January/Beginning February – will be an off the beaten-track hike – maybe overnight – conquer the four peaks of the small isolated hillock - Hamelberg (-33.3037S; 25.6260E)

13 FEBRUARY

SAND RIVER

Leader: Graeme Pienaar 081 412 5018

The Sand River is a tributary of the Elands River. This meet is an exploration of the kloof starting at the dam and venturing up into the headwaters. There are some pools to swim in and many interesting sights and vegetation.

19 – 20 FEBRUARY

WITTERIVIER

Leader: Francois Searle 082 904 3086

Youngster's welcome. We will camp in the kloof and enjoy the pools, lush vegetation and bird life. Drive out on Saturday morning and return on Sunday afternoon.



27 FEBRUARY

SCHELMHOEK/SUNDAYS RIVER MOUTH DUNES

Leader: Matthew de Lange 072 561 4405

This is a hike across the dunes at the mouth of the Sundays River down to the beach and then back again. We drive to Sundays, we might swim across the river (the alternative is a difficult road), hike through the dunes to the beach, and then back again. Bring water and food for the day, hats, sun block and everything in waterproofed bags/containers.

5 – 6 MARCH

RAGELS RIVER KOUGA SWIM

Leaders: Roland & Angela Gathercole 078 189 7868 or 083 948 6815

The Ragels River camp site will be our base for the weekend. On Saturday we will swim/paddle/float from the camp site up river depending on the water level. There will be some scrambling over rocks to get from one pool to the next. Our lunch stop will be a couple of kilometres upstream, after lunch we return down the river to the Ragels River camp site. Sunday we relax in the morning and return home in the afternoon. There will be a cost ppn for camping.

5 – 6 MARCH

KOUGAKOP FROM THE SOUTH

Leader: Paul Martin 073 252 4111

We will drive out on Saturday morning and camp near the base of the peak. There is a cave nearby with paintings which we will possibly have a look at if time allows. Sunday we climb the peak which is one of the highest in the Kougas, and return to the vehicles driving back late Sunday afternoon.

13 MARCH

FERNKLOOF, GROENDAL

Leader: Trefor Lloyd 083 966 0636

Beautiful Fernkloof with the forest and water is a picture in late Summer. We will park in the picnic area and cross the palmiet into Fernkloof and spend the day in the kloof. Bring food for the day, sun block and costumes.

17 – 23 MARCH

WILD COAST PORT ST JOHNS TO COFFEE BAY

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Sizwe Dusubana runs community-based hiking along the southern part of the Wild Coast. He meets you in Port St Johns and guides the party along the route. River crossings are arranged by Sizwe with boats available. Every night you stay with a local family in a separate rondavel which is part of their homestead. They provide supper and breakfast which is always quite generous. At each rondavel there are toilets and fairly basic bathing facilities including hot water. The current cost is R3180 per person. I did a similar hike along the northern Wild Coast with Richard Grant three years ago and it was quite magnificent. I have allowed in the timing a day to drive up and a day back, the actual hike is 5 days. I will need to book so if you want to come you must notify me and pay by not later than 1 November.

26 – 27 MARCH

RAGELS RIVER REVISIT

Leader: Dot Hall 072 947 9753

Dot intends using the Bokmakierie camp site at Ragels River Guest Farm for further exploration of the area after the earlier meet. Arrive Friday evening. On Saturday go up Ragels River as far as we can. Sunday do the circular walk up another small kloof and explore the plateau. Camp site fees will be required. More details nearer the time.

2 – 3 APRIL

FIG TREE CAVE

Leader: Helene Gabriel 079 695 6164

Possibly go up to Fig Tree on Friday afternoon and spend Saturday and Sunday hiking further up the Zunga. The current lower water levels in the valley make exploration much easier and there are a number of excellent camp sites.



9 – 10 APRIL

FORMOSA HUT GRENADIERS CAP

Leader: Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

We will probably drive through to the Hut on Friday afternoon and climb Grenadiers on either Saturday or Sunday. The rest of the time will be spent exploring the area or we might go in to Plett and do the Robberg hike.

15 – 18 APRIL

BERGKRAALSPOORT EXPLORATION

Leaders: Various

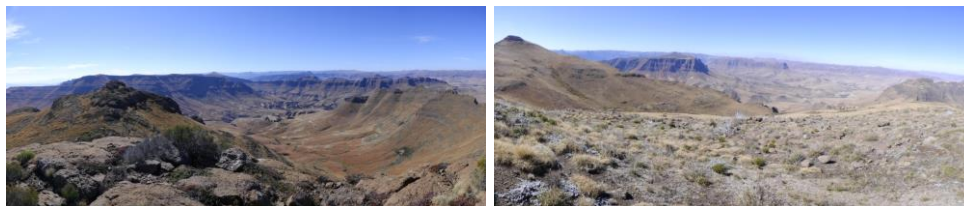
The Easter weekend is an excellent time to explore our magnificent new property. And there is much to enjoy there including a number of caves with paintings, the upper Erasmuskloof, the southern slopes of Cockscomb, and then there is the shepherd's hut. There will possibly be more than one party going out, some for multi day meets and some just a day meet. Details nearer the time.

23 – 24 APRIL

STRYDOMSBERG

Leaders: Richard Grant & Lizelle Niit 083 237 8752 or 083 462 0633

Strydomsberg is always a memorable climb. Because of the likely water situation, we will probably use Eel Cave or Pops Cave for Friday night, doing the long hike up the ridge to the peak on Saturday, and spend Sunday in lower Chases Kloof before hiking back across the plateau and returning home. Groendal fees required.



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	Jeff Ferreira	082 678 8217
	Vice-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 Whitcher	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
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: Komdomo, 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.