



MEET SHEET: SUMMER 2022 – 2023



- **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 third 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 by phone.
 - **Rock Climbing** – a very active group of rock climbers organize meets almost every weekend. This is coordinated 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 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:

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICES

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.

Co-ordinator: Francois Searle 082 904 3086

ROCK CLIMBING

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.

Co-ordinator: Dale Gathercole 079 624 7090

LADY'S SLIPPER

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

Leaders: Cliff Hopkins & Tertius Coetzee 082 927 0440



SCHEDULED MEETS:

6 NOVEMBER

JAGERSBOSBERG

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Jagersbosberg is the highest peak in the Suuranys ridge line on the northern side of the Langkloof between Kareedouw and Joubetina. We drive down early on Sunday morning to start the hike at about 9am. The route takes one up a kloof and onto the peak. The views from the top, up and down the Langkloof and into the Kougas, are stunning. Descend via a side ridge and drive home late Sunday afternoon

13 NOVEMBER

HAMMERKOPNESKLOOF

Leaders: Trefor Lloyd & Sue de Villiers 073 001 2400

Trefor, Sue and other "FROG's" have been doing a lot of work restoring the old Bush Pig Trail. One of the beauty spots that they have access to is Hammerkopneskloof, which they will explore. Bring food and water for the day and don't forget your Groendal fees.

20 NOVEMBER

KLEINRIVIER DAY HIKE

Leader: Hendrik Smith 076 492 7541

Hendrick will be taking a party up the trail along the Baby Foot kloof past the pools, which should be good for a swim, and then up onto the high ground and eventually dropping back into the kloof for a last swim before heading home. There is a charge for day access to Kleinrivier. Bring food and gear for the day including sun block and a hat.

27 NOVEMBER

Van Stadens River Berg

Leader: Jeff Ferreira 082 678 8217

Meet Jeff at Crossways for an enjoyable day hike up onto the van Stadens River Berg for lunch and then down into the gorge and back over the railway bridge (which has been repaired and is safe). There is a charge for Crossways.

4 DECEMBER

VYGEBOOMKLOOF

Leader: Debbie Thomas 082 448 6315

Vygeboom is a delightful kloof in Groendal. The party will ascend via a jeep track, dropping into the dry upper reaches of the kloof and then spend the day hiking down to the kloof exit. There is water in the lower reaches that you will have to wade, so bring your wading footwear. Groendal fees required. We should be out by about 4pm.

10 – 11 DECEMBER

PETER'S POOLS

Leader: Neill Purdon 082 655 7582

Peter's Pools is a magnificent set of pools in the Baviaanskloof Reserve. The plan is to, if possible, book the hut at Bergplaas and spend one or two nights there. From there, there is a fairly easy route down to the pools where we will enjoy the water and chill. There will be reserve and hut costs involved.

16 – 17 – 18 – 19 DECEMBER

FORMOSA HUT XMAS PARTY

Leaders: Trefor Lloyd, Lars Strydom (if in SA) & Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

A fun weekend or long weekend, depending on how long you want to spend there, with braaing, swimming, hiking and relaxing. Just the best way to ease into your Christmas holiday. If you are going to come, please phone Debbie to sort out the arrangements.



7 – 8 JANUARY

KOWIE RIVER CANOE TRAIL

Leader: Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

The Kowie Canoe Trail is about 18km long and stretches from Port Alfred to the Waters Meet Reserve. The start and end of the trail is in the Marina Harbour at Port Alfred and at the terminus point there is a hut with very reasonable facilities. It might be possible to hire canoes, but best is to use your own. There is a charge for the use of the trail and hut. Debbie will advise nearer to the time.

15 JANUARY

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 top of the dam and venturing up into the headwaters. There are some pools to swim in and many interesting sights and vegetation. One needs to wade a few pools and swim one or two. Make sure that your gear is waterproofed. At the head of the kloof is a magnificent large pool and waterfall. The kloof is on private land and there is a charge.

21 – 22 JANUARY

WITTERIVIER

Leader: Dale Gathercole 079 624 7090

The party will camp in the usual camp site in the Witterivier Kloof and spend their time exploring the kloof. There might be some rock climbing as well. Lots of swimming in beautiful pools.

29 JANUARY

SCHELMHOEK SUNDAYS RIVER MOUTH

Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

The party will swim across the river at a convenient point to access the dunes. In this huge, fascinating dune field are plants and animals found nowhere else and down on the beach a treasure-trove of shells and cetacean skeletons. Bring food and water for the day and a hat and sun block. Waterproof your gear for the swim across.

5 FEBRUARY

WATER'S MEET TRAIL

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Meet in Bathurst at the Farmer's Market for breakfast at 8am then drive through to the Water's Meet Reserve. There is a charge for entry. The trail is a circular route of about 10km which takes one around the dam and through indigenous forest. After the hike pizza and beers at the pub in the Bathurst Agricultural Museum, before heading home.

12 FEBRUARY

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. Will be a memorable day.

18 – 19 FEBRUARY

MOSSLANDS TWO RIVERS TRAIL

Leader: Marianne Lear 082 770 9887

Mosslands is a hiking trail on a farm in the Albany District near Grahamstown. It includes an overnight stay in an old, rehabilitated farm house. The trail takes one through a variety of environments including a plateau with fynbos, riverine forest and alongside a dam. Details and costs will be confirmed nearer the time.

25 – 26 FEBRUARY

BUSHMANS RIVER CANOE TRAIL

Leader: Helene Gabriel 079 695 6164

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.



5 MARCH

CAPE ST FRANCIS TO J BAY

Leader: Lisa Eden 081 881 8811

Lisa plans a fairly relaxed beach walk around St Francis Bay where there is much of interest including the lighthouse at Seal Point, the Penguin Rehabilitation Centre and much more.

11 – 12 MARCH

BERGKRAALSPOORT & EYRIE CAVE

Leader: Francois Searle 082 904 3086

The intention is to get to the Sheperd's Hut fairly early to do some alien clearing. In the afternoon we climb up to the stunning Eyrie Cave with its views down the Elands River Valley. The cave is a medium sized cave so there might be some limit on the numbers.

18 – 19 – 20 – 21 MARCH

COCKSCOMB NORTH

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

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.

**25 – 26 MARCH
HOGSBACK**

Leader: Richard Grant 083 237 8752

Richard can be counted on to arrange something special for a visit to Hogsback, both in terms of the hiking and the accommodation. Richard will announce details nearer the time.

**1 – 2 APRIL
KOUGAKOP - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Leaders: Paul Martin 073 252 4111 & Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

We simply have to go back and complete what we weren't able to do last winter. Farmer Wilhelm may come with us and may be able to take us up the Tafelberg and along to the end of the plateau on his tractor. Otherwise, we will drive out on Friday afternoon and camp on the farm. Saturday, we climb the peak which is one of the highest in the Kougas, and return to the vehicles driving back on Sunday.

**7 – 8 – 9 – 10 APRIL (EASTER WEEKEND)
TSITSIKAMMA TRAIL**

Leader: Debbie du Preez 076 703 3659

Debbie plans to book the whole or a large part of the trail (possibly Keurbos to Sleepkloof) for the Easter weekend. You must be reasonably fit for this trail and carry your gear for the distance. Book early with Debbie if you are interested.

**10 – 16 APRIL
NATIONAL CAMP: SOUTHERN DRAKENSBERG**

Organiser: Free State Section

This Free State Section National Camp will be based at Balloch about 25km from Barclay East. Balloch is an excellent base from which to explore the stunning Southern Drakensberg, one of the most remote and beautiful mountain areas in South Africa. Watch out for more information, this will be a National Camp not to be missed.

**23 APRIL
THE ISLAND RESERVE**

Leaders: Stephen & Marianne Lear 082 770 9887

This day hike is on the trail through the coastal forest in the Island Reserve near Seaview. Lots of rich indigenous vegetation, birds and fauna. There is a trail fee same as Groendal.

**27 – 28 – 29 – 30 – 1 APRIL / MAY
NORTHERN WILD COAST MASIKABA TO PORT ST JOHNS**

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Bongani Mlotywa runs Pondo Tours community-based hiking along the northern part of the Wild Coast. He meets you in Port St Johns where you leave your vehicles at safe parking and you get a shuttle to the start. Starting at Port Edward means extra days and the section from Port Edward is not that spectacular. The large Masikaba estuary is a better starting point. River crossings, where necessary, are arranged by Bongani 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 basic bathing facilities including hot water. The actual hike is 5 days and the last day is quite short. The current cost is R4200 per person. As we end up, back at PSJ fairly early, where we left the cars, it is possible to drive back on the same day. I will need to book, so if you want to come you must notify me by not later than 1 November.



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	Ingrid v d Hoek	072 283 6507
	Formosa Hut Warden	Lars Strydom	076 205 2560
	Meets Convenor	Gavin McLachlan	083 272 6300
	Rock Climbing	Dale Gathercole	079 624 7090
		Neill Purdon	082 655 7582
		Hendrik Smith	076 492 7541
	Search & Rescue	Francois Searle	082 904 3086
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 the 3rd Thursday evening of the month at 19:00 for 19:30 at the Walmer Scout Hall and a social braai at the EPVCC every 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- ◆ Prospective participants on a meet must contact the leader beforehand to ascertain what the arrangements are. 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 must include an MCSA Member.
- ◆ Cockscomb, Witte River, Lady's Slipper, Formosa Hut, Hoeree servitude and Bergkraalspoort: 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 and please use courtesy when dealing with all private land owners.