



WINTER MEET SHEET

MAY - OCTOBER 2026



GENERAL

- **Newcomers and friends are welcome to join the Club.**
- **To all interested in the outdoors the Club offers:**
 - **Adventure mountaineering and hiking.** Outings usually happen every weekend and vary from easy walks to real adventures. If you are interested, please **contact the meet leader** by phone.
 - **Diverse Social Evenings.** (Currently on the 3rd Thursday a month at the Walmer Scout Hall.)
 - **Rock Climbing.** Contact the **Ruben Snyman 083 384 0648** if you are interested.
 - **Search and Rescue.** The Club has an active Search and Rescue unit as a service to the community with regular training and practices. **If you are interested contact Francois Searle 082 904 3086 or email sar@epmcsa.org.za**
- More details on **our website** – www.epmcsa.org.za
- **Visit us on our Facebook page** at Mountain Club of South Africa – Eastern Province Section.
- **For more information about the EP Section** – please contact Club Secretary: Susan de Villiers on 073 001 2400 or by email on info@epmcsa.org.za

SCHEDULED CLUB MEETS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS LADY'S SLIPPER & WITTEKLIP

Leader: Tertius Coetzee 082 927 0440

Every Wednesday afternoon at 4pm a walk and/or scramble takes place in the Slipper area. The group usually follows the climb with an optional light meal at the nearby Thornhill hotel.



25th April to 3rd MAY

MCSA NATIONAL CAMP AT BUCKLANDS HOSTED BY THE EP SECTION

Leader: Gaye Hosking and team

The National Camp is being held at Bucklands working farm in the Karoo this year and the Eastern Cape are the hosts for the event. There are numerous hikes, climbs and mountain bike events to choose from, so it promises to be an exciting event.



16th -17th MAY

SEPREE NATURE RESERVE in the KOUGA MOUNTAINS

Leader: Francois Searle 082 904 3086

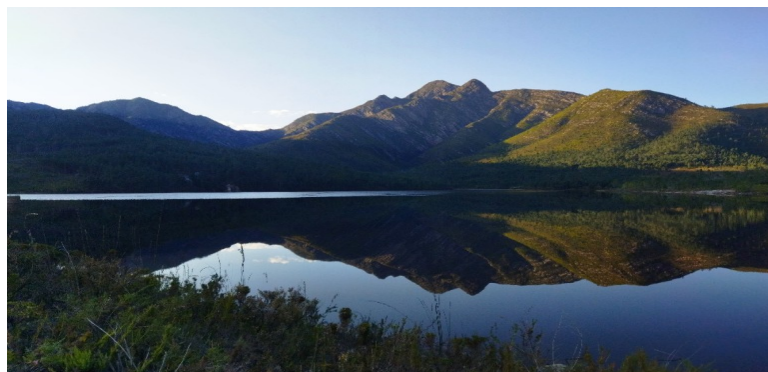
We will visit this Private Nature Reserve to explore and see what beautiful and precious places it holds. More details closer to the time.

23 rd MAY

PEAK FORMOSA

Leader: Fran Solomon 084 745 9799

Come and join Fran and Handre to hike up peak Formosa from the North. This is the highest peak in the Tsitsikamma range and weather permitting offers wonderful views over the Langkloof and coastal areas. Note, it is a full day hike and if hikers are travelling from far then it might be better to stay overnight in the area to allow an early morning start.



29th – 30th MAY
BENEKOP
Leader: Zel Niit 083 462 0633

We will head to Benebos on the morning of Saturday and then explore, looking for the highest available water and a feasible route up Benekop. We can either camp in Benebos or head back to Formosa hut for the night. Some may want to chill in the forest while others take on the dense vegetation near the top of Benekop.

7th JUNE
ROCK CLIMBING
Leader: Ruben Snyman 083 384 0648

Ruben has kindly offered to lead a climbing expedition for all members. Those interested are to contact Ruben so he can plan an exciting route in order to match the ability of those joining. This will be a great outing for those who have always wanted to test their climbing abilities but never had the opportunity of experienced guidance.



7th JUNE
ELEPHANT CAVE NATURE WALK
Leader: Graeme Pienaar 081 412 5018

Enjoy a wonderful nature experience with Graeme at Groendal, enjoying encounters with the rich botanical and birdlife as we walk to Elephant cave in Groendal and back.

13th - 14th JUNE
GROOT WINTERBERG
Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Groot Winterberg, which lies between Adelaide and Tarkastad, at 2369 meters it is a big mountain. It is really a high point on the great Southern escarpment, and although it is big, it is quite an easy climb. In early winter we might be lucky and find some snow there too. The plan, depending on support from Werner, is to drive out on Saturday morning, camp at Fanella falls, have a good look around the kloof and waterfall on Saturday afternoon, and climb the peak on Sunday, return home on Sunday afternoon.

14th JUNE
ALOE TRAIL
Leader: Athur Rump 082 577 0832

Enjoy breathtaking view of the Swartkops estuary and surrounding bushveld. The spectacular Aloe pluridens are in full colour and attracts birds and other wildlife. Sure to be rewarding and informative walk with the Rumps.



19th - 21st JUNE
CEDAR FALLS
Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356.

Drive to Cedar Falls in the Baviaanskloof (320km) and stay in Backpackers accommodation (4 beds per room) with communal facilities. Day walks in the area. Drive back Sunday afternoon.

28th JUNE
NOT UPARKA
Leader: Lars Strydom 076 205 2560

This meet will broadly follow the UPAKA ridge walk from Groendal to Cockscomb. Unlike the UPAKA, which is a three-day (or less) speed trail, this meet will take place over 5 days and veer off ridge to take advantage of sheltering in various natural shelters or man-made structures. Lars intends to lead the meet, but a co-leader will be asked to take part in case he can't attend due to work commitments. Be prepared for full days of walking along overgrown jeep tracks. Water (for the day) will need to be carried and bring along your sense of humour. Be prepared for 4 season weather wise.

5th JULY
GAMTOOS
Leader: Tim McLaren 0823726976

Enjoy a day walk at the Gamtoos river mouth area. From the holiday village we will walk to the beach up to the river mouth and return along the river and lagoon edge. There are opportunities for swimming and birding along the way, the outing will be easy walking and take around 4 hours.

11th – 12th JULY
HADLEY/AFDAK HOUSE
Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

Drive to Hadlee via Steytlerville for Friday night (about 240km) and stay in the accommodation for 2 nights (250pppn) adjacent to the Grootrivier. Saturday, day walks in the area, braai Saturday night and slow drive back on Sunday.

19th JULY
CAPE RECIFE – ROSEATE TERN TRAIL
Leader: Paul Martin 073 252 4111

This will be a leisurely morning walk of about 10km of the Roseate Tern Trail in the Cape Recife Nature Reserve. Meet at the entrance boom at Pine Lodge 08h00

25th – 26th JULY
FORT FORDYCE HIKING
Leader: Angela Gathercole 083 948 6815

Come and enjoy the panoramic views of the Katberg Mountains in the distance. There are a few easy half-day hiking trails in the Fort Fordyce reserve of varying distances. Rock climbers are also welcome. The plan is to travel to Fort Fordyce on Friday afternoon. We intend to use the very comfortable “Loeries Rest” house accommodation as base and walk some of the hiking trails in the reserve.



31st JULY to 2nd AUGUST
WATERFALL CAVE
Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

Drive to Willow River near Cockscomb and stay in accommodation on Friday night. Early start on Saturday, walk up the old jeep track east of Cockscomb to just before the nek. Traverse west to the cave (no mattresses), for a pleasant, sheltered evening. Sunday, we find our way back down the jeep track to the cars.

8th – 9th AUGUST
TAKASTAD
Leader: Marcus Kelly 082 555 8283

Long weekend of exploring on a farm in the Golden Valley, situated 30 km north of Tarkastad. Good cycling and hiking are possible in this area. Wild camping on the farm with access to water, power, and internet. The prize peak is 2150 m (starting at 1545 m). With three others in proximity. Rock climbing is possible. For more details, please contact Marcus.

16th AUGUST
BLOUBERG ADVENTURE
Leader: Sue de Villiers 073 001 2400

Climb Blouberg just outside Kareedouw and enjoy views of the lower Langkloof. More details to follow closer to the time.

21st – 23rd AUGUST
FIREBREAK CAVE
Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

Drive to KK Kloof campsite for Friday night (about 120km) and camp at the cars. Early start on Saturday, walk up the rough path (maybe no path) to Firebreak. Water is at the cave. It should take about 5hrs to the cave. Return on Sunday to the cars.

29th -30th AUGUST
MOUNTAIN BIKE WEEKEND
Matthew de Lange 072 561 4405

A weekend mountain bike event in the Tsitsikamma area. Details to follow.

6th SEPTEMBER
ROCK CLIMBING
Leader: Ruben Snyman 083 384 0648

Ruben has kindly offered to lead a climbing expedition for all members. Those interested are to contact Ruben so he can plan an exciting route in order to match the ability of those joining. This will be a great outing for those who have always wanted to test their climbing abilities but never had the opportunity of experienced guidance.

6th SEPTEMBER
BEACH WALK
Leader: Dot Hall

Enjoy a walk between Kini bay and Sardinia Bay along our stunning coast, you might be able to spot some whales.



12th - 13th SEPTEMBER
FORMOSA HUT WORK PARTY
Leader: Lars Strydom 076 205 2560

Join Lars and the team to carry out maintenance and improvements on the Formosa hut and surrounds so that we can all enjoy our time when we visit during the year.

13th SEPTEMBER
ZUURBERG
Leader: Dave and Marylin Zimmerman 082 561 9910

The Addo Elephant National Park Zuurberg area is a stunning wilderness and Dave and Marylin will be arranging for us to be able to explore there.

18th – 20st or 21nd SEPTEMBER
TSITSIKAMA TRAIL
Leader: Chris Jones 082 559 4356

The idea is to park at Bloukrans Forestry Station, leave a car at Lottering and then walk to the Bloukrans Hut for Friday night. This is an easy walk of about 6.5km. Saturday we walk to Keurbos Hut which is about 13.5km and overnight there. Sunday, we walk to Formosa Hut for Sunday night, and the walking distance is about 7.5km. Those wishing to return home on Sunday night can leave cars at Formosa parking and drive home on Sunday afternoon. The distance to the Lottering Forestry Station is 4km from the Hut. The Tsitsikamma Trail now has upgraded huts and facilities, with donkey geysers, indoor braai, pots, gas stove, and additional accommodations. Cost is R330 pppn, plus Formosa overnight fees. A booking has been made for 12 people. Further arrangements nearer the time.



26th – 27th SEPTEMBER
EITHER A MULTI-DAY CYCLING TRIP OR PADDLING TRIP
Leader: Helene Gabriel 079 695 6164

A multiday cycle and paddle adventure, details to be decided closer to the time.

26th -27th SEPTEMBER
NARDOUSBERG
Leader: Jeff Ferreira 082 678 8217

Nardousberg is the magnificent high peak that lies in the escarpment to the East of Graaff-Reinet. The route takes you up a valley past “the Angel” then around via the peak and back via a circular route. Details to follow nearer the time.

3rd – 14th OCTOBER

DRAKENSBERG

Leader: Gaye Hosking 084 915 9139

Enjoy a wonderful event in the Drakensberg. The details are still being finalised, most likely to be divided between time in the Northern Berg and Golden Gate. Be aware, that the meet will include going up Sentinel and the chain ladders.

11th OCTOBER

STINKHOUTBERG

Leader: Gavin McLachlan 083 272 6300

Stinkhoutberg 110 meters is the highest point in the Elands River ridge. The peak itself is covered in beautiful, thick fynbos and in the spring the Protea cynaroides will be in abundant bloom there. We drive through to Highwaters and from there hike up onto the Elands ridge where we get an old jeep track that takes us to the peak. On the way back we may go via a side cave with some Bushman paintings. This is an interesting, moderate day hike

17th – 18th OCTOBER

SUPRISE MEET

Leader: Aster Streso 077266 2449

Details of this meet will be announced closer to the time. The meet will be fun and adventurous.

24th – 25th OCTOBER

HIKE/RIDE – BUSHMANS/CANNON ROCKS/WOODY CAPE

Leader: Richard Grant 083 237 8752

There are numerous options for hiking and biking in these areas and depending on the weather and the members of the party. More details will follow closer to the time.



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	Gavin McLachlan	083 272 6300
Vice-Chairman	Jeff Ferreira	082 678 8217
Hon. Secretary	Susan de Villiers	073 001 2400
		info@epmcsa.org.za
Hon. Treasurer	Chris Jones	082 559 4356
Entertainment	Gaye Hosking	084 915 9139
Search & Rescue	Francois Searle	082 904 3086
Meets Convenor	Tim McLaren	082 372 6876
Formosa Hut Warden	Lars Strydom	076 205 2560
	Hendrik Smith	076 492 7541
	Neill Purdon	082 655 7582

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend Club meetings on a Thursday evening to be announced at 19:00 for 19:30 at the Walmer Scout Hall.
- 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 neither the Mountain Club nor any of its office bearers can be held responsible for any misfortune, loss or accident that may befall you as a result of your participation in any Club activities.
- 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 the 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.