



Piste Again

The Newsletter Of The Ski Club Of South Africa

The Editor : P O Box 26723, Hout Bay 7872, South Africa

April 2011

Matroosberg skiers in the Dolomites

The recent paucity of snow on Matroosberg drove a party of Ski Club of South Africa members (and friends) off to ski at Selva di Val Gardena (in the Italian Dolomites) during the last



Past Club President Jan Unsworth in full flight : Selva di Val Gardena

**South African
National Alpine
Skiing Championships
24 to 27 July 2011
AfriSki (Lesotho)**

**Ski Club of SA
2011 Annual Subscriptions
now overdue!
(See inside for details)**

2 weeks of March this year.

The 10 x Matroosberg members skiing in Italy included: Clare Davies, Ron Duff, Rose Duff, Clare Graaff, Wendy Hope, Margie Louw, Sakkie Meeuwsen, Karin Muller, Jan Unsworth and Joe Wengrowe.

Great snow and great weather (as well as great company) made for a great skiing holiday.

(See more pics on pages 4 & 5).



Joe Wengrowe & Jan Unsworth

Ode To An Incident On Matroosberg

(By Dean Paarman)

It was more or less about four years ago

We partied in these mountains ...
praying for snow.

Somewhere up in the Hex River
mountain range

Celebrated a group, some normal,
some strange.

Some from here, others from there
They came from just about anywhere!

The common interest which brought
us all face-to-face

Is skiing in South Africa, we're mad
about this place.

I mean ... to schlep a pack for an hour
or more

(Except for the lazy ones in their 4x4)

Just to share some snow and a dop!

These okes have something wrong in
the kop.

But here with them, here I am,
Proudly a Matroosberg man!

As I was saying, four years have
passed,

Since as Rum drinking Pirates we
were having a blast.

Friends gathered and were drinking
far too much Rum,

They had no idea of what was to
come.

The night went on with song and
dance

And inhibition turned into desirable
trance.

The more you drank, the better you
were off,

Drinking full cups of Tequila ... man
was I doff?

Glüwein on the stove, Jägermeister in
the shower,

My fate would be decided within that
hour.

For some air, I stepped outside with
bottle in hand,

My drunken body fell first onto rock
and then sand.

If I had let go of that bottle I'd have
been okay,

I didn't! I was drunk! What more can
I say?

The next thing there were flashes of
blood and worry

I told God and my Mum that I was
sorry!

This is not how I should have to have
died,

I clutched onto people ... praying as I
cried!

Dad, Mom, Sister and Friends
Please don't let this be the end!

Veronica Boom holding my hand on
the left,

Ian Bradburn bandaging the right,
He said that I'd be okay ... I'd be
alright.

I left my friends and family in the Hut
that night!

So many helpers carried me on the
stretcher out of sight.

I still cried for life and repeated end-
lessly that I was sorry!

My best friend Oskar reassured he'll
donate blood, I must not worry!

So many familiar faces around me, so
many friends and mountaineers!

Thank you all ... thank the stretcher I

carrying volunteers!
Mostly I'd like to thank the three men
(maybe there were four),
I honestly cannot remember anymore.
In my 'Matroosmas Ambulance' were:
Ian Bradburn, Guy Wood and Ron
Duff.

I seriously can't thank you guys
enough!
If there was that fourth (or a fifth, or a
sixth) ... speak up and let me see
All the people that were there to
help me!

And not to forget everyone here
For sharing this Club, the love for this
mountain and its members from afar.
To remember you and my actions that
night

I just have to look at my scar!
So without anymore harping on things
from the past,
Let me learn from my mistakes
And this year have ourselves another
rocking 'Matroosmas' blast!

AGM : 6 April 2011

The 81st Annual General Meeting of the Ski Club of South Africa was held at the Mountain Club of SA on Wednesday 6 April 2011.

The Committee for the forthcoming 12-months comprises:

Bob Elshove (President), Anton Louw (Vice President), Tim Holmes (Hon. Secretary), Ron Duff (Hon. Treasurer), Rod Wengrowe, Gaby Claasens, Guy Wood and 2 newcomers, i.e. Joe Wengrowe and Steffan Boshoff.

2011 South African National Snowboard Championships **29 & 30 July 2011**



The **2011 South African National Snowboard Championships** will be held at **AfriSki, Lesotho ...** on **Friday 29 & Saturday 30 July 2011.**

The competition will include both **Slope Style** and **Giant Slalom.**

It would be great to have a representative team of **Ski Club of SA** members competing.

Are you also maybe interested in taking part in the competition?

If so please contact **Ron Duff** at email <ron@duffassoc.com> or at telephone number **021 790 1859.**

**In case have not yet paid
your Ski Club of SA
2011 Annual Subscriptions
they are now overdue!
(If in doubt then please
contact Ron Duff
at <ron@duffassoc.com>
or 'phone 021 790 1859).**

Some more photographs of the Ski Club of SA members frolicking in the Dolomites (Italy)



Margie Louw, Joe Wengrowe & Clare Graaff



Clare Davies

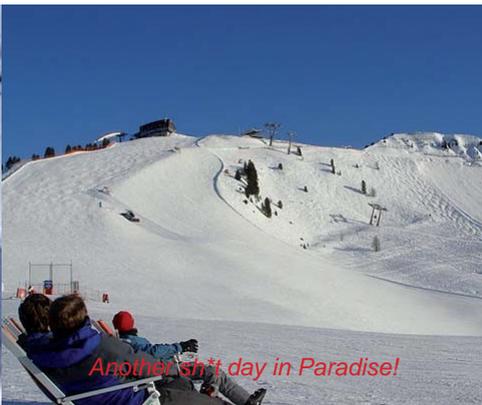


Wendy Hope & Ron Duff





Jan Unsworth, Sakkie Meeuwsen & Karin Muller



*Another sh**t day in Paradise!*



Rose & Ron Duff



Mike Duff's panoramic photograph of the Sassolungo (3,181m) soaring above the village of Selva di Val Gardena (1,563m), Dolomites. Taken from the top of the Ciampinoi Ski Lift (2,254m). Great snow ... great weather!

The Ski Club of South Africa

2011 Annual Subscriptions now due!

Adult Membership (age 21 years +) : R275.00 p.a.

Children (age 12 to 21 years) : R138,00 p.a.

Locker rental fee : R30.00 p.a.

Payment Instructions:

For EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) Payment

Please make EFT payment to the following bank account details:

Bank: **Standard Bank of SA**

Branch: **Claremont**

IBT/Branch code: **02 51 09 01**

Account no: **27 020 617 5**

Account name: **Ski Club of SA**

Reference: ***Please provide Your Name***

For Direct Bank Deposit Payment

Please make payment (at any branch of Standard Bank)
to the following bank account details:

Bank: **Standard Bank of SA**

Branch: **Claremont**

IBT/Branch code: **02 51 09 01**

Account no: **27 020 617 5**

Account name: **Ski Club of SA**

Reference: ***Please provide Your Name***

For Payment by Cheque

Please make your cheque in favour of 'Ski Club of SA' ...
please endorse the cheque 'Not Negotiable' ...
and please mail (post) the cheque (in a sealed envelope) to:

The Hon. Treasurer

The Ski Club of SA

Attention: Ron Duff

P O Box 26723

Hout Bay

7872

2010 Mid-Winter Christmas Party

(By Jacob Claassens)

In honesty, when requested to jot down my memories of the 2010 Ski Club Christmas party, I was tempted to turn down the offer. You see, I do not remember much. Given the amount of alcohol consumed, my fellow members' guesses as to what happened that chilly night would have as much credibility as the testimony, of, say, a former police commissioner. What I vaguely do remember, however, was fairly wild.

I chartered my way up to the Ma-trosberg frontline with co-pilot and fellow member Roger O'Brien, who had his nose stuck in a google map printout for much of the way up. It was my first time as driver up to Ma-trosberg. After a few failed attempts at bumming a lift off Bob Elshove, I had reluctantly decided to commandeer the 20 year old VW Golf up the rocky mountain passes.

After a happy ascent past some patchy snow and into freezing winds and sunshine, Roger and I found ourselves confronted with a block of inhabited bunk beds. A look around the back of the hut revealed (besides the ubiquitous yellow Boom tent) a lot of colourful canvas and tents. 'Goodie', I thought, 'an outdoor trance party in our own backyard-what a treat!' (It later turned out that this was not the case, these tents were in fact all inhabited by guests.)

The theme had radically evolved from 'what you wanted to be when you grow up' to 'Soccer World Cup 2010' in the space of a day. The radical theme-change explained the Russian Princess amongst the people in the yellow bafana-bafana get up. Touting my vodka, snow, and naartjie game powder mix, and with a half cooked steak in my stomach, I decided it was time to mingle. But after my quarter-jack I was not yet plastered to Christmas party proportions. "Roger!" I yelled. "Bring on the pap-sak!" But my yell was drowned out by Adrian Boom's ecstatic vuvuzela symphony, which sounded not unlike the wail of a small child. Or perhaps a small child was wailing? I could not be certain. At some point face paint pens were being passed around. Seizing a pen and whatever willing person came my way, I, in utmost concentration, earnestly inscribed crude cartoon phalluses on the foreheads of my human artworks. They grinned and waited patiently, probably thinking I was drawing soccerballs.

After the giving of gifts, the singing of carols, some happy stomping around the stove and the roof, some tequila shots from Bob, and after my first lucid conversation with Ron Duff, we all went to bed in the early morning. The start of the next day bore witness to a terrible sensation of poison and paralysis, followed by an indecipherable demo from Adrian Boom on how to use the Ski-Lift.

A good time was had by all!

Matroosberg safety regulations

Remember that (at 2,249m) Matroosberg is the highest peak in the Western Cape and, as such, is subject to very harsh winter weather. Please do adhere to the published safety regulations whenever you visit Matroosberg.

Thank you for your care!

Room with a View

This has got to be the highest loo in the Western Cape! Located at 2,212m above sea level ... it is the ideal place to sit and solve the world's problems ... whilst gazing out over one of the greatest views imaginable.



Built on Matroosberg during late February, by a team of willing helpers under the professional guidance of Micah Burger, this will be a welcome comfort to those spending a weekend in the Ski Club's Peak Hut.

Well done, team!

2011 South African National Alpine Skiing Championship 24-27 July 2011



The **2011 South African National Alpine Skiing Championships** will be held at **AfriSki, Lesotho** ... from **Sunday 24 July to Wednesday 27 July 2011**.

The competition races will include a **Slalom** and **Giant Slalom**.

A representative team of **Ski Club of South Africa** members is travelling to Lesotho in order to compete.

Are you also maybe interested in competing?

If so please contact **Ron Duff** at email < ron@duffassoc.com > or at telephone number **021 790 1859**.

Mid-Winter Xmas Party Saturday 25 June 2011

Main Hut, Matroosberg
Also remember the combined Work Party on 25 & 26 June.

For further information see < <http://www.skiclubsa.co.za> >