



Piste Again

The Newsletter Of The Ski Club Of South Africa

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

May 2012 Edition

Annual General Meeting

The 82nd Annual General Meeting of The Ski Club of South Africa was held on Wednesday 18th April 2012.

There was a fantastic turnout of Members (mainly due to some telephonic encouragement from your Committee Members), and it was really great to see some of our 'golden oldies' in attendance, e.g. **James & Katinka Henry**, past Honorary Secretary **Ernie Lanz**, Past President **Rod Wengrowe & Hermine Wengrowe**, etc, as well as Past Honorary Treasurer **Sakkie Meeuwse**n (visiting from the Isle of Man).

We were privileged to have **Alex Heath** (ex Olympic & World Cup alpine skier and now official coach to Snow Sports South Africa) with us and he brought us all up-to-speed on the latest national developments on the South African winter sports calendar.

As is customary, the 2011 Committee stood down and a new Committee was elected for 2012, i.e: **Bob Elshove** (President), **Anton Louw** (Honorary Secretary), **Ron Duff** (Honorary Treasurer), **Micah Burger**, **Gaby Claasens**, **Clare Davies**, **Rauri Duff**, **Tim Holmes**, **Karin Muller** and **Joe Wengrowe**.

It would be apt to use this medium to thank those past Committee Members for their invaluable contribution to the Club's affairs over the past 12-months (and longer), i.e: **Steffan Boshoff**, **Shawn de Villiers**, **Rod Wengrowe** and **Guy Wood**.

The meeting ended with a screening of the 2011 South African National Alpine Skiing Championships (thanks **Alex**) ... whilst all partook of the delicious snacks (thanks **Gaby**) and nearly drank the Mountain Club of SA bar dry (thanks to barman **Ian Bradburn**).

Important dates for you to put into your diary!

2 & 3 June 2012

Work-Party - Matroosberg

Final preparation of the Matroosberg winter-sports facilities ... before the Winter snow arrives!

23 & 24 June 2012

Mid-Winter Xmas Party

The traditional Mid-Winter Xmas Party will be held, on Matroosberg, on the evening of Saturday 23rd June ... with a Work Party to follow on Sunday 24th June.

3 to 5 August 2012

South African Snowboard Championships

The 2012 South African Snowboard Championships will be held at AfriSki, Lesotho, from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th August.

6 to 8 August 2012

South African Alpine Skiing Championships

The 2012 South African Alpine Skiing Championships will be held at AfriSki, Lesotho, from Monday 6th to Wednesday 8th August.

6 & 7 October 2012

Oktoberfest - Matroosberg

Draught beer, bratwurst, 'oompah' band music, frauleins in 'dirndl' dress, much singing, dancing and noise on Saturday night, (with either skiing/snowboarding or a Work Party on Sunday ... weather dependent).

Matroosberg Work-Party : 2 & 3 June 2012

There are still a few tasks to complete, on Matroosberg, before the onset of the expected (hoped-for) 2012 Winter snows.

The roof of the Main Hut requires a final coat of paint (and the paint is already up the mountain and the paint-brushes are waiting!).

A recently repaired bracket needs to be re-installed on the Main Gully Ski Lift.

The new cable-tensioning device needs to be installed on the Main Gully Ski Lift.

Reeds need to be cut away from the access path to the Ski Equipment Hut.

A load of freshly-delivered firewood needs to be transported from the 4x4 track down to the Main Hut on Matroosberg (just think of a cozy night around the fireplace this Winter!).

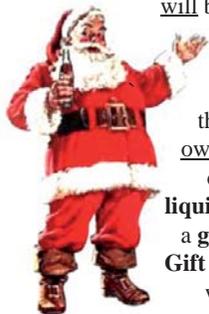
Also ... there are still a few Prospective Members who need to complete their 2nd Work-Party (prior to acquiring Membership of The Ski Club of South Africa) ... this could be your last chance before Winter hits us ... !!!

Work-Party Convener : Bob Elshove :
Email contact < bob.elshove@gmail.com >
Cellphone contact 083 785 4617.

Mid-Winter Xmas Party : 23 June 2012

You are invited to attend a **Formal Dinner Dance** in the Main Hut on Matroosberg on the evening of **Saturday 23rd June 2012.**

Dress strictly formal (**Gentlemen: black-tie, dinner jacket, etc ... Ladies: tres elegant, little black number?**) and the music could just be a string quartet! Dancing will comprise waltzes, fox-trots and the odd tango (with a whole lotta rockin' going on!). **Santa Clause**



will be there to make sure that all the little boys 'n' girls behave themselves and that they all go to bed when they're told to (and with their own partners too!). Bring your **own Christmas Dinner and liquid Christmas Cheer!** Bring a **gift-wrapped 'unisex' Xmas Gift** (value approx R20) and you will get a gift back in return!

The Ski Club will provide a welcome drink, glühwein and odd delicious snacks during the evening. **Please do note**

that this is a Ski Club Members' function ... and Prospective Members (with a completed Membership Application Form submitted) are also welcome. And please do all bring your partners (and children) too ... but please do not invite otherwise unknown friends-of-friends, etc ... !!! The Main Hut on Matroosberg has a limited capacity ... !!! Plan to arrive at the Main

Hut by no later than **17h00** on **Saturday 23rd June**. And (weather permitting) there will be a **Work Party** held on Matroosberg on Sunday 24th June. (**Prospective Members please note ... Sunday 24th June could just be the last Work Party before the Winter snows arrive ... !!!**).



Saturday 23rd June 2012

Xmas Party Theme:
**'Black Tie &
Little Black Number!'**
(Come dressed accordingly)

"Please may I have the pleasure of the next dance?"

2012 South African Snowboard Championships

The 2012 South African Snowboard Championships will be held at AfriSki (Lesotho) from **Friday 3rd August to Sunday 5th August**. It really would be great to see a few Matroosberg snowboarders showing the rest of the country how it's done. Bob Elshove has expressed an interest in travelling to AfriSki in order to compete in this event. If you want to know more about this 'Quick-Snow' sponsored event then now is the time to take a look at the Snow Sports South Africa website

< <http://www.snowsports.co.za> >

If you are now getting really interested then don't sit on your backside for too long ... it is vitally important that you secure your accommodation at AfriSki before someone else secures it before you ... !!!

AfriSki offers accommodation ranging from a Backpackers Lodge (pretty basic with self-catering facilities) right through to luxury Apartments and Chalets.

For further details please do urgently refer to the AfriSki website < <http://www.afriski.net> >.

Okay snowboarders ... over to you ... I suggest that you liaise with Bob Elshove, via email, at < bob.elshove@gmail.com > or via his cellphone at 083-785-4617



2012 South African Alpine Skiing Championships

The 2012 South African Alpine Skiing Champs will take place at AfriSki (Lesotho) from **Monday 6th August** through to **Wednesday 8th August**.

The Ski Club of SA had wonderful representation last year ... and our Ladies 'Masters' team brought back 2 Gold Medals, 1 Silver Medal and 1 Bronze Medal. Ron Duff is keen to get a team together for this,

the 2012 Championships. **So ... if you're interested then please do contact Ron a.s.a.p. via his email address at < ron@duffassoc.com > or via his cellphone at 083-377-2484.** Again ... accommodation could prove to be a problem if one leaves it too late. If you want to know more about this 'First Ascent' sponsored event then take a peek into the Snow Sports South Africa website (which you can locate at < <http://www.snowsports.co.za> > ... and for accommodation at AfriSki take a peek into their website at < <http://www.afriski.net> >. In previous years it has proved to be most suitable for a group of Ski Club of SA Members to take-over an entire self-catering chalet (for 4 nights).



Oktoberfest : Saturday 6 October 2012

Bavarian 'gemütlichkeit' comes to the Main Hut on Matroosberg on the evening of **Saturday 6th October 2012**. Beer, bratwurst, an 'oompah' band and even pretty frauleins!



So guys ... dig-out your mouldy 'lederhosen' (or make your own facsimile) ... and girls ... who's prepared to wear the most revealing 'dirndl' on the evening? There will be prizes for the best 'Oktoberfest' costume!



The plan is to serve draught beer (on tap) and to have this with pretzels, etc ... and if everyone brings their own franfurters and/or bratwurst, together with fresh 'brötchen' (and mustard, etc ... and how's about sauerktaut?) ... then we have a real old 'Oktoberfest' evening in the making. And you can bet your boots that **Bob** will be brewing up pots of glühwein before the evening is out!

There might even be a yodelling competition (okay all ... start practicing) and there will definitely be 'schuhplatter' dancing and lots of noisy beerhall singing!

So remember to put this date into your diary now ... and yes ... **Sunday 7th October** is likely to be a **Work Party** day on Matroosberg ... but that is only if the Bavarian Snow Gods forsake us and we are not still skiing and snowboarding !!!

And who better to act as **Convenor** for the **Oktoberfest** celebration? ... but our very own 'Tochter von München' ... **Karin Muller** ... who is already ironing her 'dirndl' and looking-up 'ihre liebe alte Großmutter die Lieblingsorte Knödel Rezept'. 'Prost' ... !!!



Pre-owned skiing equipment (skis & boots) for sale

Ron Duff (in his role as The Ski Club of South Africa's Membership Officer) has accumulated quite a bit of pre-owned skiing equipment (both skis and boots) from erstwhile Members (and others) wishing to dispose of such. This equipment is available to Members (and Prospective Members) in return for a small donation to The Ski Club of SA (like how's about R150 for a pair of Skis ... or R100 for a pair of Ski Boots) ... ??? Anyway, Ron's wife (Rose) has now delivered the ultimatum "Clear the garage ... or divorce!". If you're looking for decent quality, used skiing equipment then please urgently contact **Ron** at email < ron@duffassoc.com >.

Cherry-Picking Weekend : 8 & 9 December 2012



Gaby Claassens (The Ski Club of SA's Entertainment Officer) has already booked the Ski Club's **Base Hut** (on **Matroosberg**) for the **Annual Cherry-Picking Weekend** (which is held at the next-door farm ... '**Klondyke Cherry Farm**' ... owned by Ski Club Member **Alan Garlick**).

The Ski Club 'Base Hut' has been reserved for the whole weekend ... for the nights of both Friday 7th December and Saturday 8th December ... so ... plan to arrive on the Friday night ... sleep over ... '**cherry picking**' on the Saturday ... and braai/party ... or party/braai ... on Saturday evening ... and plan to relax amidst the splendour of **Matroosberg Reserve** on Sunday (or some more '**cherry-picking**' if you wish to ... !!!).

Convenor : Gaby Claassens : Contact via email at < aclaassens@webafrika.org.za > or via cellphone at 084 512 2927.

< <http://www.skiclubsa.co.za> >

The URL for The Ski Club of South Africa website is < <http://www.skiclubsa.co.za> >.

Remember ... this is **your** Club ... so this is also **your** website ... !!!

The Ski Club of SA now has a 'Webmaster' who has undertaken to keep the Club's website up-to-date, pertinent and of constant interest and value to the Members.

Mark Prevôt has years of experience in the IT industry and has already put-in hours into upgrading the content of The Ski Club of SA website ... and he will be ably understudied by Committee Member **Tim Holmes**.

Use **your** website to update **yourself** as to current happenings within the Club, and to keep yourself abreast of all developments.

Honorary Life Membership

Following a proposal tabled at the 82nd AGM (held on Wednesday 18th April) it was unanimously agreed to award **Honorary Life Membership** of the Ski Club of South Africa to **Anthony 'Hoogie' van Hoogstraten**. '**Hoogie**' has, for many, many years, unstintingly given of his time (and professional expertise) in acting as **Honorary Auditor** of the Ski Club's finances.

'**Hoogie**' joins **Harry Braun, Ron Duff, Graham English, James Henry, Rodney Hodgson, Ernie Lanz, Doug McIntyre, Mike Mamacos, Des Robson, Gianni Viotti** and **Rod Wengrowe** as the only still surviving recipients of this singular honour.

Welcome To New Members

Following the completion of their statutory 2 x Work Parties on **Matroosberg** ... The Ski Club of South Africa is proud to welcome both:

Claude Bosman ... and ...

Muir de Wet ...

as the 2 newest Members of the Club. May we wish them both many happy days of skiing and/or snowboarding on **Matroosberg**.

The Ski Club of South Africa must be fairly unique inasmuch as **all** Members have contributed (at some time or other) in helping to either build, or maintain, the infrastructure that we are all fortunate enough to enjoy ... i.e. the skiing grounds on **Matroosberg**.

Skiing In Europe : 26 January to 9 February 2013

A group of **Ski Club of South Africa Members** (and close family/friends) will be skiing ... for **2 weeks ...** in the **Ischgl-Samnaun (Silvretta Ski Arena)** area ... from **Saturday 26th January to Saturday 9th February 2013**.

The village of **Ischgl** is situated in the **Tirol** region of **Austria**, right on the **Austro/Swiss** border ... and one can ski from Austria through to Switzerland (remembering to take your passport with you ... otherwise you might not be able to get back and have to spend a night in Switzerland).

To date (9th May 2012) the following **9 'Matrosberg'** members have confirmed that they definitely **will** be skiing: **Clare Davies, Ron Duff, Rose Duff, Margaret Garlick, Clare Graaff, Rodney Hodgson, Wendy Hope, Sakkie Meeuwesen, and Margie Louw ...** plus **10** other friends ... and the following **4** are busy sorting-out their personal lives in order that they can (hopefully) join the others: **Andries Claassens, Gaby Claassens, Jan Unsworth and Joe Wengrowe**.

Tentative accommodation has already been booked at **'Hotel Alpenrose'** in **Ischgl ...** and this establishment is located no more than **50m** stroll from cable-car access to the main skiing area



(which is mainly situated at over 2,000m).

'Hotel Alpenrose' is a typical, 2-Star, 'Tirolische Gästehaus' offering half-board' (i.e. dinner, bed & breakfast) accommodation.

Skiing with a jovial group of like-minded buddies is always a lot of fun ... and so if any other **Ski Club of SA (Matrosberg)** Member believes that he/she would like to join the others ... please do contact **Ron Duff** at < ron@duffassoc.com > for further details.

(Note : Please do remember that shared, double-bed room accommodation is always more economical than single-bed accommodation).



21 & 22 April 2012 : Work Party Report Back

A great turnout for the April Work Party! 15 people came up mountain. This was another fun Work Party with lots of really necessary work completed.

The following main tasks were completed during this weekend:

1. Drove up to the Peak Hut and intalled a 40ltr container of fresh drinking water.
2. Removed a lot of the scrap steel (littering the Long Bowl area) off Matroosberg.
3. Completed an inventory of tools stored in the Ski Equipment Hut, the Main Hut and the Long Bowl Ski Lift Hut.
4. Checked the safety chains on the Main Gully Ski Lift.
5. Fitted a new tensioning device on the Main Gully Ski Lift. (Note : There is still a pulley to be fitted to complete this task).
6. Ski boot racks in the Ski Equipment Hut were repaired and new racks fitted.
7. The damaged Main Ski Lift pulley bracket (from the 3rd-from-the-top pylon) was stripped and taken back to Cape Town for immediate/urgent repair.



The new water filter being installed

8. The Main Hut water-pipe connections were checked, fixed and tested.
 9. A new filter was fitted to the Main Hut water piping inlet.
 10. A new priming-vent valve was fitted to the Main Hut water pipe.
 11. A survey was done to define the details required for a gas installation (i.e. gas cooking system) that is to be installed in the Main Hut.
 12. The Main Hut roof was painted (primer and first coat only). A second (final) coat of protective roof paint still needs to be applied.
- We had a great evening in the Main Hut on Saturday night ... with popcorn and glühwein.
- It was good to meet (and to get to know) some of our new Prospective Members.



Rembrandt and Michaelangelo each creating another masterpiece!

Some more memories from the April Work Party



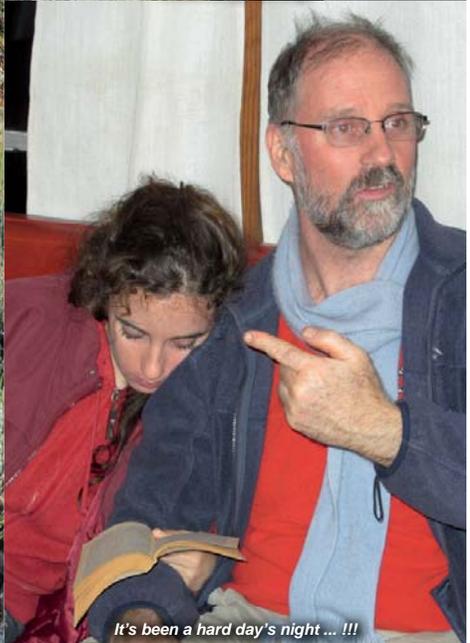
How to kill a long black snake!



It was only this big!



I'm sure it's hiding in this hole ... !!!



It's been a hard day's night ... !!!



Also see website at : <http://www.skiclubsa.co.za>

Affiliated to : Snow Sports South Africa
Affiliated to : International Ski Federation

