



Piste Again

The Newsletter Of The Ski Club Of South Africa

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

July 2012 Edition

Mid-Winter Xmas Party

The 2012 Mid-Winter Xmas Party ... held on the evening of Saturday 23rd June ... was another resounding success. Thanks must go especially to **Gaby Claassens**, **Karen Muller** and **Veronica Boom** for their planning and staging of the event. The theme (i.e. **'Black Tie & Little Black Number'**) lent itself to a bevy of beautiful 'birds' and gorgeous 'guys' (all dressed up 'to the nines') descending upon the Main Hut on Matroosberg and, between the pounding beat of hard rock, one could sometimes even hear the strains of a Viennese Waltz or a raunchy Latin Amerocan Tango (and ... as the evening progressed ... even the music for these two forms of dance started to sound the same ... strange!).



The President and part of his Harem!

Much 'OBs' and glühwein was consumed during the festivities ... which most definitely affected the harmonising of the singing of the traditional Christmas Carols!

It is probably best not to mention the names of anyone who was there and merely to post the photographs of the party ... !!!

Note: *The Editor wishes to confirm that any resemblance to persons living (or dead) is purely coincidental and that any attempt to institute legal proceedings for defamation of character will be vigorously contested!*

Important dates for you to put into your diary!

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).

8 & 9 December 2012

Cherry Picking Weekend - Matroosberg

The annual Ski Club of SA 'Cherry Picking Weekend' ('Klondyke' Cherry Farm) is a lot of fun. The Ski Club of Ski Base Hut has been booked for the whole weekend. Braai and Party on Saturday night ... !!!



Even they scrub-up pretty well

Some more digital reminders of fun at the 2012 Mid-Winter Xmas Party ('Matroosmas') !!



Matroosberg : 2012 : Duty Officer Schedule

| Date | Name | Cellphone | Email |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 14/15 July | Rauri Duff | 073 718 5490 | rauriduff@yahoo.co.uk |
| 21/22 July | Clare Davies | 082 214 7114 | clare.stannard@uct.ac.za |
| 28/29 July | Micah Burger | 082 680 7770 | micah@built4life.co.za |
| 4/5 August | Karin Muller | 082 557 3550 | Karinw@atsi.co.za |
| 11/12 August | Tim Holmes | 082 861 1928 | tim@thconsulting.co.za |
| 18/19 August | Joe Wengrowe | 082 905 5714 | j.wengrowe@smit.com |
| 25/26 August | Bob Elshove | 083 785 4617 | bob.elshove@gmail.com |
| 1/2 September | Ron Duff | 083 377 2484 | ron@duffassoc.com |
| 8/9 September | Joe Wengrowe | 082 905 5714 | j.wengrowe@smit.com |
| 15/16 September | Tim Holmes | 082 861 1928 | tim@thconsulting.co.za |
| 22/23/24 Sept. | Gaby Claassens | 084 512 2927 | aclaassens@webafrica.org.co.za |
| 29/30 September | Anton Louw | 072 430 6560 | louw.anton@gmail.com |
| 6/7 October | Clare Davies | 082 214 7114 | clare.stannard@uct.ac.za |
| 13/14 October | Karin Muller | 082 557 3550 | Karinw@atsi.co.za |
| 20/21 October | Rauri Duff | 073 718 5490 | rauriduff@yahoo.co.uk |
| 27/28 October | Micah Burger | 082 680 7770 | micah@built4life.co.za |

What's the Duty Officer role all about?

From the chart above you will note that a specific Ski Club of SA Committee Member has been nominated as the 'Duty Officer' for a specific weekend.

"What is the Duty Officer meant to do?" some newer Ski Club Members have asked.

The answer ... the nominated Duty Officer is the nearest thing to God for his/her scheduled weekend ... and the Duty Officer has some very real responsibilities to bear, e.g:

1. **Are you looking for transport to/from Matroosberg?** ... ask the Duty Officer.

2. **Can you offer transport to/from Matroosberg?** ... tell the Duty Officer.

3. **Can you invite a friend (i.e. a Visitor) to Matroosberg over a skiing/snowboarding weekend?** ... ask the Duty Officer.

4. **What is the latest snow report?** ... ask the Duty Officer.

5. **Got permission to bring a friend? ... to whom do you pay the stipulated Visitors' Fee?** ... to the Duty Officer.

6. **At what time do the lights in the Main Hut go out on a Saturday night?** ... normally at 22h00 (but it's up to the Duty Officer).

7. **Who's going to act as referee when you discover that someone else has 'stolen' your pre-bookd sleeping spot?** ... why ... the Duty Officer of course!

8. **Who's going to ensure that the Ski Lifts are prepared and started?** ... the Duty Officer will nominate a qualified Ski Club Member to handle this important task.

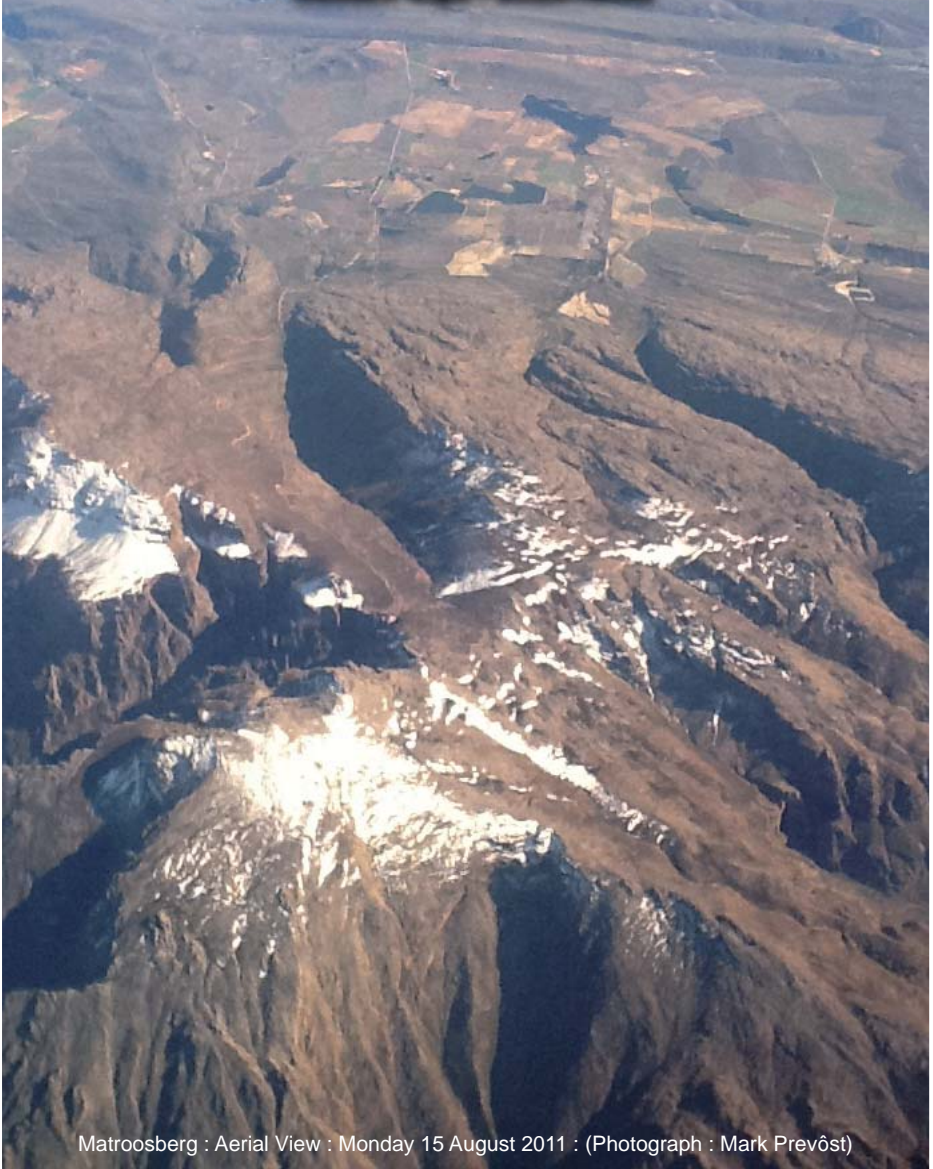
9. **Who's going to contact Eskom if a storm has knocked out the Main Hut electricity?** ... the Duty Officer will do this.

10. **Who's going to make sure that the Hut is cleaned (and all non-burnable rubbish taken back down the mountain) at the end of each weekend?** ... the Duty Officer will supervise ... and you will assist!

11. **Who's going to divert the water flow, and enure that the electricity is switched-off at the end of a skiing weekend?** ... the Duty Officer will supervise that this is done ... and you will assist (if necessary).

12. **God bless the Duty Officer!**

**The Ski Club Of South Africa : Matroosberg Winter Sports Area
Matroosberg Reserve : Hex River Mountains
Western Cape : South Africa**



Matroosberg : Aerial View : Monday 15 August 2011 : (Photograph : Mark Prevôst)

This interesting photograph of **The Ski Club of South Africa's** winter sports area (located in the Hex River Mountains, Western Cape) was taken after a substantial fall of snow had already started melting. (NB : Had the entire area still been covered in snow then most of the salient features of this area could not have been clearly identified. See following photograph for detailed points of interest.

The Ski Club Of South Africa : Matroosberg Winter Sports Area
Matroosberg Reserve : Hex River Mountains
Western Cape : South Africa



Matroosberg : Aerial View : Monday 15 August 2011 : (Photograph : Mark Prevost)

Some interesting GPS waypoints : Erfdeel Farm (Office) 33°19'47.62"/ 19°36'38.77" (1,161m); Ski Club Car Park 33°21'40.27"/ 19°38'17.69" (1,384m); Main Hut 33°22'14.34"/ 19°39'41.13" (1,794m); Top of Main Gully Ski Lift 33°22'04.25"/19°40'07.23" (1,980m); Long Bowl Ski Lift Hut 33°22'42.44"/19°40'21.23" (2,132m); Matroosberg Peak 33°22'59.85"/19°40'13.23" (2,249m).



Skiing on Matroosberg - a few new rules and regulations to consider!

Your Committee recently held a very important Matroosberg policy meeting with Didi de Kock (proprietor of Matroosberg Private Nature Reserve).

The Ski Club of SA must always remember that Matroosberg (the mountain we like to think of as 'our own') is privately owned, and access to the Matroosberg skiing fields is only possible with the prior agreement of the owners of the Matroosberg Private Nature Reserve property.

Ski Club Members have been asked to please take note of the following minor changes to our use of the Matroosberg Private Nature Reserve property, i.e:

Night-time access to M'berg

Ski Club Members wishing to access Matroosberg at night will no longer be granted access after **21h00 (09h00 pm)** at night.

Matroosberg Private Nature Reserve now has a security gate at the entrance to the property which requires someone to open it ... and 09h00 is bed-time for farmers!

Ski Club Membership Cards

Ski Club Members must produce their valid (2012) Membership Card (Matroosberg Permit) in order to gain free access onto Matroosberg Private Nature Reserve property.

Evidently a number of odd-bods have turned up at the Matroosberg office ... claiming to be Ski Club Members and demanding free access!

Vehicle access permits

Evidently (and especially during peak rush hours) a number of odd bods have driven straight past the Matroosberg office ... without stopping to register (or pay)!

Effective immediately ... all Ski Club Member drivers (arriving at Matroosberg by car) are to now complete a Matroosberg '**vehicle access permit**' upon entering Matroosberg Private Nature Reserve property.

The 'driver' portion of the 'permit' is to be clearly displayed on the dashboard of your parked vehicle (wherever it may be parked).

Upon leaving Matroosberg property ... the 'driver' portion of the 'permit' is to be returned to the Matroosberg office.

This system will also allow Matroosberg management to immediately know if a vehicle does not return ... and is maybe in dire need of assistance?

Registration queue

Ski Club Members do not have the right to barge into the Matroosberg office and demand priority attention (and especially where there is a queue of other paying clients for the office staff to attend to).

If there is a queue waiting for attention ... join the line and await your turn.

(Note: Queuing is only likely to be a problem directly after a big dump of new snow when the media blasts out the message and the snow-tripping hordes descend upon M'berg. Once the media hype dies down ... so do the number of 'snow-gawpers'!).

Also ... besides signing the Ski Club Hut Register ... you will now have to produce your 2012 Ski Club of SA Membership Card for inspection ... and car drivers will need to get (and complete/sign) a 'vehicle access' permit.



Accidents on Matroosberg (a medical database)

Dr Clare Stannard (Davies) has now taken over the very important Committee duty as **Medical Officer** to the Ski Club of SA.

Clare is very interested in building up a database of the type(s) of accident(s) that have befallen Ski Club Members, on Matroosberg, over the past 76 years or so.

So ... if you were personally involved in any accident (skiing/snowboarding/work-party) that required medical attention ... please do contact Clare and tell her all about it.

Clare can be contacted at either of:

Email: clare.stannard@uct.ac.za

Mobile: 082 214 7114

Micah Burger shares some special moments spent on Matroosberg

The following sequence of stunning images were taken by **Micah Burger**. Now I remember why I fell in love with Matroosberg!



Don't forget the next big occasion on the Ski Club of SA social calendar. **Oktoberfest** ... and if you thought that the Mid-Winter Xmas Party was wild then wait until you celebrate Oktoberfest.

We already have our own Ski Club brewmaster slaving away ... brewing-up a special 'bier' for the occasion.

Girls ... get your 'dirndls' organised (what do you mean you don't know what a 'dirndl' is ... go look it up on 'Google').

Guys ... get your 'lederhosen' sorted out (it's kinda-like a bulky leather jock-strap with braces ... and the braces have flowers!).

With a bit of luck it just might also be a skiing weekend on Matroosberg as well ... !!!

6 & 7 October 2012

Oktoberfest Matroosberg

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

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

