

MCSA 125-year Anniversary National Meet.
Southern CEDERBERG.
Friday 30 September – Sunday 9 October 2016.
V1, 7 April 2016

Convenor: Robert Breyer, MCSA Cape Town Section. Robert@cityrock.co.za; 084-651-3219

Dates: Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 9, 2016. Beginning of school holidays.
Venue: Central Cederberg (Sanddrif and Kromrivier)

Fri 30 Sep – Tues 4 Oct: Day trips around Sandrif & Kromrivier. Stay at a chalet, or camp.
Tues 4 Oct – Sun 9 Oct: Stay longer. Camping only, and some longer multi-day hikes.

There is no better place to host this meet than the magnificent Cederberg in October.

It's the October school holidays so this is a great family outing opportunity.

Overview: The Cederberg needs no introduction. But just in case: This mountain range offers phenomenal hiking, rock climbing, bouldering, trail running and mountain biking, just three hours from Cape Town.

The accommodation I have booked is very convenient for hiking and climbing. The hiking and climbing ranges from easy to extreme, perfect for any and all MCSAers from across the country, of all levels. Both venues offer chalets and camping.

The Cape Town section owns a great property called Breekrants, about 20 minutes drive from Kromrivier, one of the accommodation places.

There are some off-day activities too: wine tasting at Dwarsrivier. Really excellent wines, not to be missed. Buy some to take home! A new microbrewery at Kromrivier. An Observatory 20 minutes away. Maalgat, a great swimming hole for keeping cool on a hot or lazy afternoon.

1-2-5 CLIMB - 8 October: The Magaliesberg Section is doing an initiative to bag 125 peaks within the 1-16 October time frame. This is also part of the 125-year anniversary celebrations. The main peak-bagging day is Saturday, October 8. So this meet will probably help the Club gain a dozen or so peaks to add to the total.

Weather: October it starts getting warmer in the Cederberg. A day of late winter rain may still be possible, but is unlikely. Nights are still nice and cool. Perfect hiking and climbing weather!

http://www.yr.no/place/South_Africa/Western_Cape/Kromme_Rivier_Annex/

If you are flying in: Cape Town airport is about 3 hours from the Cederberg. If you rent a car, you don't need anything fancy in terms of ground clearance to get to either place. My Honda Civic has done it many times and it's ground clearance sucks.

Organised Meets:

We are going to organize various hiking and climbing meets over the weekend. A possible list of what to do follows. I am looking for meet leaders for all of them! Repeats possible too, e.g. we do Wolfberg Cracks twice.

Hiking:

Breekrants (Our very own MCSA property).

Wolfberg cracks (1/2 day, moderate).

Wolfberg Arch (3/4 day, strenuous).

Maltese Cross (1/2 day, moderate).

Stadsaal Caves. (Easy).

Lots Wife. (Easy).

Overnight hiking and climbing ideas:

Overnight to Tafelberg.

Sneeuberg (highest mountain in the Cederberg, 2028m). Possible overnight, or a big 1-day outing.

Longer stuff:

October 4-9: I am going to work on some longer multi-day hikes. This may require a trip leader or two.

Some SAMPLE itineraries from the 2007 Meet attached. Work in progress.

Rock Climbing:

There's enough in the area for a lifetime of climbing.

Moderate sport at Sanddrif Crag (grade 16-23).

Moderate to hard trad at Wolfberg Cracks (grade 12-29).

Sport climbing at Trujtkieskraal (sport, 16-29).

Rooiberg (moderate trad and sport).

Tafelberg trad (overnighter)

If you are keen to lead a climbing meet to any of the above, please contact me.

Some people think that we don't need to formally organize any meets to places that are so easy and obvious, but do keep in mind that this is a National Meet, so I am appealing to MCSA Western Cape members to step forward and show our visitors from other sections the magic of the Cederberg.

Mountain Biking:

I am also a keen mountain biker, and there is plenty of biking to do in the area. If there is sufficient interest I will organize a mountain bike ride or two. There are four nicely labeled routes from Sanddrif. So if you got a bike, bring it. Let me know.

Trail Running:

Any interest?

Accommodation:

I expect this to be a very popular meet.

So I have booked a lot of accommodation for us, in 2 locations.

Sanddrif and Kromrivier. 10 Chalets in each place.

Both places offer tons of camping too.

For chalets, contact me.

For camping, contact them directly.

Pricing per night:

Sanddrif: R850 per cottage for 4 people.

Kromrivier: R500 per cottage for 4 people.

Chalets:

Email me at Robert@cityrock.co.za to book. Payment in full to MCSA account. Will email you final amount and payment details once confirmed.

At this point I am only confirming bookings for the entire weekend, no partial weekend bookings. I have booked some chalets for Saturday 1 October arrival, and not Friday 30 September arrival. Please specify arrival date.

If you want a shorter stay do email me and I will try my best to accommodate people, but only if there are units unsold for the entire weekend.

If you want to stay longer.

Camping: Book with the venue directly please.

Sanddrif is R200 per site for 4 people, R50 extra per person, 8 people max.

Kromrivier Campsite – Electricity with private ablution. 2 - 4 People R400 per night. If more than 4 an additional R100 per person.

So where to stay?

My recommendation is that if you are primarily a climber, then book Sanddrif. If you are primarily a hiker, then go to Kromrivier. The two places are about 15 minutes apart.

A bit more about each venue:

Both places are on a river. Sanddrif has a great swimming spot. About 20 minutes down the river is Maalgat, a great rock pool jumping diving place. Sanddrif is nestled below the Wolfberg and so is obviously the starting point for the hike up to the Wolfberg Cracks.

Kromrivier is 15 minutes drive away, in a valley, it is close to the MCSA Breekkraants property. It is also closer to Trujikieskraal climbing.

Other Costs:

Most of the places require a hiking permit.

A Wild Card is very useful for day hikes, a separate overnight permit is required, I think it's R120 per person. <http://www.capenature.co.za/tariffs/>

Permits are available from CapeNature, Sanddrif or Kromrivier, depending on where you are going.

Wolfberg Arch is R100 per person. Am working on a detailed fee schedule.

Meals:

All meals will be self-catering. We may do a communal braai or two at the Lapa at Sanddrif, TBD.

Contact Details:

Convenor:

Robert Breyer

Cape Town GenCom member

Robert@cityrock.co.za

084-651-3219

Sanddrif:

Corrine Fortuin

<http://cederbergwine.com/sanddrif/>

<mailto:sanddrif@cederbergwine.com>

027 482 2825

Kromrivier:

Samanta

namapip@netactive.co.za

www.cederbergpark.com

022 125 0139

General Links:

<http://www.cederberg.co.za/index.html>

Books & Maps:

Peter Slingsby Cederberg Map:

<https://www.mountainmailorder.co.za/index.php? a=viewProd&productId=1433>

Climbing Guide Books, by Tony Lourens

Rooiberg

<https://www.mountainmailorder.co.za/index.php? a=viewProd&productId=2554>

Wolfberg:

<https://www.mountainmailorder.co.za/index.php? a=viewProd&productId=1633>

Tafelberg:

<https://www.mountainmailorder.co.za/index.php? a=viewProd&productId=1410>

I am sure the MCSA Cape Town Library has many books on the Cederberg. I will also dig out some Journal articles and circulate them over the next few months.

MCSA 125-year Anniversary Meet Booking Form:

Name: _____

MCSA Section: _____

of people in your party: _____

Sandrif or Kromrivier: _____

Arrival and departure date: _____

You plan to participate in: (hiking, climbing, cycling, wine tasting, observatory) _____

Interested in leading a hiking/climbing meet: Y/N _____

If yes, what: _____

Arrival date: _____

Departure date: _____

4- 9 October: Interested in one of the longer multiday hikes? Y/N _____

Interested in leading/helping a leader? Y/N _____

Please book camp site directly.

Chalet bookings only:

Sandrif or Kromrivier: _____

Arrival date: 30 Sep or 1 October: _____

Departure date 4 October.

If you want different dates, let me know and I will see what opens up: _____

of people: _____

Price per night for 4 people: R800 for Sanddrif, R500 for Kromrivier.

Fee Schedule

Place	Activity	Obtainable From?	Adult	Child
Maltese Cross	Hiking & Climbing	Dwarsrivier	60	35
Maalgat	Swimming & Lounging	Dwarsrivier	40	25
Wolfberg Cracks	Hiking & Climbing	Dwarsrivier	50	35
Wolfberg Arch & Cracks	Hiking	Dwarsrivier	100	60
Sanddrif MTB trails	Mountain biking	Dwarsrivier	40	25
Sanddrif Crag	Rock climbing		40	25
Overnight	Hiking	Cape Nature / Dwarsrivier	120	120
Truitjieskraal	Rock climbing	Cape Nature / Dwarsrivier	40	40
Stadsaal Caves	Hiking	Cape Nature / Dwarsrivier	20	20

I always get confused about the names: Dwarsrivier is the office name for Sanddrif.

SAMPLE Routes and Descriptions from Cederberg 22 to 29 September 2007 Meet *I need some leaders for this! Help!*

Option 1

A six day traverse from Pakhuispas (Northern Cederberg) to base camp at Kromrivier.

This route is for **the very fit**. You have to carry your tent, sleeping bag, food and clothes for all seasons. The route is generally on paths but some deviations are made. The highlight is Krakadouw Peak (1745m) with its magnificent views, rock formations, and maze of cracks. You will overnight at the top. From here a very interesting summit route is followed to Boontjieskloof, Skerpioenpoort, Crystal Pools and finishes with a final night on top to Tafelberg (1969m).

Day 0: Arrive. Book in. Over-night.

Day 1: Shuttle to Pakhuispas. Hike to Heuningvlei. Overnight.

Day 2: Climb Krakadouw Peak and over-night at the top.

Day 3: Hike to Boontjieskloof and over-night.

Day 4: Skerpioenpoort, Crystal pools and over-night at Engelsmanskloof

Day 5: Hike to Tafelberg and over-night on top

Day 6: Descend to Driehoek and over-night at base camp

Day 7: Break camp and home.

Option 2

A four-day circular route in the Southern Cederberg. You need to be **reasonably fit** for this route. You have to carry your tent, sleeping bag, food and clothes for all seasons.

The highlights of the route are Duiwelsgat with its indigenous trees. Sneeuberg (2027m) the highest peak in the Cederberg. One of the few places where you find the Snow Protea (*Protea Cryophila*). (Climbing Sneeuberg is optional). The Maltese Cross (a rock pillar of 20m with aF3 grading).

Day 0: Arrive. Book in. Over-night

Day 1: Shuttle to Uitkyk pass. Hike via Duiwelsgat to Sneeuberg hut.

Day 2: Climb Sneeuberg (Optional). Visit the Maltese Cross and sleep over at Bakleikraal.

Day 3: Follow the Hex River and camp at Kruis River

Day 4: Cross the mountain at Suurvlak se Kloof. End the hike at Algeria.

Get transport back to Base camp.

Day 5: A rest day. Visit Die Stadsaal and the Wine Cellar at Dwarsrivier.

Day 6: Day hike to Wolfberg Cracks and the Arch.

Day 7: Break camp and home.

Option 3

Two routes in Central Cederberg (3days) and Southern Cederberg (2days).

The highlights: Over-night on top of Tafelberg (1969m) with its bizarre rock formations and endless views. Crystal Pool via the beautiful Engelsmanskloof. Sneeuberg (2027m) highest peak in the Cederberg and one of the few places where you find the Snow Protea (*Protea Cryophila*). The Maltese Cross (a rock pillar of 20m with aF3 grading).

*Please note: There will be **exposure to heights** as you climb the last few meters of Table Mountain with the help of a chain and at the top of Sneeuberg (no chain)*

Day 0: Arrive. Book in. Over-night.

Day 1: Start at Welbedacht and ascend Tafelberg and over-night.

Day 2: Descend Tafelberg. Hike to Crystal Pool via sleepad en Engelsmanskloof. Over-night.

Day 3: Return to Kromrivier via Grootlandsvlakte on jeep track.

Day 4: A rest day. Visit Die Stadsaal and the Wine Cellar at Dwarsrivier.

Day 5: Start at the Oak Tree and hike to Sneeuberg Hut. Overnight.
Day 6: Climb Sneeuberg and visit Maltese Cross. Overnight at Base camp
Day 7: Break camp and home.

Option 5

Consists of two hikes with a rest day at Kromrivier base camp in between.

Highlights: Exploring the central range of the Cederberg for the first excursion starting and ending at Algeria. This is followed by a 'rest' day with a visit to the Stadsaal caves and San Rock paintings as well as supporting the excellent wine cellar at Dwarsrivier. The second hike utilizes the Breekkrants property of the MCSA as a base and some of the interesting peaks close by will be visited : Apex as well as Breekkrants Twins. You have to carry your tent for this option.

Day 0: Arrive. Book in. Over-night

Day 1: Start at Algeria and hike to Crystal pool via Middelberg

Day 2: Return to Algeria via Engelsmanskloof, descending at Sleeppad hut Grootland to Uitkyk with a final walk along the river to Algeria. The group will be fetched to return to Driehoek for the night.

Day 3: A rest day with options like visiting the Wine Cellar at Dwarsrivier and Die Stadsaal.

Day 4: Start at Kromrivier to hike into the Breekkranskloof (MCSA property). The camp will be setup close to the Breekkrans Twins.

Day 5: Climb Apex Peak as well as the Breekkrans Twins with daypacks.

Day 6: Return to Kromrivier where the group will be fetched to overnight.

Day 7: Break camp and home