

Editorial

Life is a permanent up and down. An this holds particularly true for any mountaineer and very much so also for their respective clubs all over the world, with the MCK not being an exception.

With the passing on of Peter Le Pelley a devoted mountaineer has rested his ups and downs on Earth. Certainly another down for the MCK losing an esteemed trustee. The personal tributes we are honored to publish in this newsletter are evidence for that.

However, we remember to be mountaineers and hence geared to always look and long upwards. There are new exciting milestones ahead for the Club. The move to the NSSAC premises is imminent and with it, there is e.g. space to bring into existence a new, large climbing wall. In a quite emotional AGM on March 30th last years committee handed over to a new and enthusiastic team (which I would also like to introduce in this edition of the Newsletter) to conclude a path that has been cleared in the past.

For me, it is a special honor in my third year at the MCK to have taken over from Alex Fikshan to bring to you all timely and interesting Information through this monthly newsletter. I thank you all for this opportunity and continue looking confidentially upwards together with you and our MCK.

Your Editor

Personal Tributes to Peter Le Pelley

by Ian Howell, (Honorary life member)

Although Peter was generally best known in Kenya as a trusted lawyer, his capacity for knowledge was bottomless. His personal library would do credit to the British Museum and the Alpine Club in London, and his erudition of science and natural history was amazing. Peters second love to climbing was ornithology of which he was an expert.

As one of its Trustees for several decades Peter was a stalwart of the Mountain Club and besides his invaluable advice on legal issues, which were always cropping up, he was famous for the extremely efficient committee meetings held during his chairmanship. Someone the club will be much poorer without.

Of the 4 good crags within an easy hour's drive (I hope they still are) of Nairobi, Lukenya was Peters favourite of which he was passionate about and what he considered to be the clubs most valuable possession.

I reckon his perfect Sunday was a morning's climbing at Lukenya doing routes such as "Fig Tree Wall", "Cemetery Corner", "Arthur's Horror" and his father's own route "Le Pelley's Variation", which is tough at its grade, Peter's favourite leads were "Boulder 3" and "The Cakewalk" (both of which he did with only 2 or 3 slings and none of these "new-fangled" nuts, chocks nor friends, which the rest of us today can't leave the ground without). After his climbing Peter would have a civilised picnic lunch with table, chairs and sandwiches followed by a little siesta. In the afternoon he would take to the bush with a pair of binoculars bird-watching, (Lukenya has been documented as having the highest variety of bird wildlife in any area close to Nairobi), and in his wanderings he would check out the demarcation posts on Lukenya's boundary.

Peter also loved exploring new crags, and "Embarabal" wouldn't be what it is today without him. This crag is one of the closest to Nairobi, but with the approach from the top it is difficult to investigate and thanks to Peter's determination, his "bush-bashing" skills and the "Le Pelley's descent" it now boasts some very exciting routes. Peter's own route there "Waterfall Chimney" is a classic Mild VS. Sadly today this crag is rather neglected, probably due to young climbers being put off by the bush-bash approach.

Peter was always a good friend and time spent with him was a privilege. His importance within the Mountain Club remains and his legacy and direction must not be forgotten.



by Gordon & Anne Davies

As the last MCK President (and its first Chairman!) I write to apologise for my absence from the Memorial Service for the late Peter LePelley on 17th April, as I am now resident in the UK. However my wife and I had the pleasure of staying with Peter during our Kenya holiday in February this year when visiting Nairobi. Peter was in good form and still setting off for work early every morning despite the horrendous traffic congestion. We were greatly shocked and saddened to hear of his sudden death only one month later.

Anne and I have known Peter (and his late wife Shirley) for some 50 years, and have many happy memories of safaris spent together throughout Kenya - many organised by the MCK. In later years Peter's power to weight ratio declined (a problem many of us faced) and his rock climbing activities were curtailed. Nevertheless he was an indefatigable walker and supporter of the MCK and helped with its organisation over many years.

One safari incident comes to mind, when we were camping somewhere near the Nguruman Hills beyond Magadi with the Le Pelleys. We were enjoying our tea when Peter calmly informed us that the back of our Toyota Land Cruiser was ablaze! A tea cloth drying next to an unguarded stove was the cause of the trouble. With Peter's help, and aided by a fire extinguisher that we fortunately had to hand, the fire was extinguished, but not without some collateral damage. Subsequently we made an insurance claim on a rather suspicious insurance company for - among other things - a fire damaged cold box. When asked for details of witnesses we were fortunately able to list Peter Le Pelley (a Kenya Commissioner for Oaths), which somewhat strengthened our claim!

Our thoughts are with Peter's son, Henry, on this sad occasion and we send him and other family members our sincere condolences.

The other use of GPSs

TRACKS 4 AFRICA – Mapping Africa one day at a time!

Behind T4A are a large community of eco-users from all over the world who share in four common things:

- a passion for Africa and its preservation, its awesome natural beauty and the diversity of its peoples.
- the need for a super accurate and reliable GPS navigation system to take you to the many interesting and fascinating destinations in Africa.
- the need for **information**. To learn new facts about old things. To change the way we interact with environment and **information** needed not to expose oneself, travel companions, assets and environment to unnecessary risks.
- the need to know where tourist dollars are spend, it '**must**' make a difference at ground zero, to the local peoples and to environment.

Using GPS devices, the Tracks4Africa (T4A) community when touring Africa do meticulous record keeping of their travels. From this huge repository of high quality GPS data we have created a super accurate GPS map called the T4A Map. But the T4A Map is more than that, it is the collective navigational experience of the T4A community over the past 8 years. It shows Africa the way it is and how it is constantly changing.

Professed by the late Jan Joubert, we believe that conservation of environmental resources depends on access to **information** and for the traveller to be **informed**. This is the 4th dimension of eco-travel and it is the focus of Tracks4Africa.

We invite everyone with a GPS to join this pan African mapping initiative aimed at creating a popular African GIS culture where everyone can give a contribution towards the re-mapping of Africa; to contribute by email your GPS track logs, waypoints, photos and **information** which will ensure eco-tourism that is safe and environmentally correct.

Please note that this initiative is not aimed at mapping major urban centres (often for cities very good quality data already exists) but rather to focus on rural and remote Africa.

Tracks4Africa also serves to impact positively on the small business initiatives (craft markets and community rest camps) of people in rural and remote parts of Africa.

Who is the T4A community? Do Join!

The T4A Data Community is the very foundation of Tracks4Africa. It is the source of GPS data, information and professional advice, guidance and inspiration. Embedded in the T4A Community is an eco-consciousness and a value system that practically rules everything.

Membership to T4A is open, free and voluntary. Recording GPS field data is a by-product of outdoor/leisure or business travel. Data must be collected and prepared according to T4A quality standards.

T4A data members actively collect and submit field data and information, and in return receive a monthly updated GPS map (Garmin units) called "T4A Maps Pro". It is **not** a free map. The purpose of this map is to check if data submissions have been processed correctly. It is a data quality correction tool and it is distributed **only** to active Data Members.

To sustain the Tracks4Africa mapping initiative the same GPS map called 'T4A Maps Pro' is released as a commercial mapping products three times a year. (Feb, Jun and Oct). The T4A Maps Pro is designed modular. There are 14 regions of Africa. These maps can be purchased on the website

http://www.tracks4africa.co.za/t4a_maps_pro.asp

If you would like to join the T4A Community, start by visiting <http://www.tracks4africa.com>

by Nikunj Shah (T4A Contributor)

source: T4A Website (with permission)



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PhotoCorner

We would all like to congratulate our Vice Chair, Alex Tibwitta on his successful wedding!



Would you like to help fill the photo corner?

This is intended to be a new category in the newsletter for members to share their best shots on a particular topic.

The theme for next month's picture corner will be:
**Have you done HAS (=High Altitude Swimming),
and can you prove it?**

Deadline for contributions identifying the protagonists and the location is
May 14, 2010

Ideas for new topics and pictures are always welcome by the Editor ([dietz.johannes \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:dietz.johannes@gmail.com))

Committee Corner

*Introducing the new 2010-2011
MCK Committee*

For all of you, who voted on the last AGM as a reminder and for all of you who did not, here as a newflash a short guide on how to recognize your committee members:



Ivy Mutiso
Chair



Alex Tibwitta
Vice Chair



Hiroko Sugimoto
Hon. Secretary &
Membership Secretary



Andy Gremley
Meets Coordinator



Rob Buzzard
Access Officer



Lawrence Ogutu
Treasurer



Robbert van der Steeg
Social Secretary



Miano Njoka
Webmaster



Elena Olivi
Library & Stores Officer



Johannes Dietz
Newsletter Editor

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Committee Corner

Book the Annual Dinner into your diaries!

It's only a few weeks away on June 5-6

This is a serious announcement. This year's Annual Dinner will take place on June 5th at the Island Camp (Ol Kokwe Island) in Lake Baringo. Late arrivals on the 4th are possible (http://www.islandcamp.co.ke/index_en.htm).

Robbert is to announce more details on booking (deadlines), prices and of course this year's Theme shortly by email and announcement at the club meets. We only did not want to miss out on this grand opportunity to already make you aware of this upcoming traditional event that cannot be missed!

Mark this weekend in your diaries and be alert for further details!

What do you need to lead a meet?

"All you need to have is an idea!" says Andy, our new meets coordinator. Having been with the club for a number of years, and having enjoyed a the benefit of several meets, discovering interesting and hidden treasures of Kenya, I had to admit that I had never led a meet myself. So if I was to do something against a decreasing number of meets and hence chances to meet more of my fellow club members I had to do something about it.

Now the thing that had kept me reluctant of making the move were the likes of: "Do I know enough of the place where I want to go? Do I have the time to organize all that ahead of time? What am I getting myself into?" And this is exactly the point where Andy came in.

He did encourage me to go ahead and learn; to go ahead and learn together with the other participants. Most important would be to have an idea, go out and make sure you share your enthusiasm with fellow club members who are willing to join and who should be aware of not having to leave everything up to the meets organizer. It is meant to be team work from a certain point on. This sounded reasonable. I was comfortable with that.

Besides, if you have an idea, and not entirely sure on how to go about it you are not left alone, but always more than welcome to contact the meets coordinator for advice and assistance drawing on his endless experience if you are in doubt. Or just come to the next club night and have a chat with all the other members and more often enough they'll be able to team you up with someone who has done a similar tour before!

There are also resources on the web that can help you in the planning and organization:

General Guidelines:

[http://www.mck.or.ke/forms/How to Organize MCK Meets and Trips.pdf](http://www.mck.or.ke/forms/How_to_Organize_MCK_Meets_and_Trips.pdf)

And the liability waiver form:

[http://www.mck.or.ke/forms/MCK Indemnity General Trip.pdf](http://www.mck.or.ke/forms/MCK_Indemnity_General_Trip.pdf)

So thanks Andy, and now everyone is welcome to join my first meet, taking on Lake Hoebnel on Mt. Kenya on May 7/8/9!



Bring life into the Newsletter!

Urgently seeking YOUR contribution

You may have noticed that this newsletter, sadly, is completely bare of any trip reports. None of these exciting stories of our fellow club members telling us about their ups and downs, about how exciting their meets turned out to be.

It is a challenge to change this and I would like to once more urge all of **you**, to file your contribution to resuscitate this newsletter, let's bring it back to life. I will be happy to ask any meet leader to submit his or her experiences, although I believe that it does not have to be exclusively up to the meet leader to do that. Everyone is eligible. Also stories from past meets are of interest.

Please note: Deadline for the next NL is May 14, so bring it on!

Ever needed a place to stay on Mount Kenya?

The MCK Teleki Valley Rescue Hut Policy

Have you been to Mount Kenya? To those who have ever been there and stayed at MCK's rescue hut in the Teleki Valley just behind (or under) Mackinder's Camp and for all others who have not yet but would like to:

The key can be obtained by club members at the Clubhouse for a deposit. All other details and procedures are regulated by the newly revised **Use Policy** which is effective immediately and available at the Club house or on the MCK web site at:

[http://www.mck.or.ke/forms/MCK Rescue Hut Use Policy Apr2010.pdf](http://www.mck.or.ke/forms/MCK_Rescue_Hut_Use_Policy_Apr2010.pdf)

Enjoy the Mountain and karibu Rescue Hut!

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Meets Calendar

May 1-2 (Sat-Sun): Ndeiya

Camping, climbing, bouldering, mountain biking -- something for everyone. Meet @ Java-Dagoretti Corner, Sat 1st @ 7.30am for 8am departure. Bring firewood as there's very little to be found (vegetation in the area is mostly low Acacia thornbush and grass). No water on site, so bring enough (suggest 5 liters drinking per person per day, plus some for washing). Camping ground is among the boulders on the flats at the base of the slope leading to crags. Not much shade @ camping area so bring plenty of sunscreen, hat -- the usual sun protection. Also bring pangas, axes, brush loppers, gloves -- tools to clear round the boulders -- as has been several years since access to these stones was opened. Those w/crash pads/mattress-- bring them for bouldering.

Organizer: Rob Buzzard - 0722335314;
[rbuzzard2000 \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:rbuzzard2000@yahoo.com)

Directions for those that come later: From Dagoretti Corner to Ngong town, right at t-junction in town, 200+ meters then right again. This road takes you out of town and stay left, descend the escarpment. Once at base of escarp, travel about 3-3.5 km to another road junction at church and shops; turn right. Proceed about 10-11 km and take right fork before road crosses a dry ravine (there is a signpost marking road construction at this right turning). Continue along valley bottom about 5-6 km until Ndeiya cliffs appear on left. Watch out for cairn and tire tracks on left where you leave road for campsite (site is about 300 m from road and might be barely visible among the boulders).

May 7-9 (Fri afternoon-Sun): Mt Kenya - Lake Hoehnel

Hiking and camping. Meet at Java House (Limuru Rd./UN Avenue) to leave through Kiambu/Ruiru at 13:00 for a 13:30 departure. Idea is to arrive to Met Station (Naro Moru Route) before dark and stay overnight in the bandas. Ascend to Lake Hoehnel (S0.181554°, E37.287734° -WGS84; about 4,200 m asl) which is crossing south across the ridge instead of crossing the river just before Mackinder's Camp (6-8 hrs). Peaks are hopefully visible either on the way, not from the camp site though. Pitch camp for the night at this beautiful lake from which the Nairobi River originates. On the next morning, weather and motivation permitting an excursion to Castle Rock is possible. Return in the late morning to drive back to Naro Moru.

What you will need: Your hiking gear, preferably waterproof boots and gators for the boggy sections, raingear, hiking poles for weak knees, your tent, cooker and food. Water is available (if you don't trust it bring purification or plenty of fuel to boil it). In case you are planning on a porter, bring a backpack for him and a daypack for yourself. Anything else you may need for acclimatizing.

The condition of the road to Met Station has reportedly deteriorated, so for access strong 4x4 vehicles should be used. Be prepared to also use and camp on an alternative route in case Met Station will not be accessible.

Deadline for registration is the MCK club night on **Tuesday, May 4th**. We should then address issues on car and tent pooling, food arrangements and porter requirements.

Organizer: Johannes Dietz - 0735107903;
[dietz.johannes \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:dietz.johannes@gmail.com)

May 15/16 (Sat/Sun): Essakut

Hiking (partly rather steep). More details to come, also on whether it would be Saturday or Sunday. so stay tuned...

Organizer: Ivy Mutiso - 0733600254;
[imutiso \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:imutiso@yahoo.com)

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