

Editorial

A Turkish proverb says: "Before you love, learn to run through the snow leaving no footprint." It has all we need: Love and Snow. Alas, I did not find this by googling 'love, snow' it was one of 16 million results when googling 'footprint'! Granted, the advice given may be futile *per se*, even more so in the Kenyan context, where the last remaining snow may well have vanished soon enough: however, having left footprints itself. Looking at these marvelous, U-shaped, glacio-genic valleys that take the hiker up Mt. Kenya for example, how more beautiful can a natural footprint be?

The stark contrast to that may be the hiker him- or herself. Despite the hiker's golden rule "Take only memories, leave nothing but footprints." ascribed to the Indian Chief Seattle, the impact of humans on the nature and wildlife these days sadly goes way beyond the mere footprints. Reports have been of wildlife being harassed in their habitat by indecent approaches by (non-climbing) tourists in Kenya.

More disturbing even than a tourist approaching and at some point leaving again is what's left behind rather permanently, right next to the footprints. Or why is it that every year the Mt. Kenya cleanup exercise (the next one is scheduled for November) yield numerous bags of garbage collected along the main hiking routes? Camping can be the most sincere and intense form of experiencing the wild – but does the wild also have to experience you, even once you're gone? Much has been said, but biodegradables, that can't be taken out, ought to be buried and all the other waste packed. After all, having that in mind while shopping for your goodies for the weekend can reduce the load considerably. Absolutely no excuse can be found for the behavior observed at MCK's own property of Lukenya (see pictures on the right) where loads of dishes are dumped basically by the roadside instead of chucking them back into the car!

It goes without saying for the responsible club member (please also encourage others to do so): **Don't forget to take your litter back!** It is so much easier than running through the snow leaving no footprints!
Happy Camping! *Your Editor*

Halfway there...

by Ivy Mutiso

Greetings from the committee of the Mountain Club of Kenya!

It has been a while since we as your committee of MCK have given you members a little chat on what's been going on behind the scenes. We have been in office now for a little over half a year now and our work as a committee has been busy seeking ways of upping the stances of club. Additionally, we have been actively moving from our old home at Wilson Airport to the new location at the dive club. There have been other great developments that will be highlighted later.

...But first of all as a little housekeeping:

Our long and very active member, Rob Buzzard, will be sadly leaving Kenya in October this year. Besides the fact that he'll be missed enormously, his contribution to the club, would you believe, has been close to ten years! Just like a good wine, his time with the club has only just matured to a level that we will miss even that last drop! I sure will miss him and was happy to have served very briefly as a member when he was chairman, and currently we in the 2010 committee have had the honour of his energy as access officer! As part of his relentless engagement, Rob managed to keep the pressure on for a lease renewal of the old MCK Wilson Airport facility. He emphasizes that it was a team effort and indeed, recently MCK's 5-year effort was crowned with success: we have the lease granted for another 25 years!

With that said – we would like to appeal to anybody who would want to fill the boots of such an accomplished mountaineer to step up and express interest to the committee until October 21st as this seat will become vacant in two weeks time? Even I would find it hard to take up the task. However, currently in MCK and all the work still ahead of us, this is just the right time to come in and continue in this dynamic committee. We have so many opportunities we seek to explore, and that goes particularly for the Access Officer (AO).



So here's a few tasters of what the AO may look into:

Lukenya – what/how we can take advantage of this ideal location offering some of the best rock climbing in Africa? In fact, did you know that Lukenya has been widely written as possessing the best crags with an all-in-one rock climbing experience. For those that haven't been there of late, you will be amazed to find fantastic sports routes, with the traditional options widely available. This is all I will say for now – the rest will just have to wait and see, so watch this space!

Mt. Kenya – we are currently exploring ways to collaborate with KWS on annual clean-up efforts on the mountain. With this in mind, our Teleki Rescue Hut has huge potential that is under utilized! Beside that, did you know there is a second MCK hut on the mountain? The AO will be working closely the KWS head mountain guide on some really exciting avenues that will benefit both parties!

Please continue reading on page 7 ...



Fool's Errand: Making it to the summit of Oldonyo Orok

by Miano Njoka



Oldonyo Orok also known as Namanga Hill has been an enigma of sorts to MCK members for the last couple of years. We had heard stories of members getting lost and having to hack their way thorough dense bush to make it back down. Local guides were notorious for insisting on knowing the location of water on the hill only to lead their followers to sun stricken misery and so when we set out, it was a fool's errand, we were only half expecting to make it to the summit.

Our group of three left Nairobi on Friday evening hoping to make it to Namanga before dark but it was not to be. We were swallowed by the Nairobi traffic monster and spent two hours in its belly, inching from one roundabout to another. We finally arrived at Namanga at 10pm and we were graciously hosted by Dickson, who was introduced to us by fellow MCK member who has contacts in the area.

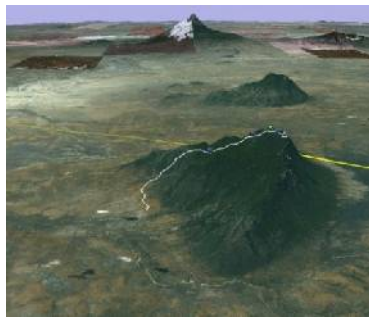


We woke up bright and early on Saturday morning to a lovely breakfast of tea and pancakes, after which Dickson introduced us to our guide and porter for the hike. They quoted an extravagant fee for their services, we pointed out that we only wanted to hike up the mountain, not buy it. After endless haggling and their refusal to yield we agreed to their price but only after they assured us that they knew their way to the summit.

The first leg of the journey involved first traversing the Maasai grassland to the southern ridges of the hill where we were to start our ascent. We walked for about 45 minutes between manyattas and shambas and young boys herding cattle to the second southern most ridge of the hill and made our way up. We had a break not long after and while we had not gone very high we were afforded great views of Maparasha Hills, Amboseli, Kilimanjaro and the plains below. The weather was great for hiking, partly cloudy, and we kept a steady pace. As we ascended the grass and bush got thicker and eventually gave way to a forest. One in our party spotted a green mamba in a tree which, thankfully, slithered away quickly.



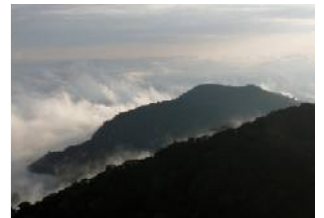
The path the guides led us on is the one they used in times of great drought to get to pastures higher up and it was overgrown in some parts from disuse. Trees along the path had had a bit of their bark cut off with a machete to mark the path. At about midday, after walking for four hours, we heard the sweet, dulcet sound of water rushing down a stream ahead of us. The stream had crystal clear water and we learnt that it is dammed downstream to supply water to Namanga town. We swam, filled our water bottles to the brim and had lunch while sitting on the rocky banks.



The path became more and more overgrown as we made our way up the mountain and we had to stop frequently to clear the brush. There were buffalo tracks and dung on the path and the guide at times made noise by tapping his

machete and spear together so as not to surprise any buffaloes nearby with our sudden appearance. After four more hours of hiking through the forest we made it to the top and it was a sight to behold.

There was a grassy meadow with a stream running through it that appeared to have come straight from a fairy tale book. To the south Mt. Meru rose majestically from the plains, to the west, savannah stretched as far as the eye could see and to the south-east, Mt. Kilimanjaro covered with clouds. We set up camp and after a short walk around, made supper and went to sleep.



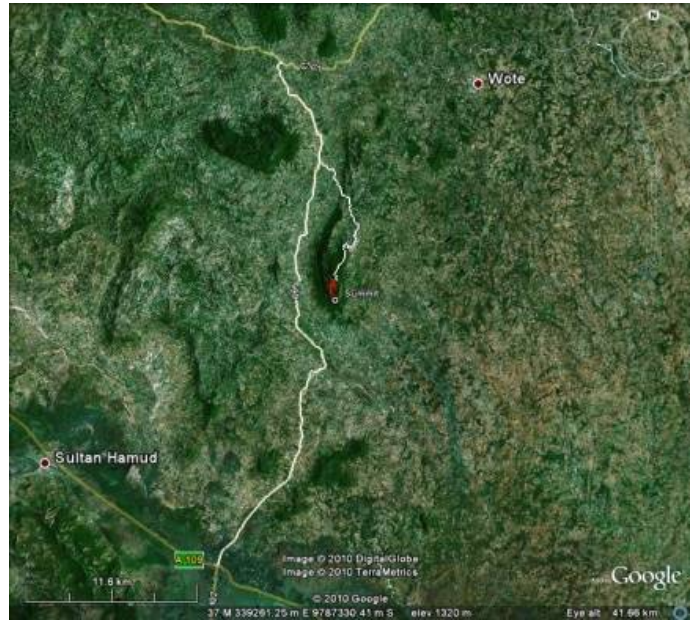
At some point in the night, one in our party was woken up by the sound of buffaloes drinking at the stream. Frightened, he yelled and woke everyone up. We were some distance from the stream and the guides assured him that the buffaloes would not interrupt our peace but he would have none of it. He switched tents and went to sleep with the guide and porter for in his words, "they had spears and knew how to use them".

In the morning, after some good natured banter about events of the previous night, we walked to the various peaks of the hills. It was cloudy and very, very cold. The guide took us to where a marker for the highest point once stood when he was a child that had since been vandalised. KWS had also set up a hut there but all that was left of it were some iron sheets. Around 11am we went back to camp and made an uneventful descent, down the same route we had used the day before.

The Quest for the Mysterious MCK Rest House on Nzau

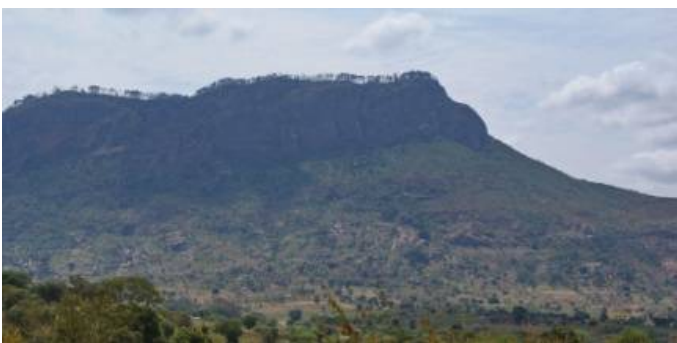
by Hiroko Sugimoto

I have been reading about Nzau or the 'Nose' in the *Mountains of Kenya* book where it indicates that the MCK once had a rest house there. Finally, I decided to act to organize an MCK trip in its search. On July 25, a group of ten departed from Nairobi in three cars. At Emali we turned off to the left from the road to Mombasa (North). We passed a few villages, schools and churches and kept going. None of the participants had been there before. (Later, Nikunj informed me that the last MCK trip with this destination was probably 12 years ago, no wonder.) After another hour's drive, we finally found the turn that is described in the book. Since some of the members brought climbing gear, we decided to drive up to the top looking for the possibly to do some climbing. Another 50 minutes of steep uphill, we came across a fork. Right seemed to lead up to the top. We took the left path believing to lead to the MCK rest house -according to the book. Nearly at the end of the road, a big fallen tree blocked the passage forcing us to abandon the cars and starting to walk. The short walk led us to an open grassland where we discovered a USAID sign but no trace of an MCK rest house was found. Yet, this spot area would make for some good camping as there is a clear water source nearby. As usual in the hill walking in Kenya, several kids with dogs showed up and followed us. And as usual in the MCK trip, these kids became the local guides and lead us to what is considered as the top of the nose (rock). After the photo-shooting sporting the inevitable Kenyan flag followed by a short lunch break, we returned to the main path (probably the right path from the fork leading up to where we were). Soon this trail was



overgrown by tall dense grass leaving us no way around. Again we were guided by the local kids who directed us back to our cars. On the way back, a forestry officer who we had met near the top took us to the last remains of the hut near the water source which had burnt down not so long ago. According to the officer, the building was hit last year when the area was scorched. And indeed, many burnt trees in the vicinity stood witness. Was this the mysterious MCK rest hut?? If so, it looked miserable to see these abandoned remains. However, the mystery increased when we were guided to yet another ruin, a red brick house on an open ground. Hmmm, this looked (and hopefully was) more likely to be the imaginary MCK rest house with a chimney and a small garden. Without the chance to prove this, we took several photos for further forensic investigations in Nairobi. On the way back, instead of heading straight to Emali, we chose the main road towards Wote town. Lucky enough, this route soon linked up with a tramac road to Machakos town reducing the return trip to only 2.5 hours compared to 4 hours through Emali.

It is recommended that climbers make this into a weekend trip in order to get some climbing in.



Charging the Elgon

by Ivy Mutiso

It was an interesting experience going up Mt. Elgon. There was a great plan drawn-out in the new MCK room at the dive club a few weeks before the intended date. The lucky few that signed-up for it didn't know what they were getting themselves into. In fact I too was blissfully unaware of the challenges that lay ahead, unaware (to my defence) that August through to December is peak rain season on the mountain!

We left Nairobi on Thursday August 26th, heading to our first night on this expedition at Kembu Cottages (see on the right). We were a group of four and had booked ahead (not necessary) for a cottage with self-catering facilities. It is a charming place, with beautiful lawns and rolling cool fields with cattle. We stayed the night and after a good breakfast, loaded the car and left this pristine place for the rough road ahead. The plan was to meet with the other group of three on the junction of Kabarnet road.

All was going to plan and we had a good chat on the side of the road and headed towards Baringo. At Marigat we turned westwards onto the wonderful winding Marich Pass road. This was fantastic and at one point the mist was so thick despite the time of day, at visibility of 5 meters or less. This was on the descent into Kerio Valley. For some people it was a reminder of the cool hillside roads up to a peak and winding the same way down. We crossed the Kerio river and heard tales from the local herds boys of people being taken by a huge croc! We left this serial valley to start the ascent and over towards Kitale. This town has changed since I last visited (long time back) and sadly just over crowded with too many lawless people hanging around! We made a quick stop for supplies as we were conscientious of the time as we had to get to camp on Mt. Elgon before sunset to set up camp and prepare dinner.



At the park entrance we met a tour van that got stuck and actually made it very clear we would not make it beyond a few 100 meters up the slope! Little did he know he was talking to a team of mountaineers and very cool headed 'Rhino-Charge' supporters (at least 3 of us could boost our *in*experiences in pushing)! Anyway we all paid up and the ranger advised us to take the best camp (forgotten the name), that was a few meters up the road. It was a good choice and great location. Dinner was quickly whizzed up and we settled for a cool night under the stars. Some found it rather difficult to stay seated and opted to take to the ground (see on the right).

Next morning, bright and early, we were well prepared to drive the odd distance to the road head where we would start the hike to the peak. At least that was the plan, but the road condition was not what we anticipated. Don's car got totally stuck and our first casualty of the day was recorded! We all piled into our Toyota Prado and danced all the way for a few 100 meters where the serious pushing started. For the rest of the way, nobody sat in the car except the driver! It was push, run, push, run, push, etc! This Elgon Charge started to take serious shape...



The road was a pool of mud. Not good and certainly time consuming. We had made the decision that if it got to 2 pm and we hadn't got to the road head, we'd abandon the drive for the day and go back to camp. It took about 6 hours of pushing and walking to move 300 meters up the mountain and we were another 500 meters before the road head, with a hike of about two hours to the top! So looking at the odds, the second casualty of the group took root. We had a meal of warm soup and sandwiches on the side of the road and started our descent. The downward stretch was even scarier than going up, and it took a lot of concentration for Henrik to get us back down.



On the way down, we stopped at one of the numerous water falls and visited a deep cave. This was not the famous Elephants caves that we were sure to visit the next day, however there were bats and beautiful formations inside the cave. After retrieving Don's car, we headed back for a well deserved drink!

On the next day, three of the group had to leave. The rest of us set out on foot this time and hiked up to the famous Kitum cave. It took a while to find the place, but good old GPS helped and what a great sight it was. The Elephants apparently walk this truly narrow, wet and steep ledge to access the cave to dig out the lime salt in the cave walls. Using our head lamps we went into the cave and saw evidence of tusk marks along the cave walls and inside such narrow and high seclusions it would be amazing how these huge mammals could get inside, find their way and do this without falling over!

We got back in time to have lunch and loaded up and left for Nairobi. We left behind a promise to come back to hike to the summit, *in the dry season!*



Longing for Longido

by Hiroko Sugimoto



Longido is the mountain in Tanzania just across the border from the Kenyan town of Namanga. When driving from Namanga to Arusha, you can't but notice this prominent rock face on the left. It has been one of the peaks on my wish list of mountains. The trip was organized by Ivy. A group left Nairobi Saturday morning and arrived at Longido village where we stayed at the cultural village for over night. The camp manager who looked like the current Kenyan prime minister told us the walk will take 6 hours to the top. Next day, the three of us left the camp at 6:30 with our Masai guide, taking the pass northwest and passing a community water point. Soon the trail became narrow and steep. We kept



climbing through the initially rocky path to the cooler part in the natural forest with only two short water stops. Since it is a forest reserve, buffalos would be around, our Masai guide kept banging the trees with his panga to make some noise. The top is open tussock grassland where the trail cuts across to the rock face on the northern side for another 45 minutes of walk. The top rock face from which you can see the road down in the plains is some 15 m high, the last part of it needs some scrambling. From the top, the view is magnificent with 360 degrees. (At this time, Don thought the hill top on the southern side of the range is higher than where we were.) During had lunch we noticed the chill from the combination of sweat and wind that made us decide to return as early as 12:30. So what comes up, must come down. After a strenuous climb of about 4 hours this meant that a strenuous down hill was awaiting us. "Did I really climb up this steep hill?" I kept asking myself while sliding and falling down the slope.



Yes, Longido is steep, my GPS confirmed a 1,000 m climb in four hours. An alternative approach to this would be to camp in the mid point, where the trail from the camp site merges near the rock face. Because we had chosen to descent quickly, by 2pm we were at the village camp and headed back to Nairobi after a short break.



Only later we found out the rock face we reached was indeed not the highest peak. Instead, the real top peak is on the southern side of the hill. Don would later admit that this was also his impression but that he didn't want to share this suspicion with us because he was already tired. Top peak or not, we all resorted to severely sore muscles for at least one week as proof of our achievement.

Beginning to Climb in Lukenya

by Any Gremley

The Beginner Climb turned into a mixed bag event. Seasoned climbers appeared early and set up top-ropes on Boulder by 10AM before most of the aspiring rock-jocks arrived. After a quick overview by yours truly, the pseudo-instructor, the novices crawled and scraped their way to the tops of the three usual routes. Undoubtedly, the successful ascents have won accolades from their horizontal-lubbing friends after later sending emails boasting of their rock-climbing adventure on a face rated as "very difficult".

Immediately after the climbing overview, the magendo instructor charged off and joined a party of beacon-seekers led by techno-geeks Nikunj and Johannes while _____ (none of whom seemed to possess any more qualifications) took over the class. When the fence-walkers returned with tell-tale wait-a-bit scars, the beginners has advanced to belaying and given a tour of the anchor points on top. Meanwhile, Geraldine set up a top rope on Tramlines to accommodate those who wanted the word "severe" to appear in the email sent out to friends.

It appears that several participants were inducted into the vertical world and have presumably already placed their gear orders on E-bay. At the very least, daily fees were paid, white skin turned red, and foot-fungus was restored into the club's shoes.

Lukenya neighbor, Sandy Gascoigne, dropped in for a visit to discuss the upcoming visit from world-renowned mountaineer and explorer, Satyabratia Dam. Stay tuned for more details of this.

**Bring a friend, be scary, but definitely:
Can't afford to miss it!**

**This year's Halloween Party at
the MCK Clubhouse**



HALLOWEEN PARTY

AT THE

MCK CLUBHOUSE AT

WILSON AIRPORT

SATURDAY NIGHT 30 OCTOBER

FROM 9 TILL DAWN

ENTRANCE 500 BOB AT THE DOOR 400 MEMBERS

THEME:

BE SOMEONE SCARY

GET INTO THE SKIN OF

MEDUSA, STALIN,

JOHN SILVER OR

AND BE

THAT PERSON FOR THE NIGHT

PRIZES TO BE WON FOR:

BEST DRESS

& BEST ACTOR

DRINKS AND FOOD ON SALE

WWW.MCK.CO.UK FOR DIRECTIONS OF LOCATION

Would you like to help fill the photo corner?

Pictures are always welcome by the editor ([dietz.johannes \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:dietz.johannes@gmail.com))

Committee Corner

...continued *Halfway there...*

New Climbing Wall and Bouldering Cave – new markets for the AO to explore.

Apart from taking some of your precious time, the seat of Access Officer is a great reward to explore those areas listed above, as well as many others. All that will be made known to any candidate wishing to apply for the seat. This seat will be for the next five months and until the next AGM which will be called sometime in March 2011. We don't ask for much, but your valuable time, proactiveness and willingness to work with others in team-sprite. Oh, of course you do need to be a paid-up member! That's all! Is that too much to ask? As I mentioned before this is a very exciting time in the history of MCK due to the big activities and exciting developments taking place - the new facilities being built at our new home, and so many new things being done to improve your club!

Climbing Courses

How does a beginner go intermediate?

On November 20-21st another intermediate climbing course is coming up and after the overwhelming response for the beginners climb one would expect incredible turnout as well. Nevertheless, the leap maybe daunting to some newly baptized rock fanatics.

The other day, some of those new crag disciples communicated the desire for further tutoring on their newly acquired skills. A very valid and commendable request to foster their transformation to intermediate climbers.

Don't ask what your club can do for you, ask what you can do together with your club...! Given experiences from the past, however, it appears reasonable to turn traditions inside-out and go user oriented. In a club of all mature members we feel that it would safe us a lot of disappointment if those interested can whip up a critical mass, decide on a date and then request for some guiding assistance from the more experienced members, or include them into their planning right from the start. To that end, we are in the process of setting up a beta-version of an easy to use mailing list that can serve exactly this purpose. Look out for the announcement once it's in place!

In the meantime, your direct contact for turning ideas into meets or even courses is Andy: [andy \(at\) pharosarchitects.com](mailto:andy(at)pharosarchitects.com)

On the Sidelines

Our committee Chair, Ivy arrived at the summit of marriage together with Henrik on September 25th. Congratulations!



One step ahead on the next summit is our Social Secretary, Robbert, who became the proud dad of a baby girl Gilana on September 1st. Congratulations also to him and his family!



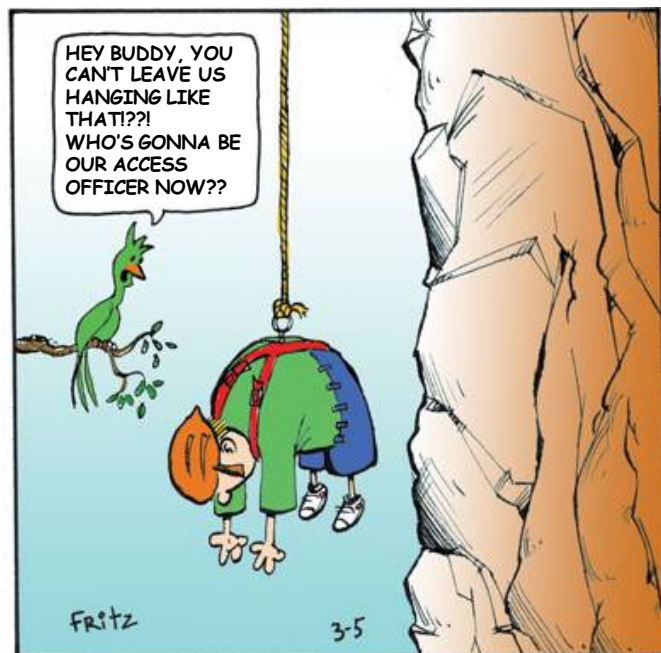
From Maxi Dash to Mini Dash

Downsizing at the MCK?

Unfortunately, a few of you may have noticed, the 2010 Maxi Dash Winner for our scoreboard will remain undetermined. Time to give up? No way!

The echo has been still large and the young climbing community seems to be resprouting. Hence, time to go back to the roots. It has therefore been the decision to hold a Mini Dash climbing competition on January 22nd in Lukenya, which shall help invigorating the community and give the cracks of the crags time over the campfire at night to agree on the next time and venue for the –you guessed it: Maxi Dash 2011.

Karibuni!



NOT an Obituary

Robert Buzzard is leaving the committee to support (found?) the mountain club of Ghana...

- Joined MCK in 2002
- Committee Member in 2003 (Access Officer)
- Vice Chair 2004
- Chair 2005, 2006
- Committee Member in 2009 (Access Officer)
- Has helped out on various sub-committees (Lukenya, Clubhouse move, Lease renewal, etc.)
- Contributed tirelessly and ultimately successfully on the clubhouse lease renewal
- Always loved leading trips esp. to Northern Kenya and Tsavo



- Eager to help out at beginners and intermediate climbs

Meets Outlook

Oct 17 (Sun) Ngong Hills: Hiking

Meet at Doorman's in Karen at 9:00 am

Contact Ivy [imutiso \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:imutiso@yahoo.com)

Oct 30 (Sat-Sun) Halloween Party: from 9:00 pm - late at the MCK Clubhouse at Wilson Airport

Nov 6-7 (Sat-Sun) Entasopia River (Nguruman

Escarpment): Hiking

Contact Miano [mianonjoka \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:mianonjoka@gmail.com)

Nov 12-14 (Fri-Sun) Ololokwe: Hiking & Camping

Ololokwe (2000m) is located to the North East of Laikipia, in Samburu District. Panoramic vistas stretch across the arid plains to Mount Kenya and the Mathews range. The summit of Ololokwe has high altitude moist forest with giant cycads and superb bird life including Kenya's largest nesting colony of Ruppell's vultures.

Leave Nairobi on Friday at 12 noon (no later) heading to Ololokwe base camp. (> 5h). Pitch camp and stay the night. Next day, hike with guide (> 3h) to the camp site on top, pitch, leave our gear and continue to the peak rewarding ourselves with the stunning view. After the night at the camp we return down Sunday and drive back to Nairobi (possibly including a lunch stop at Trout Tree restaurant near Naru Moro). **Costs:** Conservation fees: Citizen/Residents – Ksh. 1,600 per person per night, Non-residents – Ksh 3,200 per person per day. Camping fees: Citizen/Residents: Ksh 800, Non-Residents: Ksh.1,600. Those are the two fees that need to be paid cash. There will be additional costs, food (if we share) and fuel (if car pooling). These fees do not include any tips you may wish to give the guide. We can arrange porters if you wish and will get a quote for that later, however as it's only one night camping away from the car, the load shouldn't be too excessive for each person to carry. They will also provide an armed game scout for security and there will be a guard to watch over the cars.

Bring tent, sleeping bag/mat, water (for drinking only, cooking and washing will be provided), food and trail-mix. Also sunscreen, hat and camera. Also bring proof of residency.

Meeting point: TBA once numbers are known.

Deadline for confirmation is Friday November 5th 2010.

Contact Ivy [imutiso \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:imutiso@yahoo.com) or Johannes [dietz.johannes \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:dietz.johannes@gmail.com)

Nov 20-21 (Sat-Sun) Lukenya: Intermediate Climbing

Contact Andy [andy \(at\) pharosarchitects.com](mailto:andy@pharosarchitects.com)

Nov 26-28 (Fri-Sun) Aberdares: Hiking

This will be an adventurous/exploratory hike, it will probably not be "A walk in the Park", at least not literally anyway!

Friday night we camp at foot of Elephant, Saturday night we camp in the salient. Plan is to exit onto the road heading from Mutubio gate to Fishing lodge. KWS fees will have to be pre-arranged!

Contact Alex [alexibwitta \(at\) alspride.com](mailto:alexibwitta@alspride.com)

Nov (to be announced) Mount Kenya Clean-Up

Dec 10-13 (Sat-Mon) Ol Doinyo Lengai/Engare Sero

Some of the best hiking in Eastern Africa. Scaling the region's most active volcano at night and enjoying the stunning views over the Lake Natron are together with the breathtaking walks discovering the gorge of the Engare Sero River.

Tanzania visa required!

Contact Johannes [dietz.johannes \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:dietz.johannes@gmail.com)

Christmas/New Years: Ndotos with Ivy and Henrik

Contact Ivy [imutiso \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:imutiso@yahoo.com)

Christmas/New Years: Kilimanjaro with Lawrence

Contact Lawrence [logocheche \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:logocheche@yahoo.com)

Jan 22 (Sat) Mini Dash: Climbing competition at Lukenya and camping

Contact Andy [andy \(at\) pharosarchitects.com](mailto:andy@pharosarchitects.com)

Jan 29-Feb 05 (Sat-Sat) Kilimanjaro / Marangu Rt.

(TZ), Tanzania visa required, details on the right

Contact: [gathoni.wamacharia \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:gathoni.wamacharia@gmail.com)

Kilimanjaro with Gathoni: January 29th to February 5th 2011

Gathoni is climbing Kilimanjaro in **6 days / 5 nights** in January / February and is offering MCK members to join. For coordination purposes please let him know the people interested, but any payments have to be made directly to Honest. The latest date by which confirmations are accepted and deposits paid is **November 10, 2010**.

- Meeting point in Nairobi is at Silver Springs Hotel on January 29, 2011 at 7.15am to board Impala Shuttle to Moshi.
- Meeting point in Moshi (in case you're going on your own) is the Kilimanjaro Safari Lodge in Moshi on January 29 from 6pm.
- Price: Kenya Residents / Non Residents: \$1,250; EA Citizens: \$550 (excluding overnight at Kilimanjaro Safari Lodge)

Day 1: (January 30) Moshi to Mandara Huts (2750m), via Marangu Gate. Walking time: 3-4 h. Climb: 950 meters. All meals and drinks included. After breakfast you will be picked from the hotel to Marangu Gate for permit. Gate formalities take about 0.5-1 hour and then you start trekking after introduction to your porters from the chief guide. A walk through the fascinating rain forest from 1800m to the Mandara Hut.

Day 2: Mandara Huts to Horombo Huts (3780m) Walking time: 5-6 h, Climb: 1030m. All meals and drinks included. After breakfast we ascend through rolling alpine meadows of giant heather trees. Along this leisurely trail we can enjoy the flora and views of Mawenzi and Kibo peaks. A packed lunch is served on the way to Horombo Hut.

Day 3: Horombo Huts to Zebra rocks. Acclimatization day (max. 3959m). After breakfast it's a short day of walk for acclimatization to the beautifully rocks colored with black and white strips on the way to Mawenzi peak and back to Horombo Huts.

Day 4: Horombo Huts to Kibo Huts (4700m). Walking time: 5-6 h. Climb: 920 m. All meals and drinks included. After a good night's rest we continue past the cactus-like ground cover and the "last water" stream and move onto the lunar landscape on the saddle between Kibo and Mawenzi to Kibo Hut.

Day 5: Summit day. Walking time: 14-16 h. Climb: +1195m / -2215m. The start is in the early morning hours to reach Gillman's Point (5680m) before dawn. Witness the most spectacular and unforgettable sunrise from there. One hour's walk away is the highest point in Africa, Uhuru Peak at 5895m. The descent is less tiring and the night is spent at Horombo Hut at 3700 m.

Day 6: Horombo Huts to Moshi via Marangu Gate. Walking time: 5-7 h. Climb: -1950 m. Another half day's leisurely walk and one is back at the Park entrance again from where you will be taken to your hotel for rest. The overall height difference between Marangu Gate, and the summit of Uhuru Peak is 4100 meters (13,450 ft) and the distance is 32 km (20 miles). Each way. In all a good 64 km (40 miles) trek with the bonus of an ascent to one of the world's finest 5000 meter peaks.

Contact: [gathoni.wamacharia \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:gathoni.wamacharia@gmail.com)

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