

# CEDERBERG ADVENTURE HIKE 1969

## Cape Western Province Division

Report by André Foot (PL of Hawks Patrol - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bellville Troop)

This was the very first experimental Cederberg Hike for Scouts 15 years and over. It was the most talked about event of the year. It was to provide advanced Scouting and adventure for Senior Scouts in the Cederberg Mountain Range near Citrusdal. Total cost was R6 all inclusive. Our Divisional Commissioner Colin Inglis was the main hike organizer assisted by Richard Goldschmidt.

### Friday 12 December 1969



All the Scouts who attended the hike, met at Rondebosch Station at 14h15 from where we went by private transport to the Cederberg. My mother provided transport for Hans Reiman and myself, the only two from our Troop, to the Station. Squirrel (as he was called), took Hans, Allan (Scout 1<sup>st</sup> Claremont) and myself in his Zepher to the Cederberg. We went in convoy over Piekenierskloof Pass, through Picketberg, where we made a stop for refreshments, through Citrusdal and turned off onto a gravel road to Kriedouw. Everyone stopped at Kriedouw for a rest and later towards evening we made a huge fire and had super consisting of a braai. After supper we were divided up into three parties, namely the Northern, Central and Southern Party. Each party would hike a separate

route, then come together in the end again. Hans and I were in the Southern Party. We left Kriedouw and went over Niewoudt Pass to Welbedacht where we spent the night. We lost our way at Algeria Forest Station, but eventually got to sleep very late under the stars somewhere in a Pine plantation.

### Saturday 13 December 1969

The following morning after breakfast of fruit and cooldrink, we rested and waited for the Northern Party to arrive. Eventually we were all ready and the Southern Party under the guidance of Richard, Squirrel and Jimmy, made our way to Eikeboom, where we were to hike from. A short ride brought us to Eikeboom where we had an early lunch (to get rid of some more of our food). Lunch was sardines, rolls, cheese, cream crackers, instant banana pudding and cooldrink. One of the cars were taken to our end point at this time and the driver came back with another driver in another



car. Then our food was divided into groups of four people sharing and cooking together. Each had about 6 lbs of food to carry and my kit weight was about 24 pounds with food. After lunch we set off on foot, up the steep Cederhout Kloof to the Sneeuberg Hut. It was some climb up to the Hut, but we eventually made it 'poot-uit'. We rested, then started supper of tomatoe soup, meat balls, rice, mixed vegetables, provitas with peanut butter and coffee. After supper we collected Slangbos to use as mattresses and sat watching the sun set. My mattress was about 2 foot thick and once again we slept in the open as the hut was too hot and crowded.

### Sunday 14 December 1969

After breakfast of dried fruit, corn flakes, bacon, jam, biscuits and coffee, we left for Sneeuberg which we climbed. Our climb started at 10h00 up Sneeuberg which is 6 652 feel high. To reach the top, we made a spiral ascent, and once there, signaled to the Northern Party on Tafelberg, using a mirror. The view was amazing, almost like standing on top of the world. We wrote our names on a piece of paper and put it in a bottle under the beacon, then returned back





to the path again at 14h30 for lunch. Lunch was quick, just viennas, cheese, ryvita and instant butternut pudding on the trail. After lunch we hiked on to the Maltese cross, where a climber had fallen to his death a month ago, trying to climb to the top of the cross. The huge rock cross formation was amazing and stood out like a landmark from far. Then it was on to a swimming hole where we swam, had supper of oxtail soup, corned meat, spaghetti and camped out in the open for the night. We had brought no tents on the hike, just a plastic groundsheet, so simply slept out in the open at night. The thought of any rain in this heat was a bit far fetched.

### Monday 15 December 1969

We were up very early, as the sun came up, having a dried fruit and pronuro breakfast, then relax with biscuits and coffee. Richard chased us on as we had lots to do before the sun reached boiling point. We left in the cool daybreak for Disa Pool, where we arrived towards afternoon and swam in the ice cold water. We dived and jumped from 20 feet down into the huge pool, seeing who could make the biggest splash bomb. After luncheon meat on biscuits, we tried our hand in damming up the waterfall which dropped 20 feet into the pool below, it was fun trying to hold all the water back with rocks and plastic. We then left for Kromriver where we swam in a dam, while the drivers went to fetch their cars and later we were off to Sanddrif, where all the parties came together again. Supper was supplied, as all our hike rations were now finished. We slept on the river sand next to the river, amazed at all the stars you could see because of the absolute darkness.



### Tuesday 16 December 1969

After breakfast we made our way up the mountain to explore the Wolfberg Cracks. They were huge cracks in the top of a mountain, amazing to walk through, half wondering what would happen if they closed while you were inside them. On return we swam in the river, then everyone dressed into full uniform for speeches, photo's, good-buys and at 3pm left for home. We were dropped off at our houses by Squirrel, I got home at 19h30. A fantastic hiking adventure from start to finish, we traveled 300 miles by car and did about 20 miles on foot. I will definitely be on the next one again!



Participants - Andre & Hans (front 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> from left)

*(The next Cederberg was held Tue 29/12/70 to Sat 9/1/71 and was even more spectacular with bases on route)*