

# Regional news : Southern Africa

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Editorial

Dear readers,

Mike Horn. I am sure that you have heard his name before. But did you also know that he has ties to both South Africa and Switzerland? The world's greatest modern explorer just started his latest expedition, to successfully climb K2. Read more about Mike Horn and his latest achievements below.

Happy reading,  
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,  
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

### ADVENTURER MIKE HORN'S THIRD ATTEMPT TO CLIMB K2

South African-born Swiss Mike Horn, globally acknowledged as the world's greatest modern day explorer, has set his mind on climbing the Asian mountain K2. In 2013 and 2015 two attempts had failed. Since the end of May his latest K2 adventure is under way.

Mike Horn (born in 1966) is a South African-born Swiss professional explorer and adventurer. Born in Johannesburg, he currently resides in Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland. He studied Human Movement Science at Stellenbosch University. Mike Horn became



famous in 2001 after completing a one-year, 6-month solo journey around the equator without any motorised transport. In 2004 he completed a two-year, 3-month solo circumnavigation of the Arctic Circle, and in 2006 along with Norwegian explorer Borge Ousland, became the first men to travel without dog or motorised transport to the North Pole during

winter, in permanent darkness.

Mike says he first felt the call of the wild at 24 years old. He quit his comfortable sports science job, gave everything away and moved to Switzerland. From there, he embarked on a series of adventures, including descending by delta plane from a 22,000-foot mountain and riverboarding the world's deepest canyon.

#### Countless breathtaking adventures

In two decades, he has seen more of the Earth than possibly any other human. An overview of his past expeditions:

#### Pole2Pole

In 2016, Horn set off on his latest expedition "Pole2Pole", a two-year circumnavigation of the globe via the South and North Pole. On May 8, 2016, Mike left from his point of

departure, The Yacht Club Monaco. H.S.H Prince Albert of Monaco II and Mercedes-Benz sponsored his trip. Mike will travel by land and his sailing vessel, Pangaea, from Africa to Antarctica, Oceania, Asia, the Arctic, and back to Europe. Horn's current expedition Pole2Pole falls perfectly under three main themes: Adventure, Environment, and Sharing.

On February 7 22:50 UT Mike Horn completed the longest ever solo, unsupported north-to-south traverse of Antarctica from the Princess Astrid Coast (lat -70.1015 lon 9.8249) to the Dumont D'urville Station (lat -66.6833 lon 139.9167) via the South Pole. He arrived at the pole on January 9,

Left: Always look for the next adventure: Mike Horn. (Photo: [mikehorn.com](http://mikehorn.com))

Below: On a previous Himalaya expedition. (Photo: [mikehorn.com](http://mikehorn.com))



2017. A total distance of 5100 km was covered utilizing kites and skis in 57 days.

**Pangaea**

In 2007, Mike and his team launched the Young Explorers Program. This program consisted in recruiting and then inviting young adults between the ages of 15 and 20 years old, from all over the world – to explore the Earth's continents and travel across the planet's oceans with the PANGAEA expedition sailing vessel. Close to 100 Young Explorers accompanied him to 12 hot spots around the world where they implemented ecological and social projects – following the motto “explore – learn – act”. Although this project ended in 2012, the Young Explorers – now young world ambassadors – continue to set in motion different types projects around the globe.



**North Pole**

In a world-first, Mike set off on a 60-day voyage on skis without dogs or motorised transportation during the Arctic night with Norwegian explorer Borge Ousland in 2006. From February to March they dragged pulkas from Cape Artichsky in Russia to the North Pole. For two months the pair walked in total darkness, and often on paper-thin ice.

**Arktos**

In 2002–04, Mike went around the world on the Arctic Circle solo in an expedition dubbed “Arktos”. It was a solitary voyage of two years

and three months without motorised transport (boat, kayak, ski kite and on foot) on a 20,000 kilometres (12,000 mi) odyssey. Mike left North Cape in Norway and went through Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Bering Strait and Russian Siberia before he reached North Cape.

Mike spent time with the local people who had courageously adapted to the unforgiving environment.

**Latitude Zero**

In 1999, Mike set off on an 18-month voyage to circle the equator on foot and by sailing. He left Gabon and crossed the Atlantic to Brazil on a 28-foot trimaran. He then crossed Brazil and Ecuador on bike, canoe and on foot. After that he crossed the Pacific Ocean reaching Indonesia via the Galapagos Islands and crossed

Borneo and Sumatra on foot, before crossing the Indian Ocean. To finish the expedition, he crossed the African continent on foot through the Congo and Gabon.

This was the first solo circumnavigation of the world around the Equator – unaided and with no engine-driven support.

**Amazon**

In April 1997, Mike launched his first big expedition: the six-month solo traverse of the South American continent. He left on foot from the Pacific Ocean and climbed to the source of the Amazon River high in the Peruvian Andes. From here he descended the 7,000 km of the Amazon River on a hydrospeed, until he reached the Atlantic Ocean. It took him six months, solo and without

assistance.

Mike hunted, fished and survived off his environment. His finish point was the Atlantic Ocean where he finally tasted saltwater.

**SWISS AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF MALAWI**

The Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe and Malawi, Mr. Niculin Jäger presented his Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency, Peter Mutharika at State House at the end of February 2019.

Following the presentation of credentials, Ambassador Jäger had a meeting with the Malawi Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano in which they discussed the breadth of the bilateral relationship between Switzerland and Malawi. Deliberated was also the determination to strengthen development cooperation that is being administered through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Malawi and the region.



Left: Mike Horn on his PANGAEA expedition vessel in Cape Town. (Photo: [mikehorn.com](http://mikehorn.com))

The flag of Malawi.

Ambassador Jäger and Minister Fabiano underscored the significance of enhancing development work with a particular focus on reducing poverty through food security and HIV/AIDS related programmes.

Prior to the official meeting, the Ambassador met with the Honorary Consul General, Mrs.



Sylvia Giannakis, the Swiss community in Lilongwe and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Malawi.

## SWITZERLAND RESPONDS TO THE GROWING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Switzerland has announced humanitarian assistance totalling CHF 3 million between March and April to help people in Southern Africa, who continue to face the consequences of natural disasters and widespread food insecurity.

Of the CHF 3 million pronounced, CHF 2 million is targeting the victims of Cyclone Idai – one of the most powerful cyclones to have affected Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in the last thirty years.

The CHF 2 million will be used to restore safe drinking water and second Swiss experts to UN agencies in the three affected countries – with CHF 1 million going to the Swiss Humanitarian Aid and the other half going to the various UN agencies responding to the effects of

the disaster.

### Food insecurity on the rise

The other CHF 1 million will go to Zimbabwe's Flash Appeal that was launched at the end of February 2019 by the United Nations (UN) and the government of Zimbabwe to provide critical food and livelihood support as food insecurity continues to rise due to a devastating drought that is affecting the region.

### More than 5 million people affected

The Zimbabwe Flash Appeal support will be channelled through the World Food Programme (WFP) in selected communities and will cover the most urgent food security needs of more than 5.3 million people who are estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection during the 2018/2019 lean season (October – April) and beyond.

“We stand in full solidarity with the people in Southern Africa. The assistance announced by Switzerland will go towards helping

those affected by food insecurity caused by prolonged drought, as well as to strengthen capacities to manage recurrent disasters,” said Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe and Malawi, Mr. Niculin Jäger.

## ASO

From 16 to 18 July the ASO Congress 2019 will take place in Montreux. Details are available from the ASO.ch website. E-Voting and banking issues are still hotly debated topics. I was not able to attend the March session of the council, as I had to remain in SA for other engagements. However, I will participate in the August session of the council and will report back as per usual.

Hans-Georg Bosch

## SWISS CLUB INFO

### SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG:

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Max Waspe 083 412 0161, T 0118053039, [office@swissclubjhb.co.za](mailto:office@swissclubjhb.co.za), [www.swissclubjhb.co.za](http://www.swissclubjhb.co.za), Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, [www.dining-out.co.za](http://www.dining-out.co.za) «The Courier». Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups:

A farmer in Zimbabwe shows his maize crop which was severely affected by lack of rain. © Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe.



## IMPRESSUM

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FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN. THANK YOU.

Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month for lunch. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg : We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146.

**SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:**

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, [swissclub.pta@hbosch.com](mailto:swissclub.pta@hbosch.com), Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary [bvrooyen@gmail.com](mailto:bvrooyen@gmail.com) Facebook grp: Swiss Club Alpina New year started on a sad note for the Swiss Society Alpina in Pta with the passing of Nadine Wüest & Denise Béguin. Committee members was present at funerals to convey condolences of committee & members of the Society. On a lighter note, the annual Fondue will take place on 1 June at the Church Hall of the Johannesburg-einde in Willows, the usual venue. On 3 Aug we shall celebrate National Day at the same venue. Details of these two events are available from the Club Secretary.

**SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:**

Swiss Social & Sports Club, Green

Point Common, Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point, PO Box 2279, Cape Town 8000, T 0214348405 [www.swissclub.co.za](http://www.swissclub.co.za). President: Nicky Rodrigues [president@swissclub.co.za](mailto:president@swissclub.co.za) C 082 921 7729. Vice Pres./ Treasurer: Andreas Reichmuth, [treasurer@swissclub.co.za](mailto:treasurer@swissclub.co.za) C 083 297 3803. Secretary/ ASO Representative: Marcie Bischof, [so@swissclub.co.za](mailto:so@swissclub.co.za), [catering@swissclub.co.za](mailto:catering@swissclub.co.za) C 076 389 7824. To receive the “news-flash” contact the club at [catering@swissclub.co.za](mailto:catering@swissclub.co.za) or on 0214348405. The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening. Every 1st Thurs of the month is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thurs of the month. For more info, please send an email to: [info@swissclub.co.za](mailto:info@swissclub.co.za) The independent Swiss Rifle Club can be found on the Swiss Club Cape Town club's website [www.swissclub.co.za](http://www.swissclub.co.za) under rifle club and on Facebook. President: Dierk Lüthi, [hdluthi@gmail.com](mailto:hdluthi@gmail.com) & [dierk@telkomsa.net](mailto:dierk@telkomsa.net); C 083 441 4626. Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Shooting dates and times listed on the website and 2 Facebook pages.

**SWISS CLUB NATAL:**

President Philippe Lanz C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625,

[p.lanz@absamail.co.za](mailto:p.lanz@absamail.co.za) JASS EVENTS: Still held on the second Friday of each month but will commence at 2 p.m. held at 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay. Sport Target Shooting on 4 Saturday of each month (weather permitting) at 0830 a.m, on 26 May (see website). Cheese Fondue Eve, 29 June. Swiss Nat. Day, 28 July. Breakfast at Makaranga, Kloof, 25 Aug. Benvie Garden Walk, then lunch at Yellowwood Café, 29 Sept. Hawaan Forest Walk with lunch – 25 Oct. Year End Braai, 8 Dec. Prize Jassen, 13 Dec. 2020 – Culinary & Film Evening or Music Evening, 25 Jan. 66<sup>th</sup> AGM, 8 Mar.

For more up-to-date info visit our most [www.swissclubnatal.org.za](http://www.swissclubnatal.org.za)

**SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH:**

comm.member Mark Krebs C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, | C 0613696598

**SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:**

c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324, [christinestiffler@telkomsa.net](mailto:christinestiffler@telkomsa.net)

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