



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 1998

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary

Aug 5 (Wed) Cratcliffe Tor
Aug 29/31 Pembroke
Sep 2 (Wed) Wildcat
Sep 5/6 Wye Valley

Aug 5 (Wed) Cratcliffe Tor

Now that the rock climbing season is well under way, young fit and skilful men should not be deterred from climbing on steep, green and greasy rock with poor protection and sharp boulders below to fall on, nor should the different nature of the rock from the limestone on which many habitually besport themselves form a sufficient deterrent to prevent a good night out at Cratcliffe, followed by refreshment at a venue to be agreed. (I suggest the Miner's Standard).

Aug 29/31 Pembroke K Gregson

Camping will be at Rhosson Ganol Farm. St Justinian's (GR 727252)

To find us, follow signs for St Justinian's lifeboat station from St Davids. from the Cross, down the hill past the Farmer's Arms, then sharp right down past the Cathedral and keep on towards the lifeboat station. Rhosson Farm is overlooked by a prominent hill with a small radio mast on top. The campsite is under the seaward side of this hill: turn left just past the farm house. which is on the right. We usually camp in the first field on the left.

The Oread has long traditions in Pembroke. Alas gone are the days of the "Rugby Club all-nighters" but they have been replaced by Old Eltonians with the Carnells. barbecues with the Fosters (depending on the fishing), and Feeling Foul ale at the various hostelries. There is of course lots of climbing to be done. most of which is in the middle grades and still retains the feeling of remoteness and pioneering. There is a new guidebook which reveals many of the "secret crags". but even

better, I'm assured that Whympers old guide "Big Foo" will be with us to direct exploration.

For those intent on high grade climbing Carreg-y-Barcud should keep you off the streets, and of course if you seek the popular hot spots you can easily drive down to the South.

I always look upon this meet as the best holiday on the Oread calendar. There is lots to do. climbing. walking, swimming or simply lying on the beach etc. And the company is excellent, so come and join us.

Hopefully some of us will be there on Thursday, and I'm confident that there will be an Oread presence until the following weekend. If You need any further information please get in touch.

Sep 2 (Wed) Wildcat

Mountain Limestone freaks, i.e. the majority these days, will be glad to escape from the rigours of Cratcliffe and return to familiar ground. (I suspect that some are uneasy at being removed from the semi-urban traffic noise and crowded pubs of the Derwent Valley. (Refreshment in the Princess Vic after climbing).

Sep 5/6 Wye Valley Tony Raphael

s the first half of the summer has been dismal for climbing, it's obviously saving the best of the sunshine for September. The Wye Valley offers superb climbing in spectacular and glorious surroundings. Watch the Severn Bore roll upstream while savouring the delights of such brilliant 200ft+ routes as Zelda (HS) and King Kong (HVS) on Wintour's Leap; marvel at the delectation of the unquarried Dolomitic limestone of Shorn Cliff while it basks in the afternoon sun.

This is the meet you mustn't miss - starred routes at all grades!

We will be camping at The Beeches campsite [ref SO 5480061 near, but not on, Madgett's Farm. The campsite is basic (toilets and cold water; no showers) but has excellent views - it is an easy, short walk from the site to Shorn Cliff.

How to get there: if you want to avoid paying the Severn Bridge toll take the A48 SW out of Gloucester and about 1.5 miles before Chepstow take the right turn marked (probably) to Tutshill, then turn right on to the B4228. Follow this for about 4 miles and take the privately signposted turning (L) marked to Madgett's Farm/ Beeches Farm, go through the farmyard & gate, turn right and you're there.

I will be in the Rising Sun Inn [approx ref ST 542964] on the B4228 at Wooderoft/Wintour's Leap on Friday evening - see you there. For any further information contact me at the Smithfield, on the crag or ring me on 01509 672175.

FUTURE EVENTS

25 - 6 Sept Avon Gorge Gill Hayes

Full particulars of both this meet will appear next month. In the meantime 'phone Gillian (01332 385492) to book if you want to get in early.

12 - 13 September Family Meet Michael Hayes

12/13 September Family Meet Michael Hayes

Following on from Mike Wynne's meet earlier this year it is once again time for the younger element of the Oread to enjoy the delights of Tan-Y-Wyddfa. At present I am looking for a co-leader for this meet as I will not be flying back from the States until Saturday Morning, any volunteers ??

I do plan to be at the hut at about dinner time to take up what remains of my leaders duties. I will be in the Alps until the 14th of August after which you can contact me to arrange beds etc

PAST EVENTS

Golden Oldies

Nineteen Oreads attended the meet including two youngsters - well done Graham Weston and Steve Bennet (so they should be - Ed)

The activities of the Zimmer frame brigade varied from mountain tops, river side walks, painting and beach walks.

Activities commenced early morning at breakfast with pill popping pensioners. The rattle of bottles of tablets was too much sometimes especially seeing Ernie searching the floor when he dropped his Viagra!

Saturday evening found us at the Saracen's Head enjoying wonderful hospitality and jazz band entertainment.

Bob Pettigrew appeared at the last minute, how is it that he was last to arrive and yet first to be served?

The meet leader found herself ensconced with oread lions, Pettigrew, Hobday, Squires and Philips enjoying a delicious meal of salmon and assaulted by the fragrance of "deap heat" emanating from Reg Squires. (Assaults by anything else emanating from Squires appear to be a distant memory - Ed)

Thank you all for coming
Auntie Wainwright

Heathy Lea Barbecue

The barbecue was once again a succesful event. The expected rain held off for most of the evening and the music and merry making went on until the wee hours. Thanks to all

who participated and also to the firewood collectors, the salad makers John and Gillian and our resident guitarist Mike Steve Bennet.

Barmy Competition

Who's the Barmiest of us all?

A motley crew gathered at Tan-yr-Wyddfa. Most arrived early so training in the Quellyn became a major session with claims and counter-claims re fitness, the sanity or otherwise of the meet leader ... and the bribes!

By midnight the result of the competition had been more or less decided, then the Norris's arrived to claim the spare bedroom and all promises were off and the competition opened up again.

The morning dawned bright and clear and everyone was away at the allotted time with teams heading for Snowdon and the Nantle Ridge (this is a good trick if you can do it).

John Green (Belper's answer to Lancing Bagnall) took his team round the Horseshoe in fine style-, a very large team consisting Pam and Nodge Norris, Jane Tressider, Stuart and Andrea Haywood and the entire Mander's paint works band headed West; while Nick Evans and I went to fall miserably on a Diff on the Llechog. Rob Tressider disappeared at the double in the opposite direction to his wife, wearing little else than a towel and running shoes. (We spied him later in Llyn Glas and are pleased to tell that there was no way that he could have been up to no good, though he appeared to be following some sort of ritual press-up exercise in the shallow end!).

In fact it turned out that Rob's strategy was spot on, since he managed to slip gently into no less than eight Llyns and be back for dinner! (This ranks with Appleby, Pretty, Janes and Pettigrew at their best, and merits a club record in its own right.)

Meanwhile the rest of us had other plans that were to be thwarted by the steadily deteriorating weather. Indeed, in the late afternoon Nick and I came over Snowdon via the PyG track in sleet and wind gusting 70 and I for one was pleased to admit that the whole thing was barmy.

Well, once again it was a difficult choice to decide the winner. As race director it was difficult to ignore the advances, in particular the early morning shower and rubdown nearly swung it. However, Rob's efforts, which this year were totally unsupported by Radders subsidiary of Bill Gates' empire, thoroughly deserve the accolade of BARMY.

Congratulations to all who came (or didn't) and thanks for a very enjoyable weekend to: Pam and Nodge, Rob and Jane, Stuart and Andrea, John and Sylvia, Tim Hoyle, A, S, B, E, and H Mander and Nick Evans.

Keith Gregson

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Aug 3 | | |
| Aug 7-8 | Shreeve Guests | 8/10 beds |
| Aug 10 | Bill Kenyon | 5 beds |
| Aug 14-21 | K Fellfarers | 4 beds |
| Sep 4-5 | Perran/Shreeve | 16 beds |
| Sep 11-12 | Oread | |
| Sep 14 | R Hopkinson | 4 beds |
| Sep 18-19 | Aylesbury MC | 16 beds |
| Sep 25-26 | Hucknall MC | 16 beds |

Bookings Heathy Lea

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------|
| Aug 7-8 | TCC | cottage |
| Aug 14-21 | G & G Male | cottage |
| Sep 4-5 | H Pretty | cottage |
| Sep 4-5 | J Wathell | barn 4 |
| Sep 11-12 | Slough MC | cottage |
| Sep 18-19 | North Kingston | cottage |
| Sep 27 | Work Party | |

SHORT NOTICES

Change Of Address

Freda Raphael,
17 Wimpole Rd.
Bramcote Hills
Nottingham NG9 3LQ
Tel 0115 925 4332

Longstone Edge

Just when we believed the threat of despoilation to Longstone Edge had been averted by the refusal by Peak District National Park, of the necessary Planning permission, the danger has re - emerged. The land owners, Bleaklow Industries Ltd., have begun Judicial Review proceedings against PDNP. The action group to which we initially subscribed was about to close down but is now re activating to attend the hearing on 25 August and requires support. Hany Pretty has the details.

Welsh Highland Railway

A small sub committee has been formed to handle all the issues relating to the WHR.

Over the past few months there has been a considerable amount of correspondence and telephone calls, in fact far to much to put in the newsletter.

A file has been made up containing copies of most of the documents and any member may borrow this file on application to the secretary, Shirley Wainwright.

The sub committee members are :

R Squires coordinator
C Hobday
J Shreeve
T Raphael

Anyone requiring information should contact a sub committee member in the first instance.

(I am extremely grateful to Freda Raphael who gave up her time to attend the recent enquiry in Wales during which the WHR society are tried to force the Snowdonia National Park to amend there regional plan and include the WHR. Freda will be briefing the sub committee CR)

BRAIN TEASER

Last Month's Problem

This was solved with ease by Charlie Cullum and Ernie Phillips. The only biologically feasible age for the grand child was 3, whence the Celt was 76 and eldest daughter 30 (delightfully ready for a repeat performance.) I hoped to entrap with the idea that there were more variables than unknowns, but of course only the sum of the ages of the two younger daughters need be evaluated, not the individual ages. (I under estimated my readers). Ernie worked Gaussian logic into his solution, and Charlie invoked Shakespeare, what does that say about them both.

NEXT EDITION

I hope to post this on *Friday 29 Aug. It is essential that all material reaches me by Thursday 21 Aug. I look forward to hearing from Keith Gregson (again), and Harry Pretty*

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