



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 1998

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary

Oct 3/4	Heathly Lea
Oct 6 (Tues)	First indoor meet
Oct 10/11	South Pembroke
Oct 21 (Wed)	The Foundry
Oct 26 (Sun)	Autumn Amble
Nov 1 (Sun)	Dovedale dash
Nov 3 (Tues)	Indoor Meet Ockbrook

October 3/4 *Heathly Lea Keith Gregson*

I intend to have a "traditional weekend" at the Derbyshire Hut.

Thus the meet will begin on Friday evening by dropping off gear at the hut, bagging bed space, and then walking up to the Robin Hood for a get together and discussion of the morning's activities. Those of you unfamiliar with recent developments in the "Climbers Den" will be impressed, gone are the days of sitting around spitting teeth at the pool players. The back bar really is quite civilised now.

We will make a reasonably early start from the hut on Saturday (9:30-ish) in order to stroll up the edges, take in the odd climb and make it to the Foxhouse for lunch at about one-o'clock.

After lunch I intend to visit Lawrencefield and/or Yarncliffe for a route or two before taking tea at the Grindleford Cafe, then back to the Hut by a route dictated by the mood and the weather. We'll let the evening develop, as it will.

Sunday will be spent either climbing on Gardoms and Birchen or walking gently to the Devonshire at Bealey, doubtless we can find enough Oreads to keep both options open.

I look forward to an enjoyable weekend in good company. Please get in touch (either at The Smithfield or via 792147) to reserve bedspace etc.

Oct 6 (Tues) *First Indoor Meet*

The first indoor meet of the year, kindly organised by Rob Tresidder, will feature the distinguished mountain photographer Gordon Stainforth will open the season's indoor meets with an illustrated talk entitled "The Peak District - Past and Present This is a historical

tour of the area with a strong emphasis on climbing Admission members £1; members guests £1.50. All indoor meets are at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook at 8 pm.

Oct 10/11 *Swanage (Formerly South Pembroke) Mike Moss*

Here is your last opportunity to catch the warm weather as it moves south for the winter. Climbers can choose from traditional (cotton shorts) cliffs and sports (lycra shorts) crags. For those not climbing, or if the weather dares to let us down and the shorts stay in the rucksack, there are splendid walks on the cliff tops and along the Purbeck hills. Camping will be at 'Tom's Field' in Langton Matravers. The village is on the B3069, just off the road between Corfe Castle and Swanage. The campsite is at the west end of the village. I suggest we meet in the excellent King's Head in Langton Matravers on Friday night

Call me on 01332-767298 to arrange lifts. I have moved the meet from Pembroke to Swanage following expressions of reluctance to make another trip into the South West so soon after other meets in that region.

Good climbing.

Oct 26 (Sun) *Autumn Amble Gordon Gadsby*

For this year's walk I propose to meet in the car park below the headwall of Dove Stone Reservoir, east of Greenfield and Mossley.. Map - Peak District - Dark Peak area 1:25000 Grid Ref.014035 at 10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. start.

The walk will follow the East shore of Dove Stone water and Yeoman Hey Reservoir then the North shore of Greenfield Reservoir. Eventually ascending besides the cascades of Birchen Clough to gain the grindstone escarpment of Saddleworth Moor. Nearby are the Raven Stones and the spectacular rock feature the Trinnacle.

The walk continues due west to Ashway Rocks on a sometimes indistinct track! Turn south here and follow the rim of Ashway Moss and Dove Stone Moss past many interesting features, including the Platt memorial Cross- " Dean Rocks, Dove Stone

Rocks, The Fox Stone (a cairn to climbers killed in the Dolomites in 1972), Bramley's Cot (an ingenious ruin), and the Dish Stone. Beyond here we reach the highest point of the walk at Chew Reservoir 1600 ft. and built in 1912.

Descend by the service road to Chew Brook bridge then a good track below Wimberry Rocks, through the Chew plantation to the Sailing Club buildings at the public car park.

After the walk we can drive to the Snake Inn via Glossop for drinks and evening meal.

The route we took to Dove Stone Reservoir was via Holmfirth and the A625.

Hope to see you there.

Birthdya Party Hallowe'en Brian West

As reported in the lase newsletter, both Freda and myself will soon be fifty. We are, I have been told, having a joint celebration at Heathy Lea on the night of hallowe'en. I am all for it. (if I am not all for it Freda will stick pins in this little bald headed wax doll that she has made...)

At the moment Freda is away in New England - probably showing the Salem Sisterhoods a thing or two - so this is the plan as I understand it.

Saturday night October 31, Heathy Lea. All Orcads, friends, kindred spirits very welcome. (never mind the verb, Brian. Ed.) We shall have a barrel or two of beer and something basic to eat. Freda has mentioned a big bubbling pot full of something nourishing I sounds like a cauldron to me. If you require more exotic fare, bring it yourself - and perhaps a glass or two, we may run out.

There seems little point in trying to reserve bed space: like the beer, it's all available until it's all gone.

Freda would I think (hope this is not the end of the sentence -Ed.) appreciate a call so that she has some idea of how many Fenny snakes to fillet and how many slips of yew to sliver at the moon's eclipse.

Speaking for myself, I have had some magnificent days with the Oread and hope to have more. I would like to say thanks, and have a few drinks with all of you. I am going to try anyway. If in doubt, come. Neither Freda nor I want to throw away good ale.

Nov 3 (Tues) Indoor Meet

Richard Hopkinson and Rob Tresidder will talk about "A tale of two failures" the enterprises that is, not the speakers. Richard will speak about a trip he made this year with Dawn to Uzbekistan. Rob will talk about a previously taboo topic - his part in an attempt to climb Nilkanta in the Garwhal Himalaya.

FUTURE EVENTS

Annual Dinner 14 November

This will be at the Marquis of Granby, Bamford. There will be a three course meal priced £15 per person. We have the banqueting room with our own bar which will be open to guests at 7pm. - dinner served at 7.30 pm.

Our guest is Ian Frearson of Arctic and Mountain Rescue renown, and entertainment is "Calico Jack", a folksy group (all males) by special request from guests who went to the 1997 dinner in Wales.

Camping is available for guests. The charge for this is £10 per person per night, to include breakfast at the Hotel next morning. Breakfast needs to be booked at the reception on arrival. If breakfast is not required camping is £5 per person per night. Motor caravans can be parked round the side of the Hotel. Facilities in the Hotel downstairs are available but the Hotel closes at 12.30 am. There are some places left and I know that some members were upset to know that last year's dinner was booked up quickly.

I need all the money in by the end of October - otherwise your place cannot be guaranteed. members are asked to send cheques payable to "Oread MC" to me at my home address with a menu choice (at the end of this write up). £15 for anyone booking now or the balance for anyone who has already paid a deposit. Ring me if you are not sure how much you have paid for your deposit. We have the bar open until midnight.

Send your cheque and also your choice of dinner.

The menu is as follows.

0115 - 9256446 Bazaar to Lewis C.

Starter	Soup or Melon and Kiwi Fruit cocktail
Main Course	Roast Beef or Poached Salmon or Vegetable Stroganoff with rice.
Sweet	Apple and Raspberry Pie with Custard or Cheese and biscuits.
	Coffee/Tea & Mints.

Have a list of accommodation in the area for anyone who wants it.

Shirley Wainwright
6 Meadow Rise
Nottingham NG6 8WH (Tel 0115 9279384)

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

Sep 25-26	1 Hucknall MC	16 beds	
Oct 2-3	Christian Rock	16 beds	
Oct 9-10	Derby Nomads	16 beds	
Oct 16-17	G Gadsby	Whole hut	
Oct 23-24	S Cheshire MC		
Oct 26-29	D Hall	16 beds	--
Oct 30-31	Vacant		

Bookings Heathy Lea

Oct 2-3	Oread	
Oct 9-10	Northumbria MC cottage	
Oct 30-31	West/Raphael cottage/barn	

PAST EVENTS

Alpine meet 1998 - Bregaglia

With so many Oreads in the Vicosoprano campsite this year, writing an accurate report to include everybody's activities is not easy - I will apologise in advance if I have missed out anyone's heroic deeds in what follows. The 1998 meet will be remembered for several things besides the climbing. Firstly the rain. It started the day after I arrived and didn't clear up completely until half way through the second week of the meet. At times it came down with such ferocity that no tent remained totally dry inside and everyone had flowing

water under their groundsheets. On the evening of Swiss national day (1st Aug) a particularly active thunderstorm was shuttling back and forth up the Bregaglia valley with a lightning display that totally outclassed the village fireworks.

Then there was Kev's gazebo (similar to a frame tent without sides). Although an item of garden furniture not normally associated with Alpine mountaineering, erected on the campsite it provided a focal point where people could cook and eat socially while sheltering from the aforementioned rain. I can see this gazebo becoming a feature of Alpine meets in years to come.

1998 will also be remembered as the year of the cripple. Tony Howard had knee surgery shortly before his planned trip to the Alps and had to pull out altogether. Trevor Willis had a swollen leg (allergic reaction to insect bite suspected) which made walking painful in the week leading up to the meet. He made a last minute decision a few hours before his lift was due to set off for Dover to come with us anyway - the right decision as it turned out because his leg got rapidly better. Kev Allsobrook was also recovering from major knee surgery and had been told to restrict himself to gentle walking. Last, but not least, there was Colin Barnard. Colin was OK when he set off from England, but a bad ankle sprain in the first week resulted in a trip to Chiavenna hospital, a cast around his lower leg and the forced purchase of a pair of crutches. (Fortunately Colin speaks reasonable Italian). If anybody needs to borrow a pair of crutches, you now know who to call.

And so to the climbing. Everybody did the North-east ridge of the Spazzacaldeira at some time or other (I think), but only Mike Moss and Gillian climbed the Fianuna near the summit. The North ridge of the Badile was the main event for most people. Graham Weston, Jane, Trevor and Alison Hood were lucky to time their attempt with a short window of reasonable weather in the first week. Mike Moss, Gillian Heys, Nick Evans and Pam Storer climbed it in the second week. 5-6 hours up and about 13 hours of abseiling down seemed to be the norm, forcing a second bivouac in all cases. This was eclipsed by Mike Hayes and Paul (Kev's friend from

Holland) who completed the Cassin route on the North face of the Badile at the end of the second week.

Bev Abley and his friend Phil did the Piz Palu in the first week and the larger party of myself, Julia Stowell, Trevor and Alison traversed the Palu in a later trip. Pete Lancaster and Cliris Wilson disappeared over the Zoeca pass to do something hard on the Italian side (I can't remember exactly which route, but I think it must have been the Gervasutti route on the Punta Allevi)- Trevor and myself went to try the Ago di Sciora but were ramed off the starting bivouac-

There were many serious walking trips mixed among the climbing routes, as you would expect in a period of unstable weather. I can recommend the Cacciabella pass between the Sciora hut and the Albigna cable car if you want a day out without a rope in the Bregaglia.

I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves in spite of the weather. The campsite was cheap and the exchange rates favourable. Everybody had a relatively inexpensive holiday except Pete Lancaster and family, who needed a repair to the transmission on their Mercedes truck.

I am aware that many people stayed in the Alps after I left and I have not caught up with the news. For example, Nick and Pani were planning to head for the Dolomites.

After two consecutive years of well attended Alpine meets, where do we want to go next year? Suggestions to me or the Meets Secretary. North America is not out of the question, but may not be practical for those with families.

Richard Coghlan.

Kulu

Messrs Pettigrew, Phillips and Williams (alphabetical order, no ranking implied), have just returned from a nostalgic trip to Kulu, where the site of the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition's base camp was visited. I have no detailed account of their activities, but can report that there were no concessions to the modern Alpine style of lightweight expedition. They were properly equipped and escorted by no less than six Sherpas with pack horses! One can only speculate on the Bacchanalian

delights enjoyed by the Sahibs in there luxurious camp.

SHORT NOTICES

Indoor Winter Lecture Series 1988/9

1 December	Jannie Fisher "Beyond the Savage Mountain"
5 January	TBA
2 February	Phil Bartlett
2 March	TBA

Bolting

Please let your committee or John Gresty have your views on this (Limestone of course) for transmission to the BMC.

Snowdon And Welsh Highland Railway

The National Trust are appealing for funds with which to buy South Snowdon, and yet they have taken no steps to oppose the WHR which is detrimental to Snowdon's amenities, and our access to the area. Please let us know whether you wish your committee to make a donation having regard to these facts.

Brain Teaser

IF NEWSLETTER = BOONDOGGLE, NEW = 6, WET = 11, DOG = MINUS 7, SEW = 9, BOG = 28, ODD = MINUS 45, BET = 17, LOOT = 29, NET = 9, GLOW = 28. What are the numerical values of all the letters. Definitely a book token for first correct answer in writing. (lots of you have excel spreadsheets).

NEXT EDITION

I hope to post this on *Friday 30 Oct. It is essential that all material reaches me by Thursday 22 Oct. I look forward to hearing receiving any information re indoor climbing meets*

Clive Russell (Newsletter Editor)

Slate House

Parwich Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1QD

01335 390369