



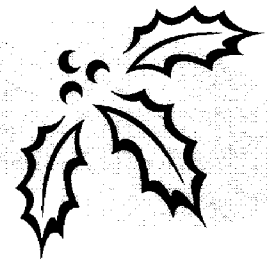
Fylde Mountaineering Club

Founded in 1950

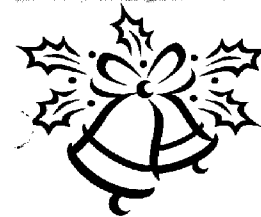
NEWSLETTER

December

2005



Mike Sissons kay-aking down the road to the ford at Little Langdale



Kevan and Martin keeping up the other great FMC tradition. Is Martin trying to "toe a lift" here? Or has he got a blister?



Well, there you go. It's the last newsletter with yours truly as editor. It's been great fun for the most part and I've had some fun stuff to put in, together with some fantastic photographs.

In some ways I'll miss doing it but I've had five years and it's time to move on. I hope that the new editor enjoys editing as much as I have.

I'm a bit forgetful these days and have quite often forgotten to put things in the newsletter, and I tender my apologies to all those affected. One of my greatest faux pas was forgetting to announce the new arrivals in the Iddon/ Ross family. I have no excuse. Mia culpa. (Think that's correct)

In early 2004 I received a very excited email from a proud father (and mother of course) on the birth of a third generation FMC member from the Iddon/Ross family. Sarah Karis Iddon was born on the 6th of January 2004 and will therefore be two years old shortly after this newsletter is published.

Happy birthday Sarah and please accept my apologies for missing you out two years ago. Sarah weighed in at 6lb 8oz.

Now, no one told me that Henry and Caroline had added to their family in 2005. Complete ignorance this time, so, better a little late than never, Henry and Caroline would like to announce to the membership of FMC the birth of Freya Claire, who weighed in at 6lb 9oz. on the 25th of May 2005.

Our congratulations to the proud parents.

John Denmark

The new newsletter editor is unknown as yet, so I am perfectly willing to continue to accept articles and photographs and pass them on.

Seasons' Greetings to all our readers!

Congratulations to Mari Angeles for her victory in this year's fell race. She is also gaining experience as an orienteer so watch out!

Unfortunately I don't have any further info on the fell race.

New Members

Rosie Lovett
35 Lower Bank Road
Fulwood
Preston
01772 719200

has been accepted as an introductory member

FMC SOCIALS at the RAIKES.
8 for 8.30 start.

14th December 2005
Boyd Harris - Photographer
'Kachenjunga Revisited'

11th of January 2006
Members slide competition

8th February 2006
Bill Pattison - Wasdale Mountain Rescue
Leader

8th March 2006

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

23rd of February at the RAIKES, Blackpool
All member are reminded that motions to the AGM 2006 have to be submitted to the Secretary in writing by the 31st December 2005.

Address on back page

Change of Address

Phil Caley
12 Weirden Close
Penwortham
Preston
PR1 9FP

Tel:01772 752159

I probably knew about this as well so if it's a bit late, apologies again!

BONFIRE MEET 5/6 November

Constant rainfall sapped enthusiasm for a bonfire, so after bonfire-night-related snacks and an uncoordinated firework display we retreated to the warmth of the 3 Shires.

The main excitement was on Sunday morning, when Mike Sissons canoed down the lane to the ford (it was flooded) and disappeared down the river. The canoe reappeared a few hundred metres down the river with no evidence of Mike anywhere near it, having been hit by a low branch. This was intercepted by Clive and Kevin, who spotted it from the road towards Ambleside.

No climbing got done.

Chris Bell

[Editor's note: I got this little article as I was compiling the mag, so had the picture on the front page without knowing the context. I assume that the intrepid Mr Sissons has surfaced somewhere and is still alive and paddling?]

LANGDALE HUT UPDATE

At the recent committee meeting, a number of issues were discussed to repair/improve the hut, as follows:

- Noisy lights in the lounge and kitchen and a defective shower unit have been replaced.
- Some rafters to the main roof have slipped, reducing their bearings onto the ridge board, giving some concern regarding their support. Isolated slates have also slipped. I am currently arranging to meet a roofer at the hut to check it over in more detail and discuss the repairs required.
- If the repairs are significant, consideration is being given to reslating the main roof over sarking felt, with timber repairs undertaken as necessary.
- The storage heater in the lounge is old, rusty and not very efficient and we are proposing to renew it.
- Consideration is being given to the

removal of the gas fire and hobs and their replacement with electric alternatives. This is a result of recent problems in obtaining bottled gas deliveries and also for safety reasons, especially given the huts use by outside groups. This will require a new kitchen worktop, and "The Ladies" have also requested a larger cooker if possible. Similar proposals are also under consideration for the Stair hut.

It is proposed to complete roofing works first and internal works thereafter. If anyone has any comments or suggestions on the above, please contact me.

Working Weekend Stair 26/27 November 2005

This was another success. The weather was ok & lots of work was done mainly outside.

We arranged for more sand, cement & gravel to be delivered on Friday afternoon together with a cement mixer. Mike Penn & Dave Earle arrived early to receive the delivery. The plan, achieved successfully, was to build some concrete bases outside the two fire doors for the fire exit steps. Mike is going get some galvanized steel ones made & fit them in place fairly soon to exit from the small dorm. We intend to build a block work step down from the large dorm & this should be done early next year.

This was all finished by early afternoon so other jobs done included: further rebuilding of the dry stone wall, clearing out of the stream, repair of the outside sensor light on the kitchen wall, removal of many leaves, repair of a chair, sorting out the bookcase, sorting out of the kitchen pots & pans & an almost complete internal clean of the cottage (Martin was tasked with cleaning the gents bog as he spends most time in it).

We cooked a 3 course vegetarian meal for every one on Saturday which went down well. The evening was a fairly standard one with Martin & Chris drinking vast amounts of beer & Mike & Dave getting on their usual, entirely rational (?), soap boxes about speed cameras & the political dictatorship we live in etc.

(Continued on page 19)

Next Year in the Dolomites ?

Is anybody interested in a trip to the dolomites in 2006, probably in July. If we take more than 12 places we can get a discount of 7.5 % from Colletts. We paid £295 for 7 nights this year for half board, however it is possible to get B & B in Arabba for about £ 18 (€ 25) PPPN. Our Hertz hire car (booked) through Ryanair was about £150 between three of us. The Ryanair flight was about £70 return all in.

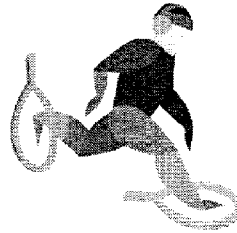
The area has plenty of good walking, climbing and via ferrattero or you could just gawp at the views from your car.

If you are interested please let me know, obviously I will require a substantial deposit to ensure no backing out.

Clive Bell

for sale

STUBAI STEP IN CRAMPONS
interchangeable points £15
LES WARD 01772684681



Special Christmas Offers Half Price Outdoor Footwear

North Face Karno Approach Shoes (aluminium grey)

Size: EU 44.5 UK 9 1/2

(rrp £70) Bargain Price £35

Boreal Joker Rock Shoes

Size: EU 42 UK 8

(rrp £60) Bargain Price £30

Both pairs are **brand new** and boxed. I think I wore the North Face shoes on a lap of Silverdale village just to see if they fitted my feet and similarly the rock boots were worn around the house for half an hour or so. As neither suited my feet it seemed a shame to leave them sitting in a cupboard, hence the give away prices.

Contact Mark (*Dell Boy*) Harding on 01254 701738

Email markding@freeuk.com

Ladies Meet

Stair

24/25 September 2005

Nine ladies attended. Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny and we left the hut before 9.30am to ascend Skiddaw; a first ascent for three members of the party. We parked above Bassenthwaite village and went up via Ullock Pike and Carlside. The air was very clear and we enjoyed magnificent views all around. Our descent took us southwards and then into Dodd Wood for a visit to the tea shop. The weather remained warm and sunny 'til we returned to the hut at almost 6pm.

On Sunday some ladies had to leave early. Delphine and Gill walked to Keswick and back and Sue and I walked over to Braithwaite for a short trek over Barrow and Outerside. There were a few showers accompanied by beautiful rainbows. A great weekend!

Libby Hacking

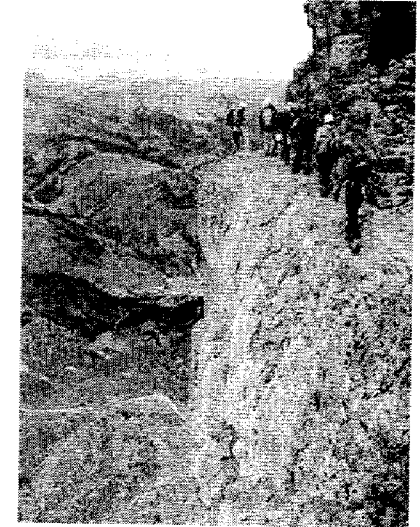
F.M.C. Conquer The Dolomites

After surmounting the first difficulty of 15 Kg baggage allowance (which included ice axe, crampons tin hat, harness and via ferratta equipment) the Ryanair flight of Thursday 11-08-05 took your three heroes (Les W, Tony M and me) from Liverpool to Venice Treviso. Then with our Diesel Fiesta from Hertz we took our 2hr journey to Arabba in the heart of the Dolomites. The hotel was run by Colletts Holidays with half board including wine with the two course evening meal, what more could a lad want?

The next day, Friday, we tagged along with the Colletts organized Via Ferratta group to get our scree legs, as it were. The group (about a dozen folk) had never VF'd before. When they had threaded themselves into their full harness and VF gear we set off from the Passo Gardena and up the Tchierspitze (2A) a nice easy VF to start the week. We gave an Asian lad, by the name of Shaky, a lift to the pass, he stayed with us all afternoon. A nice lad, confident on the rock, apparently his proper name is unpronounceable, consequently when he went to school he became Shaky. To fill the rest of the day we went to recce the next days project, Tridentina a wonderful prospect (3B). A beer in Corvara on the way back. Peters Bar, in Arabba, is the meeting place for the Colletts punters and we were no exception (they served booze). The crew that had VF'd were very enthusiastic and wanted to do more. It was here we met Liz a 23 year old lass, a doctor by trade. She was keen to do more ferattero so we let her join our gang, besides, she was pretty and bought us some beer.

Saturday gave us nice weather so we were off to the Passo Gardena and the mighty Tridentina, a wonderful VF almost straight up for about 400 m and ending in a wibbly wobbly suspension bridge over a 50,000ft drop, a good test for the sphincter muscle, fantastic! Then to the Refugio for birra and goulashsoupe. Then all down hill to the car. From here we took a diversion to call in at Pedraces to "sus out" Colletts other hotel and ice-cream and coffee. Although it had rained at various places we managed to miss it and stayed dry all day. That evening we met up with the other half of our heroic team (Woodsy, Hal and Mr D. Cundy) who brought a whole load of British weather with them and tried to blame us!

Sunday dawned with lots of cloud but our full FMC team + Liz and another associate member, Ian, set forth for the bottom of the chair lift above Campolongo. The view into the mist filled valley below us was spectacular but with the cloud base about 2ft above our heads we were not happy bunnies. A cup of coffee later we decided to go up the chair lift and see what was what. At the top there were fleeting glimpses of



rock, we decide to go for it. This was the Piz Da Lech (3B) one of those now you see it now you don't days. One of natures treats, fantastic!

Mondays weather was cool with dustings of snow on the tops and obviously below freezing up there. We had the Tomaselli (5C and high up) in our sights but decided to chicken out. As usual the well oiled FMC machine sprang into confusion with the B team buying Lagazuoi cable car tickets and the A team deciding to do the Averau (2A) on the other side of the valley. However both teams had good days, the B's doing the Lagazuoi WW 1 tunnels and the Martini ledge etc. and the A's doing Averou etc. with its stunning scenery and passing by the Cinque Tori although there are only quattro now as one fell over last year. The A's had a long walk back, uphill, to the car (one of our party, who shall remain nameless, bummed a lift up the hill!!!). At the top of the hill we rejoined Les and drove home to Arabba.

The next day, Tuesday, saw a big gang from Colletts heading for the Via Della Trincee (4B)

by bus to the Passo Pordoi and a long walk in. Bloody brass monkeys to start off (I had both down duvet and a water proof on and was still cold). Another great VF mainly traverses with another wibbly wobbly bridge over a bottomless pit and then tunnels. As we went on the weather got warmer, thank god. Our B team finally got out of their pits and decided to stuff convention and

meet the B's in the bar at the bottom. Another fantastic day and finale to the A's holiday.

Thursday the A's went home and the B's went to the Tre Cime to recce the Yellow Edge 13 pitches of grade 6 proper climbing. They did the first one or two pitches and were then stormed off. Unfortunately this same storm claimed the life of a German climber on the same mountain.

Friday our three survivors sport climbed three or four routes at the top of the Falzerego Pass and then on to conquer the Malida an underrated, unrelenting 6a+ (that's what they said anyway). The next day was a washed out Saturday with rain all day and Sunday was home day for the B's.

One of the main intentions on this holiday was to do the Marmolada's west ridge VF, hence the ice axe and crampons to cross the glacier but this went the way of all good intentions and did not get done. Another thing! Woodsey was on some kind of medication which proved a challenge to his sphincter. Fortunately there are lots of large rocks in the Dollies' to hide behind.

Clive Bell



The Death Defying Tony

did the route arse about face, we met them half way!! A stonking great day. That evening we discovered, beneath Peters bar, was a small supermarket with a pleasant surprise, a man giving samples of grappa! He had dozens of different flavours. We voted the two best, to be, apple and, would you believe, hazelnut!

Wednesday, Liz went home to Derbyshire and this was the A team's last day so we chose the hardest VF in the Dolomites, Cesare Piazzetta (5C) from the Passo Pordoi to the top of the mountain. Piz Boe is 10,340ft (I like ft. it makes me feel more of a hero) and 75% sea level oxygen, the other 25% you hallucinate about. The VF part is gasping, strenuous and sustained and has a wibbly wobbly of rungs only, another sphincter moment. We, the A team, missed the cable car down, so we had a drink in the caf and walked down to

Speyside Way July 2005

Sue and I had fancied a tilt at this for a while and the opportunity arose this summer as we were on an extended holiday in the north of Scotland, between the Lowe Alpine Mountain Marathon on the Island of Mull in June and the Scottish 6 Day Orienteering Competition in Deeside in early August. We'd come prepared for it, small tent and backpacking kit. (We'd already used the kit for a week cycle camping on Orkney.)

The Speyside Way is one of four officially designated Long Distance Routes in Scotland. It links the Moray Coast with the Grampian Mountains following the valley of the River Spey from Buckie to Aviemore, with spurs to Dufftown and Tomintoul. The whole route including spurs is 84 miles long. We opted for the "classic" route, Aviemore to Buckie, without the spurs, which is about 63 miles or so.

We'd had the map for a while and the logistics are perplexing if camping is the choice for accommodation. It's even slightly perplexing using B&B. This is because there aren't enough campsites/towns/shops/pubs etc. at reasonable intervals to make the planning easy. In the end we decided that we would take some emergency rations and play it by ear.

The Ranger service recommends starting from Buckie and heading south to Aviemore or Tomintoul. Their reasoning is that the walking gets harder as it progresses uphill and this gives the mildly unfit to get acclimatised. This NOT the reason. All will be revealed later! Naturally we decided to ignore this and start in Aviemore.

Day 1 Aviemore to Grantown on Spey

We left the motor caravan in the safe hands of the warden of the campsite near Nairn and got the bus to Inverness, where we had to wait an hour or so for a connection to Aviemore. The bus station is nice and new and we had a coffee and cake (bride in my case). We had another coffee at the Aviemore Hotel and were off walking at about 11.45 am. First stop was Tesco's, about 100metres! Then we repeated the problem of finding the path out of Aviemore which is shared with the off road bit of National Cycle Route 7 which we had previously done on a cycling holiday. Find the Cairngorm Brewery and

head north – the path appears. Well graded to take bikes, this path snakes its way through scattered birch forest following the steam railway, in the main, to Boat of Garten. Nice campsite here but the weather was good and we'd only gone about 5 miles. Next target was Nethy Bridge through the forest which houses the RSPB's Osprey centre. There's a bunkhouse here that allows camping but we were there at about half three so called in for a cup of tea at a hotel which could have been used as inspiration for Fawley Towers! We decided to continue along the course of the old railway to Grantown on Spey. On reflection this could have been a mistake. It's 19.5 miles, although only 195 metres of climb (210 descent), and we did it in an afternoon, 5 hours or so, so the feet weren't feeling too good in the morning! The campsite in Grantown is large, expensive (relatively) and very busy but is a 5 star place with piped music in the brand new toilet block. Evening meal in a pub in Grantown with draught Belhaven and a clientele who seemed to be all over 18 stone except us! Bizarre!

Day 2 Grantown to Ballindalloch

No rain overnight so packed up and headed off for an all-day breakfast in the town. As we had gone so well the day before we thought we could make Charlestown of Aberlour without a problem, with visions of completing the whole walk in less than 4 days! Some hope! The section to Ballindalloch is TOUGH! There's a lot of climbing and descending as the trail leaves the course of the former railway and boogies around farms and forests. Our feet were getting a little sore and Sue was suffering a bit and she seemed pleased when I suggested we stop at about 4.30 at Ballindalloch Station. There's a bunkhouse here but only available for groups. However, the Ranger Service has set aside an area for camping with a cabin containing a toilet and washbasin. This is FREE! So cancels out the expensive night at Grantown. The Dalnashaugh Inn is about a mile away and very pleasant it was too. We passed a shop on the way as well.

445 metres of ascent and 540 of descent and 10.6 miles. So we are going downhill.

Day 3 Ballindalloch to Charlestown of Aberlour

Having been forced back into the original plan of 5 days we got up early and set off in drizzle on

the old railway bridge over the river along the old railway track, past another camping spot at Blacksboat and past the Tamdhu distillery (not open to the public-damn!). Another half a k brought us to Knockando distillery. Same story here, not open to the public. Anyway, the weather had improved and we went through Carron. There's a distillery here, the Imperial, but it is shut, a real shame. We had a pint in Aberlour and then our lunch, having visited the new Speyside Way visitor centre in the former station. The Aberlour Gardens campsite is about a mile out of town towards Craigellachie. It's great. Clean, huge shower cubicles, shop with wine and beer. We didn't move but had frankfurters and savoury rice.

Camped near us was a young Dutch couple with a very smart Citroen 2CV. Not common these days, 2CV's are they. About an hour later 3 2CV's appeared from Slovakia, no less. What was going on? A European 2CV meet in Kelso the next weekend, that was what was going on. Radio Scotland reported on this and about 3000 of the little beasts were expected.

Only 20 metres of ascent, 80 of descent and 9 miles or so.

Day 4 Charlestown to Fochabers

Set off in a bit of rain again. The Craigellachie Hotel wasn't open for breakfast but does welcome walkers. We found a shop in a garage up the hill towards Dufftown and then found our way back to the path at Fiddich Park. This was an old railway junction and camping is allowed here, toilet provided as at Ballindalloch. There's also a good looking pub a few yards away over the bridge. This next section is partly along a very quiet road, a cul-de-sac, in fact and partly along a forest road which is a cycle route. This is pretty hilly and there is a fine viewpoint from where you can see the most of the rest of the walk stretching out before you. Before Boat o'Brig is reached a gun club's firing range is passed. At least the red flags weren't flying today! After Boat o'Brig the remainder of the day's trek is along a tarmac road for about 5 miles to Fochabers; a nice little town with a very commercial campsite, expensive too. We were recommended to the Gordon Arms to eat but

warned not to have a starter as the portions were large. Never listen to advice do we? I couldn't resist the Cullen Skink as a starter; brilliant but it would have fed a family of four! Needless to say I struggled with a breast of chicken (?albatross, it was that big) stuffed with oatmeal and every time it was touched all the chips fell off the side of the bloody plate. Some pints of Deuchars IPA meant that I was so well stuffed I couldn't sleep!

480 metres Ascent, 650 Descent. About 12 or 13 miles.

Day 5 The last. Fochabers to Buckie

Sunshine to start the day. A gentle stroll through the woods alongside the river with a little detour to visit the Garmouth viaduct which is now a cycle track, part of the route from Aberdeen to Inverness. We eventually reached Tugnet on the coast. There's a nice little café here and an old ice house. Lots of folk trying to catch sight of dolphins and porpoises. There weren't any but we did see some black-throated divers. After a cup of tea it was eastwards along the coast past a golf course and through Portgordon and Buckpool with its silted up harbour to the end of the trail at Buckie. Buckie is still a working fishing port with some shipbuilding. On a Sunday it is SHUT and a DUMP! The feet were sore and Sue didn't fancy another two miles walk to a campsite so we got a taxi back to Fochabers as the buses didn't seem to be running from Buckie on a Sunday. We realised why the Rangers suggest walking away from Buckie, not towards it!

20 metres ascent, 40 descent and 10 miles

In total 1160 metres ascent, 1520 descent and about 62 miles.

John Denmark

Since then we have completed the Dales Way (Ilkley to Bowness) with Mike and Jennie Tolley. Lots of beer this time and a beer festival, rude landlords.., all sorts of adventures, but not enough space to write about it in this issue. Some other time perhaps.

The club booked the Barn for the Bank Holiday week & after a lot of effort by various people we managed to get together a full team of 14 for what was an excellent week. Sadly there were only 6 FMC members. One friend of John Stockton joined us & the remaining places were taken up by friends of Phil Lee so thanks to Phil for saving the club a lot of money. This really must be the last formal club trip as people prefer to go to new venues.

No one person knew everybody but we all managed to meet at the Harbour in Ilfracombe for the ferry. The journey over was good if a little choppy & a few people dashed out to do a route in Landing Craft bay in the evening. As most people had not been to the island before we went for a walk to point out where the main cliffs are & generally orientate ourselves.

During the week most of the main, popular cliffs were climbed on & many of the classics repeated. The grades are generally quite hard & few people got a bit of a shock so ambitions were muted a little. The weather was excellent except Wednesday when it rained in the morning & cloud built up again in the evening. The sun however came out in the afternoon allowing a few climbs to be done. It was so hot some days there were complaints of heat exhaustion.

Cliffs visited & climbs done included: Devils Slide, Back of the Slide, Seal Slab, Beaufort Buttress, Alpine Buttress, Old Light, Egyptian Slabs, Flying Buttress etc. Dave Cundy teamed up with a visiting German climber & followed him up Diamond Life E4 & Redspeed E3. We were all treated to a hold by hold/grunt by grunt account of the ascent.

On the first day Helen, Nigel & James climbed as a 3 & did 5 routes which was impressive & on most days they were doing 2 or 3 routes. Paul Taylor tied on with various teams & managed to repeat lots of routes he's done before & even one he hadn't.

Phil Lee put in some flying time also on Redspeed & Kevin soon followed him on/off Beam Up. Fortunately no one was hurt. I managed to stab myself with my nut extractor resulting blood every where. This was on the Needle late in the evening so I had to rush back & clean it up.

I have done a lot of the classics so did a few climbs in the new supplement. On Goat crag near Montague Steps Kevin & I did a very good & steep E2 Shagstastic. Then with Steve from Sheffield we did a few E1s on Silver Slabs near Deep Zawn. These were again excellent & we finished with a new E1 on the same cliff which we called Hallmark.

On Friday Kevin & Nick got scorched on Scorched Earth E2 & retired to the pub. Helen & Jill did the top pitch of Eclipse in a very creditable time & also retired to the pub after a swim. The two Andys from Sheffield did Asafoetida & also retired to the pub.

There is a new guide in preparation so if anyone wants to make comments from past trips please either send them to me or go onto the CC website & email them.

One noticeable difference on this trip was that people got out of bed in the morning & went climbing before 10. This was refreshing.

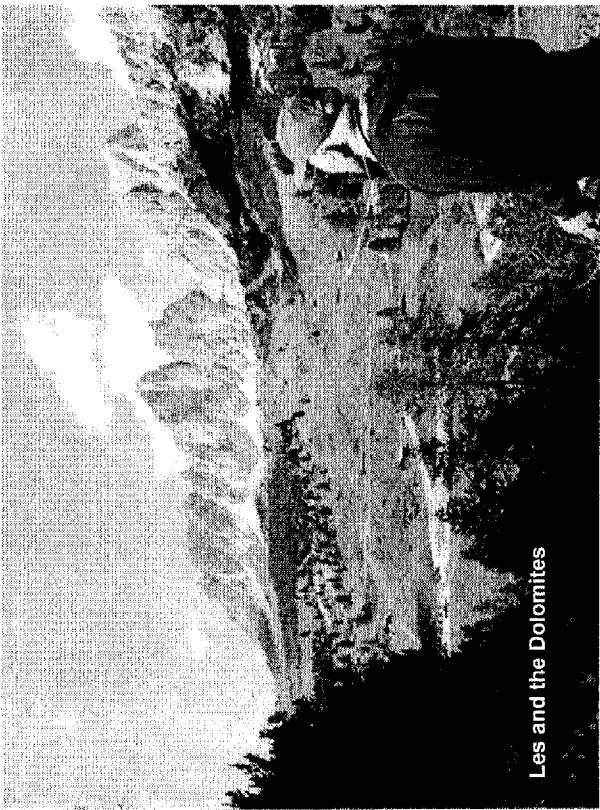
Several of us went on boat trips around the island from which you get a fantastic view of the cliffs & is quite exciting particularly sailing around the north end of the island.

We all ate together which worked out well. As usual the veggies did most of the cooking & some of the meat eaters complained but never actually took positive action to cook. Nick Hepburn managed remarkably well without meat but did get a bit focused on Birds Custard. Personally I prefer Devon Ambrosia.

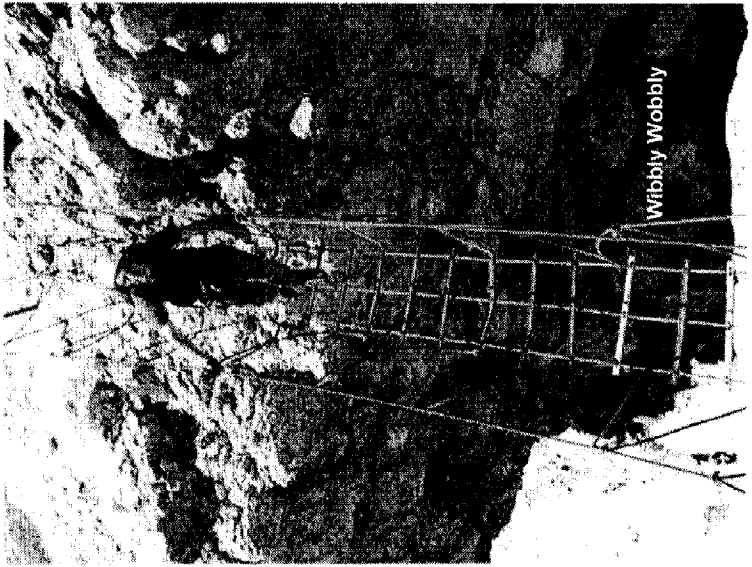
The return was eventful. There was an east wind & a substantial swell. The day tripper visits were cancelled & it was doubtful whether the boat could land but it did. Sailing times were changed such that we had to anchor off Clovelly for 2 hours to wait for the tide to come in before we could dock at Bideford.

Nobody did anything really daft & everyone had a great time all vowing to go back.

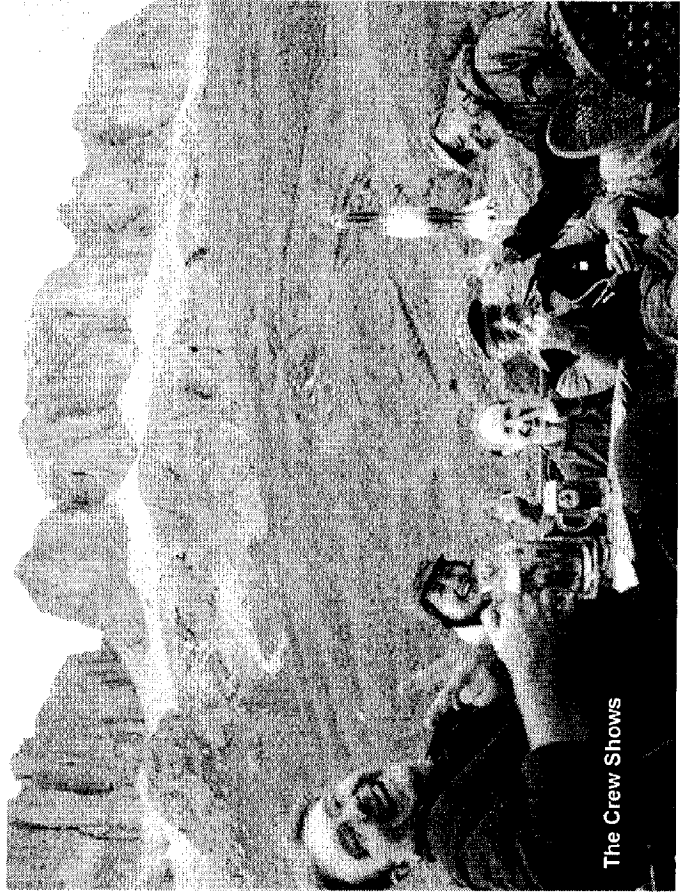
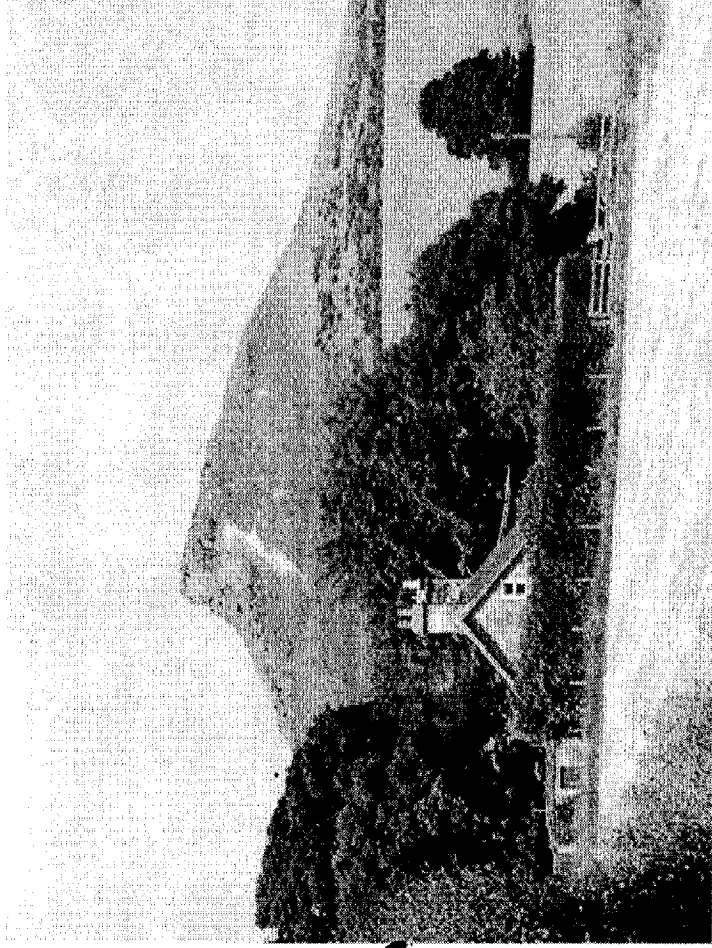
Andy Dunhill
September 2005



Les and the Dolomites



Wibbly Wobbly



The Crew Shows

**CAIRNGORM MEET
11/12th FEBRUARY 2006**

Lairds Bothy will be unavailable for the Cairngorm meet next year, so I've booked 14 beds at Aviemore Bunkhouse for the trip. It looks like a reasonable venue, handier for Northern Corries but a bit further to the Ben, Creag Meagaidh etc. Also, it's next door to the Old Bridge Inn.

Unfortunately, like most huts, costs have gone up and they charge £14/night FOR EACH PERSON! I've paid a deposit and they need the balance 2 weeks before we stay, so I'll need hard cash from anyone booking a place.

Some of the knobs going will be fully warmed up from the Italian trip returning a few days before, so the cascatisi will be anxious to drag us up some characterful routes in 'classic' Scottish conditions. So much more interesting than icefalls...

Chris Bell

Whitby again

Our 2nd foray to Whitby proved just as interesting as last year (the seagulls didn't get anybody this year). We arrived Friday afternoon and wandered about the town up to the abbey and then down and out along the east pier. In the early evening John W., Kevan E. and I went to explore the beer and eventually found Mr Dale who dragged us into the Endeavour, a good old fashioned boozer (the pub not Martin). According to a plaque on the wall it was originally (1700's) called The Swan and then the Black Swan, this was before the discovery of black swans in Australia (must have been when Melissa was a convict). Apparently the pigment used in the white paint of the swan on the pub sign turned black with time hence the name change (not many people know that!).

Saturday morning was grey and damp but not raining. We caught the 93 bus to the start of our walk from Ravenscar back to Whitby, the driver said he would give us a shout at our stop, the Flask Inn, but he forgot and after an emergency stop we debussed well past our stop. After leaving the bus there was a 2 mile walk under leaden skies across field and moor. The path was bum high in wet grass which left us bum down in wet trousers. Kevan discovered he had lost his binoculars, a search in the wet grass

proved fruitless, a good start to the day! From Ravenscar we headed north along the cliffs, with spectacular views, to Robin Hoods Bay and beer. From here with alcohol in our step and the sun getting brighter all the time we followed the spectacular cliffs to the abbey and "home" in the sunshine. That evening we met



our fellow inmates, a gang of limping guys from down Bolton way who had just done the Lyke Wake Walk, they did it in two stretches! (wimps). Tea that night was fish and chips from the chippy across the road, excellent! After tea we followed the good pub guide which proved not that good so we wound up in the Endeavour again.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, breakfast outside watching the river, the birds and the boats. The plan was to drive north to my old backyard and the Cleveland Hills. Martin went bouldering on the Wain Stones whilst John, June, Kevan and I walked up Roseberry topping (the Teesside Matterhorn) which overlooks Airy Holme Farm, the boyhood home of Cpt. Cook. Then over the moors to Easby Moor which bears a monument to the aforementioned Cpt. (Stan & Liz. You were lucky we didn't know your house, we would have come for a brew) then back to Roseberry. The

(Continued on page 16)

I Couldn't resist this, sent to me via email from a relative.

This is an actual letter sent to a man named Ryan DeVries by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, State of Michigan.

Dear Mr. DeVries

It has come to the attention of the Department of Environmental Quality that there has been recent unauthorized activity on the above referenced parcel of property. You have been certified as the legal land owner and/or contractor who did the following unauthorized activity Construction and maintenance of two wood debris dams across the outlet stream of Spring Pond.

A permit must be issued prior to the start of this type of activity. A review of the Department's files shows that no permits have been issued. Therefore, the Department has determined that this activity is in violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.30101 to 324.30113 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, annotated.

The Department has been informed that one or both of the dams partially failed during a recent rain event, causing debris and flooding at downstream locations. We find that dams of this nature are inherently hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist all activities at this location, and to restore the stream to a free-flow condition by removing all wood and brush forming the dams from the stream channel. All restoration work shall be completed no later than January 31, 2003.

Please notify this office when the restoration has been completed so that a follow-up site inspection may be scheduled by our staff.

Failure to comply with this request or any further unauthorized activity on the site may result in this case being referred for elevated enforcement action.

We anticipate and would appreciate your full cooperation in this matter.

Please feel free to contact me at this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely, David L. Price District Representative Land and Water Management Division

This is the actual response he sent back

Dear Mr. Price,
Re: DEQ File No. 97-59-0023; T11N; R10W, Sec. 20; Montcalm County.

Your certified letter dated 10/17/02 has been handed to me to respond to.

I am the legal landowner but not the Contractor at 2088 Dagget, Pierson, Michigan. A couple of beavers are in the (State unauthorized) process of constructing and maintaining two wood "debris" dams across the outlet stream of my Spring Pond.

While I did not pay for, authorize, nor supervise their dam project, I think they would be highly offended that you call their skilful use of natures building materials "debris." I would like to challenge your department to attempt to emulate their dam project any time and/or any place you choose.

I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam resource-

fulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam determination and/or their dam work ethic.

As to your request, I do not think the beavers are aware that they must first fill out a dam permit prior to the start of this type of dam activity.

My first dam question to you is: (1) Are you trying to discriminate against my Spring Pond Beavers or (2) do you require all beavers throughout this State to conform to said dam request? If you are not discriminating against these particular beavers, through the Freedom of Information Act, I request completed copies of all those other applicable beaver dam permits that have been issued.

Perhaps we will see if there really is a dam violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.30101 to 324.30113 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, annotated.

I have several concerns. My first concern is -- aren't the beavers entitled to legal representation? The Spring Pond Beavers are financially destitute and are unable to pay for said representation, so the State will have to provide them with a dam lawyer.

The Department's dam concern that either one or both of the dams failed during a recent rain event causing flooding is proof that this is a natural occurrence, which the Department is required to protect.

In other words, we should leave the Spring Pond Beavers alone rather than harassing them and calling their dam names. If you want the stream "restored" to a dam free-flow condition please contact the Beavers. But if you are going to arrest them, they obviously did not pay any attention to your dam letter they being unable to read English. In my humble opinion, the Spring Pond Beavers have a right to build their unauthorized dams as long as the sky is blue, the grass is green and water flows downstream.

They have more dam rights than I do to live and enjoy Spring Pond.

If the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection lives up to its name, it should protect the natural resources (Beavers) and the environment (Beavers' Dams).

So, as far as the beavers and I are concerned, this dam case can be referred for more elevated enforcement action right now.

Why wait until 1/31/2003? The Spring Pond Beavers may be under the dam ice then and there will be no way for you or your dam staff to contact/harass them then.

In conclusion, I would like to bring to your attention to a real environmental quality (health) problem in the area. It is the bears!

Bears are actually defecating in our woods. I definitely believe you should be persecuting the defecating bears and leave the beavers alone.

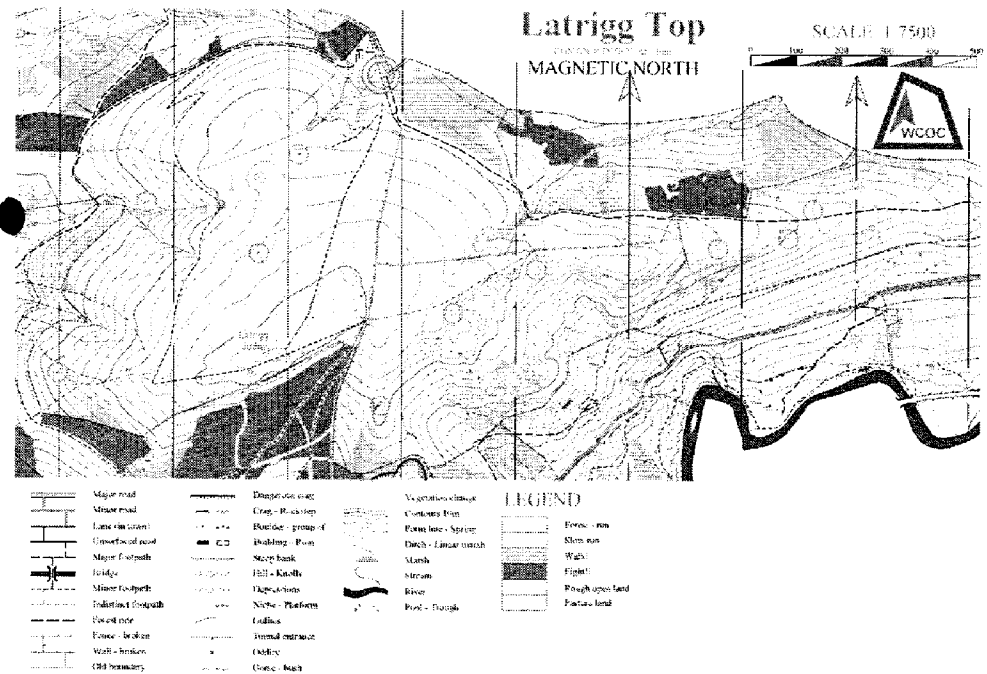
If you are going to investigate the beaver dam, watch your step! (The bears are not careful where they dump!)

Being unable to comply with your dam request, and being unable to contact you on your dam answering machine, I am sending this response to your dam office.

Ryan DeVries

Orienteering Meet 8/9 October

Well, there we are, over and done with once again. The area for this year was Lattrigg, a fine spot with astounding views over Keswick and Derwent Water. Not so astounding on the morning of the event as I set off to put out the controls at 9.30 am! The weather forecast all week had been for driving rain and low cloud on Saturday morning and, guess what; it was right! But... we must be blessed



or something because as I was going round the rain let up and the cloud lifted.

When Sue and I visited the area a couple of months ago we wondered how we were going to get a reasonable course out of the area with the very open aspect of the area and the steepness of the slopes. As it turned out everyone seems to have enjoyed the format of the Score Event and using the Sportident electronic timing system introduces makes life a little simple in many ways and the split times can be examined.

Looking through the results, Chris This lost about 6 minutes going to his first one and that might have lost him a place. My fault, partly, I should have had some blank maps on Friday night, or at least on Saturday morning so that competitors could get a "feel" for the map before they set off. It looks like Les was a bit hesitant going from the southern water trough(207) to the gully(202) and could have got well under the hour. Unfortunately Les missed out 203 but it was still a brilliant performance. Liz and Drew got tied up a bit at the end; Adrian seems to have done the same. Marie Angeles also did some good splits but a little language difficulty seemed to cause a problem to her. Clive and Kevan went walkabout for 210 and lost about twenty minutes.

It's hugely encouraging to a) see people enjoying themselves, b) getting better at the technical side of navigating, and everyone has come on leaps and bounds, and c) entering into the spirit of the event.

Unfortunately the bracken gobbled up Steve's electronic "dibber" so I've guessed that he probably would have won. It's a pity as I would have been interested in his splits to compare to the others who went clockwise. Only two, John and Claire, went anti-clockwise, which is the way I went to put the markers out.

Next year I think we'll keep the same format but with a handicapping system. South Ribble use this for their annual club bash. A nice lot of forest as well, with loos and a cafe - very up market! Sue and I have already had a look and it seems ideal. All we need to do is sort out the date and arrange the permissions.

Thanks go to all the participants, the cooks Sue and Jennie, the control collectors Steve and Chris, South Ribble Orienteering Club for the loan of the kit for free, West Cumberland Orienteering Club for the use of their map for free and to me for the brilliant planning. Commiserations to Mike Penn who was too poorly to compete and to Mike Tolley who couldn't make the meet.

		Time	Points scored	Penalties	Total
1=	Steve Wrigley	43.00 (approx)	100 points	0	100
1=	John Hickman	49.51	100	0	100
2	Caroline Webb	62.05	100	0	100
3	Chris Thistlethwaite	67.17	100	0	100
4	Les Ward	62.21	90	0	90
5	John Wiseman	70.51	90	0	90
6	Clive Bell & Kevan Ebbrell	71.20	80	0	80
7	Claire Addy	64.52	70	0	70
8	Marie Angeles Solera	71.26	70	0	70
9	Liz & Drew Hird	82.43	90	40	50
10	Adrian Clifford	82.39	80	40	40
11	Dave Earle & Tom Rainford	76.25	10	10	0

For those who may be interested, a Score event is one with a time limit, usually 60 minutes, with each control having a points value. Points are lost for times longer than the time allowed. On the day I extended the time from 60 minutes to 75 as it took me longer to put out the flags than I had anticipated. However, I have discovered that there is a medical reason for that so maybe I was being generous!

John Denmark

(Continued from page 12)

intention was to carry on to numerous other places but it was just too hot and John's feet were steaming so we wimped out and called it a day. No ice-cream man in the car park so we went home.

Another excellent weekend with excellent weather (apart from Sat. Morning) with excellent digs and excellent fish and chips. Only 5 punters, where was every one?

Clive Bell



page 16

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS

It seemed like ages since I'd been cragging in the US of A, so when Melissa and I arranged to meet up in September this year, that's where I wanted to go.

I flew into Calgary in Alberta, Canada on a sunny Thursday. Melissa was supposed to meet me there but the car wasn't ready after it's pre trip service, so I took an internal flight over to Kelowna in BC. She met me off the plane with the trusty old Nissan already well packed with camping gear etc. I was pretty tired and was looking forward to a kip, however Melissa had it all planned, so off we set for Wells Gray provincial park, just north of Kamloops. By the time we got there it was raining. We booked into the Half Moon hostel at Wells Gray, which as luck would have it was just north of Blackpool! Yes, if you look in your atlas's there are two Blackpool's. Anyhow, I got my kip.

The next day dawned wet. Eventually, that's even later than a usual FMC start, we set off to view numerous waterfalls in the area. Very spectacular, especially the leaping Salmon, swimming up river to spawn. It was still a bit wet the day after so we set off for Jasper National Park. Before we left, another couple arrived at the hostel, whom we were going to run into again later on our travels. The day got steadily better and by the time we reached Mt Robson the sun was out and the biggest hill in Canada stood out in all it's glory. Just past here we saw our first wild animal. A lone wolf skulked away from the road in the gathering gloom. We hit Jasper that night which, I'm pleased to report has its own brewpub. The new day was spectacular, so we went in search of a hike. The ranger did us proud with her suggestion. We parked up in awesome surroundings near Angel Glacier at the foot of Mt Edith Cavell. I'd hoped to do its classic East Ridge but early season snow put paid to that. We made do with a hike up to a viewpoint through fresh snow, with stunning views all around. The next morning we were rudely awoken by the sound of rutting Elks. Melissa opened the tent door to be confronted by a massive bull Elk literally sat on our doorstep. Fortunately the animal walked round the tent rather than through it. With rain again about it was time to move on again. We drove the normally spectacular Icefields Parkway in clag and rain. It didn't buck up at Lake Louise either so we continued to Banff.

Banff is a nice spot, if a little touristy. Melissa wanted to live out one of her dreams, so we had afternoon tea in the very posh Banff Springs Hotel. It had fined up a bit and I was getting desperate for a little cliff action. We checked out a small venue behind the hotel. I guess in the UK it would be a major crag but over there it was just really somewhere for the locals to practice their slab climbing techniques. Four routes later it was trying to snow and so it was time to go. We had bumped into our friends from the hostel and spent a good night out in downtown Banff that finished in the famous Wild Bills Saloon.

The weather still had not improved, so we set off again in search of some sun and dry rock. Kananaskis Country is about 60 miles north of Calgary and has some good limestone sports climbing. We had our first real afternoons climbing of the trip on Barrier Mountain, in the sun getting Melissa used to it again after 12 months off. The crag was deserted, which was good as she felt that her first efforts might be a bit embarrassing. She needn't have worried. We had another day up at some slabs climbing limestone friction routes. Very interesting and well scary, before returning to Barrier Mtn on the Sunday afternoon. What a difference, every man and his dog, and child had turned up from Calgary and the place resembled a vertical playground with much of your usual sport climbing incompetence in evidence. I had a good do here managing several hefty long 5.11's on sight (about E4 UK, F6C+/7A), the best being "The Great Outdoors". The 80 metre rope coming in very handy. Again, the next day was wet, so we hit the road for the USA, and Montana.

After a night in more smarter accommodation, we drove through the spectacular Glacier National Park on the "Going to the Sun" highway. At the highpoint of the drive, we went for a hike. Now I'd been a bit disappointed by our animal encounters since Jasper. I'd seen these wonderful pictures of the local mountain goats and wanted to get close to one! They were in danger of taking over from the Lakeland Sheep as my favourite nice fluffy white things. I didn't have to wait long. We'd already seen some Marmots when turning a corner there were two of the goats chomping away on the grass. Better than the view! Back by the road we noticed some folks looking through binoculars. We stopped the car and joined in. We were rewarded by a Grizzly sighting. Stunning! What a top furry animal day. Unfortunately our time in Glacier Nat

page 17

Park was marred by our car being broken into. Melissa lost her camera with loads of pictures of her time up north on it.

Down the road again, we climbed at Lolo Hot Springs, on a feature called the Heap. Here I flashed a rarely flashed 5.11b. I think the guide-book must be out of date because it was eminently flashable really. We had a dip in the hot springs then headed for Missoula in the rain. We hung out there for two rainy days checking out brewpubs etc. Hamilton in the Bitterroots was our next stop. The huge spires of Blodgett Canyon beckoned. We had been recommended a good all day route up one of the smaller spires called Shoshone Spire. "Leave at 8am and you should top out by 3pm, in time to get down before dark (which occurs at about 7pm)" the helpful Yank in the climbing shop had told us. Well, we're from the FMC aren't we. We commenced our hike at 12.30 pm, started climbing at 3pm, reached the top at 6.30pm, and found the abseil tree at 7pm. Back at the campsite at 9pm in the pitch black by head torch. The next day we hiked up to the strangely named "Parking Lot Wall". Strange because it's a long way uphill from the car park! Here, for the first time it was too hot! We did do several really good routes, including classics like "Dudley Do Right" and "Leisure Suit Larry", two run out 5.10C's. Back in town, we were in the tourist info office when I came across a leaflet for the local brewery. I asked the guy where it was and he said "come here son" and took me into the toilet. This I thought was a bit dodgy until he opened the window and said "there it is son". It was literally across the yard. Whilst Melissa indulged in some cultural stuff, I nipped across for a look. They had been trying to brew some Scottish heavy and I offered my experience of the style. After several free tastes of various brews Melissa arrived looking disgusted. Well, it was free!

Over in Bozeman, we booked into a very cosy hostel for a couple of nights. Here, as well as top class ice climbing, was a top class brewpub and breakfast café, not to mention some rock climbing. Having ticked the brewpub (42 beers on tap!), and the breakfast, there being no ice, we thought about doing some climbing. Gallatin Canyon was the venue, gneiss the rock. One route in particular (White Tag Sale, given just a straight 5.10 in the guide) proved very taxing, however Melissa followed it with style. She had definitely regained her previous climbing ability level. Two days doing Yellowstone followed.

Most of this was Geysers, Bison, Wolves and Elk. More nice furry animals. We dipped into Grand Teton as the sun was setting, unfortunately that was almost the best view we were to get. That night we were fortunate to bump into "Brian from Broughton in Furness" who had a cabin which, he very generously offered to share with us. We were very grateful as it rained and was very cold all night. The next night we woke to pawing noises on the side of the tent. Melissa woke me, gripped by fear. Could this be the bear attack we had been fearing? We sat there for what seemed an age, until Melissa noticed a shadow slide down the tent wall. It was snow!!!! We breathed a sigh of relief and looked outside to find a good covering of the stuff. We quit the tent for Jackson Hole, and the best brewery so far, Snake River. Two crap days later and we had enough. If we had stayed any longer we would have had to hire snowboards. Winter had caught up with us. It was time to head west.

City of Rocks is in south east Idaho, and is high, around 6000 ft. It's a high desert area. The sun was out when we got there and Brad, the climbing ranger informed us that we'd arrived at a good time, the last few days being crap with high winds and rain. We found our campsite and went climbing in the sun. The City is like a big granite version of Brimham Rocks with bolts. We were in heaven! Three fantastic days followed climbing classics. Face, cracks, overhanging walls filled with huecco's you name it the City's got it and all not too far from the car. It has been described as the Joshua Tree of the north. The only downside is the bar is down the hill about 5 miles, and it shuts at 9pm. The staff are friendly though. The fourth day we awoke to rain, which turned to snow. We did bag a route late on but the same process ensued on our fifth day. This time it was proper snow. Winter had caught up again. It did clear up and enabled me to do one of the area classics before we quit. "Red Tail" starts with the 5.11A crux at the bottom and then carries on up a slender pillar of vertical stone for a full 45 metres of sustained 5.10D. The crux went ok second try but after that it was so sustained. Every single move had to be thought about right to the very top. I abseiled off knowing that this was the route of the trip. We left and drove on north towards Vancouver.

The weather was nice as we moved up through Boise and into Oregon. The trip turned into a journey punctuated by stops in towns with breweries. We did stop at Frenchman Coulee in Washington for a quick route on the recommen-

dation of Jerry Evans. It's his dry desert alternative to the rains of Vancouver. If you can imagine a totally huge Kilt Rock with bolts you are about there. The area of climbing is immense but reads arête, crack, arête crack etc etc. Once you've done one the next ones the same only maybe harder! A bit boring really. It's a mesa to give it it's correct geographical name. We did an entertaining line called "Ride 'Em Cowboy" 5.9. So called because half way up the very impressive overhanging arête is a saddle where one can take both hands and feet off and lasso something..

Back in Vancouver the rain came down vertically. Typical apparently for the time of year, now October. We went up to Squamish but it was much the same there. We did manage a hike up the Chief, very steep, and a few pints in the excellent Howe Sound brewpub. We managed to drag Jerry away from his parental duties for an excellent night out down the Yaletown brewpub. He was like a dog on heat, forcing the pace.

(Continued from page 3)

There are several jobs still outstanding – Repair the damaged rendering under the new windows (this is a summer job); Then repaint the outside walls; Finish off the additional parking space when it has settled properly; Enclose the emersion heater in the gents etc. So there will plenty of spaces on the next working weekend & bookings are being taken now so don't miss out.

The flat roof is ok at the moment, although there is a bit of a bulge in the ceiling in the extension to the large dorm, but it will need replacing in the short/medium term as it has a limited life span. The grant regime has changed such that we



It's Mike Sissons again! Or is it?

Well, not a bad trip. The climbing highlight for me being City of Rocks. I think that September/October, whilst being great in Yosemite is probably getting a bit late further north. Of course there's always the breweries which are sprouting up like McDonalds over there. I didn't quite get a full tick list of furry animals. We got Moose in Grand Tetons but in the end were missing a brown bear. Ah well, I've got my photos of the lovely furry white mountain goats to look at whenever I feel the urge.

Summary: A road trip starting in Kelowna, British Columbia and taking in Alberta, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and finishing in Vancouver, BC. Fly with Zoom. It's cheaper to go to Canada first then drive into the States. I could have written an article on the City itself, oh and the beer.

Martin Dale, Melissa Bock

would not be able to get any so the cost will fall to the club. We need to start planning for a new roof now as it will be a major cost, although not beyond the club by any means.

This will give us the opportunity to put a pitched roof on which is far better, both functionally & aesthetically, & they have a greater life span. The roof area would be useable & would allow some reconfiguration downstairs. We could provide more & smaller sleeping areas allowing some privacy with snoring & non-snoring rooms!

Thanks to all those mentioned above & to: Tony Mitchell, Chris Thistlethwaite, Caroline, Paul (a new member), Geoff Bellingham, Martin Dale &



Whitby again again!

All photos courtesy of Clive Bell

OFFICERS

Chairman - CLIVE BELL
40 Beech Avenue, Warton, Preston,
PR4 1BX
Tel. 01772 635306
ring@the3bells.fsnet.co.uk

Vice-Chairman - DARREN HARTLEY
60 Sandy Lane, Preesall
Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0PR
Tel. 01253 811485
djhartley25@aol.com

Membership Secretary - MARTIN DALE
6 Oxford Road, Fleetwood, FY7 7EX.
Tel. 01253 772073.
nobbydale@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary - MIKE PENN
7 Ribble Avenue, Freckleton, PR4 1RU
Tel. 01772 632579
michaelpenn@pissednbroke.fsnet.co.uk

Treasurer - LIZ HIRD
7 Hacklands Avenue, Lea, Preston,
PR2 1 XY.
Tel. 01772 769337
Drew.liz@lineone.net

Booking Secretary -
CHRIS THISTLETHWAITE
Old Stone Trough Cottage, Kelbrook, Bamoldswick,
BB8 6LW
Tel. 01282 844668
ljjt@talk21.com

Hut Custodian Stair -
ANDY DUNHILL &
CHRISTINE BARBIER
School House, Church Lane, Riding Mill,
Northumberland, NE44 6DS.
Tel. 01434 682018
Andy.dunhill@unn.ac.uk

Hut Custodian Langdale—CHRIS BELL
10 Hall Road, Fulwood, Preston.
PR2 9QD
Tel. 01772 774072
rachnchris@tiscali.co.uk

Social Secretary -
LES WARD
65 School Lane, Newton,
Preston, PR4 3RT.
Tel. 01772 684681
Brenda@langdalenewton.fsnet.co.uk

Editor - JOHN DENMARK
128 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8AH
Tel. 01772 700327
e-mail john@denmark.demon.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JOHN WISEMAN
24 Tarn Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY5 5AX.
Tel. 01253 826594.
john.wiseman1@virgin.net

MIKE TOLLEY
50 Sion Close, Ribbleton, Preston,
PR2 6RP
Tel. 01772 791121
mjtolley5050@hotmail.com

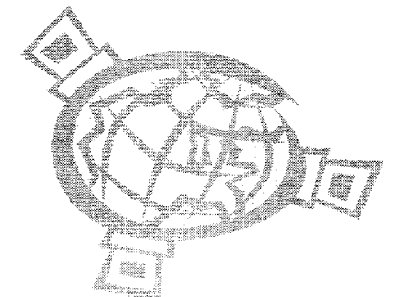
MIKE SISSONS
16 Richards Way, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 3TJ
Tel. 01253 857929

Webmaster(s)

JOANNA GOORNEY
East View Flat, Lamaleach Park, Lamaleach Drive,
Freckleton, PR4 1DT
Tel: 01772 633628
joanna.goorney@baesystems.com
jmg@eastview2.freeserve.co.uk

TONY MITCHELL
33 Manor Road, Fleetwood, FY7 7LJ
Tel: 01253 773629
Fleetwoodmitch@aol.com

British Mountaineering Council
177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB
Tel: 0161 445 4747
Fax: 0161 445 4500
email: office@thebmc.co.uk
website: www.thebmc.co.uk



FMC Website www.fyldemc.org.uk