

Stonehaven Mountaineering and Hill Walking Club



Programme of Events

Jan - Dec 2014

Issue 14

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THE CLUB

The Club was formed in 1978 and there are currently about 40 members. Our activities include:

- Monthly Sunday walks throughout the year
- Weekend meets and an annual 'May Week'
- Weekly rock climbing training in Summer, depending on demand
- Subsidised training opportunities
- Invited speakers at our Autumn/Winter indoor meets

GROUP WALKS

A variety of routes, of differing levels of difficulty, are available depending on capability and wishes of the group. Members are encouraged to plan their own routes and we only ask that details are left with other members out walking.

TRANSPORT

Meet at the Market Square for departure at 7am. Costs is kept to a minimum by car sharing. Bus transport is occasionally organised to walking areas where there are sufficient numbers. For this reason, members should ensure that they confirm attendance with the Outdoor Secretary by the Monday prior to an outing. Bikes are an option for quicker access to certain hills.

THURSDAY CLUB MEETS 2014 / 2015

Thursday night slide shows and a variety of talks from 8pm at the Royal Hotel, Stonehaven. An email will be sent to remind members of what's on.

2014		2015	
MARCH 27th (AGM)		JANUARY 29th	
SEPTEMBER 25th		FEBRUARY 26th	
OCTOBER 30th		MARCH 26th (AGM)	
NOVEMBER 27th			

DAY MEETS 2014

16th February - Lochnagar & High Tea at Station Hotel

(Map No 44, Grid Ref 310851)

"England! thy beauties are tame and domestic, to one who has roved o'er the mountains afar. Oh, for the crags that is wild and majestic! The steep frowning glories of dark Lochnagar!" So wrote Lord Byron who climbed Lochnagar from Invercauld by the Garbh Allt, accompanied by a ghillie when only a boy of 15 years. Queen Victoria often wrote about Lochnagar in 'Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands'. She commemorated saving Ballochbuie Forest in 1878 by having a cairn built on Craig Doin which overlooks the forest. Its inscription ends with "The Bonniest Plaid in Scotland" from the old legend that McGregor, the last laird of Ballochbuie, sold the forest to Farquharson of Invercauld for a tartan plaid. Winter will likely be upon us by then, so ice axe and crampons are a likely must. Variations to Lochnagar include Broad Cairn and any number of lower hills should the weather be truly inclement.

27th February - Upland Wildlife Survey

Ben Darvill, of the BTO, will give an illustrated talk describing the forthcoming survey of mountain wildlife, primarily birds, and how we can contribute as a club. 8.00 pm Royal Hotel Stonehaven.

16th March - Gordon Way

(Map No 37, Grid Ref 546233)

Starting at the Suie Hill car park (546233), the walk proceeds in an easterly direction on good paths through the forest to Suie Hill, Black Hillock and Knock Saul. There then follows a gradual descent to cross the B992, which is followed by an easy climb to Black Hill, the westernmost top of Bennachie. From there, the walking is very pleasant with extensive views over the north-east lowlands and the Correen Hills to the west. Several tops of Bennachie may be visited including Hermit Seat, Oxen Craig (the highest point at 528m) and Mither Tap. This 18k walk finishes at the Bennachie Visitor Centre (698216).

20th April - Loch Earnhead

(Map 51/57, Grid Ref 593238, Car park)

Lochearnhead, located at the west end of Loch Earn and the south end of Glen Ogle is a good starting point for several hills. Ben Vorlich and Stuc a'Chroin are best climbed from Ardvorlich on the south side of Loch Earn a 4km drive from the village. The two Corbetts Meall an t-Seallaidh and Creag MacRanaich can be climbed easily in a day from the village via Glen Kendrum. Meall na Fearna is a Corbett located east of Ben Vorlich and also climbed from Ardvorlich. Another Corbett, Beinn Each is normally climbed via Glen Ample off the A84 south of Strathyre. The Graham Meall Buidhe is best climbed from Glen Ogle and another two Grahams Creag Each and Creag Ruadh are climbed from St Fillans at the east end of Loch Earn. Many more hills are accessible down the nearby Balquhidder Glen.

18th May - Linn o Dee

(Map 43, Grid Ref 063897)

This is the gateway to the high mountains of the southern Cairngorms and a great access point into Glen Derry and Luibeg via Derry Lodge, and through the superb expanding Caledonian pinewoods in these two scenic mountain passes, or via the Chest of Dee into Glens Dee and Geldie and up into Glen Feshie Forest. Either way leads you to a wide choice of iconic mountains in the wild core of the Cairngorms National Park. There's so much to do here and we're lucky to have it on our doorstep.

20th July - Beinn a Bhuid

(Map No 36/43, Grid Ref 118912)

Head on past the Linn o Dee car park to the end of the public road, from there head up Glen Quoich through scenic ancient pine forest below the upper reaches of the Quoich water. The north and South tops if feeling fit Ben Avon can also be tackled, bikes can be used. Beinn a Bhuid can even be reached from Linn O Dee car park taking a route through the clubs adopted path Clais Fhearnaig for a full satisfying days outing.

17th August - Sma Glen

(Map No 52, Grid Ref 889314)

The Sma' Glen is a scenic glen in central Perthshire, located 5 miles (8 km) to the north of Crieff. The fast flowing River Almond runs along the narrow valley floor and the glen itself, is rather small, at only 4 miles (6.5 km) in length. The Romans built a fort and watchtower here, General Wade built a military road here in the 18th century and the glen featured in the 1981 film Chariots of Fire. At the northern end of the Sma' Glen keep an eye out for Clach Ossian or Ossian's Stone, an 8 ft high monolithic stone sited where the river and the road almost touch. This is reputed to be the burial place, in about 300 AD, of the legendary Gaelic bard Ossian. He was the father of Fingal who was immortalised in Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave overture. The upper half of the glen runs through mountainous country and is virtually uninhabited whilst the lower easterly section of the glen is more open. The change in the river crosses the Highland Boundary Fault, leaving the Grampian Highlands for the Central Lowlands.

19th October - Glen Ey walk through to Glen Shee

(Map No 43, Grid Ref 086893)

Glen Ey off the only remaining hamlet on the Mar Estate from Inverey up off the Linn o Dee road, enters into the centre of Cairnwell Hills an isolated area of heather moors and the ruins of many deserted settlements. Altnour is a ruined Hunting Lodge below the surrounding hills of An Socach and Cairn Liath a small plantation of spruce and larch. John Farquharson is usually referred to as the Black Colonel, he prevented a Government force of a hundred men occupying Braemar Castle, he burned it preventing its use by Government troops. He hid out in Glen Ey on a shelf of rock still known as the Colonels Bed. Inverey Castle ruins to the north of the road are still visible and the old burial ground a short distance to the north west of it. Once through the deep depression of Glen Ey surrounded by high tops our walk through to The Spittal once known as the Glen o the Fairies takes its name from Gaelic "Sith" meaning fairy. The old meeting place at the standing stone which is behind the present day church is called Dun Shith or Hill of the Fairies. The Spittal a shelter and hospitality for travellers which will am sure be a welcome sight.

16th December - Ben Rinnes

(Map No 28, Grid Ref 285360)

Ben Rinnes means headland hill and this popular Corbett provides good views over the Laich of Moray and over the Moray Firth as far as the Ross and Cromarty and Sutherland hills. Its summit is called Scurran of Lochterlandoch where there is a granite tor and trig point and there are two more granite tors on the north-west side of the hill. The easiest and most popular route approaches the summit from the east and starts at 285360 on the narrow road that runs between Edinville and the B9009 Dufftown to Tomintoul road. This route follows a well trodden path over Round Hill and then Roy's Hill before a steeper section leads to the summit. A second less popular route runs from the distillery near Milltown of Edinville on the north side of the summit up a ridge called Baby's Hill and then past Scurran of Well before reaching the summit. A less interesting vehicle track approaches the summit from the south side and the best starting point is at a track 250m east of Tomachar on the B9009 (On map 36). If additional transport is available a walk-through is possible by combining two of the above three routes.

WEEKEND MEETS 2014

25/26th January - Braemar Burns Supper

(Map No 43, Grid Ref 148917)

Rucksacks Bunkhouse, 15 Mar Road, Braemar. Once again Burns Supper is our annual event, meet for a full days walk on Saturday or arrive afternoon for entry to bunkhouse pm. 4 beds require sleeping bags, 22 have bedding provided. Many hills high or low can be climbed walks cross country and down hill skiing if snow cover on the hills. Car arrangements can be made yourselves. Sharpen up we our Bard for the Poets in our club as the talent gets better every year.

21st - 22nd March - Inchnadamph Lodge Loch Assynt

(Map No 15, Grid Ref 253218)

Sutherland, V27 4HL. Inchnadamph is just south of Loch Assynt, this area is a hillwalkers, fishermen, botanists, cavers and scientists who delight in this geologically interesting region. Munros, Corbetts and Grahams in abundance, good cycling routes will test the best around this area up in the west of Scotland. The Moine Thrust runs through this area which is a mecca for geologists. Near by a monument of the work of Ben Peach and John Horne whose work was crucial in the understanding of this, the 1st Thrust Fault to be discovered anywhere in the world. Bone Caves are in Inchnadamph relics of Eurasian Lynx, Brown Bear, Arctic Fox and Reindeer dated as long ago as 47,000 BP the only evidence of Polar Bears so far found in Scotland.

26th April - 3rd May - Corran Bunkhouse May Week

(Map No 41, Grid Ref 022636)

Corran Bunkhouse, South Onich, Fort William, PH33 6SE. Tel: 0870 608 2608. Corran Bunkhouse is set in Lochabers Onich on the banks of Loch Linnhe. Beautiful views of surrounding mountains and Lochside, is situated 8 miles south of Fort William 25 mins by car and across the water by free ferry on foot is Ardgour. Mountains of all sizes can be climbed even the highest Ben Nevis from here a great place before the midgies arrive. The bunkhouse has a sauna and free Wi Fi.

13 - 14th June - Loch Ossian

(Map No 41/42, Grid Ref 371671)

Arrive Friday evening at Youth Hostel, Depart Sunday afternoon. Loch Ossian Youth Hostel is a small, homely eco youth hostel, situated on the banks of Loch Ossian with exquisite views. As there is no public road the easiest access is by train to Corroon station which is approximately one hour north from Crianlarich. The Youth Hostel is just under a 2km walk from the Corroon Halt railway station along a well-made vehicle track. There are plenty of hills which can be climbed from the Youth Hostel and they all reward the walker with fantastic views and beautiful scenery. The nearest Munro is Beinn na Lap on the west side of the loch and is directly north from the hostel. It is a 7.5km walk with a total ascent/descent of 560m and an estimated time of 3 ½ hours. To the east of the hostel are the two Munros Carn Dearg and Sgor Gaibhre and when combined with the top Sgor Choinnich makes an enjoyable circular route. The route is 18km long with a total ascent / descent of 1020m and an estimated time of 7 hours. Although a challenging day it is in fact possible to climb Ben Alder and Beinn Bheoil from the hostel. It is a 37km walk with a total ascent/descent of 1870m and an estimated time of 13 to 14 hours. The Corbett Leum Uilleim lies to the south west of the hostel and an enjoyable day is to traverse both ridges of the corrie and ascend the Corbett via Beinn a' Bhric. The distance is 13.6km with a total ascent / descent of 605m and an estimated time of 5 hours. Corbett Meall na Meoig, Beinn Pharlagain is normally climbed from Rannoch station.

19th - 20th September - Kinlochewe

(Map No 19, Grid Ref 028619)

Kinlochewe Bunkhouse, Kinlochewe Hotel, by Achnasheen, Wester Ross, IV22 2PA. Tel no: 01445 760253. Kin (head off) Loch Ewe was the case until the seventeenth century when the loch name was changed to Maree in memory of St Meallrubha, he is recorded as bringing Christianity to this area of Scotland. Meallrubha cell was on one of the islands on Loch Maree. Moine Thrust runs through Glen Torridon lots of geological features are found in Kinlochewe and most famous birdlife one of the rarest is found on Loch Maree the black throated diver, mammals and insects, rare dragon flies are studied here. Munros, Corbetts and Grahams are a plenty, Beinn Eighe Nature Reserve and Fisherfield Forest are in the centre of a National Scenic area.

14th - 15th November - Newtonmore

(Map No 35, Grid Ref 714991)

Arrive Friday evening, bedding provided, £18 pppn. Well located for those wishing to visit the numerous Munros and Corbetts in the Badenoch and Strathspey area. Close by are the rolling Monadh Liath and Drumochter hills. We're spoiled for choice this weekend, as Newtonmore is also handy for the hills surrounding Glens Tromie and Feshie.

Places on weekends are only confirmed once your booking form and a deposit of £10 (Or Preferably Pay in Full) for weekends has been received. Contact Anne Sinclair, who is now in charge of booking, for details and to confirm your place. If you wish to go on any of these events please contact Anne as soon as possible. Telephone 01569 765652

CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	KARIN MARSHALL	01569 763566
SECRETARY / TREASURER	ALISTAIR BEELEY	01561 378740
OUTDOOR MEETS	PETER MCDONALD	01224 248654
INDOOR MEETS	ROGER OWEN	01569 762479
WEEKENDS/MAY WEEK	ANNE SINCLAIR	01569 765652
-	JOHN MACPHERSON	01224 622128
-	KENNY ANDERSON	07711 524526

we can be contacted by email on **alistair.beeley@btinternet.com**

Remember to check out our new website and member photo galleries :-

<http://www.smhc.eu>

CLUB DISCOUNTS

Available at anytime on production of a current Membership Card from the following: Cotswold Outdoor, Nevis Sport, Blacks, Craigdon Sports & Hilltrek Clothing. Tiso's currently have a quarterly Club Discount Night.

It is always worth asking wherever you are.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due immediately after each AGM (held on the last Thursday in March) and currently stand at £20.00.

RAYMOND MARSHALL AWARD

The Raymond Marshall Award will go to the member who logs the most named hills during the Club's year, AGM to AGM. We will require your list stipulating dates, grid references and names of hills. You can only count a hill once during any given period.

GOLDEN BOOT AWARD

Remember there's still a chance to compete for the Golden Boot Award which goes to the person who attends the most Sunday Club Meets from AGM to AGM.

BOOKING FORM - WEEKENDS AND MAY DAY WEEK

Conditions of Booking

1. In order to book a place on either a weekend or May week you should complete the form below and send it to the meets organiser together with your deposit (or full fee, this makes it much simpler for all especially for weekend meets).

Deposit for a weekend meet is £10.00 per person (Preferably Pay in Full)
Deposit for May Week is £20.00 per person

2. You must have paid in full before the closing date (see section 3) as this will allow the organiser to enjoy their weekend free from security concerns regarding the cash collected.
3. If subsequently you wish to cancel you must do so as soon as possible with the meets organiser in order to reduce the potential loss to yourself. The booking list will close one month before the weekend meet and two months before the May Week. You must book before the closing dates.
4. If the booking list is full, a waiting list will be maintained.
5. After the closing date you are responsible for the full cost of your booking and if you cancel you will get back whatever the hostel owner allows. If there is a waiting list it may be possible to sell on your place. The meet organiser will be able to assist you by supplying names on the list.



Booking Requirements

Venue

.....

Dates required

.....

Number of places

.....

Other requests

.....

Payment enclosed £

.....

Signature

.....

Name(s)

.....

Address

.....

.....

Tel.

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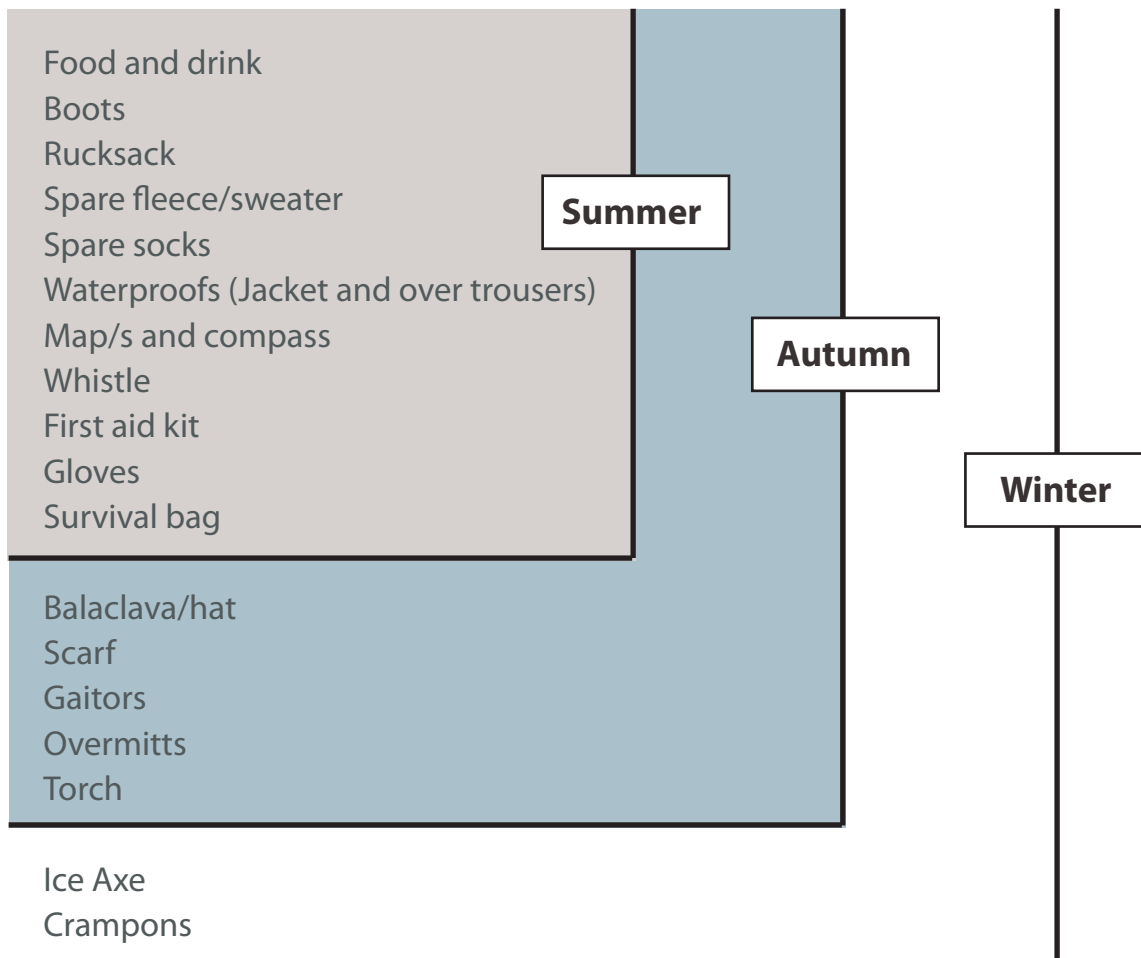
Return to: Anne Sinclair, 19 Martin Place, Stonehaven, AB39 2LG
Email: annesinclair@fsmail.net

CLUB EQUIPMENT

The Club owns the following equipment, which is freely available for the use of members on application to the equipment officer:

- Backpacker tents and emergency shelters
- Ropes (Full and half weight, safety)
- Carabiners and slings
- Altimeters
- Ice Axes and instep crampons
- Snow saw, shovel and avalanche probe
- Climbing helmets

EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST



Remember to check www.smhc.eu for all the latest Club news