

Stonehaven Mountaineering and Hill Walking Club



Programme of Events

July - Dec 2013

Issue 13

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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.

DAY MEETS 2013

21st July - Glen Shee

(Map No 43, Grid Ref 139782)

A chance to hone up on your wild life skills. Dr Peter Darvill of the British Trust for Ornithology will escort us on a day on the hill and give us instruction on identifying and reporting back on what we see when out and about. This forms part of the "What's Up?" project which aims to encourage people who routinely work and or play in upland habitats to record what they see. One not to miss in my view.

18th August - Broad Cairn (*SMHC Adopted Path*)

(Map No 44, Grid Ref 310852)

The 6.2km path from the SW corner of Loch Muick (Streak of Lightning) to the summit of Broad Cairn and then onward to the summit of Cairn Bannoch is one of two paths adopted by the SMHC in 2012. One of the options on this meet is to participate in our second survey of this path and learn more about the construction and maintenance of the paths which too many of us take for granted when we enjoy the outdoors. The other path adopted by the SMHC is the 3.2km long Clais Fhearnaig path, a narrow glen linking Glen Lui and Glen Quoich.

The CAPS (Cairngorms Adopt-a-Path Scheme) is a volunteer scheme to improve the maintenance of mountain paths in the Cairngorms National Park run by COAT (Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust). The Cairngorms Adopt-a-Path Scheme (CAPS) has been developed in partnership with the North East Mountain Trust, and asks volunteers like us to inspect and report on the condition of their adopted paths.

Some of us volunteers are also trained to undertake minor maintenance on these adopted paths, helping to ensure that small problems are tackled quickly. Using the information gathered by volunteers, COAT will also engage path contractors to repair damage and maintain paths so that people can continue to enjoy the hills with the minimum of impact on this fragile environment. Funding for the scheme comes mainly from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage.

14th/15th Sept - Lairig Ghru Walk Through to Glenmore Lodge

(Map 43/46, Grid Ref 064897)

A great opportunity to walk the two major passes of the Cairngorms with an overnight stay at Glenmore Lodge, the National Outdoor Training Centre. Setting off from the Linn of Dee the route follows the increasingly more interesting (now the deer have virtually gone) Glen Lui to Derry Lodge. From here it continues on round the shoulder of Carn a' Mhaim to enter the Lairig Ghru proper in the region of Corrou Bothy. Then it's up and over past the Pools of Dee to the head of the pass at 835m. The descent to Glenmore lodge takes you through the Chalamain Gap, scene of one of this winters avalanche disasters. 28 Km and 972m of ascent.

On day two the route follows Glen More past the picturesque An Lochan Uaine before diverting off towards the site of the now demolished Bynack Stable. It then takes you over the east shoulder of Bynack Mor (790m) before descending to the Fords of Avon Refuge and the stepping stones. A slight ascent follows into Lairig and Laoigh before descending into Glen Derry and Glen Lui for the return to the Linn of Dee. 28km and 842m of ascent.

20th October - Balquhidder

(Map 57, Grid Ref 534208)

Balquhidder village - properly called 'Kirkton of Balquhidder' takes its name from the Gaelic 'Both Chuidir' meaning 'village with fodder'. The village sits in Balquhidder Glen, which extends westwards for 20 kilometers from the A84 at King's House to its western end near Beinn Chabhair in the Crianlarich Hills. The Glen is often associated with Rob Roy MacGregor who lived at Inverlochlarig Beg to the west of Loch Voil and is buried along with his wife and two sons in the Balquidder kirkyard.

Many of the Crianlarich Munros, the Corbett Stob a'Choin and the Graham Stob Breac can be accessed from the car park 1km east of Inverlochlarig. The Corbetts, Stobfear Tomhais, Benvane and the Graham Creag Mhor can be climbed from Glen Buckie to the south of Balquidder. A third Graham, The Stob lies to the north of the Balquhidder Glen and between the Kirkton Glen and the Monachyle Glen. Other hills in the immediate area are the Munros Ben Vorlich and Stuc a'Chroin and the Corbetts Meall an Fhudair, Meal an t-Seallaidh and Beinn Each and the Graham Sgaith a'Chaise.

17th November - Glen Callater

(Map No 43, Grid Ref 155882)

This walk up the track which is a public path to Clova. A historic route known as Jock's Road heading over the hills from Braemar to Glen Doll. When Duncan Macpherson bought Glen Doll estate in the late 19th century he tried to ban all access to the estate. John Winter (Jock) fought for the Right of Way to walk this old drove route.

Legal action went as far as the House of Lords, Macpherson and the Scottish Rights of Way went bankrupt by the time the dispute ended. It led to the passing of the Scottish Rights of Way Act the most important piece of legislation for walkers until the more recent Land Reform Act of 2005 granted increased rights to walkers.

15th Dec - Cullardoch Inver

(Map No 43/36, Grid Ref 194988)

Starting at Mill of Inver grid ref (233 937) parking at Balnoe grid ref (214 938), follow sign to Auchtaven a whole community existed off our today's main road with the church the school and numerous buildings and the old ruin of Ratlich where a market held here was moved to Crathie. The old public drove road through the Gairn Hills north over Cullardoche's shoulder, from there it continues to Tomintoul passing Loch Builg.

On return through Glen Fearder a pleasant walk through an old farming settlement 450mtrs above sea level, an amazing regeneration of birch trees. Folk farmed here for at least 200 years, before the last occupants left in the mid 1900s. In 1861 the Mchardy family lived in Auchtaven with their seven children and a ploughman and two servants. Auchtaven (the field of the two kids) traditionally the rent paid to the laird of Invercauld was two goats. One cottage has a "Hingin Lum" one of the last remaining in Scotland (A wooden chimney). Braemar Community Council have restored this and the 20th cottage on site is the Queen Mothers Picnic Cottage with its stunning outlook across the Dee with views of the legendary mountain of Lochnagar. The horse mill with the horse, (donkey or cow) would be harnessed and would walk around turning the threshing machinery inside the mill can be seen too.

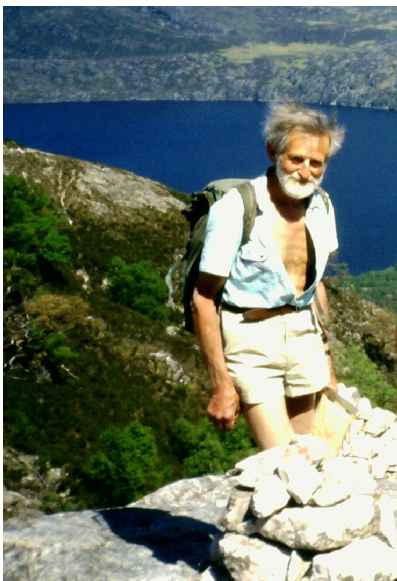
MAY WEEK 2014

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

(Map No 20, Grid Ref 351703)

12 spaces available, £15 pppn. 4 Star Hostel on the A861 down the slip to the Corran Ferry, 8 miles south of Fort William and 7 miles north of Glencoe. Fully equipt kitchen, bedding provided. Tel no. 01855 821000, post code is PH33 6SE. A short crossing takes you into Ardgour with many Corbetts and Grahams and on the mainland plenty Munros.

John Barton Brown 07.04.1923 - 06.06.2013



John famously announced that he would retire from the Club Committee on his 80th Birthday. It seems incredible that he did just that over 10 years ago.

I can't quite remember when John joined the Club but I do know that it was sometime in the mid 1980's that he start coming along with Kath, who was eventually to become his partner and wife and it did not take the committee long to recognise the value of John's experience and to badger him into become becoming a member. John was a tirelessly enthusiastic man who loved the outdoors and had involved himself in all manner of outdoor activities over the years. He worked as a guide for the Ramblers for a number of years taking parties abroad during the summer months, meeting Kath on one of these trips.

Latterly his favourite activities were cross country skiing, with many a trip to Norway, cycling and hill walking. He was also something of an eco warrior and volunteered on path repair workshops and the like with the National Trust for Scotland among others.

He was heavily involved with the Scottish Wildlife Trusts' tree nursery at Drum Castle and for many years worked an allotment at Garthdee. Although he had not been out with the Club for a year or two, until quite recently John had kept up with the cycling sub group he and Kath had so enjoyed being a part of. **A very nice man who will be sadly missed but all who knew him.**

THURSDAY CLUB MEETS 2013 / 2014

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.

2013		2014	
OCTOBER 31st		FEBRUARY 27th	
NOVEMBER 28th		MARCH 27th (AGM)	
JANUARY 30th			

Places on weekends are only confirmed once your booking form and a deposit of £10 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	01569 740425
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

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.

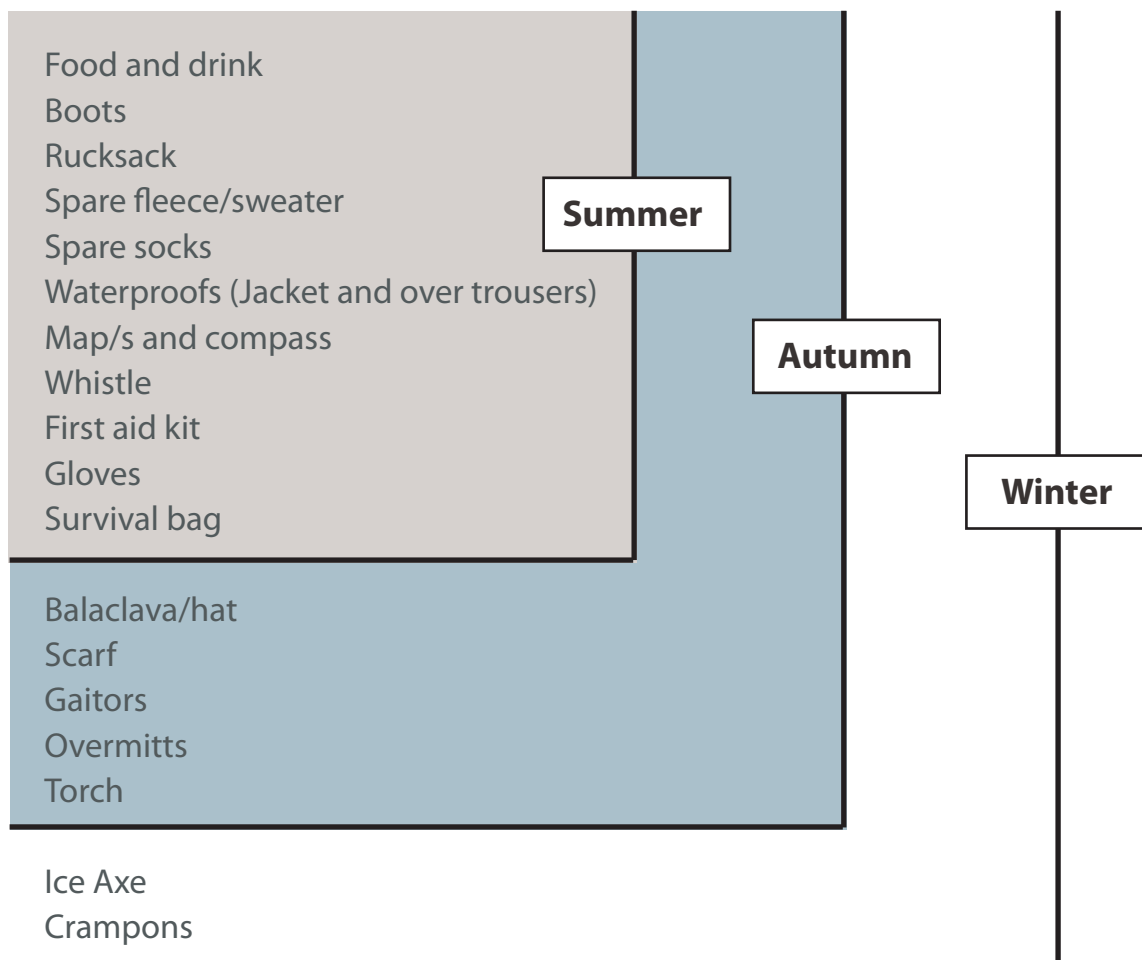
Return to: Anne Sinclair, 19 Martin Place, Stonehaven, AB39 2LG
Email: annesinclair@fsmail.net

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