

ALPINE CLUB

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Newsletter 2/99

April 1999

CALENDAR

April 13	General Meeting -- Roger Payne "A Century Within"
April 27	Informal Meeting -- Jeremy Whitehead "Traversing the French Alps on Ski"
May 7-9	Peak District Meet, Dinner and Lecture
May 11	General Meeting -- Martin Wragg "Lotus Flower Tower"
May 19	Alpine Ski Club evening
May 25	Informal Meeting -- Audrey Salkeld "Film of the 1933 Everest Expedition"
June 8	General Meeting
June 22	Informal Meeting
July 24 - August 15	Alpine Meet with ABMSAC/AC/CC - Dauphine
September 2-10	Cornwall Meet jointly with CC
September 24-26	Lake District Meet
October 6	Alpine Ski Club evening
November 13	Annual Symposium
December 11	Annual Dinner

GENERAL MEETINGS

London: Meetings at the Club House

Both General and Informal meetings start at 7.30pm sharp, with the bar opening from 6pm. On street parking is legally available after 6.30pm in Charlotte Road. The Library remains open until 7pm.

April 13 **Roger Payne** **"A Century Within"**

Roger Payne reports on five exploratory lightweight trips to India, including the North Face of Changabang.

May 11 **Martin Wragg** : **"Lotus Flower Tower"**

This remote rock route in the "Cirque of the Unclimbables" was described by its first ascensionists as "the best rock climb in the world". Subsequent ascensionists have not demurred! Martin climbed the 2500ft. route up this spectacular Obelisk-like tower last August. A world classic "middle grade" rock route it provides a real adventure yet is manageable for the determined "holiday climber".

June 8

To be arranged. Please telephone the Club nearer the time for details.

INFORMAL MEETINGS

These meetings provide a good opportunity for members to meet one another, and exchange news, views and information. New members and prospective members are particularly welcome. Such meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The bar opens at 6 pm, lecture starts at 7.30 pm. The library is usually staffed by volunteers between 5 and 7 pm. Informality is the keynote and members are invited to contact Ed Douglas if they wish to give a lecture.

April 27 **Jeremy Whitehead** : **"Traversing the French Alps on Ski"**

Jeremy is one of the most experienced ski-mountaineers in the country and has an unrivalled knowledge of ski routes in the French Alps. This survey of the scene will focus on a major traverse and coincides with the completion of his new Guidebook which is available to order from the author.

May 25 **Audrey Salkeld** : **"Film of the 1933 Everest Expedition"**

Audrey Salkeld will introduce the recently discovered film by Wyn Harris of the 1933 Everest Expedition. This has rarely been seen in the past and offers a great chance to see history in the making.

June 22

To be arranged. Please telephone the Club nearer the time for details.

ALPINE SKI CLUB LECTURE AND BUFFET

The ASC is holding a buffet and lecture at the Alpine Club on 19 May (buffet 7pm, lecture 8pm). The speaker is yet to be confirmed. Alpine Club members are warmly invited to attend. The cost is £10 per head. Bookings should be sent to Jim Harrison, 16a Blackford Road, Edinburgh EH9 2DS no later than Monday 10 May, and cheques should be made out to the Alpine Ski Club.

BUNKHOUSE

There are blankets in the Bunkhouse, so full sleeping bags should not be necessary. However we would like to urge members using this facility to bring a sheet sleeping bag if possible. The Bunkhouse is available on weekdays to members only, when they are on Club or other mountaineering business (these are the conditions accepted by our insurers as set out in a letter from them. Please confirm availability with the Asst. Secretary.

CLIMBING MEETS

These Meets are organised so that AC members all over the country may meet, climb, socialise and get to know their fellow members. If you have never been to one, give them a try. You will have a good time.

Meet stewards will where possible co-ordinate transport and try to find climbing or walking partners for those arriving without one.

Try one (or all) of the following meets. You will find booking forms further on in this Newsletter.

PEAK DISTRICT 7-9 May

Steward: Graham Holden. Tel: home (0115) 947 5180.

A very social atmosphere engendered by grit edges or limestone climbs (and wonderful walking).

Places available at the Derbyshire Pennine Club hut, Cariswalk Cottage, Stoney Middleton. Dinner at the Sir William Hotel, Grindelford, Hope Valley S32 2HS. (Rooms available there - book direct.)

ALPINE MEET 24 July -- 15 August (with ABMSAC/AC/CC)

Steward: Jeff Harris. 41 Wellfields, Loughton Essex IG10 1PA. Tel: home (0181) 508 2888.

This meet will be based at the Camping Municipal campsite in La Berarde in the Haut Veneon. The site has been enlarged and modernised since our last visit in 1986 and now has proper toilets and showers! La Berarde is well situated for access to the main peaks in the northern part of the Ecrins National Park including the Meije, Rateau and Barre des Ecrins (via the Col des Ecrins for the normal route). As well as the classic rock routes on peaks such as the Dibona, some of the valley crags above the campsite have been developed for 'sport' climbing.

If you have not been on the meet before and would like more information please contact Jeff as above. (Please enclose large stamped addressed envelope if writing.)

CORNWALL 2-10 September

There will be a joint Alpine Club/Climbers Club Meet in Cornwall, based at the Count House at Bosigran. Organiser: Sally Westmacott. To book, please contact Sally on 0181-954 3430.

LAKE DISTRICT 24-26 September

Steward[ess]: Marian Parsons. Tel: home (01768) 482437.

More details in due course. Not to be missed. Marian is renowned for her enjoyable meets. Even the weather is pre-booked.

OTHER ALPINE MEETS

In addition to the meet to the Dauphine, the ABMSAC has arranged two further meets to which AC members are invited.

Tour of Monte Rosa 25 July to 31 July

This will be a mountain walking tour of Monte Rosa. The tour will begin in Tasch, near Zermatt, and will traverse the beautiful Italian valleys on the southern flank of the Pennine Alps to Saas Grund. Accommodation will be arranged on arrival at each village and will probably be in pensions but cheaper alternatives are usually available. Luggage will be conveyed from village to village by car thus avoiding the need to carry a heavy rucksack. For this service there will be a charge of £25.

Saas Grund 31 July to 14 August

This will be a traditional meet in the beautiful Saastal. Accommodation is available in a better quality self-catering establishment, or in a pension or in one of the campsites nearby.

Further info is available on receipt of a s.a.e. from Alasdair I. Andrews, 19 Rankin Road, Edinburgh EH9 3AW, tel 0131 667 0630.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Dave Wynne Jones has taken on the responsibility of organising the London lecture programme. He is looking for lecturers for 1999/2000 programme, so any members with lectures to give, or suggestions for lecturers or lecture topics, please contact Dave on (01625) 875485, davewynnejones@advancedbase.demon.co.uk. Ed Douglas is continuing to arrange the Northern lecture programme in Hathersage. He can be contacted at his new address in Sheffield on (0114) 5589, ed_douglas@compuserve.com.

LIBRARY HOLIDAYS

Due to holidays there will be a limited service from 22 June to 2 July inclusive, when the Library will be manned by volunteers. Every effort will be made to provide normal facilities, but members are asked to anticipate their requirements as the peak holiday season approaches.

FILM AND VIDEO LIBRARY

The Library has started to collect mountain films and videos to add to the collection. Members who own or know of historic climbing film material which could be made available to the Library should please contact the Librarian, Margaret Ecclestone at the Club.

GUIDE BOOKS

The following is the full list of the guide books in print available from the office.
(each volume plus 75p postage unless collected from Club House)

	<i>Members</i>	<i>Shops</i>
Dolomites	£11.00	£15.00
Ecrins Massif	£11.00	£15.00
Mont Blanc Vol. 1	£11.00	£15.00
Mont Blanc Vol. 2	£11.00	£15.00
Bernese Oberland	£11.00	£15.00
Bernina and Bregaglia	£13.25	£18.50
Valais West	£14.15	£19.50
Valais East	£13.25	£18.50

VALAIS EAST

You will see from the above list that our new guidebook on the Valais East is now available. Retail price is £18.50 and reduced price to members £13.25 (plus 75p p&p if posted). The guide is written by Les Swindin and Peter Fleming, and covers all the major peaks east of the Matterhorn, including the Obergabelhorn, Zinalrothorn, Weisshorn, Monte Rosa, the Saas peaks and the Mischabel.

NEW MEMBERS HANDBOOK

We plan to produce a new edition of the Handbook within the next few weeks. Could you please check the label on the envelope of this newsletter and your current handbook entry, and advise the Asst. Secretary of any changes. We can now accommodate home and work telephone numbers, home and work fax numbers, mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Any of you with email addresses are particularly asked to inform us.

ELECTIONS

The Club extends a warm welcome to the following newly elected **Full Members** whose candidacies were announced previously:

John Disley, Shota Elisashvili, Daniel Forbes-Ford, James Stuart Gallagher, Mark Greenwood, David Jamieson, Allan Nimmo, Philip Fox Solt, David Anthony Spencer and Fabrizio Zangrilli

Welcomed as **Aspirant Members** are:

Pippa Curtis	Steven Clive Sampson
15 Sisters Avenue	1 Croston Close
London SW11 5SP	Widnes, Cheshire WA8 4HQ
British. Marketing Manager	British. Police Officer
Proposer: Clive Westlake	Proposer: Bill Jones
Seconder: Jeff Harris	Seconder: Paul Davis

The following candidates have applied for **Full Membership** of the Club and, as provided under Regulation 18(1)b, members are invited to communicate their views to the Honorary Secretary.

* From Aspirant

Mark Croft *	William George Charles Harding	Rupert Matthew Fraser Harris	Colin Ambrose Lawson *
Castlewarden, Church Lane	Furzey Lodge, Furzey Lane	57 Redcliffe Gardens	40 Victoria Road
Medstead, Hants GU34 5LS	Beaulieu, Hants SO42 7WB	London SW10 9SS	Colchester, Essex CO3 3NU
British. IT Professional	British. Hydrogeologist	British. Television Producer	British. Retired
Proposer: Mike Esten	Proposer: Chris Astill	Proposer: John Harding	Proposer: Steve Bell
Seconder: Glyn Hughes	Seconder: Lindsay Griffin	Seconder: Rupert Hoare	Seconder: Richard Wilkins

Arthur James Mountain
Flat 1, 2a Leopold Road
London SW19 7BD
British. Research Scientist
Proposer: Kimball Morrison
Seconder: James McElwaine

John Patrick Campbell Owens
Marston, The Down, Hindon
Salisbury, Wilts SP3 6EF
British. Army Officer
Proposer: Tony Streater
Seconder: John Fleming

Allan Gordon Scott *
38 Perowne Street
Cambridge CB1 2AY
British. Computer Programmer
Proposer: Alan Scowcroft
Seconder: Neil Challenger

John Starbuck
37 Daleview Gardens
Egremont, Cumbria CA22 2LN
British. Project Manager
Proposer: James Gregson
Seconder: David Smith

Arthur Gordon Snell
Island House, Steep
Petersfield, Hants GU32 1AE
British. HM Diplomatic Service
Proposer: Martin Scott
Seconder: Alasdair Scott

William George Thurston
31 King's Drive
Surbiton, Surrey
British
Proposer: Mike Durgan
Seconder: Martin Scott

Julie Walker
488a Walshaw Road
Bury, Lancs BL8 3AR
British. Solicitor
Proposer: Ken Vickers
Seconder: Tom Chatterley

Guy Willett
2FR 7 Pittfour Street
Dundee DD2 2NU
British. Medical Student
Proposer: Pat Littlejohn
Seconder: Roy Ruddle

The following candidates have applied for membership of the **Alpine Climbing Group** and, as provided under Regulation 18(1)(b), members are invited to communicate their views to the Honorary Secretary.

Anders Lundahl
Ekeskogs, Norrlanda
620 23 Romakloster, Sweden
Proposer: Roy Ruddle
Seconder: Jerry Gore

Kevin Thaw
18515 Chatsworth Street
Northridge, CA 91326, USA
Proposer: Paul Braithwaite
Seconder: Roy Ruddle

DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER

Members wishing to publish anything in the next Newsletter please note that material should be given to the office by 14th June.

MISCELLANEOUS

TAJIKISTAN

Henry Day writes: I have received the following request from an old climbing friend who is working with an aid agency in Tajikistan until June of this year. I would be pleased to act as go-between with any member who may be able to help. (tel or fax 01223 314543)

"It is certainly 'long time no see', and all the more pleasant to hear from you, thank you for responding. Your travels will have given you a good idea of conditions in Tajikistan - following the civil war it fits the description 'having been the scene of the battle and not being much improved by the circumstance' as if the collapse of the economy was not enough! I hardly need say anything about the mountaineering opportunities in the Pamirs.

I am working with a group which incorporates what remains of the Tajik Mountain Rescue Team. They are short of good ropes and associated hardware but of course cannot afford to buy them from the west. The two leaders seem to be very decent characters, very experienced and with good contacts and access which might be of interest to anyone who was planning an expedition. If you can think of anyone, a club perhaps which might be interested in helping them or could advise on how to advertise a possible opportunity here, it could do a lot of good. From some points of view this is now a green field site: a small investment could reap a lot of goodwill."

AVALANCHE VICTIM DETECTORS

With the spate of serious avalanches in the Alps this spring, it is important that skiers should be aware of a survey of Autophon performance carried out in autumn 1998 under the auspices of the International Committee for Alpine Research (IKAR) in Davos. Tests were carried out on the ground, in the laboratory and by questionnaire to testers of these items of equipment:

- * Arva 9000 (France)
- Barryvox VS 2000 (Switzerland)
- Fitre Snow Bip 11 (Italy)
- * Ortovox M1 (Germany)
- Pieps 457 Opti 4 (Austria)
- * Tracker DTS (USA)

- * new with digital technique

The tests covered specific aspects of performance: range of signal transmission, accuracy and time in locating victims, recognition of second transmitter for multiple victims, width and intensity of wave bands. In summary form the results show some variation in performance. Overall, Ortovox M1 and Tracker DTS were the best of new products, with Arva 9000 well behind, but there were gaps particularly in locating multiple victims. Recommendations:

1. Although new products are moving in the right direction, users should continue to rely on familiarity with established products.
2. Manufacturers of new products should continue to develop them to overcome deficiencies, so as to enable users to locate victims rapidly and effectively even under stress conditions.

Members requiring more detailed information should consult Water Mann, 59 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8DE, tel (01753) 886665.

LOFOTEN

Is anyone going to Lofoten this summer? Perhaps you are looking for an experienced navigator/semi-expired climber? If so, please contact Peter Stone, 6 Eyot Green, Chiswick Mall, London W4 2BT, tel & fax 0181 994 7342.

MALLORY/IRVINE 75th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION SHREWSBURY SCHOOL -- May 25th-June 12th

Shrewsbury School has organised an exhibition to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Irvine and Mallory's Everest attempt in 1924 (Irvine was a pupil at Shrewsbury). The exhibition will be open between 25 May and 12 June, and is open to the public. The Alpine Club is loaning material from the Archives (including the Irvine ice axe) for the exhibition, and members will be very welcome on a drop-in basis. Our member Audrey Salkeld will give a talk on the 1924 expedition on 26th May at 8pm in the Ashton Theatre at Shrewsbury School. Members wishing to attend the lecture should apply for tickets to: S.M. Holroyd, The Housemaster, Severn Hill, The Schools, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 8SG.

EVEREST -- THE MAN AND THE MOUNTAIN

We have details of a new book by J.R. Smith which gives a fascinating insight into the life and achievements of a remarkable man, Colonel Sir George Everest. The book includes information on his life and profession, the rigours of surveying in remote areas of India, original correspondence archived in India, his character both as person and manager, his passion for geodesy and his family tree. The book has 320pp including illustrations, and costs £40 from Scottish Book Source, 137 Dundee Street, Edinburgh EH11 1BG, tel (0131) 229 6800, fax (0131) 229 9070, email scotbook@globalnet.co.uk

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THE INDIAN HIMALAYA

For 1997, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation certified **Ibex Expeditions** as having handled the maximum number of expeditions. In the 6th April 1998 issue of TIME magazine, the good environmental practice of **Ibex Expeditions** is mentioned. Ibex assist with peak reservations and paperwork, permit clearances, transport, accommodation, camp and kitchen equipment, cooks, guides and porters.

For all travel related services and tours in India, contact:

Contact: Mandip Singh Soin, FRGS, Managing Director, **IBEX EXPEDITIONS**,
G 66 East of Kailash, New Delhi 110065, India. Tel: 91-11-6912641,6828479, 6917829
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Janet Hunter and Michael Papworth
Honeybee Cottage, In the Dale, Wensley, near Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2LL
Telephone and Fax: 01629 732845

PEAK DISTRICT MEET

7/9 May 1999

BOOKING FORM

This form should be sent as soon as possible to:
Graham Holden, 161 Rolleston Drive, Lenton, Notts NG7 1JZ

I would like Dinner tickets @ £15.50
(Please state if a vegetarian meal is required)
..... Hut places (fees to be collected on the weekend)

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to G. Holden

Name(s)

Address

..... Tel

>✂

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Please send me:

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(state Medium, Large or eXtra large)			
Ties (silk)	£17.50		
Bow ties (silk)	£17.50		

All prices include post and packaging for UK delivery.

Allow 30 days for delivery. Cheque with order please.

Full name and address:

.....

Alternatively, orders may be collected from the Club premises at the following reduced prices, but please order in advance using the above order form to allow us to keep stocks maintained.

Reduced prices for collection...

AC T-shirts	£ 6.50	(with listing)	AC Polo Shirts (no listing)	£13.00
AC Sweatshirts	£13.50	(no listing)	AC Jogpants	£15.50
AC Sweatshirts	£14.50	(with listing)	Ties and bow ties (silk)	£17.00



DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

A collection of books given by Hamish Brown

Books given by Glyn Hughes and Mike Westmacott.

RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

- Alvaro, S & Ortega, J. Tierra de aventura. Viajeros, exploradores y científicos a la conquista del mundo. Temas de Hoy, 1998
- Armington, Stan. Trekking in the Nepal Himalaya. 7th ed. Lonely Planet, 1997
- Bhutan. Bhutan. Himalayan kingdom. Royal Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 1979
- Buhl, Hermann. Nanga Parbat Pilgrimage. The lonely challenge. Baton Wicks & The Mountaineers, 1998
- Campbell, Robin N. The Munroist's companion. Scottish Mountaineering Trust, 1999
- Craig, David. Against Looting. Giant Steps, 1987
- Dawson, Alan. The Hewitts and Marilyns of Wales. TACit, 1997
- Dawson, Alan. The Hewitts and Marilyns of England. TACit, 1997
- Diemberger, Kurt. The Kurt Diemberger Omnibus. Summits and secrets. The endless knot. Spirits of the air. Baton Wicks & The Mountaineers, 1999
- Drummond, Ed. Climbing and falling in love. Poems of wilderness and society. E. Drummond, 1983
- Dubin, Marc. Trekking in Spain. Lonely Planet, 1990
- Dutton, G.F. The concrete garden. Bloodaxe Books, 1991
- Dutton, G.F. Squaring the waves. Bloodaxe Books, 1986
- Dutton, G.F. Camp One. Macdonald, 1978
- Ferguson, James P. Kashmir. An historical introduction. Centaur Press, 1961
- Gifford, Terry. The Climbers' Club centenary journal. Climbers' Club, 1997
- Goncharoff, N, O'Neil, K, Gierlich, M & Kettunen, E. Rocky Mountains. Lonely Planet, 1999
- Greig, Andrew. Men on Ice. Canongate, 1977
- Holdgate, Martin. Mountains in the sea. The story of the Gough Island expedition. Travel Book Club, 1958
- Joutard, P, Roethlisberger, M & Foucart, B. Le suduzioni della montagna da Delacroix a Depero. Electa, 1998
- King, John & Mayhew, Bradley. Karakoram highway. Lonely Planet, 1998
- Lindenmayer, Clem. Trekking in the Patagonian Andes. Lonely Planet, 1998
- Loretan, Erhard. Himalaya: Regards. Ansichten. Reflections. Editions La Sarine, 1998
- McLachlan, John. The wilderness experience. J. McLachlan, 1994
- Metzker, Philippe. Ski alpin. Vol.IV. Vaud-Fribourg-Berne. Club Alpin Suisse, 1983
- Newton, Norman S. The Isle of Bute. David and Charles, 1999
- Newton, Norman S. Kintyre. David and Charles, 1999
- Rubin, Jeff. Antarctica. Lonely Planet, 1996
- Scottish Mountain Leader Training Board. Triennial report 1990-1993. S.M.I.T.B., [1993]
- Smith, Matthew. Frank Smythe. Alpine visionary. The Author, 1996
- Smith, WPH, Hart, HC & Lynam, Joss. Climbing in the British Isles: Ireland. Longmans, Green. Reprint. [1974]
- Strasser, Peter. Grentz das matterhorn an Tirol? Zur Praesenz Vorarlbergs im britischen "Alpine Journal" (1863-1996). Freunde der Landeskunde, 1996
- Swaney, Deanna. Bolivia. Lonely Planet, 1996
- Taylor, Diana & Howard, Tony. Jordan. Walks, treks, caves, climbs and canyons. Cicerone, 1999
- Thompson, Francis. Uists and Barra. David and Charles, 1999
- Thompson, Francis. Lewis and Harris. David and Charles, 1999
- Thompson, Graham. The backpacker's guide to the Lake District. The 40 best two-day fell walks. David and Charles, 1999
- Wright, Nick. English mountain summits. R. Hale, 1974

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