

ALPINE CLUB

Telephone & Fax (020) 7613 0755
E-mail: sec@alpine-club.org.uk
http://www.alpine-club.org.uk
Newsletter 1/2001

55/56 CHARLOTTE RD
LONDON, EC2A 3QF

January 2001

CALENDAR

February 3-4	Scotland Winter Meet
February 13	General Meeting -- Jerry Gore "Borneo Wall"
February 28 Wednesday	Northern Lecture -- Al Powell "The Arwa Spires: 21st Century Himalayan Alpinism"
February 27	Informal Meeting -- Mike Binnie "Narmada River Trek"
March 13	General Meeting -- Dennis Davis "Ahead of its time- Nuptse South Face 1961"
March 21 Wednesday	Northern Lecture -- Andy Cave "Northern Adventures"
March 27	Informal Meeting -- Graham Hoyland "Cameras on Everest"
April 6-7	North Wales Meet
April 10	General Meeting -- John Harding "The Birth of a Book"
April 24	Informal Meeting -- Mike Searle "Mountains and Geology"
May 8	General Meeting -- Will Manners and Bill Billous "Southern Challenge"
May 16	Alpine Ski Club Evening -- Roger Shergold "Ski-mountaineering in Patagonia"
May 16 Wednesday	Northern Lecture -- Alessandro Gogna "High Achievement in the Alps"
May 18-20	Peak District Meet with talk by Alessandro Gogna
May 22	Informal Meeting -- Alessandro Gogna "High Achievement in the Alps"
June 13	Eagle Ski Club Evening
July 7-14	ABMSAC/AC Meet -- Western Dolomites, Sud Tirol & Trento Provinces
July 14 - August 11	ABMSAC/AC Meet -- Madonna di Campiglio, Trento Province
July 27 - August 17	Alpine Meet -- Saas Fee
September 3-10	AC/CC Cornwall Meet
September	Lake District Meet
October 3	Alpine Ski Club Evening
November 14	Alpine Ski Club Annual Dinner

E MAIL ADDRESSES

Nearly 400 members are receiving this newsletter by email. Anyone who would rather have a paper copy sent to them, please let the office know. Members who have not yet passed on their email addresses to the Club are encouraged to do so.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

London: Meetings at the Club House

Both General and Informal meetings start at 7.30 pm 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS

13 February Jerry Gore

Borneo Wall

Account of our member's trip to Borneo with the aim of making the first complete ascent of the overhanging 1000m wall of Low's Gully.

13 March Dennis Davis

Ahead of its Time- Nuptse South Face 1961

A 40th anniversary lecture by the first ascensionist (with Tashi, followed a day later by Chris Bonington).

10 April John Harding

The Birth of a Book

Our member John Harding reveals his experiences in getting his new book on the Pyrenees published.

8 May Will Manners and Bill Billous

Southern Challenge

A relay of crews has sailed a 50-foot yacht to South Georgia via the Falklands and has landed a team of climbers, including several members of the AC, who are attempting to climb Mount Roots. This is the third highest mountain on British territory and is unclimbed. (News of their progress is carried on www.southernchallenge.btinternet.co.uk)

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.

27 February Mike Binnie Narmada River Trek

In the spring of 2000 our member made an exciting solo walk along the sacred Narmada River from its mouth on the Arabian Sea to its source 1300km away at Amarkantak, a holy spring in the forested Satpura Mountains of Central India.

27 March Graham Hoyland Cameras on Everest

Graham Hoyland is the great-nephew of Howard Somervell, former President of the AC. As a boy Graham was told by Somervell how he lent his camera to George Mallory just before he disappeared on the North Ridge of Everest. Inspired by this story Graham has been looking for the camera ever since on 4 expeditions to the mountain, sumitting himself in 1993. He is now a BBC producer and initiated the expedition which led to the discovery of Mallory's body in 1999. He will show footage of the 1922-24 expeditions and also search footage which has never been seen before.

24 April Mike Searle Mountains and Geology

Mike Searle has agreed to update the members on his travels to mountain ranges most of us can only read about- all in the way of geology and science. A broader coverage than his talk at the China/ Tibet Symposium last year which included a good selection of Landsat and Space Shuttle shots.

22 May Alessandro Gogna High Achievement in the Alps

The accomplished Italian climber has accepted our invitation to give talks to the Club in both Derbyshire in London and has been asked to concentrate on his great ascents in the Alps. These should include rock climbs on the Marmolada and in Val di Mella; big new routes on the south side of the Grandes Jorasses and the Zmutt Nose; as well as winter routes on the Piz Badile and the Peuterey Ridge.

ALPINE SKI CLUB LECTURE AND BUFFET

The ASC holds a buffet and lecture at the Alpine Club on 16 May (buffet 7pm, lecture 8pm). The speaker is Roger Shergold, whose topic will be ski-mountaineering in Patagonia. A warm invitation is extended as usual to Alpine Club members. AC members who would like to attend should contact Jim Harrison, 16a Blackford Road, Edinburgh EH9 2DS, enclosing a cheque for £10 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. 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.

NORTHERN LECTURES

These evenings held in Longland's Restaurant, above Outside in Hathersage, are very popular. The lectures start at 7.30 pm. Contact Ed Douglas with suggestions for lectures and for further details.
Tel: (0114) 236 5589, mobile 0802 584974, email ed_douglas@compuserve.com

Wednesday 28 February Al Powell -- The Arwa Spires: 21st Century Himalayan Alpinism

In the summer of 2000, one of the strongest British teams in recent years made the first ascent of the beautiful Arwa Spire in the Indian Himalaya. Pete and Andy Benson climbed the east ridge, followed a few days later by Ian Parnell, Kenton Cool and Powell who had previously attempted new lines of their own. An outstanding objective and first ascent.

Wednesday 21 March Andy Cave -- Northern Adventures

Andy Cave, one of Britain's leading all-round climbers, talks about new-routing in Scotland, climbing with Leo Houlding in the fjords of Norway and focuses on his first alpine-style ascent, with Mick Fowler, of the North Ridge of Kennedy in the St Elias Range of Canada.

Wednesday 16 May Alessandro Gogna -- High Achievement in the Alps

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CLIMBING MEETS

REGIONAL MEETS AND OUT OF LONDON DINNERS

As AC members are scattered all over the UK, these meets present a great opportunity to get to know fellow members in a mountain environment; and then socially over a civilised dinner. The Dinner will be open to all, whether on the Meet or not. A lecture will normally follow the Dinner.

Meet stewards will, if asked, try to co-ordinate transport and try to find climbing or walking partners to those arriving without one. Accommodation: Normally some places will be available at a local hut or bunkhouse, but members may book their own accommodation if they so wish and contact Meet Stewards to co-ordinate activities.

The following have been arranged for 2001:

SCOTLAND 3-4 February 2001 **BEST W-E FOR SNOW & ICE**
Steward: Mike Fletcher. Tel: h (01926) 633022, w (020) 7202 5185

This Meet will take place in the Fort William area. The whole bunkhouse (14 places) has been booked at The Blacksmith's Bunkhouse, Station Road, Corpach. The venue is the same as last year's. The many of you who enjoyed last year's meet will remember its comfort and excellent facilities. About 4 miles from Fort William. An informal, but convivial and affordable Bar dinner will be held on the Saturday evening at a local Hostelry (Hopefully within staggering distance from the Bunkhouse).

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SCOTLAND BOOKING FORM TO: Mike Fletcher, Holly Tree Cottage, Main Street, Frankton, Rugby, CV23 9N

a) I will make my own accommodation arrangements

OR

b) Please book places at the bunkhouse

I enclose a cheque for £ (£9.50 per night) made payable to Alpine Club

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....Tel.

NORTH WALES 6-7 April 2001 **RUGGED AND UNPREDICTABLE**
Steward: Mike Gilbert. Tel: h (0151) 648 5717, w (0151) 255 1333

A very popular Meet. Book early to ensure a Hut Place at The Gwydr Club Hut in Capel Curig. Directions: Leave the A 5 at Pont Cyfyn (Grid ref. 734572). Hut at Grid ref.737567. The Hut is within walking distance of the Dinner venue, The Tyn y Coed Hotel, Capel Curig.

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NORTH WALES BOOKING FORM TO: Mike Gilbert, 11 Marlston Avenue, Irby, Wirral, Merseyside, L61 3XT

a) I will make my own accommodation arrangements.

OR

b) Please book me places at the Hut @ £ 4.-- per night £

c) Please book me places at the Dinner @ £ 15.50..... £

Cheques payable to Mike Gilbert TOTAL £

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....Tel.

PEAK DISTRICT 18-20 May 2001 **SUN-KISSED GRIT**
Steward: Rupert Hoare. Tel: (h) 01293 820836 (w) 01293 556304 rupert.hoare@westerngeco.com

The Meet will be based at the very conveniently placed hut of The Derbyshire Pennine Club hut, Carlswark Cottage, Stoney Middleton. The Hut is in the grounds of Stoney Middleton Hall (Grid Ref. 231755) and is approached through an entrance 80 metres to the East of the Moon Inn, on the North side of the A623. The Dinner will be followed by a talk by Alessandro Gogna on his achievements in the Alps.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2001

At the Annual General Meeting on 8 December 2000, the following were elected:

<i>President</i>	D K Scott
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	P F Fagan B M Wragg
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	G D Hughes
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	A L Robinson
<i>Honorary Editor of the Alpine Journal</i>	E Douglas
<i>Honorary Librarian</i>	D J Lovatt
<i>Honorary Guidebooks Commissioning Editor</i>	L N Griffin
<i>Committee</i>	E R Allen J C Evans W A C Newson W J E Norton C J Radcliffe R M Scott R L Stephens R Turnbull P Wickens

At its meeting on 12 February 2001, the Committee intends to appoint the following non-elected officers:

<i>Assistant Honorary Secretaries</i>	
<i>BMC Liaison</i>	t.b.a.
<i>Lectures</i>	M W H Day
<i>Meets</i>	A Vila
<i>Membership</i>	R M Scott
<i>Winter Dinner</i>	M H Johnston
<i>Guidebooks Production Manager</i>	J N Slee-Smith
<i>Librarian Emeritus</i>	R Lawford
<i>Hon Keeper of the Club's Pictures</i>	P Mallalieu
<i>Hon Keeper of the Clubs Monuments</i>	D J Lovatt
<i>Hon Keeper of the Club's Artefacts</i>	R Lawford
<i>Honorary Archivist</i>	P T Berg
<i>Asst. Editors of the Alpine Journal</i>	J L Bermudez G W Templeman
<i>Production Editor of the Alpine Journal</i>	Mrs J Merz
<i>Honorary Solicitor</i>	P Sanders

The Committee also re-appointed the following Sub-Committees (followed by the name of the Chair)

<i>Finance</i>	R F Morgan
<i>Guidebooks Editorial and Production Board</i>	L N Griffin
<i>Honorary Membership</i>	The President
<i>House</i>	M H Johnston
<i>Membership</i>	R M Scott
<i>Wine</i>	J Temple

The Club is very grateful to all of the above who give their time to help. There are many others who do not feature in the above list, but to whom the Club is equally grateful. These include the members of the various sub-committees and the Guidebooks Editorial and Production Board, and those who represent the Club on other committees such as those connected with the Alpine Club Library, the Mount Everest Foundation and the BMC. There are also the Meet organisers, the lecturers, those who provide food at lectures, those who help run the bar, voluntary librarians, helpers for the Himalayan Index, members who look after the premises -- we are fortunate to have so many people to thank.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE STICKERS 2001

Members this year receive an update sticker for their membership card. If we have received your 2001 subscription, you will be receiving your sticker by separate mailing. Members who have not yet paid, and/or who are in arrears, and those in credit, will receive notification to that effect. If you are in arrears, please rectify the situation without any further reminder.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are very pleased to be able to hold subscriptions at the present level for a further year. Subscriptions have now been unchanged since January 1995.

Subscriptions for 2001 fell due on 1st January and are listed below. All rates are inclusive of the amount handed over to the BMC based on a per capita levy of £4.25. Please note that therefore members are not affiliated with the BMC until their subscription has been paid. If you are not affiliated with the BMC you are not covered by the BMC liability insurance scheme.

Full and Aspirant Members of the Alpine Club

Aged under 27 on 1st January	£22.00
Aged 27-64	
-- living within 40 miles of London	£50.00
-- living elsewhere	£30.00
Aged 65 or over	
-- living within 40 miles of London	£43.00
-- living elsewhere	£26.00
Long-standing members	
-- excluding the AJ	£ 5.00
-- including the AJ	£10.00

ACG Members

Aged under 27 on 1st January (not receiving the AJ)	£11.00
Ditto receiving AJ	£22.00
Aged over 27 (not receiving the AJ)	£19.00
Ditto receiving AJ	£30.00
Reduction for shared AJ (all classes)	£11.00

NOTES:

- **Members who pay by direct debit** need do nothing as the computer has dealt with their subscription (with a few exceptions).
- **Members who pay by cheque** : we look forward to receiving your cheques as soon as possible without involving the Club in the expense and work of sending reminders.
- **Husbands and wives who share a Journal:**
 - those paying by direct debit will have had their payments reduced to cover this.
 - those paying by cheque should deduct £11 from their subscriptions.
- **Long-standing Members:** the criteria for new admissions to this category remain unaltered, viz:
 - Age plus number of years membership equal to or greater than 120
 - Offered at the discretion of the Committee from whom it has to be formally requested. Note that *per capita* affiliation fees are not paid to the BMC on behalf of members who have elected to be recognised as 'Long-standing members'. They are thus not covered by BMC third party liability insurance.

ALPINE JOURNAL 2000

The Journal was published rather late in the year, and we apologise to members who were getting concerned that their copies had gone astray. Those members who live abroad were sent their Journals by sea-mail in early December. Anyone without one who thinks it should have arrived by now but it hasn't, please get in touch with the Asst. Secretary. Of course anyone who has not yet paid their 2000 subscription will not yet have received a Journal - again get in touch.

GUIDE BOOKS

The following is the full list of the guidebooks 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
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

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY -- JOBS VACANT!

Bob Lawford cannot go on for ever. Through his regular sales of surplus books, and in response to requests from the media for historic photographs, he has been a priceless asset to the Club raising substantial funds over the last 20 years to help in maintaining the Library.

We badly need one or two volunteers to take over from Bob. To reduce the individual workload, one could concentrate on the books, another on the photographic collection. With modern cataloguing techniques enabling a more pro-active approach, our historic photographs are capable of generating much more income. An exciting joint project with the Royal Geographical Society to computerise the Everest photo-archive is planned to commence soon and hopefully will be completed by 2003, the 50th Anniversary of the first Ascent. The technique could then be extended to embrace the rest of our collection.

If you feel you could devote a few hours a month to this very worthwhile activity, please discuss possibilities with Bob Lawford (020 8460 5641) and myself, George Band (01252 843173). Any reasonable travelling expenses can be reimbursed so you are not out of pocket.

ALPINE CLUB ARCHIVES -- NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

A few conscientious regular newspaper readers are needed to reinvigorate the cuttings service for the Club archives, avoiding the substantial expense of using an outside agency. What I have in mind is for a small band of volunteers each to take on responsibility for saving articles on mountaineering and related topics from their usual paper, returning the cuttings to the Club every couple of months in envelopes provided. In the first instance I should like to cover the Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Independent, and Scotsman together with any corresponding Sundays plus the Observer. Ultimately we might also include significant material from non-climbing journals and overseas papers. Please get in touch if you'd like to assist in this valuable work.

Peter Berg, Hon Archivist tel (01227) 450426, fax (01227) 766897, email peter@bergsfc.demon.co.uk

LIBRARY AND OFFICE CLOSED

The Library and Office will be closed for Easter from Thursday 12 to Tuesday 17 inclusive.

DEATHS

Since the last newsletter, the Club has learnt with regret of the deaths of Harold Flook, Robin Hind and Michael Thomas.

ELECTIONS

The Club extends a warm welcome to the following newly elected **Full Members** whose candidacies were announced previously: Ian Thomas Chamberlain, Nigel Estlick, John Fleetwood, Paul Edward Hudson, Martin Jackson, Colwyn Jones, Frank Loftus, Catriona Mackintosh, Tamotsu Nakamura, James O'Keefe, Charles Sherwood, Adam Fraser Thomas, Mikel Vause, Richard James Vowles and Geoff Waterworth.

Welcomed as **Aspirant Members** are:

Lady Gabrielle Greenbury
Charters Towers, Felcourt Road
East Grinstead, RH19 2JG
British. Company Director
Proposer: Steve Jones
Seconder: Pat Littlejohn

Toto Anne Gronlund
105 Green Road
Poole, Dorset BH15 1QT
Danish. NHS Director
Proposer: Jack Crewe, WMC
Seconder: Alan Yeend

Luke Lucas
Charters Towers, Felcourt Road
East Grinstead RH19 2JG
British. Company Director
Proposer: Steve Jones
Seconder: Pat Littlejohn

Tania Marie Noakes
63 Humber Road
Springfield, Chelmsford CM1 7PF
British. Army Officer
Proposer: James Raitt
Seconder: Stuart MacDonald

Craig John Yardley
44 Bridgewater Street
Salford, Manchester M3 7AS
British, Chef
Proposer: Andy Macrae
Seconder: Pamela Holt

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.

* Malcolm Mervyn Brown
Ivy Cottage, 40 High Street
Worle, Weston-super-Mare BS22 6EQ
British. Head Teacher
Proposer: Mike Doyle
Seconder: Martin Scott

* Andrew James Elphinston
14 Kilmorey Park Avenue, Hoole
Chester CH2 3QU
British. Chemical Engineer
Proposer: Martin Moran
Seconder: Bill O'Connor

James Arthur Childs Evans
Croft, Broadgate
Grasmere LA22 9SX
British. Youth Training Consultant
Proposer: Julian Heaton Cooper
Seconder: Simon Yates

* John Traxler
43 St. Mary Street, Bridgnorth
Shropshire WV16 4DR
British. University Lecturer
Proposer: Martin Askey
Seconder: Martin Scott

* to Full from Aspirant

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER

Members wishing to publish in the next Newsletter please note that material should be given to the office by 15 March.

MISCELLANEOUS

REPORT ON AC ALPINE MEETS July 2000

The first week of the meet consisted of a high level walking tour of the Val Bregaglia, from east to west along the northern side of the valley then back along the southern side.

Beginning at Maloja, the first day's walk climbed steadily up to the Lunghin lake, birthplace of the River Inn, then to the Lunghin and Septimer passes, before descending into the Val Maroz and Casaccia. The next day was much more demanding as we climbed back into the Val Maroz, then up into the bleak and windswept Val da Cam. From there it was a long, rugged traverse to Soglio, the famed views across to the Piz Badile completely obscured by cloud and driving rain. The weather worsened that night, with snow falling below 2000m. and we decided to take a rest day while it cleared. But with the new snow so low, we were forced to amend our programme for the traverse of the southern side of the valley. From Promontogno we climbed steeply up to the Sciora Hut, splendidly situated right below the Piz Badile, but were unable to cross the Cacciabella pass to the Albigna hut as planned. Instead, we crossed the Colle Vial to the Sasc Fura hut, with an exciting scramble up the rocky gully, then headed down to Promontogno again, and finally reached the Albigna hut with the aid of the postbus and cable car. But even the hut was snowbound, and though on the following day part of the group attempted the crossing of the Casnil pass down into the Forno valley to Maloja, they were again prevented by the soft new snow and blizzard conditions as they reached the ridge. Opting to return to the hut and to descend into the valley by cable car, they rejoined the remainder of the group who had descended to Vicosoprano on foot.

This was followed by two weeks at the Hotel Engadinerhof in Pontresina where a total of almost 40 people enjoyed their excellent facilities. With such a large group of differing ages and abilities, and with mixed weather and snow conditions, there was considerable variety in the walks and climbs achieved, from strolls down the street to the concert hall to ascents of near 4000metre peaks. Most members were out at every available opportunity, despite the amount of new snow which had fallen the previous week, and ascents of Piz Palu, Piz Julier, Piz Ot, Piz Ketsch and several lesser peaks were accomplished; those at the beginning of the fortnight ploughing through new snow to do so, while those at the end of holiday scrambled over sun-warmed rocks.

Popular walks undertaken by the majority of the group were up the Val Roseg to the Tscierva Hut, up the Morteratsch Glacier to the Boval Hut, up to Hahnensee above St. Moritz, and the crossing of the Fuorcla Sullej. Explorations were made into the Lower Engadine, to the

National Park above Schanf, to the painted houses at Guarda, into Italy, to the warmth of Livigno and via Poschiavo to Tirano. But those who ventured south of Sils Maria into the Val Fex, via the high level route of Marmore and Piz Chuern, were unanimous that this unspoiled valley, its hillsides covered with flowers and crossed by swiftly flowing streams, was the most idyllic spot of all.

Our thanks to Alasdair Andrews for organising both meets. Those who participated this year are already looking forward to next year's meet to the Brenta Dolomites and its preceding walk.
Pamela S Harris

AVALANCHE BEACON HIRE SCHEME GOES DIGITAL The Alpine Ski Club (www.alpineskiclub.org.uk) announces that it is upgrading its Avalanche Beacon Hire Scheme to digital avalanche beacons with immediate effect.

Over the last 20 years, the ASC's Avalanche Beacon Hire Scheme using the Swiss analogue Autophon avalanche beacon has made a valuable contribution to mountaineering safety for British ski-mountaineers.

Alpine Ski Club President Alun Davies said, "The introduction of digital beacons using the 'Tracker' digital beacon is an important landmark in this much needed service to UK ski-mountaineers. Avalanches are an ever-present risk in winter and can result in injury and death to those unlucky to be caught in one. Within 5 minutes of being buried in an avalanche, the chances of survival diminish rapidly so every minute saved in finding and rescuing a victim is vital."

Avalanche beacons are small radio transmitter and receiver units that are worn by ski-mountaineers to enable their companions to find them. In use, every member of a ski-party wears a beacon which is switched on to transmit a regular "beep" which can be picked up and located by other beacons which have been switched over to 'search' mode. Every member of the group must wear a beacon and every member must carry a snow shovel for use in the rescue.

In the event of an avalanche burying one or more members of a ski group, the remaining members of the group carry out a search using a grid search down the line of the avalanche until the victim or victims are found and dug out. Unfortunately the grid-search is time-consuming and needs a considerable amount of practice to acquire the skill needed to successfully locate victims quickly.

The new digital avalanche beacons can compute the direction and range of a buried beacon and need far less skill to use. This means that once a signal has been picked up after the initial sweep search, these devices literally point the way direct to the victim.

"In a recent test by Alpine Ski Club members, **digital beacons were found to be much simpler to use and significantly faster in finding the targets. Multiple targets were quickly found. Far less skill was needed to use the digital beacons than with analogue beacons**" said Davies.

The digital "Tracker" beacon chosen by the Alpine Ski Club is a robust device which is worn with an integral harness and is lighter than the analogue beacons it replaces.

Tracker avalanche beacons can be hired at a cost of £20 for two weeks, by sending a SAE to the Alpine Ski Club, Cooldara, 9 Hill Way, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8BJ or e-mail to hire@alpineskiclub.org.uk. (Tel 07941 684118)

BOARDMAN TASKER AWARD FOR MOUNTAIN LITERATURE This prestigious award, now of £2,000, is made annually. This year the award ceremony took place on 10 November at the Club, its usual venue. 25 books were received and the winner was chosen by the three judges Kathleen Jamie (chair), Alan Hankinson and Steve Goodwin, from a short list of five books. The winner was Peter and Leni Gillman's book *The Wildest Dream*, published by Headline

CAPEL CURIG ACCOMMODATION Our member Nick Parks is running a mountain centre which is available to individuals and groups. There is accommodation for 14 in cottage-style buildings, well equipped with showers, dining room, kitchen, central heating, drying room etc. Details available from the Asst. Secretary or Nick Parks tel (01492) 650267, info@meadowscentre.co.uk

AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB

Members of the Alpine Club are invited to attend lectures organised by the UK section of the A.A.C. Details of the talks, and other activities, available on their web site, www.aacuk.demon.co.uk

WICKLOW MOUNTAINS SPRING WALKING FESTIVAL 4 -- 6 May. County Wicklow is the base area for a choice of nine walks over three days at this long running Irish festival. There is a level to suit all types of walkers or anyone curious about County Wicklow and Ireland's history, geology, culture, flora and fauna, not to mention the music and the after-walk celebrations. Contact Michael O'Regan, Wicklow County Tourism, Saint Manntan's House, Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town, Ireland, tel +353 (0)404 66058, email wctr@iol.ie

FRANK SMYTHE Tony Smythe is researching his father's life, and would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has recollections, personal or otherwise, or information however apparently insignificant. Please phone (01539) 821829 or write: Strawberry Fields, Brow Lane, Staveley, Kendal LA8 9PH.

TRENTO FILM FESTIVAL The 49th Festival will take place 27 April -- 5 May. Anyone wishing to enter a film should do so by 10 March. And of course you may simply attend the event. Application form and more details available from the Asst. Secretary.

AROUND KANGCHENJUNGA George Band, in association with 'Far Frontiers', is planning to lead this superb trek taking 30 days (UK to UK) in the period 15 September to 24 October 2001 (exact dates to be decided). Made famous by Douglas Freshfield in 1899 and repeated, as far as I can ascertain, only by Frank Smythe in 1930 and Dorje Lhatoo of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, in 1992, this trek has not been politically possible for foreigners in recent years owing to the need to cross unofficial passes between Sikkim and Nepal. However, Colonel Narinder Kumar, who negotiated our entry into the Nanda Devi Sanctuary last October (closed to foreigners since 1982) is reasonably confident that he can also pull off this coup. It will be a fairly strenuous clockwise trek of some 20 days from Darjeeling but entirely practicable, only rarely exceeding 5000m, with a high point of 6120m crossing the glaciated Jongsong La, to the north of Kangchenjunga, when one should be well acclimatised.

If you are interested in tackling this historic route, please contact me, George Band (01252) 843173, or Chris Short at 'Far Frontiers' (01285) 850926.

ADVERTISEMENTS

THE SECOND STEP MOUNTAINEERING BOOKS

Charles Clarke now has a website that lists books, pictures, maps etc.
www.instantpages.com/thesecondstep

CLIMBS IN THE INDIAN HIMALAYA

Forthcoming expeditions to Garhwal led by Guides

TRISUL I (7120m) May 10th – June 9th 2001 : *Attempt this historic peak by the challenging West Ridge*
NANDA GHUNTI (6309m) May 10th – June 3rd 2001 : *New route attempt on the South Face plus great trekking*
All trips fully serviced at an all-inclusive price. Be different! And try the peace, beauty and adventure of India's peaks.
Full details from: MARTIN MORAN, PARK COTTAGE, ACHINTEE, STRATHCARRON, ROSS-SHIRE IV54 8YX
Tel/Fax: (01520) 722361 E-mail: martin.moran@btinternet.com
Web-site: www.moran-mountain.co.uk

POLY DRUMS

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As official artist for HRH The Prince of Wales' Royal Tours to East Asia and The Middle East, Hart Dyke has painted mountains and landscapes in Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman. Recently he exhibited a series of paintings of Saudi Arabia together with work by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Al-Saud at an exhibition held at The Banqueting Hall, London.

His last one man exhibition at W.H. Patterson, entitled 'Paintings from Nepal', focused on the dramatic mountain scenes of the Himalayas particularly from the area around Mt. Everest.

During the past year Hart Dyke has travelled through the Alps. This exhibition represents his Alpine experiences.

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