

The Alpine Club



November 2010

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The Alpine Club

3/2010



NEWSLETTER

November 2010



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AREA NOTES

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Russia & Central Asia -

Paul Knott

Greenland - Derek Fordham

Scottish Winter - Simon

Richardson

Ethiopia - Pat Littlejohn

India - Harish Kapadia

Nepal - Dick Isherwood

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North America - Ade Miller

Cordilleras Blanca and

Huayhuash

- Antonio Gomez Bohorquez

New Zealand - Mark Watson

Antarctica - Nick Lewis

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FIRST ASCENT

Dear All,

Hope you have had a good summer. I gather that conditions in the Alps have been a mixed bag of heavy snow and rain with the odd good short spell. To quote our man in Chamonix, **Andy Parkin**, when asked about the weather and recent conditions:

"It's been just like it was in the 70's/80's. Hopefully the winters will get cold again"

Over the Summer months I was part of an AC delegation to climb and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grande Casse and the Bluemlisalphorn, both first climbed by past AC Presidents William Mathews and Sir Leslie Stephen respectively, with of course their personal guides way back in 1860. No doubt a golden era for bagging unclimbed peaks in the Alps to which the AC played a major role and in doing so possibly created the basis of what is now a prosperous and thriving alpine guiding industry.

Prior to the Grande Casse climb, we visited the Val Masino Valley to climb the Disgrazia, a long time ambition of mine. A break in the weather allowed a pleasant hut walk and after an early start the following morning, **Derek Buckle, Rupert Baron** and myself got within a couple of rope lengths of the summit. With unstable snow conditions and possibly an over cautious President, we retreated back to the Ponti Hut just in time. 20cm of snow fell within an hour of our return and the following morning it was almost knee deep at the hut. Many thanks to our local member **Guiseppe Miotti** (Popi) for taking care of us. Hopefully we can return the favour on his proposed visit to the UK next year. Cheers Popi.

A few days later we arrived in Pralognan. A successful ascent of the Grande Casse by all AC members who submitted in perfect weather and superb conditions.

The Bluemlisalphorn however was the other extreme - high winds and driving rain. We had to console ourselves with an ascent of the Wilderfrau in possibly the worst weather I have ever volunteered to venture out in! A huge thanks for all the organisation of both events and of course, the local guides.

As usual, there has been a lot of action at Charlotte Rd. The committee met after the summer break on 14th September with a full agenda of ongoing business.

I am pleased to announce that our membership continues to grow at a steady rate. Also, the Slovenian mountaineer **Silvo Karo** has become our latest Hon Member. Silvo's track record of bold new routes in Patagonia is incredible. Welcome to the Club, Silvo.

On a sad note, we have lost the following members:

Roger Childs, Bob Cresswell, Eileen Healey (Ex-President, Ladies AC Elected in 1947) and **Mike Hewson**, (Secretary of the AC Library Council of Trustees)

Our condolences go out to family and friends.

This is my last address for our newsletter as I stand down at the end of December. At this point, I must thank our Hon Editor **Dick Turnbull** for his high energy and valuable time and effort he has put into the newsletter over the years. I'll miss his pressing messages:

"Now look here Mr President, you've got 2 days left to produce your piece and no more than 800 words. You have 800 words and no more. And I must have it on time. You hear, on time!" Yes Sir!! Well done Dick, keep up the good work.

I can't say enough about the enormous amount of encouragement and support I have had from all at Charlotte Rd, for which I am extremely grateful. I've had a wonderful time and it has been a great privilege for me to serve as the President of this unique and very special Alpine Club of ours. Thanks to all.

Important issues at the AGM - mainly a successor for the President of the Club. Our member and leading world mountaineer, **Mick Fowler** has been proposed and is keen to take up the position. He has the overwhelming support of the committee. **Col. Henry Day** has recently stated he intends to put his name forward and stand for the role. Together with the postal vote proposals and of course the Presidents valedictory address, it hopefully all makes for a busy and well supported AGM.

We have our Annual Dinner and AGM on Saturday 4th December. The AGM will be held at Charlotte Rd starting at 2pm, followed by the dinner, location enclosed. A reminder of our Dinner Guest, **Tim Macartney-Snape**. It would be excellent to see a good attendance at these London events.

Yours with thanks, **Paul Braithwaite**, President of the Alpine Club

Cover photo: Grand Casse 855m from the north in the Vanoise National Park. The rock peak in front is Aigi de la Vanoise 2796 m. photo: Knut I Tonsberg

London Venue

55/56 Charlotte Road

General and Informal meetings

Lectures start at 7.30pm

Tuesday 9th November. Johnny

Dawes: Full of Myself

Johnny Dawes, often referred to as a living legend, first starting climbing when he was 14 and soon established a reputation as an innovative and bold climber. In 1986 he introduced the first E8 and E9 climbs to the UK with Indian Face and Gaia, respectively. These and Quarryman (E8, 7a/b) are iconic masterpieces. In this lecture Johnny will be showing video clips and describing passages from his forthcoming autobiography 'Full of Myself', which will be available for purchase on the night.

Tuesday 23rd November. Julie

Summers: Everest Needs You, Mr Irvine

Julie, an author and historian, is a great niece of Sandy Irvine and the author of his biography 'Fearless on Everest' which was published in 2000. This promises to be a fun talk with photographs and even some moving footage of Irvine from the boat race of 1923.

Saturday 4th December. Annual

Dinner and AGM Details to be confirmed.

2011

Tuesday 25 January. Colin Beechey: Alpine Classic Routes and Grandes Courses

Colin has had over 40 short Alpine holidays, of only 2 weeks duration or less, starting as a teenager in 1968 to the present time. His talk will include a selection of his most memorable classic climbs including the Hironnelles Ridge (Grande Jorasses), Zmutt Ridge (Matterhorn), Viereselsgrat (Dent Blanche), North Ridge (Weisshorn), Scerksen Eisenase/Bernina Traverse, Peuterey Ridge (Mont Blanc, Aig Blanche), Corda Molla (Disgazia), Lenspitze North face/Nadelgrat.

Tuesday 22 February 2011. Graham Bowley: No Way Down

Graham, a journalist, will be recounting the story of one of the biggest mountaineering disasters ever when in August 2008 eleven of the world's best climbers lost their lives on K2 after a massive avalanche swept away their fixed lines following an otherwise successful attempt on the summit. His book of the same name is to be published in January 2011 and will be available for sale on the night.

Leo Houlding and Mick Fowler will be giving a joint lecture at London's RGS on Sat 27th November at 7pm (doors open at 6:30), tickets cost £18.00, and links to purchase tickets can be found at www.berghausadventuretour.com.

SW Venue

Upper room of the Nova Scotia,

Hotwells, Bristol, BS1 6XJ

Lectures start at 7.30pm

SOUTH WEST VENUE:-

Upper Room of the Nova Scotia, Cumberland Basin, Hotwells, Bristol, BS1 6XJ

The Nova Scotia Hotel is a well-known Bristol landmark, situated at the western end of the Floating Harbour, with ample local parking and good beer. Lectures start at 7.30pm.

The AC SW Regional organisers are Colin Knowles, Tony Westcott and Craig Cook

Tuesday 26th January. Simon Clark: THE FIRST ASCENT OF PUMASILLO: an account of the Cambridge Andean Expedition of 1957.

Pumasillo (20,490 ft) lies in the Cordillera Vilcabamba of Central Peru and in 1957 was considered to be the highest unclimbed peak in the Americas. It had never been attempted and, indeed, had only been approached for the first time the year before, by George Band's Huagaruncho party. The first ascent, on 23rd July 1957, was a significant achievement in the Alpine Club's Centenary Year.

Tuesday 23rd February. Mike Pinney: THE COMPLETE 4000M PEAKS OF THE EUROPEAN ALPS

Mike completed the set with Jeff Harris in 2007 and lived to tell the story – but only just!

Wednesday 17th March. Andy Cave: THE THIN WHITE LINE

The lecture will be based on the sequel to his award-winning book Learning to Breathe, in which he takes us from the Peak District to the Himalayas, from Norway to Patagonia and from the European Alps to Alaska, in the company of many of today's leading mountaineers and climbers. Andy will describe the personal challenges he had to overcome to return to extreme climbing, following the death of his climbing partner Brendan on Changabang. He was born into a mining family, has a PhD in socio-linguistics and is an IFMGA international mountain and ski guide.

Don't forget the Clubhouse Bunkroom is open.

Bookings must be made with the Club Administrator, 0207 613 0755

The next newsletter will be with members by February 15th 2011. It takes a minimum of 2 weeks to print and send out the newsletter so the next copydate will be 16th January 2011. If you want your copy to be included you should get it in early to be sure!

Northern Venue

The Outside Cafe

Hathersage

Lectures start at 7.30pm

NORTHERN LECTURE VENUE:

'Outside Cafe', Hathersage, Derbyshire on

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

Anyone who has an interesting trip that they are prepared to lecture on is invited to contact Edward Douglas

A small contribution is requested to cover costs.

Wednesday 10th November. Mike Hale & John Rushby: An Account of the 2010 AC Expedition to Chile

Sixteen AC members and their guests visited the Tupungato area of the Chilean Andes where they made the first ascent of two unnamed peaks of 5908m & 5958m on the Argentinean border. They also climbed Sierra Bella South, 5223m, and Tupungatito, 5388m. John and Mike will give a wry account of active volcanoes, endless lava fields, bedtime stories, basecamp pizza at 10,000 feet and the infamous butter mountain.

Wednesday 8th December

Johnny Dawes. See Nov London lecture

2011

Wednesday 12th January. Colin Beechey: Alpine Classic Routes and Grandes Courses

Colin has had over 40 short Alpine holidays, of only 2 weeks duration or less, starting as a teenager in 1968 to the present time. His talk will include a selection of his most memorable classic climbs including the Hironnelles Ridge (Grande Jorasses), Zmutt Ridge (Matterhorn), Viereselsgrat (Dent Blanche), North Ridge (Weisshorn), Scerksen Eisenase/Bernina Traverse, Peuterey Ridge (Mont Blanc, Aig Blanche), Corda Molla (Disgazia), Lenspitze North face/Nadelgrat.

Wednesday 16th February.

Dave Hamilton: Mt Vinson Ski

Expedition In January 2010 David visited Antarctica's Ellsworth Mountains with fellow Alpine Club member Patrick Bird. In the course of a self supported 14 day trip they travelled over 90km and climbed more than 8,000m.

Wednesday 16th March.

Mick Fowler - subject to be confirmed

The 2010 AC AGM will be held on Saturday 4th December 2010 at the Club House, Charlotte Road, starting at 2pm.

AC MEETS 2010 - 2011

Meet co-ordinators can be contacted by email using details in the members handbook or available on Alpinet, while further detailed information is available from them or by clicking on "Details" links in the Meets listing on the AC website.

What meets would you like the Club to be running?

If you have any ideas about where and when you would like meets or what kind of meet you would like to see or run contact:

Dave Wynne-Jones, Meets Secretary 01173771992 wordpictures@blueyonder.co.uk

12th - 14th November - Cheddar and the Mendips - This is a joint meet with the Shepton Mallet caving club to be held at thier hut in the village of Priddy. Easy access to Chedder Gorge and Avon plus other crags and quarries. Members of the caving club are offering members of the AC a chance to be taken down some of Mendips finest cave for those who would like. Co-ordinator: **Stuart Worsfold** sawtreesurgeons@hotmail.com or Alpinet.

22nd November – 22nd December 2010 – Alpine Club Expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula

A sail, ski & climbing expedition open to AC members with suitable background experience.

Co-ordinator: **Phil Wickens**. phil_wickens@hotmail.com

2011

15th to 23rd January - Ice Climbing Meet in Slovenia

The meet will be organised with the participation of the Slovenian Alpine Club and local luminaries. Come and discover this part of Europe. Ice climbing, mixed climbing and ski touring are excellent. Contact Françoise Call, **0033 683 772319** - françoiseCALL@yahoo.co.uk

12th February to 6th March - Cordillera Darwin - Chilean Tierra del Fuego.

A chance to climb in one of the most remote mountain ranges outside of the polar regions.

Meet co-ordinator - **Simon Yates**. simon@yates.u-net.com

18th-19th February - Scottish winter meet

Tulloch Station Lodge. Details to follow. Co-ordinator **Martin Gillie** m.gillie@ed.ac.uk or on Alpinet)

23rd June - 2nd July 2011 Elbrus on ski - Caucasus Prequel or freestanding ski ascent of Mount Elbrus.

Attempts on Mount Elbrus (5600m) around Easter usually turn into a long crampon plod up bullet-proof ice instead of a fine ski although some excellent touring in the main Caucasus range often compensates. In the second part of June ski conditions on Elbrus should be perfect for ski descent from the top. This year it was in great condition at the end of June. The Bezingi meet has already attracted members and some may wish to gain some earlier acclimatisation for the later technical climbing whilst others may just fancy a 4000m ski descent without continuing to Bezingi. The 30 day limit on Russian visas fixes the dates but 10 days should be adequate to acclimatise sufficiently to make the ascent of Elbrus, particularly if members have done some alpine touring earlier in the season.

NB the Russian Caucasus has none of the problems with lawlessness encountered by previous AC meets in Georgia although the food is nothing like as good!

Co-ordinator **Dave Wynne-Jones** wordpictures@blueyonder.co.uk or on Alpinet Further Details:

2nd -24th July 2011 - Russian Caucasus

A three week Alpine Club expedition to the Russian Caucasus is currently being planned. We shall to fly via Moscow to Mineralnyje Vody and from there go by road to the Bezingi Valley where we shall be based at the Russian camp. This camp provides easy access to the Bezingi Basin which offers superb mountaineering opportunities in an impressive alpine environment on peaks rising to 5200m. Shkhara, Jangi-tau, Gestola and Dych-tau are just some of the well-known peaks accessible from the Bezingi Basin and Friedrich Bender's Classic Climbs in the Caucasus illustrates these and many others. Please contact Derek Buckle if you are interested in joining this meet. REVISED DETAILS

2nd to 16th July 2011- Joint AC/ABMSAC Meet. Fiesch in the upper Rhone valley

Hotel based meet. Co-ordinator: **Alasdair Andrews** tel: 0131 667 1529 or alasdair.andrews@btinternet.com

16th to 30th July 2011 - Joint Alpine AC/CC/FRCC/ABMSAC Meet. Ecrins, Ailefroide.

Co-ordinator **Mike Pinney** mikepinney@aol.com

31st July to 28th August - Kazakhstan: Climbing in the Tien Shan inc Khan Tengri

Based at a semi-permanent camp on the North Inylchek Glacier, which is reached by helicopter.

Co-ordinator: **Simon Yates** simon@yates.u-net.com or on Alpinet Further details

For the 5th year running
Good effort!

AC CLIMBING FUND

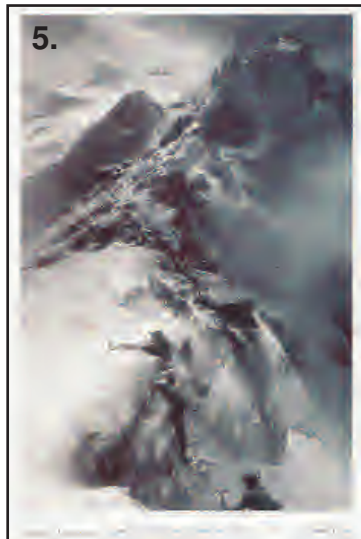
Sponsored by First Ascent

The Climbing Fund supports private expeditions, provided that all participants are AC Members . . .

Your future private expedition could be on this list! Details and an application form can be found on the AC web site at www.alpine-club.org.uk. The awarding committee plans to review applications twice yearly, in March and September, although there is no specific deadline for their receipt. At least three months in advance is advisable. It should be noted that successful recipients will be ineligible for consideration for additional awards for a period of three years.



**AC
Christmas
Cards**



A different Christmas card has been offered exclusively to the members each year for the last 6 years. Christmas 2009 was the last of the series. **There is still stock available of the whole series of 6 cards. These are still available to members this year. Price:- £6.50 for a pack of 10 cards. Plus:-**

Postage Rates:-

For up to 3 packs:-
 1st class UK £1.25 per pack
 2nd class UK £1.10 per pack
 Europe £2.85 per pack
 Rest of World £4.60 per pack

For 4 packs or more:-
 1st class UK £3.50 in total
 2nd class UK £2.90 in total
 Europe £7.50 in total
 Rest of World £14.00 in total

Here are the 6 card titles:-

1. Sunrise over Kangchenjunga from Darjeeling by T Howard Somervell
2. Aiguille Verte and Aiguille du Dru by George Barnard
3. Between the Lights by Henry George Willink
4. Dying Light, Drohmo, Nepal by Julian Cooper
5. Meije, Pic Orientale by Edward Theodore Compton
6. The Matterhorn, Moonlight by Albert Gos

To buy:-

Contact **Cordee** by phone 01455 611185 or e-mail sales@cordee.co.uk. Or via the website - www.cordee.co.uk (click on the 'rock' bar at the top of the homepage, then top left in green 'alpine club christmas cards').

CORT'S FIRST SUMMIT

In 2005 my friend Ian Swarbrick rang me to say he had suffered a broken neck, at the same level as

Christopher Reeve, in a scooter accident. Unlike the actor, Ian was one of the fortunate four per cent of people with that injury (C3, jawline) who could walk well. He had regained fifty percent and seventy five per cent strength in his arms, and near his former leg strength. He had extensive mountaineering experience and wanted to get back on the

heights, and so it was that with Gaby Funk, a German who earned her living from adventure journalism, we made three modest alpine ascents involving scrambling and walking on crampons, which Ian managed with ease. His return to climbing and my sixty fifth birthday were celebrated on top of Austria's Piz Murtel, 3433metres, with a small bottle of champagne, a cake baked by Gaby, and rösti fried with sausages. It was, as the U.S. mountain guide Smoke Blanchard would say, a picnic/pilgrimage. Ian's joy was ours too.

Nearly five years later, Courtney Farmer, the thirty three year old owner of a building restoration company, was recovering from a broken neck - again, C3 - a fractured sternum and a damaged hand following a motor accident. He, too, was in the lucky four per cent club, and four months after receiving his injuries he wanted to climb a mountain or two as an extension of his considerable, self-taught rock-climbing. We live in the same small town and he jumped at the suggestion that we should train locally for a few months before going to the Spanish Pyrenees. His physiotherapist gave the all clear for rock-climbing and mountaineering.

Training sessions on Dartmoor and in Cornwall showed Cort to be up to anything I planned, and we were joined by two more Pyrenees aspirants. Jamie Lepine-Boyle is Cort's next door neighbour, a twenty-five year old motor mechanic with plenty of rock experience but not a summit to his name, and Ben Sherriff is a twenty-seven year old PhD filmmaker at Exeter University. He was a rock and mountain virgin, but between us over four months we went with him to eight outdoor venues for days out or weekends, and introduced him to a local indoor wall. Ben embraced the sport with a passion which was reinforced by the fact that he was to use our training and Pyrenean experiences as the basis for a fundraising film featuring the Rotary Jaipur Limb Project (www.rotary-jaipurlimb.co.uk). This scheme supplies free artificial legs, crutches, calipers, and other aids to people with disabilities in several underdeveloped countries.

My wife, Jude, decided to join us on our ten day trip to the Pyrenees for the hiking. Our arrival in June in the



Peña Foratata

village of Escarrilla after a thousand mile drive in two cars was to torrential rain. Close by in France storms and flooding destroyed roads and buildings and killed many people. Locals told us they were experiencing the worst June weather ever, and one climber said there was 'bad' snow where we intended going. We opted for a chalet rather than camping, and in four days achieved only a recce and a night camped at 2000metres beneath our objective, Pico De Anayet, 2545metres. With barely a glimpse of the mountain whose picture had drawn me there, we beat a soggy retreat back to the village. Already six days had elapsed; we needed two for the drive back, so it was getting to now or never time.

The next day dawned sunny, though very windy, and Peña Foratata, a striking peak when viewed from the road, drew us to attempt one of its several summits the highest of these being 2341metres. A pleasant stroll through pastures led to sections of steep, slippery, muddy path, which made me struggle. Soon came an easy-angled, wonderfully wild grassy, flowery, area, and fascinating, eroded grey rock outcrops redolent of times before man; all this was spiced with close sightings of ibex and marmot - which Cort was convinced were in fact baby bears. After two hours on the go the wind had increased a great deal, and two descending women said that despite crawling part way they had failed to summit. Despite the fact that all mountains of a similar altitude in all directions held much snow, Peña Foratata had none. On reaching a col we settled Jude in a sheltered, grassy spot behind some rocks. Ice crystals stung our faces as we forced ourselves into the bully wind. A short scrambling section was easier than where for the most part we walked on sloping rock, because each could steady himself with his hands against the gusts. Although we had a rope it was clear we should not proceed to the highest summit in the prevailing conditions. I was happy with that, since my stumps had lost some skin on our earlier foray, and we knew Cort would suffer on the descent from a knee problem. Reasons, not excuses were weighed and we battled on to a summit at 2200 metres, which took us about three and a half hours to reach. As this point on the summit ridge did not have a name on our map we christened it Brokeneck Mountain in honour of Cort. Everyone was elated

with our consolation peak, a first for the other three, and I felt an enormous rush of vicarious pleasure, particularly for Cort who, nine months earlier, had faced death or quadriplegia; he had been pushed, but not too far.

We have three converts to mountaineering, and their partners want to come next time. It's nice to pass on the torch. The trip raised around two thousand pounds in sponsorship for the Jaipur project and our local hospice, and Ben's film should raise many thousands more. All round a very satisfying result.

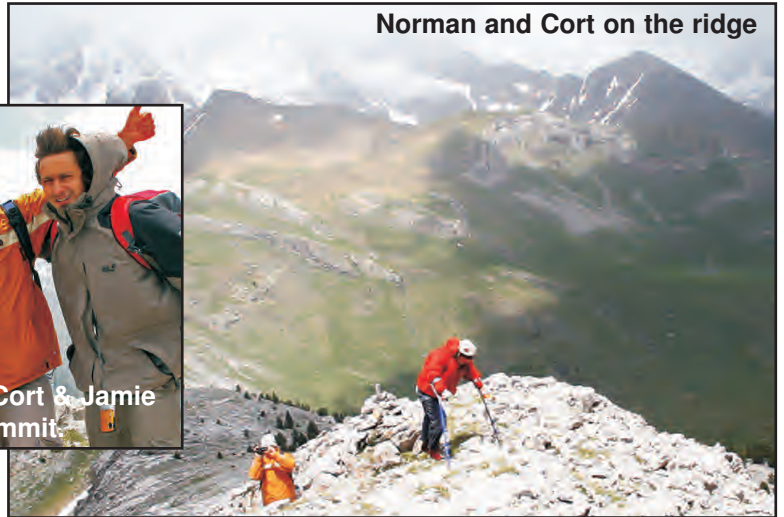
Even small mountains can bring big pleasures.

Norman Croucher



Norman, Cort & Jamie on the summit

Norman and Cort on the ridge



A Report on the AC Participation at the Salon Internationale de Livre de Montagne at Passy 6-8 August 2010

So what was achieved?

This was the 20th Book Fair at Passy, (just down the road from Chamonix) and had the theme "*mountains without frontiers.*" Our participation as the only anglophile stand was much appreciated, not only by the organizers but also by the punters.

We were able to present the AC in a very favourable light. Apart from the guidebooks and copies of the Alpine Journal we were also able to exhibit works done by current members of the club. For example, the stand included books written by Doug Scott, Barry Imeson and John Wilkinson, photographs from Jon Griffiths and art work from Andy Parkin.

I had produced a list of all the ex-presidents and their books on mountaineering, (plus a few notable vice presidents). With this I was able to show to professional and amateur bibliophiles alike that the AC has made the largest contribution to mountain literature of any single organization. Particularly appreciated was how prolific recent presidents have been, for example Chris Bonington, Doug Scott and Stephen Venables.

We were able to inform people about the various aspects of the AC, and in particular the AC library, the Journal and the guidebooks, (the last French (Vallot) guidebook dates from 1979). I was present at a round table discussion on the future of guidebooks, which more and more are becoming limited to bolted rock routes and selected climbs. Comprehensive mountain guidebooks are being replaced by print-offs from the



Gus Morton dishing out retail therapy AC style at Passy. photo: Rita Morton.

internet and maybe soon by an i-phone app.

I was interviewed by French television (FR3) with the AC logo filling the back drop. The role the AC played in promoting mountaineering tourism in the Haute Savoie was discussed as well as how popular the area still remains to British alpinists,

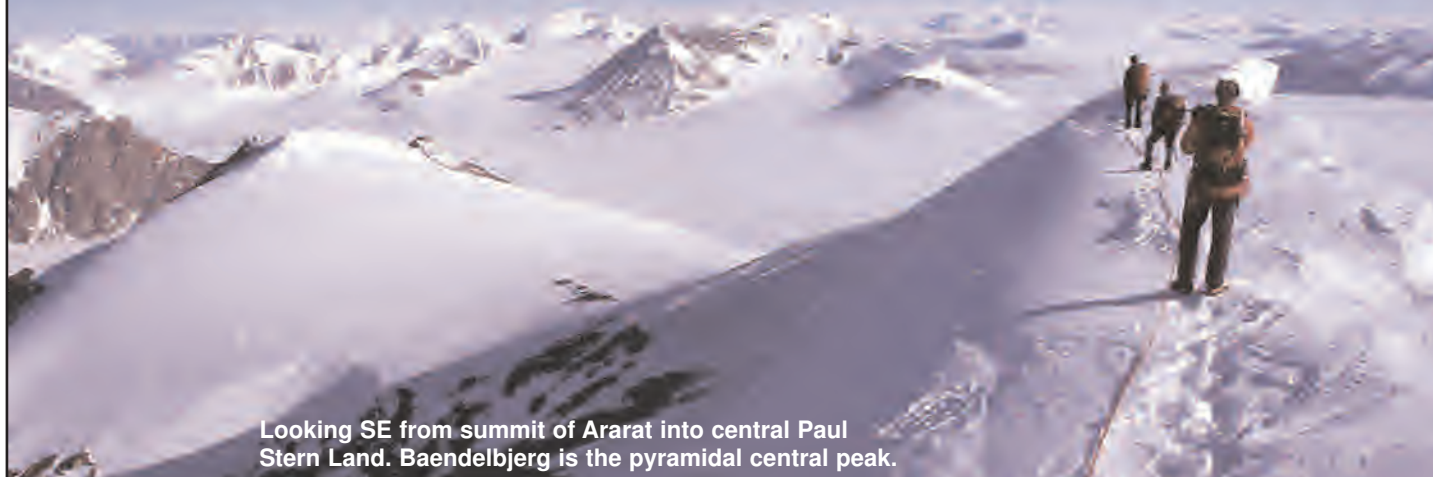
In a week where Britain intensified mistrust, we made good contacts with the Alpine Club of Iran. Hopefully this will lead to a meet soon in one or more of Iran's excellent mountain areas, with summits up to 5671m and 1500 feet high granite cliffs bristling with unclimbed lines.

A great thing about mountaineering is that you learn to enjoy your defeats as well as your successes. In terms of guidebooks sold, it would be difficult to justify our presence

It was mixed emotions that I finally walked out of that stuffy hall after three days of good weather. As I looked up at Mont Blanc, knowing my son was camped high up there somewhere, I could not help feel that maybe AC members should just concentrate on climbing.

Gus Morton

'RETURN TO PAUL STERN LAND'



Looking SE from summit of Ararat into central Paul Stern Land. Baendelbjerg is the pyramidal central peak.

During May/June 2010, AC members Jim and Sandy Gregson went back to Paul Stern Land in NE Greenland, an area they had first visited in 2008.

They were part of a group of six: four Brits, one Aussie and a Dutch/Swiss.

Paul Stern Land lies in N70 27 W29 50 and has only been approached by two or three climbing groups. Most of its peaks remain unclimbed. As Iceland's volcanic ash blew away towards the North Pole we flew to Constable Pynt then on by Twin Otter skiplane into PSL. The pilots would not risk a landing at our preferred spot but set us down a little further W on the Dode Brae. From a first base we made three first ascents as a pipe-opener then tried to move camp up onto the central glacier we wanted to be on. This move was thwarted by a maze of crevasses we hadn't expected - in 2008 there had been a lot more snow -



Baendelbjerg 2341m FA by Jim Gregson and Geoff Bonney by Cloudspotter's Ridge (NW), which runs from 1/3 way in from bottom L corner to summit (D/Dsup with crux V/V+)

Swallowing this frustration Jim Gregson and Geoff Bonney (CC) then made a splendid first ascent of Baendelbjerg 2341m by Cloudspotter's Ridge (NW) in a 15 hour round trip. This gave a route of c.900m at D/D sup. with a crux pitch of V/V+, climbed barehanded, in crampons, but abseiled in descent.

After this the group moved camp some kilometres NW from where a first traverse of Ararat 2480m was made (The Gregsons and Bonney having already made the first ascent back in 2008). Another outing collected the first ascent of Solbjorgs Fjell 2090m., a nunatak peak lying at the edge of the main icecap.

This year we had to deal with a great number of crevasses on the glaciers and, even in late spring, a very rapid rate of snow cover depletion under hot sunshine. Climate change is seriously affecting the Arctic - years ago we used to go out to Greenland at the end of July and into August. Nowadays it is better to go in the Spring, and the air charter company is unwilling to risk its aircraft later on as there have been a number of instances of getting stuck on the ground in deep soft snow.

Jim Gregson is already working on plans to go back to Greenland in 2011 for another expedition to an area further north and also to go back to Milne Land for a trekking trip through a gigantic arctic canyon. Any AC members who might be interested in either of these trips is invited to get in touch.

Jim Gregson



Twin Otter landing site on upper Doede Glacier. Baendelbjerg is the main peak behind.



Arken 2348m, seen from Camp Katabat 10 km to W. We made a good attempt on this peak but did not summit.

so we had to stay on the Dode Brae. After being stopped by a big rock band on a 2300m peak we went to make an attempt on Arken (The Ark), a most striking peak. This attempt also petered out due to terrible snow conditions and crevasse danger after we had got well above 2000m a later flyby round the summit showed how close we had got.

Way Back stories

In the course of his Presidential Speech at the 2009 Dinner, Tut Braithwaite announced that it was the 60th Anniversary of the first dinner attended by one member present, Denis Greenald. The Membership Handbook shows: **Denis Greenald** ACG 1953, AC 1977. And next is **Gwen Greenald** ACG 1953, AC1977. There must be two good stories here.

Denis, with his cousin Johnny Lees, started his teenage mountaineering in the early 40's in a modest way, escaping from urban Yorkshire for the freedom of moors and hills, walking and scrambling. After National Service he went to LSE where he came under the influence of Peter Dietz and Geoff Millward, who was selected for the AC training meet at Kleine Scheidegg in 1948. A year later Dennis went with Geoff to Courmayeur where Toni Gobbi took them under his wing, initially allowing them to follow him and his clients, but later guiding them on the Rocheforte Ridge and the Arete des Hirondelles on the Grande Jorasses. Back at LSE, Alexander Carr-Saunders, the Director, told Graham Browne who submitted a note of their exploits to the AJ and invited Denis to the AC Dinner in 1949.

In 1950, Denis went to the Alps with his new climbing partner, Gwen, a fellow student at LSE and they climbed and gained experience in the Gran Paradiso and then Chamonix Aiguilles, including the traverse of the Grepon. After returning home, Gobbi proposed that they might attempt the South Ridge of the Aiguille Noire - he had done the first winter ascent. In 1951, now married, they had a good season in Chamonix and then the Valais though bad weather frustrated their most ambitious plans. In 1952 they were might have fulfilled Gobbi's proposal but after carrying a 200ft hemp rope around the Alps for the abseils on the Noire, they were again frustrated by the weather. In 1953 things finally fell into place and they arrived at the Noire hut with a distinguished cast including Pat Vaughan, Alan Blackshaw and Hamish Nicol. Three parties of two climbed the Ridge. George Band, Roger Chorley, Ted Wrangham and Goff Francis had made the first British ascent in 1952, but it was a sufficiently prestigious route for entry into the recently-formed Alpine Climbing Club. Dennis might have joined the AC at that time but refused to join a club which would exclude his climbing partner and wife. This climbing partnership lasted a further 50 years, including a small expedition to the Karakorum in 1956. After a break for raising a family, they returned to the Alps, climbing with their teenage children in 1975. Thus it was not until 1977 that they both joined the Alpine Club.

There are other couples in the AC who have been members for longer but the very early inclusion of Denis and Gwen in the ACG gives them a unique place in the history of British Climbing. They celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary in December 2010.

Malcolm Eldridge

A LAKELAND HONEYMOON.

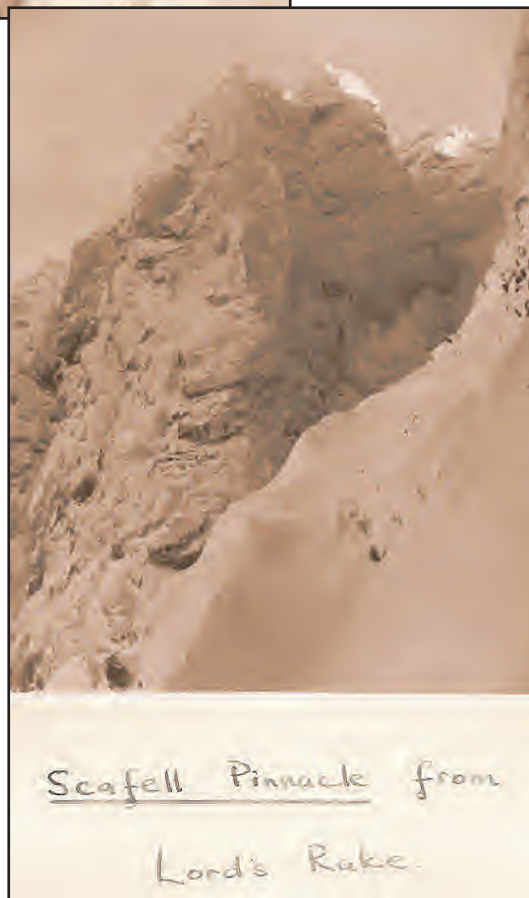
Sunday 17th December 1950

We sheltered from the wind behind a huge snow-covered boulder in 'Hollow Stones', below Scafell. Two snow-filled gullies cut deep into the mountain, isolating a narrow but-tress of ice-draped rock. This was the Pinnacle, some 500 feet in height.



'Might as well look at the start', said Gwen. Almost without discussion we put on the rope and started up the broad bed of Steep Ghyll. Soon the gully narrowed, its walls closed in, the angle steepened; it was time to venture onto the buttress itself. Gwen led up the right wall for ten feet, then was out of sight. The rope edged nervously upward, and dislodged lumps of snow showered me with a fine spray. 'Come on, I'm at the flake', she called.

Twenty feet above was the key to the climb: Slingsby's Chimney, reached by a short steep wall and an icy slab. By balancing on the tip of the flake and helped by an ice axe held by Gwen, I could land on the slab and creep over to the base of the chimney. Here there was a small stance, but no belay; the left wall was undercut and the holds on the right were heavily iced. All attempts to wedge myself higher failed. 'Try it in socks', Gwen shouted. I hurriedly took off my boots,



gathered in some slack rope, tied them on together with my ice axe, and lowered the unwieldy bundle. Now there was just enough friction to push myself upwards. Suddenly the angle eased, good holds appeared; I fled up the rest of the chimney, and out on to broken rocks. I shouted to Gwen to come up, and we moved together, the wind lashing furiously,

whipping up sprays of blinding snow all round. We battled against it to a narrow knife edge of rock. It was no good; we could not face that icy blade in such a tempest.

Twenty feet down the wall of the Pinnacle was a small ledge in the lee of the wind. We hitched the rope over a spike and slid down to it. It was now dusk and we reconciled ourselves to a long night. Some four hours passed before we realised that something was different, something was missing....the wind. We rubbed our numbed bodies back to consciousness, hardly daring to voice the thought of escaping. We swarmed up the double rope, which still hung from the arete. There was a slight breeze, the mere ghost of the storm ; below us an inky blackness, but above, the rising moon showed the outline of the pinnacle. I placed a leg over each side of the ridge and began to edge along. It was encased in a thin layer of verglas, and progress was only possible by friction of hands, legs and clothing. I struggled along the 20 feet, gasping with the exertion. At the end was a welcome thread belay and, thus secured, I could stand delicately up.

Here, the guide book mentions 'a sensational step to the right ', but we were inured to sensation by this time, and in a further 10 feet I found an excellent belay. Gwen followed and led through to the top of the Pinnacle, which is isolated from the main mass of Scafell. With a shock we realised that in the darkness it was impossible to see the neck of rock which joined it on ; again we felt trapped. We stalked round the tiny summit trying to judge the position of Jordan's Gap. Gwen lowered me, and I



Gwen & Denis today

climbed gingerly round the snow-covered slabs on the Steep Ghyll side. After some 20 feet I saw the gap and traversed into it. Now it was safe to

abseil and Gwen joined me. There remained a short, rising traverse before we emerged, elated, on the summit of Scafell.

A great calm was on the mountains, the white masses lay silent in the unreal light, snow and stars scintillated all around. The world of nature was at peace, and so were we. We coiled the rope and walked slowly down to Burnthwaite Farm to enjoy what was left of the second night of our honeymoon.

Denis Greenald

Don't miss!

AC London Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner is to be held in the prestigious Bishop Partridge Hall in the Church House, Westminster SW1. (The headquarters of the Church of England)



Date:- 4th December 2010

Time:- 7pm for 7.30pm

Dress: lounge suits

Price:- £65 for 3 courses (without wine)

Speaker: Tim Macartney-Snape.

'The celebrated Australian mountaineer most renowned for his extraordinary 'sea to summit' ascent of Everest in 1990.'



SECOND-HAND BOOKS AT THE CLUB LIBRARY

DONATIONS: Please donate any unwanted mountain books to the Club Library. We check all donations, selecting those needed to fill gaps or provide duplicates (triplicates or quads) for lending. The remainders are recycled by sale to members at very reasonable prices and they provide library funds. Virtually every remainder is desired by a new owner so this is a great system for us all to increase our mountaineering knowledge. Bring any donations to **Tadeusz** in the Library or contact **Hywel Lloyd** for collection. Also, a big **"Thank you"** to **Mike Banks**, **John Peacock** and the family of **John Blacker** for recent donations of collections.

TO BUY: A selection is for sale in the Library; also watch for emails of our latest full lists. **Barbara Grigor-Taylor**, Library Trustee, is compiling new lists and Jerry Lovatt, Hon Librarian, is conducting the sales. If you cannot receive emails please send a note to **Barbara** who will post new lists to you from time to time.

FRANKLIN TRAVERSE

29 April - 20 May 2010

This tour was a re-run of the tour reported in the November 2009 AC newsletter (under the title "M. A. M. B. A. Country - A traverse of Mt. Waddington) with a largely different team. Unfortunately, one member, John Kentish, had to withdraw just before departure, suffering from a gastric complaint picked up on the Kulu Valley trip.

Anyone thinking of doing this traverse is recommended to read the accounts of both trips - this report is much briefer and highlights the differences and the lessons learnt. The plan was the same overall for both - the approach was via Vancouver followed by a short flight to Campbell River on Vancouver Island; buy gas and provisions then travel by water taxi up the Bute Inlet; rendezvous with a helicopter to take us to the tree-line. Then we followed a route taking us up the edge of the Waddington Glacier, over Mystery Pass, down the Ice Valley, over Jester Pass and down to the



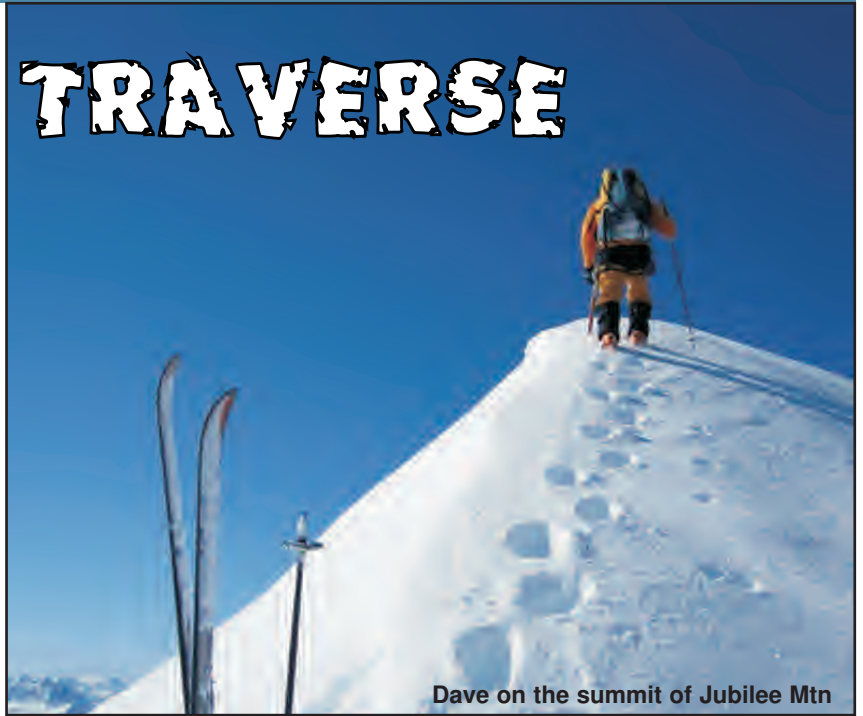
Camp on the Dais Gl with Cavalier Mtn behind.

Dais Glacier under Waddington. The traverse continued up the Finality Glacier, down the Hoodoo and Confederation Glaciers, before the tricky ascent of the Jubilee Glacier, the crossing of the N ridge of Jubilee Mountain and descent to the

More happy camping. 2 stormbound days.



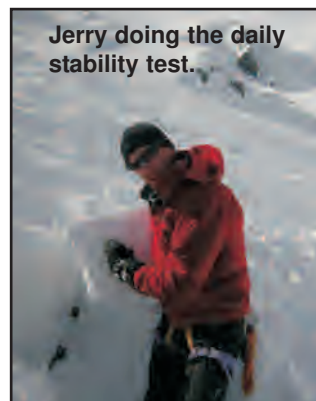
Lomolo Glacier. The final phase was to cross the Chasm Col and ski down to the tree line before the arduous bush-whacking down to Devereux Lake and exit by float plane back to Campbell River. Total ground covered on skis was around 70 km.



Dave on the summit of Jubilee Mtn

Drawing on the experience of 2009, when we had deliberately squeezed the whole tour including travel to and from Canada into 2 working weeks and the long weekends either end, we gave ourselves more bad-weather/ peak-bagging days in 2010. We planned for 14 days on the snow with enough food to last 15 or 16 days if necessary. This extra time, plus the fact that the weather was much better, meant that we were able to shorten several of the very long days of 2009, and to climb more peaks on the way. In the event we camped 14 nights to complete the 70 km traverse, including 4 occasions when we spent 2 nights at the same site - once snow-bound, but 3 times to allow a climbing day. The peaks climbed were Mt. Munday (3367m) from a camp just short of Mystery Pass, Mt. Chris Spencer (3009m) from a camp on the Dais Glacier, Finality Mountain (2833m) and Bezel Peak (2679m) from just short of Finality Pass and Jubilee Mountain (2740m) from a camp at the "notch" on the N ridge of the mountain.

Lessons had also been learnt about load-carrying. The 2009 team all used "crazy carpets" to supplement their rucksacks. These are the simple plastic sleds laced up from a flat sheet of plastic round a small duffle or dry bag and towed with a short rope which have been popular for several decades in BC but are very difficult to control downhill. Only two of us used these in 2010. Jerry brought his own pulk with customised "plumbing" frame and was the most successful skiing downhill on all slopes. Stu



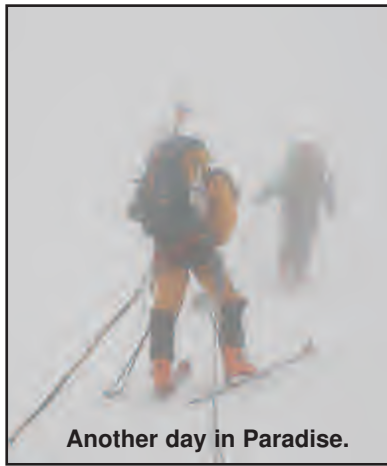
Jerry doing the daily stability test.

used a similar frame attached to a dry bag and Dave tried a dry bag towed by a single rigid bamboo pole with a swivel linkage. There is scope for a PhD somewhere here!

We derived great benefit from the good visibility the weather provided and from

having a member of last year's party with invaluable knowledge of the route to back up the detailed notes the group passed on. The mountains may not be huge, but this is serious, remote territory, with big glaciers and unpredictable weather. The traverse is a superb challenge, both technically and physically.

Peter Moody



Another day in Paradise.

Party: Stuart Gallagher, Peter Moody, Jerry Seager, Steve Wright, Dave Wynne-Jones

Maps and guidebooks: "Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis", John Baldwin (3rd edition 2009). Canadian Topo maps 92/N3, 92/N4, 92/N5, 92/N6 1:50,000



The team after 14 days on the hill.

PS Have you ever sat in a tent listening to the wind and snow and thought what the Hell am I doing here? The old deja vu kicked in, this was

exactly the same crap weather as the first two days on this traverse last year.

However the weather, apart from this first and the penultimate day stayed fine and sunny.

If you've read last years article you'll remember we had several 12 hour days in pretty poor weather and I was buggered by we got down. Not so this year for three reasons, first as I said the weather couldn't have been much better, second because we were there for longer we had much shorter days and third I knew exactly where we were going. It was such a great trip that I'd go back again, it's a fantastic part of the world.

Stu Gallagher



Dave checking out some family photos in a deserted logging camp in Homathko Valley.

PPS Quite why this is known as The Franklin Traverse eludes me as you barely touch the head of the Franklin, while for example you're on the Finality Glacier for 8km! Possibly a similar reason for the AC referring to lectures that take place in the Midlands as the Northern Lectures! (North Midlands! Ed.)

AC EARLY SEASON ITALIAN ALPS MEET - VALNONTHEY 2010.

Six members and two guests attended the early season alpine meet in Valnontey, near Cogne, in the last week of June and first of July. The aim was to climb some of the fine alpine peaks in this part of the Aosta valley that was popular with 19th century alpinists but appears to have become a backwater recently, except for ice-climbers. The party was based at "Camping lo Stambecco", a comfortable site with friendly owners from which ascents could be made directly. The only snag was a local fox that burgled tents in the hope of finding food. Losing some bread is bearable; having a hole chewed in a tent inner is more difficult to laugh off. Total losses were various bags of food and two damaged tents. Future visitors beware!

On the first day a party of seven walked up to the Vittorio Sella hut in the afternoon. The following morning ascents were made of **Grande Serra (3553m)** and **Punta Nera (3683m)** in unpleasant wet, deep snow. A feature of the two weeks was hot weather with, at best, a poor overnight freeze. On these first climbs the snow was particularly poor and deep - no doubt very good for improving fitness but a bit of a trial at the time.

Following this warm up, one party climbed the **Gran Paradiso (4061m)** via the Cresta Gastaldi, a little known but elegant ridge route from the Valnontey side that joins the normal route near the summit. The climb is approached from the small Pol bivouac huts, 5 hours from the valley. A descent was made of the normal route to the Vittorio Emanuele hut to meet another party that had climbed **La Tresenta (3609m)**. The next day the curious **Ciarfaron (3642m)** was climbed by both its SE ridge and North face (as compensation for missing a rather soggy NE face of Gran Paradiso) by the two parties. This peak, has a snow summit and a rock summit of apparently equal height, separated by a, presumably permanently, frozen lake.

The next major summit was **La Grivola**. This was climbed by a group of four by its remote ENE ridge, the starting point being the Balzola bivouac, a full 6hrs and 2100m above Cogne. Two members of the party reached the hut rather late, noting that the relentless ascent had cured their hang-overs. The ascent went smoothly and was the highlight of week for those involved. By contrast the intended descent route proved unviable and had to be abandoned. An alternative was found down a snowy couloir, possibly not used since 1859, and the group eventually arrived at the Gratton bivouac at 1.30am, startling the two sleeping occupants.

Other peaks included **Monte Emilius**, with its fine views of most the Western Alps, and the **Gran San Pietro** via a traverse of its SW ridge and West Flank. The area was found to have a good combination of peaks; comfortable, remote mountain accommodation; food and wine; and can be recommended as an alternative to busier but better known alpine valleys. **Martin Gillie**

Members present: Martin Gillie, Sam Thompson, Louis Wallace, Jonathan Halliday and John Town with guests Stuart Campbell and Nathan McMullan. .



Ciarforon N Face Photo: Louis Wallace



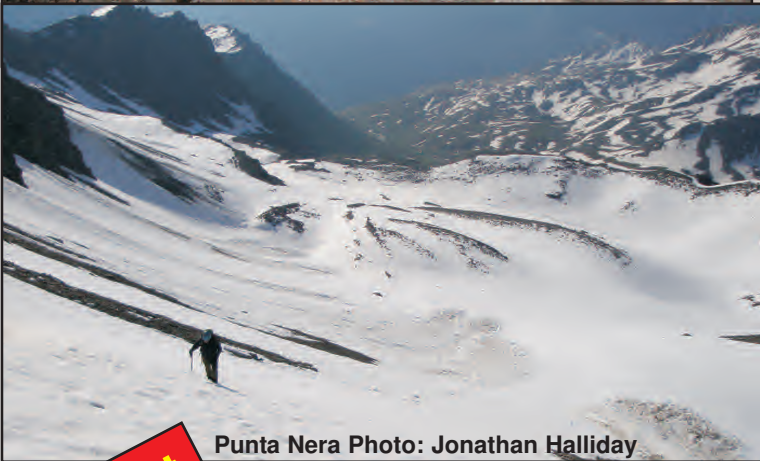
Dinner at Pol's - 'a table for 2 with a view, sir, at 3200m?' Photo: Louis Wallace



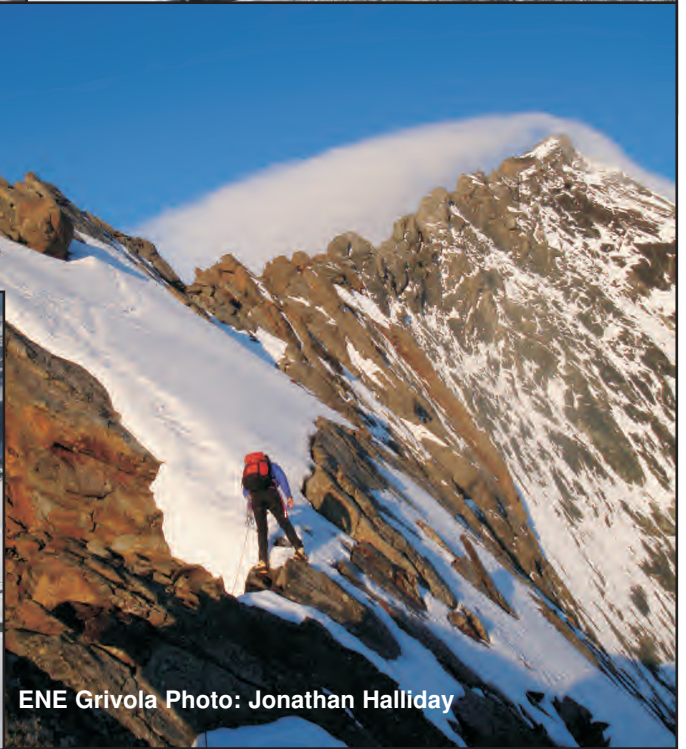
Ciarforon Photo: Jonathan Halliday



Pol Hut Photo Louis: Wallace



Punta Nera Photo: Jonathan Halliday



ENE Grivola Photo: Jonathan Halliday

Important

Email Addresses

If you have an e-mail address, please send it to Iwonna at admin@alpine-club.org.uk
We already have them for most members, but there are quite a few missing - and remember that you can also register for **Alpinet** at the Club website and can then look up the latest addresses of members and change your own details, sign on to circulation lists etc.

Useful links:

The AC website has a Links page devoted to members' own websites. Any member who would like details added should e-mail links@alpine-club.org.uk.
Sites can include such things as mountain training, lecturers' details, writing, painting, etc. in fact anything to do with mountaineering on an ongoing basis.

AC CHILE OPEN EXPEDITION PEPPERY CLIMBING IN CHILE



Dave Wynne-Jones amongst the 'penitente gigante' on the flanks of Tupungatito.

we quickly settled in to review objectives. It was a dry, brutally volcanic landscape with great faces of twisted strata dominated by snow-capped peaks or crumbling pinnacles. Condors wheeled in lazy arcs along the ridges or swept low over the camp, checking us out, but the older members of the party remained resolutely active and, despite appearances, succeeded in discouraging the huge birds. The lack of snow and some tricky looking river crossings rather ruled out some of the more remote peaks but Sierra Bella to the north and Tupungatito to the north-east looked to be worthwhile objectives and would provide better views of others. No one nursed any ambitions to climb Tupungatito and we later learned that strong cold winds prevented anyone summiting until later that season.

Carlos would only be with us for a week as the demands of work were pressing but he was keen to try Sierra Bella with Kai, so Derek & I joined them to carry a load up to a cache at 3700m. Unfortunately I was succumbing to a chest infection picked up on the plane and only made it to the cache with Paul's kind assistance. In the end it was only Carlos, Kai & Derek who climbed back up with another load to camp on the glacier shelf below the south face of Sierra Bella. I hung about BC coughing heartily while John Temple hauled his pup tent up to various obscure locations off the main valley, speculating on what he might have done if 10 years younger, and other members of the team distributed themselves about the rubble and scree slopes of Tupungatito. Approaches varied from Tim and Cherrie's blitzkrieg to Henry's 300m a day strategy, obviously conned from Klauswitz.

It took the Sierra Bella team 14.5 hours round trip to the lower of the 2 summits, tackling an obstacle course of metre-high penitentes that left them too tired to cook at the end of the day. By the time they returned to BC, next day, so had Tim, Cherrie and John Temple. Carlos was due to walk out and John had decided to join him since the mountains were proving too hard and too high. Despite their success in gaining the crater rim on Tupungatito, a nightmarish account of the Sierra Bella climb dampened the enthusiasm of Tim, Cherrie (and me) for a repeat. The poor quality rock finally persuaded them that although they were having a great time socially, they would find better cragging in Mendoza... and then there were 12!

Within 24 hours we were down to 10. Paul and Les returned from climbing a 4000m peak on the flanks of Tupungatito amidst much consternation. On the descent Les had slipped and ripped the backside out of his trousers: his money and passport were in his back pocket. Despite following a papertrail of banknotes there was no sign of his passport and no time to be wasted in sorting out

Derek Buckle en route to ABC on Tupungatito.



Chile was red hot when 16 AC members and guests arrived in Santiago, stepping out of a chill British winter into a southern hemisphere summer. I skulked around looking for air con or at least shade but the wild young things hit the bars. Mike didn't look very wild or young as he flung open the bathroom door to vomit all over my feet next morning, cue for a second shower. Perhaps wilder was the pair that decided to sleep in the park after finding themselves late enough to be locked out; they came shivering back in at 6am... despite the 24 hour reception. Perhaps not!

It was a 2 day walk-in to BC partly on account of a river crossing that had to be done on horseback in the early morning before the river reached its full force. More worrying was the tendency to navigation errors displayed en route. From the path, John Temple & I looked up at a large team staring lemming-like from the top of a cliff down onto the campsite below on day one, while on the second day search parties had to go out to locate an errant Buckle who had missed the base camp baggage drop and would otherwise have disappeared amongst the petrified lava flows. Still, it's nice to see AC traditions being kept up.

Base camp was on a dusty shoulder of Tupungatito and

a replacement. They raced off down after the others.

Meanwhile, in contrast to Henry's measured approach, the wild young things had been hurling themselves at the scree treadmill on the western slopes of Tupangatito. The "Pinnies," aka the game old girls, "just here for the trekking," had also quietly shifted up a gear and placed a cache on the more southerly slopes of Tupangatito where Tim and Cherrie had found less scree. Kai however was made of sterner stuff and was last seen packing a huge rucksack, heading for the scree.

Derek and I tracked the ladies to their cache and then pushed on over straggling ridges of broken lava crested with shattered gendarmes. The upper surface of the rock was a kind of red coke but beneath it had cracked as it cooled into black, square-cut, blocks of basalt. It was a recipe for instability that we confirmed with almost every step. Eventually we bore towards the river and came upon a flat sandy campsite in the moraine below the glacier that flowed south-west off Tupangatito.

The following day Annabelle, Margaret & Pru descended to recover their cached gear while Derek & I scouted the route ahead, thereby proving that whilst they were undoubtedly ladies, we were no gentlemen. We spent some time wandering in a maze of 7m penitentes that soared and twisted in fantastic shapes. On our return we were privileged to witness the legendary Pinnacle club ritual whereby every member of a given party will find a different route of ascent, often meticulously cairning their own chosen line.

Next morning, Derek & I set off at first light, having already given the ladies a shout. We made our way over moraine to the edge of the glacier then followed an unstable basalt ridge in the lava flow above. The line led past extensive penitente fields and scree slopes to within 50m of the crater rim, but those last 50m were a treadmill that threatened to slide us back off the mountain. In contrast the crater rim was quite firm although I wouldn't give much for one's chances of getting out if anyone slipped into the crater. Down there a yellow pool of sulphur bubbled and steamed although a little higher some very tenacious penitentes of grey ice had somehow survived the heat. Taking in the view, we had the following exchange:

"It doesn't look far to the highest point of the rim up there!"

"Yes, but Cherie reckoned there was no point." Pause.

"Well... I want to get up there." Pause. "Er... oh, all right."

It takes a lot to diminish Derek's enthusiasm and in fact it was well worth the extra effort as at 5388m we found ourselves on the rim of another much bigger crater that fell away beneath us. The bottom of it was hidden in clouds of swirling gases but it was roaring like a jet engine at full throttle. We didn't hang about. Retracing our steps to find some shelter from the wind and eat some lunch, suddenly we spotted a figure on a subsidiary top below us. The odds were it was Henry so we shouted and yelled to attract his attention. He later said that he could barely hear our shouts yet shortly heard us talking to each other over lunch quite clearly.

Duty done, we plunged off on a scree run that made a mockery of our painful upwards progress. We were having so much fun that we took the penitente fields direct smashing down lines of weakness on a stumbling roll that nearly took us past the ladies without realising they were there. They were on the point of deciding that 5000m was enough and our news that they were about 2 hours off the summit was enough to clinch their decision. They reorganised their kit while we

crashed on down the curious snows and scree back to ABC.

That evening Annabelle was heard to muse: *"So.. the early bird catches the worm or in this case mountain."*

Next day, cresting the rise above base camp, Derek & I could see that a lavishly equipped Maine university research team had joined us. They were keen to sift our experiences for information they could use as gradually the whole of our party trickled in and swapped stories. Some had found a crater with a green lake in it, others had yomped across the northern flank of Tupangatito to climb a 5900m snow peak beyond. First ascents? Who knows? Carlos is checking but the mountain looks ripe for another "blowout" such that those peaks may not even be there in a year or two's time.

And still we awaited the ladies. Eventually Annabelle and Margaret appeared and launched themselves into an exciting river crossing, hurling rucksacks and leaping from one submerged stone to another. But no Pru. She had injured her knee in a fall so that Annabelle & Margaret had taken most of her load to speed their descent. Still Pru had fallen further & further behind so that they thought it best to enlist some help. The Maine team lent us one of their arrieros and I quickly remembered how to ride in order to point out the route: the cavalry hastened to the rescue. About 20 minutes out we came upon Pru looking rather the worse for wear yet maintaining an unshakeable sang froid that alone would qualify her for AC membership. She rode my horse back to camp while I trotted behind in the dust carrying her rucksack.

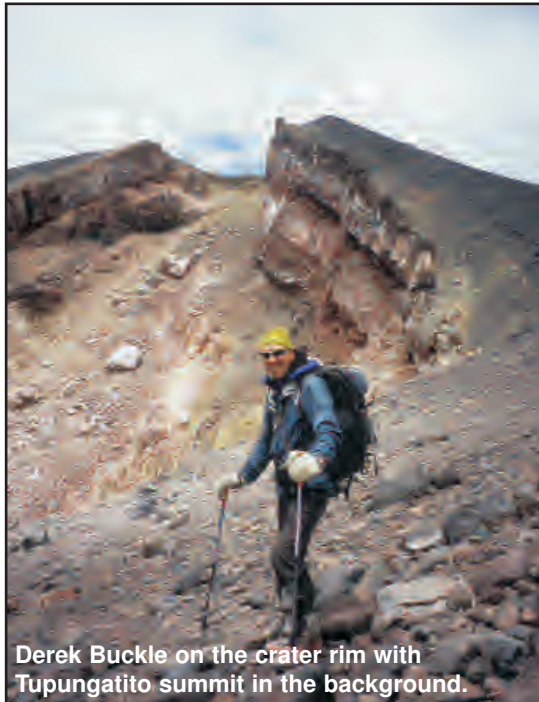
During the day a consensus had emerged that we wanted to bale. John's satphone put him through to Carlos & the transport was arranged. Next morning all that remained was to pack up and burn as much rubbish as possible. Even after selling some of the excess to the Americans, kilos of butter, jam, carrots etc went into the fire although when it came to disposing of the remains of 20kg of expensive cheese Derek & I were drafted in as deserving consumers of pan-fried pizza. Hours later the fire was still going but there was no sign of the horses. As we prepared for another night at BC the arrieros arrived to tell us we would be going out all the way next morning. And so we did. On reaching the roadhead, a brand new pressure cooker that somehow never made it to base camp finally turned up. We added it to the huge pile of unused food that was our tip for the arrieros: *"More than enough,"* as Carlos put it.

There was now nothing for it but to return to the fleshpots of the capital; well actually museums, botanical gardens, cafes and bars, although I must pay tribute to the ladies of Santiago who collectively displayed an impressive acreage of cleavage. Derek was in his element.

Thanks must go to the entire team for being such excellent company and to Mike and Carlos for all their good work in putting the expedition together.

Dave Wynne-Jones

Members; Carlos Bascou, Annabelle Barker, Derek Buckle, Margaret Clennett, Henry Day, Kai Green, Gemma Hagan, Paul Hudson, John Rushby, John Temple, Tim Whiteley, Dave Wynne-Jones and guests; Pru Cartwright, Mike Hale, Leslie Holbert, Cherrie Whiteley.



Derek Buckle on the crater rim with Tupangatito summit in the background.

STRATOSPHERIC SPANKING.....!

If spanking turns you on, then the summit of Triglav is the place to be. I was familiar with the story that to be a true Slovene one must reach the country's highest point (2864m) at least once in a lifetime, but this flagellatory twist was a new one.



A human crocodile on Triglav! A testament to the popularity of Slovenian mountaineeringor spanking?

Scrambling up to join the crowd by the old tin turret - like some Jules Verne rocket - that crowns the summit, for a moment I wondered what was going on. A burly middle-aged man was flogging a succession of young lads with a coil of climbing rope tat. Each

one strode away with a big grin as if an initiation rite had been accomplished, as indeed it had.

A friend enlightened me. The rope end is kept in the turret (erected in 1895 at the behest of Jakob Aljaz, the so-called Triglav priest). Each new Triglav virgin etc, etc. Oh, and was this my first visit to the summit? "Ah well then..."

I was in Slovenia with my Alpine Journal hat on to attend the opening of the country's national mountaineering museum at Mojstrana on the northern edge of the Triglav national park. The £2.7million museum is the realisation of a dream for the Slovenian Alpine Association and particularly for the indefatigable Miro Erzen, the project director.

Slovenia's record of mountaineering achievement is extraordinary for a country with a population of just 2 million - think Belak, Groselj, Stremfelj, Karo, Cesen, Humar, Prezelj et al. This alpine museum has quite a story to tell. And it does so in an eye-catching new building in metal and pine, that blends vernacular barn with giant boulder.

The opening ceremony, attended by the Slovenian president, Danilo Turk, blended traditional dancing, poetry and music with the informality of any climbers' jamboree. The ribbon cut and the museum toured, Bojan Rotovnik, president of the Slovenian Alpine Association and his colleagues hosted a select gathering at the Aljazev Dom, the large 'hut' at the head of the Vrta valley beneath Triglav's awesome north wall. Throughout, the Slovenians were wonderfully hospitable and genuinely pleased to have the Alpine Club represented at the festivities.

Next afternoon a small group of us started up Triglav from the Krma valley, staying over night at the Triglav hut (2515m) and early in the morning ascending polished limestone to Mali (little) Triglav and along the sharp east ridge to the main summit. There are more exciting ways up Triglav, but with three young teenagers in the party this was more of a family outing.

I don't think I've ever been on such a crowded mountain. The ridge was crocodile of people. In the

western Alps it would have turned ugly, pushing and angry words, the intolerance of Swiss guides. But on Triglav good humour and patience prevailed, and just as well in such an exposed place. Every oncoming person greeted the other with a "Dober Dan!" and a deft bit of footwork to swing by.

As for the summit initiation rites; the headmaster whose cane left livid weals on our backsides in the 1960s would turn in his grave at such gentleness.

Postscript: A day after standing on Triglav I got to fly round its triple-headed summit in a motor-glider piloted by Matevz Lenarcic, whose monumental work, The Alps: A

Bird's Eye View (PanAlp) won the image prize at the Banff Mountain Festival in 2009. In 2004, Matevz flew around the world in this ultra-light craft, a Pipistrel Sinus 912. He was away, of course, for 80 days.

Stephen Goodwin



Our 'eye in the sky.' Steve ready to get high.



The summit of Triglav from above.

What's this? A guide to trekking in the Alps and its free?

You don't get too many of those. But this 190 page book has an ulterior motive. It's been produced by the Alpine Convention exemplifying its belief that low impact enjoyment of the mountains can play an important part in the achievement of sustainable development in the Alps. The routes in Per Alpes may not be as hairy chested as many AC members like to aspire to, but the sub-title of the guide, Discovering the Alps in 20 circular walks, rather underplays the challenges here - an 11-day circumambulation of the Matterhorn and its neighbours, ascending almost 10,000 metres and needing ice axe, crampons, rope etc sounds suspiciously like mountaineering.

The AC has given its support to the Alpine Convention - a treaty between the Alpine states plus the European Union - which aims to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Alps while enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of the 14 million people who live there. Part of the Convention's message is to see the Alps without borders and hence several of these 'walks' criss-cross once disputed frontiers - notably on the Dreiländerweg, a 15-day odyssey that dips into Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

A batch of the English language version has been sent from the Convention's headquarters in Innsbruck to the AC clubhouse in London. (The original was authored in German by Josef Essl.) Members can either help themselves to a copy on lecture evenings or send an SAE to the AC office. Include an envelope - at least 27cm by 19cm (size D) with a £1.32 stamp.

Stephen Goodwin



Library News

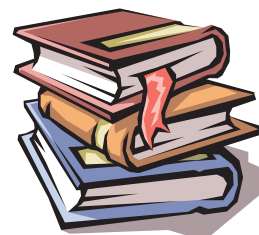
A selected list of the more expensive books for sale on behalf of the Library.

New Arrangement

Please contact :
Jerry Lovatt (jerry.lovatt@tiscali.co.uk or 01865 315021) to order.

Postage and packing will be added at cost or books may be collected from the Club by arrangement.

A more extensive list of mainly less expensive books is also available from Jerry, but please remember that you will have received this list previously if you normally receive lists by email.



- Auldjo** **Narrative of an ascent to the summit of Mont Blanc... 2nd, 1830**
 Full calf, professionally recased. Frontispiece detached with 20% of image missing (facsimile available). Otherwise very good. **£175**
- Ball** **A guide to the Western Alps. 1st, 1863**
 Original cloth, professionally recased using original end-papers, few rs, AC bookplate, small crayon hieroglyph on fep, somewhat soiled but good. **£130**
- Ball** **Pennine Alps including Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa. 1st thus, 1873**
 Green cloth edition. Professionally recased, rs to title page. Otherwise very good. **£70**
- Browne** **The conquest of Mount McKinley... 1st, 1913**
 Original cloth rather soiled. Very good. **£160**
- Conway** **Aconcagua and Tierra del Fuego... 1st, 1902**
 Original cloth, bright copy. Short split to foot of spine. Otherwise very good+. **£225**
- Conway** **The Bolivian Andes... 1st, 1901**
 Ex-library copy. Hinges cracked - one repaired with tape, two rs, spine dull, good. Would clean and repair to an acceptable copy **£95**
- Harper** **Pioneer work in the Alps of New Zealand... 1st, 1896**
 Original cloth, some darkening in patches and small piece (3/4mm) missing from spine. 10 leaves creased but not folded. Overall good+. **£140**
- Moore** **The Alps in 1864... 1st public edn. 1902**
 Original cloth, spine darkened, some soiling. Otherwise very good. **£220**
- Noel** **Notes of a tour in Switzerland... 1st, 1848**
 Original cloth, professionally recased, LAC bookplate. Missing two plates: Mer de Glace and Chapel of William Tell (facsimiles available). Otherwise very good. **£90**
- Palmer** **Mountaineering and exploration in the Selkirks... 1st, 1914**
 Original cloth, bright with minor marks, very good+. **£140**
- Rey** **The Matterhorn 1st, 1907**
 Original cloth. Leather labels, somewhat scuffed, rs to verso of title. Otherwise very good. **£140**
- Sinigaglia** **Climbing reminiscences of the Dolomites 1st, 1896**
 Original decorated cloth, bright. Former owner's name (C E J Taylor), small and neat. Overall very good+. **£100**
- Stutfield** **Climbing and exploration in the Canadian Rockies 1st, 1903 & Collie**
 Original cloth, one corner bumped. Otherwise very good+. **£150**
- Weston** **The playground of the Far East 1st, 1918**
 Original cloth, spine faded, small label removed from spine, resulting in slight discolouration, Front and spine of dw tipped in to rear endpaper. Good **£125**
- Younghusband** **The heart of a continent... 3rd (as 1st and 2nd), 1896**
 Original cloth. Very good. **£195**
 [fep - front end paper, rs - Alpine Club rubber stamp, dw - dust-wrapper]

**Don't forget your own
 'Member's Area' in the AC website!**

If you still have not done so, do register for Alpinet at
<http://www.alpine-club.org.uk/alpinet/index.php>
 you can look up the latest addresses of members and change your own
 details, sign on to circulation lists etc.

**ALSO - send in your email address to ensure you get kept
 up to date with our regular AC Email Bulletins.**

Send it to admin@alpine-club.org.uk and Iwonna will include you on the list.

Francoise Call, AC Hon Sec.

Membership News

New members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
Simon Bryan	Associate	D.J. Lovatt	Mike Baker
Thomas Smallwood	Associate	P. Mallalieu	N/A
David Mcmeeking	Aspirant	W.G Thurston	Stuart Worsfold
Peter Chadwick	Full	Albert Chapman	Alistar Renton
Paul Edwards	Full	Simon Hall	Stuart Macdonald
Darren Hudson	Aspirant	David Wynn-Jones	Richard Nardin
Tim Perrin	Aspirant - Full		

Deaths. We are sorry to announce the passing of the following members. **Mike Hewson**, who was Secretary of the AC Library Council of Trustees and very successfully managed book sales for the Library, died on the 1st August. **Roger Childs** died on the 8th June, in Spain. **Bob Creswell** died on the 21 July. **Eileen Healey**, President LAC 1965

Mike Hewson (member 1994 - 2010)

Mike Hewson lost his battle against cancer and died on Sunday 1st August; he will be sorely missed by all those who knew him. Mike was a member since 1994 and stalwart in the Club Library. He succeeded Bob Lawford role of cataloguing and sales to Club members of the second hand books donated to the Library (but which were not required as triplicate copies). He also became Company Secretary to the Library's Council of Trustees and looked after the paperwork essential for the Charity Commissioners. Only two weeks previous to his death, several members of the Library team visited Mike and Sharland as they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Mike was a little frail but we all remember his smile on this special occasion. It was a shock to us that he died so soon after this. We send our best wishes to Sharland and his sons at this sad time. **Hywel Lloyd**

Grand Casse Anniversary Celebrations

The 150 years anniversary of the first ascent of Grand Casse, the highest mountain in the Vanoise Alps in France, was celebrated at the end of June. Around 70 guests were invited by the village of Pralognan. No less than 40 of them, assisted by 10 volunteer guides, reached the sunny 3855m summit. The route took the 45° N slope, across recent avalanche debris, and the guides (including Bernhard Favre who wore his grandfather's original guide badge) even cut a few steps to honour the first ascensionists' much more strenuous efforts!

President of the AC, Paul Braithwaite was invited to hold a speech and pointed to the relationship between the British pioneers and the local farmers and hunters that became guides.

'This relationship was of great importance for the development of mountaineering. It is an inspiration to enjoy the same friendship that led to the great achievements our ancestors accomplished,' he said.

The special guest of honour was Mark Mathews, a descendant of the first ascensionist William Mathews (one of the initiators of the AC.) The major of Pralognans last word to the group before heading for the mountain was quite clear - getting Mr Mathews to the top and safely back down was priority number one!

The guide in charge, Jean-Pierre Favre, watched everyone passing over the narrow ridge to the summit, checked knots and belays and was relieved to start the descent well in time. Asked at the following press conference why the guide Michel Croz was not focused as much as William Mathews, his answer was quite clear:

'The guide's role is to be first on the mountain and second in the books.'

The local chamois-hunter Etienne Favre joined Mathews and Croz in 1860 and the three men reached the summit with only the barometer to measure the height at the top. This ascent started a new era of opportunity in the area and in 1905 the Pralognan Mountain Guides Office was established.

The whole of Pralognan had prepared for the climbing anniversary with the much appreciated support of Geneviève est Ruffier-Lanche from the neighbouring village. She had visited the AC's archive in the past and made a well received historical film of the history of Pralognan - starting with the 1860 Grand Casse-climb. 1860 was also the year this region became a part of France. Britain played a role in this event as well, demanding a referendum! Even today the outcome of it is still being loudly discussed. Everybody seemed to have voted yes (but were the votes pre-completed making it impossible to cast a no-vote?) That and the celebration of this event is another story!

Knut I. Toensberg



Tut with Henry Day on the hill.

Who set the dress code? Francoise summitting with the 'Time Team'.



Guides are us! Paul Vion and his two sons Bernhard (left) and Jean Paul. Woodcarving makes the wages up!

Up there, Francoise! Take me to the top! Our leader points the way.

Tut congratulates Mark Mathews on his safe return after his commemoration ascent of Grande Casse in the good hands of the 'time team' Bernard Favre, Nicolas Pietrenko and Patrice Hanrard.



Rupert holding forth....much to the amusement of the great (!) and the good(?)



Veteran Saharan explorers Jean Louise & Odette Bernezat meet up with an old friend on the Grand Casse!

Availability of World Maps

New Service

The Alpine Club has access to a variety of detailed world maps that are available to Members to help plan their expeditions to the wider ranges. Typically we have numerous Russian 1:50,000 to 1:200,000 maps available in electronic format that can be emailed free to interested parties on request. Please provide either the map reference number or the specific location and possibly name of the mountain(s) of interest. The following regions are available: Himalaya, Karakorum; Hindu Kush; China - Tibet; China - Central; China - Xinjiang; Pamirs; Fann Mountains; Tien Shan; Altai; Sayan; Kamchatka; Iran; Caucasus; Turkey; Morocco; Ethiopia and South America.

Available in paper format are a number of 1:50,000 maps of the Indian Himalaya.

These are only available for use in the AC Library, but may be copied.

Requests for electronic maps should be made to climbing.fund@alpine-club.org.uk and to our Librarian, Tadeusz, at library@alpine-club.org.uk for information concerning the collection of hard copy maps.

West Country Climbs

Wen and Somerset
North Devon
Culm Coast
Inland Cornwall
Atlantic Coast
West Cornwall
The Dart
Inland Devon
Dorset
Dorset

New Guide

More selected routes from the most prolific guide book publishers in the country. This time the selection covers a cornucopia of fantastic routes across the SW of England. (Swanage and Portland are obviously honorary members!)

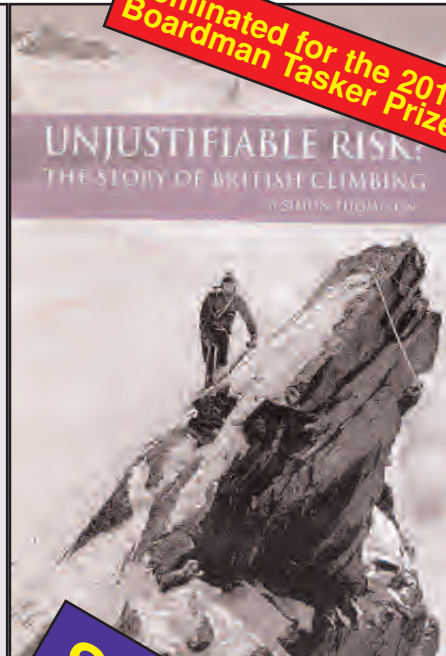
West Country Climbs

by
Mark Glaister
**Price:
£24.95**

Unjustifiable Risk? is the story of the social, economic and cultural conditions that gave rise to the sport of climbing, and the achievements and motives of the scientists and poets, parsons and anarchists, villains and judges, ascetics and drunks that have shaped its development over the past two hundred years.

Unjustifiable Risk?

by
Simon Thompson
Price: £20



Nominated for the 2010 Boardman Tasker Prize

AC Guidebooks

Sale prices for AC members

Dolomites (2 Vols)	£10.00
Mont Blanc Vol. 1	£5.00
Mont Blanc Vol. 2	£5.00
Bernese Oberland	£5.00
Bernina and Bregalia	£5.00
Valais West	£19.50
Valais East	£18.50
Ecrins	£5.00
The 4000m Peaks of the Alps	£23.00

INDEX TO ALPINE JOURNAL 1988-2007

A new index for the years 1988 to 2007, produced by combining the indices for each volume, is available in pdf form to download from the website. Use the link under Notices on the Home Page. The index is also available as an Excel database for those who want to play - contact John Town at j.m.town@mac.com.

Issue dates for the AC Newsletter

There are now only
3 issues of the AC newsletter per year.
March 15th, July 15th, November 1st

Don't forget to visit the AC website:

www.alpine-club.org.uk