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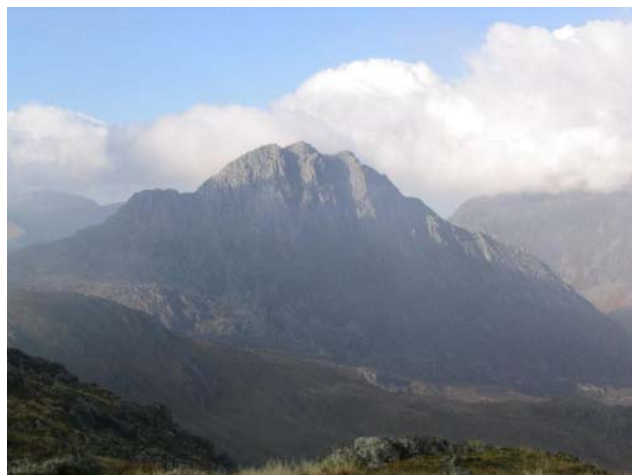
The quarterly newsletter of
Southampton Rats Climbing Club

MARCH 2009



THE NEXT MEET North Wales, Ogwen 14-15 March

Now you are nicely warmed up for the hills from the Winter Meet come and enjoy winter Wales at it's best. Based in Ogwen valley we are staying at Caseg Fraith, the ULMC hut. Long mountain routes on Tryfan, easy climbing on little Tryfan, and mountain walking on the Glyders and Carnedd all within walking distance from the hut. Contact Neil Jefferies 07879 647521 neil@zer1.demon.co.uk if you are interested— please note that this meet is filling up fast so don't delay!



AND THE NEXT.....

TREMADOG 18-19 April

Back to North Wales but this time we'll be at Tremadog on the coast in a hut where you can climb almost straight from the door. The wonderful Cnicht circuit (also know as the Welsh Matterhorn because of its shape) is nearby in the Moelwyns for those wanting a day walking in the hills. To book contact Rob Tearle on mightykingrob@hotmail.com

Rock Training weekend

The Rock Training weekend is booked for the weekend of the 9/10 May 2009. It is run by Dartmoor Adventure and is aimed at those members of our Club that are venturing from indoor climbing walls into a outside environment, it includes safe working practices, rope-work and gear placement. Based at the spacious Rowden Centre at Widecombe, on Dartmoor the meet offers those not on the course a chance to walk, climb or mountain bike in the area.

Nav Training Weekend

There has been some discussion about running a Navigation Training weekend for members to brush up on their skills. This is being planned for the end of Oct or early Nov. It will be run by two Mountain Leaders and most likely be based in Dartmoor. There will also be a 2hr pre-session to get to grips with some of the theory side before the actual weekend. A free 1:25000 map & compass will be provided as part of the course.

If you are interested in either of the above two courses please contact Neil Jefferies - neil@zer1.demon.co.uk or +447879 647521

DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

See the website for membership form

MEET REPORT

LAKE DISTRICT—JAN 2009

The January meet was held at the Coniston Coppermines Hut in the Lake District. The meet was stewarded by the Kerr'nol, and in true military fashion we were all rounded up on Friday night and stuffed into transport. The weather for the weekend looked stormy for late Saturday but we didn't care because we knew we'd have a great time! We awoke on sat morning with the sun shining through and a glorious day ahead in the surrounding hills. The old mountain men picked a circular route starting with Wetherlam, looping round to the Old Man of Coniston and returning to the hut. The mere mortals followed with a smaller route, the aim being to get back before the weather broke. We all had a great day and beat the weather (see pic).



Mist covering the Old Man of Coniston

A hearty meal follow and much talk about the days' daring deeds..... Nobody can remember the storm arriving on Saturday night but the hills had a covering of snow on Sunday morning. Most of us managed to get a second day on the hill on Sunday - a brilliant finish to the weekend. It was a great turnout for a meet that looked like bad weather was going to trash it - just proves that once again the Rats came out on top!

Winter Meet Feb 2009— Glen Shiel

This year the Rats invaded the Scottish Youth Hostel in Ratagan, near Shiel Bridge in the West Highlands. This is nowhere near Fife, the major growing area for Scottish bananas

Basing ourselves at the Ratagan Hostel meant that we were in easy reach of many fine mountains and tea establishments. Due to the exceptionally fine weather during the week it was reported that shares in PG tips were down due to Rats actually getting out on the hill, rather than drinking tea all day.....



With so many choices of routes the Rats split up into separate groups to attempt routes on the North and South Glen Shiel ridge. Due to the amount of snow (I can't believe I'm moaning about this!) it was very difficult to complete quick walk-ins. Most of the routes were completed in +50% or double the guide book times.



Notable routes of the week (but *no* Munro ticking) were 'Sporting Ridge' / 'Trembling Ridge' and believe me it was both. Congratulations to Mat for the best "Throw your camera & phone off a mountain" award. The youngsters proved useful again for trail breaking duties later in the week for an attempt on Forcan Ridge. Even with a jolly early start we were beaten by the alpine conditions and decided half way along the route that a retirement was going to be better than a spot of surprise camping (benightenment). This meant front pointing down a small slope then a very relaxing 600 foot bum slide to finish the day off! (See front cover). The week finished off with a group meal

on Thursday night—big thanks to the chefs Lin, Ginny & Rob. It would not have been possible without them. Ratagan, a wonderful place—We'll be back! See Journal for full report—available at AGM!

CAPTION COMPETITION

The photograph on the right was taken on Trembling Ridge. It appears that the President is trying to contain some members. Your comments please to chairman@southamptonrats.org



RIP JK





Meet programme 2009/10

Updated Feb. 2009

To book or find out more, please contact the Meet Steward for the meet.

Or contact Meets Secretary: Call, text 07879647521 or email meetssec@southamptonrats.org

14-15 March 2009 North Wales Ogwen	X 15 £16	Now you are nicely warmed up for the hills from the Winter Meet come and enjoy winter Wales at it's best. Based in Ogwen valley we are staying at Caseg Fraith, the ULMC hut. Tryfan, Glyders and Carnedd all within walking distance from the hut. Neil Jefferies 07879 647521 neil@zer1.demon.co.uk
18-19 April 2009 Wales - Tremadog	X 15 £16	Based at the Bromsgrove MC hut at Tremadog. Eat your breakfast and step on to the rock just next to the hut (Bwlch-y-Moch crag). Ogwen valley 20 mins away, Black rock sands 5 mins for those wanting a spring dip in the sea. To book contact – Rob Tearle on mightykingrob@hotmail.com
9-10 May 2009 Rock Training Wkd Dartmoor Widcombe	X 10 £110	Dartmoor Adventure will run another of the successful Rock Training weekends. Based in Widcombe the course covers an introduction to skills required for climbing outdoors and a chance for the rest of us to brush up on our current skills. Accom also available for those who just want to come down to Dartmoor for the BH weekend. To book contact Neil Jefferies on neil@zer1.demon.co.uk
23-25 May 2009 Peaks - North Lees	D	Oh Wonderful Gritstone!!! Slabs, cracks and overhangs, and hopefully out of midge season! To book, contact Jo Bacon through the Forum
13-14 June 2009 Pembroke Location TBC	D	The Mecca of sea cliff climbing. A great location for all grades of climbing. Exact campsite still to be confirmed. ! To book, email – Trevor Macalonan on trevor.macalonan@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
18-19 July 2009 Lakes Location TBC	D	Summer time in the Lake district - Climbing, walking, biking. Can't be bad! Fantastic weather has been booked so come and enjoy the weekend. Location suggestions to the Meets Sec please! To book contact : Martin Wood via forum or email martin.wood2@btinternet.com
22-31 Aug 2009 Cornwall St Just	D	Climb the granite cliffs of Bosigran, Sennen and Chair – the Holy Trinity of Cornwall – walk the coast path or surf the waves, followed, of course, by Cornish cream tea. Come for the week or just the bank holiday weekend and BBQ. Contact: Zoe Lawrence babecallisto@hotmail.com
19-20 Sept 2009 S Wales The Gower	D	Always popular, beautiful scenery, lovely climbing and a great beach. Staying at the Three Cliffs campsite which is ideal for families and has direct access to the beach. Low tide at noon, Spring High Tide 18:00 , Matt Lloyd matloid@yahoo.com
10-11 Oct 2009 Wales Brecon Beacons	X 14 £16	Based at SWCC Headquarters and caving hut, a converted terrace of 10 small cottages at Penwyllt. Penwyllt is in the upper Swansea Valley, on the southern edge of the Black Mountains. Hill walking, caving and Mountain Biking all within easy reach. For more information or to book contact – Julie Jefferies by email purpleoutdoorgirl@ntlworld.com
14-15 Nov 2009 North Wales Rhyd-Ddu	X 16 £16	Based at the Oread MC hut -Tan Yr Wyddfa on the SW side of Snowdon. Why not try the Snowdon circuit direct from the hut?, or even mtn bike to the summit..... Contact John Kerr 01722 504533 johnalex.kerr@btopenworld.com
Dec 2009 A.G.M Wickham – Kings Head		AGM – To be held at the 'Kings Head' in Wickham (Function room at the rear of). 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Buffet TBC. Full details will be sent out prior to the meeting.
12-13 Dec 2009 Lake District Patterdale	X 16 £18	Christmas Meet at the George Starkey hut in Patterdale. Have a crack at Pinnacle Ridge or Striding Edge before returning for joint Christmas dinner and merry making. You simply must come along! For further details or to book contact; Gareth Jones
2010 Meets		
15-16 th JAN 2010 N WALES	X12 £18	Back to an old favourite nestled in the shadow of the Snowdon massif, excellent opportunities for long days in the hills, scrambling, climbing or ice routes weather permitting that is. Based at Tyn Lon in Nant Peris –Steward to be confirmed
13 th -20 th FEB 2010		Provisional dates for Winter Meet 2010

explanation: **T R** extended mixes; **D** tents; **X** hut, with places and fees (per night) shown
All camping meet fees subject to local campsite tariffs.