



Yorkshire Area News

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Neil McCallum on the first ascent of Audience with Jello F7c at Giggleswick North - Photo Matt Troillett

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Yorkshire Area





Sean Jacobs FA of Optimus Prime E5 6b - Ilkley Quarry
Photo Maria Parkes

Intro to first Yorkshire Area Newsletter

Here it is, the first Area Newsletter from "God's Own County", ably compiled by Area Secretary Deirdre Collier with invaluable help with the layout from Iain McKenzie (Midlands Area Chairman).

Read "Lord" Musgroves's report on new route activity on Limestone and Grit and whet your appetite for a fresh Panorama on climbing in the Yorkshire Dales where you could possibly find a "Baker's Dozen".

David Campbell
Chairman, Yorkshire Area Committee

Yorkshire Area Meetings

These are held quarterly and timed to be the Monday before the (Saturday) meetings of the BMC's National Council. The meetings for the rest of 2008 are 9 June, 8 September and 1 December and the new venue is the Ilkley Moor Vaults Pub & Dining Room. Meetings start at 19.30 and papers are available on the BMC website - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/Pages.aspx?page=43> (if you have any difficulty opening them try right clicking and select 'open link in new window'.)

At the last meeting on 3 March we discussed the proposed Craven Wind Farm, various access issues, the Youth Walk (see below), BRYCS, the Forum of Kindred Clubs, National Council matters (including amongst other things the proposed increase in BMC subscriptions and the proposed BMC Long term policy on Individual & Club subscriptions), the Ilkley Cow & Calf litter pick and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority consultation of the imposition of traffic regulation orders on 8 green lanes. Although none were raised at this meeting there is also the opportunity for Clubs & Individual members to raise any issues they may have. As usual there were free chips and butties at the end of the meeting (usually around 21.00) and the opportunity to have a drink and a chat. Why not come along to the next meeting and see what goes on – the food alone is worth it! If there's anything you'd like on the agenda please let me know – YorkshireSec@cmcweb.org.uk.

Re the Newsletter I would like to thank those who have contributed to its content and layout. I hope you enjoy it and if you would like to help out with or contribute to future ones please get in touch.

Deirdre Collier
Secretary, Yorkshire Area Committee.



York Mountaineering Club members at Almscliffe.

Youth walk Sunday 15 June 2008

A walk specifically aimed at young people will take place in and around Settle. It's about 7 miles long and will pass various interesting natural sites of the Yorkshire limestone area. Meet at the main car Park in Settle at 10.00 to depart at about 10.30. We will walk up the Ribble valley using the Ribble Way up to Stainforth passing Stainforth force. From Stainforth we'll walk up to Catrigger Force to then start slowly our way down to Upper Winskill. Eventually we will arrive at Jubilee Cave where the cave can be explored (let's not forget our head torches!). From then we'll carry on towards Victoria cave (another exploration) and then Attermire Scar to finally return to Settle.

There will be a BBQ at the end of the day. Place to be confirmed - However, I have a contact in Settle and I'm working on it.

Please contact me if you're interested either in joining the walk with your kids or in helping out on the day - 01943 876932.

Anne Hunter
Yorkshire Area Youth Representative (Outdoors)

Cheddar Gorge Climbing Extravaganza

A weekend of breathtaking climbing fun and friendly competition is being organised by Martin Crocker on behalf of Cheddar Caves & Gorge, the owners of the main cliffs. Headline acts on the Saturday 21 June will include the Cheddar Man Marathon 2008, when 20 top teams battle for supremacy around the cliffs, and the Cheddar Gorge Highline, a showstopping 18m slackline from one side of the Gorge to the other (subject to road closure consent).

The event also features an Open Speed Climb, Steve McClure, a Saturday Party, and High Rock will be open on Sunday 22 June – a rare chance to climb Coronation Street, Crow etc without thermals. Spread the word!

Anyone wanting more information, or wanting to enter a team for the Cheddar Man Marathon, or themselves for the Highline, contact:

Martin Crocker, Cheddar Caves & Gorge
Tel: 01934 742343

Email: caves@cheddarcaves.com

BMC AGM Report

The 2008 BMC AGM was held on 19 April in Belford, Northumberland in conjunction with the Northumbrian Mountaineering Club's (NMC) outdoor festival of walking and climbing.

This is a new format for a BMC AGM and proved a great success with members who attended. The festival itself ran from 18th to 20th April and more or less took over the picturesque village of Belford for the weekend with many people staying at local hotels and B&Bs and yet more people camping in the grounds of the Blue Bell Hotel.

Activities commenced on the Friday evening with an inspiring talk by father and son team John and Andy Earl on the development of climbing in Northumberland.

Early on Saturday people went either hill walking in the Cheviots and on coastal walks or rock climbing at Bowden doors with members of the NMC.

The BMC AGM itself took place on the Saturday evening and was followed by a buffet meal and a party where some excellent photographs were auctioned in aid of the air ambulance to great amusement as people tried to outbid each other in aid of a good cause.

During the formal business part of the AGM, Rehan Siddiqui was elected as new BMC Vice President to replace Bill Renshaw who comes to the end of his term of office. Brian Griffiths and David Lanceley were elected as new Joint Honorary Treasurers to replace Vic Odell who also comes to the end of his term of office.

There were votes on subscription rates for 2009 and the proposals were passed. Additionally, a resolution on the long term policy on Individual and Club subscriptions was passed. This will allow the BMC, in consultation with BMC affiliated clubs, BMC Area Meetings and other interested parties, to review current subscription rates and also explore other possible subscription models.

On Sunday many people went walking or climbing locally and Richard Pow organised a learn to lead course at Bowden Doors.

Next year's AGM will be on 24 April 2009 and will be at Plas y Brenin in North Wales. Look out for the March 2009 issue of Summit magazine that will contain all the necessary information for the event.

Clubs Focus

This section will include info about one or more clubs in the Yorkshire Area. For a full list of clubs please see the BMC website - <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=13>. If you would like to see something about your club in here please contact YorkshireSec@cmcweb.org.uk

Craven Mountaineering Club (Another CMC!)

Craven Mountaineering Club was formed in 1978 and is based around the Craven area of North Yorkshire. We have around 100 members based mainly across Lancashire and North & West Yorkshire.

Our main activities are hill walking, climbing, winter and Alpine mountaineering and our members' interests also include skiing and ski mountaineering, caving and mountain biking.

We have an active programme of Tuesday evening crag meets from April to October and climbing or walking meets on alternate weekends. In winter we have weekly climbing wall meets at both Leeds & Ingleton, and walking meets or winter mountaineering meets on alternate weekends. We have monthly hut meets from September to April usually in the Lake District but also in Scotland or Wales and camping weeks/weekends through Spring & Summer. There is an Alps trip every summer – this year we are going to Switzerland.

From October to March we have fortnightly social meets usually at a pub in Skipton when we have talks, slideshows, quizzes etc. From April to September we meet on Tuesday evenings after the climbing in a pub local to the crag!

As well as the official meets there are also last minute ad hoc meets arranged depending upon the weather and people's availability.

We have adult members of all ages and climbing abilities and we welcome children accompanied by their parent(s) on appropriate meets.

To find out more visit our website on www.cravenmc.org.uk where you will find info on the meets programme and some pictures of what we get up to. For further information email secretary@cravenmc.org.uk



Climbing at Eastby Crag



Walking in North Wales

Calderdale Mountaineering Club (CMC)

CMC is a friendly club, based in the Calder Valley. We welcome climbers and mountaineers at all grades. We are BMC-affiliated and we follow BMC guidelines and policies. Members climb all over the world, including alpine mountaineering, sports climbing and big rock routes in Europe or beyond.

The club meets for climbs every Tuesday evening all year round (indoors in Winter and outdoors - usually Heptonstall or Woodhouse Scar - when the conditions improve). We have regular monthly meets at different venues such as the Lakes, Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire and the Peaks, and members tend to meet up at other times and climb together whenever the weather allows.

New members' contact: Matt Day 07980 350722

Club Email: calderdalemc@googlemail.com

Web address: www.calderdalemountaineeringclub.co.uk



BMC YORKSHIRE AREA

Pinnacle Club

Following the well-attended bouldering meet in February, the Pinnacle Club welcomes all women climbers to 3 Open Meets in 2008:

30 May -1 June - BMC hut, Glen Coe
18 -20 July - Pinnacle Club hut, Snowdonia

For details please see www.pinnacleclub.co.uk and/or contact Angela Soper via YorkshireSec@cmcweb.org.uk

UWFRA Outdoors Club

<http://www.outdoors-club.co.uk/>

The Outdoors Club was founded by members of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue in order to try to encourage young people to become familiar with fell rescue techniques and activities and perhaps one day join the Fell rescue team.

Activities are usually led by members of the rescue team and ages range from around 10 to adult.

Outdoors Club Membership Progress Scheme
The U.W.F.R.A Outdoors Club have now introduced a scheme for recording members' progress in learning skills necessary for taking part in sports in the outdoors. To accommodate members' personal interests and to simplify the system the outdoors sports have been divided into 3 categories which are Climbing, Caving and Navigation and Fell walking - this last category being general mountaineering skills.

For Climbing, Caving and Navigation and Fell walking there are three levels to be achieved:-

Ø Level 1 the lowest level, will be possible to achieve on one's first evening.

Ø Level 2 is far more comprehensive and includes minimum basic skills that are essential for one to look after oneself safely on more difficult trips.

Ø Level 3 is an extremely high level which will only be achieved by a small number of members and may take a



Going Underground November 2007

number of years. Gaining level 3 would benefit someone wishing to make a career in outdoor pursuits or joining the National Instructor Scheme or becoming a full member of a rescue team.

At each level and in each category there is a list of tasks to be achieved which are then checked by a committee member or a member that has completed the next higher level. That is level 1 can be checked by a member that has completed level 2. When all the tasks have been completed the form is then certified by a committee member.

Vibram Mountaineering Club

This well-established club was founded in the late 50s and currently has some 40 members. Most live in the Halifax – Bradford – Huddersfield area. We arrange weekend meets, mainly in huts in the Lakes or North Wales, at roughly monthly intervals. In addition there are longer trips to Scotland and elsewhere. As well as mountaineering there is an active caving contingent (we are affiliated to the BCA as well the BMC), and members are also involved in skiing (hut tours and off-piste as well as downhill), running, cycling and anything else that seems a good idea on the day! Climbing wall visits are organised informally amongst members.

Some of us gather at the Barge & Barrel in Elland on Tuesday evening from about 9.15 pm.

We have a website at www.vibram.org.uk with plenty of information. Some of it is not completely up to date but the meets programme is kept current.

The current Secretary is Andy Hargreaves who lives in Melt-ham and can be contacted on 01484.850356 or by email to secretary@vibram.org.uk.

York Mountaineering Club

Meeting Venue; The Bay Horse, Blossom Street, York.

Meeting Day; Thursday at about 10.00 pm in the rear lounge.

Contact; Jim Croft. 01904 652668.

Web address; <http://www.yorkmc.org.uk>

Email details; thepenpusher@yorkmc.org.uk

Being a small (about 30 members) club, we often organise our trips close to the weekend, when we can more accurately forecast the weather. Our members have a broad interest in the outdoors, enjoying climbing, alpine climbing, Scottish winter climbing, mountain biking, hill walking (Munros), and camping. There are usually 1 or 2 overseas trips a year.

We are a very friendly club and have members with a range of experience and ability. We often climb around Brimham, Almscliff and the North Yorks Moors area as these cliffs are closest. At weekends the Peak and Lake Districts are also popular.

www.thebmc.co.uk

Limestone

The year started at Gigg South with the development of Sector Swallow's Nest (9 routes) in March. Bob Larkin was the prime mover here with Mick Johnson Andy Shaw and myself in support. Activity moved on to Gigg North in Mar/April/May with honours divided fairly equally between Bob, Nigel and myself with several others including Keith Morgan, Gil Peel and Dave Campbell in helping out. The hardest of the 17 new offerings here was Audience with Jello a tough F7c from Neil McCallum and Matt Troilett.

A previously overlooked sector of the escarpment to the far left of Moughton Nab was for several years thought to be too short and remote to be of interest but after Nigel Baker, Paul Clarke, Keith Morgan and Mick Johnson added just a handful of solid bolted pitches the true potential of this little gem was first realised. By late February 2008 the crag had 21 routes all in that popular grade range of F5+ to F7a and the south facing aspect and great views were proving the winter-worth of what is now known as Panorama Crag

A similar week of intensive re-equipping was undertaken at Malham in February when, Richard Hardicre, Martin Christmas, Arran Deakin and several others completed work on re-equipping more than 20 routes on the catwalk and upper tiers.

Ad-Hoc re-equipping work was also undertaken during the year at several other crags but there is still quite a bit to do at Gordale and Kilnsey. Let's hope for a better summer this Year.

Gritstone

The intensity of new route development on grit has failed to match that on the limestone but some of what has been reported has been quite significant. Nigel Poustie considers himself a boulderer but his very highball creation on the Calf at Ilkley, Pebbledash, stretches the limit of bouldering in the minds of many. He claimed that this route was as hard as any slab on grit and few have argued with him so far. It goes down as a bold E8 7a in my book despite Nigel's bouldering grade of Font 8a.

At Heptonstall a clutch of worthwhile new climbs were added to the previously overgrown Black Wall during a massive public-spirited clean-up by Gordon Mason, David Boekstyns and friends. The new grades here are more amenable but up to E2.

Bulk offerings of easier routes, variations and direct starts continue to be unearthed and documented at Brimham by Tony Marr, Mike Took and the rest of the Cleveland gang. Nothing stands out of significance for individual mention but all are recorded on the Leeds Wall database for those true connoisseurs of this extensive crag.

The Leeds Wall web-site also hosts an extensive downloads page with printable mini-guides to several new bouldering crags, such as Piper's Crag and The Back Quarry on Ilkley Moor and several updated topos detailing the rapid developments on the Limestone. Oh, and finally, if you wanted to find out just how many routes on Yorkshire Grit were named Twin Cracks, how would you find out? Why not try the definitive gritstone index put together by Matt Kilner which is also a free download on the same site.

If you want a new and fresh looking, but selective, guide to Yorkshire Grit and the North York Moors then try the new Northern England Rockfax published in March 2008. It won't tell you much you didn't know already but it has lots of new features, tick-lists and some great photos.

Another new selective guide to Yorkshire bouldering has also been published by Steve Dunning and friends. This will probably tell all you bouldering fanatics all you need to know about the latest hard super problems but it lacks detail on many of the old established easier ones.

By Dave Musgrove

Access

On the Access front the year has produced few major problems. Natural England have become concerned about the recent popularity of Giggleswick South given its status as a SSSI and have asked that further development of new areas there be curtailed.

One breach of the somewhat controversial YDNP/YNU bird ban at Langcliffe ruffled the feathers of local birders, though not apparently the birds on this occasion. The incident was outside the Peregrine nesting season but it highlights just how sensitive this site is to local birdwatchers. Negotiations are still ongoing and a review of the arrangements is planned for later this year.

On the grit, tree felling and pruning has been agreed and undertaken at Brimham and Caley and negotiations are still ongoing to try to secure formal access to Shelter Cliff near Eastby. Parking is still a problem at several sites including Giggleswick South and Slipstones with added concerns about fire risk at the latter site following climbers using disposable bar-b-cues during the early season drought.

By Dave Musgrove



Keith Morgan on Korean Canine Kebab F6b+ Troller's Gill
- Photo Dave Musgrove

Leeds Wall Up High Leading Competitions

Congratulations to the Leeds Wall for the Up High leading competitions, fun events that need a strategic approach.

New routes are set with grades from 5 to 7b. Competitors choose which they attempt - the harder the grade, the higher score for a successful ascent. Each climber can climb 4 times, and the best 3 results count. A second attempt on a route gains less than maximum points, and each route has a 'bonus' hold part way up, which is worth about half the points.

So it's not just about how hard you climb, but how well you judge what you can do. With age categories from junior to 60+, Up High attracts a wide range of enthusiasts. If you missed this series, look out for the next one and have a go.

By Angela Soper

Alaskan Alpine Club Museum seeks kit

The Alaskan Alpine Club is creating a museum and archive. Please spread the word to anyone who may have something relevant to donate.

You can donate old or new climbing equipment, publications, and other items for display. Your name and a date will be tagged to the items and you can also offer a story about the items. In the years to come people will know that a person with your name was a climber back in these times. The Alaskan Alpine Club has members around the world so this opportunity is open to anyone. They suggest that you can donate your old gear, get some new stuff and go climbing!

Maxine Willett of the Mountain Heritage Trust said: "It's great to see that other countries are recognising the importance of their mountaineering heritage and making headway in preserving it. Fortunately, the UK has such a body - the Mountain Heritage Trust."

For details on donating, see the Alaskan Alpine Club website. If anyone has items which are of historical interest, but not necessarily of relevance to the Alaskan collection, please contact Maxine at the Mountain Heritage Trust on 01768 840911 or email maxine@mountain-heritage.org

By Tina Gardner

If you would like to help out with this leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please send any Club information, events or photo's or Climbing Wall information, events or photo's through to:

YorkshireSec@cmcweb.org.uk