



Peak Area Newsletter

Issue 9 November 2009

Welcome to the newest edition of the Peak Newsletter. Somewhat delayed this time around due to a problem with my computer. As with climbing ropes; Never buy cheap. Fortunately, unlike poor quality ropes, PCs rarely cause permanent harm, but there is perhaps a bit more 'white space' in this edition than normal. It was encouraging that some loyal readers contacted the BMC asking where the newsletter was. As always, we're immensely grateful for articles and feedback.

Remember... The next Peak Area meeting (the BIG one - the AGM) is on Wednesday, 25 November, starting at 19:30 at The Grouse Inn, A625, Froggatt Edge Road, S11 7TZ.

Contents:

[Peak Area Meetings \(no one messes with the Sec\)](#)

[The Peak Area Rep bit](#)

[Rescue Callout - Search](#)

[Edale Mountain Rescue - 9 Edges Challenge](#)

[Access Notes](#)

[Calendar](#)

If you're reading this from a printout, the hyperlinks won't show up (in some cases we do print them). To obtain an electronic version in which the hyperlinks will work, go to the BMC website (www.thebmc.co.uk). Members can have it emailed to them by contacting the BMC office: 0161 445 6111, office@thebmc.co.uk

Peak Area Meetings

By Trudi Materna (the Sec)

So, why come to a peak area meeting?

The peak area meeting is pretty vibrant and popular, by all accounts. We regularly have upward of 40 attending with quite a mix of folk - younger members, older members, proper hard climbers to occasional, low grade climbers (that's me!!), club members, individuals but the one thing everyone has in common is they care about the peak area - OUR peak area - and want to know what's going on.

There's a lot happening in the peak area but much of it bubbles away in the background and the first you hear of it is at the area meeting. Big issues that rumble on and also short, sharp issues that are dealt with by the Access Team before they become more serious.

We have 5 meetings a year in various locations including the Whillans Hut at the Roaches, pubs in Glossop and pubs in the eastern peak. The November meeting also includes the area AGM where

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constitutional tasks are dealt with – election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary amongst others.

What do we get up to?

The meeting usually starts around 19:30, lasts about 90 minutes and includes any issues that have come to light that need discussing. The access team usually give an update about what's going on in their patch. There is also the opportunity to ask questions or to raise issues that concern you.

Afterwards there is a break to replenish your beer and have a bite to eat (kindly provided by the BMC) and then back in your seats for the evenings entertainment. We've had some excellent presentations in the past – photo slideshows, talks about recent expeditions – but the highlight is the Christmas meeting with a quiz and fabulous prizes. The quiz is often quite tricky, even sneaky, sometimes downright bizarre (photos of cows!) but always a good laugh. Come to the meeting in November and see for yourself...

If you would like to stand for any position (Chair, Secretary, Access Rep or Youth Rep, please contact Martin Kocsis or myself via the new BMC Community website – <http://community.thebmc.co.uk> - where you can also download an agenda for the meeting. Amongst the items on the menu are rumoured to be news of access issues, as well as national news and issues that might affect you. A Horseshoe Quarry update might be included as well as news of the ongoing saga of the Eastern Moors. The new BMC Roaches guide will be available to drool over.

The BMC's delightful Access & Conservation officer Cath Flitcroft will be there to answer all your questions (apart from ones about origami).

“I understand that there will be an incredible prize quiz, the likes of which has never been seen before. My source tells me the prizes are unbelievable, but don't quote me on that.” *Martin Kocsis, BMC Officer.*

Quick Training Quiz

1. What unusual piece of equipment was apparently used for aid on the first ascent of Wings of Unreason?

2. What was the original suggested grade for B.P. Super on Stanage?
3. Which of the following is not a route on the main wall at Trowbarrow: Jean Jeanie, Major Tom, Cracked Actor, Life on Mars, Heroes, AlladinSane.
4. Who completed the first female ascent of the Matterhorn giving rise to the phrase “Easy day for a lady”?
5. What footwear innovation is Vitale Bramani famous for – the clue is in the name.
6. What was significant about the first ascent of Once in a Millennium at High Tor.
7. Achille Ratti was a keen climber who had a climbing club named after him, but what was his day job?
8. Name the two pinnacles at Robin Hoods Stride.
9. What element in the rock makes Dolomitic limestone so different to normal limestone?
10. Be Careful, Be Clever, Be Reckless, Be Brave, Be-bop-a-lula. Name the crag.

Answers over the page.

60th anniversary legacy project



The 16th of December is the 60th anniversary of the day that National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act became law.

As part of the celebrations £5,000 is being made available for a 'legacy project' that will be a lasting reminder of the importance of national parks for people, for wildlife and for the nation's heritage.

Voting will run until 11 December 2009 (go to www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/index/anniversary/legacyproject.htm). The winning project will be announced on 16 December 2009.



1. A magnifying glass.
2. Excessively Severe.
3. Life on Mars
4. Lucy Walker
5. Vibram soles
6. Gary Gibson's 1000th new route
7. Pope (Pius XI)
8. Inaccessible and Weasel
9. Magnesium
10. Carreg-y-Barcud, North Pembroke

- Buxton Mountaineering Club
- Castle Mountaineering Club
- Clogwyn Mountaineering Club
- Congleton Mountaineering Club
- Cromlech Club
- Derby Mountaineering Club
- Derbyshire Pennine Club
- Derwent Mountaineering Club
- High Peak Climbing Group
- Lincoln Mountaineering Club
- Mynydd Climbing Club
- Oread Mountaineering Club
- Peak Climbing Club
- Phoenix Mountaineering Club
- Rock & Heather Club - Nottingham
- Staffordshire Police Mt Club

The Peak Area Rep bit

By Chris Moor

Peak Area Clubs – have your say

The BMC has recently set up a Clubs committee. This is designed to facilitate consultation by BMC on all matters relating to and of interest to clubs, to enable the clubs to share information between themselves, and to provide a means for the views of clubs to be communicated to the National Council. It will also be a means to facilitate BMC assistance and support for clubs, and to liaise with other relevant BMC groups and committees, in particular the Huts Group.

Each area can send one representative, with two additional members representing the national clubs. Each club in the area is entitled to nominate a candidate for the post, and each club has one vote. However, as yet, no one has come forward from the Peak area.

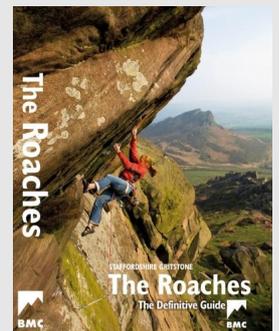
Here is a list of clubs eligible to take part in the process

- Arete Mountaineering Club
- Barnsley Mountaineering Club
- Bassetlaw Hill & Mountain Club
- Beeston Hill & Mountain Club

So if any of these clubs would like to get involved in this committee, please send you representative to the Peak area AGM on November 25th. Anyone wanting to talk about it beforehand or with any questions can contact myself (contact details on page 1) or Martin Kocsis, the BMC Regions Support Officer (amongst many other jobs) on 0161 438 3336 or email him at martin@thebmc.co.uk

The fully updated and revamped edition of the definitive guide to climbing on Staffordshire gritstone is now in stock in the BMC Shop (www.bmcshop.co.uk).

After a major overhaul, the classic gritstone guide to Staffordshire has never looked better. All the good stuff is still here, with plenty more besides. Maps are bigger better and clearer; once-small crag topos now fill whole pages; errors have been ironed out and new ones introduced;



grades rationalised; new routes and problems added; bouldering sections have been clarified; the Churnet Valley has had a total makeover to bring it the coverage it deserves. For anyone who has enjoyed the bouldering circuits that appeared in the latest Stanage guide, then good news. The new Roaches guide has got [five carefully selected circuits](#) that will reveal Staffordshire climbing in a new and magical light. At under £20 it's a steal.



“RESCUE CALLOUT – SEARCH”

By Keith Montgomery

In the last article we looked at the process of a rescue from a known location. In many ways this is one of the easiest rescues in as much as we know where the casualty is and, more often than not, what injuries they have. The other main type of call out is the “Search”.



This is very descriptive because that’s exactly what we will have to do – search for the missing person. Very often the call out is initiated by the missing person’s family having failed to return at a pre-arranged time. Having said that, with the increased use of mobile phones it’s not unusual for a walker to phone mountain rescue and declare themselves “lost”.

The latter is easier to manage and on many occasions we have been able to talk them off the mountain using local knowledge. We can ask them a variety of questions – “what can you see?” “which way is the wind blowing?” “are you in a valley or on top of a hill?” If it’s night time, we can shine torches and ask if they can see light.

The former scenario is much more difficult to manage and involves a lot of “detective” work. We’ll try to find out which way they went on to the hills, where were they heading, point last seen, obvious footpaths they might have mistakenly taken etc. A good example of this is the Pennine Way as it comes off Bleaklow Head and “draws” walkers into the Alport valley as opposed to Snake summit.

Once we have a plan in place, hill parties will be dispatched to various locations to begin the search of the hills where we think the missing person might be. First we’ll use the most obvious routes onto the hill – main footpaths – and if that is unsuccessful we will have to resort to line searching. This is where the team will form a line and move forward “as one” to clear pre-determined areas.

Overall we have a very good record of finding missing persons on the hill but, very often, they are to be found in the nearest pub having failed – or forgotten – to let their family know they’ve come off the hill!

The UK's network of Search and Rescue stations is to be restored from 26 to 28.

The Ministry of Defence had decided to reduce Search and Rescue helicopter crews from 28 to 24 in 2008. But it became clear that implementation would present an unmanageable risk and it has been decided to revert to 28 crews by early summer 2010. Until then, some night-time base closures will be necessary to ensure current levels of day-time coverage are maintained, safeguard crew safety, and preserve night-time response times. It has been necessary in the past to close bases in order to address occasional shortfalls in manning arising from, for example, injury, sickness and support to operations. These planned closures will be managed in the same way, under the control of the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre, to ensure that arrangements are in place for full cover of the UK at night-time. There will be no impact on day-time Search and Rescue cover, when the overwhelming majority of call-outs take place.

Edale Mountain Rescue – 9 Edges Challenge

By Simon Jacques

Exhaustion does funny things to one’s spatial awareness, just as I was saying to my mate Russ the other day as we trampled over moor & heather on the Nine Edges Endurance Challenge.

We had made it to Baslow Edge, but with feet stinging like a jellyfish, and after seven edges and seven climbs; my brain had started to break up like a smashed crab.

The morning had begun crisp dry and very healthy as we set off at 07:30am from Fairholmes Car Park at Derwent Reservoir, up the big hill towards Dovestones Edge. This was the start of a challenge I had accepted for Edale Mountain Rescue – a 20-mile choice of hiking/biking and or climbing each edge from Derwent to Birchin Edge, finishing at the Robin Hood Pub.



I opted to hike & not climb – that was Russ’s job. However my job was to be Wingman Goose to his Pilot Maverick (Top Gun Fans).

We made it up to Back Tor in good time and Russ soloed a nice Severe in his big boots, and that set the scene for our yomp down Stanage. We had a great support team in the guise of Oscar, the laid back Labradoodle and Dylan the manic Springer Spaniel and the two guided us over Burbage to the Grouse Inn, where we avoided the tempting foaming pints in favour of bananas & Mars Bars.

Unfortunately Oscar had to retire at this point, with Dylan dog happy to lead us on journeying towards Froggatt and Curbar. A hastily re-arranged route for Russ was the classic *Dog-Leg Crack* – (VD) and we struggled on towards Baslow where it all started to go wrong.



Jonathan Russell solo on Dog-Leg Crack, Curbar. Photo by Simon Jacques

Russ had just climbed *Gully Wall* (M) and after some running repairs on scabby feet, I asked which climb we were going to do on Curbar...

“*Calver Chimney I think*” replied Russ. “*But I have to do a climb at Gardoms first don’t I*”?

I looked around at my surroundings, “*hang on we have done Curbar we are at Baslow!*” I replied bemused!

That was the beginning of the end. My Dad had just finished the hike and was on his first pint – and so

decided to ring me at that point to gloat about how good it tasted... Thanks for the support Dad...

We were by now mentally shagged and managed to stumble on to Gardoms, This was whereabouts Russ’s Brain decided to take charge and lead him in the direction of Birchin Edge – it was clearly not wanting to take in a climb at Gardoms!

I eventually after much protestation, managed to direct him to the actual direction of the Crag and on to *Garden Face Indirect* (D). After knocking the bastard off – we trudged painfully up to Birchin where Russ just managed *Trafalgar Crack* (VD).

The Walk down from the crag to the Robin Hood Pub, I swear was physically the hardest thing I have ever had to do, and the sight of Russ’s wife, Carey, with the dogs with 200m to go was very supporting as by then we were just about beyond speech.

The talisman that had kept us going sat on the Picnic bench un-drunk, as we stared at our free pints, unable to touch the iconoclastic symbols that we had been dreaming about since the start, all that time ago, so knackered were we to actually lift the Holy Grail to our lips.

After a few Holy Grails later in our brand new Nine Edges T-Shirts, we started to dream of hot baths and take in what we had just achieved and the reasons for actually doing it. That being the great work that Mountain Rescue do and I would bet that pretty much everyone who reads this will either have been rescued or know someone who has needed their service at some point.

To get involved in the Nine Edges Endurance Challenge for Edale Mountain Rescue 2010 keep an eye out for registration in the New Year at: www.nineedges.co.uk

Will we do it again next year? You bet! But get your registration in ASAP - It gets full quick!



Access Notes

By Henry Folkard

Dateline: October 2009

Access notes for this edition are more about walking in the Peak than cragging. An update on climbing access will be given at the Area Meeting.

There is good news for Moors for the Future which has managed to secure more funding for moorland restoration. Anyone familiar with Kinder or Bleaklow Summit will be familiar with the dramatic work that has been done over the past few years on reseeded eroded areas of peat and gully blocking to prevent erosion through run off. The ability to extend this work is certainly welcome. The scale of what has eroded away is dramatically demonstrated on top of Black Hill, where the trig point stands on a substantial cairn about 4' high. Why? – because when the trig point was put there it was put on the surface of the ground at the level it then was. It is a telling record of what has washed and been trampled away. It is not so many years ago one could not actually reach the trig point because of the quagmire, but it all looks very different now. In that neck of the woods it is also gratifying to see the ugly fence which once adorned Heyden Head removed.

The Alport Project too has made significant impact on the landscape particularly with conifer clearance at Castles Wood. If you go and have a wander it may be best to approach from the Upper Derwent because there is only very limited parking at the A57 end, and a high incidence of car crime. A number of different approaches to clear felling have been tried, and the Project is currently in an evaluation phase to see which has been the most effective. The best way forward on the steeper north side around Swint Clough is particularly problematic, not least because the trees there are older with the consequence that the seed bank is much greater. Regeneration is presenting a significant, but anticipated, problem.

Some of the timber has been helicoptered up onto Bleaklow to help the gully blocking there.

If you find your quiet enjoyment is upset by off road motor propelled vehicles you will be pleased to know Operation Blackbrook, mounted by the Police, the County Council and the National Park Authority is having a positive effect. A lot of pressure was put on the County Council at the last Blackbrook meeting, and also by the Local Access Forum, to expedite matters of determining the status of routes, and of repairing the surface where this is badly eroded. The major problem is that it is all demanding on a financial and personnel resource which is in very short supply. The County Council (ie the Highways Authority) will point out that in devoting their budget primarily to black tops the accident rate in the County has been reduced, and ask *'what would your priority be'*? The next Blackbrook meeting is on 12 January 2010 at 19:00 in Bakewell Town Hall. It is open to anyone who wants to attend.



Volunteers working out

Recent work on the footpath up Abbey Brook has caused comment. What do you think about it – and do you think the path should be upgraded to bridleway to permit access by mountain bikes? The purpose of the work, incidentally, is to facilitate land management and not as may have been supposed grouse shooting. There are no drives on that part of Howden Moor.

You may have noticed that Kinder has been designated a National Nature Reserve. Not everyone welcomes the title, as opposed to the designation. The word Reserve can be taken to imply exclusion and exclusivity rather than open access. And a new



walk was inaugurated at the start of the month around New Mills in memory of the late Sir Martin Doughty, who was a terrific champion of access and whose father was one of the Kinder Trespassers. Dave Turnbull, the BMC's CEO, was amongst those who made the inaugural trod.

A welcome cash injection of £1.25M has been received by the National Park to improve, promote and extend the network of cycle trails. The main focus may be on family and commuter cycling.

We spent some time at the last meeting discussing the National Park's Recreation Strategy. The BMC made substantive comment, and so did the Local Access Forum. The National Park has accepted a redraft of the section on climbing, and a photograph of an unhelmeted and possibly unbelayed climber in trainers with lots of slack rope on Chequers Buttress will not appear in the final text. I also had a lengthy one to one discussion with the Strategy's author one Saturday afternoon to emphasise and discuss the full range of our other concerns.

Vandalism, unauthorised and irresponsible use of both Horseshoe and Aldery remains a problem. If we do not keep on top of such activity we could rapidly lose control of both sites which would rapidly become a playground for trial bikes and a site for illegal tipping. The downside is that security measures can be irksome for legitimate users and themselves subject to damage and replacement costs.

A word of thanks to those few BMC volunteers who gave a helping hand on the recent work meet at Horseshoe, and also to the rather more substantial numbers of National Park Conservation and Friends of the Peak Volunteers from who did a first rate job – but there is lots more to do yet.

The BMC's [Regional Access Database](#) (RAD) has up to date information on all crags in England and Wales. Otherwise access rep contact details are in the BMC Members Handbook and on the [BMC web site](#). Most access reps are at most Area Meetings if there are any points you want to raise with them, or you can always phone me on 01298 871 849 or the Regional Access Officer, Guy Keating, on 0161 438 3309 (guy@thebmc.co.uk).

Calendar

There is a comprehensive calendar on the BMC website; this one covers stuff of mainly Peak Area interest. If you have an item for inclusion contact us at peakarea@gmail.com. The Newsletter is published a week before the Peak Area meetings.

Throughout the year:

Consider a [Peak District Ranger guided walk](#). Interesting insights into geology, wildlife and archaeology.

November

1-30 Application open for High Peak Marathon 2010.

14-29 [BMC Leading Ladder](#), the Foundry, Sheffield.

25 **Peak Area meeting AGM**, 19:30 - The Grouse Inn, A625, Froggatt Edge Road.

28 [BMC Club Seminar](#), for all BMC affiliated clubs, at BMC Office.

28 Nov – 13 Dec [BMC Leading Ladder](#), the Edge, Sheffield.

30 [Best of Kendal film night](#), Showroom Cinema, 20:30, Sheffield

December

1 [Best of Kendal film night](#), Showroom Cinema, 20:30, Sheffield

5 [Dave Birkett Lecture](#), Newcastle Climbing Centre. 20:00, Newcastle.

6 [Best Of Kendal Film Night](#), Broadway, 20:00, Nottingham.

14 [Adele Pennington Lecture](#), Lescar, 20:30, Sheffield.

2010

January

20 Best Of ShAFF 2009, Showroom, 20:00, Sheffield.

February

17 **Peak Area meeting**, Sheffield TBC.

March

12-14 [ShAFF](#), Sheffield.

April

14 **Peak Area meeting**, Grouse Inn TBC.

16-18 **BMC AGM** weekend, in conjunction with the South Wales Mountaineering Club. Venue is the Worm's Head Hotel, Rhossili, Gower peninsula.

June

9 **Peak Area meeting**, Ramshaw TBC.

July

3-4 [Cliffhanger](#) (including IFSC Bouldering World Cup), Sheffield.

September

15 **Peak Area meeting**, Glossop TBC.

November

24 **Peak Area meeting AGM**, TBC.