



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Summer 2009 Newsletter - July 2009

*President: Kathleen Cartwright, Vice President: Mike Lea
Past President: John Hay (ex officio)*

*Secretary: Chris Ravey, Treasurer: Helen Thomson
Committee members: Eve Gilmore, Iain Roy, Jim Thomson,
Liz Patterson and Andrea Anderson.*

Librarian: Peter Mackay (ex officio), Susie Allison (co-opted)

Annual Supper 6 to 8 November 2009 The Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer, IV14 9DN

A block booking of rooms has been made for SAC members at £35 / person B&B. The annual supper plus conference facilities should not be more than £27 / person. You make your own bookings for B&B with the hotel Tel. 0870 9506264

Over 50 took the opportunity to arrive at the hotel on the Friday evening in 2008. This informal get-together gives more time to talk to everyone and is becoming increasingly popular.

SAC Secretary will circulate details for supper bookings in the autumn.

Meantime **BOOK DATES** in your diaries and **RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM.**

SAC Library Update

Since the AGM in November. Peter Mackay has spent much time on behalf of the club finalising an acceptable agreement and ensuring a smooth handover of the SAC Library to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. To bring members fully up to date with the present position of the library, Peter has written the following summary.

With the help of Gavin and Averil Stewart and the Wells family, the Club Library was finally liberated from Douglas and Andrea Anderson's cellar (and many thanks to them for their forbearance over the last year) in June and transported to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's new HQ in Perth. It has now been co-located with Angus Erskine's Collection in purpose built book cases in the Shackleton room in Lord John Murray's House (LJMH) which is just behind the new Concert Hall. The books have been shelved alphabetically, but the journals and expedition reports are at present still in cardboard boxes. The Society's ambition is that the Shackleton room will become a centre of reference for research into polar issues but it will be some months before the collections can be made available for general use, as the Society is still bedding in to its new premises. However, if any SAC member wants to consult the collection in the meantime he/she should contact Peter Mackay (on strathbogie@btinternet.com) who will make the necessary arrangements with the Society. Susie Allison is currently cataloguing our map collection before it is handed to the RSGS and Peter also notes that there is a job to be done in preparing a systematic catalogue of the Club's expedition reports now in LJMH (some going back to the pre-war era) and if any member living near Perth would like some occupational therapy next winter this would be a useful and interesting task. The timing and logistics would need to be worked out with the Society but if any member is interested in helping he/she should contact Peter as above.

On behalf of the club, the Secretary would like to thank Peter for all the work undertaken to find a permanent home for the library and for the many hours which must have been spent preparing the Memorandum of Understanding and liaising with RSGS. Thank you Peter.

2009 SPRING MEET REPORT - Inchnadamph

After the success of the 2008 spring weekend meeting at Inchnadamph Lodge, many returned this year and some new faces came too. Many arrived on the Friday evening.

Saturday was very windy, with some rain, but seeing brighter skies towards the coast, that is where most headed. A fair contingent headed for the Stoer peninsula, enjoying much sun and white-capped seas: others headed for the delights of Lochinver and had more gentle walks. In the evening we had a most excellent dinner, supplied and prepared by various members, and which included salmon and venison.

Sunday was a much calmer day, with warm sun. Many headed for the north side of Loch Glendhu, various routes being taken. In the afternoon thousands of pink-footed geese were seen flying high, heading for their breeding grounds in Iceland, while evening provided exceptional rainbows. Back at base, it was so mild that everyone was outside for their evening drinks. Another great dinner on the left-overs from Saturday!

Charles Eccles

It is with sadness that we pass on the news of Charles Eccles death during February 2009. Charles was one of the early members who had involvement with the Sirius Patrol, and was particularly interested in fossils. He will be remembered for his regular appearances at SAC suppers wearing a wonderful Musk Ox sweater and accompanied by his wife Gill.

Sir Wally Herbert Exhibition

Members with email should already have received the bulletin in May, regarding the exhibition of paintings by Sir Wally Herbert presently on display at Discovery Point, Dundee. A number of club members attended the public lecture by Sir Wally's daughter, Kari Herbert, on the opening night of the exhibition. Kari provided a remarkable and personal insight into the life of one of the great explorers of the 20th Century. The exhibition continues to 31 August 2009. The paintings are exceptional and I would urge members not to miss the opportunity of seeing this exhibition.

Expedition Fund Awards 2009

March 2009 saw much email traffic between committee members to discuss expedition fund applications. Electronic communications has made the process much easier and allows the whole committee to have input into the final decision. May the Secretary take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their prompt responses during this process.

We had three applications this year, all of which were considered worthy of an SAC Expedition Fund Award. A summary of the recipients is given below:

Ronan Dugan (£500): Ronan planned his own trip to Northwest Alaska for the summer of 2009. He is volunteering as part of a team on a Reindeer Research Programme, the aim of which is to further develop and promote the production of reindeer in the state of Alaska through research and collaboration with producers and local communities. Ronan will be participating in challenging fieldwork which will involve hiking with a heavy pack, camping, following the herd, making observation and collecting faecal pellets. Ronan feels that this is a fantastic opportunity to see part of Arctic Alaska and it is the chance of a lifetime!

Allen Farrington (£500): Allen is off to East Greenland with Glasgow Academy this summer. He will be climbing mountains, collecting entomological and botanical samples, and learning about Inuit culture. Allen and his fellow expeditioners have undertaken much of the planning and fund raising themselves, and attended many training sessions and weekends prior to the trip.

Thomas Gormley (£450): Thomas is also off to East Greenland with the British Schools Exploring Society (BSES) during this summer. The latest news was that the expedition was heading approximately 50km from the town of Nanortalik near the Tasermiut Fjord.

As always, we have asked recipients to submit an expedition report, and to provide a 10 minute presentation at the annual supper in November. We look forward to meeting Ronan, Allen and Thomas in November

Note from the Secretary

Apologies for a late newsletter. Please remember that the newsletter is your forum for sharing news (relevant to the SAC), so please let me have brief articles, and inform me of anything worth sharing. Finally, please keep me informed of any changes to your address, especially email addresses.

See website: www/scottisharcticclub.org.uk for applications for Expedition Fund and new members

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