



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Autumn Newsletter – October 2011

*President: Mike Lea,
Vice Presidents: Andrea Anderson and John Peden
Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Helen Thomson
Committee members: Chris Calver, Ronan Dugan, Chris Gilmore,
Liz Patterson and Stella Spratley*

41st Annual Gathering and Supper 19th November 2011

Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, Fort William PH33 6TG

2.00pm Presentations and refreshments followed by the AGM at 5.00pm

The venue for the 2011 Gathering & Supper will be the Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6TG, tel. 01397 702331, web-site www.strathmorehotels.com/Ben+Nevis+Hotel/Home/. And if you are staying in the hotel, the use of the leisure club facilities is free – pool, sauna, steam room etc. The cost of the supper is included in the hotel cost for those staying, otherwise the meal is £19 to be paid when returning the booking form. The cost to attend the afternoon Gathering only will be £10.00.

Supper booking form including ANNUAL CLUB SUBSCRIPTION is appended to this newsletter.

Please return the forms to
Mike Lea at Eden View Farm, Little Musgrave, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4PQ.
by 29th October.

**Please remember to return the form with annual subscription
even if you are unable to attend the supper.**

As last year, seating arrangements will be on a 'pot luck' basis with a member of committee acting as host at each table. This seemed to work well but if you need, or particularly want, to sit next to another person please make this clear on your booking form.

MENU SELECTION? The menu choice is attached to this newsletter. Please make your choice from the menu and indicate in the appropriate place on the booking form.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR ROOM? If you intend to stay overnight at the Ben Nevis Hotel, a block booking of rooms has been made for SAC members at £32/per person sharing and £42 single (D,B&B). You make your own bookings for D,B&B with the hotel. The hotel will be holding a number of rooms at this price for SAC members. Please try to **book your room by 21st October**. After this date, the hotel may release the rooms to the general public.

Friday 18th November - Informal evening. Around 50 members took the opportunity to arrive at the hotel on the Friday evening in 2010. This informal get-together gives more time to talk to everyone and is becoming increasingly popular. The hotel can provide dinner, bed & breakfast for Friday night at the same cost - £32, for members wishing to eat together. There is space on the supper booking form where members can indicate whether they will be wanting to eat together on Friday evening.

Raffle for Expedition Fund

Our small but important expedition fund relies on donations from members and money raised at the supper. Contributions for prizes are welcomed. Please bring along to the supper.

Newsletter

This newsletter comes to you both as paper copy and via email. If you receive both, then our records are up-to-date. If you have received only the paper copy, then either we do not have an email address for you and you always receive a paper copy or your email address in our files is incorrect. If you have received only the electronic copy, then we have an incorrect postal address for you.

In either case, please contact the secretary to update the club's records. Thank you. Email is: sacsecretaryia@gmail.com

**Conference Presentations
Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
(2pm to 5pm 19th November)**

Members are invited to give brief presentations (approximately 10 minutes long) accompanied by digital images (or slides). Please complete details when sending in your booking form.

Ideally we would like to have all digital presentations coordinated for showing through one PC/Mac and for them to have been tested before the event. A digital projector capable of taking feeds from both PC and Mac will be set up in the room, and a Kodak carousel projector will also be available for those showing 35mm slides. Would-be digital presenters will be asked to discuss with Chris Gilmore what they intend so that any issues re. software etc. can be addressed well in advance of the day! (Contact chris.gilmore@glasgow.ac.uk or tel 0141 563 9637)

If anyone unfamiliar with digital presentation techniques would like a simple sequence of their images set up for them, Chris can do this, provided he receives a disk with the images well enough in advance.

**2012 SPRING MEET – Attadale
Saturday 5th - Saturday 12th May 2012**

As reported in the previous newsletter, this year's Spring meeting was based at Attadale and was very successful so a booking was made for May 2012. Attadale Lodge near Strathcarron in Wester Ross has 4 self-catering cottages situated about a mile up the glen from the lodge and its magnificent gardens. It is a marvelous area for walking with numerous interesting tracks into the hills and lochs and across passes. There is also the garden to explore and Skye, Kintail, Applecross and even Torridon are not far away. We have booked 3 of these cottages for the week of Saturday 5th - Saturday 12th May 2012 (They only accept week-long bookings). This will give accommodation for 19 persons. It will allow us to be flexible with the length of time people wish to spend there i.e. from 2 days to 7 days and also when they wish to stay.

If you are interested in joining the group at Attadale please let Mike Lea know since it is important to have an indication of the numbers and dates as soon as possible. The cost per night will be about £20 - £25, depending on numbers and length of stay. As usual we shall have one or two communal meals but you will have to supply your own food for the remainder (There is an award winning Spar shop and Butcher in Lochcarron). As a bonus for those without car transport, there is a station on the Kyle of Lochalsh Line at Attadale.

If you are interested in this spring meeting please contact our president, Mike Lea, tel.: 01768 342353, email: mikejlea@gmail.com

Subscription

The annual subscription of £5.00 per person is now due. Please complete the relevant part of the attached booking form and send us your cheque.

Members become lapsed after two unpaid years.

New Members

People who have visited the Arctic region and have a continuing interest in such regions are invited to apply for membership of the Club.

Application forms available through the internet:
www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk

Expedition Fund Donations and Awards

Applications for 2012 and donations are welcomed.

Awards should favour small independent expeditions being undertaken by people under 30 years of age with strong Scottish connections.

Applications should be submitted by 31 January of the year in which the expedition is taking place.

Ten awards were made for research and expeditions this year. These varied from a minimum of £110 to a maximum of £450.

Portrait of Spitsbergen - 400 years of artistic impressions

I wonder if I could ask for your help? I would be very grateful for any information relating to the Scottish artist William Smith (1868-1941), who travelled to Spitsbergen with Albert I Prince of Monaco expedition in 1899. I have located a number of his works in the museum in Monaco but I do not have any biographical details.

The reason for my interest is that I am currently writing a book on the island of Spitsbergen, with a planned title of ***Portrait of Spitsbergen - 400 years of artistic impressions***. This project grew out of research for my recent book ***Greetings from Spitsbergen, Tourists at the Eternal Ice 1827-1914***, Tapir (2009).

I would also be very keen to hear of any other paintings of Spitsbergen which your members may be aware of, or indeed have in their own collections.

I am very grateful for any help which would of course be acknowledged.

Kind regards.

Professor John Reilly, j.t.reilly@sheffield.ac.uk

Committee Members

After three years of serving as treasurer, Helen Thomson will be standing down this year. Liz Patterson (Committee Member) will also be completing her three year term of service.

Suggestions for new committee members, and especially the treasurer, will be welcomed from the membership. If we don't receive any suggestions/volunteers we may just select at random!

Note from the Secretary

Please remember that the newsletter is your forum for sharing news, 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.

**Opening the Erskine Library
at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society**

The RSGS held an event on Thursday 13th October at their Perth headquarters for the 'extended' Erskine family, to recognise the bequest to the Society of all the books etc. that belonged to Angus Erskine. The Club was represented by a number of our members and a report on the event will appear in the next newsletter

Arctic Expedition Database - Forms

The Arctic Club and the Scottish Arctic Club are working together on a project to create a **Database of Arctic Expeditions**. We hope this will provide an historical record of where members have been and also be of use for planning future expeditions. The goal is to create a searchable map of all the expeditions, using Google Earth. We encourage all members to participate in the project. You can download a form or fill it out online to list the expeditions you have been on. A second form is available to fill out more details of an expedition. Copies of the forms are attached (for those receiving this electronically); have a go now!

The forms can be downloaded from the links below - and posted to Dougal Goodman or filled in directly on line. The links will also be available on the Arctic Club and SAC web-sites. Copies will be available at the Supper in Fort William.

www.foundation.org.uk/arctic_club/expedition_reply_form_25Jun11.pdf

www.foundation.org.uk/arctic_club/individual_reply_form_25jun11.pdf

Please type, or copy and paste, whole url into browser's bar.

Dougal Goodman (President, Arctic Club) and Mike Lea

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

THE SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agenda for the AGM to be held at The Ben Nevis Hotel Hotel, Fort William
on Saturday 19 November, 2011 at 5.00 pm

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the AGM of 13 November 2010 (previously.circulated)
2. Matters arising
3. The Annual Report & Accounts for year to 31 August 2011
4. Membership Report
5. Library: Brief report on the handover of the Library to RSGS
6. Expedition Reports and Database.
7. SAC Web-site
8. Election of new committee members
9. Spring meet - Attadale, May 2012
10. Annual Supper 2012 - venue, date
11. Activities on Sunday 20th November 2011
12. Any other business