

Mintcake



Find us at: <http://www.kendalmountainrescue.org.uk>

Reg. Charity No. 1125680
March 2011

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Editor's Comment

Early edition this month, so a bit thinner than usual. Back to normal next month.

I am still planning to make some changes to Mintcake in coming months and I would any comments from anyone who reads this are welcomed! I am sure some there must be more of the team that can read than the handful who replied last month!

Thanks in advance

DBH

100 Club

This months winners have not been drawn yet! "Roll under" for May

What's On?

Wednesday 6 April – 19:30

Ops & Membership Committee

Wednesday 13 April – 19:00

Rescue Rigging Theory

Saturday 16 April

Bucket Collection, Booths

Sunday 17 April – 09:00

Search and Evacuation

Wednesday 27 April – 19:30

Equipment Night

Saturday 30 April

Tebay Services / MR Awareness Day

Sunday 1 May

Tebay Services / MR Awareness Day

Tuesday 3 May – 19:30

Base & Vehicles

Wednesday 4 May – 19:30

Main Committee

Saturday 7 May

Keswick to Barrow

Saturday 14 May

Base Spring Clean

Mintcake Nibbles



All Team computers now have a Lat/Long OS Grid Converter installed. A shortcut is on all the desktops and it is also pinned to the start menu of the MRmap computer. Please feel free to locate and have a look at the feature for future reference. It may prove a valuable tool if you find yourself in Base and it is required during a Call Out, or indeed a training session.



Slightly less early warning! Base will be getting its Spring Clean on **14 May** Please put this in your diary If it already there, please underline it.
Many hands make light work!

Callouts

01 March 2011 12.25 hrs

We were paged by the Police and asked to assist the North West Ambulance Service with an incident near Lupton on the A65. An ambulance, with an elderly female casualty on board, had become stuck on a track. As we were setting off we were informed that the Air Ambulance had landed to transport the casualty to hospital. However, we were asked if we would continue and rescue the ambulance! We were stood down while on route following a report that "a ***** big tractor had reached the stranded vehicle and if that couldn't get it out there would not be much that we could do!"

20 March 2011 15.35 hrs

The Police paged us and asked us to assist a group of 4 walkers who were in difficulties in the Howgills. When we contacted them by mobile phone they were in very poor visibility and rather disorientated. As there was some uncertainty about where they were we split into 3 groups to cover the likely routes from the southwest. The group was located, cold and wet, close to the summit of The Calf. They were given shelter, warm drinks and food before being walked down from the fell and taken back to their own transport in Sedbergh.

21 March 2011 20.55hrs

Our Leader Group was paged by the Police following reports of a light aircraft having crashed in the Kirkby Lonsdale area. We made mobile telephone contact with the pilot who reported that he and his passenger were cold and wet with fairly minor injuries but he was unable to assist in establishing the location of the crash site. All he could tell us was that they were on grass in pitch darkness and they could see no lights. The rest of our team was paged and the Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO) and the Search & Rescue Dog association (SARDA) were also alerted. We deployed two vehicles and team members to the Kirkby Lonsdale area and an RAF Sea King helicopter joined in the search with night vision equipment. Eventually, the stranded pilot reported that he could see the lights of the helicopter and from that information the RAF were able to provide an approximate grid reference for the crash site. Hill search teams were dispatched and the crash site was located by CRO team members around midnight close to the summit of Ingleborough. The "fairly minor injuries" turned out to be a mixture of chest and head injuries, broken ankles, one suspected fractured femur and some broken ribs. The casualties were stretchered from the fell by CRO and Kendal team members and were transported to hospital by ambulance. The crash site was secured and our team members returned at about 6am

Exercise Reports

Water Rescue Theory Night

Tony W started off the evening with a session of "this is a dry-suit!" showing us all the components a water technician is supposed to wear!!

How on earth can we carry out a hasty search when your wearing a "boil in the bag" suit with extra padding on top!! and a nice shiny yellow lid!!

Phil did a short but thought provoking piece noting how close to the river base (and the editors house) are to the 1:100 year flood event (*having looked at this very closely the predicted flood level politely stops next door to me and at the end of the forecourt at base having flooded the Ambulance, Fire and Police stations-Ed*) and in such an event given the lack of crossing points whether the team should plan for such an event.

We then split into 3 groups, Phil L talked about how we search river banks and the various roles of each person in a search group. Tony W was banished to the garage and he had team members donning their "boil in the bag" dry-suits and various other safety equipment. Kathy J was sent out into the rain to get us throwing ropes at each other with different degree's of success!!

All in all a very useful night without any embarrassing incidents!! except our lack of aim with the throw-lines!!

Chris *** Marsden**

Winter Training at Feshiebridge II

Scotland is a place north of here.

The end

Dave H

Full marks to Paul and his band of helpers for organising a really good Scotland weekend yet again - excellent on both the skills and social fronts.

Keith

Three things I have learnt:-

The Scottish Stomper

Don't stop digging to get through a cornice, it will only get smaller if you wait

Never eat rice in Scotland, it's unhealthy

Rich



Finally, special thanks to Giles Trussell from Glenmore Lodge, who instructed (some of us) very patiently.

Torchlight (!)

The Torchlight organising committee have contacted me and informed me that once again the team has been selected as a beneficiary of the event. This means that we are allowed to collect funds as we proceed around the course plus have bucket collectors at specific locations. Therefore we need as many hill going/hill support members

and team supporters as possible. The more feet on the ground means a higher profile and an increased chance of more donations.

The theme for this year is "Kendal's got talent" so I am sure we can rustle up a few ideas for our walkabout. Once again it will be nice to see team members families joining us on the route.

The people of Kendal always speak proudly of the team and give generously throughout the year so this is one opportunity for us to say Thank you and show off our new vehicles.

Tony

Caption Competition



Our new vehicle officer, Tony, modelling new team kit? Can you do better? Send me your captions!

Computers Notice

Virus/malware scans together with updates of the definitions for these plus Windows updates for the two laptops and the Admin computer (the 3 that are not left on all the time) will now be performed overnight, usually on a Friday night, by Phil Latham, so don't be alarmed if you find the computers on if you turn up early on a Saturday morning. At the same time, this will charge up the laptop batteries, so these should always be ready for use.

Tom Barkas

Swim Marathon. Or The Kendal Mountain Minnows better than ever!

On Sat 19th March a team of seven intrepid swimmers entered the chilly waters of Kendal Leisure centre to compete in the 2011 swimathon. To some the incentive was to raise money for the team, to others it was the prospect of beating the previous years lap count (125) and getting a beer from John Hall.

As the laps started to mount up it was clear to the trained observer that John was employing subtle delaying tactics to ensure his wallet stayed closed. However his hesitations at the changeovers and his differing stroke styles were in

vain as we (in the words of Andy Dell) "cranked up the pressure". The team supporters, all three of them, were going wild as the old count was passed.

John increased the depth of the pool as he wept.

As the countdown to the finish started, a final flurry of arms and legs saw us reach a total of 140 lengths, a distance of over 2 miles. (64 lengths of the pool = 1 mile). All achieved in 55 minutes.

Minnows team consisted of

John Hall his friends Ali and Carol, Andy Dell, Kath Jackson, Tony & Scott Womack.

Quote of the swim came from Kath, " I prefer older men"...pause..."did I just say that"

A big Thank you goes to our cheerleaders, Linda W, Tinka & Rich.

Same time next year.

Tony Womack

Caption Competition 2



I got sent this picture taken on last Sunday's exercise.

I am not entirely sure what to make of it.

Any thoughts?

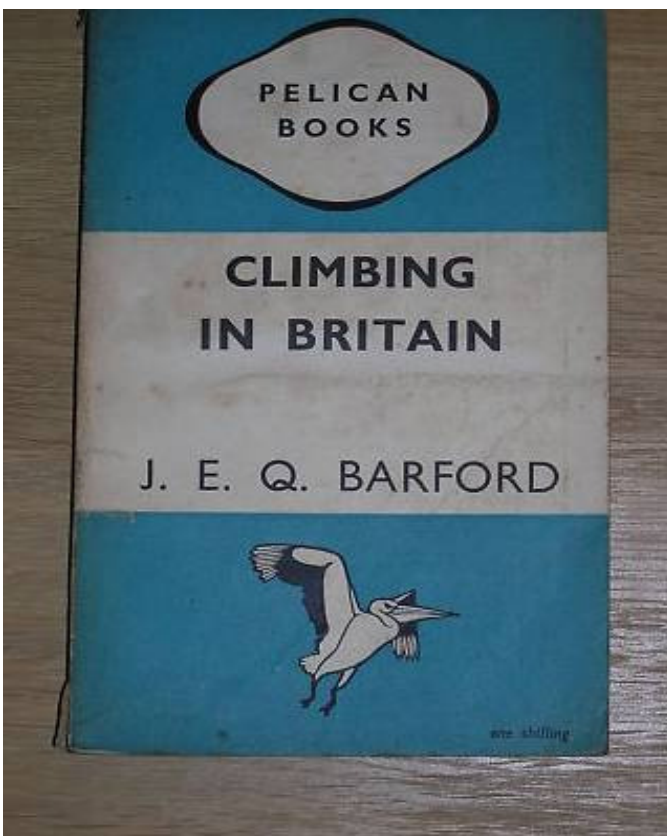
From the Barbellate Archive

50 years – have things changed?

In 'Our Cumbria – The Stories of Cumbrian Men and Women', there is a 1989 article by Bryan Stilling on his memories of Kendal Mountain Search & Rescue Team. *'There was a group of us, and when the appeal came from the police at an Easter weekend disaster which involved several deaths, we responded to it. As well as fell walking we had been doing some mountain climbing and pot holing – I was never very good at climbing, but I did a lot of it. When the appeal came, about half a dozen of us at Kendal formed a search team which grew in number. We linked up with police and got a stretcher and started from there. Like all teams, the movement started with people who had been going on the fells.'*

The 'bugger' searches have always occurred, Brian recalls '*... we were involved with a Kendal man who had gone to Grasmere with his daughter. While she was shopping in Grasmere he said he'd go for a walk, but later she couldn't contact him so she rang the police. They called the Kendal team out and they searched from the early evening to about three o'clock in the morning. We searched all the area around Grasmere as he was an elderly chap and probably wouldn't get very far, then we came back to Kendal. When we were coming through the main street I saw an elderly gentleman walking down Finkle Street. We stopped and asked him where he was going. He said he was shopping. We said the shops wouldn't be open for some time as it was only five o'clock in the morning. It was the missing man and he had actually walked from Grasmere back to Kendal. He was confused. Anyway, he was found.*'

Some things have always caused problems, communications being one of them. Brian remembers '*The biggest problem at the start was communications. On the search there was no radio. If you were out on the fells and the casualty had been found, meantime, somewhere else, you'd maybe come back to discover that the casualty had been found perhaps just an hour after you had set out! We developed forms of communications like rockets and flares. We got maroons from the coastguard. We even got bren guns using blanks on exercise with other teams; we got them from the local Territorials. We tried firing them to see how far they would carry, but they didn't carry very far. In the early sixties we got some Japanese walkie-talkie sets. Some teams had army equipment but it was very heavy and sometimes unreliable. Now communications are covered by the police with a very sophisticated control system.*'



On the subject of equipment, I mentioned in my last article the 1946 book by J. E. Q. Barford, 'Climbing in Britain', in which he included details of the standard MR first aid equipment. Looking at the 1971 MRC (it was still the Mountain Rescue Committee, not Council, then) I see the list of equipment is virtually identical, as is the wording '*Take both rucksacks. Before leaving the base, stimulants, food sugar and hot drinks must be added.*' The eiderdown had been replaced with a casualty bag and there is now a Brookes Airway. Oh, and '*1 Protective Helmet (For selected posts).*' So for over half the history of Kendal Team there was no change in the medical kit, in the last 25 years (or maybe less) there is a noticeable change. Are any readers out there willing to say what the Team's kit in 2028 will consist of? Your thoughts to the Editor please.

Brian's article finishes with '*I think it's a worthwhile job the Search and Rescue people do. There's a good feeling about the work...; it's a proud service with each team aiming to the very best. My own feeling is that we should try to make things a little better than we found them. We can only do our best.*' And I can't disagree with that.

Barbellate

Internet News

I am very fond of the online translation services like google translate and Bable fish. I have spent many happy hours translating phrases into several languages and back to English. The results are often surprising and sometimes amusing,. However I have now come across Babel Sheep – a translator for Cumbrian.

<http://www.gonmad.co.uk/cumbria/>

Tim Ternet

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or
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