



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Autumn Newsletter – October 2010

*President: Kathleen Cartwright,
Vice President: Mike Lea, Vice President: Andrea Anderson
Secretary: Chris Ravey, Treasurer: Helen Thomson
Committee members: Iain Roy, Liz Patterson, Ronan Dugan, Stella Spratley and
Chris Calver*

40th Annual Conference and Supper 13th November 2010

Landmark Hotel, Dundee, DD2 5JT

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

As noted in previous newsletters, 2010 will be the 40th Annual Supper for the Scottish Arctic Club. It was agreed last year that the 2010 supper should return to Dundee, the City where the first SAC supper was held forty years ago.

The venue for the 2010 supper shall be the Landmark Hotel, Dundee, DD2 5JT, tel 01382 641122 web site www.thelandmarkdundee.co.uk. The cost of the supper and conference (excluding drinks) shall be £27.50. The cost to attend the conference only shall be £5.00.

Supper booking forms including annual club subscription reminders shall be posted to all members within the next couple of weeks. Please return the forms to Mike Lea at Eden View Farm, Little Musgrave, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4PQ. **by 30th 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? This year there will be a choice of menu at the supper. A menu is attached with this newsletter for information. A paper copy of the menu will be circulated with the booking form. Please make your choice from the menu and indicate in the appropriate place on the booking form. As noted above, booking forms (with menu choice) shall be posted out within the next two weeks.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR ROOM? If you intend to stay overnight at the Landmark Hotel, a block booking of rooms has been made for SAC members at £45 / person sharing and £50 single (B&B). You make your own bookings for B&B with the hotel Tel. 01382 641122. The hotel will hold a number of rooms at this price for SAC members until 12th October. Please try to **book your room by 12th October.** After this date, the hotel shall release the rooms to the general public.

Friday 12th November - Informal evening Around 50 members took the opportunity to arrive at the hotel on the Friday evening in 2009. This informal get-together gives more time to talk to everyone and is becoming increasingly popular. As with previous years, the hotel can provide a meal (£20 per person) on Friday evening for members wishing to eat together. There will be 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.

SAC Historical Photos

Since this year is the 40th anniversary dinner, we will be having a display of "historic" photographs at the Supper.

If anyone has photos of various Arctic locations with club members past or present included in them they could bring them to the supper. We will probably have to limit the display to 5 small or 3 large photos per person. Please provide labels with names, location, date and name of photographer.

**Conference Presentations
Landmark Hotel, Dundee
(2pm to 5pm 13th November)**

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

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 non digital slides. Would-be digital presenters will be asked to discuss with Iain Roy what they intend so that any issues re software etc. can be addressed well in advance of the day! (Contact post@iainroy.com or tel 01854 612991)

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

**2011 SPRING MEET – Attadale
Saturday 7th - Saturday 14th May 2011**

We have now been to Inchnadamph for the last 3 years and although it has proved to be an excellent venue, it was felt that it was time for a change both of dates and location. 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 7 - Saturday 14 May 2011 (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 Kathleen 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 Kathleen Cartwright: Telephone: 01389 830485, e-mail: arcturus@btinternet.com

Subscription

The annual subscription of £5.00 per person is now due. The renewal form shall be posted within the next week or two. Please complete the form and send your cheque. Those members with a black cross are asked to pay last year's sub as well.

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 2011 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.

Two awards of £500 and one of £450 were made in 2010 to Fortrose Academy (School exchange trip with pupils from Gjoa Haven, Canada), Banchory High School (Harding Ice Field) and Timothy Hunter (Svalbard with BSES). We look forward to receiving reports from these recipients by the beginning of November and hearing about their experiences at the Annual Supper.

John Watson Photograph Archive

Many of you will remember fondly, Kathleen and John Watson. They were long standing members of the Scottish Arctic Club and supported it quietly and enthusiastically, attending the annual suppers and summer solstice walks. Many of our members were their friends. John held the post of secretary/treasurer for many years. They had a great love for mountaineering and hill walking and the outdoors, especially in Scotland, Europe, Norway, Iceland and latterly Greenland and the Arctic and their travels covered a period of some 50 years.

We were delighted when a few months ago, their nephew and niece, John Fleming and Isla Smith, contacted the Club. After John's death, they were faced with the task of how best to preserve John's exceptional archive of photographs, more than 25,000, and make it available to as wide an audience as possible but most particularly to their family, friends and co-mountaineers. They were fortunate to have an offer of help from a friend who prefers to remain anonymous, to sort through the entire collection, removing family and other photographs. John and Isla were then able to negotiate with the Royal Geographical Society, based in London, that they would take all the slides, store them under appropriate conditions and make them available to anyone who sought to study the areas which John and Kathleen had visited.

It would probably never have occurred to John that he had created anything worthy of collection. After viewing a selection of photos, the RGS said that they were keen to take on the whole collection for its broad range of interest. The members of the Picture Archive were very impressed at the quality of the photographs, their condition and the meticulous cataloguing which accompanied them - 39 notebooks, only one of the series was missing. In many cases, John had recorded the temperature, weather conditions, aperture, type of film and filter used as part of the information on individual photographs. The RGS said that they had never seen anything quite like it before. The RGS will store them correctly and will house the collection in their premises immediately and in perpetuity.

John and Isla have negotiated with the RGS that any member of the Grampian Club and the Scottish Arctic Club can contact the head of the photographic unit/Picture Library at the RGS in London, explain who they are, make an appointment and indicate that they wish to view the collection. Selected images from the collection will eventually be available for view through the RGS website.

This summer in northeast Greenland Neville and I were, by coincidence, thinking and reminiscing fondly about Kathleen and John. In the "hut book" of an old expedition hut that we camped beside for a few days, we came across an entry by John to say that he and Kathleen had passed through. It was in his meticulous small writing and has survived clearly for about 30 years.

John and Kathleen were quietly passionate about their travels and extremely knowledgeable and unassuming. They were always very interested in the Club and its members and all its activities, encouraging many over the years to share their passion. We were so privileged to have them as members and friends and it is excellent news that their photographs and records will be so well preserved and available for us all to view.

Committee Members

After three years of serving as club president, Kathleen Cartwright will be standing down this year. Mike Lea (Vice President) and Iain Roy (Committee Member) will also be completing their three year term of service. The position of Secretary shall also become vacant at the AGM. It would be possible to divide the secretarial responsibilities between two or even three people, so don't be shy!

Suggestions for new committee members 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.

The other (Ant) arctic. *Jim Blyth, a Scottish Mountain Guide living and working in France, is running a yacht supported ski mountaineering trip to Antarctica in January 2011. This is a really unique opportunity to combine sailing and skiing in Antarctica and if anyone would be interested in joining Jim on such a trip then his contact details are as follows. James Blyth, Guide de Haute Montagne, Hameau de la Tour, 74310 Servoz, France, (H) +33 450 91 40 15, (E) jrblyth@orange.fr*

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

THE SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

DRAFT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agenda for the AGM to be held at The Landmark Hotel, Dundee
on Saturday 13 November, 2010 at 5.00 pm

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the AGM of 7 November 2009 (previously.circ.) (Sec can provide email copy if nec.)
2. Matters arising
3. The Annual Report & Accounts for year to 31 August 2010
4. Membership Report
5. Library: Brief report on the handover of the Library to RSGS
6. Election of new committee members
7. Spring meet - Attadale, 2011
8. Annual Supper 2011 - venue, date
9. Activities on Sunday 14 November 2010
10. Any other business