



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - Summer 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*

www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk

New members are welcome: the Club is for people of all ages and nationalities who have an interest in the Arctic, particularly if they have already been, or are planning to travel there. See the web site for an application form.

42nd Annual Gathering and Supper

18th to 20th November 2011
The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
Phone number 01397 702331.
salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com

The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 19 November, though members are also invited to an informal get-together on Friday evening.

Accommodation and Supper Costs for Hotel Residents: The cost of Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for both Friday 18th and Saturday 19th November is £32 per person per night sharing a twin/double room. For bed and breakfast only on Friday night the price is £27 per person sharing a twin/double room. For singles there is an additional single supplement of £10 per person per night. Please note that the price for Saturday night includes the cost of the Supper for hotel residents. **All this should be paid direct to the hotel by the individuals.**

Supper Costs for those not staying in the Hotel: If you are attending the Supper but not staying at the hotel, the price of the Supper will be £19 per person. **This should be paid to the SAC using the booking form to be circulated in October.**

The Gathering, with talks and presentations, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2-5 pm, followed by the AGM. For this there will be a charge of £10 per person, to include tea/coffee/biscuits, conference costs and the costs of our guests. **This should be paid to the SAC using the booking form to be circulated in October.**

Subscriptions: The subscription year runs from 1st September to 31st August. All members should pay their subscriptions **to the SAC using the booking & subscription form to be circulated in October** whether you are attending the Gathering or not.

For alternative accommodation over the Supper weekend, see www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk

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

2011 SPRING MEET – Attadale Saturday 7th – Saturday 14th May 201

This year's spring meeting took place at Attadale Estate near Strathcarron in Wester Ross. A total of 26 members and guests stayed for varying lengths of time in three attractive cottages in the grounds of Attadale House. The company was entertaining, the beds comfortable, the food magnificent, and the surrounding countryside splendid. The weather was mixed at times, but with lots of sunshine, especially in the first half of the week, and it was warm enough that we could enjoy pre-dinner drinks on the lawn! The MacPherson family and all the members of their staff looking after the cottages, the estate and working in the gardens, were very friendly and helpful and the garden itself was looking wonderful and immaculate. The setting is magnificent with views down the loch to Skye and the planting in the garden is very varied and in May very colourful, with all the Rhododendrons and Azaleas in full bloom. The immediate area gave the opportunity for plenty of varied walks - long and short - and the estate stalker gave some of us a very bumpy lift up to Bendronaig Lodge. Other walks took in the passes north towards Loch Torridon and south to Glen Ling. Other highlights included a tour of Applecross (A' Chomraich, 'The Sanctuary'), visiting the gardens at Applecross House, and paying homage to Maol Rubha the first abbot of the monastery Aporcrosan, who died there on 21 April 772. Some had fun getting the passing train on the Kyle line to shunt back to Attadale station to let them off!

On the Sunday several of us had a delicious "bacon roll breakfast" at their house at Coulags by our members Penny and Dougal Goodman. During the week we had two communal suppers when we enjoyed salmon in many disguises and delicious roast venison (courtesy of John Hay).

By popular request, the 2012 Spring Meet will also be held at Attadale from Saturday 5th - Saturday 12th May 2012. Three cottages have been booked giving accommodation for 19 persons. This allows us to be flexible with the length of time people wish to spend there i.e. from 2 days to 7 days. More information later - please contact: Mike Lea: 017683 42353, MikeJLea@gmail.com.



Breakfast at Coulags

Kathleen Cartwright and Mike Lea

SAC Expedition Awards 2011

This year we made a record number of Expedition Awards to nine young people. Eight of whom were going on various BSES* expeditions to Svalbard, including Extreme Arctic, Arctic Environmental Studies, Arctic 3-week and 5-week Adventures, and Arctic Skills. Jordan Grigor was given a grant for research work on zooplankton, also in Svalbard, with the Norwegian Polar Institute. The awardees were:

- Ashley Buchan, BSES participant, Arctic Environmental Studies.
- Susanna Challenger, BSES participant, Arctic 5-week Adventure.
- Jordan Grigor, Heriot-Watt University and University in Svalbard, Research on zooplankton.
- Murray Mackenzie, BSES participant, Arctic 5-week Adventure.
- Katy McCalister, BSES participant, Extreme Arctic 9-weeks
- Kevin Meldrum, BSES participant, Extreme Arctic 9 weeks
- Jenny Newall, BSES participant, Arctic 5-week Adventure.

- Benjamin Turner, BSES participant, Arctic 3-week Adventure.
- Theodore Weiss, BSES participant, Arctic Skills.

Hear all about their adventures at the Annual Gathering in Fort William on Saturday 19 Nov.
**BSES Expeditions recently changed their name to British Exploring Society; however, their web site continues to show BSES and as this term is more familiar we continue to use it above.*

The Arctic Expedition Database Needs You!

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.

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

ARKive your Arctic Photographs and Videos?

A new conservation web-site is looking for unique photographs and footage of animals and plants, particularly those threatened by climate change, as in the Arctic.

- ARKive (www.arkive.org) is gathering films, photographs and audio recordings of the world's animals, plants and fungi into one centralised digital library: so far we have created digital multi-media profiles for more than 12,000 species, with over 66,000 still images and 7,000 videos.
- ARKive aims to compile audio-visual records for the 17,000-plus species currently threatened with extinction, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- They are looking for media (moving footage, still images, audio) to comprehensively depict each species' life history. Become a contributor!

Expeditions from Constable Point

Paul Walker of Tangent Expeditions has set up a new expedition logistics support service for northeast Greenland, based at Constable Point airport. In addition to his many years' experience of expedition logistics in the area, he now has a fleet of snowmobiles and full storage facilities at Constable Point. This will provide an unparalleled level of flexibility to expeditions operating throughout the March to May period. They are all brand new top of the range machines with all conceivable accessories, and with cargo sleds and people carrier sleds for transporting people, food and equipment. They are also available to support scientific expeditions. With fuel depots, they have the capability to transport groups to almost any location up to 250 km from Constable Point. This includes many areas previously only accessible by hugely expensive Twin Otter aircraft and helicopters. Storage facilities are now also available at Constable Point for both short term and long term storage. They can now accommodate up to 12 people in a combination of their heated Weatherhaven and Container accommodation and a further 8 people in their Mountain

Hardware "Space Station" base camp tent. The accommodation will be available to all expedition groups at the beginning and end of their expeditions.

As the local operators, Nanu Travel, have recently sold their boat, Tangent now also has their own two Zodiac inflatables available for summer transportation around the fjords.

With such a significant investment in new facilities Tangent Expeditions are well placed to give cost-effective support to expeditions to NE Greenland.

Note from the Secretary

The next newsletter should be with you in October along with the subscription renewal notice and booking form for the Gathering. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome - short book reviews, news items, interesting web sites etc.

Club email address - sacsecretaryia@gmail.com