

Mintcake

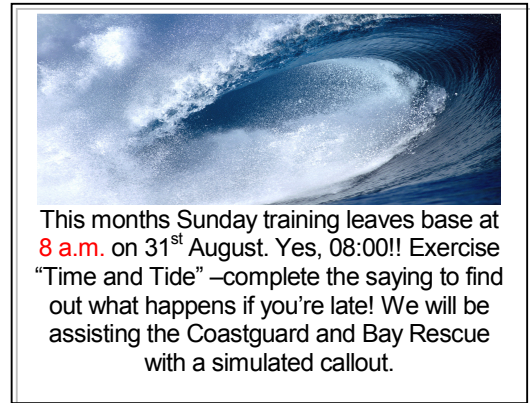


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Reg. Charity No. 259539
August 2008

This Month

Editor's Comment.....	1
100 Club.....	1
Mintcake Nibbles.....	1
Callouts.....	2
Exercise Reports.....	3
Tales From The Answer Phone.....	3
Fundraising.....	4
Caption Competition.....	4
Contacts.....	4



Editor's Comment

A brief edition; I know some of the readership relish short and functional but if you do have any tales, pictures, information or random nonsense with (preferably, at least vague) relevance, interest or entertainment value to the team my contact details are on the back page. Speaking of which, the only thing which HAS appeared in my pigeonhole over the last several months is a gradually increasing collection of pens and pencils. Are these just generous gifts or a subconscious yearning by older team members for the days of handwritten newsletters? Who knows? but thanks anyway!

Kathy

100 Club

The winning numbers in this month's 100 Club draw are:

1st:	88	Mrs. D. Sutcliffe	£10
2nd:	31	Dr. Norman	£10
3rd:	25	Mr. D. Meredith	£5

Winners of the August Draw will receive their cheques on my return from holiday!

Peter Clarkson

Mintcake Nibbles

- Check "What's On?" or the board at base for a reminder of driver training dates and speak to Paul if you need any guidance on which sessions are relevant to you.
- A big thank-you to Millets; the outdoor store in Highgate, Kendal has recently donated £200, their commission from the sale of tickets for the Kendal Calling 2008 festival, to the Team. Don't forget that Millets give 20% discount on equipment purchases to Team Members – all you need to do is produce your membership card. Also they are willing to do a special order of items not normally stocked by them, if you need a reasonable quantity. They have also offered to do a discount evening for the Team; if someone in the Team is willing to co-ordinate one, then please initially discuss with Dagmar.

Callouts



6th July 18:15hrs

2 children reported missing by father after beoming seperated on a walk in the Hutton Roof area. The children were found at Burton by a member of the public as the team were assembling at base.

15th July 21:45hrs

Cumbria Police requested the Team's assistance to search for an elderly lady who was missing from her home in Kirkby Lonsdale. The team spent all night searching the town and the surrounding area, with our swift water rescue technicians searching the River Lune both on foot and using our inflatable boat. The search was co-ordinated from our Control Vehicle (Mobile 2) using our GPS tracking system. We were joined by the Cave Rescue Organisation at 6am who re-searched the river in daylight. Very sadly, the lady's body was found by members of the public in Lake Windermere at Waterhead later that day and we assisted in the recovery as we happened to be passing on our way back from another incident in Langdale.

16th July 11:30hrs

Five team members were at base sorting out the equipment used during the previous night (and looking forward to some well-earned sleep!) when the Langdale & Ambleside Team were called to attend a serious incident on Pavey Ark. A man had fallen from Jack's Rake and our offer of assistance was accepted. On reaching the New Dungeon Ghyll we set off up to Stickle Tarn with a stretcher. Unfortunately, the man was found to have died at the scene. A doubly sad day for all of us.

21st July 15:55hrs

The Team was called to Dent to assist the ambulance service in the evacuation of a gentleman with a knee injury. We were assisted by members of the Cave Rescue Organisation and stretchered the casualty to the waiting ambulance.

3rd August 15:30hrs

The Police paged the Team and asked us to assist in a search for a gentleman who had been missing for 4 days. His car had been found a short while before parked on a verge near Burton-in-Kendal. Team members, Police Officers and SARDA dog handlers mounted a search of woodland and, sadly, after a short while his body was located by search dog Kes. Team members assisted the Police with the recovery.

4th August 11.30hrs

The Team was called to rescue a dog (Jack Russell - Sam) that had fallen over the edge at Scout Scar. Our Team Leader (and the dog's owner!!!!) went down on a rope and retrieved Sam who was a little frightened but un-injured. A job well done! Thanks also to Oli (Langdale Team) for his assistance.

What's On?

Wednesday 13 August

Training: Ropes Course–Team-building: 19:00

Wednesday 20 August

Driver Training Theory: 19:00

Wednesday 27 August

Equipment evening: 19:30

Sunday 31 August

Training: Simulated Callout to assist Coastguard and Bay Rescue: 08:00

NOTE EARLIER START TIME!!

Tuesday 2 September

Base and Vehicles Working Group: 19:30

Wednesday 3 September

Main Committee Meeting: 19:30

Sunday 7 September

Driver Training Practical (times TBC – see board at base)

Wednesday 10 September

Training: BLS and De-fibrillation: 19:00

Saturday 13 September

Torchlight Carnival!

Saturday 13 September

Driver Training Practical (times TBC – see board at base)

Sunday 14 September

Collection: ASDA

Wednesday 24 September

Equipment evening: 19:30

Saturday 27 September

Collection: Kendal Town Centre

Sunday 28 September

Training: Water Rescue: 09:00

Wednesday 1 October

Operations and Membership Meeting: 19:30

Wednesday 8 October

Training: Coroner's Office: 19:00

Saturday 18 October

Collection: Booths

Wednesday 22 October

'Blues and Twos' Driver Training Theory: 19:00

Saturday 25 October

Training: RAF Helicopter/Night Navigation

Wednesday 29 October

Equipment evening: 19:30

Exercise Reports

Wednesday 9th July: Search Techniques – Scout scar.

Objectives:

- To understand how SARDA (Search And Rescue Dogs Association) operate on a search and thus how we can assist (or not hinder) them.
- To practice searching, by hunting sweets amongst the juniper, on scout scar.

First we had a short presentation by Les. This covered how the dogs are used, why they are so effective and the responsibilities of team members operating in conjunction with SARDA.

Chief points raised:

If a team member is called upon to operate as navigator for a dog handler **they must not**:-

- Give the dog any commands – this may confuse it.
- Distract the dog in any way – no eating, smoking, throwing sticks etc.
- Fail in their task – it wouldn't do to get lost now would it!

We then took a jaunt to Scout Scar, to practice searching. Les and Ian, and their dogs, Kes and Vinny demonstrated a search for a volunteer hidden a few hundred meters away. It was quick to see why they are so valuable in a search.

We then practiced searching ourselves - looking for bags of sweets hidden within 15 meters of a path, over a distance of about 500m. Whilst seemingly not a difficult exercise, in the fading light and miserable weather they were easy to miss.

The chief points raised were:

- Remember to look behind you – it is important to view the terrain from different angles so as not to miss concealed objects.
- Remember too look up – it seems sweets can hide themselves in trees, and apparently so can humans.
- Stay focused - it is easy to get distracted and needless to say this significantly reduces your effectiveness.
- Know your subject – information about the searchee may be very helpful. For instance what they were wearing or carrying; age, build, sex; are they likely to be hiding, sheltering, or trying to be found etc.

Thanks to Les and Ian, for their efforts in organising a practical and informative exercise.

Adam Milward

Tales From The Answer Phone

When someone phones our Busher Walk base, using the well published phone number, it is likely that the answer phone will come on and they hear the reassuring voice of former Team Member Martin Campbell "If you require mountain rescue please dial 999 and ask for the Police ...". Clearly not everyone listens to what he says as message recently picked up on a Tuesday morning demonstrated.

Message timed at 5.29 p.m. the day before. A woman is speaking, she is very agitated. She has a heavy accent; but obviously not Cumbrian. After listening to the message 3 times it was possible to make out that she was saying that 2 Canadians due to stay at her guest house had phoned her to say they were injured and needed rescuing. The 14 figure location reference given was actually a very accurate G.P.S. reading, but the wrong way round to normal O.S. usage. Having sorted that out, it looked like they were near Shap. Phone numbers for the guest house and a Canadian mobile phone were given.

A quick call to the guest house results in a chat with the son of guest house owner. Yes the Canadians are now safe, they were doing the Coast-to-Coast and had an accident and apparently Penrith team had been called out to them. Probably not the best time to ask him how an MR team was eventually called-out; but it provides a useful reminder to us that we can't expect visitors to this country to know who to contact if they have an accident on the fells. It also should remind us that people who live in our community and partially make a living from the fells may not know how to call out mountain rescue teams. So Martin, your voice from the past did its best, but some people don't listen.

Keith Pittman

Fundraising

Grateful thanks to Kendal Rotary Club for a donation of £500 being part proceeds from their 22nd AM/AM Charity Golf Competition at Kendal Golf Club. The cheque was received at a presentation evening attended by Dagmar & Eddie.
Peter Clarkson

Caption Competition



Continuing the "It's a Knockout" series, with thanks to Dani Akrigg who has sent some great photographs which I will endeavour to get on the team website. All bribes not to publish gratefully accepted from "It's a Knockout" participants/photo subjects – there are some crackers! In the meantime have a penny for Steve Kelley's thoughts?

Last month's winners (John Hall relaxing with a drink or two...)

Joint third place were Chris Marsden with "I thought someone said the casualty on the stretcher had a big pair of jugs!!" and, showing solidarity on the intellectual and artistic perception of the image but a slightly more minimalist use of language, Keith Pittman with "Nice jugs"

Second place goes to Julia Pittman with "John easily manages not to spill a drop of the water by closing his eyes and imagining it is beer."

But the winner is Paul Crosby's entry; "John closes his eyes to stop the world going round; 'Who ordered another two pints of vodka? I don't feel so good...'"

Well done Paul, your prize (lifetime subscription to "Mintcake") is, possibly, in the post.

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