

Mintcake



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Reg. Charity No. 1125680

January 2009

This Month

Editor's Comment.....	1
100 Club.....	1
Mintcake Nibbles.....	1
Callouts.....	2
Exercise Reports.....	3
Training.....	4
Radio Update.....	5
News from Equipment and Medical Working Group.....	5
Car Parking at Base.....	6
Burns Night.....	7
Sports Report.....	8
Annual Team Dinner.....	8
Contacts.....	8

Barbara Minton

Barbara Minton, Vice President of KMSRT, sadly died in the early hours of Friday morning after a short stay in hospital. Those who have joined the Team more recently may not be aware that Barbara and her late husband played a major role in Kendal Mountain Search and Rescue Team. The Team meant a great deal to Barbara and she has requested that the Team attends her funeral.

Barbara's funeral is on Saturday 24th January 2009 at 11am at the church in Orton. Team members have been invited to Barbara's house (Dufton House) in Orton for 10am. Please arrive at Base at 8.30am with the aim of leaving Kendal at 9am. There are many of Barbara's friends who do not receive the newsletter and who need to be informed of the news and invited to her funeral. Please help by informing them.

Editor's Comment

Our thoughts and sympathies to Barbara Minton's family and friends. Although I met Barbara only briefly the regard with which she was held by the Team was evident through those who knew her and the input she has had over many years.

Kathy

100 Club

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

1st:	16	M. Kerrigan	£15
2nd:	26	Mr. John Slevin	£10
3rd:	39	Mrs. J.M. Holland	£5

Peter Clarkson

Mintcake Nibbles

- Please date any items you put up on the noticeboard at base; they will be removed after 2 months to avoid the current paper jungle!
- **Swiftwater Rescue Training due to take place on Saturday 24th January will be rearranged to another date to allow team members to attend Barbara Minton's funeral. The theory session on the evening of Wednesday 21st January will go ahead as planned.**

Callouts



14th December 14.30 hrs

A group of four walking the Kentmere Horseshoe became disorientated and separated in the vicinity of Thornthwaite Beacon. The police paged the Team and we dispatched a Land Rover to the top of the Garburn Pass, from where a search was commenced to the north across Yoke. Another Land Rover was sent up to Kentmere Reservoir. Two of the group walked off to the north, meeting civilisation at Hartsop and reporting themselves safe. The other two were spotted descending towards Kentmere Reservoir where they were picked up by Team members and transported back to their car at Kentmere. Their friends from the north had a fairly lengthy taxi ride!

28 December 2008 12.10 hrs

The Team was paged by the Police and asked to attend a male walker with an ankle injury close to the summit of Arant Haw (north of Sedbergh). Team members were on their way up the fell when the news came in that there was an RAF SeaKing in the area. This was called and the RAF lifted the casualty off and took him to hospital in Carlisle.

28 December 2008 17.50 hrs

The Team was called to assist the Langdale & Ambleside Team who were busy with a difficult rescue on Bow Fell when they got a second job. We were asked to go to the assistance of a male with an ankle injury (clearly a good day for ankle injuries!) in Easedale. His ankle was splinted, he was stretchered from the fell and then transported to the Westmorland General Hospital in our Mobile 2 vehicle.

2 January 2009 13.45 hrs

The Team was paged by the Police and asked to assist the County Ambulance Service with a collapsed male on the path through Longtail Wood (between Beetham and Storth). When we arrived at the scene First Responders and the ambulance crew had been joined by the crew from the Great North Air Ambulance and CPR was being administered to the casualty. With the assistance of team members the casualty was stretchered down the path to the waiting ambulance for onward transfer to the helicopter. Shortly after we reached the ambulance, however, the doctor from the Air Ambulance confirmed that the man had passed away. A sad start to the New Year.

11 January 2009 13.05 hrs

We were asked to assist the Langdale & Ambleside Team in the recovery of a man's body following his fall in to the top end of Dungeon Ghyll in Great Langdale. Weather conditions were appalling, with very strong winds and heavy rain. The RAF Mountain Rescue Team, who were in the area, also assisted.

What's On?

Wednesday 14 January

Training: Winter Skills Theory: 19:00

Wednesday 21 January

Training: Water Rescue Theory: 19:00

Saturday 24 January

Water Rescue: **Postponed, date TBA**

Sunday 25 January

Training: Medical Teaching: 09:00

Social: Burn's Night Supper: 19:00

Wednesday 28 January

Equipment evening: 19:30

Wednesday 4 February

Ops and Membership Meeting: 19:30

Wednesday 11 February

Training: Medical Teaching: 19:00

Saturday 14 February

Collection: Asda

Wednesday 18 February

Equipment evening: 19:30

Saturday 21 February

Collection: Booths, Kirkby Lonsdale

Saturday 21 February

The Annual Team Dinner

Crooklands Hotel

Wednesday 25 February

Training: Provisionals Night: 19:00

(All welcome)

Saturday 28 February

Training: Search: **18:00-late**

Tuesday 3 March

Base and Vehicles Group: 19:30

Wednesday 4 March

Main Committee Meeting: 19:30

Friday-Sunday 6-8 March

Scotland Winter Training

Wednesday 11 March

Training: Rescue: 19:00

Saturday 14 March

Fundraising: Swim-marathon

Wednesday 25 March

Equipment evening: 19:30

Sunday 29 March

Training: Rescue: 09:00

Exercise Reports

Wednesday 10th December: Search Management (or, as Keith calls it, “The Black Art”)

I have never, until recently, given much thought about how the information is collected or how a game plan is formed. We go out and do what we are told (most of the time), and some times we are more effective than others. More of an Art than a Science. Or so I thought.

Working backwards, at the end of a call out all the information (from all M.R Teams) is collected in the form of a report, forwarded to a statistician who collates everything and this then builds a profile of the persons and situations. Gender, age, health and experience along with weather, place last seen and many more fragments, that individually may not mean much, but collectively help to formulate an individuals profile. From this profile a search plan can be formulated (we have to start somewhere). Based on this our lost soul or casualty statistically may be found within a certain radius, so we concentrate our initial search within that area.

Sounds easy, the scenario set by the Sorcerer (Harry) on a strict time limit, was to find an over due walker in the Coniston area. The Prince of Darkness, Keith (I’m trying to get a seasonal Panto theme going here) marched around throwing in extra bits of info and counting down the time. With our coloured crayons, we divided our map into the most likely areas to be searched.

We then had to explain our reasoning behind our plan, most groups had similar ideas but no body found the lost walker, who I believe in reality was not found during the night search but turned up safe and well as it was starting again next morning.

While this is going on other available resources may be on their way, a plan B needs to be thought out and ready, so that they can hit the ground running.

So the next search that I am on and I feel as though I am hanging around for no purpose, I now know that in the back ground all those little grey cells are working hard to guide us to an area of high probability. Thanks to Harry and Keith for a very interesting session.

Happy and safe New Year.

John (failed Panto script writer) Everett.

EXERCISE HOMEWORK! *You will remember that at the end of this exercise Harry (“Sir” to you) set some homework. So how did you do? Where was the elderly lady who had not got back for tea at her care home? What do you mean the hamster was sick on your answers?!*

Listen up class!

You’ve had a pretty full briefing and you were asked what you would do next as a search Manager. Here is a brief account of the actual outcome.

Upon arrival at Colton it was all a bit chaotic. The press and a BBC camera crew were hot on our heels and we had considerable problems physically manhandling some of them out of the village hall where we had set up a control room. Two police vehicles (four officers) were despatched to farms with road access within a widening circle from PLS with the task of asking farmers to k their buildings and yards. MR personnel were paired up to corridor search all roads, lanes and footpaths radiating out from PLS. They were instructed to restrict their searches to easily accessible areas only and not to climb over gates or stiles. Easily accessible open areas were reserved for SARDA dogs.

After 45 minutes the lady was found at GR: SD317852 approx 1km from PLS in a recessed gateway approx 2 metres from the road.

She ‘gone for a wee’ and had become ensnared in some loose barbed wire and brambles and was unable to move. She was cold but very alert and gave the search party a right mouthful when they tried to ‘patronise’ her! She was also very angry that despite shouting at the frequently passing cars on a road that usually carried next to no traffic, nobody had even slowed down. She was fully recovered and entirely unrepentant by the following morning.

Harry Ashcroft

Sunday 28th December: Orienteering at Whitbarrow and social at Gilpin Bridge

A hardy bunch of 11 team members decided to brave the heights of Whitbarrow on this cold and frosty morning.

The orienteering was in the form of a score event with the object being to visit as many of the 15 controls as possible within two hours and to score from 10 to 50 points for each control visited. 10 penalty points deducted for each minute late back.

Despite a crafty bit of guesswork about the control codes Dave Howarth and Steve Crow won the event by visiting 14 controls and finishing two minutes late to score a total of 400 points. Experienced trio John Hall, Pierre Betoine and Dave Hughes visited 12 controls, scoring 370 points, narrowly beating John Deakin & Katie Winder who visited 11 controls, scoring 360 points. Honeymooners Ian & Dagmar were obviously distracted but nevertheless managed a creditable 5 controls scoring 170 points. Howie craftily found his wife's car keys before leaving base, drove around a bit, kipped in a layby and turned up early at the pub.

But the real spirit of the event was shown by the super vets, ie John Everett and Keith Pittman who managed to arrange a callout just when everyone was due to finish so saving themselves the embarrassment of being disqualified for arriving 15 minutes after everyone else. I had the pleasure of watching their GPS signal from mobile 2 and they were well off course.

So the social didn't quite happen as planned....mein host at the Gilpin Bridge did his best and packaged up the butties and trolly dolly Katie strutted her stuff with the plates over at the Sedbergh callout.

An 'eventful' day.

Postscript: When I returned the plates to the Gilpin Bridge I was loaded down with another load of food...I'd only collected a third of what they had provided. It was shared out with friends and neighbours who between them donated the whole cost of the meal. Thanks folks.

Harry Ashcroft

Training

Water Rescue Supplementary Training

Dates: Wed 21st (19:30) and Sat 24th (09:00) January 2009

In order that we can maintain our capability for water rescue call-outs, the training panel proposes that each swift-water technician should attend 2 supplementary training sessions a year - each consisting of a brief meeting on a Wednesday night to discuss theory and plan for a short practical on the following Saturday (half day). The team will provide 4 training sessions a year (i.e. 4 Wednesdays and 4 Saturdays). This extra training will run on a trial basis and be open to discussion and reviewed throughout 2009.

Lakes Winter Skills

This will take place one weekend day when conditions are suitable. A pager message will be put out a few days beforehand.

Scottish Winter Training

Dates: 6th, 7th & 8th March 09 (Nights of the 5th, 6th & 7th March).

Accommodation: Aite Cruinnichidh Hostel, Near Roy Bridge, Fort William.

Please sign up on the list at Base. Cost will be £36.00 for 3 nights self-catering (or £ 12.00 per night). Need to pay me in full when you put your name on the list. Please make cheques payable to Kendal Mountain Search & Rescue, and give to me personally or leave in Training Officer pigeonhole.

Places will only be reserved for those who have paid IN FULL by the end of January.

New Members / Provisionals Night

Date: Wed 25th (19.00) February 2009.

An overview of team structure and operations. All welcome.

Paul Astle
Training Officer

Radio Update

Just a couple of things to make you guys aware of:

Radio Batteries

You will see that all the recharging pods in the Equipment Room now hold a charged battery in addition to the ones actually attached to radios. I managed to get hold of enough batteries from Teams who are upgrading batteries (Better but unaffordable by the likes of Kendal Team) to allow a system that provides for charged batteries to be available at all times.

After each Training Session or Call-Out simply replace the batteries in all vehicle bags that have been used and we should benefit from 100% battery life every time we pick up a handset.

Before anybody asks – no this system will not affect battery life, only if you put a turned on radio into the pod do you effectively destroy the battery life in a relatively short period.

Radio Interference at Base

Most of you will be aware that I have been pulling my hair, what little I have left, trying to solve radio interference effecting our radio communications. Without boring the pants off of you with technical details we have conclusively proved that the interference is local and emanating from the area south of Kendal. You will effectively not notice it on the Team Working Channel because of filters we have in place. BUT – Base maybe having real problems unbeknown to anyone in a vehicle or using a handset. This is because the radio link from Parklands to Base is prone to let in the disturbance and despite our best efforts we cannot prevent that from happening.

Therefore if you are in Base and are subject to unacceptable levels of interference take the following action:

Advise all Hill Going Members and Vehicles of the problem and that they should change channels to KENDAL REPEAT.

Then change the Parklands Base Radio to TWC/REBRO.

The details of how to change channel on the Parklands link radio are shown under the glass on the control desk and again in a protective envelope on the shelf above the Parklands Radio Control Head.

These instructions are prominently displayed in Base for all to see.

If you have any problems at all don't hesitate to contact me via my personnel mobile number listed at Base.

This should cure the problem, if it does re-occur let me know, indeed log all instances of interference for me please. The more information I can put before OFCOM the more likely I am of getting a permanent solution to the problem.

Kevin Knowles
Radio Officer

News from Equipment and Medical Working Group

1. After a long wait we have finally received new sacs to carry the 150m ropes in. These are proper rucksacks made by Aiguille, one in each Land Rover and the third in the Equipment room with the spare (new) 150m rope. New rope record sheets will be in place shortly.
2. We have also received (courtesy of MR) one brand new casbag. It has been long in coming and each team was issued with one free of charge. The sac is somewhat different from our existing ones. It is, at present, kept as the third, i.e. spare casbag in the Equipment room. It is our intention to show it to everybody present at the next training session and Bill Malone also agreed to incorporate it in his medical teaching on the next Sunday exercise at the end of January. The good news about this is that it enabled us to get rid of the oldest of the three original casbags due to its excessive wear & tear.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dagmar Johnson
Equipment Officer

Car Parking at Base

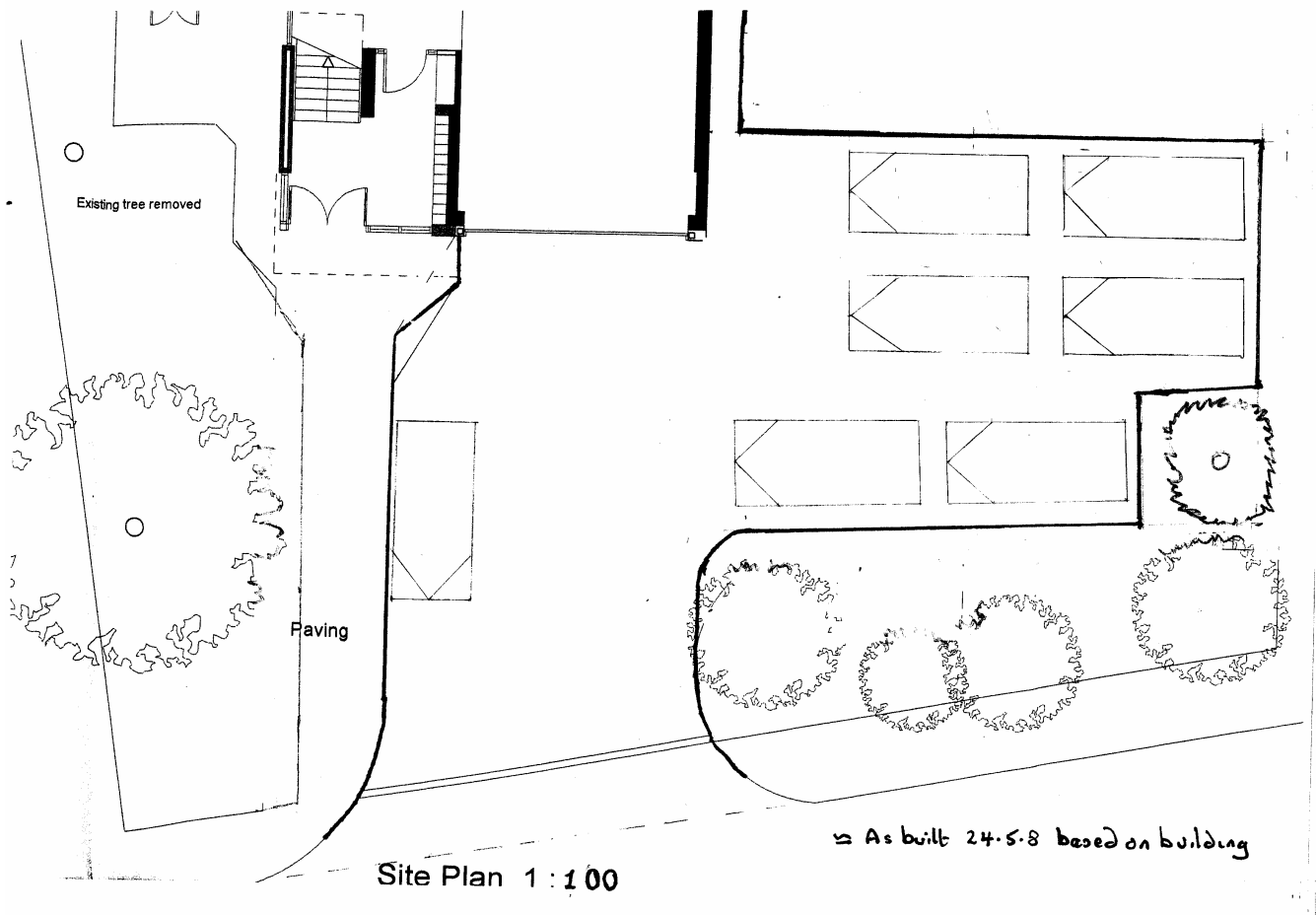
There is a need to maximise the number of vehicles that can be parked at base at all times as call-outs can occur at any hour. During the working day it is particularly difficult for team members to find alternative parking when responding to a call-out.

This issue was debated by the Management Committee on 4 November and on 7 January and it was resolved that all team members should be asked to use the parking arrangement shown on the plan below. If you block in another vehicle (please park close to maximise remaining space) you must leave your keys on the hooks by the Control Room and be prepared for someone to move your vehicle. Obviously, those who park in a position where they may be blocked in should ensure that they are aware of the current base door and alarm codes and be prepared to shuffle vehicles. The single parking spot by the car park entrance should generally be the last to be occupied. If you use this space please ensure that you are parked close to (but not on) the footway and that you are not obstructing access to the garage. Again, please leave your keys on the hooks by the Control Room.

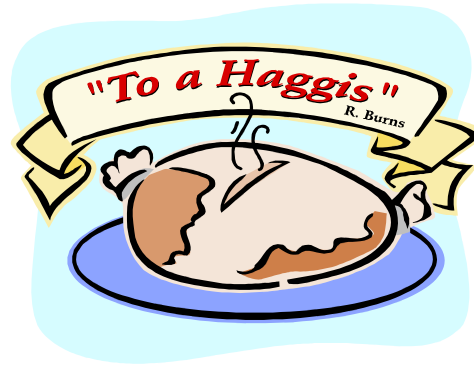
The Management Committee also resolved to monitor the operation of this arrangement and to review it at their May 2009 meeting.

Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Base and Vehicles Working Group



Burns Night



KMSRT BURNS NIGHT BASH

You and of course your other/better half, are invited to the Team Burns Night Bash at **Woodpeckers (Fitch Towers)** on **Sunday 25 January commencing at 7 pm**. Kilts (or suitable car blankets) are the preferred dress but are not essential.

Naturally we'll start with Haggis & Bashed Neeps then (hopefully!) Meat & Potato Pie and a Vegetarian Option, followed by Cranachan plus a Selection of Sweets (including Whisky Cheesecake!). There is also the strong possibility of a dram or two during the proceedings.

If you would like to come, and to assist the catering arrangements, **please let John F know by Monday 19 January**. Current contributors to the catering are Dagmar J, Jean H and of course Ann F. You may be reassured to know that John F will be limited to dispensing the whisky!

Directions to Woodpeckers are on the notice board at Base (for copying) or you can ask John F.

John Fitch - johnfitch@aol.com
Tel: 07831 272144

Sports Report

For the second year in succession Kendal MS&RT was well represented at the Langdale Christmas Pudding 10k Road Race. The trio of Dave Atherton, John Hall and Keith Pittman would have all finished in under 45 minutes if 'Hot Heels' Hall had gone just a tad quicker and 'Plodder Pittman' had run about 25% faster! But all three managed to finish in front (just) of L&A MRT entrant Paul Davies. However L&A Team Leader Nick Owen is claiming a substitute victory as Ben Abdelnoor, who came in 3rd on the Saturday race then 1st on the Sunday race, works for him.

Worrying reports are coming in about one of the Team's other sportsman, ice hockey aficionado Chris Marsden - he was recently reported as having spent an entire day at the "Clothes' Show" at the NEC in Birmingham. Will we be seeing Chris on the ice in a flimsy spandex number with sequins rather than the more traditional Kevlar padding? If so, it will be just like watching Torchlight again.

From Mintcake's Sports Correspondent

Annual Team Dinner

Brooklands Hotel - Saturday 21st February 2009

The sign-up list is now on the board at base, together with the menu. Please tick your choice for starter and main courses, and put a cheque for £17.50 per person (payable to Kendal Mountain Rescue Team) into the envelope. I will confirm numbers with the hotel on 12th February so **please sign up before then**. There will be the traditional high quality entertainment, including the POTY award. All team members and supporters are welcome, along with their partners. Please bring along a raffle prize on the night, if you can!

Sarah Nield, Social Secretary

...Incorporating the 2008 Personality Of The Year (POTY) awards

It is getting near that time of the year when nominations for the POTY are needed. For new members, a bit of background: the POTY award is an 'annualish' award to acknowledge both 'good works' and 'sillyness'. It can be awarded to anyone vaguely associated with the Team (members, supporters, their families, pet dog, etc). There is complete anonymity for those who make the nomination – only I know! The best nominations are read out at the Team Dinner (Saturday 21st February) and the overall winner awarded a prestigious award.

I have a few nominations (mainly silly!), but welcome more (both silly and good works); e-mail me [keith.pittman@hse.gsi.gov.uk] or phone [01539 721901]. Factual accuracy is useful but not essential.

Keith Pittman

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