

*** MENDIP CAVING GROUP BULLETIN ***

NUMBER 1

OCT 1988

NOT THE MCG NEWS!

Since becoming editor, it has been my intention to bring out a Newsletter regularly every month. However, for whatever reasons, it hasn't always been possible to achieve this. Following a little local difficulty on Mendip, the need for a regular monthly publication has become apparent. The group cannot justify the expense of a 10 page Newsletter every four weeks, and even if it could I do not always have enough material. Nor would it be fair to ask my printer, Mike Lovell, to give up even more of his valuable time.

As the Newsletter is edited on a computer, I have decided to produce a bi-monthly Bulletin which I can print at home and mail direct to members. Longer/illustrated articles will be published in the Newsletter which will also become bi-monthly and printed by Mike on his photo-copier as I do not have a graphics facility on the computer.

Hopefully, this should result in members receiving up-to-date news regularly every month. The deadline for news and articles will be the last weekend of the month preceding publication. In other words, if you get the news to me (by phone if necessary) by October 29th it will appear in November's Newsletter, if you get the news to me by November 26th, it will appear in December's Bulletin. *Yvonne Ward*

HALF-YEARLY MEETING AND BARN DANCE

BOB SPELEOBAT SAYS...

GO BATTY

Come out of hibernation and fly to

PRIDY HALL

To hang out at the

MENDIP CAVING GROUP BARN DANCE

on October 8th - 8 'til midnight
Bar (we hope!) to 11.30

You can home in on

BAR, BUFFET, CALLER, BAND

ALL FOR £3.50

Tickets available from Gordon Lister or John Beauchamp.

A coach will leave the cottage after the half-yearly general meeting and bring you back again afterwards all for a reasonable price.

Gordon would be very grateful for volunteers to help with the food. If you could give your offers of help and ideas to him (01-579-3466) then he can make sure we dont end up with a mountain of lettuce and millions of sausage rolls!

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

The half-yearly general meeting of the MCG will be held on Saturday 8th October starting at 3pm at Nordrach Cottage. The following proposal has been received from Alan Dougherty:

"MCG should seriously consider purchasing a battery-powered hammer-action rock drill for 1) drilling shot holes and 2) the rapid climbing of avens. A number of major clubs have purchased these items and use them successfully particularly when supplemented by home-made battery packs to facilitate extended drilling time. NB Any cost consideration should take into account the added effectiveness of shot-hole blasting and the consequent savings in purchase of explosives."

Proposals as published in MCG News 202 from Phil Ingold, Jon Roberts and the Committee concerning cottage fees will be discussed.

The half-yearly is an informal meeting at which members are free to raise any other subjects.

GET HIGH WITH MCG

A contingent from the MCG assaulted Mont Blanc over the August bank holiday weekend, with some success. Despite poor weather early in the day, Ian McKechnie and Geoff Barton were on the summit for lunch. (Ed. note: See also MCG News 198 for details of their previous assault).

SIMA GESM 88

Fifteen British cavers recently reached -800m in Spain's Sima GESM. Lack of manpower stopped them reaching the bottom of this cave which is 1km deep and requires nearly 1.5km of SRT rope! The same group also visited Sima la Cueto/Coventosa in Northern Spain on their return journey, exploring the 302m entrance shaft and also the river resurgence. (Details to follow in MCG News 203)

The MCG generously provided a two-ring gas cooker for the expedition, ten of whose members were drawn from our group.

CONGRATULATIONS...

... to Jocelyn Clark who has been accepted as a probationary member.

PROBATIONARY MEMBER

The following applications for probationary membership have been received and will be considered at the committee meeting on 8th October:

Glen Cooper (proposed by Gill Warren, John Beauchamp)
174a Banksome Hill Road, College Town,
Camberley, Surrey. tel: 0276-320027

David Warren (proposed by Brian Murlis, Steve Redwood)
11 Harvey Close, Worle,
Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, BS22 0PW.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER...

... the 5th of November MCG, Shepton, the lot! The Shepton Mallet Caving Club are having a Bonfire Party to which the MCG have been invited. Details from John Beauchamp.

SRT RESCUE COURSE

After their visit to a certain Northern caver who taught them all there is to know about SRT rescue, Neil Hutchinson and Mike Hazelden have offered to pass on all they learned to the rest of the MCG. Provisionally, this will take place in a tree and down a cave on Mendip, weekend of 5th/6th November. Details from Martin Rowe.

YV' SDROPPINGS

Pat Newman (discussing the difference between Yorkshire and Southern pronunciation): "I'd rather be a booger than a buggaar".

Dave El**t (on meeting a Spaniard with a Ghetto Blaster): "What's the Spanish for shut the f**k up?"

Chris (when asked to rub suncream into Lesley Robbins): "I'm bbb... bbb... bbb... busy!"