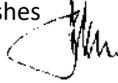


Hi everyone. Well the meets programme is back in full swing: four meets done (and written up!!); we've got the Bank Holiday meet this weekend, and the following four meets are detailed here, taking us through to the AGM and Dinner in early November. The weather has been a bit mixed, but club members have been out doing things anyway. And a glance at the club WhatsApp feed shows that there's been plenty of other outdoor activity taking place, both here and abroad, from the Jurassic Coast to the Lagginhorn. I'm very much looking forward to catching up with people this weekend. Best wishes



In this issue...!

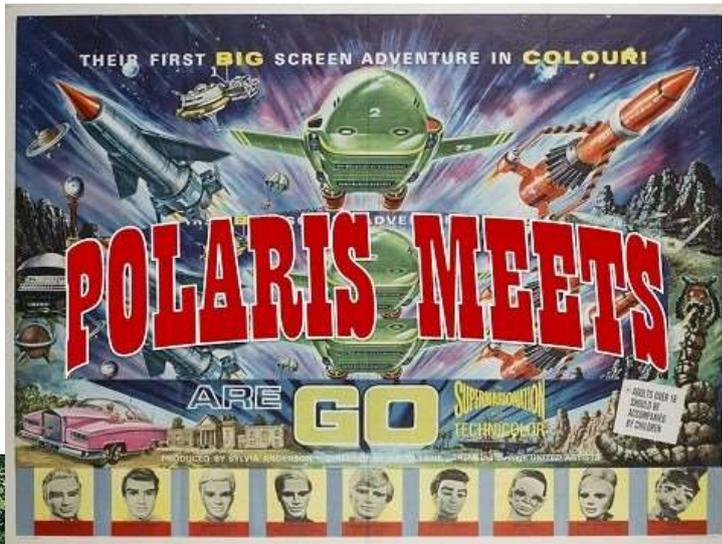
"Kipling Grooves next, a Hard Rock 3 star HV5 5a tick and allegedly so called because it's Ruddy 'ard."

O4: tough HV5s in Langdale



"We sat about laughing and chatting until we started to fall over and break things"

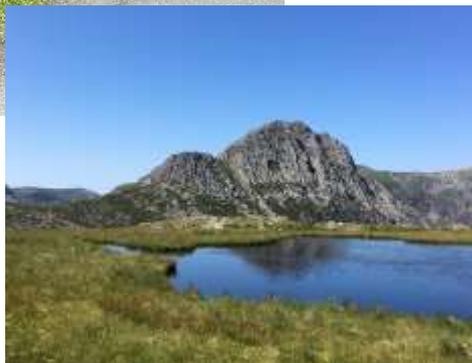
O1 - getting lost in the White Peak



O2 - Bob goes solo in Ogwen



O3 - classic rock in Eskdale



And, as if that wasn't enough, (below, L - R) the Parkers have a sweltering day on the SW coast path; Bob does the Fletschhorn - Lagginhorn Traverse; Heather walks Offa's Dyke



A note from our President

Hi all. August has been a bit of a washout so far. We've had two rain-affected meets, but have managed to find plenty to do regardless. It's been great spending time with fellow PMC members and working out Plan B, C, D etc to maximise the opportunities available in each meet location. This is all a part of building mountaineering experience, as frustrating as it seems to your goals. I have attended 3 meets since the programme re-started and all of them have been brilliant. Thank you to the meet leaders who have worked to make sure they were a success and thank you to all attending members.

We still have plenty of meets in the planner and I look forward to meeting more of you on a meet in the very near future. In the meantime, keep the posts going on WhatsApp and our other social media channels. Remember to tag @polarismountaineering and #polarismc

Final point is that it would be great to have some new members join our ranks, so if you know anybody who could be interested, please get them involved. Kind regards, Col.

Forthcoming Meets

Lancashire, Carnforth 11/12th September

North Lancs is a great location for all the usual outdoor activities; climbing, road cycling, running, MTB, hillwalking. It would be good to have a day down in the S Lancs gritstone quarries (Anglezark or Wilton). As this is my home location then my children will be in attendance on both days, so feel free to bring families. I have a few options for accommodation:



1. <http://gibfarm.weebly.com/>

Gibraltar Farm is a lovely campsite in Silverdale that can take vans & tents. I tried calling them on a couple of occasions to confirm their rules, just waiting on a call back from them (they're in a busy period and fully booked till after bank holiday). Their website states individual bookings only at the moment. I will email/whatsapp and update this ASAP.

2. <https://m.facebook.com/TheNibatMillhead/>

The Nib pub at the end of our street now has camper van spots available. You just need to call them to reserve. No electric available and it is in the pub beer garden/car park. They do decent food here now.

3. Depending on numbers attending the meet I am happy for a number to stay at our house again, or have camper vans on the drive/tents on the lawn. I'm also happy for those confirming attendance first to reserve spaces in my house.

If those who are planning on attending can let me know ASAP then I will finalise the accommodation options. Anyone who wants to join at short notice will probably have to use either option 1 or 2.

Look forward to seeing you all in our AONB. Col

For more information please contact us using the links at the foot of page 1

Llangollen

<http://www.wernisaf.co.uk>

25/26th September

I have spoken with the Wern Isaf campsite in Llangollen (Postcode: LL20 8DU, Tel: 01978 860632) and they are happy to accommodate us. They take tents and vans at £11 per head, electric is extra. The campsite is ideally situated just



below Dinas Bran (the castle on the hill overlooking the town).

Llangollen boasts lots of picturesque walking including sections of Offas Dyke, single pitch, multi-pitch or sport climbing, there is also the opportunity to mountain bike at Llandegla a few miles away or, paddle board/canoe on the canal. Food, beer and ice cream all within walking distance of campsite.

I look forward to seeing you all there. Grateful if people can let me know the week before so I can let campsite know how many plan on coming. Ryan

For more information please contact us using the links at the foot of page 1

Swanage

www.tomsfieldcamping.co.uk - Home

9/10th October

Hurrah! A Swanage meet again! It's been such a long time. We'll be back at Tom's Field, Langton Matravers, where I've tentatively booked us in for 3 vans (with hook-ups) and 2 tents. *Please let me know in advance if you're planning to come.*



Purbeck really is a beautiful part of the world and there's loads to do, whether you're into climbing, walking, mountain biking, swimming, kayaking, or just visiting tea shops and relaxing. The nearest climbing (and the South West Coast Path) is within easy walking distance of the site and there's a good pub just round the corner in the village. So come on down and spend a weekend with us in sunny Dorset!

Looking forward to seeing you there. JP

For more information please contact us using the links at the foot of page 1

Wye Valley

[Beeches Farm Campsite](#)

23/24th October

Autumn leaves, warm rock, cool river to soothe sore feet in ... lovely walking, cycling and climbing. Join me for a weekend in the Wye. Very likely camping at our normal Beeches Farm campsite down Madgetts Lane, but ring me or email to confirm your attendance and we'll go from there with weather and numbers. It's possible, if mainly campervans and depending on numbers, I can accommodate all on my drive and have downstairs loo and shower for folk to use.



For more information please contact us using the links at the foot of page 1

Tales of past activities

Peak Wetton, 3/4th July

Polaris – post pandemic and back in the Peaks!

Lockdown over, most restrictions lifted, glorious hot showers and a sunny forecast – what's not to like? Guess which two weren't true... To be fair, the campsite was perfect for social distancing as we were about 0.5k from the toilets and there was only one ladies' loo!



Moody skies on the camp site

Ok the facilities weren't great but I really liked the site: two humungous fields in the perfect location down by Wetton Mill and room for everyone on our first proper post-lockdown meet. Lindsay and Alistair were straight in the river (fully dressed, of course!) despite the somewhat inclement weather. It was a shame that Col and Karin's tent leaked. We all sat in (the other) Colin Friday evening looking out at the drizzle: TT, Mel, Janet, Kingshotts and Ryan, with his long legs sticking out of the door, kept dry under a table.



Navigation was an ongoing challenge...

A few folk had pulled out in view of the stormy forecast and a few more rang to cancel first thing Saturday. But wait, who's this? Jim turns up for the day with a big grin on his face behind the windscreen wipers. So we had another coffee – then another.

And it never rains ALL weekend. So we were just getting organised for a walk around 11:30 when up turns Ian Johnson and his little (waterproof) tent – *Chapeaux!*

"I reckon it's out of the site, right and immediate left – at least I hope so, as we wouldn't want to have to turn back and look like a bunch of numpties" said someone who shall remain nameless. Maps out after 200 yards followed by the walk of shame...

Turned out to be a delightful walk and new territory for most of us as we went gently up the hill and over towards Grindon. We had to put cags on a few times and were jockeying for last place along the freshly watered overgrown footpaths – good old TT led the way and won the wettest trousers and shoes prize.



The Sunday team on Ecton 'ill

Rope swings in the woods, lunch in the dry and a huge seesaw in the village before we headed south, dropping down into the valley to follow the Manifold back to the site, shedding layers as we went. We crossed Alan's Bridge and walked past the scruffy campsite under Beeston Tor (which looked annoyingly dry!) and then looked up at Thor's Cave. There was someone abseiling and a huge racket going on up in the cave so Janet, Karin and I went up to have a look. There must have been 50 folk in there of all ages, laughing and shouting and echoing – a big group that were on the same site as us, along with a rather grumpy looking guy who'd just led the 8a roof pitch – it was him being lowered that we had seen. Might as well nip to the pub too, and we sat in the garden in T shirts – all of the tables had a reserved sign on them and the big telly was ready for the Euros semi-final.

Which we were lucky enough to miss. Didn't even know the score until mid-morning the following day. Instead we sat outside and lit a couple of semi-non-combustible barbies under Ryan's awning as the sky grew blacker and the rumbling grew louder. Bash! Crash Flash! Awesome lightning displays, really close, loud thunder and a torrential downpour saw most of us dive into vehicles, watching Ian desperately fanning his barby under the sagging awning.



The White Park breed of cattle

It did eventually stop, and it's amazing how many chairs you can get under one awning, and how much smoke comes from a dozen burgers and around two dozen sausages on Col's newly purchased barby. We sat about laughing and chatting until we started to fall over and break things.

Jim had left after Saturday's walk, and Ryan's back had decided it was going home on Sunday morning. The weather was surprisingly dry but with more rain forecast early afternoon, so Col and Karin's tent was packed and ready to roll by 9am. They shot over to the Roaches where Col led the Valve at E4 5c which had been on his list for a while - good effort mate!

The Parkers, Thorleys and Ian also left fairly early for a short-ish walk up the opposite side of the valley, up onto Ecton Hill which was delightful. We ended up in t shirts and saw a

herd of magnificent white beasts with black feet, noses and ears, later identified as the little known White Park breed. Nice.

And just as we left the site to drive through the fab little tunnel and home, it started to rain. Perfect timing. Despite the weather we really enjoyed a delightful, gentle weekend. Great to catch up with everyone and many thanks to all for turning out. Polaris – what a great club!

AI

Offa's Dyke

Hardly pausing for breath after LEJOG, Heather was off on another adventure

Offa's Dyke National Trail celebrates 50 years of recognition this year. Hand-knitted 50th anniversary sleeves attached to finger posts, somebody was busy during lock down(!) stickers and a beautiful hand-made statue at the northern end.

Offa's Dyke starts in a small village just south east of Chepstow: Sedbury, right next to the Bristol Channel; and finishes in Prestatyn, a seaside town next to the Irish sea. The dyke is the longest earthworks in Britain, although there is little evidence of its construction, purpose, extent or even age.

Stats: 177 miles elevation 7,830 meters of ascent. 8 days of walking and travel by train.

Accommodation - wild and official camping & a couple of B&Bs

Weather: temperature from +32c [with Amber heat wave warning!] to 15c; breeze from 5-40mph [with High winds and thunderstorm warning] - what a contrast!

A few Highlights:

Day 1 A welcome shady walk through the Forest of Dean with views down to Wintours leap, Tintern Abbey and the Wye valley below. Ascent of the Kymin and then the Round House with rewarding views down to Monmouth. Arriving at B&B after a very hot day first day!

Day 2 Open Hot country walking and relief along shady back lanes. Preserved remnants of 12th Century White Castle - most of the outer walls area still holding together. A welcome double pint after a very hot day, at the 13th Century Hunters Moon Inn at Langattock.



Day 3 Much more evidence of the Dyke as it stretches out in the distance along field margins. Large drifts of Wildflowers marking the Dyke in particular at this time of year: *Campanula rotundifolia* and *Achillea millefolium* - spectacular set amongst numerous grasses.

Day 4 Reaching Montgomery after several very steep ascents and descents on the Dyke which were 'well hard', even harder was the achievement of the construction of the Dyke itself, with over 4,185 ft ascent in 22 miles on this section alone.

Day 5 Flat level Severn Estuary walk with views up to Table mountain and a rewarding tuck box at Upper House, not to say avoiding the many herds of cattle. Walking over the Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, very busy with narrow boats and canoes, just like the Suez canal! And lots and lots of people. Approach to the Limestone edges around Llangollen fantastic.

Day 6 A native Partridge and 2 young chicks which are very rare, although this is the area where they are most dominant. Limestone escarpment of Eglwyseg Rocks walking on a 2ft pathway - just superb scenery for miles and miles. Spotting a Lizard on the duck boards crossing the moorland of Cynr-y-Brian. Magnificent mature Giant Wellingtonias and Monkey Puzzle trees on the Leighton Park Estate marking the top of the Dyke; excellent.

Day 7 Views as far as you could see some 30 or so miles along the Clwydian Range to the sea with superb walking along the ridge. Finally finding a sheltered wild pitch on the last day after a few heavy downpours and the wind picking up.

Day 8 The last few miles in glorious sunshine before heading down into Prestatyn. Finishing before a very heavy downpour and high wind forecast. Then eating ice cream and a welcome cup of tea on the prom before catching the train home.

A great walk with lots of interest along the way and areas I haven't been to before, lots of places to return to for day and multi-day walks and more exploring.

Heather



Eskdale 31st July / 1st Aug

Friday. Me, TT and Col decided to head up to Keswick to see if it was dry. Leaving Col & Karin's house it didn't look too good, having rained all night. We mooched around Keswick in the rain, visiting the awesome Mr F's fine food emporium cafe (tongue in cheek) & posed for the webcam in the square.

A leisurely drive took us around and back to the campsite in Eskdale, we checked in with the detailed briefing at the scenic Dalegarth ground. Since it had been off/on drizzling we decided to drive the 1.5 mile distance to Hare Crag -the 'Yosemite of the Lakes'. Upon arrival the local shepherdess quizzed us on our intentions; was it the musky smell of sheep or lack of teeth that made it so hard to understand anything.. we'd like to climb on her crag, aye!! We want to park in her parking spot, aye!! Grinning, yes thank you.

Hare Crag was a collection of isolated buttresses on good granite, we thrashed uphill through soaked bracken and occasional bog, not really inspiring us. Sussing out in the guide a possible link up of 3 different routes on progressively ascending buttresses, it might give us all the chance of a lead.



Fireball XL5 -VS 4b to start (what a cool name) Col led through on good rock and on a clean line [*Col leads - left*]. Next, my lead certainly had gear but was damp and slightly runout - Jugged Hare VS. TT took over from the ramp on the really good Severe - Slab Route. Finally we watched Col lead Spiked Hare E2 on the 3rd tier [*TT seconds - right*], great effort considering the drizzle.

Time to get back, with time ticking and rain starting proper now, we checked in at the campsite snap wagon for pizza. Phil and Alan joined us, then we met Bob and



Jonathan in the pub

Saturday. Phil, Bob and Jonathan headed up the Eskdale valley via the foxes tarn path to Broad Stand, to go over Scafell and back on a loop.

Me, TT, Col and Alan decided on Wallowbarrow Crag a south facing Rhyolite crag , a 45 min drive south near to Seathwaite. The farm parking saved us a longer walk in, and in hindsight the other parking wouldn't have been possible with the closed road. A bit of a dull day gave us off/on drizzle again, but we persevered on some good routes; West Wall climb and The Plumb two worthwhile VS routes, next me and TT got rather wet on Digitation, alongside Col and Al on Agitation, another two really good VS routes. Thinking the day had closed out, we took a cricket break, 30mins later it's drying!! Gotta love the Lakes! Deciding to finish on 'Thomas' a brilliant top 50 - S 4a was marvellous and 3 stars.

Sunday. Bob and Jonathan headed up Birker fell which is a great viewpoint for the Scafells to the back of Dow Crag. They also took in lots of small outcrops for bouldering and scrambling. Practice for Bob's up and coming

Alps trip.

Phil headed out for a blast on his bike near Wast water, meanwhile Me, TT, Al, and Col headed for Shepherds crag, yes a bit of drive but Col had a route niggling him and I'd not climbed there, besides the crags in the Eskdale area were still very wet n damp + the weather looked better for that area. Quite a polished Rhyolite crag and certainly busier than where we had headed from, that said it was a nice atmosphere with sun finally breaking through.



Clockwise from top left Al on Agitation; TT on West Wall; Col on Thomas; Bob pottering; Phil and Bob in the cloud on Scafell.



Me and Al climbed -Little Chamonix, Wow what a great route one of the best HVDs, well deserving of the classic rock tick. On top a good view of Col and TT on Donkey Ears S 4a another classic.

Me and Col teamed up with Al and TT forming a team. Col tried Wild Sheep E2 but not feeling on it, escaping up Shepherds Chimney VS.

With the sun now bearing down, I tired MGC E2 opting to back off and leave it to the old boy locals, before anymore heckling. Instead dispatching Kransic Crack direct HVS a brilliant route and for me the route of the weekend. Finishing on Consolation E1 in a sweaty mess. For TT and Al they had a bit of exposure on the route- Chamonix HS then waited for the Brown Wall route VS to follow up the oldest duo on the crag in their 80s. Till next time, thanks all!!

Jim

Langdale, 14/15th August

Friday, lunchtime, arrived at Baysbrown Farm campsite Great Langdale to strong winds, flat tents and broken poles! Fortunately, as the afternoon progressed the wind abated, Phil & Al walked Slaters Bridge to the magnificent Cathedral Quarry, through Little Langdale, back to the campsite via a local hostelry, lovely.

Saturday – Col arrives on a mission, early start 7:10, Al debates shorts or long trousers.....an hour or more's sweaty flog up and then down and back up into the shady north west side. Windy-cold Baltic, (even in long trousers) did ash tree slabs classic rock 3 star v diff up to the mid-way ledges, then C Route, another classic rock tick at S 4b. 40m ab down to ledges. Kipling Grooves next - Hard Rock 3 star HVS 5a tick and

allegedly so called as it's Ruddy 'ard. Photogenic but easy traverse then very hard steep pumpy second pitch – “take in Col!!”

Back down to ledges for "bracket and slab climb" last Classic Rock route of the day at about 5 avoiding the unpleasant chimney. Finally abbed back down to rucksacks for lunch(!) at 17:00. Walk back less sweaty but no less painful. Spotted with rain. Beer in the Stickle barn: best pint ever - fabulous tiring day.



Right: TT and Jim on the wet walk to Cathedral quarry; below L – R, Al leads 4c traverse of Kipling Grooves; Ryan leads Walthwaite Gully; Ryan on pitch 2 of Pluto.



Phil, Bob & Toby (woof), Langdale Pikes circuit taking in Pavey Ark (via Jack's Rake for Bob), Harrison Stickle, Pike of Stickle and back via Stake Pass and Mickleden – tremendous.

The trio, Jim, TT, and Ryan arrive Saturday and it's from the campsite to Raven Crag (Walthwaite), sunny spells and wind, 15mins approach quality. Route 1 S 4a TT led off, good climbing, 2 pieces of gear on a 25m run-out. Enterprise HS 4a Nice. Better gear than its neighbour.

Route 2 VS 4c really good on the biggest buttress, Ryan joins the party, perfectly timed for HVS 5a Tritus/Protus Combination, the best route all day, jug pulling on an excellent direct line. Walthwaite Chimney VS 4c chimney better than it looks, enjoyable. Swing out Right E1 5b bold start, with a one-move crux, good fun!

Karin, Lindsay & Alistair arrived in the morning for a walk up the valley and a wild swim in the river [see WhatsApp page pic. Ed], then dinner and a beer under a brolly for seven, totally fab day.

Sunday - wet, rain showers throughout the day, Jim, TT and Ryan walk from campsite to Cathedral Quarry- to Hodge Quarry- to Blea Tarn- to Old Dungeon Ghyll- back to campsite via a couple of pints in Stickle barn PH.

Phil & Al head South for better weather with cycling plans in the Peak for Monday, and Bob heads home.

Monday - dry start to rain /drizzle mid-morning. Jim, TT and Ryan to Raven Crag (Langdale). Please, either piss it down or stop! Oh well let's get on with it..

The Original route S 4a 3 stars, set off in drizzle, a pitch each with TT closing out a lovely route on a logical line. Pluto HVS 5a - to climb or not to climb - let's get on with it! Impatience born through weather frustration!! An absolute quality route, traversing the whole main buttress, interesting, great rock and lovely moves.

A great weekend, thanks all for coming.

Phil



And finally... a few recent pics from WhatsApp



Jonathan and Bob on Whernside; John mountain biking in the Purbecks; Phill Nelson on Cold Fell; Tom Parker on Ill Bel on the Kentmere horseshoe; Sip and Col after a day's climbing in Lancashire; Dan on a short break in the Dark Peak; Christine on and after-work ride; Col's view from Gimmer crag; Karin and the boys wild swimming; Sip and Alan Hinkes on Yorkshire Three Peaks; Ben's wife Karla on Pen y Fan; Bob sweltering in the cuillins; Phil's view from top of Jack's Rake; Georgi on steep Bulgarian granite; Col 'has a look' at The Dangler; American, Pembroke - Lucy; Phil on Harter Fell summit.