

The Dodger's Dispatch

New Year Edition

February 2005



NEWS

Since the last Newsletter, we have had the Annual Dinner and the AGM. The Dinner saw awards to the following:

- Bill, Caver of the Year for work in Matienzo and for the Club in jobs such as Lamp Master.
- Ashley and Chris jointly, Digger of the Year for their work in Matienzo at the Apprentice's dig. Chris is also recognised for the years of hard work at Alderley Edge.
- Steve, Miner of the Year for his continued determination at Alderley Edge.

A slide show was given at the Dinner by Nigel; Simon presented the awards during the show. Guests at the Dinner were Chris of the National Trust and his wife, Marie. Tony did a champion job supplying bottles of wine (courtesy of Roy Hayes' bequest) which he managed to con the establishment into opening.

At the AGM, Pete passed the job of Secretary on to Andy who will do it for six months. By the end of that time, we need to find someone else to take over. Andy replaced Tony on the committee so Simon went back to doubling up as Tackle Master for the next year.

Social events

We have another Magpie weekend arranged for 7th/8th May. The last one was both well-attended and well-worth it but lets see some more members and friends. There will be caving, mining and walking trips as well as a Lennie Stew on the Saturday night. You can camp or stay in the hostel.

Nigel and Liz will be having a Barbecue at their house on 28th May. If you've not been to one of our BBQs before, give us a call for directions. It will start around 7.00 and end at ... The nearest pub is a mile away across fields so you had better bring your own booze if you want a lot. Plenty of sleeping space.

ANNUAL DINNER - November 2005

We haven't got a firm date yet but we are aiming to have the dinner at the Acton Court again and about the same time in November. If you are thinking of planning anything around that time but want to attend the dinner, check with Simon first.

CAVE RESCUE

Changes are afoot in the DCRO and anyone expecting to be called out to a rescue in Derbyshire should read on. If you only see yourself as an Alderley rescuer, then there is nothing special for you to do now but you might like to read the next bit anyway. The DCC is no longer seen as the Western team of the DCRO as we do not get enough experience as a team with the DCRO. Having our own practices at Alderley would not change this, what we need to do as individuals or together is to practice with the DCRO in Derbyshire. If you want to be a DCRO team member, then this is what you should do: firstly, apply to join the DCRO (I have attached forms for those people who I think may be interested), then check through the list of events below and try to get to them. I would suggest that at least one underground practice a year is required plus joining in some of the training at Buxton. If you want to know more about training, contact *** or if you want to know about the changes in the DCRO, contact ***.

MINE INSPECTION

On 6th February, I made a start on the annual inspection of the mines, mainly of the things we have installed such as ladders and chains. This will lead to a list of jobs and a few have come to light already or were never done last year. For example, the uprights on the bridge at the end of the adit in Wood Mine need replacement (I have the timber available), the second short ladder in Blue Shaft needs refixing at the top, and two boards on the Engine Vein bridge need replacement. If anyone wants to give a hand with the inspection, let me know. We still have to do Wood Mine, West Mine, Brinlow and the Cobalt Mine.

CAVING

There is a 'hard core' of regular cavers who go caving including Pete, Tony, Allen, Neil and occasionally Colin ("caving is sh***") and Nigel. For more information, keep an eye on the DCC chatroom which can be reached from the Club pages on the website or from <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyshirecavingclub/>.

SUBS DUE NOW!

Annual subs are due from 1st January. The rules say they should be paid by the end of March but because of the insurance situation, I would greatly appreciate payment earlier or, at least, a FIRM commitment if you intend to be a caving member as I will shortly send a hefty cheque to the BCA for caving insurance. The insurance rates have stayed the same this year, £6 for non-cavers and £18 for cavers so we can leave the subs unchanged. However, if you pay insurance through another club, you do not need to pay again as long as you tell me your BCA number with the other club (this will be on the green plastic card you get from the other club). The subscription rates for 2005 are:

FULL member with CAVING insurance: £26
FULL member with non-caving insurance: £14
ASSOCIATE or FAMILY member with CAVING insurance: £22
ASSOCIATE or FAMILY member with non-caving insurance: £10

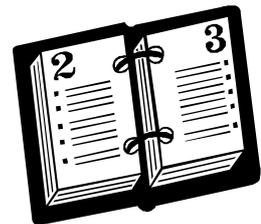
Please send a cheque to the Treasurer payable to the DCC as soon as possible. Remember, £26 is 50p a week or ¼ pint bitter. If you have already paid, your card should be attached.

ARCHAEOLOGY, ALDERLEY EDGE AND THE NATIONAL TRUST

Just as with the DCRO, changes are happening here. The club is held in high regard by the National Trust – both the local management and the regional specialists such as archaeologists and health and safety – so there is no threat to our access but the whole world of archaeology is changing and we are very much part of it, whatever we think. I have attached a separate item about this but I would urge anyone who wants to dig at Alderley, surface or underground, to come to the meeting at the Edge on 1st March (from 7.30 pm) where Jamie Lund, archaeologist for the North West region of the NT will talk about how the Trust expects things to go forward. He is on the Alderley Edge Landscape Project (AELP) working party and works closely with mining groups in the Lake District and he has given talks to them as well so PLEASE SUPPORT THIS MEETING AND SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT TO FUTURE WORK AT THE EDGE.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 2005	26 – Cavers from Mendip and Hertfordshire at Alderley, help welcome (Nigel)
March 2005	*** 1 – Jamie Lund of NT at Alderley to talk about Archaeology *** 5/6 – DCA training £10 per day, contact Nigel 6 – DCRO training day, venue to be announced 7 – QGM, Stockport
April 2005	5 – DCRO training at the Buxton Fire Station (Tues) 16/17 – Open Weekend at Alderley Edge - ALL WELCOME 20 – Committee Meeting, Stockport
May 2005	7/8 – Magpie Weekend in Derbyshire 23 – QGM, Stockport 24 – DCRO training at the Buxton Fire Station (Tues) 28 – Barbecue at Nigel and Liz
June 2005	17/19 – Forest of Dean Caving Symposium – ask me for details (Nigel)
July 2005	8/10 – NAMHO 2005 conference at Dorking in Surrey 20 – Committee Meeting, Stockport
August 2005	Matienzo (but there is a question over the permit so don't book yet) 16 – Alderley Edge Meeting 22 – QGM, Stockport
September 2005	3/4 – Open Weekend 23/25 – "Hidden Earth" at Churchill, Mendip (check: http://www.bcra.org.uk/hidden-earth/)
October 2005	24 - Committee Meeting
November 2005	Annual Dinner, Acton Court Hotel, Stockport (provisional) 29 - Alderley Meeting
December 2005	5 - Annual General Meeting



Any comments, items for the next edition, volunteers to be editor, etc. to ***