

April 1985

Some of C.C.P.C are to have
another chance to bottom
the Berger. With only 20
participants we envisage
the situation something
like this

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← LITTLE MONKEY



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C.C.P.C.

Newsletter

No. 9.

~~NO. 8~~ APRIL 1985

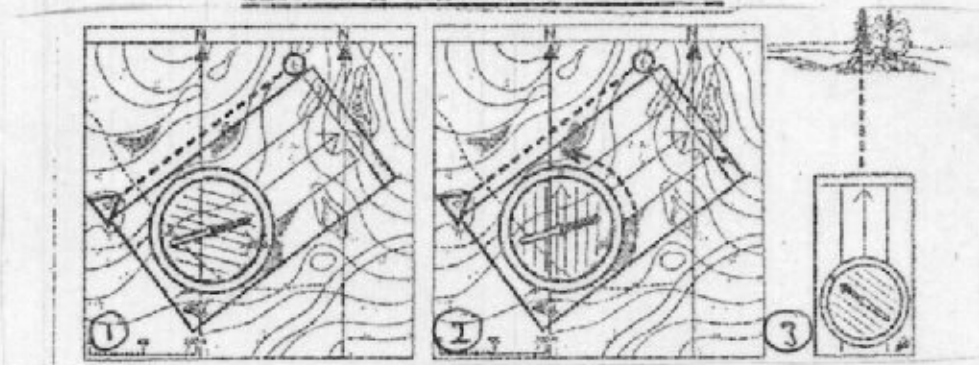
May I apologise in advance for the injustice done to articles
submitted, by the inferior quality of the typing. I am
entirely to blame!

LIN

SURFACE NAVIGATION

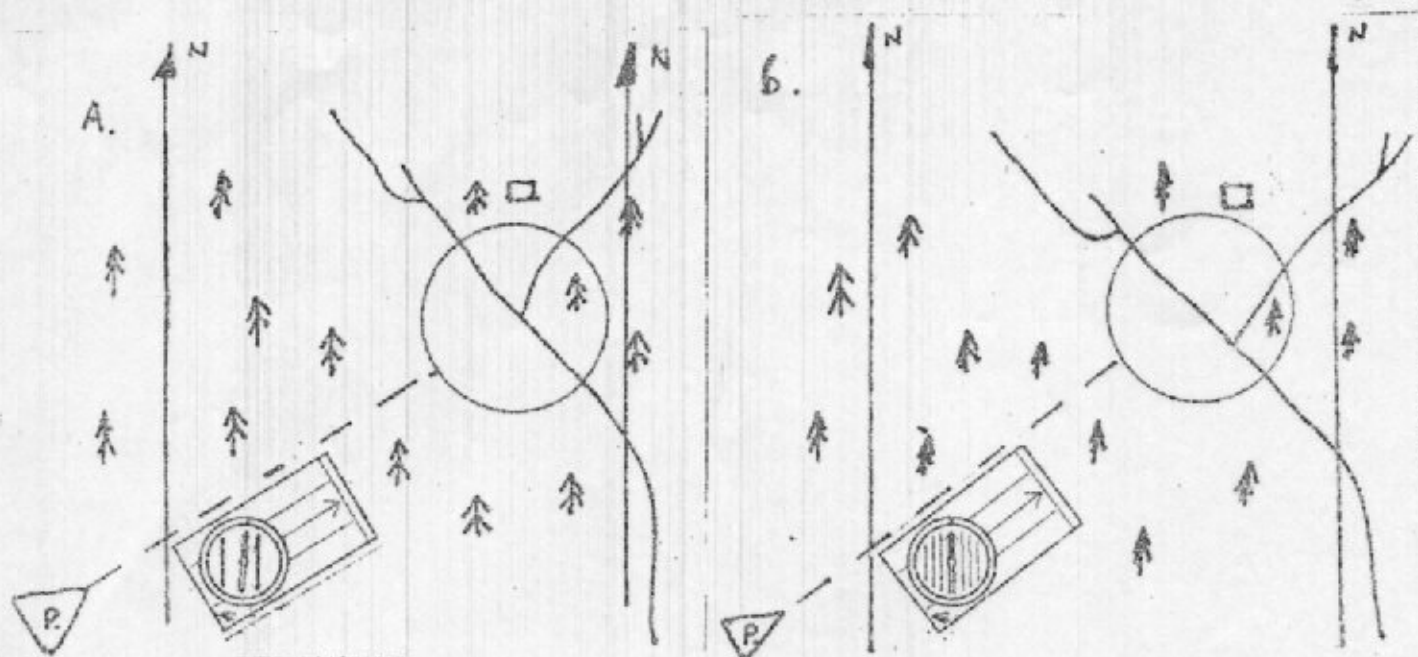
Could you find your way from Juniper or Pipilkin in thick mist /driving rain/ dark etc. etc. If not it's time you learnt how to use a map and compass. The following article written by our equipt. advisor P. Ton should help.

SETTING A BEARING FROM THE MAP



1. Place the compass on the map with the LONG EDGE of the baseplate joining your present position and your destination. (Check the 'direction-of-travel arrow' is pointing towards your target.)
2. Hold the baseplate and map firmly and turn the compass dial so that the orienteering lines are parallel to the grid lines on the map. (Check the 'N' on the dial is pointing towards NORTH on the map.)
3. Lift the compass off the map and add 8° (to allow for magnetic deviation.) Hold the compass level with the 'direction-of-travel arrow' pointing away from you. Turn yourself and the compass until the red needle points to 'N' on the dial. The 'direction-of-travel arrow' is pointing at your target. Put your compass away and walk the required distance in the direction of your target.

AIMING OFF



If you take a bearing and then walk along it you are likely to miss your target (e.g. the stream junction above), ending up to one side or the other. On arriving at the stream you will not know in which direction to look.

It is better to 'aim off' to one side as shown in 'B'. As soon as you reach the stream you will know that your target is to your right; you can only 'aim off' at a continuous feature such as a wall or stream.

ATTACK POINTS.

If you were at position 'P' in the diagram above and your target was the building shown, it would be unwise to aim directly at it since you are very likely to be off course, particularly in dense woodland, mist or at night. Look for an easily found "attack point", such as the stream junction (which can be found by 'aiming off') then take a bearing from the junction (your attack point) to your target.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST (OR....Ramblings of a geriatric.....)

The Saturday had been quite quiet on Stanley Moor, having travelled out from Crewe; having an entertaining night in Buxton, & the youth Hostel. (the jokes and stories don't change - just the faces.)

WE needed an early start on the Sunday because we were doing Eldon & that meant a 3-4 hr. walk--- I told you cavers were hard in those days. We arrived at the Pot a little late having called in for a couple en route, (and they say times are a-changin'. I've spilt more beer down my tie than Cliff's ever drunk.) We began rigging the short side-our ladders were home made with 2" by 1/2" wooden rungs with some doubtful looking hemp of about washing line diameter joining them together. A thumb knot stopped them slipping down but since nothing stopped them slipping the other way the trick was to put at least one length upside down (you can guess the result.) The short lengths were tied together with a variety of knots and then linked to a thicker piece of lifeline with a krab at a mere cost of 3/9 i.e. '18p. which was tied to a big block. The anchor man was tied to the same block (we only had one rope- hand made in sisal from Peak Cavern!) The various ascents & descents work well but lasted hours since everyone had to have a go. Eventually as dusk fell we knocked off & started to derig. Surprise, surprise? The ladder stuck! Numerous attempts were made to no avail and it was just starting to rain & the mist came down, melting snow had made the ledge middy. We were cold and fed up. (sounds familiar?) An idea was to untie the lifeline, take it to the opposite side and pull the ladder up from there.-it seemed to take an age but eventually all three of us were in position. (the other's had already set off to catch the last train from Chappel-en-le-frith, they were working on the Monday) One good pull should do the trick.....it did....& sent us all somersaulting backwards down the hillside wrapped up in the remains of our lifeline, the rest of it still, presumably, attached to the ladder at the bottom of Eldon! We had neither the strength nor the equipment to recover the tackle.

What we did do was to take a look at a new idea which the French had come up with, something called "electron" ladders. Perhaps I'll tell you in another issue how we made our first batch from television ariels!!!

P.S. I never did get my krab back.

SUBSCRIPTIONS..... '85.

These now stand at £8 for full members, £12 for joint husband/wife members (upon production of acceptable proof of marriage) £5 for associated members (no voting powers) and juniors & full-time students. If you paid before 31 March you got a £2 discount. And remember this year you get your newsletter, such a valuable document as it is, FREE, yes, FREE! Alright you don't have to read them you can always use them as wallpaper. Failing that they can be used for all sorts of emergency e.g. Punch a 1cm. hole in the top left hand corner 2 1/2 cm. from the top & side (diagram supplied on receipt of sub.) This will accommodate a 10mm krab/hook or hook. This can then be suspended from your sit (SIT, please note Kevin & Phil) harness with all the other junk you youngsters carry these days. It will be handy for all those little emergencies that crop up such as when you drop your descender at a bolt hanger or when the rope snaps. The possibilities are endless.

STOP PRESS.....

The potential of this innovation is such that delicate negotiations are now taking place with a certain manufacturer of caving gear concerning the production of a waterproof holder to combat problems experienced on wet pitches.

NOTES ON REPAIRING AND HANDLING NIFE BATTERIES;

When changing electrolyte first completely discharge the battery at normal rate to about 0.8 volts per cell. In dismantling take care not to disturb the steel nuts under the connectors as these control the tension on the leakproof gland. Any incrustation on the cell tops is to be removed with warm water only. DO NOT shake during emptying and do NOT wash out with water. Allow to drain for thirty minutes not more and immediately fill with new electrolyte to the correct depth at a specific gravity 1.210

Fully charge battery once and repeat once more.

Note: The electrolyte is potassium hydroxide which is obtained in pellet form from:

PAYNES CHEMIST, BELGRAVE RD., LONGTON.
Mix this with distilled water to gravity of 1.210

PRECAUTIONS.

a) Wear goggles & rubber gloves when handling batteries.

In case of burns do the following:

b) Immediately cover with BORACIC POWDER.

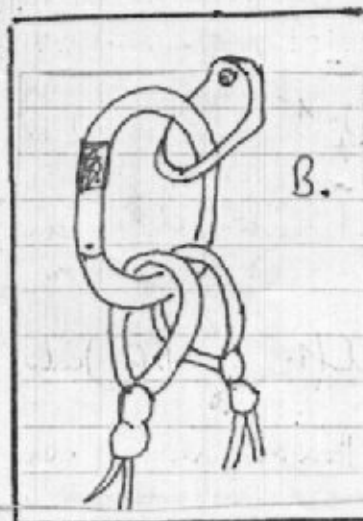
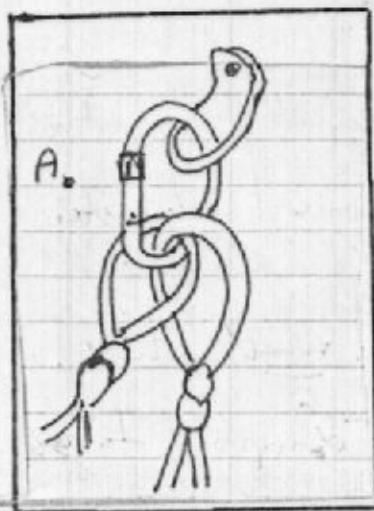
For eyes wash out with clean water followed by a solution of boracic powder to one teaspoonful to one pint of water. Have this in readiness whilst handling batteries. Finally, never add battery acid to alkaline cells as this will completely destroy it.

P. Forster.

From P. Ton.

(equipment advisor)

When joining ropes to bolts you should make certain the loop of the second rope passes thru' the loop of the first. (see diag. a.) Should the bolt fail, in diag. B the Krab/maillon, will be subjected to a shockload in which case it may fail.



Not all of us follow this practise, do you?

OTTER (MUD) HOLE.

The story begins with me, Cliff, Melv., Zig, George, Ant and Paul, at a barn dance; which meant no sleep for three of us, and a lot of energy expenditure for Cliff (who upheld he was sec so it was his job!)

4 a.m. came around too quickly and with great effort we got Cliff up by setting fire to some bread rather close to his head. Anyway we got to the rendez-vous nearly on time and after a pleasant half hour conversation Paul discovered that he was not talking to Ian-the -Guide, but Ian-some-wei#do who hangs around lanes at 5 a.m. The guide did arrive tho' & proved to be a female, so I thought it wouldn't be such a hard trip after all. (was that me making a sexist comment?)

After the epic marathon to get to this infernal hole there followed the longest 300ft. of flat out thrutching in the mud & crawling that I'd ever seen! It was mega-worse on the way back, but that was prob. due to a rope which I carried being over-friendly to the mud. Ralph warned us that some people bottle out in that bit, but it wasn't bad at all, so don't listen to him. Et après there is more mud, climbs, scrambles, heaving oneself up (and I am not referring to the excesses of the previous night) - nothing very awe-inspiring. In short a bit of a grovel. The "sump" entailed a paddle thru' some mucky stuff, then we slowed down a little because we knew we were "there!"

When we got to "it" (the hall of Thirty) no-one failed to be impressed, but Anthony's comment kind of summed it up when he pointed out that down Lancaster you don't have to go so far to get to the "good bits". Retrospectively, there is nothing quite so beautiful in the country as the formations in Otter. (excepting of course the fair ladies in C.C.P.C.) Not even Daren Cilau can compete (yet). We ploughed on to the basecamp-to the collection of mugs-(us, as Paul pointed out.), and had breakfast, I guess this was about 5 or 6 hours in.

On the return the climbs became more interesting and so did the squeezes. The pitch was a bit of a pain being subject to the occasional small overhang and loose holds which sufficed to make it awkward. I'm not sure whether it was this, or gut rot which sparked off Cliff's desire to retire, but he recovered later anyway.

What more can I say except the O.P. was very nice afterwards? Otter is a fun cave if you're into mud & boulder chokes in a big way. Once outside my immediate impression was "thank goodness", but I've booked the cave again so that I can reach the end,

Just about everyone in the club has done Otter, if you haven't then it's well worth a trip. A word of warning- altho' it isn't technically demanding it's easy to become disheartened on the way in, for it is tiring since the slog never stops.

Kevin- how did you get hold of this write-up- It was intended for N.U.C.C.

LIN.

LOST. FOUND. EXCHANGE. FOR SALE.

DONT FORGET YOU CAN MAKE USE OF THIS FACILITY FREE! USE IT FOR DISPOSING OF SURPLUS ITEMS SUCH AS UNWANTED GEAR, WIVES ETC. SHOULD YOU WANT TO OBTAIN GEAR OR ANOTHER WIFE (HEAVEN FORBID) IT COULD BE THE ANSWER TO YOUR PROBLEMS.

This lecture was prepared for climbers of all people, hence began with basics; "this is a bottle", and was delivered in fairy tale language which at times I found extremely patronising. This was more than compensated for by his photographic prowess.

After an attempt at describing the inherent pleasures of cave-diving and confessing to his lunacy, Martyn proceeded to relate the problems experienced on his first expedition to the Bahamas e.g. how to get close, unobservedly to the topless ladies.

Blue Holes present a particular hazard to divers owing to the "blow & suck" I.E. the sea current drawing in and later issuing forth from the holes. Diving times had to be meticulously calculated, and dives made between the suck & the blow, so that at least should some mishap occur the diver would be blown towards the entrance. Once in the current it is nigh on impossible to swim against it, the usual flow with which the divers had to contend was 5 m.p.h.

Visibility for diver number one was excellent allowing him to see wonderful formations proving that the Bahamas were once high & dry, but for numbers 2, 3, & 4 it progressively reduced to zero. Three and four were usually the sherpas who on more than one occasion had to battle against the current.

Although one generally considers the Blue Holes to be large, spacious, diving ground, Martyn informed us that the false sense of security gained on the inward dive could prove fatal if a diver used over a third of his air before returning or replacing his bottle. The line would sink & fall into small crevices leaving the diver thinking "funny, it wasn't this tight on the way in," taking longer for the dive out and therefore using more air. Martyn himself nearly came to grief in such a manner. One diver who did come to grief some yards earlier in the hole in which they first dived provided excellent salvage. The team reported the finding to the local authorities but obtained no response - the police were too concerned with facilitating the easy access of prohibited drugs. Pushers in the Bahamas thought nothing of an occasional homicide to preserve their secretive trade. For this reason the team members never ventured forth alone. Indeed state of nerves was such that in the few days after the discovery of the body they decided not to dive. The prospect of the Sports Council reclaiming their grant spurred them on however.

Back in the U.K. and Martyn gave an indepth report on Wookey Hole, declaring that they'd never heard of decompression in those days, so the dives didn't take so long.

I asked him if he preferred his Wookey extensions to those in Daren Cilau. He replied that he was above all a caver and never called himself a diver, and Daren Cilau was infinitely more fun since he did not care much for diving!

There proceeded a discussion on helium & oxygen mixtures, which was out of my depth (groan) so I brought it back down to my level with a series of questions on the subject of diving in Otter Hole. Unfortunately, his answer was as unproductive as his dives there and the evening came to a close with the news that he has beaten us all to China - It's next on his hitlist!

One last question I was bursting to ask him "would Descent fold up if he was killed?"

LIN.

THE CLUB "DO".

The club do took place on Sat 12th at the Buidulph Arms. Forty six people turned up for what turned out to be an excellent night out. As usual our resident D.J. (Cliff) provided an entertaining evening with his music and of course the famous "WALLY AWARDS". Melv won first prize for losing something or other in Yorkshire, with Zig a close second for his impersonation of a R.N.L.I. volunteer in Dan-yr-Ogof, Green Canal. Ralph, Anthony, Kev and Phil (last year's winner) were also nominated but were not in Melv's class.

Alan & Chris did sterling work on the photographic "Print" competition which was won by Pete Forster with a shot of last year's Ireland trip.

The raffle, subsidised by CAVING SUPPLIES, made a profit of £3.30. It was won by Lynne, (£20 C.S. token) who deserved it for entertaining us with a couple of songs, the first accompanied by Bill who proved to be an accomplished guitarist. The second number was written especially for the occasion- take care, YOU might feature in next year's rendition, even if you avoid nomination for the Wally Awards.

A collection was made for the D.C.R.O. resulting in £6.24 which was made up to £7 The "do" itself made a profit of £17.82 plus 90p from somewhere!

Finally thanks to all the people who helped in so many ways, selling raffle tickets, collecting money, heaving around the disco gear, etc.

Ralph.

RESCUE PRACTICE MARCH '85.

For those who turned up, many thanks- the session at the police station and later down Knotlow was very useful and informative. One small point emerged regarding efficiency; if every member has an ascender & descender for abbing in and self lining out then a considerable amount of time & effort can be saved.

Most of you are now aware that due to my advancing years Paul has now taken over the work of team leader. I'm sure you will give him the help and support you've given me over the years. It's not an easy job- you can please all the folks some of the time and some of the folks all the time, but never all the folks all of the time, but you've heard that before somewhere.

CAVING TRIPS

IF YOU ARE GOING ON A TRIP AND ARE WILLING TO INCLUDE OTHERS GIVE RALPH A RING. HE CAN THEN PASS ON THE DETAILS TO ANYONE RINGING IN. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT THE MORE PEOPLE YOU INVITE THE GREATER THE CHANCE OF YOU BEING INCLUDED IN THEIR ARRANGEMENTS. INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP IS MAKING COMMUNICATION DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE SO DO YOUR BEST TO INCLUDE OTHERS BY SUPPORTING THE ABOVE SYSTEM AND DO PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND MEETINGS.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

4/5 MAY AXE HOLE STOP DOWN BOOZE UP ETC.
18 MAY PENYGHENT POT
8/9 JUNE SOUTH WALES
13 JULY G.G. ETC.
?? JULY G.BERGER AVEC ROCHDALE
JULY AUG. JURA VERCOURS OR VICE VERSA RING JOHN G.
3AUG. BIRKS FELL
10 AUG OTTER HOLE
14/15 SEPT KETTLEWELL OP. PROV.DOW OP STRANS Gill OP ETC
26OCT. NOTTS POT ETC.
2 NOV. JUNIPER GULF L.KIN . RIFT . NICK.
17 NOV. LOST JOHNS ETC.
24 NOV LANC. PIP. LINK ETC.

THIS REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF WHAT REALLY TAKES PLACE.RING RALPH
FOR UP TO DATE INFO. THERE IS NORMALLY AT LEAST ONE TRIP EVERY WEEKEND,
AND OFTEN MORE. MIDWEEK TRIPS ARE ALSO BECOMING POPULAR.

NB.NO PRIZES FOR SOLVING THE 'OP' PUZZLE .LH HOLDS THE KEY

FOR WEATHER INFORMATION RING DENT(05875) 462 (WEEKENDS AND BANK
HOLIDAYS) THIS GIVES A RECORDED MESSAGE COVERING THE YORKS. DALES.

ROPES COLOUR CODING

FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEW MEMBERS AND THOSE WITH SHORT MEMORIES OUR
ROPES ARE COLOUR CODED.AS THE COLOUR GETS DARKER THE ROPE GETS
LONGER (IN THEORY) WHITE=50' YELLOW=60' RED=100' GREEN=120'
BLUE=150' SHOULD YOU AB. OFF THE END OF A ROPE INCORRECTLY
CODED a.COS. THE TACKLE OFFICER WHO ISSUED THE ROPE b. BLAME THE
IDIOT WHO FAILED TO TIE A KNOT IN THE END BEFORE SETTING OFF.

STOP PRESS KEV. AND PAUL (ASSISTED BY 2PUPILS FROM H.L.H.) COMPLETED
THE THREE PEAKS IN 9 1/2 HOURS, WHICH INCLUDES A SESSION IN THE HILL INN!