

News 4 Clubs



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Hill Tracks Petition

Bulldozed tracks on Scotland's mountains are destroying our world famous landscapes and having a massive negative impact on all forms of mountaineering activities. We believe it is time to bring these tracks properly within the planning system and to stop their relentless proliferation.

Now is the time to act to do something to put an end to this sickening spread of hill tracks. Two MSPs are leading a Hill Tracks Petition and the MCoS is supporting their campaign and asking all our members to sign up to this petition.

This is an important issue. Could you pass the word around your club please and ask everyone to sign the Hill Tracks petition.

This petition is a vital tool in helping put pressure on the Scottish Government to listen to concerns over the unregulated damage to our wild lands. If it is to have the maximum impact as many people as possible need to sign up over the next few weeks and show that thousands of Scots take this issue seriously.

Please encourage as many people as possible to go to <http://www.hilltrackscampaign.org.uk> and sign up now.

Vacancies for Directors

The MCoS Board is responsible for the governance of the Council and consists of 8 elected directors, each of whom is responsible for a specific area

of activity which contributes to the achievement of the MCofS Strategic Plan. We are now seeking nominations from individual members and members of clubs to stand for election to our Board of voluntary directors.

Are you interested in standing, or do you know someone in your club that might consider putting their name forward? Further details at:

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/volunteeringvacancies.asp>.

MCofS Mountain Leader Training Course for Members of Clubs

Mon 13th September – Sat 18th September (6 day course).

The MCofS is offering members of clubs the opportunity to participate in a Summer Mountain Leader Training Course at Glenmore Lodge at a special discounted rate. We have been able to reduce the price from the normal cost of £470 down to £320. This includes a £50 discount from Glenmore Lodge and a £100 grant from the Mountain Safety Trust. The training course is run on a 1:6 ratio and there are a maximum of 12 places available. Further details at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/summer-mountain-leadership-training-course.asp>.

Train the Trainer Weekend Course for Members of Clubs

Weekend of 14th – 15th August.

This course is aimed at providing club members with training in teaching navigation skills to others, party management, route choice on broken and steep ground and what to do in the event of an incident.

The course is free of charge and one place will be available to clubs on a first come first served basis. Further details at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/train-the-trainers.asp>.

Club Child Protection Officer Training

Child Protection in Sport has just announced dates and locations across Scotland for the coming year for their course 'In Safe Hands - Club Child Protection Officer Training'. This 3 hour workshop supports clubs to put child protection policies in to practice. It is most suitable for those acting as the Club Child Protection Officer but is also relevant for those responsible for managing or organising the club.

For a list of dates please check this page: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/child-protection-training.asp>.

MCofS First International Meet – Ice Climbing in Norway Winter 2011

Sunday 16th January – Friday 21st January 2011

Interested in learning how to climb ice safely and efficiently?

Never had the opportunity in Scotland?

This could be the perfect opportunity for you. The MCofS is proud to announce their first international ice climbing training week to be held in Rjukan, Norway. We are offering a 5 day training course, staffed by experienced and professional instructors.

For further details please go to: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/norway-ice-climbing-2011.asp> or contact Heather Morning at msa_mcofs@hotmail.co.uk or 01479 861241.

Website upgrade

Regular visitors to the MCofS website will have noticed an upgrade in recent weeks. For those who haven't been on the site recently it is well worth taking a few minutes to find out what is new at www.mcofs.org.uk. We have made some big improvements to the home page with new buttons to take you straight to the Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS), Avalanche Service, Events Listings, You Tube videos and Kids section.

There is also a direct link to a new Blogs page. We are hoping to make the MCofS website a hub for all forms of Scottish mountaineering information and the Blogs page has links to a wide range of bloggers' webpages. It is well worth a look. If you know of an interesting blog that isn't on there then please let me know. We're keen to build this page up into a comprehensive listing of blogs with some kind of connection with Scottish mountains and mountaineering. We welcome your help in identifying those that are missing. Your club or someone in your club may well have a blog that should be on our page, so if that's the case please let us know.

Winter Safety Lectures

The 2010 Winter Lecture Series is now over. I hope some of you managed to get along to one of the talks. A total of 714 people attended this year's talks, so hopefully the information that attendees took away from those lectures will contribute to better mountain safety in the future.

Thanks go to Buff for supporting this year's lecture series, and thanks go to Buff and new supporter Silva for agreeing to support next year's series. If you didn't manage to get along to a talk this year then you might like to make a point of looking out for next year's programme on the Events page on our website.

Tiso Discount Evenings

Tiso are running discount evenings that club members might wish to consider.

Tiso Glasgow Outdoor Experience - Wednesday 28th April – 6.30 to 8.30 pm.
Tiso Ratho – Thursday 27th May – 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

Further details can be found on the Short Term Offers page in the Discount area of our website: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/discounts-shorttermoffers.asp>.

Do keep checking the Short Term Offers page. As it says on the tin, it's about short term offers, so there's a quick turnover of offers on there. Keep checking back to see what's new.

Eurostar Warning

An MCoFS member has told us about the Eurostar policy on the carriage of sports equipment. According to their website items such as ice axes, camping tools and butane gas canisters are prohibited.

We are investigating this and have so far discovered that the following items are acceptable on Eurostar: skis, trekking poles, canoe paddles (under 2 metres in length) and golf clubs. If an ice axe could be used to commit an act of violence or threat, surely a set of golf clubs could be used in the same way by 15 people - all at the same time!

As for “camping tools” I’ve been told that doesn’t include a tent. They say it is things like gas canisters and cutlery; both of which are mentioned elsewhere in the list of prohibited items.

Eurostar’s policy means that there is a real danger of getting to London and being told you can’t take some item that is in your rucksack because it could be dangerous. All of this could lead you to go to a low-fare airline website and fly to the continent instead, which is a shame when Eurostar is considered to be the “green” way to travel.

We are still checking this out, but thought we should alert you to the issues now in case you are planning an overseas trip this summer. In the meantime if you want to ask a question about a particular item of kit, you can phone Eurostar on 08432 186 186.

Make your Mountain Matter

During the holiday weekend of Saturday 29th – Monday 31st May Mountain Aid is aiming to have supporters on each of the Munros, and any other hills people wish to tackle, and walking enthusiasts of all abilities are being urged to get involved and sign up for their favourite hill.

Mountain Aid raises funds to promote mountain safety, support mountain rescue efforts and help anyone permanently injured while in the hills.

All the details can be found on the “Make your Mountain Matter” pages of the Mountain Aid website at <http://www.mountainaid.org.uk/Events/Hills2010.php> where you can also find out about setting up a personalised on-line sponsorship page.

Mike Dales
Membership Development Officer