

WEDNESDAY WALKERS' ALPINE TOURS 1999-2018 An Illustrated Record



Data compiled by
Frank Procter & Ian Wasson

Reverse of Front Cover

Front Cover: 2008 Tour. Frank Procter leading en route to the Venagt Hut followed by Derek McWilliam, Gerry Gee and John Payne. Photo Bill Rowntree

Back Cover: 2015 Tour. Lyn Noble, Ray Grover, Frank Procter, Ian Wasson, Gerry Oliver and Ellie Howarth (front) on the summit of Wildspitze 3770m, the highest point in the Austrian Tyrol. Photo Grover Collection

The Wednesday Walkers' Alpine Tours 1999-2018 An Illustrated Record.

Introduction to this Digital Illustrated Version

Welcome to this extended 'digital only' version of the article by Frank Procter and Ian Wasson that appeared in the printed version of the Rucksack Club Journal 2018. These tours are undertaken annually by the group known in the Rucksack Club as 'The Wednesday Walkers'.

This version is identical for the first 19 pages but thereafter contains many pages of photos and previous tour 'spreads'. They illustrate in more detail the twenty years of Alpine tours using images that could not be included in the 2018 Journal.

The added illustration pages provide images of every year since the first tour in 1999. Many of these multi-page photo spreads are those that appeared in the Club Journals and no excuse for their 'reuse' is needed. At the times of their publication they were and are the best images representing the activities of those tours. We should include here our thanks and appreciation to Ray Grover who authored and illustrated these spreads.

I have attempted to provide images for every tour in spite of some images, for various reasons, not being ideal for printed media. They are included to enable a more complete visual record. No attempt has been made to include or check that there are images of every person who was on any particular tour and it will just have to be hoped that every one who 'toured' is represented with a photo. If you find you are not represented and would wish to be so, please send a photo, a caption, the page it should appear on and I will revise the artwork.

Similarly no attempt to exclude anyone who has recently requested anonymity in Club records has been made. This is because I can't be bothered to 'search for', edit or 'redact' so many images and this is NOT a Rucksack Club publication. If you have been identified and do not wish to be so, please inform me and I'll revise the caption or remove the image.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank, Ian and particularly, Cath Stark, who did much of the invaluable and complex, 'German proof reading' to create the article and ensure that our Wednesday Walker Alpine Tours were recorded for future members and readers in our 2018 Journal.

This illustrated digital version, apart from trying to ensure Frank and Ian's efforts are made available to as wide an audience as possible also provides the opportunity to express our gratitude to two people in particular: for Ian Howie's initial concept and organising the first tours and Frank Procter who has continued in this role, since Ian's departure.

Take care and enjoy our European Alpine Touring Heritage
John Payne - Spring 2019

Technical note - This document is probably best viewed using Adobe Acrobat (free via net), displaying these pages correctly as "pairs" or "page spreads". In the Acrobat 'Menu Bar' goto 'View'. Select 'Two Page View'. Also chose option 'Show Cover Page in Two Page View'. All the illustration pages should then appear as pairs to view.

Hopefully, as well as the tour participants, newer (not necessarily younger) members who have not 'toured' will enjoy our tour history. In the future it may motivate members to participate, enjoy and continue these tours started in the last year of the last century.

Best wishes for many more successful 'WW Alpine Tours' - Payne



The Poser who created this artwork.

Summit of Glödisspitze (3206m) 2011 Tour

Photo Payne Collection

Photo Credits and an apology.

With so many photos and contributors I have found it impossible to keep track of and credit everyone who has provided photos. Hopefully I will be excused and our thanks are recorded and owed to: Grover, Payne, Procter, Wasson, Rowntree, Noble, Gee and Burrage for providing most of the images.

The Wednesday Walkers' Alpine Tours 1999-2018

Frank Procter and Ian Wasson

INTRODUCTION

The Wednesday Walkers' Alpine trip was founded by Ian Howie (founder member of the Wednesday Walkers). Ian organised the first three trips and after his untimely death the tradition has carried on.

From 2004 onwards all the trips have been to Austria. In 2007 the WAGS came along for the first time and formed what has become the 'valley' party. Over the years they have proved invaluable as 'carers' when several members of the main group have been hospitalised or retreated to the valley to recover from injury as well as dealing with numerous hotel bookings when bad weather has forced a change of plan.

Thanks are due to the following other members of the Wednesday Walkers for their contributions in helping to improve the accuracy of this record: John Payne, Reg Boot, Gerry Oliver, Gerry Gee and George Wilks.

1999. PARC MERCANTOUR, PROVENCE, FRANCE.

This first WW hut tour is reported to have been a great success, although the huts were of mixed quality. GG bought a large camera on day 1 and spent the whole trip complaining about its weight. Disaster was narrowly averted when a member dislodged a large boulder which nearly obliterated JP – who was later patched up by an English nurse in the hut. Being well to the south, the weather was hot and the party got quite dehydrated on the last day – WR was so confused he bought JP two camparis. GG and WR then took a train to Nice where the latter entertained the smart tourists by plunging into the Med in his underpants.

Participants: Gerry Gee, Ian Howie, John Payne, Bill Russell.

Tour Outline: Nice, Gîte de Boreon, Refuge de la Madone de Fenestre, Refuge de Nice, Refuge de Merveilles, Sospel.

Peaks climbed: Cime de Piagu (2338m), Cime du Mercantour (2772m), Cime du Gelas (3143m), Mont Collomb (2816), Cime du Diable (2685m).

2000. STUBAIER ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

We stayed mostly in large excellent huts on this classic tour, some even having hot showers. It was early July so the snow was quite deep in places and unconsolidated. For this reason, the ascent of the Lüsener Fernerkogel (which we were probably the first party to do that year) proved to be exhausting and when we got back on to a firm moraine at the end of the climb we were almost too tired to coil up the rope. Back at the hut a Viertel of red wine soon revived the spirits.

Participants: Bev Burrage, Gerry Gee, Ian Howie, John Payne, Bill Russell, Ian Wasson.

Tour Outline: Starkenburger Hütte, Franz-Senn-Hütte, Neue Regensburger Hütte, Dresdner Hütte, Sulzenau Hütte, Nürnberger Hütte, Bremer Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Lüsener Fernerkogl (3298m), Östlicher Knotenspitze (3101m), Wilder Freiger (3418m), Mairspitze (2780m).

2001. DOLOMITES, ITALY.

The most memorable ascent was that of the Via Ferrata Brigata (also known as the Pisciadu Climbing Path) which is a steep and airy 550 metre route up the north flank of the mountain. WR had climbed it before and surged ahead crying "follow me". The rock got steeper and steeper and the holds fewer and fewer with no sign of any ladders or cables. We were forced carefully to retreat and then followed the path round the corner to the correct start.

Participants: Reg Boot, Bev Burrage, Ann Cummings, Gerry Gee, Ian Howie, Derek McWilliam, John Payne, Bill Russell, Ian Wasson.

Tour Outline: Based in Arabba in two rented chalets.

Peaks Climbed: Various peaks and via ferrata mainly in the Sella Group, reached using hired cars.

2002. KARWENDEL AND KAISERGEBIRGE, AUSTRIA.

The Kaisergebirge is essentially a rock wall several kilometres long with rock climbs of every standard and the second part of the tour went round it. In one of the huts GG was confronted by a German climber: "I'm thinking I'm talking to zee man who has taken my wife's slippers. Because zis man is wearing my wife's slippers." It was not Gerry's day as he also lost a bet on the result of the World Cup to JP and had to buy all the beers.

Participants: Bev Burrage, Ted Dance, Gerry Gee, Ian Howie, John Payne, Bill Russell.

Tour Outline: In the Karwendel: Seefeld, Nördlinger Hütte, Solsteinhaus, Berghotel in Seegrube. In the Kaisergebirge: Kufstein, Vorderkaisersfelden Hütte, Stripsenjochhaus, Gruttenhütte, Kaindlhütte

Peaks Climbed: In the Karwendel: Erlspitze (2404m). In the Kaisergebirge: Pyramidenspitze (1999m), Ellmauer Halt (2344m), Scheffauer (2111m).

2003. GR5 PATH FROM LAC LEMAN TO CHAMONIX VALLEY.

This tour was arranged at short notice following the sad demise of Ian Howie. The first night's accommodation was booked from the airport; we managed to get lost in the woods above Lac Lemman en route but eventually got there. On the first two days we followed an alternative to the main GR5. We then joined the main route which crossed the corner of Switzerland and back into France.

Participants: Bev Burrage, Geoff Edge, Gerry Gee, John Payne, Bill Russell, Ian Wasson.

Tour Outline: Thonon-les-Bains, Armoy, Chevenoz (CAF hut), La Chapelle d'Abondance, Refuge de Chesery near Lac Vert, Gîte des Moulins in Samoëns, Refuge Alfred Wills, Refuge de Moede-Anterne, Les Houches in the Chamonix Valley.

Peak Climbed: Le Brévent (2525m).

2004. RATIKON GRUPPE AND SILVRETTAGRUPPE, AUSTRIA.

Ted Dance got as far as Luton Airport before finding that he had left his passport at Frank's - he eventually joined us a few days later in Gargellen. The Tübinger Hütte had only opened for the season on the day we arrived and there was a cheerful evening with members from Tübinger Branch of the Alpine Club (John Payne ended up being guest of honour on the top table). This year there was a lot of deep snow and indifferent weather and the initial plan had to be modified as we were advised that some passes were not yet 'open' so we went to the Madlener hut via the Hochmaderer Joch. We then went to the Wiesbadener hut via the Hohes Rad. Three members of the group stayed on at the Wiesbadener hut and climbed Piz Buin while the rest of the group went to the Saarbrücker hut and then back to the Madlener.

On the way to the Saarbrücker Hütte in the mist we met four East Germans who were as lost as we were and we roped up in one long line.

Participants: Bev Burrage, John Payne, Frank Procter, Ian Wasson, George Wilks, Ted Dance (part time).

Tour Outline: Totalp Hütte, Lindauer Hütte, Tilisuna Hütte, Hotel Marmotta in Gargellen, Tübinger Hütte, Madlener Haus, Wiesbadener Hütte, Saarbrücker Hütte, Madlener Haus.

Peaks Climbed: Schesaplana (2965m), Hoch Maderer (2823m), Hohes Rad (2934m), Piz Buin (3312m).

2005. WESTERN STUBAIER ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

The transfer from the Amberger Hütte to the Hochstuba Hütte (which justifies its name at 3174m) took place in nearly a complete white-out and falling snow, much of it on glaciers. We remained roped up for about five hours but, fortunately, Frank had worked out a series of compass bearings from the map the night before. The hut warden appeared impressed that we had arrived and greeted us with a tray of Schnapps. Further snow fell overnight and the route to the Hildesheimer Hütte proved to be long and quite difficult to follow.

Participants: Bev Burrage, Geoff Edge, Gerry Gee, John Payne, Frank Procter, Derek McWilliam, Bill Russell, Ian Wasson, George Wilks.

Tour Outline: Gries, Dortmunder Hütte, Guben-Schweinfurter Hütte, Winnebachsee Hütte, Amberger Hütte, Hochstuba Hütte, Hildesheimer Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Pirchkogl (2829m), Schartenkopf (2855m), Breiter Grieskogel (3287m), Winnebacher Weisskogel (3180m), Hohes Egg (2820m), Schrankogl (3497m).

2006. VENEDIGERGRUPPE, AUSTRIA.

The 'book' time for the ascent of our first peak is 3.5 hours but it took us 5.5 hours: this may have been due to the snow conditions but was probably just a reflection of the average age of the party. Leading to the summit of the Grossvenediger is a narrow snow ridge which required one-way traffic. We had a perfect Alpine day for the ascent of Kristallwand with

excellent views from the top. The route to the Bonn-Matreier Hütte at one point crosses a long and very steep section of loose shale and is protected by a fixed cable. As we were traversing it, a thunderstorm struck and it was alarming to be holding a lightning conductor!

Participants: Geoff Edge, Gerry Gee, Frank Procter, Derek McWilliam, Ian Wasson, George Wilks.

Tour Outline: Zell am See, Essener-Rostocker Hütte, Defreggerhaus, Neue Prager Hütte, Badener Hütte, Bonn-Matreier Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Östlicher Simonyspitze (3488m), Grossvenediger (3660m), Innerer Knorrkogel (2884m), Kristallwand (3329m), Rauh Kopf (3070m), Säulkopf (3209m).

2007. ZILLERTALER ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

For once we flew from Manchester to Salzburg rather than to Geneva or Munich. The weather on this trip was poor with rain, sleet, hail and thunder on several days and flooded rivers so it was necessary to modify our original plans for both huts and peaks. We descended to Mayrhofen a day early and the last two peaks were climbed from there.

Participants on hutting tour: Reg Boot, Bev Burrage, Geoff Edge, Gerry Gee, John Payne, Derek McWilliam, Frank Procter, Ian Wasson. This time the average age was over 70.

Mostly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Mayrhofen, Friesenberghaus, Furtschaglhaus, Berliner Hütte, Greizer Hütte, Kasseler Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Hoher Riffler (3221m), Petersköpfl (2677m), Schönbichler Horn (3133m), Filzenkogel (2227m), Ahornspitze (2976m).

2008. ÖTZTALER ALPEN and STUBAIER ALPEN.

The main party visited the Ötztaler Alpen where we found less than the usual snow cover. We travelled by train from Munich via Innsbruck where we lost JP. He turned up many hours later with a complicated story about being on the wrong train heading up the Brenner Pass towards Italy but had managed to find his way back to the right country, valley and hotel. We had planned to walk up from Obergurgl to the Hochwildehaus but learned en route that it was closed as the goods lift was not working. We therefore descended to cross the impressive snout of the Gurgler Ferner and up 600m to the Ramolhaus; old photographs in the hut showed the massive reduction in the size of the glacier over the last hundred years. Later we climbed Similaun and then visited the monument to Ötzi, the 5000 years old ice man, whose remains had been discovered nearby.

Participants on hutting tour: Geoff Edge, Gerry Gee, Ray Grover, Derek McWilliam, Lyn Noble, John Payne, Frank Procter, Bill Rowntree, Bill Russell, Ian Wasson, George Wilks. **Mainly valley-based:** Ann Cummings, June Noble, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Gries, Ramolhaus, Martin Busch Hütte, Hochjoch Hospiz, Branderburger Haus, Breslauer Hütte

Peaks Climbed: Nördlicher Ramolkogel (3428m), Similaun (3606m),

Fineilspitze (3516m), Dahmannspitze (3401m), Fluchtkogel (3500m), Mittlere Hintereispitze (3451m).

A smaller group visited the Stubai Alpen:

Participants on hutting tour: Reg Boot, Harvey Condliffe, Bev Burrage.

Valley-based: Ted Dance.

Tour Outline: Neustift, Innsbrucker Hütte, Bremer Hütte, Nürnberger Hütte, Falbeson Guest House, Neuer Regensburger Hütte, Neustift day walks.

2009. ANKOGELGRUPPE in HOHE TAUERN, AUSTRIA.

The two Hafner peaks were climbed from the cosy Kattowitz Hütte. We then traversed round to the Osnabrücker Hütte via the Hauptspeicher Kölnbrein Reservoir. The original plan was to climb the Hochalmspitze from the Osnabrücker hut but due to bad weather this was abandoned and the Preimlspitz climbed instead. The next hut was the Hannoverhaus which was exceptionally cosy and welcoming. The Ankogel was climbed from here. We then went down to Mallnitz and walked to the Arthur-von-Schmid hut. The next day we climbed Säuleck en route to the Giessener hut from which we finally climbed the Hochalmspitze.

En route from the Kattowitz to Osnabrücker hut a member of the party tripped on the steep path and crashed into some boulders. This person having decided to descend to the valley the valley party were able to provide much appreciated support and the excellent hospital in Spittal diagnosed broken ribs and a punctured lung. This apparently precluded flying so after a few days, transport back to Cheshire was by ambulance.

Participants on hutting tour: Reg Boot, Ray Grover, Derek McWilliam, Lyn Noble, Frank Procter, Bill Rowntree, Ian Wasson, John Payne, George Wilks.

Mainly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Judy Grant, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Spittal, Kattowitz Hütte, Osnabrücker Hütte, Hannoverhaus, Arthur-von-Schmid Haus, Giessener Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Grosser Hafner (3076m), Kleiner Hafner (3017m), Säuleck (3086m), Hochalmspitze (3346m), Preimlspitz (3133m), Kleiner Ankogel (3090m), Ankogel (3250m).

2010. GLOCKNERGRUPPE in HOHE TAUERN, AUSTRIA.

The first hut we stayed in was the Rudolfs Hütte. Amongst the long list of huts we have visited, this one stands out - the setting by a lake surrounded by mountains, several of which we climbed, the good accommodation, food, free packed lunches and hot showers - but in particular the availability of free beer and wine for residents from 5:30pm to 8pm. The latter was part of some special promotion. The next day in excellent weather ascents were made of the first two peaks below - a long but satisfying 11 hour day. From the Salmhütte we climbed to the high Adlersruhe (3454m), clipping on to a steep Klettersteig for part of the way. The next morning six members of the party climbed the Gross Glockner which is the highest peak in Austria. As one of the roped party descended

back to the hut, an unintended glissade resulted in one broken leg; a helicopter was summoned and whisked the patient off to hospital in the usual efficient Austrian way.

Participants on hutting tour: Geoff Edge, Ray Grover, Derek McWilliam, Alex Miller, Gerry Oliver, Frank Procter, Bill Rowntree, Ian Wasson, George Wilks. **Mainly valley-based:** Ann Cummings, Judy Grant, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Zell am See, Rudolfs Hütte, Kaiser Tauernhaus, Salmhütte, Adlersruhe, Salmhütte, Karl Volkert Haus, Trauner Alm Gasthof.

Peaks Climbed: Granatspitz (3086m), Stubacher Sonnblick (3088m), Hoch Fürleg (2943m), Fürleg-Nordgipfel (2925m), Fürleg-Südgipfel (2947m), Margrotzenkopf (2734m), Medelzkopf (2760m), Tauernkogel (2988m), Gross Glockner (3798m), Brennkogl (3018m), Spielmann (3027m).

2011. SCHOBERGRUPPE in HOHE TAUERN, AUSTRIA.

There was intermittent rain but several summits were reached. On the Hochschober, however, we retreated in the face of steep wet rock and poor snow. On the way down RG dropped his GPS which bounced down two hundred feet. JP found it and it still worked. The Assistant Warden at the Elberfelder Hütte was Nepalese and he had climbed Mount Everest seven times; it was pointed out that this would still not qualify him for membership of the Rucksack Club.

Participants on hutting tour: Geoff Edge, Ray Grover, Derek McWilliam, Alex Miller, Gerry Oliver, John Payne, Frank Procter, Bill Rowntree, Ian Wasson, George Wilks.

Mainly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Judy Grant, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Lienz, Hochschober Hütte, Elberfelder Hütte, Lienzer Hütte, Wangenitzsee Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Niederer Prijakt (3056m), Hoher Prijakt (3064m), Glödis Spitze (3206m), Keeskopf (3081m), Roter Knopf (3281m), Hoher Perschitzkopf (3125m), Petzeck (3283m).

2012. SCHOBERGRUPPE AND GLOCKNER GRUPPE in HOHE TAUERN, AUSTRIA.

We made a return visit to the Schober area to complete the group with an ascent of the Hochschober. We then traversed to the Oberwalder Hütte via the Adolf-Nossberger-Hütte and the Karl Volkert Haus. Several nights were spent at the Oberwalder Hütte and after sitting out bad weather a glacier trip was made to the Odenwinkel Scharte. We also climbed the Johannisberg.

Participants on hutting tour: Alex Miller, Bill Rowntree, Derek McWilliam, George Wilks, Gerry Oliver, Ray Grover, Frank Procter, Nick Serieys.

Mainly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Judy Grant, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Zell-am-See, Hochschober Hütte, Adolf-Nossberger Hütte, Karl Volkert Haus, Oberwalder Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Hochschober (3240m), Johannisberg (3458m).

2013. STUBAIER ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

As usual the snow conditions required us to modify the original plan. Some of the routes between the huts had only just become passable and all involved long days including sections protected by fixed cables. An excellent last day was on the ascent of Habicht, a fine almost entirely rock peak with long sections of fixed cables and ladders. On our return to Innsbruck, AM took us on a tour which included the Alpine Club Exhibition in the Imperial Palace Gallery.

Participants on hutting tour: Jeff Burgum, Richard Evans, Ray Grover, Alex Miller, Gerry Oliver, Frank Procter, Paul Riley, Bill Rowntree, Ian Wasson, George Wilks.

Mainly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Judy Grant, Derek McWilliam, Lyn Noble, June Noble, Cath Stark.

Tour Outline: Neustift, Franz-Senn-Hütte, Neue Regensburger Hütte, Dresdner Hütte, Nürnberger Hütte, Bremer Hütte, Innsbrucker Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Vordere Sommerwand (2676m), Rinnenspitze (3000m), Innere Sommerwand (3122m), Schussgrubenspitze (3211m), Schaufelspitze (3332m), Aperer Feuerstein (2967m), Habicht (3277m), Basslerjoch (2830m).

2014. ZILLERTAL ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

Several people had colds and other minor ailments but the Hotel Strolz in Mayrhofen was tolerant of British guests coming and going unpredictably between visits to huts and the bills got sorted out at the end. The weather was wet for the first few days but then improved. In addition to those visiting huts, others did various day walks or climbs and some explored the local Klettersteigs.

Participants on hutting tour: Jeff Burgum, Geoff Edge, Alex Miller, Gerry Oliver, Gwyn Thomas.

Mostly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Judy Grant, Derek McWilliam, Frank Procter, Nick Serieys, Cath Stark, Dagmar Thomas, Ian Wasson, George Wilks.

Tour Outline: Mayrhofen, Kasseler Hütte, Greizer Hütte, Friesenberghaus, Olperer Hütte, Furtschaglhaus.

Peaks climbed: Ahornspitze (2976m), Hoher Riffler (3221m), Schönbichler Horn (3133m) and some local Klettersteigs.

2015. ÖTZTALER ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

The high point was our ascent of the Wildspitze (3770m) – the highest peak in Tyrol and the second highest in Austria). There were a lot of others on the climb that day. Our route from the Breslauer Hütte crossed an area of moraines and boulders, then a steepening snowfield to the Mitterkarjoch Scharte. We put on crampons and ropes and ascended the glacier to the rocky summit ridge. It had taken us only half an hour longer than the 'book' time.

Participants on hutting tour: Jeff Burgum, Richard Evans, Ray Grover, Ellie Howarth, Gerry Oliver, Alex Miller (part time), Frank Procter, Gavin Young, Ian Wasson.

Mostly valley-based: Ann Cummings, Betty Hamer, Derek McWilliam, Lyn and June Noble, Dick Pasley, Dave and Joan Pownall, Cath Stark, George Wilks.

Tour Outline: Obergurgl, Ramolhaus, Martin Busch Hütte, Hotel Mathiesn, Hochjoch Hospiz, Vernagt Hütte, Breslauer Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Nördlicher Ramolkogl (3428m), Schalfkogel (3540m), Kreuzspitze (3457m), Guslarspitze (3151m), Wildes Mannle (3019m), Wildspitze (3770m).

2016. SILVRETTA ALPEN, AUSTRIA.

The popular Piz Buin was the most significant ascent made. The route from the Wiesbadener Hütte crossed moraines and snow patches to the start of the Ochsentaler Gletscher. The trek up this glacier was long and rather tedious. An area of mixed snow and loose rock led to the final rock tower and the summit was reached up a couple of steep gullies.

The next day we traversed from the Wiesbadener hut to the Jamtal hut. The weather and visibility were poor and the Ochsencharte was navigated safely by GPS. Because of forecast for bad weather we changed the plan to go to the Heidelberg hut and descended to the valley instead. We then set off on a tour of the Verwall first staying at the friendly Niederelbe hut for a couple of nights to climb the Kreuzjochspitze. We then traversed to the Edmund Graf hut. We had intended to climb the Hoher Riffler from here but 20cm of fresh snow overnight forced a retreat to the valley at Pettneu and transport back to our base in Ischgl.

Participants on hutting tour: Ray Grover, Ellie Howarth, Gerry Oliver, John Massey, Alex Miller, Frank Procter, Gavin Young, Ian Wasson, Chris Wilkshire. **Mostly valley-based:** Barbara Grover, Betty Hamer, Dick Pasley, Bill Rowntree, Cath Stark, Judy Grant, John Long

Tour Outline: Ischgl, Wiesbadener Hütte, Jamtal Hütte, Hotel St Niklaus, Niederelbe Hütte, Edmund Graf-Hütte.

Peaks Climbed: Piz Buin (3312m), Hohes Rad (2934m), Bieltal Kogl (2797m), Breiter Kopf (2532m), Kreuzjochspitze (2921m).

2017. GRANATSPITZGRUPPE AND VENEDIGERGRUPPE.

Our first day was a lengthy walk from the Mooserboden to the ever popular Rudolfs Hütte. We stayed there for two nights and were planning an ascent of the Sonnblick but poor weather limited even the hardiest to a walk around the Weisssee. Our plan to go to the Sudeten-Deutsche Hütte to climb the Grosser Muntanitz was also abandoned because of the poor weather forecast (snow) so we traversed to the Neue Prager Hütte via the Kalsner and Matreier Tauernhaus. We spent two nights there with a successful ascent of the Grossvenediger in glorious weather. Our next hut was the Badener where we again spent two nights with a failed attempt to climb the Kristallwand by the old 'ordinary' route (successfully climbed in 2006) due to the receding glacier. We walked out from there to Matrei with an enjoyable last evening in the Stamperhof en route.

The valley party divided their time between Kaprun and Rauris, completing many enjoyable day walks.

Participants on hutting tour: Ray Grover, Gerry Oliver, Ellie Howarth, Chris Wilkshire, Gwyn Thomas, Frank Procter, Tim Taylor, Steve Wells. **Valley Based:** Cath Stark, Jean Wells, Bill Rowntree, John Long, Ian Wasson, Gavin Young, Judy Grant.

Tour Outline: Kaprun, Rudolfs Hütte, Kalsner Tauernhaus, Matreier Tauernhaus, Neue Prager Hütte, Badener Hütte, Stamperhof, Kaprun.

Peak Climbed: Grossvenediger (3660m)

2018. RATIKON AND SILVRETTA.

We based ourselves in St Anton for a West to East traverse of the Rätikon and Silvretta regions. The first day was spent travelling through Brand to the Lunersee and walking up to the Totalp Hut. The following morning we climbed the Schesaplana (2965m) and walked back down to the Lunersee staying at the comfortable Douglass Hut. We then had a long walk to the Tilisuna Hut because the Lindauer Hut was full. We stayed two nights there and climbed the Sulzfluh (2818m). The next day we descended to Gargellen and enjoyed a night of luxury in a hotel.

We then walked from Gargellen to the Tübinger Hütte which was in the final stages of a major refurbishment and it rather resembled staying on a building site! We then crossed the Hochmaderer Joch and walked down to the Bielerhöhe and caught a bus to Galtür and had a further night of even more luxury in the Hotel Post. The following day saw us having a leisurely walk up to the Jamtal Hütte. From the Jamtal we walked to the Heidelberger Hütte over the Kronjoch climbing the Breite Krone (3079m) en route. After an enjoyable last night at the splendid Heidelberger Hütte we had a leisurely walk out to Ischgl, returning to St Anton by bus and taxi.

The valley party joined the hutting party for the first two nights. Bill and Judy also came as far as Gargellen where we all met up again. They all then went on to Kappl for a couple of nights and then back to St Anton.

Participants on the hutting tour: Ray Grover, Gerry Oliver, Gwyn Thomas, Gavin Young, Steve Wells, Ian Wasson, Frank Procter, Alex Miller (part).

Part hutting tour / valley based: Bill Rowntree, Judy Grant, Cath Stark, Jean Wells, John Long

Tour Outline: St Anton, Totalp Hütte, Douglass Hütte, Tilisuna Hütte, Gargellen, Tübinger Hütte, Galtür, Jamtal Hütte, Heidelberger Hütte, Ischgl, St Anton.

Peaks climbed: Schesaplana (2965m), Sulzfluh (2818m), Breite Krone (3079m).

A Brief Summary

Over the last twenty years these meets have attracted over forty members and guests, many on a regular basis. We have mostly visited the Austrian Alps where no fewer than sixty-eight different alpine huts have been used and eighty summits ascended. Generally excellent huts and weather that tends to be more reliable than in some other alpine areas probably contribute to this popularity. There seems to be no reason why this formula should not continue for many years ahead. Some information is summarised below. A 'Digital Illustrated' version is intended mid 2019.

ATTENDEES - 1999 to 2018.

The number of tours each member or guest has been on is shown below. As older members have hung up their alpine boots they have been replaced by thrusting younger blood. The average age of the main hutting parties has, however, remained remarkably constant at between about 68 and 70.

Members

Ian Wasson	17	John Long	3
Frank Procter	15	Dick Pasley	2
Derek McWilliam	12	Chris Wilkshire	2
George Wilks	11	Richard Evans	2
John Payne	11	Betty Hamer	2
Ray Grover	10	Dave Pownall	1
Gerry Oliver	9	John Massey	1
Bill Rowntree	9	Tim Taylor	1
Bev Burrage	8	Paul Riley	1
Geoff Edge	8	Associate Members & Guests	
Alex Miller	8	Cath Stark	12
Gerry Gee	9	Ann Cummings	9
Bill Russell	7	Judy Grant	8
Reg Boot	4	June Noble	3
Gavin Young	4	Nick Seriesys	2
Ian Howie	4	Steve Wells	2
Ted Dance	3	Jean Wells	2
Ellie Haworth	3	Harvey Condliffe	1
Lyn Noble	3	Dagmar Thomas	1
Jeff Burgum	3	Joan Pownall	1
Gwyn Thomas	3	Barbara Grover	1



2006: Procter, McWilliam, Wilks, Wasson and Edge on Kristallwand. Photo Wasson

HUTS USED AND PEAKS CLIMBED FROM 2000 TO 2018 – AUSTRIA ONLY

Region and years

Huts used	Peaks climbed	Height
Stubai Alpen 2000, 2005, 2008, 2013		
Starkenburger Hütte	Lüsener Fernerkogel	3298m
Franz-Senn-Hütte	Östlicher Knotenspitze	3101m
Neue Regensburger Hütte	Wilder Freiger	3418m
Dresdner Hütte	Mairspitze	2780m
Sulzenau Hütte	Pirchkogel	2829m
Nürnberger Hütte	Schartenkopf	2855m
Bremer Hütte	Breiter Grieskogel	3287m
Dortmunder Hütte	Winnebacher Weisskogel	3180m
Guben-Schweinfurter Hütte	Hohes Egg	2820m
Winnebachsee Hütte	Schrankogel	3497m
Hildesheimer Hütte	Vordere Sommerwand	2676m
Innsbrucker Hütte	Rinnenspitze	3000m
Amberger Hütte	Basslerjoch	2830m
Hochstubai Hütte	Innere Sommerwand	3122m
	Schussgrubenspitze	3211m
	Schaufelspitze	3332m
	Aperer Reuerstein	2967m
	Habicht	3277m
Karwendel & Kaisergebirge Gruppen 2002		
Nördlinger Hütte	Erlspitze	2404m
Solsteinhaus	Pyramidenspitze	1999m
Vorderkaiserfelden Hütte	Ellmauer Halt	2344m
Stripsenjochhaus	Scheffauer	2111m
Gruttenhütte		
Kaindlhütte		
Venedigergruppe & Granatspitzegruppe 2006, 2017		
Essener-Rostocker Hütte	Östlicher Simonyspitze	3488m
Defreggerhaus	Grossvenediger	3660m
Neue Prager Hütte	Innere Knorrkogel	2884m
Badener Hütte	Kristallwand	3329m
Bonn-Matreier Hütte	Rauh Kopf	3070m
Matreier Tauernhaus	Säulkopf	3209m

Region and years	Huts used	Peaks climbed	Height
Ratikon/Silvretta Gruppen 2004, 2016, 2018			
	Totalp Hütte	Schesaplana	2965m
	Lindauer Hütte	Hochmaderer	2823m
	Tilisuna Hütte	Hohes Rad	2934m
	Tübinger Hütte	Piz Buin	3312m
	Madlener Haus	Bieltal Kogl	2797m
	Wiesbadener Hütte	Breiter Kopf	2532m
	Saarbrücker Hütte	Kreuzjochspitze	2921m
	Jamtal Hütte	Sulzfluh	2818m
	Edmund-Graf-Hütte	Breite Krone	3079m
	Douglass Hütte		
	Heidelberger Hütte		
	Niederelbe Hütte		
Zillertal Alpen 2007, 2014			
	Friesenberghaus	Hoher Riffler	3231m
	Furtschaglhaus	Petersköpfl	3679m
	Berliner Hütte	Schönbichlerhorn	3133m
	Greizer Hütte	Filzenkogel	2227m
	Kasseler Hütte	Ahornspitze	2976m
	Olperer Hütte		
Ötztaler Alpen 2008, 2015			
	Ramolhaus	Nördlicher Ramolkogl	3428m
	Martin Busch Hütte	Similaun	3606m
	Similaun Hütte	Fineilspitze	3516m
	Hochjoch Hospitz	Dahmannspitze	3401m
	Brandenburger Haus	Fluchtkogel	3500m
	Vernagt Hütte	Mittlere Hintereispitze	3451m
	Breslauer Hütte	Guslarspitze	3147m
		Wildes Mannle	3019m
		Schalchkogl	3540m
		Kreuzspitze	3457m
		Wildspitze	3770m

2011: Three of the regular Valley Team - Judy Grant, Cath Stark and Anne Cummings at the Lienzer Hut.

Photo Ray Grover



Region and years	Huts used	Peaks climbed	Height
Hohe Tauern 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012			
	Kattowitz Hütte	Grosser Hafner	3076m
	Osnabrücker Hütte	Kleiner Hafner	3017m
	Hannoverhaus	Ankogel	3250m
	Adolf-Nossberger-Hütte	Säuleck	3086m
	Arthur- von- Schmid Haus	Hochalmspitze	3360m
	Rudolfs Hütte	Granatspitz	3086m
	Kalser Tauernhaus	Stubacher Sonnblick	3088m
	Salmhütte	Hochfürleg	2943m
	Adlersruhe	Fürleg - Nordgipfel	2925m
	Trauner Alm	Fürleg - Südgipfel	2947m
	Hochschoberhütte	Medelzkopf	2760m
	Lienzer Hütte	Tauernkogel	2988m
	Elberfelder Hütte	Gross Glockner	3798m
	Wangenitzsee Hütte	Brennkogl	3018m
	Oberwalder Hütte	Spielmann	3027m
	Karl Volkert Haus	Niederer Prijakt	3056m
	Giessener Hütte	Hoher Prijakt	3064m
		Glödisspitze	3206m
		Keeskopf	3081m
		Roter Knopf	3281m
		Hoher Perschitzkopf	3125m
		Petzeck	3283m
		Johannisberg	3258m
		Hochschober	3453m
		Preimlspitz	3133m
		Kleiner Ankogel	3090m
		Margrotzenkopf	2734m



2009: Noble, Payne, McWilliam en route to Mallnitz. Photo Payne collection

*In appreciation of our Tour Organisers
Ian Howie and Frank Procter*



2002 - The Kaisergebirge Wall and Ian Howie en route to the Stripenjochhaus. Photo John Payne



2008 - Frank Procter leading en route to the Venagt Hut followed by McWilliam, Gee and Payne.

Photo Bill Rowntree

Below: 2008 In the Ramolhaus: Rowntree, Noble, McWilliam, Payne, Grover, Wasson, Wilks, Russell, Procter.

Photo Grover Collection

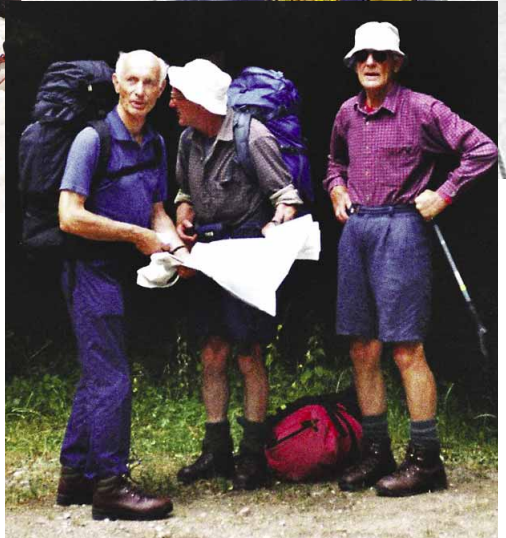


2017 R - L: Ellie Howarth, Chris Wilkshire and Gerry Oliver approaching Grosvenediger summit.
Photo Ray Grover



2007. Lyn, Ray and Geoff rest on the ascent of Similaun.

2003 - Lost AGAIN! - Wasson, Russell and Gee. Where the GR5 are we?
Photo John Payne



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 1999

Parc du Mercantour ALPES-MARITIMES



Who are these young lads?
Oh yea - I was only 58 that year.



Opposite - Make em doubles - Double Goats, Double-Howies, Russells, Gees and Paynes 'on tour'.

This page, the 'First Four on Tour. 1999, fly to Nice, catch a bus, walk around the French / Italian border hut to hut for a week or so.

The tour's "Most Fruitless Escapade". Quietly 'stalked and dangerously climbed' up a steep dead end gully to photograph a Marmot that Russell had spotted. After all nearly falling to our deaths, it turned out to be a boulder. Below, Bill surrounded by Marmots. Wonderful times.



This is a Marmot. Get over it. OK its cute, but definitely not worth dying for.



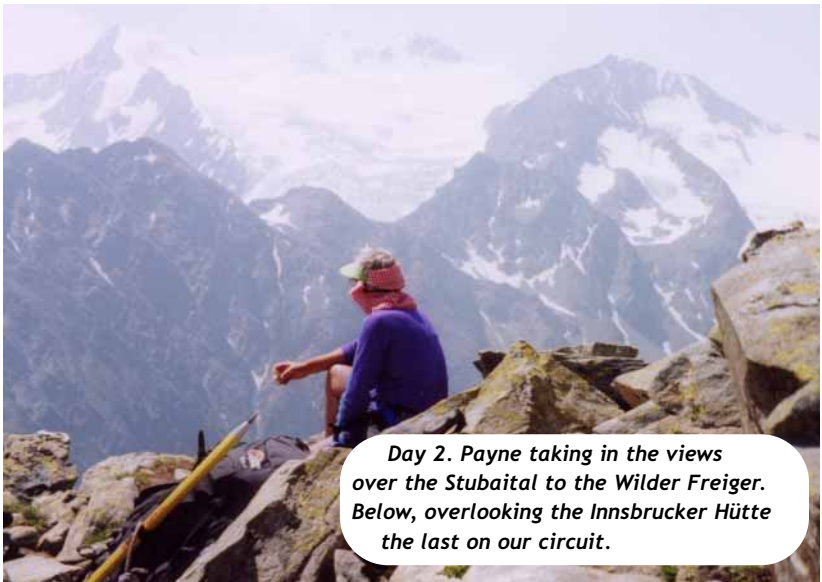
WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2000

Stubaital AUSTRIA



*Top. JP en route from Franz-Senn Hütte on the ridge over the Stubaital.
Above - Gee with some knitting after the glacier crossing.
Right. Burrage and Payne descending from Pirchkogl.*





Day 2. Payne taking in the views over the Stubaital to the Wilder Freiger. Below, overlooking the Innsbrucker Hütte the last on our circuit.

The Stubaital - Amazing, 'Mountaineering by TRAM'. We got off the plane, bus'd to Innsbruck, caught a TRAM that wound up the Bremer Pass and dropped us in the middle of mountains at Fulmes. Walked to the lift and were up in our first hutte with a beer before picnic.

Top - Day 5. The full team at the Sulzenau Hütte, celebrating Ian Wasson and Bev's birthdays. Later the hütte lift (a wooden box) was used to send an 80 year old 'pissed up' customer back down the valley at midnight. Whatever could go wrong?



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2001

SELLARONDA DOLOMITES ITALY



*Above, the last supper celebrating our visit to the Sellaronda.
Right, Derek and Gerry on the lower ladders of the Tridentina
Via Ferrata.*

Below, a picnic on the col above the Sallolungo lift.

*L - R:- Gee, Boot, Payne, MacWilliam, Russell, Burrage and
Howie.*

Photo Ian Wasson.

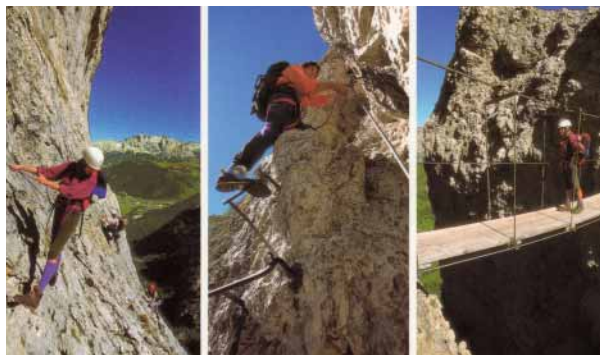




Above. We all survived the near suicide 'run and jump' boarding method of The Sallungo 'Coffin' lifts. Inset, Bev's lift ticket .



Right: Trentina Via Ferrata route. Above the Hütte for a 'well deserved' beer at the top and below a postcard Bev kept giving a flavour of the route we all enjoyed.



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2002 Karwendel & Kaisergebirge A U S T R I A N A L P S

KARWENDEL AND KAISERGEIRGE.
"A tour of two halves". The only time I can remember a tour visiting two regions, linking them by train.

Right: Chough and Howie enjoying lunch.

Centre: full the team, less Payne in the first week.

Below: the band was in the market square at Kufstein on the day we transferred.



Right: Chough competition, Payne 2 Howie 1.

Below: The full team on the Stripsenjochhaus balcony overlooking the Kaiser Wall.

Lower R: Gee - Leads a 'Ferrata' on the 'Wall'.

Bottom: Our final overnight hut, the private and most comfortable, Käindlhütte.



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2003

GR5 Lac Lemman to Chamonix SWISS - FRENCH BORDER



*We find our first 'refuge'. Chief 'Sitting Gee' claims first bunk.
Left: Meadow on the border.*



*Three images of our progress on the GR5.
Below: The first view of Mt Blanc with Ian awaiting lunch at the Refuge de Moede-Anterne.*

A 'Three Hat' shot of Payne, Gee and Russell.

Left: Resthalt by a waterfall.





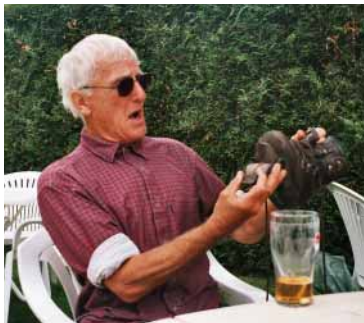
Above: Wasson and Payne stop for a Coffee. Just after this Bev lost his 40 quid hat.... Don't ask.

Left: Russell leads up the ridge to Le Brevent.

Below. Midday and the full team at Le Brevent viewing platform. We were having a beer in Les Houches before supper.



Below our favourite pet at Les Houches. Bred to carry bottles of brandy up the hill and be a really sloppy kisser. The 'Saint Bernard' was nice too.....



The Gee 'sole saga'. Gerry's attempt to repair his 'flapping sole' with tubes of glue and some 'Old Bread'....



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2004 Ratikon and Silvretta Gruppe A U S T R I A N A L P S



Particular thanks to Bev and Frank for the photos and detail of this Tour.

L to R:- Bev, Payne, a Nepali guest, Frank and Wasson at the Totalp Hütte for lunch on our first day. The Nepali guy was on an 'exchange' visit courtesy of one of the Austrian Alpine Clubs learning how to cater for European diet and languages.



Ted's departure from Luton was delayed having to return to Frank's in Staffordshire to collect his passport which he'd left there. He managed to catch up by the second day, kindly booked some rooms for us and set out to meet us. Here, Ted finds us after walking up from Gargellen.

L - R: Bev, George Wilkes, Ian, Frank and Ted Dance.



The team 'en route' from Gargellen to the Tübinger Hütte, where Payne was made an Hon Member for the day..... no one has any idea as to why this was so.



On the balcony of the Wiesbadener Hütte. In the background, Piz



Bev, Payne and Wasson on the way to the Saarbrücker Hütte meet up with four East Germans. Being as lost as we were in the mist we roped up in one long line.



Frank and George 'Top Out' on Piz Buin climbed from the Wiesbadener Hütte.



Relaxing at the lake by the Madlener Haus which we visited out and 'inbound'.



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2005

Western Stubaier Alpen AUSTRIAN ALPS



A beer at the Dortmunder Hütte

Left to Right the full team:- George Wilks, Gerry Gee, Bev Burrage, Ian Wasson, Bill Russell, Frank Procter, Geoff Edge and Derek McWilliam. Photo John Payne



The resumé of this year's tour highlights the value of Procter and Wasson's efforts. Without it almost all memories of the events would have been lost to me. Even with it, plus the photos I found I had taken, I can still recall very little of what appears a quite demanding tour on the various days of challenging weather. JP

Left Procter 'setting the pace'.



Photos en route from the Hochstubai to the Hildesheim hut over the Warenkar scharte.

Above. It can't have been that cold on the ascent as Payne managed in shorts.

Above Right: Some blue sky for Gee (taking a photo), Wasson, McWilliam and Procter.

Right, Gee with 'Colour Co-ordinated' gaiters and way marking points.

Below, some more sun for McWilliam and Payne



WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2006

Venedigergruppe AUSTRIAN ALPS



*The team move into mist on
Grossvenediger.*



*Edge, Gee and McWilliam on the
ascent of Ostliche Simonyspitz.*

*With thanks due to Ian Wasson for the
photos and captions for this Photo
Record of the 2006 Tour.*

*Below:- MacWilliam and Procter
leaving the Essener-Rostocker hut.*





The team ready for lift off at Neue Prager hut



Ian, Gerry and Frank on the summit of Innere Knorrkogel.



George on Saulkopf.



Right: Once more into the mist on Kristallwand.

WW ALPINE TOUR Photo Record 2007

Zillertaler Alpen AUSTRIAN ALPS



*Top Right: Edge, Payne, Procter and McWilliam en route to the Greizer Hütte.
Above: the Schönbichler Horn.
Below, Frank and Geoff on the Grosser Möseler.*

Photo Ian Wasson





Left: Three of the Hüttes Friesenberghaus, Berliner, and Kasseler.

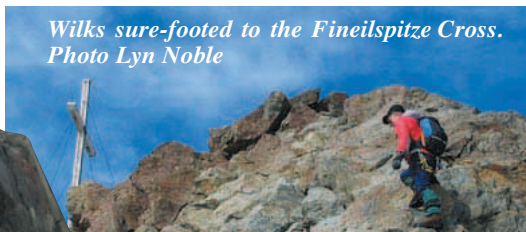
Above right: Edge and Payne on the Hoher Riffler.

WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2008

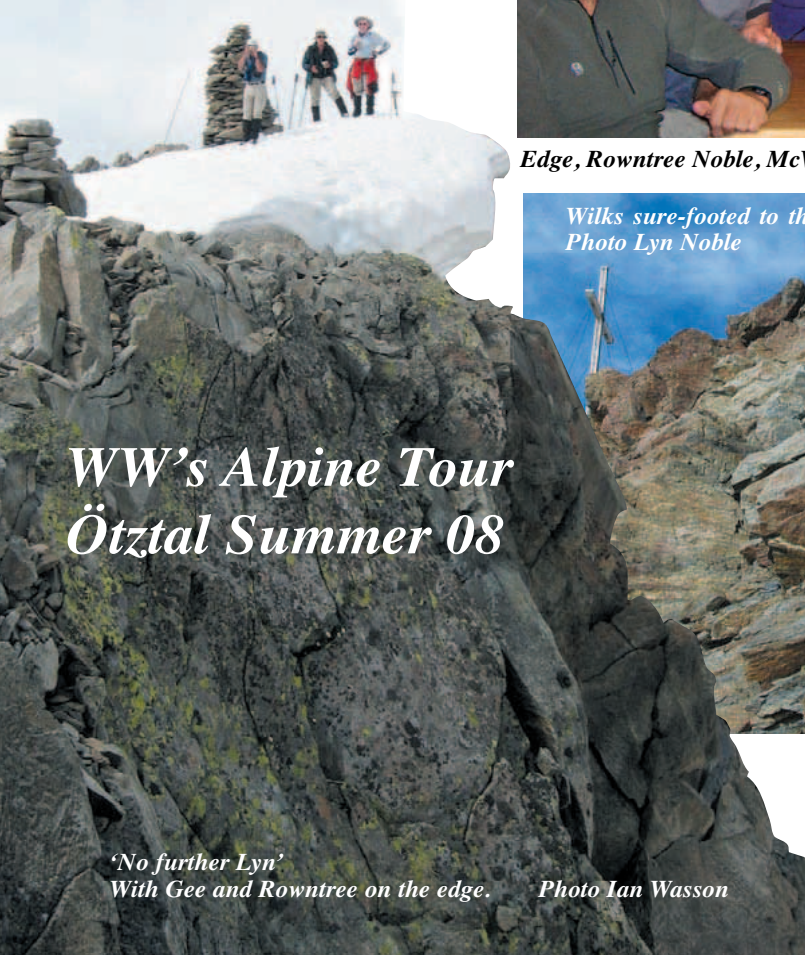
Otztaler & Stubiaer Alpen
AUSTRIAN ALPS



Edge, Rowntree Noble, McWilliam, Payne,



Wilks sure-footed to the Fineilspitze Cross.
Photo Lyn Noble



WW's Alpine Tour
Ötztal Summer 08

'No further Lyn'
With Gee and Rowntree on the edge.

Photo Ian Wasson



The Hintereisspitze ridge south of the Brandenburger Hut. Photo composite Bill Rowntree



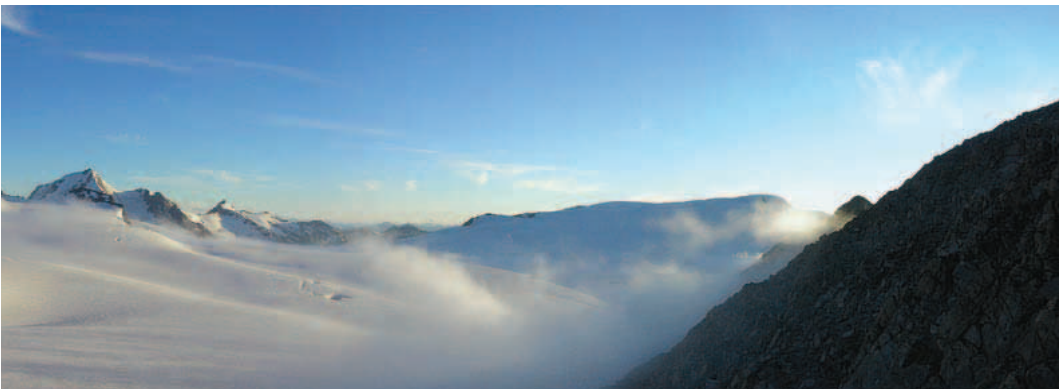
*Grover, Wasson, Wilks, Russell, Procter.
Photo Ray Grover*

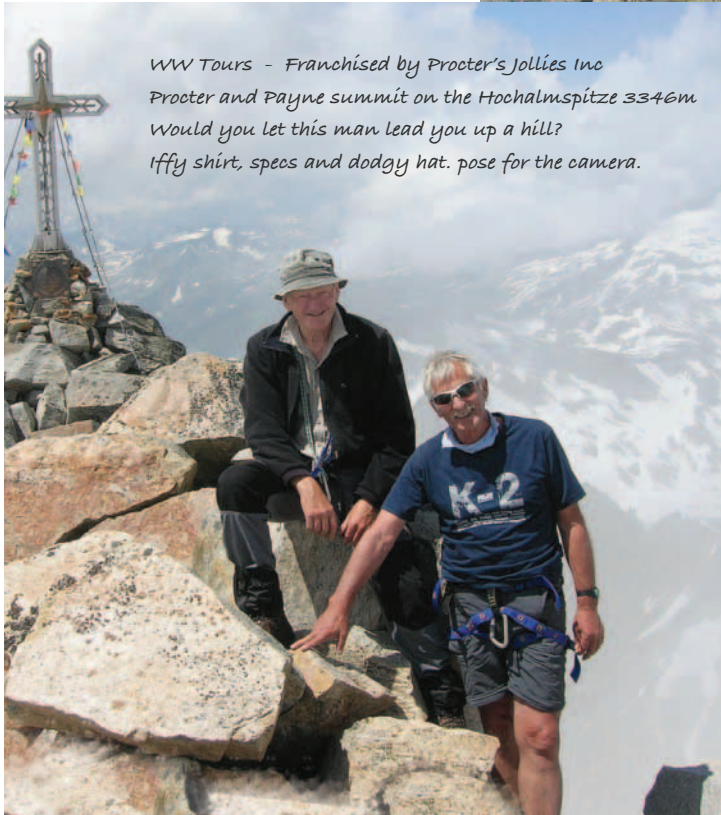


*Top right – Cummings and Stark in
the foreground of the Marzellferner
and Similaun. Photo June Noble
Below – On top of the Fluchtkogel.
Wasson, Procter, Russell, Payne,
McWilliam, Wilks (seated) and
Rowntree. Photo Ray Grover*

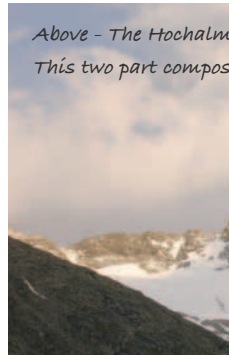


*Payne and party traverse
Nördlicher Ramolkogel.*





*WW Tours - Franchised by Procter's Jollies Inc
Procter and Payne summit on the Hochalm Spitze 3346m
Would you let this man lead you up a hill?
Iffy shirt, specs and dodgy hat. pose for the camera.*



*Above - The Hochalm Spitze
This two part compos*



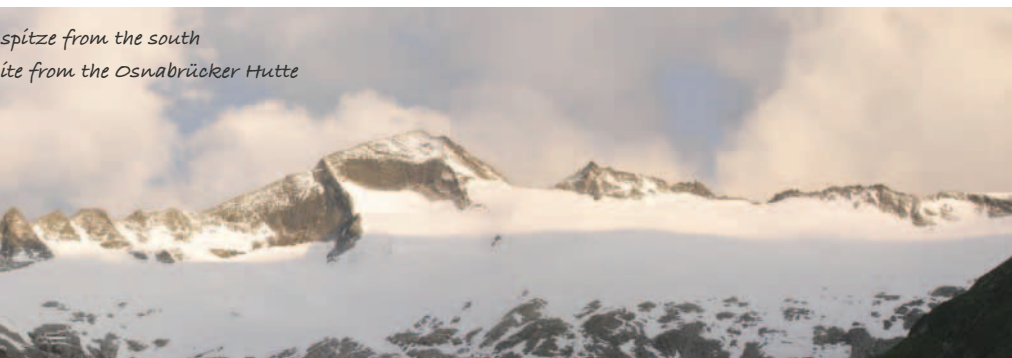
09 SUMMER TOUR

via
Rowntree

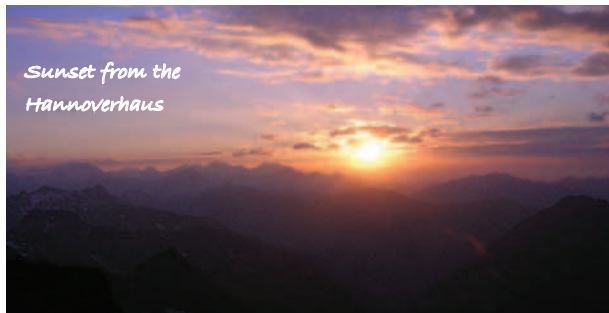


Photographer Rowntree awaits.
"How long do you need to take a
photo Payne? I need a strudel."

spitze from the south
ite from the Osnabrücker Hutte



Sunset from the
Hannoverhaus

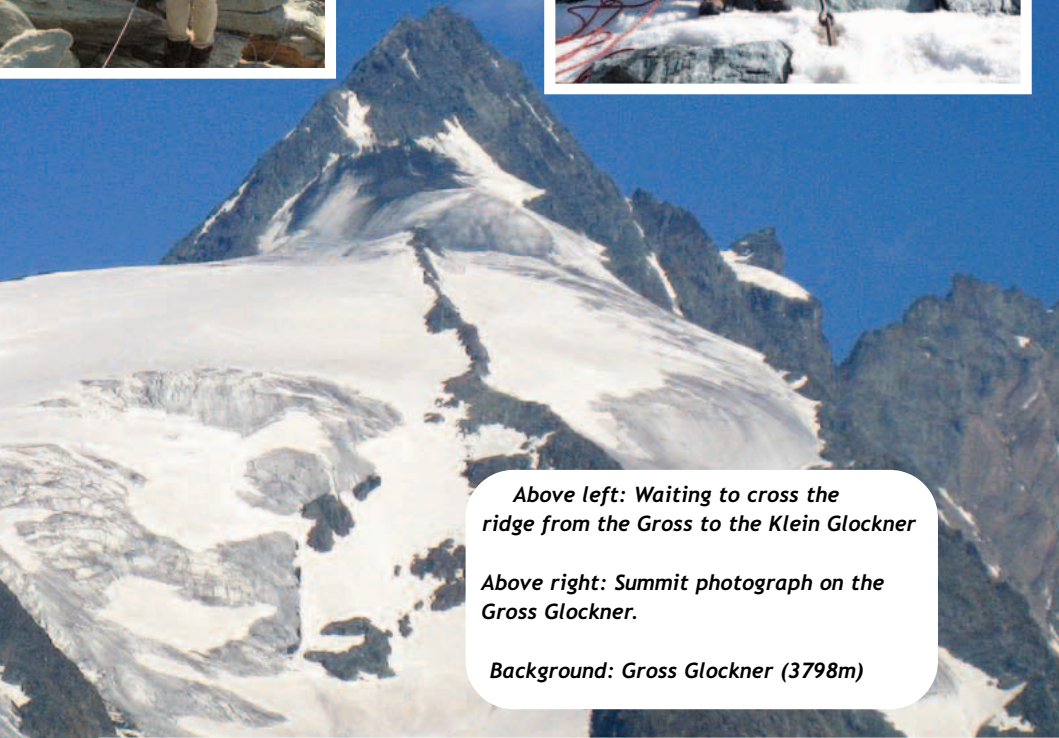


Hey 'Grey Head' - I'd get more sense out of a log.

Ankogelgruppe im Hohe Tauern
A U S T R I A N A L P S

WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2010
Glocknergruppe im Hohe Tauern
A U S T R I A N A L P S





Above left: Waiting to cross the ridge from the Gross to the Klein Glockner

Above right: Summit photograph on the Gross Glockner.

Background: Gross Glockner (3798m)





Twins Niedere and Hohe Prijakt from the Hochschoberhütte. Gerry, Ray and Derek.





A composite of the Grober Hornkopf range west of the Elberfelder Hütte



Frank and Cath top out and Judy descending from Petzeck 3,283m

Miller, Edge, Lakpa Sherpa, Rowntree and Oliver at the Elberfelder.



McWilliam, Procter, Rowntree and Payne on The Gossnitzscharte. Photo Ray Grover



The Wednesday Walker's Summer Tour July 2012

The Schobergruppe and Glocknergruppe Austria



*Clockwise from above:
Ascending Johannisberg, 3,453m.
Photo Bill Rowntree.
Gerry Oliver, Frank Procter and Ray Grover
top out on Johannisberg. Photo Grover.
Procter nears the top of the Johannisberg
with the Pasterze glacier below. Photo Ray
Grover.
Outside Nossberger Hutte: Oliver, Rowntree,
Grover, McWilliam, Miller, Procter, Serieys
(guest) and Wilks. Photo Ray Grover.
On the summit of Hochschober, 3,242m:
Procter, Grover, Serieys, Miller and Wilks.
Photo Gerry Oliver.*



WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2012

Schober & Glockner Gruppe
AUSTRIAN ALPS





1

WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2013
Stubai Alpen
AUSTRIAN ALPS



2

1. Wilks and Riley on Rinnenspitz (3,000m). Photo Grover
2. The Bremer Hütte. Photo Grover
3. Oliver and others on Sommerwandferner. Photo Burgum
4. Miller, Grover, Riley, Wilks, Oliver, Burgum and Procter on Innere Sommerwand (3,123m). Photo Riley
5. Miller, Noble, Wasson, Oliver, Rowntree, Riley, Procter, Burgum and Grover on Rinnenspitz (3,000m). Photo Riley
6. Noble, Burgum and Oliver on Schaufelspitze (3,332m). Photo Grover



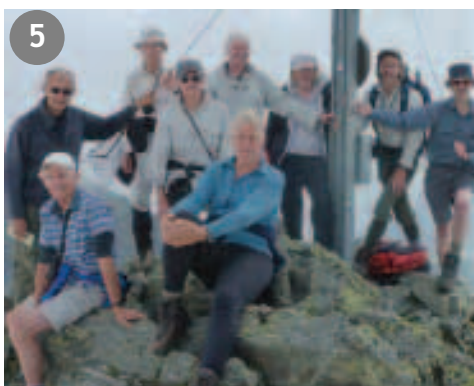
6



3



4



5



WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2014
Zillertal Alpen
AUSTRIAN ALPS



Nick makes a friend.

Lyn Noble on Ahorn Spitze.



Hotel Strolz.

*Thanks again to Ian Wasson for
the all the photos and captions.*



Gwyn on Ahorn Spitze

The Ahorn Spitze



Cath, Frank, Anne and Derek in the Penken area



The Wednesday Walkers' Summer Tour July 2015

Oetztal Austria

Ray Grover

*Our first peak, the Nördlicher Ramolkogel.
L to R: Ray Grover, Frank Procter, Gavain Young,
Ellie Howarth, AN Other, Jeff Burgum,
Ian Wasson and Gerry Oliver. Photo Ray Grover*



WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2015

**Oetztal
AUSTRIA**



The Ramolhaus 3,006m.

Photo Ray Grover

Another great trip to the Austrian Alps. We stayed in the Ramolhaus, Martin Busch, HochJoch Hospiz, Vernagt and Breslauer huts. Good weather prevailed and we ticked off most of our targets: Anichspitze (3,428m), Schalfkogel (3,537m), Kreutspitze (3,455m), Mittlere Guslarspitze (3,128m), Wilders Mannle (3,023m), and finally Wildspitze (3,774m). The last one was an excellent finale as bad weather had thwarted us on the previous tour in 2008.

Thanks to Frank Procter for his leadership and planning, and to Lyn Noble for helping me down some tricky bits on Wildspitze! To see a video of that last day see YouTube: <http://youtu.be/Az9AaJ0ZU1k> or just search for 'Wildspitze in Summer'.

Participants: Frank Procter, Ian Wasson, Ellie Howarth, Ray Grover, Gavin Young, Richard Evans, Gerry Oliver and Jeff Burgum. A second group was based in Obergurgl, and there were many comings and goings between the two during the 12 day trip.



Right: Frank Procter on Schalfkogel.

Left: Ellie Howarth on Wildspitze. Photos R.Grover

The Wednesday Walkers' Summer Tour July 2016

Silvretta Austria

Ray Grover

WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2016

**Silvretta
AUSTRIAN**



Our group of Rucksackers and guests this year was made up of eight in the hut-to-hut party and eight based in the valley at Ischgl. It all started well with fine weather. From the Wiesbadener hut we ascended Piz Buin, standing at 3,312m on the Swiss border. Hohe Rad (2,934m) was easier the next day, but poor weather foiled our plan to follow up with the Silvrettahorn, so we moved on to the Jamtal Hut, using GPS to find our way in the mist over the Obere Ochsencharte (2,970m). A retreat to the valley ensued, and a change of plan. Then off to the Niedererelbe hut and an afternoon going up Kappler Kopf (2,404m).

Kreuzjochspitze (2,919m) was climbed the next day then on to the Edmund Graf hut in rain then snow. So much snow fell overnight that we had to finish our hutting with a descent to the valley one day earlier than planned.

Thanks to Frank Procter for his leadership.

Above Spread: Approaching Piz Buin.

All photos Ray Grover except the 'Valley Group'.



Left: L to R: Grover, Procter and Oliver summit Piz Buin.

Above: R to L: Procter, Wasson, Howarth, Oliver and guest Mark Jolleys en route to the Jamtal hut.

Right: Ellie Howarth at Schwarzsee, below Kreuzjochspitze..







*Above Left: L to R: Young, Wilkshire, Procter, Oliver, Howarth and Grover setting out for Kreuzjochspitze.
Above right: Alpenrose.*

Left centre: Reflections below the Radsattel.

*Above: The Valley team: Judy Grant, Cath Stark, Bill Rowntree, John Long and Barbara Grover having a kleiner rundfahrt of the Silvretta Stausee.
Photo Ellie Howarth.*

Right: View to the Madaunspitze by the Niedererelbe hut.

Lower Spread: Bridge over the Kitzlochschlucht gorge above Ischgl.



*Silvretta Austria
Summer 2016*



Wednesday Walker's Summer Tour July 2017

Hohe Tauern Austria

All photos and text by Ray Grover

WW ALPINE TOUR
Photo Record 2017

Hohe Tauern
AUSTRIAN ALPS

Schwarze Wand and the Schlatenkees glacier.





Left to right: Taylor, Thomas, Wells, Wilkshire, Procter, Howarth, Oliver and Grover on the summit of the Grosvenediger.



Above: The Neue Prager Hutte 2,796m.

Left: L to R: Procter, Wells, Oliver, Wilkshire and Taylor descending to Gruben from the Badener Hutte.



The WW Summer Tour. Fond memories of the Rudolfs Hut prompted a return visit as a group to start us off. Sadly there was no free beer this time, but it was still excellent value. From here our party split into a valley team of six who descended back to Kaprun as base, and a hut-to-hut team of nine. Some limbered up on Medelzkopf (2,760m) in the mist and rain. But our ambitious plan to climb four or five peaks was thwarted by bad weather. With careful manoeuvring and reading of the runes Frank Procter got us to the Neue Prager Hut in time for our best two days, and we climbed the Grosvenediger in glorious conditions. At 3,666m this is the 4th highest in Austria, a wonderful snowy peak, with a little surprise dip just before the top.



Distant view of the Grossglockner from the Neue Prager Hutte.

A determined effort to climb Krystalwand (3,310m) by the traditional route was in vain. The glacier has receded, leaving large bergschrunds and a steep slope of loose mud and rock above. The alternative Klettersteig route would have been a better choice. Best huts were the Rudolfs and the Badener.

A video of the Grosvenediger ascent may be seen on YouTube on the smokinggoldfish channel. Search or use the link <https://youtube/QyKNwaj1JWU>
Thanks as always to Frank for his leadership.

Wednesday Walkers' Alpine Tour July 2018

*Ratikon and Silvretta
Austria and Switzerland*

Ray Grover



Climbers ascending Bischofspitze.

Photo Gwyn Thomas



WW ALPINE TOUR
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AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND

Ascending Schesaplana.

Photo Ray Grover

L - R: Wasson, Procter, Wells (guest), Young, Thomas.



Top left: Sulzfluh summit group.
L - R: Wells (g), Oliver, Young, Procter, Grover, Wasson. Photo Steve Wells
Top right: Leopard's Bane. Photo Grover
Right: Schesaplana summit group.
L - R: Grover, Young, Oliver, Procter, Wells (g) at back: Thomas, Wasson. Photo Grover
Below: Cotton grass. Photo Ray Grover
Above: Valley Team. L - R: Long, Stark (g), Grant (g), Wells (g). Photo Bill Rowntree
There are 3 videos of the trip, see:- "smokinggoldfish" channel on YouTube.





Gavin Young ascending Schesaplana from the Totalp Hutte. Photo Steve Wells

Our planned 12 day tour of huts and peaks along the border was completed in full in excellent weather. There were no accidents, illnesses, bad conditions, or hut closures to force a change of plan. This was a first for such trips, but it was also quite taxing as there were no rest days.



But it was glacier-free, so we travelled with light packs. 3 peaks were climbed as we travelled East, the Schesaplana 2965m, Sulzfluh 2818m, and Breit Krone 3079m. The 7 in the hut-to-hut team averaged just over 70 years in age, as did the valley group of 5. Best huts were the Douglass and Heidelberger. Thanks as always to Frank Procter for his leadership.

Reverse of Back Cover

