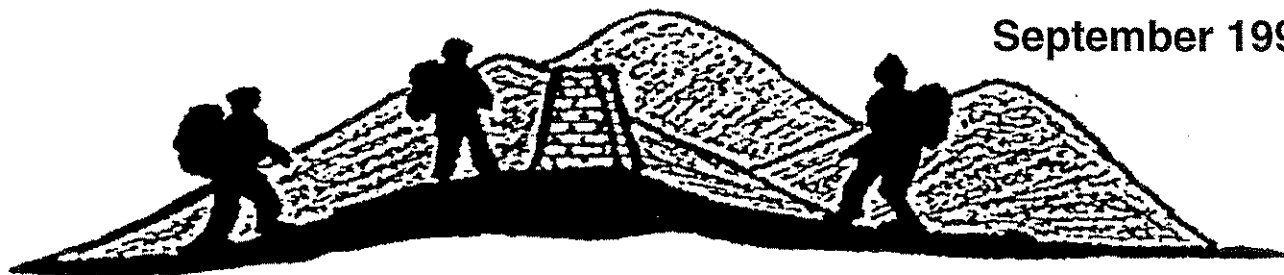


# The Hillwalker

September 1998



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

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## Ecuador



# SUNDAY HIKES



**MEET:** Outside Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay  
**DEPART** Sundays 10.00AM. (or when the bus is full)  
**COST:** Private bus. £5.00 (unless otherwise stated)  
**NOTE:** **The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped** (i.e. without adequate rainwear, spare clothes, food, torch and hiking boots). The leader has the right to extend, curtail or alter the route from that described in the program. The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey his/her instructions at all times.

Date	Route Description	Leader
6-Sept.	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Circuit of Glencullen.	Cyril McFeeney.
13 Sept.	Circuit of Glenmalure.	Martin Fagan.
20 Sept.	Ballyknockan - Black Banks - Silsean - Moanbane - Billy Byrne's Gap - Mullaghcleevaun - East Top - Duff Hill - Gravale - Carrigvore - Sally Gap.	Tony Crean.
27 Sept.	Fraughan Rock Glen - Benleagh - Lugnaquilla - Slievemaan - Ow Valley - Aghavannagh YH.	Gerry Brady.
4 Oct.	Ballinagee Bridge - Oakwood - Art's Cross - Conavalla - 3 Lakes - Table Mtn. - Wexford Gap - Round Hill - King's River - Granabeg School House.	John Guy.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your club membership card **MUST** be carried and produced on all Sunday hikes. Numbered tickets will be given out on the quays by a committee member. People with a valid membership card and ticket will be given preference on the bus.

### MOUNTAIN SAFETY NOTE

Mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks. People who take part in our club activities do so at their own risk and are responsible for their own actions and involvement.

The Committee requests that anyone who is on medication or with a medical condition inform the leader before the hike.

# YOUNG HILLWALKERS CLUB



## SATURDAY HIKE

Date: Saturday 12 September 1998.  
Route: Knocksink Woods.  
Meet: Irish Press Office, Burgh Quay.  
Time: 8.45AM.  
Bring: Packed lunch, flask, water, hat, gloves, wet weather gear and torch.  
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), warm sweater.

## ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY

Weekend away to Knockree YH, Co. Wicklow from 30 October to 1 November 1998.

For further information about our Saturday hikes, weekends and holidays away contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555 or either John Guy at 01-4524627 (h) or Dave Rooney at 01-8344811 (h).

# THE CLUB SLIDES

The *Hillwalker's Club* series of slide shows make a welcome return on

Tuesday 15th September, at 8.30PM, in The Palace Bar (Upstairs lounge), Fleet Street.

## ***Concordia and K2 Base Camp (Pakistan), to meet the Irish K2 expedition team.***

presented by

Maggie Greaney.

Admission is free.

Note: Anyone interested in putting on a slide show over the autumn/winter should contact Donal Finn at the number on the back of the magazine.

# TRAINING



## MAP AND COMPASS TRAINING COURSE

Three evening classes: October 6th & 20th, November 3rd.  
First weekend: Saturday, October 10th, Glendalough area.  
Sunday, October 11th, orienteering in Belfield.  
Second weekend: November 7th & 8th, Glendalough Hostel.  
Cost: £20.  
Deposit: £10 (non-refundable).

Book through An Óige Head Office, tel: 01-8304555.

# CLUB TRAVEL

## ECUADOR AND THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

On July 10th, 1997, our group of 17 flew via Madrid to Quito which at about 2,850m is the world's second highest capital. On our arrival we caught spectacular views of the Andes, in particular of Cotopaxi (5,897m.) the world's tallest active volcano. The mainland has three regions: the coastal lowlands, the Andean highlands and Amazonia. The Galápagos Islands, also part of the Republic of Ecuador, lie 1000km out in the Pacific. About 40% are indigenous Indians and the remainder *mestizos* (mixed race). Spanish is the main language, with English only rarely understood.

Although not the area's first conquerors, the Incas ruled until the Spanish arrived in 1526. After several attempts, independence was finally achieved in 1822 by Simón Bolívar. Civilian rule has alternated with military rule with the civilians presently in power. Despite a border dispute with Peru, Ecuador is peaceful and remains one of the safest countries to visit in South America.

In 1978 UNESCO declared the centre of Quito, with its many colonial buildings and plazas, a world cultural heritage site. Chief among the architectural attractions is the 16th century Monastery of San Francisco, Ecuador's oldest church. Its whispering gallery, designed to facilitate the hearing at a safe distance of a contagious penitent's confessions, provided our group with the means for some rather more secular exchanges. Visible from everywhere in the old town is *El Panecillo* (little loaf of bread) and its enormous statue of the Virgin of Quito.

Our first hike was up the nearby 3600m Ungui. Taxis brought us to the start of the hike and we walked unguided to the top, past cultivated fields at improbable angles. Below us the city looked peaceful, with distant Cotopaxi sharply visible. Next day Freddy's 4WD jeeps brought us to 4000m to start the trek up Rucu Pichincha. On this more strenuous climb Freddy kept us moving slowly but steadily towards the 4700m peak. Several turned back with headaches and stomach upsets, but most managed to summit. On the decent I twisted my ankle, ending my hopes of climbing Cotopaxi or indeed anywhere else for a long time. When the time came, ten people attempted Cotopaxi and seven succeeded. The hike began after midnight, dawn arrived while they ascended, time at the top was short and the decent was rapid.

My ankle having recovered a little over a fortnight, I went on a 2 day river rafting expedition that took us almost to the coast. This was in the province of Esmeraldas, best known in Ireland as the temporary residence of a certain Episcopal exile.

A favourable climate has bestowed on Ecuador a biodiversity like few other places on earth and where better to observe it up close than the marvellous Galápagos Islands. Three of us flew there for a five day cruise around the archipelago. Uninhabited until relatively recent times, its unique wildlife has little fear of man. Inquisitive sea lions, on the beaches and in the sea, approach in a friendly (you hope) manner. As you walk around blue-footed boobies, iguanas ignore you and mocking birds land on your feet as you sunbathe. The scenery has its own barren beauty but creatures such as the giant tortoises and turtles make it a paradise for natural-history enthusiasts. Its most famous visitor, Charles Darwin, spent 5 weeks there in 1835 collecting evidence for his theory of evolution. A visit is expensive, costing about £600 ex Quito, all included.

An excellent guide to the country is the Lonely Planet travel survival kit *Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands*.

Our trip was organised by Herbert Herzmann, who is based in Dublin. He is planning another trip from 15DEC to 31DEC of this year. He is also planning a trekking and hiking trip to Chile for March 1999. The Christmas trip to Ecuador costs £1,650 which includes flights, all transfers, B&B and a 5-day guided hike along the *Condor Trek*, etc. Anyone interested should book immediately. For further information please contact Herbert at (01) 492 3563.

Joe Kellegher

# WEEKENDS AWAY



## OCTOBER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND TO THE GALTEE MOUNTAINS

- Leader: Martin Fagan  
Cost: £45 for over 18's and £40 for under 18's.  
Deposit: Non refundable deposit of £20. Meals are **not** included in the cost and should be booked when paying deposit.  
Date: Friday 23 to Monday 26 October 1998.  
Bring: Hiking gear, An Óige membership card, sheetbag, food for breakfasts, drum-ups and evening meals for people who are self-catering.  
Book: An Óige Head Office tel. 01-8304555 (credit cards accepted).

This weekend is self-catering but evening meals are available in hostel and must be booked in advance when paying deposit.

The bus will leave from the Custom House Quay at 6.00pm. **SHARP** on Friday and be back in Dublin on Monday evening at 9.00pm. approx.

# DONEGAL WEEKEND REPORT

Was the Irish summer finally going to materialise? We certainly hoped so as we left Dublin on Friday evening.

We picked up Cíaran the Ghostbuster and Bob the Matchmaker in Navan. Chris, who has a bigger stick than Brendan joined us at Kells.

Then the bus' battery began to lose power and luckily we made it to the hostel before the lights failed completely! Jim's torch was nearly stronger by the final kilometre.

On Saturday we walked the length of Slieve League. The 11km. walk was as Prionsias said "fantastic" (not that Eoin thought so). Many of the group had a swim at Trábane in the cool Atlantic, followed by a few pints in the Glencolmcille Hotel.

Thirty five out of the fifty strong group opted for a walk in the Bluestacks. Others went horse riding or hired bicycles. Philip's asthmatic horse wheezed his way along. Theresa's horse was shy and insisted on the bushes when going to the toilet.

The easier hike of the day finished at Harvey's Point Hotel where dicky-bowed waiters served scruffy Hillwalkers Irish coffees. Suzanne's pink trousers camouflaged with peat were quickly covered up.

On Monday, after a good night out in Donegal Town, and with the rain having returned, we decided to stay dry and continue on for Dublin.

Thanks to Jim and Prionsias for a super weekend.

*Anonymous*

# THE CLUB COMMITTEE



Chairperson:	Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h)
Secretary:	Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)
Treasurer	Prionsias MacAnBheatha (01-8379897 h)
Editor:	Maggie Greaney (01-2834253 h)
Sunday Hikes:	Jim Barry (01-4556455 h)
Weekends/Holidays:	Martin Fagan
Membership Secretary:	Gerry Walshe/Pauline Morley (01-8225818 h)
Training Officer:	Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)
Social Events:	Donal Finn / Martin Fagan
Young Hillwalkers:	John Guy (01-4524627 h) or Dave Rooney (01-8344811)
Other members:	Frankie Comerford
Distribution:	Cyril McFeeney

To facilitate quicker processing of membership, please send application forms and fees directly to membership secretary and not to An Óige Head Office.

Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th October 1998.

## LEADERS URGENTLY WANTED

Contact Jim Barry at 4556455 (home between 7.00pm. and 10.00pm.)

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Have you travelled anywhere abroad or indeed in Ireland that you think members would like to read about?

Please put pen to paper and send some articles or items of interest to the address below for inclusion in the newsletter. If possible the articles should be typed or in electronic form and should be a maximum of *one A4 page of text*. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or article to ensure their return.

Also, book reviews on hillwalking and related topics would be very welcome.

Articles for inclusion in the October newsletter should be sent before Wednesday 9th September 1998 to:

**Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**  
(e-mail: [maggieg@tinet.ie](mailto:maggieg@tinet.ie))