

Last 52 Munros

Number	Name	Map	Priority	Starting point	Route notes
40	Monadh Mor	43		Linn of Dee	Cycle to White Bridge, cross it, bear right up Glen Dee as far as possible, camp and climb next day.
19	Beinn Bhrotain				

Done on 26/7/2008. In fact, on reflection, I decided to try to do this all in the one day. I stayed in the Spittal of Glenshee hotel, perhaps for the last time, and cycled from Lin of Dee to the White Bridge. By then I was a bit sick of cycling, and the onward path, although good, was narrow, so I parked my bike there and walked from there on. It was possible to walk quite fast along much of this good path, which eventually deteriorated, but remained defined with occasional gaps all the way up Glen Geusachan to a height of about 700 metres. Another couple, whom I had overtaken while cycling to the White Bridge (which isn't white at all), were walking along the path on the other side of the river Dee, presumably to go to the Corrour bothy. Many other people had cycled far up the path, including one man and his dog, who had climbed the two hills and spent the night in the bothy. This meant he must have carried all his sleeping and eating kit over the two Munros. I would not have liked to do that. The general remote ambience in Glen Geusachan was very striking, and made me think that this was what it was all about. I found the climb up to Loch nan Stuirteag quite a struggle, and was dismayed by the lateness of the hour; I had started out from the Linn of Dee car park at 10:20, and it was now after 3 pm. Still, once on the way up to Monadh Mor summit, I felt I was making fair progress, but I was still working out how and where to spend the hours of darkness if I did not reach the car park by nightfall. I reached the first of Monadh Mor's two summits at 4:16, and saw the second; contrary to the maps, that looked higher. On the way to it I met another couple coming towards me. They said they would camp by loch nan Stuirteag if they did not have time to return that evening. Another pair carrying camping gear over both Munros. Cloud was descending, although never quite immersing me, as I reached the second summit; my GPS told me it was two metres higher than the first, whereas the maps say the first, northerly one, is higher by three metres. Walking on a bearing in the mist, a slow business because one has to continually keep checking one's compass, not being able to see ahead more than a few tens of metres, I reached the start of the path down to the col between Monadh Mor and Beinn Brotain with metre precision accuracy; I think the terrain must have helped me there. The col or bealach was a very well defined one, allowing no accumulation of water or marsh at its high point. I covered the 250 metre climb up to Beinn Brotain, again following a bearing, in good time and reached it by 5:26 pm. From there I veered from the route both Munro books proposed and began to descend to the path along Glen Dee a bit short of the lesser height of Carn Cloich-mhuilinn (still above 3000 ft), and picked up the Allt Garbh. I followed its south bank, but after a time realised that the north bank would be a better choice. I managed to change sides over some broad slabs where the copious flow of water was thinned out. I eventually picked up a path, not marked on the maps, and followed it, crossing the Allt again by stepping stones, to a kink in the main path along the Glen Dee. The time was by now after 8 pm, and I pounded along the track at a pace, after two and a half kilometres passing the conifer plantation which was a landmark on the outward route. I was still uncertain whether I would reach the car before dark, but had in mind a barn near my bicycle where I could spend the hours of darkness if necessary. I reached my bike at 9:20 and there was still good daylight, so I rapidly unlocked it, put my sticks away and set off., not before being attacked by midges which, after a few minutes registered my presence and told all their friends. Their numbers were so copious that their sudden assault was like stepping into a fine rain shower. I rode off as rapidly as possible to get away from them. Returning down the forest road alongside the Dee was very quick; the road was downhill, not immediately obvious from the route up, which of course was far harder work. Because my cycling muscles were still quite fresh, despite the long walking day, I was able to keep up a great pace. I was also far less intimidated by the rough surface, something I have noticed before at the end of a day's walk. I reached the car at about 9:50 pm, some ten minutes before it would have been too dark to cycle. I could have walked the last stretch, though. Once more the midges arrived, again after about five minutes, but I was prepared and thrust on my midge net before completing the final tasks of attaching my bike to the carrying rack, changing my footwear and extracting what I needed from my rucksack. I took the 85 mile drive home sedately. The day's walk was a 37 km round trip, 10 km of it admittedly by bicycle, and I was pleased but also a bit surprised that I had completed it within the day. Photos at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/MonadhMorAndBeinnBhrotain?authkey=hQqL8UES8ZQ>

161 Gulvain 40/(41) L A830 from Fort William to Mallaig, at west end of Loch Eil 4h 10m

Done on 7/8/2008, followed by Sgurr a'Bhealaich Dheirg and Saileag. I drove out the morning of the 7th, stayed in the now privatised hostel in South Laggan, the Great Glen Hostel, and drove home the evening after; so I took in two walks for one night's cheap accommodation, a fruitful trip. Two days' fine weather was forecast, in the midst of a long rainy period: a time to seize the moment. Carpe diem. I debated whether to bring my bike to cycle the first five or six kilometres, but decided not to; cycling up a rough track leaves me feeling quite tired, although I can be thankful on the return when the going is usually downhill and free-wheeling. So there was an hour and a half's walk before really starting. The cloud slowly lifted as I ascended and after the first "unrelenting", in the words of the SMC book, I gained the south and then the summit north top. On the way down I met another man on the way up: the only person I saw all day. The hill was much as I imagined from inspecting the map, and completely straightforward, but a pleasure nonetheless.

193 Sgurr Thuilm 40 L A830 near Glenfinnan station 3h 40m

Done on 18/6/2008, with Oliver Julian, Oliver John, Julian and Andrew. The conditions were very wet, which is why we only completed the first of the intended pair. Visibility was also pretty poor. The whole week was wet, but most of us climbed every day. So, no photos, because of the lack of visibility. I did learn, however, that I could reach these hills easily on a day trip, so may well do so in the near future.

206 Sgurr nan Coireachan 40 L A830 near Glenfinnan station 3h 40m?

Done on 23/6/2008. This was an isolated very fine day; tomorrow's forecast is rainy and very poor. There were fine views from the summit, especially of Skye and Rhum in the distance. The starting point is 82.2 miles from home and I climbed this one on a day trip. Time was 4h 10m. Photos at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/20080624151651SgurrNanCoireachan?authkey=jRWUP5sGILY>

132 Sgurr Mor 33/(40) End of the road along Loch Archaig; Kinbreak bothy. Stay at the South Laggan YH, camp at end of Loch Archaig or hike to the Kinbreack bothy and stay a night or two. 4h20m

Attempted on 17 October 2009. A beautiful day with cloud inversions over Glendessary at first. The path to the col between Druim a' Chuirn and Fraoch Bheinn starts from immediately west of the bridge by Glendessary farm. The path round to the Kinbreack bothy seems non-existent, and the path due north becomes steadily more awkward and undefined. The route straight up the south slope to the bealach between Sgurr Mor and Sgurr an Fhuarain is quite feasible and should save three kilometres on the route. I had little difficulty crossing the Kingie river, but it could be another matter after rains. I have concluded that there is little point in staying in the bothy. In fact it is quite possible to drive from home in the early morning: 96 miles and 2 hours 40 minutes. I ran out of energy after a sleepless night in the otherwise excellent Great Glen Hostel, and began to run out of daylight too, sunset being at 1815 at this time of year. To be done another day, probably next year. Photos here:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/SgurrMorAttempt?authkey=Gv1sRgCOK7952Bh92-ag&feat=directlink>

Done on 11 April 2010, the first new Munro of 2010 and as a septuagenarian, although I climbed two of the Mamores with Maurice and Daniel at the end of March in thick snow. Sgurr Mor was a long trek over the pass north of Glen Dessary. As proposed above I set off from home early at 6.15 a.m. and arrived at the end of Loch Arkaig ready to set off at 9.10. I reached the summit at 3.45, over six hours; the Munro book estimates 3 hours 50 minutes, which seems excessively optimistic to me, although I do go slowly uphill these days. I got back to the car at 8.50 p.m. The A82 south of Fort William was closed for repairs, it being a Sunday night, so I had to drive an extra 30 miles crossing to the East and joining the A9, arriving home at

1.30 a.m. Then I cooked a lentil curry!
<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/timdenvir/SgurrMor11042010?authkey=Gv1sRgCPGOIzb8bPocQ&feat=directlink>

222	Meall Buidhe	33		Inverie, Knoydart	Ferry from Mallaig, stay in Inverie
234	Luinne Bheinn		P		2 nights http://www.road-to-the-isles.org.uk/knoydart.html

Done on 23/5/2011. I took the train from Crianlarich to Mallaig, a very spectacular but 3 hour long ride, and then the Bruce Watt ferry to Knoydart. I could have bought the tickets on the quayside in Mallaig, but didn't see the office there. A rather long trek of over a mile to the bunkhouse where I shared a room with a couple and another man, all part of a larger party of 13. The warden, a most attractive woman called Izzie, reassigned my room on meeting me, saying that I would find it quieter; I think she was right. I got on well enough with the others staying there, especially after my walk, which most of them did the following day and seemed to acquire greater respect for me as a result. The trek was a long walk in to the bealach at Mam Barrisdale, which involved a fairly gentle ascent to 450 metres, then climbing up to Luinne Bheinn via a path most of the way. However, the path disappeared for a stretch and in the cloud, I made use of my GPS for a stretch; it would have been much more difficult without it. I was glad to pick up the path again on the ascent of the north west shoulder of the summit, and then the path was adequately clear despite mist and cloud over the winding ridge route to Meall Buidhe. I descended down the west ridge and then dropped southward on to the path running along the Gleann Meadail, which goes over a couple of very well made bridges over the Allt Gleann Meadail and the Inverie River to rejoin the main track running back into Inverie. The whole trek took me 13 hours, and I got back to the bunkhouse at 9:30 pm, too late to get a meal at the fine pub, so I cooked a rapid veg curry. The next day despite good weather I took a rest rather than trying for Ladhr Bheinn and had lunch in the pub. I followed the route shown in the latest edition of SMC Munro guide; the previous edition suggests traversing these two hills in the opposite direction, which I think would not be so pleasant; the ridge walk between the two hills has a number of mild scrambles which look easier going up than down, and the path might be easier to follow using the clockwise route I took. Indeed some of my fellow bunkhouse residents remarked that they kept losing the path walking the anticlockwise route. I might try going up Ladhar Bheinn from Inverie climbing on to the south west ridge from the track to Mam Barrisdale. I saw one man doing that and it looks a bit of a slog to the ridge but fine once one gets there. It was too cloudy and windy to take photos. I also want to get the Harvey's map of Knoydart.

111	Ladhar Bheinn	33	P	Barrisdale on Knoydart	Drive to Kinloch Hourn, hike 10km to Barrisdale, camp, or stay in bothy, climb next day. 3h30m
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Done on 2/7/2011. In fact I chose an entirely different route from that I originally proposed. I took the ferry from Mallaig to Knoydart and stayed in the bunkhouse, as I had for the above in April 2011. I walked a circular route, as recommended by the SMC Munro book, up Gleann Dubh-Lochain to the start of the lochan and struck up through grassy tufts and bracken, tedious going for an hour and twenty minutes, to gain the ridge below Aonach Sgoilte. This was mostly pathless and required some micro-route finding, but was quite stimulating with fine views. Then at the un-named point at 849m (why isn't it a Corbett?) I turned left to take the very undulating ascent of Ladhar Bheinn's east ridge. This involved much more scrambling than I had anticipated, nearly all of it exhilarating and manageable, but the last of the eight or so pitches was less pleasant with wet slate-like rock and almost no hand-holds. It was good to reach the summit ridge, and then I descended down the easy west ridge and struck off south-west to the track leading eventually back to Inverie. The whole round took me twelve hours fifteen minutes, but I was very glad I chose this route rather than the boring and tedious easiest way up and down the west ridge from Inverie. A great day ending with dinner at the Old Forge in Inverie and a great weekend on Knoydart. Photos at <https://picasaweb.google.com/109467948707763920993/LadharBheinn2July2011?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCNqE3ZzO8r-fiwE&feat=directlink>

104	Sgurr a'Mhaoraich	33		Just beyond bridge on road to Kinloch	Stay at South Laggan YH night before. 2H40m.
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Hourn

Done 16/4/2008; in fact the YH is sold, so I stayed at the Invergarry bunk house. Time taken was 4 hours, but deep snow and windy conditions hampered progress. I wouldn't have been able to do it without ice axe. Quite hard scrambling between the previous peak and the summit. Three other people on the route, 2 behind and one in front, who left very useful footprints. I wouldn't have done it if they had not been there. Photos at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/20080417150344?authkey=qS63yyKFyJA>

14	Mam Sodhail	25	A831 to Cannich, Very remote: a) stay in YH in then road to Affrich Cannich then drive to 1½ miles Lodge; or Glen Shiel, east of Affrich Lodge, or b) drive hike to Alltbeith YH to glen Shiel, hike to Alltbeith YH, stay 2/3 nights. Beinn Fhionnlaidh could be reached by boat hired from east end of Loch Mullardoch.
12	Carn Eighe		
128	Beinn Fhionnlaidh		

I climbed An Socach, Mam Sodhail and Carn Eighe from the Alltbeithe Hostel on 2/6/2010. The previous day I walked all the way to the hostel rather than using my bike, as I had a week before. I found that it took 7 minutes longer entirely on foot, but I felt a bit more tired at the end of the trek and had rather aching shoulders from my back-pack.

I had intended to climb the two higher hills, Mam Sodhail and Carn Eighe, on that day and An Socach on the next. But I felt not very strong in the morning so I decided to climb An Socach, which is much lower, and see how I felt then. In fact on reaching that summit after 2½ hours, I felt much better and carried on to both the next summits. The weather was overcast and very windy, but turned sunny and windless in the evening. The walk ended with 3 kilometres along the track in Glen Affric and I took the last photo of the waterfall in the sunny evening. Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/timdenvir/AnSocachMamSodhailAndCarnEighe?authkey=GvIsRgCKXJ6djC6dTk6QE&feat=directlink>

Oliver, Andrew, Julian and I climbed Beinn Fhionnlaidh on 29/6/2010. Once again we hired the boat from the east end of Loch Mullardoch (see An Socach, M67). Carl the boatman was obliging and agreed to pick us up again after our walk up the hill. Again a misty day, and we took 2 hours and 40 minutes to reach the top after a rough awkward trek across an initial rising traverse to the north-east ridge of the hill. Again we reached the landing point ready to be picked up by Carl ten minutes before the arranged time, and wrapped up for the tossing cruise back to the car at the east end of the loch. Photos [here](#).

269	An Socach	25	As Mam Sodhail	Either cycle from W end of Loch Affrich or stay 2 nights in Alltbeith YH
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Done on 2/6/2010: see Mam Sodhail above.

22	Sgurr nan	25	Glen Shiel, hike to	Stay 2 nights at Alltbeith YH.
167	Ceathreamhnan Mullach na Dheiragain		Alltbeith YH	

Done on 26/5/2010. I think it is easier to reach Alltbeith YH from the east end of Loch Affric. Some cycle all the way but the second part of the nine mile route is rough. I left my bike half way and walked in the rest. The YH has no means of communication, so they do not know who is arriving. Therefore it is necessary to bring evidence of one's booking. The "army blankets" the hostel says is all they have are rather smarter than the traditional grey ones, but they look quite warm. There is only one per bed supplied. One is recommended to bring a normal sleeping bag, but I think that a sheet one or liner would be sufficient in warmer weather. Otherwise the hostel is pretty well equipped, with running hot and cold water, a shower and flushing loos. The second night I had the dormitory to myself, what a luxury.

The path up to the bealach at NH079229 is well made and defined nearly all the way. I looked for a route across to the Bealach nan Daoine at NH065235 but could not find a start to it that passable. So I decided to climb Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan first. The top of the east ridge was set with snow, with the summit almost

isolated above sheets of snow to the east and north. I then descended to the Bealach nan Daoine and continued over Carn na Con Dhu to Mullach na Dheiragain. On the way I met a young man who had been sleeping out the previous night in a bivvy bag, and an elderly man, fit and remarkably slim, who had set off from the Iron Lodge and was doing a round of the horseshoe. I returned to the Bealach nan Daoine and considered how to reach the bealach at NH079229. I thought it was just possible to reverse the route suggested by the SMC Munro book, but as I began to cross the Coire nan Dearcag I saw that it was far easier to go south to regain the east ridge of Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan just east of the penultimate height at 970m. This I did; the ascent was brief and easy, with a few small terraces easily negotiated. To repeat this route one would go almost due south from Bealach nan Daoine to reach ridge at about NH067225. I had set off at 0910, reached the first bealach at 1127, the first summit at 1340, the second bealach at 1440, and the second summit at 1630. On the return I reached the Bealach nan Daoine again at 1830 and the bealach at the head of Coire na Cloiche at 1945, and the hostel again at 2050. That night I had a dormitory to myself, and the following day I trekked back to the car park, unfortunately overshooting the spot where I had left my bike and having to return for it, wasting some 45 minutes. I had hoped to climb An Socach that day but the weather had deteriorated considerably. Photos at

http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/timdenvir/SgurrNanCeathreamhnanMullachNaDheiragain?authkey=Gv1sRgCKqS-KKP0e_1QA&feat=directlink

100	Beinn Fhada	33/	Glen Shiel, Loch	Stay in Glen Shiel, perhaps in
273	A'Glas-bheinn	Harvey	Duich, Strath Coe,	camp site at Shiel Bridge. There is
		Kintail	Forestry Commission	also a camp site NG964210 in
			car park	Morvich. This trek looks not too
				difficult. If I set off from home
				fairly early I should have time to
				search out accommodation in the
				area (NG9420). 3h 4h50m

I climbed Beinn Fhada on 14/05/2009. I camped at the Morvich camp-site, which is very decent with showers etc., and owned by the Caravan Club, cheap too (I think) at £7 for one car, one tent and one person. The route up to Beinn Fhada is on a good path, but not as is described in the book. The path goes up further into Corrie an Sgraine and starts from further up the path to the Bealach an Sgairne. The route up to A'Glas-bheinn looks awkward, and is described very briefly, almost casually, in both books. There does not appear to be a path. I felt too exhausted to attempt this second hill, possibly after not having slept too well in my tent. The next day was not as forecast, with rain starting as I was packing up. But a good day, windy with hot sunshine. Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/BeinnFhada?authkey=Gv1sRgCIKH49T0q52CDg&feat=directlink>

I climbed A'Glas Beinn on 30/05/2009, staying again at the Morvich camp site, during a spell of very hot weather. In fact there is a continuous path all the way from the Bealach an Sgairne, although the OS maps show no path at all and the Harvey map shows it as intermittent. I don't think I have ever come across a hill with so many false summits, but the views from the top were magnificent, with Skye, both red and black Cuillin, Rhum, Eigg and the Skye bridge all clearly visible. My slow times and experiences of tiredness on these two might be due to my sore foot.

33	A'Chralaig	33/	Glen Shiel, A87, 2km	Stay in Cluanie Inn, or possibly at
49	Mullach	Kintail	east of Cluanie Inn	Shiel Bridge camp site. 2H20m
	Fraoch-choire			3h20m

Done 24/9/2008. I stayed in the reopened South Laggan hostel, now run privately but by the same nice Australian couple, and renamed the Great Glen Hostel. It is only 24 miles from Glen Shiel. The route up begins just a few yards after the start of the path that leads to Alltbeith, and is marked with a small cairn. It is well defined all the way up to the ridge and is not too steep, although I was relieved when I reached the top. Weakened by a recent sore throat, I wondered whether I would manage it, but cheered by seeing my altitude already at 1036m, I recovered and continued to the second summit. The scrambling on the last stage to Mullach Fraoch-choire was near precipitous drops to the right and not too welcome in the cloud, which shrouded both summits and reduced the views to nothing. I took the alternative route down, dropping from the last bealach to the Alltbeith path. The start of this route from the bealach is clear and marked with a

cairn, but fairly soon becomes intermittent and muddy. It took an hour to reach the path, which was muddy and poorly defined, rather to my surprise, seeing it is a main route to the youth hostel at Alltbeith. Another hour and three quarters trudging along the path to the road, a return of 3¼ hours altogether. I felt tired at the end of the day, not like me; it must have been the effect of my recent throat! The outward route took me an hour longer than the Munro book schedules. I met two women on their way down back over A'Chralaig as I was travelling from there towards Mullach Fraoch-choire. Photos at <http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/AChralaig?authkey=Q5mflQzXFc#>

173	Ciste Dhubh	33/	P	Glen Shiel, ½km east	Stay in Cluanie Inn 2h30m 4h10m
135	Aonach Meadhoin	Kintail		of Cluanie Inn	

Done 15/5/2008. In fact I stayed in a B&B in Invergarry, the bunk house there being full. Invergarry is only 20 miles from Glen Shiel. The hills took me 3h 15m and 6h 30m. The ridge to Ciste Dhubh was quite airy. After consulting a pair of fellow walkers I decided to come down by the same route as I went up. It looked less steep and would return me nearer to my car. Quite a physically taxing day. Photos at <http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/20080516151009?authkey=I9fWekPX-sk>

96	Sgurr	33/		Glen Shiel, A87, car	2h 2h30m
205	a'Bhealaich Dheirg Saileag	Kintail		park NH007136	

Done on 8/8/2008, after spending the night in the now private hostel in South Laggan. The same pleasant people are still running it; I think they may have bought it, a management buy-out, you might say. There were a few other family and other groups there, all taking a room each, which left me in a room all on my own; an unexpected bonus. Kintail is on the north side of Glen Shiel, which cuts deep through it, so all initial ascents are steep, as are the descents. After a slog up steep grass and periodic midges, I made the main ridge, and realised that the summit of Sgurr a'Bhealaich Dheirg was in view for most of the way. The last 70 metres (horizontally) was precipitous, and if I had been with companions I would have left my rucksack behind for this last small stretch. Saileag, further west along the ridge after several lumps, is a much tamer, grassy affair. Parts of the ridge are above very steep sides and quite vertiginous. From the Bealach a'Lappin, there is now a continuous path all the way down. The 4 kilometres back to the car along the road took me only ¾ of an hour. The day was splendidly warm and sunny with magnificent views. I had forgotten my sun hat, and had to wear a woolly one to keep my head from burning. Remarkably, despite a fine day and this popular area, I didn't see a soul all day.

67	An Socach	25+33		A87, turn right after Dornie along public road to Killilan; private road to Iron Lodge	Very remote. Maybe stay in Tigh Iseabail Bunkhouse in Killilan, 01599 588205, or camp site in Dornie, cycle 12km to Iron Lodge 4h10m. Alternatively, hire a boat from east end of Loch Mullardoch to the lodge at NH141313.
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Done on 25/6/2010 with Oliver-Julian, Andrew and Julian. We hired the services of the boatman Carl, who is 75, Danish and moved to his remote lodge at the east end of Loch Mullardoch 31 years ago. He moved to Scotland because he "loves the deer", but it seems he loves to hunt them. He said that he had over time carried 3,500 deer in his boat from the hills back to the dam at then east end of the loch. The ride to the starting point by the lodge at the foot of An Socach took 40 minutes. It turned out that Carl also owns this lodge and built it himself to accommodate deer stalking parties. On landing at 11:00 a.m. we trekked up a path at first and then cut across and upwards onto a curving ridge where a path emerged again to the summit. Weather was misty with little in the way of views, but cleared 20 minutes after we left the summit. We arrived back at the landing point five minutes before Carl appeared to return us to the east end of the loch where we had parked the car. The walk was a fairly short round trip of 5hours. Photos [here](#).

29	An Riabhachan	25+26		Glen Strathfarrar, west from A831 at	3h30m 4h50m Alternative route, v long, from Loch Mullardoch
24	Sgurr na				

Lapaich

Erchless Castle, then
to Power Station at
Glean Innis. Key
holder at Inchmore
046376260

Oliver, Oliver, Julian and I climbed An Riabhachan on 21st June 2009, but Julian felt unwell shortly before the summit and did not quite reach it. He was fine later. A beautiful ridge leads to the summit from the Bealach Toll an Lochain. Our route was from glen Strathfarrar, let through by the keeper of the gate key on the Strathfarrar road. Access was available from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm. We would have been tight for time if we had done both. However, the same route will be possible to Sgurr na Lapaich.

I climbed Sgurr na Lapaich on 7 August 2009. The same feisty woman was operating the gate at the entrance to the estate. I set off from home shortly after 6 a.m. and arrived at the gate at 9.30. The drive to the starting point takes 35-40 minutes. There was nothing problematic about this walk: I took the left hand side of the upper lochan, Loch Mòr as a route, contrary to the instructions in the SMC Munro book, following Julian's suggestion last June when we climbed the neighbouring An Riabhachan, and it worked fine both ways. Photos here:

http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/SgurrNaLapaichAndConaMheallAugust2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCP-MoZ_TgoXPggE&feat=directlink

I climbed Sgurr na Lapaich again with Oliver, Andrew and Julian on 26/6/2010. The day was warm, clear but a bit overcast. An enjoyable excursion. making use of the gate controlled from 9:00 to 20:00 each day. A clear but slightly cooler day. Photos [here](#).

224	Bidein a'Choire	25	Craig, on A890	5h 5h50m, return by same route.
163	Sheasgaich			Bike may save 6 km each way
	Lurg Mhor			

Attempted on 15/6/2010. I reached the north ridge of Bidean a' Choire Sheasgaich, but once I got to the band of rocky cliff I could not find a secure way up it. I could see the possibilities from afar, but close up to the face I could not identify any route. I decided to try again with a companion or maybe on a sunnier day when the rocks were less slippery and my confidence might be higher.

Climbed on 15/08/2010. In fact I took a completely different route; I trekked from Strathcarron station via Achintee to the Bearnais bothy, and the next day headed south-east across an undulating plain, first crossing the Abhainn Bhearnais and later a burn flowing from the bealach between Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich and Beinn Tharsuinn, sometimes in a deep gully, identifiable from the map. But the gully becomes negotiable in several places or one can cross further downstream where there is no difficulty. Then I continued up a rising slope to the WSW ridge of Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich, taking a route up the steeper part which I could pick out from afar on the approach. The prospect of Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich looks quite daunting on close quarters, but after passing a lochan one can take a rising traverse round the back, i.e. south side of the hill, up easy grass slopes joining a path to the top. On climbing up to the WNW ridge I spotted another climber mounting the difficult north ridge and again when they reached the summit, and yet again crossing the bealach to Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich's neighbour, Lurg Mhor. I followed along the path across the bealach and ascending without effort to the summit. On the way up I again saw this other climber on the top and met her as she was on her way down. We discussed the difficulty of ascending the north ridge of Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich. She had camped on the lower slopes of Beinn Tharsuinn and was continuing to join a path to, I think, Attadale, having left her backpack at the bealach. I realised that she must have carried her camping gear up the awkward north ridge, even more impressive. The summit of Lurg Mhor was an idyllic place in the bright sunshine, and I spent some time there just to enjoy it. On the return I contoured round Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich to reach the top of the WSW ridge again and picked my way down again fairly easily, trekking back to the bothy.

The route to the bothy took much longer than I expected, only 10km but an amazing 4½ hours. An ascent of 490m is involved, to a highest point of 500m, then a descent back down to 280m. The path becomes ill defined over the last couple of kilometres, but by then the bothy is within sight. This makes for difficult route finding on the return, because that part of the land is rather featureless. I lost the path on the return and spent some time walking on compass bearings until I saw the outline of the bealach of the route's

highest point at NG996418. I would advise anyone taking this route to take bearings on the bothy when it comes into sight while the path is still distinct, reversing it on the return, and to note the profile of the bealach mentioned after crossing it.

This route, involving a stay in the Bearnais bothy, is I think far easier than the principal one described in the SMC Munro book. From the bothy it took me 3½ hours to the summit of Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich, 1h 20m to cross to the summit of Lurg Mhor, and 3½ hours to return to the bothy, a septuagenarian's timings. The bothy is in excellent repair and was completely silent at night. I had it to myself, although it is much used, from the evidence of its log, an excellent feature. I had much pleasure in reading a number of entries and left one of my own. Someone had left a bag of rubbish and a used gas canister which I took back to Strathcarron and disposed of. I caught the 12:45 train back to Inverness and thence to Dunblane. I was beset by fierce midges on the first and last day, but happily less so on the day of my actual climb. Photos [here](#).

139	Sgurr	25	Craig, on A890	3h50 4h20m. Bike may save 6km
78	Choinnich Sgurr a'Chaorachain			each way

Climbed on 11/09/2009. The bike route at first is steep in places and arduous, but is worth the effort since there is a long flat bit for some kilometres later. I did not take the extremely precarious wire bridge, instead, like another pair of walkers, took off my boots and socks and waded across the Allt a' Chonais. I followed the route in the SMC Munro book, but instead of descending from Sgurr a' Chaorachain by its north ridge, which looked a bit awkward, I returned to the bealach between the two hills and descended northwards from there. I stayed in the bunk house attached to the Ledgowan Hotel, not a well equipped bunk house, but I ate in the hotel, again food nothing to write home about. Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/timdenvir/SgurrChoinnichSgurrAChaorachain?authkey=Gv1sRgCIWQu8rro5yGxQE&feat=directlink>

125	Maoile Lunndaidh	25	Craig, on A890	4h40m. Bike will save 9km
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Done on 30/7/2011. I stayed the night before at the Aultguish Inn, once again (see Ruadh Stac Mor etc.) but had told them that I would not have breakfast the next day (Saturday 30th) as I wanted to leave early for the walk. For this reason they reduced the price of the room by £10 that night, and again by £5 because I was staying there two nights, which I thought was a fair deal. I was in one of their new very comfortable rooms again. I got up just after 5 am, made breakfast of porridge and tea, couldn't manage anything more since I find it difficult to eat at that time in the morning, and set off for Craig. I was on the way just before 7 am, striding along the 9 km forest track that leads to the Gleuaig Lodge. It goes up steeply at first, and on a previous occasion I found this impossibly hard on a bicycle, which is why I chose to go on foot this time. I reached the starting point just short of the Lodge at 9:15, after 2 hours 20 minutes. Maoile Lunndaidh is shaped like a horseshoe, with the prongs pointing north. Following the route in the SMC book, I trekked across rough ground to the base of the western prong/ridge. This I found taxing, including the steep 600 metre slog up the ridge towards the secondary top, Carn nam Fiacan. Midges and horseflies were annoying, and I had to keep covering myself with repellent. But the day was fine, quite sunny and warm, and I reached Carn nam Fiacan at 12:38 and the main summit at 1 pm. The SMC book eulogises the corrie, Fuartholl Mor, which lies within the prongs of the Maoile Lunndaidh horseshoe, "fine views down to the lochans cradled in this fine corrie". It is indeed a fine corrie, and perhaps is the best feature of this hill, which is rather tedious of access and unremarkable at its summit, both its tops being on high grassy domes. I left the summit after taking photos and eating lunch at 13:25 and followed the eastern of the two prongs down to a col and then turned east down across the bottom of the corrie to retrace to route over rough ground back to the track by Glenuaig Lodge. The biting insects prevalent on my way up had subsided. I reached the track at 3:30 and pounded my way back to Craig in 2 hours 10 minutes, being overtaken by several cyclists. Thus I got back to the Inn in good time at 6:45, time for a wonderful shower and dinner of calamari and salad, followed by salmon and prawn pasta. The day after when I drove home was overcast, raining slightly at times, so I chose the right day for this excursion. Bravo for the Mountain Weather Information Service ([MWIS](#))! Photos [here](#).

255	Moruig	25	P	A890, car park at	Could stay in the Ledgowan
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284	Sgurr nan Ceannaichean	P	NH082521	Lodge bunkhouse http://www.ledgowanlodge.co.uk/accommodation.html Note linen extra – maybe bring my own. Or stay at the Torridon YH having climbed Spidean a'Choire Leith the day before. Explore Craig for later trips. 2h20m 3h20m
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Attempted on 10/7/2008, but rained off. Moruisg is grassy and damp, but the next looks a bit more interesting and rocky.

Done on 19/3/2009. A beautiful sunny day, more like May than March. I took my ice axe in case I needed it, but didn't. The slope up the side of the ridge to Moruisg is long and a bit disheartening, but eventually I reached the summit after 3 hours. The route to the next summit was straightforward and much pleasanter, a rocky summit with a good path all the way up. The route down was a bit tricky, difficult to find, no path until one reaches the stalkers' path on the other side of the Alltan na Feola, which runs almost back to the culvert under the railway line. The last stretch is pathless, and best taken close by the fence beside the railway. Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/20090321MoruisgAndSgurrNanCeannaichean?authkey=Gv1sRgCJORzP6FIOrvNQ&feat=directlink>

268	Tom na	24	P	Car park on B road	6h round trip, looks easy, but with
162	Gruagaich Sgurr Mhor, Ben Alligin		P	4km west of Torridon	some easy scrambling. Torridon YH looks useful base.

Done on 6/5/2008. Blisteringly hot day, fine visibility although hazy over distance. I completed the Beinn Alligin horseshoe, round over the horns of Alligin. This was well worth while, although some exposed scrambling was required. There were a lot of people climbing this, and going round the horseshoe in both directions. Photos at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/20080508154130?authkey=xpQRpu9Z9kA>

258	Beinn Liath	25		Achnashellach station	3h20m 4h30. Note SMC
195	Mhor Sgorr Ruadh			on A890	instructions.

Explored on 20/3/2009. A beautiful sunny day, uncharacteristic of March. I found the route up to the junction of paths at NG990506. This is a delightful walk in itself, culminating in fine views of the three mountains in the group, from a place of beautiful solitude. The path is very well made and quite dry underfoot. Its start from the forest road is clear. Crossing the river Lair on the return would be very difficult except perhaps after many days of drought, so the alternative return route proposed in the SMC book is probably necessary. The return from that point takes an hour only. The crossroad in the paths is staggered, with that going to the left occurring first. Both are marked with cairns, the second a tall tower. Another tower-like cairn marks the start of a path up Beinn Liath Mhor. It looks a good, if steep, path. To that point there is no sign of dampness underfoot, no peaty mush etc.

From the station, 100m after crossing the railway line, the junction mentioned is in fact a crossroads. One goes left. Photos:

http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/CoireLairAndSurroundingHillsMarch2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCOWKrrib_dWGqgE&feat=directlink

I stayed in the Torridon YH but this is an hour's drive away, and alternatives are Gerry's hostel in Achnashellach or the walkers' lodge at the Ledgowan Hotel in Achnasheen, 01445 720252. The cooking facility is poor, a cooker and stuff in a cupboard, but food can be prepared in a dining room. It might be wise to bring some kitchen utensils and food in a box to keep in one's bedroom. There are 6 bedrooms with a two tier bunk in each. Bring your own sleeping bag or hire bedding from the hotel for a once-off charge of £5. Another possibility is a B&B at the station in Achnashellach, but I can't find its phone number.

Done on 18/04/2009. Another beautiful day. I did not stay anywhere; instead I drove up the day before and walked up to the Coire Lair and camped. I got going the next day at 9.00am. The ridge to Beinn Liath Mhor is much longer than it looks! Several people overtook me, the first a family, father, son and mother coming behind, but all were at a fierce pace. They had set out from Forfar at 4.00 a.m. Then next came a young man, meeting me at the first peak. We had a extended conversation in which I learned that he had three children and was forty years old. He had 18 Munros to complete, now presumably 16. The route down from Beinn Liath Mhor to the bealach is awkward, with not much of a defined path. But doable with care, good visibility and intelligent route finding. I met another man, bearded, reticent and carrying camping right to the top of Sgorr Ruadh. He planned to camp in the coire. On the way down from there I was overtaken yet again by a woman of about 53 making a very fast pace, almost running. The going was quite difficult and I would not have wanted to go so fast for fear of twisting my ankle or something, but I often meet people travelling downhill much faster than me. Towards the end of the down trek I met the young forty-year old again: he had decided to climb the third hill in the group. Crossing the river Lair was not too difficult, especially seeing him confidently stride across. My camping place was on soft but lumpy grass. I slept fitfully both nights, but did sleep for a few hours, with strange dreams. The wind was almost non-existent and the sun did not light upon the tent until about 8.00 am. Another time I might take my personal radio. The scenery was inspiring, both from my camping ground and throughout the walk. Photos here:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/BeinnLiathMhorAndSgorrRuadh20090418?authkey=Gv1sRgCIXNypni8rSFtgE&feat=directlink>

75	Spidean a'Choire Leith	25 Harvey Torridon	P	A896, 50m west of Allt an Doire Ghairbh	3h See below. Try that first and see if ridge is feasible.
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Done on 9/7/2008. A very steep route up, but on a very well-defined path, with a little scrambling in places. This was an enjoyable day after staying in the Torridon YH. I had conversations with two good looking men from Belgium who were climbing their first Munro. To my surprise their pace was if anything slower than mine. Having met them at the start, I encountered them again at the summit. They continued on to Mullach an Rathain. Another client of the YH overtook us all and to my chagrin reached his car while I was still on the way down, having completed the circuit. He was wearing thin running shorts and was practically running.

108	Mullach an Rathain	25 Harvey Torridon	P	A896, 1km east of NTS info point at Torridon junction	2h30m Can be done with above, exposed and in places difficult scramble.
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Done on 7/5/2008. Not quite as hot as the day before, which was a relief. I made a false start right at the beginning, where the path was not marked over a sandstone terrace. This cost me about an hour and a half to regain the path. The route was unrelentingly steep; one can see the summit from the starting point an angle of about 30°. The ridge to the other end of Liatach was easily visible from the summit and appeared very long. I can see the point of the SMC book's caution about it. Photos at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/MullachAnRathainLiatach?authkey=ZBBUYIQF31E>

187	A'Mhaighdean	19		Poolewe, bike 7km up	40km! Very remote, perhaps
276	Ruadh Stac Mor	19		private road to Kernsary and perhaps beyond	bivouac at foot of mountains near NG995765

Done on 22/7/2011. I drove to the Aultguish Inn on 20th july, but my car broke down with one cylinder failing to fire, on the A9 just short of Newtownmore. I called the rescue services and by the time they arrived, an hour and a half later, the fault seemed to have cured itself. The mechanic could find nothing wrong. So after some discussion with him I drove on. The Inn said I would be too late to eat there after this delay, so I bought a small quiche on the way. But when I arrived the chef offered me a lasagne or crespine, which I accepted. Their food is very good, and I could keep the quiche for a lunch later on the go. The next day I drove to Poolewe, about 45 miles, and set off to trek to Carnmore, where there is a lodge and a barn in which I was told one could sleep the night. I set off on the trek, about 20km, at 9:30, and arrived at 3 pm. This was fairly taxing, since I was carrying a tent, sleeping bag, mat, stove and food for two days. The evening there was beautiful, and the situation remote and deserted: no-one was staying in the lodge and I

was the only person in the barn. The barn is not like a “proper” bothy: no floorboards, wall lining or ceiling, just lumpy beaten earth floor with stones and rocks embedded, a railway sleeper balanced on some rocks for a table/bench, but there were several beds supplied, two divans with mattresses and some other old bed bases. A notice by the lodge and another in the barn welcomed walkers and climbers on behalf of the Letterewe estate. I decided that if any others arrived to stay in the barn I would set up my tent, but I was alone throughout. Everywhere in the barn was very dusty and grubby, but the bed I slept on was very comfortable. I took several photos in the evening and made a meal of rehydrated onions, mushrooms, tomatoes and lentils with curry powder and rice. The next morning after breakfast of Earl Grey tea and porridge, I set off at 8:45 for the two hills via the bealach between them. The weather was a bit overcast, chilly with spots of rain and clouds at first. The route up to Ruadh Stac Mor from the bealach was via a scree-strewn gully through the lower cliffs, then over a small sandstone boulder field and on to the summit. I realised it was important to note the position of the top of the gully, and there were a couple of piles of stones marking the spot, but these were hard to identify on the route down because they were against a background of a boulder field of the same material. I had spotted another climber at the top of A’Mhaighdean as I was on my up and he caught up with me soon after I reached the summit of Ruadh Stac Mor. I greeted him, the only person I had seen for over 24 hours, and he just perceptibly nodded his acknowledgement, ritually touched to summit cairn and then sat down at some distance facing away from me without saying a word! I found the route down again without too much difficulty and reached the top of A’Mhaighdean some two hours later. I got back to the barn at 6 pm, still no-one else there, made myself a cup of Lapsan Souchong tea, had supper of pasta with lentils etc., strolled several times down to the jetty with its charming view over the loch, sipping whisky from my hip flask. However, despite the beautiful evening once again, I was driven back into the barn by midges. The next day I woke early, got up and for breakfast finished off the previous night’s evening meal, which I could not polish off before, with Earl Grey tea once again. I packed up and set off at 7 am on the long trek back to Poolewe. I met two middle-aged ladies coming the other way at 8:30, who had set out very early from the camp site in Poolewe and were planning to do the whole excursion, Munros included, within the day. I told them about the barn, of which they were unaware. A short time later I met two young men also coming the other way. They were planning to climb the Munros, then camp, and set off back the next day. Still quite ambitious, to my mind. I reached Poolewe at 12:40, taking the same time, 5 ¾ hours, as on the way out. In retrospect, using a bicycle would have been good on this trip: the roads were not too hilly and their surface pretty good. I had lunch in Poolewe, game pie in the Poolewe Hotel, which was good but enormous and more than I could eat, despite my previous exertions. Maybe I have become unused to eating large quantities of meat. Then I drove the 200 miles, 4 hours, home, in fine weather and beautiful scenery, arriving home just after 6 pm. Despite its earlier hesitation, the car behaved perfectly on the return.

This had been the expedition that had most daunted me in prospect, and so I am pleased to have completed it. It was also very enjoyable, on account of the wilderness, solitude, scenery and a hill walk on the day that was just right in difficulty and length.

Photos at <https://picasaweb.google.com/109467948707763920993/TheFisherfieldTwo?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCK6PucaT17qQFw&feat=directlink>

238	Beinn Tarsuinn	19	Incheril, 1km east of	Choose second start of route; bike
115	Mullach Coire	19	Kinlochewe on A832	to Heights of Kinlochewe and
157	Mhic	19		beyond if poss. 4h30m 5h40m
	Fhearchair			6h20m. Return is back over
	Sgurr Ban			Mullach...

Climbed on 9/6/2010. I stayed the night before at the Aultguish Inn, and enjoyed an excellent evening meal of calamari and salad, and pasta (rigatoni) Amariaciana. I was put in a Spartan room in their annex, en suite nonetheless, for which the price was particularly reasonable.

The route from the A832 via Loch a’Bhraoin is very long, a 32km round trip. However, the first and final return part is along a good track covered in pale stones and gravel, and although I did not reach my car until 11:40 pm, I could see well enough without my head torch. From starting out from my parking spot to returning took me 14¼ hours. It did not get dark until about 11:15.

The east face of Sgurr Ban is covered in continuous quartzite slabs, a most remarkable feature, noted in the SMC Munro book. They are very easy to walk on, but the east side of the top of Sgurr Ban is covered in unpleasant boulders for a considerable distance, very slow to walk on. The descent to the bealach between

that and the next hill, Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair, is on easier, eroded and steep sandy scree, but perfectly navigable in the dry. Coming down the south side of Mullach Coire... is much less easy to walk on, with steep loose rocks. The deer track traverse between two bealachs round Meall Garbh has become a thorough human path, and the ascent of Beinn Tarsuinn is on grass and rocks, quite brief.

I returned following the route in the SMC book again, to yet another bealach (Bealach na Croise) and rejoined the outward path after crossing a small river flowing into Loch an Nid.

I saw no-one all day until I reached the summit of Sgurr Ban when two other men were approaching it from the south almost simultaneously. After that I met several others, all of them staying in some bothy or other, or cycling out from a different direction. Just as I reached the path on the return I met a man who was setting out to camp before climbing the next day. We had quite a long conversation, having met on the path seemingly fortuitously. It was by then 9 pm and I strode along quite fast to avoid darkness until at least I reached the wider track. Rather to my surprise I met two other lots of people setting out to camp, late as it was. This was a very satisfying, but very long walk. On the 14 mile drive back to the inn large numbers of deer were crossing and recrossing the road: I had to drive really slowly.

The day was overcast and I did not take many photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/timdenvir/ThreeFisherfieldHills?authkey=Gv1sRgCLbQ-ta-tL-29AE&feat=directlink>

209	Beinn Liath	20	P	From the A835 at	Looks straightforward. 3h10m 4h
43	Mhor Fannaich	20		NH277744, same	4h50m 5h40m. A round trip.
215	Sgurr Mor	20		point as for Am	
266	Meall Gorm	20		Faochagach already	
	An Coileachan			done	

Oliver, Oliver, Julian, Andrew and I climbed An Coileachan and Meall Gorm on 16th June 2009. Oliver and Andrew had climbed Beinn Liath Mhor Fannaich already. We found a route down from a spur from the ridge leading via an old well built stalker's path to the outflow of Loch Liu, but there it stopped and we had to make our way over rough ground to rejoin the outgoing path later.

I climbed the remaining two, Beinn Liath Mhor Fannich and Sgurr Mor, on 10 July 2009. The weather was cloudy, refuting the forecast. At the top of Beinn Liath Mor Fannich I met the only other walker all that day, a man in his seventies who asked me if I was continuing to Sgurr Mor. He proposed that we walked together as he was unwilling to attempt it on his own. I agreed and we had a long wide ranging conversation. His name was John Pearson and he was a retired civil servant who had worked at the European Commission. In the course of our conversation I learned that he had been to Emmanuel College Cambridge, Huddersfield Grammar School, was the first in his family to have gone to University, and was a linguist originally but had become a generalist in the civil service. He was 71 years of age and regularly spent three weeks hill walking in Scotland, during which times he reckoned to climb 30 Munros each trip. He had 39 left to do. He asked me about the philosophy of mathematics and gave me his card so I could email him if I thought of any books that might be useful. His card indicated that he was an Honorary Director-General at the EC, which sounds impressive. That night I stayed in the nearby Aultguish Inn, under new management for the last year, for a reasonable £35. They also have a bunk house and of course it would be possible to stay there and eat in the hotel, which would be overwhelmingly tempting as the food is very good.

176	Cona' Mheall	20		Either from above or same route as for Beinn Dearg, already done, A835 at NH182853	Attempted once, not a pleasant route to starting point. Needs an early start. Much longer than the 3h40m stated.
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Climbed on 7/8/2009. As noted above, this was a long trek over very rough terrain, then a difficult climb up a buttress onto a ridge. I have to admit, for the first time, that part way up I wondered if I had embarked on a wise thing here. I resolved that there was no way I would come down this way, the slope being slightly convex and therefore not admitting views of the way forward. But I felt exhilarated when I reached the ridge, which was most rewarding. You can see from the stillness of the reflections in the loch in the 5th

photo that there was no wind. The downside of that was that there were horrendous midgets all day, up to and including the summit and down again. I descended Cona' Mheall by a different route because I felt that climbing down the buttress would be too tricky. I met a man on the way down, a very friendly 46 year old London solicitor. He was on holiday with his parents and children and talked of climbing Munros with 3 generations of his family. He rather casually mentioned that his wife was at home getting through swine flu! I hope he wasn't carrying it. His parents were 78 and completed their Munros in 2005 but his father was still climbing them. I met him at the end of the walk and a very splendid looking fit elderly man he was. Coming down a different route meant that I ended up 10 miles from my car, but the solicitor insisted on giving me a lift there despite it being in the opposite direction he wanted to go himself. I protested slightly and then gratefully accepted. Photos here:

http://picasaweb.google.com/timdenvir/SgurrNaLapaichAndConaMheallAugust2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCP-MoZ_TgoXPggE&feat=directlink

262	Seana Bhraigh	20	Same route as for Beinn Dearg, already done, A835 at NH182853	4h50m. Tricky in fog.
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I climbed this in glorious weather on 11 July 2009. The route to the top is very long, but the compensation is that the ascent is largely gentle, with a push at the beginning up to the ridge of Druim na Sabhaidhe and towards the end up to the final ridge of Seanna Bhraigh itself. The path is well defined and constructed up to NH274855, as the map indicates. The views down the steep Gleann a'Chadha Dheirg were particularly stunning. I met four other people on the way, including a couple who set off slightly before me from the car park. I met them again as they had just left the summit and I was approaching it. The woman had left her backpack against a cairn on the way up and when I passed it again it was gone, so she must have picked it up on the way down. Nonetheless when I reached my car at the end of the day they were still not down, despite being some 40 minutes in advance of me. I could not understand where they could be, but decided they must have diverted off to somewhere else, Eididh nan Clach Geala possibly. There was plenty of daylight left. I took 5 hours 55 minutes including a 15 minute stop for lunch to reach the summit, and did the round trip in 10 hours 45 minutes. I even had time to have dinner at the Aultguish Inn afterwards, before driving home. I stayed there the previous night and enjoyed it, especially the food in the evening. Their breakfast was much less impressive, though. Unfortunately I ran out of petrol on the way home and wasted at least another hour on the journey, arriving home at 3:00 a.m. There are no petrol stations on the A9 and the only one open after 9 p.m. or so is in Aviemore, but this is not announced anywhere. My £10 pounds' worth (maximum permitted) was enough to get me from Dalwhinnie to Killin without trouble. I was delighted to have climbed this remote hill. The route to it is very beautiful and charming.

189	Ben More	48	B8035 at NM507368 on SE side of Abhainn na h'Uamha	3h10m
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Done on 25th August 2011, and again on 26th. Being my last Munro, Ben More called for a party. Hazel came from Wennington, Ellie, Selena and Nico from Lancaster, Natalie, Joshua and Jessica from Lancaster, Tim and Ros from Bath, Gordon from St. Albans, Julian from Northumberland and most distantly and impressively of all, James came from Huntington West Virginia. We all stayed at the Salen Hotel and ate in the Med restaurant in Salen village, which is definitely to be recommended. Following several requests, we went up the footpath from Dhiseig, which ascends a scenic but straightforward route with no scrambling or intermediate descents. One does however, start from sea level. The views from the upper slopes and the top are breathtaking and beyond description, since Ben More is on an island with no other dominant hills, and gives views of the sea, other islands, and distant mainland and Skye hills. Two bottles of sparkling wine were just right for eight adults, and I managed to share the celebration with two pleasant German men also. On the first day Ellie looked after Nico, who was too young to struggle up himself, so I repeated the ascent the next day with Ellie and James. I was delighted to share this experience with family and friends, and touched that so many people came from a considerable distance, especially James, flying from the USA for the occasion. At the meal afterwards I opened a mysterious letter that was waiting for me at the hotel. It was a poem from "[Tailor-made Poems](#)", written by Sarah Hymas and commissioned by Hazel. This was a very

unexpected, moving gift and a splendidly original idea. I shall have it framed.

These few days on Mull are a memory full of colour, life and good company. It is only now that everyone has left and I am back to normal in my house that the fact of my 'completion' has begun to strike me. It has been a nineteen year quest; I only began to feel I might be able to do it after 100 were under my belt, but after 200 I was fairly sure I would. It is a satisfying feeling.

Photos [here](#).