

<http://alpineclub-edm.org>

October 2001



Next Meeting: Chic Scott Slide Show

Chic Scott is well known for his climbing and skiing adventures around the world. His recent book, *Pushing the Limits: the Story of Canadian Mountaineering*, covers more than 100 years of climbing history in 440 impressive pages. This slide show is not to be missed!

Tuesday, 16 Oct 2001, 7:30 PM
The Rutherford Room
Varscona Hotel
8208 - 106 Street

Inside

- 2nd Annual Edmonton Film Fest and Book Fair
- 12th Annual Mountain Guides Ball
- Ski Camps
- International Year of the Great Bear
- Mount Temple, Neil Colgan, Yamnuska Trip Reports

Coming Events

Winter Trip Leaders Meeting

Come one, come all to help plan the winter schedule. Even if you can't commit to leading a trip by yourself, you can team up with another member. *Beer and food are provided.*
Iron Horse Pub (upstairs)
8101 - 103 Street
Thursday, October 11th, 7:30 PM

Campus Outdoor Centre Annual Gear Sale

Sunday, October 14th
10 AM to 3 PM
U of A Butterdome
(a.k.a. Van Vliet Pavilion)

We are looking for a few volunteers to assist at our club table at the sale. The reward is that you get to bring your gear to sell at our table. Contact Renee Polzhien or another Executive member (*soon*).

2nd Annual Film Fest and Book Fair

Saturday, 3rd November
Strathcona Community Centre
Noon til Midnight
Cost TBA

See inside for details.

Annual Wine & Cheese and Photo Contest

Saturday, 24th November
Strathcona Community Centre
Get your slides ready and stay tuned for more details in the November issue as we get the bookings confirmed.

Fall Elections

Our November meeting is our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and election of the executive for the coming year.

ACC Edmonton Section Executive

Chair	Renee Polziehn	477-2943	polziehn@oanet.com
Past Chair	David Zemrau	449-4208	David@Zemrau.net
ACC Section Representative	Enid Higham	439-1776	eaghigam@telusplanet.net
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Environment Chair	Alison Dinwoodie	437-7183	adinwoodie@powersurfr.com
Awards Committee	Brian Stephens	439-2841	bjstephens@powersurfr.com
	Graham Walker	433-9040	walkerg@telusplanet.net

The Breeze is the Newsletter of the Edmonton Section of the Alpine Club of Canada and is mailed to all section members. It is published ten times per year as a vehicle to inform section members of upcoming events and issues of concern. Submissions of trip reports, technical articles, opinion pieces and announcements are encouraged. The deadline is the third Tuesday of the month before the month of issue. *The Breeze* accepts commercial advertising. A variety of ad sizes are available. Rates vary depending on size and number of insertions. We run personal advertising and notices for section members free of charge. Inquiries and submissions (preferably in Word file format) can be e-mailed to breeze@alpineclub-edm.org. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for publication. The opinions presented in published articles are solely those of their authors.



This newsletter has been possible, in part, by funding from the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation (ASRPWF).

Report from your Executive

We've got several Edmonton Section events happening between now and Christmas. The most imminent is the trip leaders meeting (and its participants, the most eminent), coming up soon after you receive this newsletter. You won't even notice the doldrums of November if you get involved in that session, the upcoming Film Fest & Book Fair, the Wine & Cheese / Photo Contest, and our AGM and executive elections. It's a busy time, this autumn!

We did well with the Barry Blanchard talk that was given at the U of A last May and have decided to give him a \$200 honorarium from the profits. Also, we will donate \$5000 toward the renovations to the ACC clubhouse in Canmore and will apply for a casino to raise more money. Originally, we had hoped to apply future casino funds toward a new Jasper hostel, but that project seems to be a few years away at least. We feel that the contribution to the ACC clubhouse will be well used and worthwhile. Any comments?

We're still working on a system to efficiently deliver *The Breeze* by e-mail. This issue is a preliminary attempt at using PageMaker desktop publishing software, which will eventually replace the HTML version on web site. Stay tuned for information on our web site about how you can save \$\$ by receiving your *Breeze* by e-mail.

Editor's Note:

My apologies for the last two newsletters being a bit close to the monthly meeting times, but I'm dithering with a new program (PageMaker), and my learning path often traverses loose scree. Soon, we should have a better newsletter, in both print and electronic form.

If you'd like to receive this newsletter as an Acrobat pdf file, send an e-mail to me at boreas@compusmart.ab.ca with "pdf request" as the subject. You'll still receive the next issue in the mail as well.

Announcements

12th Annual Mountain Guides Ball

**20 October 2001
Chateau Lake Louise**

The yearly Mountain Guides Ball is always an evening of sumptuous dining, mingling with old and new friends and a great selection of silent auction items. This year, the patron is Hans Schwarz, a pillar of the climbing community in Jasper and one of the founding members of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. More than 100 auction items can be previewed on the ACC's web site at <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/special/guidesball.html> (click on the "Sneak Preview" link in the upper-left corner).

Further information can be obtained from the web site or from:
- accfmgr@telusplanet.net
- ph 403-678-3200, ext. 108
- fax 403-678-3224
- ACC by regular mail, att: Mike Haden, Mountain Guides Ball Committee Chair.

Year of the Great Bear

As part of the International Year of the Great Bear, www.yearofthegreatbear.com has been set up as a web site dedicated to preserving the habitat and populations of black and grizzly bears. Events are ongoing in Jasper and other locations throughout 2001.

Next year is the International Year of the Mountains, and 2006 is the 100th year since the founding of the ACC.

Tonquin Ski Camps

Week 1: Feb. 23 to Mar. 2
Bruce Morrison 780-929-5656
e-mail: bnorgay@home.com

Week 2: Mar. 2 to Mar. 9
Tanya Binette 780-709-9589
e-mail: tbinette@ualberta.ca

Campbell Icefield Ski Camp

9-16 March 2002



The 2002 Edmonton Section Ski Camp will be based at the Campbell Icefield area. This area, located on the snowy side of the Rockies north of Golden, offers Selkirk-like powder and a nice variety of ski terrain that includes gladed tree and glacier skiing. For more information call 449-4208 or e-mail David@Zemrau.net

Hey, start getting your slides and prints ready for the November photo contest.

ACC Edmonton 2nd annual Film Fest and Book fair

It's time for the Banff Film Fest and, once again, most of us can't get in! Don't despair, the Edmonton section has come to the rescue with our 2nd annual mini film and book festival. This event will tentatively be held:

Saturday, 3 November
Strathcona Community Centre
Noon til Midnight
Cost TBA

Even now, organizers are searching the vaults for classic and not-so-classic climbing and ski films. Rumour has it that the Von Trapp family may even make an appearance this year (the hills are indeed alive...!)

Of course, we are looking for a few volunteers to help with this event. The reward is that you get to eat popcorn and see many exciting and/or cheesy climbing and ski flicks whilst drinking beer with the rest of us. You may even learn some new crevasse rescue techniques involving (dare we say) nitroglycerin! Interested? Call or E-mail Enid Higham (eahigham@telusplanet.net) or another Executive member.

Adventure Tourism

Rocamar Tours is a small eco-adventure tour company run by a Canadian in Michoacan, Mexico. They offer week-long packages in volcano trekking, caving, snorkelling, turtle watching, whitewater canoeing, monarch butterfly sanctuary visits, and much more. Check them out at <http://www.rocamar.com.mx>.

Trip Reports

Mount Temple

(11,620 ft: 3543 m)

18 August 2001

by Wayne Vibert

Smoke does not look good on Eisenhower Tower.

The "Controlled Burn" signs along Hwy 1 were later contradicted by news reports stating that this was an uncontrolled fire threatening to burn down Kootenay Park Lodge on Hwy 93. It was the largest forest fire in the region in 80 years and was being fought by 75 firefighters at a cost of possibly \$10 million. 100 people had been air-evacuated.

Moraine Lake parking lot is busy at 8 AM on a Saturday, but we managed to find each other and, by 8:30, were off. We passed numerous bear-warning signs while we worked our way up the switchbacks that we knew would seem interminably long on our return later in the day.

John sprinted ahead while the rest of us saved our best for later. We re-grouped at Sentinel Pass.

John was the first to head from the Pass onto the mountain and was proud to say he had summited 1½ hours after his departure at 11 AM. After numerous water breaks, the rest of us had straggled to the top by 2:30. The 10 peaks' smoky haze slowly dissipated throughout the day thanks to the brisk breeze that had us all reaching for wind-protection.

Summit snow was sparse and was concentrated on the north side, facing Lake Louise townsite. While Andrea arranged her camera for a group self-portrait, we munched on lunch,

located the summit register, and acted as the welcoming committee for two climbers who appeared over the snow cap.

By 3:15, we were taking our aching knees back down the lovely scree slope. Anna and Vanessa had blisters in process, and my well-prepared partners quickly doled out band-aids, saving me the trouble of digging through my pack. Most of us had the pleasure of twisting, turning, or scraping some part of our body during the day. The sunburn potential was wonderful.

We helped each other over the rock faces and above the rock bands. With the exception of Phyllis (and speedy John) who had departed earlier, the group met again at Sentinel at 5:30.

Frances' knee was now causing much grief, necessitating a longer rest at Sentinel. The consensus from his sympathetic cohorts was that he could shorten the agony by sacrificing himself to the resident Grizzly. Frances registered a strong "No comment".

Minimal smoke, maximum sunshine, major physical output. A great day.

Participants: *Andrea L. Anna H., Frances R., JP S., John D., Phyllis D., Vanessa C., Wayne V.*

Neil Colgan Hut

(9700 ft: 2940 m)

23 August 2001

by Wayne Vibert

In 1983, the Neil Colgan family funded the removal of the older Graham Cooper Hut from its previous

site to a site at 9700 ft, 100 ft higher than Abbot Hut. It now sits between Mts. Little and Bowlen. Our friend Karl Nagy lost his life a year ago just a few hundred yards from this hut. In July, Edmonton ACC member, Jim Barrow, was with Peter Fuhrmann's touring group when he spotted the accident site and they recovered Karl's ice axe.

Markus K., our trip coordinator, had decided to take a group to the Hut a day earlier than scheduled. Neither Bill nor I could change our plans that quickly and, as a result, we had arranged to meet at Moraine Lake Parking lot to join forces to head up to the Hut. When we looked up at the new snow on the peaks, we expected an interesting day.

At 8:30 AM, we were on our way, skirting Moraine Lake to the end, then up the small river to its origins in the moraines. Then we scrambled up to a cairn. We were then on a moraine-top path heading west and south.

We were perspiring and lurching by 11 AM, looking ahead to the tough scree slopes that mark the start of the upward slog. The scree was solid at a 40 degree angle. Once over the first brow, Bill scouted for red dots that mark the trail through the Schiesser Ledges. He headed east and upward. We then began the tip-toe along the ledges in our climbing boots.

By 3 PM, we had found our way to the first chain. Immediately prior to clawing up to the chain, you teeter with your heavy pack over an airy path of rock less than a foot wide. One side is sheer, with the first stop 200 feet down. The other side allows you a bounce about 30 feet down before you roll over a precipice.

There is no place for the waiting partner to secure themselves. If the lead climber slips off the ice-coated chain, it is a fall 15 to 20 feet, where you gather in your waiting partner for a big bounce into the couloir. But Bill made it look easy. He took his 6'3", 210-lb frame right up that chain, his boots scraping and churning on the rime. He hauled a rope up with him. No room to set my pack down. So, I tie the rope over my shoulder, under my pack, and through my crotch. "Climbing", I called, and reached for the chain.

I grasp the chain with one extended arm, make a semi-leap (a combination "cruz" and "crotch" move) and get the other hand on the chain. Wrap the chain tightly around one wrist. Meanwhile, the boots are frantically pounding on the rime, praying for purchase. Lean way out and backwards, making the chain work. The top of the chain is bolted with recent hardware. The lower end is secured with a questionable piton. After a 1/2 dozen overhands, you reach the end of the chain. This is followed by a slippery traverse across a sloping ledge.

We gather up the rope and move out. The red dots are often prominent but, especially with the help of the new snow, they are obliterated (or just faded). We missed a turn or two, but by 3:30 we were at the second chain, which is accompanied by a cable.

The weather had been unsettled all morning. There were the occasional snowflakes. Across the valley, Mount Temple had moved in and out of the clouds. Occasional brilliant sunshine had made it a memorable picture.

Now Bill was stuck at the second chain. Because of the rime, he could not get started on the rock ledge. Finally, just off to the right, we spotted a notch. Bill kicked the ice out and fit

his foot in. With a hop, he caught a higher ledge with his extended arm and he was sideways on the first step, reaching for the chain. After a couple of tries, he caught the chain, just as his feet were skidding out. He did a stem and yanked his way to the upper ledge. He had trailed the rope behind him, and I again tied it over my shoulder.

After several attempts, and with the help of the cable, I was able to pry myself up on to an icy toe-hold. My feet started to slide out. I yelled at Bill that I was coming off. I grabbed the chain, but my feet shot out into mid-air. Bill held me. Thanks to the way I had set the rope, if I'd had any hemorrhoid problems, they would have been severely agitated. While Bill leaned into the rope, I scrambled. I tried to move my hands up the chain while my feet were seeking a toehold.

Finally, I was spent. I called to Bill to lower me. Something slipped, the rope stretched, and I was off into space. About four feet down, I landed backwards on my pack. Bill looked down, watching me untangle myself. My wrists were scraped and bruised. My shoulders and arms were aching. Battered hands were numbing in my soaked gloves.

"It's 4:30. We don't know how many more of these iced-up situations that we have to fight with. Plus, an hour or two higher, there is a glacier covered with new snow. With this uncertain weather, a white-out is a possibility. If we are going to turn around, and be assured of getting off the ledges before dark, now is the time to decide", was Bill's assessment of the situation. We discussed the concern it would cause to Markus if we didn't show up. We discussed the disappointment of having put in eight hours of effort. There were moments of silence.

The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. We called a halt at 2700 m.

We knew the return route would have its special moments so we maneuvered to where we could put on our harnesses. When we got back to the first chain, I belayed Bill as he traversed to a spot just above the chain. He tied himself into the upper end and I followed, passing him and turning backwards. I held on to the chain and Bill lowered me as I skidded downward. When I was off the end of the chain, and had found a foothold that would allow me to stand up, Bill followed.

We discussed the airy view in front of us. There had been further snow enhancement. Can we bypass this? The rope was 9 mm, 40 m long, cut from a longer rope. By now we had stretched the rope, thanks to my fall. Will the somewhat frayed rope allow us to rappel over the edge, down to the path below? Will the only possible rap station, that shaky piton on the end of the chain, be secure?

I decided to hop across the "bridge" with the reassurance provided by Bill's hip belay. Bill had tied himself into that questionable piton. Then I downclimbed to the trail below while Bill pounded on the piton. He decided to lower himself instead of chancing a "no-belay dance" across that icy bridge. Then we made our way along the greasy ledges, and then down onto the loose rock. By 6 PM we were seated at our 11 AM lunch spot. We reminisced about Barry Blanchard, Karl Nagy, Kevin Doyle and Dave Cheesemond while watching the setting sun.

We were back at the Moraine Lake Parking lot just after 8:30. We left a note on Markus' vehicle. I promised Bill a beer.

Participants: *Bill Powell, Wayne Vibert*

Yam Adventures

9 - 10 June 2001

Part 1: by Susan Lenkewich

Rick, Rick are you out there? I cannot find Rick

Rick and I have been asked to write a trip report for our Yamnuska adventures on the weekend of June 9, and 10th. It was a fun trip to say the least. It was a long time ago, However I do recall another tent incident. If it is not tents it is fridge's, what the hell is that about? (Inside joke)

First of all I want everyone out there in Alpine Club land to know that club trips do not start until Tim Hortons coffee is in hand and Bon Jovi or Off Spring is in the CD player. (Eddie we must make a movie)

Day One: On our first day we scrambled up the backside of Yamnuska.

I believe we had about eight people on this trip. I am happy to say Chris Wood invited his Mother and Sister along. I was so impressed with Chris's Mom. She was a very brave woman. There were a few sketchy moments. We had to down climb one section of Yam. It was a fairly exposed area. Rick Cowburn gave Chris's Mom a body belay down the section, while Victor, Allen and myself helped to guide her footwork down the pitch. Everyone survived that experience. We then came across some pretty loose scree and managed to move along fairly well after that point.

We managed to get up to the top and enjoy the view before a weather system came along and pelted us.

The view from the summit was truly beautiful.

We all enjoyed a nice relaxing lunch with plenty of interesting conversation

about quantum physics, hyperspace and um some sort of mathematical logical reasoning equation. (I have been studying too much)?

The best part of the scramble for me was the scree skiing. It was literally like downhill skiing, the only difference was that we were on rock. So cool.

Our first day was a huge success. Not having a care in the world we decided to head into Canmore for Dinner and more drinks? (Was that before or after the scotch?)

I recall someone saying, "Susan your tent has blown over." Hmmm, I am thinking it had to be after the scotch because I didn't care and never thought about my tent again....

Off we went to Canmore for Dinner and drinks and yes more thought-provoking conversation.

In the meantime... it rained and it rained hard... Back at camp, Susan's upside down and sideways tent was getting filled with... rain... Tent, sleeping bags wet...

Back to the campsite we go. The sun is shining and we are busy planning our next adventure. Some people wanted to rock climb and some wanted to scramble another peak. Eddie, Victor, Allen, and myself decided we

would go off to Wasootch, and Chris and Rick were heading to Grotto Mountain. What a fine, fine day... and we have another plan.

Now we are back at the campsite and, all of a sudden, my tent has become a necessity to me having a good night sleep. Damn! (Don't feed Susan scotch.)

Everything was wet and I had a dilemma. I was so fortunate in my drunken stupor to have friends to take care of me. Chris, Eddie and Victor gave up a sleeping bag and tent space to allow me to have a good night's sleep. Thanks guys.

Day Two: All fresh and happy after a good nights sleep, the group went their separate ways to enjoy the next adventure.



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Eddie led the way up a 5/7 or 5/8 route on Wasootch. She made it look way too easy. After Eddie set up our anchor system, we practised placing gear for a while. After feeling confident with gear placement, we all took turns lead climbing. We took some great shots of one another doing our first lead climb. It was a fabulous day on the rock. I personally felt like I had learned lots and was very anxious to do more... But all good things must come to an end... until next time. Yes there will be many more next times.


It was a fun weekend!



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Yam Adventures Part 2: by Rick Cowburn

Great Grotto Mountain is a long way up;
you can climb Grotto Mountain if you're really tough,
if your knees never scream that they've had enough,
and you're personally gifted with a lot of luck.

Chris Wood and Rick Cowburn climbed Grotto Mountain one day;

It was June, and the Climber Dudes all laughed and said:
"Why would you want to go up that way,
when you could hang off Yam on a dubious belay?"

So we said "We don't care", and told them all where to go,
though the peak seemed to be quite covered in snow,
but in June mountain climbers all ought to know
That adventure is the reason we love scrambling so.

A good walk up, I learned about cars,
Started breathing hard, saw a couple of stars,
Didn't have the energy to rhyme all the way
But did what I could to fill the day
with thoughts of beer
and bratwurst on a stick.

The summit ridge, the summit ridge!

That endless knife-edge tempting death!
And as we reached the challenging steps
The wind's cold, evil, biting breath
Came to punish us for our sins.

Chris stepped up high to see the sights.
The wind was watching: with delight
It patted him down on snowy rock
And laughed as he shouted a mighty "* * * *",
I'm pinned down, and I can't get up!"

And after he was duly warned
The Gods allowed us life. The score
was Mountain 1 to Climbers NIL —
but we said scrap the poetry,
let's grab the summit before we freeze.

And we did.

Then we came down.

And went home.

THE END

Climbing Wall Update

Mountaineering Skills Review Nights will resume in October. The first Wednesday of each month will provide the opportunity to review basic mountaineering skills, such as roping up, crevasse rescue, knot reviews, setting anchors, map reading and compass skills. The estimated start time for these review session will be 8:30, but don't set your watch by it! The sessions will be led by experienced, volunteer members, who give up their time to help us out. If you have a good aptitude at these kinds of skills and enjoy sharing your expertise, please consider helping out. Contact Bob Thorgierson or Enid Higham to schedule a time that works for you. For anyone

interested in practising these skills, check the web site for our schedule, which is subject to change without notice! You will need to bring as much of your own gear as is appropriate for the skill in review (except ropes). If you don't possess these items, don't worry. There are often enough extra bits and pieces to make things go. However we do encourage you to bring your own, so that you become more familiar and efficient with it.

If you have any ideas for holding special events at the Wall, let us know. We can arrange for exclusive bookings for club events, typically on Sunday afternoons.

This space reserved for your next submission to the newsletter editor. If you're sending a trip report, make sure you tell me: 1) the trip location, 2) the dates, 3) the participants, 4) the trip leader, 5) the author(s) of the article, and 6) any photo credits. I'll leave it to you to ensure that people's names are spelled properly. (If they're not, I just might butcher yours.)

If you see a nice web site or have received an e-mail that you think other people would like to see, *send it to them*. Don't send it to me. Most web sites and e-mail messages aren't written in a form that can be easily dumped to our newsletter without some grooming. If you think our members would be interested, try a bit of grooming and re-work it into something that would fit well in the Breeze. - *Thanks*

Wanted

Looking for a young (early to mid 20s), single woman who is an avid climber/skier, who is looking to meet an employed, ethnically diverse young man, and who has the necessary equipment and a car.

Please respond with *name, age, and a picture...*of the car.

Contact Victor, any Wednesday night at the Wall.