



<http://alpineclub-edm.org>

December 2002

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IMPORTANT NOTE

Just to let you know that we moved the Noyes Creek trip from April 5/6/7 to March 29/30 (it's a two-day trip now).



Photo by John Lichtwardt

MEETINGS

For 2003, the Executive will be meeting on the **First Tuesday** of each month at 7:00pm, this is 2 weeks before the general meeting. The 2003 board meets for the first time officially on January 7, 2003.

**Our Next Meeting
Tuesday, 21 January 2003,
7:30pm
The Rutherford Room
Varscona Hotel
8208 - 106 Street**

TRIPS

First Day Of Winter Skiing...

"I'm Done!"

DATE
December 20-22, 2002

TRIP
"I'm Done!" (Xmas shopping)
First day of Winter Skiing from
Edith Cavell Hostel, Jasper
Avalanche Transceiver required

RATING
Novice

ACCOMMODATION
Edith Cavell Hostel
Ski up closed winter road

COORDINATOR
Dan Hallet

E-mail: justdan@interbaun.com
Phone: 459-4984
before 9:30 pm please

See our web page for more details and for trips throughout the winter.

ACC EDMONTON SECTION EXECUTIVE

Section Chair	Terry McIntee	461-6830	terrym@biovision.ca
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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 t_yevtukh@hotmail.com. 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).

Senior Climbers

The phrase above does not refer to ability, unfortunately, but merely to age - and it is to senior citizen ice climbers that this message is addressed. I have been climbing ice for nearly twenty years, first with my son and then with a partner who was also pretty young, but they have both temporarily given up climbing because of babies and such. Then I had a fine time climbing with some Edmonton section parties led by people like Ken Larlee, Brent Peters, and John Booth, and I have done Cyril's intermediate course (three times).

However, although I want to continue ice-climbing, I am becoming very reluctant to impose on the good nature of our leaders; they are the essence of patience and kindness, but there is no doubt that, when I am with them, things slow down somewhat (or even considerably).

So: are there any older (55? 60? 65?) ice climbers out there who want to continue climbing but hesitate to sign up with the young hotshots? If there are, I'd be willing to serve as a contact and distribute phone numbers and e-mail addresses, and thus perhaps a few of us can get together to climb at a level and a place that we will enjoy and without holding up the younger set.

Maurice Legris
483-5625

mlegris@shaw.ca

“Education, I fear, is learning to see one thing by going blind to another.”

—Aldo Leopold

Announcements

New National Office Email Addresses

Effective immediately, staff in the ACC National Office have new email addresses with the following standard format:

first name initial
full last name
"@AlpineClubofCanada.ca" as the suffix.

Example:

bkeith@AlpineClubofCanada.ca

Some points to keep in mind regarding the change in addresses are:

- emails addressed to ACC National Office's current "telusplanet.net" addresses will still reach the intended recipient(s)
- in time, as the traffic to the "telusplanet.net" addresses decreases, ACC National Office will be cancelling them and using just the "AlpineClubofCanada.ca" addresses.

ACC National Office will revise its electronic media (website) to reflect the new addresses as soon as possible. However, hard copy media (e.g. business cards) will not be reprinted with the new addresses until current stocks are depleted.

A complete list of the new addresses is shown below:

NEW ACC NATIONAL OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESSES

Chamney, Suzan	schamney@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Hansen, Nancy	nhansen@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Hedge, Tracy	thedge@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Keith, Bruce	bkeith@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Larochelle, Josee	jlarochelle@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Lohka, Kevin	klohka@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
McLain, Luther	lmclain@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Vanier, Anne	avanier@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Verrall, Dan	dverrall@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
Wheeler, Audrey	awheeler@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
White, Lawrence	lwhite@AlpineClubofCanada.ca

In addition, ACC National Office also has the following "function" email addresses. Others will be added as required:

books@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
ads@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
gazette@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
info@AlpineClubofCanada.ca
membership@AlpineClubofCanada.ca

If you have any questions, please contact Josee Larochelle in the

Mountain Adventures

The **Club's Mountain Adventures** are filling up quickly! Check the website at

<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/activities/>
to plan your adventure in 2003!

Some of the winter trips that are being offered include:

Baffin Island, Waddington area ski touring, Campbell Icefields powder, Wapta traverse, Women's Ski Camp at Rogers Pass, an Ice Climbing Camp and the Six Pass Route in Jasper.

Summer adventures include *Classic Peaks in Jasper, Women's mountaineering, First Summits (Wapta Icefields), Under 25 Camp, Bugaboos Peak Weekend, Columbia Icefields Climbing Camp, Lyells Mountaineering Camp, Fryatt Valley Climbing Camp, Heart of the Rockies Peak Bagging, Albert Icefield, Silent Pass to Rogers Pass Traverse, Tatshenshini Rafting and Scrambling, Peru, and of course, the 2003 General Mountaineering Camp at Snowy Pass.*

Don't miss out— sign up today!

For more information, email **Lawrence White** at

lwhite@AlpineClubofCanada.ca

Climbing Wall Notice

Due to the annual Christmas Craft Fair in the Butterdome the COC will close the climbing wall from Nov 30 - Dec 11.

The reason for such a long closure period, is because of the extended dates of the craft fair (Dec 3 - 8) and in order to give them plenty of time to re-erect the bouldering wall and replace the mats etc.

There is a good chance that things will be back in place and operational in time for us to climb again on the 11th.

However, we will need to contact them on the 10th to find out if the facility is up and running again.

Submission to the Standing Policy Committee on Energy and Sustainable Development by the Edmonton Section of the Alpine Club of Canada, on August 14, 2002.

- The Edmonton Section of the Alpine Club of Canada aims are 'to promote non-mechanized recreation and conservation concerns, through sound management of Alberta's mountain parks and outdoor recreation resources.'
- This includes the mountain areas of the Eastern Slopes, such as the Bighorn Wildland Area. Sound management means implementing the original Eastern Slopes policy, which clearly states that only non-mechanized recreation is permitted in the Prime Protection Zone 1 (PPZ), or alpine zone above treeline.
- OHVs are clearly incompatible with the intent of the PPZ, which is 'to preserve environmentally sensitive terrain and valuable ecological and aesthetic resources.' Alpine vegetation is extremely sensitive to disturbances, and destruction of the often thin layer of soil leads to permanent loss of vegetation and associated organisms, compounded by increased erosion and more destruction.
- Because of their wide range and increasing ease and frequency of access, OHVs can cause a disproportionate amount of damage in a very short time and therefore the

restrictions on their use in the PPZ should remain, and be enforced more rigorously, preferably with legal designations.

- The aesthetic resource of wilderness, relatively untouched by human disturbances, should also be taken into account, as an increasingly rare commodity. The noise, pollution and scars left by OHVs are incompatible with the wilderness values of the PPZ. These are the only remaining areas on provincial lands which are not heavily impacted by industry and mechanized recreation activities so it is all the more important to retain them in this state.
- We have experience of seeing the extensive damage done by OHVs in the alpine zone: deep trenches cut as trails are widened from a 2 ft. grassy trail to a 20 ft. bog hole, disregard for properly designated off-limit areas, persistent vandalism in removing or defacing educational and other signs, and total disrespect for volunteer efforts at reclamation by driving their vehicles right through reclaimed areas. I have no reason to believe it would be any different in the Bighorn. There are an awful lot of OHV users who do not belong to any responsible organization!
- OHV users do need some designated areas for their recreation activities, but these should be planned and properly managed in areas with low ecological sensitivity, i.e. not the PPZ!

- Finally, I would like to thank the AWA for presenting these comments on our behalf to the Committee. As non-motorized recreationists, we feel the Committee ought to have a more balanced representation of recreation users and not just the very vocal OHV and snowmobile groups. Just because you maybe don't see many of us out there, it doesn't mean that we aren't there - and we certainly care!

- I was given very little time to prepare these comments, but our other Alberta Sections would probably agree with these statements. There are many other hikers and other non-mechanized recreationists who also have no voice in these proceedings. They are too diverse to belong to an organized group and in fact probably are much more numerous than OHV users, who after all are only a very small minority group - though they manage to make enough noise! But non-motorized recreationists do tend to prefer peace and quiet!

—by Alison Dinwoodie

Chair, ACC Edmonton Section Environment Committee

“Everything in moderation - except skiing”

—Jackrabbit Johansen

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Indefatigable (2,670 m) and Mt. Allen, September 22nd & 23rd.

Using the Ribbon Creek Hostel as our base of operations for the weekend, we looked forward to our scrambles up Indefatigable and Allan. The weather on Saturday couldn't have been better - sunny and not too cool.

Starting out from the car park in between Upper and Lower Kananaskis Lakes, we were immediately greeted with a bright yellow sign warning us that there had recently been grizzly bear activity in the area. With twelve people and a few cans of spray, we seemed statistically safe.

Our first destination was the unnamed "hill" on the north east side of the actual peak. To get there, we hiked up through a scenic alpine valley which was full of larches that were turning yellow.



We quickly reached the top of the "hill", and enjoyed the view. While there, the group considered crossing the col to get up to the real peak, but it looked too vertical to try without ropes.

After some confusion about who was going to do what, we regrouped farther back along the trail and started our scramble up to the peak along the conventional route.



While going up the trail, we had a view to our right of the valley that we had gone through earlier in the day. Someone with an eagle eye spotted a grizzly far off in the distance. It had a distinctive grey patch on its shoulders.

...it seemed we were around 30 metres away from an approaching grizzly bear!

After reveling in the excitement of many people's first grizzly bear sighting, we continued the scramble to the top. The views were great, and by group consensus, we decided that it was indeed Mt. Assiniboine that we could see in the distance.

Having had enough at the top, Ted, Tharin and I started the descent, with the others in a pack a ways behind us. Once we got past the rock and onto the alpine vegetation, we noticed a group of hikers yelling up at us. Judging from what they were shouting, it seemed we were around 30 metres away from an approaching grizzly bear!

Luckily another group of three hikers were just ahead of us, so we stuck together for safety. After yelling up to the rest of our group about the situation, the bear finally became visible as it came over the rise in relief that we couldn't see over before. The bear had the same distinctive grey patch on its shoulders that we had seen



before. Fighting the instinct to run, we started moving laterally across the slope. Unfortunately this pushed us into the bear's destination - an area with over



twenty previous diggings! We picked up our pace and headed straight down. Once at a safer distance, we looked back and saw the bear digging around where we had been standing. That didn't last long though, as the rest of the group was approaching from upslope of the bear, sending it running back into the valley where we saw him/her the first time. It was an amazing and humbling experience!

Buoyed by such a rare sight, and the great weather on Saturday, we geared up the next morning for Mt. Allan. Unfortunately the weather had taken a turn for the worse. Low lying clouds rolled in, cutting visibility at higher elevations down to almost nothing. Later on, some sort of

frozen precipitation started pelting our faces, and the wind picked up. With nothing to see at the top, we turned around and headed home, content with a decent hike up part of Mt Allan, and a day on Mt Indefatigable we won't forget.

—by Martin Schmall

Leeches and The Annapurna Sanctuary - Nepal

October 8-16, 2002

I flew into Pokhara airport (200 mi west) and immediately took a taxi to my starting point, Phedi so I was on the first set of stairs by 11 AM on October 8.

The questionable weather that had plagued me continued. Often, the mornings would start off beautifully blue and sunny. Too often, we would have a very strong storm about 2 PM, sometimes with hail so violent it threatened to shred the plastic corrugated roofs.

The Sanctuary houses tropical rain forests (complete with healthy leeches), bamboo forests and Canadian-style flora. Everywhere there are unbelievable sets of stairs that run up (and down) for hours at a time. Out of Chhomrong, I estimated there to be over 4,000 stone stairs in one long, long downward set—followed, of course by a similar number going upward into a neighbouring village called Sunewa. It seems that the local villages have taken the initiative over the years to maintain these “highways” and they have done a very good job. Those steps are locked together like they have been welded. Occasionally, above Sunewa, I felt almost like I was back in Canada. The trail was mostly packed dirt with occasional rock and roots jutting out.

This particular area is French country. I had seldom seen French trekkers on other trails but this pathway, to the first 8000 meter peak ever to be climbed, seems to be utilized to pay homage to the Frenchmen who accomplished it in 1950 (Maurice Herzog and team). Of course there were lots of Germans and Australians with a sprinkling of

Dutch, Danes, Israelis, plus the rare Canadian, American and Czech (3 Norwegians!). I met a lone Slovak, a female doctor and her young daughter, who assured me that garlic is Mother Nature's own antibiotic. Since I had begun another cold, I have been following the doctor's orders and downing garlic soup at every opportunity.

From Phedi to Chhomrong, the Sanctuary is old and tacky. The lodges have not been upgraded as they have in the Khumbu and Circuit. Even the very rare suspension bridge is mouldy and all are “Holy Shit” bridges. I did come across two very well constructed bridges, similar in structure to the Swiss built bridges in the Khumbu. Both bridges have plaques stating that the Gurkha Armed Forces made major contributions to their construction. Chhomrong is a transition point. Here the trail from Ghandruk and the Annapurna Circuit joins, to move into the Sanctuary, and the lodges are very well maintained. And, Chhomrong is the single most spectacular setting on the route. Certainly, the higher areas with Machhapuchhare Base Camp-3700m-(MBC) and Annapurna Base Camp-4100m-(ABC) have their scenic moments but the lush huge valley at Chhomrong is not duplicated anywhere else. The Sanctuary, as it implies, is a narrow routing that leads you through ridges of lush hillsides that are very close together, not at all like the huge expanses one finds in the Circuit or the Khumbu (Everest Region). Beginning in Chhomrong's large array of guesthouses, the local entrepreneurs have learned German, English and French, and their approach is very professional in dealing with the public. As in the Circuit, the local

“committees” set the menus and prices and, (officially) no bargaining is allowed.

Above Chhomrong, the trail has lesser numbers of stairs but, generally, the trail does continue the horrendous up, up, up followed by down, down, down. As with the Khumbu, you do a helluva lot of work to gain a few hundred meters. That is, until the one day wherein we (my Gurung porter, Bim, and I) gained 1500 meters in one day, which put us at MBC, on the edge of the major mountains in the area, the Annapurnas, Macchupachhare and Hiunchulu. The following day, Bim and I made an attempt to gain 400 more meters to ABC but it was quite cold, and I was impatient. I had a strong Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) attack that forced me to turn around and race to a lower level.

On the route out, Bim and I took the “porter's route” through the river valley, and going to another exit village, Naya Pul, where Bim negotiated us a seat on a passing tourist bus that had been booked by a French/German trekking group but had two seats left. The taxi drivers wanted 2000 R (50R=\$1 Cdn) for a ride to Pokhara, and, after they took your 2000R, they sold the other seats in the taxi to their friends for 10% of your rate. I told them no deal. I had paid 500R to get into my original entry point, Phedi, and the bus ride only cost us (eventually) 200R.

As always, met some great people and learned all kinds of new and rude card games but we could have improve on the weather. I still have 10 rolls of film left to use.....Singapore??

October 20, 2002

—by Wayne Vibert

Banff Mountain Film Festival November 1/2, 2002

For only \$500, you, too, can have a wonderful week of experiences in Banff in early November. One would think that an outdoors, ecology-conscious organization would encourage minimizing growth and expansion, however.....

\$200 will allow you to join Reinhold Messner, Sid Marty and the **Banff Mountain Summit** running from October 27-29, finishing with a barbecue at "Brewsters Donut Tent" (and they throw in a book). Add \$130 and you can attend the **Banff Mountain Book Festival** which began October 30 and ran through to November 1, starring Pierre Berton, Greg Child and Lynn Hill, plus many book-signing opportunities. For \$15, you can attend Radical Reels on October 29 at the Eric Harvie Theatre (includes a film labelled "Jehovah's Wetness"). Tack on another \$140, and you can be part of the **Banff Mountain Film Festival** from Friday night through Sunday night. Fortunately, you can buy into pieces of the Film Festival and for \$30-40, you can pick a day or evening session.

The films, as usual, were terrific. On the Friday night, Erik Weißenmayer and his crew of 20 were the special guests, outlining his exploits, including summiting Mount Everest. Erik has paid his climbing dues (beginning at age 13, one year after he became totally blind). One can only imagine what it takes to summit Mount McKinley, El Capitan, plus all Seven Summits on the various continents. As well, Erik spent eleven hours climbing Polar Circus. He is an articulate and

humorous chronicler of his exploits. Accompanied by his team, plus his German Shepherd seeing-eye dog, his story was mesmerizing. He spelled out his dilemma with regard to the Khumbu Icefall, where he took 13 hours to climb to Camp 1 first time around. But, he followed that same route nine more times, eventually getting his time down to five hours. He talked of burning 10,000 calories per day above Base Camp. His film crew captured his concern and fatigue as he made his way to Camp 4 and then on to the summit. Erik introduced his whole team, including his wife and child, plus his fund-raising father.

After the break, on Friday night, films covered Tibetan children evacuated by their parents over the Himalaya to India, a woman prancing around a ledge 2000 feet off the ground, plus an unsuccessful winter attempt on Cerro Torre.

Saturday started off at 9 AM (Eric Harvie Theatre) with a spectacular mixed-climbing film. The skill and strength shown by the climbers was amazing. Lots of unbelievable overhangs. As well as mountains, the films got into aerobatics with special chutes, moved on to kayak antics on Tibet's Tsangpo Gorge, wild skateboarding, climbing buildings in Boulder, CO, and added a documentary about the assassinated Afghani leader Massoud, telling of his development of a school system as well as other essential services for his followers. Then there was the "Cannibals and Crampons" pursuit of New Guinea's 15,400 foot Mount Mandala. Coping with its alligators, leeches and trenchfoot, the pair of

climbers plunged through miles of swamps, paddled down many rivers and tried to establish communication with groups of people who had only recently given up eating people. It almost matched the ordeal enroute to Canada's Mount Forbes.

Concurrently, in the Margaret Greenham Theatre, they had a similar array, including whitewater antics, climbing Lhotse's small sister, skiing, and the tragedy of avalanche rescuers losing their lives. On Saturday and Sunday, there were provocative and educational lunch-hour sessions at the Max Bell Auditorium.

Saturday evening's "Retro Reels" covered condors and McKinley. Sunday evening saw awards, including presenting our friend Barry Blanchard with the Bill March Summit of Excellence award. As well, downtown Banff's Lux Cinema Centre had its own set of outdoor films on Saturday and Sunday.

And then there was an Adventure Trade Show, a Book Fair and an Art and Craft Sale.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival Jury started with over 260 films, before narrowing the field to 45 finalists. The "Best of the Festival" will visit 25 countries on all seven continents. Last year over 100,000 attended 240 screenings in 180 centres, from the Queen Charlotte Islands to Bombay/Mumbai, India. This year will include Antarctica.

Rumour has it that they will even get to Edmonton.

November 5, 2002

—by Wayne Vibert

TEN NOTS

I. THOU SHALT NOT DISPARAGE THY FELLOW SLIDER

Fixed on Free Heeled, one board or two – if you are in backcountry you are among kindred spirits. This, however, does not apply to those that bear false witness to the summits by riding helicopters to the top. In that case disparagement is acceptable.

II. THOU SHALT NOT BE LATE ON THE POWDER DAY

Powder waits for no one and no one likes waiting for snoozers on a powder day. You are your own punishment for this offence—you snooze, you lose.

III. THOU SHALT NOT SKI WITHOUT THY PROPER EQUIPMENT

Showing up without a beacon or shovel endangers not only you, but also your partners. Remember the Six P's —Proper Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.

IV. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL THY PARTNER'S LINE

ALSO KNOWN AS POACHING, THIS IS A SERIOUS BREACH OF ETIQUETTE. WHOEVER BREAKS THE MOST TRAIL OR SURMOUNTS THE HEIGHTS FIRST HAS REASONABLE RIGHTS TO THE LINES. TO FOLLOW SOMEONE'S SKI TRACK TWO-THIRD OF THE WAY UP AND THEN JUMP HER LINE IS THE MOST EGREGIOUS OFFENSE POSSIBLE. PUNISHMENT WILL BE TO SPEND A SKI SEASON IN GEORGIA.

V. THOU SHALT NOT WILLINGLY CROSS THY NEIGHBORS TRACKS

Unless by previous agreement, skiing over the top of someone's fleeting artwork is bad manners, doubly so if you biff. Find fresh lines if you have to, or spoon if you must. Punishment? Cross a track, break your Mother's back. It's that simple.

VI. THOU SHALT NOT KNOWINGLY SKI DOWN UPON THY NEIGHBOR

Risking your own life is one thing, but endangering others with avalanches from above is totally irresponsible. The only exception to this might be if they have broken Suggestion IV.

VII. THOU SHALT NOT TAILGATE THE TRAILBREAKER

Having someone walk up the back of your skis while you are breaking trail is annoying beyond words. Don't do it. Back off, or offer to break trail yourself if the pace is too slow. Plus, it's bad avalanche safety protocol.

VIII. THOU SHALT NOT GUILT TRIP THY NEIGHBOR

Also known as Bad Group Dynamics, this is often a factor in Backcountry accidents. A group of skiers is only as strong or fast as the weakest person in the group. If this is a problem, it should be discussed and resolved at the trailhead. Punishment shall be excommunication from the group.

IX. THOU SHALT NOT DEFECATE OR URINATE IN SKIN TRACKS OR UPON PUBLIC SUMMITS

It's just nasty. Men, that means you too. Marking your turf should be left to dogs. The evidence stays around for ages and doesn't get prettier with time. Punishment shall be wearing diapers to a Babes in the backcountry clinic.

X. THOU SHALT NOT POSTHOLE THE SKIN TRACK

Booting up a skin track ruins the grip for subsequent skidders and a new track must be broken. If you are going to boot, break a new trail and keep peace in the Powder Kingdom. Punishment for such trespass shall be public lambasting.

—by Andrew McLean

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