

BRIDGE

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February 2003

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MEETINGS

**Next meeting: Mount Alberta
Slide show by Nancy Hansen
Director, Facilities &
Mountaineering
ACC National**

Markus climbing in a slightly cooler climate!



TRIPS

Rock Climbing in Red Rocks

Photo: Tim Bulger

Feel like a rock climbing road trip this spring?

Tim Jellard and Markus Kellerhals are organizing a rock-climbing trip to Red Rocks, Nevada from April 5 to 13th. The plan is to fly or drive down, then spend eight days camped in the area, climbing our hearts out.

Red Rocks is located just west of Las Vegas. The rock is a hard sandstone, polished with "desert varnish", that tends to erode into great handholds and footholds. There are routes of all difficulty ranging from short sport climbs to major trad epics, and from overhanging jugs to steep cracks to slab. One of the cool features of Red Rocks is an abundance of multi-pitch routes up major features that go at surprisingly moderate grades. In other words you don't have to be an expert rock-climber to enjoy Red Rocks. If you are an expert climber there are hundreds of routes for you as well.

Since we are right beside Vegas you can climb all day and gamble all night if that is your game! If you are interested in coming talk to

Tim Jellard (jellard@yahoo.com)
or **Markus Kellerhals** (markus.kellerhals@ec.gc.ca)

Nancy Hansen and Bill Corbett will be giving a slide show presentation on their ascent of Mount Alberta in August of 2001. Mount Alberta is the 6th highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, and has no easy route to its summit. At the northern end of the Columbia Icefields, it is set in one of the most spectacular and photogenic areas of the Rockies.

**Tuesday, 18 February
2003, 7:30 pm
The Rutherford Room
Varscona Hotel
8208 - 106 Street**

ACC EDMONTON SECTION EXECUTIVE

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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).

Edmonton Section Navigation Course

Take the Edmonton Section Navigation Course or Get Lost!

The aim of the navigation course is to provide ACC members with the basic navigational skills to lead club or personal backcountry trips. The three night map and compass course will be held from 7-10pm on May 14th, 21st and 28th at the Lion's Senior Citizens' Centre, 11113-113 Street (free parking available).

The course syllabus includes use of the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid system, adjusting for magnetic declination, navigating with a map and compass, locating a position by resection and many practical exercises. All materials are provided, however, participants with their own declination adjustment compasses are encouraged to bring them.

Cost is \$20 and enrollment is limited to 20 people. Cheques, made payable to the Edmonton Section ACC, must be received to confirm registration in the course.

Club members can contact **Rob Hafer** at **430-1473** or via e-mail at Hafer.R@Forces.gc.ca for further information. Send payment to:

#201, 7404 108 Street, Edmonton, T6E 4L5
to register.

Announcements

JOHN CLARKE

John Clarke, one of Canada's leading mountaineers, passed away on January 23 in Vancouver at the age of 58. John was an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club of Canada (since 1987) and the B.C. Mountaineering Club. He was also awarded the Order of Canada in 2002.

John was a leading explorer of B.C.'s Coast Ranges from the 1960s until recently. He spent many weeks in the mountains each year, and made many short and long trips. These included hundreds of first ascents and many first ski or foot traverses through different ranges. In the 1970s particularly, many of these trips were solo. John and his adventures were the subject of a 1995 award-winning documentary, "Child of the Wind". He wrote and spoke extensively about his journeys.

Over the past 8 years, John devoted tremendous time and energy to the Wilderness Education Program. He spoke to thousands of school children about the importance of wilderness, and introduced hundreds to the outdoors and wilderness through various trips and events. A focus of this largely-volunteer work was the proposed Stoltmann Wilderness, based in the Elaho Valley northwest of Squamish.

John leaves wife Annette Lehnacker and son Nicholas, as well as other family. He also leaves a myriad of friends and companions, all of whom regarded John as a truly special person. Cards of condolences can be sent to Annette Clarke at 2496 W. 7th Ave., Vancouver, V6K 1Y4.

There was a public memorial for John at the Squamish Nation Recreation Centre, 100 Capilano Rd., North Vancouver on Monday, January, 26 at 10:00am-12:00pm.

The family has asked that donations be made in lieu of flowers. Suggested donations can be made to:

1. A trust fund now being set-up for John's son Nicholas. Information about that fund is available at **604-318-0001**.
2. Wilderness Education Program (WEP). Donations to WEP can be made by sending a cheque to BC Spaces for Nature (WEP), **3116 W. 3rd Ave, Vancouver, BC., V6K 1N3**. Please make sure you write "WEP" on the cheque.

A second memorial for John is tentatively planned for the evening of Sunday, February 23 at the Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver. This memorial will be held in conjunction with the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival.

Details are to be confirmed.

Bruce Keith, Executive Director



Photo: Shawn Wells

Golden Ice Routes Temporarily Closed

Currently in the Kicking Horse Canyon east of Golden there is a major construction project underway to replace the 5-Mile bridge on the Trans-Canada Highway. This construction will prohibit all access to many popular climbs in the area for this winter, including Pretty Nuts, Riverview and the Essendale Right and Left. It may totally change the access in this area forever, as it will become a four-lane bridge/highway with no pull-out. However, the Columbia Valley Climbing Association will be holding a meeting shortly with the Ministry of Highways to seek an access compromise. It's pretty much a given that Pretty Nuts will not be accessible this year as there is major machinery at the bottom.

Please, nobody try to access these climbs until there is a resolution, or it could prevent any access for the remainder of the season. If anybody has any questions, contact *Ryan Kuhn* at **(250) 344-0048** or *Troy Hudson* at **(250) 344-2966**.

Two O'Clock Falls Update

New Fees for Access

A new sign has been posted on the locked gates to *Two O'Clock Falls* requesting that anyone wishing to enter should call for permission and to pay fees. The number is:

Stoney Trail Administration
(403) 721-2255 **Barry Westley** is the person to talk to if possible.

Especially for club trips, we should honour this request. We have confirmation from the Alberta Forest Service, Nordegg office (403-721-3965) that the Bighorn Band was given land around the falls and on the other side of the highway. This land was given to them at the time of the flooding of Lake Abraham. The land was given to them as compensation for an area of gravesites that was flooded by the Bighorn Dam. So bottom line is - the band is within their rights erecting gates on the access roads, charging for access or even denying access to any of their lands. In order to avoid the latter eventuality we should play by their rules. That is - ask for permission, pay what is asked (or go elsewhere), go elsewhere if permission is denied, encourage other climbers to play by the rules and generally try to maintain a good relationship with the band.

The site is pretty important to the Edmonton section as a reliable location for easy ice, so it would be a real shame if we lost access to it. Recently a guided group was charged ten dollars to access the site with a guided group, so the access fees are not exorbitant.

Tri Ice a Thon

The Tri-Ice-a-Thon is set to run February 28-March 2nd, 2003 in Nordegg, Alberta.

The third annual Tri Ice a Thon is running this year from **February 28 -March 2nd**. For those of you who will be joining us for the first time, you're in for a real treat.

Come on out and enjoy some friendly competition, good food, and prizes galore, as Centre for Outdoor Education, Shunda Creek Hostel and Frontier Lodge host Tri-Ice-A-Thon 2003.

For more information or to register email **Cheri** at:

cheri@coe.ca

or call **(403) 721-2208**.

Register early, there is limited space.

See you on ICE!!!

Check out last years page at:
www.coe.ca/icefest

Come on out and join the fun.

Entry fee \$150.00 per climber

Fees include: Competition entry and t-shirt, 2 night accommodation, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, dinner and Juke n' Jam on Saturday night. For those climbers wishing to provide their own accommodation entry fee is \$100.00 per climber which includes competition entry, t-shirt, lunch Saturday and dinner and Juke n' Jam Saturday night.

No Registrations will be taken on Saturday morning before the event. Pre-registration will be accepted by phone at (403) 721-2208, email info@coe.ca or by mail to Tri-Ice c/o COE Gen. Del. Nordegg, AB
Start time on Saturday is 10:00 am.

All Climbers must provide: all necessary equipment, harnesses, helmets, crampons, axes. Ropes will be provided at each WALL. Some Rental gear will be available. Sponsors will be bringing demo gear for you to try during the competition and on the Sunday demo day.

Waivers for the use of the walls must be signed at Registration on Friday. Hope to see you all on the ICE!

To register and book your accommodation or for more information please call:

Cheri or Mike at (403) 721-2208 or email info@coe.ca

Sample Agenda

Friday 1st: registration at Nordegg Community Hall, 6-11:00 pm

Saturday 2nd: Breakfast 8:00 at Frontier Lodge

10:00 — competition begins (Round Robin)

7:00 — Dinner at community hall, awards for novice category

Sunday 3rd: demo day and Advanced finals held at Cline River

Gallery - preliminary schedule, may change depending on conditions

TRIP REPORTS

Cross River

Paddling Participants: Frank Geddes, Ted Schenk, Mark Fortier, Kevin Meurin, Warren Tutton, Mike Osada & Mike Hust [All Kayaks]

Significant Others: Linda Meurin & Faye Harbour

Camping: On route to *White Swan Provincial Park* post paddle

Getting There

After the Vermilion River assault, we proceeded further down Hwy 93 to Settler's Road with approximately 21 km of dusty magnesite gravel road.

The Paddle

The water level could best be described as technical. The weather was favourable and improving. With the usual burst of enthusiasm, we were out paddling again.

This is a spectacularly clear river with lots of coin-sized flat pebbles that adorn the eddy pools and shores of this scenic river. There were plenty of small play holes to keep all paddlers occupied.

One set of rapids of note has a rolled ledge with a sizeable surf hole. In higher water, you won't bottom out on the rocks. Everyone took a turn when I decided I would play a little bit more [greedy]. I did an end-over. Just as I was

preparing to roll up I whacked my head on a rock. A couple of more thuds to the head and I was wet-exiting. I came up looking like *Rocky Balboa* [Yoh! Adrienne!]. I guess I took a straight right followed by a left *Cross* [pun intended]. I came up with a deep gash just above my right eyebrow [I think I'll be investing in a face-guard]. Bloodied, but undaunted, I paddled on. What else was I going to do? This is a relatively short paddle. One and a half hours or as long as you can play. The run itself is only 5 or 6 km long. The norm is to run at least twice. We still had to travel to our campsite, which would be in *White Swan Provincial Park, B.C.*

The après paddle included a short hike to the natural bridge which spans the Cross River. This gives you a spectacular view of a 6- to 8-metre waterfall into a huge bubbling, blue eddy, which washes out over some very interesting formations. The upside of the falls is a huge logjam constriction, which negates any thought of running the falls if one were fool hardy enough.

Cross River, B.C.
August 4, 2002

— by Mike Hust

The Wapta Icefields Traverse – Easter 2002

**EASTER 2002 - from March 29th to April 2nd;
5 days on the Icefields**

The Wapta Icefields are a paradise for the ski mountaineering crowd, and they have become one of the most popular areas for glacier traverses in Canada today. Within the icefields, we find a series of spectacular glaciers, mountains, peaks, cols and a string of huts operated by the Alpine Club of Canada, which are conveniently located within daily-travel distances. While these icefields are relatively safe to traverse for seasoned ski mountaineers, a group must be forever mindful of extreme conditions including cold temperatures, winter storms, white-outs, navigational hazards, crevasses and avalanches, making mere survival a realistic issue to be dealt with at any time. Survival may very well depend on superior route finding skills or winter camping experience in stormy, whiteout conditions or in the simple task of being able to build a snow cave or Quincy for shelter.

We had planned for 5 days on this trip — 4 days for the traverse from Peyto Lake to West Louise Lodge exiting via the Scheisser/Lomas Route and 1 day for ski touring or winter mountaineering near Peyto Hut and the surrounding peaks. We are a tight group of six with plenty of experience and with Van leading this ACC Edmonton Section Trip.



trek, as a second party was approaching via the low route to our left. Our minds set on bottom bunks, the race was on as we roped up and made our way up Peyto Glacier and to Peyto Hut, checking our progress with more than an occasional glance to the other party. The hut was soon warm with the comings and goings of the two more groups, mostly young mountain women. Daylight faded and we called it a night.

Peyto Hut and vicinity — day touring & mountaineering

Driving and from Peyto Lake to Peyto Hut

Driving to the mountains and traveling from Peyto Lake to Peyto Hut got our trip started. With four car pools, two from Edmonton and one each from Jasper and British Columbia, we converged on West Louise Lodge, or so we thought.

Nick and I (Roderick) took the David Thompson highway to Lake Louise in a confident gamble with weather and road conditions (not having heard the forecast). We arrived at the West Louise Lodge shortly after midnight to a vacant reception desk and a few unconcerned patrons. Having found no one to assist us, and not wishing to bivy in a hotel lobby, we engaged in some cooperative sleuthing, some call it computer hacking, and soon found our reservations on the hotel computer. Mark, who had arrived earlier, had kindly left us two beds where we slept until morning. Van, Bernie, and David had lost their gamble with the

weather, and so passed three long hours parked on highway # 2 south of Reed Deer. A thick coat of ice paved their way to Calgary and the road was actually closed. It was four in the morning when they finally arrived at West Louise Lodge to find that the key to a second room that had been left them by the hotel clerk did not fit the lock. They made dry camp and slept the few remaining hours in the lobby.

We awoke at six, were served a self-serve breakfast, and drove to the parking lot at Peyto Lake. At nine o'clock we scrambled an icy, leg-burning descent to the lake, skinned up and were off. A lone ice axe waited indifferently at the trailhead to be returned later by an honest soul from another group. We ascended the terminal moraine at the far end of the lake, skirting high over some dicey slopes. We stopped for lunch just below tree line, and then continued up and over to the toe of the glacier. There was now some urgency to our

Day 2 dawned overcast, snowy, cold, and windy with limited visibility on the glacier; it was going to be a compass-type day. We enjoyed breakfast and headed out into whiteout conditions to ski-climb Mt. Baker. Van dialed in a compass bearing from the hut to the Mt. Baker Col and struck out in front breaking trail through the fresh snow. We estimated that 25 to 30 cm had fallen overnight. After a good long stretch of breaking trail, Nick relieved Van at the front. We crossed the valley and approached a ramp leading up to what we believed to be the col between Mt. Baker and Trapper Peak. Dave took the lead on this rather steep ascent and brought us to the top of the Col. After checking the GPS, we determined that we were actually south of the peak and not north of it as we should be if we had attained our intended col. We proceeded north along the ridge to see if the summit of Mt. Baker was still attainable; however, a

steep cliff band descended several hundred meters below that would have to be re-climbed to gain the ridge leading to the summit on the other side.

Van decided to call a short lunch in the best shelter we could find near the top of the ledge. Due to the high winds and blowing snow, lunch was a fairly brutish and short affair in which it was decided to abandon our attempt to climb Mt Baker and try Mt. Habel. This plan was short-lived also — just long enough for us to return to the top of the slope. Conditions were worsening with high winds and whiteout making the hike up the ridge to Mt. Habel questionable. With a nice slope of fresh snow below us, we decided to descend and trash some POW.

Mark took the lead in near whiteout conditions and we each followed suit with Bernie as sweep. We proceeded cautiously down the rather steep but short section hugging the snow ridge. Soon the slope was more moderate and we enjoyed an excellent (albeit white) powder ski down to the flats. At the bottom Mark, Bernie, Rod and Nick decided on another run while the rest of the group returned to the hut. The second run, just as enjoyable as the first, finished with a quick run along the well-broken trail to the Hut to start warm drinks and soup. Back at the hut we had tea, ate and then relaxed for the evening. Van broke out his traveling chess set for some games with Mark and Rod while Gary switched into hut maintenance mode. A window left open and frozen up was the first item tackled with amorous zeal and an ice axe. As Gary perched on the counter and leaned out of the window to hack

at the ice one of the four women in a group asked if he would like a “BJ.” As a stunned silence fell over the hut she quickly clarified her offer to be for a “Belay Job.” Gary, always the eager beaver, pronounced that it was important for mountaineers of any age to be open to new ideas and techniques. After a successful repair job (“RJ”) of the window, Gary set about re-setting the drying rack (this, near the girl with the “BJ” offer) to a more optimal position with grunts and great success. Exhausted from watching Gary’s efforts, we retired to our sleeping bags in preparation for the next day.

Peyto Hut to Balfour Hut

Our plan is to ski from Peyto Hut over the Mt. Nicholas-Olive Col to Balfour Hut. The weather is a little off for the third day in a row. Outside, it’s snowing hard with limited visibility and a biting wind. Finding motivation to leave a warm pleasant hut can be challenging on days like this. Strangely, no one in our group is griping about conditions or talking about abandoning the plans for the day.

Our companions at Peyto Hut are contemplating a slog over to Bow Hut today. We help them with a little last minute information on the use of GPS and declination and bearing on their compass, etc. While assisting as best we can, we encourage them to lay low until conditions improve. I’m wondering if “helpful” is always the right thing to be. We do hope that they have the common sense to wait it out; lack of experience is endemic in this group and does not inspire trust in group safety – hope they are ok!



We make a decent start at 8:30 am. Mount Thompson is partially visible for a while to the east and then there is only whiteness in all directions with snow driving horizontally. My only connection with the world is a length of purple rope in front of me; however, I’m finding this travel fairly enjoyable today. The terrain is not too difficult and we have confidence in our navigation. The challenge is manageable. We have a lot of experience within our crew and Van has done the Wapta Traverse many times.

We have received about 45-cm snow in the past 24 hours. This is heavy going with 30 cm penetration while breaking trail. We are traveling only slightly better than 1km per hour. I need to yell directions to my rope partner. Even then, the howling wind often drowns out everything I might have to say. We reach the base of the Mt Olive- Nicholas Col at 13:00. Our navigation was tight with only minute deviation from the planned route. It’s great to have GPS on a day like this to confirm your current location. In

complex terrain like the Wapta Icefields, GPS is still no substitute for good map and compass skills or going with someone who actually knows the route.

Note to self: it's a great idea if everyone agrees on the waypoints before you get on the trail, entering a waypoint at every spot where you will need to make a pronounced turn. Scribble these waypoints on your map, enter as many waypoints on the GPS as you like, after all, they are free. This will save you a lot of discussion in the driving snow.



Balfour Hut is great sight after a long day and it is newly renovated, a nice job too — a well-built structure and it's warm and dry in a rugged location.

Everyone tells me that the next section of the traverse is the most scenic part of the trip. I can hardly wait for tomorrow even though we have had three days of inclement weather. But, as they say, the weather has to clear up eventually. Doesn't it?

Balfour Hut, Balfour High Col to Scott Duncan Hut

was excellent and being first to head out, they broke a trail all the way to the Scott Duncan Hut and beyond for us to follow.

Getting roped up outside the hut, as we did every day, was really the first opportunity we had to survey the surrounding terrain we were to travel through. On the northeast aspect of Mount Balfour there was a fresh snow avalanche of size 2.5 with a 150 m crown. Above that, there was another slide, probably the result of a cornice breaking off, and further to the south was third slide, likely a result of part of the serac calving off during the night. These slides were in and amongst the many crevasses that we would have to maneuver around this broken-up, splendid terrain to reach our destination for the day.

At lunchtime we meet a party heading down to Bow. They assure us that it's clear and sunny on the other side of the col. Yah right, we groan and don't believe them. After a short hike up and over the Col, we are expecting a quick descent to Balfour Hut. Normally it's a fast ski down a 10°- 20° slope, but today we break trail all the way down hill in heavy snow. Just before reaching the cabin, one of our team accidentally hucks a 10-foot cliff band in the whiteout. We won't give away the name of this unfortunate soul, but he quickly ends up being nicknamed "Gary the Eagle". No harm done and it is somewhat amusing, but it could have gone the other way. We're also glad the drop wasn't any higher. I (Mark) ski up to the edge and even with "Garry the Eagle" sprawled-eagled below me, I can't make out the edge of the drop.

It is Easter Monday April 1, 2002, and day 4 has arrived at 5:50 am with some hooting and hollering from our hut mates, a party of three from Fernie who had been hut bound for the previous day in ferocious weather. We hear, that several guided parties have packed it in and gone home due to inclement weather. After scraping some frost from the hut windows, a cloudless morning reveals itself with -20 C, light winds and a 20 cm blanket of new snow on some very impressive terrain. The party from Fernie is the first to leave in the morning and being new to the route, they consulted with Van and David, who described the traditional route through Balfour High Col and a number of variations of the route depending on the conditions encountered on the climb. This proved to be very beneficial, as their route finding

After a short traverse across the valley, we started the climb into the Col. Deciding to dig some snow pits, we split into three parties and spread out over the slope and did the perquisite snow profile, shovel & shear test and a Ruts block. The results revealed a deep snow pack (3.2 meters plus), with some very stable cohesive layers underlying a moderately reactive storm snow layer of 20 centimeters. The climb-up the Col is slow but steady with spectacular views of the surrounding Rockies. This being the first clear sky day we encountered on our trip, the silence was broken continuously by the clicking of camera shutters. This is the most scenic section of the entire trip with massive seracs, large crevasse fields and the glacier-clad, towering slopes of Mt Balfour our constant companions.



Lunch was had on top of the Col, which provided a good view of the 520m climb we had just completed and the Waputik Icefield ahead. After lunch we climbed a small knoll to the west of the Col and viewed the west aspect of Mount Balfour and the Yoho Valleys and President before proceeding to the Scott Duncan Hut. Arriving early in the afternoon, a group of us headed out for a tour around the north shoulder of Mount Daly to view the Bath Glacier, which was one of our potential exits to the highway. On the way home, some good turns was had by all on a west aspect of an un-named peak to the north of Mount Daly.

After having spent the past three nights in the refurbished surroundings of Peyto and Balfour Huts, the Scott Duncan Hut seemed dark, damp and quite small. Rumor has it that this hut is slated for an upgrade in the near future.

Scott Duncan Hut to West Louise Lodge

On day 5, our last day, we awoke, packed up and headed out one hour later than we had all trip, a sleeping in type morning. Hoping for a warm and clear day and knowing our exit was shorter than our other legs of the trip left us with the chance to catch up on our sleep. It was also nice to know that our stoner-buddies from Fernie had broken a trail for us in their haste to get out. Except, the day before, they had stopped at the hut briefly and eased over the cliff bands right behind the hut – could they fly? It was only hours later that we discovered their winter campsite and realized how much they had resented us making them smoke (toke) outside of Balfour Hut.

Kamikaze Roddy led our way down to the glacier on a nice track, and we took turns breaking trail as we headed towards Mt. Niles where we linked up with the broken trail. This as a very scenic location (see picture) with Mt. Niles and Mt. Daly forming a

perfect portal and a small peak in the center pointing the way towards the high up Schiesser/ Lomas Route. The snow was good until we got down lower and started through the trees on a south-facing slope. Bernie had a spectacular “brace with the face” experience well documented on film compliments of David. Below this, the trees got tighter and Roddy earned his nickname. I (Gary) personally saw him head down the hill on a steep angle and move some timber to get where he needed to go on at least two occasions. As Bernie said, “every time Roddy is behind me I hear branches breaking”. So I followed the tree mugger down some hairy slopes to gain the creek bed and we skied down to Sherbrooke Lake for lunch. It was sunny and warm in the valley bottom, inviting a brief, well-deserved sun tan & snooze. The ski across the lake and down the five km ski-out on the summer trail would have been icy and tough except for the new snow, and we made the parking lot crater free and in the sunshine by 2:30. After retrieving the vehicles it was discovered that someone had broken in to David’s van and stole 3 beers belonging to buddy Van (whatta you gonna do), we headed for the Alpine Center in Lake Louise for refreshments and debriefing.

All in all a great trip with an excellent and experienced crew.

Crew: Trip Coordinator: Van Konrad
Group: Gary Arnold, David Zemrau, Bernard Jess, Roderick Hazewinkel, Mark Kolasinski, and Nick Scott.

Writing Credits: Roderick (day 1), Nick (day 2), Mark (day 3), Bernie (day 4), Gary (day 5);
editing & photos: Van Konrad;
line-edit: David Clyburn.

Family Camp

In 2002 we found that the Edmonton Section of the Alpine Club of Canada is an organization for all seasons provided winter skiing in the Tonquin Valley, a summer Family Camp at the Stanley Mitchell Hut in Little Yoho, B.C., and fall camps at Lake O'Hara and Cathedral Lake in B.C. Ages of participants ranged from 8 to 82 years.

Winter Camp

The winter camp, a weeklong ski trip in the beautiful Tonquin Valley, was held in late February. The temperature for the ski to the Wates-Gibson Hut ranged between -28 and -32c. Fortunately, camp managers Bruce Morrison and Lyle Anderson successfully appealed to the weather gods during the week, and the temperature and snow conditions for the ski out were perfect. Lyle brought his new satellite telephone to camp and it proved invaluable for summoning a helicopter to evacuate a participant who experienced an irregular heartbeat and in ascertaining the scores of Canada's men and women's hockey teams in the Winter Olympics. The vast majority of camp participants received the news of the hockey victories with jubilation.



Wates-Gibson Hut (winter camp—snow almost to top of door)

Summer Camp

The summer camp at the Stanley Mitchell Hut was held August 10-15. Of the 29 participants, 16 were children and 13 were adults— parents or grandparents.

After arriving at the hut, the grandparents with many years of experience raising children, made a beeline for the

custodians' quarters leaving the children and the few parents on hand to find space upstairs in the loft. The 10 km. hike in and out proved to be no problem for campers at either end of the age spectrum (8 and 82). But once at the hut, hiking was not a popular camp activity. The kids preferred to

run themselves ragged playing capture the flag, and the adults chose to let them do it for the peace and quiet it brought at night. Many thanks to Lorna Stefanick and Jim Race, two of the bravest unofficial camp managers we have had the privilege to know.



8 years and 82 years (youngest and oldest participants)



Fall Camp

The fall camp at Lake O'Hara was held September 8-13. Five of the 19 participants journeyed all the way from Japan to join us in the spectacular hikes available in this unique area. These long-distance travelers also enlivened our evening hours by sharing their drinks and their crafts. We were astounded as our Japanese companions unpacked 30 liters of sake from their 20-liter packs along with brightly colored paper. North Americans present were far more successful in learning the skill of sake drinking than they were in making origami creations. The weather was outstanding, and with Millie Stefanick serving as camp manager, camp etiquette reached a new high. Obtaining the services of Eileen Phillips as camp cook made the quality of our cuisine superior to that of the elite nearby lodge.

Cathedral Lakes

The fourth camp, held at Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park from September 15 - 21, was a tent camp. Participants were a mixture of hikers and climbers. Cathedral Lakes is located southwest of Penticton on the US border. It is a unique sub-alpine area that is 1000 metres above a valley floor. It has its own microclimate that is often above the clouds. The area is criss-crossed with many trails and numerous granite crags.

Although the weather was challenging (it was windy and cold much of the time) the mosquitoes were gone and some of the days were clear enough to see Mt. Rainier and other mountains in the U. S.



Leaving Cathedral Lakes (WW II transport truck loaded with luggage)

It comes as no surprise that the hikers rated hikes as the high point of the week and the climbers rated rock climbing as their favorite activity. Both groups, however, enjoyed the beauty and tranquility of Lake Quinisco at the end of the day. The biggest adrenalin rush of the week came on the ride down the mountain to the parking lot in the back of

a World War II transport truck. If one were brave enough to glance down over the unprotected edge of the road, all he could see was a precipitous drop.

The discomfort that arose naturally from not being able to see a road beneath us was intensified when we noticed that our driver's eyes were more often on the pretty passenger in the cab with him than on the road. By some miracle, we arrived safely at the parking lot. Once again, we were fortunate to have Bruce Morrison as our camp manager and Eileen Phillips as cook.

We will soon we going on our first 2003 camp— another ski trip into the Tonquin Valley. Although we are hoping for a warmer trip in, the camps of 2002

will be a hard act to follow.

Canmore, AB

—by Lucille and Bill Pulliam