

# EVEREST

<http://alpineclub-edm.org>

March 2003

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Wayne Vibert  
Tanya Binette

## MEETINGS

## TRIPS

Our apologies - the last newsnet was sent out with some incorrect dates. The Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut has availability **THIS YEAR!**

Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut Availability on April 5-11, and April 19 - 25, 2003.

There are ten spaces available for immediate booking in the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut from April 5 through 11, 2003. Anything from two to all ten spaces may be booked on a first come, first serve basis.

There are eight spaces available for immediate booking at the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) hut from April 19 through 25, 2003. Anything from two to all eight spaces may be booked on a first come, first serve basis.

The cost is \$625 for members and \$675 for nonmembers. This price includes the helicopter flight.

Details on the Bill Putnam hut may be found at <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/fairy.html>

If you wish to reserve spaces or have any questions, please contact Luther McLain at [lmclain@AlpineClubofCanada.ca](mailto:lmclain@AlpineClubofCanada.ca) or (403) 678-3200 ext. 104



*Deryl Kelly*

**Deryl Kelly**  
**Everest**

*Youngest Canadian to stand on the highest peak in the world:  
he reached the summit of Mount Everest on 24 May 2001.*

**Our Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 18 of March 2003,**  
**7:30pm**  
**The Rutherford Room**  
**Varscona Hotel**  
**8208 - 106 Street**

## ACC EDMONTON SECTION EXECUTIVE

Section Chair	Terry McIntee	461-6830	terrym@biovision.ca
Past Chair	Renee Polziehn	477-2943	polziehn@oanet.com
Course Coordinator	Enid Higham	439-1776	eaghigham@telusplanet.net
Summer Program Chair	Victor Chwieros	430-8174	binch@vwave.com
Winter Program Chair	Tanya Binette	709-9589	tbinette@ualberta.ca
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Events Coordinator/National			
Section Representative	Neil Bosch		nbosch@telusplanet.net
Awards Committee	Brian Stephens	439-2841	bjstephens@shaw.ca
	Graham Walker	433-9040	walker@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 [t\\_yevtukh@hotmail.com](mailto: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).

### Comments From the Executive

First, thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help at the Best of Banff Film Festival. Despite not being able to sell beer this year, we made a profit of \$340 (more than we made in years where we did sell beer!), plus the volunteers were able to watch the shows too! A big thank you to Neil Bosch who organized this event.

Victor Chwieros, our illustrious summer chair, has decided that the summer trip planning meeting will be held on Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Ironhorse Pub (upstairs). Please mark this date on your calendar and stay tuned for updates – even if you can't imagine that summer will ever come while we're freezing in March!

Your executive is contemplating putting together a calendar as a fundraising project. This calendar would feature pictures from our annual photo contest. Before we commit to this project, we will look into the expenses involved and determine if it will be profitable.

As many of you know, the Campus Outdoor Centre will be closing. Although nothing firm has been decided, they do intend to keep the climbing wall operating on its own. Unfortunately at this date we do not know how this will affect our access to the wall. A task force has been assigned to discuss this with the Outdoor Centre and the University. We will keep you posted!

The next executive meeting will be held on Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Ironhorse Pub.

Tanya Binette

## Announcements

### "Local" skiing option

There is a small ski hill situated 11kms west of Bentley on Highway #12, called Medicine Lodge Ski Club. It is operated by the local population of ski enthusiasts from surrounding communities of Bentley, Ponoka, Rimbey, Eckville and Lacombe. The hill boasts 3 ski lifts, and has some lovely terrain on 12 runs, all of which are covered with only natural snow. Lift tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for children 12 yrs. and under and seniors. The operation hours are limited to Saturday and Sunday.

The current conditions (Feb. 21, 2003) are skier groomed on most runs, no ice, no rocks, with some tall grasses poking though (hey, it is a large hill on the edge of the prairie...) They have been getting some of the snow fall that Edmonton has been blessed with - not as much, but more than the mountains. The setting is very beautiful.



Photo by Matt Kalin

If you are itchin' to get in a day of skiing without having to drive to the mountains for very marginal conditions, this might be a good option for a Saturday or Sunday outing.

The hill management recommends that you always phone before you leave, to find out the conditions, because if the hill is not in shape they won't open it! (What a concept!)

**Check it out. It should be a great place to practice your turns, and work on your technique.**

### From the National Committee on Volunteers

*The Alpine Club Of Canada is a volunteer driven organization. To increase the effectiveness of volunteers and the organization, we have developed two new areas on the Bulletin Board on the National Website. This will provide new means of communication for the club and keen volunteers.*

*The first area is entitled "**Volunteers Needed**". This area is where Sections, Committees and the National Club can advertise specific jobs, positions or requirements. It is important when you post something in this area that you include a description of what is required, contact information, time requirements, special equipment required, special skills required and physical location that the task occurs.*

*The second area is entitled "**Eager To Volunteer**". This is the area where people can publish their desire to volunteer. It is important for anyone placing a post in this area to include their name, contact information, special skills and equipment they have, type of position or task they are seeking, time they are available and physical locations they are available.*

*We hoped that all areas of the club use this free means of communication to recruit new volunteers and new opportunities. Any questions please let us know. Thank you.*

Rod Plasman

### Searching for Old CAJ's, etc.

I am interested in acquiring the following vols/editions of **The Canadian Alpine Journal**, the **Alpine Club of Canada Gazette**, and **Accidents in North American Mountaineering**.

I can be reached at 1(780)452-9118 or by email at: jchigham@shaw.ca

#### Canadian Alpine Journal

vol. 11 (1920)  
vol. 12 (1921 & 22)  
vol. 16 (1926 & 27)  
vol. 29 (1944 & 45)

#### Alpine Club of Canada Gazette

#1 - #30  
#32 (1938)  
#37 (1941)  
#40-43 (1944-48)  
#60 onward

#### Accidents In North American Mountaineering

1948 - 1956  
1984 onward

Enid Higham

## Edmonton Section Upcoming Courses

In the upcoming months, the Edmonton Section executive is happy to be able to provide more leadership and training courses and workshops for its members. Two of the courses, "Rock Rescue Essentials" and "Alpine and Rock Leadership", are specifically designed for members who are already leading Section trips or are committed to leading in the near future. For those two courses, applicants are required to send a letter to the Course Coordinator, stating your experience, skill level, and commitment to being a section trip leader. The Section offers a 75% subsidy/rebate to those participants who fulfill the commitment of leading section trips within 18 months of the course date. The participants for leadership courses will be chosen by a committee, based on the application letter and, perhaps more importantly, the applicants' commitment to the section.

The rest of the courses are open to any and all members. Space is limited on all courses, so be sure to register as soon as possible. Your spot on the course will be secured upon receipt of payment by the Course Coordinator. In the unlikely event of course cancellation, you will be fully refunded. To register for these courses contact the Course Coordinator by email: [course@alpineclub-edm.org](mailto:course@alpineclub-edm.org) or by telephone: 439-1776. The only exception is for the Navigation Course. See course description for registration details.

The Annual Bouldering Clinic will be put on hold for the time being, due to the state of uncertainty regarding the future operation of, and access to, the UofA climbing wall. Stay tuned.

If members are interested in putting together other courses, please contact the Course Coordinator with your suggestions and requests. If there is sufficient demand and if we can line up an instructor, we will run a course.

## Spring/Summer 2003

### Rock Rescue Essentials for Section Leaders: May 17 – 19, 2003

An introduction to "Self Rescue SRT" systems for climbers. The focus is on safety, escaping the system, raising, lowering, and self-rescue. Rappel safeties, improvised stretchers and carries will be covered. Every leader should have this course plus First Aid!

Prerequisites: Basic Rock plus good knowledge of anchor building; commitment to leading section trip within 18 months. Course instructor: Cyril Shokoples  
Location will be in Jasper (Morro Slabs, Hidden Valley). Course costs will be \$175 each, before section rebate, plus transportation and accommodation. Six participants. Send application letter to Edmonton Section Course Coordinator.

### Navigation Course

The aim of the navigation course is to provide section 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](mailto:Hafer.R@Forces.gc.ca) for further information or send payment to #201, 7404 108 Street, Edmonton, T6E 4L5 to register.

### Alpine and Rock Leadership for Section Leaders: June 28 – July 1, 2003

A four day extravaganza combo of both the Alpine Rock and Alpine Snow / Ice Leadership courses. The first day will be rock skills training with the second day spent doing rock climbing of an alpine nature (or a rock peak) near Jasper. The third day will be snow and ice skills training, with the final day being a snow and ice peak near the Columbia Icefields. Group management and short roping on club outings will be two key ingredients of this course. This is not a course on hard multi-pitch climbing, but rather a course on "alpine leadership".

Prerequisite: Intermediate rock course or equivalent and glacier/snow and ice experience on several peaks. Commitment to leading section trip within 18 months.

Course instructor: Cyril Shokoples

Location: Hidden Valley, a Jasper peak, Columbia Icefields.

**N.B.** Since July 1<sup>st</sup> is a Tuesday, course participants must be able to take both Monday June 30 and Tuesday July 1 off.

Course costs will be \$175 each, before section rebate, plus transportation and accommodation. Four participants. Send payment to Edmonton Section Course Coordinator.

## Fall 2003

### **Emergency Mountaineering First Aid: October 4 – 5, 2003**

This specialized course addresses common traumatic and environmental injuries encountered by climbers and skiers. It is mountaineering first aid NOT standard urban first aid. Included in the price are critical components of a *proper* mountain first aid kit. This is one of the best attended courses offered by Rescue Dynamics. Highly recommended by past participants.  
Course instructor: Cyril Shokoples  
Location TBA (in Edmonton).  
Course costs will be \$100+/ person, which includes a complete first-aid kit (non-negotiable)  
Minimum twelve participants.  
Send payment to Edmonton Section Course Coordinator.

### **Leadership Workshop: November 8 – 9, 2003**

This new two-day workshop will be held in Edmonton and will focus on leadership theory and preparation. Good not just for new leaders, but for the old dogs as well! The agenda will include risk management, trip planning, group management, conflict resolution, route planning, emergency situation management, check-lists, and a whole lot of vital items for section leaders.  
The cost will be determined by group size and venue cost.  
Course instructor: Cyril Shokoples  
Twelve to twenty participants.  
Send payment to Edmonton Section Course Coordinator.

## **Looking for a different sort of summer adventure? Check this out!**

### **Mountain festival**

Kyrgyz Alpine Club and International Travel & Mountaineering Center Tien-Shan (ITMC) will hold Mountain Festival in area of Lenin Peak - 7134m, the Pamirs.

It is an honour for us to invite you to take part in the Festival.

We also would like to invite regional Alpine Associations and Clubs in your country and will be grateful if you can send us their e-mail addresses.

Vladimir Komissarov  
President

#### **KYRGYZ ALPINE CLUB and ITMC hold**



#### **Mountain Festival in area of Lenin Peak (7134m) in 2003:**

*Climbing Lenin Peak*

*Individual Races ascending and around Lenin Peak*

*Descents by mountain skis/snowboards*

*Para plane flights*

*Kyrgyz Alpine Club*

*Trekking along slips of Zaalaiskii Range*

**Deadline for applying: June 1, 2003**



ITMC

#### **Dates:**

**July 15 — August 5, 2003**

**July 29 — August 19, 2003**

**August 1 — August 22, 2003**

**Price of participation in the Festival:** USD 550 per person

This price is valid for any dates for a group of 12 persons and more. In case of arrival/departure on the other dates, for the prices for groups up to 12 persons refer to appendix please.

Kyrgyz Alpine Club admits one representative from one federation (club or independent team) free of charge (paying only climbing or trekking permit) if the team of federation (club or independent team) is 10 persons and more and arrives at the dates mentioned above. The programme of Festival has favourable price for transportation and accommodation.

#### **The price includes:**

- Accommodation in a Guest House in Osh (2 nights) including breakfast; and in tents at the Base Camp (7 nights) \*)
- Full board during 7 days in the Base Camp (it is supposed that the other days climbers are out of Base Camp, and provides meals and lodging themselves)
- Transfers by cross country vehicle (6 WD) Osh – Achik-Tash (Base Camp) – Osh
- Border permit

#### **Scheme of program:**

1 day	Arrival in Osh. Accommodation in a Guest House
2 day	Transfer Osh – Achik-Tash, Base Camp. Tents.
3-20 days	Acclimatisation, climbing, trekking, gliding etc.
21 day	Transfer Achik-Tash - Osh. Accommodation in Guest House.
22 day	Departure.

#### **The price does not include:**

- Climbing permit (it is necessary for ascent to Lenin Peak - USD 105 per person)
- Trekking permit (it is necessary for trekking in area of Lenin Peak USD 35 per person)
- Air ticket Bishkek – Osh – Bishkek (80 USD per person\*\*)
- Visa support (not needed for countries where is Kyrgyz Embassy or Consulate) (for those who will apply to Kazakh Embassy, visa support will be charged - USD 25 per person)
- Registration in OVIR (not needed for Western European, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens) (for the others - USD 10 per person)
- Meals in Osh (except of 2 breakfasts in Guest House)
- All personal equipment (gas cylinders and stoves, kerosene stoves, petrol for climbing, paraplanes etc.\*\*\*)

*Continues on page 6*

**Notes:**

\*) Providing participants with tents will be reconfirmed additionally in June. In case of non-confirming, participants should provide tents by themselves. The price without tents in Base Camp is USD 520 per person.

\*\*) Air fare Bishkek-Osh-Bishkek must be reconfirmed in June 2003.

\*\*) It is possible to rent the equipment and also some other equipment (ice axe, ropes, carabines, crampons, carrimats, sleeping bags) from ITMC, except Para planes (please make request in advance).

Kyrgyz Alpine Club provides services for the Festival together with International Travel & Mountaineering Centre Tien-Shan (ITMC). It is possible to order all extra services in the Festival from ITMC (booking air tickets to/from Osh, accommodation, transportation, excursions, guides/interpreters and other services in Bishkek or Almaty). Please inform Organization Committee if you need assistance in ordering these extra services.

**Terms of participation:**

Participants have to be experienced in extreme situations, and have climbing or trekking experience on altitudes of 5000-6000m.

Participants must have their own equipment for climbing, descents by skis, flights by Para planes or for trekking, warm clothes, food for staying in the mountains in the camps higher of Base Camp, and high mountain tent.

Each participant of Festival must have medical insurance. The copy of insurance must be send to Organization Committee 2 weeks in advance of arrival at Kyrgyzstan (by e-mail or fax).

**Contact details of Organization Committee for sending application forms:**

Kyrgyz Republic Mountaineering Club,  
Contact persons: Mr Vladimir Komissarov,  
President, Tel. +996-312-651221,  
E-mail: kac@netmail.kg or itmc@elcat.kg;  
Ms Ayana Khamisova, Secretary,  
Tel. 651404.

**NTS map changes****To all ACC Edmonton members**

Topo maps that we use (NTS 1:50,000) are changing- for the worse. NaturalResources Canada plans to go to a 40 m contour interval instead of a 20 m. This will mean a significant loss in terrain detail and therefore in usefulness to the backcountry user.

If you would like to have some input into this decision, let Jean Cooper know by sending her an E-mail:

Jean Cooper Acting  
Director General Mapping Services  
Branch Natural Resources Canada  
[JCooper@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:JCooper@NRCan.gc.ca)

*"Please adopt a 20 m contour interval on our 1:50,000 NTS maps for the Rocky Mountain region. Our lives depend on accurate and complete map products. This is in the interest of mountain safety and the 40-m interval does not provide sufficient detail for our navigational needs."*

Murray Toft,  
Chairman ACC Safety Committee.  
ACC Gazette,  
Vol. 17, No. 1. Winter 2003

If you have the time and inclination you should also write to your MP who is responsible for looking out for your interests in parliament. If this issue is important to you, please pass this message on to others that you think would be interested as well. Remember, it's your hard earned tax dollars that go into producing these and your disposable income that goes towards buying them. Doug Bezovie Acting Chair Access and Environmental Committee ACC Edmonton Section

Please note new change of email address

\*\*\*\*\*Doug Bezovie\*\*\*\*\*

Edmonton, Alberta

[doug.b@interbaun.com](mailto:doug.b@interbaun.com) [dougbezo@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:dougbezo@vcn.bc.ca)



Photo by Matt Kalin

## TRIP REPORTS

### Alpine Club of Canada - Edmonton Section 17th Birkebeiner - February 8, 2003

#### It's OK to Eat the Yellow Snow

**A**lmost too much(!) snow makes for heavy skiing, but if you kept moving, no cold toes.

ACC certainly kept moving at its Wanisan station, located 43 km along the 55 km trail. Our gang trotted up and down the trail, carrying oranges, bananas, cookies and cheese to the skiers. We offered hydration via water or Powerade (the lemon version). The Wanisan station sits on a curve in the trail, near the fence, and comes complete with outhouse, picnic tables and a first-aid tent, warmed by generator. We had a -5 temperature, just right for hard-working skiers.

As usual, the ever-gracious outdoor cartoonist icon, Yardley Jones, finished off our day about 4 o'clock. Yardley thanked the Alpine Club profusely. Yardley was followed closely by the Grim Sweeper, complete with tiny broom on his hat and golden pigtailed. It is interesting to note that, while this is the 17th Birkie, an article in the Edmonton Sun states that Yardley has now completed 18 Birkies...only Yardley could do that....

Did the Birkebeiner ("Birch Leggings") warriors from Lillehammer have such fine support, in 1206, when they moved the baby prince from the Gudbrandsdal valley to Rena?

The commemorative Birkie races started in Norway in 1932, with the U.S. version starting in 1971. 1985 saw the first Birkie in the Edmonton area. Originally, the race ran from Devon

to Edmonton and had 126 skiers in its first year. This year there were 1500 on the various routes immediately south of Elk Island Park.

If you complete all three 55km Birkies, you receive the Haakon Haakonson (the infant prince) Award. The Torskelubben version of the race recreates the total legendary Viking trek.

Torskelubben skiers must carry the equivalent of the infant crown prince (a 5.5 kg. pack). You can also go into shorter (2.5, 5, 13, 32 km) versions with shorter distances attracting most of the hilarious versions of Viking costumes. Are those helmeted beings, "horned" or "horny"?

We had Terry's truck at Waskehegan Staging Area (Rge Rd 210) by 8 AM. Terry was headed to New Orleans, but left only after he had laid the groundwork, picking up the basic supplies at the Centennial Storage Depot on 99 Street. At Waskehegan we added generators, spare ski poles, cups and drink trays. By 8:45 A.M., our convoy (Parks officials plus first aid people) was moving down the road to Wye Road, and then eastward to launch the snowmobiles with their trailers. Some of us avoided the "Birkie Bounce" on the snowmobiles and walked in to the Wanisan site. We began bashing ice, and Brian chopped wood (he actually got the bonfire started with one match (or two)—no gas!), while we waited for the supplies to arrive on the snowmobiles. Wayne had peeled the oranges the night before and we sliced oranges, bananas and cheese, adding cookies in preparation for our first three racers (11:45 AM).

#### 2.

We hauled platters of food to a straight-away portion of the trail, picking up discarded cups and spilled food while on the way back to replenish the refreshments. We got

the two camp stoves perking—soup and coffee are absolute necessities! Birkie people forgot to give us gas, but the well-prepared Graham always has gas(!). We constructed a rudimentary sign to remind skiers that ACC was there. Next year, a huge ACC banner, plus Burma Shave signs for provocative messages!!

Shauna, the famous Mt. Temple bumskier, skied by. No doubt many bundled up ACC'ers were in the crowd, including, perhaps, Markus K, Marc H, Tanya B, Martin S, John H and the dynamic duo of Marion and Reinhold M..... ACC garnered much thanks from the weary and the dehydrated.

*And, finally, we made an attempt to cover up all that yellow snow.*

*At the Volunteer-Thank-You celebration, February 12, there were many stories about Yardley's effusiveness as he thanked volunteers along the trail. Yardley was presented with a statue of a troll (a grotesque Norwegian elf) that night. Brian, Tharin, Shaun, Graham and Wayne consumed much pizza (free beverages too) at the Muttart Conservatory and Wayne's number was drawn for a Swiss Army knife, a part of Mountain Equipment Coop's \$750.00 contribution to the evening.*

#### ACC Birkie-Bouncing Macarena Dancers:

**Radio Guy Graham Walker, Tharin Blumenschien, Jim Barrow, Anne Anderson, Brian Stephens, Margriet van Gaza, Shaun Derman, Wayne Vibert, Terry McIntee (in absentia)**

— by Wayne Vibert  
February 19, 2003

## Mt. Chephren September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Looking at the steep pyramid of Mt. Chephren from the Icefields Parkway it seems improbable that there is a relatively straightforward scramble route to the summit. Hoping to find that elusive route, eight of us met at the Waterfowl Lakes trailhead at a very reasonable hour on Saturday morning. While Chephren can be done as an exhausting day trip, we had elected to attempt it in a more leisurely two days. Permission to bivvy was obtained by talking to a knowledgeable employee at the Jasper Information Centre. Our hike into base camp took under three hours. Hiking around Chephren Lake was easier than expected, perhaps because increased climber traffic is gradually wearing a decent trail.

On the far side of Chephren Lake we found a pleasant camping spot on a small gravel flat tucked between two old moraines. The setting was spectacular, on one side the turquoise waters of the lake, on the other the towering walls of Mount Howse.

Since we reached camp at such an early hour in the afternoon several of us headed up the small peak (7900') southeast of camp. The first part of the ascent involved ascending the narrow, steeply rising crest of one of the moraines above camp. We all stepped carefully here. It wasn't difficult, but a fall would have resulted in a 100m "cheese grater" express down the steep-sided moraine. As it turned out, the moraine turned out to be minor compared to defending ourselves against the bug attack that awaited us above. Once above the moraine, meadows and a bit of steep scree led us to the 7200' col. From the col the summit was a short amble along a scenic ridge. While our peak was dwarfed to insignificance by surrounding peaks, it was a superb outlook. West of us were the shadowy, ice-encrusted flanks of Howse Peak, to the east we looked into the dry ranges on the east side of the Parkway, to the south, Cirque Lake was nestled several thousand feet below us. Mount Chephren lay to the north, the scramble route up the south flanks in plain view. The descent was sped up

significantly by bug attack, we were all glad to get out of the meadows.

Back at camp we cooked dinner and got ready for an early departure tomorrow. Just as we turned in for the night, some recently arrived clouds began to spit rain on us. Listening to the pitter-patter on the tent I was quite annoyed. It didn't seem fair that the weather should be superb all week, only to crap out on the eve of our climb. I had visions of waking up next morning to six inches of fresh wet snow.

Fortunately next morning belied my fears - it was a perfect crisp day. We departed camp at 6:30 AM, still in twilight. The first part of the route ascends a steep south facing meadow. Part way up this meadow we stopped to admire the morning light illuminating the north wall of Mount Howse. While we all had our cameras out, a large ice chunk obligingly calved off one of the hanging glaciers and descended the face in a cascade of fragments. Once dawn had broken, the now familiar swarm of insects began to attack, so we became pretty focused on getting out of the meadows and up into some type of breeze! Higher up our meadow turned to scree covered slabs. Route finding up this part of the face is easy - there are only two gullies on the lower south slopes, and the left gully leads straight to the start of the climbing in the first rock band.

The climbing through the first rock band was sufficiently interesting to deserve its rating as a "difficult" scramble in Kane's guide. Fortunately the few difficult moves were not really exposed, while the exposed parts were straightforward. I had thought we might need a rope here, but by spotting people up a couple of short steep cracks we were able to do without. Our only mishap here was when Brett's camera parted company with Brett. Since I was a few metres above I missed the excitement of the flight and only saw a dejected looking Brett a few minutes later. Brett spotted where his camera came to rest, so we promised to look for it on the way down, though none of us had high hopes of recovering a functional camera. Interestingly the spot where Brett dropped his camera, was within a few hundred feet of where Reinhold had

dropped a camera almost exactly a year before (only small chunks of plastic were recovered from that incident).

The second rock band was easier than the first. From the top of the second band, we walked over a small rise to gain the southwest ridge. From this point we could see most of the "alpine route" up Chephren. Climbing the alpine route had been our original intention, until a reliable source had informed us that the alpine route had melted out to the extent that an impassable cliff band had been exposed. That may be so, though from our bird's eye view the "alpine route" looked like a straightforward snow slope, perhaps easier than the "scramble route". Ascending the southwest ridge we had to surmount one more rock band and then struggle up a talus ridge to the summit.

Despite the sun, the summit was a chilly place, cooled by a stiff breeze. Still we stuck around long enough to admire the views. The Lyells and Freshfields to the north and west of us were spectacular. Those with strong stomachs leaned over Chephren's north face to get a vertigo-inducing view 4500' straight down.

The highlight of the descent was finding Brett's camera at the base of the lowest rock band, intact and fully functioning (since the camera company wouldn't endorse us for the advertising, we decided not to give you all the model details here, but contact Brett if you want a bomb-proof camera!). By the time we reached camp our knees had absorbed 5000' feet of elevation and would have enjoyed a nice rest. Sadly that was not to be. After a quick bite we packed up and headed out. We reached the cars tired but satisfied as the last glimmers of daylight faded.

### Participants

Tanya Binette (co-leader),  
Markus Kellerhals (co-leader and reporter),  
Chuck Lummer, Sheri Foster, Mark Nelson, Jean Loates, Adam Wiebe, Brett Wheler

— by Tanya Binette