



Avalanche Echoes

Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section News



Summit of Mt. Garibaldi. Photo: Linda Bily

Alpine Club Executive

Executive

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	Peter Woodsworth (Tantalus)	604-254-7076

Vancouver Section webpage: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver

National Club webpage: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/

Have you subscribed to the Echoes by email? Get it a whole lot faster!!

To receive the Echoes electronically, please contact Paddy O'Neile at paddyo@computer.org. You'll also be helping the club save money on postage.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at 7:30pm
Location: Floral Hall, Van Dusen Gardens, W. 37th & Oak St., Vancouver
We're holding our annual SKILLS FEST & GEAR SWAP this month!



THE AVALANCHE ECHOES is published nine times per year by the Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section.

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This newsletter is the official publication of the Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section. It keeps members informed on topics of interest to mountaineers including activities within the club, equipment, techniques, access, and environmental issues.

The club meets monthly, usually for a slide presentation, at the Floral Hall in Van Dusen Gardens, W 37th and Oak St., at 7:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except in July, August and December.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Vancouver Section:	
Single	\$41.00
Family	\$57.00
Junior	\$21.00 (under 18)

For membership dues, renewals, and changes of address, and booking huts, contact the ACC national office directly: P.O. Box 8040 Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8, fax 403-678-3224, phone 403-678-3200, or e-mail: alpclub@telusplanet.net Website: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver

For detailed membership form including upgrades, send SASE to ACC-Vancouver, c/o FMCBC, 47 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V5Y 1P1.

SUBMISSIONS

We encourage submissions of writing, photography, drawings, etc. If possible, articles should be submitted by e-mail (about 500 words). Photos and slides are always needed (JPG format is preferable). Deadline for submissions is the last day of the previous month.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion within the guidelines of the Section Executive. Articles may be edited for clarity or to fit the available space.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Chartwell Consultants Ltd. for use of computer space and printers.



Announcements

Call for Nominations for the ACC-Vancouver Section Executive

The Annual General Meeting of the ACC-Vancouver Section is fast approaching on Tuesday, November 27. Elections will be held that evening for all Executive positions. New people will be required to fill several Exec roles, including Camps Coordinator, and Promotions Coordinator. New people will also be required for several non-Exec volunteer positions, including Webmaster. Please consider sharing a little of your time and expertise to make the Club a truly GREAT place to be. You will be rewarded with new friends and new experiences. For more information about any and all positions, call Liz Scremin at 604-921-2651 or liz@pensiamo.com

Donation to the ACC from Eric Brooks

Eric Brooks, an outstanding member of the Vancouver Section and past President and Honorary President of the ACC, died last May 17 at the age of 99. As previously noted in this newsletter... Shortly before his death, Eric donated numerous wonderful mountain items (books, slides, memorabilia, clothing, gear) to the Vancouver Section. The National Office has just announced that Eric's estate has gifted \$50,000 to the National Club. The monies will form a fund, with the income directed towards offsetting the cost of the Canadian Alpine Journal. This is a very generous gift! We are grateful and touched that Eric should continue to nurture the Club in this way. His spirit will be with us for years to come.

Diabetes and Mountaineering:

The International Diabetic Expedition to Aconcagua 2000 (IDEA 2000)

People with diabetes and their friends and families are invited to attend a presentation by Katherine Brandt-Wells (a Victoria ACC member) who, on January 12 with six others with diabetes, successfully reached the peak of Aconcagua in Argentina, the tallest mountain in the western hemisphere. Katherine, who has Type 1 diabetes, will show slides of her climb and discuss her incredible experience and the challenges of managing her diabetes and blood sugars at high altitude. This program is free of charge but limited to people with diabetes and their friends and families. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will go to supply insulin, blood glucose monitoring supplies and education to needy diabetics in South America. Seating is limited and you must register in person or by phone.

Abbotsford: Mon, Oct 29, 6 - 9 pm, at The Inn at Kings Crossing. RSVP to London Drugs in Abbotsford (604) 448-4016.

North Vancouver: Tues, Oct 30, 6 - 9 pm at the Holiday Inn. RSVP to London Drugs in North Van (604) 980-3661 or West Van (604) 926-9616.

For more information, please visit the IDEA 2000 website at www.idea2000.org

Late-Breaking FMCBC News

The FMCBC has been negotiating with the Greater Vancouver Regional District to solve the issue of public access to the Grouse Grind.

The FMCBC recently received two grants from Mountain Equipment Co-op. The first is to map and sign the National Trail across BC, and the second is to fund continued studies of the Elaho area by the FMCBC Research Committee.

The FMCBC has two new Retail Business Associates: Mountain Magic of White Rock/South Surrey, and the Backpacker on West Broadway in Vancouver. Both offer Fed members 10% off on all non-sale items. Try them!



Letter from the Chair

'My Other Hat' by Liz Scremin

On your behalf, I attended the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (FMCBC) 29th Annual General Meeting held at U.B.C. on June 23rd, 2001. (Many thanks to the B.C. Mountaineering Club for hosting this year's event.) It was a wonderful chance to meet like-minded people from all across the province, including the delegate from our very own Vancouver Island Section. A short PowerPoint presentation was given to review the history, goals and programs of the FMCBC. A sample media package was also presented. Sophisticated stuff! The FMCBC is attempting to polish its image and improve its communication tools to better reach out to government and the media, existing and potential member clubs and the mountain community at large. These efforts have seen some success. The FMCBC is accepted as the voice for the mountain community and is consulted more often by government agencies and forestry companies. The FMCBC's opinion is sought out more by news reporters. Pat Harrison, the Executive Director, has personally met with all but two of the 20 member clubs this year. One new club has recently joined (the Mount Remo Backcountry Society in Terrace) and another is imminent.

Leslie Bohm, President, and Pat Harrison reported on the overall work of the FMCBC. Brian Wood reported for the Recreation and Conservation Committee; Lisa Baile for the Wilderness Education Program; Annette Lehnacker for the Research Committee and Alex Wallace for the Trails Committee. It

was a busy year. Here are just a few highlights:

1) The FMCBC has been a key player in the 'Help MELP' campaign (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (now Ministry of Water, Air, Land and Parks)), forming a coalition with other environmental groups, and urging government to restore critical funding to park management and protection.

2) The FMCBC has fervently pursued the protection of the Southern Chilcotin Mountains and continues to lobby the Liberal Government to ensure their adoption of the Conservation Option of the Lillooet LRMP.

3) The FMCBC has worked hard to protect non-mechanized access to the backcountry in the Sea-to-Sky Corridor and other more northerly areas of the Province. FMCBC volunteers are attending a series of forums with B.C. Assets and Lands (BCAL) regarding commercial tenures in the region. Volunteers have reviewed innumerable BCAL permit applications.

4) The FMCBC has been meeting with Interfor, holding firm for the preservation of the forest cutblock containing the Sims Creek to Princess Louisa Inlet trailhead. The Research Committee has provided back-up information on wildlife habitat in the area.

5) The FMCBC has revitalized and up-dated its Adopt-A-Trail Program, establishing a number of co-management agreements with BC Parks for adopted trails in parks. [Note that the ACC-Vancouver Section long ago adopted the Lake Lovely Water trail and the trail to the alpine above Lizzie Lake. That should translate into a couple

of 'trail clearing' parties on our trip schedule next summer. Interested?]

A special presentation was made by a senior member of the National Trails Association. Various member clubs have been working to identify and develop portions of the National Trail in their area. Another special presentation was made on the historic Goat River Trail in the Robson area.

Elections were held for the FMCBC directors. Numerous people offered to stand for additional terms, including ACCers Lesley Bohm, Ken Legg and Peter Woodsworth from the Vancouver Section and Richard Keltie and Peter Rothermal from the Vancouver Island Section. One person, ACCer Manrico Scremin, stood as a new candidate. Thirteen of a possible sixteen positions were filled.

Ken Legg, Treasurer, presented the year-end financial statements and the up-coming year's budget. The FMCBC is financially on track, although money is tight. With so many urgent issues this year, the delegates felt that a three and a half-day a week Executive Director (instead of two-day) was needed. A resolution was passed to allocate funds for this purpose. With the sustainability of this funding in question, a possible fee increase (\$3?) was discussed and tabled for next year's AGM. The delegates were instructed to review this with their respective clubs. [Something for us to talk about at our own AGM!]

The decision was made to publish the Cloudburst newsletter twice annually in a longer format but with a savings on postage.

Brian Jones, Manager of Canada

**Letter From The Chair continued
from page 3 ...**

West Mountain School (CWMS), gave his report. There was some unfortunate news. CWMS reported a sizeable loss of approximately \$28,000. [With total revenues of \$250,000 on average annually.] The loss was covered by FMCBC reserves. Weather and too many courses run with too few students were the only real explanations. The delegates expressed real concern about the adequate financial management of CWMS. A little history... CWMS is totally owned by the FMCBC. It is the offshoot of the one-time Safety and Education Committee, and its original mandate was to provide low-cost high-quality courses for FMCBC members. CWMS still does this by providing course discounts for members and having fully qualified ACMG guides teach all courses. However today CWMS also has the mission to make a profit to support the work of the FMCBC. A resolution was passed at the AGM, directing CWMS to provide \$10,000 on the bottom-line this fiscal year, \$20,000 the next and \$50,000 the next. An ambitious undertaking! Certainly setting our sights high to provide the necessary motivation.

Subsequent to the AGM, the CWMS Committee of the FMCBC was re-established to identify the problems and put CWMS on the right financial track. The committee is currently drafting a business plan, improving financial reporting and identifying new markets and program ideas. The members clubs have received a status report on the committee's efforts as of Sept 1. Thus far, CWMS is reported to be conservatively \$8000 ahead of its position at the same time last year. I

believe that CWMS is getting the focused attention it needs; and despite some concerns, the thought is that CWMS has an excellent reputation for the quality of its service, plus it has no sizable competitor in the region. There is no reason why it should not succeed with improved management. We will have to monitor the situation.

Well? Are you still with me? If you think this is hard 'reading', just imagine all the work that goes into the 'doing'. The FMCBC is a volunteer organization, not a paid institution. It is not faceless, but is made up of real ACCers, BCMCers, VOCers, North Shore Hikers, Caledonia Ramblers, etc. No doubt they'd all rather be climbing, but they know how critical times are. They are working passionately to protect the areas we love. I've seen first hand the level of their commitment and want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their work. Yes. Despite occasional criticism, the FMCBC does excellent work. I am pleased that the ACC-Vancouver Section is a founding member.

Just so you know... at one of the AGM social gatherings, our very own Jay MacArthur received the inaugural Cloudburst Award for his outstanding service on behalf of the FMCBC on the Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan. The AGM ended with a terrific barbecue hosted by BCMC'er, Brian Wood, plus a superb slideshow by John Clarke. You should have been there! You'd never guess how many people can squeeze into one living room when they know John's doing the show! Til next year...

Personalities

Bon voyage to **Ed and Maria Gunkel, Wally Kerchum** and **Doug Williams** as they embark on yet another trip to Nepal. Best of luck getting over Tilicho Pass!

Congratulations to **Don Serl** on the release of his new book, "Waddington Guide". People can't wait to thumb the pages and dream about the trips!

Many thanks to **John Baldwin, Dave Jones, Kevin McLane** and **Don Serl** for donating copies of their books to the Silent Auction at the ACC's 2001 Mountain Guides Ball in Lake Louise. This year's very worthy cause is the Karl Nagy Memorial Scholarship Fund for aspiring ACMG guides and ACC amateur leaders.

A warm welcome to new members - **Ondrej Mecl, Michele Minarik, Louise Zizka, Karen Hirschmiller, James Yardley, George Shipley, Veda Hotel, Lisa Rae, Ken Grunenber, Liam Shea, Michael Fuhrmann,** and **Ian Turnbull**. Let us know what the ACC can do for you!

Start knitting pink and blue booties! The Personalities Column has heard of SEVERAL new little ACCers on the way. Stay tuned for announcements in a few months time!



National News

by Fern Hietkamp

ACC's Competition Climbing Committee

The ACC is the sole official administrator of competition climbing in the country (for Union of International Alpine Associations-approved competition). During the first half of 2001, the CCC sanctioned a series of 12 Youth events across Western Canada that culminated with a National Youth Championships in Nanaimo last May. Canadian team members also attended the Continental Youth Championships in Berkeley early in February, the Gorge Games in July, and expect to compete at continental events this autumn. There are approximately 100 active climbers registered with the CCC this year. (Contact Dave Dornian for information: ddornian@agt.net)

Alpine Accidents in Canada—new publication

A need was identified for a publication that covers accidents such as avalanches and other non-mountaineering (hiking) incidents (not covered in "Accidents in North American Mountaineering"). Beginning in late spring a group of club volunteers began work on gathering information from a variety of sources to contribute to this publication. Once this information has been collected an Internet based document will be made available for all members (hard copies also available). The first edition is expected by year-end. (let Fern Hietkamp know if you have any items you would like to contribute so she may pass them on to the national club)

Leadership Development Committee

The VP Services (Dave Zemrau) is chairing this committee which will build on current Leadership Development activities both at a Section level and at the National level. A survey will be conducted with all of the Sections in order to determine their needs. Bridget Milsom has joined the committee to officially represent and provide input from the Vancouver section.

Activities

Five winter camps, one international, and eleven summer camps were run. An average of 300 people per year attend National camps. Sponsors subsidize a total of five programs. Information packages about National camps are available on the ACC website (www.alpineclubofcanada.ca).

Membership Fee Increase

At the August (2001) semi-annual meeting, the National Executive determined that a membership fee increase of \$3 would be proposed in order to help cover Membership Services. After the National Executive meeting in August, Dave Toole, ACC President, reported to Section Representatives to the Board that:

"over the past 5 years our club has grown significantly. Our revenues at the national level have more than doubled to reach \$1.5 million. The number of members has increased by almost 30% in that same period. The club has many new programs and activities and has a healthy financial balance sheet. But our costs in many areas related to the services we directly provide members have grown as well. For example, the cost of liability insurance alone has increased by \$2 per member over this period. For 2001, our membership revenues at the national level compared to our net costs of servicing the membership and providing direct membership benefits will leave a deficit of \$22 per member.[...] As a result, a portion of the surpluses traditionally created by those facilities will now have to be used to finance the needed capital improvements, and will thus be unavailable to continue supporting other areas of our operations. So the budget for 2002 includes an average \$3 per membership fee increase to help balance the budget, and to partially close the \$22 per membership gap between the cost of member-related services provided by ACC national vs. the membership revenues retained by national. The Executive feels that this \$3 increase will help to close the gap."

The Executive have asked Section Representatives to the National Board to bring this proposed fee increase to the attention of the Section members. This was discussed at September's General Meeting, as well as with the Section executive.

It's Not What Your Club Can Do For You. It's What You Can Do For Your Club.

Hey, you. Yeah, **YOU**. Do you hike, climb, backcountry ski, board, or snowshoe? I bet you do, or else you probably wouldn't be reading this. How about taking a group of like minded, fellow ACC'ers along with you next time you head off into the mountains. Please do your part for the club by signing up to lead a trip. The club will benefit and you will have a whole lot of fun to boot!

Call Chris at 873-4552 or send an email to vanacctrips@hotmail.com for more info.



Access & Environment Report

by Jane Weller

An ideal day in the back-country is one without noise, other than that of the natural world. Jack Bryceland writes: *"...that is not to say that I can enjoy a day on a high snowfield when there are snowmobiles audible off in the distance: but it would be better without them. It is possible to enjoy a day when it is necessary to ski across, or even down them: but it would be more enjoyable if tracks were not there...Trails are a marvelous convenience: but they are best when they lead to the untracked alpine world. A ski down a glacier can be grand: even if it would have been better without the helicopter buzzing past."*

Wild places are shrinking and everyone has a right to go to the backcountry. Unfortunately the list includes not just *US* but snowmobilers, dirt bikers, mountain bikers, natural history people and hikers/climbers. We all wish to have wilderness maintained on public lands: that is what our club is all about.

On September 29th BCAL held a forum at Whistler on resolving the user conflicts in the Sea to Sky Corridor. The Alpine Club was invited as a participant along with various other motorized, non-motorized groups and the government. With snowmobilers sitting on one side of the room and us on the other, 42 people attended the whole day forum. No agreement was signed. Anything coming out of the forum will fit into the LRMP process that extends from Lions by to Lillooet.

Concepts put forth by the forum:

- Land use changes over time.
- Starting point is now, not the historical perspective.
- Grass root lead, not government lead and participant cooperation and coordination.
- The need to come up with positive recommendations planning, zoning, enforcement which encompasses time and space, allocation among users, education.

We didn't solve anything yet this was a great start. While the conflict exists in the Sea to Sky area it is still simmering; it would be great to get ahead of the issues and develop solutions before it becomes a crisis. As Jack Bryceland says *"It is my firm belief that we must get more people into the backcountry so that they can learn of its value. That way leads to preservation...Everyone has the right of access as long as everyone works to preserves a representative proportion of the country in its undisturbed state: and undisturbed means no roads, no trails, no huts, no tracks, no lifts, no low-level overflights, no helicopter landing, ie no easy access."* This is my belief too.

Skills Fest & Gear Swap at October Meeting

Various members will be sharing their technical knowledge: topics include equipment repair, sled making, alpine cuisine, and more! In addition a gear swap will be held, so bring in your gear and be prepared to buy, sell, or trade!

AGM and Pot Luck Dinner at November Meeting

The November meeting is our section's Annual General Meeting.

- dinner (potluck)
- annual reports and elections
- volunteer recognition.
- slide show by Ray Kodama

Reminder: The dinner is a pot luck so please bring some food to share ...



Wanna buy some gear? Photo: Helen Habgood

"Taste of the Canadian Rockies" Tour

Summer 2001

by Fern Hietkamp

Under the ACC's Mountaineers Club, an international familiarization ("fam") tour was run this summer in the Rockies. A group of ten leaders from the ACC, UIAA (Union of International Alpine Associations), British Army, Dutch Climbing Club, and Colorado Mountain Club visited four huts in seven days, and were treated to a range of weather, views and hiking routes.

When I heard about this tour, I knew I wanted to join it somehow. A chance to meet climbers from Europe and the USA, plus an opportunity to visit huts in the Rockies I had never been to before! An opportunity came my way when it turned out that a cook was needed, the regular roster of chefs being somewhat low. Because I had cooked for large groups of people in the wilderness in previous lives (treeplanters, geologists), and because they needed somebody, I qualified. Before I knew it, I was shopping in a Calgary Superstore for eight days worth of breakfast, lunch and supper.

Organized by Mike Mortimer (ACC Past President and now Director of External Affairs) and Bruce Keith (ACC Executive Director), the group visited the

Wheeler, Stanley Mitchell, and Wates-Gibson huts as well as the Clubhouse and the Canadian Alpine Centre.



Photo: Linda McMillan, American Alpine Club

The trip was run under the Mountaineers Club (part of the ACC Canadian Centre for Mountaineering), which operates under the following mission statement: to provide mountaineering trips in the Canadian Rockies to members of affiliated international alpine clubs in order to generate funds to support the on-going development of mountaineering leadership skills of ACC members across Canada, and to further the overall aims and objectives of the ACC.

Through this "fam" tour (visiting representative huts in four National Parks and two provinces), participants were given an overview of the style and range of offerings to climbers from all over the world, including the huts, ACC mountaineer courses and trips, and infrastructure provided by the ACC National Office.

Some highlights included: hiking in the Ramparts with renowned guidebook author and illustrator Glen Boles; singing ACC songs from GMCs in the 20s and 30s (from the Eric Brooks' collection) in the Stanley Mitchell hut; most of us making it up to the Asulkan Hut despite the rain; and for me—having the pleasure of cooking with alpinists from all

over the world (yes, they all wanted to help in the kitchen, it was wonderful).

The "fam" tour was an excellent experience for both visitors and hosts—a good way to build a network of mountaineering friends, and to learn from each others' experiences. Best wishes to Mike Mortimer as he develops this program, and to the ACC staff who work to make these events happen!



Vancouver Section Trip Schedule

OCT	20-21	Mt. Baker (via Coleman Glacier)	Climb	C4	Paul Baker	604-922-6111
	21	Mystery Trip		B3	Jane Weller	604-988-3618
	23	Monthly Meeting at 7:30pm in the Floral Hall of Van Dusen Gardens				
NOV	27-28	Cathedral Mtn	Hike	C3	Kevin Bogle	604-437-9448
	3	Hanes Valley Loop	Hike	B2	Mothe Tilden	604-720-8987
	3	Petgill Lake	Hike	A2	Pam Krannitz	604-946-9942
	11	Black Tusk Meadows	Ski	B2	Liz Scremin	604-921-2651
	17	Diamond Head	Ski	B2	Chris Underwood	604-873-4552
DEC	24-25	Cambie Creek - Manning		B2	Ian Voboril	604-224-3844
	1	Cloudburst Mtn	Ski	C3	Steve Wickham	604-733-7650
	2	Coquihalla Pass	Ski	B2	Ken Legg	604-228-9499

Join us for fun in the mountains!

The Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club of Canada
c/o The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
47 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1P1
Voicemail: 604-878-5272
Website: www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA

VANCOUVER SECTION

TRIP SCHEDULE WINTER 2001-02

GRADING GUIDELINES

- A - Less than 6 hrs travel/day (not strenuous)
- B - 6 to 8 hrs travel/day (moderately strenuous)
- C - 8 to 12 hrs travel/day (strenuous)
- D - More than 12 hrs travel/day (extremely strenuous)
- S - Slower-paced trip, (suitable for seniors)

- 1 - Gentle slopes. Travel on trails over fairly level terrain.
- 2 - Moderate slopes. Travel may be off trail. Intermediate skiing ability recommended. Easy climbing.
- 3 - Travel in mountainous terrain. Steep forest and glaciers probable. Backcountry equipment and intermediate skiing experience required. Moderate climbing.
- 4 - Travel over difficult mountain terrain. Advanced backcountry and mountaineering experience, ability and equipment required. Advanced ski mountaineering or moderate to difficult ice or mixed climbing. Ropes and belays required.
- 5 - Technical ice or mixed climbing. Advanced climbing experience required.

Please contact trip organizers by the Wednesday prior to the trip or earlier to express your interest. Non-members are welcome to participate once or twice before joining, and are accepted on a space available basis.. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings at 7:30pm in the Floral Hall of Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, W. 37th Ave. & Oak St in Vancouver on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except July, Aug, Dec).

CHAIRPERSON

Liz Scremin 604-921-2651

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Shirley Howdle 604-878-5272

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