

# Avalanche Echoes

## Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section News



*ACC/VOC Group on Spearhead Traverse near Mt Decker - photo Laura Scull.*

### Alpine Club Executive

Chair	Liz Scremin	604-921-2651
Secretary	Tony Knight	604-873-2276
Treasurer	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
Membership (Voicemail)	Shirley Howdle	604-878-5272
Editors	Helen Habgood	604-984-6842
	Steve Wickham	604-733-7650
Climbing Coord.	Pam Krannitz	604-946-9942
Camps Coord.	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
Skills Development	Zoran Vasic	604-438-9066
Socials	Chris Bradley	604-873-9419
Programs	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
Access & Environment	Mary Henderson	604-215-3330
National Rep.	Fern Hietkamp	604-872-4290
Promotions	vacant	
FMCBC Rep.	Liz Scremin	604-921-2651
Quartermaster	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747

### Special Project Volunteers

Program Assistant	Linda Bily	604-222-1577
Archivist	Irene Goldstone	604-689-8737
Jim Haberl Hut Project	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
Family Programs Coord.	Tony Webb	604-939-1139
Tantalus Hut	Ron Royston	604-687-2711
Webmaster	Jim Sibley	604-738-1043
Email Administrator	Paddy O'Neile	604-818-7199
Camps Committee:		
	Rob Brusse (Rogers Pass)	604-224-0747
	Don Serl (Coast Climbing)	604-872-4244
	Tony Knight (Pebble Cr. Ski)	604-873-2276
	Mike Thompson (Spring Ski)	604-534-8863
	Peter Woodsworth (Tantalus)	604-254-7076

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 25th, 2002 at 7:30pm**  
**Location: Floral Hall, Van Dusen Gardens, W. 37th & Oak St., Vancouver**  
**"Open Projector Night" - Come see what our members are doing!**

Vancouver Section webpage: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver)  
 National Club webpage: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca)



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

**EDITORS:**

Helen Habgood 604-984-6842  
hhabgood@chartwell-consultants.com  
Steve Wickham 604-733-7650  
swickham@mda.ca

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 \$46.00  
Family \$63.00  
Junior \$22.00 (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](mailto:alpclub@telusplanet.net)

Website: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver](http://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.

**ADVERTISING**

Advertising in the Avalanche Echoes shall be accepted at the discretion of the Editor. All advertising shall be for products or services of direct interest to our membership.

**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

## A New ACC Section!

At the ACC National Board Meeting on Sat, May 11, a francophone outdoor club, Club Vertige based in Hull, Quebec, was accepted as the 18th section of the Alpine Club of Canada. The new section is now called Section Outaouais (pronounced Oojaway). Their representative, Pierre Gravel, attended the AGN Vancouver and expressed his club's excitement and commitment to growing and sharing as a part of the ACC. Welcome to the 100 plus members of Section Outaouais!

## Attention All Retired Vancouver Section Executive

Several important items have surfaced recently from the deep dark recesses of retired execs' basements, attics and storage lockers. If you have any old Section stuff – no matter how mundane it may initially appear – please pass it along to a member of the current executive. Thanks!

## Book Wanted

Cloud Walkers by Paddy Sherman Please contact Liz Scremin at (604) 921-2651.

## Adamant Climbing and Leadership Camp

*Fairy Meadow Hut - July 20-27, 2002*

*Guide: Cyril Shokoples; Asst. Guide: Marco Delesalle*

*Price: \$1675 plus GST*

There's one spot left in this camp, organized by the ACC for the Colorado Mountain Club. Activities will be planned and organized by the guides, with input from participants. Objectives will vary from moderate to technical, depending on weather and terrain conditions as well as participant abilities and interests. Instruction on subjects such as crevasse rescue, rock or ice climbing, knots, rope handling, snow and glacier travel, etc. depending on interest. Intermediate mountaineering skills and a good level of fitness is required. Fly in/fly out. For more info, contact Lawrence White, Mountain Adventures Coordinator, (T) 403-678-3200 ext. 112 or email: [accprogs@telusplanet.net](mailto:accprogs@telusplanet.net)

## Flute - Fizzsimmons Land swap approved by Government

*from: Whistler Pique magazine (on-line) May 30, 2002*

On May 30, the provincial government amended the boundaries of Garibaldi Provincial Park as part of an omnibus bill that included amendments to a variety of Acts.

The new boundaries are the result of a land-swap agreement between B.C. Parks and Whistler-Blackcomb. Whistler-Blackcomb gained 87 hectares in the Flute peak basin, which will allow the resort to open the area up to guests and install lifts. They claim that the area, which is the ideal location for the base of a lift, was left in the park by mistake when the company's land tenure was redrawn in 1987. In exchange, B.C. Parks will gain 113 hectares of land further down the mountain in the Fizzsimmons area, which includes a section of the Singing Pass Trail.

Sea to Sky ParkWatch, a local affiliate of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, was taken by surprise by the announced land swap, and by the speed in which it was approved by government. They are concerned because the swap occurred without any public discussion or studies to determine if the swap would have any environmental impact.

## Sea To Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum

In early September all ACC members are encouraged to come to the open house for the Sea to Sky Recreation Forum. The purpose of this forum is to explore the best winter outdoor recreational uses for the Squamish Forest District. We must counter the mechanized users and show our support for designation of non motorized valleys. These are the mountains we use! We need to support this process or risk losing these precious local play areas - for skiing, hiking, climbing . . . to the status quo, which is increasing use of all areas by mechanized users.

Past present and future winter recreation uses are being examined on a valley by valley basis. This forum is timely, given the increasing population pressures and a potential future Olympics. Participants share a common vision to find long-term equitable solutions for sharing the backcountry among user groups in the present and allowing for growth into the future.

For more information contact: Pat Harrison, FMCBC, 604-878-7007, [hike@unix.ubc.ca](mailto:hike@unix.ubc.ca)

# A 'Nay-sayers' Response to the Tradeoff of Flute Basin for Fitzsimmons.

By Alex Wallace  
Co-Chair, Trails Committee, FMCBC.

This so-called "land trade" described in the May 24<sup>th</sup> issue of Whistler Pique Magazine reminds me of the 1995 "trade" by the Cypress Park Planning Commission of "1 or 2 acres on Mt Strachan for 13 acres of Yew Lake wetland" in Cypress Provincial Park. This was rapidly approved by Cabinet (three days). As with the Flute/Fitzsimmons trade, Victoria declared this to be a "a Win-Win situation".

In reality, the Cypress tradeoff was as follows: supposedly the Ski Operator gave up the northern half of the Yew Lake wetlands; which, within the Commercial Recreation Area, contained a wheelchair-accessible Old Growth Forest, and a wetland conservation area. It was unlikely that the "Ski Operator" would have actually developed it. The idea that this part of the park was being somehow "given back" to the public was entirely notional, in my view. The "1 or two acres" at the top of the mountain turned out to be enough of Mt Strachan to build a Bar/restaurant building the size of a small elementary school. It also included a pristine sub-alpine meadow with terrific viewpoints that may soon be gutted for

gladed runs.

The Ski Industry is an industry much like any other industry: it has its environmental costs, and the people that run it get anxious if they're not "expanding" from a business point of view. The new owner of the Cypress ski hill recently told West Vancouver council that he would look at water quality issues, but he "couldn't let them stand in the way of growing the business".

BC Parks staff are aware that Whistler Blackcomb exists because of chunks bitten out of Garibaldi Provincial Park. As I recall, Pique Magazine recently ran an excellent article on the history of Blackcomb that detailed how some of the Blackcomb lifts were built into the park; and retroactively "deleted" from the park. Again, the latest Garibaldi Alpen proposal abuts the Garibaldi Park border; however when the proponent was asked for assurances to that the ski lifts would not extend into the park in future, and on to the slopes of Mt Garibaldi itself, he refused to give such an assurance. In the Pique article cited, Doug Forseth, a Whistler-Blackcomb Senior VP, referred to "Nay-sayers". Perhaps only those familiar with area, its history, and non-commercial values

will be the "Nay-sayers", and the 1.5 million visitors from around the world will favour expansion and a more exciting ski area experience. I guess they will be "Yay-sayers".

Again, this occurred at Cypress a decade ago. When ski area customers were asked if they favoured construction of proper washroom and restaurant (because the \$20 million worth of publicly funded ski facilities that the Cypress ski operator 'bought' for \$500,000 from the Social Credit Government in 1984 had mysteriously become worn out), they said "Yay" and signed petitions in favour of expansion. This expansion, approved in 1997, is now about 15% complete, - blasting and construction may go on for another eight hellish summers- but guess what!?!; the 2010 Winter Games Bid calls for additional construction at Cypress with a 2 acre, 2 storey parkade, an additional new lift for free-style skiing, etc...

So, when is it time to be a "Nay-sayer" and say NO to incremental ski industry expansion into Garibaldi Park? Well, it might as well be now, because if this one goes through, the next one will likely be along shortly.

---

## Ski Area Expansion and Unpublicized Land Swap with BC Parks

*(information from Sea to Sky Park Watch, affiliated with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society)*

In late May a land swap was quietly brokered between BC Parks and Whistler-Blackcomb which will result in a new lift to the top of Flute Peak. There are a number of problems with this land swap:

### **Lack of Public Process**

It was first announced publicly by a press release in the May 31 Whistler "Pique". The land swap was legislated as law only 3 days later by the BC Government. Not only did BC Parks and W-B not meaningfully consult with the public, they also did not refer the issue to the Municipality (or presumably to other ministries).

### **Impact on Park Values**

By going right to the edge of Garibaldi Park (and past), the ski area's influence will now extend far into

Singing Pass. The lift will allow skiers to ski almost straight into Singing Pass. It will also allow lift-accessed skiing on the Oboe side of the ridge (within the park). This new development will reduce the effective area of Garibaldi Park by removing the current buffer of Symphony Bowl. Impacts on water quality and wildlife are unknown. There are no use restrictions for the land attained by the ski corporation, not are there restrictions on commercial motorized recreation (e.g., snowmobile tours, hummers, helicopters, etc.).

### **Impact on Non-motorized, Non-commercial Recreation**

The development will severely infringe on the greatest asset of Singing Pass from a recreational perspec-

tive; up to now it has provided an incredibly beautiful, near-wilderness experience within hours of our homes. It is common on a powder day to have 200+ skiers hike to Flute and beyond. With the new lift, many more skiers will roam far into Garibaldi Park. The winter wilderness experience will further suffer. The extremely popular Musical Bumps Trail offers a near-wilderness experience for hikers as soon as they leave Harmony Bowl into Symphony Bowl, which will also be compromised.

As the Echoes goes to press, Sea to Sky Park Watch is holding a public meeting in Whistler (June 5) to explore long-shot legal options to re-open the issue. More details at the ACC June meeting.

## Thanks, Vancouver Section!

From: Bruce Keith [mailto:bkeith@telusplanet.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2002 9:11 AM  
To: HietkampFernHome  
Cc: ScreminLiz; ACC Exec Committee; HansenNancy; WheelerAudrey, LarocheJoesee

### Subject: Vancouver Meeting

Fern - on behalf of the National Office, my thanks and congratulations to you and all the other Vancouver Section volunteers who made last weekend a memorable experience for us, the Board and the Alpine Club. The meetings, social events and outdoor activities were all winners, and we very much appreciated all the advance planning and work that went into them (believe me, we know). You even managed to make sure the weather was first class!

Please pass on our thanks and congratulations to your organising team.

Cheers, Bruce

*Many thanks to Fern and her team of volunteers!!! That includes Alain Grillet, Taryn, Cheryl Leskiw, Pam Krannitz, Chris Bradley, Ian Bruce, Jay Straith, Rob Brusse, Dianne Miller, Eric Vezeau, Tami Knight, Henny Coates, Manrico Scremin, Peter Woodsworth and Helen Habgood. Also our special presenter, Dave Sarkany. Also, all the folks who took in billets! Also the sponsors of our door prizes! -- Liz*

### WATERCOLOUR PAINTING EN PLEIN AIR NEAR MOUNT BAKER

*with Velvet Balles*

*a special 4-day workshop for the  
ACC*

*Thursday to Sunday in late Sept or  
early Oct, 2002*

Come capture the fall colours!

\$225 course fee for members / \$250 for non-members includes instruction, meals and accommodation at the Mountaineers' Baker Lodge.

Contact Susan Hollenberg for more info and to register at 604-736-3653.

### ST. JOHN'S 'First On The Scene' STANDARD FIRST AID for the Wilderness

*Thurs July 11 evening, July 13-14, 2002*

- 23 hours of instruction
- special \$143. course fee (plus GST)

Includes 3 year FA certification, CPR 'C' certification, 1 million liability insurance and all course texts. Gain skills to treat injuries and promote recovery when you are hours, even days, away from emergency medical aid. Learn to improvise with standard outdoor gear, in practical outdoor sessions.

Get ready for safe summer adventures!

To register, call Zoran at (H) (604) 438-9066 or (cell) (604) 841-8601, or email: zoran\_vasic@canaccord.com

## Courses

### LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY AT LAKE LOVELY WATER

*with Doug Williams*

*a special 4-day workshop for the  
ACC*

*September 19-22, 2002 (Thurs-Sun)*

\$295 course fee for members / \$320 for non-members (based on 8 students) includes instruction, helicopter in and out, and accommodation at the Section's Tantalus Hut

Topics will include composition, managing light and depth of field, film, filters and lenses, best use of your tripod and light meter, colour versus black and white, and more.

Contact Doug for more info and to register at 604-736-5799 or dwphoto@shaw.ca

**[www.dwphotography.com](http://www.dwphotography.com)**

### Introduction to Backcountry and Wilderness Travel Workshop

*July 6-7, 2002, plus evenings of June 26, July 3*

A summer workshop on backcountry travel for those who want to extend their range of hiking into less accessible areas, but who are not necessarily interested in technical or difficult climbing. It will consist of two introductory evening meetings and a weekend trip. Topics covered include:

- equipment
- low-impact camping practices
- negotiating different kinds of terrain
- ice-axe skills

No technical subjects (such as crampons or rope handling) will be covered.

Prerequisites: ACC membership (can be arranged on the spot).

More information: Members please call Hans at (604) 228-9499; non-members please call the membership line at (604) 878-5272.

# Section Camps!!

## *5th Annual Lake Lovely Water Camp July 13-21, 2002*

Seven days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (map ref 92G/14) with routes to charm the beginner to the advanced. Accommodation is in the luxurious ACC cabin with swimming and boating at the door step. This is a self guided camp for club members. Cost is \$275 and includes helicopter transport in/out and registration. Call Peter Woodsworth for details 604-254-7076.

## *Coast Range Climbing Camp - Mts. Bell and Geddes*

*July 20 - August 5, 2002*

Two weeks climbing two of the finest peaks in the Coast Mountains and their neighbours in the northwestern Waddington Range. Bell (3278m) is a great icy pyramid; Geddes (3223m) is a trapezoidal rock peak. This is very rugged, extremely remote country, so only experienced mountaineers should participate. As well, the trip is a non-guided "peer" camp, so participants need to come with partners.

We will fly from Bluff Lake Whitesaddle Air Services to Remote Glacier Sunday July 21st, climb in the Bell area for the first week, heli-hop camp to Parallel Glacier Saturday or Sunday the 27th or 28th (tba), climb Geddes and neighbours second week, fly out Monday August 5th.

Helicopter costs will be \$600-\$800 per person. Party will be limited to 12 people, its filling up fast, so early contact is advised. Priority will be given to two-weekers, although one week attendance is a possibility. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a spot.

Contact Don Serl: 604-872-4244, or dserl@mec.ca.

## *Rogers Pass Camps*

*Rogers Pass North - July 20-27, 2002*

Rogers Pass offers spectacular vistas and impressive opportunities for hiking, scrambling and climbing. This self-guided camp will feature 3 days (2 nights) at Hermit Meadows (tents required) and 3 days (5 nights) at the Wheeler Hut.

Participants' objectives and experience levels will determine specific activities. Possible objectives are Rogers Peak, Mount Tupper, Eagle Peak, Mts. Abbott and Afton.

## *Rogers Pass South - Aug 10-17*

This self-guided camp will feature 3 days (2 nights) at the Asulkan Cabin and 4 days (5 nights) at the Wheeler Hut. Possible objectives include Mt. Jupiter, Terminal Peak, Avalanche Peak, and Mt. Cheops.

**Cost for each camp:** \$300, (includes food, hut, section, & backcountry fees but not parking)

\$50 deposit required with registration. Fully refundable to May 1st for Rogers Pass North; to June 1st for Rogers Pass South. \$250 balance by May 15th for Rogers Pass North; by June 15th for Rogers Pass South. Refunds if substitute is found.

Group Size: 12 for each camp

Information: Maps - Rogers Pass 1:50,000, Guidebook Selkirks South - D Jones, Trail Guide Footloose in The Columbias

Contact: Rob Brusse at 604-224-0747 or robasbeekbrusse@aol.com

## *Heathens' Annual Strathcona Alpine Camp - Invitation to ACC Members*

*Dates: Come for as many days as you like between  
July 5-21, 2002*

Location: Car camping at Crest Lake, right in the middle of a fantastic rock-climbing area (TR, free climbing and aid), with dozens of day trip possibilities for both hiking and mountaineering. Bring your canoe and your swimsuit! The ocean and the grocery store are just a hop, skip and a jump away. Cost: None! Just get yourself to Crest Lake on Northern Vancouver Island. Contact: Chris Barner at 250-287-4611.

## *Calgary Section's Sir Sandford Climbing Camp - Invitation to all ACC Members*

*Dates: Still spaces on Week 1, Aug. 3-10 and Week  
3, Aug. 17-24, 2002*

Based at the ACC's Great Cairn Hut in the Selkirks. For more info, check the Calgary Section website at: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/index.html](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/index.html) and click on 'Summer/Section Summer Camp'. \$100 deposit required to reserve your spot. Cost: approximately \$200 depending on helicopter costs. Contact: Bill Marriott at wdmltd@shaw.ca

## Literary Tidbits for Tent Bound Days

Suddenly the flat toneless snows at our feet sparkled into a mosaic of glittering light and pearl-grey shadow. There was grace and vitality in the glowing slopes of sun-relecting crusty snow - the chill shadows retreated and our bodies relaxed in the golden flood of wine-like warmth. Objectively this view would not change if made accessible without labour, by tramway. "We become what we behold," said Blake. But the view is not the same for the man who pays for beauty in the currency of toil.

*excerpt from "Challenge of the North Cascades" by Fred Beckey*

# Rock Refresher

by Kit Griffin - May 2 evening, May 4-5, 2002

Rock Refreshers are always a lot of fun. On hand to enjoy the climbing in Squamish were Amy Morris, Mirella Lioce, Susan Higginbottom, Anne Sander, Lawrence McIntosh, Anne Leathem, Nikki Ducharme, Andrew Rennie and Derek Rennie. Joining me in on the tutorial side were Helen Habgood and Graham Rowbothom. My sincere thanks to everyone!

We had an intro evening on Thursday (which Peter Norris was kind enough to come to) and we started from the beginning (as is recommended in the North Face program) simply tying into a harness. An easy start but always thought provoking. Climbers' knots and anchors were next on the list and we blew the winter cobwebs out and practised the basics. Saturday May 4 has to have been one of the most deceptive weather patterns I have ever seen - it was raining everywhere but Squamish. Luckily for us the rock was bone dry and we had an excellent day because of it. We set up for our day at Ferret's Folly just near the blind channel and, after a reminder of the anchoring acronyms like ERNEST and SERENE, we finally started climbing on some fine Squamish friction routes.

Soon we were ready for rappelling so then came the debate: does the friction knot go below or above the rappel device? Should it be a prusik, a klemmeheist or an autoblock? Well, after pondering those weighty topics, we pressed on with our day working on the rock and finding ways to keep the day challenging - we wouldn't want anyone to get bored, after all!

The next rock-face beside us has some very "sporty" routes on it and it wasn't long before the adventurous members of the group had a top rope on climbs such as Rumours (10a) and Where is Roxie? (10d/11a). On Sunday we ran out of luck with the weather, so after refilling our coffee cups we made our way to some shelter and worked on "Escape the belay" and related rope tricks. There's nothing like a wet day to ensure some practice is done with the least practised skills! By lunchtime we were chilled through so it was time wrap up the day with some hot food from the Brew Pub.

Thank you all who attended - see you again next year perhaps!



Mirella Lioce pauses at the crux move on Rumours 5.10a. Photo by Kit Griffin.



## AGM Weekend Spearhead Traverse

By Lorrie Lech, with Mary Henderson

Looking back at the Iago glacier I see our tracks threading their way through the crevasses one on each side. Eric had known about the slots but the whiteout had left the rest of us in the dark.

Seven of us set out on an overcast May 8 morning to ski the Spearhead Traverse. The occasion was to celebrate the ACC AGM, Vancouver style. Eric organized the traverse so that out-of-towners could intimately experience the Coast Mountains. As it turned out, only two of the group were from elsewhere. Jackie was in town from Canmore, as the Calgary section rep, and Nick, from Australia, just happened to be in town and was looking for people to ski with. Mary and Lorrie were from the Vancouver section and Claude, Eric and Anna were from the Whistler section.

The first day travelling over the musical bumps we didn't find much in the way of hero snow, but that didn't seem to slow Eric and Claude down. Our lunch break at Singing Pass gave me time to play with the GPS unit and others to study the map and to get more familiar with the area so that we didn't have to ask Eric as often.

The original plan for the first day was to camp near Whirlwind but the group changed the plan and decided to stay at the Russet Hut, go to bed early and get an early start the next day. Mid week, we thought the hut would be a lovely quiet place to be. What were we thinking? While we were practising our beacon searches the hordes de-

*Continued on next page.*

### Satellite Phone for Rent

The Vancouver Section now owns a satellite phone! Members can rent it for \$60 per week, plus an air-time charge of \$2.00 per minute. A \$300 deposit is required and will be refunded when the phone is returned in good condition.

Contact Tony Knight at 604-873-2276 or [tak@mda.ca](mailto:tak@mda.ca).

## AGM Weekend Spearhead Traverse *cont. from page 6.*

scended upon us. First there was the team of three - one telemark skier and two very tired snow boarders. The other nine were part of a Warren Miller film crew planning extreme runs off the local peaks.

But how could I complain. We woke to clear skies and stuck with plan A which was to take the high route on Overlord, then hit Benvolio and Diavolo to Iago, MacBeth and finally the Naden glacier. The day gave us a taste of everything the mountains have to offer in the spring: some snow, wind and whiteout conditions, some rain and thankfully a good dose of sun and clear skies. We had a spectacularly clear evening as we made camp complete with snow table and benches, and a primo biffy.

The last day gave us some great descents on north facing slopes, making up for the fact that by starting at Whistler, instead of Blackcomb, we had substantially more elevation gain. We had dreams of staying on to ski out the powder, but alas, we were low on food and there was the Friday evening social in Vancouver so we said good bye to the hills and headed home. This is a traverse that I've wanted to do for some time and was very happy that people and weather came together to make it a really great experience.



*James Griffiths on the summit of Tremor Peak. Photo by Laura Scull*

## Joint ACC-VOC Spearhead Traverse

*April 27 to May 1, 2002*

*by James Griffiths*

### Day 1 - The Start:

So we ski towards the Musical Bumps, and I get there in time to see everyone putting on skins - everyone, that is, except Manrico who's pacing about looking puzzled. Now the Scremins' reputation had preceded them - Roland told me something about leaving some boots at home - but I figured these two wise owls would have it figured out by now. Not the case. Manrico's lost his skins! Much discussion followed regarding a trip back down somewhere far far away to rent some skins. Just as Manrico was getting ready to go, brilliance struck: Manrico pulls the lost skins victoriously from his fallen pack! Thus the term 'to pull a Manrico' was born. The lesson: if you're going to forget something, forget it in your pack. So over the Bumps in the sun we go, up to a col behind Fissile Peak, and ski down to Camp 1.

### Day 2 - The Drop:

The plan is to drop away from the standard route today, and add a day trip to the itinerary tomorrow. Sky's clear, oven turns on around 6am. Up some crazy looking slope to a col beside Overlord, which wasn't nearly as bad as it had looked. Down 3500" we go, back down to the trees. Some steep sections caused a few problems, but these were dealt with by simply flying through them as quickly and as out-of-control as

possible. Camp 2 is sweet, complete with running water and many small slopes nearby.

### Day 3 - The Day Trip:

We rise really early, determined to bag our next summit: Mt. Veeocee! How could we miss out on that? Down through the trees we go, until we decide to decide that we don't really want to go to Veeocee now, cause getting onto the glacier looks a little tricky, and it's really a silly place anyhow. So we run away, and follow the Chekamus river into some valley and come up onto the glacier beneath Mt. Sir Richard. Sir Richard looks like a big fat Jabba the Hut - a bergshund below the summit makes a big smirk, and two ridges flow off it like two big arms enclosing us as we dance around in bikinis and chains.

### Day 4 - The Slog:

We're all burnt. Unfortunate how lips react to burning by swelling up so they can catch more rays. Even the backs of some hands are burnt by now. We make for the skyline, rising 3500" by lunch. A few cols later, we summit Tremor Mt., and have a 'rest' in the baking sun. A jacket propped up by two poles makes a good shadow, unless of course the sun is really high... which it is. We also come across two travellers coming the other way, and learn of the fall of the Canucks, and the conquest of the Habs, amongst other things.

### Day 5 - The Return:

We do some traverses, some cols, including one cool sharp drop that I decide to drop my pack down first after a slip by Liz and an acrobatic tumble routine by Laura. Manrico and I develop an understanding regarding the communal rope: I haul it up, he brings it down. This allowed for my crowning moment, down from near the summit of Blackcomb: my first nine turns without a fall! Tele school's for sissies, just go on a five-day traverse. So a few more falls, but all's well as we ski down the ghost town that is Blackcomb (lifts are closed, dude).

*Participants: Martin Berka, Tim Blanche, Mathieu Ducros, Vincent Johnson, Kristen Loseth, Andras Pattantyus, Liz Scremin, Manrico Scremin, Laura Scull, Sally LeBear, and James Griffiths (reporter).*

# Vancouver Section Trip Schedule

Date	Destination	Type/Grade	Organizer	Phone
<b>JUNE</b>				
15	Sky Pilot	climb C3/4	Bob Sitter	604-921-1310
15	Cloudburst	hike B2	Harry Young	604-219-4950
16	Tenquille Lake (dogs OK)	hike B2	Petra Heppner	604-733-4601
16	Leader's Choice	hike B2	Helen Habgood	604-984-6842
19-23	Juan de Fuca Trail	hike B2	Mirella Lioce	604-736-5079
15-16	Panorama Ridge	hike B2	David Gunhold	604-881-2294
22-23	Sahale Peak haute route	climb B4	Hans	604-228-9499
22-23	Meslilloet Mtn, West Ridge	climb C3	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
23	Harvey-Brunswick Loop	hike B2/3	Tom Hamilton	604-736-1562
25	<b>Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm at Van Dusen Gardens (37th &amp; Oak)</b>			
29	Mt. Cheam	hike B2	Hermann Sparr	604-531-1707
29-July 1	Mt. Matier and area (via Cerise)	hike B3	Jay Straith	604-983-4200
<b>JULY</b>				
1	Cascade Mountaineering Climb	climb C4	Jane Weller	604-988-3618
6-7	Intro to back country travel (+ evening June 26, July 3)	hike	Course Hans	604-228-9499
13-14	North Cascades Mountaineering	climb C4	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
13-21	Lake Lovely Water Camp	climb	various Peter Woodsworth	604-254-7076
14	Brandywine Mdws (dogs OK)	hike B2	Petra Heppner	604-733-4601
20	Welch Peak	scramble C3	Paul Baker	604-922-6111
20-21	Manning Park	hike B2	Fern Heitkamp	604-872-4290
20-27	Rogers Pass Camp - Wk 1	hike/climb B2-C4	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
20-Aug 5	Bell/Geddes Climbing Camp	climb C4-D5	Don Serl	604-872-4244
21	Rainbow Mtn./Lake	hike B2	Tania	604-738-0696
27	Opal Cone	hike B2	Daniela	604-430-0553
27-28	Bear Mtn.	climb C3/4	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
<b>AUGUST</b>				
3-5	McGillivray Pass Traverse	hike B2	Melinda Straight	604-980-9921
3-5	Eldorado Peak, haute route	climb B3/4	Hans	604-228-9499
10	Needle Pk to Portia, mini-traverse	hike C2	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
11	Garibaldi Lake	hike B2	Sharon Folkes	604-731-7441
11	Coliseum Mt.	hike C2	Mike Young	604-436-1970
10-13	Seton Ridge area	hike A-B2/3	Pam K	604-946-9942
10-17	Roger's Pass Camp - Wk 2	hike/climb B2-C4	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
17-18	Joffre Traverse	climb D4	Wes Maedel	604-990-3526
18	High Falls creek	hike B2	Tania	604-738-0696
31-Sep 2	Glacier Peak	scramble B3/4	Hans	604-228-9499
31-Sep 2	McGillivray Pass, Whitecap Mtn.	hike B3	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
7	Needle Peak (N ridge)	climb B4	Rich Pawlowicz	604-222-3343
7-8	Snass Mtn. Snazzy Pk-(jt BCMC)	hike B3	Carol McMillan	604-879-2947
14	Petgill lake	hike B2	Mothe Tilden	604-732-8765
15	Excelsior Pass (family trip)	hike A2	Chris Bradley	604-873-9419
14-15	Duffy Lake Rd	hike B2	Susan Higinbottom	604-925-3742
21-22	Hurley Road Mountaineering	climb C4	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
22	Skyline Divide	hike B2	Liz Scremin	604-921-2651
29	Hanes Valley Loop	hike B2	Russ Fretenburg	604-618-5732
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
5	Black Tusk	hike/scr C2/3	Mirella Lioce	604-736-5079
6	Mt. Capilano	hike/bike B2	Helen Habgood	604-984-6842
6	Leader's Choice	hike B2	Maria Gunkel	604-985-3041
20	Mt. Brew	hike B2	Irene Goldstone	604-689-8737

## THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA

### VANCOUVER SECTION TRIP SCHEDULE SPRING/SUMMER 2002

#### 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

#### MEMBERSHIP

Shirley Howdle 604-878-5272

#### CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Pam Krannitz 604-946-9942

Join us for fun in the mountains!  
[www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver)  
 (604) 878-5272



The AVALANCHE ECHOES Newsletter is printed and published monthly by:  
 The Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section,  
 c/o Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC  
 47 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P1  
 CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL  
 SALES PRODUCT AGREEMENT #40033734