

AVALANCHE ECHOES

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 PM**
FLORAL HALL, VANDUSEN GARDENS, WEST 37TH AND OAK ST, VANCOUVER

Wild

a series of expeditions
throughout Canada

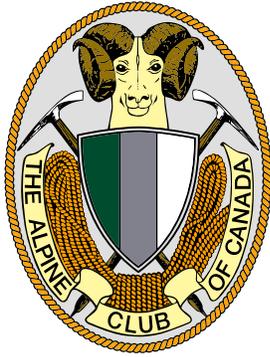
Slide presentation by
CHRIS G. COOPER



Professional Explorer, Guide and Photographer Chris Cooper will present a multimedia show on a series of Canadian expeditions, which include traveling by Ski, Kayak and Big Canoe.

His presentation will also include a brief introduction on the British Isles Canoe Journey scheduled for 2008-2009.

www.spiritdancercanoejourneys.ca



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

EDITOR: Anita Leonhard
604-988-6486 • bubinga@telus.net

DESIGN: Martin Naroznik

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 VanDusen 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 \$61.00
Family \$81.00
Junior \$34.00 (under 18)

NATIONAL ACC OFFICE

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly:
P.O. Box 8040 Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8,
Fax: 403-678-3224, Tel: 403-678-3200, or
e-mail: info@alpineclubofcanada.ca, or visit
www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

ACC VANCOUVER SECTION

For information on Vancouver Section activities and events see:
www.accvancouver.ca, or e-mail:
accvanem@telus.net, or
Tel: 604-878-5272 (Section Info-line).

Mailing address:
ACC Vancouver Section,
c/o Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
130 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P3

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.

Alpine Club Executive

Chair	Tony Knight	604-873-2276
Secretary	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
Treasurer	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
Membership	Marilynn Hunter	604-929-9549
Trip & Climbing Schedule	Jay MacArthur Lynn Erickson	604-987-1232 604-224-4883
Camps Coordinator	Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
Skills Development	Susan Baldwin	604-732-4562
National ACC Rep	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
FMCBC Rep	David Toole	604-608-6846
Echoes Editors	Anita Leonhard Martin Naroznik	604-988-6486 778-892-2167
Programs	Susan Higginbottom	604-925-3742
Socials	Olga Turok	604-228-0628
Access & Environment	Antje Wahl	604-988-6486
Promotion (acting)	Jay MacArthur	604-987-1232

Special Project and Committee Volunteers

Tantalus Lake Lovelywater and Jim Haberl Huts

Hut Bookings Coordinator	Ron Royston	work 604-687-2711	home 604-921-8164
Hut Operations and Maintenance Committee	Liz Scremin (604-921-2651), Ron Royston, Peter Taylor, Colin Boyd, Dustin Hines, Chris Kiely and Blair Mitten		

Service Committees and Special Projects

Quartermaster	Bill Sims	604-224-0747
Website Committee	Richard Keltie (604-738-4583), Tony Knight, Martin Naroznik	
VOC Liaison	Antje Wahl	604-988-6486
Archives Committee	Liz Scremin (604-921-2651), Irene Goldstone (604-689-8737) Liz Wright	



Morning in the Bugaboos
Photo by Rob Brusse

Announcements

World Backcountry Freeride Jam 2007

Come to Whistler April 20-22 to experience riding and skiing in its truest form -- that means the backcountry, of course. The event features radonnee races as well as telemark and kite-skiing clinics. Plus demos of all the latest gear, and films, photos, and parties to while away the evening hours. See WBFJ.ca for more information.

Vancouver Mountain Film Festival ACC Award

Congratulations to the organizers of the 2007 VIMFF festival for the most successful festival in ten years of operation!

The ACC award for the Best Film on Mountaineering goes to "Looking for a Time Without Master Fibi" (Poland, 2006, director Marek Klonski).

Camps

Goddard Glacier Section Spring Camp

- ◊ Date: April 21 – 29, 2007
- ◊ Location: Goddard Glacier
- ◊ Cost: \$ 540 (including helicopter access)
- ◊ Max camp size: 16 people. As of Feb 7, 2007 ten people signed up. A \$ 100 deposit is required to reserve a spot on the camp.
- ◊ Contact: Mike Thompson, 604-534-8863, thompson_foundry@telus.net

This is an intermediate to expert ski area. We will fly into and out from this camp with the proposed fixed base camp on the Goddard Glacier. Mail the deposit to: Mike Thompson 6846—197B Street, Langley, BC V2Y 2W7 Attention: ACC Goddard Glacier Camp

9th Annual Rogers Pass Camps Vancouver Section Summer 2007

Week 1 • July 14–22• Lake O'Hara / Lake Louise

The O'Hara area "Jewel of the Rockies" offers beautiful hiking and a variety of intermediate climbing objectives in a spectacular setting.

Leave Vancouver Sat. July 14 (Wheeler hut booked) to facilitate early arrival at the O'Hara parking lot. This self-guided camp will feature 4 nights at the Elizabeth Parker hut. Objectives in the area may include Mt Victoria (crossover via Fuhrmann ledges) Mt Yukness as well as the All Souls route and other hikes. After leaving O'Hara we'll stay at the Alpine Centre in Lake Louise (3 nights) from where folks may choose from a large number of Objectives, a few I'm particularly interested in are Castle Mtn and Mt Louis. Others may wish to climb Andromeda/Temple/Athabasca?

- ◊ Cost: \$480 Cheques Payable to: "Rogers Pass Camps" and Due May 1st Mail to: Rob Brusse 1787 Drummond Drive, Van, BC V6T 1B7
- ◊ Camp fees include: Food (except restaurant meals at Lake Louise), hut fees, hostel fees, bus and park fees.
- ◊ More info: Contact Rob Brusse 604-224-0747 or rbrusse1@telus.net

Week 2 • July 28–August 3rd • Grand Teton/Devils Tower

Drive like hell for a couple of days; pray for clear warm dry weather; attempt GT. Drive like hell of another day; pray for cool moist weather; attempt DT. Limp home.

- ◊ Cost: Gas & Sanity, (or maybe drive to Seattle, grab a cheap flight to Jackson Hole, rent a car & do above)
- ◊ Camp fees include: Coffee
- ◊ More info: Contact Rob Brusse 604-224-0747 or rbrusse1@telus.net

Week 3 • August 11 – August 19 • Rogers Pass

Rogers Pass offers spectacular vistas and impressive opportunities for scrambling and climbing. To facilitate a variety of daytrips, this self-guided camp will stay 4 nights at the Wheeler hut, 2 nights at the Asulkan hut and 2 nights (tenting) at the Hermit Meadows. The last day will include a tour of the Nakimu Caves in the Cougar Valley.

Objectives will depend upon, the weather and experience and capabilities of participants. I anticipate, attempts at Tupper and Sifton in the Hermit area, and a traverse from Afton to Sapphire Col over Jupiter to the Asulkan hut, among other objectives.

- ◊ Cost: \$400
Cheques Payable to: "Rogers Pass Camps" and Due May 1st
Mail to: Rob Brusse 1787 Drummond Drive, Van, BC V6T 1B7
- ◊ Camp fees include: Food, hut fees, back country fees. Cave tour.
- ◊ More info: Contact Rob Brusse 604-224-0747 or rbrusse1@telus.net

Bugaboos Summer Climbing Camp

- ◊ Date: July 28 – Aug 5 inclusive
- ◊ Location: Conrad Kain Hut, Bugaboos – 10 spaces
- ◊ Contact: Jay MacArthur, 604-987-1232

Have you dreamed of climbing on fantastic granite in a spectacular alpine setting? The Bugaboos offer that and more. This camp is for climbers with some experience. We now have a few people interested. If you want to stay in the hut, I need a \$100 deposit by April 30th. The plan is to stay in the Conrad Kain hut at about \$20 per night, but you could also stay in the campground. Contact: Jay MacArthur, 604-987-1232

2007 National Camp 55+ Climbing and Trekking Camp

- ◊ Location: Banff National Park and Canmore, AB
- ◊ Dates: August 11 (eve) – 18, 2007 (7 days)
- ◊ Guide: Ferdl Taxbock
- ◊ Camp Managers: Pat Duffy and David Toole
- ◊ Participants: 10
- ◊ Cost: \$1690 (GST included)
- ◊ Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Insurance: \$123 (includes GST)

Based at the ACC Clubhouse Fred Bell Cabin at Canmore, Alberta, the camp will feature climbs and treks in the Kananaskis Country, Bow Valley, Rockies Main Range and Front Ranges including Yamanuska. This camp is for young-at-heart members looking for easy-to-moderate mountaineering routes with daily trekking options. If you are over 55 and seeking company and challenges with others in this age range, this camp is for you.

Ferdl Taxbock guides with the assistance of David Toole; treks are led by Patrick Duffy. Dave and Pat are camp managers. Register online at alpineclubofcanada.ca or call Head Office at 403-678-3200.

Workshops

Squamish Rock Refresher Weekend

Join us for a peer rock climbing refresher day at Squamish on Saturday, May 12, followed by a group climbing day on Sunday May 13, to share and review some rock climbing basics, including building anchors, belaying and rappelling techniques. Participants must be ACC members, and should already have some rock-climbing experience. Group size will be limited to 10 people, so call early. Contact Margaret Hanson or Tony Knight at 604-873-2276 for further details.

2007 The North Face – Alpine Club of Canada Summer Leadership Course

- ◊ Location: 2007 GMC site – Mt. Alexandra, South Rice Brook
- ◊ Date: July 28 – August 4 (8 days)
- ◊ Guides: Cyril Shokoples, Helen Sovdat
- ◊ Amateur Leader: Roger Marchand
- ◊ Participants: 10
- ◊ Cost: \$695 + GST
- ◊ Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Insurance: \$88 (includes GST)

The focus of this course will be to identify and exercise key skill sets for summer mountain leadership situations. This course is set in the midst of one of the most demanding places amateur leaders can find themselves – the ACC's General Mountaineering Camp. Eight days of adventure, planning, and practice will develop each individual's capabilities in the following areas: rope handling skills; glacier travel; route selection and evaluation; navigation; multi-pitch climbing; rescue systems; group management, personal interaction and enjoyment; and emergency situation response. All this will be presented in a beautiful alpine location, with the added bonus of seeing the Club's flagship program in action.

The Vancouver Section is offering a bursary from our Endowment Fund of \$250 to anyone from the Section who completes the course. You can obtain registration forms and further information from www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/activities/leadership.html. Please send a copy of your application to Tony Knight at knightta@telus.net for Section Endorsement and indicate if you wish to apply for the bursary. **Deadline for Applications: May 1, 2007**

Skaha Climber Access

The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) and Skaha rockclimbers, with support from Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Climbers' Access Society of BC and others, have been working hard to ensure continued climber access to the Skaha Bluffs near Penticton.

After considerable effort and negotiations, access for Skaha is in place for 2007. Parking will continue at Braesyde Farms through 2007, as previously. The only public access to Skaha is by parking there and crossing Braesyde land.

The arrangements are:

- ◊ Parking and access at Braesyde open on March 16th.
- ◊ \$10/passenger car/day, \$20/day for vans (6–15 passengers), \$30/day for buses, \$75 for an annual pass.
- ◊ Please use only Braesyde for parking and access. There is no legal parking along Valleyview Road, which leads to Braesyde, and all other accesses to Skaha require trespassing on private land. Carpooling is an economical option.
- ◊ Valleyview is a narrow, winding road, and residents value their peace. Please drive carefully, at or below the speed limit, and watch for children, animals, and other safety concerns.

There is an agreement to purchase land that will provide access from 2008 onward. The land purchase will require substantial fundraising and effort over the next few months. For more information about Skaha access and ongoing fundraising efforts, please see:

The Land Conservancy of BC: www.conservancy.bc.ca
 Skaha Climbers: skahabluffs.blog.com
 Access Society: www.access-society.ca

Literary Tid-Bits for Tent-Bound Days

contributed by Liz Scremin

From the days of the gold rush, far sighted men, including promoters, politicians, surveyors, economists and businessmen, yearned to see a north-south railroad, which would open up the province of British Columbia to development. Every few years from the time of CPR construction, some of them were behind one scheme or another to project this ribbon of steel into the north. Each group had a different name for the line and a different northern terminal. From Lillooet north, also, each chose a different route. But their plans all started from tidewater, at the edge of Howe Sound. And theirs was a common objective: To open up the country. In 1874, Sandford Fleming, chief engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway sent a civil engineer to make an examination of the Howe Sound route. He wrote, "On the whole of this line through the Cascade Mountains, the work on 13 miles will be light; 17 miles medium, and the balance, 87 miles, heavy, in which 44 short tunnels are estimated, making together 5 ½ miles of tunneling." And there the matter stood for twenty years. In 1891, they took it up again. But after 1910 in British Columbia there began one of the most rough and tumble episodes in Canadian railroad history with companies fighting with companies, fighting over charters, fighting over water frontage and other vital real estate, charging and counter-charging, claiming claims and scheming schemes. All wanted to build the railroad north from Howe Sound. On February 20, 1912, the premier, Sir Richard McBride, told the legislature that an agreement had been reached between Messrs. Foley, Welch and Stewart of the Grand Trunk Pacific for construction of the line from Vancouver to Fort George. This turned out to be the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and the matter was settled. But the Gilbert and Sullivan atmosphere which surrounded the emergence of the P.G.E. hung on for forty years. The engineer who reported to the CPR in 1874 was right, of course, for he was probably planning in straight lines. But the little black thread that runs up the map of B.C. from Howe Sound is anything but straight. And many citizens of the province when it started building felt that this was a fitting situation to match the characters of these people who were promoting and building it. Nevertheless, for 729 miles, it today passes through some of the most historical and beautiful spots on the continent: Howe Sound, Cheakamus Canyon, the Pemberton Valley, Anderson and Seton Lakes set like jewels among towering mountains and the wild loneliness of the South Caribou - where for purposes of this little book, we leave the line.

excerpt from Beyond Garibaldi written by Irene Ronayne published by Lillooet Publishers Ltd., 1971

Ed Viesturs—Superhuman

by Rob Wilson

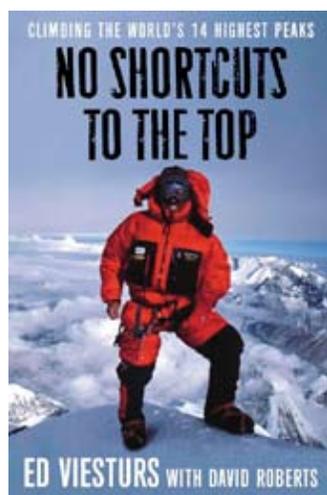
Twenty-one years ago in 1986 when I was a young 49-year-old, I started my love of climbing. Ed Viesturs, a younger 27-year-old back then, and in his fifth year as a RMI guide on Mt. Rainier, gave me my first lessons in ice axe, crampons, rope and glacier travel. During that three day summit course, I had the privilege of being on Ed's rope with three others for the summit day from Camp Muir. Leaving Camp Muir at 1 AM, we had a perfect day and after seven hours of glacier climbing, we were the first to arrive at the summit at 8 AM, twenty minutes ahead of the group. This seemed very odd to me to have the climb over so early in the day. I was ready for more but had no further to climb. We celebrated at the summit when Ed Viesturs reached into his pack and brought out a Rainier beer which we all shared. Ed not only had all the answers to our many questions, he led us up the mountain, and when we arrived at the summit he also provided the liquid refreshment. Now that's a guide who loves his job and takes care of his clients. I knew I had found something that I wanted to learn more of and continue to do.

Over the next twenty years I enjoyed being in the mountains whether it be hiking or climbing. But age has now caught up to me and my climbing gear hangs in my closet unused. Many of my climbing memories are in pictures and mementos on my walls at home. One picture I cherish the most is a picture at Camp Muir with Ed Viesturs after my climb of Mt. Rainier. RMI also gives all successful summit clients a Certificate of Achievement which is signed by my RMI guide Ed Viesturs. This certificate is also proudly displayed.

Last year in 2006, Ed Viesturs completed and published his autobiography "No Short Cuts to the Top". I just finished reading this wonderful true story of Ed Viesturs and how he has become a successful and world renowned climber. From the years 1989 to 2005 he pursued his climbing ambitions which he named "Endeavour 8000 Project". During that time span, Ed had thirty expeditions to 8,000 meter peaks, successfully summiting twenty times. He climbed all fourteen 8,000 meter peaks without supplemental oxygen. This feat was accomplished without frostbite, never seriously injured, never suffered cerebral or pulmonary edema or acute mountain sickness, never had to be rescued and never lost a partner. Why did he succeed where many others failed? To accomplish such an astounding feat, many of us would believe luck had something to do with it. If you read Ed's book on his autobiography, we learn many lessons that have nothing to do with luck, and can be summed up in many ways. Getting to the top is optional, getting down is mandatory. Just because you

love the mountains doesn't mean the mountains love you. Be wary at all times, never let your guard down, even though you think you've got it figured out, you don't. Ignorance is bliss, means you don't even know what you don't know. And Ed's favorite saying, you don't just pickup a hammer and build a house, in the same sense, you don't just pick up an ice axe and climb an 8,000 meter peak.

Ed Viesturs, to me a superhuman individual who has truly lived his dream, and started me to live my mountain dream. Thanks Ed.



Tahr Peak

by Ron Dart

Tahr Peak is the most northern peak of the Zipkios Ridge in the Coquihalla area. Tahr has not been treated well by mountain historians and trail books.

First, Tahr is spelled wrong by most who mention the name of the peak. It should be spelled Tahr rather than Thar. The mountains of the Zipkios Ridge are named after Himalayan and High Alpine animals (Yak, Nak, Zoa, Tahr etc.). There is no animal by the name of Thar, hence this peak is often misspelled. Second, to add insult to injury, Tahr has been omitted from many updated hiking books. This is too bad, since the vistas from the peak of Tahr are a delight not to miss even though the hike is more demanding than to Zoa.

Thar is protected by a large tangle of bush and deadfalls worthy of Sleeping Beauty's castle.—Mary/David Macaree

The day promised to be a beauty (a momentary blue bonnet day surrounded by days and weeks of rain). I left Abbotsford by 7:30 AM and arrived at the Falls Lake trailhead by 8:30. The clouds were dissipating as I reached the trail, so MSR Lightning Ascent's were strapped on, and up the deep snow road I headed. The snow was solid and firm underfoot, and it did not take long to reach the crossroads in which the ascent to Zoa was in one direction and the ascent to Tahr in the opposite direction.

I headed up the steep road, snow crunching under my feet, day star not yet warming things up in the area. It did not take long before the top of the road was reached and the turn into the dense forest of trees, bush and deadfalls began. Few take to Tahr in the winter, hence, unlike Zoa, the trek through the thick forest demanded its deep snow due. There were plenty of animal tracks, but none from winter hikers or those who take to the backcountry on skis.

I plodded on through the tangle of trees on my journey to Sleeping Beauty's castle much higher up. The forest began to thin out, and the ascent became much steeper. There was some sluffing, but, for the most part, the snow was packed and bonded well. Fine views began to emerge the higher the trek. A large bowl of snow had to be edged around as the final ridge to Tahr was crossed. Copses of trees in ever smaller clusters were left behind as a final steep slope of much firm, solid and wind swept snow welcomed me to the castle turret of Tahr.

There were no clouds in the blue canopy above, and the citadels of white folded into one another to the west, south and north. A soft and cool breeze wafted across the peak as I took many a fine photograph and dined on the roof of Tahr. It was 11:30, and I lingered on the summit until noon.

The weather was quite warm, and as I headed down the steep slope, the early morning firm snow became mushy. The descent was quick (some fine glissading), and I was back at the trailhead by 1:00 PM. I looked up at Tahr, and was most grateful I had taken to the mountains on such an alluring day. Sleeping Beauty's castle in the winter is well worth the trip. It is at such a time of year that the bush and deadfalls are mostly buried under much snow, and Tahr reveals visual winter pleasures that other seasons lack the ability to do.

2007 North Face / Alpine Club of Canada Winter Leadership Course

by Bryce Leigh



Mike Wingham
and Jean-Raphael
at Vista Col

I was one of 10 participants selected to participate in the 2007 North Face / Alpine Club of Canada Winter Leadership Course at Golden Alpine Holiday's Vista Lodge in the Esplanade Range northwest of Golden in the Selkirk Mountains. On Saturday morning the 10 of us plus 3 guides and the camp cook flew into the hut at approximately 2,134 m (7,000 ft). Shortly after we arrived the wind picked up and the visibility decreased and we were treated to an intense storm. After settling into the hut we dug a snow pit and held a transceiver practice in the shelter of the trees below the cabin. Search techniques for multiple burials were demonstrated. Then we headed down to Schlichting Lake and skied The Waterfall before returning to the cabin. Each evening and most mornings there were classroom sessions in the cabin. A detailed review of weather reporting and recording was presented. Throughout the course we all had the responsibility of reporting the weather and the stability. As the weather stats are pretty objective there was minimal discussion regarding them. However, as the stability rating is subjective, many good discussions followed the daily evaluation and a lot of valuable information was passed on by our guides. Several map and compass sessions were held which led to the participants planning routes from the cabin to specific objectives by plotting way points, determining the correct bearings and back bearings for the route, and the time it would take to travel each segment of the trip. Then a discussion of Global Positioning System (GPS) including its strengths and weaknesses was also included.

On January 7th we awoke to -14°C and 8 cm more new snow on top of 18 cm from the previous day. Our group skied north of the cabin up to Trundle Ridge. Where we dug a full pit and did a snow profile. Many practical tips were gained from this session. We then skied Main Line down to Schlichting Lake through 30–50 cm of light snow. After lunch at the cabin we had a deep burial transceiver practice. Clearly the deeper the person is buried the more challenging it is to locate them quickly. After the practical experience of the group using several different types of avalanche transceivers it became apparent that the new Mammut Barryvox Opto 3000 with its on screen distance and direction information

display was clearly the best choice and one that all your ski partners should definitely have. One of our guides who is a long time heli ski guide said that after using it he felt that for the first time a client would actually be able to locate a buried person.

On January 8th we awoke to -16°C and 23 cm of new snow in the past 24 hours. As this was our first clear day it was decided that the group would ski west up to Vista Col at 2,438 m (8,000 ft) to get a better look at the surroundings. We stopped frequently to discuss route selection, terrain evaluation, and avalanche activity. After a brief stop at Vista Col we retreated down out of the wind and headed north to Col of the Wild which is located northeast of Vista



Vista Col

Peak at 2,137 m (7,500 ft). From here we skied east part way along Trundle Ridge before skiing back to the cabin. Several new avalanche evaluation systems were discussed including: the Avaluator Trip Planner which uses the total score from 7 questions to provide a quick hazard rating and Bruce Jamieson's system of yellow flags for evaluating critical interfaces in the snow pack; and the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) which uses 3 types of terrain, Simple, Challenging, and Complex in conjunction with 11 other factors to produce an avalanche classification system based on the landscape not the snow. The last system has been used to classify many ski routes in the National parks of the Interior and Rockies and some in the Whistler area. The ratings are available on the CAC website.

January 9th brought us -14°C and 26 cm of new snow. We skied up Trundle Ridge and down Mainline followed by 3 short runs above Schlichting Lake. We returned to the cabin for lunch. After lunch a simulated avalanche burial of 6 people was set up for us to practice our search and recovery skills. This was a valuable exercise that was a very real simulation. Your adrenaline definitely gets going when you are wading through a meter of unconsolidated snow trying to locate multiple burials. Once again it was very clear that the more often you practice searching the better you become. A review of first aid kits and repair kits was done after a debriefing at the cabin.

January 10th brought us another 10 cm of snow at -15°C on top of the 17 cm it snowed during the previous day. The morning was spent reviewing crevasse rescues. In the afternoon we headed outside to practice the morning's lessons. This was a good practical review of basis systems for crevasse rescue. Practice is once again the word as it makes you much more efficient especially under less than ideal weather conditions. The evening session was a detailed review of electronic communication options. In this modern day we have the advantage of a GPS to tell us exactly where we are and satellite phones to call for help should something go wrong. However, as is the case with many things in the backcountry, help or a rescue is weather dependant and we should all be careful not to rely on these modern conveniences instead of being prepared. In preparation for the following day's trip to Vista Peak we had a session on short roping. This was especially useful for me as I have done very little short roping. Knowing quick simple systems for handling the rope will be very useful and will make roped climbing more efficient.

January 11th brought a morning tempera-

ture of -27°C with 1 cm of new snow but a storm snow total of 65 cm. We skied up to Vista Col as a group, trying to keep warm by taking few rests. Those of us with G3 skins suffered the indignity of having to tape them to our skis to get them to stay on. At Vista Col we took off our skis and practiced short roping along the ridge to the summit of Vista Peak at 2,591 m (8,500 ft). We were treated to clear skies and an awesome view in every direction. Fortunately the wind abated somewhat making it a lot warmer in the sun. At Vista Col we put our skis on and skied down Hausta La Vista before skinning up to check out the access through Col of the Wild for Friday's ski trip. We then skied back to the cabin to prepare our route for the next day.

January 12th dawned clear and slightly warmer at -21°C. This would be our last ski day. Our group, the Trunk Monkeys including Bryce Leigh, Paul Wagner, Sonja Findlater, Peter Amann our Guide, and Loree Dokimenko the camp cook, headed up to Col of the Wild where we met the rest of the groups. The descent from Col of the Wild involves

ing the progress of the two other teams as they headed for Goat Peak and Colpitti Peak. After lunch we skied back to the base of Col of the Wild from where Paul broke trail to the Col. Shortly after our group had reached the top of the Col of the Wild we were joined by one of the other teams returning from Goat Peak. From there we enjoyed one last run down to the cabin.

Saturday January 13th we flew out to our vehicles which were buried under 1 meter of snow. It was a very worthwhile week that provided us with a lot of valuable backcountry knowledge. It was especially beneficial to spend so much time with guides who have such a wealth of experience that they were willing to share with us. The only aspect of the trip where I felt we all could have improved was our impact on the environment. While there was recycling for bottles and tins we all contributed to the numerous recyclable plastic bags and plastic containers that were thrown into the garbage instead of being recycled. I am as guilty as anyone for not taking the initiative to separate these items out.



Lars Backman skiing down from Vista Peak to Vista Col.

skiing a steep ramp down to a broad bench below. We skied the steepest section one at a time and regrouped at the bottom. From there we contoured clockwise along a bench heading north to the lower slopes of Rasta Peak. Several brief stops were taken to discuss different route options and any potential avalanche dangers. Just after noon we arrived at the summit of Rasta Peak at 8000 feet. Once again we were treated to great views in every direction. After a short stay on the peak we skied down to a less windy location for lunch. During our climb up to the peak and our ski down we had been watch-

Thank you very much to The North Face and The Alpine Club of Canada for sponsoring the course; the guides Cyril Shokoples, Peter Amann, and Brad Harrison for their wealth of knowledge and repertoire of endless jokes; the camp cook Loree Dokimenko who kept us very well fed; and the Sections that endorsed the participants. The participants were Michael Gendreau, John Peachell, Mike Wingham, Paul Wagner, Lars Backman, Sonja Findlater, Linda Bock, Jean-Raphael Lemieux, Bob Hawboldt, and Bryce Leigh.

Trip schedule – Please see www.accvancouver.ca for the latest updates

Date	Trip Description	Grade	Contact	Phone / email
APRIL				
6-8	Snowspider (3 day trip - joint ACC/BCMC)	C3	Tony Knight & Margaret Hanson	604-873-2276
15	Mount Seymour (ski)	A1	Scott Litchfield	604-322-5137
29	Hollyburn (ski)	A2	Scott Litchfield	604-322-5137
21-29	Goddard Glacier Camp		Mike Thompson	604-534-8863

MAY				
12-13	Squamish Rock Refresher	B3	Margaret Hanson and Tony Knight	604-873-2276
19-21	Spearhead Traverse	C3	Grant McCormack	604-535-7501
26 or 27	Mount Baker, Coleman Glacier - ski	C2	Lorne Owen	604-852-0267
31 & Jun 2/3	St John's Ambulance - Wilderness First Aid		Sue Baldwin	604-732-4562

(For more information see http://www.sja.ca/english/health_safety_training/family/wilderness.asp)

JUNE				
23-24	Mount Matier	B3	Lorne Owen	604-852-0267
TBD	Mount Rainier for Seniors—Tahoma Glacier route	C3	Karl Boerner	604-271-1757

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA GRADING GUIDELINES

A - Less than 6 hrs travel/day (not strenuous)	1 - Gentle slopes. Travel on trails over fairly level terrain.
B - 6 to 8 hrs travel/day (moderately strenuous)	2 - Moderate slopes. Travel may be off trail. Intermediate skiing ability recommended. Easy climbing.
C - 8 to 12 hrs travel/day (strenuous)	3 - Travel in mountainous terrain. Steep forest and glaciers probable. Backcountry equipment and intermediate skiing experience required. Moderate climbing.
D - More than 12 hrs travel/day (extremely strenuous)	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.
S - Slower-paced trip, (suitable for seniors)	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 7:30 PM 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, August and December).

Trip organizers are required to have participants sign the ACC waiver which can be obtained from the climbing schedule organizer, or from: www.aebc.com/acc.

Completed waivers can be mailed to:
Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section,
c/o The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
130 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P3
or given to any member of the executive.

CHAIRPERSON
Tony Knight • 604-873-2276

MEMBERSHIP
604-929-9549

TRIP & CLIMBING SCHEDULE
Jay MacArthur • 604-987-1232
Lynn Erickson • 604-224-4883



Return undeliverable Canadian address to:
The Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section,
c/o Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
130 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P3

