

# Avalanche Echoes

*Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section News*



*Descending onto the Frank Smith Glacier with Mt. Porter beyond on Day 3 of the Lilloet Icefield Traverse.  
Photo by Manrico Scremin.*

## **Next Meeting**

Tuesday February 22, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Floral Hall, Van Dusen Gardens W. 37th & Oak Street , Vancouver

Slide Show: Presentations on last springs' ski camps to the Waddington area, the Spearhead Traverse and Liz's Tchaikazan to Meager Creek ski traverse



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 \$61.00  
 Family \$81.00  
 Junior \$34.00 (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), or visit [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca)

Section Website: [www.aebc.com/acc](http://www.aebc.com/acc)

For detailed membership form including upgrades, send SASE to:

ACC-Vancouver, c/o FMCBC, P.O. Box 19673, Vancouver, BC V5T 4E3; ph: 604-873-6096.

**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.

# Alpine Club Executive

Chair	Liz Scremin	604-921-2651
Secretary	Rand Chaterjee	604-738-2112
Treasurer	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
Membership (Voice mail)	vacant	
Editors	Helen Habgood	604-984-6842
	Gerard Cheong	604-669-6556
Climbing Coordinators	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
	Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
Camps Coord.	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
Skills Development	Susan Baldwin	604-872-4562
Socials	vacant	
Programs	Susan Higginbottom	604-925-3742
Access & Environment	Henny Coates	604-732-4613
National Rep.	Fern Hietkamp	604-872-4290
Promotions	Jay MacArthur	604-987-1232
FMCBC Rep.	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
<b>Special Project Volunteers:</b>		
Program Assistant	Linda Bily	604-222-1577
Skills Assistant	Zoran Vasic	604-438-9066
Jim Haberl Hut	Liz Scremin	604-921-2651
Sea to Sky Forums	Mary Henderson	604-905-9151
VOC Rep	Antje Wahl	604-739-6057
Archivist	Irene Goldstone	604-689-8737
Quartermaster	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
Tantalus Hut	Ron Royston	604-687-2711
Webmaster	Gerard Cheong	604-669-6556
Email Administrator	Richard Keltie <a href="mailto:accvanem@telus.net">accvanem@telus.net</a>	604-738-4583

# Announcements

**March Slide Show**

**Mountain Music: Summer camps and other adventures.**

Presented by Kent Watson. Kent, who most recently attended the camps at both Lake O'Hara and Rogers' Pass, has wonderfully documented the camps and will add a trip to the Grand Canyon as well as some other trips he has done.

**Avalanche Awareness Course with the Canada West Mountain School**

Evening sessions: 16th and 22nd March: 7 - 10pm at 47 West Broadway.

Weekend session: 19th and 20th March at Mt Seymour and Whistler.

The CWMS will be holding this special course for a group of 8 Vancouver section Alpine Club members. Complete course details can be found on their web site: [http://www.themountainschool.com/details/aval\\_weekend.html](http://www.themountainschool.com/details/aval_weekend.html)

Cost will be \$153.81 for each person. The school will provide all the necessary equipment except for your skis and skins. To reserve a spot on this very popular course send a cheque made out to The Alpine Club of Canada– Vancouver Section to:

Susan A. Baldwin  
 Apt. 222  
 2680 West 4th Ave.  
 Vancouver, B.C. V6K 4S3

Be sure to include your name and contact information (phone number and email). You can also email me at [sbaldwin@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:sbaldwin@interchange.ubc.ca) for more information.

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# Article

## The Saga of Liability Insurance, Those Pesky Waivers and Incident Reporting

By Dave McCormick ([davemcc@shaw.ca](mailto:davemcc@shaw.ca)), Chair, ACC Safety Committee\*

Once upon a time, the ACC had cheap, affordable insurance. Over the past year or two, there has been considerable discussion and anguish over the changes to the cost of the ACC's liability insurance, the signing of waivers and reporting accidents to ACC's National Office. It's fair to say that these three things are connected, in a way that all ACC members should be aware of.

First, as you all will know, the cost of the ACC's liability insurance has increased at an astounding rate in the past couple of years. The annual premiums are now close to \$100,000 and there is a bit of concern each year that the insurance company won't renew our policy. This liability insurance protects all ACC members (trip leaders and participants) while on ACC-sponsored activities. This means that if a participant gets injured, they decide to file a claim and someone else (the trip leader or any member on the trip) is found to be liable, such individuals would be covered by this insurance. While less costly alternatives are being sought, there haven't been any easy solutions, so the premium the ACC pays now is the current reality.

Signed waivers have created extra paperwork for trip leaders and additional bother for participants, but the fact is (contrary to common urban myth), these waivers do indicate informed consent from participants and serve as a useful line of defense in the event of an insurance claim. Not only do these things have to be properly signed and witnessed, they need to be kept on file (more work for trip leaders and the Section Executive), for 6 years. This whole rigmarole regarding waivers is so important that a specific policy was approved by the ACC's Board of Directors last year and is available for viewing on the ACC's website: <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/services/safety/index.html>

The next administrative requirement is that all accidents (incidents) be reported to National Office. This allows Na-

tional Office, specifically the Executive Director, to be fully informed about accidents, important when you have to deal with a possible liability claim and the insurance company. Regardless of future developments, it only seems to make sense that the ACC as an organization be able to present a very competent and professional face to our current and any future insurance providers, especially when you consider that about 95% of the cost of our liability insurance is allocated for coverage of Section activities

Recently, the Safety Committee\* was asked to clarify what constituted a reportable "incident". Accordingly, the Committee wrote up a set of guidelines that were presented to the Board at its fall meeting last month. The exact text of the guidelines can be found on the ACC's website, but it's almost as easy to say that if something happens on a Section trip, and someone gets hurt, or comes very close to getting seriously hurt, the episode should be reported. A simple form to be used for such reporting is also available on-line.

It's important to keep in mind that, right after the need for excellent trip leaders, liability insurance is an essential part of the Club's ability to support Section activities. Try to imagine how many people would want to stick their necks (and their houses) on the line and run trips if they knew they were unprotected by liability insurance. Paperwork may seem extraneous to the basic desire of members to hike and climb, but it's an important part of managing the Club's activities in our modern litigious world.

*\* The ACC Safety Committee is composed of 6 members from several Sections across Canada and is currently working on a number of other projects including suggestions for managing Section ropes and other equipment, based on what seem to be good practices being used by some Sections already. A selection of safety-related articles is available on the ACC's website. If anyone has suggestions or questions, the Safety Committee is always interested to hear from you.*



Entering the dramatic Manatee Range on Day 12 of the Lillooet Icefield Traverse, May 2004.  
Photo by Manrico Scremin

# Announcements

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*continued from page 2*

## Can You Help Build The Jim Haberl Hut?

Do you have a little time this summer to help us build the Jim Haberl Hut? The Vancouver Section's Jim Haberl Hut Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the completion of the hut this summer in the Tantalus Range. The following skills would be most useful: cooking, general carpentry, finish carpentry, experience with metal cladding and roofing. Work will begin on site as soon as the snow leaves the Serratus-Dione col, perhaps as early as mid May, and is expected to last through August. For the past three years, volunteers from the ACC, Jim's family and friends, and others in the mountain community have been working hard... fund-raising, planning, designing, drafting, and engineering. During the summer of 2004, volunteers assisted the 192 Airfield Engineers (Dept. of National Defence) as they prefabricated the hut framing on their base in Abbotsford. For the summer of 2005, we have generous offers of help with transportation from Helifor and Terminal Forest Products, but we need lots of manpower to complete the hut on site.

We would like to have 4-8 volunteers per work party in the col. All volunteers will be flown in and out via the Squamish Airport. In order to minimize our helicopter costs, we are planning work parties of 3-4 days each back to back. I.e: One work party from Sat eve to Wed eve, followed by another from Wed eve to Sat eve, with the pattern repeating as necessary. All of this is weather allowing of course.

The major tasks would include:

- final drilling of the foundations
- assembly of the foundation posts
- installation of the floor and wall panels
- installation of the roof panels (with helicopter assistance)
- installation of windows and doors
- installation of peel and stick membrane and metal roofing
- installation of building paper and metal wall cladding
- installation of all fascia and trim
- construction of entry deck and guardrail
- installation of insulation, interior ply sheathing and trim
- interior millwork
- painting
- grey water system
- water collection system
- rough in for solar and propane
- plus installation and completion of the outhouse.

So, would you be willing to set aside a few days next summer in return for a free helicopter ride up and back? Perhaps you even have a team of friends who would like to participate? We are asking for volunteers now so that people can plan ahead. If the answer is 'yes', then please let us know which week of the summer works best for you. We believe that the hut will be a wonderful memorial to Jim and an enormous asset to the mountain community for many years to come.

For more information and to sign up, contact Liz Scremin at 604-921-2651 or [liz@pensiamo.com](mailto:liz@pensiamo.com)

## Fay Hut Rebuilding—Volunteers Needed

The Fay Hut (located in Kootenay National Park), the ACC's first hut (built in 1927) and a designated historic site, was destroyed in the August 2003 forest fires. Rebuilding the Fay Hut is a Centennial project for the ACC (article in Fall '04 Gazette).

The Fay Hut committee and project manager Bruce Hardardt have been busy getting ready to rebuild the hut, and volunteers are needed. Construction will start July 8 2005 and runs for one month.

The current list of volunteers amounts to about half the manpower needed to complete the hut's reconstruction. The committee is still looking for the following volunteers:

- people skilled in construction trades (stone mason, stone tile setter, carpenters - including a cabinet maker willing to build the kitchen);
- people who can use power tools
- two skilled camp cooks able to cook for 15 (menu provided)
- labourers willing to build trails and do foundation work

Please email Bruce Hardardt at [bhardardt@shaw.ca](mailto:bhardardt@shaw.ca) if you are interested in volunteering.

## Section Camps

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### Waddington Ski Camp /Short Traverse

April 23 to May 8, 2005

Main Purpose: To enjoy the grandest part of the grand panorama of the Waddington range.

Access: Fly-in, fly-out, from Tatla Lake.

General Plan: The most spectacular parts of the Waddington Range are its northern aspects. After a brief traverse, across the great cirque of the Radiant glacier and the upper Cataract area (two or three moving days), we will settle on the upper Tellot, close to the Plummer Hut, moving camp only once from one side of the glacier to the other.

Specifics: We will fly to the Chaos col (7500 ft), stay there for 1-2 days to acclimatize, move across the Radiant Cirque and up to the Unicorn col (8000 ft), and perhaps stay there for another day. There are several easy peaks (and many difficult ones) close to the camp areas. If there is enough expertise and stomach in the group, we will go directly to the upper Tellot (10000+ ft), up a gully where we will likely need protection and crampons. If not, we will detour half-way down the Unicorn GI (good skiing), over to and up the Cataract GI to the Tellot. We will camp in the spots with the best views (good tents are essential). We will move as a group, but activities in and from camps are left to ad-hoc arrangements.

Difficulty: Skiing and touring is generally straightforward, approx. B-3. The gully to the upper Tellot would be a B-4.

Equipment: The usual ski gear plus: glacier gear, crampons, strong tents. We will take the Club's satellite phone. There will be a food drop at the Plummer Hut.

Party Size: 6 – 12.

Cost: Approximately \$850 including travel to Tatla Lake.

Contact: Hans at [hofv@telus.net](mailto:hofv@telus.net) or 604-872-4855.

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# Trip/Camp Reports

## North Face Winter Leadership Course 2005

By Melinda Straight

Well, I'm home from the North Face Winter Leadership course. It was quite an intensive week with temperatures dipping below minus 30 Celcius. We were presented with North Face gloves and down sweaters at the breakfast meeting in Golden. Our very knowledgeable and entertaining guides were Cyril Shokoples, Peter Amann and Brad Harrison.

We flew by helicopter over several drainages to reach the Vista Lodge, our home for the week. After getting settled and warming up the cabin, we set out on a nearby slope and dug a Rutschblock. There are many things to know and observe in snow pit. I was happy to hear that there are other faster tricks that guides use to assess snow conditions.

Each day we had classroom style learning and exercises as well as setting out to practice route finding. The wind whipped up and ruined most of our runs. The best skiing was then in the trees on the lee slopes. I had a blast skiing down a bouldered waterfall pitch. We had to be careful not to ski too far below the hut as the cold temperatures were causing the ski skins not to stick.

Some of the topics we covered indoors were: risk management; ACC leader responsibilities; weather data recording; map, compass and GPS; accident management and heli-evacuation; short-roping and crevasse rescue; electronic communication and conflict resolution.

For our outside training, we were usually in 3 small groups, each with a guide/teacher. We took turns leading and route-finding. We practiced crevice rescue by tossing our packs over a cliff. It was too cold on the ridges to do short-roping in the field. We had a very good surprise multi-victim avalanche rescue practice.

The food was wonderful thanks to our cook, Pattie. It was a holiday for me not to have to plan and pack meals. We refreshed ourselves in the sauna and had sing-a-longs with Cyril's guitar playing.

A good time was had by all and definitely a lot learned.



*Rutschblock Test on The North Face Leadership Course 2005. Photo by Melinda Straight*



*Summit Elation on the North Face Leadership Course 2005. Photo by Melinda Straight*

# Section Camps

Continued from page 4

## 8th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp

July 9 - 17, 2005

Eight days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (map ref. 92G/14). Accommodation is in the luxurious ACC cabin with swimming and boating at the door. We will also be running a mountaineering school for several entry-level participants. This is a self-guided camp for club members. \$375 (+/-) covers the chopper and hut rental. For more information or to register call Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

## Tantalus Range Camp, Lake Lovelywater

August 13 - 20, 2005

A joint ACC Rocky Mountain Section–  
Vancouver Section Camp

The Rocky Mountain Section has booked the ACC Lake Lovelywater Hut for Aug. 13-20, and invites Vancouver Section members to join them for a week of climbing in the Tantalus Range (above Squamish). Come and join us for great climbing, meeting new people, and a lot of fun! Basic mountaineering experience and gear is required. To register, and for more information, please contact Melinda Straight at 604-980-9921, or email: [mjstraight@telus.net](mailto:mjstraight@telus.net) by March 30, 2005 to confirm your spot. The cost is approximately \$450 (depending on helicopter costs in 2005). Includes hut fees, helicopter access in and out.



Scott Fiddes enjoys coffee and sunshine plus fine views of Mt. Magaera and the Ring Glacier on the Lillooet Icefield Traverse, May 2004.  
Photo by Liz Scremin

## Literary Tid-bits For Tent-bound Days

They were totally unprepared for the extremes of altitude and weather, the cruel face of Everest in the springtime. Pathetically underdressed, they wore simple wool vests, flannel shirts, Shackleton smocks, gabardine knickers, soft elastic cashmere puttees, and perhaps as headgear- fur-lined leather motorcycle helmets. They knew nothing of the death zone, the elevation above which oxygen deprivation reduces any climb to a pure and horrendous act of will. They had no idea that the peak of the mountain lay in the jet stream, where winds of 150 miles per hour drive ice crystals in dark plumes off the summit. They had oxygen to breathe but disdained its use, having no faith in a primitive apparatus that kept breaking down in the cold. At 27,000 feet, they read Shakespeare in the snow, in flimsy tents better suited for the mud and trenches of France.

Yet despite insurmountable odds, they came within hours of achieving the summit, guided one can only imagine by some inner compass of devotion to the task. George Mallory first saw Everest from the north as he climbed the Rongbuk glacier, having paid homage to the lama of the legendary Rongbuk monastery, a simple monk who found the passions of the English somewhat difficult to understand. "I was filled with great compassion," the lama later reflected, "that they underwent such suffering in unnecessary work."

But for Mallory and his comrades, all inured to death, the mountain was an exalted radiance, immanent, vast, incalculable. He described his first sighting: "We had mounted perhaps a thousand feet when we stopped to wait for what we had come to see. As the clouds rolled asunder before the heights, gradually, very gradually, we saw the great mountainsides and glaciers and ridges, now rifts, until, far higher in the sky than imagination dared to suggest, a prodigious white fang an excrescence from the jaw of the world- the summit of Everest, appeared."

Though the lama was puzzled as to why one would tread upon sacred ground and disturb the spirits of the mountain, the British, in fact, approached the peak with a reverence that even Tibetans might find difficult to match. To placate the monks, Mallory and Howard-Bury, leader of the 1921 effort, described their expedition as a group of mountain worshipers embarked on a pilgrimage. Cryptic as they intended the message to be, it, in fact, perfectly encapsulated who they were, climbers willing to sacrifice all to reach the summit of the unknown. The word "sacrifice" means to make sacred, and when Mallory in his famous retort explained that the reason for climbing Everest was nothing more than the fact that it was there, he distilled the perfect notion of emptiness and pure purpose.

from an essay by Wade Davis

*Voices From The Summit*

edited by Dr. Graeme McDonald, Bernadette McDonald and John Amatt

Published by Adventure Press for National Geographic and the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture, 2001

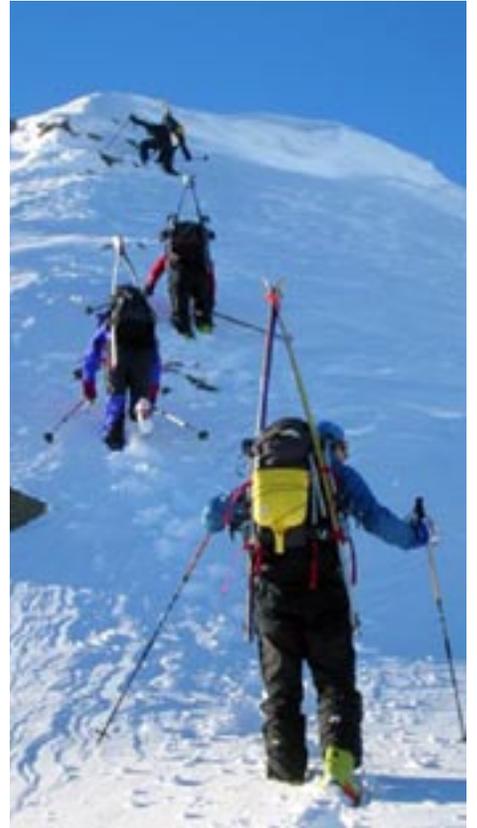
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# Gallery

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*Vista Hut. Photo by Melinda Straight*



*Slogging on TNF Winter Leadership Course  
Photo by Melinda Straight*



*2005 North Face Leadership Course participants. Photo by Peter Amann*

# Alpine Club Trip Schedule

Date	Trip Description	Grade	Name	Phone
Feb 9-16	Tele Clinics at Cypress	A2	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
Feb 9	Mt.Seymour (quick skin up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Feb 12	Whistler/ Blackcomb Area	B2/3	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
Feb 12-13	Mt. Steele (Tetrahedron area)	A3	Sue Baldwin	604-872-4562
Feb 12-13	Fad Dog Creek	B2	Roger Bean	604-421-0165
Feb 13	Red Heather Meadows (Diamond Head)	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
Feb 16	Mt.Seymour (quick skin up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Feb 19-27	Banff Classics (ski)	B/C2-3	Lorne Owen	604-852-0267
Feb 19-20	Caspar Creek	B2	Julien Henley	604-990-9224
Feb 19-20	Mt. Steele	A3	Rob Brusse	604-732-7730
Feb 19-20	Mystery Trip	C3	Pascal Haegeli	604-773-0854
Feb 20	Mt. Baker Area	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
Feb 23	Mt.Seymour (quick skin up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Feb 25-27	Snowspider	C3	Linda Bily	604-733-0042
Feb 26	TBA (hike)	A2	Olga Turok	604-228-0628
Feb 26	Mystery Trip	B3	David Gunhold	604-881-2294
Feb 26-27	Winter Navigation & Camping	B2	Jay MacArthur	604-987-1232
March 5-6	Mt. Duke	B3	Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
March 12	Mt. Seymour	A/B2	Tanya	604-738-0696
March 13	Mt Frosty Ski Snowshoe	B3	Tom Hamilton	604-736-1562
March 13	Table Mtn. (Baker area)	B3	Chris Bradley	604-873-9419
March 19-20	Ski Mystery	B/C3	Jane Weller	604-988-3618
March 20	Hollyburn Mtn.	A2	Melinda Straight	604-980-9921
March 25-27	Mt. Snowspider	C3	Margret Hanson	604-341-5861
March 25-27	Mt. Garibaldi	C3	Rhys Gibb	604-321-9955

## The Alpine Club Of Canada

### Vancouver Section Trip Schedule Winter 2005

#### 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. Back country equipment and intermediate skiing experience required. Moderate climbing.
- 4 - Travel over difficult mountain terrain. Advanced back country 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 7:30 p.m. 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.).

Trip organizers are required to have participants sign the ACC waiver which can be obtained from the climbing schedule organizer, or from: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vancouver).

Completed waivers can be mailed to: Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section, c/o The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., 47 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1P1, or given to any member of the executive.

CHAIRPERSON  
 Tony Knight 604-873-2276  
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 vacant  
 CLIMBING SCHEDULE  
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 Mike Thompson 604-534-8863  
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