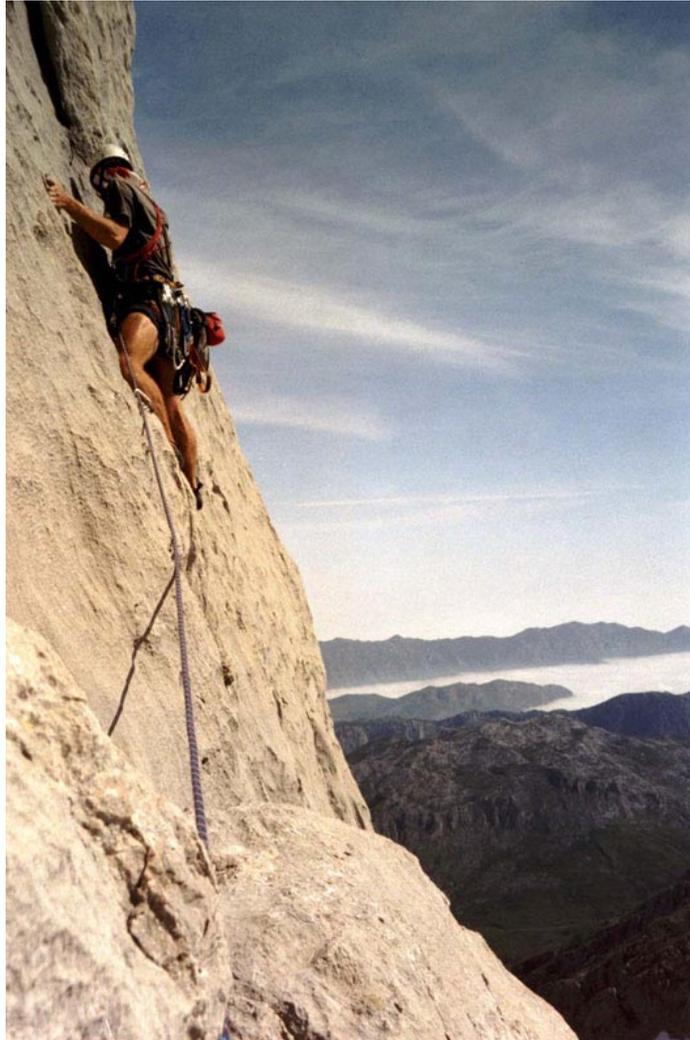




Avalanche Echoes

Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section News



Spectacular Spanish limestone on Picu Uriellu in el Parque Nacional de los Picos de Europa. Photo by Nikolai Hungr.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Floral Hall, Van Dusen Gardens, West 37th & Oak Street, Vancouver
Pierre and Nikolai Hungr will present: "Getting high in Europe for 10 dollars a day: An exploration of Western Europe's mountain ranges by ski, bike, rope and foot."

Coming Up

February 22: Last spring's ski camps: a Waddington area traverse, the Spearhead Traverse, and the Lillooet Icefield Traverse from Mt. Monmouth to the Meager Group.

March 22: Mountain Music by Kent Watson.



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, or visit www.alpineclubofcanada.ca
Section Website: 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	Tony Knight	604-873-2276
Secretary	Rand Chaterjee	
Treasurer	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
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	Helen Habgood	604-984-6842
Climbing Coordinators	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
	Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
Camps Coordinator	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
Promotion	Jay MacArthur	604-987-1232
FMCBC Rep.	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
Special Project Volunteers:		
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
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	sidney@telus.net	
Email Administrator	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
	accvanem@telus.net	

Announcements

Avalanche Echoes – Electronic PDF Edition

This issue, along with a number of back issues of the Echoes newsletter, is available in Adobe PDF format on the Vancouver Section website. This is readable using freely available Adobe Acrobat Reader software. The Vancouver Section maintains its own e-mail notification list for all Section members who prefer to receive the newsletter electronically instead of in the postal mail.

There are a number of advantages to receiving our newsletter this way:

- Available sooner (don't have to wait for printing & mailing delay)
- Available in colour
- Saves mailing costs (helps to avoid our fees going up)

If you wish to receive e-mail notification when the latest newsletter is published, contact Richard Keltie or e-mail accvanem@telus.net to have your e-mail address added to the notification list. Note, we maintain this list separately from the e-mail address that you may have furnished on your membership form to the National ACC office. You are not automatically added to the e-mail notification if you provide an e-mail address on your membership form.

Current and past issues of the Avalanche Echoes are available to all members on the Section's website <http://www.aebc.com/acc/>, under the "Members Log-in" area. Log in with your member number and last name. On-line issues go back as far as 1999.

For Sale

G3 Targa Roxy Telemark Bindings. Still in sealed box. Fits shoe size European 34-46. \$160. Contact Leonie Knaus 604-723-0366 (cell) or leonieknaus@hotmail.com

8th Annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival

February 20-27, 2005. Visit www.vimff.org for program details.

Letter from the Chair

“Passing the Torch”

Tony Knight

Your new Executive starts out this year with a sort of “passing of the torch”. At the Annual General Meeting this past November, **Liz Scremin** stepped down after being the Chair of the Vancouver Section for the last five years. I had the pleasure to be a part of the Executive during Liz’s tenure and see her tireless efforts. Her leadership spanned across many projects such as the Jim Haberl Memorial Hut fund-raising and hut construction, the Coast Archives Committee, and many other initiatives. Liz was awarded a National ACC Distinguished Service Award in 2003. Liz will be carrying on in 2005 contributing to the Vancouver Section as Co-Chair for the Jim Haberl Memorial Hut and Chair of the Archives Committee.

Aside from Liz, the Executive welcomes back in new or continuing roles: **Rob Brusse** - Treasurer, **Fern Hietkamp** – National Rep, **Gerard Cheong** and **Helen Habgood** – Avalanche Echoes Co-Editors, **Susan Higginbottom** - Program, **Sue Baldwin** – Skills Development, **Jay MacArthur** – Promotion. **Richard Keltie** continues as FMCBC Rep, Camps Coordinator and has also taken on the duties of E-mail Echoes notification.

The Executive also welcomes some veteran Section members back to the Executive. Long-time members **Ian McGillivray** and **Mike Thompson** stepped up to share the Climbing Chair, organizing the Section’s climbing schedule. Expect a call or e-mail from Ian or Mike soon, inviting you to organize a trip this year. When they call, do try to respond by organizing a trip or climb – having a diverse range of trips is one of our goals as a club! Finally, the Executive welcomes **Rand Chatterjee**, who volunteered after the AGM to take over the duties of Secretary. Rand is a new ACC member and recent arrival from Boston, MA. One position still remains unfilled - we are still seeking a Socials Coordinator to organize the snacks and refreshments for the monthly members social at Van Dusen Gardens. If you’re interested in helping out, contact any member of the Executive.

This coming year, the planned completion of the Jim Haberl Hut onsite at the Serratus-Dione col is perhaps the most exciting project coming up. The cabin was prefabricated last summer, and will be flown in and erected on site this coming summer. The Jim Haberl Hut Committee co-chaired by Liz Scremin and Sue Oakey has already a solid team in place, but is looking for additional volunteers and assistance, especially anyone with a construction trade or skill. Contact Liz at 604-921-2651 for further details if you are interested.

The Section also has plans for some exciting spring and summer camps. At the end of February is a ski week at Fairy Meadows. The trip is nearly full so contact Jay Straith for an update at 604-983-4200. Summer camps planned include another annual Tantalus Lake Lovelywater camp, and two weeks into the Rockies and Roger’s Pass. Watch for further details in coming issues.

On behalf of the Section Executive, all the best for the New Year, and have fun and play safe in the mountains!

Letter From The Out-Going Chair

“ACC Society”

Liz Scremin

A well-known climber recently said to me, “I’m sorry... but the ACC is a social club.” I was rather startled and had no immediate retort. Not because I felt offended but because he was telling me the obvious. Of course we’re a social club! Meeting people to hike with, climb with, ski with when you are new to Vancouver or new to the sport, when you need a little encouragement or you’re looking for a challenge; having people to learn from and share mountain experiences with (both good and bad); discovering people of diverse backgrounds and yet with so much in common; making life-long friends. That is exactly what the ACC is all about!

But the ACC is a whole lot of things. When we write a letter to the Ministry of Sustainable Resources, we’re an advocacy group. When we promote the Melting Mountains campaign, we’re an environmental group. When we sponsor the Banff Mountain Film Festival and the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, publish the Canadian Alpine Journal, and other titles, we’re an arts and culture group. When we hand out grants in support of innumerable projects and expeditions, we’re a financial institution. When we arrange leadership and skills courses, we’re an educational institution. When we offer camps locally and internationally, we’re a tour operator. Put it all together and we are indeed a mountaineering club of some stature. When we schedule hundreds of trips across the country annually, we make the mountains more accessible for thousands of Canadians. We promote excellence and advancement of the sport. That’s something to be proud of.

At our Vancouver Section AGM in November 2004, I stepped down as Chair. In leaving, I just want to say that it’s the people I will remember most. Meeting lots and lots of club members and working along side some wonderful creative volunteers has been the best aspect of the job. Thank you, everyone, for all your contributions and for making the last five years so interesting and rewarding. The Club has great strength and is rich in so many ways. There are lots of beneficial projects and fun events still ahead. With that thought, I certainly wish our new chair, Tony Knight, and the entire new executive the very best for the coming year. There’s a lot that I will miss, but I will still enjoy being part of ACC society for many years to come.



*High winds on the Glacier de la Vanoise, France.
Photo by Nikolai Hungr.*

Tantalus Hut Report - 2004

Ron Royston, Tantalus Hut Custodian

The year 2004 saw some decline in use of the Tantalus Hut. The Hut hosted only 489 person nights, down from (2003 – 561) and (2002 – 794). In 2004, the Hut hosted only one summer camp consisting of 120 accommodation nights while in 2002 and 2003 the Hut was host to two summer camps totalling 254 and 284 nights respectively.

Hut maintenance is always an ongoing necessity. After many recommendations to improve the brightness on the main floor, the main floor ceiling was painted white with the desired result. After a winter of consultations, materials were acquired to replace the 40 year old fibre-



glass skylights with Lexan. The Lexan was fitted into the existing roofing with no major adjustments necessary. The result has been a significant brightening in the upper floor loft rooms.

The big surprise this year was loss of the log bridge across the outflow creek. This bridge connected the access trail with the Hut and while passable at low water, it became apparent that the crossing would become impassable after a heavy rainfall. A solution was needed, and quickly.

Two officials of B.C. Parks attended over the August long weekend and various sites were identified as possible bridge sites. Since the log bridge that had washed out was the fourth crossing since the Hut was built, it was determined that a more substantial crossing would be desirable.

Amazingly in four days we

had an approved design for a cable suspension bridge, with B.C. Parks agreeing to pick up most of the costs, and had materials in hand. Assembly began the following week with completion just before noon August 17th. The bridge, at its lowest point, is over seven feet above high water and, hopefully, is placed in such a manner to avoid the perils of any future washouts.

Reports from bridge users have been very favourable.

Inclement weather in late August and through most of September resulted in a number of group reservations being cancelled with the resultant loss in Hut use revenue.

Several maintenance projects have been identified for next year including an overhaul of the roof involving resealing all the roof panels and painting the roof.

B.C. Parks have indicated they wish to provide additional tent platforms at the east end of the lake adjacent to the Hut and they are also investigating the installation of a fly-out human waste disposal system ("fancy outhouse"). B.C. Parks is also

continuing their review of a new landing site at a location further removed from the Hut.

As part of my report, I wish to thank those employees of B.C. Parks who have been very supportive this past year, namely Heather Correll and Tim Hoskin. Without their help and support, this year's major achievement of a new bridge would not have been possible.



Camps

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 Gl (good skiing), over to and up the Cataract Gl 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.

References: The Waddington Guide by Don Serl (Elaho Publishing Corporation, 2003), and the Waddington Map by Timberline Forest Consultants (Elaho Publishing Corporation, 2003), both available at MEC.

Contact: Hans at hofv@telus.net or 604-872-4855.

Camps

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

A joint ACC Rocky Mountain Section - Vancouver Section camp (C2)

Saturday August 13 to Saturday August 20, 2005

The Rocky Mountain Section from Canmore, Alberta, has booked the Lake Lovelywater Hut for this week, and is holding ten spots open for ACC Vancouver Section members, and other ACC Section members in BC. Come join us for a lot of fun and great climbing!

Cost: Approximately \$450 (amount will be based on helicopter costs in 2005). Includes hut fees, helicopter access in and out of the area.

Basic mountaineering experience and gear is required.

Registration: Contact Melinda Straight by email at: mjstraight@telus.net. To confirm your spot on the camp, a downpayment of \$200 is required by March 30, 2005, with the remainder due May 20. Please contact Melinda to make your payment.

Cancellation Policy: If you cancel after May 20, to get a full refund you must find a replacement. (A graduated refund schedule will be sent to participants.) We will also keep a waiting list.

Objectives and access: Routes into the Tantalus Range around the cabin are accessed by rowboat or hiking; elevation gains range from 1500 – 3000 ft. Climbing objectives include classic ridge routes such as Mts. Niobe (2010m/6600ft) and Pelops (1980m/6500ft), and Omega Mountain (1860m/ 6100ft). Alpha Mtn. (2305m/7562ft) can be accessed via the east ridge, which is mainly a class 3 climb, with a short class 5 section, or the easier south face. More difficult objectives include Mts. Serratus (2326m/ 7632 ft) and Dione (2590m/8500ft) with mixed snow and rock routes (mixed class 3/4; some class 5 pitches).

Resources: Alpine Select, Kevin McLane, Elaho Publishing Corporation, 2001

A Guide to Climbing and Hiking in Southwestern B.C., Bruce Fairley, 1986

CAJ 1969, p. 76

Website: www.bcmc.ca (trip reports)

Map Sheet: 92G/14 Cheakamus River (1:50,000)

Climbers Access Society

Anders Ourom

The Climbers' Access Society of B.C. is now ten years old, and continues to grow. Many individual members and several sections of the ACC are members of the Access Society - Vancouver Island, Vancouver, Calgary - as well as the national office, and the Vancouver Section in particular continues to be a staunch supporter.

The main developments at the Access Society over the last year:

1. The successful battle to defeat the proposed gondola to the top of the Stawamus Chief. This battle, more than anything else, demonstrated the need for the Access Society.
2. Upgrades to our logo, newsletter, and (particularly) website.
3. Participation in planning for the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project. This project may significantly impact public access to and climbing in the Murrin Park area, in the frontcountry of Stawamus Chief Provincial Park, and in Cheakamus Canyon.
4. Some involvement in issues such as the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan, the Jumbo Glacier resort proposal, heli-skiing in the Waddington area, and forestry road maintenance and deactivation.
5. Obtained registered charity status. This should help with fundraising.
6. Commissioned a study by Simon Fraser University on the socioeconomic impacts of rock climbing in the greater Squamish area. This should help establish the contribution climbing makes to the area, and assist with advocacy.
7. Held two in-person directors' meetings, our first - previously by telephone.
8. Construction of a toilet and parking area at Crest Crags, near Campbell River.
9. Organization of climbers, and meeting with land managers, at Cougar Canyon, near Vernon.
10. We maintain a watching brief with respect to competing commercial, industrial, motorized, and recreational activities, particularly in the Sea-to-Sky region. The runoff to the 2010 winter Olympics promises to bring lots of work.
11. Building alliances with groups such as the Access Fund, the Friends of the Chief, various clubs, etc.
12. Employment of a part-time person to manage and represent the Access Society.

I have stepped down as a director and president, and am in the process of transmogrifying into an executive director. As the 'job' already amounts to an average of 1-2 days/week, year round, and as demand for our services is growing, it seemed the right thing to do, and the appropriate long-term strategy.

The Access Society has developed a well-defined niche, and has proven capable and effective at representing all those interested in public access to, and conservation of B.C.'s cliffs and mountains. We welcome suggestions on how to improve our work and organization, or issues we should address. You can expect us to continue our work over the next year, to undertake a significant promotion, and to grow. It is clear we need more resources to accomplish what we need to do, and we look forward to the club's and your support.

For more information, see www.access-society.ca.

Vancouver Section Annual General Meeting

November 23, 2004

Liz Scremin called the formal meeting to order about 7:45 PM.

REPORTS

Secretary (Tony Knight): The Secretary's duties include writing the minutes for Executive meetings, managing correspondence, and acting custodian for the Section's satellite phone. The sat phone was rented a total of 8 weeks this past year. Overall, it has cost the Section about \$200 since it was purchased 3 years ago. Tony also coordinates the Email notification for the electronic version of the Avalanche Echoes. This saves the Section printing and postage, and the PDF version is available sooner and in colour. Anyone wishing to download the newsletter in PDF format on the Internet should email to accvanem@telus.net to be added to the notification list.

Treasurer (Rob Brusse): Rob presented a short summary of the Section finances. More detailed financial statements for the year ended 31 Oct 2004 will be published in an upcoming Echoes newsletter. Overall Section finances are in good health, but the Section did not post a surplus in its general account this year. Membership revenue increased slightly from the previous year with the fee increases. Tantalus Lake Lovelywater Hut revenues were down compared to last year due to loss of some bookings in poor weather near the end of summer, and some expenses assisting BC Parks in constructing a new bridge near the cabin. Three grants were awarded from the Section Endowment Fund, of which 2 were actually funded. The fund distributed \$3,000 to the Jim Haberl Hut fund and \$500 to the Climbers Access committee. The Jim Haberl Hut fund saw substantial work begin on prefabrication of the new cabin. Since inception of the Haberl Hut fund, about \$34,300 has been laid out on hut construction in progress, and the Hut fund increased its equity by about \$18,500 through additional contributions this year.

Membership (Susan D'Aloisio): Vancouver Section membership declined slightly from last year and has leveled off around 450 individual and family memberships, equivalent to about 550 people overall.

Echoes (Helen Habgood/Gerard Cheong): Helen and Gerard were co-editors for the Avalanche Echoes newsletter this past year. Helen reported that the Section is looking for a new printing company, hopefully to improve the printing quality and speed of the mail-out of the newsletter. The Editors are always looking for trip reports and articles to publish. A third co-editor is also being sought to help with editing and producing content.

Climbing Chair (Margaret Hanson): Margaret gave a summary of Section trips this past year. The Section averaged about 9 trips per month through the winter and spring, lessening to about 6 trips per month in the summer. The climbing and trips schedule is in good shape for the upcoming period from November to the end of February. Margaret thanked all who organized trips and workshops this past year, and the volunteers who helped phone the membership for trip organizers.

Camps (Richard Keltie): Richard served as Section camps coordinator this year, helping to promote camp activities and find camp organizers. This past year, the Section ran six camps in-

cluding 3 spring camps: a 2-week ski traverse in the Mt. Waddington area (Hans Veiel), 2-week ski traverse on the Lillooet Icefields (Liz Scremin), and Spearheads traverse (Tony Knight). Summer mountaineering camps included Tantalus Lake Lovelywater (organized by Peter Woodsworth, now it's 7th year), one week at Roger's Pass and one week at Lake O'Hara (both organized by Rob Brusse). Several camps are already planned for 2005 including a ski week at the ACC Fairy Meadows cabin and another Roger's Pass and Lake O'Hara summer mountaineering camp. Plans are also underway already for camps in 2006 to celebrate the centennial year for the National ACC organization.

FMCBC Rep (Richard Keltie): Richard also served this year as the Vancouver Section Rep at the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. The FMCBC role continues to be advocacy in protecting the backcountry environment and access for non-motorized recreation. The FMCBC is now self-funded through member club contributions, including the Vancouver Section. The FMCBC has hired an Executive Director to oversee operations. Richard also reported on some on-going issues of interest such as plans for the Smoke Bluffs climbing area, currently owned by the FMCBC. The FMCBC is also active in on-going efforts to advocate provincial government adoption of the Sharing Accord that was drafted by the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Winter Recreation Forum among the motorized and non-motorized user groups. Land and Water BC, the crown corporation responsible for land use tenures, has failed to recognize this important agreement, and continues to award commercial tenures in areas designated for non-motorized use. Finally, the FMCBC have been active in ensuring continued trailhead access during and following improvements to the Sea-to-Sky Highway between Vancouver and Whistler.

Skills Development (Sue Baldwin): The Section organized a number of skills development courses and workshops this past year, including telemark ski clinics, winter camping, winter navigation and a Canada West Mountain School Avalanche course. Indoor workshops included map & compass and leadership development. This spring and summer, a rock-climbing refresher and mountaineering essentials were organized, and this fall included the St. John Ambulance Wilderness First Aid course, and a very successful introduction to ice climbing in October. Plans are underway for courses and workshops in 2005, and the Section is always looking for volunteers to organize an event on a wilderness topic of interest.

Program (Susan Higginbottom): Susan reported on this year's social program, which included some interesting slide shows of local trips and international destinations. Susan indicated she will carry on in the position, and is always looking for interesting speakers and slide shows for the monthly socials.

Access & Environment (Liz for Henny Coates): Liz briefly reported on Access and Environment issues over the past year. One important issue this year was the proposed gondola on the Stawamus Chief. The Vancouver Section wrote to Provincial Government officials opposing this project on the basis of the negative impact it would have on hiking and rock climbing in this popular area. The proposal was later defeated in public hearings.

continued on next page

National Club Rep (Fern Hietkamp): Fern represents the Vancouver Section at the National level of the Alpine Club of Canada. This includes attending National Board meetings twice a year in Canmore, and communicating with the National Executive on a number of topics ranging from liability insurance for the Club to National programs and awards.

Promotion (Jay MacArthur): Jay reported on the promotion of the Vancouver Section at various film events in town such as the Banff Mountain Festival and the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival. The Section is also interested in organizing a slide show on the ACC Vancouver Section for presentation at forums such as the outdoor evening programs at Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Chairperson's Report (Liz Scremin): Liz provided a short summary report as Chair of the Section. Liz thanked all the volunteers who have helped organize trips, camps, and workshops and generally keep the Section busy with many events. On the Jim Haberl Memorial Hut, Liz reported that prefabrication was completed this year with the assistance of the 192nd Airfield Engineers at Abbotsford. Plans are now ready to erect the cabin on-site in the summer of 2005. Liz recognized some of the awards presented this year including Distinguished Service Awards to Mary Rode and Chris Bradley, and a 50-year member recognition to Pat Duffy. Liz indicated that she is stepping down after 5 years as Chair of the Section, but will be carrying on as Co-Chair of the Jim Haberl Hut Committee and the Archives Committee. Liz then called on Irene Goldstone to chair the last portion of the AGM.

ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE

New/Ongoing Executive Members (Irene Goldstone): Irene rose to chair the election of the new Executive. Irene thanked Liz for her 5 years of dedicated service to the ACC Vancouver Section. Irene then reported that the following members have agreed to stand for election. The positions and nominees are as follows:

Chair – Tony Knight

Secretary – vacant

Treasurer – Rob Brusse

Membership – vacant

Socials – vacant

Echoes Editors – Helen Habgood and Gerard Cheong

National Club Rep – Fern Hietkamp

FMCBC Rep – Richard Keltie

Program Coordinator – Susan Higginbottom

Climbing/Trip Schedule – Ian McGillivray and Mike Thompson

Camps – Richard Keltie

Skills Development – Sue Baldwin

Access and Environment – Henny Coates

Promotion – Jay MacArthur

There being no further nominations, it was moved and seconded that the above members be elected as the Vancouver Section Executive for the year 2005. The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. A slide show on skiing the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt was presented by Shirley Howdle and Andre Zimmerman.

Trip Report

Zoa Peak . . . not

Saturday, December 11, 2004

Catherine Ostler

For most of us, it was going to be that first ski of the season, the chance to get away from the Vancouver deluges of the previous few days—Zoa Peak, up near the Coquihalla tollbooth, was our destination. Ready to go at 6:15 a.m. at the Boundary & Grandview Chevron, we were already mumbling nervously about the avalanche warnings that had been issued even on the CBC when Julien, our intrepid leader, showed up waving a print-out of the Press Release from the Canadian Avalanche Centre warning of “widespread avalanches” on Friday and a continued “elevated” risk on Saturday. It took only a minute for our group—Julien, Laura, Joanna, Peter, Simon and Catherine, to reach consensus on Plan B—we wouldn't drive all the way up to Zoa, but would instead aim for Black Mountain.

It was only 6:50 a.m. by the time we hit the gate at the bottom of the mountain, and we had to explain why we wanted to go through in the dark, before 7 a.m., the opening time (good question, sunrise was over an hour later). But some smooth talking by the occupants of the first vehicle in our convoy did the trick, and soon we were in the parking lot. But we noticed the Cypress Mountain employees slip sliding around, and so Peter and Laura went to investigate the snow conditions.

“Hard as a rock!” was the pronouncement, along with some other descriptors, possibly including “sheer ice,” “suicidal,” and “madness.” Our group, some of us with one ski boot on already, came to another quick consensus on Plan C.

Plan C involved returning to our cars and then our individual homes to exchange our skiing gear for crampons, ice axes, and snowshoes, and reconvening at the Mount Seymour trailhead at 9:00 a.m. This was achieved with miraculous ease, and soon we were heading up the trail to the First Pump. The sky was blue and unsullied by the clouds of the previous dark days. The sun hadn't reached the trail yet, however, and it was easy walking on the boulder-like snow.

The views on our way up to the First Pump, then the Second, were spectacular, with the city swathed in shining mist, the white peaks rising around us and blue Howe Sound below. One of us learned how to use an ice axe and found that the emergency arrest system worked well (rope tied to axe and wrist with slip knot, feet suddenly finding no purchase on the steep hard ice, yank! ow!). The three with proper full crampons went on to Mount Seymour peak while the other three sunbathed at the Second Pump. The peak baggers kindly reported that the view was the same from up there as at the Second Pump.

By this time the snow was starting to get mushy where the sun was hitting it full on, and bums started to be more useful than boots with crampons. The snowshoers really had the advantage here too, except when it got too steep, where bums still ruled. It was spring in December.

We were back at the parking lot and checking out the remains of the set for Underworld 2 by 3:30, a perfect time to hit Lazy Bay Café for tea and cookies, soup and bagels. Thanks to Julien for organizing, and the good-natured flexibility of the group. It was not Zoa, but it was a great day!

Alpine Club Trip Schedule

Date	Destination	Grade	Organizer	Phone
JANUARY 2005				
8	Whistler Backcountry ski	B2	Bill Moore	604-874-2016
8	TBA Snowshoe	A2	John Sapac	604-873-6740
8	Mt Baker area ski	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
12	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
15	Transceiver Practice (Mt Seymour)	A2	Sue Baldwin	604-872-4562
15	Mt Windsor / Deeks Peak (snowshoe)	B2	Julian Henley	604-990-9224
15	Coquihalla area Backcountry ski	B3	Ian & Jane	604-988-3618
15	Transceiver Practice (Mt Seymour)	A2	Sue Baldwin	604-872-4562
15-16	Singing Pass ski	B3	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
19	Telemark Workshop (Cypress Bowl)	A2	Chris Bradley	604-873-9419
19	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
22	Zoa Peak ski	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
22-23	Intro to Snow Camping	B2	Peter Woodsworth	604-254-7076
22-23	Ice Climbing (Lillooet Area)	B5	Paul Baker	604-922-6111
22-23	Mt Duke ski	B3	Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
23	Hollyburn ski	A2	Melinda Straight	604-980-9921
23	Taylor Meadows / Black Tusk ski	B2	Antje Wahl	604-739-6057
25	ACC Monthly Meeting and Slide Show			
26	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
29	Mt Laughington	B2	Tania Zulkoskey	604-738-0696
29-30	Felix Creek	B3	Rob Brusse	604-732-7730
FEBRUARY 2005				
2	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
5	Mt Price ski	C3	Ian & Jane	604-988-3618
6	Elfin Lakes ski	B2	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
6	Zoa Peak	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
6	Whistler / Blackcomb area ski	B2/3	Ilze Rupners	604-222-3720
9	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
12-13	Fat Dog Creek ski	B2	Roger Bean	604-421-0165
12-13	Mt Steele (Tetrahedron area)	A3	Sue Baldwin	604-872-4562
12-13	Marriot Basin ski	B2/3	Helen Habgood	604-984-6842
13	Red Heather Meadows (Diamond Head)	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
16	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
19-27	Banff Classics ski	B-C2/3	Lorne Owen	604-852-0267
19-20	Caspar Creek ski	B2	Julien Henley	604-990-9224
19-20	Mystery Trip	C3	Pascal Haegeli	604-773-0854
19-20	Mt Steele (Tetrahedron area)	A3	Rob Brusse	604-732-7730
20	Mt Baker Area	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
22	ACC Monthly Meeting and Slide Show			
23	Mt Seymour (quickie skin-up)	A1	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
25-27	Snowspider	C3	Linda Bily	604-733-0042
26	TBA Hike	A2	Olga Turok	604-228-0628
26	Mystery Trip	B3	David Gunhold	604-881-2294
26-27	Winter Navigation & Camping	B2	Jay MacArthur	604-987-1232

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. 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).

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. 47 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1P1, or given to any member of the executive.

CHAIRPERSON

Tony Knight 604-873-2276

MEMBERSHIP

604-878-5272

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Ian McGillivray 604-988-3618
Mike Thompson 604-534-8863
vanacctrips@hotmail.com



Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
The Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section,
c/o Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
P.O. Box 19673, Vancouver, BC V5T 4E3