

AVALANCHE ECHOES

SEARCH FOR THE SNOW LEOPARD

Have you ever wanted to travel to the Himalayas? Our fellow ACC'ers Ed Fisher and Helen Habgood will recount their quest, over a period of 25 years, to catch a glimpse of a snow leopard in the Himalayan wilderness. Ed developed a curiosity for these mountain cats after reading Peter Matthiessen's book *The Snow Leopard*. Since the planting of that seed, Ed and Helen have made a number of trips to the Himalayas and Trans Himalayas, living many adventures as they looked for this elusive, almost ghost-like creature.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
7:30 PM**



ACC VANCOUVER SECTION

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.

www.accvancouver.ca
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ACC Vancouver Section,
c/o Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
130 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P3

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Single \$ 41 / \$ 51 *
Family \$ 61 / \$ 71 *
Junior (under 18) \$ 31 / \$ 41 *
*Includes postal delivery of the
Avalanche Echoes

NATIONAL ACC OFFICE

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly.

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca
info@alpineclubofcanada.ca
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Editor: Brad Badelt, 604 742 1711
echoes@accvancouver.org

SUBMISSIONS

We encourage submissions of writing (txt, rtf and doc formats), photography and drawings (jpg, tif, png). Email your submission or call the editor. Deadline is the 20th day of the previous month.

ADVERTISING

Advertising 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.

executive

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" When it comes to skiing, there's a difference between what you think it's going to be like, what it's really like, and what you tell your friends it was like." ~Author Unknown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Callaghan Valley Survey Results

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) conducted a survey on backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing in the Callaghan Valley last fall. The survey results are now in and can be viewed on FMCBC website at: http://wiki.mountainclubs.org/trails_projects/callaghan-valley/callaghanvalleysurvey. The results show that while the Callaghan Valley is a popular destination, usage will be significantly reduced by the user fees the Whistler Olympic Park is planning to charge for the 2010/2011 season. The largest contingent of survey respondents were from the ACC Vancouver Section. Unfortunately, Whistler Olympic Park decided to go ahead with a new \$10 user fee for backcountry access from their parking area, despite meetings with the FMCBC and ACC Whistler Section. It would be shame if the newly signed ski routes to Hanging Lake and Beverley Lake would see little use, after the FMCBC received funding for the signage and maps from MEC and the National Trails Coalition last year. The FMCBC is continuing to work on reducing the user fee for this popular area.



Club Tweets

The ACC Vancouver section is now on Twitter under the handle:
[@ACCVancouver](https://twitter.com/ACCVancouver)

Photo Contest a Success

Congratulations to all our photo contest 2010 winners! The winning photos were presented at the annual general meeting in November and are featured in this month's newsletter. The photos can also be seen on the club's website. Many thanks to photographer Simon Hayter for coordinating the contest and thanks to all of the contributors! The winners are:

- * Mountain Adventure: Brad Badelt
- * Mountain Flora & Fauna: Jeff Han
- * Mountain Humour: Gunnar Olovsson
- * People in the Mountains: Brad Badelt
- * Mountain Scenery: Liz Scremin

Many thanks to photographer Simon Hayter for coordinating this year's contest and Jonathan Hayward for helping out with judging, and a big thank you to all the contributors!

Mountain Adventure Winner - Brad Badelt



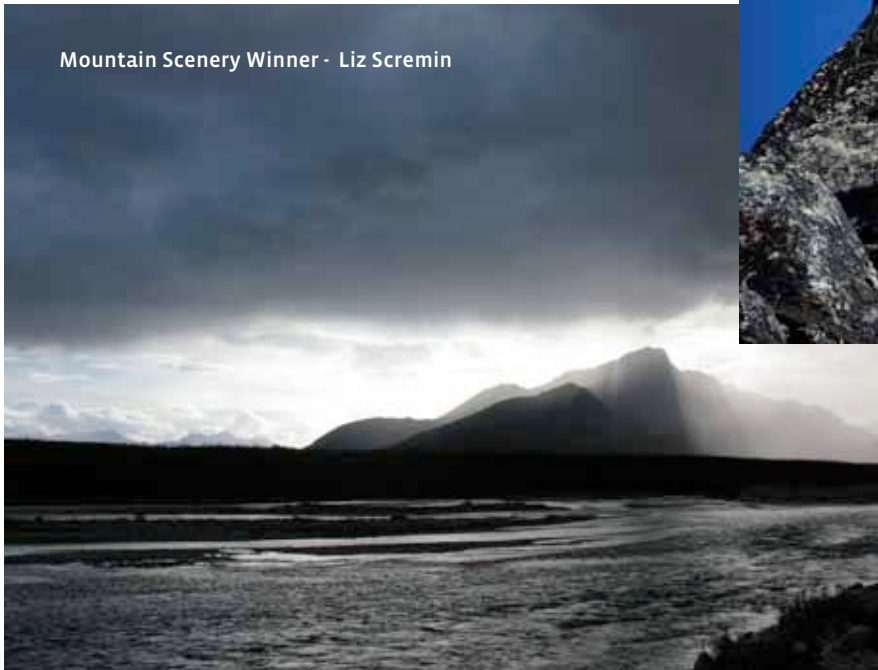
People in the Mountains Winner - Brad Badelt



Mountain Flora & Fauna Winner - Jeff Han



Mountain Scenery Winner - Liz Scremin



Mountain Humour Winner - Gunnar Olovsson



UPCOMING SOCIALS

22 FEBRUARY 2011

Search for the Snow Leopard

Have you ever wanted to travel to the Himalayas? Our fellow ACC'ers Ed Fisher and Helen Habgood will recount their quest, over a period of 25 years, to catch a glimpse of a snow leopard in the Himalayan wilderness. Ed developed a curiosity for these mountain cats after reading Peter Matthiesson's book *The Snow Leopard*. Since the planting of that seed, Ed and Helen have made a number of trips to the Himalayas and Trans Himalayas, living many adventures as they looked for this elusive, almost ghost-like creature.

22 MARCH 2011

Line Lund Christiansen: Waddington

stay tuned...more to come...



Fifty Years Ago First Winter Ascent of Ledge Mountain

The wilder and fouler the weather the better we liked it, as shown by the following tale, buttressed by excerpts from my diary...

At 2:30 on a rainy Vancouver morning on February 4, 1961 Glenn Woodsworth picked me up. He'd brought a friend, who was inauspiciously dressed in jeans. We drove to Britannia Beach and up the gravel road as far as Marmot Creek. We hiked to the Mount Sheer Ski-Club cabin, slowed down by ten minutes after losing the trail in the dark. Candles were lit, food eaten, bodies warmed and we were heading out into the snow drifts by 6 AM the following morning. There were no problems following the standard route past Utopia Lake and up the snow gully to the north of the lake. At treeline, however, we were confronted by a howling blizzard; except for the bottom fringe of its 250 metre rock face, Ledge Mountain was obscured.

At the point where the snow slog morphed into roped climbing, Glenn's friend, on the verge of hypothermia, and quite convinced he had frostbite, was forced to call it a day. We escorted him back to safer terrain, an hour or two from the cabin. We then returned to the tantalizing prospect,

beginning with the cutting of steps across a band of frozen snow and ice. Capturing the exaltation of the experience I confided in my diary: "Oh, beautiful wind!" I noted that "light powdery snow was swirling down off the face...in blinding gusts". On reaching the ledge, the prominent ledge after which the mountain is named, "we were almost blown over by the...wind". There were three or four places where the snow was steeply banked and the ledge very narrow, where we belayed and hammered into the rock one or two pitons. The violent wind combined with an awareness of the abyss beneath our feet, inspired the following response: "We were lost in the adventure."

At the end of the ledge we veered abruptly upwards, and a hundred feet of icy struggle left us on the peak. In the scant protection of a few obelisk-shaped rocks we scribbled the date and our names on a piece of paper, stuffed it into a Kodak film container and plopped the container down an ice axe plunge-hole.

No time for tarrying; we began the descent and set off toward the cliff and ledge. In my diary I confessed that at that moment I was gripped by an elemental fear... It turned out, though, that we found the descent easier than the ascent and didn't belay. Glenn and I probably manifested an overly self-confident attitude, allowing the rope between us to slacken and loop down over the cliff as we moved in tandem along the edge of the void. We sheltered briefly in a shallow cave. The cave, formed in part by a frozen waterfall, was perhaps seven feet at highest point, and went in about seven feet deep.

Back at the cabin and sipping tea brewed on the wood stove, we gave our companion, warm and comfy by then, an account of our efforts. During the hour or so spent resting and recuperating we were visited by the Britannia Boy Scouts. After a 45 minute hike we were back at the Volkswagen Beetle and on our way to Vancouver following a memorable winter ascent--the first winter ascent--of Ledge Mountain.

by Arnold Shives



A Fine Day on Kulshan Ridge Mt. Baker

It was a day not to miss on snow-packed Baker. Five of us left Abbotsford as the new day bid adieu to dawn. The drive up to the upper Baker parking lot was done with some eagerness and anticipation.

Such sights to see in such a quiet and almost cathedral-like setting.

Four (Krista, John, Phil, Liz) put on their snowshoes and I my skis. We headed into the Baker backcountry, up, up and ever up to Kulshan Ridge. Snow had fallen the previous night, so there was plenty of new powder to trudge and break trail through. We reached the upper fresh snow ridge by late morning as Baker, Shuksan and many of the surrounding peaks gazed down on us.

Those on snowshoes continued along Kulshan to the upper knob where many

a fine photo was taken. I could not resist all the fresh powder, so once skins were removed from skis, my touring turned into many a fresh turn in the knee deep snow. Ravines and hillocks were slipped round, and many a hasty downhill carve was taken in the fresh powder.

We met again in the early afternoon, and the snowshoe four trudged down the snow trail, and I took a few more turns, then caught up with the others at the upper lifts. Phil and Liz welcomed us into the Ski Patrol Hut, and fed us fresh cookies and warm tea to wind down the day. It was another superb few hours with the ancient sentinels. Such blue sky days are gifts not to ignore.

Participants: Phil/Liz, Krista, John and Ron Dart (reporter)



UPCOMING COURSES & CAMPS

Avalanche Gear Orientation & Practice for Beginners - February 9 2011

Event Location: MEC Broadway Store, Mount Seymour

Date(s) & Time: Wed, Feb 9 2011 5:00 PM

Event Leader(s): Rob Brusse (6042240747 - Home, 6047327730 - Work)

Itinerary: 5:00 pm Meet at MEC (Broadway store) pick up gear & brief orientation. 6 pm. Depart for Mt Seymour, meet in Cafeteria, review outline & plan for the evening 7pm - 9pm. Conduct gear familiarization & practice; team safety, signal search, victim location (probe practice), victim extraction (shovel techniques), evacuation. 9:30 head for home. This is not a substitute for existing courses; members are encouraged to enhance their skills to levels appropriate to the risks they intend to undertake.

Joint Vancouver /Vancouver Island Summer General Mountaineering Camp - One Week Sessions at Athelney Pass in the Coast Range of South West BC.

Choose from July 23 - 30, July 30 - Aug 6, or Aug 6 - 13. (more sessions poss if interest)

Cost \$500 includes flight in and out. A self catered self guided camp.

Helicopter into this amazing area that offers something for everyone - easy hiking/scrambling to classic alpine ice and rock. Shared camp with Vancouver Island section members, spaces disappearing fast so book soon. For detailed description including maps, photos, group amenities etc,

See http://accvi.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=135

See iCal on dates listed for Vancouver Section Posting.

For other information, contact Rick: rickhudson@shaw.ca

Winter Mountaineering Gear and Skills Fest - January 25th 2011

Are you an avid winter mountaineer? Have honed a specific winter skill? Come share your knowledge with your fellow ACC'ers. We need your know-how to make the Winter Mountaineering Gear and Skills Fest a success! We'll help you setup and muster whatever gear you need for your demo. Some presentation ideas that seem to be of interest (so far) are: - Ski Tune Up - Ice Climbing Gear - Back Country Skiing Tips - Winter Gear & Snow Caves - What Makes a Good Winter Tent? - Winter First Aid - Avalanche and Navigation Gear and Skills: Probes, Transceivers, GPS - Go Light: Keeping the weight down -

dehydrating food, carry what you need.

Got some other pearl of wisdom? We'd love to hear your ideas! Please contact Suzanne Landry by email suzanne@dataaccent.com or call @ 778.837.8127.

UPCOMING TRIPS & SOCIALS

- Fri, Jan 14 2011 - Ice Climbing - Ice Climbing-Lilloett (Rambles / Marble Canyon)
- Sat, Jan 15 2011 - Skiing - Beginner Friendly Backcountry Skiing
- Tue, Jan 18 2011 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike
- Tue, Jan 18 2011 - Training - Prussic training for crevasse rescue
- Tue, Jan 25 2011 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike
- Tue, Jan 25 2011 - Training - Mountaineering Gear & Skills Fest
- Sat, Jan 29 2011 - Snowshoeing - Duffey Pk.
- Wed, Feb 9 2011 - Training - Avalanche Gear Orientation & Practice for Beginners
- Sat, Feb 12 2011 - Skiing - Steep Chutes of Blackcomb
- Tue, Feb 22 2011 - Training - BM 1 (2011) Facilitators Organizational Session
- Tue, Feb 22 2011 - Meeting - Ed Fisher & Helen Habgood : Himalayas
- Thu, Feb 24 2011 - Skiing - Elfin Lake
- Sat, Feb 26 2011 - Snowshoeing - Mt. Corriveau
- Thu, Mar 3 2011 - Skiing - Phelix Creek Yo-yo ski camp
- Wed, Mar 9 2011 - Training - Avalanche Gear Orientation & Practice for Beginners
- Fri, Mar 11 2011 - Ice Climbing - Ice Climbing - Rambles & surroundings
- Sat, Mar 12 2011 - Skiing - McGillivray Pass Lodge ACC Vancouver Ski Camp - March 12-19, 2011
- Tue, Mar 22 2011 - Meeting - Line Lund Christiansen: Waddington
- Fri, Mar 25 2011 - Skiing - Lake Ann/Shuksan Arm
- Sat, Mar 26 2011 - Snowshoeing - Martin Peak
- Sun, Mar 27 2011 - Skiing - Table Mountain Circuit
- Wed, Apr 13 2011 - Training - Avalanche Gear Orientation & Practice for Beginners
- Tue, Apr 26 2011 - Meeting - Jay MacArthur: Peru
- Sat, Apr 30 2011 - Snowshoeing - Mt. John Decker



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