

# AVALANCHE ECHOES

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, March 27 at 7:30 PM**

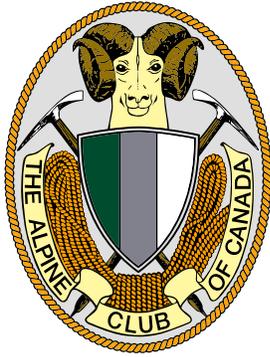
**FLORAL HALL, VANDUSEN GARDENS, WEST 37TH AND OAK ST, VANCOUVER**

## Summer Camp Special

Slide presentation by  
**Rob Brusse,  
Pat Duffey and  
David Toole**

Come enjoy pictures and stories from past summer camps in the Rockies and the Selkirks, and learn about upcoming opportunities to participate.

Rob will share his experiences in the Bugaboos, while Pat and David will present on the National 55+ Climbing and Trekking camps at Little Yoho, Lake O`Hara, Lake Louise and the Tonquin Valley.



**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 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
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Skills Development	Susan Baldwin	604-732-4562
National ACC Rep	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
FMCBC Rep	David Toole	604-608-6846
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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	

#### Announcements

### Share Your Adventure at the June ACC Social

The ACC June Social will be Open Projection night. This is your chance to show everyone your digital images of all the wonderful places you've seen. Twenty images or so is all you need to bring – the intent is not for you to give a full presentation, but just a taste of where you've been.

If you're interested in contributing, please contact Susan Higginbottom at susan-h@telus.net. Bring your digital pictures on a CD-ROM in JPG format. The best size is 1024 x 768 (our projector size) but other sizes are okay. The Club will provide the laptop PC and digital projector.

### Please welcome our new Alpine Club Members

Leif Marmolejo, Lindsey Laycock, Maya Goldstein, Gili Rosenberg, Matthew Halverson, Hanako Amaya, Micheal Moreno, Greg Jones, Philip Ibis, Lisa Blachut, Wesley Wenhardt, Graham Moxon, Christopher Bataille, Kathryn Youngs, Arik Clayton, Margaret Rush, Mitch Anderson, Kala O'Riordan, Kimberley Horrocks, Rahul Khosla, Leon Csabak, Genie Collins, Susan Seager, Peter Drzymala, Ian Ross, Astrid Marini, Ray Daws, Kelly Galway.

#### 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 29 – Aug 3 inclusive
- ◊ Location: Conrad Kain Hut, Bugaboos – 10 spaces
- ◊ Contact: Jay MacArthur, 604-987-1232

The trip has been planned assuming full day drive up (14 hours drive on Saturday July 28th, sleep in parking lot, full day drive home Saturday August 4th) This camp is for climbers with some experience. We could possibly hire a guide if there is interest from the group, but would prefer to get some experienced rope leaders. The plan is to stay in the hut at about \$20 per night, but you could also stay in the campground.

## Workshops

### Evening Leadership Workshop

- ◊ Date: March 29, 2007 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM
  - ◊ Location: Canada Room MEC Head office 149 West 4th Avenue
- Rick Davies will be running a leadership evening workshop to enhance the safety and enjoyment of our trips. We have run this workshop in previous years and the ideas learned have been extremely useful in field applications, both in normal running of our trips and in emergency situations. During the evening you will have the opportunity to identify and build on your own natural leadership style.
- This workshop is directed to those leaders and potential leaders of hikes, backpacking and mountaineering trips. It focuses on people-skills and group management and will give you the best in practical procedures built up over years of Alpine Club experience.

This workshop is especially aimed at members who would like to lead a trip but who feel they need to gain a little more confidence and competence before they try. To register, please send a cheque for \$ 15, made out to The Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section, to Susan Baldwin, 222 2680 West 4th Ave, Vancouver BC V6K 4S3

### 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 <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/activities/leadership.html>. Please send a copy of your application to Tony Knight at [knightta@telus.net](mailto:knightta@telus.net) for Section Endorsement and indicate if you wish to apply for the bursary. **Deadline for Applications: May 1, 2007**

## Commercial heli-skiing proposed for the Waddington Range

An application for a commercial heli-skiing tenure in the Waddington Range is with the BC Government. The ACC Vancouver Section opposes heli-skiing in this remote range that is unique and important for climbers and ski-mountaineers since the early explorations by the Mundays in the 1920s and 30s. A map of the area applied for can be viewed at this BC Government website: <http://www2.lwbc.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/viewpost.jsp?PostID=7262>

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMC) and the ACC will provide input to the Ministry regarding the conflict between traditional ski-mountaineering and the proposed heli-skiing operation. If you have been to this area and want to express your views about the heli-skiing application in the Waddington Range, you can write or email to:

Diane Tetarenko  
 Manager, Adventure Tourism  
 Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts  
 Suite 142—2080A Labieux Road  
 Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9  
 Email: [Diane.Tetarenko@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Diane.Tetarenko@gov.bc.ca)

For more information contact Antje Wahl, Access & Environment Chair ([antjewahl@yahoo.com](mailto:antjewahl@yahoo.com)).

## Literary Tid-Bits for Tent-Bound Days

Wondering what books to bring along in case you find yourself trapped on a ledge by a storm of mythic proportions? Watch this section for suggestions from your fellow Alpine Club members.

*“Having climbed there with a very active St. Andrews party, David knew well the mountains of Upernivik. He had with him, too, a map of the island and full accounts of two St. Andrews expeditions. As we motored up the fjord between towering walls of red granite, many high, slender, and apparently inapproachable spires would make their startling appearance. Whereupon I would say to David: “Well, I suppose that one has not been climbed”, for in the eyes of a super-annuated mountaineer some of the peaks looked not only as if they could not be climbed but that they were best left alone. Nothing of the sort. All had been climbed as well as several equally or more difficult peaks on Qioqe. I doubt if there are any first ascents to be made now in that region – not that that matters, for the mountain is the same and will afford the same satisfaction when it is climbed for the five-hundredth time.”*

Excerpt from *Ice With Everything*, written by H.W. Tilman published by Gray’s Publishing Ltd., 1974 (contributed by Liz Scremin)

## One Muddy Hand: Selected Poems: Earle Birney

Editor, Sam Solecki (Madeira park, BC: Harbour Publishing, 2006)

*Earle Birney (1904-1995) began writing poems when Robert Service, Stephen Leacock and Lucy Maud Montgomery were best-selling authors throughout the English-speaking world, and he published his final collection, Last Makings, in 1991, the year Rohinton Mistry’s Such a Long Journey won the Governor General’s Award for fiction. By then he had become part of the Canadian canon—‘David’ alone would have ensured that—and was seen as an important figure in what might be called the formation of a Canadian literature.—Sam Solecki ‘Foreward’ One Muddy Hand*

There is no poem in the history of Canadian mountaineering literature as graphic, poignant and dramatic as Birney’s “David” (1940). Birney’s first collection of poetry, *David and Other Poems* (1942) catapulted Birney to the forefront of Canadian literature, and won the Governor General’s medal.

Most Canadians were read, either in school or in family settings, “David”. The sheer momentum, vivid descriptions of mountain scenery, challenging ascents and the final, fatal climb of ‘the Finger on the Sawback’ are etched deeply into the souls and imaginations of most Canadians.

I remember, quite distinctly, hearing Birney read “David” in the public library in Lethbridge in the winter of 1978. It was an experience not to be missed. The tale so well recounted by Birney conjured up the reasons why many take to the white and rock hard sentinels, the many dangers of heading to such places, and the tragedies and hard decisions often posed to those that falter and fall. And then, of course, there was the controversy about “David”.

“David” is ‘one of our few undoubted classics’, and both mountaineering literature and literature in Canada would be much leaner and thinner without such a probing and demanding poem that asks much of the reader.

We should be more than grateful for the publication of *One Muddy Hand: Selected Poems*, of Earle Birney. Many of Birney’s best and most evocative poems are in this fine selection. “David”, of course, holds a high place in *One Muddy Hand*, but so do other mountain poems by Birney. “Daybreak on Lake Opal: High Rockies” (1946/1970), “Takkakaw Falls” (1950) and “Climbers” (1950) are but three other poems in this collection that deal with Birney’s fascination and attraction to the mountains. There are even some reflections by Birney on “David” Wailan Low, in her ‘Biographical Note’, mentions that ‘As a boy in Banff, Earle came to know mountains and climbing’ (p.14), and ‘He climbed regularly with his friends’ (p.14). There is no doubt that Earle Birney, although not a technical climber, had a passion for mountains and understood, in a sensitive and poetic way, the delicate and fragile relationship between humans and mountains. Birney was no naïve romantic, and a meditative read of “David” will dispel such an attitude and approach to Nature and the hard rock ridges.

*One Muddy Hand* is well worth the purchase. Birney was a pioneer of Canadian mountain poetry and Canadian literature. He should be part of the canon of both. *One Muddy Hand* illustrates ably and amply why this is the case.



Waddington Diptych, courtesy of Grahame Quan. You can see more photos by Grahame at [www.flickr.com/photos/snowislife/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/snowislife/)

## Preserving the ‘specialness’ of the Waddington Range

by Don Serl

*Don Serl's experience and knowledge of the Waddington area is extensive. So extensive in fact that he wrote a guidebook to the area (Don Serl: The Waddington Guide. Elaho Publishing, 2003). Below are excerpts from his recent submission to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts regarding the commercial heli-ski application by Knight Inlet Heli Sports for the Waddington Range and adjacent areas.*

Heliskiing is an activity diametrically different than ski-mountaineering. In the former, money and mechanical power are applied in order to gain high objectives, which are then aggressively skied under the watchful eyes of a guide. Adrenalin is the stock-in-trade. In the latter, calories are consumed and sweat is generated to gain similar high objectives, which are then skied independently. Food, drink, and judgement are the necessities. Flitting from place to place for heliskiers simply requires the presence of the helicopter; ‘earning your turns’ puts far greater terrain limitations on the ski-mountaineer. Heliskiers return to a lodge or (in this case) base-boat after each day’s activity, leaving the wilderness behind and re-entering civilization; backcountry skiers overnight in tents or snowcaves, continually immersed in the environment in which they are recreating. Heliskiers get excitement from the rush, power, downblast,

speed, technology, and so on associated with a powerful helicopter; ski-tourers value deserted vistas, silence, companionship, and the deep satisfaction of self-generated accomplishment. Without making value judgements, it’s still easy to acknowledge that the two groups don’t mix comfortably.

It’s not just that they don’t mix temporally and by proximity. The use of the Waddington Range by heliskiers will undermine the ‘culture’ of the area, will damage its ‘spirit’. There is a purity and ‘deepness’ to self-propelled recreation which is not shared by motorized recreation, the one rooted in self-sufficiency and living in the natural world at a natural pace, the other based on technology overcoming obstacles. Both are necessities for a successful modern life, but, as with church and state, their spheres ought to be kept separate. The Waddington Range has lain within the sphere of self-propelled recreationists for the past 85 years, and this status ought to be maintained. Heliskiing, even at times and in places in which no direct contact takes place between representatives of the two groups, is anathema to this spirit and culture...

The Waddington Range is a remote, rugged region far from civilization and distant from even the most rudimentary roads. As such, access is challenging, somewhat logistically

complicated, time-consuming, and expensive. This limits recreation in the Range.

No well-documented figures are available, but my educated guess would be that two or three dozen people typically ski in the Range in the spring, and that a similar number enter the Range to climb in the summer. I was a participant in an Alpine Club of Canada ski camp based in the upper Franklyn Glacier drainage in the 1980s that hosted 20 people, but this is unusual. I also know that one year back in the late 1960s there were about 50 climbers active in the Range during a single summer, but this also is unusual.

This is very low usage, but perhaps this is one of the necessary conditions for wilderness. The region covers about 2000 square kilometres (about the same size as Yosemite National Park in California, for instance, which hosts millions of visitors per year), yet the number of people who overcome the obstacles to entry are more similar to the numbers of backcountry climbers and skiers in Kluane National Park in the Yukon, which is ten times the size. There is no danger of Waddington becoming the next Yosemite, but the erosion of wilderness values represented by heliskiing must be forestalled so that the Kluane-like elements of the region are preserved...

## Lillooet Ice

by Don Serl

Seven of us got outta town at 4 AM and into Cache Ck easily at 8 AM Breakfast at the Husky was kinda disappointing—OK food, but not greasy enuf for the start of an iceclimbing day! Maybe the Petrocan? It was cold at MC—there was a pair of ice-fisherman and only 2 other pairs of climbers present. Did I mention it was c-c-c-old?

Conditions were very different than when I was up two weeks earlier—the ice was brittle and very hard. Robert led the first tier of Icy BC, I led Waite for Spring and I probably put in 7 or 8 screws, only one of which I could get cranked right to the eye - shockingly hard ice, and a good slap in the face. So we rigged TR's...

Alan K and Coley G turned up mid-day—the TR'ing continued. The 'Left Route' was extremely thin at the bottom; the Dihedral was wild and weird midway, with a delicate column and a sorta roof feature. Deeping Wall was almost all hooking in the lower half but brittle and aerated enough that neither R nor I was into leading it. The second tier on Icy BC still looked good. The big hole on upper tier had skinned over, but the ice still looked kinda sketchy, altho' climbable on the right side, I'd reckon.

We dropped down to the Mile "O" for the nite. Crossed paths with Fern and Julie, who'd done the 2nd ascent (I think?) of Out of the Vault—nice work, ladies. Apparently there were another couple cars' worth of climbers also 'in attendance', but didn't see anyone around town.

Dina's was closed for a "family emergency", so we hit the Reynolds. Half the town was watching a house fire as we wandered by—never did hear the tale afterwards, but somebody's weekend sure got spoiled. Good burgers, and the best (only) draft in town - MGD! Edmonton deserved to beat the Flames, but didn't. Greg went to the clinic to have someone take a look at the gash he'd acquired under his eye (ice, not bar-room brawling), and they GLUED it up! Modern life...

Got the proper dose of grease the following morning. How does Tabatha get so fired up so early? Chatted with Gary and Brian, Fern and Julie. Headed up to the Rambles. Took about an hour to drive the 30km, cuz there's SOOOO much ice in, in unusual places, the 'gawk' factor was off-scale. I knew we'd be ready to head up the hill before the BCMC crew who winter-camped at the parking spot, but given the half-dozen other vehicles already at the road-side, and in admiration for the hardiness of our compatriots, we decided to carry on over to Mount Currie and to find something to do up the D'arcy road.

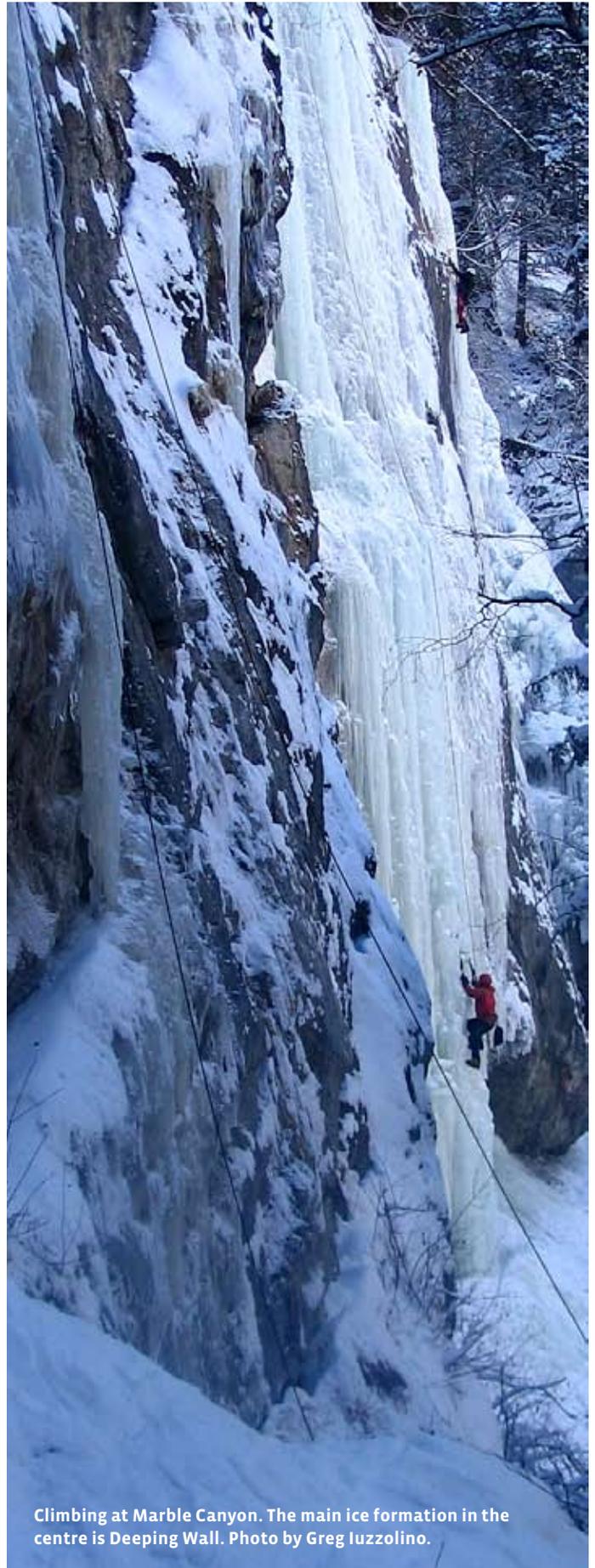
Good choice, as it turned out. Scoped as far as the Plum, then came back to the railway crossing at 7km. We'd seen what appeared to be some decent ice just to the south, but this was way too wet (and small) to be worthwhile when we got there, so we drove another 500km north and parked for what I think is Roadside Attraction. 20 mins approach. Lotsa ice, many options for lines. Pretty wet in places, but very dry in others. Had a great day, climbed 3 separate parallel lines, all 1 ½ pitches. Mostly Grade 2 to Grade 3, with maybe 8m of Grade 4 if you wanted it at the top. Lotsa old tatty rap slings around, so whatever the area is called, it sees traffic.

Easy driving back. Lynyrd Skynyrd most of the way. Stones too. Excellent halibut and chips at Sailor Hagars. Also (I'm told) one of the finest IPAs around. Not a bad "Pilsner" either, altho' it poured too fast, had too little head, and came in the wrong kind of glass to be a 'real' Pils.

What a good weekend. I hope the cold lasts...

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*Trip Participants: Afshin Ardalan, Greg Iuzzolino, Philip Ibis, Clive Mullins, Tristan Rasmussen, helper Robert Nugent, and Don Serl*



Climbing at Marble Canyon. The main ice formation in the centre is Deeping Wall. Photo by Greg Iuzzolino.

# Decker Glacier

by Lucy Reiss



Photo: Darryl Leniuk

So, you should know that I wasn't actually on this trip. The February 10th Decker Glacier tour would have been my second ACC ski trip, if it wasn't for cold and flu season. Instead, my partner Arik went without me and joined Margaret, Tony, and six others on what everyone expected would be an icy, slippery tour, possibly with breakable crust, poor visibility, and other, less than spectacular, conditions. I wasn't (initially) too devastated at having to stay home and nurse my increasingly congested condition. I first started to question my decision when I opened the blinds to see sunshine glistening off Burrard Inlet. However, when Arik finally burst through the door at 8 PM, and said "so, do you want me to tell you it was the worst day of the season, or do you want to hear the truth?", the mental flagellation began in earnest.

So, here's the story, as retold by Arik and channeled vicariously through me.

It was quite the crowd that gathered, bleary-eyed, at the church in West Van at 6:30 AM. As it turned out, a BCMC group was also heading out for an overnigher. Carpools were arranged and everyone regrouped at the second rendezvous, Guest Services at the base of Blackcomb at 8:30 AM. The mandatory equipment of skins, transceivers, shovels, and poles all had to be displayed prior to the backcountry ticket being issued. It was at this point that Steve realized his toque was not in his bag, and Arik realized his skins were missing (note from Lucy - when I found Arik's skins underneath the chair by the door, having obviously fallen out of the top of his unzipped pack, unnoticed in the dim 6 AM light, I did wonder if I'd see him earlier rather than later). Feeling more than a little foolish, Arik conferred with Margaret and Tony, quickly deciding that he would hustle over to Whistler and rent skins, then catch up with the group, correctly assessing that he would travel a fair bit faster solo than a group of eight.

The first hint that the day would surpass expectations came at

about after the group skied off the top of the Showcase t-bar, traversed across Blackcomb Glacier, and climbed up to East Col between Blackcomb Peak and The Spearhead. Everyone was amazed to find ten centimeters of fresh snow glistening in the sunshine. Apparently the disillusionment with conditions was widespread (perhaps thanks in part to Environment Canada's weather forecast), as there was scarcely another track to be seen.

The first run of the day heard the first of many whoops of glee and excitement. Echoes of "yee-haw, whoo-hoo," and other unintelligible sounds associated with freshies and bent-knee-induced face-shots resounded off the mountains.

A low spot which in the summer may have been a dried-up swamp functioned as the natural end of the first run, and initiated a climb up the west flank of Decker Mountain. The chosen route through an extensive rock garden unfortunately resulted in one scraped chin on the way down, but luckily no serious injuries. Back to the swamp again, and up the other side of the glacier for lunch.

The third run was uneventful, and pre-empted the longest climb of the trip up the north flank of Decker Mountain. The climb was definitely worth it though, both for the 1100' of vertical that rewarded the effort, and the smugness of skiing from the same place as a heli-skiing party, at a tiny fraction of the cost.

The day ended with a traverse over to the base of Seventh Heaven chair and a thigh-burner of a run down Sunset Boulevard cat track, and back to the cars.

Margaret and Tony's local knowledge was greatly appreciated, and all in all, the trip exceeded expectations on many counts. I wish I could have been there.

.....  
 Participants: Margaret Hanson (Lead IC), Tony Knight (2 IC), Todd Kabaluk, Brad Badelt, Steve Burgess, Lance Mitamura, Darryl Leniuk, Martin Siegert, Arik Clayton (co-reporter)



Tony Knight's photos  
[www.flickr.com/photos/phantmarmot/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/phantmarmot/sets/)

Trip schedule – Please see [www.accvancouver.ca](http://www.accvancouver.ca) for the latest updates

Date	Trip Description	Grade	Contact	Phone / email
<b>MARCH</b>				
10-11	Mount Duke (joint BCMC ski trip)	B3	Helen Habgood	604-357-3094
17-18	Cayoosh	B3	Tony Knight	604-873-2276
24-25	Phelix Creek hut and ridges (ski)	C2	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
24-25	Roe Creek to Mt. Fee (ski)	B3	Bryce Leigh	604-905-0080
29	Evening Leadership Workshop		Sue Baldwin	604-732-4562
<b>APRIL</b>				
21-29	Goddard Glacier Camp		Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
<b>MAY</b>				
19-21	Spearhead Traverse	C3	Grant McCormack	604-535-7501
<b>JUNE – JULY</b>				
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](http://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

