



Avalanche Echoes

Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section News



*On the approach to Mt. Logan.
Photo by Linda Bily*

Next Meeting

Tuesday November 22nd. at 7:00 p.m.

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

Annual General Meeting and Pot-luck

Please bring an appie, light meal or dessert.

Slide Show: "Climbing on Mount Logan with Rescue at 18,000 ft." by Linda Bily.

Linda will share her experience on Mount Logan in May 2005, weathering a severe storm at 5500 metres, and the rescue of three North Shore Rescue team members on summit plateau.



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

EDITOR:

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gerard.cheong@shaw.ca

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: alclub@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.

Alpine Club Executive

Chair	Tony Knight	604-873-2276
Secretary	Rand Chaterjee	
Treasurer	Rob Brusse	604-224-0747
Membership (Voice mail)	vacant	604-878-5272
Editor	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

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
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 accvanem@telus.net	604-738-4583

Announcements

Urgent Appeal for Funding and Camping Gear

Alpine Club of Pakistan President Nazir Sabir has made an urgent appeal for funding and camping gear (sleeping bags, blankets, tents, etc.) to help in the shelter up to 3 million people left homeless from the recent devastating earthquake. The quickest way you can offer aid right now would be to donate through Canadian emergency relief agencies and direct your donations to the earthquake relief effort in Pakistan. Agencies such as the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders will accept donations on-line and issue tax receipts. The Vancouver Section is also looking into how we could help through the collection of surplus camping gear. If you have any items that could be donated, please contact Tony at 604-873-2276.

“The Ways to the Sky”

A Multimedia Mountaineering History Show by Andy Selters

This state-of-the-art digital production with historical mountaineering images from the 1870's to the present day, celebrates the spirit of mountaineering, from the explorers like John Muir and Conrad Kain through the tales of Fred Beckey to the modern über-climbers.

Thursday November 24, 2005, 7:30 PM

Location: Anza Club

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. Available at Mountain Equipment Co-op (Broadway store), or the next ACC Section Social Nov. 22, or call 604-878-5272, or e-mail accvanem@telus.net.

Letter from the Chair

By Tony Knight

Tuesday evening social and slide show, November 22, will begin with the Section's Annual General Meeting. Note we start the evening sharp at 7:00 PM with a pot-luck and the formal meeting. Please bring an appie, light meal or desert. Following the meeting, we have an exciting slide show lined up with Linda Bily showing pictures about the rescue on Mt. Logan this spring.

The Vancouver Section is still looking for keen members to fill Executive and committee positions. Richard Keltie, heading our nominating committee, has been busy rounding up some new faces, but we are still seeking people for Executive positions such as Centennial Camps Coordinator, Access & Environment, and Echoes Co-Editor.

We also are looking for help with committees such as the phoning for the trip schedule. This year it has been a real challenge to fill up our trip schedule with an interesting variety of trips. If you're interested in organizing any day or weekend outings, ski trips, climbs, etc., contact our climbing/ trips schedule coordinators - Mike Thompson and Ian McGillivray, who both are expected to stay on for another year to organize it.

If you've wondered about how to organize a trip and want to learn more, we hope to have several one-day "Leader Workshops". The first took place Nov 3 and weekend of Nov 5-6, by Colin Boyd. This workshop is intended as an introduction for ACC members wanting to lead their first trip or a refresher for others. Thanks go to Colin for organizing the first one this month. We hope to offer a similar workshop again, perhaps in the spring.

Also a farewell to Helen Habgood. After many years of service, Helen has decided to step down from being the co-editor of our Avalanche Echoes newsletter. Helen has plans to get involved with Lions Bay Search and Rescue. We will miss you Helen, but hope to see you on some trips. Many thanks for your help!

Gerard Cheong will be carrying on as your Echoes editor for now, but having a second person really helps to spread the workload. If you're interested in helping with the editing of our newsletter each month, please contact us.

This coming year also marks the first Centennial year for the Alpine Club of Canada. Founded in Winnipeg back in 1906, the ACC has grown into a national organization with nearly 6000 members and 19 regional sections. The ACC has plans for a number of exciting centennial events at the National and Section levels across the country.

The Vancouver Section is planning a couple Centennial events. A Centennial camp is being organized for the Tantalus Lake Lovelywater cabin in the first week of August next summer. This will be open to members from all ACC sections across Canada. For more details, see our website, under "Activities - Camps".

2006 will also see the official completion and opening of the Haberl Hut, which was erected this year at the Tantalus-Dionne col. At the September social, Alastair Foreman brought us up to date with pictures of the hut construction over the summer. Early next spring, the interior finishing is expected to be finished, and then the hut will be dedicated and open for business.

Once again, if you would like to help in any Executive positions, committees or special events, please contact Richard Keltie at 604-738-4583 or myself at 604-873-2276.

Section Camps

Vancouver Section Campbell Icefields Ski Week.

Enjoy a luxurious week at the Campbell Icefield Chalet, with catered meals included. Access will be fly-in and out. March 26-April 1, 2006.

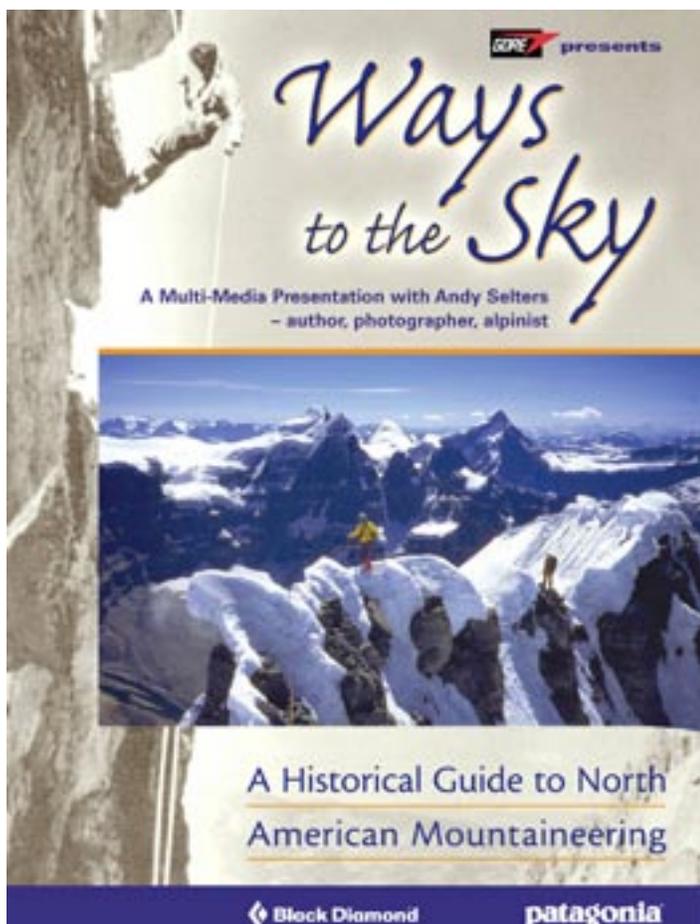
Cost: to be announced.

For more details, e-mail Jay Straith at jstraith@direct.ca

Misc Gear for Sale

Used Ski Gear for Sale

AT skis/ bindings: Atomic Tour Cap Light 170cm w/ Diamir bindings. 7 yr old. \$80. Skins \$20. AT boots: Nordica TR12, Mondo 25.0-25.5, \$50. Waxing iron - \$5.
Call Tony 604-873-2276.





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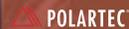
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VANCOUVER SHOWTIMES:
DEC 1, 2, & 3, 2005

**New Film Lineup
Every Night!**

Avalanche Echoes 4



The Ridge Theatre, 3131 Arbutus St. (at 16th Ave.)

Festival Doors at 7PM, Screening at 8PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

• **Mountain Equipment Co-op**

130 W. Broadway, Vancouver

1341 Main St., North Vancouver

• **ROI Warehouse Sale (Nov. 19, 20)**

3058 Beta Ave., Burnaby

• **By Phone: (604) 623-FILM**

www.bmffvancouver.ca

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Trip Report

The 2005 North Face Summer Leadersip Course

By Margaret Hanson

The 2005 North Face Summer Leadership course was held during the last week of the ACC General Mountaineering Camp, located at Houston Lake in the Moby Dick group in the South Selkirks. We flew in to the site of the GMC on Saturday, August 6 and I got to meet my fellow course participants, the other people up for the GMC, the hordes of ground squirrels made fat and bold by the previous 4 weeks of the GMC and the legions of horseflies that claimed the territory around the lake as their own. On the bright side, there were almost no mosquitoes or blackflies. The camp location was stunningly beautiful, right beside Houston Lake in a narrow valley with climbable peaks on either side.

There were 10 of us on the course, from ACC sections as far east as Ottawa and as flat as Winnipeg. There was a mix of men and women with ages ranging from the early twenties to the fifties and sizes ranging from sub-compact (me) to the "twin towers" (Joe from Victoria and Tim from Saskabush). Our more than capable instructors were ACMG guides Cyril Shokoples and Helen Sovdat and ACC amateur leader Maston Brolsma (also known as purple pants). Our program alternated instructional days with mountaineering days, where we got to put the previous day's lesson into practice.

Sunday started with a review of anchor building, placing pitons and lowering. Some of it was familiar ground, but I learned some useful new tricks, including a great knot (the monster munter) for lowering people who are heavier than me (practically everyone) and a far more foolproof method for belaying a rappel than the standard one of hanging on to both ends of the rope.



Ascending steep snow near the summit of Moby Dick.
Photo by Margaret Hanson



ACC General Mountaineering Camp, at Houston Lake.
Photo by Margaret Hanson

We spent most of Sunday afternoon practicing short-roping. My short-roping experience was pretty minimal and I'd previously heard it described as "soloing with a dangerous object attached to you". I thought this was a pretty good definition, but guides are very attached to short-roping, and describing it like this tends to hurt their feelings. I was pleasantly surprised to find out how effective it could be, even when I was short-roping someone substantially bigger than me (again, practically everyone). I don't think I'd ever lead a trip with the intention of short-roping someone, but it would be very useful technique if someone was tired or injured, or having unexpected difficulty crossing a short section of more difficult terrain. On Monday we put the previous days short-roping lesson into practice with a traverse on primarily 3rd class terrain, with a short section of low 5th on the way up and some lowering and downclimbing through a small dustbowl on the way down.

Tuesday was our ice and snow instruction day where we got an introduction to summer glacier ice climbing (wet, wet, wet) and learned such useful tips as blowing the water out of an abolakov hole with an ice screw. This is twice as much fun if you can get your climbing partner to look closely at the opposite hole while you're doing it. Later in the day we reviewed self-arrest and snow anchors. We got a demonstration of the amazing holding power of a rock buried in the snow with a piece of cord around it and learned a new description for flukes/deadmen: "If it works it's a fluke and if it doesn't you're a dead man". Pickets were mentioned in passing as "not very useful except in places like the coast". Yes, the course tends to be bit rockies-centric.

On Wednesday, we climbed Moby Dick, using a route that included a glacier approach, a bergschrund and some steep snow. On the way back, we practiced short-roping on the bare ice on the lower part of the glacier, something which truly gave me the heebie-jeebies. This was our worst weather day of the week, with rain threatening all day but never materializing beyond the odd sprinkle. It was actually a blessing in disguise, because it kept the snow from getting too soft and shmooey.

Continued on page 7

Gallery



*Glacier Travel, Mt. Logan
Photo by Linda Bily*



*Semaphore Lakes/Locomotive/Face Mtns. Sept 24-25, 2005.
Photo by Tony Knight*

Trip Reports(cont.)

The 2005 North Face Summer Leadership Course

Continued from page 5

Thursday was a camp day with some classroom (or classtent) sessions and rock/crevasse rescue practice. Friday was our "graduation day" where we split into 3 small groups and guided our instructors up one of the local peaks. I was paired up with Tim and Tim and we were assigned to arduous task of guiding Cyril up Forecastle. We talked about changing our names to something less confusing, like Bruce, Bruce & Bruce. The route included some technical climbing (slabby mid-5th in mountaineering boots), but the main objective hazard was the wasp zone in the bit of forested meadows on the approach (and descent). Just in case you ever wondered, wasps can sting you right through your bra. Needless to say, Cyril was a hard client to impress and even though we got Cyril through the wasp zone without getting stung, he didn't tip us :-)

All too soon, Saturday came and so did the helicopter to take us back to the outside world again. It was an awesome week and I learned a lot, both from the guides and my fellow course participants. I'd highly recommend this course to anyone with some technical mountaineering experience who wants to improve their leadership skills and take a more active role in leading mountaineering trips. Thanks to the North Face for sponsoring this, to the Vancouver Section for endorsing my application and to our instructors: Cyril, Helen and Maston



*On the summit of Forecastle with Moby Dick in the background.
Photo by Margaret Hanson*



*Glacier Ice Climbing on the 2005 North Face Summer Leadership Course
Photo by Margaret Hanson*

Alpine Club Trip Schedule

Date	Trip Description	Grade	Name	Phone
December				
Dec. 3	Mt. Seymour	A2	Rob Brusse	604-732-7730
Dec 4	Mt. Baker	B2/3	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
Dec 7	Mt. Seymour	B2	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Dec 8	Ski Tune-up Workshop		Colin Boyd	604-879-3473
Dec 10	Brohm Ridge	B2	Jane Weller	604-988-3618
Dec 14	Mt. Seymour	B2	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Dec 16-20	Rogers Pass	B3	Ilze Rupners	604-222-3720
Dec 18	Fat Dog Creek	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
Dec 27-30	Elfin Lakes	B2	Melinda Straight	604-980-9921
January				
Jan 7	Needle Peak	B3	Jane Weller	604-988-3618
Jan 14-15	Steep Creek	B3	Mike Thompson	604-534-8863
Jan 15	Needle Peak	B3	Carol McMillian	604-879-2947
Jan 15	Diamond Head	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
Jan 18	Mt. Seymour	B2	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Jan 21-22	Leader's Choice (Ice Climb)	A5	Don Serl	604-872-4244
Jan 25	Mt. Seymour	B2	Gary Shorthouse	604-789-9913
Jan 28	Mt Baker Area	B2	Mike Koolen	604-576-9767
February				
Feb 4	Zoa Peak	B2	Maria Gunkel	604-985-3041
Feb 4-5	Lillooet Ice Climbing	A5	Graham Rowbotham	604-876-9279
Feb 11	Pamorama Ridge	C3	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
Feb 12	Diamond Head	B2	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
Feb 18-19	Mt. Cayoosh	B2	Jay Macarthur	604-987-1232
Feb 19	Hollyburn Mtn	A2	Melinda Straight	604-980-9921
Feb 25-26	Phelix Creek	B3	Klaus Haring	604-984-4036
March				
Mar 11	Leader's Choice	B2-C3	Ilsa Rupners	604-222-3720
Mar 12	Diamond Creek	B2	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583

It's easy to organize a trip.

For more details, please contact:

Mike Thompson at 604-534-8863 or Ian McGillivray at 604-988-3618



Return undeliverable Canadian address to:

The Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section,
c/o Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
P.O. Box 19673, Vancouver, BC V5T 4E3

The Alpine Club Of Canada

Vancouver Section Trip Schedule Fall/Winter 2005-06

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.

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.

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vanacctrips@hotmail.com