

Alpine Club of Canada • Vancouver Section News

November - December 2010

AVALANCHE ECHOES



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
POTLUCK & PHOTO CONTEST
AWARDS**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
7:30 PM**

**BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL -
WORLD TOUR VANCOUVER 2010**

DECEMBER 2ND, 3RD & 4TH, 2010

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD** • FLORAL HALL, VAN DUSEN GARDENS, WEST 37TH AND OAK, VANCOUVER



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
info@accvancouver.ca

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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
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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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committees + special projects

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Richard Keltie 604 738 4583

Tony Knight, Kayla Stevenson

"I suggest going out to the nearest pub and getting completely, and utterly, wasted. Make sure you smoke at least 1 pack of unfiltered Camel's. Get the full ashtray, pour a drink in it and then pour the mixture into a water bottle.

When you get home (ideally around 3:30am) stick the vile mixture into your freezer. Put on your best goretex and thermal layer. Climb in. At 5:30am, get out, drink (chew?) the mixture and go run the biggest flight of stairs you can find. Run until your heart threatens to explode.

Your dehydration caused by the alcohol should adequately simulate what you may experience at higher altitudes. Your lung capacity should be sufficiently impaired by the smokes to simulate a oxygen poor environment. The freezer episode should adequately replicate a bivy. Drinking the booze/butt mixture should simulate your lack of appetite.....

Oh — once your finished your workout, go to work (to replicate the long walk out)." — Greg Hamilton suggesting an altitude training methodology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Vancouver 2010

Ignite your passion for adventure, action, and travel! The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate you with amazing big-screen stories when it comes to the Hollywood Theatre in Vancouver on December 2nd & 3rd, 2010 and the Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver on December 4th. Journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks. Be taken away to the most captivating places on earth.

The BMFF World Tour Vancouver is extremely popular and will be sure to sell out early this year. Tickets available will be available at the November Monthly Social for \$15 (cash only). Check the ACC website for details on how you can help out with posterage (short routes in your neighbourhood) and publicity (contacting local media with basic info).

Tickets are on sale now!

How and where to buy your tickets:

* Online via PayPal, \$18 per ticket, tickets available at the Will Call Table at the venue on presentation of email payment confirmation

* At the Mountain Equipment Co-op stores in Vancouver & North Vancouver, \$15 per ticket

* Through the Centennial Theatre, online or at the box office for the Dec 4th show only, \$18 per ticket, cash or credit card

* At the Hollywood Theatre box office or at the door, \$15 per ticket, cash only

* From any ACC Executive member, \$15 per ticket, cash only.

Check www.accvancouver.ca for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Mountaineering Gear and Skills Fest – January 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.

Guinea Pigs Wanted

The Environmental Physiology Laboratory at the University of British Columbia is looking for volunteers to participate in ongoing research into the physiology of altitude exposure. Volunteers are needed who do or do not have experience at altitude. By participating in this research you may gain insight into your own body's response to altitude. If you are interested in this research please contact Eric Carter at (604) 992-2535 or visit www.environmentalphysiology.ca. Volunteers who have previously experienced high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) are in high demand and are encouraged to contact Eric.

Help Nadine In Her Climb To Raise Funds For At-Risk Youth in BC

Vancouver Section member Nadine Ebner is embarking on a climb to Pico de Orizaba (January 2011) to raise funds for Power To Be, a charitable organization that provides outdoor education programs that enrich the health and quality of life for kids with disabilities and 'at risk' youth in British Columbia. To learn more about this award-winning charity please go to www.powertobe.ca

Please help Nadine and support this great cause with an online donation at www.climbforchange.com/mexico2011. Every cent counts and all funds go straight to the programs of Power To Be. A tax receipt will be issued (Charity BN: 861269959RR0001)

If you have any questions please contact Nadine at nadine.ebner@gmail.com or 604 782 3779 (cell).

Thank you! Nadine.



Nadine hiking the Ptarmigan Ridge, WA
Photo by Iwona Erskine-Kellie



From the film *Life Cycles*



THE ASGARD
PROJECT

Best Film on Climbing, sponsored by
the Canadian Alpine Club

UPCOMING SOCIALS

23 NOVEMBER 2010

Annual General Meeting, Potluck & Photo Contest Awards

- Potluck: 6:00-6:30 PM
- Announcements: 7:30 PM
- Annual General Meeting: 7:40-8:20 PM
- Photo contest awards: 8:20-9:30 PM

As we've done for a number of years, this year's November Social will be a triple header featuring a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30, an acknowledgement of volunteers who made significant contributions to the section and an adjudicated photo contest. Please bring some food to share: appetizers, salads, and light main courses (this is a green event please bring plates & utensils as well). The Section will supply cakes, desserts, juice, coffee, tea and excellent libations. At 7:30 we'll have a brief outline of news and general announcements. After the announcements we'll acknowledge some of those who have made significant contributions to the section during the past year. After that, and before 8:00 pm, we'll start the AGM. Executive members will give reports on their areas of responsibility. Liz Scremin has again agreed to moderate the nominations and elections portion of the evening. After we've disposed of our constitutional requirements we can sit back and enjoy Simon Hayter's photo contest presentation.

From the Chair, the year 2010 in Review

The year seems to have passed by in a bit of a blur; I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the more notable developments that occurred in the year.

Banff Mountain Film Festival 2009

The Section hosted our second very successful and almost completely sold out series of shows last December. The funds raised enabled us to support initiatives (North Shore Rescue, TLC - Skaha Bluffs) close to our community, facilitate member participation in activities through acquisition of gear and underwriting the rental of gear for new members wishing to take part in our Basic Mountaineering program. In addition, a significant portion of the net proceeds of this fundraiser go towards supporting our share of FMC operating costs. The success of our second Festival energized a number of section members to volunteer for our third hosting, scheduled for the Dec 2-3-4.

New Newsletter Editors found, Survey conducted and Echoes again up and running

We started the year without a Newsletter Editor and after some searching Brad Badelt and Iwona Erskine-Kellie stepped up to the plate. Under Brad's direction and with Kayla's facility with Constant Contact we were quickly able to solicit and assess member input regarding the Echoes. Since then Brad and Iwona have worked hard to implement a number of the survey suggestions and again meet member expectations for the Echoes.

Basic 1 Mountaineering Course Applicants required to coordinate an event as a condition of admission

We ran our third consecutive Basic 1 course this year. Demand for the course was so strong this year that we felt it appropriate to make it an admission requirement that applicants coordinate a section trip during the summer following the course. The initiative met with strong approval from our executive, course leaders, participants and interested section members and resulted in at least 20 much-needed trips being posted to our Calendar. In addition to Basic 1, we again offered an Assistant Leader Program, Sport Climbing Basics, Top Roping and Trad Basics. Martin Siegert and Cam Miller coordinated these courses.

iCal Building on Success

Our Interactive Calendar (iCal) has been live since 1 July 2009. With a year's experience it appears that the program is delivering all that was expected of it and more. Partly as a result of the initiatives mentioned above and partly due to more qualified leaders and ease of use, the number of posted trips in July (24) and August (24) was almost double the number posted in the same months last year. This trend to more trips being posted continues into this fall. To date almost half of the section membership have registered to use the iCal system and signed on for at least one event and 125 members are authorized to coordinate events. Another significant benefit of the iCal system is that through the Student Outdoor Club agreement VOC members (who are included in our data base) can view, register and coordinate iCal trips the same way section members can.

Spearhead Huts committee progress

After a couple of years of tough slogging, the Spearhead Huts committee made some significant breakthroughs. BC Parks found the proposal to be consistent with the Garibaldi Parks Master Plan. Good news. The committee is working closely with several significant stakeholders including BC Parks and local First Nations representatives to ensure that the proposal is consistent with their expectations and plans. A number of section members (Liz Scremin and Colin Boyd chief among them but Manrico also made significant contributions) are involved in this effort. Check out the full article in this issue of Echoes for more details.

Members' 10% Discount night at MEC

We have had two discount nights and by the

time of our AGM will have had a third. These events have provided a significant benefit to our participating members, as well as to the section. Because registration through iCal is required, the program has provided members with motivation to become familiar with iCal.

Section Membership fees reduced by \$10

Effective January 1st 2010 we reduced our membership fees to only \$41 (single, regular digital newsletter membership) This \$10 reduction in Section fees was made possible through the executives' decision to allocate a portion of the Banff Mountain Film Festival proceeds to this purpose. Membership in the early months of 2010 increased dramatically as a result of this initiative. In the past year the Vancouver Section accounted for more than half of the increase in membership of the Alpine Club across the entire country.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of two individuals who will each be leaving this year after having served on the executive for several years. Susan Higginbottom has for the past four years organized our slideshows and social events. The presentations she has chosen have been stimulating, informative, and entertaining. She has made our meetings, events that large numbers of members value, show up for and enjoy. Antje Wahl has toiled valiantly and with little support in the dense garden of FMC policies and practices, she has been on the sharp end of the spear when the message our section wanted conveyed to the Federation was not either easy to deliver or to make understood. She has worked hard (along with other Section members who are strongly committed to the FMC such as Kayla Stevenson and Richard Keltie) to make the Fed a more effective and efficient instrument of the clubs' collective wishes and more responsive to their input. Thanks to each of you very much.

All in all, it's been a busy year for the section: we've consolidated and built on some areas of improvement, met new challenges and increased the number of members both belonging to the section and actively participating in its offerings. Most of this has been accomplished through the generous contributions by our many volunteers of their time and talents. It's been a great honour and pleasure to work with them all, thanks for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted

Rob Brusse Chair - Vancouver Section Alpine Club of Canada

MOUNT JOHN CLARKE CELEBRATION

August 28-29, 2010

A celebration and climb of the newly named Mount John Clarke was made on August 28-29, 2010; this was a weekend-long celebration to recognize the renaming of this peak in Squamish Nation territory. The work to get the peak officially named for John was done by Glenn Woodsworth, John Baldwin and me. However, without the strong endorsement by Chief Bill Williams of the Squamish First Nation this likely would not have happened. Chief Bill hosted the celebration and asked Aaron Nelson Moody, also of the Squamish Nation, to conduct the naming ceremony. This took place on the banks of Sims Creek, at the base of the giant cedar where John's ashes lie.

John's trail ascends through ancient forest to Bug Lake in the sub-alpine, and the route continues along the ridge to the glaciated, rocky summit of Mount John Clarke at 7566 feet. Since John's death in 2003 Dwayne Himmelsbach has single-handedly maintained the trail and it is an impressive route. Fifteen of the approximately 50 participants in the ceremony beside Sims Creek left the river at about 3PM. Official leader Sandy Briggs, and unofficial leader John Baldwin led from the back and front of the keen bunch, respectively. The trail climbs very steeply through old growth forest with stately giant Douglas Fir, Red and Yellow Cedar and a mossy, relatively clear understory. It is about two-and-a-half hours of unrelenting elevation gain to reach Bug Lake. We continued climbing and by 7:30 PM three separate camps were strewn at various levels on the ridge above Bug Lake. It was clear and crisp and the views of Sims Creek and Mt Tinniswood to the North were stunning. Last to arrive was Jeremy Williams and Karin Burnikell. Jeremy was filming the ceremony and ascent and he and Karin were lugging 50 pounds of video gear, including a heavy camera and tripod.

Sunday morning dawned clear and the various groups coalesced at the top of the ridge and then divided again into a directissimo and ridge group. There is about a 200 foot descent between the ridge and the main summit massif. Some folks, following Dwayne and Sandy, went directly toward the peak by donning crampons and crossing steep frozen snow slopes to gain the summit ridge, while others, led by John Baldwin, went south and west to the top of the ridge and descended to reach less steeply-angled snow slopes. We were all soon on the peak and writing notes to put in the summit register that Lisa had made out of black ABS pipe. Jeremy set up his camera to register our arrival on the peak and then did reflections of participants to capture their reflections on the significance of the naming of John's peak. The clouds scudded by enveloping us periodically and then parting to reveal the striking slabby ridges to the south and north. The windows of visibility allowed one of John Clarke's favorite activities, the spotting of distant peaks; John Baldwin won!

Around 1.30 PM we reluctantly left this magic spot for the grueling 7,000 foot descent. Chased by a few showers of rain and hail, all were back on the logging road by 6:30 PM - 14,000 feet of elevation change in 27.5 hours! Need I tell you that some had sore quads for days later?

We weren't the first to climb Mt John Clarke. There was a note in the cairn and we met another party descending from the peak. It is likely that the peak will see increased activity. Despite the longish drive to the trailhead, the access to tree line is remarkably rapid on Dwayne's excellent trail and there is the opportunity to traverse across the peak to descend into Princess Louisa Inlet via Loquilts Lake and Chatterbox Falls. Another horseshoe-traverse is also



possible, around the headwaters of Outrigger Creek. Outrigger Peak and ridge can be gained via a logging road up Wingate Creek south west of Outrigger Creek. Mt John Clarke can also be the jumping off point for a trip to Mount Tinniswood, or the starting point for the Stoltmann traverse to Meager Creek.

John Clarke would have loved the weekend. Sims Creek and surrounds was one of his favorite areas and in his later conservation years he frequently took parties up through the old growth and into the alpine. As he once said when he emerged from the trees and gazed north, "Ahhhh, my Coast Range!"

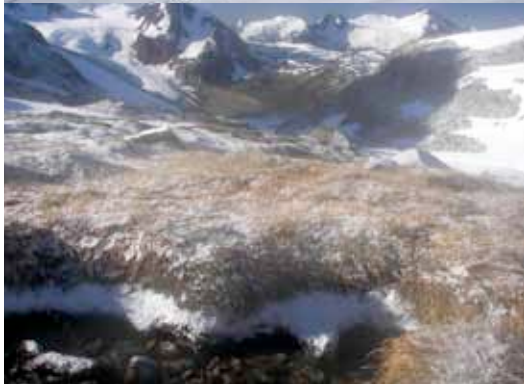
Participants were Marg and Brian Ellis, John Baldwin, Linda Bily, Sandy Briggs, Lisa Baile, Dwayne Himmelsbach, Mark Milner, Jeremy Williams, Karin Burnikell, Bridget McClarty, Peter Wood, Marina Dodis, Dave Robertson and Peter Paré (reporter)

By Lisa Baile



SPEARHEAD HUTS

PROPOSAL UPDATE



In late 2008, at the suggestion of section member Matt Gunn, we became involved in informal discussions with two memorial groups (Brett Carlson Memorial Foundation as well as the Kees and Claire Memorial Hut Society) and two other local mountaineering clubs (ACC Whistler and BCMC), along with a few interested individuals, on the feasibility of collectively building a “chain of huts” in the Spearhead range. The consistency of views and enthusiasm for the project was palpable to all present at our first meeting as a group. The apprehension that the timing for such a project might never be better encouraged us to meet on a more regular basis and form a coalition calling ourselves the Spearhead Huts Committee (SHC). Our efforts were dedicated to defining and reaching agreement on a common vision for “a system of huts in the Spearhead and Fitzsimmons ranges”, and transforming that vision into reality.

Many members in each of our participating clubs have a long and intimate association with the Spearhead-Fitzsimmons area. In 1968 the BCMC erected the Himmelsbach Hut in Singing Pass. Mt Trorey is named after one of the founding members of the BCMC, JJ Trorey. Until 1986 the Vancouver Section had a club cabin at Whistler. Our club members have long recognized the unique and remarkable nature of this mountain range with its complex glaciers, ragged peaks, vast alpine bowls and meadows. We and countless other backcountry enthusiasts have been drawn to this area, and often enjoyed traversing its terrain,

routes and trails for their recreational, educational, scientific and spiritual offerings. Because of its proximity to services as well as its ease of access, the Spearhead Traverse has become known as a classic destination for ski-touring. The area also features numerous outstanding hiking, scrambling and climbing opportunities in summer and has the potential for many more interesting and useful trails.

The roughly 40-kilometre horseshoe shape of the Spearhead-Fitzsimmons range, its string of high elevation, easily traversed glaciers and snow fields connected by relatively simple ridges and shallow cols, makes the Spearhead an obvious and ideal destination for summer and winter multi-day traverses by parties of moderately experienced backcountry enthusiasts. Most of our members are in that category. The hut system will allow winter and summer backcountry travellers to experience this remarkable environment relatively unencumbered by equipment and heavy packs. Heavy weather is a reality of travel in the Coast Ranges, especially in winter. The hut system will allow enthusiasts to remain in a safe and relatively comfortable environment in the event of adverse conditions thereby extending the conditions and seasons in which activities can occur. The hut system will reduce the impact of human visitation on area flora and fauna by substituting hut accommodation and sustainable waste management practices for the environmental damage caused by unrestricted and unmonitored construc-





tion of tent sites and uncontrolled human waste. Finally, the hut system will broaden the visitor base to include both younger and older enthusiasts, as well as those with less experience.

As presently conceived the system will consist of a number of huts, which will provide summer and winter accommodation with heat, water, toilets and self-serve cooking facilities. Their capacity may vary between 10-30 people depending upon location. They will be accessed either by hiking or skiing, using existing routes and trails or newly developed trail systems. It is anticipated that helicopters will be used to ferry in supplies and maintenance materials as well as to evacuate wastes. The SHC has developed a set of site criteria and an evaluation framework and formed a sub-committee to investigate and report back on possible hut sites.

In March of 2010, after nearly a year of regular meetings, representatives of the five founding organizations signed an agreement describing their "goals and shared vision". Under the terms of the agreement we will work together as a committee of the Whistler Section of the Alpine Club of Canada. The primary goal is to build a sustainable system of huts. While it is intended that all major decisions be made on the basis of consensus, each organization will have a vote on the committee. The committee will be chaired by Jayson Faulkner of the Whistler Section. Fundraising efforts will be coordinated by the SHC and members will make their best efforts on behalf of the

group's goals. The huts will be operated by the Whistler Section of the Alpine Club of Canada. Park Use Permits and leases will be the responsibility of the Whistler Section, along booking arrangements, collecting user fees and all ongoing maintenance costs.

Because the proposed huts lie within Garibaldi Provincial Park, the SHC has, from an early stage, involved and consulted with BC Parks in the development of the Spearhead Hut System Concept Plan (SHSCP). At our regular June meeting we were informed by Garibaldi Park administrators that BC Parks' regional supervisor found the SHSCP consistent with the existing Garibaldi Park Master Plan. As a result, the SHC will continue to work closely with BC Parks (Garibaldi) as the approved concept evolves into a practical plan for a series of specific huts situated at particular locations. Because the huts also lie within the traditional territory of the Squamish and Lillooet First Nations, representatives of the SHC will consult with the elders of this significant community of stakeholders. And finally, because the proposal may affect the interests of Whistler/Blackcomb, an important and powerful area stakeholder, the SHC maintains open channels of communication and cooperation.

The Vancouver Section executive has approved our participation in this project and has buttressed that strong support with initial funds (matching that of each partici-

pating group) for start up costs. Besides the benefits available to all hut users as outlined above, section members will additionally benefit from preferred member rates when staying at the huts. The Committee has also agreed to pursue the notion of preferred day use rates for members of coalition member groups when buying day passes for backcountry excursions from WB in exchange for any benefits this project may bring to WB.

Advancing the SHSCP from concept through the various stages of development of practical plans for specific huts at particular sites, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, acquiring materials and preliminary construction, through to transport and hut placement will be a multi-year process. This is not a done deal. There is still much work to be done and a number of significant challenges to be met. We intend to share with you and other interested parties our progress as we move towards our goal. Much of this information and reporting (as well as fundraising and volunteer coordination) will be accomplished through a website currently being established (name to follow).

We ask for your assistance and support and hope that some of you will volunteer your time and expertise to help us move this project from vision to reality. If you have observations, concerns or questions regarding this project we want to hear them, please forward to rbrusse1@telus.net.

Rob Brusse Chair – Vancouver Section Alpine Club of Canada

UPCOMING COURSES & CAMPS

Introduction to Backcountry Skiing – Nov. 25, 2010

Come to a free introductory lecture hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada and Mountain Equipment Co-op that explains the 5 Ws:

- Why go backcountry ski-touring or ski-mountaineering
- What to bring
- Where to find the best snow
- When to go to different places
- Who to go with
- How to do it safely!

Jay MacArthur has been active in the Alpine Club of Canada for over 30 years. He will show images of some of his favorite places and demonstrate the use of the equipment that he takes.

Place: Mountain Equipment Coop, 130 West Broadway, Vancouver

Time: 7 pm

If you come to the lecture, you are welcome to join other interested people on an introductory trip to Cypress or Garibaldi Provincial Park when there is snow.

Contact Jay MacArthur at jaymac@telus.net

McGillivray Pass Lodge ACC Vancouver Ski Camp - March 12-19, 2011

Event Type: Skiing

Event Location: McGillivray Pass Lodge (just north of Pemberton), South Chilcotin Mountains

Date(s) & Time: Mar. 12-19, 2011

Event Duration: Avg. 6-8 hours per day

Difficulty Rating: D3: Difficult

Event Leader(s): Lynn Erickson (6042244883 - Home)

Member Cost: \$1,850.00/Person

Cost includes lodging at McGillivray Pass Lodge, fully catered food, helicopter in and out, 2 certified guides, plus instruction (avalanche and ski mountaineering oriented).



UPCOMING TRIPS & SOCIALS

Tue, Nov 23 2010 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike

Tue, Nov 23 2010 - Meeting - Annual General Meeting, Potluck & Photo Contest Awards

Thu, Nov 25 2010 - Training - Introduction to Backcountry Skiing

Tue, Nov 30 2010 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike

Thu, Dec 2 2010 - Social - Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Hollywood Theatre

Fri, Dec 3 2010 - Social - Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Hollywood Theatre

Sat, Dec 4 2010 - Scramble - Inkawthia Pk.

Sat, Dec 4 2010 - Social - Banff Mountain Film Festival- World Tour Centennial Theatre

Tue, Dec 7 2010 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike

Sat, Dec 11 2010 - Skiing - Avalanche Safety Training (AST) - 1

Tue, Dec 14 2010 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike

Tue, Dec 21 2010 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike

Tue, Dec 28 2010 - Hike - Grouse Trails Hike

Sat, Jan 29 2011 - Snowshoeing - Duffey Pk.

Sat, Feb 5 2011 - Skiing - Avalanche Safety Training (AST) - 2

Tue, Feb 22 2011 - Training - BM 1 (2011) Facilitators Organizational Session

Sat, Mar 12-19 2011 - Skiing - McGillivray Pass Lodge ACC Vancouver Ski Camp



Return undeliverable Canadian address to:
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