

AVALANCHE ECHOES

Next Meeting: **Tuesday October 23rd at 7:30 p.m.**

FLORAL HALL, VANDUSEN GARDENS - WEST 37TH AND OAK STREET, VANCOUVER

(See announcements for possible alternative venue if the labour dispute is not settled.)

Siffleur and Clearwater Wilderness

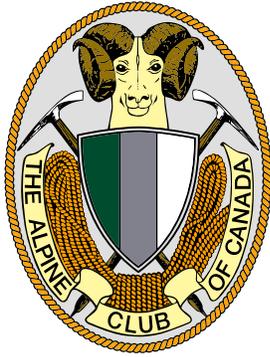
National ACC Camp 2007
slide presentation
by Richard Keltie

Following the steps and tradition of British mountaineer Normal Collie and Canadian horse wangler Bill Peyto, this National ACC trip traveled over 120 kilometres through the wilderness east of the Icefield Parkway in Banff National Park and climbed two 11,000 foot peaks: Recondite Peak and Mt Willington.

Upcoming Presentations

November: Sue Baldwin - presents on "Trekkling in Peru" ***tentatively scheduled***

January: Linda Bily presents "Extreme Sightseeing: Ski touring among Baffin's glaciers and rock towers"



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

EDITOR: Anita Leonhard
604-988-6486 • bubinga@telus.net

DESIGN: Martin Naroznik

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:
info@accvancouver.ca, 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
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Skills Development	Susan Baldwin	604-732-4562
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FMBC Rep	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
<i>Special Project Volunteers:</i>		
Hut Bookings Coordinator	Roy Royston	(w)604-687-1722 (h) 604-921-8264
Hut Operations and Maintenance Committee	Liz Scremin	604-438-9066
	Roy Royston, Peter Taylor, Peter Norris, Dustin Hines, Chris Kiely, Blair Mitten	
Quartermaster	Bill Sims	604-734-8870
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Archivist	Irene Goldstone	604-689-8737
	Liz Scremin, Liz Wright	
Website Committee	Richard Keltie	604-738-4583
	Tony Knight, Martin Naroznik	



Announcements

Possible Change of October Meeting Location

The location for the Oct 23 social will be at the Floral Hall at Vandusen Gardens 7:30PM if the labour dispute is settled and city facilities are open again. If the civic strike is not over, the alternative location will again be the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St, Vancouver (Hudson @ 73rd). Check www.accvancouver.ca to confirm the location.

ACCer's Tie the Knot

Congratulations to our ACC Chair Tony Knight and ACC member Margaret Hanson who got married last month, and then celebrated by going on a rock-climbing honeymoon – of course!

ACC Positions Available

As of the November Annual General Meeting, Richard Keltie will be stepping down as the FMCBC Representative, and Anita Leonhard will be stepping down as the Avalanche Echoes newsletter editor. If you think you might be interested in either position, please contact Tony Knight. You can reach him at 604-873-2276.

One Hundred Years - One Hundred Peaks

Jasper became Canada's fifth national park on September 14, 1907. The ACC aims to climb one hundred different peaks in Jasper National Park to celebrate the centennial. Special centennial pins will be awarded to members who climb a peak within the park.

If you've summited a peak in Jasper National Park this year, please report your trip and submit a summit photo to Peter Amann, Chairman of the Jasper/Hinton ACC Section. Peter's email is pamann@incentre.net.

Please visit <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/jasperhinton/> for more information and to see which peaks have already been summited.

BC Business Magazine is looking for Outdoor Adventurers

BC Business Magazine has a section called "After Hours", in which they profile people in business with interesting and exciting hobbies or passions. They are looking to feature someone who is an avid ice climber, extreme skier, etc. -- in their words, "someone into not so run-of-the-mill winter sports".

Interested? If you fit this description and you are a successful entrepreneur or in a high-level management position, please get in touch with Jessica Werb, Senior Writer, BC Business Magazine 604-473-0323 or 604-551-7463

Fairy Meadow Hut Custodian Needed

The Alpine Club of Canada is seeking volunteer custodians for the 2007/08 ski season at the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut. Custodianships will be for a duration of one to two weeks (Saturday to Saturday pattern). Top candidates will have the following attributes and/or experience:

- experience working around and loading helicopters
- a true commitment to guest service and enjoyment of helping people
- ample backcountry skiing experience
- avalanche training
- wilderness first aid training
- the ability to perform light maintenance
- experience skiing the area surrounding the hut
- working towards becoming a ski guide or mountain guide
- flexible availability for volunteering

The custodian's stay and flight will be complimentary. Custodians are expected to pay for their transportation costs and food.

To apply please send a cover letter and resume listing qualifications to: employment@alpineclubofcanada.ca

or fax to 403-678-3224. Please state in the subject field of the e-mail or on the fax: "Fairy Meadow Hut Custodian Application." Only those short listed for interviews will be contacted. No telephone calls please.

Camps

Vancouver Section Spring Ski Camp 2008

Location: Base camp will be at Nirvana Pass. Nirvana pass is north of Bluff lake, which is the helicopter base of operations.

Dates: April 18 - April 25 2008 (Drive in on Friday April 18, fly in on Saturday April 19, fly out on Saturday April 25)

Cost: The most cost effective way to fly is with multiples of 4. Cost estimate is around \$550 to \$600 for the week, with flights of 4.

The camp will be similar to last year (except hopefully with better weather)

Contact: Mike Thompson 604-813-1863 (cell)

Please reserve a spot, please send a \$100 cheque made out to ACC Vancouver section, to Mike Thompson at:

6846 197B Street

Langley BC

V2Y 3H1

Workshops and Courses

Evening Leadership Workshop

Location: Canada Room MEC Head office 149 West 4th Avenue

Date: November 8, 2007 from 6:30 to 9:30pm

Cost: \$20 (ACC members) or \$30 (non-members)

Contact: Susan Baldwin 604-732-4562

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 \$20 (ACC members) or \$30 (non-members) made out to the Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section to:

Susan Baldwin

222 - 2680 West 4th Ave.

Vancouver BC

V6K4S3

2007 The North Face/ACC Summer Leadership Course – Mt. Alexandra

by Scott Litchfield



This year, the North Face continued its generous support of the ACC's Summer Leadership Course. Ten eager ACC members joined week five of the General Mountaineering Camp (GMC) in the Mount Alexandra area, within the wild and wonderful Rockies, for a week of fun and learning. The GMC camp had been established at the end of the South Rice Brook Valley at 2015m/6700' within an inviting cirque, partially bordered by a 1200 foot headwall to the northeast.

More than three dozen ACC members gathered at the helicopter staging area on July 28th. Everyone sported toothy grins and looks of anticipation as they searched the group for familiar faces and scanned the sky for evidence of threatening clouds. The energy in the air was palpable as old friends shared warm greetings and new acquaintances introduced themselves to one another. The barometer was heading south, but the clouds were largely transient, and the weather was ideal for the flights into and out of camp.

Brad Harrison was a treat to observe as he moved through the motions of gathering members, facilitating the pre-flight meeting, ensuring that camp staff shared important logistical information, and making sure that climbers and gear got onto their flights safely. Further evidence of the camp staff and Brad's efforts unfolded before us as we swooped into the camp, which was dotted with Mountain Hardwear Tents, a large mess-hall tent, a tea tent, a gear drying tent, and strategically located latrines.

Once all members were safely in camp and introductions were completed, our course instructors – ACMG guides Cyril Shokoples and Helen Sovdat, and ACC amateur leader Roger Marchand - welcomed our TNF/ACC Leadership group, and summarized our busy week. Our group was composed of members as far away as Montreal, and

climbers from both sides of the Rockies filled out the group. After our initial briefing, Cyril took on the task of playing Santa and distributed jackets and additional clothing supplied by the folks at The North Face. Cyril also took this opportunity to remind participants that these courses rely on generous support from both the ACC and external sponsors.

On day two we awoke to a stable barometer, cool temperatures and light cloud cover, and our group set out towards the western aspect of Rose Petal to access ice slopes up to 45 degrees. The day involved multi-pitch ice climbing, glacier travel, a quick summit, and an introduction to short-roping on snow slopes. Our instructors emphasized the importance of safe and efficient ice anchors, the value of quick transitions, and the energy-saving benefits of mindful movements and good technique. Once back in camp, we began the daily ritual of debriefing, discussing the next day's objectives, completing journal entries, prepping gear for the next day, then cleaning-up for dinner.

Rock skills and short-roping technique filled day three and our activity location was no more than twenty minutes from camp. I was quickly reminded that technical standards can change with time, and working with ACMG guides can improve knowledge of appropriate knot choice, safe anchor-building techniques, good webbing and cordage usage, and do's and don'ts for short-roping. Our motto for day three and beyond became "Learn, relearn, and unlearn." Part way through the day, Helen Sovdat led us through a discussion of organizing rock gear and racking alpine gear like a pro, and I realized that my own systems could use some updating.

Day four produced some threatening weather, but we followed through on our plan to climb, and we set out on the Whiterose Traverse, a twelve hour plus day. The day



began with an introduction to the 1200 foot headwall northeast of the camp, continued with an airy traverse below Coral Peak, included a jaunt across West Alexandra Glacier, and a meandering ridge walk south to the summit of Whiterose Mountain. Soon after summiting, the group approached the technical crux of the route, a nearly 60 meters lower, which each participant completed with instructional supervision. With all group members safely down the lower, we trundled down the Rose Petal Glacier, found a good spot to stop on the terminus of the glacier and practiced Abalakovs and Bollards while discussing the pros and cons of each technique.

On our fifth day in the Mount Alexandra area, our group split into three smaller groups, each with an instructor as observer, who completed summit climbs of Mount Alexandra, Mount Queant, and Mount Fresnoy. Each route involved glacier travel, steep snow and ice, and varying amounts of alpine rock. Participants took turns leading and using all of the techniques reviewed during the week.

Day six afforded us some much needed rest, and Helen and Cyril shared the task of leading a theory day which covered Leaders Equipment, Trip Planning, Leader Responsibilities, Group Management, Radio Communications, and Navigation among other topics. Once again, having professionals to clarify industry standards and appropriate solutions to common problems made the day a great success.

The last day of climbing presented us with stable weather, slightly higher winds and similar objectives as each new sub-group headed back up the headwall. By this point, short-roping and protecting co-climbers, as per ACMG standards, was feeling far more natural, and 'putting it all together' while being closely scrutinized was neither stressful nor tiring. I was blessed with a fun and confident fellow leader, Marg Rees, who eagerly led all of the ice encountered on our route up Fresnoy. With the help of my co-leader and our two willing charges, I experienced one of those rare days in the mountains that comes so close to being perfect.

I now understand why my climbing partner and fellow ACC leader Gary Shorthouse had urged me to attend the TNF-ACC Summer Leadership Course. It wasn't about the peak bagging, free kit or a big party at the end of the week. He encouraged me to attend this course to stoke that desire to facilitate and share great moments in the mountains with kindred spirits. I came away from this course feeling like I could improve safety for myself and my fellow climbers, and I drove away from the helicopter staging area feeling like I wanted to race home and help my friends and fellow Vancouver Section members get out and create their next great mountain experience.

I wish to thank the ACC National Club for continuing their GMC program, Brad Harrison for his tireless efforts in aiding development and outfitting the GMC, the Vancouver Section for endorsing my application and supporting my goal to improve my leadership skills, and the 2007 GMC week five staff members for making my course experience comfortable and memorable. I also wish to thank Cyril Shokoples, Helen Sovdat, and Roger Marchand for teaching me much about being safe and reminding me to smell the roses.

Trip Report September 16, 2007

Williams Peak ACC/BCMC joint trip September 16th 2007

by Zoran Vasic

The weather forecast was calling for a cold, rainy and foggy day. The day before the trip I was frequently checking my G-mail account looking for cancellation e-mails from people, but there was nothing?!

Goran – the BCMC co-leader -- was concerned about the weather and even offered to postpone the trip to next Sunday. No one took him up on the offer!

All of us -- nine participants -- were ready to go.

“Well”, I told Goran “we better get ready for miserable day”. It sure was. It was cold, wet and foggy ...

At the end, we quit where ridge ends and where trail was dropping to talus. From there it was easy to gain the Williams Peak ridge and scramble to the summit. We were almost there but we couldn't see the peak. In matter of minutes, thick clouds wrapped the summit pyramid.

After a short discussion we decided to turn back. Visibility was very low and possibility of someone getting hurt was increased dramatically. On the way down, it started to rain heavily, but then stopped after short time. Along the ridge we found plenty of blueberries and that cheered us up.

Soon we reached the parking lot and went to the Chilliwack Airport to taste their famous pies.

Participants:

ACC: Christina Williams, Zoran Vasic (leader)

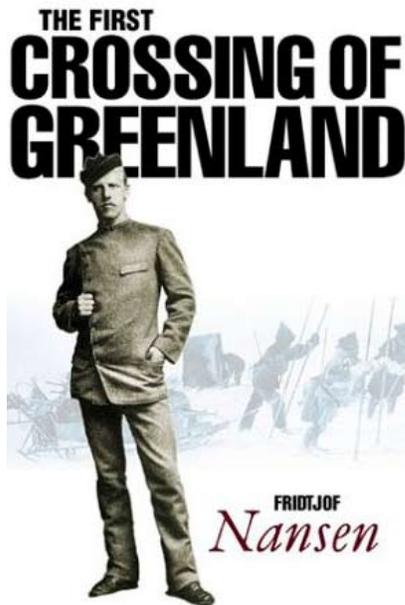
BCMC: Goran Rokolj (leader), Ferdi Reinstadler, Melanie Wilson, Daniel Friedman, Marilyn Cox

Guests: Aida Softic (Alpine Club of Norway, city of Bergen), Jaume Aguade (Alpine Club of Spain, city of Barcelona)



Literary Tid-Bits for Tent-Bound Days

contributed by Liz Scremin



Of all the sports of Norway, 'skilobning' is the most national and characteristic, and I cannot think that I go too far when I claim for it, as practised in our country, a position in the very first rank of the sports of the world. I know no form of sport which so evenly develops the muscles, which renders the body so strong and elastic, which teaches so well the qualities of dexterity and resource, which in an equal degree calls for decision and resolution, and which gives the same vigour and exhilaration to mind and body alike. Where can one find a healthier and purer delight than when on a brilliant winter day one binds one's 'ski' to one's feet and takes one's way out into the forest? Can there be anything more beautiful than the northern winter landscape, when the snow lies foot-deep, spread as a soft white mantle over field and wood and hill? Where will one find more freedom and excitement than when one glides swiftly down the hillside through the trees, one's cheek brushed by the sharp cold air and frosted pine branches, and one's eye, brain and muscles alert and prepared to meet every unknown obstacle and danger which the next instant may throw in one's path? Civilization is, as it were, washed clean from the mind and left far behind with the city atmosphere and city life; one's whole being is, so to say, wrapped in one's 'ski' and the surrounding nature. There is something in the whole which develops soul and not body alone, and the sport is perhaps of far greater national importance than is generally supposed.

excerpt from "The First Crossing of Greenland"
written by Fridtjof Nansen
first published in Norwegian in 1890
first published in English by Longmans, Green and Co.
London, 1902

continued on page

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Workshops and Courses (continued from page 3)

The North Face/ACC Winter Leadership Course

Applications are invited from Section members for The North Face / ACC

Winter Leadership Course in January 2008.

New Location: Icefall Brook Lodge, Rocky Mountains

Dates: Jan. 5-12, 2008

Deadline for applications: Nov. 1, 2007

Cost: \$695 + GST

Section bursary of \$250 offered by application.

See ACC National website www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

For Sale

Maps: East Coast Trail [Newfoundland]. 19 Loose leaf binder size maps, scale 1:25,000. \$10.00 or food bank donation.

Please contact Elizabeth Guilbride at 604-924-0046 or eguilbride@telus.net

Books and Journals: Patrick Duffy is selling some of his climbing related books and journals. He would prefer to sell to someone in the mountain community and will give a discount to a member who takes the collection. You can contact him at 604-921-6119 or 604-512-7117 or pjbduffy@cs.com. The list of items for sale follows below:

1. My Climbs in the Alps and Caucasus by A.F. Mummery, T. Nelson and Sons, London, New York. pre-1908. \$325
2. The Alps from end to end. William Martin Conway and W. A.B. Coolidge. T. Nelson and Sons, London, New York. probably same vintage as 1. above. \$75
3. The Unknown Mountain. Don Munday, Hodder and Stoughton, London. 1948. \$40
4. The playground of Europe. Leslie Stephen. G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. 1909. \$40
5. Ascent of Everest by John Hunt. Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1954. \$50
6. Starlight and Storm: The ascents of the six great north faces of the Alps. Gaston Rebuffat. J. Dent and Sons, London. 1956. \$100
7. Six Great Mountaineers. Ronald Clark. Hamish Hamilton, London. 1956. \$30
8. Annapurna. Maurice Herzog. Jonathon Cape, London. 1953. \$5
9. Mountain Panorama. A book of winter sports and climbing. (With contributions by John Hunt, Arnold Lunn, Stanley Rous, Wilfrid Noyce, and Wynford Thomas.) Max Parrish, London. 1955.
10. The Mountaineers: Famous climbers in Canada. Phil Dowling. Hurtig Publishers. Edmonton. 1979.
11. Alpine Huts: a guide to the facilities of the ACC. by Keith Haberl. 2nd Edition. McAra Printing, Calgary. 1997.
12. Canadian Alpine Journals from 1948 to 2005. Twenty four volumes with 10 missing. Prefer to move as a package to a good home. \$200
13. Varsity Outdoor Club Journals (UBC) for 1958 to 1961, and 1965 and 2006/2007.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the ACC.

Trip schedule – Please see www.accvancouver.ca for the latest updates

Date Trip Description Grade Contact Phone

OCTOBER

Please see www.accvancouver.ca for the latest updates

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA GRADING GUIDELINES

- A - Less than 6 hrs travel/day (not strenuous)
- B - 6 to 8 hrs travel/day (moderately strenuous)
- C - 8 to 12 hrs travel/day (strenuous)
- D - More than 12 hrs travel/day (extremely strenuous)
- S - Slower-paced trip, (suitable for seniors)

- 1 - Gentle slopes. Travel on trails over fairly level terrain.
- 2 - Moderate slopes. Travel may be off trail. Intermediate skiing ability recommended. Easy climbing.
- 3 - Travel in mountainous terrain. Steep forest and glaciers probable. Backcountry equipment and intermediate skiing experience required. Moderate climbing.
- 4 - Travel over difficult mountain terrain. Advanced backcountry and mountaineering experience, ability and equipment required. Advanced ski mountaineering or moderate to difficult ice or mixed climbing. Ropes and belays required.
- 5 - Technical ice or mixed climbing. Advanced climbing experience required.

Please contact trip organizers by the Wednesday prior to the trip or earlier to express your interest. Non-members are welcome to participate once or twice before joining, and are accepted on a space available basis.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings at 7:30pm in the Floral Hall of Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, W. 37th Ave. & Oak St in Vancouver on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except July, Aug, Dec).

Trip organizers are required to have participants sign the ACC waiver which can be obtained from the climbing schedule organizer, or from: www.aebc.com/acc.

Completed waivers can be mailed to:
Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section,
c/o The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
130 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P3
or given to any member of the executive.

CHAIRPERSON
Tony Knight 604-873-2276

MEMBERSHIP
604-878-5272

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

Wanted: Your stories and slides/digital images for our monthly meeting presentations. Susan Higginbottom, Program Coordinator, is now looking to begin scheduling for the coming months. If you have a story to tell with photos to show, whether local or international, or a topic that you think would be of interest to our members, we want to hear from you. Please contact Susan at susanhigginbottom@gmail.com



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

