

THE HIGH ROAD

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Message From the Chairman

Dear Member,;

In response to queries from section members, a review of the Rescue Fund and its associated fees was carried out by the Executive Committee. Results of this review are detailed below. In addition a proposal was put forward at the February 2009 Executive Committee meeting to include an administrative fee for any advertised Section trips that require significant financial and administrative resources of the ACC Okanagan Section. Details of this fee are also included below. Any comments regarding the changes can be directed to myself, or any member of the Executive Committee.

Sincerely, Ron Berlie

Ed Comment - Details are not below. They are on Page 5



Ron puts on his thinking cap to come up with new ideas for the club

Coming Events.... Check the website for updates and additions!

May to August Thurs Evenings Rock Climbing

Schedules and interest depending: Check the website early each week to see who is going.

Climb our local crags in Cedar Creek Park, Lonely Boy and Lonely Girl. Meet at Cedar Hill Centre on Chute Lake Road for 1600 to carpool. Bring harness, shoes, helmet and water. Beginner's welcome! Janice McQuilkin, ajmcq@shaw.ca

Fri April 24-Sun Apr 26 Vantage/ Frenchman's Coulee Rock Climbing

Climb on the basalt columns at Frenchman's Coulee with a gazillion Seattle climbers. Should be hot down there. The popular climbs are 5.7-5.10, and are steep but fun, with lots of incut holds. There are sport routes on the columns and trad climbs in the cracks between them. We'll drive down Friday night, and camp Friday and Saturday in Vantage. 4-6 participants.

May 1-3 Washington pass North Cascades Ski trip

Camp near Mazama, Washington, and enjoy a weekend of some of the best spring skiing anywhere.

Contact: Sid Scull: sscull@telus.net

Events, continued next page...

Events, continued...**Tues May 5 Monthly Social**

7:30 PM Bunkhouse Restaurant
2777 KLO Rd Kelowna
Check the website for details

Sun May 17 Enderby Cliffs Day hike

An early season opener to figure out if your legs work. Probably 3 hours round trip with a nice lunch view stop at the top. It is steep, but not technical. No limit on participants, Craig Nichol, craig.nichol@ubc.ca

Sun May 24 Skaha Rock Climbing

Option to be determined.....

Option 1: Rock Climbing 101 - If you are new to climbing or want a start to the season, join us for a day of climbing. This is geared towards those new to climbing. Harness use, top-roping, tying in, belay technique and anchors will be covered. You need a harness, helmet, climbing shoes and warm jacket.

Option 2: Mountaineering Skills Advanced. Participants should have taken the Rope Refresher or, strong background in climbing, rope technique, lead climbing and crevasse rescue.

Option 3: Just get together for some climbing.

Janice and Andy McQuilkin, ajmcq@shaw.ca

Sat May 30-Sun May 31 Devil's Elbow, Kelowna area Rock climbing and camping

Driving in to camp up above the Mission on Gillard/Chute Lake road near the Boulderfields climbing area. Side excursions to the Devil's Elbow and Boulderfields climbing areas. Leon Blumer, leon_outdoors@fastmail.ca

Tues June 2 Monthly Social

7:30 PM Bunkhouse Restaurant
2777 KLO Rd Kelowna
Check the website for details

June, Date To Be Announced Peachland Mountain biking

Mountain biking, with a post-sweat social of beer, bbq and rumour has it, a hot tub. Ron Berlie - buzzber@shaw.ca

Sat June 27-Sun June 28 Pinnacles, Monashees Hiking/Camping

East of Cherryville. Drive in about 25 km to the camp, and hike from the camp that night and the next day. Options from the campsite are for hiking up to scrambling. No limit on participants. Leon Blumer, leon_outdoors@fastmail.ca
Doug Geller.

Sat July 18-Sun July 19 Rogers Pass Hiking and scrambling

Come out and head up something that involves a bit of a scramble, and provides a good view of the other peaks in the area. Cheops? Avalanche? Sit at the top in the sunshine (?) and plan your July/Aug/Sept. We'll camp at Illecillewaet campground. Sid Scull - sscull@telus.net

August Date TBA Fosthall Peak, Monashees Hike to a Scramble

The first day is the hike in. The second day is up the peak and out. This is not a very technical climb, but with the long days you'll want to be ready for this one. Jim Tanner, jetanner@shaw.ca

Sept 10-11 Wheeler Hut Weekend

A repeat of the Wheeler Hut centennial celebrations. Hike, climb, scramble in Rogers Pass, stay at the Wheeler Hut for festivities.

Thanksgiving Weekend: Oct 2 -5 Enchantment Range, Washington State Backpack

Anyone interested in a backpacking trip to the Enchantments (above Leavenworth) this Thanksgiving? Its a spectacular alpine area, especially beautiful in the fall. There is a permit system, so arrangements need to be made soon (April). If there is interest, I will try to get permits for a small party. Sid Scull - sscull@telus.net

Women's Alpine Camps, taught by ACMG guides

Alpine Intro Course: Bugaboo Provincial Park, June 25-29

Next Step Course: Lake O'Hara, July 13-17

Women's Four Day Rock Climbing Courses June 5-8 AND June 20-23

More info? Contact Janice Letkeman McQuilkin at ajmcq@shaw.ca



Enderby cliffs in the spring



Rogers Pass Possibilities

Event Reports

Jan 17 Rogers Pass - McGill Shoulder

Planning in November to lead a ski outing in January is always a gamble. Weather, avalanche hazard and ski quality can bring either a great day out or a cancelled trip. On January 17th, the culprit was High avalanche danger in Rogers Pass. We were forced to limit our terrain choices, and several people chose to cancel.

With one intrepid participant, our party of three proceeded up the Bostock drainage. The avalanche danger resulted from a strong temperature inversion, and warm temperatures in the alpine would produce large avalanches on many major slide paths. We chose the gladed terrain off McGill shoulder, well away from any slide paths, in the hopes of finding some fun turns.



The day was spring-like, with temperatures well above zero and the melting snow dripping off trees. It was a treat to enjoy the sunshine and a relaxed lunch in mid-January. Surprisingly, the skiing was very good in the trees, though the snow became a bit heavier as the day went on.

We had a great day out overall. That temperature inversion lived on, with infamy, in the snowpack for the next several months, so it was just as well to enjoy it while it lasted.

Brenda Bouchette

Two for Two at the Asulkan

The Asulkan hut is associated, in my mind, with gale-force winds, views resembling the inside of a ping-pong ball, and countless runs in chest-deep powder through the trees below the hut. As I round the second-to-last knoll, after four hours of skinning under a leaden pack, the wind hits me full in my face for the last fifteen minutes of climbing. Perspiration freezes to my body, chilling weary limbs, and my heart sinks as I imagine the desperate journey to the outhouse.

It was with astonishment that I crested the final rise, on Friday the 13th of February, to witness a rare scene. Sun glittered on the mountaintops, and the hut sat serenely on the ridge in the stillness of the afternoon,

windows twinkling in the setting sun. The outhouses beckoned warmly.

The first ACC OK Asulkan trip of 2009 was indeed off to a good start. No new snow had fallen in over a week, giving us a rare window of good stability in a winter fraught with snowpack concerns. On Saturday, the group divided in two. One group carved their signatures onto slope after slope in the endless rolling terrain above the hut. Every line tells a story, and every story was good (even those told by dotted lines). The second group took the rare opportunity to summit Young's Peak and enjoy the views of the Illecillewaet Neve and the Dawson Group. The ski quality was good, and the weekend spectacular.

The second Asulkan trip of the year began in a more conventional fashion. A late start, low clouds and the customary gale marked our Friday March 20th ski-in. The route to the outhouse required full expedition regalia for those less stout of heart. But we were stout of heart, and some were stout of beverage, and

sometime during the night the wind abated and the skies cleared. For the second trip in a row, Saturday dawned calm and glorious. The spring sun pulled down some impressive avalanches from surrounding sun-facing peaks, but the shaded



north-facing playground above the hut smiled upon us. The ski quality varied from excellent to extraordinary, and we gorged ourselves like starved wolves set loose on a bottomless all-you-can-eat buffet. All day long we climbed, skied, and climbed again. The day ended with jelly-legged panting skiers straggling back to the hut as the light faded, glowing from over-exposure to both the sun and to the magnificent scenery of Rogers Pass.

Thank you to all participants of both weekends, for the fun, laughs, lines, and for sharing all your snacks and treats.

-Brenda



Fairy Meadows - March 2009

The hut at Fairy Meadows was the place to be
 In the middle of this winter cause we like to ski
 All the people that came here were so great to know
 As we really got to like them in the deep deep snow
 There's that long legged giant whose name is Brad
 Can't keep up - well that's too bad
 Up track expert Ron's our guy
 Dropped in right out of the clear blue sky
 He says he's going to ski here til the day he dies
 Pam and David came with great zest
 Jump turns perfected they did their best
 Janice and Andy and good friend Cat
 Made a great tasty meal but you needed a hat
 They shot 2 turkeys with a shot gun rifle
 And served it up with an alcoholic trifle
 David and Christian our boarders supreme
 They shredded up the hills as a hot damn team
 Despite all their efforts to have great new gear
 They had to use haywire and many cold beer
 Can crusher Cheryl we got to know
 If we didn't sweep the floor or shovel the snow
 Evan and Joanna were a nice young couple
 She's a chocolate packing momma and he's face plant
 supple
 Jason made a mullet by his very own self
 He wanted to be better than someone else
 He never came for breakfast because he'd rather sleep
 And dream of all the turns he'd do in snow so deep
 Allan and Daniel were skiing every steep turn
 Til late in the day their muscles would burn
 Telemarking Robert was a sight to see
 When he skied perfect S's on a bended knee
 We'll never forget that old man Mark
 How he skied so perfect til it was dark
 Each night he'd be so very proud
 When he could fart so very loud
 Now we mustn't forget Katherine with a K
 Skiing in the mountains is all about play
 Her cooking and cleaning just made our day
 There was Jenga and Blokus and Tipperary
 Each night rocked the hut with sounds of glee
 Food for an army too much to eat
 For each of us what a great treat
 We ate we laughed we slept we skied
 And some of us in the bush we peed
 Hopefully next year we'll all come back
 And do it all over in new up tracks.
Pat



Next Year's Hut Trip - Golden Alpine - Meadow

Stay tuned for details.

But...if you are thinking of going, have we got a deal for you! Not sure what it is yet, but if you are planning on going on the trip and would take on the camp manager position, let winter trips coordinator Trent Marshall know. trentmarshall@yahoo.com

Rescue Fund Fee Change - the not so fine print

At the Nov 2008 AGM the Executive Committee was asked about the size of the Rescue Fund and if there were any plans to cap the amount of the fund and stop collecting fees. Presently the fund is in excess of \$6000.00. The committee completed an analysis on rescue costs anticipated for a rescue in our typical area of recreation and determined that we have sufficient funds on hand to cover approximately 4 rescues. The fund has never been accessed and funding policy of rescues coordinated through provincial EMS is un-changed. ie: rescues initiated through a call to EMS services are covered by provincial or federal funding depending on location. The Executive Committee feels that we have more than enough funds on hand to cover any likely contingencies at this time.

Rescue Fund policy made the Okanagan Section Executive responsible for collection and raising revenues for the Rescue Fund through collection of a premium on section camps and trip fees for any advertised trips where there is a group cost (helicopter, huts, guides, access fees, etc.), week long section camps or any other section trips that require a pooling of financial resources. Fee amount was 10% to a maximum of \$40 added to the total cost of the trip, based on all revenues collected to fund the trip and before any expenses are accounted for. Non- Okanagan Section members were required to pay a 15% premium and then they were considered Okanagan Section members as far as access to the Rescue Fund during the club trip was concerned.

At the Executive meeting held 08 Jan 2009, a motion was put forward to cap the Rescue Fund at its present level and stop collecting fees for the fund. The motion passed unanimously by all present Executive members. (10 of 14)

Access to the Rescue Fund and Rescue Fund policy other than collection of fees is unchanged for Okanagan Section members.

Administrative Fee

Organization of Section trips where there is a group cost (helicopter, huts, guides, access fees, etc), week long section camps or any other section trips that necessitate a pooling of financial resources require significant financial and organizational resources of the Okanagan Section. In addition, funds for group gear such as Sat Phones, radios, safety equipment, cleaning and garbage supplies, etc were added ad-hoc onto the cost of a trip. For Okanagan Section members, a premium of 10% of the total trip cost (max \$40) was then added for the Rescue Fund. For the Rescue Fund premium, Non-Okanagan Section members were required to pay an additional 15% of the **total** trip cost paid by an Okanagan section member.

Details:

At the 25 February 2009 Executive Committee meeting a motion was passed which imposes an administrative fee for any advertised Okanagan Section trips where there is a group cost (helicopter, huts, guides, access fees, etc), week long section camps or any other section trips that necessitate a pooling of financial resources. The fee will be 5% of the total trip cost up to a maximum of \$25 for Okanagan Section members. For non-Okanagan Section ACC members the cost will be 10% of the total trip cost to a maximum of \$50. Upon payment of this fee, non-Okanagan Section ACC members will be considered Okanagan Section members as far as access to the Rescue Fund is concerned for the duration of the advertised trip.

Funds raised will be used for the following:

- To offset financial and administrative costs incurred while organizing advertised Okanagan Section trips.
 - To cover costs associated with provision of group gear such as Sat Phones, radios, safety equipment, cleaning and garbage supplies, etc. for advertised Okanagan Section trips.
 - To offset costs associated with providing safety and skills training (such as wilderness first aid, avalanche safety, crevasse rescue, etc) for Okanagan Section members.
 - To cover other costs deemed appropriate by a majority of the Executive Committee.
- Day or multi day trips, which do not require significant resources of the club, will continue to **not** be subject to any administrative or rescue fees.
 - Total fees will be reduced from a total of \$50 for the 2009 Winter Camp to \$25 for the 2010 Winter Camp.

Ken McClure, Mike Windeler (a bc tele-buddy) and I were looking for turns on Apex Proper Bowl Friday, Jan. 2, 2009. We dug a hasty pit and confirmed easy shovel shears. Caution said ski to the north end of the E/SE facing aspect. We practiced safe descents and had a good run to the bottom. Put an up track to the south of our down track, had a few minor whumps on the way up. Decided to go a wee bit south from our up track and assess the possibilities.



Ken was lined up on a favourite and backed off because of a roll-over. I chose a line to avoid the roll-over that would bring me back to the north somewhat. Skied 2 short turns up high and cut left of the roll-over and saw surface snow to my right move with me. I cut further left and stopped. A fracture line propagated 25m from my track (*photo right*) and a slab released and propagated 3 more to the south (300+m) . All ran to the bottom (250+m) of the bowl (*photos below*).



As we moved north to safer ground we noticed a fracture line on the north aspect of the bowl. It, too, subsequently released and ran to the bottom *photo right*.

We had a lengthy debrief that evening. Decided that we had practiced safe skiing; however, decided to communicate more effectively amongst ourselves when we set up our lines. We noticed that we each had some unspoken thoughts that we will speak out loud more in the future. All in all a good day.

Graham Punnett

Thanks for sharing.....



Spring Greetings from the Editor...

Send your trip reports to the Editor -
Cat email address : picogato@telus.net

Maybe there's newsletter articles hidden in all these facets.....