

# THE HIGH ROAD

**In this Issue...** Trip Write-ups  
Fall Schedule - we need more!!!!  
Wheeler Weekend

ACC Awards to Section members

## SECTION EXECUTIVE

**Chair** Ron Berlie  
buzzber@shaw.ca

**Treasurer** Sid Scull  
sscull@telus.net

**Secretary** Brenda Bouchette  
brendajb@gmail.com

**National Rep** Brad Schmucker  
bradschmucker@shaw.ca

**Newsletter** Cat Mather  
picogato@telus.net

**Membership** Janice McQuilkin  
ajmcq@shaw.ca

**Web/Listserv** Andrew Parker  
agparker+accokweb@gmail.com

**Access+ Environment** Sean Kelly  
smkellyesq@yahoo.ca

**Winter Trips** Trent Marshall  
trentmarshall@yahoo.com

**Summer Trips** Craig Nichol  
craig.nichol@ubc.ca

**Socials** Dave Rothwell  
mountainphoto@shaw.ca

**General Director** Jim Tanner  
jetanner@shaw.ca

**General Director** Andy McQuilkin  
ajmcq@shaw.ca

**OK Section Website**  
[www.accokanagan.ca](http://www.accokanagan.ca)

**Some sources of maps on the Web....**

**Google earth** - air photos - requires installation.

**Earth details** - topo maps in 3d  
<http://earthdetails.com>

**Canadian 1:50000 maps**  
<http://atlasnrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/topo/map>



**Wheeler Weekend - Sept 12-13!!!**

The Okanagan Section weekend at the Wheeler Hut will take place September 12-13 at Rogers Pass. This is a great weekend

for all members, new and old, to get to know one another and enjoy some of the spectacular hikes, scrambles and climbs at Rogers Pass.

Plus, this year, we will be presenting the Don Forest Service Award to Dave Rothwell, who has contributed an enormous amount of time and energy to the club. Potluck Saturday night too!

Please reserve your spot soon. The cost is \$60 if you're staying in the hut, and \$20 + campsite fees if you're camping. The weekend runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. We're looking forward to a great weekend.

Contact Brenda - [brendajb@gmail.com](mailto:brendajb@gmail.com)

Parks Canada summer info is now recorded at 250-837-MTNS



**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](mailto:ajmcq@shaw.ca)

**Tues Sept 8 Monthly Social**

7:30 PM Bunkhouse Restaurant  
2777 KLO Rd Kelowna  
Check the website for details, come help plan the upcoming Wheeler Weekend!

**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. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

**Tues Oct 5 Monthly Social**

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

**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. Sid Scull - [sscull@telus.net](mailto:sscull@telus.net)

**Tues Nov 3 Monthly Social**

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

**Nov - Annual General Meeting - keep posted for details**



Rogers Pass Vistas

**ACC AWARDS - Congratulations to Dave and David!!!**

**Honorary Membership - David Jones**



David Jones is perhaps the leading mountaineer of all time in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia. Under his sole editorship he is well known for his guidebooks to the Selkirk Mountains (South 2001, North 2004). His passion for guidebooks is continuing with work on Canada's Interior Ranges. Jones has many imposing Canadian first ascents to his credit. For a period of time Jones was one of Canada's leading high altitude mountaineers climbing in Nepal and the Yukon. Jones has continued to open new territory for climbers by putting up more than 125 new routes at Skaha the renowned BC climbing crag. Over the years Jones has contributed numerous articles to the Canadian and American Alpine Journals.

**Don Forest Service Award - Dave Rothwell**



Dave has enthusiastically organized and managed numerous Okanagan Section summer and winter mountaineering camps over the last eight years. At the same time he was serving as Section Chair, Newsletter Editor and Social Coordinator. Dave also successfully guided the Section through its ACC Centennial celebrations. Dave designed the logo used by the Club for our Centennial – which is still in use today.

## Event Reports

### Escaping the Heat and Enjoying the Flowers



It is impossible to forget, even for a moment, that it's been a hot, dry summer here in the Okanagan. Fire, drought, and the ongoing quest to stay cool have been foremost in our minds and in the news since June. Don't mention it too loudly - it's been great weather for mountaineering.

Last summer was marked by a string of back-offs, retreats, and sodden ropes. Relentlessly, black thunderclouds would start gathering halfway up every lichen-covered ridge in the Selkirks. New snow fell on routes in July and August. Wet and weary climbers shook their fists at peaks, and then sulked home to hang the tent to dry.



This summer has been ideal for summits. It is satisfying to don a warm sleeping bag against the cold night air in the alpine. The tiny, delicate flowers that dot the approaches have been (or is it only imagination?) particularly vivid and abundant. And it is ... nice ... to sit at the top of a new peak, seeing nothing but blue sky, glaciers, and more peaks.

Remain vigilant to all the dangers of climbing - crevasses, rockfall, human error, and so many others.

But so far this summer, weather is one concern that has been almost entirely absent. It has been a pleasure.

Brenda Bouchette

### Washington Pass ski weekend, May 10-11



The North Cascades highway generally opens in early May, when hordes of Seattle skiers come up for spring skiing. This year, when Yann Bourdon and I arrived, there was still a couple of meters of snow by the car park, thoughtfully plowed out by the highway crew. Parking was in a spectacular area just below the towering face of Liberty Bell.

Despite the trip leader's late arrival Saturday morning, there was still corn to harvest by the time we skied up behind Liberty Bell to Early Winter Spires. After a late lunch overlooking the incredible East face of south EWS, we had an enjoyable 2000' descent through perfect Spring snow.

Sadly the next day's skiing alternated between frozen crust when we bailed early from a spooky traverse, and corn mush on a descent from Cutthroat Pass. Plus some obligatory suffering in the woods low down. The soft snow did provide fun skiing down the roller coaster creek bed, and we had good views from the pass. Great scenery, mixed snow pack; such is skiing in the Cascades.

Sid Scull

**Monashee Provincial Park—August 15 & 16, 2009**

An ACC Okanagan section trip was scheduled for the weekend of August 15/16 to attempt Fosthall Peak, a pretty rock and snow summit that presides over Peters Lake in Monashee Provincial Park. The easiest way to climb the peak is to hike up the access trail to Monashee Provincial Park, camp at Peters Lake, cross South Cariboo Pass (a short distance above the campground), and contour round to Fosthall's south slopes and ridge, which give easy scrambling to the summit.



I had previously climbed the peak in July 1998, in the company of Ken Little, a professional meteorologist. As we climbed, he provided a delightful and educational explanation of the convective activity of the thunderclouds that were boiling up around us. We could have perhaps used his services on this trip as well.



After a summer of clear skies and hot temperatures, the first period of sustained rainfall in many weeks happened to fall on the Friday preceding the trip. The forecast however was promising. It was supposed to gradually clear on Saturday and revert to sunshine on Sunday. With that in our minds, Cat Mather, Robyn Abear/Bowles, arrived at the Monashee Provincial Park trailhead. It was not raining when we set off up the trail, but it soon began. We toiled up the long switchbacks above Spectrum Lake in a continuous drizzle.



We arrived at Little Peters Lake to find that the campsite there had been obliterated by a huge winter avalanche. The outhouse (one of the open, green, circular units that are found in several provincial parks) had been blown completely across Little Peters Lake and could be seen cast up rather forlornly on the opposite shore. Not only did the avalanche destroy the campground, it knocked out the bridge over Spectrum Creek, which must be crossed to continue on to Big Peters Lake. A temporary bridge had been installed by the parks staff, but with no handrail, with a distinct sideways slant, and with its cedar deck slickened by the rain, we crossed it with some caution.



We arrived at the Big Peters Lake campground about 5 PM. After setting up the tent and cooking dinner in the rain, we were happy to strip off our waterproofs and crawl into our sleeping bags for an early night.



We awoke next day at 5:30 AM to low-lying clouds and mist. We patiently waited for a clearing that would enable us to head up Fosthall Peak, but it never came. Finally, we settled for an alternative activity. We enjoyed a pleasant 4 km walk through flower-filled alpine meadows to Fawn Lake, an alpine tarn as beautiful as any I have seen. We lunched on its banks in the mist before returning to camp. That afternoon, we retraced our steps down Spectrum Creek and back to the car.



Jim Tanner

*Editor's Note - I thought the continuous drizzle on the way up may have actually been pouring rain most of the time..*

**Rogers Pass weekend July 18-19**

A picture perfect weekend at Rogers Pass, unfortunately the Illi campground had only a few sites open. After a number of e-mails back and forth, three of us decided to climb Uto. Given the lack of campsites, we hiked in to the bivy site below the Uto-Sir Donald col Saturday afternoon. For a few kilometers we had scattered showers, but soon the storm moved through and by the time we arrived at the



bivy the skies were clear. There was only one other tent at the site, and we could see a party on Sir Donald. We saw them for several hours, making there way down the long rappel route as night approached. They arrived at camp at around 11:00 PM, after 16 hours on the climb. Mostly on the descent.

They had intended to climb Uto Sunday morning, but two of their party decided they had enough, and Nick joined us on Uto. We left camp around 7:00 and got to the Uto-Sir Donald col at 8:00. The winds that had

stirred up the fires in the Okanagan the day before hit the col that morning, and the first part of the climb was extremely windy. After an hour we either got into the lee, or the winds started to die down, and the climbing was very pleasant. Uto's Southwest ridge goes up in a series of steps. The climbing is steep on the steps, and easy in between. We occasionally roped up for some easy class 5 pitches, but generally climbed solo up the ridge. We reached the summit in about three hours. That's when Danny phoned his wife in Penticton, and we found out the highway home was closed.

We descended the Northwest ridge, starting with a few rappels then scrambling down and back to camp. We



were back at the car at 5:00. Dinner at the Frontier restaurant, and then a complicated drive via West Kelowna and the the Beaverdale-Carmi road got us home. Sid Scull



**Summer Greetings from the Editor...**

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

*Maybe there's newsletter articles hidden in the bush.....*