

THE HIGH ROAD

Alpine Club Of Canada



SECTION EXECUTIVE

Chair	Dave Urness
Treasurer	Herwig Rajtshan
Trip Coordinator	Alison Urness
Secretary	Deanna Mould
National Rep	John Warren
Newsletter	Dave Rothwell
Membership	Brian Nickurak

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WEBSITES

Okanagan Section Web Site
<http://members.home.net/jetann/ACC/ACCOK.html>

National Club Web Site
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca>

Canadian Avalanche Center
<http://www.avalanche.ca>

MEETINGS

Central Okanagan Group
First Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm
Bunkhouse Restaurant
2777 KLO Road Kelowna
Call Dave Urness at 763-2936

South Okanagan Group
3rd Monday of the month 7:00pm
The Barley Mill

2640 Skaha Lake Penticton
Call Karen Nickurak at 497-7156

North Okanagan Group
Call Kathy Wallraven at 766-3913
drea_wal@hotmail.com

Message From The Chairman

Fall has arrived and hints of winter are evident with light dustings of early season snow beginning to show in the high country. Reflecting on this past year, there has been a terrific amount of activity within our club. Most of this has been in the form of trips. It all started last February, with a hut full of eager backcountry skiers visiting the infamous Fairy Meadow hut. Many trips to Rogers pass and other areas around the province also occurred, seeing many members getting involved in the winter scene. Spring arrived and the activity didn't stop. A group of 12 gathered for the weekend at the Skaha bluffs for a climbing course and refresher. Several groups made pilgrimages to the Monashee and Selkirk mountains on early season hikes and climbs. In the meantime, 19 excited mountaineers prepared for a journey into the Adamant mountains for the 2nd annual summer camp. A resounding success, with great peak bagging weather to boot, seeing more than 10 peaks climbed over the week. Several other trips and outings occurred this summer in the Revelstoke and Rogers pass area, Catamount glacier, all chocked full of enthusiastic members. That brings us back to the fall again where we have another exciting winter season ahead of us. I encourage all members to come out to the AGM and kick off another great year for the OK section of the ACC. I look forward to seeing many of you out in the high country this winter. Yours in snow! *David Urness Okanagan Section Chair*

AGM at Big White Saturday Nov. 17th

Potluck Dinner and Mountaineering Skills Day

Come out and join in on the fun for the 5th Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM event will be held at the CSPS Hostel located at Big White Ski resort. This is a fun and enjoyable day with lots of activities, food and a slide show capitulating this year's club activities. Below is a schedule of events offered at this year's AGM. All that is required is your attendance and some food to contribute toward the potluck dinner. Also, if you wish, bring your sleeping bag and pillow. The lodge is complete with hostel style rooms with bunks and mattresses, shower and washroom facilities. A voluntary \$5 per person donation to the CSPS is appreciated for the use of their facility.

AGM Events schedule:

1:00pm - Meet at the CSPS Hostel, Big White Ski Resort (Directions Below)

1:30pm - Mountain Skills review and acquisition Courses - Pick a course you are interested in!

1) Avalanche transceiver use and practice (Bring a transceiver if you own one).

2) Crevasse Rescue and Glacier travel (Bring a climbing harness if you own one).

Equip. will be available for those without).

3) Advanced avalanche rescue scenario.

4) Snowshoe/ ski/ hike - depending on how much snow there is! (Bring own equipment).

5:00 pm - Potluck Dinner at the CSPS Lodge: Please bring food (dinner, appetizer or a desert) and your own beverages. The CSPS lodge has full kitchen facilities. 7:00pm-7:45pm-Annual General Meeting - Nomination and Election of Executive and Directors for 2001/ 2002 (If interested contact Dave Urness at 763-2936).

Other club related information.

8:00pm - Social and raffle prizes

8:30 - 8:45 pm - Slide show: Okanagan Section Highlights!!

8:45-? Cocktails, Socializing and fun!

Directions: From Hwy 97 in Kelowna, take Highway 33 east. Turn left at the Big White turn off approx. 40 km from Kelowna. 30 minutes up the Big White road brings you to the Snow Pine Estates. After the "Welcome to Big White" sign there is a left hand turn about 200 meters down the road. A small sign saying Ski Patrol and Ambulance is at this turn. Follow this road to the parking lot. At the far end of the lot, park and the CSPS Lodge is the large building on the left at the end of the driveway. If you miss the turn you will arrive shortly at the base of the Ridge chair ski lift and lodge. Contact Dave Urness at 763-2936.

2001 Summer Camp at Fairy Meadows

The following comments pretty much sum up a very memorable week spent at our 2nd Annual Summer Camp in the Adamant Range this past August.



A special thanks goes to my co-organizer, Dave Urness as well as the numerous others who contributed to make this a great camp. Thanks to Lise for the fabulous home cooked meals. Thanks to Lee for taking the "sharp end" when needed, for being patient while the lens was constantly pointed at him and for helping me eat all those for-



mentioned meals! As my climbing partner also stated, thanks to John Warren for taking the time to pass on his experience. The highlights and good times were too many to list but I will always have the great memories and the photos of a awesome week spent with friends in a fabulous area. Already thinking about next years camp!

Dave Rothwell

First of all, thanks to the Okanagan Section for organizing the FM trip. The trip was a series of firsts; from the helicopter ride (gotta get me one of those), the ice climbing (can we bag those ice cubes and sell'em), the snowfield crossing (please keep your hands and feet out of the crevasse), the glacier travel (step on the rope and you've bought

it!) and the summits of Unicorn and Colossal (this is the tourist route up? - excuse me while I change my soiled briefs).



If only the snoring would stop. The week was fantastic and I'm sure that everybody had a great time. There were always great stories to tell in the evenings when everyone finally arrived back at the hut. This is definitely a trip I'd recommend.

Thanks, Kevin Witzke



Helicopter good, Swan Creek trail not good.

Mountains good, crevasses not good.

Beer with dinner very good.

"Impeccable" granite comes in all shapes, sizes and stability. The 'Rim o' Rubble' Traverse (Quadrant-Houdini col to Friendship Col) is a recommended classic for those in search of impeccable granite. Time spent in the mountains, especially with friends, is QUALITY time.

Ken Little

By any standard the ACC Okanagan Section summer camp in the Fairy Meadows of the Northern Selkirs was a great success. Special thanks go to Dave Urness and Dave Rothwell for trip planning and organization logistics. Well done lads! My personal thanks to John Warren for sharing his skills and mountain experience with patience and good humour. Also

thanks to Jeremy Vandekerkhove for freely sharing his leadership time to anyone willing to rope up, AND for not forgetting the keg o' cream ale. Dave and Stan bagged just about every peak nearby in fine style, as did David and Greg, the latter pair having brought in fresh chickens!!! Janice McQuilkin wins the "most colorful climber award", Pat Reiter receives the "food group chef of the week" award.



Ken Little collects the "outstanding weather forecast" nod (not sure which was drier, the weather or his humour) and as my partner, Dave Rothwell picks up the coveted "gold belay glove" (who else?). And for those of you who missed out on the joys of sauna showers, loose rock, snow cooled beer, long approaches, bluebird days, yawning crevasses, Sir Sandford vistas, and partner prepped luxury dinners, well, you really should have been there!!!

Lee Shepherd



The weather was awesome, great group, great food, five peaks and my introduction to ice climbing. I've got to thank Stan for his fine ice tools and his tutelage in the art of ice climbing. I followed his teachings but have yet to adopt his power-lifting regime. Also my food group will be glad to know that Pat Reiter has enrolled in cooking classes.

Gary Page

Highlight-the trip to Unicorn. Awesome day. Thanks Ken L. for the superb leading job up! Disappointment-camera didn't work that day. Anyone got photos from the Unicorn day? Will wash dishes for copies of photos, especially summit (with us in it), but any good views will do en route. Too bad about the #\$\$^%ing boulders. These battered old bodies just don't bend that way happily anymore!

Joanne & Fred

Blue sky, striking peaks, great people. What else could one ask for.

I can hardly wait for next years camp!

Dave Urness



This summer I had the opportunity to go Fairy Meadows with the ACC (Okanagan Section). Being rather new to the club I was a bit nervous heading to such a awesome mountaineering area with, lets just say a smattering of experience in the alpine. Questions arose in my head such as what



the heck is a 'bite of rope'. Well in a week I had the great fortune of climbing four peaks, learned glacier travel fundamentals, learned how to ice climb, took heaps of pictures and generally got to know nineteen great people. The group had the experienced who still took the time to help out the less experienced members. The cabin was

cozy and situated in one of the most beautiful areas in the world. Plus the weather was unbelievable sunny and warm and thank God I brought sunscreen along! I still remember what I wrote in the ACC log book at the cabin and it goes something like this...

A week at Fairy Meadows my new boots look old, My new ice axe is scratched and worn, my new crampons look old and my new helmet has many dents, scratches and divets on it...

what a BLAST I had!

A week at Fairy Meadows seemed to go by too Fast...

Cheers and many happy rappels

Pat Reiter

A more appropriate name for these two mountain ranges could not exist, the Gothics and the Adamants. Every passing day the names become more real and less fable. The days start with a endless pil-



grimage through small and medium size rubble. Then more miles of playing peek-a-boo with the hidden jaws of goulash crevasses. When you reach the bases of the dark towers that make up these mountains you find gargoyles of large loose blocks waiting to rain down on those that would dare seek the summits. Truly a splendid place for the mountain adventurer and the accommodations aren't too shabby either. Like a castle in the mist it sits high among the peaks and glaciers providing sweet refuge.

Go and enjoy!

Sincerely,

John J. Warren

Grizzly Charge

My son, Chad Luider, myself, and two others, Scott and Cindy planned to climb the South Pinnacle in the Pinnacle range of the Monashee Mountains. The trail into Monashee Lake climbs up a narrow steep valley. It starts off in heavy timber that eventually gives way to alders growing in the numerous avalanche paths of the steep sided valley. After about five km the trail ends in the alpine at the lake. The trail guide says that it is possible to see Grizzly Bears foraging in the alders. This was prime Grizzly country and Scott and Cindy were hiking with their dogs who were well trained Golden Retrievers with there own backpacks to carry their food. Like any big dog they were up to the task and continually ran ahead to scout the trail and then returning to see why we were so slow.

When our group was just coming out of the forest and entering the first slide path with thick alder growth I remember thinking to myself that this certainly was prime Grizzly Bear country. Suddenly Chad stopped in front of me, I asked him "bear?" he nodded as he held up his arms and yelled "hey". I immediately followed his lead and also raised my arms to appear bigger and yelled. My son Tyrone was ahead of Chad and was crouching down off the trail, beyond him I could see Cindy had fallen into some alders. I could not see Scott he was around a bit of a bend in the trail but I could hear him yelling. I saw golden and brown flashes of fur just beyond Cindy, the alders were shaking violently. Chad turned and said "lets go". I called Ty and said "come on" and the three of us retreated down the trail. I looked back after about 10 paces and saw that Cindy was following us but no sign of Scott. We continued down the trail for about 150-m. before we stopped and turned to see Scott and the dogs about 50-m. behind and no bear, whew! We were all safe.

The whole incident happened in about a seven second time span and the only reason the bear left was because it wasn't aware of our presence and when she finally noticed us she became overwhelmed and fled. When travelling in bear country there is safety in numbers, and it is good idea to stay close and not let the group get too strung out (we were spreadout too far) and make noise. This incident also happen so fast that if we had bear spray or a firearm we would not of been able to get an effective shot off. The lesson here is don't bring dogs into bear country. This poor bear was just protecting her cubs and the dogs were a threat to them. We were all scared including the bear and to say the least, we did not make our objective as we felt it prudent to leave the area. The mountains aren't going anywhere.

Gary Page

We Need Your Help - Join the Executive

Please contact us if you wish to join our executive. There are many areas where your help and assistance is needed. Whether it be on a committee discussing the next club trips, serving as a director or in an office within the executive, your participation will only help our club. If you are interested in a position, please send a letter of nomination, signed by another club member in your support. Send this letter to the executive at the address listed on the front of this newsletter. You may also bring the letter in person to our next executive meeting, Tuesday, November 6th at 6:30 pm. Positions available on our executive include: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trip Coordinator, VP Membership, Newsletter editor and Directors positions. Committees are also an avenue for involvement and information on these can be found at our next executive meeting. Elections will be held on November 17th at the annual general meeting. Nominations will also be accepted prior to the vote at the meeting. Please show your support and become involved with our club organisation.

Skaha Climbing Festival 2001

Feed the Masses!

The 1st annual Skaha climbing festival was a resounding success. Thousands of climbers from Canada and the US descended upon the camp ground and made daily pilgrimages to the infamous Skaha Bluffs. The Okanagan Section of the ACC found itself at the centre of attention, feeding hungry climbers at the evening slide show and BBQ social. The event was a real success, with many



in attendance to experience the humour and wit of local climber and author Howie Richardson.

Other slide show presenters included Roger Chayer. Their audiovisual slideshow presentations were both professional and inspiring. The weekend was rounded out with climbing clinics and demonstrations lead by Scott Milton. In conclusion, the last evening was wrapped up with a live band and overly consummate climbers. Unfortunately, many of us were too tired and weary from flipping burgers to finish the night off on the dance floor!! Thanks goes out to the Okanagan Section volunteers for contributing their time and energy for the BBQ. It turned out to be a good fund raiser for the club.

Pushing the Limits

Chic Scott Presents in Kelowna

Over 240 people crowded into the Okanagan College auditorium to see Chic Scott's presentation of Pushing the Limits: The History of Canadian Mountaineering. Over 20 volunteers from our club got together and helped put on a terrific show. Chic took us through the history of mountain travel starting from the David Thompson era, through the pre-war period dominated by the Swiss guiding tradition, the bold and somewhat renegade era in the 60's and 70's then into the modern climbing achievements of late. All this was put together with amazing photography, both historical and from some of Canada's leading men and women climbers. This event was a real treat for our section and the community as a whole. Special thanks goes to all our volunteers and sponsors including Mosaic Books and Rapid Printing. This show was based upon Chic Scott's recent publication Pushing the Limits, and is available at local climbing stores and book retailers.

Mt. English 2001

With 10 centimetres of fresh new powder the conditions were great for skiing. Unfortunately the trip was the club's first climb of the season and therefore we had ice axes and crampons, not skis and beacons. The access road to Mount English is approximately 1 kilometre east of Three Valley Gap. We drove to about 5,500 feet in the pouring rain where we sat...sat some more and sat a bit more waiting for the weather to break. Finally after two hours the rain let up and we were on our way.

The hike to base camp, approximately 7,000 feet, was short but steep. After setting up camp we decided to take advantage of the good conditions and kick steps for what we hoped would be an early morning ascent. Jeremy, Gary and Chad reviewed basic snow rescue skills with the group and Saturday evening was spent frolicking in our winter wonderland doing self arrests and glissading. The next morning we woke up buried



June in the Mountains

in fresh snow. Socked in we decided to wait out the weather. About 9 a.m. we headed out in less than ideal conditions. When we reached the saddle (7,900 feet) the group decided that it was too dangerous to keep going in the rapidly deteriorating conditions. Although we were 500 feet shy of the summit the trip was a great way to get used to those back breaking summer loads and practice our rusty mountaineering skills.

Trip leader: Gary Page

Team members: Carla Stephens, Chad Luider, Colin Mathieson, Debbie Bray, Jeremy Vandekerkhove and Pat Reiter.

Lightning Strike On Young's Peak

by Janice Letkeman
McQuilkin



The rope around my hips jerked, quickly braking the belay and digging my heels into the snow wall. I stared at the short section of rope before it plummeted over the snow wall and down the other side of the 45 degree slope. Wondering whether the group had reached the bottom, I waited ...

Earlier before starting the belay I had plunged my "old fashioned" long handled ice axe into the snow and anchored myself using webbing clipped to a carabiner on my climbing harness, I was glad for the extra back-up. I quite liked my ancient 1970s vintage MSR ice axe with it's extra long shaft even though the guides joked about it's age and wondered if I had stolen it from a museum somewhere. "Did you take it from it's frame", they asked? Sitting atop my backpack on the snow ledge under pelting snow and rain, I was glad for the extra anchor security. The rope slackened and I knew they were moving again...they must be near the steep traverse directly above the crevasse. "No point yelling to them" I thought, we can't see or hear one another with the snow wall between us. Communication was impossible. I took up as much of the slack as I could remembering the huge gaping hole in the blue ice during our ascent.

As I sat there alone, tending the belay, I kept a close eye on the weather. There was a huge, ugly thunder storm brewing all around us, which was the reason for our hurried descent. Earlier that morning, just as the first of our four rope teams reached the summit of Young's Peak, the lightning storm blew in. When our ice axes starting humming and people's frozen hair stood on end from the electrical current in the atmosphere, the priority suddenly shifted from summit pictures to getting off the mountain as quickly as possible. Staying on the ridge simply increased the risk of lightening striking us. We decided to connect two 50 metre ropes together and complete the descent in one belay-assisted down climb rather than using the ropes separately in the individual rope teams. It would take too much of our precious time to dig anchors for each rope team and then repeat the process half way down the slope as compared to one long

rappel. To further speed up the descent, groups of two would descend at the same time. We drew straws as to who would set and tend the anchor at the top of the snow ledge...I lost.

Before beginning my own descent I paused and confirmed that the rope was slack, and that everyone was indeed down safely. All that remained was for me to get myself down and join the rest of the group. While adjusting my backpack I left the anchor in until the last moment. I then removed the anchor, and began my descent, using the technique of plunging my ice axe into the soft snow and then taking two steps. Plunge, two steps. Repeat!



all in a days adventure

From a distance my form looked appropriately bent over, slumping my shoulders forward so my weight shifted to my feet. Striking my heels first into the snow I started descending. Because I was the last to descend, I did not have the benefit of a top anchor. If I slipped at the top of the headwall, I could potentially slide two rope lengths to where the rest of the group was waiting, and then two more rope lengths below them before they could arrest my fall. That was a worst case scenario! I cheered myself up by telling myself that realistically, I would probably slide into the crevasse first! A much shorter fall! What a cheerfull thought!

Having benefitted many times from other people's mountaineering expertise, I now was putting into practice the very skills I had hoped to gain and share with others. Encouraged by David & Alison Campbell Urness, I applied for the Marmot Women's Leadership course. I had a few nagging questions about the fact that the course was just for women. Was there any difference? No! I learned during the

course that certain companies took responsibility for sponsoring various groups of people. The North Face tends to sponsor general leadership courses while Marmot, wanting to encourage more women to take up the sport, sponsors mountaineering courses for women. Half of the 9 course participants came from Quebec, Nova Scotia and Ontario with the rest coming from Alberta and BC. We all shared the desire to improve our mountaineering skills and gain leadership experience.

July 14th to 19th at the Asulkan Hut in Glacier National Park was the worst week of mountain weather all summer. In addition to the low snow levels which made the crevasses larger than normal, the weather socked in with high winds, poor visibility, driving snow and the above mentioned lightning. All of this combined to make perfect conditions for a course on leadership and mountaineering.

Because of the adverse weather conditions, many of the skills and rope techniques we practiced - digging T anchors, short roping, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, route finding - were all the more realistic because we had to use them for real! Throughout the entire course, each of us took turns as rope leaders while the two guides took a back seat and let us learn from our mistakes. Returning to the hut to dry our gear and enjoy three course meals was a highlight of each day. After supper we would debrief on the day's events, discuss and practice various techniques and plan for the following day.

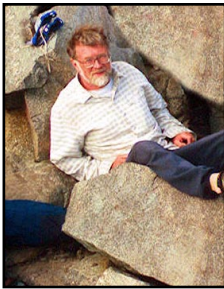
I realize how fortunate we are in this country to have an organization like the Alpine Club of Canada to share mountaineering expertise through club outings and courses. I look forward to sharing more of these mountaineering experiences with the members of our club in the following year.

Oh by the way, if you want to know how the adventure on Young's Peak ended, come out to the Annual General Meeting in November and ask me then!

Catamount Glacier

(aka Grumpy Old Men go Post-holing)

The trip schedule said (something like):-"Catamount Glacier: Mountaineering and hiking. A small group (Stir Fry Gang) will be visiting this area and invite other small groups to try their own luck. Climb and hike at your own level. Camp at 7000' beside Catamount Glacier, or occupy the Olive Hut at approximately 7500'. Hikers wander at will. Hikes in the Welsh-Scotch Peaks." A conversation with one of the Fryers added nuggets of information like, 3* hrs. hike in; be at the end of the Forester Ck. FSR on the July 14th. At last, an ACC trip within the capabilities of my aging body. "Saturday morning or afternoon?" and "Where is the Forester Ck FSR?" were two questions I was too proud to ask, but I was going, and on Sunday morning a happy band of eight wandered up the trail. Well, after wandering against my will for seven hours, the last two, post-holing across a glacier in freezing rain, I arrived at the cabin.



The stir fry guy

I should have known better, there were indicators; like the cabin is actually at 8500ft, a 3500ft elevation gain including a 1000ft headwall below the glacier, a 60lb pack and, most of all, two old codgers who referred to themselves as a 'gang'. I crawled over to the cabin window to watch an ant-like speck below ferrying loads across the glacier below. I decide to do my JK impression; feign exhaustion and let somebody else go and help Ken. The last of the party stumbled in after 8hours; the main problem was detouring around the crevasses in soft snow.

The next day was uneventful: Neil, Ken, Jeff, Tom and Ken went off exploring above the cabin. Leon and I held fort against the foul gray weather and waited for Jack and Lesley to arrive

(they had sensibly camped at the snout of the glacier). We received them with the news that the cabin was full and they had to camp outside. Fortunately this was handled with grace above and beyond the call of duty. They even drank some of Leon's soup.



gang member (Leon)

On Tuesday, we were greeted by sunshine and a 5am alarm clock (aka Leon). We managed to restrain Leon, but the sun seduced us into an attempt of Gwendolyn (that's a mountain). Although the snow was soft the glacier was fairly flat and free from big slots and we made good time in reaching the next ice-storm at the head of the glacier. As homage to our stubbornness we waited out the storm at the base of Gwendolyn. When the storm cleared we made our way to the ridge a couple of hundred feet below the summit. Here, there was a boulder inscribed with "warmth, comfort, safety, you've made it to 10000ft what more do you want?, you just spent 10min floundering in a deep snow pit 10ft from here, can't you take a hint?" I stayed, the others, unable to read, pressed on. Eventually, the clouds broke to reveal the steep icy snow slope



Geoff Spedding

below me that had intimidated 1 hr earlier. This was an embarrassing view; I could now see the slope above and the route down. I had wimped out above the crux (which was a bit of a nonevent anyway). I used the opening to move down and got to the base and was just in time to see team

Gwendolyn whooping it up on the summit. I waited for them and the return to cabin was uneventful except the wind came up and the temp. dropped from +6 to -2. The weather deteriorated from then on.

Wednesday was a quiet day; we had thrown Leon out into the snow for snoring and told him not to come back in till 8am that morning. The blizzard was now accompanied by 50mph gusts and going to the outhouse had become an epic traverse. We were merciful though and let Leon in at 7am. The weather did not abate for the balance of our stay and was marked only by conversations about, how great the hut is, but why didn't have any bloody books. A thirty second respite was achieved when Leon returned from the outhouse all smiles and looking thirty years younger; he had somehow managed to pee on a pack-rat.

The trip out was a little less strenuous than the one in, but somewhat more terrifying. A couple of people dropped legs into small slots (twice myself), which had become hidden by the new snow. All in all, the hike was strenuous and the weather foul, but the company was good and we (they)



Ken McClure

bagged a peak. I never did hikes into the Welsh-Scotch Peaks, but no matter, the adventure had just begun. Ken and I did a couple of day hikes after that, and then we joined Jeff and his son on a great four-day traverse out of Gorman Lake and into Moon Raker (south of Golden).

Trip victims were: Neil MacGibbon, Leon Blumer (the Stir Fry gang), Ken McClure, Jack and Lesley Bundan, Tom Fairburn, Jeff Spedding and Paul Phillips (author).

Mt. MaCrae Trip July 28-29

We left the CPR Farwell pier in Revelstoke with a large group of fourteen. We canoed fifteen miles down the Columbia River and beached the canoes on the east bank across from the mouth of Corsair Creek. We then proceeded to climb through the dense underbrush of the Temperate Zone Columbia rain forest to 6,500 ft. level. This is an extremely arduous climb of about 5,000 feet. That is how we would have done it 100 years ago. Nowadays you can drive south from Revelstoke to the 6,500-ft. level, which is exactly what we did. The route is well described in the "Backroads of the Kootenays" book and is one of the most accessible alpine areas that I know.

We met in the Regent Hotel parking lot and 45 minutes after our departure we were at the trailhead and 6,500 ft. level. The group did number fourteen and included a six-month-old member, Joshua. Because of my familiarity with



the area I was negligent as a leader in not supplying maps or general directions to the alpine campsite. We left in two separate groups, I lead the first group and Chad Luider followed with the second group. There is a maintained trail into MaCrae lake but the route to the snowfield and peak branches off about two thirds of the way into the lake and is not clearly marked. When my party reached that point that is where I realized my error. I had not

briefed Chad or provided him with a map so his group would not know they would have to leave the main trail. Despite our best "Boy Scout" arrow of twigs, not surprisingly Chad missed the junction. Chad's group continued on to the lake and we went to the alpine site. Later in the day Chad and Jim hooked up with us but had decided to stay camped at the lake because six-month-old Joshua, mother Nicole and Erin fancied the setting. Chad and Jim climbed on to the peak.

The weather was less than perfect but it did break enough in the afternoon to allow us to conduct our intended snow course. Jeremy taught self arrest, glacier travel, and snow anchors. Dan and Troy, being rather large specimens, made self-arrest in a roped group a challenge. We looked like Gore-Tex clad spawning salmon flipping and flopping around on the snowfield. Pat Reiter acted out a few scenes from "Vertical Limit" III or IV (his own script) but without the used nuclear devices. The afternoon went quite well despite the rain. It continued raining on and off during the evening and the night. We planed on bagging the peak the next morning.



We awoke to rain and low cloud coverage. Some of us decided not to attempt the peak. The peak (8,700 ft.) is only a scramble but with out the visibility it could await another days assault. The view from the peak on a clear day is quite spectacular, you can see down Trout Lake and Arrow Lake. Jeremy, Dan, Troy and Pat went on to climb the peak but the clouds never broke for them to see the view. The rest of us headed down and by coincidence met up with Chad's group at the junction of the trails. It was a good trip enjoyed by all ages, babies, teenagers and adults. Next year may the sunshine.

Trip Participants: *Tyrone Page, Sheila Makarewicz, Jeremy Vandekerkhove, Dan Richter, Troy, Dave Rothwell, Lise Maggs, Pat Reiter, Chad Luider, Erin Radomske, Jim, Nicole, Joshua and Gary Page.*

Shangri-La and Mt. Ethelbert

Ken MacClure, Neil MacGibbon and two non-members, Dave Knowlton from Summerland and Mike Henderson from Kamloops went into this area east of the Bugaboos Sept.8,9,10. Leaving Vernon 9:30 am it was a full day to the campsite in Shangri-La with about 30 min. daylight left. The logging road in is ok for two-wheel drive until the turn-off from Frances Creek to the Lead Queen Mine which is low-range 4-wheel, with back-up hairpins. From the parking lot at 7100ft it was a 3 hr climb up to the pass at 8300ft, and down the glacier to the camp at 7500ft. The terrain is all loose talus with scree to the pass, and loose talus all the way down, with lots of rockfall on the glacier. Next morning a 3 hr climb up unrelenting loose rocks to the summit of Ethelbert(10,300ft). A meandering 3 hr descent took us past the Shangri-La lakes back to the camp.

This is a fabulous area for scramblers and hikers with a little crampon experience. The glacier is an easy walk. From the ridge above the camp you are in an spectacular amphitheatre of rock and glacier, Ethelbert towering behind and in the valley bottom, a spectacular series of improbably blue-hued lakes, surrounded with predominantly larch forest. In the south are the Scotch, Irish, Welsh Peaks and Catamount Glacier where we were a month earlier. From the top of Ethelbert, the Bugs seem just a couple of miles to the west, the Columbia Valley to the east, and Rogers Pass and Sir Donald to the north.

You probably do not want to go unless the weather is fine. The rocks in, and up Ethelbert are miserably loose, and in overcast weather there would be nothing to see, but in a spell of fine weather, 3 days will bring you a great alpine experience.

Neil MacGibbon

Upcoming Trips/Events

Fall/Winter 2001/2002



If the trip involves glacier travel, crevasse rescue knowledge is essential. Consult with trip leaders for further details regarding destination, difficulty, or equipment. Remember we have equipment available for rent through the club.

TRIP RATING - A letter rating from A to C indicates how strenuous the trip is and how long a day to expect.

A---easy, moderate elevation gain, short days

B---moderately strenuous, substantial elevation gain, full days

C---strenuous, much elevation gain or travel with a heavy pack, long days

A numerical rating from 1 to 5 indicates technical difficulty.

Oct 26, 27 & 28
Monashee Park
Janice McQuilkin(764-5087)
Advanced
 Camp at Twin Lakes and ascend Mt Severeide...weather permitting

October 29th
ACC Social in Vernon
 The next Vernon social/informal meeting will be held on Monday October 29 at the Lodged Inn Hostel, 3201 Pleasant Valley Road in Vernon. Featured will be slides from our very own 'mountain cat', Cathy Mather, showing trail running in the Andes in Peru. For further info, or to confirm you will be attending, please call Kathy @ 766-3913.

November(Date TBA)
Malakwa
Kathy Wallraven(766-3913)
Brian Burke(542-0416)
 Ski touring

December 8-9 A2-3
Rogers Pass - Wheeler Hut
Dave Urness (763-2936)
 Beginner to Intermediate Ski Tour

January 19
Apex Mtn. Snow Cave Construction
Andy & Janice McQuilkin
(764-5087)
 Snow level permitting

January 25-26 B3
Asulkan hut weekends
Al Towers (868-0045)
Neil MacGibbon(763-9702)
 Friday night-4 beds reserved
 Saturday night-12 beds reserved
 Asulkan Cabin, intermediate terrain, people with limited experience are welcome if they discuss their equipment with myself first. 4.5 hr ski in from Gunsite parking lot at Rogers Pass. Great Class A cabin with propane heat, lights, and stoves. Varied terrain, from steep slopes to glade skiing. Pieps, probe, and shovel are a necessity.

January 26-27 B3
Fat Dog Creek, Manning Park
Bruce Veidt (492-9142)
Karen Nickurak (497-7156)
 Ski trip,winter camping

With good travelling conditions we should reach our camp around noon, giving us lots of time for skiing. Options include skiing-for-turns on nearby slopes or a tour over to Three Brothers.

February 2
Telemark Clinic
Big White
Alison Urness (763-2936)
 Beginner to intermediate

February(Date TBA)
Malakwa
Kathy Wallraven(766-3913)
Brian Burke(542-0416)
 Ski touring

February 16-17
The Girls Weekend
Alison Urness(763-2936)
Karen Nickurak (497-7156)
 The ladies will be co-leading a ski touring 'Girls Weekend'. If interested, please contact either Alison or Karen. A location will be chosen at a later date depending on the groups interest/ability.

February 22-23 B3
Asulkan hut weekend
Al Towers (868-0045)
Neil MacGibbon(763-9702)
 Friday night-4 beds reserved
 Saturday night-12 beds reserved
 See earlier trip description

March 3 B3-4
Needle Peak - Coquihalla Area
Dave Urness(763-2936)
 Intermediate to Advanced Ski Tour

March 15-17
Kokanee Glacier
Alison Urness(763-2936)
Janice McQuilkin(764-5087)
 Advanced
 Winter camping

March 29-30 B3
Asulkan hut weekends
Al Towers (868-0045)
Neil MacGibbon(763-9702)
 Friday night-4 beds reserved
 Saturday night-12 beds reserved
 See earlier trip description

Classified

FOR SALE

Brand new not yet out of the box Brunton Eclipse 8099 compass for sale - \$60.00. MEC sells for \$72.

Call Kathy Borsato at 770-8261
 email:peterkath@telus.net.

FOR SALE

Scarpa T3 boots, size 10.5 (same as North American size 11.5), used 3 seasons. \$150 obo
 Tua Transalp skis (203 cm) with Riva 3 bindings well used. \$75 obo
 Ascension skins, 62 mm, used 3 seasons, clean and still sticky. \$50 obo
 Supergaiters, non-insulated, Gore-Tex, size medium. \$40 obo

Call Bruce Veidt at 492-9142
 email:bveidt@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

Used pair of Telemark Skis Tua Mega MX, approximately 2 years old, good condition 187 cm, with Superloop bindings Selling because skis are too long (willing to trade for shorter pair). Asking \$300 (new \$600).
 Darlene Atkinson at 769-5274

KOOTENAY EXPERIENCE

Anyone who is looking to purchase backcountry ski gear or accessories should check out Kootenay Experience(toll free at 1-888-488-4327 or www.kootenayexperience.com) in Nelson. They have some excellent prices and an excellent selection of gear. Here is some of the deals they are willing to offer to our club members:

*Free shipping to Vernon/Kelowna by Greyhound/mail on all purchases over \$100.00.

*Free binding mounting with all ski/binding purchases.

*20% off Ymir Yurts backcountry ski destination week.

*10% Individuals courses/20% group booking

FAR WEST

Alpine club members don't forget that Far West offers us a 10 % discount. Oct. 20th pre season Ski Sale offering discounts on old and new stock. Check out the new lineup from The North Face as well as specials on Far West clothing. Kelty tents and backpacks reduced to clear. Watch for the new line coming in from Mountain Hardware including clothing and equipment. Far West is located on the corner of Hwy. 97 and 33.

THE CRUX CLIMBING NIGHTS

Alpine club members are invited every second Friday starting Nov. 2nd for a club climbing night. Drop in rate is \$10.00. Rentals available. Call Dave Urness at 763-2936 for info.