



ISLAND BUSHWHACKER

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Photo: Charles Turner and Rambler Junior a.k.a. "The Needle".

THE 46 FIX

Congratulations to Charles Turner, who, on the long weekend in August, climbed "Rambler Junior," which completed his ACC list of the "46 Island Peaks over 6,000 feet". He recalls his most electrifying mountain as Mt. Colonel Foster, with the very cold, very wet and very dark descent in a lightening storm. His most "Vancouver Island-like" peak experiences were ascending Mt. Cobb and Mount Haig Brown which, he thinks, have the most horrendous bush! Charles long term quest started when someone gave him "the list of the 46", after completing his ACC - "Island Qualifiers".

VI SECTION MESSAGES

Vancouver Island Section AGM
Thursday December 02
UVIC University Club

The Agenda:

- √ End of year business
- √ Selection of next year's executive
- √ Short presentation about Mt. Arrowsmith
- √ Slide show



SECTION EXECUTIVE
2004

CHAIR - Tom Hall 592-2518
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TREASURER - Geoff Bennett 853-7515
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Selena Swets
Sasha Kubicek

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LIBRARY - Judith Holm 477-8596
WEBMASTER - Viggo Holm 477-8596

ACC website:
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca>
ACC VI website:
www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/vi

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Submission deadline for the Annual is Monday,
January 31 and for the Bushwhacker it is Monday,
February 14. Send all submissions to :
holm@telus.net

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The AGM is the Section's primary business event. It is also another fun get together. The outgoing executive will make announcements and give reports as needed. Come and hear what they are proposing for our Centennial projects. They will also present the budget for endorsement by the membership. The budget includes the 2004 Budget Statement, and the 2005 Budget Forecast.

The closing business of each AGM is the handing over of the meeting to the Nominating Committee who will oversee the selection of the executive for the coming year. This ushering in of the new executive is a time of:

appreciation - of those who have served on the current year's executive ;
encouragement - to new blood and younger members to step forward; and
importance - as this will set the tone and determine the leadership of the section for another year.

This year's Nominating Committee is Russ Moir (Committee Chair), Claire Ebendinger (past Section Chair) and Rob Adams (member at large appointed by the current Chair). Russ, Claire and Rob will have developed a slate of nominations before the AGM, will call for final nominations from the floor at the AGM itself, and will hold a ballot for any positions for which there are more than one nominee.

SO - Step forward. Push someone else forward. Come to the AGM. Don't miss out in the selection of the section's coveted executive positions for 2004/2005.

There will be a short presentation by Peter Rothermel on the proposal to preserve Mt. Arrowsmith alpine as a park. This will be followed with a short slide show of pictures from the 2004 Summer camp at Lake O'Hara.

The North Face Leadership Course 2004

Selena Swets

This year's leadership course took place in the spectacular Icefall Brook area, in the Mt. Lyell group on the west face of the Rocky Mountains. We shared the camp with members on the national club's GMC, making for a fun and social camp. Base camp was a scenic fly in/fly out, to a box canyon at the headwaters of Icefall Brook, with an elevation of 7100ft. Objectives in the area included Mt Forbes, the Lyell Group (five spectacular peaks over 11000) and other summits including Mons, Messines, St. Julien, and the Divisions. Our inspiring ACMG guides were Cyril Shokoples and Helen Sovdat, with help from Masten Brolsma, our excellent amateur leader.



The first day we flew in, we were beset by storm clouds and low visibility, making for some long waits at the heli landing both at the parking area and at camp, and multiple flight attempts for others. Note to self; always carry sleeping bag and pad with you on the helicopter, as you never know when they might not be able to fly! We all made it in however, and even had our gear. That evening, after a fantastic meal done up by our camp staff we got to meet everyone and check out the itinerary for the week. There were representatives from ACC sections from Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, and Vancouver; an interesting mix of people and experiences from across the country!

Day one was spent as skills day, as we covered short roping skills with lots and lots of practice, then worked on protection placements, rope anchors and piton craft. As well we covered aspects of rock rescue. The evening, after a sumptuous three course dinner, was spent learning about liability and legal issues and leader roles and responsibilities. A very busy and intense day!

Day two was spent with a trip up Mons Peak 3083 m(10114') as we practised

spacing and route transition from rock to glacier. Short roping skills were practised in earnest, as we took turns in leading each other up and down the summit rock. Bluebird skies on the summit made for route scouting as we took in the views; future objectives noted! Decent involved ice anchors (abalokov) and lowering multiple climbers using a monster munter.

Day three involved ascents of Messines, St. Julien, and Main division by our teams of three or four; on this day we were given more leadership roles under guidance by our leaders. We crossed glaciers, negotiated crevasses (some people seem to fall in more often than others!) and furthered our short roping and route assessment- thankfully no crevasse rescue skills were needed! After this day were swims in the tarn behind the tents, then the usual fabulous meal.

On day four everyone started early – 0430- for some big summit days. The GMC group were doing the Lyells as a two day trip with a bivy at high camp, while most of us were going there as a day trip. None of our three groups returned earlier than 12hrs, with one of our groups who headed to Forbes clocking the summit for 19hours! After a long day in the hot sun on the glacier, the tarn felt wonderful! Themes for the day were again pacing, group assessment and management, glacier navigation, and weather assessment.

Day five was instructional day in camp, providing a much needed “rest”, especially for the Forbes group. We covered

contents of a leader’s pack, route planning, radio/GPS communication, first aid and repair kits, navigation and crevasse rescue. After this we were assigned our “homework”; to plan and execute a route we had never climbed. Our guides, amateur leader, and each other were neophyte climbers we had to safely lead to bag a peak. This was the chance to hone our skills and seek out our weaknesses.

Day six was Friday, when three eager groups executed route plans in climbs of Main Division and St. Julien. This was where it all came together! The guides/amateur leader were excellent in summarizing our learned skills and accomplishments of the week. After dinner were single interviews with the guides to review our individual strengths and weakness from the week. At last in the evening we rounded up some guitar players, singers and the rest of our nonexpert voices for the end of the week bash around a bonfire.

So the week ended with many goodbyes and thank you’s, then the scenic flight out to our cars. What a week! And now it remains to distribute the good knowledge amongst our members... I would recommend this course to any of our leaders, aspiring or experienced, for the experience it brings to our section!

Warmest thanks to the VI ACC section executive for endorsing me on this course; it was a wonderful and eye opening experience which I hope to share with all of you!

Alpine Club of Canada Section Centennial Fund



The year 2006 is the ACC’s Centennial. Sections across the country are planning events to celebrate. Funding is available to Sections for events or activities that they are planning to help celebrate the ACC’s one hundred years of mountain leadership and adventure. First deadline for submission is Jan. 31, 2005; second deadline is June 30, 2005. Application and contact information are contained in the application form and can be found on the ACC website at: <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/funds/index.html#section>

Our VI Section executive would like to hear your suggestions both for events and for funding! Do check out the website address above, as it explains the criteria. \$10,000 will be shared among those of the 18 sections who successfully apply. Would you like to volunteer to be part of our planning or leadership? Would you like to be included on the email list to discuss this subject? To start things off, here are two suggestions for VI Section Centennial events. They come from members in Courtenay to Lasqueti to Qualicum and Victoria. Your feedback is welcomed. Please send your responses c/o holm@telus.net

Traverse and climb of the Golden Hinde, 8-9 days

Maximum 10-12, (possibility of a second, separate group), a strenuous and somewhat technical trip, beginning or ending at the Elk River. Includes Island Bushwhacking. We also welcome ACC members from across the country.

Park status for Mt. Arrowsmith

This is a long term goal, to be pursued as a team effort by VI mountaineering clubs.

The Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island Section

2005 Draft Budget

Prepared by Geoff Bennett, Treasurer, for the Annual General Meeting on 2 Dec 2004

ITEM	DEBIT	CREDIT	NET
Estimated Bank Assets on 1 Dec 2004			\$12,656.00
NET REVENUE ITEMS			
Banff Festival of Mountain Films			\$2,820.00
November 2004 carryover	\$150.00		
November 2005	\$12,330.00	\$15,300.00	
Section Membership Dues			\$1,695.00
Monthly remittance from ACC Canmore		\$4,020.00	
FMCBC dues (155 memberships in Fiscal 2004 @ \$15)	\$2,325.00		
GST Rebate		\$800.00	\$800.00
Equipment Rental Income		\$575.00	\$575.00
Section Trips and Camps	\$8,200.00	\$9,000.00	\$800.00
Bank Interest		\$75.00	\$75.00
NET EXPENSE ITEMS			
Publications			-\$3,785.00
Bushwhacker Annual	\$3,350.00	\$165.00	
Newsletters (4) and Trip Schedules (2)	\$600.00		
Purchase of New Equipment	\$300.00		-\$300.00
Subsidies for Section Members			-\$1,400.00
Courses for Members and Camps for Youth	\$1,400.00		
Section Meetings in Victoria			-\$500.00
December AGM	\$100.00		
January Volunteer Party	\$300.00		
October Meeting & Slide Contest	\$100.00		
Slide Shows	\$0.00		\$0.00
Website fees	\$150.00		-\$150.00
Section Banquet	\$1,100.00	\$1,150.00	-\$250.00
Speaker's fee and expenses	\$300.00		
Donations and dues (ex FMCBC)	\$100.00		-\$100.00
Office, Library, and Travel			-\$270.00
Stationery, copying, plaques	\$50.00		
Library	\$100.00		
Delegate travel to ACC meetings	\$120.00		
TOTALS	\$31,075.00	\$31,085.00	\$10.00
Estimated Bank Assets on 1 Dec 2005			\$12,666.00

Notes to 2005 Draft Budget

1. The Treasurer has recommended to the Executive that Section Camps should make a 10% profit
2. The Section supports slide shows but will no longer subsidize them.
3. Can. Avalanche Assn, Climbers Access Society - \$50 each
4. PO Box will not be renewed after May 2004
5. Includes chequing account and a cashable term deposit of \$4,436.21

New Belay Stations On The Nose of Mt. Arrowsmith

Peter Rothermel



New anchors on the upper belay station

Photo: Peter Rothermel

Over a period of time this summer and fall, I've been upgrading the two bolted belay/rappel stations on the Nose, the most popular and oldest climbing route on Mount Arrowsmith. Annually, there are hundreds of people that use these stations and making these anchors secure to the point of redundancy is justified.

Several years ago the rusty, wobbly piton on the upper station was replaced with two bolts and two more bolts were placed at the lower station in lieu of webbing through an eye in the rock. Large hangers were placed with these bolts. One problem with the hangers was that rappel ropes were hard to pull and often hung up, when directly threaded through the hangers. Often people would tie webbing through the hangers, but webbing left behind poses a hidden threat.

Pulling a rope over webbing may cause enough heat through friction to compromise the integrity of the webbing, especially if the rope is gritty. It has been noted that webbing compromised by a rope can and has parted when the next person puts their weight on it. This is a good enough reason to never trust or use found webbing, no matter how new looking. Rap rings mitigate the friction problem, but nylon still degrades fast in the sun and weather. I never use found webbing, if I have any of my own left. I figure the cost of any gear left behind is a cheap investment, compared to the cost of death.

On the upper station, a bolt was loose and since the angle was a bit low for easy rappelling, I decided to drill and place two new bolts up about 18 inches higher on the rock face. The lower station bolts were in better shape and I decided to use them again. The day I had scheduled to redo the stations, my helper with the three inch bolts and battery powered hammer drill was a 'no show', so I opted to hand drill and use the two inch bolts I had on hand.

For the upper station, I put in two bolts, two inches long and placed a twelve inch long chain hanger, with a rap ring, on each

bolt. I did the same for the lower station, but using the old bolts again.

Musing over this later, I started having anchor failure worries... like a single two inch bolt will take something like twenty five kilo newtons... which means it will hold a truck. My worries weren't of steel but of the rock. Arrowsmiths rock goes from that beautiful, very hard, chunky, orangish, gritty stuff to the other end of the scale, which is more like vertical scree, held together with God spit. The rock on the Nose is somewhere in between.

Once a person takes on the responsibility to place a bolt, they take on part of the liability of any injuries to anyone if that bolt fails, due to their placement of it... including that of their ability to read the rock's strength—at least I personally feel that way.

So, a few weeks later, I decided to back up

the stations and armed with three inch bolts and more chain, I went back up and did my upgrade. A two pound sledge hammer is just about the right weight and out performs a lighter piton hammer, for drilling rock. This time I timed myself and kept track of my math. It takes me about twenty five minutes to drill each bolt. Every time you hit the drill with your hammer, you have to give the drill an eighth turn twist. After fifty to a hundred taps with the hammer, you need to remove the drill bit from the hole and blow the dust out with a blow tube.

I put in a third middle bolt above the other pair of bolts at both stations and under each bolt hanger, I put a dollop of silicone caulk and connected it to the rap rings with stainless hanger, chain and screw links. I tensioned the three chains so when they are weighted on rappel, they are more or less equalized.

I removed the two old unneeded bolts at the upper belay station. Removing this wedge type of bolt is pretty straight forward, if a hanger and nut can still be tightened down on the bolt's threads. A pair of lost arrow pitons can be tapped in between the rock and hanger, effectively wedging the bolt outward. Keep cranking the nut down, pounding the pitons, on and on until it bottoms out. A crowbar may be handy for the final reef needed to rip the bolt out. The sliding sleeve at the bottom of the bolt, that locks it to the rock is often pulled off and the bolt comes free. The other loose bolt had a frozen nut and I finally had to pound it back and forth with my hammer, until it broke off. The last step is to goo up the holes with silicone or epoxy and smear a bit of rock dust or a pebble to camouflage it.

At any rate, we now have the two belay stations on the Nose Route, both three point anchors, all stainless steel components, with double rappel rings. They are "secure, equalized and redundant", so I can sleep well. For more information on retro-bolting look up www.safeclimbing.org



Photo Contest Mountain Activity Slide. (cropped)

Photo: Christine Fordham

New Trail Notice

By D. Anonymous

“The new Red Pillar Trail is now completely cleared from Oshinow Lake to the alpine. The trail can be accessed by canoe from the boat launch at the S.E. end of the lake. Canoes should be left near the cable car crossing the Ash River estuary just beyond the N.W. end of the lake. Alternatively the trail can be accessed at the end of the rough road that follows the N.E. side of the lake.

This road has been driven by 2WD vehicles but is marginal for these. The trail is flagged and signed and is very steep in places. The trail follows the N.E. bank of the Ash River and then turns to the right to head up through the forest to gain the ridge and the alpine meadows.”

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2004 BUSHWHACKER ANNUAL

Notice to 2004 Trip Leaders. The deadline for submission to the 2004 BUSHWHACKER ANNUAL is January 31, 2005.

We want to have as many as possible 2004 climbs, trips and expeditions recorded in the Annual. We also welcome members' poetry and artwork. In the event that we have too many submissions, articles about the Section's scheduled events may take precedence, but do not let this deter you. Please make sure your article is submitted by the deadline.

We can accept your submission in several forms:

1. e-mail attachment to <holm@telus.net>
2. On a CD or floppy disk in MSWord, Wordperfect or Text format
3. Typewritten

Mail slides, CD, floppy, or typed copy, with a self addressed envelope, to Viggo Holm, 1991 Casa Marcia Crescent, Victoria, BC, V8N 2X5. Please mark “view from this side” on the slides to ensure the picture is not reversed.

Pictures for the articles must be clearly labelled with the location and identification of the of the feature. Also the photographer's name and the names of all people in the photo. High quality digital images are needed. Send to <holm@telus.net>.