



The Bushwhacker Newsletter

Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section

August 2010

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club has a monthly slide-show presentation at the Swan Lake Nature House, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC on the second Thursday of each month, except in July and August. The doors open at 7:00, and the show starts at 7:30.

Web Information

Web site: www.accvi.ca
Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

are available from the Librarian.

National ACC Office

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly.
www.alpineclubofcanada.ca
info@alpineclubofcanada.ca
403 678 3200, or P.O. Box 8040
Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$ 56 Family \$ 76
Youth (19 and under) \$ 41

The Bushwhacker Newsletter

is a monthly publication of the Vancouver Island Section.
Newsletter Editor: Cedric Zala,
250 652 5841, cedriczala@shaw.ca

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including news items, announcements, and short articles, along with photos. Email your submission by the 25th day of the previous month.

Advertising shall be accepted at the discretion of the editor. All advertising shall be for products or services of direct interest to our membership.

Our Motto

1. COME BACK ALIVE
2. COME BACK FRIENDS
3. RESPECT THE LAND
4. HAVE FUN
5. GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)

EXECUTIVE

Chair

Cedric Zala 250 652 5841
cedriczala@shaw.ca

Secretary

Rick Hudson 250 656 6533
rickhudson@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Geoff Bennett 250 853 7515
geoff.bennett@shaw.ca

Members-at-Large:

Russ Moir 250 477 0070
russmoir@gmail.com
Dave Campbell 250 755 1600
david_ac@hotmail.com
Mike Morley 250 382 4363
mmorley@uvic.ca
Phee Hudson 250 656 6533
pheehudson@shaw.ca

BMFF Coordinator

Kari Frazer 778 426 3310
Frazer.kari@gmail.com

Bushwhacker Annual

Sandy Stewart 250 655 8919
stewart@islandnet.com

Education

Dave Campbell 250 755 1600
david_ac@hotmail.com

Equipment

Mike Hubbard 250 370 1096
jmhubbard@shaw.ca

FMCBC Rep

Martin Smith 250 656 8786
martin_smith@shaw.ca

Library/Archives/History

Judith Holm (Librarian)
250 477 8596, holm@telus.net
Lindsay Elms 250 792 3384
beyondnootka@shaw.ca

Membership

Jain Alcock-White 250 334 7786
janealcockwhite@shaw.ca

National Rep

Rick Hudson 250 656 6533
rickhudson@shaw.ca

Newsletter

Cedric Zala 250 652 5841
cedriczala@shaw.ca

Schedule

Russ Moir 250 477 0070
russmoir@gmail.com
Catrin Brown 250 477 5806
catrinb@shaw.ca

Webmaster

Martin Hofmann 250 920 7432
mhofmannskis@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

August 27: End-of-Summer BBQ,
7776 Trentelmann Place,
Saanichton. See page 2 for details.
**September 9: First Slideshow of
the Season,** Swan Lake Nature
Centre

September 23: Executive Meeting,
7776 Trentelmann Place, Saanichton

October 28: Photo Contest, Swan
Lake Nature Centre

Alava-Bate Summer Camp

The first two weeks of the ACCVI Summer Camp in the Alava-Bate Sanctuary went extremely well. Mounts Alava, Bate, Grattan and Thumb Peak were all summited, and both Alava and Bate were skied from summit tower to base (for the first time, as far as we know). The weather was unrelentingly sunny, which made it much more enjoyable to camp on the 1 – 2 metres of snow in the basin. For a flavour of the camp, see Andrew Pape-Salmon's [photos](#).

Reminder to Members:

Keep your [membership](#) up-to-date, so to as to be covered by the ACC's liability insurance.

Keep your [contact information](#) current on ACC National's site, as it's from this master list that we download our email addresses for mailouts.

Register on our [ACCVI site](#) to make your contact information available to other ACCVI members.

Join the [ACCVI listserv](#) to keep in touch and share information with other ACCVI members.

Upcoming Events

August 27 (Friday): End-of-Summer BBQ

Come and share the fun of your summer activities with fellow ACCVI members at Cedric and Lissa's house (7776 Trentelmann Place, Saanichton) from 6:00 pm onwards. If you have slides and/or a laptop, bring them along, too! Burgers, hot dogs and salads will be provided. Please RSVP cedriczala@shaw.ca, 250-652-5841.

September 9: First Slideshow of the Season, Swan Lake Nature Centre, doors open 7 pm. Speaker and topic TBA.

September 23: Executive Meeting, 7776 Trentelmann Place, Saanichton, 7:30 pm.

October 28: Photo Contest, Swan Lake Nature Centre. Details TBA.

Upcoming Trips

August 14, Sugarloaf/Mt Braden, B1, Sooke Hills hike, Peter Brunette, peterbrunette@shaw.ca 250 744 2791

August 14-18, Friends of Strathcona Park Bedwell Trail Work Party, Bob St. John, 250-890-0780 or rwstjohn@gmail.com, or Kel Kelly, 250-337 8348 or kelkelly55@yahoo.ca.

August 18, Thetis Lake Regional Park, A1, TrailRider trip, 5 pm - 9 pm, Meet at parking lot near the main beach, Jeff Ward, jkward@shaw.ca

August 27-29, Castlecrag Horseshoe C/D2, Forbidden Plateau from Circlet Lake camp, Mts Albert Edward/Frink/Castlecrag, Peter Brunette, peterbrunette@shaw.ca 250 744 2791

Sept 3-5, Mountaineering with Kids B1-5, climbing camp in Strathcona, Harald/Nadja Steiner, moewe@telus.net steinerh@telus.net

Sept 11, Devil's Ladder, Comox Lake B5, rappel to lake-top rope, 5.7 -5.11 rappel/top rope experience, Christine Fordham, bizhelp@telus.net

Sept 19-25, Clayoquot-Mariner-Mt Flores C4, kayak the Sound, then Mariner-Flores, kayak self-rescue skills/snow,ice, rock experience, Mike Springer, victoriabc@live.ca

Sept 25-26, Victoria Pk / Warden D4, mountain kit needed, possible Friday departure, max 4 people, Dave Campbell david_ac@hotmail.com, 250 755 1600

Oct 1, Beaufort Mountains Traverse B2, Mts Clifton-Hal (Cumberland-Port Alberni), Vancouver Island Spine Trail Society event, Andrew Pape-Salmon, andrewpapesalmon@shaw.ca

Nuts and Bolts

Book Sought

Lindsay Elms is wanting to purchase the book *Makalu: A Team Triumph* by Jean Franco: London: Jonathan Cape, 1957. (English edition). Please contact Lindsay at Lindsay_elms@hotmail.com.

Memorial Fund Expedition

Good luck to **Gillian Nicol, Cory McGregor, Cody Gold and Derek Cronmiller**, the first recipients of the VI Section's Memorial Fund Award, who will attempt to climb Mount Doom on the Brooks Peninsula later this month.

Education Opportunities with IAG – Mailing List

If you would like to receive updates from Island Alpine Guides on their courses, and on last-minute opportunities, contact Jan Neuspiel at info@islandalpineguides.com to get on their emailing list.

Trip Report: Intro to Mountaineering 2010, July 1st-4th

By Dave Campbell

This year's Intro to Mountaineering Course broke tradition and stayed on the Island for a long-weekend of adventure. Eight enthusiastic participants met at the Bedwell trailhead early morning on Canada Day. The plan was to spend four days learning skills and putting them to practice by travelling through mountain terrain, and with luck, climb a few peaks along the way.

The first day was mostly a travel day. We hit snow around the top of the first green ladder on the approach to Baby Bedwell Lake. We continued along to Bedwell Lake, then up the ridge towards Cream Lake. Part way up the ridge we veered off right, and dropped down into the valley below Big Interior Mountain. The original plan was to camp in the 'Big Cirque', but it had been a long day and we decided to call camp in the valley below the final headwall. A quick dinner, and then braved the light rain while doing a quick knot review before retreating to the tents for the night.

The next day we were up pretty early and off. We did an ice axe arrest review on the slopes heading up to the cirque, and then continued our way up below Big Interior. Another stop and we reviewed crevasse rescue techniques, including throwing a pack into a moat and recovering it (a process which highlighted the need to 'pad the lip' of a crevasse to avoid the rope digging in!).

With full packs we continued up Big Interior Mountain. This gave a good chance to continue our practice of snow travel, including a short steep step just below the summit. Our first summit of the trip! A bottle of rum found in the summit cairn was passed around in celebration.

The weather has begun to deteriorate and as we departed the summit clouds had enshrouded us, completely reducing visibility. We were able to brail our way off the peak, and along the ridge towards Marjorie's Load. We worked around a bump along the ridge, and then dropped down below Marjorie's Load onto slopes heading down to Bear Pass. The clouds cleared as we worked our along the final stretch to the pass and we had some great views out to Nine Peaks and into the remote mountains around the Bedwell and Ursus Rivers. A final steep slope down to Bear Pass provided some difficulty and precipitated one unplanned glissade which luckily resulted in no serious injuries (but lots of snow down the pants!). After a long day we settled into camp in Bear Pass.

The next day we had an early alpine start and headed off for a crack at Nine Peaks. We roped up for the glacier, more for practice than necessity. Low clouds lingered in the valley bottoms, and we were lucky to get up above the fog. The heavy snow pack (it felt like it was May!) meant that the moat on the gully up to the main summit was well filled with snow, and we easily made our way up to the pass below the peak.

For the final step to the summit we opted to stick to the steep hard snow pitch to the left of the rocks. We rigged up a fixed line for this stretch and practiced prussicking up while climbing the steep snow. A short scramble and then we were up Nine Peaks-an IQ to boot! Sue, who had her birthday on the trip, had packed along a huge Tupperware container full of home-made cookies all the way (yummy! Thanks Sue).

We rappelled down the steep pitch back to the col, then back down the snow to camp. We packed up quickly, and then we off to head back to the Big Interior cirque. We found an easier way around the steep slope out of Bear Pass, and then slogged our way back to the notch below Marjorie's Load. On the way up we noticed tonnes of ice worms on the snow (where did they all come from?). Again the clouds rolled in and we made our way through the white-out back up Big Interior (for the second

time). We set up a hand-line down the steep step from the summit, and then it was just a long but quick boot down the snow to get to the cirque camp. It was 14 hours after we started when we pulled into camp at twilight, tired and hungry but satisfied from a pretty good day in the hills.

The final day was “shorter”. We took a steep, and somewhat exposed direct route out of the cirque, then contoured around to hook up with the Cream Lake trail. We had a relaxing lunch on the tent platforms at Bedwell Lake, then the final push back to the trailhead. An amazing trip and lots of fun. Thanks to all the participants for their keen enthusiasm (and for putting up with the long days!).

Participants: Adam Lawrence, Brian Nixon, Janelle Curtis, David O’Brian, Graeme Ramsay, Robert Ramsay, Sue Ross, Walter Moar, Dave Campbell



A sampling of the sights and activities during the Introduction to Mountaineering Course at Big Interior Mountain and Nine Peaks, held July 1 – 4

Upcoming Bedwell Valley Trail Work Party: August 14 – 18

Bob St.John, Friends of Strathcona Park Director

The Bedwell River runs from Bedwell Lake in the heart of Strathcona Park to Bedwell Sound northeast of Tofino. The valley has had a checkered past, being the site of various failed mining ventures and then extensive logging in the 1960's. It was once in the park, then taken out as being unsuitable because of the logging, then finally returned to the park after the 1988 blockade of exploration by Cream Silver Mines. In the 1990's the Friends of Strathcona Park established a trail up the valley to keep it in the public mind before any more damage could be done to it. Today the valley is again under threat by a private resort wishing to construct a horse trail from the ocean up to You Creek in the park. The government this spring has amended the park's Master Plan to accommodate the plans of this resort. A Park Use Permit has not yet been issued, but it is imminent. The Amendment was made despite opposition at public meetings, despite opposition by the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee and despite reservations by Parks' staff (from freedom of information requests).

The Friends have embarked on a plan to re-establish their trail, which Parks has let fall into disrepair. Last fall we re-anchored the Gayle McGee Suspension Bridge which was damaged by a heavy snowpack in the winter of 2009. This summer we wish to brush out the lower reaches of the trail up to the 'Living' Bridge, an old log bridge which has been condemned by Parks. From the Living Bridge to the Ashwood Creek crossing we want to construct a new route on the south side of the river, negating the need for crossing the Bedwell River save for our renewed suspension bridge.

A crew has already gone into the Bedwell to reconnoiter the new route. It has been determined that there are no 'show-stopper' problems with its construction, although it will take more than one outing to complete. We now look forward to again working with Parks on this project, slated for August 14 to 18.

See <http://friendsofstrathcona.org/bedwell-valley-trail/> for more details, and <http://friendsofstrathcona.org/photos-2/> for photos of the suspension bridge repairs.

Please contact Bob St.John at rwstjohn@gmail.com or Kel Kelly at kelkelly55@yahoo.ca if you would like to help with the Bedwell project.

The Friends foresee a time when volunteer groups from all over the Province could learn from the experience of others when dealing with BC Parks. We will keep you informed on our progress in the weeks ahead.

Happy 95th Birthday to John Gibson

The Club wishes a very happy birthday (August 1) to John Gibson, long-time ACCVI member and Island adventurer and explorer. In honour of this event is his biography below, written by Lindsay Elms.

John Sumner Townsend Gibson was born at Sproughton near Ipswich in Suffolk, England on Aug 1, 1915 and from an early age enjoyed walking in the hills, however, in his late teens he found rock climbing and began visiting crags in the Lake District, North Wales, Skye and the West Highlands of Scotland.

John went on to Oxford University where he obtained a B.A (which was converted to M.A.) in Zoology and joined the Oxford University Mountaineering Club. In 1936 John's aunt met the leader of an expedition to Greenland from the Oxford University Exploration Club and was told there were two biologists going and they wanted a third. Although John was not a member of the club he received and accepted an invitation to join them that summer. The following three summer's holidays were spent climbing in the Alps. In 1937 he went to Courmayeur and climbed the Aiguille du Geant with a guide, then to Cogne in the Italian Alps and with a guide, his aunt and sister climbed Erbetet, Grand Paradise with a guide, and then Grivola (guideless) with his sister Helen. In 1938 he went to Finhaut and climbed Aiguille du Tour, and in Arolla climbed Pigne d'Arolla, Eveque and the dent Perroc, all according to John relatively easy guideless climbs. In 1939 he went to the French Alps and attempted the Ecrin but was turned back by steep ice and difficult climbing. In Chamonix the trip was cut short by impending war. That year John joined the Alpine Club and stayed a member until 1970.

In 1940 John joined the RAF and was trained as pilot and flying instructor. His posting in Carlisle allowed him to climb in the Lake District and then the Highlands on weekends while stationed in Perth (Scotland). In 1942 he was posted to Alberta where he first went to Pearce near Fort McLeod and then de Winton south of Calgary. Before leaving England he met with his Godfather, the respected mountaineer R.L.G.Irving, who gave him an introduction to Arthur O Wheeler. He thereafter had a standing invitation to visit Wheeler and his wife at Banff whenever on leave.

That year (1942) Arthur Wheeler invited John as a weekend guest to the ACC camp and it was there he met Eric Brooks, the ACC President at the time. The following year Eric Brook's invited him to attend the ACC camp at Little Yoho. Although he only had two weeks leave from the RAF, it was extended to three by helping to teach reluctant Army conscripts to climb. At the camp he also met Rusty Westmorland who was in charge of the packtrain that took supplies into the camp. After the 1943 military camp John planned a climb of Mt Hector with John Wheeler (Arthur Wheeler's grandson), Henry Hall Jr. and Rex Gibson, but they woke up to a flat tire in his car and decided not to continue along the 100 miles of gravel road any further. John continued to climb and ski in the Rockies whenever he had leave and many ascents were with John Wheeler. Some of their climbs included Mount Norquay, Mount Louis and Mount Edith via the South Ridge which John believes was before Bob Hind's official first ascent of the route. John did a solo ascent of Mount Fifi.

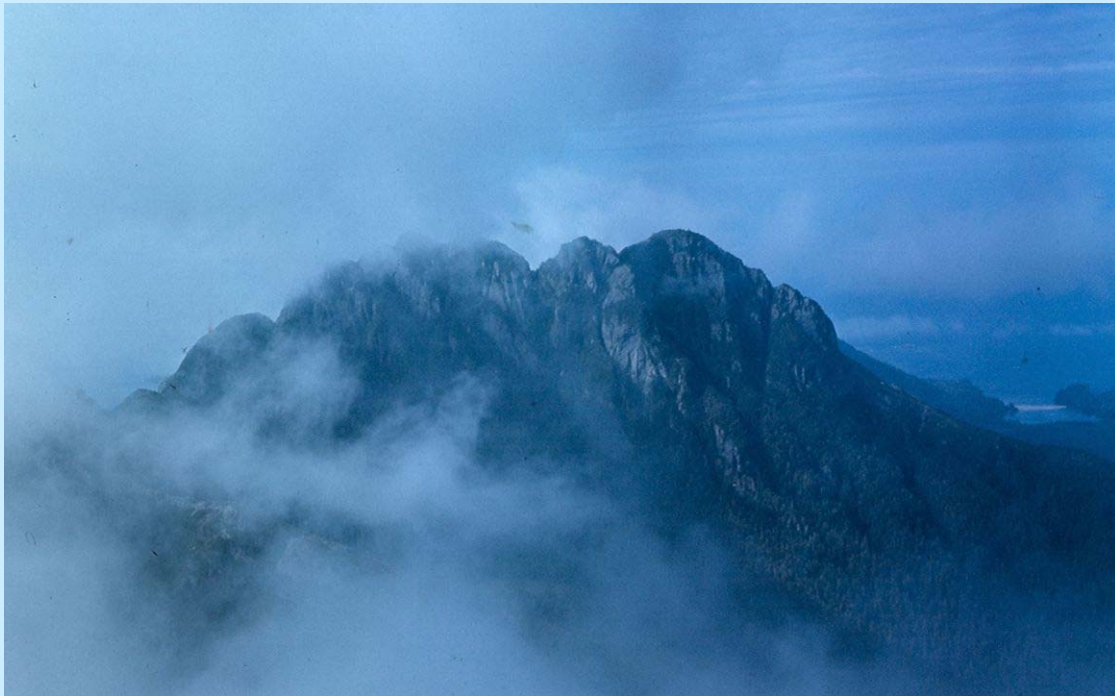
John returned to England in December 1944 and married Mary Williams. He was released from the RAF in December 1945 and returned to Canada in 1947 with his family. As immigrants they had to be sponsored into Canada and Arthur Wheelers widow Emily agreed to sign the papers for them. After spending a few days in Banff they went on to Vancouver and stayed with Eric Brooks. Eric suggested Ferris Neave, who he had met at the Little Yoho camp in 1943, might help John get a job. With an honours degree in Zoology, Neave was able to help John obtained a position as a Junior

fisheries biologist at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. However, while working up the coast near Bella Bella he observed that fishing seemed to be more profitable than biology. With his adventurous wife and infant son, he bought a small gillnet-troller and set out with four months leave of absence in the summer of 1948. Although fishing was fun it was not very profitable but he quit his reliable government job and trolled for salmon from 1948 to 1967. At this time he resigned from the ACC because there was no time or funds to attend club camps.

In 1952 the Gibsons built a house at Kyuquot and lived there till 1967. In 1967, John took time off fishing to go to the second general mountaineering camp of the Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition. Although he was still not a member of ACC, he had kept in touch with Eric Brooks over the years, and at his suggestion John applied and was accepted on the expedition and enjoyed leading the less ambitious climbs. John retired from fishing in 1967 and moved to the Duncan where he built a house.

After moving to Duncan, John rejoined the Alpine Club of Canada and resumed climbing. It was on a combined Island Mountain Ramblers and ACC Vancouver Island Section trip to Mount Cokely that John met Syd Watts. After that Syd and John started a climbing partnership that continued for the next thirty years. Together they made first ascents of the following peaks on Vancouver Island: Mount Abel, Mount Hapush, Watchtower Peak, Malaspina Peak, Bonanza Peak, Mount Alston, Mount Romeo, Zeballos Peak and Mount Adrian. They also explored many other areas which have been well documented in John's diaries.

Below is a picture that John took in 1972 of Mt Doom in the Brooks Peninsula, from the summit of Peak 2735, a climb he made with his son, Peter. John had soloed the same peak back in 1954.



Mt. Doom in the Brooks Peninsula, taken in 1972 by John Gibson from Peak 2735. The first recipients of the VI Section Memorial Fund Award will attempt to climb Mount Doom later this month, August 25 - September 1.

Horace Westmorland

3rd ACCVI Chairperson 1923

By Lindsay Elms

Horace "Rusty" Westmorland was born in Penrith, England in 1886 and educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Blackburn, Lancashire. He worked in the family's tannery and leather business until the death of his father in 1909 and then the estate was divided between his mother, his sister and himself. With no professional training he was advised by the brother of the British Ambassador in Washington to enter the Forestry Service in Canada. In 1911 Westmorland went to the prairie province of Saskatchewan but prospects were poor there so he moved on to Vancouver where he met Arthur Wheeler for whom he had a letter of introduction from G.A. Solly of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. He asked to spend the summer working on one of the mountain survey parties as he was a rock climber and had some alpine experience in the Engadine and Dolomites. He spent the next six months working with the surveyors around Tetachuck Lake as part of the Alberta/British Columbia Interprovincial Boundary Commission and continued working seasonally for the surveyors until 1914 as a mountaineer. In the winter of 1913/14 Westmorland did the tracing work over the working maps for the Mount Assiniboine region.

In 1912 Westmorland was invited to take a commission in the Canadian 'Territorial' Highland Regiment. He qualified at Military School and was transferred to the Canadian 'Regular' Army where he served in Belgium and France from 1915 to 1919. In 1943 Lieutenant-Colonel Westmorland used his indomitable personality and connections in Ottawa to found the Number One Pack Horse Troop, as he wanted to revive the Canadian Cavalry heritage. The Horse Troop was called to help in several exercises but never survived long because of changing technology. In October 1944 Westmorland was invalided out where he then returned to his family roots at Threlkeld in the Lakes District for his remaining years.

Westmorland's love of the outdoors began at an early age when his father introduced his family to Ullswater and the surrounding fells – camping, rowing, sailing, fell walking and scrambling. However, "Rusty" Westmorland's real climbing career began in 1901 at the age of fifteen when he climbed Pillar Rock in the Wasdale region of the Lakes District with his father Tom and his sister. His father was a keen and competent scrambler, however, he never adopted the use of a rope.

In his late teens Westmorland, and his two cousins Arthur North and John Mounsey, began climbing with a rope. They climbed some of the classics at the time: The North Climb on The Pillar, Scafell Pinnacle by Slingsby's Chimney, Moss Ghyll, Central Gully, Oblique and Doctor's Chimney, Kern's Knotts, Tarn Crag, and Needle and Napes Ridges. One notable ascent with his cousins was on Dove Crag. Initially they thought they would climb either the left hand or right hand route of the Y gully but failed. They then tried and succeeded on a buttress which is now called the Westmorland Route.

In that same year that he first climbed The Pillar with his father he met George Abraham (author of British Mountain Climbs) and in 1910 joined George Abraham and his brother Ashley on a climbing/photographic trip to the Bernina Alps and the Dolomites, climbing the Torre Grande, Croda da Lago, Torre Inglese and the Zsigmondy Kamin route on Cima Piccola. Ultimately, it was the Pillar Rock which held a particular fascination for Westmorland and in his later years celebrated by repeating the climb on his 65th, 75th and lastly his 85th birthdays. Westmorland was elected into the Fell and Rock Climbing Club in 1909, was President in the early 1950's and remained a life long member.

In Canada he was a member of the Alpine Club of Canada and attended their camps in 1912, 1913, 1919 and 1944. Some of his ascents in the Canadian Rockies include The Mitre, Mount Storm, Mount Whyte, Isolated Peak, Mount Magog, Mount Louis and the second ascent of Whitehorn Mountain in 1913. While working for the surveyors he made the first ascent of Mount Tyrwhitt, with the well-known climber/guide Conrad Kain and the surveyor Alan Campbell and in 1943 he climbed Mount Balfour on the Waputik Icefield with Ivor Richards and his wife Dorothy Pilley (author of Climbing Days.) In 1922 he visited Vancouver Island and climbed Mount Arrowsmith with the local Victoria Section of the ACC and Mount Maxwell (Baynes Peak) on Saltspring Island and was Chairman of the section for one year in 1923. Then

in 1932 he made the first ski exploration of the Yoho Valley with Alexander McCoubrey and Roger Neave. He was awarded, in recognition for Mountain services, the "Silver Rope" badge by the ACC in 1947 and received a Testimony of Appreciation by the British Mountain Rescue Committee. In Europe he climbed and skied throughout the Bernese Oberland and the Dolomites, and with Edward Feuz Jr. climbed the Hornli Ridge on the Matterhorn, however, his one unfulfilled wish was to climb Mount Assiniboine, the Matterhorn of the Canadian Rockies.

Westmorland was elected to the Lake District Ski Club at a committee meeting at Treadfoot, Windermere on May 13, 1938, and was elected as President of the club at the AGM held at the Langdales Hotel, Chapel Stile, Great Langdale on November 24, 1946. He organised the first slalom race in March 1947 and was the first skier down. Westmorland remained President until December 1, 1951, but continued to ski into his eighties on the local slopes.

In 1946 he founded what was originally called "The Borrowdale Mountain Rescue Team" but was switched to the Keswick Mountain Rescue in 1951. This rescue team came about when Wilfred Noyce, who later became a key member of John Hunt's successful 1953 Everest team, fell while climbing *Shark's Fin* on Tophet Bastion, Great Gable. A gust of wind blew Noyce off his holds and he fell onto a ledge breaking one of his legs. Noyce's climbing partner went for help and a scratch group of six was collected and, after a complicated and gruelling rescue lasting all night, Noyce was safely taken to Wasdale Head. One of the rescuers, "Rusty" Westmorland, was disturbed by the lack of any organisation, trained and willing to help injured climbers and fell walkers. Legally, the responsibility lay with the police, as it still does, but they were neither trained nor equipped for mountain rescues at the time. "Rusty" decided there was an urgent need for a team of volunteers. An appeal in the *Keswick Reminder* produced an encouraging response; some thirty men were recruited to form the initial team.

Initially there was some scepticism in the valley about the motives and effectiveness of the team, however, this was dispelled when it became obvious that here was a group prepared to go out at any time in all kinds of weather to help anyone in trouble on the fells. In 1965 Horace "Rusty" Westmorland was awarded the O.B.E. by the Queen for his services to mountain rescue.

In 1964 "Rusty" Westmorland wrote a book as part of a series for Pelham Adventure Library entitled Adventures In Climbing, which gave information and advice on the techniques of climbing, illustrated by incidents from his own life. The last chapter, entitled "Mountain Life," relates some of his adventures in the Canadian Rockies.

Horace "Rusty" Westmorland passed away at the age of ninety-eight on November 24, 1984, but will be remembered for turning up immaculate on the crags and for his concern with upholding the highest traditions of the mountaineering sport.



Rusty Westmorland skiing

ACC-VI Section History by Lindsay Elms

The following are highlights of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada for 1956 from The Gazette.

The first official outing of 1956 was a boat trip to Mount Tuam, Salt Spring Island.

The Annual Dinner was held in March at the Pacific Club, guest speaker was Mr. Fred Ayres of Portland, who showed slides and told the story of his climbs in the Andes.

Several ski trips to Mount Baker, usually in small parties of two or four members. A ski camping trip to Mount Porter near Port Alberni was carried out by two members (they were soon chased home by a downpour).

June 10 saw four members hiking up Mount Sutton near Lake Cowichan. Summit weather was misty with snow flurries but a pleasant boil-up was organized.

July 1 weekend saw fifteen people off for still another try at Mount Constance in the Dosewallips, Olympic National Park, Washington. This mountain has been eluding the section for several years mostly because of the foul weather it brews. Five climbers had an easy scramble to the summit in glorious weather, despite tales of icy slopes and finger traverses.

July 7 three members climbed Hkusam Mountain at the extreme northern end of the highway on the east coast of Vancouver Island. The day was clear and the view of Johnstone Straits and the Coast range was magnificent, Mount Waddington, only 70 air miles distant, standing head and shoulder above all.

Nine members attended a very enjoyable Section Camp at Garibaldi from August 25 to September 2. After the last two years of back-pack and bush-whack in Strathcona Park, it was sheer luxury to fly to Garibaldi Lake, and to have ourselves and huge piles of grub deposited right in the mountains. The climbers bagged Black Tusk, Castle Towers and Mount Garibaldi. The botanists and photographers explored the meadows, lakes and glaciers. Garibaldi has something to suit almost any taste. The notorious Garibaldi weather was reasonably kind to us and the camp was a complete success.

We spent the Thanksgiving Weekend camping by the Chemainus River and climbing Mount Landalt and El Capitan, bad weather had been predicted but we had two halcyon days.

Mount Waddington: A party of six including two women made the ascent of the Northwest Peak of Mount Waddington on August 13. Ulf and Adolf Bitterlich, Sylvia Lash, Philippe Delesalle, Sarka Spinkova and Earl Whipple. Three of the party were from the Victoria Section.

In November the Annual business meeting of the section was held at the home of Dr. Mark Mitchell. Noel Lax was elected Chairman. Ulf Bitterlich again showed slides of Mount Waddington, this time the ascent of the Northwest Peak.

Six Section members attended the Columbia Icefields Ski Camp.

Ten Section members attended the Glacier Camp in the Selkirks July 16 to July 29:

*Geoffrey Capes
Aileen Aylard
Muriel Aylard
Adolf Bitterlich
Rex Gibson
Ethne Gibson
William Innes
Sylvia Lash
Bill Lash
Eleanora Piggott*