



Alpine Club of Canada

Edmonton Section

e-News – January 2009

Message from the Chair

Happy New Year from the Section Executive!

I hope many of you had the good fortune to enjoy the holidays in the mountains. I was lucky to spend my Christmas Holidays the way they should be spend: in a backcountry lodge with good friends, good food, some wine and surrounded by miles and miles of untouched powder slopes. The skiing was truly magnificent; it is a promising season when the first turns of the first run are face shot material in true “cold smoke”.

Coming back from the backcountry the media were unfortunately filled with news of avalanche deaths and all the discussion that come along with those every winter. That brings me to my first point: safety. Accidents in the mountains can have repercussions beyond those involved. Serious avalanches these days inevitably bring calls to close the backcountry completely during times of significant avalanche danger. This is of course nonsense, as one can spend many

happy hours skiing in high avalanche danger by utilizing terrain properly. That message is unfortunately hard to convey to media, politicians and a large part of the general public who is not willing to deal with any risk in their lives.



Accidents can have also other repercussion such as an increase in the cost of liability insurance for the ACC. This is a real threat to our trip programs. Safety is therefore a major priority for the Club and the Section. We have many leadership course offerings for our trip leaders that will help to make wise decisions, please take advantage of them. We are also discussing a proposal to make our

newly instituted twice-annual trip leader orientation mandatory. The Section Board has not made a decision but we have a proposal to require every trip leader to attend the orientation at least once every two years.



Another issue that concerns me greatly is access. The ACC has a difficult position in threading a fine line between access to the backcountry and environmental preservation. I do understand that it is sometimes necessary to create completely protected areas to preserve particularly fragile environments. I believe though that the majority of the backcountry

should remain accessible to reasonably low-impact and self-propelled activities. Wide ranging proposal to protect huge areas and create many new parks at all levels concern me if they are not accompanied by specific, sensible policies for access.

A National Climber's Access Initiative has recently formed, independently of the ACC and has approached us for support. This is another issues that is not going away in the future.

If you feel strongly about access and environment I would encourage you to join the section A & E committee.

Primarily though I hope you will get out and find some powder to ski or ice to climb while winter lasts.

On behalf of the Edmonton Section Board

Ernst Bergmann

Chair

Edmonton Section, Alpine Club of Canada

Mark Your Calendar:

General Meetings:

January 20, 2009 Varscona on Whyte (Rutherford Room)

This month's General Meeting is ***GARAGE SALE.***

6:00-9:00 Bring your priced goods to sell at 6:00 (anything Alpine Club members would be interested in) Sale runs from 7:30-9:00
CASH ONLY

E-mail questions to vicechair@alpineclub-edm.org

February 17, 2009

The Alpine Club of Canada (Edmonton Section) is pleased to present an evening of stories and music with Canadian writer, poet and singer,

Sid Marty

In his latest work Marty explores our relationship with the great grizzly and describes the true events surrounding a series of frightening bear attacks in Banff in 1980.

Marty has long been a singer / guitarist performing his original songs about western Canada at various venues and on radio.

"The Black Grizzly of Whiskey Creek is as good as nature writing gets." *Terry Glavin, Canadian Geographic*

February 17, 2009, 6:30 p.m. Old Timer's Cabin 9430 - 99th Street,

Tickets: \$30.00 (Cash, Cheque or Visa) (Includes light dinner and bar refreshment)

For tickets please call 780.460.1000 Email: info@nabi.ca

Climbing Wall Nights			
January 25, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm - 9pm	Members only! Free
February 8, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm - 9pm	
February 22, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm - 9pm	
March 8, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm - 9pm	

April 5, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	
May 10, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	
September 13, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	
October 4, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	
November 8, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	
November 29, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	
December 13, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm – 9pm	

Edmonton Section Annual Ski Camp at the Wates-Gibson Hut March 7-13

This annual Edmonton Section camp has been running since 1971. We are very pleased that Parks has once again agreed to accommodate this supported ski camp, however, once again we have been told that this is likely the last year that this request will be approved. The camp will begin Saturday March 7, with an 11 km ski up to Edith Cavell Youth Hostel. We'll carry on to the Wates Gibson hut on the 8th (18 kms) and stay until Friday, March 13. We will ski out in one day - it's a long day but relatively easy as you follow the Astoria river (downhill) pretty much the whole way. Day trips include excursions to the Eremite Valley, the Fraser Glacier, and Tonquin Valley, where participants can enjoy some telemark skiing or simply take in the breathtaking beauty of the Ramparts and other vistas. The cost for the trip will be \$425, which includes all accommodation, food and its transportation into the hut. Participants will need to purchase a Wilderness Pass and will be required to carry avalanche beacons, probes and shovels, in addition to all of their own personal gear. Come join us for a fun filled and relaxing week ski touring and telemarking. For more information, phone the camp managers, Lorna Stefanick and Jim Race at 780.431.2807 or lorna.stefanick@shaw.ca or jim.race@shaw.ca.



The ***Winter Trip Schedules*** are here:

<http://www.alpineclubedm.org/tripSchedules.asp#CurrentTripScheduleWinter>

Please also read the ***Note to Participants***:

<http://www.alpineclub-edm.org/note.asp>

Introductory Mountaineering Courses are here (***Winter in the Mountains*** and the ***New Ice Course***):

<http://alpineclub-edm.org/coursesIntro.asp>

The ***Leadership Course Schedule*** is here:

<http://alpineclub-edm.org/coursesLeadership.asp>

Photo Credit:

Wates-Gibbson Hut on a Winter Night by Reinhold Mayerhofer

Granite Glacier Powder by David Zemrau

The Ramparts in Winter by Reinhold Mayerhofer