



Alpine Club of Canada

Edmonton Section

e-News – March 2009

Message from the Chair

The brutal cold at the beginning of March has given way to much more pleasant temperatures even in the mountains. Conditions for both ski touring and ice climbing in the Rockies are as good as it will probably get this winter. Last weekend I led the winter camping portion of the section “Winter in the Mountains Course” and was surprised by the amount of fresh snow. The skiing was quite good, the temperatures comparatively mild and even the avalanche danger was surprisingly reasonable. The latter was the most surprising, as the snow pack in many places consists of nothing but faceted snow from the depth hoar up. An entire snow pack made up of facets doesn’t happen all that often; I don’t think faceted snow can fall from the sky, even in the Rockies. Thankfully, some fresh snow, accompanied by mild temperatures came last weekend and conditions are there to enjoy now.

While the winter season is going strong the time has come to plan for the summer. In this issue of the e-

News the dates for the summer trip planning meeting and the trip leader orientation are posted. The summer trip planning meeting is less than a months away; it’s time for the leaders to start thinking about the summer plans. The forms to submit trips for the summer schedule will soon be available on the web site, especially for those who cannot make the meeting.



The Climbing & Safety Committee of the section met recently to plan for the summer and review the winter trips. This committee has been active for several years. The Climbing Committee – for short – also reviews feedback from the participants on our section trips and deals with any problems that arise. Some of these problems are obvious, when accidents or injuries occur or rescues become necessary. Others are not necessarily obvious or even become known to us. Therefore, we would like all members who participate in trips to provide feedback, especially we want to hear if trip participants are concerned about safety. We have been able to deal with occasional concerns in a confidential and sensitive manner over the years and will continue to do so.

We would also like to hear about good experiences, not only the problems. If trips were very enjoyable and successful that should be communicated to us too. The ACC has awards for both leadership and service to the club and it's always nice to be able to reward some of our members.

Wishing you an enjoyable season in snow and ice

On behalf of the Edmonton Section Board

Ernst Bergmann

Chair

Edmonton Section, Alpine Club of Canada

Mark Your Calendar:

General Meetings:

March 17, 2009 Varscona on Whyte

Emerson Sanford “History of Rocky Mountain Trails: The Old Klyne’s trail Jasper to Kootenay Plains”

We are very pleased to have Emerson Sanford (former executive member of the ACC Edmonton Section) give a presentation at our March 17 general meeting. Based on his 'Life of the Trail' series of books he'll be talking about "Old Klyne's Trail", which Jasper fur trader Michael Klyne had cut in 1824 and the subsequent history of that trail. Today the first part of the trail is the road from Jasper to Maligne Lake, which has a very interesting history before it became a road. The second part of Old Klyne's Trail is the popular backpack route from Maligne Lake over Maligne and Jonas Passes to Nigel Pass. The final leg, from Nigel Pass over Cataract Pass to Pinto Lake (and Sunset Pass), and on to the Kootenay Plains along the Cline River is a more challenging backpack route. Emerson and

his daughter Janice began backpacking together nearly 20 years ago, they often wondered who had been there before and how today’s trails through the Rockies came to be. He will share their findings with adventures and history buffs alike in this presentation.

2009 General Meeting Schedule

Date	Speaker	Topic	Location
<i>January 20, 2009</i>	None	<i>Garage Sale</i>	Varscona on Whyte
<i>February 17, 2009</i>	Sid Marty	<i>The Black Grizzly of Whiskey Creek</i>	Old Timer’s Cabin
<i>March 17, 2009</i>	Emerson Sanford	<i>History of Rocky Mountain Trails: The Old Klyne’s trail Jasper to Kootenay Plains</i>	Varscona on Whyte
<i>April 21, 2009</i>	Leila Bahrami	<i>Mountaineering in the Middle East, Africa & Asia</i>	Varscona on Whyte
<i>May 19, 2009</i>	Thirza Capenter	<i>Competition Rock Climbing</i>	Varscona on Whyte
<i>September 15, 2009</i>	Section Members	<i>We know what you did last summer!</i>	Varscona on Whyte
<i>October 20, 2009</i>	Rob Owen	<i>Alpine Mixed Climbing in the Canadian Rockies</i>	TBD
<i>November 17, 2009</i>	Brad Harrison (to be confirmed)	<i>What’s new in Avalanche Prevention and at the CAA</i>	Varscona on Whyte

Climbing Wall Nights			
April 5, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm - 9pm	Members only! Free
May 10, 2009	Urban Uprising	6pm - 9pm	Members only! Free

Summer Trip Planning Meeting

With spring just around the corner, it is time once again for the clubs annual Summer Trip Planning Meeting. This year the meeting will be held on **April 7th at 7pm** located at the **Boston Pizza on 4804 Calgary Trail**. Food and beverages will be available. Whether you are a current trip leader or an aspiring trip leader, come on out and help plan another amazing ACC summer schedule. For additional information on this meeting, please contact Colin Tobin – Summer Program Director at summer@alpineclub-edm.org. We look forward to seeing you there.



Trip Leader Orientation Night

April 28 at 5:45 - 9 pm at RTF 1075

(UofA Campus - The entrance is behind (just west) of the Health Sciences LRT Station on 114 St, across the street from the University Hospital.)

All New and old trip leaders, RSVP please to Leadership Programs Director.

New Section Policy for Trip Leaders:

1. All active ACC Edmonton Section Trip leaders in good standing must attend the trip leader orientation (offered twice a year in April in November) at least once every two years. The privilege of leading trips for the Edmonton section can be revoked if a trip leader does not attend the orientation. Currently active trip leaders have until November 2010 to attend a first orientation.

Leadership Courses:

ACC Rock Rescue Course

May 9/10, 2009 - The course consists of two days of single rope rescue systems (SRT) for dealing

with an injured partner. We will look at the basic technical rope aspects of rock rescue. We will study lowers, raises, simple pulley systems, some basic lifts and carries and some safety systems to prevent accidents.

Price: \$212 (\$85 for active section leaders)



ACC Scrambling Leadership Course

June 27/28, 2009

This two-day weekend is designed to improve leadership skills and build confidence for those leading ACC trips on scrambling terrain. Participants must have solid scrambling skills and be comfortable leading groups on moderate scrambles.

The course will begin on a scramble west of Nordegg (David Thompson Country) and finish on a scramble near the Columbia Icefields. The location may change depending on the group and conditions. Scrambles will be limited to those which do not require the use of a rope for a typical party.

Price: \$212 (\$85 for active section leaders)

ACC Rock Solid Leadership Course:

June 29-July 5, 2009

ACC Rock Solid Leadership is a seven-day course during which a number of hard and soft skills sessions related to leading club trips to rock climbing venues are presented. It is not a course about leading hard rock climbs but rather a course to introduce you to leading others on rock climbs of almost any grade. Instruction takes place in the Front Ranges of Jasper Park.

Price: \$1650 (discount for active section leaders)

The Leadership Course Schedule is here:

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

Edmonton Section Summer Camp 2009

Aug. 16-23

Little Yoho Valley

This year's camp will be held in Yoho National Park near Field B.C. at the Stanley Mitchell Hut <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/stanley.html>. The main activity in this area is hiking and beginner to intermediate scrambling. There are two mountaineering objectives the Presidents and Isolated Peak both are glacier approaches. The camp is being organized and run by volunteers. There will be no professional guides. There will be a camp manager who will co-ordinate activities at the camp but will not act as an instructor or guide. Participants will form their own groups and appoint a leader for each day's activities. Participants will be expected to sign up on the duty roster to share in camp chores such as help cooking, cleaning, water hauling, garbage disposal, and other duties.

For further information and to secure a place; (For reservations, which I will keep for 10 days until your cheque arrives. Please make cheque payable to "Edmonton Section of the ACC" and mail to me. I will keep your cheque on file till June 15 when I will deposit them all. So please date your cheque for June 15).

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Canadian Avalanche Association –Online Survey

New Danger Scale

Survey: A survey to test the new avalanche danger scale is ready to go and can be found here:

<http://surveys.globalepanel.com/wix/p319164581.aspx>

. Polling firm Ipsos-Reid will be monitoring the responses and the goal is to receive 2000 responses, half of them from Canada. Please help make this new product effective by completing the survey and forwarding the link to friends, family, clients and students—anyone who's a bulletin user.

Photo Credits:

**Wapta Icefields, Top of the Wapta,
Rock Rescue Course –**

all Ernst Bergmann