

BRIDGE

<http://alpineclub-edm.org>

January 2003

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MEETINGS

Our Next Meeting
Tuesday, 21 January
2003,
7:30pm
The Rutherford Room
Varscona Hotel
8208 - 106 Street



Photo by John Lichtwardt

TRIPS

Edmonton Section Winter Camps

Join Us For Superb Ski Touring In the Tonquin Valley.
Accommodations At Wates-Gibson Hut.
Cost \$375/Week.

Week 1: Feb 22 to Mar 1
Bruce Morrison: (780)929-5656

Week 2: Mar 1 to Mar 8
Doug Knight: (780)437-6459

Camp reminder from Mike Black...

Winter ski camp

The Edmonton section of the ACC is running a Winter X-Country ski camp in the Tonquin valley area.

Accommodation will be at the **Wates Gibson hut**, and we plan on having a group of about 20 persons. We are using dog sled teams to take in food and miscellaneous supplies.

We leave trailhead on **March 1, 2003**, overnight at the **Edith Cavell hostel**, and then ski into

hut on the next day. We ski out direct to trailhead on **March 8, 2003**. Cost is **\$375** per person all inclusive.

Reasonable stamina and experience are required to ski in, but once at the hut, participants are free to ski as little or as much as they like.

Details from

Doug Knight @ 437 6459 or
Mike Black @ 436 5035.

See our web page for more details and for trips throughout the winter.

ACC EDMONTON SECTION EXECUTIVE

Section Chair	Terry McIntee	461-6830	terrym@biovision.ca
Past Chair	Renee Polziehn	477-2943	polziehn@oanet.com
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Winter Program Chair	Tanya Binette	709-9589	tbinnette@ualberta.ca
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	Graham Walker	433-9040	walkerg@telusplanet.net

The Breeze is the Newsletter of the Edmonton Section of the Alpine Club of Canada and is mailed to all section members. It is published ten times per year as a vehicle to inform section members of upcoming events and issues of concern.

Submissions of trip reports, technical articles, opinion pieces and announcements are encouraged.

The deadline is the third Tuesday of the month before the month of issue.

The Breeze accepts commercial advertising. A variety of ad sizes are available. Rates vary depending on size and number of insertions. We run personal advertising and notices for section members free of charge.

Inquiries and submissions (preferably in Word file format) can be e-mailed to t_yevtukh@hotmail.com.

We reserve the right to edit material submitted for publication. The opinions presented in published articles are solely those of their authors.



This newsletter has been possible, in part, by funding from the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation (ASRPWF).

Caribou

Woodland caribou are a threatened species in Alberta and BC (actually right across Canada). Populations in the mountain national parks of Alberta are the most southerly in the province. Despite living in protected areas, populations in Banff and Jasper are in decline to the point where there may be only four animals left in Banff and a 100 or so in southern Jasper National Park. In an endeavour to determine why caribou are in decline in the parks, since there is no large scale landscape change occurring (like forestry) we have started a research and monitoring program to determine whether human use, wolves, weather (snow depth and condition), or habitat factors (or a combination of things) are influencing the population.

We would like to solicit the input of backcountry users in the Maligne and Tonquin Valleys in Jasper to report caribou and wolf sightings to help us collect information that might assist us in determining what factors are involved in the decline.

— by George Mercer

Wildlife Biologist
Jasper National Park
780-852-6187

More details in the next issue.

Announcements

Cancellation policies

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE:

There have been two recent incidents where Edmonton section trip leaders have run into problems with the National office over reservation cancellation policies for huts or clubhouses. Our leaders thought that they needed to give 72 hours notice for cancellations of their group reservations. In one case the leader indicates that he specifically asked the staff person he booked with whether it was OK to give less notice if they needed to cancel and was told that this was OK. Unfortunately he did not get this in writing and National is now disputing that this conversation occurred.

NATIONAL POLICY: as per the website requires 14 days notice for groups of over 7.

THIS IS BEING STRICTLY ENFORCED!!!!

In future cases the Edmonton section will not accept responsibility for errors in making the cancellations within the stipulated time. Please do not get caught by this!

Some trip leaders are getting around this by booking for groups of 7 and then putting people on the floor if more people turn up or splitting the group reservations between two different people so as to make each group number be less than 7.

The ACC cancellation policy is stated on the website at:

<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/reservations.html>

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Sanitization issues for hut stays

A reminder to all of our hut users:

Please wash your hands regularly, and use a few drops of bleach in the rinse water when you are doing dishes. There has been a possible case of Norwalk flu reported from a visitor at the Bow Hut recently.

It would be a good idea to carry an alcohol based hand sanitizer to use each time you handle food and after using the bathroom.

—Ann Vanier
Front Desk Supervisor/Book Distribution Coordinator

Alpine Club of Canada
Box 8040
Canmore, AB T1W 2T8
403-678-3200 ext. 1
Fax: 403-678-3224

E-mail: avanier@AlpineClubofCanada.ca

Mountain Adventures 2003:

There are still spaces left on some 2003 winter Mountain Adventures.

The camps listed below have two or more spots left. Check the ACC website for a list of the other winter camps - some have one or two spots left.

Don't forget to check out the summer 2003 **Mountain Adventures** while you are on the website at www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca

For detailed information contact Lawrence White by email: lwhite@AlpineClubofCanada.ca



Campbell Icefields Powder Week

Location: Western Rockies, North of Golden, B.C.
Date: February 8-15 (8 days)

Ice Climbing Camp - Week 2

Location: Icefields Parkway and David Thompson Country, Banff National Park
Date: March 2-7 (6 days)

Six Pass Route

Location: Jasper National Park
Date: March 14-17 (4 days) + evening

Wapta Traverse

Location: Banff and Yoho National Parks
Date: March 22-29 (7 days) + evening

Waddington Area Ski Camp

Date: April 26 - May 7 (12 days)

Baffin Island Ski Traverse

Location: Way, WAY north!
Date: May 11-24 (14 days)

Cheviot/Cardinal River update from CPAWS

December 18, 2002

Alberta and national conservation groups welcome a decision by the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) requesting Cardinal River Coals Ltd. to provide information on all potential environmental impacts of their revised proposal for the Cheviot coal mine and not just the industrial haulroad the company has applied for.

"This is a very welcome step toward getting full public disclosure of all the impacts and a public hearing," says Dianne Pachal of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).

"CRC now wants a larger area for the mine, but would mine less than half the coal and with far less employment than it previously committed to," notes Pachal. "This calls the Joint Review Panel's previous conclusion into question. We believe it's now even clearer than before that the destruction of this nationally significant wildland and the harm to Jasper National Park and area residents would outweigh the mine's benefits."

In a nine-page letter, the EUB details the information it wants from CRC, including an assessment of the health risks, specifically regarding selenium and

particulate matter (e.g. coal dust). This past August, CRC submitted their application based on a completely different development plan compared to that reviewed by previous federal-provincial hearings. A coalition of regional, provincial and national conservation groups maintains the new proposal is even more invasive than the last, which did not envision the newly proposed haulroad - a wide, noisy, dangerous route cutting along the heart of McLeod River headwaters.

The EUB has asked CRC to provide information on the economic and commercial viability of their new proposal. They've also asked for an explanation of why CRC has not proposed to reopen their Gregg River mine, which abuts their Luscar mine. The previous Joint Review Panel had recommended approving Cheviot as it then believed the economic benefits would outweigh the significant environmental harm that would result.

Cheviot is a massive open-pit mine that is proposed for southwest of Hinton, Alberta, adjacent to Jasper National Park, high in the Rocky Mountains. The conservation coalition and an association representing Cadomin residents had each independently asked the federal and provincial governments to require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and hold

public hearings on the new mine proposal. The federal government is still awaiting information from the company before it decides on requiring an EIA. Both governments are still deciding whether they'll call public hearings.

The conservation coalition includes naturalist and author Ben Gadd, the Jasper Environmental Association, Alberta Wilderness Association, Environmental Resource Centre of Alberta, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Sierra Club-Prairie Chapter, Toxics Watch Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Canadian Nature Federation and Mining Watch Canada. Since the mid 1970's, a number of these organization have proposed a park for the area.

For further information, contact:

Dianne Pachal
CPAWS-Edmonton
Telephone: (403) 234-7368,
Calgary

Christie Spence
Canadian Nature Federation
Telephone: (613) 562-3447
ext. 223,
Ottawa

Facility Booking, Cancellation and Payment Policies for Section Trips

ACC Section bookings refer to bookings made by Section Trip Leaders. These trips must be sanctioned by the Section Trips Committee, advertised in the Section newsletter, and open to section members. The trip leader will stay for free at the hut (to a maximum of two nights).

Booking Policies as of November 1, 2001

ACC Sections may book huts 1 year and 30 days in advance of the first day of the booking. Sections must follow the established [Bill Putnam \(Fairy Meadow\) Hut](#) booking and cancellation policies.

Cancellation Policies as of November 1, 2001

Section bookings* (8 or more participants) - 7 days
Section bookings* (7 or less participants) - 72 hours
*except Elizabeth Parker - see below for details
We will accept minor changes to the booking within the cancellation period (i.e. if one or two participants drop out). If proper notice is not provided for major cancellations, the Section will be charged the amount of the first night's accommodation or 50% of the total booking, whichever is larger.

Payment Policies as of November 1, 2001

For bookings of \$300 or less, full payment is due within one

week of the end of the trip. For bookings of \$301 or more, Trip Leaders or the Section must provide the ACC with a 10% deposit within two weeks of making the booking. This deposit will be refunded if proper cancellation notice is given. The balance for the booking is due seven days in advance of the first day of the trip. Sections must follow the established payment policies for the [Bill Putnam \(Fairy Meadow\) Hut](#) winter season.

Elizabeth Parker Section summer booking policies

There will be a maximum of 400 member night section bookings (equivalent to approximately 16 nights exclusive) allowed per summer season (June 19 to October 7) for Section bookings at the [Elizabeth Parker Hut](#).

In addition, Section bookings will not use more than a total of four Saturday nights during the 16 week summer season. Any one section is allowed a maximum of 165 member nights or seven exclusive nights. Of course, trip leaders do not need to book the hut exclusively - they can request space for smaller groups. Sections must submit their request in writing to the ACC by October 1 each year. Requests should include the following information:

Requested dates (including first, second and third choices)
Number of people in the party
Bus time requested (including first, second and third choices)

If there are more than 400 member nights requested by Sections, preference will be given to Sections and/or leaders who have not hosted a Section trip to Elizabeth Parker during the previous two summers. For other requests, a lottery will be held. All who request dates at the hut will be contacted by October 15. Members have until October 31 to confirm their booking with us. If we do not hear from the member who requested nights at the hut by October 31, the spaces will be released.

30 days cancellation notice is required for large group bookings (eight or more people) of four days or longer;

14 days are required for large group bookings of three days or less;

72 hours cancellation notice is required if your group is seven or less people.

Sections may book any empty spaces in the hut on a first come, first serve basis after December 15.

Send requests to:

Nancy Hansen
Facilities Director
The Alpine Club of Canada
P. O. Box 8040, Indian Flats
Road
Canmore, Alberta
T1W 2T8

phone: 403 678 - 3200

fax: 403 678 - 3224

email:

nhansen@AlpineClubofCanada.ca

TRIP REPORT

Alpine Club of Canada - Edmonton Section Mount Temple - 11,687 ft/ 3543m

Putting the Jump in Bum-Skiing

Eisenhower(Tower)peered down as I hydro-planed through Castle Junction at 6:30 AM.

Just after 7 AM, Jim, Ed, Mike, and Al N. met me at Laggan's Bakery(Lake Louise)for breakfast. They related a sorrowful story of rejection and rain from their camping experience the night before(I had stayed at the ACC hut in Canmore).

We were waived and on the trail above Moraine Lake by 8:30. Bernie hustled his buns and caught up to us later. Tony had phoned on the Friday, needing 3 more to make up the required six to assault the friendly grizzly in Larch Valley. He added Shauna and Jack to our crew. Shauna later dazzled us with a heart-stopping leap of faith.

I reassured those concerned about the black clouds and periodic drizzle, "We're going to Sentinel at least". Temple looked good from the valley and Jim led us up on to the mountain about 10:45. We noted stiff ice in the gullies so we clambered up the rock faces. There was considerable melting snow and very wet rock. Periodic snow flurries and light hail did not prevent us from catching a few moments of sunshine. Those rare photo-ops were spectacular. Moraine was almost phosphorescent in its aquamarine hue and Deltaform and its nine partners across the lake were stunning with their fresh snow. Mount Fay gleamed

in the sporadic sunlight. We carefully and continually watched the black clouds moving in from the West. By 2 PM, we had trudged up the ridge, and had bested the brisk cold breezes, to summit. Al N.'s cell phone got a good work out. All told, there were twenty on the summit. The summit ridge was snowclad with an occasional minimal cornice. We could spot Assiniboine, Castle, and Rundle. The high snow on the north side kept us from viewing the Lake Louise Townsite.

By 2:30 we had munched lunch and began heading down the snowy scree to regroup at the upper rock band. From there we moved leftward, skipping an iced gully. The rockface descent was laden with airborne flack, but not difficult. We did not want to retrace our earlier route which had seen us skidding on very wet stuff.

We avoided Sentinel Pass by heading into the bowl, planning to catch the trail further down. Enroute, we continued to kick rock on each other. Eventually, we came through a gully that ended with a snowfield. Hitting the snow required a jump outward 10 feet, plus a 10 foot drop. You had to land on your heels. That sat you on your ass. Then, you were off like a rocket.

Jim veered left and bounced off the rock wall, recovering nicely to yell, "That is not the way to do it!". Nagy's second ski-pole bit the dust as he skidded into the rockpile at the bottom of the snowfield. Subsequent jumpers unleashed ice axes, and followed suit, all with some trepidation. Shauna was a very unhappy camper until her bum hit the snow. She spent too much time thinking about the gap between

the rock face and the snowfield. Of course we were most encouraging and finally she leaped. Mike and Al N. had their video cameras in action.

2.

By 5 PM we were back on the Larch Valley trail. It began to rain heavily and Al N. entertained us with a few bellowed verses of "Singing in the Rain". Shauna and Jack hauled out their umbrellas. We were through the valley, followed by thirteen turns down the switch-backs, and back at the cars by 6.

A few of us headed to Canmore's Boston Pizza, prior to enduring a horrendous rain/hail storm that piled 5-6 inches of hail on the highway. The hail seemed determined to peel the paint and smash windshields.

As always, even a rainy day in the mountains ain't so bad. And, Mother Nature was very lenient.

Thanks Mom!

Bum Bouncers:

Al A., Al N., Bernie, Brian,
Chad, Ed, Jack, Jim, Mike,
Shauna, Tony, Wayne

August 10, 2002

— by Wayne Vibert