

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA  
**The Wapta Ski Traverse**  
Saturday April 4th, (evening meeting) to Saturday April 11th, 2009

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Banff and Yoho National Parks</b>
<b>Guide:</b>	<b>Peter Amann, (780) 852-3237, pamann@incentre.net</b>
<b>Camp Manager:</b>	<b>Gary Shorthouse, (604) 789-9913, gshorthouse@nvsc44.bc.ca</b>
<b>Fee:</b>	<b>\$1,595 + \$79.75 GST = \$1,674.75</b>
<b>Cancellation Insurance:</b>	<b>\$123 (optional)</b>
<b># Participants:</b>	<b>Eight</b>
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	<b>Guide's Room at the CAC at 7pm on April 4th</b>

### **Info Pack**

The purpose of this info pack is to provide you with the details you need to prepare for your Adventure. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Shelley Secord at the National Office in Canmore ([ssecord@alpineclubofcanada.ca](mailto:ssecord@alpineclubofcanada.ca), 403-678-3200 ext 112) or any of the camp staff listed above.

### **Membership**

Your Alpine Club of Canada membership must be current at the time of the camp. As well you must have the facilities upgrade option on your membership, as you will be using the ACC huts during this camp.

### **Accommodation**

The Wapta Icefield huts are modern, comfortable backcountry cabins. Located well above treeline, the views from the huts are fabulous! All have communal sleeping and eating areas and outhouse facilities. We will have the Peyto, Balfour and Scott Duncan Huts booked exclusively for our group. There may be other outdoor enthusiasts using the Bow Hut at the same time as our group. All of your food and accommodation costs during the camp are included in the price of the camp, starting with the first night of accommodation at the Canadian Alpine Centre. Please note that dinners on April 4th and April 11th are not included, and please bring your own bag lunch for the first day.

The Canadian Alpine Centre is a very attractive facility operated jointly by The Alpine Club of Canada and the Southern Alberta Hostelling Association. It has 150 beds and full kitchen facilities for you to prepare your own meals (or the Bill Peyto Café), and a gorgeous living room to relax in.

If you require accommodation at Lake Louise prior to the evening of April 4th or immediately following the camp (evening of April 11th), you need to arrange your reservations personally with the CAC at (403) 522-2200 or toll free at 1-866-762-4122. Book early, as it is ski season at that time and the CAC can be very busy.

### **Meals**

Meals on the camp will be prepared prior to the camp by a professional backcountry cook with an emphasis on the nutritional requirements specific to this kind of activity. Camp staff will organize the remaining preparations while on the camp with assistance from participants. Meals will be tasty and filling, with a significant proportion being dehydrated for weight considerations. If you have any food intolerances or preferences, please include that information with your

application and we will do what we can to accommodate you. Lunch on April 5th is not included so be sure to pack a lunch for this day.

### **Getting There**

Lake Louise, Alberta, is two and a half hours west of Calgary (via the #1 Highway) and an hour west of Banff. Lake Louise can easily be reached by car or bus. For bus schedules, inquire at your local bus depot. The most convenient airport to Lake Louise is Calgary International Airport. Brewster Bus Lines offers direct service from the airport to Canmore, Banff and Lake Louise. Contact (403) 762-6767 for schedule information. You will be provided with a participant list prior to the trip. Please use this list to arrange carpooling with others on the trip.

Participants' vehicles will be used to transport participants, food and equipment from Lake Louise to the Peyto Lake and Sherbrooke Lake trailheads. Since your car will be parked in an unattended public area for a week, do not plan to leave any valuables in it. Lockers can be rented at the CAC for the week.

Trips may not always run exactly according to schedule for reasons beyond our control (weather, wildlife, Parks regulations, etc). For this reason, we recommend that you do not book any scheduled travel (such as airplane flights) within a day or two of the last scheduled day of your camp.

### **Kick Off Meeting**

**You will be meeting in the Guide's Room in the Canadian Alpine Centre (CAC) in Lake Louise at 7:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Saturday evening, April 4, 2009.**

When you arrive at the CAC, advise the booking clerk you are with the ACC Wapta Traverse group so that there is no confusion with your reservation. This individual will also direct you to the Guides Room for our meeting.

During the group meeting Peter and Gary will review the week's itinerary, participants' expectations, do an equipment check, divide group gear and organize car pooling for the next day. It is *essential* that all participants attend this meeting, and it is very important that you arrive on time.

### **Itinerary\***

April 4th	Group participants, guide and camp manager to meet at the Canadian Alpine Centre at 7pm (mountain time) to check equipment and divide gear for an early start on Sunday.
April 5th	Arrange shuttle vehicles. Drive to Peyto Lake trailhead. Avalanche transceiver practice and glacier travel overview. Ski in to Peyto Hut
April 6th	Review glacier travel and crevasse rescue. Ski ascent if possible (North Rhondda or South Trapper Peak), overnight at Peyto Hut.
April 7th	Traverse over to Bow Hut
April 8th	Ski to Balfour Hut. Ski ascent of Mt. Olive and / or Mt. St. Nicholas enroute if possible.
April 9th	Overnight at Balfour Hut
April 10th	Ski to Scott Duncan Hut. Ski ascent of Lilliput Mountain and / or Mt. Balfour enroute if possible
April 11th	Ski out Sherbrooke Creek. Group debriefing at CAC.

*\*Itinerary and route may change due to weather/snow conditions and/or goals and ability of group.*

### **Insurance Options**

If you do not have Canadian medical insurance, or if your provincial insurance is insufficient, we recommend purchasing insurance through Travel Underwriters. They sell a variety of insurance policies, including medical (annual and single trip), trip cancellation/interruption and insurance for visitors to Canada. To find out more about their insurance options, visit the Travel Underwriters website at [www.travelunderwriters.com](http://www.travelunderwriters.com) or call them direct at 1-800-663-5389.

Please contact Shelley Secord ([ssecord@alpineclubofcanada.ca](mailto:ssecord@alpineclubofcanada.ca)) to purchase your travel insurance for this camp.

### **Park Passes**

Overnight backcountry passes are included in the cost of camps that take place within National Parks, but participants are responsible for other fees associated with the use of such parks (such as park entry fees). Many of these fees are directly related to whether or not you will be charged in the event of a rescue, so you are strongly advised to avail yourself of the correct information. For more information, contact the appropriate National or Provincial Park.

### **Environmental Considerations**

The ACC is proud to have earned the right to display the UIAA Environment Label. The UIAA is the world's recognized international mountaineering and climbing federation, with over 2.5 million members in 68 countries. The ACC's Mountain Adventures are conducted with great consideration for the environment, and we are thrilled to be recognized for the care we take. If you would like to learn more about the Environment Label, visit [www.uiaa.ch](http://www.uiaa.ch), and select "Labels".

### **Parks Canada Information**

Parks Canada has asked us to pass a message to you, the Mountain Adventure participant. When you are on an ACC camp (or any time you are near wildlife), wildlife viewing and safety procedures should be based upon the guidelines presented in Parks Canada brochure "Keep the Wild in Wildlife". The brochure describes appropriate behaviour when encountering habituated wildlife, safe distances for viewing and photographing wildlife, avoiding encounters and limiting attractants while traveling in the backcountry, and specific precautions for bears, elk and cougars. This brochure can be found on the Parks Canada website ([http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/nature/nature01\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/nature/nature01_e.asp)).

### **Recommended Reading**

#### **Guidebooks**

*Summits and Icefields – Alpine Ski Tours in the Canadian Rockies*, by Chic Scott  
*Backcountry Huts and Lodges of the Rockies and Columbias*, by Jim Scott

#### **General Interest**

*Place Names of the Canadian Alps*, by Putnam, W.L. et al  
*Freedom of the Hills*, the Mountaineers

#### **Map Sheets**

We recommend Murray Toff's map, *Touring the Wapta Icefield*. This is a 1:50,000 topographical map similar to the NTS sheets but with photos and routes marked on it.

Selected books and maps can be purchased from the ACC National Office and ACC members receive a 15% discount. Please contact us at (403) 678-3200, Ext. 1, check our website at [www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca](http://www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca) or email [info@AlpineClubofCanada.ca](mailto:info@AlpineClubofCanada.ca) for further details.

## **Equipment**

The equipment list should be carefully reviewed when packing for this camp. Please do not hesitate to contact Peter or Gary if you have any questions at all about your equipment - we want to be sure that you have all the right gear but that you don't bring too much! Remember also that you will be carrying everything you bring, so pack lightly.

You will be asked to carry some group gear in addition to your own personal items, so leave room in your pack for 4-6 kg (10-12 pounds) of group food and gear. We recommend that the total weight of your pack not exceed 14-16 kg (30-35 pounds).

Alpine touring skis, telemark skis or a split snowboard may be used on this camp. It is very important that your skis (or splitboard), boots and climbing skins fit properly and be in good condition. Skis must be modern and intended for variable backcountry conditions. Skis that are essentially cross-country skis with metal edges are not acceptable. Please ensure that all your gear is well broken in, especially your ski boots. Poorly fitting boots and the blisters that will result will drastically affect your experience and slow down the entire group.

## **Important Information Regarding Avalanche Transceivers - Please read carefully!**

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST HAVE AN AVALANCHE TRANSCEIVER. This transceiver MUST be a make and model recommended by the Canadian Avalanche Association.

This will be strictly checked and enforced prior to departing for any camp. If you arrive at the scheduled meeting place without a recommended avalanche transceiver, you will not be allowed to participate in the camp and will forfeit your fees.

You must also purchase two (2) complete sets of batteries for your avalanche transceiver. Do NOT rely on the batteries that come with the unit.

If you require rental equipment, Gear Up (On Highway 1A in Canmore) offers a 25% discount on rental gear and a 10% discount on retail climbing gear (excluding ropes) to Alpine Club of Canada Mountain Adventure participants. For further information and equipment reservations call (403) 678-1636 between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. MT. In Calgary, the Campus Outdoor Centre at the University of Calgary (403) 220-5038 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. MST, rents climbing and backcountry ski gear and accessories, and the Mountain Equipment Co-op (403) 269-2420 in Calgary, or (604) 872-7858 in Vancouver, has a more limited rental inventory, but will apply a portion of your rental cost toward purchase.

## **2009 Wapta Ski Traverse Equipment List**

### **\*Lunch for the first day\***

### **Suggested Clothing List**

- Long underwear top and bottoms (synthetic or merino wool)
- Warm outer pants (e.g. Schoeller or fleece.)
- Fleece or other synthetic jacket/sweater (insulation layer)
- Gore-Tex jacket (or equivalent waterproof/breathable outer shell w/ hood)
- Wind/waterproof shell pants (Gore-Tex or equivalent, preferably full side-zip)
- Warm wool or synthetic socks
  - o Tip: add a thin liner sock if you are prone to blisters
- Warm gloves or mitts (2 pairs)
- Waterproof over-gloves or mitts
- Spare gloves or mitts
- Toque (warm hat) or balaclava
- Sun hat with neck and ear protection
- Down or synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable hut clothing for evenings, including insulated or fleece pants and booties

### **Personal Equipment**

- Large size backpack (50-70 litres) for personal and some group equipment
- Sleeping bag (+5°C to -10°C/41F to 14F), depending on your comfort level)
- Ski goggles
- Sunglasses -close fitting with good UV protection & side shields
- Sunscreen and lip protection with minimum SPF 30
- Water bottle(s) - 1 litre, wide mouth, plastic with tight lid (hydration systems tend to rupture and freeze, so make sure you have a water bottle as well)
- Small personal first aid kit - bandaids, moleskin, duct tape, medications, etc.
- Toilet kit including towel and "Camp Suds" (biodegradable soap)
- Headlamp - with spare batteries and bulb
- Toilet paper (a small personal amount for during the day)
- Lighter
- Ziploc bags/container for lunch

### **Ski Equipment**

- Mountain skis (recommended minimum dimensions at ski tip-waist-tail = 110-75-100 mm or greater) or splitboard
- Boots; plastic telemark or alpine touring, previously worn and proven comfortable
- Poles
- Skins (full width, properly fitted to skis, and well glued)
- Avalanche transceiver with spare batteries
- Snow shovel (plastic shovels not recommended)
- Avalanche probe
- Skin wax (Glop Stopper) and grip wax (Dry or Blue Extra) - optional
- Repair kit - extra parts and tools that are specific to your gear
- Ski tie strap

### **Optional**

- Journal, reading material, and pencil

- Camera
- Map and compass / Altimeter / GPS
- Pocket knife (Swiss Army style)
- Thermos
- Ear plugs
- Small personal amount of liquor / treats, if desired
- Map and Compass/Altimeter/GPS

#### **Glacier Gear**

- Seat Harness with adjustable leg loops
- One length of nylon webbing – 3 meters (10') long, 1" thickness
- One Prusik cord - 5 meters (16') long, 7 mm diameter
- One Prusik cord – 1.5 metres (5') long, 7mm diameter
- Two locking carabiners - at least one Munter (pear shape)
- Two identical non-locking carabiners

#### **Some notes on equipment:**

Very little equipment or replacement parts will be available on the trip, so be sure you arrive properly equipped with all items adjusted, sized and in very good condition. Shortages and inadequate gear may limit your enjoyment of the experience, rule out your participation in some activities, or impose an unnecessary burden on other participants. It is highly advisable that all equipment (particularly new, borrowed or unfamiliar gear) is checked out extensively before the camp on at least one other trip.

The ACC will supply all group gear including ropes, first aid kit, group repair kit, additional technical gear, etc. All huts are supplied with eating utensils and mattresses.

**Please remember you must carry everything you bring, plus some group gear, so pack light!**