



Alpine Club of Canada
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Date: May 15, & 16, 2004
Westridge Country Inn

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Canmore, AB
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Attending Members:

David Toole, President
Rod Plasman, Secretary
Gordon Currie, Treasurer
Peter Muir, VP Access/Environment
Cam Roe, VP Activities
Carl Hannigan, VP Facilities
Bob Sandford, VP Mountain Culture (Sunday only)
David Zemrau, VP Services
Mike Mortimer, Director, External Relations
Rod Church, Central Alberta
Keith Sanford, Calgary
Neil Bosch, Edmonton
Chantal Ederle, Jasper/Hinton
Simon Statkewich, Manitoba
Murray Levine, Montreal
Cathy Mather, Okanagan
Dwight Yachuk, Ottawa
Pierre Gravel, Outaouais
Ron Scholtz, Rocky Mountain
André Mahé, St. Boniface
Dave McCormick, Saskatchewan
Frank Pianka, Thunder Bay
Paul Geddes, Toronto
Fern Hietkamp, Vancouver
Gerta Smythe, Vancouver Island
R. Huyber (Prince George)
Eric Vezeau, Whistler (regrets)

Also Attending:

Staff: Bruce Keith, Executive Director
Audrey Wheeler, Director, Member Services
Lawrence White, Director, Facilities
Nancy Hansen, Director, Mountaineering
Paula Zettel (recording Secretary)
Guests: Bev Bendell, Library & Archives (Saturday only), Bruce
Hardardt, Clubhouse Committee Chair, Roger Laurilla,
Lynn Martel (Saturday only)

1. President's Welcome

D. Toole called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM, welcomed the Board to Canmore and introductions were made. D.Toole requested that a minute of silence be observed in memory of Don Forest. D. Toole outlined the objectives of the meeting and the role of Board members during the meeting, including the responsibility of the board to ensure the Club continues to be financially viable club now and in the future. As well, he discussed the liability insurance cost issue the club is currently facing. To put the issues of the day in context, he pointed out the high level of professionalism the club has achieved over the past ten years and that, by and large, the club is well run and the needs of the members are being met. He also stressed the important role of volunteers in the club, and how their efforts can help reduce the demands on national office staff time and costs.

D. Toole mentioned some of the very positive initiatives underway in the club, including the campaign to solicit donations from members both in Canada and the USA. As well, the club is pursuing a number of possible new hut situations, including the Elks Lake cabin and a new facility at Mt. Robson Provincial Park. He also stated that B.Keith has been involved in a BC Parks advisory group, which is helping to foster good club relations with that organization. In addition, he mentioned the increasing amount of work being done by M. Mortimer and others on the club's upcoming Centennial in 2006.

2. Approval of the Agenda

A suggestion was made to amend the agenda by adding an item regarding ACC training approaches.

Motion by C. Roe, seconded by P. Gravel: that the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

3. November 1-2/03 Board Meeting

a. Approval of minutes

D. Yachuk requested that the minutes be amended to indicate that he voted against the motion to increase membership fees.

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by R. Plasman: that the minutes of the November 1-2, 2003 Board meeting be accepted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Business Arising

None (such items will be covered in the discussions planned for the meeting).

4. Section Reports and Issues

Each section representative spoke to his/her section report.

The discussions on the various reports included a show of hands indicating that all of the sections put their newsletter on their website, and approximately 50% of the sections mail their newsletter to members.

F. Hietkamp informed the Board that the FMCBC has a new Executive Director, Evan Loveless.

D. Yachuk brought up the issue regarding the ACC's policy on the transfer of training skills and information in sections so that members in the section can assist other members in improving their mountaineering/climbing expertise.

Motion by D. Yachuk, seconded by R. Plasman: that the ACC encourages the practice of ACC sections using ACC members as instructors to teach mountaineering related skills to ACC members based upon the ACC's "Syllabus of Mountaineering Courses".

Considerable discussion followed regarding the training practices followed in various sections, the stated objectives of the Club and the level of need for such a statement.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion was amended to remove the words "...based upon the ACC's "Syllabus of Mountaineering Courses"" so that the motion would read: "that the ACC encourages the practice of ACC sections using ACC members as instructors to teach mountaineering related skills to ACC members."

MOTION DEFEATED.

D. Yachuk requested that the minutes reflect the consensus of the discussion that, in spite of the motion being defeated, members should continue to be encouraged to train other members in accordance with the aims of the Club.

5. Liability Insurance Coverage/Options (P. Muir)

P. Muir reviewed the club and the insurance industry's history on this issue over the past decade, with particular emphasis on coverage options he has pursued since early November 2003 (when the club received its 2004 liability insurance renewal notice/invoice). He also made reference to his report circulated to Board before the meeting.

With regard to the option of "self-insurance", P. Muir stated that he did not think such an approach would be appropriate for the club. However, he indicated that restructuring the club to maximize the protection of its assets would be wise regardless of what approach the club decided upon for liability insurance coverage.

Motion by P.Muir, seconded by R. Plasman: that the Legal Committee of the ACC be instructed to incorporate and organise the Alpine Club of Canada Centre for Mountaineering.

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION: P. Muir/Legal Committee

6. Youth in the Backcountry

P. Muir stated that Banff National Parks has instituted a policy regarding custodial groups travelling in avalanche areas of the backcountry during specified times of the year. Following the Parks Canada announcement, the club has decided to adopt a similar policy for all its national and section trips, both inside and outside national parks.

It was agreed that a clear statement of the Club's policy in this area would be emailed to all sections and posted on the club's national website as soon as possible.

ACTION: P.Muir/C. Roe

7. Treasurer's Report (G. Currie)

G. Currie spoke to his report. He discussed the results-to-date of the recent fundraising campaign, and mentioned that the fundraising flyer would soon be mailed to ACC members residing in the USA. He also said the recent preparation of the "2003 Annual Report" document would help ACC members gain a better understanding of the ACC's financial situation, and it will also provide a means of adequately recognising donors. S. Chamney was thanked for her part in the preparation of the "2003 Annual Report" (that was distributed at the AGM May 15th and is up on the national website).

G. Currie then outlined the club's financial projection for 2004, and particularly how that has been affected by the receipt of a 2004 liability insurance invoice in early November, 2003 that was \$32,000 higher than the amount in the budget approved by the Board only one week earlier. In addition, revenues in some areas do not appear to be materializing as expected in the budget. These two situations have resulted in a projected loss for the club this year of \$70,000.

To deal with this situation, G. Currie stated that the National level of the Club has reduced expenses, and that is fair to expect the sections to contribute to resolving the loss situation - particularly since an estimated 95% the liability insurance coverage that national pays for is for section trips.

Motion by G. Currie, seconded by D. Zemrau: that:

A. Sections will be billed in November 2004 for the lesser of:

- \$30,404 (which is the “Member/Section Services” portion of the \$32,000 higher-than-budgeted liability insurance premium for 2004), or
- the amount that the Club’s actual 2004 liability insurance bill exceeds \$38,000, or
- the Club’s year-end operating deficit for 2004 (if any)

and

B. The amount calculated as per A. will be divided up amongst and billed to the Sections on a pro-rated “per membership” basis.

Much discussion ensued with many ideas presented by Board members to resolve this issue.

Motion by C. Roe seconded by K. Sanford: that the above motion be tabled until the next day.

MOTION CARRIED

D. Toole requested that section representatives do whatever was necessary to come to the meeting the next day prepared to vote on the motion.

8. Awards (P. Geddes)

P. Geddes stated that the club’s two newest awards – the ACC Service Award and the ACC Leader Award - might be confusing because nominators are not always sure which level of award is most appropriate e.g. ACC Service Award or Distinguished Service Award? It was agreed that factors that help determine the appropriate level of award include the type of service the member has given, over what period(s) of time it has been given and its significance to the Club. P. Geddes stated he is looking for input from the sections to help clarify the situation, and he encouraged section representative to have their sections consider using these newest awards. He plans to distribute award nomination forms for ACC awards at the fall Board meeting.

ACTION: P. Geddes/Section Representatives

M. Mortimer suggested that the club consider a new award be developed by the Alpine Club of Canada, to be titled the “Don Forest Award” and presented (possibly at the Guides Ball or the Banff Film Festival) to a person who has made a contribution for the betterment of the whole mountain community.

ACTION: Paul Geddes/Awards Committee

9. Nominating Committee (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer stated that a Nominating Committee has been formed to develop and present the 2005-07 Executive Committee slate at the Fall 2004 Board meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of P. Geddes, C. Hannigan and M. Mortimer.

10. Mountain Guides Ball (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer stated that the Mountain Guides Ball has been a good fundraiser over the years but it is becoming increasingly difficult to make a decent surplus due to increasing costs. He said that Chic Scott has resigned as the Silent Auction Coordinator, so the Committee is now looking for a new volunteer to take on this role. He stated that John Wheeler has agreed to be the Patron for the 2006 Centennial Ball.

11. UIAA (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer mentioned the financial difficulties with the UIAA. He also stated that sport climbing is now part of the World Games.

12. ACC Centennial (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer mentioned the upcoming Centennial Committee (consisting of the ACC Executive Committee, P. Fuhrman, P. Geddes, F. Hietkamp and B. Keith) will meet Sunday May 16th. He distributed a brochure with a possible 2006 agenda including activities, meetings, events, projected Facilities and Mountain Culture projects, etc., but pointed out that most of the initiatives have yet to be approved financially. F. Hietkamp requested that Sections confirm ideas and initiatives for the Centennial.

The meeting adjourned on May 15th at 3:15 PM

The meeting reconvened on May 16th at 9:00 AM

13. External Relations (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer spoke to his report. He also reported that at the Centennial Committee meeting earlier that morning, all proposed projects were approved in principle and some projects were given initial funding (which will come from the Centennial Fund).

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by R. Plasman: that all donations to the Endowment Fund be allocated to the Centennial Fund until December 31, 2006.

MOTION CARRIED

M. Mortimer also encouraged each section to consider holding a “Centennial dinner”. With regard to section involvement in the Centennial, F. Hietkamp pointed out that funding applications are now available. The first deadline for Centennial funding applications is January 31, 2005 and the second deadline is June 30, 2005. The successful applications will be announced at the subsequent Board meeting following each deadline. The Vancouver Section is willing to help coordinate with other Sections to get more membership involvement.

14. Liability Insurance Costs (continued from previous day – see item #7)

It was agreed that the motion tabled the previous day would be brought back for discussion. G. Currie re-read the motion. After considerable discussion, the original motion was withdrawn with the approval of the mover and the seconder. A new motion was then presented.

Motion by D. Zemrau, seconded by N. Bosch: that:

- 1. Membership fees be increased by a minimum of six dollars effective January 1, 2005.**
- 2. Sections will be billed in November, 2004 on a pro rata basis for the lesser of:**
 - a. 71.25 percent of the higher-than-budgeted liability insurance premium for 2004, or**
 - b. The Club's national year-end operating deficit for 2004 (if any).**

Following some discussion, the following amendment to the motion was made:

Motion by D. Yachuk, seconded by P. Gravel: Be it resolved that the original motion be amended to remove the word "*minimum*" from the first sentence and change January 1, 2005 to *July 1, 2004*.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The motion on the floor therefore read as follows: that:

- 1. Membership fees be increased by six dollars effective July 1, 2004.**
- 2. Sections will be billed in November, 2004 on a pro rata basis for the lesser of:**
 - a. 71.25 percent of the higher-than-budgeted liability insurance premium for 2004, or**
 - b. The Club's national year-end operating deficit for 2004 (if any).**

MOTION CARRIED

D. Toole thanked the Board for their diligence with resolving this issue.

Section representatives expressed their desire for the club's membership application and renewal forms to show the actual cost of liability insurance provided to members through their membership.

ACTION: B. Keith

There was also an expression of willingness on the part of some Board members to consider simplifying the Club's membership fee structure by changing to a "single fee" approach.

ACTION: G. Currie

15. Executive Committee Reports

a. Services (D. Zemrau)

D. Zemrau spoke to his report. He also pointed out that the ACC was becoming increasingly involved in competitive sports at the international level and therefore needed a statement regarding the Club's policy on anti-doping.

Motion by D. Zemrau, seconded by R. Plasman: that the Alpine Club of Canada adopts and accepts the World Anti-Doping Code as its governing policy and code regarding anti-doping in competition sports.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Access/Environment (P. Muir)

P.Muir spoke to his report. In regards to the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal, He read from his report a letter that he wrote stating the ACC's position on that proposal.

"The ACC accepts that some development in mountain areas is inevitable and in some cases desirable so long as the development is:

- *Justifiable from an economic, environmental, activity and social basis*
- *Consistent with the long and short term benefit of the location*
- *Environmentally responsible*
- *Consistent with the traditional and existing uses of the area and its environs, its inhabitants, neighbours and commercial enterprises; and*
- *In response to a dictated or realistic need*

The ACC is concerned the JGR proposal does not meet any of these criteria."

He stated that he is pleased with the NAECC committee and its new members and thanked the sections and Stacy Karalash for getting section representatives involved. He stated there is currently a representative from each section on the Committee.

c. Facilities (C. Hannigan)

C. Hannigan spoke to his report. He discussed opportunities for a Mt. Robson hut and mentioned that discussions are underway with an MBA student for a "business case" report to be completed on this project. He is writing a letter to Parks Canada with regard to Asulkan and Sapphire Col huts regarding the lack of adequate maintenance of the hut – a situation that reflects poorly on the image of the ACC. He also mentioned BC Parks' Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, and that it had formed an advisory committee to provide feedback on a policy it was developing on new accommodations in BC Parks. B. Keith is on this committee. He indicated the BC government's perception of The Alpine Club of Canada appears to be very good. R. Huyber (Prince George Section) stated the Section has views on helicopter use at Mt. Robson and that it would be in the Club's interest if there were sufficient ACC National/section dialogue on this issue to ensure we are speaking with one voice.

ACTION: C. Hannigan

d. Secretary (R. Plasman)

R. Plasman spoke to his report. He stressed that improved communication with members is necessary, and that membership value needs to be promoted at the Section level.

Motion by R. Plasman, seconded by P. Gravel: Be it resolved that:

All attendees on Alpine Club of Canada trips must be members of The Alpine Club of Canada unless the trip is designated otherwise by the National or Section Executive or it's duly authorized representative.

Many Board members felt that, though some sections already follow this policy, the motion would unduly bind those sections that don't choose to address the matter in that way. After considerable discussion, the mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion. However, it was agreed that each section would continue to encourage section trip and activity participants to be members of the club.

e. Mountain Culture (B. Sandford)

B. Sandford spoke to his report. He mentioned that there are now 14 members on the Mountain Culture Committee and they have dedicated themselves to the Centennial initiative. He also said that he has made an agreement with Alpine Book Peddlers to help distribute ACC books in Western Canada. The Jane Gooch book has proven to be successful and he noted the Lake O'Hara Lodge contribution. He would like to publish something similar with Bow Lake and Mt. Assiniboine art. He thanked the Mountain Culture Committee for their hard work and dedication. B. Sandford said that the Committee would progress on the production of Christmas cards as suggested by C. Hannigan.

16. National Office Report (B. Keith)

B. Keith distributed an updated ACC national organizational chart and indicated the recent staff changes. He discussed the staff workload vs. capacity issue that needs to be addressed and resolved without delay. B. Keith appealed to section representative Sections to have their section reduce the demand on staff workload by replying promptly to national office requests e.g. for voting on awards and grants.

ACTION: Section Representatives

17. Other Items

a. ACC Privacy Policy (R. Plasman)

R. Plasman reviewed the ACC's current privacy policy that states, "The ACC does not release members' personal information to third parties without their expressed consent." Since January 1, 2004, federal privacy protection legislation has come into effect that may have implications for organizations like the ACC. The club is reviewing the details of this Act and how it applies to the ACC. Further information will be forthcoming as soon as the review is completed.

ACTION P. Muir

b. Parks Canada Update (C. Hannigan)

C. Hannigan read a letter that he sent to Parks Canada expressing concern regarding their recently proposed fee increases. He indicated he has not yet received a reply from Parks Canada officials.

c. Youth Membership/Fee Concept (D. Toole)

D. Toole reported that, as agreed at the November 2004 Board meeting, he had circulated the idea of a Youth Membership category for ACC membership to sections together with a request for feedback. He stated that the responses he received did not support such a category so the idea will not be pursued further at this time.

d. CAJ Digitization (B. Sandford)

B. Sandford provided updates on the CAJ digitization project and elaborated on the magnitude of the undertaking. He said that professional help will be sought and the project will take 2 years to complete. He will provide a progress update at the fall Board meeting.

ACTION: B. Sandford

e. ACC Meeting in Winnipeg in 2006 (P. Muir)

P. Muir indicated that the Manitoba and St. Boniface sections have discussed holding the Spring Board meeting in Winnipeg in 2006.

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by C. Roe: be resolved that the ACC Spring Board meeting in 2006 be held in Winnipeg on March 25th and March 26th of that year.

MOTION CARRIED

f. Next Meetings (R. Plasman)

Fall '04 Executive Committee Meeting - September 18 (and perhaps Sept.19), Canmore
Fall '04 Board Meeting - October 30/31, Lake Louise

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.