



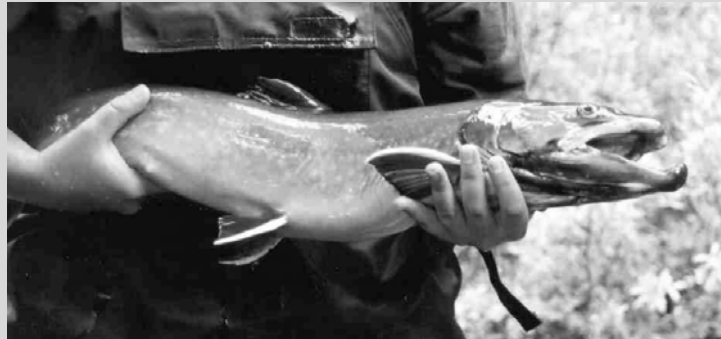
The Chinook

Volume 40, Number 11

December 2005

The next Calgary Section Meeting is on Tuesday, 20 December 2005 at the Bow Waters Canoe Club, 1975—26th Street SE. The Christmas Pot Luck starts at 6:30 pm— Bring an appetizer, main course or dessert. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

This month
The French Free and the Spanish Fly — My Best of European Climbing
Presented by Steve Fedyna



Bull Trout, Adult and Juvenile -See Ghost Advisory p.6

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From the Editor

Take a look at the proposed 2006 budget on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter; it is being submitted for your approval at the December meeting. You will see that The Chinook eats up a huge proportion of your dues. To save the section some money, why not read the Chinook off the web? For those wanting to refer back to trip reports, an archive of older Chinooks (starting with December 2000) is available on the section website. They don't have to sit there, cluttering up your basement! Just send an email to acccalgary@hotmail.com requesting the change. And of course, you can print off your own copy if there is one that you need to have in hand.

While you are thinking about this, remember that Chinook content has to come from you. If members fail to submit the tales of their adventures (and misadventures, possibly disguised in a Training and Leadership column) there won't be anything to publish. So if there is an idea for an article rattling around in your brain, write it now.

If you would enjoy writing but can't think of a topic, how about doing a profile of one of the interesting characters who were around the club in the early years? If a subject does not immediately spring to your mind, contact me about it and we can come up with some possibilities for you. After all, 2006 is the Centennial of the main club—with a hundred years of history to work with, it should be no trouble to find some good stuff.

NATIONAL NOTES

These two Calgary Section Members were awarded the Distinguished Service Awards from the National club last year.

Gabriela Gundlach - Calgary Section

Gabriela has been a member of the Huts Committee for over sixteen years and has been a member of many work parties since the construction of the Bow Hut in 1989. She readily helps out in many areas of construction, before going on to finish her day with food catering for the entire crew. An extra bonus to the ACC was when she started to bring her young son along to help out.

David Hough - Calgary Section

As spouse of Gabriela, Dave completes this family affair and has also been involved in all the major work parties since the Bow Hut. Dave's experience in all types of construction makes him an ideal crew leader. A long commute from the Nelson area has not hampered Dave's enthusiasm for the work of the Huts Committee.

1st Annual Calgary Section Ski Leaders Weekend

A.O Wheeler Hut, Roger's Pass

Friday (evening), January 27th – Sunday, January 29th 2006

Join fellow Calgary Section members for a weekend of skiing and networking, in the heart of Roger's Pass. This weekend is designed for ski leaders and potential ski leaders. Specific day trips may require ski-mountaineering equipment and ability. Come prepared to lead, with objectives in mind. We will be breaking up into ski-sized groups both Saturday and Sunday.

\$50 gets you 2 nights accommodation at the A.O. Wheeler Hut, plus Saturday night happy hour. (Beverages and munchies will be hauled-in by the ski committee, especially for you.) Saturday night dinner will be potluck style, theme to be announced.

This event is open to 24 qualified participants, on a first-come, first-served basis. To attend the ski weekend, you must be at least an intermediate backcountry skier, knowledgeable in avalanche safety and rescue. Space is filling up quickly so sign up soon to avoid disappointment. For more information contact Heather Eadie at heathereadie@hotmail.com, 229-9451.

**ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA - CALGARY SECTION
BUDGET 2006
(with 2005 Budget and Current Estimate)**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Revenues</u>		
	<u>2005 Budget</u>	<u>2005 Estimate</u>	<u>2006 Budget</u>
Membership Revenue	\$14,500	\$14,509	\$ 15,000
Grant Revenue	6,000	6,000	6,000
<u>Other revenues</u>			
GST Refund	950	1,233	1,096
Interest Income	800	614	1,150
Participant course fees	494	262	800
Total Other Revenue	<u>2,244</u>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>3,046</u>
Transfer from Capital - Fay Hut Donation	-	5,000	-
Rock & Ice Reviews	2,000	1,340	2,000
Transfer from Capital Ghost toilet Grant	1,500	1,364	-
Total Section Revenues	<u>\$26,244</u>	<u>\$30,323</u>	<u>\$ 26,046</u>
<u>Trip Co-ordination Revenue</u>			
Summer Section Camp	12,500	9,715	12,500
Liz Parker Hut	720	722	-
Fairy Meadows Hut	4,500	9,450	13,500
Discovery Hut	-	-	1,800
Kokanee Hut	-	8,400	-
Total Trip Revenue	<u>17,720</u>	<u>28,287</u>	<u>27,800</u>
Total Budget Revenue	<u>\$43,964</u>	<u>\$58,610</u>	<u>\$ 53,846</u>

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>		
	<u>2005 Budget</u>	<u>2005 Estimate</u>	<u>2006 Budget</u>
Chinook	\$ 9,305	\$ 10,635	\$ 8,550
Leadership Training	5,660	4,863	6,200
<u>Committees</u>			
Executive	330	244	250
Ski Committee	909	444	790
Training & Leadership	150	148	100
Climbing	500	300	300
Environment	150	35	-
Membership	50	71	70
Social	1,280	1,130	830
Total Committees	3,369	2,373	2,340
Administration	1,738	2,741	2,406
Donations	1,500	6,500	1,000
Recognition	2,400	2,191	1,800
Rock & Ice Reviews	2,000	1,697	2,000
Gear - Ropes	1,000	715	750
Ghost toilet	1,500	1,793	1,000
Total Section Expenses	\$ 28,472	\$ 33,507	\$ 26,046
<u>Trip Expenses</u>			
Summer Section Camp	12,500	9,346	12,500
Liz Parker Hut	-	-	500
Fairy Meadows Hut	-	26,671	13,500
Discovery Hut	-	-	1,800
Kokanee Hut	600	8,400	-
Total Trip Expenses	13,100	44,417	28,300
Total Budget Expenses	\$ 41,572	\$ 77,924	\$ 54,346

Ghost Advisory by Bill Marriott

The purpose of this document is four-fold: (1) to review ACC and other climber participation in the consultations on the Ghost /Waiparous Access Management Plan (GAMP), (2) to issue an advisory on vehicular traffic in the North Ghost, and (3) to recommend a climber "code of conduct" for ACC members traveling in the North Ghost this winter.

Background. The current consultative process on the Ghost was started by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) in December, 2002 so we have been at it for 3 years! The Calgary Section's ongoing involvement can be seen at our website (<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/news/accessenvironment.html>). Special thanks are due Stacey Karalash whose informal efforts were very effective and her focused determination resulted in the outhouse at the bottom of the big hill. Thanks also to Keith Sandford for his longstanding participation and Nancy Hansen of the National office for her work. More recently, Bill Marriott has been involved in trying to coordinate a single unified voice for climbers. TABVAR has been active thru Jamie McVicar and Dave Dornian. Allan Derbyshire has attended many meetings as a liaison to the CMC, Mt. Royal College and the ACMG. Finally, Eric Hoogstraten thru the CMC has been active in recent months and has also made written submissions. (I'm sure I left out someone so my apologies in advance).

The question is; did we do any good?

Current Status. In April, 2005 SRD released a draft map of the Ghost Forest Reserve showing designated campsites and designated roads and vehicle trails reserved for specific types of vehicular travel. Any vehicular traffic not explicitly shown on the map would be illegal. Climbers were affected in the following ways:

- camping in the Ghost river-bottom would be restricted to two campsites;
 - one at the bottom of the big hill and one below Wully wall,
 - no camping would be allowed at Devils Gap at the boundary of Banff National Park,
 - vehicular traffic up the North Ghost would be prohibited beyond the first river crossing at Silver Tongued Devil,
 - vehicular traffic on the rough road over to Johnson Lakes to access the Sorcerer would be prohibited.
- Despite all the lobbying that we did, SRD has given no indication that they

will change these restrictions before the GMAP goes for review and approval by the Minister. Therefore, we must assume that the restrictions outlined in the draft will be in effect when and if the GAMP is approved. There seems to be some political will to move the GAMP forward but it will require Cabinet approval which may take months or years.

Vehicular Access Advisory. In the fall of 2005, the Fisheries Management branch of SRD determined that a native bull trout population is resident in the North Ghost. No fish can move up through the grate at the diversion so the trout in the river have been living there in isolation since the diversion was built in the 1940s. The spring fed nature of the North Ghost makes it ideal habitat for the bull. The SRD staff also determined that active spawning was taking place in the small side streams that feed the river. Spawning may also take place in the main river channel but none was observed this year possibly due to unusually high water levels.

These realities mean that vehicular fords of the river may be in violation of the federal Fisheries Act (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-14/index.html>) which outlaws destruction of fish habitat. See sections 34 (1), 35 (1), 40(1), and 78 (a). Penalties for minor (non-indictable) violations of the Act include fines of up to \$100,000 for the first offence and imprisonment for the second offence. Be advised that if you drive into the North Ghost this winter you may be in violation of the Act. (ACC leaders please note that no Club trip should be undertaken that knowingly violates any law or posted access restriction). Wildlife officers may be disinclined to charge climbers for any violations in the Ghost this winter, but the fact remains that our crossing the river may destroy fish habitat and maybe illegal. That the bull has survived is a testament to their hardiness that cannot help but be admired. It may also mean that the normal fords do not adversely affect spawning or that our historical usage levels are not significant enough to adversely affect the resident population. No one will know for sure unless further scientific studies are undertaken.

ACC Climber Code of Conduct for the North Ghost - Winter 05/06.

Recently, I visited the North Ghost with SRD fish biologist Brian Lajeunesse. We placed a number of advisory signs at identified bull spawning areas. If possible, please do not disturb these habitats as you will be killing the fertilized eggs that are due to hatch in January. Of special importance is the small side stream that you cross just before accessing the final forest road leading to This House of Sky (THOS) (GR 24250 E, 86500N, NAD27). Driving across this stream is not recommended. For those wishing to climb THOS please consider walking the final one km that you would normally drive. For those wishing to climb further up the valley please reconsider your plans and if possible confine your climbing to GBU, the Valley of the Birds or the South Ghost.

**ACC CALGARY SECTION ICE REVIEW
JANUARY 7- 8th 2006**

Welcome to our 2006 Ice Review! We will be going into the Ghost River Valley, NW of Cochrane. (Cochrane is a 30 min drive W of Calgary on the 1A highway). We have two days of great climbing lined up, with leaders for both days for those who would prefer to second a rope. Most climbs are 1 to 3 pitches ranging from WI 2-6, although some longer climbs may be accessible depending on conditions. We will camp Saturday night in the valley at the foot of the big hill; for \$20.00, a hot meal and beer will be provided to go with the big warming tent and the wood fire.

Meeting place and time: . As four-wheel drive vehicles are essential to get into the Ghost, we are going to car pool from Calgary. We will meet on Saturday morning Jan 7th at 0730 h at the A&W parking lot in the Crowfoot Shopping Centre in NW Calgary off Crowchild Trail (which becomes 1A highway). If you have a four-wheel drive vehicle and can drive it into the Ghost, please bring it along, and be prepared to take passengers.

Gear: You need to bring your own personal camping gear and climbing gear. Your \$20.00 will get you food and drink, but nothing to put it in—so bring a mug, bowl and spoon. You will also be responsible for your own lunches and your breakfast for Sunday. We will be providing chili, beer, and some snacks on Saturday night, but you may want to supplement with your own treats from the Christmas bounty! Personal climbing gear should include harness, helmet, crampons, 2 tools, 2 locking 'biners, daisy chain or personal sling, prussic cord (5 m), rap device and ice screws if you have them. If you have some firewood to contribute to the campfire, by all means bring it too! At the campsite, there is an outhouse which has been cleaned recently but you bring your own toilet paper.

Additional questions: Contact Peter Lloyd at 247-0204 or 471-2493 (peter.lloyd@shaw.ca). See you at 0730h at Crowfoot Centre; the convoy will leave at 0800h sharp! If you have not been to the Ghost before, please contact Peter for detailed directions.

**Tech Tips: Problem Cord-Locks
By Orvel Miskiw**

On a lighter note, I just want to mention these little gizmos, often called "toggles" by politically incorrect climbers. I have always found them to be a bit of a problem, not a serious one, but persistent. Whether I was trying to cinch up a sleeping bag stuff sack, or close my pack a bit tighter, or make sure my sweat pants wouldn't slide down at a bad time, they seemed to work--sometimes and sort of.

But often they don't work very well, especially on a tight closure. In the first place, they are hard to tighten, because of serious friction where the cords make a sharp turn into the hole on the business side of the barrel. As a side-effect of that sharp turn over an edge, the cord suffers--this is mostly a problem on high-usage closures like day-packs, which may be opened and closed several times a day. And then, they don't hold all that well in the usual configuration because they don't make use of the high friction between the two strands of cord, since the strands move together.

Recently I reached my breaking point while trying to cinch up the cord on my sweat pants: there had to be a better way...and I soon found it! (This applies to only the most common kind of cord-locks--the spring-loaded barrel type, but not the wedge type.) If you run the cords through the barrel in opposite directions, it works much better. You can tighten one cord at a time, or both at once without even squeezing the lock, and for extra security, you can easily tie a knot around the outside of the barrel without worrying about it going down the hole. To prevent the cords from escaping back through the barrel, I find it best to tie a big lump in each one separately: a double overhand knot should be enough if the lock is the right size for the cord, but it also works OK to tie the cords together as usually done with the 'old' setup. You may find a use for this simple threading variation on cordlocks--I've never seen it before, but think it works better in most cases.



The Crux of the Trip isn't Always the Crux of the Climb By Frederic Labarre & Andy Strangemann

For a Calgary Section trip coordinator, preparation usually involves checking on weather, trail restrictions, and route conditions. You will probably be also thinking about selecting your trip participants, (who and how many should go), what group gear and what personal gear is required to safely complete the trip, getting the waiver ready, etc.

All this done, then arrives The Big Day. Everybody shows up at the agreed upon meeting location, comforted by that double espresso skim milk latte as they chat about recent trips and adventures, all the while wondering why they got up way early on the only day they would have been able to sleep in, just to experience some physical punishment in the high country with a pushy trip leader. You introduce yourself, get the waiver signed, and perform equipment checks (helmets, boots, ice-ax, etc.).

Now to arrange the carpool, the easiest part of the whole trip one might be thinking, since there are fifteen of us. But, eh, oh, wait a minute:

You find out that one of the cars has an antifreeze leak and the car is subject to overheating; (why do you think we all have a water bottle with us?)

Another person, living only few minutes away and thinking that she would leave her car at the parking lot, didn't bring the Registration and Insurance Certificates; (You will probably be walking soon)

Someone else didn't have any insurance at all! (You should already be walking!)

One participant had driven more than 100,000 kilometers and felt that the timing belt was ready to be changed; this was a big "no no" to use this car. Wild and ominous gesticulations about being stalled on the side of the highway underscored that point. (If you're that worried, climbing may not be for you)

Yet another vehicle apparently had an history of dying on the road (a late 1970's Ford) and therefore was suitable for city use only - (another worrier)

Another participant had himself dropped off by his wife, who needed the car during the day (this is a classic and should be left to better family planning);

There was a slow leak on somebody's tire; (I'd want to check for the hissing noise), and another vehicle needed an oil change (If you are already 8,000 km over, the 300 km drive to K-country won't make a difference).

So out of fifteen people who showed up at the parking lot, we ended up with only four "useable" vehicles, which was the strict minimum!

Lesson learned: When people contact me, I now ask if we can use

their vehicle and how many people they can take in it including themselves. This can be a vital part in the trip planning and will help in getting the trip on the road without wasting valuable time.

The Bivouac Rebuttal

Re: Orvel's version of "The Bivouac"

It's true... We were slow, and eventually faced the reality of a bivouac on Mt. Brock (see last issue of *The Chinook*). Obviously we had enjoyed the climb so much more than other parties...! But when darkness fell and we still had difficult terrain in front of us, and one of us was without a head lamp (guesses who?), we opted for the rational choice of waiting until dawn. The perfectly positioned walled, flat bivi shelter presented itself at the right moment and we, the reluctant Orvel and his three not-reluctant-at-all "energetic, fun and very capable partners" (to quote him) tucked in.

According to Orvel's article, he did not enjoy the bivouac. We DID, however...! Here's why: Orvel forgot to mention that we were treated to a perfect summit rendition of *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, by Gabrielle. He also forgot to mention the spectacular Northern Lights that danced their way through the night sky. It must have slipped his mind that the stars were bright and gorgeous, absolutely one of the clearest and warmest nights of the summer. How could Orvel not remember the twinkling lights of Calgary in the distance? -- Important because finally we were able to use the cell phone informing loved ones of our tardy predicament. We had lots of food and water, some extra clothing, two ropes to lie on and two tarps over us, and good friends to snuggle up to (not bad, really, we thought...). It was GREAT company in which to find yourself on an unplanned bivi close to the summit of a mountain, especially since we only had to pull the tarps from our heads to watch the sun rise over the city! You get the idea.

The sunrise was cloudless, glorious and warmed up quickly. None of us had pressing plans for the morning, so we enjoyed the climb down and hike out in a relatively leisurely fashion. We even had extra food stashed down on the approach trail and enjoyed refreshing dips in King's Creek en route to the car.

BUT! Stay tuned for Orvel's next article to appear in the *Chinook* regarding preparation and gear for the perfect bivouac... Maybe we can be even MORE comfortable than we were on that near perfect night in our near perfect bivi!!!

Signed by Orvel's energetic, fun, very capable and lovely (he forgot that one) partners Gabrielle S., Marg S., and Sandy S.

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NO CALLS AFTER 10 PM IS THE POLICY OF THE SECTION, THANK YOU

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Chinook Submissions: Any article relating to the Club or the mountains is welcome. Please send submissions as an email attachment to **callanan@telusplanet.net** before the 26th for the next month's issue. Microsoft Word documents (Arial font) work the best. Submissions become the property of the Alpine Club of Canada and are subject to editing.