



The Chinook

Volume 37, Number 2

February 2003

The next Calgary Section Meeting will be held at **7:30 PM Tuesday Feb 18th**
at the Bow Waters Canoe Club Clubhouse, 1975 - 26 Street S.E.

This Month:

Mount Logan East Ridge, May 2002

Jocelyn Dufour and Scott McLellan



Alberta Morning

?

Condition Reports

The section has a condition report webpage that has been suffering from neglect. We'd like to revive it so it can be once again be a usable resource. You can help – please submit a short condition report from your latest adventure.

<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary>

Section Email

We have an section email list, to subscribe or post send an email to accalgary@hotmail.com

Executive Notes

Chairman's Report

As a part of our annual budget, we have allocated donations from the Section to a number of organizations. We feel that this is an effective way to represent our membership, allowing us to make a sizeable donation to organizations that benefit the Section's activities, at a small cost to each member. Please let me know what you think about this, so that we can continue to plan for future years. This year's donations have been made to:

- Canadian Avalanche Association - \$500
- TABVAR (Bow Valley climbing association) - \$500
- Friends of Kananaskis - \$500
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - \$250

Notice of Motion for the March 2003 Section meeting – Dan Doll:

“To create a Calgary Section Legacy fund with \$70,000 in current cash assets of the Calgary Section. This Legacy fund will be invested in conservative, income bearing investments, with 50% of the annual investment income reinvested in the Fund's principal, and 50% of the annual income disbursed to designated Section initiatives. Disbursements of any of the Fund's principal amount will require a vote by the Section membership at a regular meeting.”

Background:

The Section has maintained close to \$80,000 in cash and equivalent assets over the past few years. This money was originally raised through events (e.g. casinos) to help ensure the long term financial viability of the section. We have been treating these funds as if they were being held "in trust", and under the guidance of previous Section Chairs, most recently Jackie Clark, we have maintained breakeven budgets that did not dip into these capital reserves.

In order to formally establish the intention of these funds, that is ensuring the long term financial stability of the section, while producing a visible benefit on a yearly basis, I am proposing the creation of the Legacy fund as outlined in the motion above. Capital would be preserved and remain accessible for any future, "Section threatening" emergencies and in the meantime a yearly dividend would be available for designated project(s). Endowment fund distributions could also be pooled for larger, multi-year projects.

Climbing Committee News – Murray Eitzen

The annual ice review took place the first weekend in January. It certainly was amazing to see mild temperatures, and a large number of climbers come out for this event – 61 people in total. I was really pleased to see the variety of people out there. There were beginning climbers that were keen and excited as they made their first swings and kicks into the ice. There were also veteran climbers that tackled some of the harder grade 5 and 6 routes. In addition, people travel far and wide to come to the ice review such as Al Dunham, who lives in Revelstoke B.C. Please extend thanks to all the members who helped organize this event:

- Rick and Keith for getting all the door prizes
- Rob for bringing out the ropes
- Ray for organizing the leaders
- Stacey and her crew for making the chili
- Keith for bringing out the beer
- Gabrielle for organizing the event and
- anybody I missed!

Two questions that did however arise from the ice review are :

1. How could the keg of beer possible been not finished? Yes, there was still some left!!
2. Why wouldn't Rick play any ACDC??

In other climbing committee news:

Come out and climb with us every Wednesday at the Calgary Climbing Center at 7:30. The cost is only \$9.10. If you're feeling more adventurous everyone usually goes out to the pub after.

There are also a limited number of spots at the ice climbing camp the Center for Outdoor Education from Feb. 14-17. Total cost is \$150.00 and includes accommodation and all meals. Please contact Murray at 238-6535.

Access/Environment News February 2003

Stacey Karalash

1. Ghost-Waiparous Area Management Plan

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development is launching a consultation process on an access management plan to balance the sustainability of resources with opportunities for recreational use in the Ghost-Waiparous area.

The access management plan will provide direction for recreational motorized vehicle use and random camping in the Ghost-Waiparous area. The priorities that will guide the planning process are:

- to ensure public safety,
- to ensure sustainability of natural resources,
- to minimize conflicts between recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) users and other users, and to provide a range of opportunities for summer and winter recreational OHV use.

Items the management plan will guide include... "new regulations, including seasonal or permanent restrictions on trails and random camping areas, and designated use of trails"

Take some time to read the Ghost River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan, which can be found at http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/regions/southwest/ghost/doc_library.html This document will give you the background of the current management plan that governs the Ghost.

A new web site provides background for the access planning process, profiles news and events, outlines the terms of reference and displays maps, photos and background documents. A feedback form will be available on the website for opportunity for individual comments. See <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/regions/southwest/ghost> for more details. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development will work to implement the access management plan in 2003.

The Calgary Section of the ACC will be represented by Keith Sanford at a Stakeholder Meeting on February 12th. I'd like to encourage each and every one of you to submit a feedback form to the Government! Now is our chance to speak up and work to maintain access to this beautiful area! Let's show them that climbers are an important and responsible user group!

2. Access/Environment Committee Rep- Laara Banner

My goal for the 2003 year is primarily education. This will be through a guest speaker, Dave Poulton, at the May meeting, as well as a column in the Chinook. I have three areas of focus:

1. Shed light on the myriad of protected area designations ranging from Provincial Recreational Area to Wilderness Area. Presently the province of Alberta has eight of these designations each with different implications for conservation purposes.
2. Highlight political agendas that are currently transpiring in the parks we use around Calgary. Since 1997 the amount of "green areas" has increased dramatically in Southern Alberta. One such example is winning the Spray Valley Protection in 1999 when it was threatened by a significant tourism development. These successes do not happen on their own, so I'll try to keep you abreast of how we can support these efforts to limit commercial, recreational and residential development.
3. Give information on how we ourselves can limit our impact on parks during our trips.

Photo Contest

The contest winners will be shown at the April section meeting, with the winners receiving ribbons and trophies. The winner of Best in Show will receive a dry mounted 16x20" print of their winning slide or print. The deadline for entries is March 18 at the section meeting. Slides will be returned at the May 20 section meeting. If you are interested in judging the photo contest or would like more information call Derek Kemp at 253-5339 or Orvel Miskiw at 932-2800.

Classes and Trophies:

1. Canadian Mountain Scenes (Richardson Trophy) – Mountain scenery
2. Mountain Winter Scenes (Rex Gibson Trophy) – Canadian mountain in winter
3. Mountain scenes outside Canada (Jim Board Trophy) – Mountaineering activities outside Canada
4. Mountaineering (Marion Fawdry Trophy) – Mountaineering activities, summer or winter
5. Rock Climbing (Hillbilly Bowl) – Technical or solo climbing
6. Ice Climbing (Kathleen Lucas Trophy) – Waterfall or extreme alpine ice climbing
7. Ski Mountaineering (John Hammond Trophy) – Ski mountaineering, ski touring, or

- telemark
8. Portraits of Mountaineers (L.C. Wilson Trophy) – Person or people in a mountain setting
 9. Flora (Francis Pearce Trophy) – Plant life in a mountain region
 10. Fauna (Buglar Hind Trophy) – Wildlife in a mountain region
 11. Humour (Silver Skillet) – Humour or satire, taken in a mountain or mountaineering context
 12. Prints (Birks Trophy) – Colour or B&W print in a mountain setting
 13. Best of Show (David Oldham Trophy) – All entries are considered for this award
 14. Unclassified (President's Trophy) – Any photograph in a mountain setting that doesn't fit in another category
 15. Club Activities – Person or people involved in a club camp or activity
 16. Legacy Award – An appreciation of the mountains being shared by youth or families

Rules:

1. The contest is open to any section member in good standing.
2. Entrants may win more than one place in a class. Two entries per entrant will be allowed in classes 1,2,4,and 7. Three entries per entrant will be allowed in classes 3,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,and 16.
3. Entries are not permitted from the judges or their family members.
4. Each slide must be marked with the entrant's name, slide title, and class number. An asterix must be placed in the lower left corner of the slide when held for viewing.
5. Slides in glass mounts are not accepted.
6. No award will be made if the judges feel that no entries are of the standard to receive a trophy.
7. Photographs must have been taken within 3 years of the contest deadline.
8. All entrants must provide a list of their entries, including the respective class and title of entry, and include their name, address, and telephone number.
9. All entries are released for future reproduction in The Chinook, the summer and winter schedules, the section website, and other publications and promotional material of the section – including displays and slide shows.
10. Prints must be mounted and of a minimum 5"x7" size. Matting and presentation will be included in the judging criteria. The entrant's name and print title should be on the back of the print.
11. Entries from previous Calgary Section photo contests are not eligible.
12. The judges may move entries to another class when it is appropriate.
13. If you want to have slides mailed back, you need to include sufficient packaging material (self-addressed) and postage to ensure the safe return of your slides.

Reflections of a Camp Co-ordinator

Bill Marriott

Every year that I am involved with the Section Summer Mountaineering Camp I learn something new. Hopefully, before I retire I will have made and documented all the possi-

ble mistakes so as to make future camps that much easier to organize.

Last year we had nearly 50 participants over three weeks and virtually everything went smoothly. Last September, your Executive helped me do a review of the camp and made many valuable suggestions for improvement. From that review there were two areas that needed some communication with the membership. Thus this article, which I hope will better inform you what to expect if you go on a Section camp and also what is expected of you if you become a participant.

First and foremost these camps are club events. There is the expectation that people will develop new friendships and climb with people who they do not know. I have always thought of the camps as something more than merely a transportation co-operative. Closed groups and soloing have not been encouraged. Hopefully, the participants on any given week view themselves as a single group in the mountains together, not a collection of independent groups who just happened to share a helicopter ride. The rule for organising the daily climbs has been this: no climb without a leader and the leader must be open to take anyone who indicates an interest in the trip. However, the leader is not obliged to take anyone; this will depend on the objective and the leader's assessment of the participants abilities. Logistically, every night the camp manager will post a sign-up sheet. Every trip that is planned for the next day(s) must be entered on the sheet along with the leader's name. Then anyone interested in the climb can sign up and review the trip with the leader. This has the other major benefit of providing a comprehensive list of where people are, even those staying in camp or going for a short hike are encouraged to use the sign-up sheet. If you are the camp manager you must know where everyone is, or at least where they intend to be. The bottom line is this: if you do not want to have a club experience, if you and your friends are only interested in cheap transportation, if you insist upon soloing, if you are a leader who is not willing to lead strangers then the Section camp is not for you.

The second key concept of the camps is that they are to be self-guided, self-catered, and self-managed. In short, there is no staff to do the chores. Your Executive was adamant that the Section camps not be viewed as a "cheap GMC". This is as it should be since the vast majority of Calgary Section members are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves in the mountains. All organisational work and all the tasks necessary to run the camp are done by the participants. Last year this caused me some grief likely because of the size of the camp. Almost everyone thought that 'someone else would do it'. Despite my appeals for help, one week before the camp commenced I had no one to transport the camp gear to the staging area. We were considering renting a truck, which I personally thought to be insane. This won't happen again as every chore will have at least one committed volunteer ahead of time or the week will be cancelled. At the camp itself, being self reliant translates into three categories of chores: set-up tasks, day-to-day chores and leading climbs. All set-up tasks will have committed volunteers prior to the camp leaving. Most people are willing to do day-to-day chores and a roster will be set up by the camp manager. The leading of climbs seems to be another matter. My own belief is that everyone can lead at a level that is comfortable for them. As a club we need to encourage the development of leadership skills. A camp is a perfect place for this to happen.

The current camp prospectus and application form (available on the website) is more demanding on the commitment level of the participants. If you genuinely feel that you can't commit to lead an easy scramble or help out with some aspect of the camp then

the Section camp is not for you.

Failure to indicate a willingness to help with the chores or leading will result in your application being returned.

This year we are headed for the Freshfields, the next major icefield west of the Wapta. This is a seldom visited area which offers a wide variety of objectives from easy scrambles to first ascent opportunities. A detailed prospectus can be found on the Section website. I know we are going to have another great adventure, with great friends and great weather (at least on my week). I'm looking forward to it and am looking forward to seeing you there.

Calgary Section Freshfields Mountaineering Camp 2003

When: **Week 1:** July 26- Aug. 2, **Week 2:** Aug.2-9, **Week 3:** Aug. 9-16
Week 4: Aug 16-23

Where: Freshfield Group, Rocky Mountains, British Columbia

Base: Campbell Icefield (GR 018317, 82N/10). This is a walk-in camp; gear will be flown in by helicopter. Bring your own tent for sleeping. A cook tent and drying tent will be available for cooking and bad weather.

Who: 15-20 Calgary Section Members per week

Cost: Approximately \$125 (final costs will depend on helicopter costs).

References: **BOOK:** *Climber's Guide to The Rocky Mountains - North*

MAPS: 82 N/10 Blaeberry River

The campsite will be located just north of the Campbell Icefield, west of Mt. Freshfield (10,945'). This remote group is seldom visited and rarely approached from the west. The campsite will provide close access to Mt. Freshfield while Mount Barnard (10,955'), the tallest of the group, is about 5 km south of the camp. Six more peaks on the Divide will be accessible to the south and two more to the north. There are variety of objectives from scrambles to some first ascent possibilities, eg, the SW. ridges of Mt. Barnard and Mt Freshfield.

The camp is **self-guided, self-catered, and self-managed** so participants should have the requisite skills (a snow and ice course at minimum) and be prepared to contribute in every way to ensure a successful and safe camp. In particular, **all participants are expected to act as trip or rope leaders.**

form see the Section website www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/. Look under the Summer/ Section Summer Camp link or contact Bill Marriott (wdmltd@shaw.ca).

Booking: To reserve a spot we require full fees of **\$125** with your application. Your application **must** include volunteering for specific tasks. Failure to indicate a willingness to help with the chores or leading will result in the application being returned.

Please make cheques payable to ACC Calgary Section and send along with a completed application to Bill Marriott, 125 Hampstead Place NW, Calgary, AB T3A 5J3.

Upon A Not So Midnight Clear
(A Night Ascent of the Cascade Waterfall)
Marc Santerre

The climb was described to me as a moonlit ascent of Cascade. I thought to myself that this would be a great chance to get a climb off of my checklist and that doing a climb in the moonlight would be quite entertaining. Little did I know that John had consulted his GPS to determine the date of the full moon. I quickly realized that something was amiss when a week before the climb was scheduled I noticed the full moon. Thus leaving us to climb in the darkest period of the month (note to self: do not rely on John to bring his GPS on any further trips).

The meeting place was the parking lot below the climb, where everyone convened to gear up around 8:30pm, allowing us to leave the parking lot at 9pm. We broke into two groups of three allowing one group (Rob, Tom, and Patrick) to go up the left hand side of the climb, while the second group (John, Martin, and Marc) would climb up the climber's right side of the climb.

At the base of the climb, we donned our helmets, harnesses, and crampons and began the leisurely climb to the steeper ice. For the most part the evening was uneventful. Our greatest fear was watching cars pull into the parking lot, at which time we would anxiously wait to hear Martin's car alarm to go off, leaving us high above the scene and unable to do anything.

Thankfully, we never heard the alarm and the night was relatively peaceful, that is with the exception of our breathing, the swinging and landing of our axes, and the youth of Banff partying on the Minnewanka Lake road. I guess the falling snow, the hour of night, and the fact that it was 3 days after Christmas kept the noise of traffic on the highway to a minimum.

As far as the sights were concerned, you may have guessed ; it was limited to as much as you could see in the beam of the headlamp plus the little stretch of highway, illuminated by Banff's exit lights.

The falling snow added an extra quality to the evening by providing light spindrift, which would occasionally flow down the back of your neck and into your jacket. The climb proceeded at a gentle pace allowing for lots of time to stare into darkness and wonder what it would be like to be stranded overnight on a high peak in a precarious location.

We completed the round trip in 6 hours as three of us returned to the parking lot at 3am to join the other group who had turned around at the second to last anchor point (reasons unknown). If the above sounds a little unpleasant, it was quickly replaced by the pleasure of completing the climb. There is a strange sense of accomplishment from climbing at night. It is as much of a challenge as it is an awakening of the senses and quite thought provoking. It is something that I will try again, although maybe next time with a full moon and clear sky.

On behalf of the participants, I would like to thank John for the great climb. I believe it was his first lead of an ACC trip and he did a great job of it.

Participants: John Ionescu (trip leader), Rob Davidson, Tom MacMahon, Patrick Dunn, Martin Ralph, and Marc Santerre (scribe)

Trip Up Dolomite Peak - (well, most of it anyway).
Dave Stephens

On 18 January, four hearty souls made a winter attempt at Dolomite Peak via the scramble route. We met at the Esso in Calgary at 0600. As everybody showed up driving pickup trucks, we were getting worried about our carpooling options. Then Peter showed up driving a minivan. Our carpooling problems were over.

Peter drove us to Laggans in Louise, where we filled up on coffee and last minute calories. From there, we traveled up the Icefields Parkway to the Dolomite turnout. We organized gear, put on the skins, and got ready to leave. Being a winter ascent of a "difficult" scramble, we weren't sure what conditions we would find. It could be just as easy as a summer scramble, or it could be covered in snow, ice, or verglass. The plan was to ski to the base of the summit towers, then climb up Tower #4 to the summit. I was expecting lots of verglass climbing, so I had everybody bring their technical gear (crampons, ice tools, harness, helmets, etc). I brought lots of pitons and quick draws and a couple of ropes as well. Aside from the technical gear, we also had the avalanche gear and the added clothing for winter activities. Needless to say, I think it was the heaviest pack I've ever carried for a one day scramble.

We left the parking area by 9 AM, up through the trees, over the ridge, down the other side, across a creek, and back into the trees. We were following the trail for the Dolomite Circuit. When we reached the second avalanche slope, it was time to leave our nice, hard pack trail, and venture into the land of endless facets. The snowpack was useless. It was 2-3 feet of facets with scree as the base. With each step, we would be knee to waist deep, but still walking on the scree underneath. We knew we wouldn't be skiing this, so we ditched the skis and headed off on foot, wearing ski boots for the next 3,000 feet of elevation. We waddled through the facets until we reached the nice hardpack of avalanche debris, which made travel nice and fast. At this point, we were below Tower 6, and from there, we headed diagonally up to the 3/4 col.

As we got within sight of the 3/4 col, the scrambling was getting increasingly difficult. It was really frustrating trying to ascend rockbands when you're standing in waist deep powder with no base. It felt like playing in a beanbag factory. We had made it to the gullies separating towers 3 and 4, but having hiked all that way in our ski boots was taking it's toll. We were all tired, but more importantly, the ski boots had slowed our progress. It was 2:45pm and we still had another 150 meters to go. The last bit looked like it

would need to be pitched out, and given the amount of daylight left in the day, I decided to turn the group around.

We rappelled from where we were, and down-stumbled, the rest. For those who have walked down stairs while wearing ski boots, you'll appreciate what the next two hours were like. Eventually, we made it back to our skis, where the going got a lot easier. Once we were back on the well-formed trail of the Dolomite Circuit, we easily coasted back to the car in a matter of minutes. Darkness came upon us as we packed up the car and headed home.

The day was a lot longer than anticipated, but I think with a great snowpack, Dolomite Peak can be a wonderful winter objective. The terrain is very similar to "The Far Side"

run at Sunshine Village, so with a good snowpack and little avalanche danger, the ski descent from the summit towers would be a blast. If I try Dolomite Peak again as a winter objective, I would try it later in the year when the daylight is longer, and the snowpack has a good base. Nonetheless, we had great weather, and everybody had a great time despite not reaching the summit of our objective.

Participants: Dave Stephens (coordinator), Derek Anderson, Peter Mulholland, and Blair Piggot.

Trekking and Climbing in Brazil

Stewart Midwinter

Intro

In October last year, I had the good fortune to be posted to Brazil for a 7-week work assignment, working with Petrobrás in the coastal town of Macaé, about 200 km East of Rio de Janeiro. My climbing partner Leslie Nicholls thought it was a good idea to come along so she wouldn't miss any opportunities, of which there were many – both in Brazil, and later for a couple of weeks in Chile. She provided the journal notes that served as the foundation for this report. You won't read about any first ascents or big epics in this story, but you might get some ideas on where to find your own next adventure. For more ideas, come to the March ACC meeting, where I'll present a highlight of the best images from this trip.

Rock Climbing in Rio

As soon as you get off the airplane in Rio de Janeiro, you just *know* that this is going to be a place with some interesting climbing. The city is rife with huge rounded granitic domes that rise right out of the water for heights of 600m or more.

You can start by catching a cab to the Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf), a famous landmark of Rio, with a cable-car running up to the top of a first, then a second, higher, peak. At the newsstand just before the parking lot for the bondinho (gondola), you will find guidebooks for the 200+ routes that have been laid out on the faces of this mass of rock. Much of it is high-angle friction climbing, or aid climbing, but there are a few crack and corner lines on the higher, rear, peak.

Along the right-hand side of the peaks runs the paved Cláudio Coutinho pathway for 1.25 km. If you're into an easy uphill hike, turn off exactly 300m along this pathway (you'll know by the markers painted into the asphalt), and head up the right side of a gully about 350m up to the col between the lower Morro de Urca in front and the higher Morro in the back. From there you'll have a great view of downtown and the Santos-Dumont airport.

If you continue further along the asphalt pathway, you'll run across a series of boulders 5-20m in size. It might be distracting to try to climb when scantily clad Cariocas are walking by, though. Best to slip down to the seashore at one point and climb the vertical

rock that rises right out of the water; there are at least 10 routes on it, with anchors at the top.

Continuing to the end of the pathway, you can jump down onto a dirt pathway, head out to the far point, then circle round left and head 450m up a steep, slabby ridgeline to the top of the upper peak. In the middle, there's a 10-15m section of easy 5.4-5.6 climbing on large blocks, which most climbers should have no trouble with (watch for a loose block). Hikers might want to take a rope and belay from the top of it; there are in fact 6 fixed rings set along this route for guides to use in setting up a via ferrata for their more timid clients. Start early and take lots of water if you're going to the top, as it gets very hot on that rock!

On the inland side of Rio, you'll find the 1200+ hectare Floresta de Tijuca, the largest urban park in the world. There are trails up all the peaks in the park, some of which are 1500m high.

Crime in Rio: it's much over-played in the media. Leave conspicuous or expensive possessions at home, take a minimum of cash with you, avoid secluded areas or going out drinking alone late at night, and you should be fine.

There are many other places to climb in Rio; check the Resources section at the end.

Coastal Ranges of Brazil

Who put all those mountains down here at sea-level? Did you know that the highest point in Rio de Janeiro state is over 3000m high? Mt. Temple is only 1600m vertical! Just 80 km away from Rio toward the NE, beside the city of Teresópolis, is the Serra Dos Órgãos national park. Here you will find a 30-40 km (estimates vary) long trail, a classic traverse, that climbs to the top of the range and then runs W above tree-line as far as Petrópolis, (though most come the other way, doing this as a 2- or 3-day traverse).

We didn't have time to do the whole trail, so we entered at the E end, at 800m elevation and hiked uphill for 5 hours before reaching a refúgio at the 2000m elevation. The trail was built in 1929 and considering the age and lack of maintenance, is in good condition. It rises through rain forest with a rich abundance of (mostly hidden but noisy) bird species and innumerable varieties of plant life. Along the way we crossed an idyllic tropical swimming hole complete with shimmering waterfall, and several times we nearly stepped on enormous spotted toads.

After spending a dark night in the large hut (flush toilets, but no lights), we awoke before dawn and hiked a half-hour up to the 2263m summit of Pedra do Sino, the highest point on the range. From there, we could see 200 km in every direction. Rio was clearly visible 80 km away, along with vast stretches of the interior. Nearer at hand, a Gros Morne style of landscape presented itself, with sheer cliffs dropping close to 1000m. The nearest peak, Garrafão, has a route that took the 1st ascent party 5 days to ascend (after a 10-hour bushwhacking creek-bed approach). There is enormous untapped potential here, from moderately to ridiculously difficult.

From the peak, you can also see far below you the strangely shaped rock formations that give the park its name: Escalavrado, Dedo de Nossa Senhora (finger of our lady), Boca de Peixe (fish mouth), Nariz do Frade (Frade's nose), Papudo (Mouthy, Prominent), Baleia (whale), Garrafão (Carafe) and the spectacular Dedo de Deus (Finger of God – but I wager the natives had a more graphic name for it!)

Going on a morning hike into sub-alpine terrain, we began to understand why it would

be recommended to have a guide for the traverse (or at least a good GPS with some waypoints). The wide expanses of prickly Capim bushes look like nothing from afar, but reach 2-3 meters high, and it is very easy to miss a trail turnoff as you're pushing your way through the over-growth.

If you go further afield from Rio, about 1-1/2 hours to the NE, you'll reach Nova Friburgo, centre of the scrambling and hiking scene. There are many day-hikes, scrambles and climbs from this recreation centre, while one mountain has a tramway up it. Near here are the Tres Picos, the highest point of land in this range.

30 km further along down a narrow winding road is Lumiar, a remote little hippie village (with internet) and the starting point for a 2-day hike we did to the town of Sana. Joining a group of around 20 from the Centro Excursionista de Brasil, CEB), we hiked through tropical rainforest while climbing to a 1500m high-point along the 25 km trail. Unfortunately, it later fogged in and rained so we didn't get much of a view from the top. After drying out in a pousada (inn) with great home-made food, the next day we hiked up 1200m Peito de Pombo, a mountain crowned by a cliff atop which sits a rock formation resembling (from afar) an enormous dove. As you draw close to it, you see that in fact it is a 30m diameter boulder with another 10m diameter boulder balanced on top it, and both of them just a few steps from the precipice. Naturally, some climbers have put an aid route up the side of it (and another down the side of the cliffs).

Further NE yet, near the city of Macaé where I worked, rises the 1500m high Pico do Frade. Imposing and sovereign, its S and E faces rise vertically 1000m to a rounded top. So far, only one route has been developed up that face. On the other side, a scrambling route leads to a couple of low 5th class pitches to the summit.

Brazil is so cheap at the moment that you almost feel guilty. If you go, their winter is the driest but coolest time to climb, while their summers sometimes bring violent rainstorms. August-October looks to be a good compromise.

In the next issue, our trip continues on the west side of the Andes. But come to the ACC March meeting and see the whole slide show!

Brazil Resources

Climbing in Brasil (english)

<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/1151/english.html>

Brazilian Climbing news channel

<http://web.cidadeinternet.com.br/braziladventure/climbing/html/mais.html>

Page of Brazil climbing links

<http://www.geocities.com/imontanha/cultura/informacoes.htm>

Floresta da Tijuca website

<http://www.terrabrasil.org.br>

Pedra do Sino (english)

http://rioadventuretours.com/Pedra_do_Sino.html

Wolverine conservation: you can help

Submitted by Parks Canada

The wolverine is an enduring symbol of deep wilderness, dogged determination and fierce independence. Yet in Canada's Rocky Mountains, their numbers are few and threats to their habitat are growing. Found throughout high elevation forests and into the harsh alpine, wolverines cover a phenomenal amount of territory. But increasing human use in their remaining habitat may leave this remarkable species at risk. Parks Canada has begun research in Banff and Yoho National Parks to learn more about local wolverine ecology. Wolverine observations from backcountry park visitors are important to this effort.

Wolverines seek the same solitude and wilderness so highly desired by those of us who visit the backcountry. The largest terrestrial member of the weasel family, wolverines are found across the northern forests and tundra of North America, Scandinavia and Russia. They once ranged as far south as California, but now few persist in the contiguous United States and are confined to the rugged mountain backcountry southern Alberta and British Columbia.

Wolverines, particularly males that can be twice as big as females, are often mistaken as a small bear or confused with hoary marmots. Close in size to a medium dog, males can weigh up to 18 kg, while females are as heavy as 12 kg. They have a rich, chocolate brown coat with blonde stripes down the sides. Individuals have unique silvery markings on their face, which is broad and large for the body size.

In the far north, male wolverines may range over 3000 km², an area as large as Kootenay and Yoho National Parks combined. Here in the mountains, home ranges are smaller, typically 600 to 1000 km² for males, but no less impressive when you consider the rugged terrain they must cross. Females, especially those with young, maintain a much smaller home range, generally 300-400 km².

The wolverine appetite is legendary, but really they eat no more than any other animal their size. In winter, they subsist primarily on carrion, mostly mountain goats and moose previously killed by wolves or avalanches. In summer, they hunt marmots and small mammals. Come late winter, pregnant females move to higher elevations to den among large, snow covered boulders or talus slopes, sub-alpine bowls, cirque basins, avalanche debris and wind throw. Here they raise a litter of 1 to 3 kits through the coming spring and summer. And it is here where this predator of renowned ferocity is most vulnerable.

Despite their fearsome reputation, wolverines are susceptible to a number of disturbances due to their wide-ranging nature and low reproductive potential. Secure dens are paramount for females, who must leave their young alone for several days while they search for food during the late winter. Winter recreationalists may unwittingly disturb a female with young kits, forcing her to move, putting young at risk.

Canada's mountain national parks play an important role in providing secure habitat for the wolverine. However, parks alone cannot sustain a larger regional population – they are one part of the total effort to conserve this remarkable predator. Because of their large home range, most wolverines found in national parks spend a portion of their lives beyond park boundaries. Here they are susceptible to various other threats, including trapping and disturbance from motorized recreation. A cooperative regional management approach is needed to ensure conservation of the wolverine and the wilderness it thrives in.

Little is known about critical movement corridors and denning sites for wolverine in the Rocky Mountain national parks. Yet conservation decisions for both the park and surrounding region need to be based on such scientific information. Consequently Parks Canada is monitoring wolverine activity through snow tracks in the Lake Louise and Great Divide areas of Banff and Yoho National Parks. You can help. Please look for posters and track cards at winter trailheads in the parks and pass on any observations you may have to park staff. For more info:

New Members

Welcome to the following new members. You are invited to the next section meeting, where you can talk to Sandy Sauer our Membership Co-ordinator to find out what the section has to offer.

Betty Bartleman
Ken MacDonald
Jennifer Butler
Tom Morin
Marion Uniat

Jennifer Hughes
Craig Marshall
David Higgins
Dana Engler

Heather Good
Kathy Rothwell
Carmen Brunet
Jeff Stothard

For Sale

Brand new, never used Eagle Creek "World Journey" travel backpack. Dark blue cordura with hideaway shoulder straps and waistbelt, carrying handle, zip-off daypack, compression straps, bottle pocket, lockable zippers. All the conveniences for your next world trip. Fully adjustable. Won in contest; new \$355, now only \$200. Alan at 270-8914, peakbagger2@hotmail.com

For Sale

BACK COUNTRY SKIS Asnes Lillehammer, 190 cm partial meal edges, Rotefella Back Country NNN bindings, basically new, used only three or four times. Asking \$245
SKI BOOTS Alfa, lined leather boots with soft collar, size 43, for Back Country NNN bindings, basically new, used only three or four times. Asking \$95.
X-C RACING SKIS Rossignol, Equipe K/R, 200 cm. Rotafella NNN bindings. Very good condition. Asking \$75.

For Sale

Ice Climbing Boots Asolo Sport 8000, double, rigid, plastic, men's 8, all new, never used, still in box. Plus Berghaus full gaiter over entire boot, with rubber bottom, front zipper, also never used. Together \$ 150.
Skis, used
Bonna 2200, 195 cm, plastic, touring, good cond., \$ 40 obo.
Bonna 2000 Touring, 190 cm, plastic, excellent cond., \$ 50 obo.
Bla Skia 190 cm, mountaineering, wood, top quality, excellent cond., \$ 50.
Asnes 190 cm, mountaineering, plastic, excellent cond., with special feature: 3 foot metal edge under boot, \$ 70.
Call Ulla 230-8794, msg.

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NO CALLS AFTER 10 PM IS THE POLICY OF THE SECTION, THANK YOU			
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Treasurer: Sandy Walker	270-0894	Ski Committee:	
Library: Cam Roe	253-5463	Marg Rees (Chair)	283-5494
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Training and Leadership Committee:			
Chinook Submissions: Any article relating to the Club or the mountains is welcome. Please send submissions as an email attachment to chinooked@aol.com before the Friday following the section meeting. Microsoft Word documents (Arial font) work the best. Submissions become the property of the Alpine Club of Canada and are subject to editing.			

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