



The Chinook

Volume 39, Number 1

January 2004

The next Calgary Section Meeting is on Tuesday *January 20th* at 7:30 pm
at the Bow Waters Canoe Club Clubhouse, 1975 - 26 Street S.E
This Month:

Aconcagua Attempt

Sue Wills



Sunshine Meadows
David Mulligan

Inside this issue:

November Section Meeting Minutes	2
Volunteers Needed	4
Avalanche Courses	4
Trip Reports	5
Ice in the Crowsnest and Pincher Creek	5
by Patrick Dunn	
New Members	7

Notice to all club trip leaders

The winter ice climbing schedule and the winter ski schedule have been completed and published. This does not limit the club to those trips already posted. **If you, as a trip leader, wish to add to the current winter trip list, you can at any time.**

New trips can be added at any time by e-mailing or calling either Murray Eitzen for ice climbs or Scoot Montgomery for ski trips.

Thanks to all the trip leaders for their efforts and their time.

Keith Sanford

ACC Calgary Section Meeting

Tuesday December 16, 2003

Climbing Committee

The ice climbing schedule is posted on the website: check it out!

Ghost Ice Review on January 10-11. To get more information and/or sign-up, contact Gabrielle Savard (see back of The Chinook).

Ice Climbing Camp - Center for Outdoor Education on February 13-16. To get more information and/or sign-up, contact Murray Eitzen (see back of The Chinook).

Wednesday Night Gym Climbing at the CCC (6 7130 Fisher Road SE, 252-6778). Every Wednesday starting at 07:30pm for only \$10.00. Give it a try!!

Ski Committee

The winter ski mountaineering & alpine touring schedule is posted on the website: check it out!

The Leaders Weekend is coming up quickly. It will happen on January 17-18. Contact Scott Montgomery for more information (see back of The Chinook)

Training & Leadership Committee

Courses, Courses, Courses!!! Cheap, Cheap, Cheap!!! That's right, as a Calgary Section Member you are entitled to an assortment of courses this season at discounted rates! Courses have been discounted up to 45%. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn new skills to ensure safe and fun winter adventures. For more information and to register go to <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/winter/wintercourses.html>

Camps

Next summer section camps will be near mount Alexandra. More information to come soon in your favorite monthly newsletter.

Environment Committee

The purchase of an Outhouse for the Ghost Area for \$1,000 and to maintain at \$150 per service call was approved. The location will be at the bottom of the Big Hill.

E-Mail List

The Calgary section uses email to communicate upcoming matters with its members. News items and events which are forthcoming within the next two weeks are put in these emails, which are sent every Tuesday. If you are not already on the email listing, you can submit your email here: <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/news/emailarchive.html>

Volunteers Needed

TIRED OF EXPLAINING BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE TO YOUR RELATIVES?

Come and join a group of like-minded people for some fun. The Calgary section is looking for VOLUNTEERS to help out with club activities. It is an opportunity to meet some great people and make some great memories.

Collators are needed each month to help prepare the Chinook for mail-out. Contact Katherine and Darren Roblin for an evening of folding and conversation.

If you have IT skills (computer geeks required!) please contact Andy Riggs to help with the Chinook/Website.

Ken Baxter can be contacted if you want to get involved with the ACC Centennial Committee.

Plus, the various committees have a variety of odd jobs. Contact the chairperson in your area of interest.

If you want to lead trips, contact the either the climbing or ski committee chair or talk to the leadership training committee about development programs.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF ANY CLUB - TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS AND HAVE FUN!!

Marg Rees

Avalanche !

Avalanche Awareness 1 Course

The Avi 1 course for Jan 17/18 is FULL!! Canadian Backcountry Adventures, the course provider, has decided to open up another course at the same hugely discounted rate for Calgary Section ACC members. The course is already being filled with those on the waiting list for the first course, so act fast!! (You will have to provide your membership number upon registration to receive the discounted rate.)

The details are as follows:

Recreational Avalanche Course:

A two day introduction to travelling safely in avalanche terrain. Includes one classroom day and one field day. Participants must be prepared for backcountry travel either on snowshoes, touring skis or split snowboard. Meets CAA RAC standards. Includes Backcountry Avalanche Awareness book.

TRIP REPORTS

Prerequisites: None

Dates: January 31 & February 1, 2004

Cost: Regular \$110, ACC Member price \$70

Participants: Min. 4, Max. 10

To Book: Contact Rob Davidson at rob@canadianbackcountry.com or 208-2813

Ice in the Crowsnest and Pincher Creek

by Patrick Dunn

Just goes to show you, you never know what adventure life's gonna throw your way. My buddy Gerry called me up Friday night, saying he was heading down to Sparwood, BC (about 30 minutes east of Fernie) to check out some real estate. He said there was some cool ice climbing down there, and that I should come down with him. He said we wouldn't have to pay for accommodation; only beer, food and gas. I had no money, yet had nothing else to do for the weekend, so I said sure, what the hell.

Sparwood is a, shall we say quaint mountain valley village; with the coal industry responsible for the main source of employment for the locals. They have a HUGE sign welcoming you over the road leading into the village. On the back of the sign, in big letters: "Mining enriches ALL of our lives."

The ice climbing guide recommended this one bright pink hotel and tavern named Michel, just a few minutes before Sparwood.

Fortunately for Michel, but unfortunate for us, a tour bus full of tourists broke down in front of the tavern, cleaning him out of all food. After finding little inspirational in Sparwood, we decided to drive on to Fernie in hopes of wider dinner selections.

We drove by one local eatery called "The Curry House" and decided to check it out. As soon as you open the door, you smell all the fabulous, familiar aromas of Indian cuisine.

The Curry House also has a large beer menu, and a cool little waiting room on the second floor. They open up for business at 5pm everyday, and apparently fill up quickly and predictably. Sadly, they were all booked up and opening tables were going to be a long wait.

Our famished stomachs demanded attention. We settled for lasagna, cheese bread and jambalaya at the local Boston Pizza. Sigh!!

The next day we had a crack of noon start after a decent breakfast at The Black Nugget. An unending source of jokes for us. We headed back to Crowsnest Pass to check

out Gold Creek Canyon (page 69 in the ice guide). The ice was pathetic, and little had formed. But, Gerry wasn't going to be deterred. He lead a short 12 metre climb that finished off with mixed dirt/ice climbing/bushwacking at the top. An easy walk off to the right brought us back to our packs left on the frozen creek.

We then hiked back to the car and drove off seeking better ice. We went a bit further west to check out Star Creek Falls, located just SW of the hamlet of Coleman.

A 15 minute stroll into the woods led to the ice. The climb lived up to the claim in the guide stating that the centre often forms up to a hollow technical climb above a plunge pool. It was really cool. We kept launching stones at it, seeing who could punch through it; to no avail.

The ice on the right side, however, was in fine climbing shape. It also had melted away in the strangest way. Being a grade 2 climb, there were plenty of ledges all over. The ice on and around them had melted away in these odd mushroom, or bulb shaped formations. I think it would have been conceivable to do the climb sans tools. Returning back to the room, we feasted on roasted chicken, soup, beer, wine, cigars, pretzels, and the most cable TV I've seen in a very long time.

The next day, we packed up our things and headed out of the valley and drove all the way to Pincher Creek. From there, we hung south, then west again to go do "The Gasser", (page 59-60)

You have to drive to the back end of the Shell Plant and the Sulfur cake stacks, where you'll take a left . You'll drive down for a way, ('tis the You'll-tide season after all. Ed.) and take a sharp left turn at the edge of a frozen lake. Drive to the end of this road and park by the gate.

It's an hour walk in from here to the base of the climb. You can go the long, easy way and follow the road in front of you all the way to the climb drainage, or take the slightly shorter, harder hike through the woods, finding a trail behind a small gas plant that leads diagonally to the climb. This second option will omit the creek crossing.

We soloed the first half of the climb as it's easy ice rambling. I was feeling more exposed the higher we went, however, and made a quick decision to put in an anchor. It wasn't the most comfy spot, but it offered safety and peace of mind. Gerry continued a short distance up to the left. With a few less than textbook techniques, we got set up for the climb, with Gerry in the lead.

The weather was more cloudy than sunny, and the ice was fairly brittle.

I'm embarrassed to admit, but my rope management skills that day were pitiful; resulting in me tying Gerry off in order to clean up the mess that I allowed to fester.

Once the rope situation was fixed the game was back on. Gerry topped out on the climb like a seal returning to land. We were further left of the bolted anchors, so he

did a quick improvisation with his remaining screw and his ice tools. It was my turn to go up. Before long, my calves were screaming. The route was closer to a grade 4 than grade 3. Plus, with the mercury dropping, the ice was shattering everywhere. By the time I topped out, I was tired, and had serious barfies.

After a 5 minute rest, I went right to find the fixed anchor. It was only about 15 feet beside us. A previous party had slung new cordalette and screw gate locks. They also sacrificed 2 expensive biners as well. Their loss was our gain, as it made for quick and easy 60 metre rappel. Gerry found the first belay station down and at the beginning of the climb. ****look for the rainbow webbing.**** One more rap and we were back down to our packs; and our hike back to the car just before 5:30pm.

Just goes to show you, you never know what adventure life's gonna throw your way.



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.

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|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Blair Skoko | Kai Muenzer | Craig Dunn |
| Julie Lemieux | Dave Peabody | Leticia Martin Dunn |
| David Crewe | John Redekopp | David Dewar |
| Greg Alexander | Rae Redekopp | Darren Erickson |
| Kristine Dobson | Dustin W. Sears | David Burden |
| Norman Fournier | Windy L. Sears | |



