



The Chinook

The Newsletter of the Calgary Section of the Alpine Club of Canada

Volume 43, Number 10

January 2008

The next section meeting will be held at the Bow Waters Canoe Club,
1975—26 St. SE, on Tuesday January 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker will be Ferdl Taxbock, ACMG Guide, on
Hiking and Climbing in Austria



Jumbo Pass by Istvan Hernadi

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Future Meetings

Tuesday February 19, 2008 7:30 p.m.	The 25 Bold and Cold, Urs Kallen
Tuesday March 18, 2008 7:30 p.m.	Composition Using Nature Photography Patrick Chernier

FROM THE EDITOR:

Financial concerns led to the decision made at the November executive meeting to cut the Chinook from ten issues a year to six . There will be a significant reduction in the 2008 costs with the elimination of four issues plus the ending of paper schedules. In previous years the Chinook has been charged with the costs of printing and mailing the winter and summer schedules, although these would more reasonably have been allocated to the ski and climbing committees, which dictated their content. The change to web-based format for the schedules will save on printing and mailing, which doubled the expenses in May and November each year.

There has always been a tension between those who think the Chinook is a waste of money and those who feel it has value as a communication tool within the section. At this time only about 80 members do not list an email address with the club, so the potential for using the website and email for contact has added new focus to this discussion. We need to consider what our goals are in having a print publication, since the cut to six issues will make the Chinook irrelevant for many time sensitive matters. Expect some transition glitches while we get used to this.

Right now, the Chinook can't go above 16 pages without doubling the mailing expense, which accounts for about half the cost of getting each Chinook into a member's hands. Although we won't be publishing again for a couple of months, much of the usual content had to be omitted

to meet this limitation. While we have been printing a minimum of 500 copies per issue, the annual cost to each member was roughly ten dollars for ten issues, including printing and mailing. If the numbers printed go below 500, the printing cost will have to be renegotiated.

The nature and purpose of the Chinook will change with the reduction in the number of issues. The Breeze and the website are unquestionably faster and more flexible in letting people know about courses and up-coming events. Sometimes, it has been like pulling teeth to get trip reports and not one in ten trips have been written up. However, even if a report had been submitted for every trip, space limitations would have prevented their publication. If all trip leaders enter written reports and photos on the new website, that will be a great improvement over the spotty recording of the past. Having a more usable website will hopefully keep the trip report from going the way of the conditions report (the last 'current conditions' information was posted in February 2004). It should be possible to print some trip reports here, when there is space. I have a couple now dating from prior to the launch of the new portion of the website..

If trip reports and announcements of events and courses are taken out, what will be left in the Chinook? Mainly, there will be technical tips, training articles of one sort or another, opinion pieces, submissions for literary contests, & such. The section meeting minutes may also be included but to print the minutes for two meetings each time there is a Chinook would come close to filling all available pages.

Is it worth hosting two separate publications, The Chinook and The Breeze, whether on the web or on paper? Should there be a paper Chinook at all? Should there be a Chinook at all?? Will there be enough content to make it worth the effort?

One option could be to fold the Chinook and Breeze together, placing both entirely online. Or to continue the Chinook as a separate, online-only publication, where the number of issues per year would not affect costs.

Another suggestion has been to continue the Chinook (whether in six or ten issues per year) but ask those who want a paper copy to pay extra in their fees for it. That would have to be worked out with the National office and could not come into effect until 2009. Already, there is a place in each member's profile on the National website for you to choose to whether you receive communications from the section via paper or through electronic means. If you want to read everything online, go into your profile and "make it so".

Some other sections have a printed quarterly newsletter, & some sell advertising to cover costs. Could that be a possibility for the Calgary Section? Is ten dollars per member per year to have ten print issues a year excessive? The concern about costs rises because there other uses to which the money might be allocated. Are you sufficiently "well connected" to know what is going on without a Chinook?

Please think about the possibilities and make your views known. In the meantime, for information on section trips, courses, and events— The Nordegg Ice weekend in February, available spaces on National Club trips, plans for the section summer camp in the Adamants next summer — find it all on the website or in the Breeze.

Try the New Online Trip Calendar By Ray Norman

If you have been reading Chinook regularly for the last few months you would have read that we are introducing a new Online Trip Scheduling Calendar for the Calgary Section. Remarkably, the Tiger Team has completed this project on time! The Trip Calendar is now ready for use.

You can use the calendar to see full details and register for all Section trips and training courses. You can also contact the trip leaders by email using links on the calendar. Trip leaders can set up new trips online, and members can set their personal preferences to receive an email notification whenever a new trip is posted. Trip leaders can keep track of who is registered for their trips, and can send emails to all their trip participants.

The calendar keeps track of the trips you go on, so when you register for a trip the leader can see what trips you have done in the past. You can see at a glance what trips you have registered for, and you will receive an automatic reminder email about a trip a few days before it takes place.

The calendar will now be the focus of all trip and course activity for the section. We will no longer be publishing a paper schedule. While it's nice to have a printed schedule lying around at home, it had severe limitations. Not least of these was the fact that it was often out of date shortly after it was printed! We now expect to be adding trips to the schedule throughout the season – if a leader likes the look of the weather he or she can add a new trip for the next weekend at any time.

Go ahead – try it out. We think the new calendar is a great addition to the Section. We hope you do too!

How to find the Calendar

Go to the Calgary Section Website at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/Calgary/ and navigate to Winter > Winter Trip Schedule. You will be taken to the 2007-2008 Winter Trip Schedule page. A little way down the page click on Online Trip Calendar. You will now be able to see all our trips and other events – but you won't be able to register for a trip or see the details of the leader unless you login.

Look for the Member Login box in the top left corner. You need your UserID to login, and you can get this by clicking the HELP button – just type in your email address and you will get an instant email with your UserID and password. Initially your password will be the same as your UserID, but the first time you login you will immediately be asked to change your password.

Can I login with my ACC Membership #?

No you can't, you need a new UserID. That sounds weird until you realize that for people with family memberships several people all share the same ACC Membership #. When you

register for a trip the calendar needs to know it is you, not your partner, not one of your kids, who is registering. The ACC National database identifies each individual with a unique Contact #. This is the number we are using as the UserID for the calendar.

Your Personal Details

The calendar gets your personal information through a periodic download from the ACC National database. By default all your personal information will be hidden on the calendar. Go to "Change Preferences" on the left navigation pane, and you can mark the items you want displayed to other Section Members.

On the Preferences screen you can also ask to get automatic emails every time a new trip is posted to the calendar.

Note that you cannot change your personal data on the calendar. You have to go to the Profile Admin page of the ACC National Website at https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/my_profile/login to make these changes. The next time we download data from National the calendar will show your new details.

Do we have your Email Address?

The new calendar uses extensive use of email to contact members and trip leaders. Make sure that your email address is recorded on the ACC National database – without it we won't be able to keep you informed of new events posted on the calendar. Go to the Profile Admin page of the ACC National Website at https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/my_profile/login to check whether we have your correct email address.

Registering for a Trip

Once you're logged in to the calendar you can click on any trip and read all about it. If you would like to go on a trip click on it and register at the bottom of the trip details page. That's it!

Screened Trips

For most Calgary Section trips the leader has to screen your application before you're admitted onto the trip. If you're a solid 5.2 rock climber, the leader wouldn't want you as a climbing partner on Sysiphus Summits! When you register for a screened trip on the calendar you are actually telling the trip leader that you would like to participate. The leader will be automatically notified by email. The leader can decide if you are a suitable participant for the trip. To do this the leader might call or email you, or might simply review your history of section trips. At his or her discretion the leader can then add your name to the list of trip participants – and you will immediately be notified by email.

ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA - CALGARY SECTION
 BUDGET 2008
 (with 2007 Budget and Current Estimate)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	
	<u>2007</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>Estimate</u>
Membership Revenue	\$15,000	\$16,746
Grant Revenue	6,000	6,500
GST Refund	982	1,123
Interest Income	1,000	850
Donations		300
Transfer from capital - tent		1,132
Skills Reviews	2,800	8,043
Total Section Revenues	<u>\$25,782</u>	<u>\$34,694</u>
		<u>\$ 32,610</u>

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	
	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2008 Estimate Budget</u>
Chinook	8,520	8,000
Leadership & Training	5,150	7,135
Administration	3,025	3,365
Social	2,415	2,750
Committee Expenses	470	800
Donations	500	750
Library	200	100
Program	845	260
Gear	767	750
Environment	1,090	1,500
Skills Reviews	2,800	7,200
Total Section Expenses	\$ 25,782	\$ 37,542
Section Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ -	\$ (2,849)

Huts in the Bonnington Range
Information from Sandra McGuinness

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club, together with MoTSA, maintains four huts in the Bonnington Range south of Nelson, BC. Due to increasing use, we have instituted a reservation and fee payment system. We are trying to disseminate this information to the ski community.

Reservations are now required for Huckleberry, Copper, Steed and Grassy Huts.

The reservation fee of \$10 per person per night goes towards maintaining and improving the cabins, as well as supplying firewood.

Reserve the huts through the Kootenay Mountaineering Club at

www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

Unregistered parties MUST relinquish overnight use of the cabin to persons having reservations.

Seeking Climber Info
Request from Lindsay Elms

I am looking for information on **A.R. Hart and L.C. (Jimmie) Wilson**, two Calgarians who in 1912 climbed on Vancouver Island. This is part of a project I am working on for the centennial of the Vancouver Island Section, which will be in 2012. The inaugural meeting of the section was held in the winter of 1912 under the leadership of Col. William Foster.

In August 1912 the Alpine Club of Canada led a trip to Strathcona Provincial Park on Vancouver Island to assess the potential for alpine climbing in the first provincial park in British Columbia. The expedition was under the leadership of Edward Wheeler and the party consisted of eight other well known ACC members, many of whom graduated to active membership at the alpine camps: Albert McCarthy, David Gillies, Herbert Frind, James and Francis Robertson, Arthur Wheeler, A.R. Hart and L.C. (Jimmie) Wilson. The first ascent was made of the Strathcona Matterhorn, which they christened Elkhorn; it is the second highest peak on the island.

As part of the centennial I have been writing short biographies of all the expedition members. I have been unable to find anything about the two Calgarians, A.R. Hart and L.C. (Jimmie) Wilson. I know they graduated to active membership during the 1907 alpine camp and were in the parties that made the first ascent of Glacier Peak in 1909 and Mount Babel in 1910. Wilson received the Silver Ropes for Leadership in 1934 and wrote about the ACC Club House in 1959. Hart received the Distinguished Service Award in 1979. I would like to find someone who knows something about either man, or to get in contact with their families to complete the project. I can be contacted at: lindsay_elms@hotmail.com Many Thanks.

To find out about the history of mountaineering on Vancouver Island visit: <http://members.shaw.ca/beyondnootka/>

**APEGGA Members Score Points for Leading Trips
Information from Joanne Winfield**

Did you know that leading trips can qualify you for up to 10 points for continuing professional development? A maximum of 10 hours can be claimed under the community service section of the Participation category per year for APEGGA members.

If you need any further clarification, contact Cathy at the APEGGA office:
cladouceur@apegga.org

Being a participant in club trips would not qualify, as the element of leadership is required.

BOOTS FOR SALE

I have one pair of women's size 7 Garmont telemark boots, plastic, used for one season only. The price is \$120.

I have also a pair of full shank, plastic Koflach climbing boots with liner, used only once on Mt. McKinlay, will fit a woman size 9, or a men's size 6. The price on those is \$ 50. Anyone interested can contact Rosemary at nator@just.gov.ab.ca.

And More Boots

Scarpa F1 AT boots, size MP 28.5 (29 shell) - NA size 10
not moulded; skied on 15 times; \$275
Call Mike at 835-8739

**ACC CALGARY SECTION
SECTION MEETING**

Date: Tuesday November 20, 2007
Location: Bow Water Canoe Club
Commenced: 19:45
Adjourned: 20:35

MEETING MINUTES

Section Business

- Ray asked for volunteers to help with hall clean up at the end of the evening.
 - Members can sign up for collating the Chinook by signing the volunteer sign up sheet. The November Chinook will be mailed shortly.
- Copies of other section newsletters are available for review on the side table.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- During the AGM, the positions on the ACC Calgary Executive committee were filled as follows:

○ Chair	Peter Lloyd
○ Past Chair	Ray Norman
○ Vice-Chair	Ray Norman
○ Treasurer	Trevor Penford
○ Secretary	Renee Lavergne
○ Training & Leadership	Stacey Karalash
○ Ski Chair	Tom Fransham
○ Climbing Chair	Dave Hanson
○ Access & Environment	Elisabeth Dupuis
○ Member Services	Dana Annab
○ Social Committee	Jacqueline Louie
○ Website	David Roe
○ Chinook	Carmie Callanan
○ Library	Cam Roe
○ Ropes	Stan Bobrow
○ Collating	Chuck & Leslie Young

The new Chair, Peter Lloyd, took over the meeting from Ray Norman and invited the new executive members to the front of the hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbing Committee

- The Winter Schedule is compiled and included in the new online trip calendar. Leaders now have the flexibility of adding trips to the calendar anytime.
- The Ice Review is scheduled for the first weekend in January 2008 and will be held in the Ghost. The climbing committee is looking for leaders and volunteers to assist over the weekend. Please contact Peter or any other member of the climbing committee for more information.
- The climbing committee is planning a membership drive at MEC, possibly in early December. Peter encourages volunteers to sign up for a 2-hour window to help promote the ACC. During the last membership drive, four new members joined the ACC.

Trip leaders are asked to submit their completed waivers to the Climbing Committee. The ACC is required by law to keep trip waivers on file for seven years.

Ski Committee

- The BITS (Backcountry Introduction to Skiing) Program got underway last Wednesday with the Intro Night. The next event is a trip to Chester Lake on December 1, 2007. Meet at 7 am at Assumption School on Sarcee Trail. The following trip will be held on January 12-13, 2008 to Rummel Lake. Participants need an avalanche course to attend.
- The Ski Coordinators weekend is scheduled for January 19-20, 2008.
- The Ski Review will be held on February 9-10, 2008. Contact Jason McCrank for more information.
- Two ski camps are planned: Campbell Icefields (16—23 February 2008) and Icefall Book (early April)

Training and Leadership Committee

- Introduction to Mixed Climbing December 15 &16, 2007 by Sean Isaac (2 courses). This event is open to all members at the cost of \$100. The course is currently full, with a wait list.
- Advanced Ice Leadership - January 26-27, 2008 by Jeremy McKenzie. This event is for ACC ice climbing trip leaders who would like to expand their skill base. No cost for participants. Five spots available.
- Gear Fixin Night - January 24, 2008 evening session at CAOC led by Allan Main. Bring your duct tape, broken gear and imagination. This evening session is for all members.
- Avalanche Level 1 Course January 9,11 (eves) and 12 (Full-day) – Offered through the UofC to ACC Calgary members at a discount price. This course is open to all members at a cost of \$115, which includes two evening sessions and one full day in the field. See Keith Sanford for more information.
- Avalanche Level 1 Course - January 9,11 (eves) and 12 (Full-day) – Offered through the U of C to ACC Calgary members at a discount price. This course is open to all members at a cost of \$115, which includes two evening sessions and one full day in the field. See Keith Sanford for more information.

Treasurer

- Trevor has refund cheques for 2007 section camps participants.
- The 2008 Budget will be printed in the next Chinook. Quick summary: We budget to bring in and spend \$32,000. This year we'll make about \$2800 loss. This is due to the costs of printing and mailing the Chinook. In an effort to reduce costs, the executive has decided to cut the number of issues to six from ten. The Training & Leadership committee is planning to raise spending to

\$7,000 to increase the focus on training and leadership courses. During the December meeting, ACC Calgary members will vote on the budget.

Social

- The December Section meeting will start at 6:15 with a potluck dinner. Following the meeting, the speaker Murray Toft will describe two ski traverses in Europe. The Bow Water Canoe Club advises members to stay on the left side of the road when driving down to the clubhouse.

NEW BUSINESS

- For sale: XL climbing harness. See Chuck Young if interested.
- Online calendar – The new online calendar website will be launched in early December. In the meantime, trip leaders are invited to an introductory training session to learn how to operate the website at 8 pm on December 4, 2007. See the website for more information.

HAND DRILL MOTION

- MOTION: Paul Masiar proposed a motion for the ACC Calgary section to purchase a hammer drill.
- The motion was amended following a discussion regarding the investigation of all aspects of purchasing a drill.
- AMENDED MOTION: Orvel Miskiw proposed an amended motion to investigate the purchase of a hammer drill for the section. The purpose of the drill would be to retro-fit or fix routes commonly used by the club. Paul Masiar will prepare and submit a proposal and Peter Lloyd will conduct an investigation to answer the questions raised.
- Questions raised by the club members:
 - What is the cost of a hammer drill?
 - What is the ACC's liability associated with the ownership of a drill?
 - What should the ACC's level of awareness of what is being bolted be?
 - What is the ACC's responsibility with regards to providing materials (bolts, hangers, anchors, etc.) to support the drill.
 - Where/how will the drill be stored?
 - Does the ACC need a permit to bolt routes?
 - What is the ACC's ethics policy regarding bolting?
 - Do other sections own hammer drills and do they have policies we could perhaps adopt?
 - Is it possible to share the drill with other sections in order to help share the costs?

- o Should we consider renting a drill? Renting might be sufficient for the amount of use we might need and might resolve the issues of storing, maintaining and supplying batteries for the drill.
- o We should contact TABVAR because they do bolting and they may be able to answer our questions.
- o Ray Norman seconded the amended motion.
The amended motion was passed and carried.

Still the Best Leash Ever

By Orvel Miskiw

Over the last few years I've watched with interest as ice climbers dealt with their ice-tool wrist loops--commonly called leashes. They fuss, and experiment, and debate, and replace, usually with commercial leashes.

As a persistent and successful innovator, I've always been amused and amazed at the reluctance of many people, especially climbers, who tend to be aggressive individuals, to believe in themselves with respect to adapting equipment for their own preferences: that they have something to contribute to the design of the equipment that they need and use.

In fact, commercial products, as they appear on the shelves of stores, even MEC, for example, are rarely the best designs possible; instead, each one is a compromise among several imperatives of ...COMMERCE; it is being offered for sale with the over-riding purpose of making money for someone. To that end, although the product can be expected to function, somewhat, it must also be attractive to the intended target group (which is as large as possible and may be mostly non-expert users: inexperienced climbers for example--thus the usual slick finish and bright colors); ideally, it should also be inexpensive to make (which is likely to reduce its functionality while increasing its profitability), but not so simple that it might incite potential buyers to duplicate it at home instead of buying; and it should be readily identifiable to potential buyers, hence the proliferation of logos.

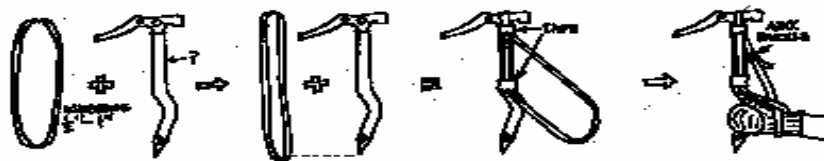
And so, for example, we see our friends rushing out to buy fancy bivvy bags with well-known company names on them for occasional, in fact RARE, use, which are admittedly rugged, but bulky, heavy, impractical, and EXPENSIVE; while ice climbing tools are as expensive now as ever, the selection has been reduced almost exclusively to the use of chisel-type picks (which split the ice but are cheap-and-easy to make)--I admit, they DO work...somewhat; and just TRY to find a decent alpine touring ski these days: whereas in the past the emphasis was on touring, it has now shifted to ALPINE, with minimal touring potential, or FUN, in order to capitalize on the demographics of the downhill-skiing market.

But, I digress. To return to the topic of ice-tool leashes, climbers are messing with all these impressive-named (South Face, White Diamond, Drivel, etc.) commercial leashes which are plagued with awkwardness: wrist loops that bind and require special bite tabs to open them, self-ejecting connectors, and limited functionality.

Meanwhile, the best wrist leash has always been available for free in every climber's basement--it consists of 4 ft. of webbing and a bit of fibre tape.

If you tie or sew the webbing into a loop through the hole at the head of an ice tool, or simply over the head, so that when pulled flat along the shaft, the bottom just reaches about to the spike (subject to your own preference--you can also sew in a tablar buckle near the top of one side of the loop for adjustment), then tape both sides of the loop onto the sides of the shaft just below the head, and tape ONE side of the loop (one without a buckle) onto the shaft just above the grip position, you have made a leash which is functionally superior to every commercial leash that I've ever seen.

To use it, you simply THROW your hand, sideways if you like, with even the most sensible glove or bulky mitt, upward through the loop, give it a twist, and take hold of the shaft. If you want it tighter, you can use 2 twists (or try even more). If you feel that twisting is cheating, you can just grip both sides of the loop against the shaft under your hand, still very secure unless your hand is burning out on a long vertical. To take your hand out, instead of unclipping, chewing, or struggling, you simply untwist the loop, and pop out your hand. If you want to use both hands for handling equipment, like placing a screw, instead of unclipping a commercial leash, you can untwist the loop and put your arm right through it to the elbow for freedom of movement, while maintaining your security with the tool. (Try that with any commercial leash.) And should you ever feel the need to clip in to your tool, you can clip directly in to the loop, while the tape just above the grip will keep the shaft alined generally in the direction of any force on the loop, keeping the tool from flipping out of its placement. My sketches should clearly show the simplicity of this leash.



Even 30 years ago, Yvonne Chouinard was on the right track in "Climbing Ice" with a wrist loop that he recommended. It was similar to this one but potentially not as practical--those were early days! He taped BOTH sides of the loop to the shaft just above the grip, which made

the opening permanently 'tighter' than my design, and risked the now well-known difficulty of reconciling a snug wrist-hold with the need to occasionally get your hand in or out of it.

So I encourage you to realize that when you need some item of new equipment, especially an accessory, any opportunity to make it for yourself, rather than automatically relying on commercial offerings, is likely to produce superior performance while saving you money and a lot of frustration. Whenever you look at a commercial product, you'd do well to remember that its functionality is not the only, nor even the principal, concern of the manufacturer: the product is focused on getting your money into his profit margin.

TELEMARK SKI BOOT TIP

By Art Powlyk

Over the last thirty years I have struggled with backcountry ski boots. Some of you might remember the old Frank's boot that gave many people trouble. We started with freeze your feet floppy leather boots and then went to heavy double leather boots to the new so called revolutionary plastic boots. I had so many ski boots in my basement that someone asked me if they were like rabbits and multiplied. Over the last several years I have spent many hours in ski shops having liners heated and molded to my feet only to have the same problems. Either you have blister city on your heels or your toes are so squashed that you feel like taking off your boots and walking in the snow. One ski technician became so frustrated with me that he stated, " well telemark boots are designed misery boots anyhow".

So I forgot about backcountry and spent many years running a snowboard club out of our school. I was always envious of students running around in their snowboard boots. No one seemed to be having any trouble with sore feet. I have seen students put their boots on at 7 A.M. and still have them on in the motel at mid night when I was trying to chase them back to bed.

Then one day while I was sitting in the lodge at Lake Louise watching hundreds of people running around in comfortable snowboard boots it hit me. As soon as I got back to town I went to shopping and asked for the pair of snowboard boots that had the best liners. I quickly went home took out the snowboard boot liners and put them in my new plastic telemark boots and it was like magic. The boots fit. The boots were comfortable and no more blisters. So for those of you that have trouble with sore feet try snowboard boot liners.

That's all, Folks

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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@telus.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.

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