



The Chinook

Volume 40, Number 7

July 2005

NO JULY MEETING.

The next meeting will be a potluck/barbecue at Site # 5, Edworthy Park, Tuesday, 16 August 2005, starting anytime after 6:30 pm. Bring a potluck item. Hotdogs, veggie burgers, pop and juice will be provided.



Page 1

June 2005—Sir Douglas
Paul Masiar

Inside this issue:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----|
| From the Editor | | 2 |
| Symposium information | | 3 |
| Mt. Sir Douglas | Paul Masiar | 4-6 |
| Notices | | 6-7 |
| Marian Fawdry | | 7 |

FROM THE EDITOR:

Most years, there has been no July Chinook; not this year. I am going on vacation and won't be here to prepare an August edition.

Remember that while there is no meeting in July, there will be one in August — the barbecue/potluck at Edworthy Park, 6:30 pm (earlier than the regular meeting time but it is okay to come late) on the third Tuesday of the month, as usual and as advertised on the front page.

Perhaps people were not expecting to have a Chinook this month, so they did not think of submissions. Then again, June was not exactly a great month for outdoor activities, for sure. THANK YOU PAUL for your trip report, the only one that came in.

Please, everyone, write up your trips— it is always great to know what everyone is doing. Trip leaders without literary aspirations themselves could perhaps arm-twist participants ??? — whatever works.

Everyone hope for some sun, and have a great summer.

Carmie



Trails and Pathways National Symposium
Shaw Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta
12 – 15 October 2005
2005 National Parks & Recreation
Conference, Trade Show & Associated Symposiums
October 12 to 15, 2005
Shaw Conference Center - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The National Parks and Recreation Conference and Trade Show will be the cornerstone event here, with four other concurrent National Symposiums (Youth Development through Recreation Services; Active Living for Citizens with Disabilities; Trails and Pathways; and, Sport in the Community). Over 1,200 diverse professionals and practitioners from across Canada are expected to participate from not only recreation and parks, but from many other quality of life sectors.

Trailways and Pathways will address issues that are critical to trail and pathway development at local, provincial and national levels, highlight successes, challenges, emerging needs and, technologies, and provide opportunities to consult with specialists and trail stakeholders.

If interested, check the website, www.2005.arpaonline.ca for details.

COMMANDER GROUP SECTION CAMP

16 July to 30 July 2005

By the time you get this Chinook, it may, probably will be too late to get onto Week One , but Week Two may still have a place or two available.

If you'd like more information about the camps, check out
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary/summer/summercamp.html>
or contact **Sandy Walker** at sandy.w@shaw.ca.

**Mt. Sir Douglas, East Ridge
By Paul Masiar**

Mt. Sir Douglas, 3406 m, East Ridge, III, 5.6 represents an exciting opportunity to climb a peak over eleven thousand feet.

A trip was scheduled for the June 25, 26 with a hope that the route would be reasonably dry and in good condition. However, the Calgary weather is breaking records in terms of moisture this year and that is making mountaineering at the end of June a serious prospect.

We set out late Saturday night with the intent to bivi on the edge of the tree line. From the tree line bivi we would go up to Haig-Robertson col, and from there up the East Ridge of Mt. Sir Douglas. We reach a suitable bivi spot, unpack and soon go to a sleep mode which can only be described as being partial wakefulness. In the morning we quickly get dressed, eat, drink, leave behind the gear we do not need and set off up to the col. The travel on snow is not ideal; there is post holing, and we switch leads to break trail. At the col we put on our harnesses, Scott pulls out a down jacket and it promptly blows out of his hands. We saw it tumble in the wind down the glacier. Scott says: "We'll descend the East Ridge and look for it on the way back". Having heard this I left my trekking poles in the col.

Scott, Randy and I short roped, took out our ice axes and set out on snow up the ridge. At some point things got a little narrow; we stopped at a large crumbling rock and put on our crampons. Short roped we continued on. We came to a crumbling ridge where we had two choices: up the ridge or into the snowy steep gully. No one liked the crumbling rock and so it was up the gully. The gully got steep, the snow was wet, and there were no places to put in decent protection. About a full length of rope up the gully was a belay station, pitons, old slings, hey but it was something. We proceeded up the gully and climbed short rock stretches in crampons. More gullies and very exposed terrain lead us higher. Then came an ice gully, where we had to take out the second tool. Scott leads, the ice is watery and a little constriction is hard to overcome.

Randy follows and does all right and then it is my turn. I am doing just fine until I get to the little constriction, where the pack on my back prevents my movement forward and up. After some grunting I get over it, and Scott comments that my pack has been rearranged.

We move on steep snow into another gully past rappel stations. Scott tells us to remember where they are; they will be absolutely necessary for the way down. Rappel stations are pitons and old slings; if anyone thinks there is a good new bolt or a sturdy chain, it is wishful thinking. After some very steep snow climbing and a very hard slog, we get to a sheltered spot. We have few minutes pause, take out some food, eat and lower our heart rate. The rate is up from the extreme exposure and hard climbing. From the sheltered spot we go left and up yet another gully. Soon a small gendarme blocks the ridge. We can go over it or to the left on a snow covered face. No one likes the face, so we decide to go over it. Scott leads, we climb in crampons over rock that is falling apart. Scott disappears over a small overhang, and we wait. However he can't make a safe anchor and has to keep going until he reaches a rappel station. From there he belays Randy and me up to his position. At this point we assess the time; the summit is in sight and the weather is getting bad – a storm is coming. Scott feels like going for it, but he graciously allows a vote, Randy and I vote to descend.

The descent is hard, rappelling from suspect rap stations, and in some places 60 m ropes do not reach the next rappel station. The option is to downclimb exposed terrain where any slip is fatal or make another intermediate rappel station. We chose to make the intermediate stations twice to avoid extremely exposed, steep terrain. Rappelling is no fun. At one rap station I weight the anchor and an old piton just pops out. On the last rap station, we sit like birds on a ridge which is not wider than half a chair seat. From the bird seat we make a final rappel down to the snow ridge. Of course the ropes get stuck and it takes all three of us to free them. By the time we reorganize, we have white out conditions. We short rope again and head down the soft ridge. Randy leads, Scott is in the middle and I bring up the rear. After careful movement on the ridge we reach the col, I recover my poles and the hunt is on for the puffy

jacket. Remarkably, Scott finds it all the way down the glacier, at the beginning of the snow line.

We pack up the bivi, get some water for the way out and reach Burstall gravel flats at the edge of darkness. It is dark and landmarks are not visible, so the way to the car with heavy packs is bearable. We put the packs into the car and drive away; it has been an 18 hour day from the bivi to the car. It seems that everything is fine, but it is not over yet. I have to brake hard twice to avoid hitting an elk. On Hwy. 40 there are also lots of animals,; it is not a place to drive fast. A pair of deer stand in the middle of the road blinded by my headlights.

After driving through a heavy rain storm, we finally reach Calgary and a warm bed.

To conclude there are lessons to be learned all the time in the mountains. One of them is: "Never underestimate an alpine route" (we have climbed a route in winter conditions in summer).

Participants: Scott Montgomery (leader), Randy Colwell, Paul Masiar



**Ecuador in January 2006
Cotopaxi, Chimborazo**

Looking for partners to climb in Ecuador in January 2006.

I would like to climb Cotopaxi and Chimborazo and some acclimatization peaks. Travel dates and itinerary flexible.

Contact Gerry Drotar @
gerrydrotar@hotmail.com or call 280-7281

Marian Fawdry

The following is a copy of an email received. The Marian Fawdry Trophy is awarded in the annual photo contest for the best submission in the Mountaineering category. The criteria are that the main focus should be a person or persons involved in mountaineering activities, which may be taking place in summer or in winter.

Hello,

Ms. Marian Fawdry was our Aunt and I see her name on your site on a trophy. I wondered if you might have a photo of the trophy. Please do not put yourself out to do this but if you have one around somewhere I would love to see it

Eric and Norma Fawdry

Nanaimo B.C.

phone 250 758-3337

Eric Fawdry <eric_fawdry@telus.net>

Thank you, we knew she was into hiking but do not know a lot about her life in Calgary so any bit would be interesting to us.

Sincerely Norma

Powder Creek Lodge - March 12-19, 2006

We have booked the Powder Creek Lodge from March 12-19, 2006 and still have a few spots available.

You can view the lodge info at www.netidea.com/powder.

Contact Kelly Adams at 241-0956 or bballfamily@shaw.ca if you are interested.

