



The Chinook

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March 2005

The next Calgary Section Meeting is on Tuesday *March 15th* at 7:30 pm
at the Bow Waters Canoe Club Clubhouse, 1975 - 26 Street S.E

This Month:

Climbing and Trekking in Nepal

by Jackie Clark



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PHOTO CONTEST

BY Cameron Roe

Welcome to the ACC Calgary Section Photo Contest! I would like to invite a many people as possible to enter a couple of slides or digital picutres to the show. Who knows? That picture that you think is just so - so might be a diamond in the rough. Send in your favourite humour shot, or ice climbing picture (in my case they are usually the same one) and see what happens! Some of the trophies for the ACC Calgary Section photo contest go back to the 30's. It is a real coup to have one of those trophies on your mantle for a year! Please see the rules below for more information. NOTE that there have been additional rules added to keep up with the technology. If you can scan your own slides into digital images, it would be greatly appreciated!

The contest winners will be shown at the **April 19 section meeting**, with the winners receiving ribbons and trophies. The winner of Best in Show will receive a dry mounted 16x20" (or best size - depends on the resolution of the photo) print of their winning slide or print. The **deadline** for entries is March 15th at the section meeting. You may be able to sneak some in after that but it will cost you. :) Slides, CD's, etc will be returned at the May 17 section meeting. If you are interested in judging the photo contest or would like more information call Cam Roe at 253-5463 or Derek Kemp at 253-5339.

Classes and Trophies:

1. Canadian Mountain Scenes (Richardson Trophy) - Mountain scenery
2. Mountain Winter Scenes (Rex Gibson Trophy) - Canadian mountains 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 on rock
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. Digital pictures should be on CD with an appropriate file name that indicates the category and title of the picture. E.g. "Cat8_Cams-Excellent-Picture.jpg"
7. Digital pictures WILL be accepted via email to 'camroe@telusplanet.net'.
8. No award will be made if the judges feel that no entries are of the standard to receive a trophy.
9. All Slides, Digital Pictures, Photographs must have been taken within 3 years of the contest deadline.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Entries from previous Calgary Section photo contests are not eligible.
14. The judges may move entries to another class when it is appropriate. E.g. Cam's ice climbing picture to the humour section.
15. If you want to have slides mailed back, you need to include sufficient packaging.

ing material (self-addressed) and postage to ensure the safe return of your slides. Please remember that this is a FUN event and that all slides in category 8 (Mountaineers) will be shown at the show - we all like to see the people we know in the mountains! As well, all the pics in category 11 (Humour) will be shown. Thanks and enter some pictures!!!!

Deadline for entries: Section Meeting March 15th, 2005

Should Calgary Section Donate to the Rebuilding of the Fay Hut?

As most members will know, the Fay Hut was an historic building perched just below timberline above Prospectors' Valley. The hut provided access to the valley of the ten peaks and was often used as a stopping point on the way to the Neil Colgan Hut. For hikers the Fay Hut was a great destination in itself, culminating in a steep climb up a scenic headwall. The hut was a log structure, it wasn't very large, and had a really folksy air to it. The Fay Pot located a few metres away was one of the more cosy outhouses in the Rockies.

I wrote all this in the past tense, because the Fay Hut was caught in the summer 2003 forest fires that swept the Kootenay valley. Coincidentally, I was one of the last people to stay in the hut – only two weeks before the fire I enjoyed a pleasant evening there with my son, Colin, and his wife, Jenia. Like many others before us we were heading towards the Neil Colgan Hut for a few days, and descended to Moraine Lake via the Perrin route rappels.

Little did we know that only a few days later the Fay Hut would be gone for ever..... But not for ever! The National Office of the ACC has been working with Parks Canada for the last 18 months and has received permission to rebuild the hut. The new Fay Hut will not be on exactly the same site as the old one – that spot is being saved as an historic site, but it will be only 100 metres further uphill. The new hut will again be a log structure and will be sited to fit nicely into the landscape and to provide great views from its front porch.

A substantial volunteer work crew has already been recruited, and a number of Calgary Section members are involved in the rebuilding. Bruce Hardardt who lives in Calgary, but is a Rocky Which brings us to the point of this story. The volunteer labour is fairly cheap – their hourly rate is \$0 but they eat a lot of food. However, helicopters are expensive. Very expensive. The ACC has raised a lot of money for the rebuilding project, but a bit more is needed. The Executive of the Calgary Section feel it would be a good idea to donate \$5,000 from our capital funds to this

worthwhile project. This is a significant sum, however, and the Executive are not prepared, and the small print says we are not permitted, to spend this sort of money without the endorsement of the Section members.

I asked Bruce Hardardt about the ACC's philosophy on backcountry hut building – in particular, is the ACC allowing the cost to escalate unnecessarily high. Here was Bruce's reply:

"I would answer – yes I could be done real cheap but cheap does not last very long (the Scott Duncan hut is a good example of this. Its only 20+ years old and needs to be replaced due to wood rot and mold). Our goal was to build a hut that will last for at least 100 years. And that does have some extra costs associated with it. We spend a little more up front but by doing that we will spend way less in the mid and long term on maintenance. The price of building cheap is high maintenance. A stone floor costs about \$500.00 more than a plywood floor but will last a hundred years and not need to be replaced. One helicopter flight to fix a plywood floor will cost more than upgrading to stone. The sweet taste of low cost is soon lost by the bitter taste of poor quality. The technology we are adding to this hut are simple in design, the technology budget is only 6 thousand dollars. We are trying to reduce impact on the environment and improve efficiency too. Huge amounts of volunteer hours have gone into trying to find cost effective ways to integrate technology into Fay hut to reduce both fuel consumption and environmental impact.

Hope this helps people to understand our mindset in facilities.

*Bruce Hardardt
Fay Hut
Project Manager"*

We will be discussing this issue at the monthly section meeting to be held on Tuesday March 15. Please come to the meeting and share your views with your fellow members.

If you can't make the meeting, you can email me your thoughts at raynorm@telus.net, or you can call me at (403) 609-0337.

So make a date in your daytimer:

Tuesday March 15 at 7:30 at Bow Waters Canoe Club.

The Saga of Liability Insurance, Those Pesky Waivers and Incident Reporting

By Dave McCormick (davemcc@shaw.ca), Chair, ACC Safety Committee*

Once upon a time, the ACC had cheap, affordable insurance. Over the past year or two, there has been considerable discussion and anguish over the changes to the cost of the ACC's liability insurance, the signing of waivers and reporting accidents to ACC's National Office. It's fair to say that these three things are connected, in a way that all ACC members should be aware of.

First, as you all will know, the cost of the ACC's liability insurance has increased at an astounding rate in the past couple of years. The annual premiums are now close to \$100,000 and there is a bit of concern each year that the insurance company won't renew our policy. This liability insurance protects all ACC members (trip leaders **and** participants) while on ACC-sponsored activities. This means that if a participant gets injured, they decide to file a claim and someone else (the trip leader or any member on the trip) is found to be liable, such individuals would be covered by this insurance. While less costly alternatives are being sought, there haven't been any easy solutions, so the premium the ACC pays now is the current reality.

Signed waivers have created extra paperwork for trip leaders and additional bother for participants, but the fact is (contrary to common urban myth), these waivers do indicate informed consent from participants and serve as a useful line of defense in the event of a insurance claim. Not only do these things have to be properly signed and witnessed, they need to be kept on file (more work for trip leaders and the Section Executive), for 6 years. This whole rigmarole regarding waivers is so important that a specific policy was approved by the ACC's Board of Directors last year and is available for viewing on the ACC's website: <http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/services/safety/index.html>

The next administrative requirement is that all accidents (incidents) be reported to National Office. This allows National Office, specifically the Executive Director, to be fully informed about accidents, important when you have to deal with a possible liability claim and the insurance company. Regardless of future developments, it only seems to make sense that the ACC as an organization be able to present a very competent and professional face to our current and any future insurance providers, especially when you consider that about 95% of the cost of our liability insurance is allocated for coverage of Section activities

Recently, the Safety Committee* was asked to clarify what constituted a reportable "incident". Accordingly, the Committee wrote up a set of guidelines that were presented to the Board at its fall meeting last month. The exact text of the guidelines can be found on the ACC's website, but it's almost as easy to say that if something happens on a Section trip, and someone gets hurt, or comes very close to getting seriously hurt, the episode should be reported. A simple form to be used for such reporting is also available on-line.

It's important to keep in mind that, right after the need for excellent trip leaders, liability insurance is an essential part of the Club's ability to support Section activities. Try to imagine how many people would want to stick their necks (and their houses) on the line and run trips if they knew they were unprotected by liability insurance. Paperwork may seem extraneous to the basic desire of members to hike and climb, but it's an important part of managing the Club's activities in our modern litigious world.

** The ACC Safety Committee is composed of 6 members from several Sections across Canada and is currently working on a number of other projects including suggestions for managing Section ropes and other equipment, based on what seem to be good practices being used by some Sections already. A selection of safety-related articles is available on the ACC's website. If anyone has suggestions or questions, the Safety Committee is always interested to hear from you.*

The Second Annual Hiking Trail Mix Competition!!

Calling all Mountain Cuisine Chefs...a cook-a-thon contest is coming up! If you know of a tasty and filling snack to take on a hike, ski or climb, then this is your day!

On the day of the 2005 ACC Photo Contest (see Chinook/Breeze for details) you can submit your hiking snack. Please submit at the beginning of the Photo Contest, as judging will take place during this event. We will have a table set up in the front for submissions.

Rules to the competition are as follows:

1. You must make your snack. Cliff bars (though tasty) are unacceptable.
2. You may submit more than one snack.
3. A snack constitutes something that can be carried in a pack, and requires little to no preparation to eat while on the go. Examples are GORP, fruit bars, muffins, cookies...
4. You only need make enough for the judges, though the leftovers will be open to the public.
5. Judging will be based on flavour and creativity (nutritional value is optional).
6. Please label your submission with your name and a title for your snack.

We will have prizes for the best snack!! If you have any questions about this event, or would like to help out with the judging, contact Shannon Healy (shealy@ucalgary.ca) or Lesley Young (c.young@shaw.ca).

Good luck!

Johnson's Canyon Ice Climbing Trip

By Brock Grolla

It was Saturday, February.12, 2005 and I was preparing to head out to Johnson's Canyon with six other ACC members whom I had never met before. I had talked to Kevin Couture the night before to finalize the plans. We were to meet at the Petro Can on 16 Ave at 6:50 am and leave from there so as to beat the rush. Slowly everybody started to arrive just around 7am. Once everybody was there we headed out to Johnson's Canyon not knowing what to expect because we all know what it can be like this time of year.

Tom, myself (Brock), and Megan were in one vehicle and Mark, Shaun M., and Kevin were in the second vehicle. The other Shaun was to meet us there as he was staying in Banff for the weekend. On the way out, Tom and I and Megan were in such a discussion that Megan missed the turn and we had to go to Castle Junction before turning. I think it was quicker that way seeing as we only had 6 km instead of 15 km on that road. Once we arrived, to our surprise, we were the only vehicles in the parking lot. We decided to gear up quick and get on the trail before anybody else started moving in on our great adventure. About 5 minutes before we left a passenger van pulled up to get us all thinking, uh oh, 15 climbers just pulled up let's run. But it turned out that there was only a guide in the van and she was waiting for her group to show up to take them on a hike up to the Upper Falls. So once we all organized we headed out and started the leisurely hike to the upper falls.

It was a beautiful day out, -5 to start, and slowly warming up as the day went on. We arrived at the upper falls to find nobody was on it. It was great, the falls to ourselves. We unloaded the gear and started getting the ropes set up so that Kevin could set them up for top roping. We set up four ropes in total. Two were on the far right, ranging from grade 2 to 3+, and the third and fourth were on a 40m pillar which everyone marveled as we came up on it. It was going to be a great day!

We all started climbing slowly. Working on the grade 2 and 3+ before heading over and trying the only 4+ that was left. The two other pillars had previously fallen out earlier in the season. It wasn't sure if we were going to set up on this spectacular piece of ice but it was decided that it should be done and the conditions were ideal for it.

We had a new climber, Sean Mcloughin, with us who had never climbed or been in snow before. He was a young Australian fellow who had only been in Canada for two weeks and was getting ready to head out to the Himalayans with his Father to climb Ama Dablam. We were all quite intrigued on the adventure he was about to embark on. Little did we know he was about to put a clinic on for all us veterans.

The ice was in great condition, it wasn't too soft or too hard. We didn't have any dinner plates coming off on us and the ice was pretty plastic. Ideal for climbing. Once we had our confidence up, one by one we attempted to climb what everybody wanted to. The pillar! It was fantastic. There was more hooking on this than actual picking. Nobody minded seeing as it was almost

40m high. Throughout the day we had lots of visitors come through and give us a well-earned hand when we finished the enduring climb, or Sean M. anyhow. Nobody could figure it out. An Australian, two weeks in Canada, never climbed, and running up this ice as if there was nothing to it only to have the crowd in awe as he did it. Twice during the day he had applause and shouts of encouragement as he made his way up to the top to ring the bell. I think he paid those people to come out and cheer him on. Everybody was quite impressed that he caught on so quickly and how well he did. I should also mention that we had a flatlander with us, Shaun Peter, who had come in from Regina for a few days to climb.

All in all it was an excellent day out with excellent company. Many thanks to Kevin for organizing the trip. Also, thanks to Tom Mueller, Megan Jubb, Shaun Peter, and Shaun Mccloughlin for being such good company. Scribe Brock Grolla

Notes from the last section meeting February 2005

Thank you to Bill Corbett for his slide show presented at this meeting.

Take a look at the website www.climbalberta.com. As everyone must know by now, Alberta became a province in 1905. On the [climbalberta.com](http://www.climbalberta.com) website, there is a list of "100 Peaks". It is proposed that all of them be climbed as part of the 100th anniversary celebration. Various outdoor groups and individuals are volunteering to do specific peaks from the list. Rob and Jason from the Climbing Committee will contact other sections of the club so that everyone is not trying for the same peaks (at least not on the same weekends!).

In this regard, the summer is not that far off; the climbing committee will soon be looking for your input on the new schedule.

Please, if you have borrowed books from the library, return them so that others can enjoy them. Have a look around – is there something lurking under a sofa that you thought you had brought back six months ago?

The Ice Cold Review: January 8-9, 2005

By Rebecca Haspel

The Forecast:

January 8, 2005 – Overcast, high: -27 C, low: -36 C

January 9, 2005 – Alberta blue-skies, high: -28 C, low: -33 C

As departure day inched closer, the subject of the usual flurry of pre-trip emails and phone calls inevitably turned to the dire forecast. Many a concerned Section member (“Camping and climbing in -30 C? Are you crazy?”) wondered about the sanity of the enthusiastic Climbing Committee (“C’mon, it’ll be an adventure!”). But, after months of planning and organizing for a fantastic Ice Review weekend, the Climbing Committee was NOT about to be deterred by the frigid forecast!!! And so it came to be that, on the evening of January 6th, the Committee members descended upon Tom’s 5-burner stove for an entertaining chili cook-off that resulted in the concocting of some 50 litres of the spicy broth.

In the wee hours of January 8th, the Climbing Committee gathered in the Crowfoot A&W parking lot to meet 20 hardy, and remarkably cheery folk, eager to test their fortitude in the Ghost. A caravan of trucks and SUVs, filled with a handful of experienced veterans and a collection of eager newbies, was soon rolling down the deserted highway. Accompanying the ACCers were two keen MEC employees who were joining us as part of MEC’s community outreach initiative. This partnership, certainly an exciting ‘first-ever’ for the Ice Review, was one of the many treats that trip participants enjoyed over the weekend. Reuben and Dan brought with them a whole slew of new-fangled demo-gear which could be borrowed and tested free-of-charge over the weekend. Unbeknownst to us at the time, their ‘gear pile’ also included a load of fantastic doorprizes...!! The two ‘MEC-guys’ spent the weekend leading gnarly climbs, answering gear-related questions, and helping us drain the keg!

Arriving in the Ghost, everyone claimed a few square metres of snow on which to construct their winter palace. Willing hands then set to work on unloading group gear and tackling the job of setting up of the club tents. The team of climbers was suddenly transformed into an impromptu crew of engineers and construction managers as we attempted to make sense of the confusing disarray of coloured metal poles and enormous canvas rolls. During the spectacle, a call was heard coming from the biffy for an ice tool with which to chip a few inches of the ‘shit-cicle’ which threatened to poke the unsuspecting throne-squatter! Strangely enough, no one stepped forward to volunteer their tool.

That afternoon, groups headed out to GBU, Valley of the Sun and Valley of the Birds to throw their tools into the ice. With 8 layers of clothing on, no one seemed to notice the chill in the air as we swaggered around the base of the climbs looking like an army of Michelin-men. By nightfall, everyone had worked up an appetite and was looking forward to some chilled drinks to sooth their parched throats. With 2 litres of beer, 2.5 litres of chili and 5 buns per person, no one went hungry at this Ice Review! A pleasant evening was spent hovering around the wood-burning stove, telling tall tales and sipping foam from the over-pressurized keg. For the much-anticipated door prize raffle, over 40 goodies were up for grabs that night...to be distributed among 20 lucky winners!! You do the math. Three rounds of prizes later, people

staggered to their tents loaded down with freebies that included ice screws, backpacks, tarps, free private climbing lessons, climbing gym ten-passes, hut passes and plenty of Toblerone to fuel the internal heat engine.

Sunday: the ill-fated day. The day of the Ice Review-epic. The morning began peacefully enough. One by one, folks emerged (unscathed!) from their sleeping quarters to a beautiful, sunny, blue-sky morning in the Ghost. Cheerful “good morning” calls could be heard echoing around camp as people went about their morning routines. Only Dave seemed worse-for-wear, having spent the night tossing and turning because his 3-hot-water-bottle sleeping assembly had been too hot!!!

The first indications of what the day might have in store, came as we prepared to set out for another day of climbing and Ian’s car would not start. After much coaxing and a running start courtesy of Scoot’s rover, the Jeep finally turned over. Scoot headed out to Sunshine with a gang of newbies while the other folks headed in the direction of GBU. The group at Sunshine had a great day in the...well, sunshine, and managed to leave only one pair of ropes behind that evening when they were quickly benighted.

The ordeal for the GBU group and their cold vehicles began with the first of 4 river crossings. “Yikes, the brakes are frozen,” commented Dave as he geared down the Jeep. I glanced at him, only mildly alarmed. By the time the vehicles had arrived at the base of GBU, each had an inch-thick underplating of ice. Within minutes, the front wheels of the Explorer had frozen solid. Climbing was delayed while we puzzled over how to get the wheels unstuck. As camping stoves were fired up in a futile attempt to thaw out the tires some members of the Calgary Nissan 4x4 Club stopped to check out these ice-climbing types in their souped-up trucks. Turns out some of them were waiting for us to head out so they could “shoot down some ice.” Each to his own!

While some of us hacked away at the brittle curtain with demo-tools (Dave’s buying Quarks next season), others busied themselves with the vehicles. Five hours later, after dismounting, thawing and re-mounting both tires, a tired, but victorious cry emerged from the battlefield: the Explorer was back in action. By this time, the members of the 4x4 club were springing into action all over the valley, jump-starting engines, dragging vehicles into the river to thaw and then back out again and pushing cars up the big hill. With their CB radios and beefy trucks, they were exceedingly patient in helping out us mechanically-inept climbers. But unfortunately, as darkness fell, one solidly-frozen truck with 4 siezed tires was abandoned at the base of GBU after it refused to yield despite much forceful prodding and poking.

Upon returning to camp, a night rescue-mission to collect the folks at Sunshine was averted when their headlights were seen blinking across the valley. A hasty retreat from the Ghost followed. But, with personal gear scattered randomly in various vehicles and many having survived only on party mix all day, a late-night pitstop at the BP in Cochrane was deemed essential. Later that night, with our bellies full of pizza and beer, we gazed at one another with sleepy eyes and reflected on our adventurous weekend.

Would you do it again? Absolutely!!!

