



The Chinook

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

Volume 42, Number 02

March 2007

The next Calgary Section Meeting is at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 20 March
2007 at the Bow Waters Canoe Club, 1975—26th Street SE

This Month:

MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY
BY RICHARD BERRY



Shangri-la Afternoon
Carmie Callanan

Inside this issue:

Minutes		2-3
Financial Statements from the Treasurer		4-5
Notices		6
Getting the Most out of...	Paul Masiar	6-7
Dealing with Difficult People	Orvel Miskiw	7-8
Lake Louise to Ya Ha Tinda	Peter Haas	8-10
Alan's Secret... BITS	Charles Aram	10-11

ACC CALGARY SECTION MEETING

Date: Tuesday February 20, 2006
Location: Bow Water Canoe Club
Commenced: 19:48
Adjourned: 20:05

MEETING MINUTES

Section Business

Ray asked for volunteers for hall clean-up at the end of the evening.
Members were encouraged to sign up to volunteer with the collating of the Chinook.
Extra copies of the Chinook are available for members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training & Leadership

Frederic made several announcements:
Skill Review Evening on March 27th at UofC. This 'hands-on' session is geared towards active coordinators. It will be held at the UofC climbing wall and led by Murray Toft.
New Coordinators Evening on April 3, 2007 at CAOC. This session is for both active and potential coordinators.
Rock Rescue: In May (date TBD). This session by Rob Davidson is for active coordinators and will be held at the UofC.

Map and Compass Navigation Day: To be held in June (still tentative).
Advanced Alpine Weekend: June 16-17, 2007 taught by Cyril Shokoples and geared for experienced leaders only.
Intro to Rock Leadership: July 14-15, 2007 taught by Jeremy Mackenzie.
Scrambling Skills: June or July taught by Jeremy Mackenzie (still tentative).
The North Face leadership course: July 28-August 4th at the GMC location, led by Cyril Sycoples. Cost is \$650 per participant. Calgary section volunteer leaders are eligible for a \$200 subsidy. Deadline for application is May 1, 2007.
Marmot Women's Camp: July 8-13th. Held in the Bugaboos. Cost is \$995 per participant. Calgary section volunteer leaders are eligible for a \$200 subsidy. Deadline for application is May 1, 2007.

Ski Committee

Tom made the following announcements:

Members are encouraged to verify the avalanche danger when traveling west of the continental divide. There is a rain crust from a couple of weeks ago.

Tom also thanked Heather Eddie for organizing the 2nd annual Ski Review. The weekend was a great success.

Fay Hut Trip: There are spots left for this trip. Contact Chuck Young for information.

Climbing Committee

Tom made these following announcements on Peter's behalf.

Ice Long Weekend in Nordegg (February Family Day weekend) – The event was a success. Tom thanked Sandy for organizing this trip.

The summer trip schedule will be in the works soon.

Library Committee

Cam brought the library books tonight and they are available for check out.

Cam encouraged members to start thinking about submitting items for the Annual Photo Contest.

Membership

Members are asked to contact Elisabeth if they are not receiving the Weekly Breeze.

The National website is now set up to allow members to update their membership information online.

**ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA - CALGARY SECTION
2006 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (with 2006 budget)**

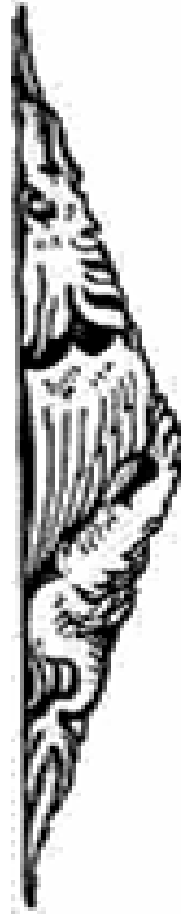
<u>Item</u>	<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Net</u>	
	<u>2006 Budget</u>	<u>2006 Actual</u>	<u>2006 Budget</u>	<u>2006 Actual</u>	<u>2006 Budget</u>	<u>2006 Actual</u>
Membership Revenue	\$15,000	\$ 14,777	Chinook	8,550	10,072	
Grant Revenue	6,000	6,000	Leadership & Training	6,300	3,563	
GST Refund	1,096	-	Administration	2,376	2,433	
Interest Income	1,150	1,288	Social	830	1,492	
Rock Rescue	150	-	Committee Expenses	590	534	
			Donations	1,000	500	
			Leader recognition	2,000	1,481	
Skills Reviews	2,650	3,106	Skills Reviews	2,650	2,149	
			Gear	750	905	
			Environment	1,000	682	
Centennial		855	Centennial		1,309	
Total Section Revenues	\$26,046	\$ 26,026	Total Section Expenses	\$ 26,046	\$ 25,119	\$ 907
Trip Amounts Received 2006 (1)		40,010	Trip Payments 2006 (1)		23,986	\$16,024
		\$ 66,036			\$ 49,105	\$16,931

CHANGES TO BANK AND INVESTMENTS

Balance beginning of year	\$61,648
Net cash in-flow	<u>16,931</u>
Balance end of year (2)	<u>\$78,579</u>

(1) Difference between Trip Amounts Received and Payments arises from the timing of paying for hut bookings and other expenses versus the collection of participation fees. All trips are run on a breakeven basis.

(2) At December 31, 2006, the bank balance was \$11,304 and \$67,275 was invested in interest bearing accounts.



NOTICES

ADDRESS OR EMAIL CHANGE?

Feeling left out? Didn't get the last Chinook or Breeze? If you have moved or changed your email address, you can update your contact information on the ACC National website at https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/my_profile/
If you have any questions about the on-line membership renewals and applications, or about the membership database, please feel free to contact Nancy Hansen (nhansen@alpineclubofcanada.ca) or Sandy Walker (swalker@alpineclubofcanada.ca) at the National office.

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

This is the scheduled event for the April Meeting of the Calgary Section, set for Tuesday 17 April in the usual location. Please see the website for further information. And get moving on picking out your best shots to enter into the contest—The deadline will be fast approaching by the time you see this!

FOR SALE

Scarpa F1 AT boots, MondoPoint 29 (~mens 10)
Like new, skied on ~15 times
Have beveled toe, lightweight and great for the uptrack
\$325
Mike 835-8739

**GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ICE SCREWS
Tech Tip From Paul Masiar**

A leader on an ice climb will usually carry a whole bunch of ice screws of various makes and sizes.

So how does one get the most out of an ice screw?

The Number One rule is - KEEP IT SHARP.

Use a plastic cover to protect screw's sharp teeth, as well as reduce damage to your clothing or pack when the screw is not being used on ice.

Here is a little maintenance trick that helps:

- Always dry your screws thoroughly
- Use WD40 , or vegetable oil in a spray can (Pam) to oil the screw
- First apply a microfilm of oil with a soft cloth on the outside, the screw is shiny but not dripping with oil
- Second take a small piece of cloth, or cotton wool and spray some oil inside the tube
- Take a plastic straw or a sturdy chopstick to push the cloth through the tube up and down several times, imitating the cleaning of a gun barrel.

This will leave a thin microfilm of oil inside and outside the screw. This microfilm will guarantee that the ice will not freeze to the inside of the screw and makes cleaning easy. Oil also prevents micro-pitting of the nickel coating, rust and keeps your screw surface smooth for fast placements. This treatment will only last for one use on the ice, but it is worth it.

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE **By Orvel Miskiw**

You may have heard Bill Corbett's anecdote to the effect that if you have not determined, by the third day, who the 'difficult person' is, it's likely you. While cute, the "Asshole Rule" is cynical, and I don't think he intended it to be taken seriously; if he did, I'd have to say I disagree. Have your fun with it, then move on. Personally, never mind three days, during a whole week at the Section Camp, I never DID figure out who the asshole was, (ha, ha)! But seriously, Corbett's Rule suggests that there are assholes all around 'us', while the way I see it is that mountaineering is peopled by individuals and strong personalities.

Difficulties occur, particularly on a Club trip, when a participant does not understand the basic objectives or the Club context of the outing. Such situations reinforce the basic importance of rules and leaders. Rules are, generally, a deliberate statement of the objectives and of how they may best be achieved, while every leader should be a responsible person who understands and believes in the objectives and the rules, and is willing to champion them energetically while maintaining order in the undertaking.

Certainly I've been involved in, or witnessed, or heard of, a great number of situations which could be called "problems with difficult people", but usually a solution simply involves a matter-of-fact review of the common situation surrounding the participants, and its Club context. The trip leader or coordinator should realize that he is the Club's representative on the trip and has the authority, and in fact the responsibility to all

participants and the Club, to perform that duty.

Occasionally, a difficult participant is someone who appears to be using the security of a Club trip as a springboard for a personal objective. A typical human response to such a person is to ostracize or ban him from Club trips, or from private trips with a leader who has faced him in such a situation. But that response invariably alienates the person, causing a loss of a potential outstanding contributor to future trips or endeavors, whether with or outside the Club. Such people typically have certain excellent qualities, which if harnessed, can be of great value to all.

I've found that most people, even strong-willed ones, can be reasonable. When presented reasonably with the importance of common objectives and orderly conduct of a trip in the Club context, several difficult people in my experience greatly appreciated that approach and presented no further 'difficulty', whether by sticking to private trips, or by cooperative participation in Club trips, or at least by open revelation of private objectives, which can often be accommodated.

The key to dealing with people, especially in trying circumstances, is openness and calm communication. Occasionally it may finally appear that some person cannot be comfortably accommodated at a Club event, but even in that case the situation should be calmly reviewed with him, even **explained to** him, preferably with suggestions for possible solutions, as those leaving room for eventual reconciliation. Until then, Club rules and representatives naturally have final authority at Club events.

LAKE LOUISE TO YA HA TINDA

Feb 17 to 19, 2007

By Peter Haas

I had been worried about that we would not have enough snow and now here I was trashing through thigh deep bottomless snow trying to make a little headway. It was overcast and snowing heavily and the temperatures near freezing had me sweating from the inside and getting soaked from the outside as the falling snow melted on my clothing. I was in the Red Deer River valley trying to reach the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch.

The Ya Ha Tinda ranch is located along the Red Deer River terminating at the eastern boundry of Banff National Park. It's open grasslands and mild climate from the Chinook winds that funnel through the mountains keeps the valley clear of snow for much of the winter. The name Ya Ha Tinda in Stoney means 'Mountain Prairie'. The Stoney people used to find haven in the valley during the winter as did the large herds of Elk and Bison that wandered down from the mountains into the mostly snow free grasslands in winter. More than 60 archaeological sites have been found in the valley indicating that native peoples have used the valley for at least 9,400 years. After the Stoney people were settled on their reservations, Ya Ha Tinda was leased to the Brewster's who pastured their horses there in the winter. In 1917 the Canadian Parks Service took over the ranch and today it is home of their breeding and training programs and overwinters

about 170 horses each year. These horses are trailed into Banff and Lake Louise over well worn trails in the wide valleys that have lead people into the mountains for centuries.

I have often visited Ya Ha Tinda from my home on my bison ranch near Sundre. It is a beautiful place to visit year round with your horses, mountain bike, hiking boots or ice tools. One of my personal quests is to trace the route of the entire Red Deer River from its source at Red Deer Lakes to the confluence with the South Saskatchewan River near Estuary, Saskatchewan. I have done many stretches already by canoe and raft, but the headwaters above Ya Ha Tinda are not much more than a creek. Skis I thought would make for a perfect compromise.

In my planning for this adventure I spoke with the chief warden of Banff National Park who mentioned that I should look at doing the trip in a good snow year in February and expect to be walking much of the last day of the trip even then. It was always in my mind to perhaps carry hiking boots along with my ski boots for this last stretch. I scheduled the trip for the Family Day long weekend, hoping to cover the 60 Kms over three days. Excellent snowfall this winter had me leaving my hiking boots at home as there was probably enough snow at Ya Ha Tinda to ski all the way. We arranged for transportation as this is one of the most challenging aspects of the trip. The car shuttle is almost 400 Kms one way. Chuck's wife Lesley and my wife Judy would drive us to Lake Louise and ski part way in with us and then meet us at Ya Ha Tinda three days later. As a precaution Chuck rented a satellite phone so that we could decide if we would make it out to Ya Ha Tinda on time or if we would need to turn back due to snow conditions. Bob Toot-hill and Julie Muller met us at Lake Louise and we set off on our way into the Skoki area. The snow is as good as I have seen it in my 30 years of backcountry skiing. Most years were like this in the 70's and 80's but the snow droughts of the last decade made this feel like heaven. 50 to 60 cms of new snow had fallen in the past few weeks. At Boulder Pass we parted company with our porters, Judy, Leslie and MJ. Our route would take us across Baker Lake and down Cotton Grass Pass to Red Deer Lakes. A strong wind was at our backs, often gusting over 60-70 kms/hr, pushing us down the pass and valley to our first campsite. We camped at SK19 on the south side of Red Deer Lakes, 19 kms from the trailhead. We were well sheltered in the trees and it was a warm and comfortable evening camping.

Early next morning we broke camp and headed out. It was warm, overcast and snowing heavily. Trail breaking was heavy and slow but for a short while we were on a broken trail in the trees and our progress improved rapidly. Then back into the open in Shingle Flats and reality set in again. The heavy snow and winds had filled all of the depressions in the ground and in between the drifts with soft pillows of snow. You would step into these and flounder around until you could climb out. We had decided that by noon we would have to reach the warden cabin near Skelton Lake if we had any hope of reaching our campsite near Tyrrell Creek. At 11:30, I pulled out my GPS and determined that we were still at least 6 Kms from the Cabin. There was no way that we were going to make 20 Kms today breaking trail under these snow conditions. In the early 1980's I was on a five day trip into Assiniboine. Thigh deep snow without a base and very high avalanche conditions had prevented our backtracking our route. This turned a five day trip into a seven day epic when a parks helicopter picked us up and flew us out. We

were still two days from the road and out of food. I was determined not to repeat this experience. We turned back and camped again at the same campsite. Chuck called home on the Satellite phone and arranged for the girls to meet us at the Lake Louise. This was great because without communications they would have waited and skied into meet us at Ya Ha Tinda and we would not have had any way to communicate with them.

The next morning we headed back up towards Skoki Lodge via Jones Pass. At the Junction near the lodge we meet some skiers from the lodge and were informed that a Norwalk virus outbreak had occurred there and more than a dozen sick people were being taken out by Ski Doo. We carried on over Deception Pass and just below Boulder Pass we met the girls and Allan Main who skied in to meet us. A fast run out on fantastic snow had us back at the Alpine Centre drinking beer and eating buffalo burgers.

This is a still a trip that I plan to complete in the future. It is a beautiful route and the environs around Red Deer Lakes are breathtaking. Snow conditions are key, too much snow and you simply can't travel 20 Km a day breaking trail. Too little snow and you end up walking with your skis on your back. Given the remoteness of the valley with no escape route, I would add a fourth day to the trip to ensure that we could make it all the way and not have to turn back. A few times as I was floundering in the deep snow I thought about how this route might be nicer on the back of one of my Appaloosa's in the warm summer sunshine. That may happen someday as well, but the lure of Lake Louise to Ya Ha Tinda on skis is still there.

Participants: Chuck Young, Bob Toothill, Julie Muller and Peter Haase, Leader and scribe.

**Alan's Secret White Powder Stash (BITS Bow Summit Trip)
By Charles Aram**

It all started off well enough with an introduction for us novices to a pilgrimage to Laggans for coffee. After this initiation we set off for what we thought would be Bow Summit. As we carried on round on highway 1 however it was clear Alan had other things in mind and rumours started spreading about Alan's legendary white powder stashes. When talk started of this one of the party, in the final stages of her training with the Calgary Police Service thought she might be onto the bust of her life but the truth, although potentially as dangerous as the other stuff, was far more palatable in the eyes of the law!

We arrived at the parking lot in swirling mist and were soon off uphill. With every metre gained the more experienced members of the team got more and more excited at the quality of the snow, and the potential 'open lanes' that could be skied. To those not familiar with this however all we saw was a lot of bottomless snow and far too many trees to ski into! We carried on climbing to about two thirds height of the slope and then we called a halt. After a brief check of the snow pack we split into groups and after a final piece of advice (remember to aim for the gaps, not the trees) the various groups

hurtled down the slope vying for the best fresh tracks. There were many styles and levels of skiing evident from effortless Tele turning and spectacular AT skiing to 'British Marine' Style (I can't stop myself but then isn't that what the trees are for) but we all made it down in one piece and were thrilled at the quality of the skiing

We then trudge back up the track and started venturing into the higher reaches of the slope. After some far too steep up hill stretches (and much swearing) we stopped for lunch opposite a wide bowl. During lunch the cloud that had enveloped us occasionally cleared giving stunning views to the north. Over lunch much discussion was had over how to safely ski the bowl. A consensus could not be reached so, instead of setting off down the bowl we decided to go higher and try and avoid it on the way down so, after another 15 minutes trailblazing we set off down again. Naturally, with our cunning plan to avoid the bowl and it's potential danger, we ended up directly above it! Due to the varying levels of competency we finally ended skiing the left, the right and the centre of the bowl and we can thankfully say they were in the end, all safe (or at least safe enough for us!). We carried on down through the trees trying hard to find fresh tracks down the slope, soon learning the difference between cutting through fresh powder and stuff others had been through before (more eating snow!)

For the third and last run of the day we headed more West from our previous starting points. It was becoming clear though that this perhaps should be the last run when a conversation was had over the radios:

'Where are you?

'Well there's lots of snow where I am – and trees'

'What are the trees like?'

'Well, one is tall, with branches and needles, and another one like it, and another one'

'And the snow'

'Well it's white, powdery and deep'

'Oh yeah, I know exactly where you mean, see you in a couple of minutes'

The third run was as good as the last two and when we finally met up again at the track, all felt it had been an excellent day's skiing. There only remained the race back to the cars and into the bar at Lake Louise. For some this took on a slightly too serious aspect as they sped away from the rest of the group (or maybe it was the alcohol calling!).

The bar at the Post House was a perfect place to recap on the day and go through the lessons learned (it really does help if you try and avoid the trees, staying on your feet also helps, but isn't essential) and before the fire and beer made us all collapse into a stupor on the sofas we split up and left for Calgary.

From the newbie's, our thanks go out to the experienced members who sacrificed what would I am sure have been a wonderful day skiing to look after us, Heather, Jason and Ben, and our especial thanks to Alan for organising the trip and letting us share one of his well kept secret stashes.

Trip coordinator: Alan Fortune

Co-Leaders: Ben Stephenson, Heather Eddie & Jason McCran

Crew: Charles Aram, Dean Duffin, Brendon Jones, Tracy Jones, David Thompson, Allan Mathies, Evelyn Mathies, Margaret Reinder & Calvin Chan

SECTION ENQUIRIES:

P.O. Box 1995
 Calgary, AB
 T2P 2M2

ADDRESS CHANGES:

The Alpine Club of Canada
 P.O. Box 8040
 Canmore, AB T1W 2T8
 (403) 678-3200 678-3224(f)



NO CALLS AFTER 10 PM IS THE POLICY OF THE SECTION, THANK YOU

Calgary Section Contact Information

Chair: Ray Norman 403 609-0337
 x raynorm@telus.net
Past Chair: Vacant
Vice-Chair: Paul Masiar pmasiar@shaw.ca
Treasurer: Trevor Penford 238-3486
 tpenford@buffalo-oil.com
Library: Cam Roe 253-5463
Secretary: Renee Lavergne 697-8482
 climbingren@hotmail.com

Member Services:
 Chair: Elizabeth Dupuis 298-6561

Social Committee:
 Chair: Jacqueline Louie 289-5787
 Derek Kemp 253-5339

Climbing Committee:
 Chair: Peter Lloyd 247-0204
 Orvel Miskiw 932-2800
 Andy Strangemann 220-0212
 Rebecca Haspel 275-5656
 Dave Hanson 827-5441
 David Roe 282-8025
 Tom Fransham 880-4455

Club Ropes:
 Stan Bobrow 217-2260

Access Committee:
 Chair: Nivea L. de Oliveira
 nldeoliv@ucalgary.ca

Training and Leadership Committee:
 Chair: Frédéric Labarre
 frederic_labarre@yahoo.ca
 Stacey Karalash 283-1206
 Mark Lane
 Roberto Salguero 262-3913
 Andy Strangemann 220-0212

Ski Committee:
 Chair: Tom Fransham tfransham@shaw.ca
 AlanFortune fortune2@telus.net
 Ben Stephenson
 Stephensonben@hotmail.com
 Heather Eadie Heathereadie@hotmail.com
 Jason McCrank jasonmccrank@hotmail.com
 Lisa Bergen lbergen@hotmail.com
 Lisa-Lee Johnson lisa_leej@yahoo.com
 Mike Gendreau dmg100@gmail.com
 Ryan Macauley ry_and_coke@hotmail.com

Chinook:
 Carmie Callanan (Editor) 813-8959
 callanan@telusplanet.net

Collating:
 Chuck & Lesley Young 239-4611
 c.young@shaw.ca

Calgary Section Web Site:
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/calgary>

Email List Service (post and subscribe)
 acccalgary@hotmail.com

Chinook Submissions: Any article relating to the Club or the mountains is welcome. Please send submissions as an email attachment to **callanan@telusplanet.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.