



# The Chinook

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

Volume 42, Number 04

May 2007

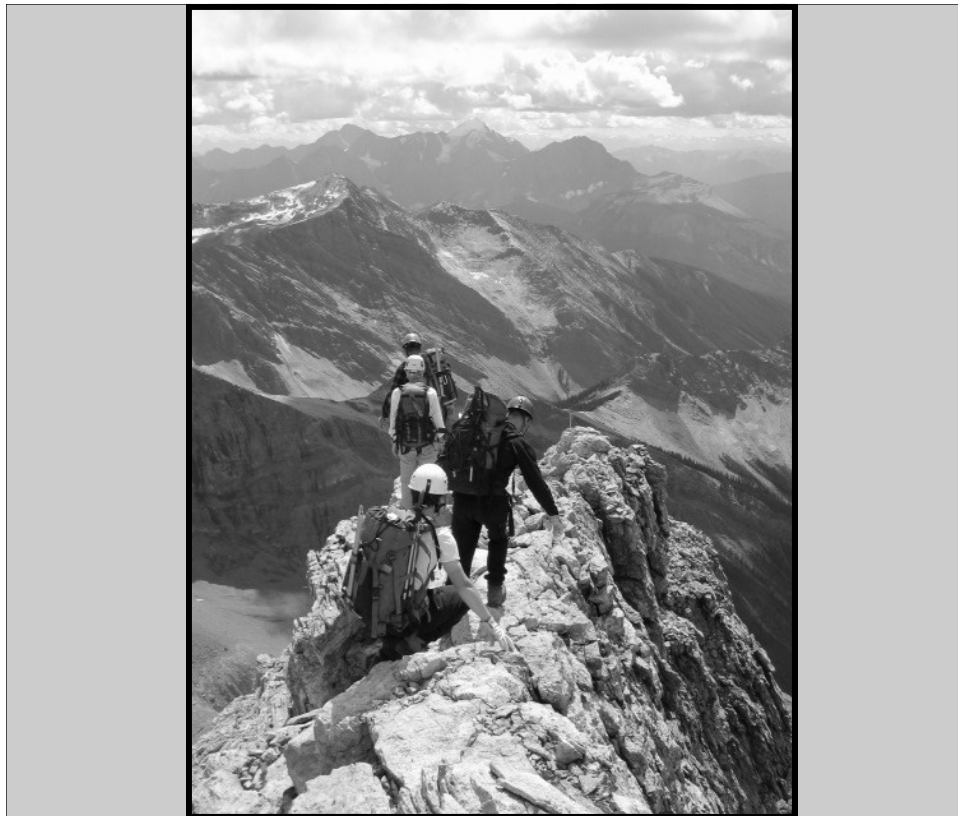
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The next Calgary Section Meeting is at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 15 May 2007  
at the Bow Waters Canoe Club, 1975—26th Street SE

This Month:

Speaker: Colin MacPhee, Cartographer & GIS Analyst

Mountaineering and Cartography: From Sir George Everest to A.O. Wheeler



Mt. Stephen Summit Ridge  
David Mulligan

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**SUMMER UPDATE**

The JUNE meeting (Tuesday, 19 June) is the PHOTO CONTEST. The deadline for entries is at the Section Meeting, 15 May 2007. See the April Chinook, or the website, for further information

**July**—Chinook YES (Please send articles), meeting NO  
**August**—Chinook NO, meeting YES— the annual barbecue in Edworthy Park Tuesday 21 August. See details in June & July Chinooks.

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**ACC CALGARY SECTION**

Date: Tuesday March 20, 2006  
Location: Bow Water Canoe Club  
Commenced: 19:45 Adjourned: 20:05

**MEETING MINUTES**

Section Business

- Ray welcomed new members and 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.

Ray has received magazines and newsletters from other sections and brought these tonight. They will be available for perusal on the back table.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Social Committee

- Tonight's speaker is Richard Berry and the topic is Mountain Photography. Handouts regarding a Photography Workshop will be available tonight.
- The April meeting will feature Alexander Bak talking about "Exploring the Mountains of East Africa". The annual photo contest has been moved to June.

Climbing Committee

- The climbing committee has started assembling the summer trip schedule. Leaders are encouraged to sign up a few trips and those who sign up before the April meeting will be entered for a draw for a free pass at the CCC.
- The Rock Review will be held the first weekend of June in the Ghost area and will include both climbs and scrambles. The committee is also looking for leaders to lead trips during this weekend.
- Greg McDougald has joined the climbing committee and we welcome him warmly.
- The committee is putting together a "mentor list" and is looking for seasoned leaders available to mentor new leaders.
- The committee is also available to provide support to trips leaders. Contact them for information or if you need a second leader.
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Peter urged members to not sign up for trips before the trip schedule is officially published and distributed. He also encouraged members to give ample notice to trip leaders if they must cancel.

Treasurer

- The 2006 financial statement was published in the March Chinook. Peter proposed a motion to approve the financial statements. The motion was seconded by Tom and all were in favour. The motion was passed and the 2006 financial statements were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Chuck has extra National Park annual passes to give away. Results from the National membership survey are available online at the National website.

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**ACC CALGARY SECTION**

Date: Tuesday April 17, 2007  
 Location: Bow Water Canoe Club  
 Commenced: 19:50 Adjourned:20:15

**MEETING MINUTES**

Section Business

- Ray welcomed new members and 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.
- Members were asked to sign up to man an ACC booth to be set up at Mountain Equipment COOP (MEC) on May 10, 11 and 12. The purpose of the display is to provide information about the club and encourage people to join. Ray will pick up the display from National.
- Elections for the section executive will be held in the Fall. Members are encourage to contact any member of the current executive if they wish to volunteer for a position next year. The photo contest will be held at the June section meeting; the deadline for entering the contest is the May section meeting. Entries must be submitted to Cam Roe. Recipients of last year's trophies are urged to return the trophies as soon as possible and in good shape.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Climbing Committee

The summer trip schedule was posted on the wall for leaders to enter their trips. Trips can also be e-mailed to Peter. Trips should be submitted this week as the schedule needs to go to print shortly.

##### Training & Leadership Committee

- Two copies of the Canadian Alpinist Journal will be available in the library this year.
- The following events are offered to trip leaders:
- May 29: Rock Rescue (additional spots open to all members)
- June 16/17: Advanced Alpine Leadership
- July 14/15: Intro to Rock Leadership
- Women are also asked to consider the Marmot Mountaineering Workshop organized by National. All members are invited to attend courses offered by Rocky Mountain Adventure Medicine and Yamnuska. Subsidies are available to trip leaders.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- As president of the ACC, Cam Roe attended a UIAA meeting in Vancouver. Part of the discussion revolved around the potential introduction of the following events at the Olympic Games: competitive wall climbing, back country ski mountaineering, and ice climbing.
- The ACC Annual General Meeting will be held on May 5 and 6 and representants from all the country's sections will be attending. Members are encouraged to share suggestions and complaints with Ray or Cam ahead of time. Paul Masiar announced that MEC has pledged \$250,000 plus another \$100,000 in matched donations to purchase land around Skaha to secure access for the climbers. The land would be turned into a natural preserve. Members who are interested can visit the [www.climbing.com](http://www.climbing.com) website where they can make a donation which will be matched by MEC.

**Putting it all together: Map, Compass, Altimeter and GPS Navigation Seminar — May 26 or June 23, 2007**

The training and leadership committee is putting together a seminar to upgrade or refresh the navigation skills of the membership and leaders. Join us for a day to refresh your rusty skills or bring your insight to the group as we revive the old art of Navigation. Our classroom will be the outdoors and should take a full day. The seminar will cover the following:

- Reading Topographic maps: we will cover map reading skills; from finding the right map for your trip to locating the trailhead. We will also cover interpreting contours, recognizing features and plotting a course..
- Instant Position: We will introduce GPS and discuss its impact on navigation. Find out about UTM, learn how to decipher coordinates and transfer coordinates from a map to a GPS unit.
- Altimeter : Effective use of the altimeter as a navigation tool.
- Finding North: We will review everything from how to hold your compass to knowing the difference between Magnetic North, True North and Grid North.
- Putting our skills to the test: We will practice following a bearing from a map and traveling on a bearing. Discover how to navigate from GPS waypoints. Also review techniques such as resection of your position, pacing and dead reckoning.

This seminar is put together by an Easterner and a Yukoner who haven't found their way back home. If you would like to join us please email Mathieu Bourgeois at [mathieu\\_b77@hotmail.com](mailto:mathieu_b77@hotmail.com) for the May 26 date or Mark Lane at [acc\\_markl@yahoo.com](mailto:acc_markl@yahoo.com) for the June 23 date. Attendance is limited to 6 people for each date. The May seminar is first come first serve. The June seminar will give priority to current trip leaders. So sign up early the deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup> for the May date and June 17 for the June date. We can provide compass and GPS but bring your own if you have them. All levels of experience are welcome.

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ACC Calgary Section  
Advanced Alpine Leadership Weekend  
Dates: June 16, 17, 2007                      Location: Columbia Icefields

This course is designed for the leader who wants to take the next step up in leading Alpine Snow & Ice Climbs for the section. It is intended for leaders who already have solid skills in glacier travel, short roping and ice climbing and want to gain advanced skills in leading club trips on multi-pitch summer ice routes. We will focus on managing a rope team of three on a route that

involves glacier travel, several technical snow and ice pitches, short roping and a multi-pitch rappel and/or lower descent. The participants will be leading all of the pitches to gain experience, thus all participants should be capable of leading on easy technical ice.

We will spend the first day in skills practice (likely on the N Glacier of Mt. Athabasca) working on systems and rope handling to facilitate an actual climb on the second day. We will look at rope handling, belay and rappel station management for a three-person rope team. Our focus will be on safe, quick, efficient systems for getting up those routes that involve more than just simple glacier travel. The intent at this time is to climb A2 on the second day via the classic North Face ice apron and descend the same route. This is all dependent upon weather and conditions, of course, and is subject to change. The course will be limited to a maximum of six participants. It is the expectation that participants in this course will contribute back to the club by continuing to lead alpine trips for the Calgary Section.

Interested? Email Stacey Karalash at [staceycaralash@shaw.ca](mailto:staceycaralash@shaw.ca) to get an application form. This form will need to be returned by **May 25<sup>th</sup>**. The successful participants will then need to provide a \$150 deposit, which will be returned to them upon their successful completion of the course.

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**Tech Tips: Cleaning Wax off Skis  
Orvel Miskiw**

Years ago, I remember hearing advice on removing wax from skis to the effect that 'white gas' such as Coleman stove fuel was not the thing to use, even though it was well known to work very well.

I knew that myself, having tried it a couple of times, but supposedly the objection was that white gas and other solvents like varsol leave a film of residue which resists subsequent waxing. I had not noticed any problem particularly, but since I was using at least some wooden skis at the time, I was also concerned about possible damage to the wood caused by solvents. As well, since I rarely needed to clean wax off skis thoroughly, it was a simple matter to avoid white gas and use the time-honoured tools, rag and torch or iron on those occasions, maybe once a year.

However, the subject of ski base cleaning arose again among some friends recently after a nice day of skiing on wet snow, when we had to use a variety of gooey waxes to get anywhere. The old advice against white gas came to mind, and I took the opportunity to test it, knowing that white gas will not damage modern plastic bases at least.

What I found is that not only is white gas much more convenient to use than a torch or iron — think anywhere, but especially outdoors, in a wind, or by the side of a road — **white gas and a rag remove wax quickly and easily, and afterwards--wax sticks to the base** as well as I can imagine, I'd say perfectly.

I'll add a few provisos to this advice about wax removal with a solvent:

- a. Since **white gas is extremely combustible**, obviously it's not a good idea to clean your skis with it while smoking or by candle light.
- b. White gas dissolves the wax to make it easier to **wipe off**. This is best done with an absorbent collector like a **cotton T-shirt**; **avoid paper towels** unless you have no choice, as they come apart easily, leaving wax and a paper trail.
- c. I experimented with **only white gas**, but think that paint thinner or varsol COULD leave a wax-resistant residue, as it seems somewhat 'oily' to me. I'll leave that for someone else to experiment with, but if you have to clean your skis with varsol and find that wax does not stick to them very well afterwards, simply wash the bases with a little dish detergent or even any available soap in, preferably warm, water, then dry them and they'll be as good as new.

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**Ice Review 2007: Mild, windy, somewhat successful**  
**By Orvel Miskiw**

This year's Ice Review proceeded only 5 days after New Years', but mild weather and the promise of good ice conditions attracted some 50 people out to the event in the Ghost River valley anyway.

As usual, early Saturday morning, most participants congregated at the northwest edge of the city to receive and share information and rides, and then convoyed to the main campsite at the bottom of the final big hill where the Forestry Reserve road descends to the Ghost River flats. Meanwhile, the Section's big tents and other necessary camp gear had been picked up from the equipment shed (by Bob Bigelow) and hauled to the spot, where a few eager climbers had camped overnight after driving out on Friday.

With the arrival of the main group of participants from the city, several eager volunteers made short work of setting up the tents and making basic camp preparations, before setting off to a good variety of ice climbs for the rest of the day in mild but turbulent weather. Again, staff from Mountain Equipment Co-Op were on hand with an assortment of demonstration gear for participants to try, or just admire.

The majority of participants were absorbed by the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, and the Valley of Birds, and This House of Sky, but several other objectives were also visited by small and isolated parties. Climbs in The Peanut Gallery, and Wicked Wanda, Sunshine, and French Technique, for example, were reported, though not all were among the 'official list' of climbs for the day, as several people went out on their own during the day and joined the rest afterwards for dinner.

Beginning about 5:30 pm, climbers filtered back to the camp site, and so began the process of lighting lanterns, starting fires in the fire pit and wood stove, and thawing out the frozen chili. From the start, returning climbers were eager for food and beer, but since it was obvi-

ous that the food would take quite a while, their attention turned to the beer kegs, which were found immediately. However, it was some time before the tap **could** be located, during which the atmosphere around camp understandably became tense.

However, eventually a keg was tapped, beer began to flow, the chili was heated, and so on. All was well, except that around that time (8 pm), we noticed that a large group still had not returned from House of Sky. As there had been no radio contact with them, a group of the revelers in camp set down their cups and got ready to go out looking for them. About a half hour after they left, we got word that contact had been made with the climbers; they spent a lot longer than expected on the tedious descent from their climb, but otherwise everything was fine, and soon everyone was back at Camp.

The Ice Review is a great event where participants can climb with a good variety of others, and learn from and teach them, and later share experiences, and discuss equipment and techniques in the familiar casual surroundings of the camp. This is supported by several local businesses and agencies, who donate various items of merchandise related to climbing, and those are distributed as raffle prizes at the fire pit later in the evening. Typical prizes vary from ditty bags to ropes, and a certain amount of bartering goes on too.

Our thanks to MEC, Calgary Climbing Centre, Wicked Gravity, Ortovox Canada, the Banff Festival of Mountain Films, and as always Mike Mortimer who is involved in the last two of those and now President of the UIAA, and well known as past chairman of the ACC and the Calgary Section, and previous proprietor of the Hostel Shop for many years.

Most participants spent Saturday night there, in their own tents or vehicles. Unfortunately this year the wind got wild during the night and caused quite a bit of damage around camp, including broken tent frames, torn canvas, broken lanterns, and spilled chili, and it persisted into Sunday morning. As a result, few people felt like going climbing on Sunday, so after the camp was packed up, a sizable group headed for Smittys in Cochrane for breakfast, and others just went home.

I was about the last to leave the camp site about mid-morning after cleaning up, and by then the weather seemed to be improving, but the few people I know of who actually went climbing that day said the conditions were still unpleasant, with wind gusts and blowing snow. But the weekend was a reasonable success--after all, who really goes there to climb anyway?! Every year throws something a bit different at us, and the Ice Review tradition continues.

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**SHANGRI – LA Cabin, Jasper National Park      23 – 25 March 2007  
By Michael Teekens**

Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a very sunny and fine March day, a party of five enthusiastic skiers in two cars headed to Jasper. We interrupted the long trip twice, at Deadman's Flats and at Lake Louise for coffee. In Jasper we checked at the Parks Information Centre and then picked up the key to the cabin before driving down the Maligne Lake Road. The sky had clouded over by 3:30 pm when we started skiing on a packed trail through the woods, over a shoulder and into the

drainage of Jeffery's Creek.

The route is mostly a gentle uphill, and we experienced very thick and hard packed snow cover over the creek; as we travelled it started snowing lightly. After about 7 kms the trail turns left leaving the drainage and rises gently uphill through a forest of well spaced trees; it flattens, then suddenly drops off for a short section down to the cabin. The total distance from road to cabin is only 8 kms. It was 7 pm and still light when the five of us arrived at the cabin, which sleeps six. When we were relaxing after dinner, Mike had announced that the next day he would turn the big 40. Had we known in advance we would have brought cake to celebrate but he had wanted to keep it low key.

Next day it snowed all day but that did not deter us from exploring the area on skis. We skied as high as possible on Sunset Peak, left the skis near a rock and walked up to the summit. With limited visibility, ten minutes there was enough; we walked back down to the skis, crossed the valley to a nice slope and did some yo-yo skiing on fantastic snow, 1.5 to 2 m deep. We finished the day with a nice long run back to the cabin for dinner and a game of cards.

Sunday morning early the weather was clearing off and a good snowfall overnight had covered much of our tracks. We skied towards Little Shovel Pass, where we enjoyed some good runs with superb views from a high ridge. By noon we had returned to the hut for a quick lunch, a session of phototaking and final packing up. At 12.30 pm we headed out the same way we came up, a very pleasant mostly gentle downhill trip. We drove back to Jasper where Mike dropped off the key before the five of us had an early supper. All agreed that we had had a wonderful time.

The trip home was different: after 20 minutes of driving we found the Icefield Parkway blocked off. What to do? Wait in hopes it would re-open? Katerina (one driver) with Alda and me, chose to head to Calgary via Edmonton -- a very long journey. We arrived in the wee hours of Monday morning. Our conclusion was that we had had a great long weekend but next time it would be nicer to stay and ski there for three full days -- the potential for skiing destinations is great. This was our SHANGRI - LA !

**Participants:** Mike Gendreau (co-ordinator), Alda Sigvaldason, Greg MacDougall, Katerina Mer-  
vat, and Michael Teekens (scribe).

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**LITTLE YOHO 9 - 13 April 2007  
By Michael Teekens**

The weather Monday morning did not look very promising at all; five of us drove in two cars and we briefly stopped at Deadman's Flats for a little conference in the rain. Our original plan was to ski the Yoho Traverse starting from Bow Lake; Plan "B" was put into action as we all agreed that we should ski into the Stanley Mitchell hut instead.

Light rain dampened our spirits a bit when we arrived at the start of the 13 k road to T Falls, but we could not afford to lose time. We started skiing at 10.35 in snow conditions that really required the use of skins. Once above the two 'hairpin' turns it was easier going, although we crossed a couple areas of very large and deep avalanche debris that completely covered the road a kilometre or so after the turns. At the Tekakkah Falls shelter we had our lunch inside where the people we had met coming out had made a fire in the stove. After half an hour or so we continued on to Laughing Falls. The snow depth here was well over a meter packed. Then came the hard uphill work, but once past the steep bit, there was some fresh

snow which made skiing a little easier. I arrived at the Stanley Mitchell hut by 7 pm. There were only two other people in the hut apart from our group, and they were planning to move out the next day.

**Tuesday morning** was cloudy and snowing on and off lightly. We made the best of the day by skiing up to Kiwetinok Pass; there were excellent snow conditions on a pack of 1,5 to 2m but it was very windy at the pass so we skied down to a nice slope where we did some yo-yo skiing. After several beautiful runs we returned to the hut and relaxed with supper, some card games and reading.

**Wednesday morning** looked very good, a clear sunny day so after breakfast we got ready. It is easier to put the sit harness on before leaving. At 9 am we headed towards the President Glacier where we roped up, the five of us together. Greg would lead the way being strong and full of energy. As we inched up it looked like there was a cornice at the col. Fortunately we were mistaken; it was quite a steep snow slope which we overcame. On the col at noon we were treated to some fantastic views south while we ate; there was not a breeze and it was even hot in the sun. After lunch Manfred lead the way up the steep snow slope to the summit. It was quite exposed at times and he did an excellent job. We topped out at 1.55pm. with time to enjoy the scenery. Photos were taken and by 2.10 pm Greg led us down the same way we had come up. At the exposed section we were careful to face into the slope. Once down to the col, since it was still early afternoon, Manfred, who would not let a good opportunity pass, decided to ski and climb up the opposite side -- to the Vice President. We, the four of us, sat down and watched him. It was so nice to sit in the sunshine and take in the views. Manfred had disappeared from sight and eventually we were wondering when he would return. Finally we saw him and then in no time he was way below waiting for us as we were still roped up to down climb to our skis. The ski run down the glacier was awesome; we made it safely down off the glacier in half an hour and were back at the hut just before 6 pm. - perfect timing for supper.

**Thursday** was another glorious sunny day. We decided to ski up Mt. MacArthur 3015 m. Again we left at 9 am, this time not sure whether we needed to be roped up but prepared for it. Our route took us uphill behind the hut to a bench. We skied towards Isolated Col turning sharply left avoiding any avalanches on the way. Once on a high shoulder we sat down for a rest in the hot sun. As it warms up so quickly you must not neglect your skin. I use zinc oxide, a white cream. The lips are a very sensitive, and in no time everyone wanted a bit of my cream. It saved their skin! We continued following a good track with a very pleasant uphill grade. Just below the ridge we had a short lunch break, then skied up to the summit ridge, left the skis there and walked up to the true summit. Glorious views are to be had as far as the eye can see. Looking north I could see the route coming from the Bow Hut area. After 15 mins we returned to our skis; the summit ridge was a short very steep ski and then the return to the hut was a very pleasant long run.

**Friday morning** was cloudy again but we were going home. At the steep section down to Laughing Falls I put my skins on because the route was like concrete, but as the temperature rose the snow softened up. With a few breaks on the way we all made it safely down. At the road section where there had been avalanche debris I noticed another avalanche had come down but not to the road. We came back at the parking lot by 2.30 pm, taking a little less than 6 hours skiing. We stopped in Canmore at a restaurant and then said goodbye and drove home. We all agreed that we had a very very good time at the hut.

**Participants:** Manfred Czechak (co-ordinator), Tom (student from Austria), Greg MacDougall, (aspiring guide), Alda Sigvaldason and myself Michael Teekens (scribe)

the **CASE** OF the

A TRIP REPORT • By Carolyn Fisher

*Runaway Skis*

2/11 SMUTS-BIRDWOOD LOOP STARRING **STAN BOBROW**

THERE GOES my SKI!

**STAN HITS A SNAG**

WATCH OUT!

and **MEGAN FOLLOWS SUIT!**

**HAPPY ENDING**  
All runaway SKIS REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS!

**THANKS TO** Intrepid Leader **STAN BOBROW**: and to **MEGAN J.** for DRIVING. A FUN CREW: **DEBORAH BOBROW, ELIZABETH D., AL, ROLAND E., ELISABETH E., CAROLYN F., MEGAN J., PHYLLIS N., MARG R., LIONEL V.**

**NEXT EPISODE: WIPE-OUT in a WHITE-OUT!**

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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@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.