



The Chinook

Volume 40, Number 8

September 2005

The next Calgary Section Meeting is on Tuesday, September 20th 2005 at 7:30 pm
at the Clubhouse of the Bow Waters Canoe Club, 1975—26th Street SE

September Speaker:

WILL GADD



Mt Joffre by Rob Owens

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Request for Capital Expense

After looking for many months to find somewhere to store all of the Section Camp gear, we have found someone willing to give up space on their property for a shed. It is proposed that we use capital funding to purchase a shed for this purpose.

In the past, the Section Camp has always run on a break-even basis and will continue to do so. This is a one-time application for capital expenditure to ensure the safeguarding of the equipment that will also be used for other events such as the Ice Review and the Rock Review. Any other Section equipment that is accumulated will also be stored in this shed.

There are no plans to move the storage of the ropes - they are currently being well-taken care of by Stan Bobrow and as long as he is willing, they will remain in his safekeeping.

We will initially attempt to purchase a second-hand shed through such avenues as the Bargain Finder to keep costs as low as possible. If we are unable to find one that is in good condition, we would like to purchase a new shed at the following costs:

\$999.99 - shed
\$369.99 - floor
\$300 - shelving
~\$1670.00

This proposal will be put to a vote at the next Section Meeting (Tuesday September 20th 2005). If you are unable to attend that meeting, but would still like to cast a vote, please contact Sandy Walker (sandy.w@shaw.ca) or Ray Norman (raynorm@telus.net) before the meeting.

**ACC Calgary Section Camp in the Jumbo Area,
July 23-30, 2005
By David Mulligan**

2005's ACC Calgary Section camp near the Commander Glacier (GR 335868, 82K7) was reduced to two full weeks only. July 23-30 was the second week and we all had a great time under Ray Hogan's guidance. Most of the 16 participants summited all of the peaks accessed by glacier (Karnak 11,191 ft, Jumbo 11,276 ft, Commander 11,060 ft, Cleaver and the 3 Guardsman) and some did Mt Maye also. The weather, views and companionship were the finest.

Despite some initial concerns, the helicopter staging area about 50km West of Radium was easily reached by car on the good Horsethief Creek gravel road. Some left their vehicles there and combined with others to drive another 10km up the rougher Farnham road, thus reducing the walk-in to only 3 kms. The heavy stuff went by chopper. All this for \$300! Anthony and Orvel took a scenic route but arrived just before most had begun the walk-in. Orvel's heavy gear had made the chopper but Anthony's did not. So, without exception, we all lined up and added some of his load to our small day packs. This set the tone for the whole week.

The short but steep walk followed the moraine to the campsite set in a small basin in a spectacular setting just below the Commander glacier. We chose our own tent pads to add to the two group canvas tents, outhouse and shower stall. This took most of Saturday and it was evening before routes and objectives could be discussed. In addition to some interesting historical folders with information from earlier Alpine journals and bivouac.com, 'Week One' had fortunately left us good descriptions of their activities. We found these most useful, excepting the description for Mt Maye which no-one could decipher even later in the week. Reading of hazards of falling seracs on the Commander Glacier persuaded us to use the longer but safe ridge route above the outhouse. This route was used all week to access the glacier peaks. There was no high camp, nor was it needed.

On Sunday, virtually the whole camp made it up the Cleaver, which permitted a good overview of the other peaks. As the week progressed, the camp essentially split up into 3 groups: faster, moderate and slower. By Wednesday the faster group had done all the glacier peaks. Since there was little to climb in a partial day, one seasoned mountaineer even resorted to sunbathing, to the consternation of at least one female participant. Following some scouting earlier in the week, a group of eight tackled Mt Maye on the Friday and all made the

summit without difficulty. There were good views of the Lake of the Hanging Glacier from this peak and also from Commander. Meanwhile the glacier was opening up, and Aaron took an unscheduled visit into a crevasse, but he managed to prussic out in a short time. (see following article) It is difficult if not impossible to envisage safe year round skiing in this area. Presently, the area is pristine and the proposed downhill ski area will wreck it. A shame. The only real evidence of earlier camps (in the 1920's, 1950's and 1970's?) was a stone wall to shield a tent on the ridge towards Cleaver.

As usual the Friday evening party was a success with the old children's game of "pin the tail on the donkey" one of the highlights. I forget who was closest, but the real winner (for the men anyway) was Aaron, who blindly stuck his tail on xxxx's right breast. She stayed well away from later efforts. Andy, Mathieu and Dianna entertained with some interesting guitar.

On the last Saturday, July 30th, everyone pitched in to dismantle the camp. Rose and Aaron walked out early to handle the helicopter baggage at the cars, which were reached by the remainder in the early afternoon. Then followed a dusty drive back to Radium, which was basking in 31C. heat. Some stayed for supper, while others headed straight home. Most of the group gear is now at Anthony's place. This was the last section camp organized by Bill Marriot and our thanks go to him for his work over the past six(?) years. I believe Sandy Walker is taking over and will welcome suggestions re location and any other help. Thanks also to Ray Hogan for keeping us in line for this week, and for the thrashing trail breaking in 1 metre of sugar snow on Jumbo.



For Sale

**MEC Fall Line Goretex Bibs
Men's Medium
\$260.00**

Call David 240-0925

Our Jumbo Crevasse Adventure

By Aaron Archibald

Over the preceding 30 minutes on July 28th 2005 seven climbers had crossed the crevasse. I was fourth out of five on two ropes joined at the third climber. As I approached a 2 ft. wide slot I could see that I had the choice between two spots for my last step. I chose the higher of the two and when I pushed off it collapsed. The collapse absorbed energy from the jump and I came down on the other side a little short of where I planned. My foot went through the snow and I was sinking.

This trip across the glacier by the same route was our third in five days. Rose, my wife, and I joined the Calgary Section Camp with objectives of three 11,000 foot peaks: Jumbo, Commander and Karnak. Ray Norman was leading our team. Stacy Karalash was in second place on the rope, Mathieu Bourgeois third, myself fourth and Rose fifth. This day we were bound for Jumbo.

Mathieu had crossed the crevasse ahead of me and had tightened the rope. He turned to watch my crossing. When I disappeared, Mathieu dropped to a seated position digging his heels into the snow. Everyone braced against the pull of the rope. I weigh about 220 lbs. with gear. Stacey felt she was holding about 100 lbs. I came to rest gently and comfortably in a reclining position with my head about 7 ft. below the surface. I was in a 3 ft. wide vertical crack that curved out of sight some 50 ft. below.

Above me, Rose pushed her ice axe vertically into the snow until the head was well below the surface and attached the rope. Mathieu built an ice axe 'T' slot anchor. I removed the ice axe leash from my wrist and slipped the axe into my harness gear loop. My first concern was the team's ability to hold me but I wasn't moving down so I thought I would trust them with the anchoring and busied myself with climbing out. I had been practicing crevasse rescue and self-rescue with Rose the day before so the procedure felt pretty familiar.

I shouted that I was 'ok' and then heard Rose's voice nearby asking if I wanted a rescue or would climb out. I told her I would climb out and proceeded to install my prusiks. At Rose's suggestion I removed my pack and clipped it to the rope behind me. I was carrying our camera and we wanted pictures from above but I couldn't think of a way to get the camera up to her.

The day was warm and sunny but it was 9 am and I still hadn't removed my fleece jacket so I wasn't cold. The air in the crevasse was cool and refreshing and the ice was a beautiful, wet transparent blue. Sitting in the harness was ok but it felt better when I was able to stand up in my aiders. I swung myself around so that my toes were into the uphill wall and started moving up. The most difficult task was loosening the prusik knots to slide them up after they had been weighted. When I got near the top of the ice I used my ice axe to clear snow from above me and carefully from around the rope so I could get prusiks above the lip. Ray drove his axe into the snow vertically and stood on the head. He then extended the leash to me and I used it to pull myself over the top as I stood up in a foot-loop I had tied in the long prusik.

We were climbing again to Jumbo by 10 am and made the summit at noon. Thank you Ray, Stacey, Mathieu, and Rose from Aaron.

The self rescue method:
Texas Prusik (Off Belay, The Mountain Magazine, August 1978, Number 40)

- Equipment:
- 1 prusik loop supporting the harness
 - 1 prusik loop to which a pair of mini-aiders attach and which is also attached to the harness by a slack tail for redundancy
 - 1 long cord to be used as an adjustable prusik loop
 - A pair of light and compact aiders



Alpine Leadership Weekend, July 9-10
By Paul Masiar

The Alpine Leadership Weekend, July 9,10 was organized by the ACC, Calgary section in order to improve training and trip management of the section alpine leaders. After the application, selection and deposit process we were notified by ACMG & IFMGA Mountain Guide Cyril Shokoples of the time, dates, meeting place and we were also sent some e-mail with attached documents for self study.

I went into the course with certain things I'd like to know, such as the limitations on short roping in alpine terrain. For crevasse rescue, I am always confident and prepared to set up a ZxC system, so I feel I have this topic covered. I was also interested in route finding and evaluation of conditions on an alpine route, after many outings into the difficult mountain terrain, I still feel I have a lot to learn in this area.

Before the big day there was a some e-mail exchange regarding car-pooling; I offered to drive, and it looked as Danielle, Jason and I would drive in one vehicle, and Alan, Roberto and Mark in another vehicle. There was a last minute change which introduced some complications; Jason had an injury and was replaced by Katrina. But by early Friday afternoon Danielle and I were on our way to the Wilcox campground. We both read the forecast and were looking forward to some fair weather. However, not long after Saskatchewan River Crossing it started to rain – not a good start. We arrived at the campground and in between showers we set up tents. We also carried Alan's gear and set up his

tent as well. Then it started to pour, so we retreated into a nearby shelter, cooked food and waited for the other party. We were almost done eating when they showed up, Alan, Roberto, Mark and Katrina. I was not too happy with our group resource management skills: we had 5 tents for six people, 4 stoves (including 2 large ones with twin burners), pots for a kitchen, and huge surplus of everything else – I thought, o brother, this is not happening.

Next day started at a leisurely time of 8:00 a.m. at the Icefields parking lot. We signed the waivers, picked up some very thick ropes (it was said that they used to be 9 mm ropes) and headed up the moraine, to find larger crevasses for crevasse rescue, steeper terrain for short roping and to learn the art of managing a group of climbers of various abilities from an experienced alpine guide, Cyril. As we walked Cyril jumped in right away, asked for terrain evaluation, where the transition points could occur, what conditions to expect up ahead etc. First lesson – think ahead and anticipate, communicate your plan early, and execute swiftly so that the group moves efficiently at all times. The other thing which Cyril silently communicated with his gait was the pace – it seemed extremely slow to some, but it was the pace which could be kept for 18-20 hours in mountain terrain. Second lesson of the day was short roping. This technique is used by the guides efficiently, and less efficiently by climbers, as climbers really need to understand the limitations of short roping. How do you learn when and when not to short rope? Well, it is hard to say unless you see the terrain, and an experienced person says: “:this is the limit where I would short rope”, from this point on I would pitch it out or run running belays. Point noted, point taken.

Next lesson – what lesson ? It is lunch time. During lunch the sun comes out briefly, and there is activity on Mt. Athabasca. We hear avalanches, serac falls etc. Cyril comments that this is not the time to be on that mountain due to 70 cm of unstable new snow. After lunch, we find some stones and fill up the rope bags for crevasse rescue practice. We start our practice, and we hear the buzzing of the helicopter, flying towards Mt. Athabasca. One can hate and love that sound. You hate it because you know that something has happened on the mountain and there is going to be a rescue. On the other hand being the rescued party, you love that sound as you know help is on the way. On this day a large avalanche on the Normal Route caught two climbers, whose injuries were such that they required a helicopter rescue. We think of those in peril and continue our practice. The guides teach the Canadian drop loop system, something I am less familiar with, but it is simple, with a simple Z added to increase the mechanical advantage to a final 6:1. After practicing with rope bags full of stones, Cyril goes in and now this stuff is for real! Anchors, pulley system, backup, rope management, all have to be perfect. It is well done, Paul

and Mark pull Cyril out slowly without any problems. In between everyone has a pull on the rope, so everyone knows how much force is required to pull out a climber out of a crevasse.

We talk and discuss what we have learned, and instructions are given for the next day, to put what we have learned to good use in a practice climb to A2 (10000 foot peak on the left of Athabasca) with a possibility of scaling Boundary Peak. Why A2 you may ask? Conditions on Athabasca are bad, and A2 offers glacier travel on bare ice, glacier travel on fresh snow, and some fifth class rock climbing. The day begins at 4:00 a.m. at the climber's parking lot. Cyril instructs us to switch off the headlamps and at 4:10 a.m. we head up the moraine. Soon the minutes tick by, we reach the icy glacier – our first transition. Get the gear out! Ropes, crampons, harnesses, helmets, prussiks, carabiners, ice screws all spill out of each pack. I take a layer off, I am cold but I know soon the furnace will kick in. We short rope, and Paul and Mark lead the ice. We get to the top of the glacier ice, and now there is some new snow leading to the col. We quickly release our coils and transition to glacier mode. Fresh snow covers some slots, otherwise the travel to the col is uneventful. At the col there is a brief rest, and Cyril discusses with us our planned route on the glacier which has new snow and large crevasses. A2 col and the “turkey” are visible in front of us.

At the col we also switch leads. Danielle chooses the hard work of trail breaking and route finding through the large crevasses. Danielle leads, but she is light and barely breaks the crust. Cyril behind her makes the step deeper, another man behind him even deeper, and by the time I step into it, it is firm and easy to move in. Danielle is cautious at all times; fresh snow with crust means that we walk without crampons, but slots and bigger crevasses are still threatening our two ropes. After heroic effort by Danielle, we make it to the A2 col. From here it is an easy rock pitch in dry conditions, but we find the rock covered with snow in some places. Cyril solos, stopping at fixed pins to verbally guide Alan, who leads placing protection into fixed pins. After reaching the top he brings up the rest of his rope in a very efficient manner. Then it is our turn. I start off, but the rope jams in a V-groove, and does not move. I have to unclip, free climb a short section, free the rope, and the clip back in again. We all make it to the top, enjoy lunch, the great view, and learn the secret of Michelangelo and A2.

We do not stay there long. Cyril organizes a climber train and belays all as we downclimb the short pitch. I am the last to downclimb, and I body belay Cyril as he descends the rock pitch. We switch leaders again, set up for glacier travel, and head towards the col on the other side of the glacier. A short distance before the col, there is another transition, smooth and fast, to short rope travel on rock, and we head for Boundary Peak. When the ground eases off

significantly, we pack the rope and scramble to the top. Boundary Peak offers the best views of Athabasca, Andromeda, Snowdome, Kitchener, Diadem, Wooley, Nigel, Wilcox, etc. Even Mt. Alberta, plastered with snow, is visible. Boundary Peak is truly a good objective, often left out; people don't know what a marvelous view they are missing.

After enjoying the scenery it is down a steep scree slope and onto the snow! Quick glissade on boots takes us into the meadows, and a drainage with a trail leads to the climber's parking lot. We thank Cyril for the lessons learned (there were many, too many to mention) and head out. I am tired and we decide to stop in Lake Louise for coffee. There we meet the crew of the other car as well, drinking and enjoying ice cream. We chat about the past couple of days; everybody is happy after today's two peaks. As we head home for Calgary, I wish to sit down and have a beer, but that is for next time ...

Participants:

Alan Fortune, Mark Lane, Paul Masiar, Katrina Mervart,
Danielle Tardif, Roberto Salguero

ACMG & IFMGA Mountain Guide: Cyril Shokoples

Eisenhower Tower, July 21, 2005

By Paul Masiar

Good weather finally arrived, albeit for a day, a good opportunity for me to keep my promise to the Eisenhower Tower group – and go climbing. I had to cancel this trip at the end of June, due to snow. Yes, snow a storm blew in and plastered the mountain with a white coat of snow.

It takes a little organization to put the whole trip in gear. I have my mailing list and an e-mail goes out to group members. Not all can come; one e-mail comes from an Inuvik library; a team member is doing an Alaska road trip with his family. I pick the team: Chris Wright and I with Renee Lavergne, whom I know from the Wednesday night Rock Rage.

The plan is to go out in good weather, and we decide on Thursday – an excellent day weather wise. I pick up club ropes, distribute the waiver, route description, picture and it is a go for 4:00 a.m. at the carpooling parking lot.

Renee takes us out in her Chevy Cavalier called Boris. I get a brief period of rest while Renee and Chris chat. At 5:30 a.m. we all sign the ACC waiver, and we hit the Rockbound Lake trail in the cold morning air. The air temperature is ideal for the walk in; we do not need to drink, and we are not hot at

all. Everybody carries a bit of the load; Chris and Renee carry one 8.5 mm 60m rope each, and I carry the rack. After 1.5 hours we reach the muddy part, find an axe blaze, and a small cairn; time to take the forest trail. We walk through the trees until the trail levels out, and then it is around the base of the mountain until we reach a gully which breaks the cliff band. Helmets come out and we scramble the gully to the Goat Plateau. On the Goat Plateau we recognize the Dragon's back and see a party of three ahead of us.

At the base of the Dragon's Back we gear up, leave some stuff behind and up we go. Chris points to the start of the route, I take the lead, and soon I am at two bolts. I bring up Chris and Renee on one rope to simplify the rope management. The other rope is packed; its time will come. As soon as they both get up, I transition to short roping, and we all prance on the top of Dragon's Back, to the "whoop tee do" gully which needs to be downclimbed and then up again, either following a crack or harder looking wall. I choose the harder looking wall (this bit is 5.7) because I know it has good holds, and on top is a perfect crack for gear and a bomber hand hold. I place a small cam in the crack, make couple of moves to the right and I am at the bolts again. Chris and Renee come up, one at a time. I see the folks in front of me, climbing the first pitch at the base of the tower. We come to the tower base, take the other rope out and it is time for me to start climbing. I quickly catch the other team and have to wait at a belay station to clip in. The other two people are climbing simultaneously on one rope, a typical professional mountain guide technique. I ask them who the guide is. They reply: "Joe McKay from Canmore". At the first set of bolts I set up for bringing two climbers up at the same time; I use two ropes and a self locking belay device – the GiGi favored by the European guides. The team comes up quickly; the wall looks steep but one is climbing on good holds. I place protection and move quickly up the wall, always behind the guided team. Joe sees me moving fast, mistakes me for a friend, and yells: "Those youth pills must be working, you look like a teenager ...". Silently I laugh and carry on.

We reach the scree bowl and cross over to the left rib. The guide is there and we hear a screeching noise. He is drilling! He is putting in new bolts, new beefy rappel stations, bolts, chain with steel rappel ring. Perfect! My radio with which I communicate with the team is crackling with road talk: "10 km to the nearest washroom ... what movie are you watching". Our radio talk is terse: " I am secure ..., climbing ..., you are on belay ...", . People in the motor homes down on Hwy. # 1 soon realize that someone else is talking on the same frequency. They ask: "Who is it?". We reply and they sheepishly respond: "Hello people on the high mountain ..."

We climb the left rib, cross some easy 4th class terrain and sway a little to the right, and I lead again. I do not want to go into the ugly gully where I saw

the other team. Instead, I place two good pieces with long runners into a crack, and step out onto some steep rock. I bring my team up, and they are chuckling over the radio conversation. I have a feeling we are almost there, and I say: "Does anyone want to lead the last pitch?" They decline and let me finish it. I sling a horn, clip in a draw, move past it and it is the top of the Tower. I sling a large boulder with 5m of 8 mm cord, bring Chris and Renee up over the lip, one at the time, as there is a possibility of rope drag pulling some rocks on top of their heads. The elapsed time from the parking lot to the top of the Tower is 7 hours and 15 minutes.

We meet up with the other team, chat with Joe and thank him for the new rappel/belay stations, pack up the gear we no longer need and change shoes. We finally have lunch (I have not taken a single bite as I was busy all the time), take pictures and try to kill some time so that the other team can go down. After an hour or so we begin our descent. We rappel down, and cross over to the left rib. There is set of anchors on the wall, but these go down into the ugly, dark, cold scree gully. NO, that used to be the way! Now we have a NEW way. Cross over couple of meters to a black edge, and there is a set of bolts. Use them for a 25 m rappel, and there is the new station, rock dust from drilling still around the new, shiny bolts. And down again along the left rib, and another new station, no gully, just keep going and at the 20-25m mark keep your eyes open. After rappelling the rib, we cross over to the left this time, and we are back on the wall, quick rappels in succession take us to the top of the Dragon's Back. The guide is taking the easy way down, a gully on skier's left. We decide to go along the way we came, so as not to drop any rocks on them as we are pulling down our rope. We rap into the notch again, go up, rap off a sling with Renee's donation (quick link), to a set of tattered slings with a rappel ring around a large boulder. Folks, don't stop here as just another 4-5 m around the corner there is a set of bolts. We walk along the Dragon's Back to the last rappel, and finally we are down. We pick up our stuff and head out.

The walk off, which seemed so swift in the morning, drags on. There is talk of beer and ice cream. We speak too soon, all this talk just makes us more anxious. Finally the trail levels off, the parking lot appears, we ditch our gear into the trunk and drive to the Castle Mt. Chalets gas station. It's a quick one minute ride to magic — a small store with beer and ice cream! With a cold can in our hands we look back at the Eisenhower Tower. What a day! Ideal conditions, ideal temperature, new rappel stations, good movement by the team, today everything went like clockwork.

Participants: Chris Wright, Renee Lavergne, Paul Masiar

