



The Silver Ice Axe

The Newsletter of the Jasper/Hinton Section
of the Alpine Club of Canada

Winter 2011-12

We are now hosting this Newsletter on the section website. Check it out for more information regarding updates and trip schedule entries.

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/jasperhinton/

Welcome

Message from the Chair

Hi to all members,

Lots of snow up high, so it looks like winter is here. On that note, find attached the 2011/2012 winter schedule. I hope that you find a trip(s) that appeal to you. As the winter goes on if you have ideas for additional trips that you would like to have added to the schedule please forward them either to me or Peter Amann and we will get them circulated to section members.

A few announcements: our Membership Coordinator – Jean Weadick, has resigned from her position. Thanks very much Jean for your commitment to the club over the past years. Your efforts and ideas have been much appreciated. We are looking for someone to fill the Jean's Membership Coordinator role. Responsibilities are to maintain a list of the section members, with contact information, and to circulate items such as the winter and summer schedules to all club members. If anyone is interested in the position please give me a call or e-mail.

Please note the announcements in the winter schedule regarding potential courses for the winter, and particularly note the announcement regarding single antennae avalanche beacons.

One of the current discussion points among the club executive at present is the topic of recruiting new trip leaders. For a number of years now there has been a core group of 6 to 8 people that seem to lead most of the trips. If possible we would like to expand the number of trip leaders; also hopefully the number of trips that we run. To that end we have introduced a couple of initiatives for this winter. First is an offer of 'mentor/apprentice'. Club members who may be interested in leading trips but are not confident that they have sufficient skills or experience can approach any of our trip leaders and ask to attend the trip as an apprentice, to see what is required in planning, organizing and carrying out an alpine club trip. We are also in the process of developing a Leader Handbook that outlines the role and responsibilities of both the trip leader and trip participants.

A reminder to all trip leaders and members to sign those waivers prior to heading out skiing or climbing.

For your information, year-to-date the club has offered 51 trips. Thirty of these trips went ahead as planned, with an average of 5 participants per trip. Of the other 20 some odd trips, most didn't go because there was no interest from club members. Are the trips too easy, too hard, too lame? If anyone has thoughts on how we can get more participation please let me know. This winter we are going to circulate our trip schedule to other sections, such as Edmonton and Prince George, to see if any of their members would like to join in our trips. If you are interested in getting involved with the club, at whatever level, or if you have ideas to help promote the club don't hesitate to give me a call or e-mail.

That's about it from here. Hope to see you in the hills.

Doug

Articles



Important Announcement Regarding Single Antenna Avalanche Transceivers

Recently the CAA (Canadian Avalanche Association) has stated that single antenna avalanche transceivers are obsolete and are recommending that they be retired. There are a number of very specific reasons they cite for this recommendation. See <http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/gear/obsolete> for details. OBSOLETE transceivers include: SOS F1-ND, SOS F1-SB, Pieps 457 Opti, Pieps 1, Pieps 2, Ortovox M1, Ortovox M2, Ortovox F1 and the Ortovox F2.

At our November meeting the Executive of the Jasper/Hinton Section moved that **“In accordance with the CAA recommendations, single antenna transceivers will no longer be acceptable for Jasper/Hinton Section trips or camps, as of the fall of 2011”**.

Starting in the winter season of 2011/2012, the Jasper/Hinton Section strongly suggests that trip participants use three antenna transceivers for the safety of ALL members.

Suggested three antenna transceivers available on the market at present are: BCA Tracker 2, Barryvox Pulse, Ortovox D3, Ortovox S1 and the Pieps D3.

Further information can be found on the web at <http://beaconreviews.com> . If you have questions about this announcement or would like to discuss it further please give me a call or e-mail.

Doug Scatcherd
Jasper/Hinton Section Chair

David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade

I thought that I would be able to fill a voyageur canoe with members of our section as this trip was right out our door and David Thompson had played such an important role in pioneering this area. So it was my wife, Marilyn and I following the canoe wake of past voyageurs down the Athabasca River from Jasper to Hinton this summer with a group of Red Rouges from the Okanagan August 18-21. The year 2011 marked the bicentennial of David Thompson's passage through this area, heading back east with furs traded on the west coast, carried over Athabasca Pass, transported by canoe to Montreal to be shipped to Europe for the fashion industry. We were fortunate that we did not have to paddle back up stream as the voyageurs before us had done.



Just who was David Thompson you may ask? David Thompson was born in London, England in 1770. In 1784 at the age of 14, he came to Fort Churchill, Canada to apprentice for the Hudson's Bay Company. He did this until 1797, developing a great skill in geodetic and astronomical observations, later joining the Northwest Company. As a parting gift he had asked for and received a set of surveying tools. He continued to methodically locate points in western Canada and made surveys of his travels with exacting accuracy.

His most notable expedition took him across the Rocky Mountains and down the Columbia River. In 1807 he crossed Howse Pass and in 1810, prevented by the Peigans from using Howse Pass, crossed to the Athabasca River to explore all of the Columbia River system. He went on to Montreal where in 1812-1814 he made a large and invaluable map of western Canada for the Northwest Company, long the best map of the region. It was not until the 20th century that his importance as a geographer was recognized. Over his career he mapped over 3.9 million square kilometers, paddled in the neighborhood of 55,000 kilometers, and has been described as the "greatest land geographer who ever lived."

As well as our trip on the river, a fellow ACC section member skied to Athabasca Pass in January, also in commemoration of the bicentennial. Their trip was on shallow snow, with temperatures falling below minus 30 degrees; ours, in temperature range of 20-25 degrees on the plus side, paddling on a smooth flowing river and the wind at our backs. The conditions could not have been better! The skiers had finished in time for the Fur Ball, a dinner and celebration hosted in Jasper. We enjoyed an organized function and dinner every evening thanks to Parks Canada and the Athabasca River Bicentennial Brigade Society. Our trip was very plush in comparison, to be sure. Our hats are off to those voyageurs. Thompson completed that same trip over the pass leaving by dog sled from a camp in Brule just west of Hinton in similar conditions, so we doff our hats to them as well.

We ended our trip at a point just downstream of Obed Creek where it is believed David Thompson had entered the Athabasca River. That afternoon I was sterning a voyageur canoe with Lavern Thompson, a seventh generation descendent. His son an eighth generation Thompson was paddling with another team. It was quite an honor to be at this point in history with a family related to such a history maker.



Wayne Campbell

Courses

Map and Compass 101

January 14, 2012

Location TBA Cost: \$30.00

This one day course will get participants used to using a NTS map. We will cover the basics including: datums, contours, declination, route planning, go from map to field, field to map, shooting bearings, making route plans and some basics of GPS. Cost will cover room rental if needed and some printed maps from the instructor. You will need a compass, pencil and paper, and the 1:50,000 NTS map of Jasper Townsite if you have it...

Peter Amann

780 852-3237

pamann@incentre.net

The Jasper/Hinton Section is planning on offering a number of courses over the fall and winter of 2011/2012. These are:

- Wilderness First Aid
- Beginner Ice Climbing

Dates and cost are to be determined, depending upon the level of interest. If you would like to sign up for any or all of these courses please contact Doug Scatcherd at [cgs22@telusplanet.net](mailto:cds22@telusplanet.net) or **780-852-4414**.

In addition, if there is some other course that you would like to see the section offer, please forward your suggestions.

2011-12 Winter Schedule

Welcome to winter! The following trips are filled on a first call first in basis. **Please contact leaders one to two weeks before the trip.** Volunteers lead all trips. **The exact date for the trip may change due to the leader's commitments.** For liability protection, each participant must sign a waiver.

Be sure to ask section leaders what other equipment may be necessary. Some section equipment is available on loan for club outings.

Mid-week skiing/climbing throughout the winter

If you are looking for a partner for mid-week backcountry skiing or ice climbing please give me a call. I'm not working and I'm always keen to get out.

Doug Scatcherd 780-852-4414 [cgs22@telusplanet.net](mailto:cds22@telusplanet.net)

Weekend Ice Climbing Maligne Canyon

Any weekends, no experience required.

Estelle Stewart 780-852-8040 Estelle.Stewart@mpljasper.com

Jasper Area/Icefield Parkway/Front Range Intermediate Ski Touring/ Scrambling/ Mountaineering

If anyone is interested in partnering up for day trips in the Hinton/Jasper area, give me a call. I work a 4 and 4 schedule so can plan to go out during the week or on weekends. I know my work schedule for the winter, so would be willing to plan trips throughout the winter.

Malcolm Lesser 780-817-2339 lesser.farm@sasktel.net

December 11th Edge of the World

A Grade 2-3 ice fall close to the road - is suitable for beginner ice climbers.

Wayne Campbell 780-865-5251 htcmaint@yahoo.ca

December 18th Gorby Canyon

A Grade 2 ice climb through a deeply slotted canyon. Short easy pitches over a couple of Kilometers. 5 hours.

Wayne Campbell 780-865-5251 htcmaint@yahoo.ca

December 10th Jacques Lake Ski Touring

Intermediate trip; 12km one way. The trail follows a valley along Beaver Creek between the Colin Range and Queen Elizabeth Range and is very scenic.

Claire Levesque 780-223-4498 claire.levesque@telus.net

December 22nd BS Canyon complete

A fun day climbing the BS canyon going from bottom to top. Though not difficult, this will require some ice climbing skills and rope handling. Participants should have some experience with anchor systems and able climb in easy but mixed terrain; some experience leading may be needed as well.

Peter Amann 780 852-3237 pamann@incentre.net

December 26th Kerkeslin falls or sniveling gulley

Grade three ice. Moderate only basic ice climbing skills necessary. Work off that turkey. (Prefer calls over e-mail - quicker response time)

Brian Hamilton 780-740-5415 beghamilton@hotmail.com

January 14th Summit Lake Beginner ski touring

Easy ski tour into Summit Lake. Gear and equipment will be discussed with interested parties.

Wayne Campbell 780-865-5251 htcmaint@yahoo.ca

March 24th or 25th

Cirrus Mountain

A ski ascent to the summit of Cirrus Mountain entails 1700 metres of elevation gain over 7 to 8 kms. This tour is for intermediate to advanced skiers with avalanche training, glacier travel experience and a high level of fitness.

Doug Scatcherd

780-852-4414

cds22@telusplanet.net

April 7th – 14th

Fairy Meadows

Hut based ski touring in powder heaven. At present this trip is full. Anyone interested in putting their name on a waiting list please contact Mark.

Mark Kolasinski

markkolasinski@gmail.com

April 8th

Vincent Falls

We will bicycle down Maligne Lake just past Spirit Island-about 20 km. Then a short hike to the falls. Must have a suitable bike and able to climb Grade 3 ice.

Wayne Campbell

780-865-5251

htcmaint@yahoo.ca

May 2nd - 5th

Columbia Icefields ski tour

Beautiful and amazing glacier trip up and back out the Athabasca glacier. The ski mountaineering objectives would be any or all of - Mt.Kitchner, the Stutfields, and the North and South Twins. There are no weather guarantees. Roped glacier travel techniques and decent ski skills necessary. (Prefer calls over e-mail - quicker response time)

Brian Hamilton

780-740-5415

beghamilton@hotmail.com

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