



The Bushwhacker Newsletter

Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section

July 2010

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club has a monthly slide-show presentation at the Swan Lake Nature House, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC on the second Thursday of each month, except in July and August. The doors open at 7:00, and the show starts at 7:30.

Web Information

Web site: www.accvi.ca
Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

are available from the Librarian.

National ACC Office

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly.
www.alpineclubofcanada.ca
info@alpineclubofcanada.ca
403 678 3200, or P.O. Box 8040
Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$ 56 Family \$ 76
Youth (19 and under) \$ 41

The Bushwhacker Newsletter

is a monthly publication of the Vancouver Island Section.
Newsletter Editor: Cedric Zala,
250 652 5841, cedriczala@shaw.ca

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including news items, announcements, and short articles, along with photos. Email your submission by the 25th day of the previous month.

Advertising shall be accepted at the discretion of the editor. All advertising shall be for products or services of direct interest to our membership.

Our Motto

1. COME BACK ALIVE
2. COME BACK FRIENDS
3. RESPECT THE LAND
4. HAVE FUN
5. GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)

EXECUTIVE

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COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

July 8 (Thursday), 7:30 pm:
Executive meeting, 7776
Trentelmann Place, Saanichton

Why not help out at a TrailRider trip this summer?

- July 18, East Sooke
Regional Park, 1 pm - 4 pm
- July 25, Sooke Potholes
Regional Park, 1 pm - 4 pm
- August 18, Thetis Lake
Regional Park, 5 pm - 9 pm,

For more information see page 2
and contact Jeff Ward:
jkward@shaw.ca

Or be a Slideshow Star?

If you would like to present an evening slideshow during the coming season of social evenings (September – June, second Thursday of the month) please contact Brenda or Ronan O'Sullivan (brendairish@gmail.com or ronanirish@gmail.com), or Rick Hudson (rickhudson@shaw.ca).

Reminder to Members:

Keep your [membership](#) up-to-date, so to as to be covered by the ACC's liability insurance.

Keep your [contact information](#) current on ACC National's site, as it's from this master list that we download our email addresses for mailouts.

Register on our [ACCVI site](#) to make your contact information available to other ACCVI members.

Join the [ACCVI listserv](#) to keep in touch and share information with other ACCVI members.

Upcoming Events

July 8, 7:30 pm: Executive meeting, 7776 Trentelmann Place Saanichton.

Sept 9, 7 pm: First slideshow of the season: Swan Lake Nature Conservancy. Topic and speaker TBA.

Upcoming Trips

July 10, Mt Angeles, B1/2, Across to Olympics-bike, hike, swim, Sylvia Moser
shmoser@shaw.ca

July 17-24, Alava Basin, North-West of Gold River, ACCVI Summer Camp Week 1, Cedric Zala, cedriczala@shaw.ca

July 17-18, Red Pillar C3/4, via Oshinaw Lake, Mike Springer, victoriabc@live.ca

July 18, East Sooke Regional Park, A1, TrailRider trip, 1 pm - 4 pm, Meet at Alyard Farm parking lot, Jeff Ward, jkward@shaw.ca

July 24-25, Mt Schoen, C3, highest in Sutton Range, Christine Fordham, bizhelp@telus.net

July 24-31, Alava Basin, North-West of Gold River, ACCVI Summer Camp Week 2, Cedric Zala, cedriczala@shaw.ca

July 25, Sooke Potholes Regional Park, A1, TrailRider trip, 1 pm - 4 pm, Meet at Potholes upper parking lot, Jeff Ward,

July 31 - August 7, Alava Basin, North-West of Gold River, ACCVI Summer Camp Week 3, Cedric Zala, cedriczala@shaw.ca

August 7, Sugarloaf/Mt Braden, B1, Sooke Hills hike, Peter Rogers, peter_rogers@shaw.ca 250 744 2791

August 14-18, Friends of Strathcona Park Bedwell Trail work party, Bob St. John, 250-890-0780 or rwstjohn@gmail.com, or Kel Kelly, 250-337 8348 or kelkelly55@yahoo.ca.

August 18, Thetis Lake Regional Park, A1, TrailRider trip, 5 pm - 9 pm, Meet at parking lot near the main beach, Jeff Ward, jkward@shaw.ca

August 27-29, Castlecrag Horseshoe C/D2, Forbidden Plateau from Circlet Lake camp, Mts Albert Edward/Frink/Castlecrag, Peter Rogers, peter_rogers@shaw.ca 250 744 2791

Sept 3-5, Mountaineering with Kids B1-5, climbing camp in Strathcona, Harald/Nadja Steiner, moewe@telus.net steinerh@telus.net

Sept 11, Devil's Ladder, Comox Lake B5, rappel to lake-top rope, 5.7 -5.11 rappel/top rope experience, Christine Fordham, bizhelp@telus.net

Sept 19-25, Clayoquot-Mariner-Mt Flores C4, kayak the Sound-then Mariner-Flores, kayak self-rescue skills/snow,ice , rock experience, Mike Springer, victoriabc@live.ca

Sept 25-26, Victoria Pk / Warden D4, mountain kit needed, possible Friday departure, max 4 people, Dave Campbell david_ac@hotmail.com 250 755 1600

FOSP Take Back The Park Initiative – Crest Mountain Trail Work Party

By Cedric Zala

We are all familiar with the fact the BC Parks budget has been cut repeatedly in recent years and that this sometimes has meant trail closures when bridges have deteriorated and are deemed unsafe. The Crest Mountain trail is one of the trails that has been closed, as it crosses over a rotting bridge spanning a wide stream near the trailhead. So either a new, better-built bridge, or an alternative to the crossing would be needed to provide a longer-term solution to the access to the trail.

To help keep our trails open, the Friends of Strathcona Park (FOSP) have proposed that its volunteers could help with trail maintenance and rerouting where feasible. Members of the Friends recently identified a new route that avoids the stream entirely, and have been working with Parks to make this route available as an alternative to the unsafe bridge.

On June 19, more than 50 people including myself and Walter Moar of our ACCVI Section attended a day-long work party organized by the FOSP. Their aim was to rough in this route and thereby provide safe access to the main trail. In the days before this, event leaders Karl Stevenson, Bob St. John and Kel Kelly had been working furiously with BC Parks to try to outline a mechanism whereby this work could be done with the Parks' approval. Long ago, in the days before liability issues, Island clubs would simply go ahead and establish routes and trails without needing to engage in such consultation. In the current bureaucratic climate, alas, obtaining such approval is a lengthy and laborious process, and it seemed that the trail-building exercise might lead to a confrontation.

At the eleventh hour, however, a deal was struck, and Parks supported the event provided that waivers were signed. At the pre-event rally by the closed bridge, we were also told that Parks would expedite an environmental assessment of the existing and the bypass routes by June 30, and that the bypass route would not be turned into the *de facto* trail until at least that time. As well, we were told that if the existing route was chosen, then a new bridge would be in place by August 30!

Well, the waivers were willingly signed and 50 enthusiastic people of all ages carrying shovels, pickaxes, buckets and rakes headed into the woods to work on the trail. One group worked on the access ramp from the highway to the dell below, another set up stream crossings by arranging rocks, others worked on the trail base by moving gravel and debris, while yet another went farther up the trail and did some snipping maintenance. I was part of the ramp crew, and we made up the design as we went along. During this process, I was reminded of E O Wilson's observation that though individual ants don't seem to have much of an idea of what's going on, the colony as a whole is capable of sound planning and intricate work. And our team was very pleased with the result!

The success of this work party is a good example of what can happen when people who really care can cooperate with government agencies (and pressure them if necessary) to achieve their common objectives. Volunteers have always had a lot to offer, and this is a good precedent for future joint efforts to help maintain and improve the Strathcona Park trails.

The next work party will be on the **Bedwell Trail from August 14 – 18**. The FOSP will cover the cost of the water taxi from Tofino to Bedwell return but those interested are required to bring personal belongings (tent, food, etc). If you would like to help out on either of these two projects or any others in the future, contact Bob St. John at 250-890-0780 or rwstjohn@gmail.com or Kel Kelly at 250-337 8348 or kelkelly55@yahoo.ca.

Robert Daniel McCaw

2nd ACCVI Chairperson 1916 - 1922

By Lindsay Elms

Robert McCaw was born on May 24, 1884, in Welland, Ontario. He was the eldest of four sons of John and Fannie McCaw. His early education was in Welland; however, he also took a correspondence course through an institute in the USA.

In 1903 McCaw was articulated to the surveyor George Ross and later Edward Gardiner. In February 1907 he received his Ontario Land Surveyors Commission and entered into partnership with George Ross and in 1909 he received his Dominion Land Surveyors Commission. Later that year the partnership dissolved and McCaw was given work under the topographer Arthur Wheeler, who was examining the lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia for the Department of the Interior. He received his Alberta Land Surveyors Commission and then in 1910, after Wheeler's resignation from the Department of the Interior, McCaw was placed in charge of the work in the Railway Belt. In 1911 he left this work to go on land surveys in Northern British Columbia, again under Wheeler.

In 1912, McCaw received his British Columbia Land Surveyors Commission and became a member of the surveying firm Wheeler, Campbell and McCaw. He was then engaged in road location on the West Coast of Vancouver Island for the Public Works Department in Victoria during the years 1912 and 1913. In 1913 he made a photo-topographical survey along the route of the Banff/Windermere Highway for the Public Works Department of British Columbia and also in that year he married Ethel McConnell. In 1914 the firm of Wheeler, Campbell and McCaw was dissolved, and in May of that year McCaw began to make photo-topographical surveys for the Surveys Branch of the Department of Lands of the Province of British Columbia. He was the first to make such surveys for the Department.

On April 1, 1929, he was appointed a member of the permanent Provincial Civil Service. In 1935 and 1936, McCaw was working on Vancouver Island and the West Coast; in 1937 and 1938 he was on the Findlay River, and in 1939 to 1941 was again on Vancouver Island working around Alberni. During the last two years he made ascents of many of the peaks surrounding the Kennedy River, taking photo-topographical readings.

It was through his association with Arthur Wheeler that McCaw first met Colonel William Foster, then BC's Deputy Minister of Public Works. In 1912, the Victoria Section of the Alpine Club of Canada was formed with Foster as the Chairman, which post he held until 1915. McCaw then took over the Chairman's reins and held that position from 1916 to 1922.

McCaw was on the Board of Management of the Corporation of British Columbia Land Surveyors in 1931 and 1932, Vice-President in 1933, President in 1934, and an ex-officio member in 1935.

Robert McCaw was working in the field during the summer of 1941 when he was taken ill and had to return to Victoria, where he was given sick leave. It was thought he was on the road to recovering when he died on August 22, 1941, at the age of fifty-seven. On the west coast of Vancouver Island, McCaw Peninsula is named in his honour.

ACCVI Chair Photos

Below are the photographs of the first two Chairs of the ACC Vancouver Island Section. (Colonel Foster's photo was inadvertently left out of the June newsletter article.)



**William Wasborough Foster, First ACCVI Chair
1912 – 1915**



Robert Daniel McCaw, ACCVI Chair 1916 – 1922

ACC-VI Section History by Lindsay Elms

The following are highlights of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada for 1955 from The Gazette.

The Victoria Section has had a very satisfactory year of climbs, hikes, photography and skiing. We were well represented at the ski camp and again at the summer camp. Our own program of outings was followed without cancellations or changes, regardless of the weather. An average of twelve members attended each climb and on three occasions we were joined by members of the R.C.A.F. rescue group from the station at Comox.

The first outing of the year was a ski trip to Mount Baker. The weather was clear and cold and the snow was deep powder. We put our trimas in our packs and took the chair lift to the top of Panorama Ridge. We skied on Kulshan Ridge, Austin Pass, Panorama Ridge and down Razorhone Trail. Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan were showing and it was very fine indeed.*

Mr. Raymond Patterson was the guest speaker at the Annual Dinner on March 26. He showed his slides of the "Dangerous River" the Nahanni. Forty-four members and guests were there, a larger number than usual.

Mount Tzouhalem's rocks provided good pitches for the May rock school. On the May 24 weekend we camped by the Sproat River Falls and hiked on the snowy Mount Porter. Mount Joan (Beaufort Range) in June was very similar, snow, sun and good views.

On the July 1 weekend twenty of us went over to the Dosywallops to climb Mount Constance. This mountain is a graduating climb and it has a peculiar route to the summit. It has to be done by going through a hole near the summit, coming out on the other side of the mountain and then doing a finger traverse. This was unknown to our climbers. Various approaches were tried, but as no one went through the mountain, no one got to the top. The rhododendrons were out in full array. The trail to Moose Meadows was lined on both sides by these big, pink exotic-looking blooms.

Nine Peaks, Mount Septimus and Big Interior Mountain were climbed at our Section camp in Strathcona Park in August. We felt that it was a great success. The best things about it were the climbs, the fine, clear weather, the views of Della Falls and the mountains, the flowers and Connie's good cooking. The worst thing about it was the twenty miles of back-packing to get there. As far as we know, Septimus had only been climbed once before. Eleven of us attended this camp.

The annual trip to Sansum Narrows on Brigadier Miles Smeeton's ketch the "Tzu Hang" was well attended. The various methods of ascent of the rocks above the narrows were all tried: the crack, the chimney and the tree.

The outings committee had arranged a trip to Mount Arrowsmith for the Thanksgiving Weekend, and in spite of bad weather six of us went. A determined attempt was made to climb the mountain, but rain, snow, sleet and Hurricane Hazel's little brother drove the climbers back to the cabin which has been very kindly lent to us by the Alberni Ski Club.

In November the Annual business meeting of the section was held at the home of the Misses Muriel and Eileen Aylard, where the two welcomed prospective members Ulf and Adolf Bitterlich, showed us slides of their tremendous two-man assault on Mount Waddington in August.

Elizabeth (Larrett) and Patrick Guilbride, both Life members and Active members of the Victoria Section, were married on Christmas Eve 1955.

The April Ski Camp was at Glacier with the Victoria Section having the most attendees and the most boil-ups.

Twelve Section members attended the Mount Robson Camp July 25 to August 7:

- Mabel Duggan
- Judith Davis
- Ted Goodall
- Ethne Gibson
- Rex Gibson
- Sylvia Lash
- Bill Lash
- Elizabeth Larrett
- Mr. and Mrs. F.G.P. Maurice
- Mark Mitchell
- Margery Thomas

* Trima skins were fastened to the groove in the bottom center of the ski by metal plates containing a dovetail groove. The ski was provided with miniature "railroad rail" segments held to the ski by bore holes and top side nuts into the central bottom groove. The trouble with trimas was that you had to drill through the ski and over time water would enter and freeze, causing the base to delaminate. (Ed)