



Volume 41, Issue 7

September 2013

## 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](http://www.accvi.ca)  
Webmaster: [webmaster@accvi.ca](mailto:webmaster@accvi.ca)

### Executive Meeting Minutes

are available on our [meeting archives](#).

### 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](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca)  
[info@alpineclubofcanada.ca](mailto:info@alpineclubofcanada.ca)  
403 678 3200, or P.O. Box 8040  
Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

### Annual Membership Dues

Single \$ 53      Family \$ 75  
Youth (19 and under) \$ 38

**The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter** is a monthly (except for July and August) publication of the Vancouver Island Section.

Newsletter Editor: Cedric Zala, 250 652 5841, [cedriczala@shaw.ca](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

**Chair:** Rick Hudson, 250 656 6533,  
[rickhudson@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhudson@shaw.ca)

**Secretary:** Catrin Brown, 250 477 5806, [catrin@shaw.ca](mailto:catrin@shaw.ca)

**Treasurer:** Phee Hudson, 250 656 6533, [pheehudson@gmail.com](mailto:pheehudson@gmail.com)

### Members-at-Large:

Geoff Bennett, 250 853 7515,  
[geoff.bennett@shaw.ca](mailto:geoff.bennett@shaw.ca)

Chris Jensen, 250 516 3932,  
[cjenseninvc@hotmail.com](mailto:cjenseninvc@hotmail.com)

Martin Smith, 250 885 6154,  
[m\\_smith@telus.net](mailto:m_smith@telus.net)

### Access and Environment

Barb Baker, 250 724 2985,  
[mtbaker1@shaw.ca](mailto:mtbaker1@shaw.ca)

### BMFF Coordinator

Krista Zala, 250 857 8643,  
[kristazala@gmail.com](mailto:kristazala@gmail.com)

### Bushwhacker Annual

Sandy Stewart, 250 655 8919,  
[stewart@islandnet.com](mailto:stewart@islandnet.com)

### Bushwhacker Newsletter

Cedric Zala, 250 652 5841,  
[cedriczala@shaw.ca](mailto:cedriczala@shaw.ca)

### Education

Harry Steiner, 250 652 6647,  
[steinerh@telus.net](mailto:steinerh@telus.net)

### Equipment

Mike Hubbard (lower Island), 250 370 1096, [jmhubbard@shaw.ca](mailto:jmhubbard@shaw.ca)

Tim Turay (upper Island), 250 334 5259, [tim.turay@nic.bc.ca](mailto:tim.turay@nic.bc.ca)

### Evening Events

Brenda O'Sullivan, 250 658 3526,  
[brenda@callronan.com](mailto:brenda@callronan.com)

### FMCBC Rep

vacant

### Library/Archives/History

Tom Hall (Library/Archives), 250 592 2518, [hall.pnw@shaw.ca](mailto:hall.pnw@shaw.ca)

Lindsay Elms (History), 250 792 3384, [beyondnootka@shaw.ca](mailto:beyondnootka@shaw.ca)

### Membership

Christine Fordham, 250 703 1083,  
[bizhelp@telus.net](mailto:bizhelp@telus.net)

### National Rep

Rick Hudson, 250 656 6533,  
[rickhudson@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhudson@shaw.ca)

### Safety

Selena Swets, 250 881 8284,  
[sswets@islandnet.com](mailto:sswets@islandnet.com)

### Schedule

Russ Moir, 250 477 0070,  
[russmoir@gmail.com](mailto:russmoir@gmail.com)

### Webmaster

Martin Hofmann, 250 920 7432,  
[mhofmannskis@gmail.com](mailto:mhofmannskis@gmail.com)

### Webmaster Committee

Dave McDowell, 250 220 5028,  
[damcdowell@shaw.ca](mailto:damcdowell@shaw.ca)

## COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

### September 5: Summer Barbecue.

See August 25th email for details.

**September 12. Slideshow:** *Three Weeks of hiking & scrambling in Griswold Pass and one week in Roger's Pass.* Swan Lake Nature Centre, doors open 7:00, show at 7:30.

### Inside

- 2 Upcoming Events
- 2 Upcoming Trips
- 2 Nuts and Bolts
- 3 ACC Awards Presented
- 3 New ACC Backcountry Hut
- 4 TrailRider Coordinator Needed

### 5-21 Tributes to Charles Turner

- 5 Rick Hudson
- 7 Christine Fordham
- 8 Mike Hubbard
- 9 Peter Rothermel
- 10 Graham Maddocks
- 11 Rudy Brugger, Sylvia Moser
- 12 Russ Moir
- 13 Catrin Brown
- 14 Albert Hestler, Brian Pinch, Martin Davis, Peggy Taylor
- 15 Randy Davies
- 16 Claire Ebendinger
- 17 Greg Gordon
- 18 Tony Vaughn
- 19 Sandy Briggs
- 20 Ken Wong

### 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.

Join the ACCVI's [Facebook](#) group.

### Upcoming Events

**September 5. Summer Barbecue.** A chance to share tales of adventures and the last of the summer wine. See August 25th email for details. RSVP to Catrin Brown, [catrin@shaw.ca](mailto:catrin@shaw.ca).

**September 12. Slideshow: *Three Weeks of hiking & scrambling in Griswold Pass and one week in Roger's Pass.*** Ever wanted to attend an ACCVI summer camp? Let's relive the wonderful experiences had by this year's Griswold Pass and Roger's Pass camp participants. There was much to explore - fields of gorgeous alpine flowers, mountain glaciers, rivers and tarns, good food and wonderful people and plenty of boulder-strewn peaks to scramble up. Swan Lake Nature Centre, doors open 7:00, show at 7:30.

**October 10. Slideshow: *The Kokoda Track and the Huli Wigmen - Travels in Papua New Guinea,*** presented by Graham Maddocks. We have come to expect unique and "corner of the world" adventures from Graham with some fantastic stories and history. This time Graham goes trekking in the Diggers' footsteps on the Pacific War battlefield tracks of Papua New Guinea, still strewn with munitions after 70 years. A visit with indigenous highland tribes, living a traditional lifestyle, virtually unchanged since European contact in 1933. Papua New Guinea is a land of 820 languages and one of the earliest recorded histories of cultivated food.

### Upcoming Trips

**September 7-8. Victoria Peak, South Face B4.** Crampons, ice axe, helmet, harness, belay device needed. Max 4 people. Ian Kilpatrick, [irdkilpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:irdkilpatrick@gmail.com).

**September 13-15. Augerpoint Traverse, B/C 2.** High alpine hike from Mt Washington to Buttle Lake, with opportunities for summits along the way. Roxy Ahmed, [roxannea@uvic.ca](mailto:roxannea@uvic.ca), 250-415-5602.

**September 15. Jutland Mtn, C2.** Jaunt up to Jutland. Janelle Curtis, [janelle.curtis@gmail.com](mailto:janelle.curtis@gmail.com)

**September 15. Mt Tzouhalem, Cowichan B1/2.** Scenic hike up SE ridge from Genoa Bay, down to Cross. Return via new flagged route down E slopes. Walk or car pool back. Scott Collins, [scottcollins@shaw.ca](mailto:scottcollins@shaw.ca), 250-732-2518.

**September 20-22. Mt Albert Edward, C2.** Educated women for educating girls: An all women's fundraiser for Plan Canada's "Because I Am A Girl" Initiative (<http://becauseiamagirl.ca>). Participating team members must be willing to help raise funds through Climb for Change (<https://www.climbforchange.com/>). Space is limited to 12-15 women. Janelle Curtis ([janelle.curtis@gmail.com](mailto:janelle.curtis@gmail.com)), Robyn Forrest ([robynforrest@gmail.com](mailto:robynforrest@gmail.com)).

**September 27-29. Mount Phillips, B/C2.** Camp at Arnica Lake. Option to check out high points of Phillips Ridge, with great views of the Golden Hinde. Brianna Cook-Coates, [cookcoatesb@gmail.com](mailto:cookcoatesb@gmail.com), 778-977-2421.

**October 6. Arrowsmith Unjudges, B3.** A "trade route" to the summit involving solid scramble territory and traverse of summit bumps. Bring harness in case needed. Max 8. Russ Moir, [russmoir@gmail.com](mailto:russmoir@gmail.com)

***Be sure to check our on-line web schedule periodically for updates!***

### Nuts and Bolts

#### Discount IMAX Coupons for ACCVI – Peggy Taylor

50 IMAX 20% OFF COUPONS, VALID UNTIL DEC. 31, 2013, have been made available to members of the ACCVI. They are valid for up to four discounted admissions and must be redeemed in person at the box office only. Any club member who wishes to have one of these coupons may e-mail Peggy Taylor at [peggyhiking@gmail.com](mailto:peggyhiking@gmail.com). An announcement will go out on the ListServ and on the ACCVI Facebook page as well. You may pick them up from me at Catrin's end-of-summer BBQ this coming Thursday, Sept. 5th or at the Sept. 12 Summer Camps slideshow at Swan Lake Nature House. If you are unable to attend either of these events, please contact me to see how we can connect. Big thanks to Jordan Batchelor, at The National Geographic IMAX at the Royal BC Museum for offering these coupons to us!!

#### No Close Calls Column this Month

With respect to the memory of Charles Turner, the *Close Calls* column will not appear this month.



## ACC Awards Presented

Congratulations to Tak Ogasawara and Don Morton, who were presented with National ACC awards at the June slideshow. Tak received the Don Forest award in recognition for his long service to the section, while Don received the Silver Rope award for excellence in leadership and technical ability. Congratulations also to Catrin Brown, who was presented with her Don Forest award at the May meeting.



**Tak and Don proudly displaying their ACC awards**

## Alpine Club of Canada Announces Plans for a New Backcountry Hut in Yoho National Park

The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) is pleased to move forward with plans to construct a new winter use only, backcountry hut east of the des Poilus glacier in Yoho National Park, which would provide an important connection to the world-renown Wapta Traverse, enhancing visitor experience and safety.

Parks Canada has recently given the ACC the green light to proceed to the next phase of project design and public consultation.

"We are excited to move forward with this project with the support of Parks Canada" said Lawrence White, ACC Executive Director. "Construction of a facility in this location is in direct support of Yoho National Park's management objective to connect visitors to exceptional experiences. The Wapta Traverse experience is world class and the potential for park visitors to rediscover the area is an exciting one."

The proposed hut will sit on the classic “Yoho Traverse” at roughly the midway point between Bow Hut in the north and the Stanley Mitchell Hut in the south, offering adventurers the opportunity to access or exit the traverse via the historically significant Little Yoho Valley in B.C. The Wapta and Waputik Icefields straddle the Great Continental Divide. Combined, the Wapta and Waputik Icefields have no fewer than 15 individual glaciers and 20 summits that provide varying levels of intrigue for step into the wild and fully immersed mountain wilderness explorers.

Conceptually, the ACC envisions a two-storey structure approximately 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> with overnight capacity of between 16 and 18. Given the overnight capacity at the Bow and Peyto huts in the north (30 and 16 respectively), as well as the Stanley Mitchell hut in the South, 24, it is felt that there is a need to provide an adequate number of beds to promote the traverse safely without unnecessarily “bottle-necking” people part way. The hut will be equipped with similar amenities to the club’s other huts and stocked in the same fashion with high quality foam sleeping pads, cooking and eating utensils, stoves, tables and benches.

### **Volunteer TrailRider Coordinator Needed**

Since 2006, we have been taking disabled people hiking on local mountain trails, using the TrailRider, a non-motorised, one-wheeled device that is sort of a cross between a wheelbarrow and a baby jogger, and which folds up to fit in the back of a mid-sized SUV.

Our outings tend to be in parks within the Capital Regional District ( CRD ). The degree of difficulty ranges from low ( Elk Lake, Swan Lake/Christmas Hill, Cedar Hill Golf Course ) to moderate ( Mt. Douglas, Thetis Lake, East Sooke Park and Royal Roads ) to difficult ( Mt. Wells, the back route up Mt. Finlayson and Mt. Work ). Where we go depends in part on the wishes of our client, as well as how many porters we can muster on any given day.

Jeff Ward has coordinated this program in recent years, and we extend our sincere thanks to Jeff for his efforts towards the continuing success of this program. However, he is now stepping down and so we are looking for a coordinator to take on the organization of TrailRider hikes.

If you are interested in helping out here, please take a look at our [TrailRider web page](#) and contact Jeff ([jkward@shaw.ca](mailto:jkward@shaw.ca)) or Rick Hudson ([rickhudson@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhudson@shaw.ca)) to talk about what’s involved.



**An ACC TrailRider team on the go.**



**“Golden boy” Charles at Amiskwi ski week in the Rockies in 2008**

### **Remembering Charles Turner (May 20, 1950 – August 16, 2013)**

It is with great sadness that the section learned of the untimely passing of Charles Turner, when the floatplane he was in struck a tree and crashed on the West Coast of the Island. The 5-person party, which included other ACC members, was returning from a section, multi-day hiking trip of the Hesquiat Peninsula. The pilot, a very experienced flyer, died in the crash.

Charles was born in the UK, and moved to Canada, after extensive travelling in Europe and Africa. He lived the life of a young itinerant, trying his hand at many things, and living the life of a happy go lucky lad, with so much freedom and so many opportunities presented by his newly adopted country. From Toronto to Whitehorse, he worked and experienced the vastness of his new home.

After he joined the ACC VI section in 1991, it was a measure of his energy level that it took him just two short years to knocked off all nine of the section’s “Island Qualifier” (IQ) summits. Since the start of the IQ award program in 1987, just 6 people had achieved that status before him. In similar manner, as a member of the Island Mountain Ramblers, he swiftly demolished their 20 peaks, the “Lifetime Climbing Objectives”. Searching for new goals, he then ticked off the original list of 46 peaks over 6,000 ft on Vancouver Island.

That level of passion for the outdoors, combined with a willingness to endure bad bush, non-existent trails, and sometimes questionable rock, allowed him to rack up a long list of Island summits over the ensuing decades. His alpine interests also spread to more distant ranges, in Nepal, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Equador, Patagonia, Kenya, Uganda and beyond. He was always planning another adventure and, to his credit, he instilled that love of the outdoors into his two children Joe and Maddy as they grew up.





**Charles skiing on the Pebble Glacier in 2004**

On a rope, he was always dependable. On snow he had great skill, and on skis he was a dream to watch. As an ACC member, Charles also gave back – he led many trips, assisted in numerous workshops, and for many years taught a telemark ski clinic at Mt Washington, where his style was the envy of all. He was on Mt. Washington's Nordic Ski Patrol for 20 years.

Being so active in the mountains, he climbed with almost everyone in the section. The turnout at his memorial in Comox was a testament to the many, many trips he had done, and the companions from those trips who had become friends. His quiet voice and solid experience, and his rope and axe skills, were highly regarded. As Catrin Brown said at his memorial, "Few people said more than Charles, in so few words." He was an anchor when things were going badly, and he seldom got angry, or expressed fear. He will be greatly missed by many, and leaves a big gap in the energy and experience of the ACC.

So let us remember him. Remember him for any one of the many talents that were his. Remember him for those flashy gold fleeces and shells that he wore, that looked so good in photos, and were the envy of all. Remember him for his grace on skis, cutting perfect Ss down steep slopes; where others cut Zs or fell, he swooped with ease. Remember him for his gentleness, his softly spoken word, his kindness to others with a reassuring word when things weren't going well. Remember him for his silver spandex tights, worn weekly to his yoga class. Remember him for his drive and passion to get into the wild places of this world, where his soul was truly free. Remember Charles Henry Turner.

Rick Hudson



Charles at the ACCVI Summer Camp 2003 at Lake Lovely Water –  
on the crux of E Ridge of Alpha Peak

*"A picture of Charles is  
worth a thousand words."*

*Namaste ~ Christine*



## Charles Turner

The news of the crash at Hesquiat on August 16<sup>th</sup> shocked us all. We hop in and out of float planes and helicopters so casually that the risk is easily forgotten. When Russ confirmed that Charles had not survived after speaking to John Young in the VGH on the Saturday morning after the crash, the reality of his death began to sink in. Charles was always so relaxed, so comfortably dressed and yet always well equipped and competent that it seemed he would go on for ever.

I was on many enjoyable trips with Charles. I remember one trip to Mt Hood, up through the Pearly Gates to the summit on a wonderful clear crisp morning. Charles' son Joseph was with us and had his snowboard with him which he used to good effect all the way back down to the parking lot. Charles was very proud of Joseph's performance that day. Another highlight was the Mexican Volcanos trip organized by Tony Vaughn. I remember the day we summited Orizaba, which at 5636 metres stretched my acclimatisation limits, and Charles' quiet encouragement as I crawled the last few feet to the top. An amusing incident on that trip occurred whilst we were sitting at the base camp lodge of our outfitter: I was with Sylvia, Tony with Anita and Charles and Rick Eppler were sitting on a couch together. The outfitter was sorting out the sleeping arrangements and after pointing to the two couples and saying "you two together", "you two together", pointed to Charles and Rick and with a wicked grin said "and you two together?"

We also went to Aconcagua in Argentina together, again organized by Tony. When I suffered some high altitude symptoms after summiting with Don Morton and spent a night on the mountain before finally arriving back at our high camp the next morning, Charles, who had wisely descended the day before after himself suffering some altitude problems, was there to help me down to Plaza Argentina and our muleteer.

I remember also one of our ski camps when we were traversing a rather steep and icy slope and Charles was using ski crampons whilst the rest of us were dangerously slithering and sliding around. Ever since, on Charles' example and advice, I have always carried ski crampons in my pack when touring. All of us who have skied with Charles will remember his superb telemark style: we have been inspired by it and sometimes frustrated by our inability to keep up although on easier alpine touring gear. I remember one particularly difficult ski out from the Wendy Thompson Hut beyond Pemberton where we skied out in failing light through some of the tightest trees I have ever skied. It looked effortless watching Charles but it certainly wasn't on my part.

The last trip I did with Charles was Catrin's trip up Mt Klitsa this Spring. Charles was his classic self on the summit day, skiing in shorts and sitting bare chested in the Spring sun on the summit before swooshing down to camp in effortless style. I remember too the struggle down through the bush where Karen Payie and I were reduced to carrying our skis, and finally meeting up with Charles and Rudi and co. at the beginning of the clear cut, where they had been patiently waiting to make sure we were all out safely.

We shall all miss Charles. The Island Mountains will not seem the same without him.

Mike Hubbard





**Charles Triumphant on Rambler Peak**

My most memorable trip with Charles was on a solo trip to Rambler Peak. Solo because my two partners had bailed at the last minute and I decided to just go on my own. After hiking up the Elk River Trail, I camped in the evening at the "Big Trees" spot and ran in to Charles and Christine Fordham. They were on their way to Rambler Junior and asked me if I'd like to join them.

The next day we set out and climbed the very airy and exposed West ridge of Rambler Junior to its summit. Looking for a quick way down, Charles thought rappelling down the South Face might go. It was good we both brought 60 metre ropes, because it took it all to reach a small ledge that traversed across the South Face directly to the upper glacier on Rambler's East side.

We could have called it a day, as Charles had already been up Rambler's main peak, but both Christine and I had not and it would be my fourth try and Christine's third try. Charles, the gentleman that he was, just said, "Let's go".

We made the summit of the main peak in beautiful weather, thanks to Charles.

Peter Rothermel



**Charles (third from left) at 2011 ACC Summer Camp at Athelney Pass**

In 1991 I did a week's traverse of the Pemberton Ice Cap with Dave Tansley and Charles Turner; we went in from Meager Creek Hot Springs and came out at Brew Creek on the Sea to Sky Highway. I had brought a pair of new touring skis from MEC complete with bindings allegedly used by the Swiss army. About halfway across the ice cap these new skis started to delaminate, I had epoxy but no clamps and was astounded when Charles produced two clamps. He mixed the epoxy and clamped the delaminated section. This emergency repair done in the snow lasted the remaining life of the skis, which was over 10 years. Twenty years later I was at the ACC-VI Summer Camp in Athelney Pass, when my air mattress kept going down. I asked Charles his opinion, he determined that the fabric had delaminated and was not repairable. We laughed about the ski repair twenty years before and how equipment always waits for the right moment to fail. Charles lent me his lunch time sitting pad to sleep on. During that camp we had climbed Icemaker (2,745m) and attempted Ethelweard the Unclimbable (2819m). On a rope with Charles on these climbs my faith in him was absolute.

These are my memories of Charles: dependable, competent, optimistic and soft spoken. Over many trips, over many years I never heard him criticise anyone or anything or say anything negative. He always seemed to have the repair items that everyone else forgot.

On a 2001 trip to Elkhorn I saw his only weakness, a large spoon of sugar in his herb tea.

I am saddened by his untimely death. No one wants to die, or can determine the time of their death. But it can be said that Charles died doing what he loved.

Graham Maddocks



I feel very fortunate to have Charles as my friend.

He was a true Mountaineer.

Never mad and very soft-spoken.

He gave me lots of encouragement.

I dearly miss him.

Rudy Brugger



**Russ Moir, Tony Vaughn, Sylvia Moser and Charles Turner  
on the summit of Pasachoa in Ecuador 10 Jan 2007 – Sylvia Moser**





**Charles and Stan Marcus at Machu Picchu**

*"We all send our best wishes to Stan in his struggle to recover health, presently under care at Royal Jubilee. His friends in the Section are with him in their spirit. Keep the faith in yourself Stan!"*

### **Charles – A Memory**

So many things to say of Charles, of his strength, his joy of being, and his support for those around him. What do you tell? Well maybe for me of the five months spent together in Uganda working often in harsh environs to build better conditions for some very needy groups, and never a sign of complaint or criticism. He was calm and quiet though not without opinions, usually stated in a quick, incisive retort, always to be followed with a cheesy grin.

Of the long, laughing chats he held with Richard and other young Ugandans who came to seek his company. They soaked up his experienced ways with wood and tools as they toiled together under blazing sun or the frequent drenching rains. To Richard he was a source of new ways of thinking and for Charles a chance to connect with such resourceful, challenged people. Often there was the need to prod with a gentle reminder that dust was settling on their work!

Then, as always, was the need to get away into the mountains we had gazed at each day. Here it would be a seven day squelch in deep mud to the alpine summits of the Rwenzoris. Again, never a hint of a grimace.

Always a trip to venture on, often at the drop of a hat, so many to remember.

I will leave with the picture of Charles and Stan, my convivial pals, in the early morning mists of Machu Picchu. It was the finale of our gorgeous traverse of the Huayhuash Circuit in N Peru.

What joys to remember!!

Russ Moir



**Charles on Garibaldi Park, April 2013**

### ***Charles Turner***



**Charles and Catrin Pioneer Peak, Adamant range, February 1997**

Gentle and kind, dependable and non-judgmental, competent and always encouraging to others – what a companion we had in Charles. And what a privilege and pleasure to share so much with him over many years.

He was the quiet optimist who believed we could still climb Baker even though it was sunset before we reached the trailhead; the helpful friend who fixed my bindings when I wasn't looking; the patient leader of the motley crew who followed him up the long west ridge of Alpha. Charles kept his humour when vehicles broke down, when the wind snapped tent poles, and when the promised powder turned to crud. And when the clouds parted, he reveled in sunshine and never missed a chance to bare his bronzed chest to the blue sky.

Of all the trips, a few stand out when there was a special spark in Charles' eye. These were the times when Joe or Maddy were around. On Mt Hood back in 1997, I remember how he and Joe played in the snow like brothers, and how in Mt Cain we seduced them into our cabin, easily trumping their will to tough it out in their van. More recently, I witnessed Charles' delight in skiing with Maddy and his pride in her marriage to Tim. Charles was as soft as he was tough. He could say more in fewer words than anyone I've known. He didn't really need words: his presence, his warmth, his smile spoke volumes.

I will think of him always, as in this picture of one of our last trips together, smiling gently from the top of his world. Thank you Charles, you will remain a true inspiration.

Catrin Brown

In 2008 I spent time with Russ Moir, Charles Turner and Rudy Brugger, all ACC members, working at the Mengo Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Towards the end of our stay, Charles, Rudy and I climbed Mount Elgon, 4321m, basically an acclimatization hike for Charles, but a major undertaking for me. After four days, Rudy returned to Kampala, Charles and I continued our journey together, Charles to climb Kilimanjaro, and I to join a safari in the Serengeti. As pre-arranged, we expected to pick up the daily bus at the Uganda/Kenya border. For some reason, the bus didn't run that day, but we didn't know. As the hours passed, we realized that we had to make our own way. After quite a few mishaps and unexpected turns of events, we finally arrived in Nairobi after midnight and caught an early bus to Arusha in Tanzania the next day - still in time for our respective tours.

It's in these unexpected circumstances of adversity that one really gets to know one's fellow travellers. I found Charles to be a cheerful, down-to-earth, let's-get-things-done type of person, a great companion with whom I would have loved to share more adventures on the journey of life. I'll miss him.

Albert Hestler (Toronto, Sept.28, 2013)

---

For many years, Charles, I (and a few others) did an annual telemarking instruction weekend at Mt. Washington. He was an excellent skier with fine form and a very good teacher. Just as important, he was always loads of fun to ski with. Although I have since gone to the dark side (i.e., AT gear), I will still miss carving the slopes with him very much.

Brian Pinch

---

I first met Charles when he was initiating a bunch of us bumbles into the mysteries of the telemark turn. I was in awe of his skill on the skinny boards (which in the late 80's were very skinny indeed!). Later I had the pleasure of joining him on various club trips, and appreciated his skills in all areas of mountain travel. But what I will remember most is his calm, supportive attitude, no matter what the circumstances - usually accompanied by his sly grin. Happy trails, my friend.

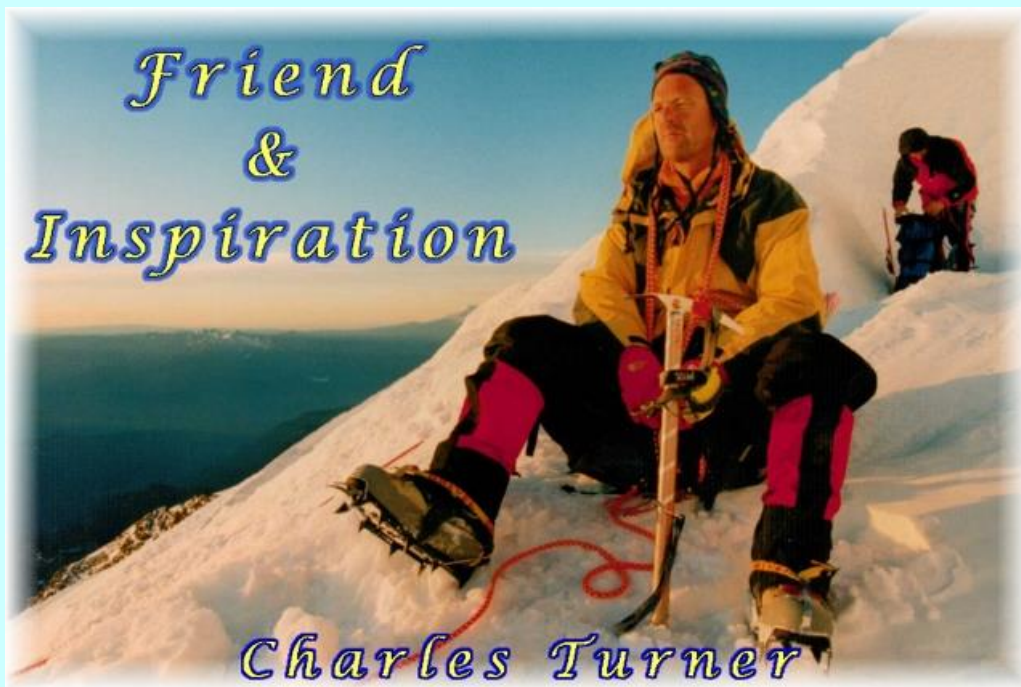
Martin Davis

---

I only went on one trip with him - Dave Campbell's Mt. Myra club trip a few years back. He was a lovely man - quiet, strong, competent in the mountains, humorous and just a great person to be around. Roger and I last saw him as we were coming down from Big Interior in early July at a campsite on a depression below the mountain. He was helping out Harry with the mountaineering course participants. I was shocked to hear of this tragic event and pray that his relatives and friends are given much comfort and strength during this time. It is ironic and fitting that Charles was pictured on the cover of the 2012 Bushwhacker - a touching portrait of a man in his favourite environment!

Peggy Taylor





I met Charles about 19 years ago on a climb up Mount Filberg. Charles was leading an Island Mountain Rambler and Canadian Alpine Club Hike. I had never met Charles before but had heard a friend talk about him and how fast a hiker he was. On this hike I did not get to see Charles' top hiking speed but began to see his leadership skill, patience with others and knowledge that seemed to put others at ease. We all ended up summiting the mountain and all came out safely. There were a number of people along for the three day trip who weren't prepared for such a challenging climb and certainly ended up on a climb that was much more challenging than they expected. They had poor gear and had much less outdoor experience than you would anticipate on such a climb. We continued the climb and by the end, after this first ascent with Charles, I had gained a lot of respect for the numerous qualities that helped lead the group in and out of this bushy and demanding climb safely.

It was months later that fate would have Charles and myself on another climb together up Mounts Cobb and Haig Brown. This was another big bushwhack with Brian Ross that was physically demanding, took some good orienteering skills and a desire to overcome numerous challenges simply to succeed. Once again we accomplished our goal, making it in and out safely through this challenging terrain. I remember us all arriving back at the parking lot very exhausted but all satisfied with the journey. We were having a chat about the climb and bushwhack when Charles made the comment to us, we travel well together don't you think. This was the beginning of a long friendship that had us climbing numerous mountains together over the years on the Island, Mainland, Rockies and in the States. Over the years some of our trips were just the two of us and a number of them were with others.

No matter where the climb, how long, what the challenges and who was on the climb Charles always remained the same. How would I describe that?

Charles Turner was a quiet man who never bragged about his many accomplishments and never made others feel like he was better than them. He was very confident in his outdoor skills and his subtle way of putting them into use made all who travelled with him at ease. Charles was always in good condition and ready for his next out door challenge, which came regularly. Charles was a man you could always measure your fitness against and aspire to sustain yourself the way he did. He was a skilled climber that knew how to use all mountaineering gear to reduce any risk. He shared his knowledge with others and helped many others accomplish their goals. I enjoyed every adventure with Charles and will surely have him on my mind and in my heart for the rest of my life.

I enjoyed my time talking with Charles on our many journeys, questioning him about his endless accomplishments and his life. The outdoors, his family, and the two combined, Charles enjoyed his path. It seemed like there was always another twist or summit in his life that we reflected on that I had never heard mentioned before. He was the kind of man that did not have to tell others of his accolades, he was satisfied to live the life he enjoyed.

This is the friend I enjoyed spending time with that inspired me and so many others.

Randy Davies



**Charles and Gerta Smythe on "First Granny Ascent" (May 1995)**



**The classic Charles lounge-pose on the way to Mt Albert-Edward (May1996)**

Charles had a way of doing ski trips around his birthday and liked the special attention and celebration. I always enjoyed these outings as May is a great time to ski tour and Charles was always fun to be with.

Charles was always a considerate and steady companion. He waited patiently for those who dragged behind, he gladly broke trail for a good part of the route, he enjoyed taking a pause and relaxing in a lounge-pose, and he was always good natured, smiling and joking along, or quietly moving ahead. What great memories I have of a fine mountain companion.

Here is a photo on the summit of Garibaldi, with Gerta Smythe. We called it the first "granny ascent" as we were all proud to be climbing with her, and get her to the top! (May 1995)

And the classic Charles lounge-pose on the way to Mt Albert Edward. (May1996)

Claire Ebendinger



### **Barb Brooks and Charles climbing Vantage Peak**

I always admired Charles and will never forget his smile and warm voice. He was such a good man. We had some really great times. He was an easy guy to love. And he was so real if you know what I mean. No façade. Just good 'ol happy go lucky Charles.

My favorite moments were two occasions. The first was a trip to Mt Garibaldi. On the way down Charles and I raced down the Garibaldi Lake trail to the parking lot. We were burdened with full packs and skis. We ran for about an hour down the trail trying to beat each other. I don't remember who won but we laughed all the way down, taking short cuts and trying to trip one another.

Another favorite moment was on a trip with Charles and Barb to Vantage Peak. The snow conditions were absolutely perfect for skiing. I filmed them both skiing down the wide open snow fields in the sunshine. They looked so graceful. As Charles approached the camera at high speed, he came to a sliding stop with his face plugged right into the camera and let out a cheerful whoop.

Such great moments.

Greg Gordon





**Charles on Aconcagua, Argentina. 2002**

## **Memories of Charles Henry Turner**



**Charles dressed for the city,  
Valparaíso, Chile. 2001**

My first encounter with Charles was back in 1995 on Rob MacDonald's trip to climb "The True Septimus". We were lunching at Bedwell Lake, and were chatting, one Brit to another, about the town of Sutton Coldfield in England, where Charles was brought up and where my first wife was from. Charles must have been at his peak of fitness that weekend, as I clearly remember hiking back to the cars, along Bedwell trunk road, bone weary after a long tiring day, when he passed us, running down the trail homeward bound with a full pack on his back.

Over the next 18 years, I went on many trips into the mountains with Charles, and I always felt if he was on the trip everything was going to be great. We climbed together on the Island, on the mainland, and in the North Cascades, but the most memorable for me were the big trips to Mexico, Ecuador, Chile and Argentina. It was on these trips that I concluded that Charles was really and truly an adventurer at heart. He appeared comfortable in all his surroundings, whether it was walking through the streets of Valparaíso and Santiago in his bright blue shorts, tank top and sandals, or wrapped up in 7 layers of down and goretex at 22,000 feet on Aconcagua in a snowstorm. We did four trips to these Spanish speaking countries and spent a total of about 14 weeks there, but I don't remember him attempting a single word of Spanish the whole time. He was there to climb, not to learn Spanish. On one trip to Aconcagua we spent 17 days together in the same tent under trying conditions of weather and altitude, yet not a word of complaint from Charles the whole time. Even when the altitude got to him and he hadn't the energy to move, he still remained the same old Charles, quiet, even tempered, and always willing to help others.

Well Charles, you may be gone but you will not be forgotten. You will always be with us in spirit when we are out among the mountains that you loved so much.

Tony Vaughn



**Charles relaxing on Mt Jutland**

I was very saddened to learn, while visiting family in New Brunswick, about the terrible plane crash and especially to learn of the death of long-time friend Charles Turner. It didn't seem to bear belief. I have known Charles for a long time, though the first trip I can remember right now was the time he and I went to Malaspina Peak together in 1997. But we have been in the mountains together lots of times since then, mainly on ski trips to such places as Mt Jutland and Castlecrag, but also on trips in various seasons to Mt Arrowsmith and other peaks.

Charles had a highly developed sense of how to relax in the mountains. At every lunch stop and on summits, almost irrespective of the weather, he would lie back against a tree, a cairn, or his propped up skis and just savour the place and the company. He was always fit, competent, gentle, calm, and ready not only to share his huge mountaineering experience and knowledge with others but also, on a couple of occasions at least, to step in with no notice to assist me as a kind of deputy trip leader when things seemed to be getting a bit complex to manage - and all this with a great sense of humour. Somewhere I have a photo of Charles on all fours at Mariner Mountain grazing for blueberries above tree-line.

I am not sure whether Charles is the only person so far to have climbed all the 6000ft peaks on Vancouver Island, and such lists are fraught with the problem of definitions anyway, but I do know that Charles has been quietly enjoying a wide variety of the Island's mountains over these past decades, and his sudden loss is a tragic blow to all his family and friends. We may all aspire to his version of serenity in the mountains. Charles will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Sandy Briggs



**Charles in the alpine en route to Mt Celeste**

I last met Charles Turner on the 2013 May long weekend to Mt Celeste.

Mt Celeste was high on George Butcher's and my list as one of the last four greater than 2000m peaks that we had yet to climb. Tak Ogasawara had Celeste and Iceberg Peak on the ACCVI trip schedule. A couple days before the trip, he cancelled because of illness. Martin Hofmann, George and I decided to go anyway. Charles was listed as one of Tak's email recipients so I emailed Charles and invited him to come along.

On Saturday morning we drove to Cumberland to meet Charles. We piled into his red truck and headed for Comox Lake and then onto Kweishun Valley. The hike up from the logging road into the old growth through the steep horrible slashes was a struggle as I was carrying more than half of my weight in skis and gear. Charles and Martin were hiking up in ski boots. Yikes! By the time we got to the waterfall I was beat. Booting up that steep snow did me in. Half way up I got painful cramps on one inner thigh and then both. I stopped next to the waterfall and nursed my pain. I swallowed a couple packages of leftover electrolytes bought in India and waited. The boys poked their heads out from high up gesturing something and vanished. After a long rest I put on the skis and skinned up with ease while wondering why we had been so dumb carrying the skis on our back up that slope! We camped by the east end of the mostly frozen Mirren Lake, 800m below the Comox Glacier. It was a cold clear night.

A lovely alpine glow lighted up Mt Harmston next morning. The snow had turned into ice overnight. Only Charles had ski crampons so an early start was out of the question. We ventured out at 10:30am after the sun had softened the ice. The sugary snow just below the ridge provided no grip on the skin. George slid 20m and almost went over a cliff. We heeded the warning and booted up the slope instead. The view on the ridge was magnificent. Mt Harmston's east flank was steep and imposing. Argus and Red Pillar were coming in and out of clouds. We skied most of the way to Iceberg Peak which was surrounded by grey clouds. A thin strip of snow led to its summit where we did not linger for



long. I followed Charles side-sliding off the icy peak moving onto our main objective. Even though Charles had been up Mt Celeste before on a traverse from the north, he couldn't figure out which of the bumps on the Aureole snowfield was the highest point. We passed the first bump and upon arriving at the next one we decided it seemed higher so we called that Mt Celeste. After smiling for the summit group photo we sped off for the 1000m ski descent that included a stop to photograph the tens of thousands of mating ice worms. We got back to camp just before 8pm and celebrated by passing a small cup of Glenmorangie single malt Scotch.

Next morning we packed up and skied out. The steep slope above the waterfall was very icy and peppered with rocks. George and Martin sped off. Charles gave me a concerned glance and I followed his tracks weaving through the rocks and let gravity slowly draw me down. Wiping out and falling into the waterfall was not a desirable outcome. After crawling out of a couple tree holes I rejoined the group on the flat and had a pleasant hike back to the truck. Unbeknown to me at that time, it was Charles' 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Thanks Charles for being the rope anchor up Icemaker. Thanks you for leading the rope in our sojourn to Ethelweard although I do recommend bringing crampons next time! Thanks again for your shoulder boost to get us over the choke stone on the way to Mariner Mountain. Thanks once more for pointing out the move to get off that awkward arête of Mariner summit. But most of all I want to thank you for your great company in the mountains.

May your body rest and your spirit soar.

Ken Wong



**Martin Hofmann, Charles, and Ken Wong on the way to Mt Celeste**