

# *Island Bushwhacker*

*Volume 46 | Issue 1 | Jan, 2018*



*Alpen Glow on Nine Peaks  
Photo by Natasha Salway*

## 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 7:00pm, and the show starts at 7:30pm.

### Web Information

Web site: [accvi.ca](http://accvi.ca)

Webmaster: [webmaster@accvi.ca](mailto:webmaster@accvi.ca)

### Executive Meeting Minutes

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

A monthly (except July and August) publication of the Vancouver Island Section.

**Newsletter Editor:** Mary Sanseverino, 250 592 4677,

[newsletter@accvi.ca](mailto:newsletter@accvi.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!)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Slideshow, Thur, Jan 11. The Haute Route – Chamonix to Zermatt on Skis by Dave Fishwick.** Come on a photo/story telling adventure with Dave Fishwick..... The plan: Six days, five huts, three countries and lots of vertical meters.

### Contents

- 3 Upcoming Slideshows and Events
- 4 Upcoming Trips
- 6 Mountain Education
- 7 Kids and Youth Program
- 8 VI-150 Latest Stats
- 9 The Ten Essentials: Walter Moar
- 10 Memorial Fund Youth Grants
- 11 Trailrider Trip Report: Karun Thanjavur
- 12 Bushwhacker Annual Deadline
- 12 Deal Alert with Ski Tac Hut
- 13 Executive Episodes: Catrin Brown
- 16 New Leaders Wanted
- 16 Nomination Committee
- 17 From the Photo Competition
- 16 Deal Alert with Ski Tac Hut
- 18 1933 Croteau Camp: Brian Pinch
- 21 eTrails
- 21 Leadership Points: Christine Fordham
- 22 Executive Listing
- 23 Photo Feature: Winter Activity Winner
- 23 Contributors

### 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.

Join the ACC-VI's [Facebook group](#).

You don't have to be a Facebook member to see this page.





## Upcoming Slideshows, Presentations, Meetings and Get-togethers

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**Slideshow, Thu, Jan 11, 2018.** Dave Fishwick presents

[The Haute Route – Chamonix to Zermatt on Skis.](#)

Come on a photo/story telling adventure with Dave Fishwick.....The plan: Six days, five huts, three countries and lots of vertical meters – Ski tour from legendary French Mountain town of Chamonix across the backbone of the southern Alps to the foot of the Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland. Fueled by cheese, bread, sausages and beer. Just buy a plane ticket and improvise from there...what could possibly go wrong?

***Victoria Slideshows are at Swan Lake Nature House. Doors open at 7:00 pm, the show starts at 7:30 pm. Tea and goodies by donation. Everyone is welcome!***

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**It's almost time for the AGM!**

**AGM weekend at Mt. Washington, Jan 26 - 28th, 2018.** Our 6th annual AGM weekend based in the comfort of the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre at Mt Washington alpine resort. See the Chair's report on pg 15 of this newsletter for more info.



***On Mount Elliot  
Dec 3, 2017***

***Party: Phil Jackson (pictured), Matthew Lettington (photo), Colleen Chestnut, and Rick Marshall.***

***Notes: After failing to summit two weeks earlier via a different route, we snowshoed to the summit. It was hard earned, including scaling frozen trees to climb up past collapsing snow.***

***One of nine VI 150 Challenge peaks bagged in December. Not sure where Elliot is? - Click on the [VI-150 Map Link](#) to find it in the North Island.***

## Upcoming Trips

*Full information for all trips is located online at [ACC-VI Trip Schedule](#). Each trip listed here links to the [Trip Schedule](#). Click individual trip links for full info.*

*Check the [Trip Schedule](#) often for new offerings!*

| <i>Date</i>       | <i>Trip</i>  |
|-------------------|--|
| Jan 6, 2018       | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Empress Mountain (B1)</a></p> <p>A trip to the highest point in the CRD – an Island classic! Leaving from the upper Sooke Potholes parking lot, we'll take the Mary Vine trail to Peden Lake, and then carry on to Empress Mountain. After a snack and lounging in the sun at the top, we'll return via the same route.<br/>Contact Walter Moar, <a href="mailto:walter@waltermoar.com">walter@waltermoar.com</a></p>  |
| Jan 6, 2018       | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Katzenjamer for the Rest of Us! Mt. Arrowsmith (B3)</a></p> <p>If you want to enjoy New Year's eve, then this is for you. If the trailhead is accessible this trip will be a go regardless of weather. Perfect trip to test out Christmas gear and getting the muscles working again. We will be taking the Judges route up. Crampons, ice axe, headlights and warm gear required.<br/>Contact Tim Turay, <a href="mailto:tim.turay@nanaimo.ca">tim.turay@nanaimo.ca</a></p> |
| Jan 27, 2018      | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Not Another ACC-VI Trip up Mt Elma! (B2)</a></p> <p>Ski tour to depart from the VIMC at 9:00 a.m. We will not be going up Mt Elma nor other more distant peaks. We should be back in ample time for appies, dinner before the AGM.<br/>Contact Scott Collins at <a href="mailto:scottcollins@shaw.ca">scottcollins@shaw.ca</a> Tel: 250-743-4472</p>   |
| Jan 27, 2018      | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Elma - Brooks Ski Traverse (B3)</a></p> <p>Traverse around Lake Helen MacKenzie, then Mt Elma to the col above the lake. Head up the south ridge of Mt Allan Brooks and come down via the northwest slopes. Suitable for intermediate skiers with some backcountry experience. AST1 and avi gear required. Contact Contact Martin &amp; Josh <a href="mailto:weskivi@gmail.com">weskivi@gmail.com</a></p>  |
| Feb 4 2018        | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Mount Cokely Ski Tour, Rousseau Chute (B2)</a></p> <p>Mount Cokely Ski Tour, Rousseau Chute - weather / snow conditions dependent.<br/>Contact Andrew Pape-Salmon, <a href="mailto:apape@shaw.ca">apape@shaw.ca</a>. Tel: 250-592-7017.</p>  |
| Feb 16 - 18, 2018 | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Valentine's Day Ski Weekend at Mt Cain! (B2)</a></p> <p>Stay at Mt Cain Cypress Cabin for the nights of Feb 16-17. Potluck dinner on Feb 17<br/>Co-leaders: Christine Fordham &amp; Scott Collins<br/>Contact Scott Collins at <a href="mailto:scottcollins@shaw.ca">scottcollins@shaw.ca</a> Tel: 250-743-4472</p>  |
| Mar 24 - 30, 2018 | <p><a href="#">Click for full info: Bow-Yoho ski tour</a></p> <p>A 5-6 day ski tour across the Wapta icefield,, Yoho and des Poilus glaciers. We will stay at the Bow, Guy and Stanley Mitchell huts. For experienced back country skiers with AST1 and crevasse rescue experience.<br/>Contact Catrin Brown, <a href="mailto:catrin@shaw.ca">catrin@shaw.ca</a></p>   |

May 18 - 22, 2018

**[Click for full info: May Long Weekend in Leavenworth Wa](#)**

Come to Leavenworth Washington for an extended long weekend based out of the Eight-Mile Campground in Icicle Canyon. The Leavenworth area is known for it's fantastic climbing on great-quality granite, featuring mostly trad climbing with numerous moderate multi-pitch adventures. The area also has fantastic hiking (and is the access to the Enchantment Range), mountain biking, and white-water kayaking.

Contact Alois Schonenberger at [alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com](mailto:alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com)

June 10 - 17, 2018

**[Click for full info: City of Rocks Idaho](#)**

Last year, 16 ACC members made the trip down to City of Rocks reserve in Idaho for a fantastic week of climbing in the sun. Back by popular demand, another trip is being organized this year! A number of participants in 2017 were not climbers and enjoyed a week of hiking in the area, enjoying beautiful trails and scenic views. This included the opportunity to summit a few nearby non-technical mountains.

Contact Alois Schonenberger at [alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com](mailto:alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com)



***On Mt. Brûlé in the Sooke Hills - Dec 23, 2017***

***Party: (L-R) Mary Sanseverino, Tamara Plush, Catrin Brown, Erich Schellhammer, Waltraud Radetzki, Tom Hall, Thomas Radetzki, Serena Polk, Mike Whitney, Anita Vaughn, Colleen Kasting, Chris Vanderford, Mike Hubbard, Lise Gagnon, Tony Vaughn, Ken Wong, Vivian Addison, and Lyle Young.***

***Notes: A bluebird day -- great views, fine hiking, and wonderful company. 18 of us on Mt. Brûlé. 16 continued on to Mt. Manuel Quimper (in the right background of this photo).***

***The day finished at the 17 Mile House.***

***Leader: Erich Schellhammer***

***Tail Gunner: Thomas Radetzki***

***Another [VI-150 Challenge peak](#)***



## Mountain Education

**A**CC-VI offers a wide variety of courses aimed at giving our members the technical and safety skills to get out there in the mountains. Courses are open to ACC members in good standing only. You are welcome to join the section if you would like to enroll in one or more of these courses.

*Full information for all courses is located online at [ACC-VI Trip Schedule](#). Each course listed here links to the [Schedule](#). Click individual course links for full info.*

*Check the [Schedule](#) often for new educational offerings!*

| <i>Date</i>                     | <i>Course</i>   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Jan 13 - 14, 2018               | <p><b><a href="#">Click for full info: Intro to Winter Camping C3</a></b></p> <p>This is a Introduction in to winter camping. This workshop will teach the skills you will need to spend a night in the back-country during the winter. This workshop is welcome to all forms of transportation, from AT skiers, to splitboarders, and snow shoeing. Contact: Colin Mann (Trip Leader) Natasha Salway (Co-Leader)<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com">colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com</a></p>   |
| Jan 27 - 28, 2018               | <p><b><a href="#">Click for full info: AST Level 1 during the AGM at Mt. Washington</a></b></p> <p>The Avalanche Skills Training One is an introductory avalanche course designed for individuals with little-to-no avalanche related experience.</p>   |
| Feb 10 - 11, 2018               | <p><b><a href="#">Click for full info: Intro to Winter Camping</a></b></p> <p>This is a Introduction in to winter camping. This workshop will teach the skills you will need to spend a night in the back-country during the winter. This workshop is welcome to all forms of transportation, from AT skiers, to splitboarders, and snow shoeing. Contact: Colin Mann (Trip Leader) Natasha Salway (Co-Leader)<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com">colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com</a></p>  |
| Feb 17, 2018                    | <p><b><a href="#">Click for full info: AST Plus</a></b></p> <p>For many people, taking the step from avalanche skills training to actually getting out touring in the backcountry can be a bit daunting. This course bridges the gap from theory to practice.</p>   |
| Mar 3-4 and<br>Mar 10 -11, 2018 | <p><b><a href="#">Click for full info: AST Level 2 Mt. Cain</a></b></p> <p>The Avalanche Skills Training Two is an advanced avalanche course which takes a closer look at how avalanches form and how to manage more complex terrain. We delve deeper into the snow pack and learn how to apply different tests to help gain an understanding of snow stability and strength. Transceiver training moves into the realm of multiple beacon searches and how to solve these sometimes complex searches. AST1 or equivalent required. Participants should be intermediate skiers.</p> |



## Kids and Youth Program

The ACC-VI Kids and Youth Program was founded by Harry and Nadja Steiner in 2008 as a way to introduce the mountains to their kids. Trips included many gummy bear breaks and friends. Over the years the original cohort matured into youth leaders that led the younger kids and adults alike.

Over these nine years 56 trips/events were offered of which 21 were mountaineering trips, 11 climbing, 11 skiing, and 9 hiking. Members of the group summited Mount Albert Edward three times, Jutland twice, Kings Peak twice, and Cokely, Becher, Tom Taylor, and Sutton Peak once.

The tradition continues, and recently we've been building quinzhees, climbing, and skiing. During these trips we teach the kids about safety, trip planning, route finding, and mountaineering. To find out what the group is up to, please check the [trip schedule](#). The Kids and Youth Program uses the Band app: <http://band.us/#!/band/63347796>.

Please contact [kidsandyouth@accvi.ca](mailto:kidsandyouth@accvi.ca) to request an invite to Band or ask any questions. The Program Coordinator is Derek Sou.



*Old Baldy Mountain  
Dec 17, 2017*

*(L-R)Evan Davis, Martin Davis.  
The 203<sup>rd</sup> addition to the Vancouver Island 150 Challenge.*

*Photo by Martin Davis.*

# *Vancouver Island 150*

## *A 2017 ACC-VI Project*

***We did it!! Over 200 summits! Well done everyone!***

The definition of a summit seems to be endlessly contestable, so let's try to avoid controversy and follow these guidelines. A recorded peak can be any Vancouver Island or Gulf Islands peak that is:

- listed in: "A Guide to Climbing and Hiking in Southwest BC" Bruce Fairley
- listed in: "Island Alpine" or "Island Alpine Select" Philip Stone
- listed in Lindsay Elms' island peaks data base, which can be accessed from:  
<http://islandmountainramblers.com/resources/vancouver-island-peaks/>
- listed in [www.summitpost.org](http://www.summitpost.org)
- a named wilderness summit on a topo map (i.e. excluding those that are developed)

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**Stats as of Jan 1, 2018**

***GRAND TOTAL: 208 Summits!***

**Thus far the [Van Isle 150 map](#) has been viewed 6778 times!**

**There are 273 photos in the [ACC-VI Van Isle 150 album](#)!**

**Summits in January: 2**

**Summits in February: 12**

**Summits in March: 11**

**Summits in April: 23**

**Summits in May: 27**

**Summits in June: 35**

**Summits in July: 32**

**Summits in August: 35**

**Summits in Sept: 11**

**Summits in Oct: 7**

**Summits in Nov: 2**

**Summits in Dec: 11**



*Click on the map  
to see where people  
went!*



# The Ten Essentials

*The fourth in a series by Walter Moar*

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## The Ten Essentials

1. Hydration
2. Nutrition
3. Insulation
4. Sun Protection
5. Illumination
6. Navigation
7. Shelter
8. Fire
9. First Aid Kit
10. Repair Kit

The *Ten Essentials* should be carried on all hikes, even if you're heading out for a day hike. You never know when you – or someone else – will end up in a situation where these items suddenly become very important. A twisted knee or some bad navigation can quickly turn an easy hike into a challenge.

7. **Shelter** is anything that protects you from the elements. It can consist solely of natural features, such as eating lunch under the tree canopy on a rainy day or getting out of the breeze on the leeward side of a hill. On multi-day trips, artificial shelter like a tent is used, and a tarp will make dinner preparations more pleasant during a down-pour. Shelter requirements depend on the season, and also on climate and weather. The worse the environment that you're in, the more important it is to have good shelter. A bivy on a warm and dry summer night is much different than finding yourself unexpectedly overnighing in a snow-storm.



When shelter is needed in an emergency, a few simple tools can make a huge difference. A lightweight backpacking tarp, plus some cord for rigging, will make it easier to stay dry. Mylar emergency blankets help conserve heat, and will also keep you out of the rain. A sturdy knife isn't a requirement for creating shelter, but it may make the job much easier.

Knowledge is another important tool, so practice your shelter-building skills before you need them. Be able to fly a tarp quickly, and know how to use it to improvise a tent. Study bush craft to learn how to build a shelter like a lean-to. For winter adventures, learn how to dig a snow cave or build a quinzee.

8. **Fire** can be used to prevent hypothermia, and also to signal for help. Starting a fire with minimal supplies is an art, and you don't want to find yourself trying to learn how to rub sticks together in a downpour. A fire starting kit is a great start, and of course so is the knowledge of how to use it. Take the time to collect enough fuel, and be meticulous about its dryness. Also think about how you can use items that you normally carry for other purposes – if you're in the habit of burning your toilet paper, then you're already carrying tinder and a source of flame. Again, a sturdy knife is not a requirement, but it can make the job much easier if you want to feather sticks or cut away wet wood.

Although fires are invaluable in survival situations, damp socks or slight discomfort are not survival situations – please remember that fires are prohibited in many areas and discouraged in others. Be smart about where you start your fire, so that it doesn't make the situation even more dangerous for you or for others.



## Memorial Fund Youth Grants

### \*\*Jan 31st Deadline Approaching\*\*

If you are under 30 or if you lead children and youth on trips to the mountains, you may qualify for a \$1,000 grant to undertake alpine expeditions. Check out the “[Memorial Fund/Youth Grants](#)” page on the ACC-VI website and apply before January 31, 2018.

Since it started in 2009 the Fund has disbursed \$5,875 to six different youth groups in the alpine:

- 2010 - \$1,200 for the Brooks Peninsula Expedition (**Gillian Nicol, Cory McGregor, Cody Gold, Derek Cronmiller**)
- 2012 - \$250 for first ascents on the SW Buttress of Mount Arrowsmith (**James Pierzchalski**)
- 2013 - \$1,400 for a General Mountaineering Camp for youth at Mount Matchlee (**Harry Steiner**)
- 2013 - \$600 for a first ascent of North Needle Peak in the Great Bear Rainforest (**Christina Service, Laura Grant, Vernon Brown**)
- 2015 - \$925 for a study of weather conditions and climate change at 20 remote fire lookouts in the Rockies (**Kristen Walsh**)
- 016 - \$1,500 to purchase climbing gear for a First Nations youth rock climbing camp near Ucluelet (**Carlos Mack**)

The Memorial Fund welcomes donations in honour of mountaineers such as those whose lives are celebrated on the website. Donations are tax-deductible and are matched by the Vancouver Island Section. Please see the Donations section of the “[Memorial Fund/Youth Grants](#)” page and consider making a donation before the end of the year.

For additional information please contact [geoff.bennett@shaw.ca](mailto:geoff.bennett@shaw.ca).



### In Memoriam

*Top row - L to R: Charles Turner, Dave Tansley, Viggo Holm, Gerta Smythe, Herbert Harzan*  
*Bottom row - L to R: Richard Eppler, Roger Neave, Sydney Watts, Larry Talarico*



# The ACC-VI Trailrider Program in Action!

*Report and photo by Karun Thanjavur*

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## *Mt. Work, Dec 10, 2017: 202<sup>nd</sup> summit on the Vancouver Island 150 Challenge*

**The team:** Pippa Blake, Flora, Hayley, Lotte, Tess, Hieu, Mahmoud, Arno, Jes, Chris, Rick, Collin and Karun. (Editor's note: email [trailrider@accvi.ca](mailto:trailrider@accvi.ca) if you'd like to get involved)

**Trip Report:** Mt. Work has been waiting to be climbed in this year of ACC-VI 150 summits, and the Trail Rider team nabbed this mighty summit yesterday, under beautifully sunny, early winter skies. Supercharged by a powerhouse team from Pearson College plus five stalwart ACC volunteers, Pippa Blake's Rise Above Barriers team moved into top gear to seamlessly take on the challenging steep terrain and high rock steps to reach the summit well in time to admire the beauty of the Southern Island basking in the afternoon sun.

With the early evening darkness nipping at our heels, we made good time on the descent to be back in the parking lot with headlamps still in our packs. Wonderful teamwork, infectious enthusiasm and youthful energy, along with great cheer, the hallmarks of our success!

***Go Team Trail Rider, happy trails!!***



## **\*\*Bushwhacker Annual Deadline Approaches\*\***

What better way to start 2018 than by taking a moment to reflect on the peaks and valleys of the past year? Each year the ACC Vancouver Island Section's Bushwhacker Annual presents club members' collected adventures from right here on Vancouver Island and around the globe.

In keeping with this fine tradition, all members are invited to share written accounts of expeditions large and small from 2017. *Submissions can be emailed to Sean McIntyre at [sdevlin7@hotmail.com](mailto:sdevlin7@hotmail.com) in Word-friendly format (.doc file).* High-resolution images should be sent in .jpeg / .jpg format. Please use your best judgement when sending pics; I don't need every photo you took on the trip!

***Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2018.***

Inspiration and guidance are available by looking through past editions available in the Island Bushwhacker Archives section on the club's website, <http://accvi.ca/programs/island-bushwhacker-archives/>.

Sean McIntyre  
Bushwhacker Annual Editor  
[sdevlin7@hotmail.com](mailto:sdevlin7@hotmail.com)

## **\*\*Deal Alert\*\***

The great folks at [Ski Tak Hut](#) in Courtenay have offered us a deal of 20% off all backcountry ski rentals for all ACC-VI members with a valid membership card. Membership card must be available at time of rental to receive this discount. Great for all the folks who are thinking about getting into backcountry touring this winter.

### ***Things To Rent:***

- Touring Skis (skins and poles)
- Touring Boots
- Avalanche Transceivers
- Probes
- Shovels
- Snowshoes

## Executive Episodes:

*A quick update of ACC life from the chair's chair.*

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### Party time

The south-island Christmas party took place on Friday 15th December at the home of Tom and Pam Hall. In what has become a much-loved tradition, we were entertained by carollers from St Andrew's Regional High School choir with a full repertoire of familiar and novel carols. We feasted, toasted Sandy Briggs' retirement with Reinhard Illner's original tribute "The Ballad of Sandy Briggs", enjoyed a rolling slide show of the hut construction, and feasted some more. Our sincere thanks to Tom and Pam Hall for graciously opening their home to us again this year. Also to Alcina de Oliveira and Lise Gagnon, our francophone kitchen duo, who made feeding nearly 50 people look easy. And the Stan Hagen Centre for Families was grateful for the donations of outdoor warm clothing and food – so thanks all.

### Dreams do come true.....

Across the Island I think most of us woke up to white scenes on Christmas Day. I trust everyone enjoyed nature's touch to the festive season and a happy celebration.

### Annual donations

Every year we are in the fortunate position of being able to budget some money from our operating fund to donate to deserving causes that we feel are aligned with our mission. This year we distributed \$2200 in this way. The list of organizations chosen by the executive to support this year is given below, along with links so you can learn more about them.



*And may all your Christmases be white.*

*Erich Schellhammer, Catrin Brown, Thomas Radetzki,  
Waltraud Radetzki Summit of Mt Wells 25 December*

- Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA)  
<http://www.vispine.ca/>
- Vancouver Island Avalanche Bulletin  
<http://www.islandavalanchebulletin.com/>
- Philip Stone for development of climbing on Quadra Island  
<http://www.quadraisland.ca/adventure-recreation-tours/rock-climbing/chinese-mountains.html#.WGaIT2QrJPM>

- Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation  
<http://marmots.org/>
- Westcoast inland search and rescue group  
<http://www.westcoastsar.org/>
- Alberni Valley rescue squad  
<http://www.avrs.ca>
- ACC main club for Canadian Alpine Journal  
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/community/canadian-alpine-journal/>

If you have ideas of where you might like us to consider giving money next year, please let the executive know sometime.

## VISTA : Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association

It seems this is a good time to give an update on the work of VISTA, which you can see above is one of the organizations to which we are happy to donate. Not only is VISTA's goal, the creation of a continuous trail across the island from Victoria to Cape Scott, of obvious significance to our mission, it also has its roots in our membership. Gil Parker, an active section member since 1971 and inspired by his time on the Pacific Crest Trail, conceived the vision of the VI spine trail and founded VISTA about 10 years ago. Here is his recent update:

*"Once again the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) is happy to recognize the contribution from ACC-VI towards the successful completion of the Trail, stretching from Victoria to the north tip of the Island at Cape Scott. The project, conceived in 2005 and actively pursued since 2009, is well on its way to completion with 660 km done of 765 km total projected. This 86% recognizes that the total distance is greater than the 700 km originally envisaged, and includes 58 km right-of-way of the Englewood Rail-*



**Gil Parker, past VISTA President, left, and Terry Lewis, VISTA Director of Operations, in a riparian Zone near Grilse Creek, northwest of Strathcona Dam.**



**Volunteer trail builder Dave Webb on Kokummi section of Trail near Mt Schoen**

*way alongside Nimpkish Lake that is still to be negotiated with Western Forest Products. Initial response from WFP and Mount Waddington Regional District has been favourable.*

*In 2018, the Trail association named Ken Milbrath as President, replacing the founder, Gil Parker. Ken's focus is on marketing the Trail, encouraging usage, and on increasing pressure on government and private land owners to support access. While negotiations with several private forest companies have been positive, issues still need to be resolved to allow gaps in the Trail to be closed.*

*Major gaps still to be completed are: part of the south side of Cowichan Lake, the Beaufort Range (Port Alberni to Cumberland), and the Strathcona "Gap", (north boundary of Strathcona Park to the dam). For the present, a water route is recognized from Port Hardy to Shushartie Bay, serviced by water taxis. And for the determined hiker, road options exist for all of these.*

*The directors wish to thank the many volunteers who have helped to get so much of the Trail finished.*



*Now, the focus will be to get more users on the ground, especially those incredibly scenic sections that have been built through riparian zones, mostly from Strathcona dam, north.”*

There is lots more information including a blog, maps and information on how to volunteer on the website [www.vispine.ca](http://www.vispine.ca). Perhaps it will also prompt some to consider putting trips to sections of the trail on our schedule. Thanks for the update Gil, and for your sustained work and enthusiasm on this project.

## **Vancouver Island 150**

As I write this there are still some hours left in 2017 so it's too soon to call the final count, but we know already that we have collectively claimed over 200 Island summits this year. Well done us!

Now is the time to make sure all submissions are up to date, as we will be celebrating our collective achievements at the AGM in January. If you would like to tally your own record this year, please send me a message asap with your claim to fame e.g. number of peaks tagged, cumulative summit height - or any other fun statistics you can invent. All entries will be considered for honourable mentions at the AGM.

Our thanks are due to Mary Sanseverino who turned this idea into reality, and has done a terrific job throughout the year chronicling our exploits with the map and photographic record. It has evolved into a wonderful celebration of our Island peaks. <http://accvi.ca/programs/vancouver-island-150/>

## **Shout out for a volunteer**

As we near the end of the year, I want to express my gratitude to our Treasurer, Clarke Gourlay. We are truly fortunate to have the benefit of his expertise in maintaining our section finances so efficiently. Clarke single-handedly deals with the many receipts and payments of all our activities such as BMFF, summer camps, gear purchases, education subsidies, donations – and so much more that quietly happens behind the scenes. I especially appreciate his ‘can-do’ approach to every request, and his good humour in the face of some of the inevitable frustrations that arise along the paper trail. On top of all this, Clarke leads many trips, helps with the gear rentals for up-island members, and for the second year in a row hosted a very successful up-island Christmas party at his home in Parksville. Clarke, a very big thank you from all of us for all you do that helps to make our section rock!

## **AGM weekend coming up soon**

Our 2018 AGM will be held at Vancouver Island Mountain Centre at Mt Washington alpine resort on Saturday 27 January 2017 at 7.00 p.m. It will be preceded by a pot-luck dinner starting at 5.00 pm. A warm invitation is extended to all to attend. If anyone has any items for consideration to be included in the agenda of the meeting, please let me know by Sunday 14 January at the latest.

Although the accommodation for staying at the Centre for the weekend is all booked up, (possibly still a few spaces for overflow sleeping if you contact me), there are of course plenty of other options for sleeping on the hill. Everyone is welcome to join in the activities and the social time at the Centre. Details of the scheduled events happening over the weekend are on our website. Let it snow.

## **Executive events**

The current executive will meet for the last time before the AGM on Thursday 4 January. Please see Mike Hubbard's message about nominations for the 2018 Executive, and let him know asap if you want to put your name forward for a particular role. And please feel free to speak to any of the executive about your potential interest, questions etc.

It is New Year's Eve as I write, a time to reflect on the last year and to look forward to the next. I wish everyone all the best for 2018, with personal adventures and discoveries ahead. Or, as someone wise put it: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow".

**Happy trails**  
**Catrin Brown**

[Catrin@shaw.ca](mailto:Catrin@shaw.ca) | [chair@accvi.ca](mailto:chair@accvi.ca)

## **New Leaders Wanted**

**<http://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/mentorship-program/>**

The Leadership and Mentorship Committee is looking for members who would like to take part in our Mentorship Program. If you are a new trip leader or someone who is interested in becoming a trip leader for our section, this will be a great place to learn under the guidance of an experienced mentor. This is the first step in formulating our new Mentorship Program.

Please email us at [mentors@accvi.ca](mailto:mentors@accvi.ca) if you are interested in taking part. You can also keep an eye on our website <http://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/mentorship-program/> for future updates.



*Ski touring on Hubbard Glacier – Kluane NP.*

*Photo by Rick Hudson*

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## **Last Call for Nominations for the 2018 Executive**

**Mike Hubbard**

LAST CALL for nominations for the 2018 executive to be elected at the AGM on January 27th. If you wish to run or nominate another member contact the nominating committee Mike Hubbard at [jmhubbard@telus.net](mailto:jmhubbard@telus.net) or by phone at 250 888 8370.



## More images from the ACC-VI 2017 photo competition

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Honourable mention in the Summer Activity category:  
Lise Gagnon

Lise says: "The highlight of summer camp at Mt Assiniboine was the hike up to Nub peak. This photo was taken from a viewpoint on the way to the Niblet. You can see Lake Magog in front of Mt Assiniboine, Sunburst Lake and Cerulian Lake on either side of Sunburst Peak. A stunning vista."

All images in the 2017 photo competition are now available online at the [ACC-VI website](#). Be sure to check out the show!



# The 1933 Season at Croteau's Camp

by Brian Pinch

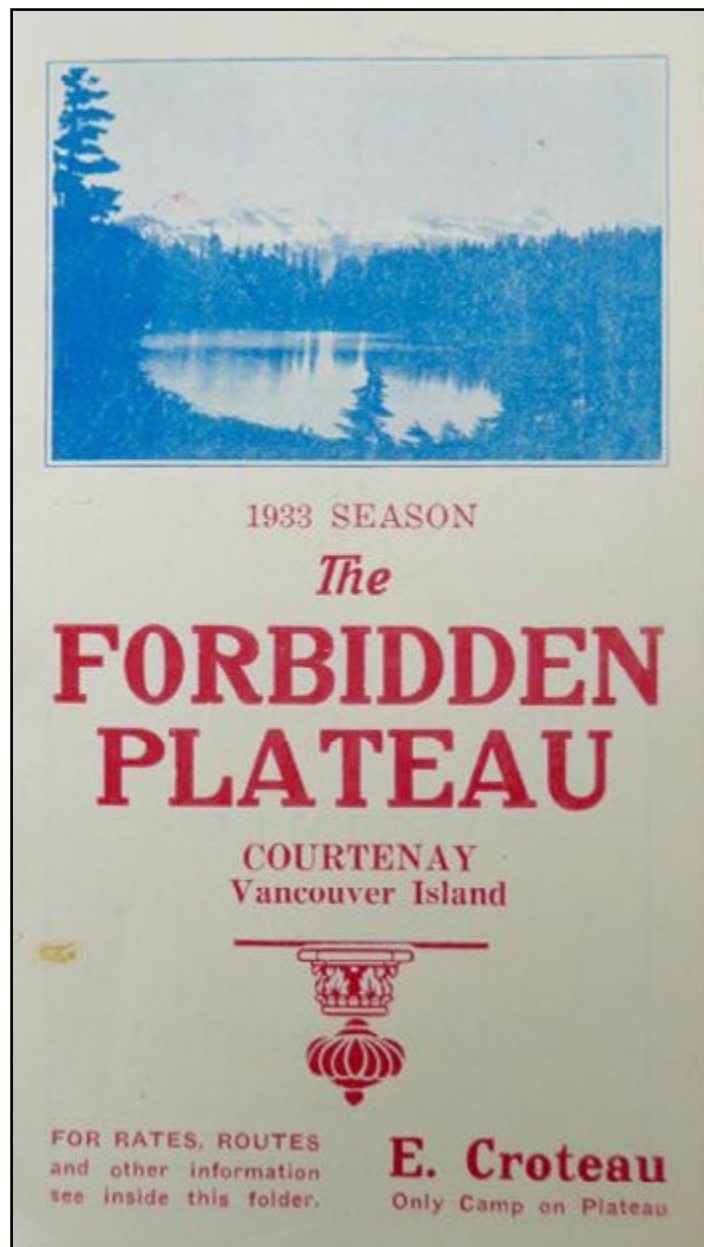
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Brian reports: " Some years ago an elderly client gave me an original brochure for the "1933 season" of "Croteau's Camp" in forbidden Plateau. It is a prize possession!

No doubt it would interest many in our section who have hiked in the plateau. Indeed, oldtimers (like me) will have many fond memories of overnighthing in the last remaining building of his camp. This stood at Croteau Lake until sometime in the 1980's (or so)."

## The 1933 brochure

(Click the images to enlarge)



## FISHING TACKLE

Golf — Tennis — Baseball  
Cricket and Sporting Goods  
of all kinds.

**Tarbell's Ltd.**

Camping Supplies Tents

## FOR HOMESITES

ON BEACH AT COMOX

or any place in Comox District,  
apply to

**P. Leo Anderton**

Next to Canadian Bank of Commerce

COURTENAY, B.C.

## THE FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Walled in by a mountain ridge 5,000 feet high and shut off from mankind by Indian taboos, the Forbidden Plateau in the centre of Vancouver Island has remained secret and inviolate until the last ten years. The pakla or witch doctor of the Puntledge and Comox tribes told his subjects that the centre of the island was full of bad spirits, of great hairy men, who sprang out to kill, and none of the early explorers could get guides to go back into the interior with them. Today in the 100 square miles of the Forbidden Plateau, not one man lives or has ever made his home. This natural sanctuary is a paradise for anyone who loves nature unadorned. In the invigorating air of an altitude similar to Calgary or Colorado, back hundreds of lakes. Literally hundreds—bordered by heather, red and white, and gnarled cedars and cypresses—hundreds of gardens in a great park, where there is no undergrowth to trip the foot or spoil the view. Climb any spot in the Plateau and look to the great Pacific Ocean. This country is so new that most of the lakes are still unnamed and the peaks unclimbed and unknown. Here are fresh worlds for the tourist and hiker to conquer! And the amazing fact is that it is so near and so accessible! Courtenay is the gateway to the Forbidden Plateau and it is only 90 miles by daily boat or train from Vancouver; the Forbidden Plateau is 12 miles by pack train from the end of the motor road.

## CROTEAU'S CAMP

E. Croteau, a veteran of the trail in British Columbia, has established the only camp on the Plateau, on a lovely little lake within easy reach of the many points desired to be attained. His aim is to be courteous to everyone, to provide them with wholesome, well-cooked meals, and to take care of all their requirements. For sleeping accommodation, spring beds are provided under canvas in convenient proximity to the main camp, yet with adequate privacy for each party.

Charges are very moderate—75 cents per meal and \$1.50 for beds, all furnished with sheets, blankets and pillows.

The new log cabin used last year as a dining room, has proved very comfortable and popular. Well-cooked meals with adequate service.

As you enter the town on the Island Highway, visit the COMOX VALLEY LANDS, Real Estate.

GET YOUR HIKING SHOES FROM SEARLE'S  
SHOE STORE, COURTENAY, B.C.

## FILMS DEVELOPED & PRINTED 24-HOUR SERVICE

Send them down by mail, and we will have them ready for you.

Films, Toilet Articles, Medicines, Surgical Supplies, Stationery, Magazines can be sent up through Mr. Croteau.

We are here to serve you, and hope you enjoy your visit to the Plateau.

**HEBER COOKE, Phm. B.**

Prescription Druggist  
COURTENAY, B.C. PHONE 30

## WHAT YOU HAVE TO BRING WITH YOU

Personal belongings including strong hiking boots and out-door clothes. That is all; we provide the rest.

Pack horses will be provided.

Full information as to rates, pack horses and other data can be obtained from Corfield Motors Ltd., opposite the Riverside Hotel, Courtenay, B.C.

Eight miles by car to end of road and twelve miles by trail to Croteau's camp; five hours on horseback or foot through the forest.

The camp opens in the middle of June and closes at the end of September, and all who are coming should book ahead.

**VANCOUVER ISLAND**



*The*  
**ELK**  
COMOX  
B.C.

The Seaside  
Country Inn  
with a charm  
all its own.



# COURTENAY

## *The Gateway to the Forbidden Plateau*

### A Very Pleasant Place To Live

Courtenay has the lowest tax rate of any municipality in British Columbia, chiefly because it is almost unique in that it owns both its electric light and water systems, and supplies light and power to the surrounding district.

Excellent, pure water, and cheap light and power.

Come and live in the centre of the Comox District, and enjoy life.

## THE FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

### HOW TO GET THERE

Go to Courtenay, 76 miles north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Drive North and West, following the signs to the trail's beginning. Then meet Jack Murray or Stuart Wood and their string of pack and saddle horses. They will do the rest.

Twelve miles ride on the back of a trail-wise mountain pony through the primeval forest of balsam, fir and pine. Climb to an altitude of 4,000 feet above sea-level, the Forbidden Plateau—*forbidden* no longer to you. Look back as you enter the Plateau and you can see the place from where you started, and the beautiful blue of the Gulf of Georgia, and ahead, the magnificent peaks, meadows, lakes, heather-covered hills, and mountains of the Newest Playground of the Pacific.

Be sure to take a trip on foot or horse-back up lovely Mount Elma, just above Croteau Lake; from there you get the best panoramic view of the Plateau area.

### FISHING

This year, more lakes within easy reach of the camp will be thrown open to fishing. The eggs that were planted in the virgin waters of the lakes on the Plateau have thrived amazingly.

Fish taken last year ran from two to four pounds. This species of trout is very game and will take the fly readily. A boat is available on a lake within 15 minutes of the camp. All information about tackle, limit and season can be obtained from Tarbell's Ltd., Courtenay.

### RATES FOR PACKING

Five cents a pound for baggage and \$2.50 a day for saddle horses. For all other information regarding the Plateau call or write to Corfield Motors, P. Leo Anderton, Heber Cooke or the Comox Valley Lands (as you enter the town), all of Courtenay.

## Official Information Headquarters

FOR

## The Forbidden Plateau

### Corfield Motors Ltd.

Below Riverside Hotel

Official Garage for Automobile Club of British Columbia and "A. A. A."

Full information re: Roads, Cabins, Pack Horses, Rates etc. We will drive you to the end of the road in your own car, bring it back and store it, and meet you when you come back.

WE HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE  
GARAGE IN COURTENAY

### Corfield Motors Ltd.

SALES



SERVICE

Storage for over fifty cars  
Phone 235 Wrecking Service



## e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

**T**he ski season is upon us. Club Avi gear is available for rent at two locations:

**In Greater Victoria** 8 sets from Mike Hubbard. Contact him at [jmhubbard@telus.net](mailto:jmhubbard@telus.net)

**In Parksville** 2 sets from Clarke Gourlay. Contact him at [clarke@cheeseworks.ca](mailto:clarke@cheeseworks.ca)

For more info on rentals check out the [ACC-VI gear rental page](#).

**I**t's time to start keeping an eye on the **Island Avalanche Bulletin** again! Set your browser to <http://islandavalanchebulletin.com/> and keep informed.

**T**ravelling further afield for winter activities? The Avalanche Canada interactive map is a handy resource: <http://www.avalanche.ca/map>

**M**ore courses to get yourself ready for the season: Island Alpine Guides: <https://www.islandalpineguides.com/> (Make sure to mention you are an ACC-VI member for a discount)

**F**rom the 2015 Memorial Fund Youth Grant: Kristen Walsh, recipient of the 2015 ACC-VI Youth Grant, recently published a paper based upon her time in the Canadian Rockies -- time that the Youth Grant supported. Check the paper out in the [November edition of Mountain Research and Development!](#) Well done Kristen! A big [Thank You](#) to those who have donated to the fund, and a round of applause to the ACC-VI section for [establishing and managing](#) this fund.

**D**ec 11th was International Mountain Day -- check out the [video from the live streaming event](#) coordinated by [The Canadian Mountain Network](#).

**S**earch the Canadian Alpine Journal -- yes, all of it -- from 1907 until 2016!! Check out this amazing resource at <http://library.alpineclubofcanada.ca/>

**A**CC National Editors pick their top five stories from 2017. Yes, you'll want to see this -- guess what story made #1 -- [the Photo Gallery of the 5040 Peak Hut Build!!](#) Way to go Team 5040!!

**M**ountains 101 - the hugely popular mountain information course by University of Alberta and Parks Canada is still available online for free. Check out <https://www.coursera.org/learn/mountains-101>. A new course starts each month. 19,000 people worldwide have taken this course since its inception in January 2017!

### LAST CALL FOR LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION WAIVERS

**Christine Fordham**

2017 is ticking down, and this is the last call for waivers for great prizes in Leadership Recognition Contest. Draw prizes for all "waivered" ACC Club Trips. Someone has to win the Arcteryx Jacket and MEC gift cards and leadership badges!

Its not over till its over, but lets give a big 2017 "hurrah" to everyone that helped make such a great Trip Offering on the ACCVI Schedule this last year. Please scan and send your waivers to [librarian@accvi.ca](mailto:librarian@accvi.ca) before Jan 3, 2018 to count.

## EXECUTIVE

**Chair:** Catrin Brown, [chair@accvi.ca](mailto:chair@accvi.ca)

**Secretary:** Lise Gagnon, [info@accvi.ca](mailto:info@accvi.ca)

**Treasurer:** Clarke Gourlay, [treasurer@accvi.ca](mailto:treasurer@accvi.ca)

### Members-at-Large:

Brianna Coates, David Lemon, Martin Hofmann,

### Access and Environment

\*Barb Baker, [access@accvi.ca](mailto:access@accvi.ca)

### BMFF Coordinator

Krista Zala, [bmff@accvi.ca](mailto:bmff@accvi.ca)

### Bushwhacker Annual

Editor: Sean McIntyre.

Assistant Ed: Robie Macdonald

[bushwhacker@accvi.ca](mailto:bushwhacker@accvi.ca)

### Education

Colin Mann & Alois Schonenberger,

[education@accvi.ca](mailto:education@accvi.ca)

### Equipment

Mike Hubbard (lower Island),

250 888 8370, [jmhubbard@telus.net](mailto:jmhubbard@telus.net)

Clarke Gourlay (upper Island) avi gear rental,

[treasurer@accvi.ca](mailto:treasurer@accvi.ca)

### Summer Camp

Liz Williams, [summercamps@accvi.ca](mailto:summercamps@accvi.ca)

### FMCBC Rep

Caroline Tansley / Russ Moir

[fmcbc@accvi.ca](mailto:fmcbc@accvi.ca)

### Hut

Chris Jensen, [huts@accvi.ca](mailto:huts@accvi.ca)

### Communications Team:

Karun Thanjuvar , Jes Scott,

Kathy Kutzer

### 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,

[lindsayjelms@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayjelms@gmail.com)

### National Rep

Christine Fordham, [natrep@accvi.ca](mailto:natrep@accvi.ca)

### Safety Committee

Walter Moar 250 381 3922

[safety@accvi.ca](mailto:safety@accvi.ca)

### Schedule

Karun Thanjavur, [schedule@accvi.ca](mailto:schedule@accvi.ca)

### Evening Events Coordinator

\*Peggy Taylor, [events@accvi.ca](mailto:events@accvi.ca)

### Website

Jes Scott, [webmaster@accvi.ca](mailto:webmaster@accvi.ca)

### Memorial Fund

\*Geoff Bennett, 250 853 7515,

[geoff.bennett@shaw.ca](mailto:geoff.bennett@shaw.ca)

### Trailrider Program Coordinator

\*Caroline Tansley,

250 886 8038 [trailrider@accvi.ca](mailto:trailrider@accvi.ca)

### Kids and Youth Program Coordinator

\*Derek Sou

\* Non Executive Coordinators



*Repeat photography in Assiniboine Provincial Park with the Mountain Legacy Project. Read about it on the [ACC's national website](#). B&W 1916 images courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.*



***From the cover:***  
***Alpen Glow on Nine Peaks***  
Photo by Natasha Salway.

Winner of the 2017 ACC-VI Photo Completion Summer Activity Category

Natasha says "There are a few special trips where every element falls into place exactly as wished.

This was the case for our Canada Day attempt on Nine Peaks. With perfect weather and snow conditions, we set off in the early morning alpine glow. Colin Mann and I got to enjoy our very first Island Qualifier mountain with IQ veteran, Thomas Radetzki, by our sides."

**Thank you to this month's contributors: Geoff Bennett, Catrin Brown, Martin Davis, Christine Fordham, Lise Gagnon, Mike Hubbard, Rick Hudson, Matthew Lettington, Sean McIntyre, Colin Mann, Walter Moar, Brian Pinch, Natasha Salway, and Karun Thanjavur.**

