

**AGENDA**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section**  
Saturday, January 12, 2013, 7:30pm  
Vancouver Island Mountain Centre, Mt Washington

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**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7.35 pm

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Proposed: *Roger Taylor*  
Seconded: *Ronan O'Sullivan*  
Carried

**Adoption of the 2012 AGM Minutes**

Proposed: *Mike Hubbard*  
Seconded: *Val Wootton*  
Carried

**Reports:**

**1. Chair:** Rick Hudson

We have had “an amazing year - as befits the centennial”. Rick thanked all attendees at the meeting, volunteers who help in the running of the club, and members of the executive who work hard throughout the year. He also thanked Catrin for organizing the weekend around the AGM meeting.

**2. Treasurer:** Phee Hudson

Statements are attached.

Income : Major revenue source is BMFF, this year the profits were the largest ever. HST rebate on trips is also significant, though this will go down with the reintroduction of GST.

Comparison at year-end 2012 with year-end 2011 shows a very similar income. The surplus of \$1662.03 from the summer camp will go into a special summer camp fund to be drawn if needed in future camps.

Expenses: BMFF was our major expense, followed by costs of publication and distribution of the Bushwhacker annual.

Our expenses are significantly less than the budget for 2012 and for 2011. Some contributing factors are:

- the reduced expenses on BMFF due to use of social media for advertising
- Bushwhacker annual was under budget
- course subsidies were under budget

It is anticipated that the trend of cost-saving on BMFF advertising will continue, and that next year we will be able to eliminate the advertising cost. The number of courses offered was possibly lower this year, but it is anticipated that this will be restored in 2013.

The award of \$500 from the memorial fund as a Youth Grant Payout has only been paid in part to date as the recipient, James Pierzchalski, has yet to complete his objectives establishing climbing routes on Mt Arrowsmith.

The budget for 2013 was presented.

Proposed: *Roger Taylor*  
Seconded : *Brenda O'Sullivan*  
Carried.

The balance sheet summary shows approx. \$24,000 in the account, with HST receivable making a \$28,000 total asset.

The Memorial Fund is just under \$10,000 with the plan to pay out to a worthy trip every year. We are currently waiting for proposals by 31 January to consider for award this year.

The Contingency Fund was an original investment of \$10,000, which is now worth \$11,000.

Discussion included questions on gear purchase and whether there is a problem with a non-profit organization carrying such a large balance. Mike Hubbard is monitoring requests for new and updated equipment, and Phee assured the meeting that the large balance is within our mandate.

**Total overall cash position = \$49,383.72**

### 3. Education: Harry Steiner

Harry presented a summary of the courses run during 2012:

January - Dave Campbell AST 1with IAG,  
April - Sandy Briggs et al ice axe workshop  
May - Crevasse rescue by IAG, Sandy Briggs assisted

May - Rock climbing course by Harry and Nadja Steiner  
July – Introduction to mountaineering; ascent of the Misthorns was a very successful course, with participants already showing leadership skills.

Harry took over the Education Coordinator role from Dave Campbell in November. Dave was thanked in absentia for an incredible job done over several years in increasing the number and scope of course offerings to our members.

Harry was thanked for the work he has already done in this role, including a full weekend course currently.

#### **4. Bushwhacker:** Rick Hudson for Sandy Stewart

See report attached.

The Bushwhacker came out in June, a little later than usual. Because it was a thinner edition, it was stapled and so cheaper to produce. The cost of \$2,700 for the publication includes \$850 in postage, so ways and means to reduce this are always appreciated. Thanks to Lindsay Elms, Sandy Briggs and Martin Smith who all work hard in collating and preparing the articles.

Discussion included whether an electronic version is considered as a way forward, but Rick reported that it is considered important to maintain the hard copy for now. Previous editions are available online back to 2002 on our website.

The upcoming Bushwhacker (2012 edition) is now in the works, with a January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for articles. We want a bumper centennial version, featuring the very many trips and climbs that occurred during the year, including all 118 of the *Climb the Island* summits. This will be Sandy Stewart's last edition, and he was thanked in absentia for his fine work on this publication over the last 5 years. A replacement volunteer for layout and publishing is sought, with the possibility of shadowing the current team.

#### **5. Equipment:** Mike Hubbard

Things have been quiet in the fall, but rentals are busy now over the ski season. We have 10 digital transceivers and 2 more that are stored up-island. Mike questioned how we can increase awareness of this facility for up-island members, and it was suggested that bulletins and reminders can be given repeatedly in the newsletters. New ropes were purchased this year before the summer camps. Mike asked for suggestions for further new gear purchases according to the budget.

Harry Steiner thanked the Section for the availability of gear for the kids' programs.

## **6. FMCBC:** Rick Hudson for Andrew Pape-Salmon

We are all members of the FMCBC, as are three out of the other four ACC sections in the province. Our expressed concern re sending \$15 per member and the resulting high cost of our membership has led to a successful outcome, in that the fee to all clubs has now been reduced to \$10 per member.

Andrew Pape Salmon has stepped down from this role and was thanked in absentia for his work. We are currently without a representative and are putting out the call for a volunteer.

## **7. Membership:** Christine Fordham

We had 397 members at the end of December, which includes family memberships. This is almost exactly the same as the end of 2011. Interestingly, there has been a 20% change each year within this *status quo* – in other words an attrition of 20% is balanced by an addition of 20% new members.

33% of our members are from up-island, including 3 who are on the executive committee. Discussion included ways in which we could be more pro-active in including up-island members in club events, including holding some events on Friday evenings so people can stay over. The current AGM is an example of seeking more inclusive participation.

Christine queried the volume of email sent out through membership, and by a show of hands confirmed that members feel the current level is about right.

## **8. Summer Camps:** Martin Hofmann

Martin reported on the summer camp 2012 which was held at the McKelvie basin with 45 people over 3 weeks, (and 2 other ‘stray hikers’ who joined week 1.) The camp gave access to terrain with lots of bush bashing and scrambling. These camps have become part of a great tradition for our section now.

Questions about summer camp 2013 were taken by Rick Hudson, who is organizing this. Concerns were expressed about the advertised weight allowance of 65 lb per person, and whether there could be other ways of looking at this. Rick explained that the group gear makes one sling load, personal gear a second sling load and that the number of people has been raised from 14 to 15 to use the helicopters more efficiently. He also explained the difficulty of not knowing the size of helicopter that will be used, and his concern that people “will cheat” with their weight allowance.

Suggestions considered whether people would be willing to pay more and whether we can reduce some items in the group gear.

Geoff Bennett noted that summer camps have become a very important and very large part of our operations, and proposed a sub-committee be struck to support the work on this.

Motion:

*“That a committee of about 3 people be struck to consider aspects of the running of the summer camp and report to the chair.”*

Proposed: *Geoff Bennett*

Second : *Mike Hubbard*

Carried.

## **9. National:** Rick Hudson

The National Club based in Canmore now has 22 sections, from the Yukon to Newfoundland. Combined with National's Board of Directors, that adds up to 34 around the table. It has been agreed that a committee of 34 is not workable, and so a new Executive Committee of 8 (including one Section Representative) will be formed, while a separate Section Committee (SC) made up of the 22 sections will meet independently. We will still send a representative to Canmore twice a year, but to attend the SC now.

## **10. Schedule:** Catrin Brown for Russ Moir

Keeping the schedule supplied with regular trips is an ongoing challenge for Russ. Thanks are extended to those who have offered trips, including many present. The fact that scheduled trips are the 'lifeblood' of the club was acknowledged, and new leaders were encouraged to step forward. Suggestions to increase offerings included:

- members each consider offering one trip per year
- leaders share their positive experiences to help dispel concerns
- recognition that accessible trips for hikers and those without AST 1 are needed
- trips to the US are OK in terms of insurance
- co-leaders for trips are a good initiative, as has happened with the kids' program
- organize a leadership workshop (ACMG Brad Harrison in May)

It was also noted that to qualify for ACC insurance, a trip must be posted on the schedule for a reasonable amount of time (several days), and that informal organization of trips using social media precludes this insurance.

## **11. Website:** Martin Hofmann

Martin has worked on the website for 5- 6 years and feels that it now needs some upgrades and new features. He has lots of ideas but not enough time, and has suggested a committee of volunteers work on this. To date Dave McDowell, Greg Lawrence and Cedric Zala have stepped forward, and others are welcome. Martin is open to ideas about features that members may like to see on the site.

## **12. Access:** Barb Baker

Barb recently joined the executive and brings a great deal of experience dealing with access issues in the Alberni Valley. She will be working towards a comprehensive report, and asks for notifications of issues and announcements. She will be working with Peter

Rothermel on some aspects of this. She informed the meeting that both Island Timberlands and Western Timber have blogs on their websites with access updates.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Climb the Island:** Catrin Brown

In 2012 we climbed the island - lots of us climbed lots of it. The goal of summiting 100 peaks from the online registry was easily surpassed with 118 peaks climbed. There will be a special celebration of the many achievements on this project after the meeting. Rick added that representatives of the national club have been very complimentary about this initiative and achievement.

### **2. “Above the Bush”:** Lindsay Elms

Lindsay thanked the section for their financial support for his production of this, his second volume on mountaineering on the island. The books are available from many retailers and from Lindsay.

### **3. Elkhorn centennial climb:** Lindsay Elms

Lindsay reported a successful trip to climb Elkhorn exactly 100 years after its first ascent in August 1912. Eight members summited in less than ideal weather conditions. It was noted that historically this was a pivotal event, which heralded the start of big mountaineering on the island.

### **4. Centennial clothing:** Brenda O’Sullivan

The centennial clothing has been distributed and Mike Hubbard’s new sartorial elegance was approved. If there are sufficient further requests, Brenda will place a second order.

### **5. Bushwhacker Index:** Martin Hofmann

Judith Holm completed a project to index the Bushwhackers back to 1962, and produced a database of articles by location, author, type of climb etc. Martin has now digitized this to make it part of the database, and has completed the significant task of digitizing old Bushwhackers. The functionality on the site is complete, and this is a rich new facility. Members were reminded that old issues of the Bushwhackers are available in the section library at Tom Hall’s home.

## **New Business**

### **1. New avalanche transceivers:** Brenda O’Sullivan

Brenda is placing an order for new transceivers, and is taking names/cheques.

Members are reminded that it is now ACC policy that only digital transceivers are to be used on club trips. We are still able to get a very good deal on these units, with approx. \$100 off the list price.

## **2. Ranger cabin:**

See attachment.

Rick gave a summary of the opportunity that is presenting itself for us to take over the running of the ranger cabin at Hairtrigger Lake, and use it as a public facility for summer and winter backcountry users. The details are in Rick's report. Some points that came out in discussion:

- Rick feels that the location is favourable for a profitable venture, but the main drive is not for a revenue stream, but to have a place of our own for groups to meet in the outdoors
- Photos showed that the cabin has a wood stove, propane heater, kitchen area and approximately 12 beds
- The terrain is not the most exciting, but it is accessible by a wide range of recreationalists and is on a popular route in all seasons
- Rick felt that moving the hut to Circlet Lake is not an option
- The terms from BC parks are an inclusive arrangement with other clubs, but it is expected that ACC would take the lead which is a good fit, given ACC history with huts in parks
- Dealing with BC parks is challenging – their expectations are high with custodians, trail management, sweep on Sunday nights, and the BC government setting the price per night
- The section is asking to be the land permit holder for 10 years, with a 5 year renewal
- Concerns about vandalism, ATV access and damage were discussed
- Rick hopes there are members who enjoy backcountry maintenance, as there will be a role for volunteer work, particularly in the set-up
- The economic risks to us were raised; Rick commented that if usage is low and revenue down, so would be costs such as firewood and propane
- Attractiveness to school groups re segregated facilities is not known
- Capital costs to upgrade could be anything from \$20,000 to \$30,000, including the use of helicopters
- National club is not offering financial help, but is providing experience and advice on a range of hut management issues
- Funding for the capital project (hut upgrades) will be by donation to a specific section fund; the Memorial Fund would not be affected
- The process of working with BC parks could take up to 5 years
- The section has made money over the last few years and could consider devoting profits above and beyond a threshold to a hut fund

After discussion, the motion in the agenda was modified to:

*“That we authorize the executive to continue negotiations with BC parks on the proposal for the Hairtrigger Lake cabin, subject to commitment of all financial capital costs being voted on by the executive before Jan 2015. Final ratification must be by the full membership”*

Proposed: Christine Fordham

Seconded: Janelle Curtis

Carried.

**3. Woss Lake expansion:** Rick Hudson.

See attachment.

Rick gave a slide show of the area, using photos taken during last year's summer camp. He asked for endorsement of the motion to try and get 1,400 hectares added to Woss Lake Park for its protection.

Motion: *“That the section endorses the executive’s initiative to add the McKelvie Basin to Woss Lake Provincial Park.”*

Proposed: Roger Taylor

Seconded: Brenda O’ Sullivan

Carried.

**Nominations & Elections:** Mike Hubbard

[1]

[2] Chair Rick Hudson

[3] Proposed: Mike Hubbard

[4] Seconded: Barb Baker

[5] Carried

[6]

[7]

[8] Secretary Catrin Brown

[9] Proposed: Mike Hubbard

[10] Seconded: Roger Taylor

[11] Carried

[12] Treasurer Phee Hudson

[13] Proposed: Mike Hubbard

[14] Seconded: Chris Jensen

[15] Carried

[16]

[17]

[18] Remainder of slate declared elected by acclamation:

|      |                              |                   |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| [19] |                              |                   |
| [20] | Access & Environment         | Barb Baker        |
| [21] | Banff Mtn Film Festival      | Krista Zala       |
| [22] | Bushwhacker Committee        | Sandy Briggs      |
| [23] |                              | Rob MacDonald     |
| [24] | & Historian                  | Lindsay Elms      |
| [25] | & Schedule                   | Russ Moir         |
| [26] | Bushwhacker Editor           | Sandy Stewart     |
| [27] | Education Coordinator        | Harry Steiner     |
| [28] | Evening Events               | Brenda O'Sullivan |
| [29] | Equipment Manager            | Mike Hubbard      |
| [30] | Library Archivist            | Tom Hall          |
| [31] | Membership                   | Christine Fordham |
| [32] | Members at Large             | Martin Smith      |
| [33] |                              | Chris Jensen      |
| [34] |                              | Geoff Bennett     |
| [35] | National club representative | Rick Hudson       |
| [36] | Newsletter Editor            | Cedric Zala       |
| [37] | Safety                       | Selena Swets      |
| [38] | Webmaster                    | Martin Hofmann    |
| [39] | Webmaster Committee          | Dave McDowell     |

**Any other business:**

There was no other business

**Adjournment**

Proposed Roger Taylor 9.35 pm