

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section

Annual General Meeting

Red Roof Chalet, Mount Washington
January 26, 2008

Executive present: Geoff Bennett, Mike Morley, Peter Rothermel, Torge Schuemann,
Karun Thanjavur, Jules Thomson, Cedric Zala, Lissa Zala
Absent: Phee Hudson, Russ Moir, Sandy Stewart

- 1) **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.
- 2) **Agenda.** The agenda was amended to remove the Membership, National, Bushwhacker, and Cottonwood Creek Access reports, and to include a Discussion Forum item by Lindsay Elms under New Business. The revised agenda was adopted.
- 3) **Minutes of January 26, 2007 AGM.** Lissa Zala moved, seconded by Geoff Bennett, to adopt the minutes of last year's AGM. Carried.

4) **Reports**

a) **Treasurer** – Geoff Bennett made a PowerPoint presentation about the state of the Club finances, the proposed budget, and the suggestions he had received from members after asking for input about how to spend our “excess funds”. To summarize:

- Our total assets on Jan. 1, 2007 were \$21,591, while our assets as of Jan. 1, 2008 were \$26,052, of which \$10,000 was in a term deposit.
- Our net revenue in 2007 was \$20,918 (which includes deposits for future trips), while our net expenses were \$11,026.72. After adjusting for payables and receivables, net revenues were \$13,808 and net expenses were \$9,347 resulting in a profit of \$4,461.
- Our major sources of revenue were the Banff Mountain Film Festival, which made more than \$9,100 this year, and Section dues, which amounted to \$3,622 (net, after deducting FMCBC dues of \$2,760).
- Our major expenses were the Bushwhacker newsletters and Annual (\$3,586), course subsidies (\$1,361) and equipment purchases (\$3,130 after applying rental fees).
- The Section is in excellent financial shape!
- The proposed budget for 2008 is very similar to that for 2007, except that there is an additional amount budgeted for slideshows (\$1,000) and for “Executive Discretionary Expenditures” (\$3,000 annually, with a possible one-time expenditure of up to \$6,000).

- Geoff will be happy to email the information presented to anyone who requests it.
 - Geoff suggested that to reduce expenses by \$1000, the Bushwhacker newsletters and the climbing schedules not be mailed out, but be made available for download on the website.
 - There were 21 responses received for the request for input. These included suggestions for:
 - equipment
 - publications
 - speakers, slideshows, and other social events
 - courses, trips and camps
 - scholarships, awards, bursaries, donations, foundations
 - a mountain hut
 - During the discussion it became clear that a mountain hut was unaffordable. It was also noted that we could continue to build up funds but as a non-profit organization, we should then have an objective worth building them up for. It was also noted that we do not take capital costs/depreciation into consideration – Geoff remarked after the meeting that we have no capital costs or depreciation because all equipment purchases are treated as expenses and we have no other capital assets.
 - Mary Sanseverino moved, seconded by Roger Painter, that the proposed 2008 budget (minus the \$6000 one-time item) be adopted. Carried.
- b) **Banff Mountain Film Festival** – Lissa Zala reported that the net income for the BMFF was \$9171, the best return yet. Lissa is looking for a replacement to take on the organizing of this event, but will continue on for this year if necessary. There was a round of applause to Lissa for her work in making this fundraiser such a success.
- c) **Bushwhacker** – Members observed a one-minute period of silence in memory of Viggo Holm, long-time and well-loved Club member and editor of the Bushwhacker, who passed away last September.
- d) **Education** – Peter Rothermel reported that the avalanche course for the UVic Outdoors Club (subsidized 50% by our section) was very well received and provided a great opportunity for these students. The AST 1 and 2 courses were also well attended and made a profit too. Peter is looking for trip/course leaders to support our educational offerings. **Interested members should contact him.**
- e) **Arrowsmith Update** - Peter Rothermel reported that the Regional District of Nanaimo has sent a “rent tenure” to the BC Government, which is a key step in achieving park status. The initiative has the support of Government MLAs Barry Penner and Ida Chong. There is a deadline of 120 days for this step, so we should have a decision in April or before.

5) **New Business**

- a) **Summer Camps** – Cedric Zala reported that the 2007 Summer Camp at Stanley Mitchell Hut in Yoho Park was a success, with 26 attendees, good weather, and climbs of numerous mountains, including the President and Vice-President. The use of porters also worked well, although we underestimated the weight required to be carried by 200 pounds! Cedric is organizing the 2008 Summer Camp at the Elizabeth Parker Hut to take place August 9-17, and reported that following the announcement in October, the 24 spaces filled up in four days, and there is currently a waitlist.
- b) **UVic Outdoors Club** – Jules Thomson reported that the UVOC had booked all the Club transceivers for a non-scheduled trip on Jan. 1. As a result, ACC members who had joined the scheduled Club trip for Mt. Arrowsmith on Jan. 1 were unable to rent any transceivers. It was noted that scheduled trips have priority and that trip leaders should estimate the attendance and book ahead, or that we should simply not commit to rent out to UVOC (as they are associate, not full members). The **Executive** will consider this issue at their next meeting.
- c) **Standing Trails Committee** – Barb Baker asked that the ACC provide a letter of support to the Alberni Trails Committee for their efforts in establishing and/or maintaining three trails in the Alberni area: the Log Train Trail, the Stamp Long River Trail and the Historic CNPR Trail. More information is available at the Alberni-Clayoquot website. Roger Taylor moved, seconded by Gerry Graham, that the Section provide a letter to the Alberni Trails Committee in support of their efforts. Carried. **Barb** will email Cedric with the details of where to send the letter of support, and **Cedric** will prepare and send it.
- d) **Discussion Forum** – Lindsay Elms proposed in writing (see Appendix to minutes) that the Club consider setting up an on-line discussion forum so that interested members can discuss/debate Club issues internally. **Lindsay** will formulate suggested criteria for such a forum and will send these to the Executive.
- e) **Trophies** – Sandy Briggs brought a trophy for Lesley Gordon, a winner in last October's photo contest.
- f) **Website, Endorsements, ACC Logo** – Jules noted that there has been a great deal of discussion recently on the extent, if any, to which links, logos and/or endorsements for commercial organizations (in this case, Island Alpine Guides) should appear on our web page, and under what conditions our logo might be used by these organizations. Opinions with the Club range from “a ringing endorsement of IAG is appropriate” to “no logos or endorsements for commercial groups should be on our web page”. Our ACC logo also appears on the IAG website, with an endorsing statement. Jules contacted Lawrence White, the executive director for ACC National, about the latter issue, who responded that there were no written guidelines, and that Sections could allow the use of the ACC logo if they thought it was appropriate. Jules read an excerpt from

Lawrence’s email, which stated “If you feel this entity promotes the Club in a positive light, then by all means, the logo, and by extension the Club, should be promoted. We do this with other companies like Brad Harrison's guiding outfit, www.colwest.ca. As you are probably aware, Brad is the outfitter for the GMC providing exceptional service.”

Mike Morley presented a number of suggested alternative wordings for our association with IAG that were more neutral in tone than the statement currently on both web pages. He also proposed the following draft policy statement for website policy:

A company that offers a discount for products or services specifically to ACC-VI members may be considered for permission¹ to display a logo/link on the ACC-VI webpage. In addition, other clubs officially affiliated with the ACC-VI (i.e., FMCBC, UVic Outdoors Club) may also display a link on the ACC webpage.

Any websites that are deemed to be of value or interest to the membership shall have a link under “resources”. These websites may include, but are not limited to, information on local mountaineering knowledge (e.g., guidebooks, local history, other Island mountaineering clubs unaffiliated with ACC-VI, local outfitters, relevant environmental interest groups, and general mountaineering knowledge).

It was decided that **the Executive** should give careful consideration to these issues, and that it would likely be appropriate for them to strike a committee to consider these and related issues (e.g., scheduled trips involving commercial enterprises) and propose a policy for the information displayed on our website.

- g) ***Nominations and Elections*** – Sandy Briggs chaired the nominations for the 2008 Executive. Volunteers for all of the positions have been arranged. The volunteers for Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer positions were acclaimed, and the resolution to accept the following Executive list was carried:

Elected Positions

Chair:	Cedric Zala
Secretary:	Rick Hudson
Treasurer:	Geoff Bennett

Support Positions

Banff Mountain Film Festival:	Lissa Zala (+apprentice to be found)
Bushwhacker Committee:	Sandy Briggs, Lindsay Elms, Rick Eppler, Rob Macdonald, Russ Moir
Bushwhacker Editor:	Sandy Stewart
Education:	Peter Rothermel

¹ Original wording: “is allowed” – this was changed during the discussion.

Equipment:	Mike Hubbard
FMCBC Rep:	John Young
Library/Archivist:	Judith Holm
Membership:	Jain Alcock-White
Members at Large:	Phee Hudson, Russ Moir, Mike Morley, Torge Schuemann
National Rep:	Russ Moir
Safety:	Selena Swets
Schedule:	Karun Thanjavur
Webmaster/Listserver:	Don Cameron

- h) **Next AGM** – Cedric will arrange the next AGM in Victoria, to take place during January 2009, at a date to be determined by the new Executive.

6) **Thanks and Announcements**

- a) Cedric thanked retiring Chair Jules Thomson for her many years of active service to the Club, and particularly her contribution to the Club as Chair for the last three years. Jules was also presented with a card signed by the AGM attendees and a gift certificate from MEC in recognition and appreciation of her service to the Section.
- b) Cedric reminded members that the Winter Social was coming up on Feb. 22, and the Club Banquet has been arranged at McMorrans Beach Resort on March 28.

- 7) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. Thanks to all who attended.

Post-Meeting Presentation

- Gerry Graham made a presentation about the trail-rider program of the *Rise Above Barriers Society*, which was the organization behind the trip to Everest Base Camp described in Karun's following presentation.
- Karun Thanjavur presented a slideshow on his expedition as a member of a team that successfully used a TrailRider to transport Pippa Blake on a trek to Everest Base Camp last November. Club member Shawn Daniels was also a member of this expedition. The scenery was awesome and the story was inspiring – thanks to Karun for an excellent presentation.

Minutes prepared by Cedric Zala.

Appendix: A Proposal for On-Line Forum – Lindsay Elms

I would like to suggest that the section have some sort of on-line forum open only to section members for discussions.

Here is the reason why I think we need it!

Recently there was a discussion via emails between the executive and some interested members. I am not going to go into details about what the discussion was about, but if anyone wants to know they can ask the executive.

It began a few months ago at an executive meeting when there was a topic discussed and voted upon. A few days later an email went out which I received. After reviewing it I voiced some concerns which resulted in an on-line discussion. The outcome is that it has been discussed at the last two executive meetings (the executive can correct me if I am wrong) and here tonight.

Here are some points that I took note of during that discussion:

Near the beginning of the discussion in an email it was said: "This apparently needs to have input from some senior members." My first question is: How long to you have to be in the Club to have that status? If we bring in only senior members to a discussion is that going to exclude "new" members who might want to be involved in that discussion. My second question is: If there is going to be a club discussion on-line do emails go out to non-members? There was one email that I know of that went out to someone not in the club. If I am wrong about that then I apologize. However, with that said I know why it went out to that person but it is the principle. If there is a club online discussion then it should stay within the club unless the executive agree to bring that person or persons in. It was also pointed out that there were some emails during the discussion that didn't go out to everyone involved and I have to say I was guilty of that but my emails were cc'd by another to the executive. One member expressed their opinion that emails not in the open engender mistrust.

My next point is it was during that online discussion that I found out about something else that was discussed at last year's AGM that I didn't know about. I know you could say that I should have been there if I wanted to have a say on the topic but we all can't get to meetings and there was no heads-up on this topic and I never saw the minutes of the AGM. I have some questions about this topic and I would like to know who I can email and ask? If I want to begin a discussion how can I go about that and how do we get those who would be interested involved? Sometimes it is only after reflection and group discussions that new points of view come to light that weren't thought about at the time which is what the last discussion has done. So if we have a forum where an issue is re-addressed by the executive and members even if it was voted on at an AGM or executive meeting, can that motion be changed or re-worded at another meeting?

Although we have the bulletin board it is not the right medium for club issues to be discussed as it is opened to non-members but I have some ideas on how an online forum could operate but I won't go into that right now. Maybe we need some discussion.