

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section

Annual General Meeting

Wild Rose Room
January 15, 2009

Executive present: Geoff Bennett, Sandy Briggs, Martin Hofmann,
Judith Holm, Mike Hubbard, Russ Moir, Peter
Rothermel, Sandy Stewart, Selena Swets, Karun
Thanjavur, Cedric Zala, Lissa Zala

Absent: Jain Alcock- White, Rick Hudson, Phee Hudson, Mike
Morley, Torge Schuemann, John Young

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Cedric welcomed the attendees, outlined the format for the AGM, and recognized new members and interested non- members who were attending.

Agenda . The agenda was adopted with no revisions.

Minutes of January 26, 2007 AGM. Lissa Zala moved, seconded by Geoff Bennett, to adopt the minutes of last year's AGM. Carried.

Reports

1. **Chair** – Cedric Zala gave a Chair report, summarized as follows:
It was a very good year for the club and for me personally – I was a bit worried at the beginning, but with a great team of very willing and experienced people, it has all worked out fine. Some of the highlights have been:
 - a) *Our membership continues to grow at a healthy rate.*
 - b) *Our financial health is excellent, largely due to continuing success with the BMFF (thanks to Lissa Zala and Geoff Bennett).*
 - c) *We have initiated a Memorial Fund to support young people in mountain initiatives and activities (thanks to Judith Holm, Albert Hestler and Geoff Bennett and many others).*
 - d) *We have put in place new communications structures, largely electronically based, including:*
 - i. *A monthly newsletter, with current two- month schedule – generally lots of material submitted (thanks to Lindsay Elms for articles).*

- ii. *A redesigned website, with more modern look, and content management system allowing individuals to maintain a page they take responsibility for (thanks to Martin Hofmann).*
- iii. *Executive meetings using Skype to allow up- Island members to participate.*
- e) *We have initiated monthly social evenings, with slideshows (thanks to Rick and Phee Hudson).*
- f) *We have played a part in the realization of park status for Mount Arrowsmith – The new Regional Park created on Nov 25 at RDN is the culmination of a decade of work by Peter Rothermel, who will have an article in the upcoming Gazette.*

In summary, the Section is healthy, active and involved in many fronts. Our educational program is very popular, as is our TrailRider program, and our trips are usually well supported. This is all made possible by the dedicated efforts of many, many volunteers, who not only do excellent work but who also are a pleasure to be around and work with. So this is a personal thank- you to everyone who has helped make the ACCVI such a terrific club.

Finally, our Section's Centennial is only three years away (2012), and it's not too early to start thinking about Centennial projects. If you have any ideas, contact me or one of the Executive.

2. **Treasurer** – Geoff Bennett made a PowerPoint presentation about the state of the Club finances and the proposed budget. To summarize:
 - a) Our total assets on Jan. 1, 2008 were \$26,052, while our assets as of Jan. 1, 2009 were \$27,330, of which \$13,375 was in term deposits.
 - b) Our net revenue in 2008 was \$12,016 while our net expenses were \$8,932. After adjusting for payables and receivables we had a profit of \$1,278.
 - c) Our major sources of revenue were the Banff Mountain Film Festival, which made more than \$6,026 this year, and Section dues, which amounted to \$2,307 (net, after deducting FMCBC dues of \$3,645).
 - d) Our major expenses were the Bushwhacker newsletters and Annual (\$2,493), guest speakers and slide shows (\$1,270), donations (\$1,180) and a guide subsidy for the Lake O'Hara summer camp (\$1,200).
 - e) The Section is in excellent financial shape! Assets under management, including donations to the Memorial Fund, exceed \$35,000. The Section also owns various physical assets such as a TrailRider, slide projector and mountaineering equipment.

- f) The proposed budget for 2009 is quite similar to that for 2008, except for the creation of two funds: a Contingency Fund, and a Memorial Fund. Geoff proposed the following motions:
 - i. Motion 1: to establish a \$10,000 Contingency Fund to allow the Section to operate for two years in the event that the BMFF fails. Interest from the fund to be deposited to the Chequing Account. Seconded by Don Morton. Carried.
 - ii. Motion 2: to establish a Memorial Fund to promote youth activities in the mountains. The fund accepts donations in memoriam and bequests. Income from the fund to be disbursed to applicants on an annual basis. Seconded by Mike Hubbard. Carried.
 - iii. Motion 3: to match current donations to the memorial fund by transferring funds as interest- free loans, subject to recall in case of need, and to a cap applied by the executive. There was considerable discussion, and it was decided to table this motion and have the Executive discuss it further.
- g) The 2009 budget (attached to these minutes) forecasts assets of \$28,991 at the end of the year, which equates to a profit of \$1,660. This includes \$10,000 in the Contingency Fund and \$8,115 of Section donations to the Memorial Fund. Gil Parker moved, seconded by Mike Hubbard, that the proposed 2009 budget be adopted. Carried.
- h) Geoff summarized the Section's response to funding suggestions presented at the AGM in January 2008, including education, meetings, equipment, donations, a memorial fund and youth sponsorship.

3. **Banff Mountain Film Festival** – Lissa Zala reported that the net income for the BMFF was \$6050, down from \$9000 the previous year. Some of the factors in this decrease were:
- a) UVic insisted on handing all ticket sales itself, and pocketing the \$2.25/ticket revenues for all tickets sold. This prevented ticket sales through MEC and Valhalla, and stopped us from receiving this per- ticket revenue, as we had in previous years.
 - b) Attendance was down by about 100 this year, likely due to the recession and the unavailability of tickets at Valhalla and MEC.
 - c) The expenses for the venue, the BMFF screening itself, and advertising were all up, and it was recommended that we decrease our advertising, particularly with Monday Magazine, who are the most expensive.
 - d) There was a charge of \$400 for use of UVic's projector, when we could have used Banff's equipment for free (there was no indication of this charge when the offer was made).

After four years, Lissa is stepping down and we are looking for a replacement to take on the organizing of this event. A warm thanks

to Lissa for her excellent work in making this fundraiser a continuing success.

4. ***Bushwhacker*** – Sandy Stewart submitted a report, summarized as follows:
 1. *We are ready now to begin production for the 2008 Bushwhacker Annual, with a submission deadline of Jan. 31, and Russ has encouraged members by to submit articles.*
 2. *The club has gone down to publishing two hard- copy issues a year – the full Spring Bushwhacker Annual issue, and a Fall update. There has been some talk recently about making the fall update an electronic- only publication as a way to be “greener” environmentally and to reduce printing and postage costs. The publication would be emailed to the membership as well as being posted for download on www.accvi.ca.*
 3. *We have been saving on postage costs by signing up for a commercial account with CPC and following the Publications Mail and Electronic Mail tools to label, pre- sort, and bundle all of our mailings to CPC specs. To be eligible for this program we are required to do two mailings per year. The update is currently available on the web, and the money that would be saved in mailing expenses by not putting out a Fall update would more than cover that saved in reduction of expenses for the Annual when at least two yearly mailings were made. The club may therefore go down to publishing only the Annual.*
 4. *Sample costs (printing + mailing):*
 - i) *2007 Annual (printed in April 2008): \$1,924.16 + \$259.18 = \$2,183.34*
 - ii) *November 2008 Update: \$198.93 + \$117.23 = \$316.16*
 - iii) *2008 Annual (projected):*
 - Option 1 (no colour pages): \$1,988 + \$407.23 = \$2395.23*
 - Option 2 (2 facing pages full color for photo contest winners): \$2,254.56 + \$407.23 = \$2661.79*
5. ***Education*** – ***Peter Rothermel reported that the courses were well subscribed and*** then listed each offering, along with a description and noted who was instructing them this year, and where we could use some more help from able club members. Cedric thanked Peter for his ongoing efforts in coordinating these offerings and instructing many of them himself.
6. ***Equipment*** – Mike Hubbard gave the following report:

New Gear:

First and foremost is our new TrailRider which I hope will see lots of use in the coming year. Last year we also purchased 2 sets of kid’s rock

climbing hard hats and harnesses which after the initial few weekends has not seen any use. Anyone who has young children and who want them to try rock climbing without the expense of buying gear should contact me. We are also in the process of purchasing 2 new digital "Tracker" transceivers to add to our fleet of 10 Ortovox transceivers. These are being purchased on the recommendation of Cliff Umpleby and the plan is to eventually phase out the Ortovoxes. We have also received a generous donation of gear from Gerta Smythe's estate and just recently an ice axe, helmet, crampons, harness and other gear from a former member, Peter Buttuls, which is much appreciated. I will be updating the list on our web site in the next few days to reflect the new acquisitions.

Problem Areas:

- a) An avalanche probe went missing after the December course. If anyone has it please return it to my bin at 2048 Penzance and no questions will be asked or penalties imposed.*
- b) A problem arose with reservations last weekend. We had ski trips going to both Mt. Becher and Mt. Brooks. Ten people had requested avalanche gear for my trip to Mt. Becher and I had to turn down 2 requests for gear for Mt. Brooks made mid week. On the Sunday 5 people who had requested gear from me did not show up at the Forbidden Plateau parking lot for Mt. Becher and not only did the club lose the rental income but at least 2 members had to go elsewhere for transceivers for Mt. Brooks. To deal with this problem in the future I suggest that we adopt a policy of a minimum 24 hour cancellation notice for gear rentals and that in the event of an order not being cancelled 24 hours before the commencement of a trip the member will owe the rental amount and not be permitted to rent any more gear from the club until the debt is paid. If anyone has any input on this I would like to hear from them at the end of this report otherwise I will post a notice to this effect on our website.*
- c) The bigger problem, which really goes beyond the ambit of this report, is the failure of members to let the trip leader know that they are not coming. On Sunday, 9 of us waited over half an hour for 6 who were coming from the Victoria area. I had had my cell phone on at Mt. Washington the previous evening and all morning but had received no calls from any of these 6 either on my cell or at my home answering service. I was reluctant to just go on ahead without them because I had avalanche gear for 5 of them and it was only after I had made several calls to Victoria that I found out that none of them was coming. I had put my cell number on the trip e-mails and my home number was on the schedule. In addition I had turned down 4 people who wanted to come as the trip was oversubscribed. The plea then is for better communication and not only exchange of cell and other numbers prior to the trip but use of those numbers if*

you are cancelling. We should remember also that last minute - mail communication is not sufficient as computers and blackberries are not often in the pack.

There was general agreement that Mike's points were well taken and his suggestions should be adopted and publicized.

7. **FMCBC** – Peter Rothermel noted that the FMCBC was involved in the current debate about back- country safety and search- and- rescue costs. He also reported that the FMCBC had been approached by an organization called the Arrowsmith Parks and Land- Use Council, and was supporting it in its aims.
8. **Library/Archives** – Judith Holm reported that several new books had been donated to the library, and that work was underway to have a complete listing of the Sections books and archives on our web site. She also brought a number of “excess” books from the library and invited interested members to help themselves to them.
9. **Membership** – Jain Alcock- White submitted the following report, summarized by Cedric at the meeting:

Since I was nominated as Membership Officer at last year's AGM, I have received several phone calls and emails from people wanting to learn more about the ACC and the types of activities the club and its members are involved in. Interest does seem to be growing – let's keep spreading the word!

If memory serves me correctly, the membership has increased by about 50 in the past year. Due to errors within the membership database, I can't provide the exact increase in numbers. However, I can give the following information regarding this past year's membership: 51 individuals and 5 partners allowed their memberships to lapse, 96 individuals and 34 partners renewed their memberships, and 48 individuals and 16 partners became new members. The current membership stands at 179 individuals and 58 couples, for a total of 295 people.

10. **Mount Arrowsmith Regional Park** – Peter Rothermel reported that the Regional District of Nanaimo had voted to create Mount Arrowsmith Regional Park on November 25. This is the realization of ten years of effort by Peter, with support from many other club members.
11. **National** – Russ Moir summarized the two National meetings in 2008, the Spring one attended by himself and the Fall one attended by Rick

Hudson. We are doing well in moving to electronic communication, and in our educational program, but could perhaps offer more at an introductory level. The Vancouver and VI Sections have put links to each others' websites to encourage combining numbers in some trips.

12. **Safety** – Selena Swets reported that an important article on transceiver battery state had recently been published, and that we should try to put a link to it on our website.
13. **Schedule** – Karun Thanjavur reported that he was soon going to start preparing a new schedule for April – September 2009.
14. **Socials** – Cedric Zala reported (for Rick and Phee Hudson) that the social events were well attended. The annual events include the AGM, the Winter Social, the Banquet, the end- of- summer BBQ, the photo contest, and the BMFF. There has also been a very good response to the monthly slideshows and speakers have now been organized for these until the summer. It was noted that there would be a change of date for Russ's and Liz's upcoming presentations, to one day earlier.
15. **Summer Camps 2008 and 2009** – Cedric Zala reported that the 2008 Summer Camp at Lake O'Hara in Yoho Park was a success, with 24 attendees, good weather, and numerous climbs, including Mount Victoria. Cedric thanked the Executive for a subsidy of \$1,200 for a mountain guide to provide instruction to the participants. The 2009 summer camp will take place in the Tonquin Valley, Jasper Park, and this is currently full, with a waitlist of half a dozen people.
16. **TrailRider Program** – Gerry Graham proudly showed off our new TrailRider, which the Club has purchased with the assistance of a grant from Saanich, generous contributions from individuals and Roger Painter's running club, and \$1000 from our Section. He welcomes new volunteers to assist with the program.
17. **Webmaster** – Martin Hofmann summarized in the following report the web development he has undertaken since becoming webmaster.

The ACCVI website has recently been given a new look and feel, but more important have been the back- end changes. The new site uses a Content Management System (CMS) to deliver web content. Basically this system serves to separate content and presentation, which in turn means that all web pages will have the same look and that look can be changed independently of the content. In fact most of the content is now stored in a database, although there are still static files such as pdf's and images that augment the web pages.

Another feature of the new system is that it allows individuals to change the content of web pages without knowing how to speak html (HyperText Markup Language), the language of the web. Most pages can be edited using a simple online editor, accessed from the web page itself. The CMS can also be extended to provide even more features; some of the extensions that are being used on the accvi.ca website are: a random image display on the home page (<http://accvi.ca>), an event table that displays events stored in the database (http://accvi.ca//index.php?option=com_eventtableedit&view=default&Itemid=108) and a photo gallery to display collections of images (http://accvi.ca/index.php?option=com_phocagallery&view=categories&Itemid=79). Although some of these extensions require a bit more technical knowledge to use, some of them provide a nice simple interface that allows editors to modify the content.

Authentication and authorization are also features provided by the CMS that allow us to determine who has permission to edit some or all of the web pages that comprise the ACCVI website. The CMS simplifies many of the tasks associated with creating a web presence but in the end it is still people who create the content and use the web to make information available to Alpine Club members and potential members.

Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

New Business

In view of the amount of time that had already been taken up by the Reports, Cedric proposed that the first three new business items be dealt with at the next executive meeting rather than discussed at this time. There being no objections, the meeting moved to Item 4.

1. Membership Contact List

2. Mountain Safety and Accountability

3. Possible Hut on Vancouver Island

4. Nominations and Elections – Sandy Briggs chaired the nominations for the 2009 Executive. Volunteers for almost all of the positions have been arranged. The volunteers for Chair (Cedric Zala, nominated by Sandy, seconded by Ronan O’Sullivan), Secretary (Rick Hudson, nominated by Sandy, seconded by Reinhard Ilnert), and Treasurer (nominated by Sandy, seconded by Lissa Zala) were acclaimed, and the new Executive will be as follows:

Elected Positions

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

Support Positions

Banff Mountain Film Festival: **Vacant**
Bushwhacker Committee: Sandy Briggs, Lindsay Elms,
Rob Macdonald, Russ Moir
Bushwhacker Editor: Sandy Stewart
Education: Peter Rothermel
Equipment: Mike Hubbard
FMCBC Rep: John Young
Library/Archivist: Judith Holm
Membership: Jain Alcock- White
Members at Large: Phee Hudson, Russ Moir, Mike
Morley,
one position vacant
National Rep: Russ Moir
Safety: Selena Swets
Schedule: Karun Thanjavur
Webmaster/Listserver: Martin Hofmann

5. *Next AGM* – Cedric will arrange the next AGM at Mount Washington, to take place during January 2010, at a date to be determined by the new Executive.

Thanks and Announcements

Cedric reminded members that the Winter Social was coming up on Feb. 26, and the Club Banquet has been arranged at McMorran's Beach Resort on March 27.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m. Thanks to all who attended.

Post- Meeting Presentation

- Don Morton presented a fascinating and entertaining slideshow on his adventures as a member of a climbing expedition to the Hindu Kush Afghanistan in 1969.

Minutes prepared by Cedric Zala.