

Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island section

**Newsletter
June 2026**



As spring melts into summer (heat wave alert!), it seems a good time to talk about access to some of our most cherished places. And specifically to consider how successful advocacy from some ACC VI members in past years has gifted us opportunities to climb at Fleming Beach in the South Island, and enjoy the many mountaineering routes in the Mt Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park. The work of speaking up for access and conservation is never done, and this week's slide show – see below – will help us to celebrate these successes and also consider some future challenges.

In this e-Newsletter:

- **Upcoming events and trips, including longer hut-based trips**
 - **Hut work party weekend**
 - **Course Subsidies for Trip Leadership - enhanced support now available**
 - **BC's Outdoor Recreation Strategy updated**
 - **Member News: Don Morton, Peter Rothermel**
 - **Evening slide shows and socials**
 - **Recent trip reports and photos**
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A typical day out on the glacier from Campbell Icefields Chalet. Check out the trip listing below for the section trip there in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRIPS

Make sure you keep an eye on our schedule <https://accvi.ca/events/> for the evolving schedule of all events and trips - more are added all the time. Better still, sign up for notifications so you never miss a posting – see the how-to video from the link above. **Please click the links for full details with contact information for each trip below.**

Featuring two longer hut-based trips, because registration for both these trips is time-sensitive. These are great opportunities to explore some mainland ranges - please follow-up with the leader in the posting as soon as possible.

*9-13 July 2026 Haberl Hut, Tantalus Range [ACC Vancouver 5 day trip](#)

*3-11 September 2026 Campbell Icefields Hut trip, Rockies [ACC VI 7 day trip](#)

10 June 2026 Fleming Beach climbing [Climbing](#)

This will be a recurring event every Wednesday until 8 July

11 June 2026 Social + Presentation "It almost wasn't so..." [Social / discussion on successful advocacy](#)

11-15 June 2026 Cliffe Glacier Peaks - Harmston, Argus, Red Pillar [mountaineering](#)

27 June 2026 Memorial scattering of Peter Rothermel's ashes on Mount Arrowsmith. Please see below under 'Member news'.

26 - 29 June 2026 Work party at Hišimýawił. See below. All members are welcome to come up and help with hut maintenance.

21-22 June Trad Climbing foundations [Education: climbing](#)

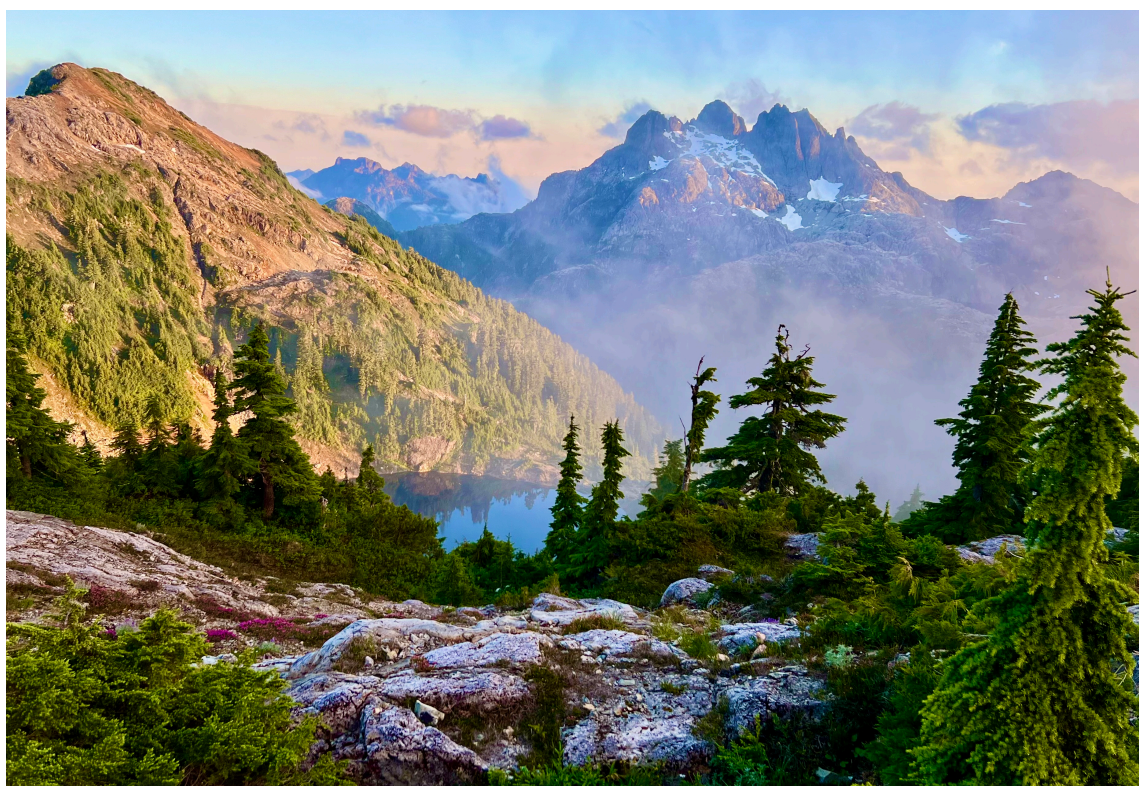
4 July 2026 Rock climbing leadership [Education: Rock leadership](#)

24-25 July 2026 MarmotBlitz [Scramble / education](#)

1- 8 August 2026 ACC VI Summer Camp, Canmore Clubhouse edition
[Summer Camp](#)

HUT WORK PARTY WEEKEND

Hišimýawił, our hut on 5040 Peak, is run entirely by volunteers. It's a busy place, and there are always tasks to be done inside and out to keep things in top order. June 26 - 29 is a work party weekend - a great opportunity for you to contribute to the maintenance of this wonderful facility. Please contact huts@accvi.ca for more information or to sign up.



Summer view of the environs of 5040 Peak.

Remember trips and events appear on the schedule only when members like you offer them. For extra information on how to organise a trip, please check our website: <https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/> or contact leadership@accvi.ca. Thank you for contributing to our community in this important way.

TRIP LEADERSHIP SUBSIDIES - Check out the new policy!

As promised in the May newsletter, the details of the enhanced Course Subsidies for trip leaders are now available online

[Course Subsidies policy 2026](#).

As you can see, there is more money (up to \$750 per person) available to members for courses in return for leading specific numbers of trips.

This is a win-win for both trip leaders and for our trip schedule, and we look forward to supporting you in this way.



Images from Doug Scratcherd's recent dry land crevasse rescue training. These workshops proved so popular that Doug put on a second event - thanks Doug!

Thanks to Barb Baker (Access coordinator) for drawing our attention to a recently published update to the Provincial Government's Outdoor Recreation Strategy. You can view it here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/bcs-outdoor-recreation-strategy>



*There is no shortage of outdoor recreation in the Island hills and mountains.
Above Gordon Kyle and Dave Suttill in the Sooke Hills. Below Karun Thanjavur
on Mount Arrowsmith.*



MEMBER NEWS

With great sadness, we share the news of the passing of two very active members of our community in the last month. There are links below to full tributes to them on our memorial page.

Don Morton

Don was an active member of our section for many years, and left us with many warm memories and stories. An outstanding mountaineer and astrophysicist, Don was at heart a humble man with a deep passion for life and learning. Karun Thanjavur's tribute gives insights into the breadth and depth of Don's rich life's journey. [In memoriam Don](#)



Peter Rothermel

Peter Rothermel was known to many members of the section as the person who helped introduce them to mountaineering in the Vancouver Island mountains. He was a natural leader and teacher who just loved to share his passion with others. Equally significant was Peter's long-term tenacity and focus on conservation, culminating in the establishment of the Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park in 2008. His legacy enriches us all. In memoriam Peter



A special event is being arranged for the memorial scattering of Peter's ashes at two locations on Mount Arrowsmith on 27 June. There will be a choice of routes,

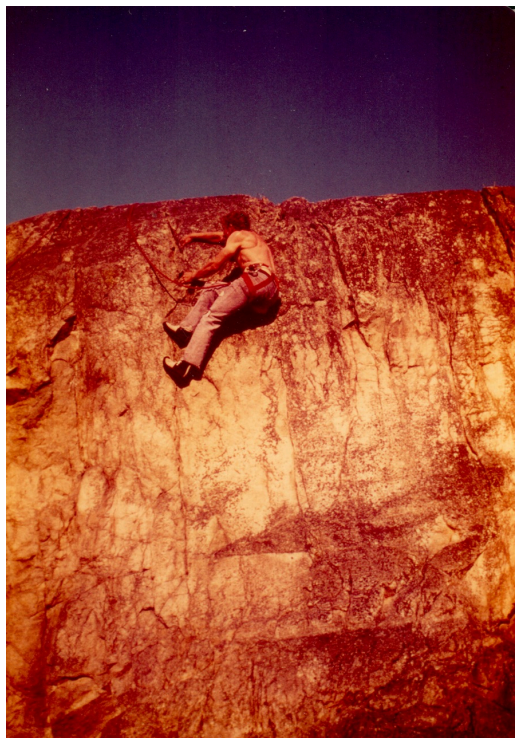
including the Saddle Route and Climber's Trail. This is an appropriate event for those who knew Peter. The organizers would like to know who plans to join the group as there is some limit on numbers and vehicle access needs to be worked out. Please contact Jain: janealcockwhite@gmail.com or text 250-714-4246.



A brocken spectre graces the Nose on Arrowsmith.

EVENING SLIDE SHOWS AND SOCIALS

Our monthly slide shows and socials take place on the second Thursday of the month at Esquimalt Gorge Pavilion, except for July and August. They are very popular and are open to all - please bring your family and friends. It's a great way to meet people and get inspired by stories from members' trips. In this season of sunny evenings, we're hoping to spend the social time outside in this beautiful facility. If you cannot attend in person, there is a Zoom option for the presentation part of the evening.



Some tasters for this week's slide show:

upper photo - 30 years of Fleming beach climbing. Sandy Briggs "I am climbing the Sign Crack on Fisherman's Wall in some early year when blue jeans, EBs, and Whillans harnesses were still a thing."

lower photo - Josh Slatkoff rapping off the Nose on Mount Arrowsmith on a recent club trip.

RECENT TRIP REPORTS

Big Day Out 2026

Mike Ellis shares his experience of an epic day on Stefan Gessinger's annual sufferfest. The Big Day Out involved a traverse from the summit of 5040 to the summit of Adder, ski down as far as possible, and then ride bikes back to the vehicles at the 6km trailhead on Marion Main. Find out how it went here:

<https://discourse.accvi.ca/t/big-day-out-2026-hike-ski-bike-loop/1945>



Dryland Crevasse Rescue Workshop

Jain reports on the second of Doug's two workshops this spring, describing the various techniques taught including the drop loop rescue and how to set systems with different mechanical advantages. Full technical details are here:

<https://discourse.accvi.ca/t/dryland-crevasse-rescue-workshop/1946>



Rambler Peak, West Buttress

Neil's description of his climb with Chris Neate on Rambler Peak references some sketchy sections in these early season conditions, and a 15 hour summit day. A great report of a classic Island route.

<https://discourse.accvi.ca/t/rambler-peak-west-buttress/1961>



We love to see your trip photos and reports on our discussion forum <https://discourse.accvi.ca/c/trip-report/5> so we can showcase them in the newsletters. All reports welcome - scheduled or private trips, long or short - this is how we learn from and inspire each other. Please keep them coming!

And don't miss our two brightest planets at their closest in tonight's western sky after sunset.

Please send any comments or contributions for the newsletter to Catrin and Karly newsletter@accvi.ca

Happy trails everyone!

Photo credits:

Banner photo: Mike Ellis, trip report 'A big day out'

Campbell Icefields: Rachel Treloar

Summer view of 5040 Peak environs: Catrin Brown

Dry land crevasse rescue training: Jain Alcock-White

Sooke Hills: Catrin Brown

Karun on Arrowsmith: Josh Slatkoff

Peter Rothermel portrait: David Rothermel

Brocken spectre at Arrowsmith: Josh Slatkoff

Climbing at Fleming: Sandy Briggs

Climbing at Arrowsmith: Ryan Bartlett

Trip report photos by the trip leader / report author as given.

And anyone recognise this rope charmer at Fleming Beach?



We will take a break over the summer and see you back here in September.