

The Alpine Club of Canada

Vancouver Island Section

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Victoria	Gil Parker	Secretary Treasurer	386-9132

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Newsletter

August 1973

The next General Meeting will be held at the Prospect Lake home of the ¹³¹⁶ Maurices, East Lake Road off Gower, 7.30 p.m., Thursday, September 6th. Bring mugs, slides, news of the summer and lots of enthusiasm for forthcoming events!

Future trips

September 1 - 3 Mt. Mitchell

Via Jack Shark's trail from Buttles. Excellent climbing or hiking on the open ridges; easy stroll up Auger Pk.

September 16 Mt. Arrowsmith

South east ridge of Arrowsmith. Many of us have wanted to climb the mountain by this route. Come and see why!

October 6 - 8 Olympics

A weekend of either climbing or hiking depending on the group. No holiday in the U.S. so should be uncrowded.

The following is a supplementary list of Victoria Area Activities. It consists of shorter hikes and climbs in the Victoria Area and more of same will be scheduled if interest is indicated.

Practice Rock Climbing - every Tuesday evening, so long as light and hardware last, generally in the Thetis Lake Park or Menzies Mtn. (Humpback Rd.) areas. Call Dave Tansley 382 - 8574 for details. (See report).

September 23 East Sooke Park

Becher Bay to Iron Mine Hill, a walk of 5 - 6 miles along the sea coast, with cliffs for the climbers.

October 20 - 21 Mt. Todd (3176')

Good Rock climbing. Mt. Todd Saturday, with overnight at Fairy Lake, Botanical or Sombrio Beach Sunday.

November 18 Empress Mtn. (2209')

via Todd Creek - Peder Lakeroad from Sooke River Road, 5 miles.

January 20 1974 Mt. Manuel Quimper (Shepherd) from Saseenos - Crabapple Lake Road - one mile to summit on good trail.. Ragged Mt. from same point - some bush - whacking.

February 24 1974 Mt. McDonald (Humpback Road) over easy open hillside; climbing available for anyone interested.

March 24 1974 Wolf Creek Hills via Todd Creek - Peder Lake road near Leechtown.

Call Gil Parker for information on these trips or if you require transportation. Tel. 386 - 9132.

Trip reports

I would really appreciate receiving trip reports (preferably by leaders) as soon as possible following the trips. If for some reason the leader cannot write out a report, would you please make a firm arrangement with someone else to submit one. I'll try to follow up any I haven't received within a week or so of trips, but hope that anyone asked to write a report will consider it a responsibility and send it along. I for one enjoy reading about the various activities and feel that concise, accurate reports become invaluable references for those planning trips to the same areas. Literary genius isn't necessary!! Please send reports to me; Cynthia Tansley 201 - 1172 Yates St., Victoria.

In the absence of some of the reports, the following comments record several trips made by the Section. Perhaps more complete reports or corrections will be published later. G.Parker

Mt. Septimus June 16

This mountain was intended to be climbed from a camp at Cream Lake. Recent changes to the paths to the Lake confused the party, with the result that the lake was not reached and therefore not the summit. However an enjoyable time was had in the search and we're told that the party is now sure of the correct route?? Participants: Alan and Tim Robinson, Syd Watts, Walter Latter, Doug Wylie.

Mariner Mountain July 1 weekend

We understand that the party flew into the Bedwell Inlet near the mountain. Despite wet weather, the party climbed partway up to the ridge before retiring, soaked, to camp. Several people from the Ramblers joined the A.C.C. for this trip. Participants: John and Doreen Cowlin, Brian Johnstone, Orianne Webber, Brian and Aileen Foan, Sharon Harshaw, John Gibson and Syd Watts.

Sutton Range - Section Camp July 15 - 22

In the absence of a large club group, John Gibson and Syd Watts explored the Sutton Range and later proceeded to Cape Scott. We look forward to a more complete report on this, the north tip of the Island, and perhaps Syd's usual pictorial essay in slides.

Mt. Schoen July 20 - 21 - 22

A very successful three day trip to Mt Schoen (6105') was completed by Judy Loretan, Doug Wylie, Bob Cameron, Gil Parker (leader) and Mike Siska. The mountain can be quite easily climbed in two days by hiking into a base camp along a foot path at the foot of Schoen Lake about midway down the south shore and ascending and descending the mountain using day packs on the following day. Ascent by the south west approach is good and many game trails available along the ravine edges can be utilized to reduce the amount of "bush-whacking". The class of climb available on Schoen is as difficult as one prefers to choose; however, an easy class 3 route on the south-west ridge is available and was used by the party. The mountain and scenery are beautiful. M.Siska reporter.

Pinder Peak August 18 - 19

Pinder Peak is rather distant for a weekend trip. A party of six, who could arrange an extra day travelled to Atluck Lake where we found a pleasant camp site.

Atluck Lake was crossed by canoe. A good route, the result of well earned experience two years ago (when further ascent had to be abandoned due to bad weather) was followed through the bush to about 3000' elevation. From this point the best way up the remaining 2000' could be seen. This, though fairly steep, involved no technical problems.

Pinder Peak must be one of the best view points in the northerly Vancouver Island, particularly of the West Coast with many small islands and inlets. To the east the view extends to Mt. Waddington.

After ascending the main peak, a second peak to the south, only a few feet lower was climbed by John Gibson.

The weather was excellent apart from a thunderstorm on the descent. This was too late to dampen our spirits, merely our clothes. John Gibson leader, Bill Lash reporter. Alan Robinson was unable to climb owing to a severe cold. The ladies provided admirable base - camp support and incentive to get back before dark.

General Mountain Camp 1973

General Mountain Camp for 1973 was held at Glacier Lake, west of Saskatchewan River Crossing. The camp was notable for the addition of a third week and for its separate emphasis placed on learning to climb, and on "do-it-yourself" mountaineering in the first and third weeks.

It was a particularly beautiful setting, below the East Lyell Glacier icefall which crashed and rumbled incessantly on the hot summer afternoons. Another notable feature was the profusion of blisters evident among the climbers, presumably due to the long distances to the five Lyell peaks.

Mons, a beautiful snow pyramid, Cambrai, Messines, Division and Arctomys were climbed from the base camp at elevation 4,700'. Forbes and F 3 were climbed from a high camp in the Mons glacier valley, while all five peaks were climbed from the high camp in the East Glacier valley. Perhaps Bob Hinds climb of the east ridge of Division was the most difficult ascent, although many of us will remember the sweltering heat on the Lyell trek, and the incessant rock cannonballs coming down from Forbes in the early afternoon.

As always, the food and the camp companionship would have been worth the trip even if no climbs were made, and the spectacular snow and ice make for excellent views as well. For the Vancouver Island Alpinist, the snow and ice experience more than compensated for the terrible scree and loose rock routes of the Rockies. Some Islanders at the camp were Dr and Mrs. W. Mitchell, Frank and Jean Moseley, Roger Neave and Gil Parker, reporter.

Tuesday Night Climbing

Tuesday night rock-climbing has been enjoyed by several members, throughout the summer. The standard of climbing has been geared to the abilities of the

people present, with an emphasis on training and self teaching. Over the season, the overall ability of the group has improved.

The routes around Thetis Lake Park were very popular during the early part of the season. Although most of the pitches are short they are not easy and there is just the right amount of exposure for a realistic appreciation of equipment use and technique on some tricky moves.

For longer routes of varying difficulty we have Mt. Menzies off the Humpback Rd. This area is particularly good for practice as a rope party on pitches where artificial aides are used. The number of routes we have discovered on this rock is by no means complete.

For a mind-bending experience there is a two hundred foot rock chimney on Mt. McDonald, also off the Humpback Rd. The route exits from the chimney at the halfway point for a fifty foot pitch on the exposed face, before entering the chimney again for the last fifty feet. We have been making the climb using four pitons, but it could probably be done by less nervous climbers using only two.

We have also used the sea cliffs around Macaulay Point where the climbing is of a similar nature to Thetis Lake Park. This area has not been popular with the climbers because of the number of spectators in the area!

With the nights beginning to draw in we have probably only two or three more weeks left, but we are looking forward to finding some new routes and an increased participation next year.

Our more frequent enthusiasts have been: Judy Loretan, Bob Cameron, Gil Parker, Mike Siska, Peter Atkin and Dave Tansley (reporter).

Change of Address: Heather Ashton c/- 940 Lodge Street, Victoria 479-2166

Once again our sincere thanks must go to Henry Birks and Sons Ltd. for printing this issue of the newsletter at no cost to ourselves.