

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 45 | Issue 6 | June, 2017

Triple Peak summit above inversion.

Photo by Chris Istace



ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club has a monthly slide-show presentation at the Swan Lake Nature House, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC on the second Thursday of each month, except in July and August. The doors open at 7:00pm, and the show starts at 7:30pm.

Web Information

Web site: www.accvi.ca

Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

Available on our meeting archives.

National ACC Office

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly.

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

info@alpineclubofcanada.ca

403 678 3200, or P.O. Box 8040

Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$53 Family \$75

Youth (19 and under) \$38

The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter

A monthly (except July and August) publication of the Vancouver Island Section.

Newsletter Editor: Mary Sanseverino, 250 592 4677,

newsletter@accvi.ca

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including news items, announcements, and short articles, along with photos. Email your submission by the 25th day of the previous month.

Advertising shall be accepted at the discretion of the editor. All advertising shall be for products or services of direct interest to our membership.

Our Motto

1. COME BACK ALIVE
2. COME BACK FRIENDS
3. RESPECT THE LAND
4. HAVE FUN
5. GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thur, June 8 [Vladka - High Tatras, Slovakia/ Zoe - Peru-Bolivia/ Nepal-Tibet](#) Another great two-for-one deal: Vladka Lackova takes us into the High Tatras of Slovakia and Zoë Minnaard shows us some of the high places in Peru and Bolivia, as well as a quick detour to Tibet. Guaranteed to get us psyched up for the mountains!

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Reminder to Members:

Keep your [membership](#) up-to-date, so to as to be covered by the ACC's liability insurance. Keep your [contact information](#) current on ACC National's site, as it's from this master list that we download our email addresses for mailouts.

[Register](#) on our ACC-VI site to make your contact information available to other ACC-VI members.

Join the ACC-VI [listserv](#) to keep in touch and share information with other ACC-VI members.

Join the ACC-VI's [Facebook group](#).

Upcoming Slideshows, Presentation, Meeting and Get-togethers

Slideshow. Thur, June 8: Three years ago Vladka became a Canadian resident and settled down in Victoria. Last summer, together with her husband Chris and their 6 month old, they returned to her home country of Slovakia for 5 months of maternity leave. It wasn't all sleepless nights and crying babies though. Fortunately, they still found time for the mountains, with Vladka's father, a local mountain guru, guiding them to couple of the highest peaks. If time permits, she'll will show some other hikes and national parks in Slovakia

Fun fact: Did you know there are still sherpas in Europe? Slovakia and specifically the High Tatras are a secret gem where the mountain huts are still supplied by people.

Before moving to Canada Zoë went travelling for 6 months in India, Nepal & Tibet, followed by Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. It was during these travels when she felt her love for snowy mountain tops. She would like to share a preparatory climbing adventure in Peru and her climb in Bolivia. She will also add some info and photos on the overland trip from Nepal to Tibet as some members of the club have expressed interest in her experiences with low budget hiking in occupied Tibet.

Victoria Slideshows are at Swan Lake Nature House. Doors open at 7:00 pm, the show starts at 7:30 pm. Tea and goodies by donation. Everyone is welcome!

There are still ACC-VI clear black nalgene water bottles with the ACC-VI logo for sale for \$ 12.00 (cash or cheque only). Pick one up for your summer adventures or as a gift for a friend or family member!

Mark the date: Aug 31, 2017 - The Summer Barbecue!

At the home of Mike Hubbard and Colleen Kasting in Saanichton. Details TBA

Upcoming Trips

June 02-04: Mt. Harmston and Argus Via Comox Glacier (C3)

Meet and camp at the trail head on Friday June 2nd. Leaving the Comox Glacier trail head early in the morning, and hiking up to the Comox Glacier. Crossing the glacier onto the ridge to Argus and tagging it as we go. Camping somewhere on the ridge between Argus and Mt Harmston. On Sunday, climb up Harmston via the Southeast Ridge, and then hiking back to the cars. Pack light these will be long days

Skills: Everyone should have some climbing experience including feeling confident climbing up (and down climbing) on a snow slope of 45 degrees. Ice axe and self arrest training such as an ACC snow school workshop or equivalent experience is mandatory.

Gear required: Ice axe, helmet, harness, personal crevasse rescue equipment, ATC belay/rappel device, crampons with anti-snow balling plates, sturdy boots that fit your crampons.

Contact: Natasha Salway, natasha.salway@gmail.com

June 03-04: Wild Women - All Women's Climbing Trip to Crest Creek Crag (A5)

For all self-identified women, come join us on a trip to Crest Creek Crag, one of the Island's premier climbing areas. Crest Creek Crag offers a great variety of climbing styles and ratings and great access for setting up top-ropes. Meet on Friday night for the first night of camping and climb Saturday and Sunday.

Skills: Ability to belay (on top rope at minimum), comfort anchors and ability to manage yourself at the crags. **Gear required:** Harness, belay/rappel device, rappel back-up, personal safety (sling, PAS, preferably no daisy chains), helmet. Camping: TBD. Max 12 participants.

Organizers: Brianna Coates, Krista Gooderham and Jes Scott.

Contact: Brianna - cookcoatesb@gmail.com

June 08-11: Mt. Rainier via Disappointment Cleaver or Ingraham Direct route (D3)

Itinerary: depart Victoria on the 1 pm ferry June 8. June 9 approach all the way to camp at Ingraham Flats, then begin our summit attempt approx. 1 am on June 10. After the summit attempt we return to camp to rest for a few hours, then hike all the way out to Paradise, camp for the night, and return to Victoria on June 11. Expect summit day to be 12-15 hrs on the move, including nearly 3,000m of descent.

Skills: glacier travel and crevasse rescue, ice axe self arrest. Trip requires a high level of physical fitness, including ability to carry 20-25 kg pack for 1700m of elevation gain in a single day. Previous experience at high altitude advisable before attempting this peak. **Gear required:** Winter mountaineering boots or double plastic boots required. **Trip leader:** Roxanne Jensen, roxanne.jasiya@gmail.com

June 09-11: Backcountry Ski - Mount George V, Peaks 1909, 1931 (C3)

Leave early Friday June 9, drive to Mt. Washington Nordic Lodge parking lot, hike until we can ski, camp that evening on snow. Saturday ski tour to the peaks, ski for fun and return to camp, and out on Sunday. Weather Dependent. **Gear and experience:** backcountry skis, avie gear (beacon, probe, shovel) and training (AST1); winter camping gear. Need to be a proficient backcountry skier.

Co-led George Butcher, Ken Wong. **Contact** George (250)642-5388; geosooke@gmail.com

June 10-11: Triple Peak via North Ridge (C3)

Meet at the trailhead on Saturday June 10 at 12pm. Hike to the Lake before Triple and camp for the night. Sunday climb Triple Peak via North Ridge, and then hike out back to the vehicles.

Skills: Everyone should have some climbing experience including feeling confident climbing up (and down climbing) on a snow slope of 45degrees. Ice axe and self arrest training such as an ACC snow school workshop or equivalent experience is mandatory. Max 6 participants.

Gear required: Ice axe, helmet, harness, ATC belay/rappel device, crampons with anti-snow balling plates, sturdy boots that fit your crampons.

Contact: Natasha Salway, natasha.salway@gmail.com

June 16-18: Rugged Mountain (C4) * FULL *****

Info for this trip on the ACC-VI website: [Rugged Mtn - FULL](#)

Trip Leaders: Natasha Salway and Clarke Gourlay.

Contact: Clarke Gourlay: clarke@cheeseworks.ca; 250-954-3941

June 17-25: Climbing Camp in City of Rocks, Idaho (A5)

Climbing Camp in City of Rocks Idaho. CoR is a renowned climbing mecca with a rich history and a reputation for fantastic sport and trad climbing in a beautiful high-desert environment. CoR is located next to Castle Rocks State Park, which has a great variety of mostly sport climbs. CoR and Castle Rocks are both known for varnished and pocketed granite of excellent quality.

Check out the full info on this camp on the ACC-VI website: [CoR Camp](#)

Contact: Alois Schonenberger alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com

June 10-11: Triple Peak (C3) * WAITLISTED *****

Two day sortie on a classic Island peak. Check the [ACC-VI trip description](#) for more info. **Co-led** by Karun Thanjavur & Rick Johnson. **Contact** karun@uvic.ca

June 24 - July 01: Tuolumne Meadows - Yosemite, CA (C5)

Tuolumne Meadows - Yosemite, CA - Primary objectives include: Cathedral Peak/Eichorn Pinnacle, Matthes Crest and Mt. Connes (West Ridge). Experience with rock climbing a must.

Contact: Shawn Hedges, shawn.hedges@gmail.com or (250) 896-9911.

June 29 - July 03: Nine Peaks (C3)

Climbing up the standard route of Nine Peaks from the Bedwell Lake trail head. Camping up by the tarns on bear pass for the first night. Possibility of summiting Big Interior if conditions are right. Alpine start on day 2 for the summit attempt of Nine Peaks, then pack up camp and head down to Bedwell Lake for the night. Hiking out on the third day after a later start. This trip will either be Friday June 30-Sunday July 2 or Saturday July 1-Monday July 3

Skills: Crevasse Rescue Course, Self Arrest, and must have all required gear (gear list on request).

Co-led by Colin Mann and Natasha Salway. **Contact:** colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com

July 07 - 09: Mountaineering with Kids and Youth: Flower Ridge Hike (C1-C2)

Great introduction to alpine camping with kids and youth. Will traverse the ridge to where it meets Shepherd Ridge and hopefully get great views of Mt. Septimus. **Contact:** kidsandyouth@accvi.ca

July 08 - 09 & 15-16: Mt Arrowsmith Judges Route Work Party

Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island has partnered up with Regional District of Nanaimo to repair the serious erosion damage to the upper section of Judges. The District will provide material and logistical support to us. We will provide the hands and feet. No special skilled required. Just bring your energy and enthusiasm! Please join us for a camp out either of these two week ends or if you want come up for a day (but get an early start!). You do not need to be an Alpine Club member to participate in this work party. We are hoping that other mountain loving groups will join in with us on this much needed cause to repair this well-loved route. **Contact** Russ at russmoir@gmail.com.

July 15 - 16: Wild Women - All Women's Ascent of Warden Peak (C4) ***WAITLISTED***

For all self-identified women. Come join us for an ascent of Warden Peak, via the Perfect Guildbride Pfeiffer route (say that three times fast!), which is the standard route. Descend by rappeling the same route. We will camp on Saturday at the knoll on the west ridge and attempt the peak first thing on Sunday morning.

Skills: Comfort on steep snow, use of ice axe, travel in crampons and rappeling, moving in 4th and 5th class terrain. **Gear required:** Ice axe, crampons, harness, belay/rappel device, rappel back-up, personal safety (sling, PAS, preferably no daisy chains), helmet.

Organizers: Brianna Coates and Jes Scott. **Contact:** jessica.scott@gmail.com

Aug 05 - 11: Mt. Assiniboine via North Ridge (D5)

Experience with alpine rock climbing a must.

Contact: Shawn Hedges, shawn.hedges@gmail.com or (250) 896-9911.

Aug 11 - 13: Mountaineering with Kids & Youth: Climbing Camp, Quadra Island (B1-B5)

Multi-day climbing camp on Quadra Island. Climb during the day, cool off in the bay in the evening, tour the island, and potentially hike Chinese Mountain. **Contact:** kidsandyouth@accvi.ca

Aug 19 - 24: Mount Jefferson Solar Eclipse (D4)

A rare opportunity to view a solar eclipse from a volcano in Oregon. The eclipse can be viewed from Jefferson Park, which is an easy hike, but we will climb Mount Jefferson for a more epic viewing. The eclipse itself will happen on 2017-08-21 10:19 PDT. Glacier travel and mountain experience required, including crevasse rescue skills. **Contact:** Martin Hofmann mhofmannskis+eclipse@gmail.com

[Check out the ACC-VI Events page -- news trips are added frequently!](#)

Mountain Education

Steep Snow - Parts I and II. This ACC-led workshop is intended to introduce beginners to elements of non-glaciated mountaineering. Trip participants will practice the basic skills needed to climb and descend the occasional pitch of steep spring/summer snow, and to practice rappeling in mountain terrain.

Saturday 3 June 8:30AM - 5:00PM Crag & Classroom session (TBD)

A day to discuss ropes, gear, and knots, and to practice rappeling at the crag. This day long session will be mandatory in order to prepare for the following long weekend.

Friday 9 June - Sunday 11 June. Weekend in the Mountains (Mt. Arrowsmith near Port Alberni).

We'll hike up to the beautiful North Cirque and set up camp, spend a day learning how to climb steep snow using a combination of mountaineering boots, crampons, ice axes and rope & protection systems, and on the final day we'll put it all together to climb Mt. Arrowsmith's Main Gully and descend The Nose.

COST: \$75/person. If interested, please email Eric Swanson: eric.accvi.trips@gmail.com

Workshop size: This course can accommodate 6 participants.

Workshop pairings: This course pairs well with this year's Intro to Rock Climbing (held the following month) and Crevasse Rescue courses.

Introduction to Backpacking Workshop - Part I & II -- June 06 and 27.

Are you interested in stretching your hiking experience into multi-day adventures? Have you been over-night hiking with friends and are now thinking of planning a trip yourself? Whether you're an avid dayhiker, an intrepid car-camper, or planning a major hike this summer, join us for two evening clinics to help you make the jump to longer, faster, or more challenging hikes this year! **See the ACC-VI website for full information:** [Intro to Backpacking](#) and [Intro to Backpacking II](#).

For more information or to register, contact Alois at: alois.accvi.trips@gmail.com

Wilderness Navigation Course, Strathcona Provincial Park -- June 10 - 11.

This two day Wilderness Navigation Workshop will teach you the skills to navigate safely. Some of the skill that are taught are; Route Planning, Basics Map and Compass work, Route Finding, etc... if you are interested in signing up or would like more information use the link below. There is a 10% discount for all ACC-VI member with valid membership card.

Contact: MB Guiding - <https://mbguiding.ca/browse/2-day-wilderness-navigation/>

Intro to rock climbing -- June 28 and July 07-09, 2017.

Intended to introduce beginners to outdoor rock climbing. Course participants will learn the basic skills needed for a day of top roping at the crags including belaying, rappeling, and anchor building. Classroom and cliffs sessions. Check out [Intro to Rock Climbing](#) for more info.



On the importance of mountain huts

Rick Hudson

If you've only ever belonged to the Vancouver Island section of the ACC, then you've never experienced the pleasure of being in a club that owns one or more huts. There's an entirely different vibe that stems from members meeting there periodically, in the backcountry, and sharing a type of lifestyle that is the reason we belong to a mountain club in the first place. Adventures are shared, friendships are built, and even relationships are kindled in the intimacy that is a mountain hut. (I should know - I met Phee almost 50 years ago at my university club's hut, and the rest is history!)

So in 2013 when we finally turned down BC Park's offer to take over the Ranger's Hut at Hair-trigger Lake en route to Mt Albert Edward, there was a hut momentum that needed to find an alternate project. In 2014 the executive committee supported the idea and one of the exec members, Chris Jensen, took up the baton. Ideas are two-a-penny in any volunteer organization. To turn an idea into a reality takes someone to champion that idea, and in Chris the exec found one.

In 2014 Chris spent a lot of time surveying the Island both digitally and on the ground, to find a suitable site. It had to offer both summer and winter activities. It needed to be in the alpine (not easy on the Island). It had to be accessible, but not too accessible. And it had to be on Crown Land. We'd spent four years spinning wheels with BC Parks and weren't keen to repeat that experience.

Chris formed a Hut Committee, a band of five like-minded souls, who wanted to make it happen. Gradually, in late 2015, the area of interest narrowed to Adder and 5040 Peaks and their surrounding open country. Various people tramped the slopes, kicked the rocks, and the target narrowed to the SW ridge on 5040, a place that met all the criteria, plus it had year-round water, was out of avalanches, and had stunning views.



*Check out the 5040 Peak West Ridge Hut Project online: <http://www.huts.accvi.ca/>
All the specs, stunning images, and a link for donations!*

In early 2016 confidence in the site was such that the Hut Comm started looking seriously at designs, both of existing huts in BC and AB, and how to improve on them. Ideas flowed back and forth, but always in the background was that unspoken question, "How much is it going to cost?"

Without a design, there could be no costing, but by July 2016 there was enough detail, pre-design, analysis and agreement that an estimate could be made. The basic materials would be about \$125K - \$150K. Additional costs

like professional engineering, drafting, helicopter services and other transportation issues would push that to \$225K - \$250K, and by the time we'd finished fitting out the inside with cupboards, heating, cooking gear, kitchen clutter, LED lighting and solar panels, it would be closer to \$300K.

If that sounds a lot for a 24 x 16' mountain hut, you have to realize that the ACC's new Richard & Louise Guy Hut under Des Poilus in the Rockies was costing a million, and the 3 Spearhead huts near Whistler (still in the planning stage) were estimated to be closer to \$2.5M. The days of slapping some logs together, covering it with corrugated iron roofing, and packing the walls with earth clods has gone. And none too soon, in my opinion.

It was apparent that no-one on the Hut Comm wanted to touch the fundraising portfolio. Fortuitously I'd recently come off helping to raise about \$3M for the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre in Sidney, and felt comfortable that if we could find \$50K - \$100K, governments would help with the rest. I invited Mike Hubbard and Geoff Bennett to join a fundraising sub-committee. (That's a tip, folks. When in need, form a committee.) We went through the membership list and highlighted senior fellows who would likely help, if asked.

On October 1st we started our one-on-one campaign, and in six weeks, we raised close to \$60K - that's \$10,000 per week - an amazing reflection of how generous the membership can be. Thank you all for doing what you did. It made us very proud to belong to a club that had people willing to support a project like this, to the level they did.

Colleen Kasting had some experience at fundraising too, and early on she suggested we set target levels. Over a boozy lunch at the Oak Bay Hotel we decided that anyone donating \$1K or more should be recognized as a 'Mt Finlayson donor'; giving \$5K or more meant you were a 'Mt Arrowsmith donor'; and if you gave \$10K or more, you became, of course, a 'Golden Hinde donor'!

I'm happy to advise that when the dust settled, we had 11 Mt Finlaysons, 3 Mt Arrowsmiths, and 2 (yes, two) Golden Hindes! Good work all.

In the meanwhile, Chris had been busy applying for government funding through the Island Coast Economic Trust. They wanted us to contribute at least \$40K ourselves, and we soon had that covered. Then Mountain Equipment Co-op came in with a \$15K donation (the largest they give for these kind of projects), and ACC National gave \$40K after some effective lobbying of the President and Exec Director, both of whom are well known to some of us. Suddenly we had \$115K of 'private' funds, and shortly thereafter we learned ICET had come through with \$90K.

The balance needed (about \$50K - \$75K) has been requested from the BC Rural Dividend Fund. We await their next awards announcements in September 2017.

Do we have enough? No-one knows yet, but if past experience is anything, there's always room to spend a bit more and do a better job. Better windows, nicer flooring, stainless steel counter tops, state-of-the-art biffy - the list grows as the project progresses.

Which brings me to a touchy point: If there were any surprises during this project, it was when we turned the appeal over to the general membership in January 2017. We promoted it on the ACC-VI Facebook site and in the monthly Newsletter. Somehow, I thought the younger members of the section,

who don't have much spare change, but who would be the chief beneficiaries of the hut itself, would kick in a few bucks, just to have a bit of skin in the game. I mean, a restaurant dinner costs \$25 these days. If everyone in the section gave \$25, we'd have another \$10K to spend on upgrades.

I thought there'd be a lot of people throwing in \$50 - 100, and I reasoned that if we offered a prize, we could maybe push them to \$250. So landscape artist and member [Phee Hudson](#) painted a striking acrylic



of Triple Peak, as seen from across the valley where the hut will be. We offered a ticket to the draw for every \$250 donated. (That meant the \$10K donors each received 40 tickets!)

It didn't happen. The general appeal failed. Three people donated, and the total was less than \$100. Thank you, all three, but where was everyone else? Donating is so simple - just go to the [ACC's website](#) and use a credit card. Done in a minute, and if you give \$25 or more, you get an instant tax receipt.

Phee Hudson at the prize draw with the Triple Peak painting

The draw for the painting was done by Chris Jensen at the May social at Swan Lake in Victoria, and the winner was ... (the envelope please) ... none other than Geoff Bennett of the fundraising committee! Oops. Well, a draw is a draw, I guess, and all's fair in love and draw. As a nice aside, he already has one of Phee's paintings, given to him by the Exec Committee some time ago for serving as Hon Treas for many years.

Later, there was a twist to this story. You see, Geoff was away that evening, and only learned of his win a day later. Very generously, he wrote to Mike & Colleen offering it to them for their new home because they had given so much to the hut fund, and he already had a 'Hudson' on his wall. What a star!

Thanks to everyone who was involved on this project. The fundraising committee had fun. Now we turn the challenge over to Chris and his Hut Comm to spend the cash wisely. Colleen Kasting, who has run a construction company in a previous life, is the official tight-fisted accountant. Your money is in good hands, and what you build will be valued for generations.



Geoffrey (Berg heil) Bennett - the prize draw winner!

There's much now to do. Cue the volunteers. Cue the small donors. Let's get it done, folks!

Vancouver Island 150

A 2017 ACC-VI Project

In celebration of Canada's 150th birthday can we collectively climb 150 Vancouver Island peaks and hills during this year, and record our summits online?

The definition of a summit seems to be endlessly contestable, so let's try to avoid controversy and follow these guidelines. A recorded peak can be any Vancouver Island or Gulf Islands peak that is:

- listed in: "A Guide to Climbing and Hiking in Southwest BC" Bruce Fairley
- listed in: "Island Alpine" or "Island Alpine Select" Philip Stone
- listed in Lindsay Elms' island peaks data base, which can be accessed from:
<http://islandmountainramblers.com/resources/vancouver-island-peaks/>
- listed in www.summitpost.org
- a named wilderness summit on a topo map (i.e. excluding those that are developed)

So this what you do:

1. Choose a peak to climb that has not yet been recorded in the project
(Check out the [Vancouver Island 150 Google Map](#) to see what's been recorded so far)
2. Go out and climb it..... and have a happy time
3. Take a summit photo of the summiteers
4. Record the date, name and lat/long coordinates of the summit, names of the summiteers, a few notes about your trip (say a max of 250 characters for the notes).
5. Follow the upload instructions at [Vancouver Island 150](#) and you are away to the races.
6. Repeat steps 1 – 5.

Simple and fun - keep an eye on the evolving interactive [Vancouver Island 150 Map](#).

Stats as of June 1, 2017

Summits in January: 2

Summits in February: 12

Summits in March: 11

Summits in April: 23

Summits in May: 27

Total as of June 1: 75 Summits

**Thus far the [Van Isle 150 map](#) has been viewed 2309 times!
As of June 1 there are 102 photos in the [ACC-VI Van Isle 150](#)!**

**(Technical note: don't forget to refresh your browser to see the latest map -
not sure how to do it - check out "[how to force refresh your browser](#)".)**

Top Rope Climbing Trip Leadship Training

Alois Schonenberger

Climbing at the Wasootch Slabs in Kananaskis Country



In early May the Alpine Club of Canada held a Top Rope Climbing Trip Leader training course in Canmore. It was the first offering of the Leadership Development Committee's training curriculum for ACC trip leaders. They have plans for 15 different types of ACC trips (Hiking Trips, Ice Climbing, Summer, Mountaineering, Winter Mountaineering, etc) for which they envision offering leadership training courses. This was the program's pilot offering and is the only one that they plan to teach out of Canmore. The rest of the course curriculum will be delivered to our Sections for us to teach ourselves.

This course focussed on the skills required for ACC volunteer leaders to lead groups of novice climbers on top rope excursions. It was designed in conjunction with ACMG guides, who taught the course to 12 participants from eight sections from Vancouver Island to the Yukon to Saskatchewan. I was very glad when my application was accepted and I was able to be part of this group. While a top rope only trip is not common for our Section, I was eager to attend this course to brush up on my leadership skills. Spending an extended weekend with ACMG guides is always a valuable experience and there is always a lot to learn. The course also offered an opportunity to meet trip leaders from all over Canada and to spend some time experiencing Canmore in the springtime.

And that's just what we all got: a good dose of Rockies in the springtime! We had rain and snow and hail and ice. We had beautiful sunny days interspersed with brief near-white-out conditions. Our group happily welcomed these changeable conditions, which didn't deter from our experience. The course consisted of two days of learning topics including anchor-building,



Practicing ascending ropes



Practicing basic pulley systems

group leadership skills, teaching basic movement on rock, and basic rescue techniques. This was followed by two days of simulated leadership experience, which provided the opportunity to receive valuable feedback on our leadership skills from our guide instructors.

We climbed at the beautiful Wasootch Slabs and at the base of Mt Yamnуска. It was my first trip to the Rockies in far too long and it was truly nice to be back for a few days, reveling in the scenery. The weekend offered a great opportunity to reintroduce

myself to the area, and to meet a great group of fellow Club members. We all enjoyed the weekend and learned a great deal, and are looking forwards to opportunities to put the course to use!



Typical Spring weather in the Rockies, with flurries interrupting otherwise-sunny days



A final shot of the group on our last day

Trailrider Program

ACC-VI Trailrider Program Volunteers Needed!



*The Vancouver Island Section's
Trailrider Program assists people with
disabilities to enjoy the outdoors.*

To volunteer please contact
Caroline Tansley, Coordinator.
Tel. 250-886-8038.

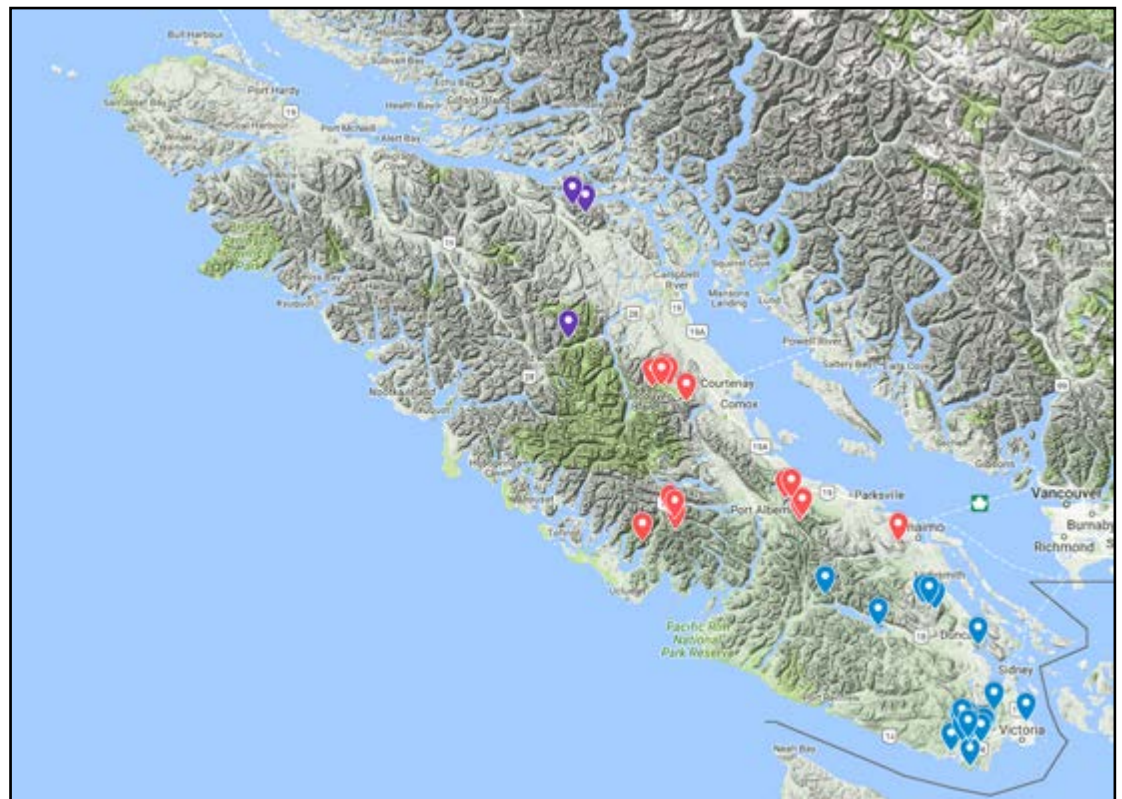
Email: trailrider@accvi.ca

More info at:

[http://www.accvi.ca/index.
php/trailrider-program](http://www.accvi.ca/index.php/trailrider-program)

[www.facebook.com/groups/
trailrider.accvi](http://www.facebook.com/groups/trailrider.accvi)

ACC-VI Vancouver
Island 150:
Click on the map
to see where people
have been going!



Executive Episodes:

A quick update of ACC life from the chair's chair.

The gift that keeps giving

It started with a promise. As part of the fund raising drive for the Peak 5040 hut, members who donated significant amounts were promised their name would be entered into a draw to win a painting donated by Phee Hudson. The painting is a magnificent depiction of the view from the site of the hut across to Triple Peak. The draw duly took place at the Swan Lake slide show on 11 May, and Geoff Bennett was the lucky winner. Geoff and Wendy, however, felt that the painting should be gifted to Mike Hubbard and Colleen Kasting in recognition of their major contributions to the hut project. And so the painting will shortly hang in Mike and Colleen's new home in Saanichton, where it can be enjoyed by members calling to rent club gear or enjoy the summer barbecue. Read on.

Aha – the summer barbecue

Mark the date Thursday 31 August, when we will enjoy our summer barbecue at the home of Colleen Kasting and Mike Hubbard. This is a great chance to connect with friends new and old, and share tales of mountain adventures. All welcome; details will be sent nearer the time by email.

Paddlevi 17

I know that many of our members are enjoying following the progress of our young member Finn Steiner on his solo kayak circumnavigation of Vancouver Island: <https://www.paddlevi17.com>

Finn's blog is rich with adventures, wildlife sightings and descriptions of the ever changing ocean and sky. At the time of writing, he is well on track to complete his journey by the end of May. Judging by the few photos he has published, we are in for a treat of a slideshow after his return.

Your many friends in ACC-VI are cheering you on Finn and thank you for the great vicarious adventure!

Work-party is not an oxymoron

Come and show we can work hard and have fun on a trail remediation project near the top of Mt Arrow-smith. There are two weekends scheduled: 8th – 9th and 15th - 16th July – please consider signing up for one of these. The goal is to repair the serious erosion damage to the upper section of the Judges' trail. The Regional District of Nanaimo is providing material and logistical support, and we will supply the energy and enthusiasm. Just show up and we will keep you busy!

Please contact Russ Moir russmoir@gmail.com. or Barb Baker mtbaker1@shaw.ca to register your interest in helping with this.

Our volunteer leaders rock

Congratulations to Derek Sou and to Brianna Coates who have both been selected to attend The North Face Summer Leadership course this August. As only ten applicants are chosen from across all twenty two ACC sections, I think we should feel really proud of these two trip leaders. They were both enthusiastically endorsed by the executive, who recognise their unique contributions, especially with youth (Derek) and encouraging women leaders (Brianna). I'm happy the national saw sense in picking both!

Bushwhacker annual 2016

Sean McIntyre, our editor of the Bushwhacker annual, has completed the major work on the preparation and hopes to have the publication ready for distribution before the end of June, just in time for some great summer reading! Many thanks for your significant work on this project Sean, we look forward to enjoying the fruits of your labours.

The 5040 Peak hut project

Chris Jensen, the chair of the hut committee, continues to blaze a trail with progress on the hut project. Evidently, those many years bushwhacking in the mountains have been great training for how to push ahead! With permit and funding in place, the team is now planning the construction phase with the goal of getting the exterior to weather tight by September 2017.

And this is where the volunteers come in. Krista Zala is helping to coordinate the work parties for the hut construction, hoping to put together teams of 4-8 people to camp and work at the hut site for 4 to 5 days in a row. About 12-14 weeks of work parties will be needed.

So we are looking for:

- construction managers
- experienced builders
- camp cooks
- a camp organizer for the initial set up (e.g. tents, kitchen supplies)
- general labourers
- roofer with experience in metal roofing
- anyone with advanced first aid training

In addition, if anyone has connections for cheap and/or donated building supplies or can lend a range of power tools and equipment, we would love to hear from you.

For all offers of help, please contact huts@accvi.ca

Vancouver Island 150

If you have not been keeping an eye on the growing photo collection of Vancouver Island 150, you've been missing out. Click on the link to see the photos: [Van Isle 150 photo collection.](#)

It's great to watch the summit smiles appear week by week and track the pins appearing on the interactive [Vancouver Island 150 map](#). Please everyone do add the summit name, date, names of summiteers and brief notes to your uploads.

So 5 months into the year we seem to be on track to reach our goal of 150 Vancouver Island peaks during 2017. At this point it's fun to keep track of all your claims to fame and glory – but at the end of the year we'll see how we shape up according to these “rules” of a claimable summit:

Any Vancouver Island or Gulf Islands peak that is:

- listed in: “A guide to Climbing and Hiking in southwest BC” Bruce Fairley
- listed in: “Island Alpine” Philip Stone
- listed in Lindsay Elms' island peaks data base, which can be accessed from: <http://islandmountainramblers.com/resources/vancouver-island-peaks/>
- listed in www.summitpost.org
- a named wilderness summit on a topo map (i.e. excluding those that are developed)

Not sure what to do to get on the map? Check out pg 10 in this edition -- the latest stats are there too.

Ongoing big thanks to Mary Sanseverino who is doing a great job keeping track of the photos and map links. Let's see what heights we can collectively scale over the summer months!

Executive event

The executive will meet again on Thursday 16 June. The link to the executive page and minutes of meetings is [here](#).

**Happy trails
Catrin Brown**

catrin@shaw.ca | chair@accvi.ca

Mt. Arrowsmith Judges Route Work Party!

July 8/9 and July 15/16

The Alpine Club of Canada -Vancouver Island has partnered up with Regional District of Nanaimo to repair the serious erosion damage to the upper section of Judges. The District will provide material and logistical support to us. We will provide the hands and feet.

No special skilled required. Just bring your energy and enthusiasm!

Please join us for a camp out either of these two week ends or if you want come up for a day (but get an early start!).

You do not need to be an Alpine Club member to participate in this work party. We are hoping that other mountain loving groups will join in with us on this much needed cause to repair this well-loved route.

Can you help out?
If would be great if you could!!

Contact Russ Moir: russmoir@gmail.com

Trip Report: Poncho Peak

Story: Lindsay Elms

Photos: Valerie Wootton

Party: Lindsay Elms, Valerie Wootton and Rod Szasz

Date: May 9, 2017

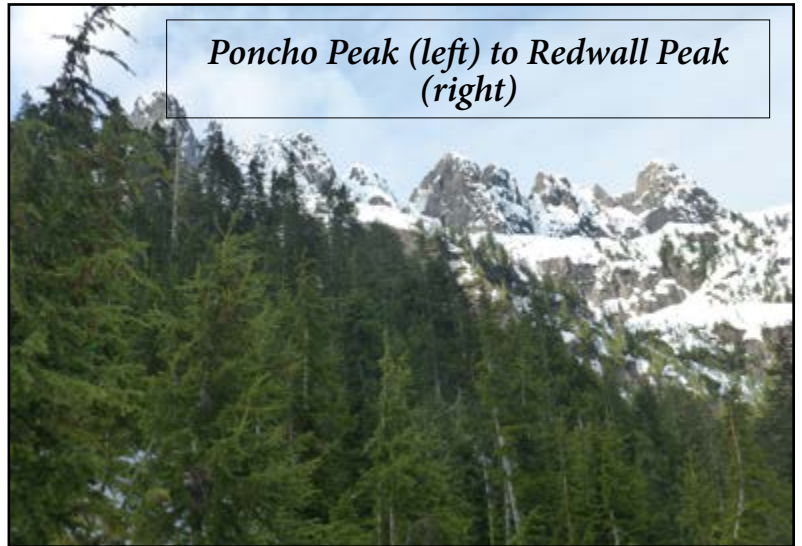
Poncho Peak



In the summer of 1960, Ted Stevens and Dick Culbert, a climber whose name became synonymous with the Coast Mountains of BC, made an exploratory reconnaissance to the mountains of Vancouver Island. The highlight of the trip was a first ascent of a striking spire that can be seen on the south side of Highway 4 to Tofino – Redwall Peak. This is the northern most spire on the ridge that is known as the MacKenzie Range. Since then other great climbers: Patrick Guilbride, Syd Watts, Bob Tustin, Mike Walsh, Al Harrison, Bill Perry, Ron Facer, Rob Macdonald and Rick Eppler have all had their names associated with the MacKenzie Range. Throughout the 1970's, 80's and 90's, they all made repeated trips to the range, none of them afraid to face the primordial forest that had to be negotiated to reach the wonderful alpine region. After Redwall Peak and the range's highest peak, the MacKenzie Summit, was climbed (1968 Syd Watts and Patrick Guilbride), visiting climbers gave Tolkien-like names to the spires that form the backbone of the MacKenzie Range: Shadowblade, Flat-top, Witch Hat and The Centaur. Then came the climbers looking for alternative routes on the spires: Aaron Hamilton, John Waters, Sandy Briggs, Andy Arts and Francis Bruhwiler.

But the MacKenzie Range has more to offer than the six peaks that those climbers were attracted to. Further to the southeast along the ridge are another four spires that never received attention until the 2010's. After repeated trips up the Climbers Trail and looking across at those remaining spires I knew I had to access them one day but there were always other peaks to climb. Then on May 10, 2013, Valerie Wootton and I made our first foray up Canoe Creek to the head of the valley to climb on these obscure spires. Access to the valley had been made easier by the building of an access road to a mini-hydro scheme an hour up Canoe Creek. In the 1960's and 70's, Canoe Creek was the standard access (bushwhack) to the range, but in the early 1980's members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada cleared a rough trail (Climbers Trail) up the next valley to the west making for fast, easy access to the MacKenzie Range. Val and I climbed the middle spire which we named Razorback, trying to keep with the thought-provoking nomenclature. We found that we only wanted to negotiate the upper basin of Canoe Creek in the spring when it still held its winter snow pack. A year

Poncho Peak (left) to Redwall Peak (right)





Preparing a rappel around a live tree



Throwing the rope on a rappel



Back on the soft snow after the last rappel



Rod rappeling the top pitch

later (March 2014) Stefan Gessinger hiked up Canoe Creek and climbed the highest spire which he named Poncho Peak and then traversed across Razorback to Sunrise Peak. Two weeks later he returned with Ian Kilpatrick and climbed the remaining untouched spire calling it Ravenhorn – another alluring name.

Val and I visited Canoe Creek several more times and found that the best time to access the upper basin was in the spring when the heinous vegetation is still covered with its winter mantle. However, the three spires we hadn't climbed were still beckoning. I had been watching the weather and making note of the snow conditions in the mountains throughout the spring and finally the time was right for another trip into the MacKenzie Range. Rod Szasz was free for a day trip so on the morning of May 9 he met us at the bottom of the Canoe Creek hydro road at 5 am. The walk up the road to the intake dam usually takes an hour and then we had to enter the bush. From previous trips I had learnt not to follow the creek up as the bush is thick and prickly. A route, though still a little tedious, was found on the east side of the creek about 50 metres above it. After an hour we came down to the creek and then crossed to the west side where a delightful open forest took us to the creek crossing at the bottom of the upper basin. Then came the long slog up the snow that hadn't frozen as much as I would have liked it too. We all took turns at breaking trail until we reached the ridge between Canoe Peak and Poncho Peak.

From the saddle we traversed across the heavily snow covered slopes to a gully that took us up onto the ridge between Poncho Peak and Ravenhorn. Although there were signs of old avalanches everywhere and cornices on some of the ridges above, the soft snow was stable and didn't present any concern of breaking away. By now the mist had trickled in and visibility was limited but the forecast had no mention of precipitation so after a quick discussion we harnessed up then started up the East Ridge of Poncho Peak.

The ridge was narrow and in places still covered in snow. The first pitch was up a steep rock gully/ridge where we were able to place runners around live trees. We then belayed across a flat section to the base of the final climb. Not difficult but the rock was solid and the climbing fun. On the summit we all squatted beside the sharp spire and took our obligatory summit photo. Occasionally the mist would briefly clear and we would get views down to the Broken Islands and across to Triple Peak but it would never last. Finally, it was time to leave. We rappelled back down to the saddle and then did two more rappels on the increasingly softer snow. We traversed back across the slope towards Canoe Peak then sunk up to our knees in snow as we descended down into the upper basin. Through the forest to the dam and then the walk down the hydro road saw us back at the vehicles at 6:30 pm. We could tick one more peak off our list of summits for the MacKenzie Range but I knew we would be back again in the future. We continue to be lured to this incredible area, although not lofty in height, it makes up for it with its spectacular climbing.



L-R: Lindsay, Val, and Rod on the summit of Poncho Peak



Back in the forest

Summer Camp

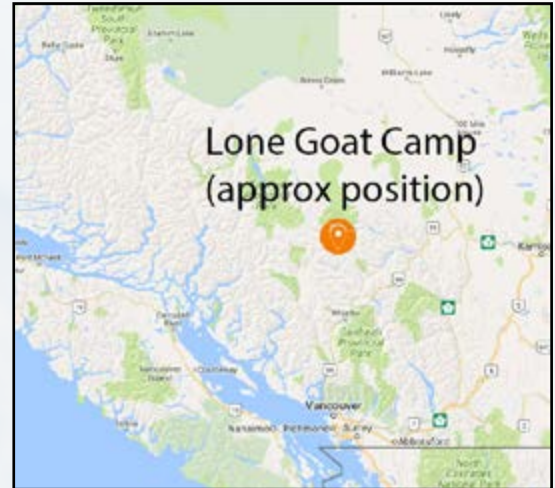
Lone Goat Tent Camp

Update: If you have been thinking about attending this summer's Lone Goat tented camp, then this might be your last chance to get a spot.

Both Weeks 1 (July 16-23) and 3 (July 30 - August 6) are completely full and there are two spots remaining on Week 2 (July 23 – 30).

If you want to come please email Peggy Taylor at peggyhiking@gmail.com ASAP!

To fill the remaining spots you will need to read the documents linked below, complete your registration form and mail a cheque made payable to ACC-VI (Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section) for \$ 600.00 to me at my home address noted below. Etransfers are also accepted and will be forwarded to the club treasurer.



Wait lists are being taken -- if you would like to get your name on a list for any of the weeks, contact Peggy Taylor (peggyhiking@gmail.com) or Liz Williams (seahorse@pacificcoast.net).

Information:

Please see the “[Summer Camp General Information Guide 2017](#)” and the “[Guidance for Lone Goat Summer Camp Participants 2017](#)”, which we hope will answer many of your preliminary questions. Please be sure to read these documents carefully before filling in your registration form. Your understanding and agreement with these policies is a pre-requisite of registration. Travel, and all other details will be provided at a later date. A “[Suggested Personal Equipment List](#)” is also available.

Registration:

Please read all the information, print out the “[Registration Form](#)”, and mail with your cheque for \$600 to:

Peggy Taylor.
#417-545 Manchester Road,
Victoria, BC
V8T 5H6

We look forward to another great summer in BC's wonderful mountains!
Your ACC-VI Summer Camp Committee

Can you help?

Opportunity on the Summer Camp Committee

Peggy Taylor writes “This will be my last season on the summer camp committee. It has been a great deal of fun and satisfaction being part of these wonderful camps and a big thanks to all the folks who have been on the camp committee over the years: Colleen Kasting, Brenda O’Sullivan, Russ Moir, Erich Schellehammer, Martin Davis, Brian Parsons, Liz Williams & Jeff Beddoes. And I must not forget Rick & Phee Hudson who started the whole thing. I still cannot believe that Rick organized the initial two camps mostly by himself!! Kudos as there are a great many details to take care of. Rick has been key in helping us by giving the committee suggestions of fabulous locations over the years too – an invaluable contribution.

If you have attended a camp you know how much fun they are, the beautiful and varied locations we have been able to access, the skills learned, the camaraderie involved in reaching an objective and the friendships made. So, in the next few months before the fall rolls around, please think about if you could contribute to this wonderful tradition and lend a hand by being on the ACC-VI Summer Camp Committee.

If you are interested in coming onto the committee I am sure Liz & Jeff would love to have one or two more willing hands! Please feel free to email myself (peggyhiking@gmail.com) or Liz (seahorse@pacificcoast.net)."



Some of the many vistas and objectives that await Lone Goat Summer Camp participants!

Trip Report: Rambler Peak

Story and Photos: Walter Moar

Party: Walter Moar

Date: May 21, 2017



Rambler Peak (left) and Rambler Junior

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Well, that's a good opener for a trip report, and sounds much more upbeat than "It was the worst of times, full stop, never again". Rambler Peak was next on my tick list, and I wasn't sure what to expect in terms of climbing difficulty. The guide books had me concerned, but not concerned enough to sway me from attempting a last minute solo trip.

First light at 04:30 brought a Saturday that was crisp, clear, and... soaking wet? Too lazy to set up the tent the night before, I had slept in my sleeping bag and pad at the side of a logging road. The dew during the night hadn't held back and it drenched the sleeping gear. In theory a lesson learned, but in practice anything less than a 20% chance of rain will find me under the stars (aside: I admit that a previous experience waking up covered in slug trails and sleeping on squashed slugs also lends support to the "tents are good" argument. And then there's my mouse incident years ago. And the deer incident. And the bugs. Perhaps tents are indeed a good idea?)

Back to the trip report! The lone car in the Elk River Trail parking lot was as surprising as the

lack of traffic leaving Victoria the night before. What manner of May Long Weekend is this? The pack was too heavy and the legs unwilling, but I was stomping familiar ground. 45 minutes found the Elkhorn Mountain trail spurring off to the left, and at two hours I was at the first gravel bar campsite. Clockwork. Another hour took me past the full-roar waterfalls and into the upper gravel bar campsite. Check, check, and check again, I had hit the landmarks at the previous year's pace.

The pace wouldn't last long, as significant snow started above the upper gravel bar. The trail was frequently hard to follow, and the horizontal alders were not helping. Eventually, I reached the slabs to Landslide Lake and the Elk Pass turnoff (with its new sign!). From here on in, staying on the trail was out of the question due to the snow. Although the route finding was up an obvious valley, the rotten snow, too heavy pack, and lack of fitness took their toll. It took me five hours to get from the upper gravel bar to the start of the avalanche zone.

And what a glorious zone it was! The unseasonably cold weather the week before had brought huge dumps of snow. Thankfully all of it had slid from the lower portions of Slocomb and Rambler, and the remains of large wet slides covered the valley bottom. There was surely some snow lurking high above, but while I was in the



Elk Pass



*Elkhorn
Mountain*



Rambler Summit

tight part of the valley there were only some occasional small point release wet slides. The snow was horribly rotten, and I regularly went knee or thigh deep. Progress was slow, but I eventually made it into the big bowl at the top of the valley. I took a long break on a rock outcrop, with time for water to drink and to pour water out of my boots.

One final push got me to Elk Pass, where I stamped out a tent platform and set up camp. I must have set a record for slowest time to the pass, with ten hours from the parking lot. The sun was already going behind the nearby hills, and my feet were wet and cold. I crawled into my sleeping bag to warm up and woke up two hours later. Being too lazy to melt snow to make dinner, I zipped the tent door and called it a night.



Say Cheese! (a hydration and cheesedration break)

At 06:00 I woke up. I wanted to get moving so I laced up, ate some chocolate, and headed for Rambler's south shoulder. More sloppy snow, of course, as things didn't firm up much overnight. The lower east gully was as prominent as promised by Island Alpine, and stuffed with snow. I kicked up the gully to under Rambler Junior, then easily crossed the glacier to the summit block's north gully. Again this one was stuffed, and only near the top did it start to feel a little bit steep.

With all the previous work being extremely easy, it was only fitting that the final ten meters were where it got spicy. The snow on the summit was plentiful and thankfully was solid enough. There was lovely exposure all around, either back down to the glacier or over the top and into the Elk valley. I don't know exactly where the summit cairn was (if any), but the high point of the snow was obvious. There was no point in lingering on the summit, even where the snow obviously had rock underneath it. The two gullies were perfect for the descent, and I easily plunge-stepped with solid footing every time. This was one more summit where I managed to pull it off without carrying a rope, hurray!

Back at the tent by 13:00 and not keen on lounging all day in the snow, I decided to bust a move for the trailhead. I retraced my steps, and my footsteps up the valley had been covered in places by no fewer than a dozen new slides. It was sloppy going with no shortage of faceplants, but I finally made it to the trailhead by 21:00. Two in the morning found me cozy in bed back in Victoria.

At the end of it all, I had assumed that snow conditions would be horrible, and my dreams came true. The cooking gear and extra day of food were unused and unnecessary weight, and no doubt made things worse. The upsides were that I had good weather, a refreshing couple of days in the mountains, and I made the next tick on my list. I hope to return to Rambler some year in late summer, to see what all the commotion is about. I feel like the heavy snow on the mountain cheated me out of an interesting climb, and that I missed out on the real nature of Rambler.

e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

The [Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia](#) Newsletter has lots of interesting and pertinent info.

Can you help out? Peggy Taylor hosts the monthly ACC-VI slideshow at Victoria's Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. These monthly get-togethers are well attended, lots of fun, and much appreciated by members and guests. Peggy is looking for someone to help her with bringing goodies and putting out the various teas, sugar, hot water and such at each slideshow. If you can help out, please get in touch: peggyhiking@gmail.com

Our ACC-VI Facebook Page. You don't have to be on Facebook to see the ACC-VI Facebook page. It will look just like a standard web page (okay, just ignore the "Signup" info and start scrolling). Lots of great photos, stories, links and info here. Well worth a look: [ACC-VI Facebook Group](#).

First Aid kit considerations. Thanks to [Mike Blake](#) who tweeted this interesting link out a few weeks ago. Always a good idea to think about what's in your backcountry First Aid Kit.



*George Butcher, Jordan Craven,
David Fishwick, Aaron Smeeth, Ken Wong
on Alexandra Peak. Photo by Ken Wong.*

*Approaching Mt. Beadnell.
Photo by Carl Philippsen.*



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On Mt. Albert Edward looking towards Mt. Washington. Photo by Roxy Jensen.



From the cover:
ACC-VI 2016 Photo Competition
Vancouver Island: Runner-up (tie)- Chris Istace.

Chris says "I shot the image looking down at the NW summit of Triple Peak after successfully leading an ACC group to the summit of the main peak. We enjoyed the view, our lunches and the good company that comes along with an ACC-VI adventure."

**Thank you to this month's contributors: Catrin Brown,
Lindsay Elms, Rick Hudson, Chris Istace, Roxy Jensen,
Walter Moar, Russ Moir, Carl Philippsen,
Alois Schonenberger, Peggy Taylor,
Ken Wong, Valerie Wootton. Well done everyone!**