

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 46 | Issue 2 | Feb, 2018



Relief on the Alaska Highway!
Photo by Rick Hudson

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: 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

Slideshow, Thur, Feb 11. Two Expeditions in One: Hiking and Rafting in the Northwest Territories; Skiing in Nunavut. Join Sandy Briggs for an amazing tour through wild and remote places that most Canadians will never experience.

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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.

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

You don't have to be a Facebook member to see this page.



Upcoming Slideshows, Presentations, Meetings and Get-togethers

Slideshow, Thu, Feb 08, 2018. Sandy Briggs presents

Two Expeditions in One: Hiking and Rafting in the Northwest Territories; Skiing in Nunavut (Boothia Peninsula)

Join Sandy Briggs for a summary of two amazing northern Canadian trips: In 2015 John Dunn and Sandy went to the famed Pike's Portage at the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and did a trek to the tundra and a descent of the Snowdrift River. Then in 2017 they went to Taloyoak (Nunavut) and skied with sleds off the north end of mainland North America and along Somerset Island to Lancaster Sound.

These are wild and remote places that most Canadians will never experience so we encourage you to come to experience some of this tremendous terrain through Sandy's eyes and enjoy his famed humour and puns. Sandy is moving to New Brunswick this spring so this is a good opportunity to come to say your goodbyes and send him off with your best wishes! Bring friends and family -- all are welcome.

Slideshow, Thu, Mar 08, 2018. Tamara Plush presents

Ethiopia Treasures & Challenges

On this amazing journey, Tamara Plush will take Alpine Club members on a trip to Ethiopia – from Lalibela's monolithic rock-cut churches to the Simien Mountains National Park to the outer reaches of the country in the Somali Region and Borana Zone. Tamara will not only share her experiences trekking and traveling, but provide insight into the climate challenges facing the country through clips from a film she made with CARE and Save the Children.

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!



Upcoming Trips

Full information for all trips is located online at [ACC-VI Trip Schedule](#). Each trip listed here links to the [Trip Schedule](#). Click trip titles for links to full info.

Check the [Trip Schedule](#) often for new offerings!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Trip</i>
Feb 03, 2018	<p>Gowlland Tod Park (B1)</p> <p>This hike will attempt to cover all the main trails in Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. Distance for the day will be 24km, with around 800m of elevation gain. This trip is rated as B1 (B: moderately strenuous, 7-8 hours, <800m elevation gain, day pack; 1: gentle slopes, mainly trails).</p> <p>Contact Walter Moar at walter@waltermoar.com</p>
Feb 04, 2018	<p>Mt. Tzouhalem (B1)</p> <p>Hike up Mt. Tzouhalem. My favourite trail with views of the Cowichan bay almost the whole way.</p> <p>Contact Vivian Addison at 1addison.vivian@gmail.com</p>
Feb 09 - 12, 2018	<p>Backcountry Fest Mt Cain (A1-D5)</p> <p>Ski the "Island's Best Powder"! Space is available in the two cabins at the base of the hill.</p> <p>Contact Martin or Josh at weskivi@gmail.com</p>
Feb 16 - 18, 2018	<p>Valentine's Day Ski Weekend at Mt Cain! (B2)</p> <p>Stay at Mt Cain Cypress Cabin for the nights of Feb 16-17. Potluck dinner on Feb 17</p> <p>Co-leaders: Christine Fordham & Scott Collins</p> <p>Contact Scott Collins at scottcollins@shaw.ca Tel: 250-743-4472</p>
Feb 17 - 18, 2018	<p>ACC Youth snow camp – (B2)</p> <p>ACC Youth snow camp – an annual tradition! Ski or snow shoe and camp in back country. Suitable to all experience levels.</p> <p>Contact stefangessinger@gmail.com</p>
Feb 17, 2018	<p>Mount Cokely Ski Tour, Rousseau Chute (B2)</p> <p>Mount Cokely Ski Tour, Rousseau Chute.</p> <p>Andrew Pape-Salmon. apape@shaw.ca. Tel: 250-592-7017.</p>
Feb 24, 2018	<p>LGBTQ+ Hike in East Sooke</p> <p>This is a social hike for LGBTQ+ folks and our family, partners and/or friends. This hike is mostly trails with gentle slopes. Some parts include steep rock steps, which can be slippery at times.</p> <p>Contact Jes Scott at jessica.scott@gmail.com</p>
Mar 16 - 18, 2018	<p>Skiing with Kids and Youth at Mount Cain</p> <p>A great way to spend spring break 2018, including Mt. Cain's Kidsfest.</p> <p>Contact http://band.us/@accvikidsandyouth</p>

Mar 24 - 30, 2018

Bow-Yoho ski tour

A 5-6 day ski tour across the Wapta icefield,, Yoho and des Poilus glaciers. We will stay at the Bow, Guy and Stanley Mitchell huts. For experienced back country skiers with AST1 and crevasse rescue experience.

Contact Catrin Brown, catrin@shaw.ca

Apr 21, 2018

Arrowsmith Main Gully (B3)

Drive up and meet at the trail head for the Climbers Trail by 7:00am. Head up to the Upper Cirque. Then climb a three-pitch couloir to the col between the main summit and Peter's Peak, then traverse to the east in a shallow gully up to the main summit, descending the same way. Then hike back down the Climber's Trail to the cars..

Contact Colin Mann, colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com

May 18 - 22, 2018

May Long Weekend in Leavenworth Wa

Come to Leavenworth Washington for an extended long weekend based out of the Eight-Mile Campground in Icicle Canyon. The Leavenworth area is known for it's fantastic climbing on great-quality granite, featuring mostly trad climbing with numerous moderate multi-pitch adventures. The area also has fantastic hiking (and is the access to the Enchantment Range), mountain biking, and white-water kayaking.

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

June 10 - 17, 2018

City of Rocks Idaho

Last year, 16 ACC members made the trip down to City of Rocks reserve in Idaho for a fantastic week of climbing in the sun. Back by popular demand, another trip is being organized this year! A number of participants in 2017 were not climbers and enjoyed a week of hiking in the area, enjoying beautiful trails and scenic views. This included the opportunity to summit a few nearby non-technical mountains.

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



*Watching snow fall on
high-centred cars.*

*To paraphrase
Corb Lund and The
Truck Got Stuck country
music classic: "Come on
over - bring your truck".*

*Morning after the AGM
at VI Mountain
Centre.*

*Photo by Christine
Fordham.*

Mountain Education

ACC-VI offers a wide variety of courses aimed at giving our members the technical and safety skills to get out there in the mountains. Courses are open to ACC members in good standing only. You are welcome to join the section if you would like to enroll in one or more of these courses.

Full information for all courses is located online at [ACC-VI Trip Schedule](#). Each course listed here links to the [Schedule](#). Click individual course links for full info.

Check the [Schedule](#) often for new educational offerings!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Course</i>
Feb 10 - 11, 2018	<p>Click for info: Intro to Winter Camping Take Two</p> <p>This is a Introduction in to winter camping. This workshop will teach the skills you will need to spend a night in the back-country during the winter. This workshop is welcome to all forms of transportation, from AT skiers, to splitboarders, and snow shoeing. Contact: Colin Mann (Trip Leader) Natasha Salway (Co-Leader) Email: colin.mann.accvi.trips@gmail.com</p>
Feb 17, 2018	<p>Click for info: AST Plus (Full)</p> <p>For many people, taking the step from avalanche skills training to actually getting out touring in the backcountry can be a bit daunting. This course bridges the gap from theory to practice.</p>
Mar 01, 2018	<p>Click for info: Back-country Ski Trip Planning Workshop</p> <p>This workshop will use PC based open software (Garmin BaseCamp , Google Earth) to provide ACC winter trip leaders with valuable terrain information using satellite based Web Map Services (WMS), electronic maps and handheld Garmin GPS. Learn how to use Google earth to assess terrain (slope angle, aspect, Hazards, terrain coverage) and incorporate the derived information into your ATES trip planning. We will access online data from NRCAN, visualize various data sources graphically and export various data into Garmin GPS's. The course does not replace an Avalanche Skills training, or teach how to physically move through winter terrain or how to lead trips.</p>
Mar 3-4 and Mar 10 -11, 2018	<p>Click for info: AST Level 2 Mt. Cain (Full)</p> <p>The Avalanche Skills Training Two is an advanced avalanche course which takes a closer look at how avalanches form and how to manage more complex terrain. We delve deeper into the snow pack and learn how to apply different tests to help gain an understanding of snow stability and strength. Transceiver training moves into the realm of multiple beacon searches and how to solve these sometimes complex searches. AST1 or equivalent required. Participants should be intermediate skiers.</p>



The Ten Essentials

The fifth and final entry in the series by Walter Moar

The Ten Essentials

1. Hydration
2. Nutrition
3. Insulation
4. Sun Protection
5. Illumination
6. Navigation
7. Shelter
8. Fire
9. First Aid Kit
10. Repair Kit

The *Ten Essentials* should be carried on all hikes, even if you're heading out for a day hike. You never know when you – or someone else – will end up in a situation where these items suddenly become very important. A twisted knee or some bad navigation can quickly turn an easy hike into a challenge.

9. First Aid Kit is a very important item for every hike, and equally important is knowing how to use its contents. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) courses teach you first aid, but they also teach you to improvise the items that you will need in an emergency. Consider taking a WFA course, and plan to repeat it over the years to refresh and refine your skills.

The actual kit contents vary by person and activity, but the most common contents are: moleskin for blisters; antiseptic wipes; bandages, sterile pads, and tape for cuts and scrapes; electrolytes; ibuprofen; anti-diarrheal medication; tweezers for slivers and thorns (although a knife with a good point can

make do); scissors for cutting pads and moleskin (again a good knife can make do). Those taking medication should ensure that they have enough for the duration of the trip, and should provide a second set to the trip leader for safekeeping.

First aid kits need to be tuned to the duration of trip, size of group, and activity. The first aid kit for a day hike is much different from what you need for a week long expedition. If you cut yourself the first day, you're going to want to still have enough bandages on day seven. Likewise, a first aid kit for two is going to be much smaller than the one you need for a dozen.

10. Repair Kit is a first aid kit for your gear. Nobody ever goes out hoping to have a delaminated boot sole, a broken ski or snowshoe binding, a split backpack zipper, or a malfunctioning stove. Prevention is of course the key, and prevention is achieved through gear inspection and maintenance. It's always good to replace gear before it fails, and the nearly worn out items can be used for low-consequence activities.

The content of a repair kit is as varied as a first aid kit, and also depends on the activity and length of trip. Most common contents are: duct tape (small roll, or a decent length wrapped around water bottles or ski poles); baling wire; zip ties; safety pins; a multi-tool or swiss army knife. There are also specialty items like: ski straps for winter activities; glasses repair kits for pesky loose or lost screws; sewing kits for longer trips; pole sleeves for repairing broken tent poles; patch kits for inflatable sleeping pads; stove repair kits for refillable bottle stoves; a spare memory card for your camera – just in case.

Additions to repair kits tend to be made after things go horribly wrong and items are lacking. It's a hard but memorable way to learn.



****Bushwhacker Annual Deadline Approaches****

What better way to start 2018 than by taking a moment to reflect on the peaks and valleys of the past year? Each year the ACC Vancouver Island Section's Bushwhacker Annual presents club members' collected adventures from right here on Vancouver Island and around the globe.

In keeping with this fine tradition, all members are invited to share written accounts of expeditions large and small from 2017. *Submissions can be emailed to Sean McIntyre at sdevlin7@hotmail.com in Word-friendly format (.doc file).* High-resolution images should be sent in .jpeg / .jpg format. Please use your best judgement when sending pics; I don't need every photo you took on the trip!

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2018.

Inspiration and guidance are available by looking through past editions available in the Island Bushwhacker Archives section on the club's website, <http://accvi.ca/programs/island-bushwhacker-archives/>.

Sean McIntyre
Bushwhacker Annual Editor
sdevlin7@hotmail.com

****Deal Alert****

The great folks at [Ski Tak Hut](#) in Courtenay have offered us a deal of 20% off all backcountry ski rentals for all ACC-VI members with a valid membership card. Membership card must be available at time of rental to receive this discount. Great for all the folks who are thinking about getting into backcountry touring this winter.

Things To Rent:

- Touring Skis (skins and poles)
- Touring Boots
- Avalanche Transceivers
- Probes
- Shovels
- Snowshoes

Executive Episodes:

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

AGM weekend at Vancouver Island Mountain Centre 26 – 28 January 2018



Saturday morning – Mt Washington at its best

Our 6th annual AGM weekend at the VIMC brought together a fuller-than-full house of section members to share a lively weekend of activities. The weather put on a show of examples worthy of an entire meteorological course, from sun sparkling mounds of fresh powder to a mighty monsoon mess. With a plethora of trips, workshops and spontaneous outdoor adventures, there really was something for everyone. And ‘everyone’ this time spanned ages 3 month to 85 years old!



Thanks to all who led trips, shared a lavish potluck dinner and contributed to a great weekend of camaraderie. A special thanks to those who worked hard in the kitchen and lounge, helping with clear-up etc. It's the team work that makes it all run smoothly.

Sunday morning – a new sport: watching stuck cars in the parking lot. Who's who?

The 2018 Annual General Meeting: 27 January 2018

The minutes of our annual general meeting will shortly be posted on our website, and will include reports on all the activities of our section over the year, and plans for the year ahead. For now, I'd like to share a few highlights and newsworthy announcements:

- It has been decided to run a **family week** as the last week of the summer camp in summer 2018. The goal will be to bring together inter-generational members of a family - be they parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle with a child, or any other combination you choose - to share age-appropriate activities in the mountains. A limited number of bursaries will be available to help with the cost for families. The week will be coordinated by Derek Sou, our Kids and Youth Program coordinator, and details will be announced with the summer camp information shortly.
- A second phase of fund-raising for the 5040 Peak hut is being launched, with the club offering to **match all donations to a total of \$12,500**. This means that during this time period, your donation will be worth double to the hut fund, and will help us to finish the interior of the hut to the preferred specifications. Please note all donations over \$20 qualify for a tax receipt. See separate item on **page 11** to learn more and how to donate. Thank you – every \$ counts!
- Our newsletter - the very thing you are reading now - will **change from monthly to seasonal** with four editions a year. This will give us coverage during the summer months (which are currently missed), and allow our ever-enthusiastic newsletter editor Mary Sanseverino the chance to maintain the high standard we have come to enjoy. The first seasonal edition will be the Spring 2018 edition, and will be published on 1 March 2018. The seasonal newsletter will be supplemented by a new monthly round-up of important news and events, known as **High Points**.
- Our Annual Island Bushwhacker editor, Sean McIntyre, is drumming his fingers waiting for **submissions to the 2017 edition**. In his words:

*Please remember that Bushwhacker contributions need not be limited to club trips. Submissions should also not only recount our triumphs, for it is through our close calls, almost-made-its, and nearly theres that we often have the most to learn about ourselves and the mountain environment that we hold so dear. I also encourage people to share their thoughts and observations about mountain life for a new section I'm thinking about calling Ramblings. This section will be filled with essays, poetry, songs or any other creative channel of your choosing. Submissions have begun to trickle in, but I look forward to receiving many more by the **February 15 deadline**.*

Reports can be emailed to Sean McIntyre at sdevlin7@hotmail.com in a Word-friendly format. High-resolution images can be sent in .jpeg/.jpg format.

Happy writing. Sean McIntyre.

- The executive has decided to launch a new award known as the “**Charles Turner Vancouver Island 6000'ers Award**”. This will be presented to members who successfully climb the established list of 53 island peaks over 6000'. This award honours the memory of Charles Turner who was an active and much respected member of the section over several decades, and was the first person to complete climbs of the then list of 6000'ers in 2004. Since then, three members of the section have completed the challenge and were presented with plaques to recognise the award as follows:

Lindsay Elms 2014

Valerie Wootton 2016 (in absentia)

Tak Ogasawara 2017 (in absentia)

Congratulations to you all!

There will be a fuller summary of the launching of this award in the AGM minutes. We will shortly be adding a page to the website which will detail the peaks involved and the criteria that were used in establishing this list. We look forward to making more presentations of the Charles Turner Award in the coming years.



The new Charles Turner Award plaque. CB

- A new executive committee was nominated by Mike Hubbard and duly elected. We are pleased to welcome Anya Reid as our new FMCBC coordinator, and David Lemon as our new secretary. We thank Lise Gagnon for her work as secretary this past year, and are pleased that she will stay on as a member-at-large. Names and contact details for the new executive will shortly be available on our website.

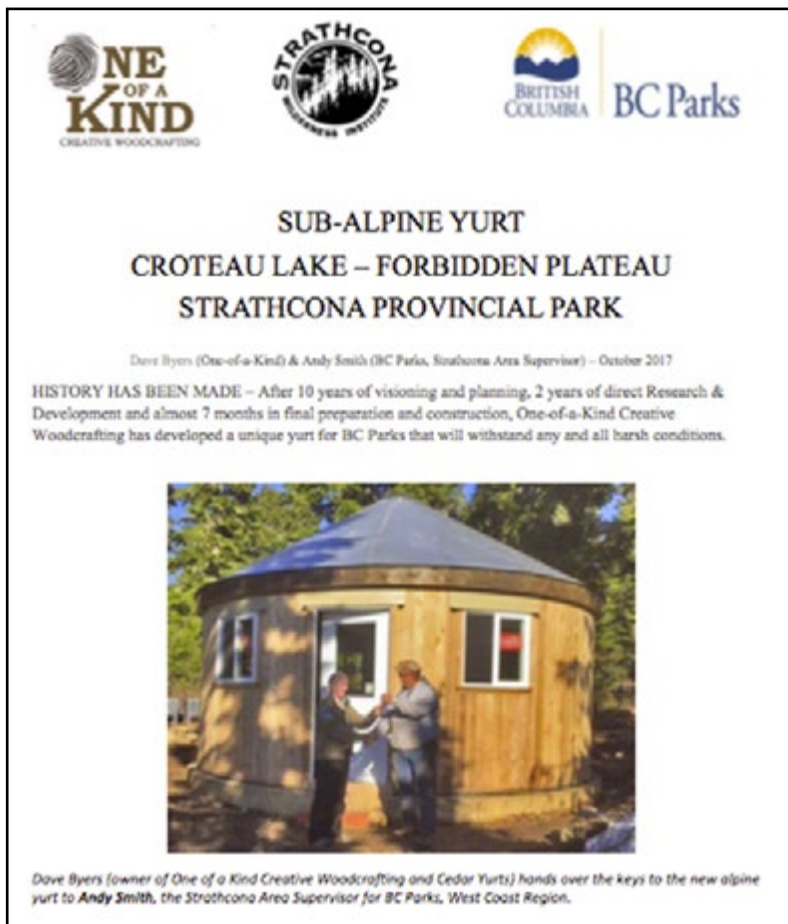
A quick response

During the AGM it was mentioned that we are in need of a new coordinator for the Banff Mountain Film Festival, as Krista Zala is stepping down after several years of running this very successfully. I am delighted to say that Anna-Lena Steiner stepped forward immediately to volunteer her services in this role, and will share the work with Lise Gagnon. Many thanks to you both – it is good to know it is in your capable hands.

History, legacy and development

In the last newsletter (January 2018), we enjoyed a historic trip to “Croteau’s Camp” on Forbidden Plateau through Brian Pinch’s posting of a brochure from 1933. Additional background information and photographs of this camp can be found on Lindsay Elms’ site ‘**Beyond Nootka**’, which you can read [here](#).

By a quirk of good timing, I have some news to share about developments at this site over the last year. BC Parks and the Strathcona Wilderness Institute have collaborated on a project to build a yurt and a new reservable group site at Croteau Lake, scheduled for opening in summer 2018.



You can read full details of this development at: <https://www.oneofakindcw.com/current-projects/alpine-yurt/>

It seems like a good excuse to take a trip in there soon and check it out.

Executive events

Minutes of executive meetings and AGMs are posted on our website [here](#). The new executive will be meeting shortly.

Happy trails
Catrin Brown

Catrin@shaw.ca | chair@accvi.ca



Last Touches to the 5040 Hut

Let's all pitch in for the final push to the summit!

This summer we will be finishing the hut interior and getting it ready for the official opening - assuming we get \$25,000 for the last few bits and pieces.

At the recent AGM, club members approved a motion to donate an additional \$12,500 in matching donations from the Section. This means that for every dollar you donate, the Section will contribute one additional dollar. And a donation of \$20 or more is tax-deductible! If you pay taxes in BC you'll get a minimum of 20% back from the tax-man. If you've already donated \$200 to charity, then you'll get back 48%. So your one dollar donation costs you only 52 cents and the Hut Fund gets two dollars. *A four-to-one payoff - what a deal!*

All you have to do is click on this link:

<https://www.huts.accvi.ca/>

and follow the simple instructions to pay by credit card.

**Please give what you can afford. Donations of \$20 or more will get a tax receipt from the ACC.
We need to buy materials before the snow melts.**



Leadership Recognition Winners for 2017

accvi.ca/trip-leaders/leader-recognition-program/

2017 was a stellar year for club trips. There were 269 days out of 365 that you could have gone on an Alpine Club trip or attended an event. Wow! Thank you so much to the 54 leaders that made this possible last year!

For more info, to see the way the program works, your 2017 points and your Cumulative points go to accvi.ca/trip-leaders/leader-recognition-program/

Our winners are really the members, who had so many trips to choose from!

Contest winners for 2017:

1. Natasha Salway	31.5 points	Arcteryx Jacket
2. Alois Schonenberger	28.5 points	\$100 MEC Gift card
3. Colin Mann	24 points	\$100 MEC Gift Card
4. Brianna Cook-Coats	15 points	\$100 MEC Gift Card
5. Derek Sou	13 points	\$50 MEC Gift card
6. Shawn Hedges	11 points	\$50 MEC Gift card



*Natasha Salway and her Leadership
Arcteryx Jacket.*

*Well done Natasha -- and all the other trip
leaders too!!*

ACC-VI Report from the Chair: January 2018

Here we are again - it seems like only about 10 minutes since I stood here in the same capacity last year. But what a year it's been for our section! Many years ago, there was a program on the radio known as: "that was the week that was" - or TW cubed. I think I'll borrow and massage that title for my report and call this **"2017: that was the year that was."**

2017 - the year when the snow came early and in abundance (at least we thought so until we saw this year's dump!). The year when educational courses and workshops filled faster than the snow melt in the spring. The year our rock climbers roamed close and wide in search of those coveted narrow cracks.

2017 was the year we had a record three members selected to attend North Face Leadership camps, and had several of our members serve on national committees. The year our executive swelled to over 25 active members and we were pulling out extra chairs for our meetings.

2017 was the year we celebrated celestial events with a solar eclipse, solstice hike and a full moon at New Year. It was the year we dodged smoky skies (almost) to have approx 20% of our membership attend a week-long summer camp. The year when - with no fake news - we had "the biggest crowd ever" at the late summer bar-becue.

In a somewhat less glamorous way, **2017** was the year when our website was severely hacked and was pronounced terminal sometime in the spring. And so, turning problem to progress, it was the year when we got a new website.

2017 was the year we set out to record our ascents of 150 island peaks and climbed over 200.

And to cap it all, **2017** was the year when we set up a two-month construction camp high in the mountains, assembled a rotating core of worker-bees from across the island and - build a hut. Just like that!

With so much to share with you, I soon realised we would be here for too long if I tried to do justice to all of that in my report. So, instead, let me start with the executive, and say what a privilege it is to chair this group of enthusiastic, collaborative and thoughtful individuals. They are the engine that drives this club, the reason why I think it fair to say (as I did last year), that as a section we are thriving. That, despite being out here on the western edge, by almost any metric we are punching above our weight in the scheme of things.

Quoting someone else seems a good way to express this. A few months ago after an executive meeting, I received an email from Rob Macdonald. Many of you will know Rob as a long-time member of the club (in fact I had just presented him with his 35 year award), terrific island mountaineer of many first ascents etc. Rob's message was:

I must admit that the energy and population in this little ACC Section is beyond what I would ever have predicted back in the 80s when it seemed like there were only 21 people in the club and only 7 of them were active.....

Wow, is all I can say.

Rob

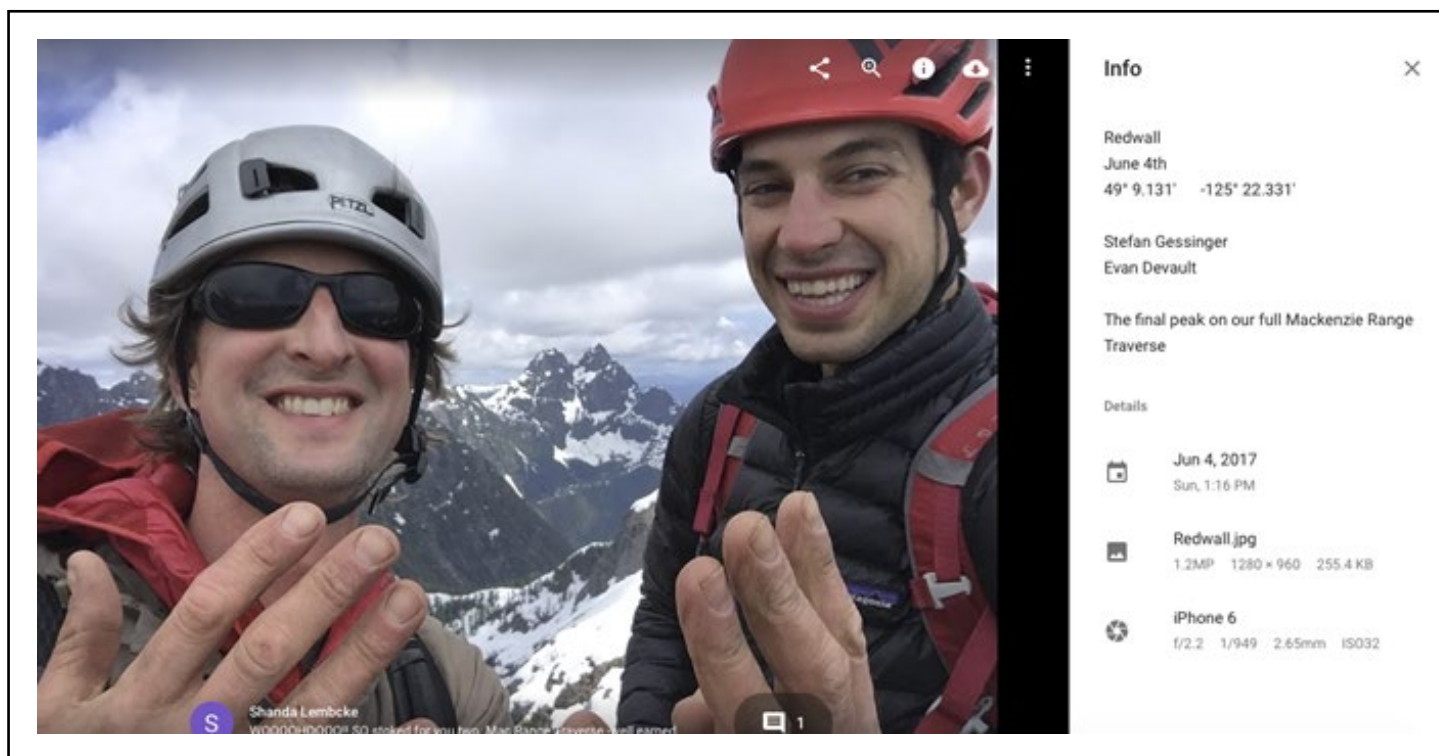
Thank you Rob. Happily, most of the executive are here tonight and, as you can see from the agenda, will have the opportunity to speak for themselves. I will shortly let them do that and take the opportunity to thank them individually at each point. But first let me take a few moments to mention the events that will not be represented in the reports to follow.

It's an AGM so we have to talk about money, the fuel that makes much of our activity possible. And, to jump to the headlines, we are in good shape. Really good shape. The Banff Mountain Film Festival, held in November, is our major fund raiser, and we are indebted to the Zala family who have handled this so competently over the years. As Krista is now stepping down from this role, we will be looking for a new coordinator, one who we hope can repeat the trick of achieving a capacity audience with zero investment. Well done and many thanks for this important contribution Krista.

2017 was the year when we launched "[Vancouver Island 150](#)" – a way to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday by setting out to climb 150 Vancouver Island summits and share our conquests online. As I just mentioned, we succeeded in climbing and recording more than 200. Well done us!

The challenge was thrown out this time last year, but it took Mary Sanseverino's computer savvy and energy to turn the idea into reality. Watching the summits accumulate and finding out who's been where when, has been a lot of fun this year – and I'm already missing it now that the year is over. Thanks so much Mary for making this happen. After the meeting, we will have a special celebration of this project with some silly awards and prizes. So don't go away.

Through the VI-150 record, I became aware of what I think is one of the most amazing island mountaineering feats for a long time – the complete traverse of the Mackenzie Range summits (all 9 of them), completed by Stefan Gessinger and Evan Devault in June over 44 hours.



[Stefan and Evan on the final peak of the full Mackenzie Range traverse](#)

I'm quite sure this is a first, congrats to you two. And another likely first, was the Easter ski traverse by Chris Jensen, Chris Ruttan and Neil Borecky from Adder Mountain to 5040 Peak. And I'm especially glad that it was you who got to claim 5040 Peak on the map Chris and Chris!

In-between trips, our social and armchair mountaineering events play an important role in keeping us connected and inspired. Our monthly slide shows at Swan Lake have now been going for over 10 years. Ably coordinated by Peggy Taylor with essential support from Roger Taylor and Niel Han, they always bring in a decent-sized crowd and entertain us well. Our two Christmas parties, up-island and in Victo-

ria, are equally appreciated - with thanks to Tom & Pam Hall and to Clarke Gourlay & family for generously opening their respective homes to us. And, whilst not an armchair mountaineering event, in-between the outside climbing seasons several of our members can be found hanging out (or likely hanging upside down) at the climbing gyms at Crag X, Stelly's and the Romper Room in Nanaimo. There are always opportunities to join these informal gatherings if anyone wants to learn more, do let us know.

Russ Moir cannot be here tonight, but I'd like to pay tribute to his dedication in pushing for remediation work on the much-loved and increasingly over-used trail up the Judges' route on Mt Arrowsmith. Although this was a seemingly Herculean task that hit several set-backs, Russ was eventually able, with Barb Baker's help, to get Regional District of Nanaimo on side, and provide a helicopter lift of essential materials to the site. He then organised a work party weekend in July, a small group who achieved wonders in helping prevent erosion in the gully near the top. Thanks Russ for your tenacity with this outreach work – and of course the best way we can show our appreciation is to aim to show up for the next round of work.

One of the things that gives me particular pleasure is seeing the diversity in our section. I don't often find much worthy of quoting from politicians, but I will borrow the slogan "Diversity is our strength" to express this. I like to think of diversity in all the ways it can be imagined, knowing that everyone has a contribution to make. For years we have had a successful Trail Rider program for people who could not otherwise access the wilderness, and we are justifiably proud of our active youth program. In the spirit of increasing our outreach to specific groups who may initially not feel confident or compelled to take part, leaders have chosen to offer trips specifically for women, and for LGBTQ+ individuals and their families. Plans are in the works to offer trips targeted specifically for recent immigrants. Thank you to the leaders of these initiatives, and for all the work that's done to make people feel welcome.

And so, that was the year that was: **2017**, a banner year for our section with much to celebrate. And what of 2018, what do we have to look forward to? Well we are off to a great start with 15 ! trips and workshops on the schedule for January alone. (And that's not counting the monthly slide show and the 70 or so people socializing here this weekend.) We have a hut to finish and to plan for its official opening sometime in the fall. And we will have ski trips, summer camps, traverses and shared adventures in all seasons – please keep the offerings coming.

Before I finish, I would just like to touch on an ongoing concern – that is our need for vigilance in facing the specific challenges here on the island regarding access to and protection of our wilderness environment. If this sounds like an echo of last year's comments, that's because it is – and because our commitment to speaking up for what we value must be sustained. We have taken some baby steps to address restrictions on access with a letter-writing campaign targeted at politicians, and meetings with forest company representatives. While some responses have been quietly encouraging, we know there is no silver bullet here and I appreciate all your input, ideas and energy. I do believe that together we can have an impact – we just need to increase the volume of those baby steps.



Thank you all.

Catrin Brown

27 January 2018



More images from the ACC-VI 2017 photo competition



Honourable mention in the Humour category: Mike Whitney

Mike says: "Roger cooling off with a haul-out on the ice at ACC-VI Summer Camp. This is either a demanding yoga pose or a new species of Chilocotin seal. "

All images in the 2017 photo competition are now available online at the [ACC-VI website](#). Be sure to check out the show!

e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

The ski season is upon us. Club Avi gear is available for rent at two locations:

In Greater Victoria 8 sets from Mike Hubbard. Contact him at jmhubbard@telus.net

In Parksville 2 sets from Clarke Gourlay. Contact him at clarke@cheeseworks.ca

For more info on rentals check out the [ACC-VI gear rental page](#).

It's time to start keeping an eye on the **Island Avalanche Bulletin** again! Set your browser to <http://islandavalanchebulletin.com/> and keep informed.

Travelling further afield for winter activities? The Avalanche Canada interactive map is a handy resource: <http://www.avalanche.ca/map>

More courses to get yourself ready for the season: Island Alpine Guides: <https://www.islandalpineguides.com/> (Make sure to mention you are an ACC-VI member for a discount)

Search the Canadian Alpine Journal -- yes, all of it -- from 1907 until 2016!! Check out this amazing resource at <http://library.alpineclubofcanada.ca/>

ACC National Editors pick their top five stories from 2017. Yes, you'll want to see this -- guess what story made #1 -- [the Photo Gallery of the 5040 Peak Hut Build!!](#) Way to go Team 5040!!

Mountains 101 - the hugely popular mountain information course by University of Alberta and Parks Canada is still available online for free. Check out <https://www.coursera.org/learn/mountains-101>. A new course starts each month. 19,000 people worldwide have taken this course since its inception in January 2017!



Couldn't be at the ACC-VI AGM to see Chris Jensen's 5040 Hut overview?

[Watch the video of the presentation here.](#) Or, view the PDF [here](#).

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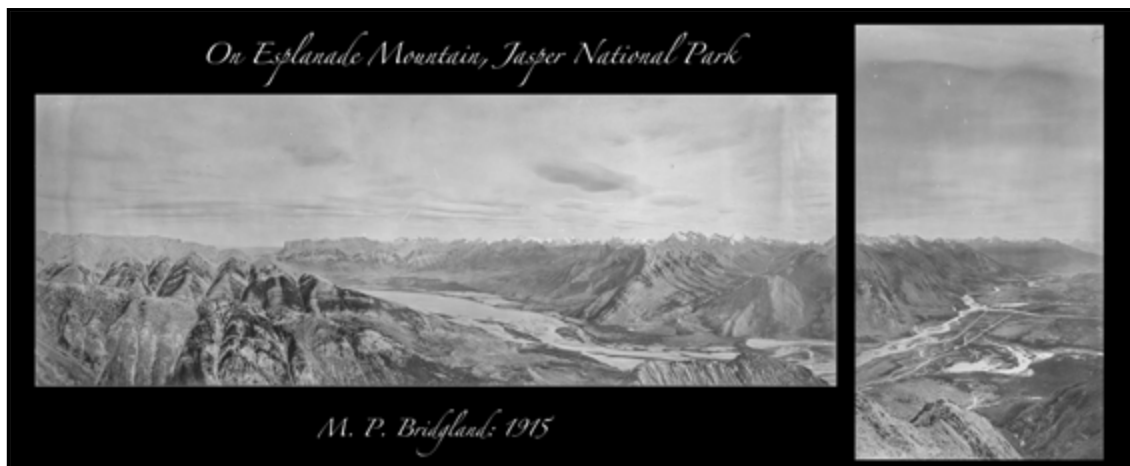
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Repeat photography in Jasper National Park with the Mountain Legacy Project: On Esplanade Mountain. B&W 1915 M.P. Bridgland images courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.



From the cover: Relief on the Alaska Highway

Photo by Rick Hudson.

Winner of the 2017 ACC-VI Photo Completion Humour Category

Rick says "Humour should indeed speak for itself. First, please note that although photographed at close range, it's slightly blurred. That should tell you something. Perhaps the camera was shaking for a reason.

The photo was taken in Alaska last summer, on the only side road off AK Hwy 1 between Tok (pronounced 'toke') and Glennallen. There's a dirt road called the Nabesna Track that runs to an old copper mine and hence into the Wrangell-St Elias Range and the National Park. Roadside camping is free. You'd think that would be norm in Alaska (biggest state in the USA, right?) but it's a sad reflection that it's hard to find a free pull off anywhere.

About 40km along the Nabesna, the road ran along the crest of an ancient esker, with views to the SE that just blew our minds. Fortuitously, a rare pullout appeared (don't pull off just anywhere - you'll sink into gumbo up to your axles). It was late afternoon and we stopped immediately, admired the view until we were frozen, then set up the tent trailer. Only then did we notice the helpful sign at the end of the pull off. Not that we paid any attention to it".

**Thank you to this month's contributors: Geoff Bennett,
Catrin Brown, Christine Fordham, Rick Hudson, Chris Jensen,
Sean McIntyre, Walter Moar, Mike Whitney.
Well done everyone!**

