

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 47 | Issue 3 | Fall 2019

*Clarke Gourlay, and his sons John and Kevin on the summit of Denali
at 6190 m. 1st June 2018.*



Remembering Clarke - pg 10

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 quarterly 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, Sept 12. [Antarctic by Sail and Paddle](#). Join Lyle Young and Vivian Addison for a photo presentation of their month long kayak trip to Antarctica. It will be a look into a journey of exploration, discovery, and perspective-changing experiences.

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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, Thursday, Sept 12. [Antarctic by Sail and Paddle - Vivian Addison and Lyle Young](#). Mountain scenery, marine wildlife and faraway places.

Join us for a photo presentation of our month long kayak trip to Antarctica. Our voyage begins with a 1000 km sail across the Drake Passage from Cape Horn to Antarctica in big seas and brisk winds. We will trace our route of 300 km of paddling through photos of penguin colonies, a sunken caldera, calving glaciers, breaching whales and spectacular mountains rising from frigid seas. Antarctica is said to be a land of black and white. We found so much more than that in the richness of the landscape, weather and wildlife. A surreal experience in some cases as the effect of terrain, temperature and atmospherics play havoc with our sense of “normal”, this was a trip that changed our perspective on how we understand ourselves in our world.

Everyone is invited to join us as we try to put into words and pictures a very personal journey and a most astonishing experience.

Victoria Slideshows are at Swan Lake Nature House. Doors open at 7:00 pm, the show starts at 7:30 pm. Goodies and tea available by donation. Location: Swan Lake Nature House at 3873 Swan Lake Road. Everyone is always welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Slideshows & Events

Thursday, Oct 10. [Backpacking in the Garden of the Gods](#) with Diane Bernard, George Butcher, and Rich Mably.

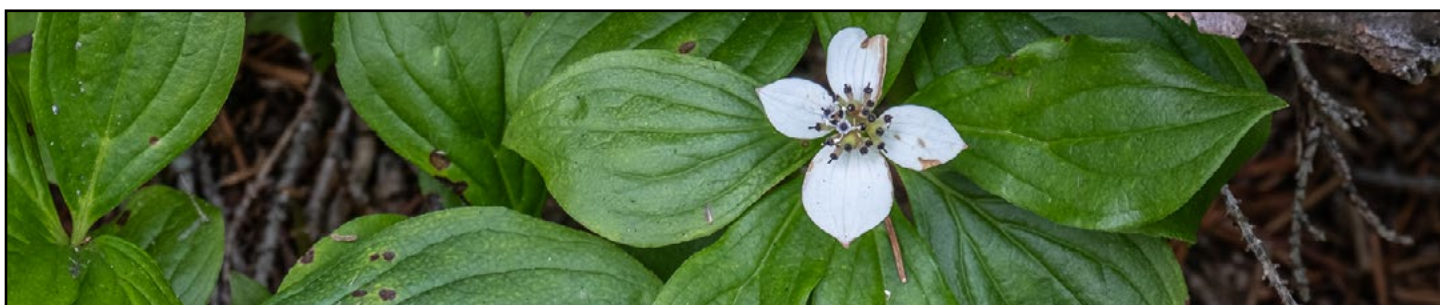
Thursday, Nov 14. [13 Years of Chasing Island Peaks: The IQ's](#) with Dan McKean.

Sunday, Nov 24. Banff Festival of Mountain Films ([Watch UVic Ticket Centre for tickets](#)).

Friday, Dec 13. Christmas party in Victoria (info coming by email in late Fall).

7-9 Feb 2020. AGM weekend at VI Mountain Centre, Mt Washington (info coming via email later this Fall).

Dates for the **ACC-VI Photo Competition** (Oct 24th possibly) are being finalized. Watch your email for the official announcement.



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!

Schedule

Date	Event
Aug 31, 2019 to Sep 02, 2019	Crest Creek Crag - Rock Climbing (A5)
Aug 31, 2019 to Sep 02, 2019	Elk River Trail to Landslide Lake (B1)
Sep 06, 2019 to Sep 09, 2019	Wild Women 3Ms: Mt McBride, Marble Peak, Morrison Spire (C2) (Full!- waitlist)
Sep 12, 2019	Slideshow - Antarctic by Sail and Paddle (Lyle Young & Vivian Addison)
Sep 14, 2019 to Sep 15, 2019	Wild Women: Day Trip Mt Baker via Easton Glacier
Oct 10, 2019	Slideshow - Backpacking in the Garden of the Gods (Diane Bernard, George Butcher & Rich Mably)
Oct 25, 2019 to Oct 27, 2019	Wild Women 5040 hut weekend (Full, waitlist)
Nov 14, 2019	Slideshow - 13 Years of Chasing Island Peaks: The IQ's (Dan McKean)



*Mt Lindisfarne and Tundra from the ACC-VI 2019 Meditation Mtn Summer Camp.
Photo by Martin Hofmann.*

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.

The winter program is taking shape now. Keep your browser tuned to Education and Courses to see what is on offer: <http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>

Is there something you would like to see? Contact education@accvi.ca



The ACC-VI Trailrider Program on Lonetree Hill - Aug 24, 2019.
You can join Team Trailrider too - contact Caroline Tansley (coordinator)
trailrider@accvi.ca -- many hands (and feet) make light work on a Trailrider trip!

Executive Episodes:

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

Morning dew and ripe blackberries, rapidly changing day length, reports of plentiful chanterelles in the hills there is a new season to enjoy out there. Welcome to fall everyone.

Clarke Gourlay

I cannot start this update without an acknowledgement of the tragic death of Clarke in an accident in Strathcona Park at the end of June. His passing has hit us hard and has left a hole in our executive and the larger community. It is difficult to do justice here to Clarke's full contribution, but there are some photos and our remembrance of him on pg 10. Clarke was a trip leader and enthusiastic participant, a valued mountaineering companion, our treasurer, a unifying force of the up-island mountaineering clubs, a host of Christmas parties - and so much more. Whether you knew Clarke personally or not, each of us owes him a debt of gratitude for what he gave to this community.

The family has asked me to pass on their thanks for the compilation of remembrances we sent following his death. They also appreciated the many members who were able to join the massive crowd at Clarke's memorial in Parksville in early July. I want to thank the executive for their support at this difficult time, especially Colleen Kasting for stepping in so quietly and competently to cover the treasurer role, and Garth Stewart for graciously stepping up to take on the position.

Summer barbecue

This annual social gathering again drew a large crowd on a fine late-summer evening. We continue to be grateful that Mike Hubbard and Colleen Kasting purchased the perfect home for this event, even more so that they generously share it in this way. Many thanks also to their families – Tanya, Kyla, Will, Kirsten and Naiya who cooked up a storm on the grill and served us in fine style.



Mike and Colleen with a little addition to their beautiful forest garden.

Outstanding service recognized by the National Club

At the barbecue we were delighted to present Chris Jensen and Chris Ruttan each with plaques and pins to celebrate their receipt of the [ACC Distinguished Service Awards](#). This recognition from the national club is for their outstanding work in all stages of the vision, planning and construction of the 5040 Peak hut. The beautiful and widely enjoyed facility is a testament to the hundreds of hours of work and cre-

ative energy that Chris and Chris invested. Tribute was paid to their expertise, dedication and positive outlook throughout the project. In typically modest style, they accepted the awards turning the thanks back to the large team of volunteers who stepped up to make it happen. Yes indeed, it was a remarkable collaborative effort from hundreds of people – which would not have happened without the leadership from these two.



Chris and Chris, our hut champions!

Island Bushwhacker Annual 2018.....

Our sincere thanks to Rob Macdonald for his labour of love in producing the annual journal for 2018. It is a beautiful edition, rich in length and variety, reflecting the diverse activities of club members over the year. It is also an important contribution to the history of Vancouver Island mountaineering with some new climbs and routes recorded. For the first time, Rob has also produced a full-colour edition (spoiler alert – it's gorgeous), which will shortly be posted on our website. Enjoy. (Editor's Note: - it is online with all the Annuals from 1992 onwards at the [ACC-VI website!](http://acc-vi.com))

.....and 2019.....

Now is the time to put pen to paper, fingers to keys, shoulder to the wheel, whatever it takes to record your alpine activities this year for the 2019 journal. Rob is keen to edit and prepare articles on a rolling basis, so please help him by submitting as soon as possible and not waiting for the deadline. See page 30 for guidelines on how to format the articles, and send them to: bushwhacker@accvi.ca Thank you.

Protect our backcountry

In response to growing concern about the impact of human waste in the backcountry, the executive has produced a small decal which aims to educate people on this issue. You'll find it tucked inside your Bushwhacker - please use it to help spread the word on good practice. Similar messaging has been placed at the Triple Peak trailhead. Our thanks to Barb Baker and Christine Fordham for these initiatives.

Summer climbs and times

With some cooler weather and a merciful break from the smoky skies of recent years, club members have been out enjoying the best of the long summer days.

- Our summer camp committee, ably coordinated by Liz Williams, again pulled off a string of four successful weeks, this year at the Mt Meditation camp just outside the Stein Valley park. That's 64 happy customers who got to climb and explore the peaks and ridges from this stunning location. And once more it was our youth and their parents on the Family Week who pushed their adventures further into the hills and the daylight than anyone else.
- A first this year, hopefully to become a tradition, was a section "camp" at our 5040 Peak hut in August. See page 28 for a brief report of the happy times enjoyed up there.
- Earlier in the summer our Kids and Youth group, successful applicants of our Memorial Fund Grant for 2019, completed their planned traverse in Strathcona Park. When leader Stefan Gessinger described it as "our most ambitious project to date", I knew that meant something (see page 23)!
- Dan McKean and Laurence Philippsen both completed their quests to climb all nine 'Island Qualifier' Peaks this year. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and presenting them with their Rick Eppler Awards at an upcoming slide show.
- And, of course, there has been a wealth of other individual and group trips from explorations of old favourites to new routes and destinations. Let's hear about your adventures folks, remember, your Bushwhacker editor is waiting to hear from you!

53 peaks and done

Congratulations to Ken Wong who has earned the Charles Turner Award for finishing his quest to climb all the 'Vancouver Island 6000'ers'. His journey began with Mt Albert Edward in 1992 and was completed this summer with climbs of Mt Schoen on August 3rd and Sutton Peak on August 4th, both days involving more than 12 hours. Ken now claims he has no need to go north of the Sooke hills again. As if – I think we know you better than that Ken!

5040 Peak hut library – call for previous years IBAs

The extensive mountaineering library in the hut includes some copies of the Bushwhacker Annual, but it would be nice if we could complete the set. If anyone has spare copies of the IBA from any year before 2013, could you please let me know and we will arrange to get them up there.

Access communications

[Mosaic's access website](#) has been regularly updated through the summer with welcome longer open hours announced for Cameron and some parts of the Ash valleys. Barb Baker is pursuing a pilot access



Ken Wong with his Charles Turner award.

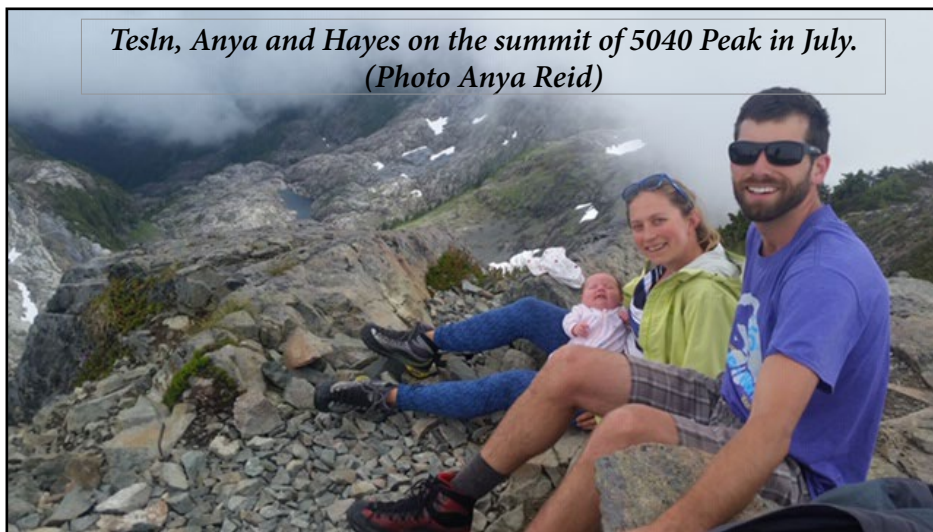
agreement with Mosaic and has been promised a draft by this fall. Members were informed in July about the opportunity to contribute to a review of the Private Managed Forest Lands (PMFL) through a questionnaire. Over 2000 responses were submitted across the province. Although we were told that access issues were 'out of scope' for this review, concerns about worsening access were apparently mentioned so many times that there is intent to follow-up with this as a separate issue. So we hope.

Where our money goes

Before the end of the year, the executive will be deciding where to allocate our budgeted money for charities and causes that are aligned with our mission. As mentioned in the last newsletter, since withdrawing from FMCBC membership we are also committed to increasing the amount we give to causes that specifically work on local environment and conservation issues. We would love input on this, so please do share ideas you may have of worthy recipients, thank you.

Member news

Congratulations to Anya Reid and Hayes Zirnhelt on the birth of their daughter Teslin in June. Anya is a member of the executive committee and Hayes is helping with the wind turbine project at the 5040 Peak hut. Teslin's claim to fame is being the presumed youngest visitor to the hut at 6 weeks old!



*Teslin, Anya and Hayes on the summit of 5040 Peak in July.
(Photo Anya Reid)*

Dates ahead

- Monthly slide shows at Swan Lake, Victoria resume on the second Thursday of the month from September
- Banff Festival of Mountain Films, Victoria: Sunday 24 November
- Christmas party in Victoria: Friday 13 December
- AGM weekend at the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre at Mt Washington: 7 – 9 February 2020. Details will be distributed later in the year. We are looking for someone to help coordinate this event by taking names and money for bookings. Please let me know if you can help, thanks.

Website updates

A new addition to our website, found under 'Information for trip leaders' [here](#), is an anthology of 'Close Calls' articles, most of which have appeared in previous editions of the newsletter. This is open to further submissions at any time. Thanks to Geoff Bennett for developing this collection, the goal of which is education as we learn from each others' experiences.

Executive events

The ACC-VI executive last met on 26 August 2019, and will meet again on 7 October 2019. Please send me any items you would like to add to the agenda. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website.



Happy trails
Catrin Brown

Catrin@shaw.ca | chair@accvi.ca



Clarke Gourlay 1964 - 2019

Catrin Brown, Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island Section Chair

Back in 2016 when I put out feelers to Clarke asking him about taking on the role of club treasurer, I had no idea of the depth and breadth of his community involvements. And perhaps that's a good thing, because then I may not have dared ask. As it was, Clarke's cheerful acceptance of the role was a gift to all of us, generously adding to his already significant contributions to our section. In short, we are a better community because he was one of us.

Before moving to Vancouver Island in 2001, Clarke and his wife Nancy spent more than a decade living and working overseas with humanitarian aid organisations. Motivated by their strong Christian faith, they raised their young family in Turkey, Switzerland and Afghanistan during the time of the Gulf War. Their return to Canada coincided with their plans to start a cheese-making business, a seemingly bold move given the fact that they had no background, training or experience in the industry. Fast forward to 2019, and today Little Qualicum Cheeseworks is a Vancouver Island success story, employing more than 30 people and marketing its products to high-end stores and restaurants across the province. (The farm, shop and café are well worth a visit if you have not been). Clarke's commitment to social justice and environmental advocacy led him to serve on the Agricultural Land Commission, and in October 2018 to take office as a Director on the Regional District of Nanaimo. In typical Clarke high-energy style, somehow on the day of this election he found time to be up at the opening of the 5040 Peak hut!

As club treasurer, Clarke's patience and wry humour added levity to communications and executive meetings. He shared his business expertise generously and made light of mundane tasks. He had a real knack of finding creative solutions to tricky situations, often just by focusing on the positive and applying basic common sense.

Clarke's heart though was not in spreadsheets, but in the mountains. His passion for exploring and sharing the natural world was a theme that ran through his life, raising his three sons on a diet of back-packing, diving and skiing. His own 'summit bug' seemed to originate from his climb of Mt Kilimanjaro in 2010, and he went on to climb more of the 'Seven Summits' including Aconcagua, Denali, Kosciusko and also Mt Blanc. On Vancouver Island, Clarke made short work of the 9 'Island Qualifier' peaks, for which he received the Rick Eppler Award in August 2018. He was apparently well on his way to earning the Charles Turner Award with only a few of the 53 'Island 6000'ers' still to climb. In recent years, Clarke spent all the time he could back-country skiing, joining a week-long section camp in the Kootenays, a back-country ski mountaineering course and a ski ascent of Mt McBride this year. He took the acquisition of mountaineering skills seriously, enthusiastically attending workshops and courses. As both trip participant and leader, Clarke's competence and big-hearted spirit were mainstays for each group he joined.

While Clarke enjoyed countless friends to share his adventures, there is no doubt who his favourite companions were – his sons Raymond, John, and Kevin. We first became aware of the joint father-son trips when he posted happy summit family photos during our 'Vancouver Island 150' celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. And in spring 2018, the news of his successful climb of Denali with John and Kevin gave us all something to celebrate.



*Clarke Gourlay, and his sons John and Kevin on the summit of Denali, 6190 metres.
1st June 2018*

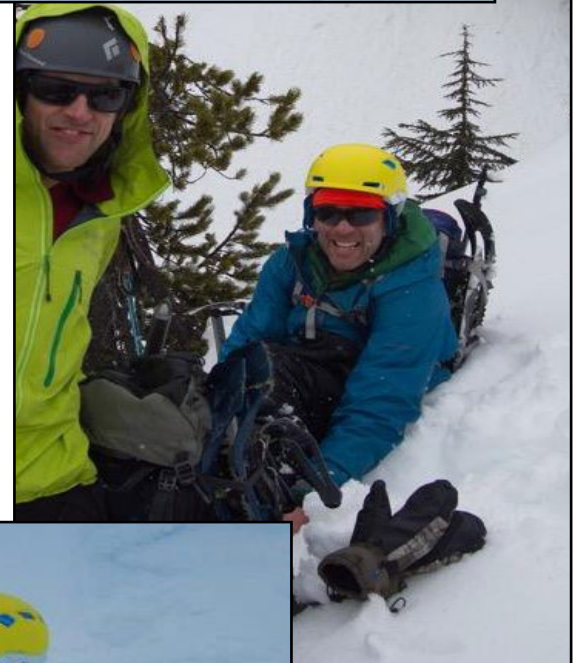
Anyone who spent time with Clarke knows that his relationship with his family was at the heart of his being. He was a big supporter of the 'Family Week' added to our section's summer camp, and helped set up the bursaries which off-set the costs for accompanied youth. Sharing their family home, Clarke and Nancy graciously hosted Christmas parties for up-island mountaineers the last several years, and welcomed friends new and old alike. Their kind hospitality brought together the different mountain clubs and truly helped to grow the community.

Clarke died tragically on 29 June 2019 while hiking on Mt Donner in Strathcona Park, his death sending shock waves through this community and beyond. Caring, principled, multi-talented and hard-working, Clarke leaves a legacy of what it means to be a community builder. When he entered the political arena, there is no doubt that he was poised to be an advocate for many of the environment and conservation values we share. As we grieve his early departure and come to terms with this loss, let us hope his memory inspires us to find ways of honouring the work he still had to do.

Catrin Brown
August 2019

Clarke on Arrowsmith - April, 2017

Thank you to Andrew Pape-Salmon and Jordan Craven for the photos



Clarke at ACC-VI Section Ymir Lodge Backcountry Ski Trip - April, 2019

Thank you to Catrin Brown for the photos



Clarke prepares a cheese feast at Ymir Lodge, April 2019.

Clarke proudly smells his raclette cheese, as he prepares a feast for 16 hungry skiers.



Clarke on Colonel Foster Summer, 2018



*Thank you to Roxanne Stedman
for the photos*

Respect the Mountains Day!

Christine Fordham - National Representative

Canada wide ACC sections and the UIAA had a Respect the Mountains Day on June 15. The VI section held ours at Mount Washington, in conjunction with their Summer Chairlift Opening. We did some “pollution picking” and had hourly talks from local experts, on VI wildlife, the VI marmots, plastics and micro plastics in the environment, and how the Tsolum River recovered from the copper mine.

Thanks to all who participated.

Further info on how you can keep plastics out of our environment <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>

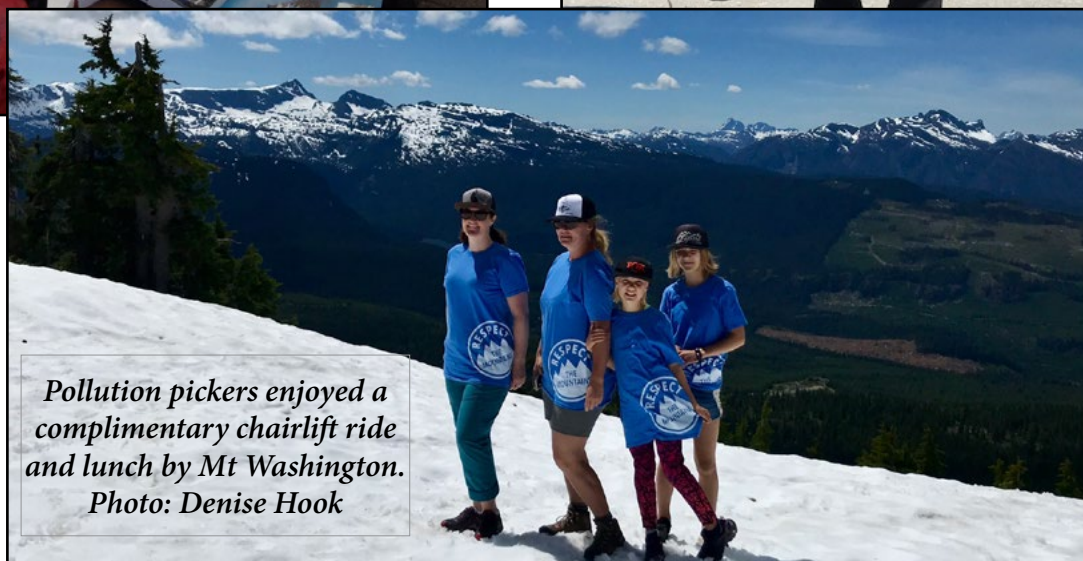
Geoff Bennett, our very own Swiss Guide, mans our Mountain Display Booth. Photo: Christine Fordham



Tak won the prize for the weirdest garbage ... a toilet seat! Photo: Vivian Addison



Pollution pickers enjoyed a complimentary chairlift ride and lunch by Mt Washington. Photo: Denise Hook



Leadership Recognition Program Update!

Natasha Salway

We are off and running with our 2019 Leadership Recognition Competition! Here is the current points tally up till July 1st. Please note that only trips with submitted waivers count towards your points at this time. Refer to <https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/leader-recognition-program/> for more information on the program and how to participate.

We still have lots of time so get those trips up on the schedule!

Name	Points	Name	Points
Colin Mann	14.5	Evan Devault 4	4
Natasha Salway	14	Christine Fordham 3	3
Jes Scott	8	Peggy Taylor 2	2
Derek Sou	7	Mike Whitney 2	2
Catrin Brown	6	Walter Moar 2	2
Alois Schonenberger	4.5	Barry Hansen 2	2
Stefan Gessinger	4	Shawn Hedges 1	1
Tim Turay	4	Doug Scatcherd 1	1
Scott Collins	4	Bernard Friesen 1	1
Serena Polt	4	Roxanne Jasiya 1	1
Patrick Stevens	4	Karun Thanjuvar 1	1
Patrick Craib	4	Brianna Coates 1	1
Sebastien Button	4	Alison Haynes 1	1



Kluane Icefields Ski Camp Possibilities

Martin Hofmann

The St Elias mountains and the Icefields in Kluane National Park are home to some of the most spectacular mountain and glacier scenery in the world. We are going to explore some of these areas on skis. The rough plan is to fly in from Kluane Lake to the Icefields near Mts Badham and Donjek. We will set up a base camp on the glacier with a dome tent and individual sleeping tents. From the camp there are many options to explore the area. There are easy ski tours across the glacier, there is good intermediate ski terrain nearby and there are numerous summits for ski and/or climbing ascents. We will spend about 10-12 days in the area and then fly back to Kluane Lake.

Participants should have glacier travel experience including crevasse rescue training and be comfortable skiing intermediate slopes. Be prepared for any kind of weather, including blizzards. Estimated cost is ~\$900 / person for the flights. Travel to the Yukon should be arranged by individuals, flights are \$300-400. Allow at least 2 days on either side for weather related changes. The dates I am considering are end of May/ beginning of June 2020.

Please contact me at mhofmannskis+kluane@gmail.com if you are at all interested or if you would like more information. At this stage I am just trying to get an idea of numbers and dates.



Mt. Meditation Summer Camp

July 27 - August 4, 2019

*By Stefan Gessinger
with help from Gill Parcher and Tina Lynch*

Participants: Derek Sou (camp manager), Evelyn Sou, Stefan Gessinger (assistant camp manager), Aila & Sydney Gessinger, Shanda Lembcke, Matt & Syllas Nowell, Sandy & Andrew Stuart, Arno & Cees Dirks, Tyna Lynch, Gill & Bianca Parcher, Gary & Natalie Croome, Andrew & Joely Welch

"Thanks Mom, that was the best week of my life" - Gill Parcher



Above Camp Meditaion.

This year, family summer camp was attended by 10 ACC youth members and 9 parents. Very little information was found online about this area and after lots of Google Earthing we were excited to see the real thing. What sort of terrain would we find, what objectives would draw our attention? The surrounding area suited our group well and the weather allowed us to get out on something every day. Long hikes, short hikes, scrambles, alpine 5.fun multi pitch, glacier crossings and summits galore.

A typical evening in Tina Lynch's words: "After dinner we did a round of debriefing our outings, followed by highlights of the day, our daily joke told by Silas (his sister wrote out daily jokes and packed them in his snack bags - so sweet!) and ending with discussions and plans for the following day. We decided that we'd all be ready to head out at 8 am, crampons, harnesses and helmets will be needed as well as VHF radios, layers, food and water."

Tina Lynch: "I was aware that none of these kids/ youth have complained about not having devices all week (parental success). I looked around and could easily think of the many ways that this group has given us the most incredible experience, for some it was supporting and sharing their expertise, others shared their positive attitudes, there was an unassuming confidence that created a very special

experience. The Vancouver Island Alpine Club supported the family week by giving bursaries to the youth, I hope that they know what they provided by doing so. There is no way I could provide my kids with this experience if it wasn't for the resources and support of this group, and an appreciation and love for the mountains has started to grow within them. I'm beyond thankful to the Alpine Club and this group, for their patience, compassion and camaraderie."



*Photos from
ACC-VI Family Week at
Camp Meditation.
July 27 - August 4, 2019.*

NE Ridge of Lindisfarne.



Tundra Peak, Camp Meditation.

A 5040 Peak Hut View

by Mike Knippel

*5040 Hut Peak Hut.
Acrylic on 9 x 12 canvas board
by Mike Knippel*

*Mike Knippel, mountaineer and artist, did this painting of
5040 Peak hut back in June, 2019. Art is yet another way
our hut continues to inspire!*



We are still looking to fund wind turbines and related hardware. The estimated budget to enhance the electrical system with wind turbines is \$5,000 and we are not quite there yet. If you can help with purchasing this important equipment (and more) then please consider donating to the hut fund. Charitable donation receipts are provided for all contributions \$20 and above. Donations can be made quickly and easily by credit card at:

[The Vancouver Island 5040 Hut Construction donation page.](#)

ACC-VI at week 6 of the Westfall GMC

By Mike Hubbard

Our section was well represented at week 6 of the GMC which was below the Wrong Glacier in the Southern Selkirks west of Parson. Mary Sanseverino was there assisting with a group of young people from the University of Alberta who were fortunate enough to be participating in a mountain experience week as part of their courses. Whilst some of them were on their first mountain trip their enthusiasm and energy gave a special boost to what was a rather damp and stormy week. A new section member Stephen Slemon, who has recently moved to Victoria from Canmore, was also assisting with the students.

Mike Whitney, Cedric Zala and I were there as was Natasha Salway who was the recipient of a Karl Nagy Memorial Scholarship and she did a fantastic job as an amateur leader on the daily expeditions from camp. Whilst waiting for my flight in to camp I met Iain Sou who, together with Peter Gilbert, had just completed the North Face Course on week 5 and he was bubbling over with the mass of knowledge that Cyril Shokoples and the other Guides had passed onto him. What a great opportunity it is for our younger members.



Photo above: Mary Sanseverino (on the right) and Stephen Slemon (3rd from the left in the back row) with the University of Alberta students. Zac Robinson, ACC VP of Mtn Culture (standing beside Mary) is the course leader.

Left photo: Natasha Salway - the 2019 Karl Nagy Memorial Scholarship winner - on Wright Peak.

The Monday of camp could have been a day of tragedy; a group of us were climbing Mt. Wright which was one of the easier and more accessible of the peaks surrounding camp when Kish Stephenson, who works as the Club's Finance Director in Canmore and was assisting in the kitchen at camp, fell on steep snow. I was immediately behind her on the climb and when she flew past bouncing over granite slabs I was afraid

that I would never see her alive again. Fortunately she was stopped by a granite boulder some two or three hundred metres down the slope. The leaders were able to call in a helicopter from Golden despite the bad weather and she was long lined down to camp and then flown to hospital within two hours of the fall. Despite the severity of the fall we were delighted to hear on the Wednesday that she was recovering from 4 broken ribs, bruising and concussion but had no life threatening injuries. The speed and efficiency of the rescue was incredible considering the weather and the steepness of the slope and many thanks are due to the guides, pilot and technicians who effected it.

Whilst Cedric and I did not manage to climb any peaks during the week we did have a superb hike to Gobi pass to the east of camp with wonderful flowers in the valley and views beyond all way to the Bugaboos.

There had been a grizzly bear incident in that direction on week 3 when 2 members had met with a mother bear and two cubs and one had received a minor bite from the bear but despite scanning the deep valley beyond the pass with binoculars there was no sign of the bear apart from some old diggings.

One evening Mary and Mike Whitney gave an excellent presentation on the [Mountain Legacy Project](#) which filled the



tea tent to capacity. On the last night after a very wet day when most of us either read or did a rope and knot school in the drying tent Cedric got the party rolling with a guitar, Cyril gave us a fine rendering of the [Ballad of Idwal Slabs](#), the U of A students gave us a boisterous musical skit of their own composition and all the remaining alcohol was consumed with much singing and story telling.

A great camp despite the weather with a very special sense of community. If you haven't yet experienced a GMC I recommend it. I think it was my twelfth!

Cedric Zala in full voice!



Mt. Mariner, July 17 -20, 2019

By Stefan Gessinger

Participants: Shanda Lembcke, Aila & Stefan Gessinger, Andrew & Nathan Welsh, Huib, Nina & Donna DeRoo

After a great deal of planning and having postponed the outing several times we were able to align the schedules of four families for a four day sea to sky mountaineering adventure. As this was our last possible date for the summer we went despite a forecast promising more rain than would have been ideal. With freshly tuned bikes, homemade dehydrated meals (32 kg of food total), ponchos and glacier travel gear we boarded one of the Tofino Water taxi boats which dropped us at the dock of the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort.



Riding our bikes we made quick work of the first 7 km of logging road and entered the car wash of the wet, overgrown Bedwell Centennial trail. Declaring a gushing, thigh deep creek impassable for the time of the day we cleared a few campsites on the trail. Day 2 made for a great start as the gushing creek had receded to a trickle and we made our way to the infamous Living Bridge. We found the ancient, rotten logging road bridge which as of February 2018 consisted of 2 logs 15 metres above the Bedwell River reduced to 1 log, which was still very passable.

Reaching the old Noble Creek mining trail came as a relief as it signals the start of the old growth forest and the end of overgrown logging roads. Showers throughout both first days created very soggy conditions making the ascent a slog. "See you at the top, Dad" said 11 year old Donna as she took off. Topping out from climbing 300 metres of boulders and scree in the rain she beamed: "That was fun!"

If it were easy it wouldn't be hard.



More rain forced us to tuck into bed with lots of daylight left and we had our fingers crossed for good conditions for our summit day.

Having descended this ridge in winter conditions I was surprised with the amount of route finding required to reach the Mariner glacier. We roped up for the glacier (Nathan in running shoes after shredding his feet during the first 2 days) and made our way over to the N-side of the mountain. After crossing over the prerequisite sketchy bergschrund we pitched out about 4 pitches to the summit. The return to camp required a fair amount of rope work to get off the summit block and down the approach slabs above camp.

The descent from the glacier back down into the rain forest highlighted the variety of terrain we traveled through. The bike ride back turned out to be everything I hoped for it to be. Tired of trail hiking and descending the downhill bike ride was a rush. "Did you make it to the glacier?" a staff member yelled as we rode by the lodge. "The summit!" Shanda replied upon which the staff treated us to a perfect finish line atmosphere with cheers and applause.

We would like to thank the ACC-VI for generously supporting us with a Memorial Fund Youth Grant for this outing.

*Roped up on the
Mariner Glacier.*



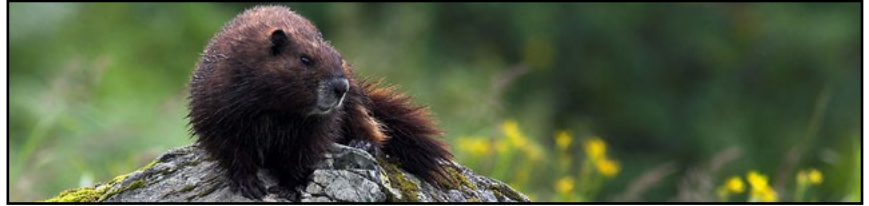
Mariner summit.



Helping out the Marmot Recovery Foundation

At the "Respect the Mountains" event at Mt. Washington this June Geoff Bennett talked with people from the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation. It may be that ACC-VI members can help out with VI Marmot observations.

More specifics coming in the future, but for now this is how we can help.



If you see a marmot on Vancouver Island, please tell the [Marmot Recovery Foundation](#) about it. Reports from backcountry users, particularly those who spend time in the sub-alpine, greatly benefit the conservation of this unique and endangered species.

About the Vancouver Island Marmot

As its name suggests, the Vancouver Island marmot only lives on the Island. In fact it is B.C.'s only endemic mammal, and one of only 5 mammals endemic in all of Canada. This marmot lives in sub-alpine montane meadows between 700 and 1500 metres elevation, where it forages on a wide variety of vegetation during the spring and summer. During the winter, the marmot hibernates in an underground hibernaculum. These hibernacula may be dug 3 to 4 metres deep, or deeper, into the rocky, talus-strewn soils that the marmot prefers. Many generations of marmots may use the same hibernaculum, cleaning it out and refreshing the insulating vegetation year after year.

Unfortunately, the Vancouver Island Marmot is one of the most endangered mammals on the planet. By 2003, fewer than 30 marmots remained in the wild. Through recovery efforts, that number has risen to over 200, but much work remains to secure this unique species' place in the Island's wilderness. You can play a part by reporting marmots that you see on Vancouver Island.

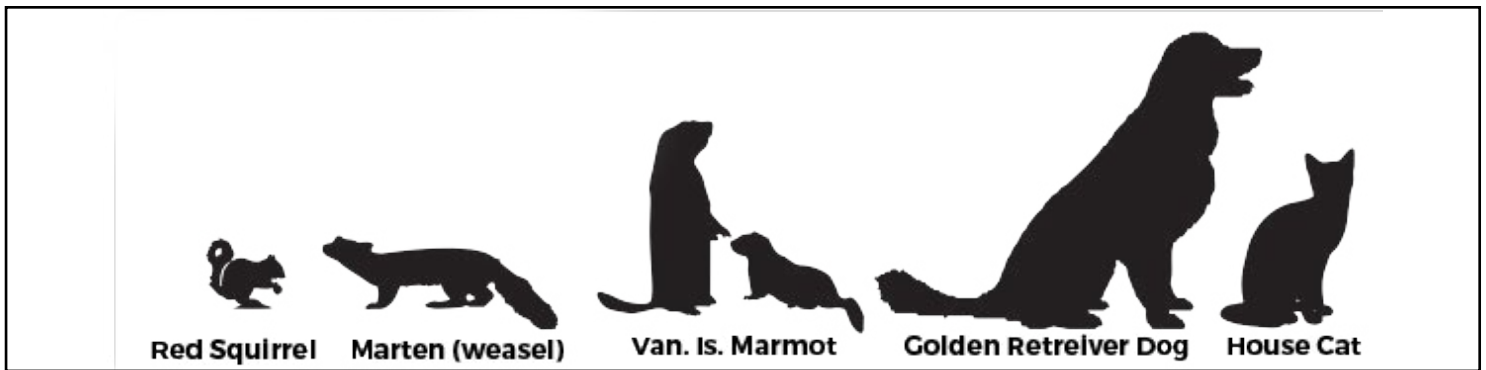
How to Spot and Identify a Marmot

Finding marmots can be challenging at first, as these house-cat sized animals blend into their surroundings with remarkable ease. However, a few tips will help:

- Listen for the warning whistles marmots make when a predator approaches. You can listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O77RZze7Ddc>.
- Marmots generally live in sub-alpine meadows and talus fields. Look in boulder fields and avalanche chutes in particular.
- Look on the tops of large rocks, fallen logs, and outcrops on cliffs. Marmots like to have a good view of their surroundings.

Identifying a marmot

There a number of other animals that can be mistaken for marmots, especially large squirrels and marten. Observe the animal's behavior and movement. Try to judge its size by comparing it to animals you are familiar with. Make note of its body shape. Below is a silhouette chart to help place the marmot with some of its more frequently mistaken suspects and common animals.



Reviewing video of Vancouver Island marmots can help you develop an understanding of how they move and use the landscape. Some good videos are:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSu3njGroKs> is a great look at an unconcerned marmot resting and feeding. But marmots are not always so languid.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxoodP0wgQQ> is pair of more active pups wrestling with each other and running around.
- For comparison, look at the “slinky” like body of this marten – it is very different from the build of a marmot! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co8-ArAwuRY>

Where to spot Marmots

The Marmot Recovery Foundation and our partners have been working to re-establish the wild population of marmots. There are currently two meta-populations (networks of colonies) and one known isolated colony. Sightings from these colonies are greatly appreciated. Note, some marmot colonies occur on private land or on lands designated as ecologically sensitive. The Foundation does not share the locations of colonies on such lands. (*Editor's Note: We are working on how to provide information on these sensitive locations to ACC-VI members - more info on this to come.*)

With all sites, please check local conditions and hazards. Respect park or landowners access rules. Be safe in the backcountry!

South Vancouver Island Sites

Currently Occupied

- Mount Arrowsmith Regional Park – Below the summit on both sides of Arrowsmith are marmot colonies
- Steamboat, Clayoquot Plateau Provincial Park

Occupied within past 15 years, current status in doubt

- 5040, Clayoquot Plateau Provincial Park – marmots were released here in the mid-2000s, but the colony appeared to fail. Has not been formally monitored in several years.

Strathcona Provincial Park

Currently Occupied

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Marble Meadows | • Frink |
| • Tibetan | • Castlecrag |
| • Grieg Ridge | • George V |
| • Albert Edward at Hope Lake | • Allan Brooks (sporadically) |
| | • Flower Ridge |

Occupied within past 15 years, current status in doubt

- Sunrise Lake
- Morrison Spire
- Big Jim Valley
- Celeste
- Mt Phillips
- Henshaw
- Drinkwater

North Vancouver Island

Occupied within past 15 years, current status in doubt

- Mt Cain
- Mt Seth (Schoen Lake Provincial Park)

Other Sites of Particular Interest

Marmots are not known to occur at these sites presently, or even in recent decades. However, there is potential marmot habitat, and a faint possibility that dispersing marmots have established small, as yet undetected colonies. Alternatively, a lone marmot may have occupied one these sites, without access to a mate.

- All higher elevation areas of Strathcona Provincial Park
- Beaufort Range – note that land ownership and access in this region varies.
- Bonanza Peak/Range – note that land ownership and access in this region varies.
- Mt Schoen (Schoen Lake Provincial Park)
- Peaks around Tahsish – Kwois Provincial Park

Marmots have surprised us before, so do keep your eyes open at all times! We often tell the story of Alan, a marmot who was discovered on the beach (literally) at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

How to Report

Take photos! Even poor photos can provide us with a great deal of information. In addition, please provide as much of the information below as you can, and leave blank any questions you cannot answer.

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Photographs? Upload or just “yes/no”

Approximate location where you saw the marmot (any coordinate system is fine, UTM by mild preference):

How close were you?

Describe the marmot(s) that you saw:

What behavior did you see?

Weather conditions:

Email to info@marmots.org or call us at 250-390-0006

ACC-VI section 'camp' at 5040 Peak Hut

18 – 23 August, 2019

Story: Adrian Dolling, Photos: Catrin Brown

Twelve enthusiasts spent 3-5 nights at the 'luxurious' ACC 5040 Peak Hut in mid August. The weather was better than forecasted, with one serious period of wind and rain shaking us overnight. Many varied explorations took place: hiking, scrambling, rock-climbing, botanizing, birding, and geologizing in the very interesting and complex terrain of the "limestone" plateau, and on adjacent peaks and ridges. There was lots to do - things to suit varied interests and abilities. Morning yoga and stunning views of Triple Peak ensured a good start to each day! Tired feet and hungry bellies made for a pleasant cozy hut at night.



*Morning yoga with Jenny Berg.
(jennyberg yoga.com)*

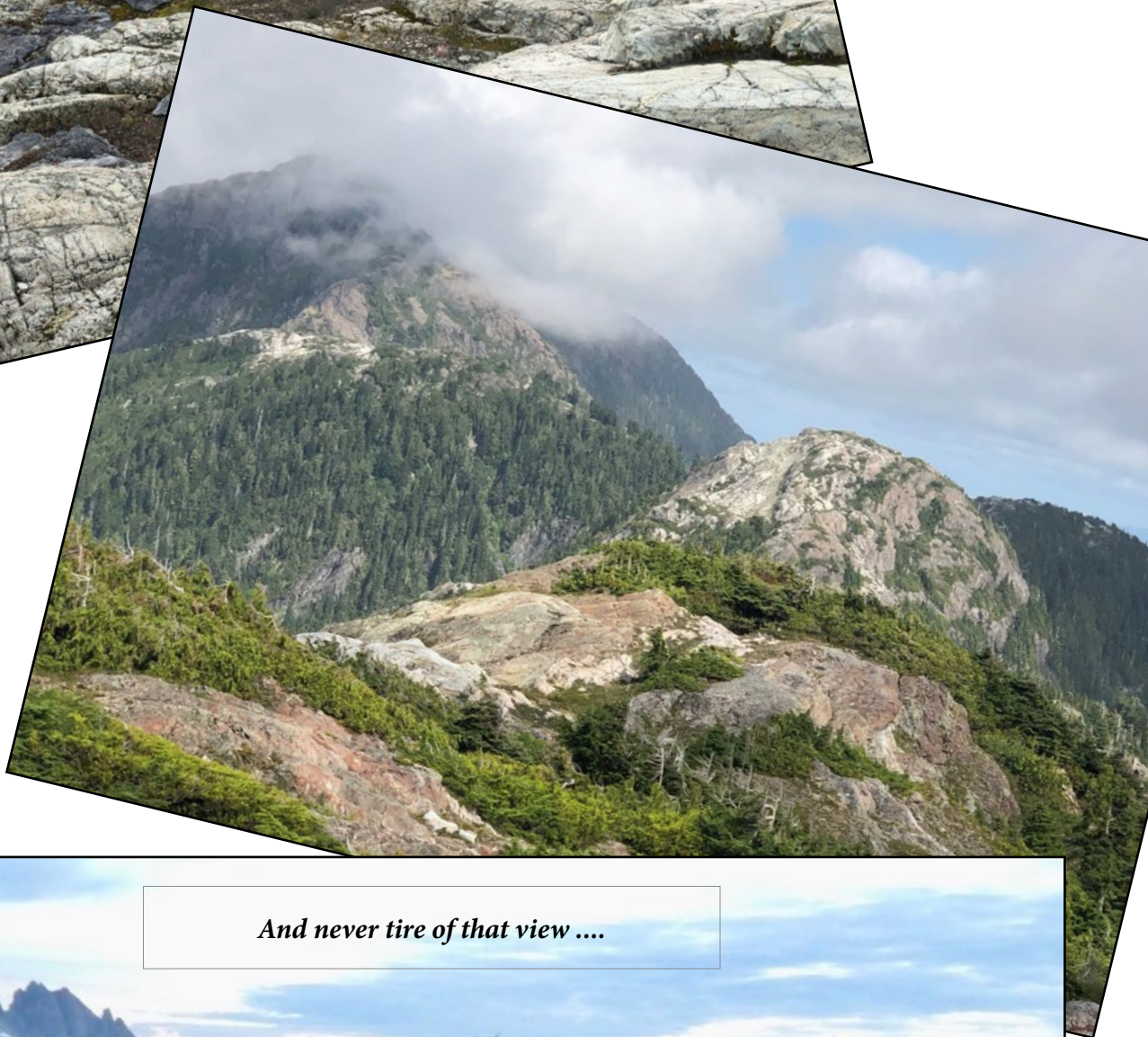


Flowers at their best in the limestone plateau.

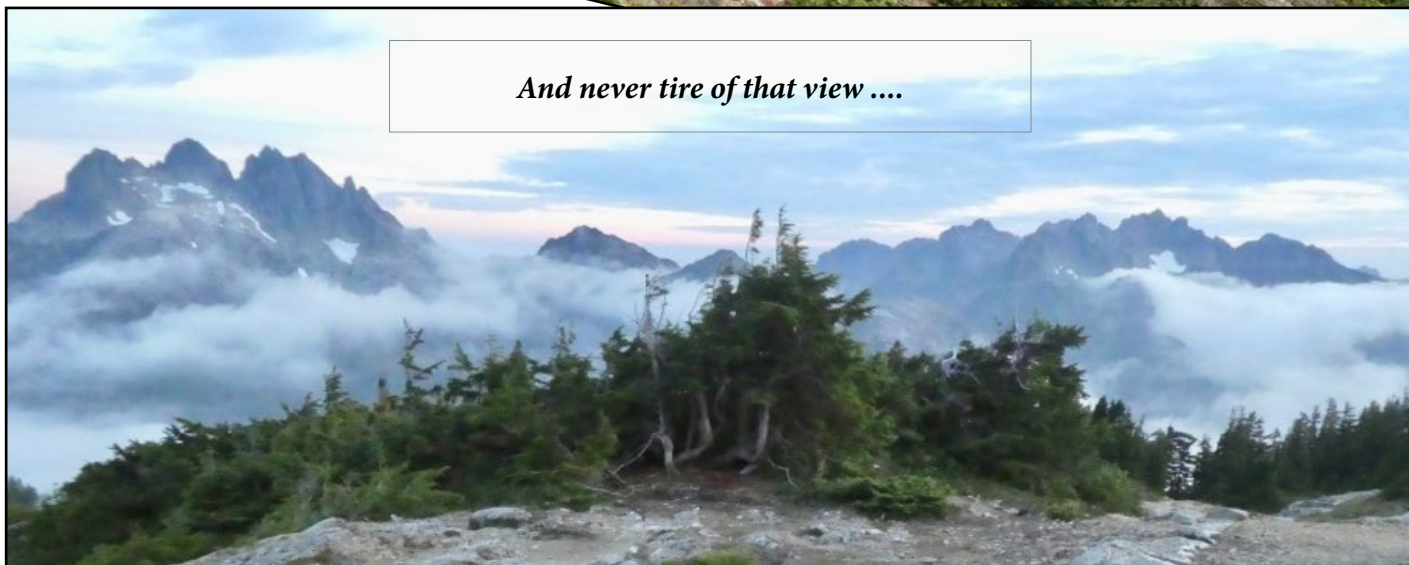


The limestone plateau – more lakes every time we counted.

The bumpy ridge east towards Beverley Lake and Nahmint. Wander as far as the day is long.



And never tire of that view



e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

Thanks to Brett MacDonald for his contribution of \$90 to the gear fund to go towards the acquisition of new equipment.

Jes Scott has a Section Trip Report on her We Belong Outside blog. Check out [Mt. Shuksan via Fisher Chimneys](#) for great images and a ripping story about one of the "hills" across the Salish Sea.

Passion and Persistence: Fifty Years of the Sierra Club in British Columbia - a book by Diane Pinch - will be launched at Bolen Books in Victoria on Thursday, Sept 19, at 7PM. Everyone is welcome. More info at bolen.bc.ca

Island Bushwhacker Annual 2019

Guideline for Submissions

It's never too early to get your stories in to Rob Macdonald - the editor of the Island Bushwhacker Annual!

Please ensure that all submissions use the following template:

- Title
- Date(s) of event
- Participants
- Text - submissions should generally be a maximum of approximately 1000 words
- Bold, italics etc are fine, but do not apply any special formatting for line spacing, fonts, tabs or titles. These will only need to be removed.
- Put insertion points for graphics e.g. < photo 1 >
- Submit photographs separately as JPEGs in the highest resolution possible.
- All photographs should have a caption and credit

Please note that this is an Alpine Club journal and as such all submissions should reference an alpine setting for self-propelled endeavour.

It is recommended that authors give an opportunity to people mentioned in the text or in photographs to check that they are comfortable with the content being published.

Send submissions to Rob Macdonald bushwhacker@accvi.ca

(Newsletter Editor's Note: There is both a Newsletter and an Annual. This is a call for submissions to the Annual. However, you can still send things to the Newsletter at newsletter@accvi.ca -- I know, a bit confusing, but Rob and I will help you sort it out if you have questions.)

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The 2019 Westfall Creek GMC - evening falls at the beginning of Week 6. Photo: Mary Sanseverino



Clarke Gourlay, 1964 - 2019

Clarke topping out on Lost Gully, Mt Arrowsmith (with Karun Thanjuvar). April 2017.

Photo by Jordan Craven

Thank you to this month's contributors:

***Geoff Bennett, Catrin Brown, Jordan Craven, Adrian Dolling,
Christine Fordham, Stefan Gessinger, Martin Hofmann,
Mike Hubbard, Mike Knippel, Tina Lynch, Rob Macdonald,
Andrew Pape-Salmon, Gill Parcher, Anya Reid, Natasha Salway,
Roxanne Stedman, and Caroline Tansley.***

Well done everyone!

