

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 48 | Issue 2 | Summer 2020



Steep and deep, on the way to Mount Thelwood

Photo of Stefan Gessinger by Evan Devault

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club is now hosting virtual slide shows on the Zoom platform. These presentations can be viewed by people from up-Island and the Gulf Islands, so we may continue to offer virtual slide shows even when in-person slide shows resume.

Web Information

Web site: www.accvi.ca

Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

Available on our meeting archives which are [here](#).

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

Email: info@alpineclubofcanada.ca; Tel: (403)-678-3200; Address: P.O. Box 8040, Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$53 Family \$75 Youth (19 and under) \$38

The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. In other months, the **High Points Bulletin** summarizes events and key announcements for the section.

Newsletter Editor: Janelle Curtis

High Points Editor: Anya Reid

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including articles and photos in months when the newsletter is published. Please email your submissions to newsletter@accvi.ca 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

COME BACK ALIVE
COME BACK FRIENDS
RESPECT THE LAND
HAVE FUN
GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Slideshow, 18 June, 7 pm. *A Pitch Climbers' Guide to the Stars!* Join a member of our Communications Team and an expert astronomer, Karun Thanjavur, to learn more about our night skies.

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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 email addresses for mailouts.

Join or visit the ACCVI's [Facebook group](#). You don't have to be a Facebook member to see this page.



Upcoming Slideshows, Presentations, Meetings and Get-togethers

Virtual Slide Show, Thursday 18 June at 7pm. A Pitch Climber's Guide to the Stars!

Join a member of our Communications Team and an expert astronomer, Karun Thanjavur, to learn more about our night skies.

As avid mountaineers and backcountry aficionados, all of us cherish the awe inspiring beauty of the high vistas and the wide open spaces during the day. At the same time, as night falls, back at camp after a great day on the slopes or on the trail, we are also privileged to enjoy the stunning beauty of the night skies, unpolluted by any light of civilization. As you lie back on the grass and take in this beauty overhead, here is a little guide to signpost the starry sky as your eyes wander through it. Since there is of course a Universe out there to explore, I will aim to at least touch up the highlights of our summer sky, and hope to motivate you to continue this celestial journey with some useful tools and public resources to take along.

Mark the date and time. Zoom login details will be sent by email nearer the time.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Amazing Alpine People and Places: Community Events

By Angela Barnard

Going forward please connect with me via:

Email - angelifaye2120@gmail.com (new)

WhatsApp | Mobile - 250 713-9409

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/angelifaye2120>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/angelifaye2120/>

The Network Hub in Nanaimo is currently closed in response to COVID-19.

I will keep in touch as we go back to event spaces, including the possibility of transitioning to online events.

Upcoming Trips

Full information for all trips is located online on the [ACCVI Trip Schedule](#). We anticipate changes to our events as the situation with the coronavirus pandemic develops. Keep your eye on the [Trip Schedule](#) often!



Recommendations on films about nature, wildlife, or mountaineering

Anya let everyone know in the May 2020 High Points email: "There is a collection of great outdoor adventure films compiled in an Outdoor Research Blog, and many are free. <https://www.outdoorresearch.com/blog/article/50-outdoor-adventure-films-to-get-you-through-social-distancing>

As described on the Banff Mountain Film Festival website: "We wanted to provide a curated program of free Festival films that are available online for you to watch at home with your family." <https://www.banffcentre.ca/film-fest-at-home>

ACCVI's Island Bushwacker Annuals are available online [here](#) and issues of ACCVI's Island Bushwacker newsletters are available [here](#).

Make sure to keep an eye out for invitations to join ACCVI's Virtual Slideshow Presentations

Members also have a list of recommended books. Here is what they suggested, and why...

Recommendations from Robie Macdonald:

In this time of sequestration it is of course a strong temptation to reminisce about previous springs - that special attraction of sintered snow under the trees, hard snow cups littered with winter's needles and the smell of plants shoving themselves into the light. That hard-to-describe, off-white colour of snow in the couloirs and the sheen of snowfields higher up where sun has produced a surface of icy crystals, and the sounds of birds staking out their territories. Well, put all that aside for a bit and plunge yourself into a bit of history about our Vancouver Island. If you have not read any of Michael Layland's books you are in for a treat. He set out on his remarkable survey with a beautifully illustrated volume that stitched together the history of the Island based on early maps and charts: *The Land of Heart's Delight* (2013). If you just start with this book you will be drawn into this story, and each page will add a richness to your future explorations of the Island's wild places. *Heart's Delight* has been followed by a second volume entitled *A Perfect*

Eden (2016), which explores early encounters by Early Explorers. And you won't have to stop here given that the third volume, *In Nature's Realm* (2019), has recently been pressed, with the topic being naturalists. These books win prizes. As I understand it, a fourth book is on the way.... so, read on.

Recommendations from Geoff Bennett:

Sharon Wood's *Rising: Becoming the First North American Woman on Everest*

- I climbed with Sharon Wood for 3 days in 2009. I quickly realized that she had a love/hate relationship with Everest and that she had many issues about her achievement that she found difficult to express or resolve. I'm delighted that she finally published a book about her experience. I enjoyed reading it - not just another book about a summit.

Sigurd Olson's *The Singing Wilderness*, *The Lonely Land*, and many others

- Sigurd Olson's books were a great influence on my life in the outdoors and particularly canoeing.

Recommendation from Brian Pinch:

I would like to recommend: *Passion and Persistence: 50 Years of the Sierra Club of British Columbia*. I should disclaim in advance that the author is my wife, Diane Pinch!

The book is full of great stories about places and people that will be meaningful to many of our members. It recently won the George Riga Award for Social Awareness in Literature and an honourable mention in Lieutenant Governor's Historical Writing Competition. A review in the spring issue of BC History magazine described the prose as "engaging and accessible." Last, but not least, the book is inspirational and instructive about how we can protect the wilderness that we all enjoy.

Recommendations from Heather:

There are two books that I have read this year that I literally could not put down. The first one is *Riding the Continent* the recently discovered and published account by naturalist Mack Laing of his motorcycle ride across the continent in the early 1900's when the roads were barely roads. The second book is *Birds, Art, Life - a Year of Observation* by Kyo Maclear. Partly memoir, partly observation of the natural world, this book is difficult to describe, but the writing and artwork are captivating.



Thelwood bound. Photo by Roxanne Stedman submitted to ACCVI's 2019 photo competition Vancouver Island Category

Mountain Education

ACCVI offers a wide variety of workshops and 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.

*Education and Courses: <http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>
Is there something else you would like to see? Contact education@accvi.ca*

Date

Education Event

July 21 2020, and
August 7-9 2020

[Intro to Rock Climbing Course and Workshop
Weekend at the Crest Creek Crags*](#)

Please see the [trip schedule](#) for information about upcoming education events.

*The Workshop and Course will include an evening discussion of climbing basics, gear, and knots (21 July). This will be mandatory in order to prepare for the follow-on weekend. Then there will be three days of camping and climbing at Crest Creek Crags in the vicinity of Gold River in Western Strathcona Park. Island Alpine Guides will be joining us on Friday 7 August for a day of formal instruction, followed by two days of an ACCVI top-rope climbing workshop. It would be important to note that we may have to further postpone/cancel the workshop if health advice dictates.

News from ACC National

By Christine Fordham

Ice Climber Leader Module Handbook

The newest ACC Technical Training Development handbook has been released. Due to Covid 19 it has not been printed but is available for all as a flipbook. See this new Ice Climber Leader Module Handbook here: https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/web/ACCMember/Community/Leadership_Development/ACCMember/Community/Leadership_Development.aspx?hkey=5a8662d9-c115-4263-a4c2-60383ee0dada

State of the Mountains Report 2020

The highly regarded, third "State of the Mountains" report will be released online on Canada Day. Mark your calendar, for your summer reading pleasure.

COVID 19 and National Office

The National office has had limited staff working from home, at reduced hours. Things are starting to open up somewhat now. The volunteer board has put aside other priorities and has been working diligently on all the issues presenting from Covid and its various unknown scenarios. A few things of note are, the TNF course and GMC's are postponed until Summer 2021, and hut policy going forward is being considered and will be announced soon. There is now a "Crown Jewels" prize draw for new and renewed memberships. See: https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/web/ACCMember/Membership/Join_ACC/Membership_Drive_Prizes/ACC-Member/Membership/Membership_Drive_2020.aspx?hkey=b9c43fcd-133f-4fc2-a8f5-5d910b2faa70

Executive Episodes:

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

I'm never quite sure when spring officially transitions into summer, but this year the move into Phase 2 and 3 of BC's restart plan seems the most significant harbinger. Like the lengthening and warming of the days, the changes are gradual and going in a very welcome direction. And they are happening because collectively and resolutely we have stemmed the worst immediate threat of the pandemic. I'm grateful for how this community of active, adventurous souls has contributed to this by adjusting plans and expectations to meet the different priority of the last few months. It's not always been easy, but as Dr Henry reminds us, these adjustments are not forever.

So, as we continue to monitor the developments and guidelines provincially and on Vancouver Island, we are of course keeping thoughts open as to what club activities we can responsibly hold over the summer months. The executive meets next on 9th June, and will decide about our summer schedule, including summer camp, use of the hut, trips, workshops, social events etc. Meanwhile, please take note of the excellent advice that Martin Hofmann has compiled on the new Covid-19 page on our website: <https://accvi.ca/covid-19/>

And before we leave spring behind completely, allow me to share some flower images from the local hills. Perhaps spending more time close to home this spring gave a greater focus on the details - such as this variety amongst satin flowers. Spot the odd one out!



Diversity in satin flowers. Photos by Catrin Brown.

A new virtual community

On Thursday 14 May we hosted our first online slide show with new ACCVI member Jenny Feick describing her experiences with the Great Divide Trail Association over several decades. Her fascinating talk came across clearly on the Zoom platform and was very well attended. It was really great to have people from up-Island and the Gulf Islands join in too - something we may try to offer even when in-person slide shows resume. Our thanks to Neil Han for setting up the software and hosting the evening.

In her talk, Jenny referred to her book *Tales from the Great Divide, Vignettes on the Origins and Early History of Canada's Great Divide Trail and the Great Divide Trail Association*, and is currently working on a final proof-read of the 2nd Edition. Here is an update on how to obtain a copy:

The PDF will be available from mid-June: jenny.feick@gmail.com for approx \$35. The print on demand version will be available from Kindle Direct (Amazon) by mid-to-late June for approx \$65. The prices are not quite fixed and don't include taxes and shipping. Watch this space for details of the sale of copies directly in Victoria in September.

Given the success of the first run, we will continue to host online slide shows while restrictions on gatherings continue. I'm delighted to announce that our own expert astronomer Karun Thanjavur will be our next presenter to celebrate the summer solstice. He will present his virtual slide show - *A Pitch Climber's Guide to the Stars!* - on Thursday 18 June at 7.00 pm. Login details will be sent by email soon.

Then buckle up your belts for the upcoming slide shows when we will go from pole to pole. Rob Macdonald will share some of his travels in pursuit of marine geochemistry in the Arctic, again over many decades. And Finn Steiner will take us to the Antarctic, to share experiences of a season guiding there. Prepare for some stunning images from both. We will send details of these presentations including dates and titles when confirmed. I'm very grateful to all these speakers for generously agreeing to share their experiences, and much looking forward to joining you for these evenings.

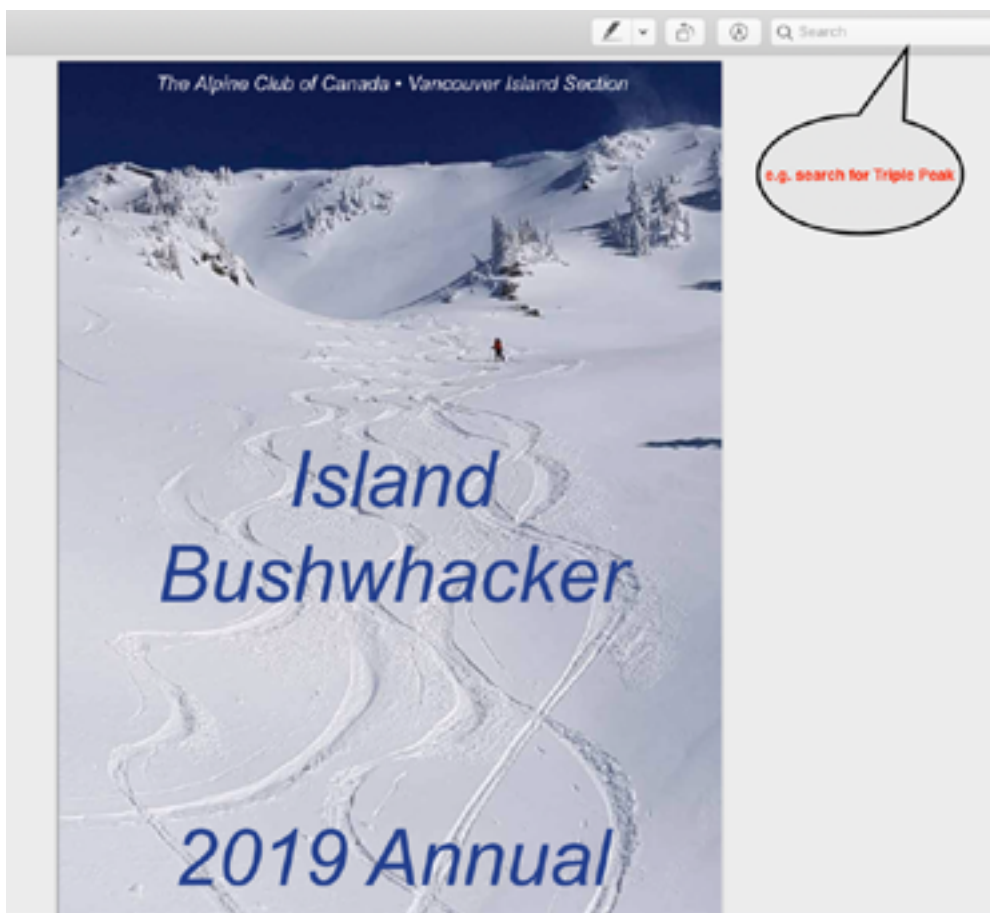
Island Bushwhacker Annual 2019 and 2020

Back in April, members were sent a link to the 2019 edition of the Island Bushwhacker Annual. Here it is again: http://accvi.ca/wp-content/bushwhacker/accvi_iba_2019.pdf

There has been lots of great feedback on this full colour edition, and gratitude expressed to Rob Macdonald for his extensive work in creating such a professional product. It is now posted on our website which means it is searchable too. Plans to print have been on hold but will be a discussion point at the next executive meeting. Perhaps, having seen the full colour first, the black and white printed version may be a little underwhelming - ? Yet printing in colour would be extremely costly. Hmm. We welcome any thoughts you may have on this.

And already plans turn to the 2020 edition. With the reduction in trips this year, we might be looking at some novel approaches. Perhaps now is the time to write up those adventures that you never

quite got round to doing. Dust off the memories and commit them to some permanence. All submissions and queries to Rob: bushwhacker@accvi.ca.



Access denied

We all know how it feels. Our access woes on the Island continue to generate debate, especially when we are prevented from accessing parks and Crown land because they are situated beyond gated private forest company lands. The number of individuals and groups speaking up about this seems to be increasing, and we are pleased that the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) has reached out to us, inviting us to join them in a meeting with the forest management company Mosaic in mid-June. Our access and environment champion Barb Baker has already been a valued contributor to our pre-meeting discussions with the Right to Roam group. We will continue our mantra of “public corridors to public spaces”, believing that such access shouldn’t be a privilege by virtue of membership of a club. We’ve said and heard it all before I know, and will again - it matters too much to do otherwise.

Member news

Warm congratulations to our education coordinator Alois Schonenberger and Jen Alloway who were married in a very small ceremony at the Gardens of the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific in Victoria on 9 May. Alois reports that it was a beautiful day, and that he and Jen then enjoyed a ‘holiday in the backyard’ for a couple of weeks. We wish you both every happiness.



Alois Schonenberger and Jen Alloway on 9 May.

Executive events

The ACC-VI executive met on 12 May 2020 by Zoom and will meet again on 9 June 2020. Please send me any items you would like to add to the agenda. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website here.

I'm always happy to hear from you, and given the current lack of regular connections, I hope you feel free to get in touch at any time. Your feedback, concerns and ideas are all valued as we keep finding ways to keep our community vibrant and connected.

Happy trails

Catrin Brown

chair@accvi.ca

Access and Environment

By Barb Baker

Mosaic....several discussions are ongoing. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia ([FM-CBC](#)) intends to press for some kind of agreement in a June meeting. ACCVI will be part of this conversation.

Trails & gates have been open during the pandemic. Use this link:

<https://www.mosaicforests.com/access>

Note: the Cameron Connector icon continues to be partially hidden on the interactive map and Comox Lake Main hours have been reduced. They are only open each weekend day and not over the entire weekend as was the case until recently.

Regional district parks & trails are open in Victoria and Port Alberni. We are assuming the same goes for all regional districts.

[RSTBC](#) Regional Sites & Trails of BC have their trails open for day use. See:

<http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca>

BC Parks have reopened for day use as of May 14th. You can see the parks list at this link:

<http://bcparks.ca/covid-19/parks-affected/>

Knowing people in influential positions has been very useful in my effort to press for access and environmental issues. Many times, these are occasions to inform and promote our interests. In every instance, I try to illuminate the club's activities, our many esteemed members, our commitments to the environment, education and inclusivity.

Wherever access and environmental questions arise across the Island, do not hesitate to contact me at access@accvi.ca to investigate.



5040 View. Photo by Erica Ellefsen submitted to ACCVI's 2019 photo competition Vancouver Island Category

Portrait View: The ACCVI Communications Team

By Martin Hofmann

The communications team is responsible for a number of different communication channels between our section and our members. Last century communications were much easier, a schedule would be created 2-3 times a year and mailed out to all club members. With so many avenues of communication available to us now and the expectation of immediate response, keeping members informed requires more resources. We also have many more members now than we did back then.

Before 2000 there was one person responsible for membership and one for the schedule. Twice a year the person responsible for the schedule would ask people, either by phone or in person, to submit trips for the schedule. The trip schedule would then be printed out and mailed to all members to post on their fridges. Around 1997 the club started posting the trip schedule online on our website. The schedule was still fixed and done twice yearly and most contact was through telephone. In 2001 the position of webmaster was added to the executive committee but the biggest change came in 2009 when the schedule was moved to a dynamic, online version and the paper mailouts were stopped. Trip leaders could then ask the scheduler to post trips at any time. By then email contacts were ubiquitous although phone numbers were often provided as well, and still are. In 2017, as almost all communications became digital and the expectations of members were to have immediate action and reaction, the executive committee made the decision to form a communications team. This would allow multiple people to perform multiple tasks and to ensure that when someone was away and out of email range, as we are all wont to do, there would still be someone to respond to members' requests.

Emails are a major part of the communications team's duties. Emails are sent out to inform members of events, such as slide shows and other social events. Our access coordinator also uses email to keep our members informed on the infamous gate opening and closures to logging roads. We regularly receive enquiries about membership in the club, problems with mail lists and of course various types of spam. Our website has information about all aspects of the club and our activities, from the trip schedule (pretty bare during these COVID times but that will change) to information for trip leaders and participants. There are also sections of the site devoted to information about our hut, Hišim'awił. Our Facebook group, Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island Section, allows people to share photos from trips and to discuss other issues relating to the mountains. New trips are usually posted on Facebook soon after they are added to the schedule. A separate Facebook group also exists for Hišim'awił to share photos and ask about the snow levels on Marion Main.

The communications team members all have their main area(s) but most can fill in in the other areas. The current team consists of:



Martin Hofmann	Website, email communications
Kathy Kutzer	Membership, email communications
Jes Scott	Website, Facebook, email communications
Josh Slatkoff	Membership, email communications
Karun Thanjuvar	Schedule

- If you're a trip leader who wants to put a trip on the schedule, email schedule@accvi.ca
- If you're a trip leader who wants to check if people on your trip are members: membership@accvi.ca
- If you have a suggestion for or if there's a problem with the website: webmaster@accvi.ca
- General questions and requests for information can be sent to info@accvi.ca

Landscape View: Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee

By Phil Stone

Editor's note: I asked Phil a few questions about SPPAC and he kindly replied to them below. You can read a record of the committee's meeting minutes [here](#).

Can you tell us a bit about yourself, including any past activities with ACCVI?

I came to Vancouver Island in 1988 with a job offer at Strathcona Park Lodge as a climbing instructor. My first visit to Strathcona Park itself was on a trail building day with the Friends of Strathcona Park on the Phillips Ridge trail. It was so foggy that day that I didn't get to see more than the subalpine forest a few metres in front of us. I will never forget being schooled by Ruth Masters on the fine art of trail construction in the island rainforest. It was a Strathcona baptism of sorts.

It didn't take long before I finally got to see the park from the sweeping views on Mount Colonel Foster and I can honestly say that as well as being an enduring memory, it changed the course of my life. In the thirty years since, Strathcona Park has been part of so, so many incredible experiences, provided me with a crucial part of my livelihood be that through guiding work, the subject of my guidebooks along with other ancillary connections. I don't say lightly that I feel a sense of obligation to the park not just for what it has provided me but what it does and can continue to offer for everyone who experiences it.

So when an invitation came to join SPPAC in 2007 I saw it as a way to give something back. As things have turned out I had come to Vancouver Island just as the fallout from the Cream Silver mine protests was playing out with the first iteration of the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee holding public consultation meetings which led to the development of the Strathcona Park Master Plan and the key recommendation that SPPAC be formed to advise BC Parks on the plan's implementation. I remember attending one of those meetings in Campbell River. I was only 22 but was drawn to the politics as well as the mountains of Strathcona Park. A strong recollection from that meeting was Chris Barner's eloquent address to the assembly. Joining the committee felt a bit like closing a loop.

One very memorable experience is, as a committee member, working with BC Parks and a whole host of businesses and organizations on the Strathcona Centennial Expedition which took place in 2010. That really was a life-highlight, a culmination of so many things that revolved around the park.

I became chair of SPPAC in 2014 as a 'temporary' step, finally handing that over to Hardolph Wastenays last year. I'm happy to take a back seat now until they finally give me the boot.

What is the vision for the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee?

There are two parts to this question. The first part would be the rules of engagement if you like. SPPAC operates under terms of reference (TOR) which guide the committee's processes and purview. The current terms of reference were signed off in early 2015. There were only a few minor revisions to better reflect the evolving nature of the committee. The terms of reference include a mandate which really is the core of SPPAC. It essentially states that SPPAC shall provide advice to the BC Parks West Coast Regional Director on the management of Strathcona and Strathcona Westmin Provincial Parks by reviewing and commenting on: the implementation of the approved Master Plan, annual management plans as requested, specific issues brought forward by BC Parks staff, committee members and the public, park use permits as requested and issues adjacent to the park that may have implications for the park itself.

The full terms of reference can be found here: http://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/strath/SPPAC/terms_of_reference.pdf

The second part would be to address the word 'vision'. The committee works under a mandate and TOR but there are many visions that come together at the committee meeting and are part of the long history not only of SPPAC but of the park itself. I think to understand the vision it's useful to understand the history of Strathcona Park, the passion that so many people have experienced and articulated about it, a sense of perspective for the future, what the role and pressures will be for a wilderness park in the coming decades and beyond, it's far more complicated than a paragraph or any one person's views. To find a written statement about vision though it's the Master Plan that summarizes an extensive public process and lays down a vision for Strathcona Park. So to read and understand the Master Plan (and amendments) is to understand a collective vision that SPPAC tries to safeguard.



Members of the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee with BC Parks rangers, Nyrstar mine representatives and other Centennial Expedition participants on Crown Mountain re-enacting Price Ellison's historic 1910 journey that led to the formation of Strathcona Provincial Parks and the BC Parks system. Back Row standing: Nick Page (SPPAC), Ryan Stuart (now SPPAC), Philip Stone (SPPAC), Seamus Mooney (student), Tawney Lem (SPPAC - chair); Middle row kneeling: Andy Smith (BC Parks Strathcona Park Area Supervisor), Ron Quilter (BC Parks Section Head), Robert Behrendt (NVI Mining General Manager); Front Row sitting: Bob Carreau (Vice-President Breakwater Resources NVI parent company), Chris Kruger (sound engineer), Rory Annett (RPF Ministry of Forests), Katie May (tree planter), Murray Sovereign (Outfitter & great grandson of Price Ellison). Photo: By Dave Bolten.

SPPAC as we know it today was formed in 1993. The creation of the committee and the compilation of a Master Plan were part of the key recommendations of the so-called Larkin Report 'Restoring the Balance' (1988) that came out of the Cream Silver debacle of the late 1980s. But if you look at Restoring the Balance you'll see that in fact it was drafted and presented by the first iteration of the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee which Dr. Peter Larkin chaired.

There are no hard and fast rules on meeting schedules. In my experience it seems that when there are hot issues the committee meets more frequently, say four or even five times a year. And when things are quieter maybe once or twice annually. But we always keep in touch by email and a fair bit of discussion happens that way. It helps to deal with timely matters, offer quick opinions to the Area Supervisor etc... I also note that the frequency is somewhat related to the appetite of the committee members.

Restoring the Balance can be found here: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib19708.pdf>

Who else is/was involved with the committee?

There is a cool list of island characters who have been past members! Current members are: Hardolph Wastenays the current chair, Bill Phipps, Catrin Brown, Jennifer Pass, Ryan Stuart, Ryan Wanner, Darren Saare, and myself. Another member member of the committee is BC Parks Area Supervisor, Andy Smith.

How does the Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee influence management decisions by BC Parks? Were there any notable decisions that you were involved with?

Well this is a tricky question to answer. In some cases it is clear that the process works: when an idea is being proposed, or an issue of concern arises, and is discussed by SPPAC, a recommendation arrived at by the committee, BC Parks acknowledges the merits of the recommendation, and combined with their internal decision making ends up taking action in line with the SPPAC recommendation.

You can see I am being careful with words here because SPPAC is only an advisory body. The committee doesn't vote or pass motions, instead we try and seek consensus. Sometimes that involved a show of hands at the chair's discretion but we put a lot of effort into arriving at solutions that all committee members can buy into to some degree.

Some of the more turbulent times I experienced with SPPAC revolved around the challenges balancing the committee's clearly worded mandate to operate as an advisory group versus the implied role of interpreting the Master Plan, to advocate. It is a difficult line to walk.

By far and away the most significant decision to occupy SPPAC's time, while I have been involved with the committee, was the application by Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (CWR) for a park use permit to operate commercial horseback riding tours in the Bedwell River valley. This was a very complicated issue that was already on the table when I joined the committee in 2007.

There was the proposal itself which involved elaborate trail construction and other infrastructure to accommodate the horses, guides, and guests. There were environmental issues, some clear and others more nebulous. There was a strong political undercurrent from the Minister-of-the-day's office that we felt we heard through the BC Parks staff. Add to all this the adamant opposition of the Friends of Strathcona who began actively challenging the proposal by reworking their trail concept in the Bedwell in defiance of BC Parks, and through legal channels. There were many moving parts but SPPAC, even through several ro-

tations of members, seemed to be consistent in their overall opposition and made several recommendations on the various stages of the project including denial of the park use permit, the latter to no avail. The Minister did issue the park use permit.

The sad fact was that after a decade or more of effort, all the handwringing and self-examination on the part of SPPAC, the sense of defeat, after years of back and forth, CWR ended up letting the park use permit lapse and nothing ever did happen. As much as I feel there was a monumental waste of time, money and energy, a stand was taken and in the end the park won.

There have been other proposals and issues that stand out. The ACCVI proposal to build and or manage a hut in Strathcona Park comes to mind.

Overall I think the biggest ongoing challenge for SPPAC seems to be combating both commercial and public attempts to undermine the primary goal of the Master Plan which is to preserve the wilderness integrity of the park as exemplified by the core Wilderness conservation areas. The Master Plan and accompanying BC Parks zoning aims to maintain a spectrum of land use and the wilderness conservation zone is the only place where no infrastructure is to be installed or machinery is to be used. That includes snowmobiles, ATVs, huts, unsanctioned trail building, climbing bolts, etc... Yet these activities have and continue to occur.

In the scale of the whole of Vancouver Island these wilderness areas represent only a small fraction of the land base. Yes it's some of the most scenic and valuable recreational spaces but it is also ecologically very sensitive and only offers the special experiences it does because of its wilderness character. There are plenty of mountain areas on Crown Land where more intensive use is appropriate. SPPAC, BC Parks, and other stakeholders have an ongoing challenge in education and outreach to try and fulfill the goals of our elders, as articulated in the Master Plan: fostering a collective respect for wilderness as part of a complete spectrum of land use. In 2020 with a growing population and increasing pressure on land surrounding the park, the stakes to conserve and protect that remaining wilderness are higher than ever.

What will you be focusing your time on now?

Well I remain involved with SPPAC but there's no doubt that I feel I should put my extra time and energy into some new projects. Two new organizations that are just in the early stages of coalescing that I am involved with are 'Marine Guides Association of Canada' and 'North Island Climbers Association'. Both these groups are in a sort of feasibility phase so I've no idea where or even if they will take flight but both are being borne of an apparent need so I think well worth putting a spark under. Other than that I have no shortage of things to be distracted by!



Mount Thelwood, 1742 m, February 29 - March 2

By Stefan Gessinger

Dates: 29 February to 2 March 2020

Participants: Andrew Welsh, Evan DeVault, Stefan Gessinger

With great access to Tennent Lake on Mount Myra, the connecting ridge to Mount Thelwood and Moyeha Mountain looked like it would lend itself to ski touring. A trip to Moyeha was proposed with two date options in hopes for a decent window for weather and avalanche conditions. On a cold and sunny day, we set an almost knee-deep skin track and found a safe route to the day's high point. The large amounts of fresh snow made for slow progress and we changed our objective to Mount Thelwood, opting for a shorter outing. We set up our camp with a stunning view overlooking Thelwood, Moyeha, Mariner and Tom Taylor. The coronavirus was spreading quickly in distant places and with no idea how radically the flow and behavior of the global population was about to change, we passed around the whisky and were content as we ate dinner tucked into our sleeping bags. The next day we set off on a more settled snowpack and mixed visibility. There are numerous possible routes to follow the wide ridge with the many lakes and ponds forming a lot of contoured terrain to negotiate.



Evan DeVault and Andrew Welsh on their way to Mt. Thelwood: Photo by Stefan Gessinger

The approach to the summit block on Mount Thelwood went well on skis. Because the weather was starting to close in on us, we opted to stay on the ridge and negotiate several steep bulges in order to avoid some slopes we were not able to visually assess. Not expecting much steep terrain but also not knowing what to expect we had opted to bring a rope and one single ice axe among the three of us. A steep and crusty section required steps to be cut in order to climb it without crampons and ice axe. Evan was stoked and I handed him my 278 g Camp nano-weighs nothing axe. It's the wrong tool for the job - comparable to digging a fence post hole with a fork. He concluded that in the future he would like for this axe to stay at home.

On that day, the summit was no place to linger. Windy, with no views, we had to consult the GPS to ensure that we had made it to the highest point and we quickly turned around to find a more sheltered lunch spot further down the ridge.

Skiing is just such a fun way to get off a mountain. The skis came off for a steep section and we rappelled two steep bulges for which we used a 120 cm dyneema sling harness coupled with a Munter hitch. Andrew always brings a big bag of tricks and impressed us with a body belay technique - with the rope wrapped around his outstretched arms he rappelled facing the descent slope. Evan, on the other hand always brings a small bag of tricks - somehow magically stashed into a small backpack that is always the same size and never overflows, whether it is packed for three days or a day trip. Andrew and I discussed getting him a much bigger pack.



Camp. Photo by Evan DeVault

After spending the second night at our base camp we thought we would try a different route back to Tennent lake. We would need to ski down to McNish Lake from our camp on the ridge. From our perspective, a good route was not obvious with the lack of visibility. We opted for the drainage right from our camp which result-

ed in some steep and fun turns. Looking back on our descent route while skinning across McNish Lake we realized that we had stumbled upon the best descent route as all other options would have resulted with the rope having to come out again.

It is amazing how quickly ski conditions can change with time and elevation on Vancouver Island. The knee-deep fluffy powder we walked around in on Friday made for very difficult skiing back down to Tennent Lake by Sunday morning and this is the first time I have seen Andrew in snowplough and his skis not perfectly parallel.

A great ski mountaineering trip enjoyed by all and unbeknown to us it would be the last winter trip in a fast changing 2020 season.



Thelwood summit - we double checked. Photo by Evan DeVault

Ancient Forest Alliance

Text by Rachel Ablack (Communications Outreach & Development Coordinator) and Andrea Inness (Campaigner)
Photos by TJ Watt (Co-Founder, Campaigner, & Photographer)

Editor's note: We are aiming to include an article from one of the organizations supported by ACCVI. You can also learn more about the organizations ACCVI supports [here](#).

BC's coastal and inland old-growth temperate forests are the heart and soul of what makes British Columbia so unique. With ancient giants as tall as skyscrapers and as wide as living rooms, it's hard not to be captivated by their beauty and grandeur. And everywhere you turn in an ancient forest, there are signs of life: birds singing high in the canopies, tree saplings sprouting from moisture-rich nurse logs, and hollowed-out, monumental redcedars which provide shelter for bats, squirrels, bears, countless insects, and more.

People are drawn to BC's ancient forests from near and far, seeking to experience rare, "pristine" wilderness, adventure and tranquility, and a profound sense of smallness both in time and space. As a result, old-growth forests are pillars of BC's multi-billion dollar tourism industry, supporting many jobs and communities. They are also fundamental to many First Nations cultures, comprise habitat for unique and threatened species, and provide critical ecosystem services that we all depend on like clean air and water, carbon storage to combat climate change, and resilience to withstand floods and fires. But despite their awe-inspiring and life-supporting qualities, BC's old-growth forests are endangered and rapidly disappearing.



Ancient Forest Alliance Campaigner & Photographer TJ Watt stands in Eden Grove, an old-growth forest "hotspot" of high conservation and recreational value, on Edinburgh Mountain near Port Renfrew in Pacheedaht territory.

Each year, about 10,000 hectares (over 10,000 soccer fields) of ancient forests are logged on Vancouver Island alone. On BC's South Coast, only about 20 percent of original productive old-growth forests remain and over 90% percent of the valley bottom forests with the largest, most spectacular trees have been logged.

The majority of BC's productive forest lands are now second-growth forests, which could be sustainably



AFA Campaigner Andrea Inness stands next to a massive redcedar growing on Meares Island near Tofino in Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht territory.

logged to maintain forestry jobs, but so far, the BC government has failed to take meaningful action to phase out old-growth logging and support a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forest industry. In fact, the Province and industry routinely paint a rosy picture of the state of BC's old-growth forests to justify their continued destruction.

Not only do government maps and statistics fail to account for how much old-growth forest once existed before European colonization compared to what remains today, they also lump vast tracts of low productivity forests (stunted trees in bogs and sub-alpine areas) together with productive, big tree forests. When these factors are taken into account, analyses show only eight percent of original (pre-European colonization) productive forests are protected in parks and Old Growth Management Areas on Vancouver Island



AFA Campaigner & Photographer TJ Watt is dwarfed by an enormous, 11 foot wide old-growth redcedar tree cut down by Teal-Jones in the Caycuse watershed in Ditidaht Territory on southern Vancouver Island.

and some ancient forest ecosystems are dangerously at risk of disappearing completely.

The dire state of BC's ancient rainforests is also belittled by government and industry's claim that they are a renewable resource, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Although thousands of trees are planted every year to replace what's been logged, tree plantations require immense amounts of time to develop the complex structure and characteristics of old-growth. Under BC's current forestry system, however, second-growth forests are re-logged every 40-80 years, never to become old-growth again. So, once they're gone, they're gone forever.

With so little old-growth left and given it takes hundreds of years for an ancient forest to develop, logging BC's last remaining ancient giants is akin to slaughtering elephants for their ivory; it's an unethical and outdated practice and is not justifiable given there is a potentially sustainable alternative in second-growth forestry.

If the status-quo destruction of BC's ancient forests continues, eventually, all unprotected old-growth will be gone and the industry will be forced to transition to second-growth harvesting. Conservationists across the province, including the Ancient Forest Alliance, are calling for the BC government to facilitate this shift much sooner rather than later.

So often, jobs and the environment are pitted against one another, but examples like the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement have shown that a more sustainable path – one that puts ecosystem integrity and First Nations' community wellbeing first while also growing local economies – is possible. Studies have also shown that standing old-growth forests are economically more valuable than logging them when factoring in tourism, recreation, clean water for recreational and commercial fisheries, carbon offsets, second-growth harvesting, and non-timber forest products (e.g. wild mushrooms). Groups outside the environmental movement are beginning to recognize this and, in fact, unions, chambers of commerce, businesses, municipalities, and recreation and tourism organizations across the province have spoken out in favour of old-growth protection in recent years.

By setting science-based protection targets for ancient forests and implementing incentives and regulations that support value-added, second-growth manufacturing, British Columbia can enjoy a diverse and resilient economy and safeguard its magnificent ancient ecosystems for present and future generations.

Fortunately, we now have a critical opportunity to call for these and other needed changes. In October last year, the NDP launched a six-month Old Growth Strategic Review, led by an independent panel, wherein thousands of concerned British Columbians submitted feedback on BC's approach to old-growth forest "management." On April 30th, the panel submitted its report and recommendations to the Province and Forests Minister Doug Donaldson is now deliberating which recommendations to incorporate into a new, province-wide Old Growth Strategy.

Together, we need to ensure the BC NDP's decision-making is transparent and that the Old Growth Strategy goes far enough to protect endangered ancient forests. First and foremost, the BC government must take immediate action to avoid a "talk and log" scenario by placing logging moratoria on the most endangered forest ecosystems and old-growth "hotspots" of high conservation and recreational value.

Time is running out for BC's ancient forests, which are some of the grandest on Earth, but there is hope for change as long as concerned British Columbians continue to speak up.

Please join us and take action! Email Forest Minister Doug Donaldson (FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca) and Premier Horgan (premier@gov.bc.ca) calling for immediate measures to protect endangered ancient forests. The more personal your message is, the better.

Thank you to ACCVI for supporting our work.

Established in 2010, the Ancient Forest Alliance is BC's leading non-profit organization working to protect the province's endangered old-growth forests and to ensure a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forest industry. For more information on the Ancient Forest Alliance and BC's old-growth forests, please visit

www.AncientForestAlliance.org



Introduction to Winter Camping

By Jes Scott

Editor's note: You can see Jes Scott's 8 March posting about the workshop on ACCVI's Facebook Page [here](#)

Dates: March 7-8, 2020

Trip leaders: Erica Ellefsen and Jes Scott

Participants: Jess Papa, Stephanie Brown, Davis Grigg, Geoff Harrington, Cassie Smith, Jacqui Lathrop

Our group of eight gathered at Mt. Washington in early March. Four of us were on skis and four on snowshoes -- and all of us had large overnight backpacks. We were about to head off on the Intro to Winter Camping Workshop.



Our group approaches our camp site. Photo by Jes Scott

This would be the last trip of the season for most of us, but we didn't know it yet. Restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic began the following week.

We made good time to Lake Helen MacKenzie following a well-travelled path. We took a lunch break and marvelled at the dump of fresh powder. It was so deep you could almost jump in like it was a swimming pool. The skiers tried not to sound too disappointed as we moved past Brooks and Elma. We carried on towards Circlet Lake as planned.



Erica enjoying lunch by Lake Helen MacKenzie. Photo by Jes Scott

The track we were following stopped by the Ranger Cabin and our forward momentum also slowed to a crawl. Even switching the person in the front every few minutes, we were quickly exhausted from pushing through the powder. We decided to find a flat spot with a nice view and call it a day.

We were all looking forward to hanging out that evening. After setting up our tents, a few folks dug out a nice kitchen with seating. We were just getting some water boiling when our sunny skies and warm temps quickly turned for the worse. It started just dumping wet snow. If you set something down, it was completely gone a moment later, swal-

lowed up in snow. It was an early to bed sort of evening.

The next day, we made our way back home through sunny skies once again. We warmed up as a group at the Raven Lodge before heading home. I am very much looking forward to the simple things again, like enjoying some food and drinks with a group of new friends after a great weekend outside.



*Cassie and Jacqueline making a tent site.
Photo by Jes Scott*



*Enjoying dinner before it started to snow.
Photo by Jes Scott*



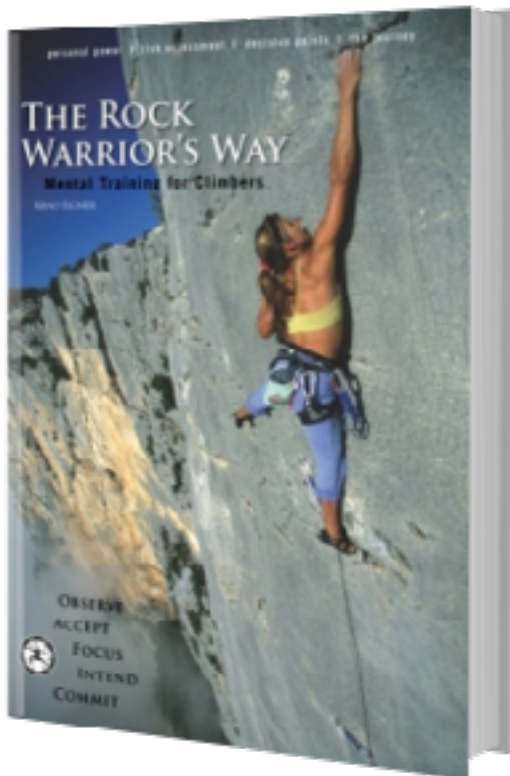
Synopsis of Arno Ilgner's Rock Warrior's Way

By Janelle Curtis

Climbing can change you to the core, which is valuable and allows you to learn about yourself and expand your possibilities.

-Arno Ilgner

In his autobiography *No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks*, Ed Viesturs wrote: “I know that a lot of climbers are cynical about whether lessons learned in the mountains can be applied to how you conduct your business or your personal life, but I’m a firm believer in such translations.” I agree with Ed’s observation wholeheartedly, in part because of my own experiences and the many books about rock climbing and mountaineering I have read over the years.



Arno Ilgner's Rock Warrior's Way

The most influential book I’ve read about climbing was Arno Ilgner’s *Rock Warrior’s Way* and I’ve read it a few times before and after my accident in Strathcona Park a few years ago. In his book, Ilgner outlined a philosophical approach to rock climbing that is steeped in the warrior tradition and is equally applicable to everyday life. He encouraged climbers to increase their personal power to respond to challenges encountered while engaged in climbing or other parts of their lives. His approach focuses on seven processes, which he explained in corresponding chapters: *Becoming Conscious*, *Life is Subtle*, *Accepting Responsibility*, *Giving*, *Choices*, *Listening*, and *The Journey*. The first four processes are related to preparation, the fifth process is the transition phase, and the two final processes are about action. Ilgner teaches us how to reduce mental clutter, gather attention, evaluate risk, decide if it is appropriate to take on, and if so, fully commit to our choice.

When we are *Becoming Conscious*, we examine self-limiting habits of thinking and reacting in order to understand, and change, the factors that motivate us to climb. Achievement often motivates us (ACCVI’s list of Island Qualifiers is a cardinal example) but as Ilgner pointed out, we lose effectiveness in climbing and other parts of our lives by tying our self-worth to achievements, such as climbing all the peaks on a list. Self-worth and self-confidence come from learning and an internal system, not simply from achievement. So, a valuable principle in *Becoming Conscious* is to disentangle self-worth from performance and achievement.

Ilgner also explained that engaging in “hoping and wishing behaviour” is a wasteful use of limited energy.

As he wrote: “The holds are what they are.” Spending time hoping and wishing for different circumstances is not going to change them and will delay finding a solution to a challenge.

The second process that Ilgner described is the value of learning to collect attention, especially while learning to notice subtleties. In his second chapter – Life is Subtle – he described three connected components of the bodymind: the body, the mind, and breathing.

Proper posture in the body allows climbers to blend with gravity and gives them a sense of confidence. Their facial expression is an aspect of the body that reflects the bodymind. Grimacing can indicate defensiveness, while a “soft-eyes focus” reflects a quiet, receptive mind that spreads attention to look broadly at details, including colour, depth, shadows, and interrelationships among objects.

The mind reflects internal behavior and how we counsel ourselves. Ilgner encouraged climbers to speak deliberately, express a possibility attitude, use active rather than passive words, and speak in questions. He also encouraged climbers to use positive commands (e.g. “stay in balance” instead of “don’t fall”), express what they want to do instead of being passive victims of circumstance by saying they need to do something, and say that they will climb instead of asserting that they will simply try to climb. As Yoda wisely said: “Do or do not. There is no try.”

Breathing connects the body and the mind. Breathing while climbing oxygenates the blood, keeps blood flowing to muscles, dissipates fear, stress, and anxiety, brings focus and attention to the challenge at hand and connects the body, conscious mind, and subconscious mind. The calming effects of breathing arise because when we focus on our breath, we change its rhythm as well as the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system. Also, the power of concentration is enhanced as the mind focusses in an unwavering fashion on breath to the exclusion of anxiety brought on by the rigours and complexity of activity.

Ilgner’s Life is Subtle process is about taking self-knowledge and shaping one’s bodymind to become more efficient and powerful. The way we stand and breathe, the expression on our face and how we speak to ourselves, all contain subtle ways to gather or waste personal power. As he wrote: “...little things are immensely important.”

The third process is when climbers use their attention to replace delusions and misconceptions with useful facts in an empowering manner. When we Accept Responsibility, we keep wishing, hoping, denial, excuses, and victim thinking behavior at bay so we can learn more effectively from reality than illusion. This process helps us avoid detachment and passive thinking and understand how we sometimes delude ourselves instead of taking control of our destiny.

Having an active mindset allows us to claim as much control of a situation as possible, including when we are injured. Sometimes we believe so much misfortune has befallen us that we are unable to change our situations. But thinking of oneself as a victim is a delusional and passive way of thinking. Indeed, a position of choice and power are still available even after a serious injury. As one example, Ilgner described how a well-known paraplegic climber, Mark Wellman, gained far more personal power from Accepting Responsibility than he lost through his physical setbacks.

The last process of the preparation phase is Giving. In this process, we use what we discovered to actively create a powerful attitude and focus on what we can give to the challenge to create our best performance.

We are often socialized to have a receiving mindset and are less grateful for what we do have. However, entitlement thinking is passive, and our performance suffers when we expect to receive during a climb. By

contrast, being grateful for what we do have is empowering. When we feel rich, we are ready to give our best with confidence and we can expect to learn from the experience. With an expectation of learning, we can focus on gathering new information. As Ilgner pointed out: “It is the combination of giving and learning that brings happiness” and helps us continue to improve skills.

In Giving, we use objective knowledge about the route and ourselves to create a plan of action to engage the challenge before us. Ilgner encouraged us to give ourselves room to believe in new possibilities. The creative Giving process allows us to draw on our existing skills and abilities while incorporating new possibilities that we discover along the way.

The transition between preparation and action is the Choices process. When we are engaged in climbing or other important parts of our lives, there are times when we make decisions that have influential consequences for the future – these are the “moments of truth.” Unlike other sports, such as kayaking, the static nature of rock allows us to wait for the right moment to decide whether or not to take on a risk and then follow through with action.

In general, people strive for security and comfort. To learn and grow however, we need to embrace discomfort and make risky choices. As Ilgner taught us, a risky decision, paradoxically, makes us more safe and secure. He cautioned that being overly protective doesn’t reduce perils; it nourishes fear and anxiety but doesn’t guard against injury or death. Helen Keller captured this idea succinctly when she wrote: “Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold.”

Ilgner cautioned us about thinking of choices as ‘good’ or ‘bad’ because those categories come from the ego. Instead, he advised that we follow a kind of personal good or a “path with heart” that comes from love-based internal motivation. To counteract the conscious mind’s tendency to drain power and inhibit performance, climbers adopt love-based motivations so they can focus their attention on engaging a risk and learning from the challenge at hand.

Ilgner explained that our thoughts and attitude can have a huge impact on the Choices process when we either decide to step away from a risk or fully accept one of two outcomes of our effort: falling or climbing through the risk. Both outcomes provide opportunities for learning. Ilgner pointed out, falling involves an unavoidable loss of control. He encouraged us to become comfortable with falling by integrating it into our warm-up and becoming proficient with it.

If we decide to get to the top of a route, we need to draw on an elusive combination of will, strength, precision, motivation, and relaxation. Ilgner described the importance of embracing an unbending intent to complete the challenge presented by the route. Once we are fully committed, we are ready for the action processes of Listening and The Journey.

Ilgner described how climbers at the action phase are finished with preparations and decision-making and ready to fully live in the moment and give to the challenge so they can learn. By now, climbers have disengaged their conscious mind and are no longer thinking about climbing; they are simply moving.

Ilgner advised climbers to trust the process of Listening instead of trying to control the situation. He described how a climber can seek to control a situation by overgripping, hesitating, and resisting falling. By doing so, climbers hold themselves back from giving themselves to the effort, paying attention to possibilities, and learning. While Listening, climbers pay attention to their whole environment with all their senses.

We use Listening to take in new information so that we can respond accordingly. We make a commitment to effort and action, rather than to a specific set of techniques or moves. By not being attached to a specific approach or outcome, we are free to be receptive, pay attention, and climb spontaneously with a natural mix of techniques.

Difficulty is a state of mind and has more to do with attitude than physical strength. A crux is not a difficult part of the route, but a challenging place that offers opportunities to learn. The degree of Listening influences a climber's rate of learning.

Ilgner emphasized the value of intuition, which comes from our subconscious mind and is free from preconceived definitions that can be limiting. A climber's intuition, or heightened awareness, can direct movement because bodies are knowledgeable. Disengaging the conscious mind by trusting the process of Listening allows intuitive information from the subconscious mind to flow. It also allows us to blend information gained during the preparation phase with new information gained while remaining open and receptive, and by Listening.

As Ilgner wrote: "The Listening process concentrated on opening up the subconscious and intuitive information systems and limiting the role of the conscious mind...The Journey focusses on keeping attention in the moment to find comfort and meaning in the risk."

We spend our lives journeying and we often adopt a "destination mentality", especially when we are uncomfortable and giving more value to the outcome of our effort than to the processes of learning and growth. This mentality is rooted in the desire to escape to a more comfortable situation. Focusing on the destination instead of the journey means that our attention is in the future instead of in the present challenge. How we experience the same journey will differ according to our assumed destination.

Concentration on our destination causes our body and mind to become disjointed. While the body dwells in the present, the conscious mind is often in the future when it focusses on the journey's end. As Ilgner pointed out, that gap between body and mind allows fear to enter and attention to leak out.

Rather than focus on our destination, Ilgner encouraged us to find comfort in the chaos of a challenge. We can cope with the challenge most effectively when we relax, stop wishing and hoping behavior, accept the chaotic nature of our experience, and give it our full attention. A climber's experience can be richer by staying in the discomfort of the moment. While our provisional goal might be to make it up a climb, our higher goal is learning. By having a curious frame of mind and not thinking about our destination, we may actually reach it.

<https://warriorway.com/>



ACCVI History 1920 to 1923

By Lindsay Elms



ACCVI History 1920 to 1923

In late 1911, early 1912, Arthur O. Wheeler, president of the Alpine Club of Canada, Lieut.-Col. William W. Foster and other prominent Victoria mountaineers and businessmen founded the Victoria (later Vancouver Island) section of the ACC. The early development of the local section was poorly documented for many years, but through newspaper articles, we have been able to establish an outline of the club's history/activities and the roles of people on the executive, although it is far from complete. Below are a few related articles from Victoria's *Daily Colonist*.

1920

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* January 20, 1920, p.9

SAYS THE GERMANS WANT KAISER BACK

Mr. W.A. Alldritt, a Prisoner of War for three Years, Hopes Allies Are Watching Germany Closely.

With good humour which ill-concealed the horror of his and his companion's sufferings during a period when the *bosche's* [The boche' or 'boches' (or 'bosch/bosches'), was a French word, which arrived through contact with French forces in 1914, and is said to have derived from French slang *caboché*, meaning 'rascal' or 'German', or from *Alboche*, a variant on *Alleman*.] hatred of the English was at its height. Mr. William A. Alldritt*, now physical director of the Y.M.C.A., formerly sergeant in the 8th Winnipeg battalion, last night told the story of his experience as a prisoner-of-war in Germany for three years. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Vancouver Island Section of the Alpine Club of Canada, in the Girls' Central School. Mr. R.D. McCaw presiding. A big audience was present, and followed with intense interest the well-told narrative of the speaker's five efforts to escape from the miserable camps to which he was confined during the period between his capture at the battle of Ypres, April, 1915, and his "exchange" into Holland in March 1918, and at the close of the address Mr. A.O. Wheeler, director of the Alpine Club of Canada, seconded by Captain Aitken, moved a very hearty vote of thanks.

"Although Sergeant Alldritt speaks lightly enough about his experiences it is easy to read between the lines that it required magnificent courage, patience and endurance to hold up through it all," said Mr. Wheeler, who recalled the speaker's association with the Alpine Club at one of the annual camps in the Rockies some years ago.

Went From Winnipeg

Sergeant Alldritt went overseas with the 8th Winnipeg Battalion, in the early part of 1915 reaching the firing line in France. He was taken prisoner on the evening of April 25, during the battle of Ypres. With others of his unit he was herded into cattle cars, wounded and well, gassed and ungassed all together, and for four days—only once during that time being allowed to leave the train—they journeyed back into Germany.

"You have heard how nice and kind the Germans were to the allies when they were in Cologne last time. I should like you to have seen how they received us that time we went through in the Spring of 1915—with brick-bats, broken-glass missiles, bottles," said the speaker. Before he was through Sergeant Alldritt summarized the German character, an analysis which accounted for much of the treatment which was meted out to the men held in their prison camps, and also, according to the interpretation of the speaker, foreboding ill for the peace of the world if it is not carefully watched.

"The German boy is brought up to be a bully. The German regards his woden—his wife—as he does his furniture. They are brought up from babyhood to be cruel. They treat animals badly. A farmer and a city laboring man looked upon the war from two quite different viewpoints. The farmer was more patriotic; the laborer was very often a Socialist. But the question is often asked: Is the German today a Royalist or a Republican? The German on the whole is intensely a man who believes in a king."

Would Restore Kaiser

"If they have half a chance they will have 'Old Billy' back again," affirmed Sergeant Alldritt. "Most of them still look upon him as king by divine right, and they regard Hindenburg in the light of a national ideal."

"What should our attitude be towards Germany?" I am asked too. "My opinion is that we cannot watch Germany too closely. I hope sincerely that we have spies in Germany who are watching what is going on. If we have not, I prophesy we will have another war in 10 years. Germany today hates England and the rest of the Allies with a deadly hatred from which she will not recover for many years. We should watch her closely."

The actual "layout" of a German prison camp was described, the barbed-wire fencing inclosing big wooden huts, chiefly notable for their sameness and monotony and for the dreariness of their outlook. Hardships, poor food, general depression among the men, were accountable for many deaths "just from broken heart," although most of the prisoners had been gassed or wounded, and in either case received very little in the way of medical attention. There was little variety in the food, a lump of black bread as large as a man's fist being the issue for the 24 hours, while for breakfast there was in addition a bowl of acorn coffee. For dinner thin soup made of turnips and water, for supper coffee and black bread.

"For the first six weeks we just literally starved—until the parcels from England began to come. We always looked forward to getting these, and if it had not been for the food they contained not more than 15 per cent of the boys taken prisoner would have come out of Germany alive. As a rule we got our parcels—it is about the only good thing I can say about the Germans, although they did sometimes slip up on us by holding back some of our things. They underfed us, but I forgive them that in view of the fact that they starved themselves for three years. But they neglected our sick—even where it was a matter of the simplest kind of attention."

Brutal Warders

This deliberate cruelty the speaker traced to the authority vested in the non-commissioned—and mostly brutal—of-ficers in charge of the salt-mines. Beating the men for inability—owing often to sheer weakness and sickness—to work was a very minor punishment. He had seen things too terrible to describe.

The story of his five attempts at escape were told in a racy vein, many of the incidents being made to appear quite humorous, although there is little doubt that at the time the game was all too serious. He was sent, soon after being captured, to work in a coal mine, although the Canadians at the time were given the surface jobs. Belgians and French being sent underground. Every day the Canadians managed to make some sort of trouble for the Germans—one day it would be to run a truck off the track and waylay things; another day a barrel of oil would mysteriously spring a leak, etc. He was sent to Westphalia next, and there he joined a gang organized to break camp. To do this a tunnel about forty feet wide had to be surreptitiously bored through sandy gravel. After a week's stealthy work to their dismay they found the exit came up immediately under a big electric light where a German sentry was pacing back and forth at regular intervals. The hole was closed, and a new exit burrowed out. Through this eleven prisoners escaped one night while an Englishman inside the picket engaged the attention of the sentry by inviting him to share a cup of tea. Alldritt, himself an old woodsman with a natural instinct for direction, it appeared, from information gathered from Alpine Club members, was the elected leader of this and other organized efforts at escape. On this occasion, among other adventures, they had to pass right through a village, removing their heavy boots so as not to make any noise on the pavements. They successfully negotiated this problem, but the very next day were caught when close to the Dutch frontier.

"And we spent our first Christmas—the Christmas of 1915—in the klinck," commented the speaker. They stayed in prison a month, and were barred with a yellow stripe which was the badge of the man who attempted to break camp. But he tried again. This time he got sick while engaged in the work of tunneling the passage to freedom, and in order to get away from the camp—which was one of the worst—he volunteered as a farmhand, hoping he would be sent near to the frontier. But instead he found he was destined to a place near Berlin. Another escape from the gaoler meant only five days' harassed freedom, and after this he was sent down to Hamelin on Weser. The third time he broke camp he was away for fourteen days, and nearly crossed the frontier. This time, instead of being sent to the farm work he was doomed to the salt mines—"where I had a good time in a way; there were some

very fine English fellows for the kindheartedness could not be beaten. They took me in and shared up their parcels with me for five weeks. Thank fortune I was able to pay them back, as just before I left that place about a hundred parcels came for me, and I was able to leave them enough for four or five months.”

Fourth Attempt

The fourth attempt at escape ended in disheartening failure—and a prison term near Hanover City. There one of the sentries, by peculiar coincidence, chanced to be one of the sentries from one of the farm-camps from which Sergt. Alldritt had escaped. Rather naturally he bore some resentment, and Alldritt was not the only one who suffered in a fruitless effort to get out of camp again. For about a month after this he worked down in the salt mines before being permitted to get a surface job on the pumps.

The last effort to fly Germany was in company with a Frenchman who eventually went delirious after many days on the road and many perilous escapes. Sergt. Alldritt by this time spoke and understood German so well that he succeeded twice in passing the sentries of bridges and towns without arousing suspicion—even after they walked some little way conversing with him. But the big pack which he carried on his back was his undoing in the end. The sentry who had trustingly taken him for a fellow-countryman was suddenly arrested by the size of this, suspecting, as Germans are in the habit of doing, it seems, that the civilian was a thief laden with booty. When the pack was opened it revealed—not booty—but tinned English jams and meats ready for the needs of the flight. So back he went to the salt mine, “where the treatment was terrible,” the speaker said without going further into details. He was one of the five thousand British exchanged in March 1918, and in September last reached Canada, coming later to Victoria to take up his present position in connection with the local Y.M.C.A.

*William (Bill) A. Alldritt was born in Manitoba in 1882 and used his experience as a pre-war YMCA Physical Director to contribute to the formation and training of his fellow soldiers at training camps in Valcartier and Salisbury Plain. In 1906, the YMCA began to establish offices in Western Canada in partnership with the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) to support the growing network of railway workers stationed in remote locations across the country. By 1909, Alldritt was employed in one of the first of these offices in Revelstoke. The partnership with the CPR was considered to be a success when a visiting railway official declared “the YMCA made lambs out of the wild men of Revelstoke.” While in Revelstoke, Alldritt joined the Alpine Club of Canada and on 7 September 1909, he made the second ascent of South Albert Peak with G.L. Haggen. In 1910, Alldritt returned to his family home in Winnipeg, while continuing to work for the YMCA as an Assistant Physical Director. In 1912, he assumed the role of Physical Director at Winnipeg’s Selkirk Avenue YMCA. When war was declared in August 1914, Alldritt was at Camp Stephens near Kenora, Ontario. He enlisted in September as a regular soldier with the 8th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) and in October set sail for Plymouth. Alldritt distinguished himself as a machine gunner by covering the retreat of his company during the collapse of the Ypres Salient on 25 April 1915, where he was eventually overpowered and taken prisoner. As a POW in Germany, Alldritt made at least four briefly successful escapes, always to be recaptured. In March 1918, he was transferred to a camp in Scheveningen, near The Hague, Holland, as part of a prisoner exchange, although he technically remained a POW and was not permitted to return home until finally discharged in January 1919. In September 1919, he had returned to Canada and found employment with the YMCA in Victoria. In 1921, Alldritt had returned to Winnipeg where he continued to serve the goals of the YMCA and to influence development of amateur sport in roles which included Director of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, President of the Manitoba Track and Field Association and President of the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association, until his untimely death at the age of fifty-one in February 1933. In 1983, Alldritt was posthumously inducted into the Manitoba Basketball Hall of Fame in the “Builders” category for his work to establish the Toilers team in Winnipeg.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* July 17, 1920, p.6.

Miss Peggy Hodgins, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. A.E. Hodgins, left last night for Vancouver en route for Banff, where she will join the members of the Alpine Club of Canada at their summer camp. Other Victorians who are attending the camp this year are Mr. and Mrs. Arthur O. Wheeler, *Major Frederick V. Longstaff**, Mr. Reynolds, Captain Everall, Mr. Gordon Cameron and Miss Bruce, of The Colonist staff, and Miss Sara Spencer, who are leaving next Thursday for Banff.

* Frederick Victor Longstaff was born June 15, 1879 in Ben Rhydding, Yorkshire, England. He was educated at Eton

and Cambridge. He was the son of wealthy industrialist Lieutenant Colonel Llewellyn W. Longstaff, a man who contributed significant funding to Captain Scott's 1901 expedition to Antarctica. Longstaff joined the East Surrey Regiment in 1899. He came to Canada in 1909 as a machine gun instructor seconded to the Canadian Active Militia and was promoted to Major in 1914. He resigned his army commission in 1915 due to medical reasons. He originally settled in Victoria in 1911 where he practiced as an architectural draftsman (he was trained in London) and was involved in the design of Saint John's Church and the James Bay Anglican Hall. Frederick shared his brother Tom's passion for mountaineering. Tom Longstaff served as the Medical Officer on the 1922 Mount Everest Expedition. In 1896, Frederick was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1932, he was a prime mover in the formation of the Thermopylae Club in Victoria. This club served the interests of the nautical history enthusiasts and for many years was the senior nautical heritage organization in British Columbia. Longstaff was one of the key proponents in the creation of the Maritime Museum of British Columbia. From 1921 until his death, Frederick Longstaff, devoted himself entirely to historical and geographical studies, publishing works on naval, local, and ecclesiastical history. Longstaff died in Victoria in 1961.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* December 25, 1920, p.22

CANADA'S EXHIBIT BEST AT MONACO

Mrs. Julia Henshaw, Reporting Before B.C. Alpinists in Sidney, Re Notable Congress, Says Rockies Now Famous.

"As a result of the Alpine Congress at Monaco last May [Saturday May 1 to Monday May 10] I am sure that Canada came to be looked upon by all delegates of the many countries there represented in quite a different way: they learned to think of this as a country where they could spend a holiday, where they could come and roam about the mountains with us. And I am proud to say that although twenty-two countries were represented at the Congress, Canada provided about one-sixth of the total exhibit staged in connection with the event."

The foregoing and very many other interesting bits of information were given by Mrs. Julia Henshaw in the address which she delivered at the meeting of Alpine Club members at the home of Mr. Arthur O. Wheeler, Director of the Alpine Club of Canada, Sidney, last Saturday evening [December 18]. It is the first time that Mrs. Julia Henshaw* has spoken to any group of the Canadian organization's members since her return from Europe, and all that she had to tell was of intense interest. She and Mr. Byron Harmon, the other delegate from Canada to this notable congress at Monaco last May, and Colonel William W. Foster, of Vancouver, the new president of the Alpine Club of Canada, were the special guests of the evening, the major part of the other guests being members of the Vancouver Island section of this mountaineering club. Mr. Byron Harmon brought with him about two hundred photographs chiefly of Riviera views, including several of the Musée Océanographique, where the Congress was held, and other points of interest about the Monaco principality, while Mrs. Henshaw presented the club with other pictures and some interesting scrapbooks which she had made, these containing programmes, menus, editorial comment in Monaco and Paris papers, and other matter relevant to the May meeting of Alpinists.

Finest in the World

Mrs. Henshaw's report was delightfully informal, yet comprehensive. She referred to the Oceanic Museum, in which the Alpine Congress was held, as providing the finest assembly hall in the world. Every branch of science connected with Alpinism was represented, and many men of renown in literature and art could also be numbered among the delegates from the various countries. The neutral ground of Monaco was chosen as their meeting place, although they met as the guests of the French Alpine Club, and during the whole ten days of the Congress they experienced most wonderful hospitality.

"This Congress was a very serious thing," remarked the speaker. "Men whose names are famous all over Europe in art and science were to be found there, and it seemed amazing to me that under the common bond of Alpinism there should be found such a diversity of other interests and pursuits."

"Mr. Wheeler's plans worked like clockwork," continued the speaker. She referred with gratitude and appreciation to the forethought which marked the provisions which had been made for Canada's part in the Congress. All that she and Mr. Harmon, as the Dominion's delegates, had to do was simply manipulate the very elaborate machinery which had been placed there in advance of their coming. They, as the mouth-pieces of Canada, "gave her a place in the sun."

"Canada came second to France," declared the speaker with pride, her statement being heralded with applause. Canada's pictorial interest drew all eyes in the direction of this country. In this reference the speaker

alluded to Mr. Harmon's films, the latter "simply sweeping people off their feet." The same films were later sent to London, where they took people by storm. They were the finest things of the kind that had ever been shown in Europe. Mr. Harmon was to have given but one exhibition of them, but he was "eternally at it," so much in demand did his films come to be after that first showing. From the president down, everyone was enthusiastic about them, the result, in fine being that Canada was put on the map.

The Best Exhibit

"None of the other countries had anything to compare with our exhibit," reaffirmed the speaker. Mr. Wheeler's foresight was still further demonstrated. Before the Canadian delegates left this country for Europe he had prepared at Ottawa a paper on Canadian National Parks. This, Mrs. Henshaw read at the Congress, and it proved to be—with the exception of the reference to France—to be the only contribution on the subject of national Parks, although one whole day was devoted to this question alone, so important does France consider the problem at the present time.

"The tie that bonds together France, Belgium and Canada, is one that will live forever and ever; that tie is made with blood," continued the speaker. But the Congress at Monaco revealed the Canadians in a new relationship which had never been known during the war; they thought of the people of this land as a people with whom they could share their playtime, with whom they could spend their holidays climbing the beautiful mountains which were so graphically described for them in the films and photographs shown.

At the Congress, Mrs. Henshaw came to realize, too, that the Alpine Clubs were not only for climbing: for were not Alpinists comrades, no matter what they were interested in. The wider sphere of the European Alpinist was revealed to her. They had high ideals, great motives. Papers on reforestation, a question of vital interest to France just now; on national parks, on the opening up of the country, were given. And the debates on these matters were intensely interesting. France today is in great need of wood; the question of the reforesting of her hills and mountains, therefore, loomed big in the discussions, while there were commercial and business aspects of the other questions which would not enter the mind of the nation so generously furnished with all nature's gifts as this land of Canada.

In conclusion, Mrs. Henshaw once more referred to the popularity of Mr. Harmon's photographic exhibits. It was impossible to get near them at any time during the Congress, and the joy of the French when they learned these were to be given to France knew no bounds. Her final words were of gratitude to Mr. Wheeler for his careful forethought in making arrangements for the two delegates, a forethought which could only have sprung from the disinterested love of Canada and the mountains which he had made the Director's association with the Alpine Club in this country.

Did Much Good

Mr. Byron Harmon, who is spending the Winter on Vancouver Island, spoke very briefly after Mrs. Henshaw finished her interesting statement re the Alpine Congress at Monaco. He attributed to Mrs. Henshaw the arrangements whereby the Canadian Rockies films were shown in London before the Royal Geographic Society after they had been shown in Monaco, and said he thought they had done much good in calling attention to the beauties of the mountains in this part of the world. Subsequently they had been shown in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Colonel William W. Foster, who presided at this important little gathering of Alpinists, after extending a welcome to Mrs. Henshaw and Mr. Harmon, referred to the fact that the Club was meeting in the home of the Director and Mrs. Wheeler, the founders of the organization. It was an opportunity, he thought, to recall the objects and motives of the society, viz., to be something of national benefit.

"Many perhaps have joined the Club with more personal reasons," he admitted, but at the same time there remained the fact that there were higher ideals, and these must not be lost sight of. Was it not possible that in withholding a grant from the Club the Government were prompted by the belief that this was an institution existing solely for the giving of pleasure to its members, losing sight of the fact that the organization had ideals far beyond that.

"But so long as our won members fail to throw out the idea that the Alpine Club of Canada is an institution of great national benefit, not to British Columbia alone, but to the whole country and far beyond that, we cannot expect to impress other people as we would wish with the meaning of our organization," he said. He referred to the big national parks in this province, Mt. Robson Park, Strathcona Park, Garibaldi Park, three wonderful national assets; yet as the present time there is not a dollar being spent on any one of them. This showed that the people as a whole, the Government as a body, failed to recognize their importance. A very serious duty, therefore, devolved on

all lovers of nature, to point out to people of this province what a wonderful heritage was here, so that these things might be conserved for the generations to come.

"We must make our Government understand that a sacred duty devolves on them to conserve these playgrounds for the people," reiterated the speaker. Any one of these parks would be coveted by any one of the other countries represented at that Monaco Congress. They were gifts of Nature which should be passed on unimpaired as a gift to the people who were to come after this generation.

In conclusion, Colonel Foster referred once more to the magnificent work which had been done by Mr. Wheeler; the club owed him a great debt for holding to the high ideal with which he had begun the institution.

Memorial Fund

Director Wheeler reported re the Memorial Fund, a fund established with the object of raising some permanent memorial to those of the Club members who had made the supreme sacrifice in the late war. No decision had yet been come to with respect to the form which this memorial should take. Pressure had been brought to bear to have it take the form of an Alpine hut; another suggestion was that a tablet should be placed in the club house at Banff, and a parchment register. This latter was more favored than the former, and a committee was appointed to consider the form of the tablet, General [Stanley] Mitchell being the chairman. Any suggestions would be welcomed by him.

During the evening, Captain [Rusty] Westmorland reported re the Returned Soldiers' and Nursing Sisters plan for a memorial, saying that about \$600 was in hand for the proposed memorial, which they plan to erect at the club house at Banff. This will probably take the form of shower baths.

The formal part of the meeting concluded, the members gathered round to examine the interesting collection of photographs brought back from Monaco by the two delegates, the hostess in the meantime serving delicious refreshments, which were the more welcome in view of the long drive back to Victoria which was in store for most of the guests.

* Julia Wilmotte Henshaw was born Julia Henderson 1869 in Durham, England. She married Charles Grant Henshaw in 1887 and they moved to Canada about 1890. Henshaw travelled to France near the beginning of World War I and returned to give speeches in favour of conscription and to raise money for ambulance services there. Beginning in 1915, she served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as an ambulance driver as part of the British Red Cross Society. Due to her courage in evacuating soldiers and leadership, and despite having no medical training, she was promoted to the rank of Captain. For her bravery she was awarded the Croix de Guerre with a Gold Star for "evacuating and recuperating inhabitants under shell fire and aerial bombarding with a devotion and courage worthy of the highest praise." She was discharged by the Canadians but then served with the French Red Cross from March to November 1918. After the war she returned to Canada to resume her exploring, writing, and lecturing. She was elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1913, and in 1920, as a delegate of the Alpine Club of Canada, she attended the international Alpine Congress in Monaco, where she delivered several slide-illustrated presentations on the Rockies. These were well received and she was made an officer in the country's Order of St Charles. A popular speaker, she gave a talk about the Columbia River to the Victoria League in London in 1924; the following year she addressed the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Scottish Geographic Society on Canada's National Parks. She was the director of the Canadian National Parks Association. Henshaw Creek on Vancouver Island was named for her. These and other honours were testimony to her accomplishments. She also wrote for two newspapers in Vancouver. In 1914, she and her husband were the first people to drive a car across the Rocky Mountains. She died in 1937.

1922

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* February 15, 1922, p.6

Joint Climb Proposed

At the meeting of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, held last Saturday [February 11] evening at the home of the chairman, Mr. Robert D. McCaw, *Captain [Rusty] Westmorland** proposed that the Vancouver Island section and the Vancouver section might join in an expedition up "The Lions" sometime during the coming Summer. Mr. Graves, chairman of the Vancouver section, who was present, fell in with the idea, intimating

that he thought the proposal would be very popular with the Mainland members. The matter will be taken up, and some suggestions for the date, etc., submitted to the two organizations if it proves welcome to the membership of the bodies affected.

*Horace "Rusty" Westmorland was born in Penrith, England in 1886 and educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Lancashire. He worked in the family's tannery and leather business until the death of his father in 1909. In 1911 Westmorland moved to Saskatchewan but work prospects were poor there so he moved on to Vancouver where he met Arthur Wheeler. He spent the next six months working with the surveyors as part of the Alberta/British Columbia Interprovincial Boundary Commission and continued working seasonally for the surveyors until 1914. In 1912, Westmorland was invited to take a commission in a Canadian 'Territorial' Highland Regiment. He qualified at Military School and was transferred to the Canadian 'Regular' Army where he served in Belgium and France from 1915 to 1919. In 1943, Lieutenant-Colonel Westmorland used his indomitable personality and connections in Ottawa to found the Number One Pack Horse Troop, as he wanted to revive the Canadian Cavalry heritage. In 1944, Westmorland was invalided out where he then returned to his family roots at Threlkeld in the Lakes District for his remaining years. Westmorland's love of the outdoors began at an early age but his real climbing career began in 1901 at the age of fifteen when he climbed Pillar Rock in the Lakes District. In Canada, he was a member of the Alpine Club of Canada and chairman of the Vancouver Island section in 1923. He was awarded, in recognition for Mountain services, the "Silver Rope" by the ACC in 1947. In 1946, he founded what was originally called "The Borrowdale Mountain Rescue Team" but later became the Keswick Mountain Rescue. In 1965, Westmorland was awarded the OBE by the Queen for his services to mountain rescue. "Rusty" Westmorland passed away in 1984 but will be remembered for turning up immaculate on the crags and for his concern with upholding the highest traditions of the mountaineering sport.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* February 26, 1922, p.4

Alberta 1882

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada held their monthly luncheon at Spencers' at 12:15 on Tuesday, February 22. In absence of the chairman Robert D. McCaw, Mr. Gordon Cameron, the secretary, presided. About twenty sat down. After lunch Mr. Frederick W. Godsall gave a very interesting address on "Alberta in 1882."

He began by regretting that the weather that morning compared so unfavorably with that of "Sunny Alberta" in 1882, where rain was practically unknown in the Summer months, and in thirty-five years he was there he never used a sleigh in Winter, as there was seldom snow fit for the purpose, and he had sometimes done ploughing in January and February. He took his audience with him from Ottawa by Union Pacific Railway to Ogden, the Mormon City, thence north by Utah Northern Railway, then only narrow gauge, to Silver Bow, thence by stage to Butte City, where he and his companion (son of Senator Cochrane) received the useful advice to "keep to the middle of the street and mind your own business; this is a tough town," and of this they saw evidence; two days later the 'vigilantes' "cleaned up" the city. Such was law and order in Montana then, so different from that maintained by the N.W.M. Police just north of the Montana boundary. American cowboys coming to work in Alberta territory "shed their six-shooters at the boundary line as trees shed their leaves in Fall." From Butte they drove to Helena, where was the only bank in the West, and it was to this that the officer in command at Fort Macleod had to come about two years before to obtain money to pay the police, and that large sum was safely carried through the lawless country by an unsuspected agent. From Helena they travelled by an American stage coach across the Rocky Mountains by night and day to Fort Benton, on the Missouri River, and on the coach and later in Benton they had their first experience of an American Western bishop.

Fort Benton was the base of supplies for all Alberta territory, passengers and freight coming up the Missouri River. I.G. Baker & Co., of St. Louis and Fort Benton, had stores at Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary. They held contracts from the Canadian Government to feed the police and Indians, and they "ran" the country, and did it well, and in a liberal Western spirit. Her Majesty's mails had United States stamps on them in that part of Canada – Canadian stamps were only "scraps of paper" – only United States money was used, and not much of that, and nothing under 25c, "jawbone" was the rule till we turned over our beef in the Fall – cattle were the only estimate of a man's worth, the first origin of the word money in Latin, "pecus," or cattle.

Our two annual holidays were May 24 and July 4, and we all kept them heartily. Our first member at Ottawa, D.W. Davis, the head of I.G. Baker & Co's business in Alberta, was a "galvanized Canadian," as we called Americans who became Canadian citizens. In fact, in those happy days, with an invisible boundary line in every sense

of the word, we realized all the aims and objects of the newly-formed British-American League; but for many years past the Alpine Club of Canada has been accomplishing this same purpose; its membership knows no boundaries; one rope holds us together; the love of the mountains; one rope will hold the two countries together in common dangers and for mutual help.

Among the officers of the N.W.M. Police ("royal" had not been added then) at Fort Macleod then was Inspector Dickens, a son of Charles Dickens.

The Pincher Creek district, where Mr. Godsall had a lease for cattle ranching, is west of Fort Macleod, adjacent to the Rockies, and was called then "God's country," and in the opinion of Lord Lorne, who visited it in 1881 as Governor-General of Canada, it worthily deserved the name. The poet Cowper wrote: "God made the country, man made the town," and there was no town then within many hundreds of miles. There were no doctors, they were not wanted; a strong-armed lady from Ontario eased our toothaches with the forceps. There was no diseases or noxious weeds in God's country – when the first young lawyer ventured to argue a point of law before Col. Macleod, the judge, he was told from the bench, "We want justice, not law, in this country." Indians were honest then and could be trusted, but now, alas, they, too, are more civilized!

There were some noble white women in Alberta in 1882, or soon after, doing their bit in opening up that country for Canada. Among others, Mrs. Macleod, wife of Col. Macleod, after whom Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary were named; also her negro servant, "Auntie," who used to say "Me and Mrs. Macleod were the first two white ladies as cum to this country." Another lady among many was Mrs. Skrine, a poetess, who under the nom-de-plume of Moira O'Neill, wrote those splendid lines on the "Word of the Young Northwest," words that appeal to the spirit of an oldtimer, and he only can appreciate:

"A word she breathes to the true and bold. A word misknown to the false and cold. A word that never was spoken or sold. But the one that knows is blest."

In 1921 the fine house of Mr. and Mrs. Skrine, where they are "ranching" in Ireland, was burned by Sinn Feiners at night, while they were taken into the garden in their night-dresses.

Mr. Godsall described the joys of prairie travel in early days, and its etiquette; also one of the cattle round-ups with 100 riders and 500 saddle horses, and his experience of being host on the prairie, etc.

He closed by briefly describing his experiences in the Rockies near his ranch (some of the mountains have changed in appearance since 1882); and how, unfortunately, and without any justification, officials at Ottawa have changed the names given to well-known peaks by the members of the Palliser Expedition in 1858. Surely Western mountains belong to Western men and women who were wise enough to come West, he maintained.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* April 5, 1922, p.8

Mr. Arthur O. Wheeler, of Sidney, director of the Alpine Club of Canada, was one of the guests of honor at the annual dinner of the Vancouver section of the Alpine Club last Friday [March 31] evening at Glencoe Lodge. Colonel William W. Foster, who was president of the Victoria section for some years, was also present, having transferred his membership to the mainland organization since he and Mrs. Foster went there to live. *Miss Jean Mollison**, another former member of the Victoria section, was another of the guest-of-honor.

*Jean Mollison was manager of the Chateau Lake Louise from 1895 to 1908, and manager of the Glencoe Lodge on the corner of Georgia and Burrard in Vancouver. She was also a talented singer and known as the "grand Chatelaine."

1923

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* March 29, 1923, p.5

ALPINE CLUB AT ANNUAL DINNER - ANNIVERSARY BRINGS MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS TOGETHER Annual Gathering of the Vancouver Island Section Held Last Evening at Dominion Hotel.

At its seventeenth anniversary dinner held last evening [Wednesday 28] at the Dominion Hotel the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada drew up and enthusiastically adopted a congratulatory message to be forwarded to the 1922 Mount Everest expedition, this being coupled with every good wish for the success of the proposed 1924 expedition. Captain [Rusty] Westmorland, chairman of the section, presided at this anniversary dinner, among the honored guests at which were Mr. Arthur Wheeler, of Sidney, director of the Alpine Club of Canada, and

Mrs. Wheeler. The occasion brought together a good representation of the members of the local organization, who did full justice to the excellent menu provided by the Dominion Hotel management. The tables, arranged in horse-shoe formation, were charmingly decorated by Miss Colwell and Mrs. Longstaff with daffodils and violets sent from Mrs. Wheeler's garden at Sidney.

The toasts and responses thereto provided the major part of the speechmaking of the evening, being as follows:

"The King," proposed by the chairman; "The Ladies," proposed by *Colonel [Richard] Greer**, responded to by Miss Bruce; "Mount Everest Expedition," proposed by Captain Westmoreland; and "The Alpine Club of Canada," proposed by Mr. Lindley Crease, was responded to by Mr. A.O. Wheeler.

Captain Westmoreland gave a graphic account of the fight with circumstances, altitude and the elements encountered by the 1922 expedition, showing how both speed and endurance at the great elevation reached were governed by the lungs. In addition to the disability arising from this source, the climbers had to contend with a dearth of the kind of food, as the higher they went the more difficult it was to bring up supplies in time and in sufficient quantities to meet the need. Their use of oxygen, and artificial stimulant the advantages of which were demonstrated by the expedition, had the disadvantage of stimulating the appetite when food was at a premium. The climbers, [George] Mallory and [Henry] Morshead, in the first instance, [George] Finch and [Geoffrey] Bruce in the second, went "all out," keeping only enough reserve to get back to camp. The former reached 26,985 feet; the latter succeeded in getting to 27,235 feet, and a half mile nearer the summit than the preceding party.

Inexhaustible Treasure

"Our mountains, the Canadian Rockies, possess inexhaustible treasures for the generations to come," said Mr. Lindley Crease, in proposing the toast to the Alpine Club of Canada. The scientist, the geologist, the botanist, climber and artist alike would do a national service in developing the knowledge of the mountains. The speaker noted that in this, the seventeenth anniversary of the Alpine Club of Canada, the organization could boast of a membership of over 700.

Mr. Wheeler, the director, in responding, gave a comprehensive review of mountaineering activities for the year of 1922. So far as the Alpine Club of Canada was concerned, the activities of the society had been outstanding, much good mountaineering work having been done both by the club's members and by others. The club entered the new year in good condition, with interest well maintained and membership growing.

Reference to the 1922 Mount Everest expedition touched on the fact that the Canadian Club had been represented on this as on the 1921 expedition, Dr. T.G. Longstaff and Dr. A.W. Wakefield being members of the Alpine Club of Canada. Major Edward, O. Wheeler, the club's representative in the 1921 expedition, had spent the Summer in Canada, and had met many of his old mountaineering friends.

The director referred to the forthcoming Summer's camp. The ballot for the choice of the sites does not close until the end of march, but thus far the vote had shown three to one in favor of Larch Valley, near Moraine Lake. This location would provide excellent facilities for climbing the Ten Peaks.

War Memorial Tablet

The war memorial tablet had been received, and would be duly installed at the clubhouse, Banff, this Spring.

The matter of an expedition to climb Mount Logan, 19,850 feet, the highest known Canadian mountain, had been receiving some attention.

The director also spoke of the meeting of the British Association for the Promotion of Science, to be held at Toronto next year, when, he suggested, the club might hold a camp at Mount Robson, and perhaps be able to entertain such members of the English Alpine Club as came to Toronto to attend the associations meetings.

In conclusion, after reviewing some of the individual mountaineering feats of Canadian Alpine Club members and others during the past year, Director Wheeler entered a protest against Spray Lakes Development Scheme, whereby this lake basin would be converted into a source of supply for a power plant. Such scheme would, in his opinion, completely destroy the beautiful valley which is a main thoroughfare to many of the most beautiful scenic centres of the Southern Canadian Rockies.

Major [Frederick] Longstaff's brief eulogy of the mountains, and particularly of the floral beauty which is to be found in the higher altitudes long after Spring has passed in the lower levels, concluded the speech-making part of the programme. Mrs. Robert D. McCaw's charmingly sung "Pickaninny Lullaby," and Montague Phillips' "Wake Up," were among the other attractions of the gathering, Miss Bradshaw playing her accompaniments very systematically.

The affair concluded with an informal social, cards, and dancing engaging the attention of those who remained.

*Richard Haliburton Greer was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1878. His father's family was of Northern Irish ancestry having immigrated to Toronto in 1845. In 1898, he graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then pursued his legal studies in the Osgoode Hall Law School at York University and was called to the Bar in 1901. He then joined the Law Firm of Smith, Rae and Greer. In 1907, Greer was appointed Crown Attorney for the County of York in Toronto and served in that capacity until 1920. He was created a King's Counsel (K.C.) in 1921. In January 1916, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Greer was given command of the 180th Overseas Battalion, which was known as the "Sportsman Battalion." He used a strategy similar to the one used so successfully by Chadwick's 124th Battalion whereby he enlisted many Toronto athletes of national and international quality. His Battalion served overseas in the World War and then broke up in 1917, to become part of the Imperial British Army. He was discharged in May 1917, but in September of that year became re-attached to the army and was in charge of military service in Military Division, No. 2, from October of that year until the close of the war. Greer participated in ACC trips to Mt. Arrowsmith and Mt. Maxwell in the 1920's. Richard Greer passed away in 1949.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* November 24, 1923, p.14

EXPLORER TO GIVE LECTURE ON ROCKIES

Sir James Outram, Well-known English Mountaineer, to Lecture at Empress Saturday Evening.

Under the auspices of the Victoria section of the Alpine Club of Canada, Sir James Outram, the famous English explorer and mountaineer, will lecture on Saturday evening in the Empress ballroom. His subject is to be "The Canadian Rockies," a theme on which he is eminently fitted to speak, having, perhaps, climbed more British Columbia mountains of 10,000 feet than any other English mountaineer.

Sir James was a guest of the Alpine Club at its annual camp last Summer at Yoho Valley, and proved a very popular member of the party. On that occasion he met Professor Fay, of Tufts College, Massachusetts, another ardent mountaineer, whom he first met twenty-three years ago, and had not seen since. The lecture on Saturday evening will be generously illustrated with lantern slides of the Rockies. Sir James is outspokenly opposed to the school of mountaineering which makes climbing a mere feat of athleticism, and would have climbers go into the heights with their eyes open to the beauties of nature. It is anticipated, therefore, that he will tell much about the flora and fauna to be found in the higher altitudes.

During his stay in Victoria Sir James will be the guest of *Mr. Lindley Crease**.

*Lindley Crease was born in 1867 in New Westminster, B.C. to Sir Henry Pering Pellew Crease and Lady Sarah (Lindley) Crease. He was educated at Haileybury Public School in England, and following in the footsteps of his father, a Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, he studied law and was called to the bar in 1890. He practiced with Crease, Harman & Company, and later founded the law firm of Crease and Crease, barristers of Victoria and was its senior member until his death. The Crease Family was prominent socially, and their house, Pentrelew, was a centre for Victoria society. Lindley Crease took an active interest in Church affairs and was Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of the Province of B.C. He was also associated with politics and held the position of President of the Conservative Association of Victoria. Crease was a devoted lover of the mountain wilderness and derived much enjoyment from his attendance of the ACC annual camps in the Canadian Rockies. Although he only made a few minor climbs at these camps, he was chiefly interested in obtaining suitable vantage spots to view the great range and revel in vistas of towering snow-clad peaks, shining ice-fields and tumbling glaciers. However, his foremost joy these camps provided was the opportunity for sketching and painting, a talent passed down from his mother. Lindley Crease, died at his home in Victoria in 1940.



British Columbia's Forgotten Gems, its Ecological Reserves

By Jenny Feick, PhD

On May 4, 1971, the Government of British Columbia became the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation to protect ecological reserves (ERs). May 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the Ecological Reserves Act and regulations and the establishment of BC's first ecological reserves. Ecological reserves are permanent sanctuaries, located throughout BC, selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The principal uses of ecological reserves are for scientific research and educational purposes. Despite their small size, they protect exceptionally important features. They truly are the rare gems of BC's protected areas system. Several ecological reserves protect examples of mountain ecosystems, and rare and endangered mountain-dwelling plant and animal species. Some of the ERs include parts of Mounts Derby, Elliott, Griffin, Maxwell, Sabine, Tinsdale, Tuam and Tzuhalem.

In the first two decades following the passage of the 1971 Act, the BC government established 84% of its 154 ERs. The last ER to be set aside was Det San ER near Smithers, which was designated in 2009 to protect rare old growth juniper. No new reserves have been established since then and five have been transferred to other levels of government. A 2005 assessment of the condition of existing reserves raised "concerns that the ecological values of many individual reserves are at significant risk and a more proactive approach to managing the reserves is required to reverse this trend."



View from Mount Maxwell Ecological Reserve, April 2019. Photo by Jenny Feick

The Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER) had hoped to entice the BC government to establish a few new ecological reserves by the anniversary year of 2021 and to make a concerted effort to improve the stewardship of the existing reserves. Despite FER's periodic communications over the past seven years with BC government agencies about worthy candidates, no new ecological reserves have been added and from the reports of volunteer wardens in the past year, the state of existing reserves continues to deteriorate due to cumulative and inter-related internal and external threats.

At their November 2019 meeting, the Board of the Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER) decided to make a renewed and concerted effort to encourage BC government officials to establish several new ecological reserves and to address management, conservation and stewardship issues in existing ecological reserves in time for the 50th anniversary of the Ecological Reserves Act. Unfortunately, at a meeting on May 26 with FER, government officials explained that no mandate exists to add any new protected areas in BC unless the proposal is brought forward by a politician or a First Nation. The new modernized land use planning process has no mandate to seek, assess or add new protected areas. BC has already exceeded its international commitments for the amount of land it was to have set aside for biodiversity conservation by 2020. Nevertheless, local people proposed an ecological reserve on Pink Mountain during the current land use planning process in the Fort St John area.

FER proposed seven new candidate ERs to the BC provincial government starting in 2014 (for the list, see <https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/2020/04/21/ecological-reserve-proposals/>). Three of the candidate ecological reserves that FER nominated include the rare alpine plant assemblage at Pink Mountain (see <https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/2020/04/21/ecological-reserve-proposals/>).



Mount Tzuhalem Ecological Reserve, May 2015. Photo by Jenny Feick

bc.ca/portfolio_item/155-pink-mountain-proposed-er/), and two headwater areas on the Sunshine Coast --- a small stand of huge ancient Pacific yew trees at Roberts Creek, and an old-growth Douglas fir forest containing a rare and endangered plant species (*Rubus nivalis*) at Clack Creek.

The Friends of Ecological Reserves recognizes and respects the First Nations within whose traditional territories ecological reserves exist. FER acknowledges that much of British Columbia remains unceded land and appreciates the graciousness of the Indigenous hosts in areas containing ecological reserves. Even though the BC Ecological Reserves Act does not explicitly address traditional Indigenous use of ecological reserves, FER supports this as long as the activities do not permanently destroy the values for which the reserve was established. Reconciliation may provide opportunities for additional ecological reserves identified by traditional Indigenous knowledge keepers for their Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) values.

FER would appreciate the support of ACCVI members in helping them encourage the provincial government to add worthy new ERs like Pink Mountain as well as to maintain the health of existing ERs, promote the use of ERs for science and monitoring, and support the volunteer ER wardens in their efforts to care for these gems of BC's protected areas system. Express your support for a revitalized ER system in BC by contacting your MLA (see <https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members>) as well as George Heyman, the Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy at george.heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca and Doug Donaldson, the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at doug.donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca.

About the Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER): This volunteer-based, not-for-profit charitable organization raises awareness and promotes the interests of ecological reserves in British Columbia. FER works to promote and support scientific research, monitoring and reporting in and around ecological reserves, volunteer wardens and the stewardship function within existing ecological reserves, and the nomination, assessment and establishment of worthy new ecological reserves. FER educates the public and government agencies regarding the significance of ecological reserves, the values they contain, and the threats they face. FER welcomes new members. Find more information at the FER website (see <https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/about-friends/>) and in issues of the FER newsletter, the Log (see <https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/news/newsletter-archive/>).

Footnotes:

- 1) The 147 ERs still under provincial jurisdiction comprise 166,918 ha, which equals 0.008% of the entire BC Parks Protected Area System.
- 2) Five ERs were transferred to Gulf Islands and Gwaii Haanas national park reserves, becoming part of the Canadian national park system, and one ER (UBC Endowment Lands) was reassigned to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.
- 3) State of British Columbia's Ecological Reserves, Report for 2005. November 2006. Sponsored by the Friends of Ecological Reserves With help from the Ministry of Environment and the University of Victoria Co-op Program, unpublished report (see <https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/2006/12/04/state-of-bcs-ecological-reserves-report-for-2006/>)
- 4) The commitment was to protect 17% and by 2020, BC had set aside 20% of its land base in some form of protection.



The Snake Dike

By Stefan Gessinger

"It's a fine line between a bad-ass and a dumbass" - Jim Bridwell

Trip participants: Dani Tinembart, Stefan Gessinger

1994. A stop in Yosemite, the mecca of rock climbing, was a must during a road trip across the US after graduating. I knew about "Go climb a rock" but not about Jim Bridwell. Too cool for guidebooks and Lonely Planet guides my friend Dani (a non-climber) and I thumbed through a borrowed guidebook in Camp 4, looking for a memorable climb to do. The Snake Dike, 5.7, 2.5 - 4 hours and summit on the iconic Half Dome seemed like a perfect fit. With not much more information than that, we hit the trail with two Snickers bars, a jug of water, one day pack, one harness and one swami harness, a small rack (no cams), a rope and a pack of smokes. Blissfully unaware that the description of the climb did not cover the getting there and getting out of there part we started the approach around 11 am - what could possibly go wrong? By the time we found our way to the start of the route we had eaten our Snickers and were well into the afternoon. After verbalizing that it's late and we would need to hustle the decision was made to go for it. After several slab pitches the dike is reached, an amazing natural feature through a sea of slabs to the summit of Half Dome. Easy climbing is kept spicy with a single bolt before reaching the next anchor.

Completely parched, we reached the summit in the late afternoon/early evening and had our last smoke. The sight of a small number of hikers mulling around on the summit eased our mind about being this far in the back country at this hour. We met a father and son team who offered us a can of Coca-Cola, very generously sharing their treat which they had packed up all the way from the valley with these two unprepared tourists. It was then that we realized that they were all geared up to camp on the summit, had eaten their dinner and were waiting for an awesome



Dani Tinembart approaching the Snake Dike on Half Dome, Summer 1994, with rope and climbing shoes slung across his shoulder. Photo by Stefan Gessinger



The summit is only half way. Dani Tinembart descending the cable route at the end of a long day. Photo by Stefan Gessinger

sunset - and so was everyone else who was up there. Dressed in shorts, T-shirts and sneakers we could not be less prepared for our environment and it became time to put it in third gear and get out of there via the cable route. Looking down from the summit the cables roll out of sight into terrain steep enough to fall off of - an intimidating sight for sure. The end of the cables led us to a very well-trodden trail. We estimated that we would run out of daylight in about an hour (naturally we didn't have flashlights) and wanted to get as far as we could. Aware of having pushed it a bit too far, words were not necessary. Pumped with adrenaline, we rushed down the trail. The curious sight of two men slowly shuffling their way down the trail stopped us in our tracks. After briefly assessing the situation we realized that they were in more of a pickle than we were (one of them had fainted from exhaustion earlier and the rest of their group had

returned to the valley for help). We took their packs and tried to get them to pick up their speed without being too rude. Just as it was getting dark we crossed paths with a very fit ranger who had run up from the valley bottom. He was well equipped with a full pack and he had come to assist the hikers - he took them to a backcountry shelter for the night and gave us a flashlight. Having the flashlight took the edge off a bit and we were able to mellow out our pace. We arrived well after midnight at Camp 4 for a three-box feast of Kraft dinner.

We had come to Yosemite wanting to feel the vibe of the Camp 4 climbing culture, climb something memorable and have a good time. The Snake Dike (often referred to as the snake hike) was a moderate, beautiful climb and there was no chance of us crossing the line in being bad-ass.

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From the Front Cover:

Steep and deep, on the way to Mount Thelwood

Photo of Stefan Gessinger by Evan Devault

Thank you to this month's authors:

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Well done everyone!

