

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 49 | Issue 2 | Summer 2021

A full-page photograph of a hiker standing on a narrow, exposed rock bridge between two mountain peaks. The hiker is wearing a blue shirt, dark pants, and a backpack, and is looking out over a vast mountain range. The sky is clear blue, and the mountains in the distance are layered and hazy. The rock bridge is made of dark, jagged rock.

Not shimmying across the narrow, exposed bridge between the SE and SW peaks of Colonel Foster. Photo by Rich Priebe

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, 10 June.

[Join Nadja Steiner as she shares visuals and stories from her marine research and a recent ACCVI trip in the high Arctic.](#)

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Reminder to Members:

Keep your membership up-to-date, so 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. And visit ACCVI's Discourse page at <https://discourse.accvi.ca/>



Upcoming Slideshows, Presentations, Meetings and Get-togethers

Slideshow, Thursday 10 June, 7-9 pm.

Nadia Steiner

[High Arctic Marine Climate Change and the Akshayuk Pass Traverse](#)

2019, before Covid closed the North, turned out to be my Arctic year. In March, work brought me into several communities in the Western Arctic for consultations on a study of climate change impacts on Arctic marine ecosystems. The visits provided a glimpse of the changes and experiences the Inuit communities are going through. In July I joined an Alpine Club trip to hike the Akshayuk Pass traverse in the Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island, described as a natural corridor through a landscape of towering rock. The slideshow will provide some visuals and stories from both experiences mixed with a bit of science background of a changing Arctic.

Slideshow, Thursday 16 September, 7-9 pm.

Stefan Gessinger, Mitchell Bayes, and Jonathan Skinnider

[Crossing Vancouver Island on skis: a traverse from Carey Lakes to Herbert Inlet](#)

Enjoy an epic adventure as Stefan, Mitch and Jonathan share stories and photographs of their 80 km 10 day ski traverse in April 2021. This will be a joint presentation with the Island Mountain Ramblers. Login details for the Zoom presentation will be sent by membership email a week ahead.

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

We look forward to "seeing" you there!



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!*

Event Schedule

Our trip and event schedule depends on members volunteering to lead a trip or organize an event. There are no specific requirements, other than confidence to lead a small group on your chosen route. For extra information please check the 'Information for leaders' section of our website (<https://accvi.ca/trip-leaders/>) or email a question to leadership@accvi.ca.

Thank you for contributing to our community in this important way!

Keep an eye on the [trip schedule](#) for information about potential weeks at Griswold Pass this summer!

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 safely.

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 ACCVI's courses.

Education and Courses: <http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>.

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

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



Executive Episodes:

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

I'm writing this shortly after the May 25th Provincial Health Order was announced, with its encouraging trajectory of easing of restrictions over the next few months. The executive committee has again been busy considering our response to the announcement, and our thoughts for how it affects us in step 1 are summarised below:

- Recreational travel within our region is OK. The premier even used Vancouver Island as an example, saying we can travel anywhere within the Island health region. That is helpful for private trips.
- Club trips are trickier to interpret as the relevant guideline in step 1 is for "outdoor personal gatherings", which suggests a fixed group of known people. Club trips, being random groupings by their very nature, are probably stretching this further than intended. So, we are taking a cautious approach and not opening the trip schedule while this step is active.
- Summer camp: the decision on whether we can proceed with the plans for all four weeks will wait until June as previously announced. If there are indications we will reach step 3 by July it looks like a green light - so hope is kept very much alive.
- Hišimýawił: the hut committee plans to open the hut on 1st July, all being well. A safety plan needs to be approved first, and once that is in place ACC-VI members will be given a week to book ahead of opening the reservations up more widely. Details will be sent by membership email.

We are aware that decisions by the Provincial Health Officer will be driven by the data not by the dates. So, while we can't put a firm date on re-opening the schedule yet, things are definitely looking promising. We encourage trip leaders present and future to start planning trips and/or workshops you may like to offer during the summer. And while no one's holding their breath, "normality" such as the late summer barbecue and in-person slide shows are looking increasingly hopeful. Watch this space.

Island Bushwhacker Annual 2020

Our journal for 2020 is now posted online: https://accvi.ca/wp-content/uploads/accvi_iba_2020.pdf

Members who ordered print copies should have received them in the mail. Perhaps not surprisingly in this no-travel Covid year, this edition has a strong emphasis on Vancouver Island mountains with some lesser known peaks and routes featured. We've received a lot of positive feedback on this full-colour journal, beautifully assembled by Robie Macdonald.

If you are suffering from un-buyer's remorse, we do have a limited number of print copies which can be dispatched on request to chair@accvi.ca and after \$15 is sent to treasurer@accvi.ca.



Colour page spread from Island Bushwhacker Annual 2020

And it's never too soon to start writing up the 2021 adventures. I know there have been some great ones already. Such as ...

Traversing the Island - an epic ski traverse

3 adventurers, 80 km, 10 days, 1 broken ski and countless untold challenges and adventures. Congratulations to Stefan Gessinger, Mitchell Bayes, and Joanthan Skinnider for completing this trip across the roof of the Island from Carey Lakes to Herbert Inlet. Their story will be shared in our slide show in September. Meanwhile you can get a taste of this great tale here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0XIn3awJnw>



Early start on Carey Ridge. Photo by Stefan Gessinger

Our ever-growing website

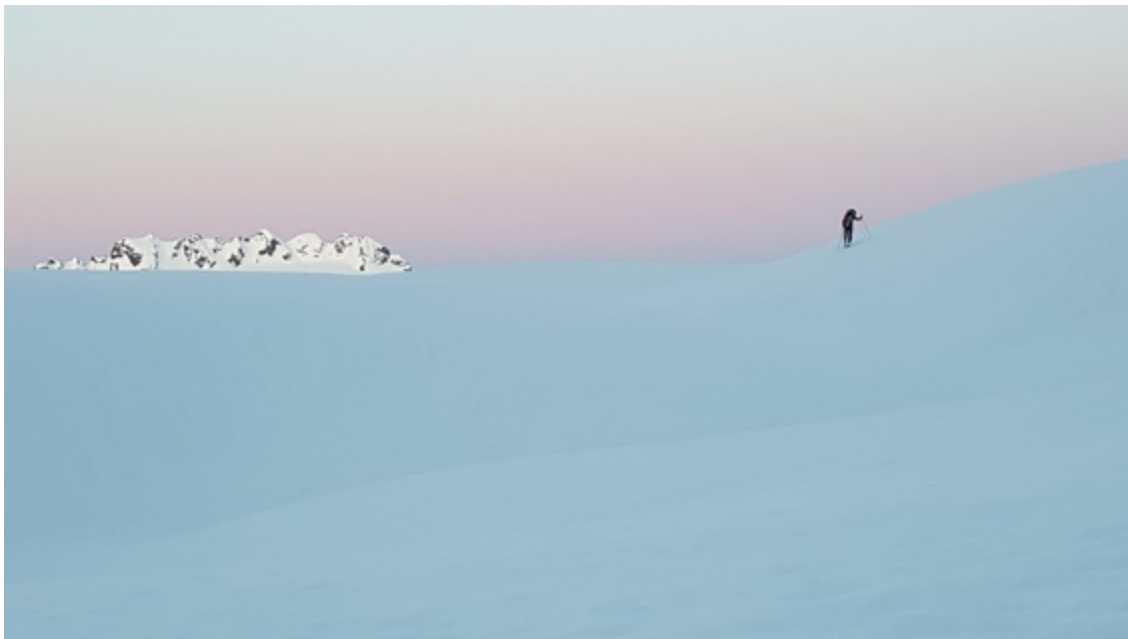
If we needed proof, the pandemic year has certainly underlined how dependent we are on our website. Our new webmasters have been working with members of the executive to update and streamline the various drop-down menus, starting with “Information for members”. This section now includes the new interactive map of Vancouver Island mountains, as described by Geoff Bennett on page 10. This is a veritable trove of information and I’m sure that pretty soon we’ll be wondering how we ever got by without such a resource. Do you know for example which peak >1000 m is closest to Victoria? How about the correct pronunciation for Tzouhalem?

Well at least now you know where to go to find the answers. Congratulations to Geoff, Mary, and Lindsay for this culmination of their creative work.

Trip leadership and education sub-committee

We have formed a new sub-committee to combine the work of supporting trip leaders and education coordinators. The current hiatus in our trip schedule has offered a good time to review our offerings. If you would like to join this sub-committee to help organise educational courses, please let us know at education@accvi.ca. We would welcome one more person in this role.

The content on our website under the drop-down menu “Information for trip leaders” has been thoroughly revised and updated. Please let us know of any suggestions or corrections to this information at leadership@accvi.ca.



Nine Peaks never get old. Photo by Stefan Gessinger

Online slide shows

These events continue to be extremely popular and have helped to keep us connected during the last 15 months. In May we achieved a sell-out crowd of 100, the maximum Zoom audience! Our upcoming slide-show is on Thursday 10 June when Nadja Steiner will share with us tales and travels from her time spent working in the Arctic. As usual, login details will be sent by membership email a week in advance.

This will be the last scheduled show for the season as we will take the usual break over the summer.

Don Forest Service Award

Warm congratulations to Geoff Bennett who has been recognised by the national club for his long-standing service to our section. The Don Forest Service Award honours members for “distinguished service to the club in matters other than mountaineering.” Geoff served as ACC-VI treasurer for nine years and continues to monitor both the contingency and memorial funds. He was also active in fund-raising for Hišimýawił and worked with the First Nations Warrior youth to help organise the naming ceremony for the hut.

Discourse - our online discussion forum

The category “Gear Swap” is proving very popular, and we encourage members to keep an eye on this feature to get new stuff and/or help clear the basement. See <https://discourse.accvi.ca/t/about-the-gear-swap-category/178>. It especially provides a chance to share gear for youth and kids to help families who are trying to deal with changing sizes every year.

See page 27 for an interview with Neil Ernst which gives some background on the set up of this collaborative platform. A reminder that if you want to receive email alerts for new postings in any category, click the little bell in the top right of the category title page and select your option from the drop down menu.

Executive events

The ACC-VI executive last met on Thursday 13 May 2021. Please send me any items you would like the committee to discuss. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website at: <https://accvi.ca/about/meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>.

Happy trails,

Catrin

Catrin Brown chair@accvi.ca



Misthorn. Photo by Stefan Gessinger

Access and Environment

By Barb Baker

Inlet Trail ...south of Port Alberni. ACRD - Alberni Clayoquot Regional District - authorized a proposal to make Stage 3 part of the linear park Stage 1 and 2. This trail runs down the Alberni Inlet and connects to the Runners Trail coming in from the east at Headquarters Bay, all part of the Vancouver Island Trail. The proposal includes study for a foot crossing of the Franklin River, currently an obstacle and negotiated in an inflatable, the good ship Erebus. ACCVI & others have pushed for this extension. Stage 3 features 8 old rail trestles left from rail logging days and is currently hikable having been much improved by local trail builders.

Mosaic Forest Management - MFM - has made a position for a community liaison person to handle recreation and community affairs in the "Albernis". Colin Kozsman has lived in the valley and worked in various forest related positions. He is a mountain biker and has done some mountaineering. One of his first actions has been to set up a meeting with engineers on future logging plans at which ACCVI will be present.

MFM is providing access to more than 1,000 hectares of private forest land in the Cowichan Lake area for non-motorized recreational use in a new agreement with the Cowichan Lake Trail Blazers Society. Learn more [here](#).

Currently the road to Arrowsmith/Cokley is in good shape.



Mt Arrowsmith saddle at sunset. Photo by Nick Bachmeier, submitted to the 2020 ACCVI photo competition, Summer Activity

Vancouver Island Peaks - A New Map

By Geoff Bennett

On May 19th, Mary Sanseverino announced on Facebook a new ACCVI map and web page: [Vancouver Island Peaks \(including Indigenous names\)](#). The [interactive map](#) displays almost all of the peaks on Vancouver Island higher than 1000m and some which are lower. Elevation and lat/long coordinates are given for each of the 430+ peaks, as well as the gazetted and/or unofficial name and, most significantly, the Indigenous name if one is known. Thousands of people have seen or shared the map.

We would like to take this map to the next level by:

1. Collecting photos of all the mountains, as we have already been doing for those with Indigenous names. Before we start this project, Mary needs help to manage the expected deluge of photos.
2. Contacting First Nations throughout the island for additional names and their meanings. We have begun to reach out, but Geoff needs help to assemble a map and database of FN websites and contact info.

Both of these projects are really new and exciting. Please contact [Mary](#) or [Geoff](#) if you would like to help collect photos or generate a First Nations database of the island. Our intention is to make this map the most accurate and complete depiction of Vancouver Island mountains in the public domain, especially with regard to Indigenous names. We owe a debt of gratitude to Lindsay Elms, whose research and experience forms the core of this map.

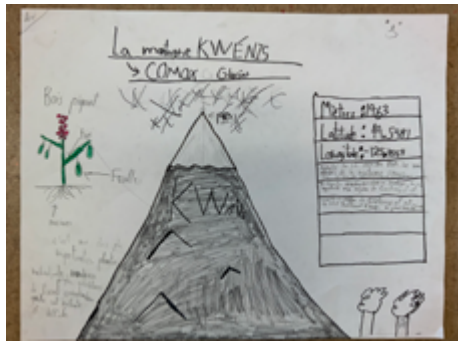
If you have photos of any of these Indigenous-named peaks please send them to [Mary](#):

Č'uúmaat'a	Kashutl	Pachena Cone	T'iitskakuulth
Galtbala	Kookjai	Pkaals (Tolmie)	Tuutuuchpiika
Hushamu	Nahwitti Cone	Quatchka Ridge	Uu-aatsuu
Kaipit	Nahwitti Mountain	Shushartie	Uusahquu-as
Kalthaatik			

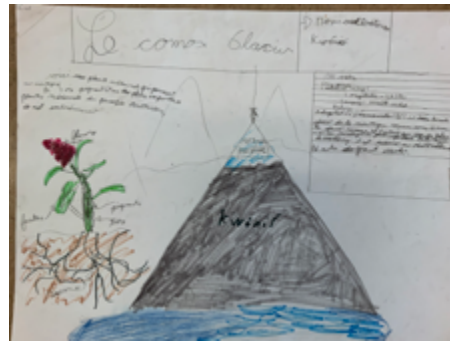
A delightful addition to the collection of mountain photos are 12 drawings by third-grade students at Ecole Victor Brodeur of the following peaks: Kwénis, Makwala, Nawhitti, T'iitsk'in Paawats, Tyee, Uusahquu-as, W'as, Whiltilla, Ya'ai, and Klitsa.

You might ask why we're doing this. The initial idea came from these children and their teacher, Madelaine Pepenel. We have taken it from there. The Alpine Club of Canada has a mandate to promote mountain culture. One of its stated values is to be "mindful and respectful of our history and legacy." Learning the Indigenous names of peaks and reaching out to First Nations is a long overdue show of respect to those who have lived in these mountains for millennia. This is also the first map we know of which lists basic information on all the peaks of Vancouver Island. It is a resource that many people will find useful.

Although it isn't our intention to rename anything, some mountains in North America have been reverting to Indigenous names, such as Denali in Alaska and Anû Kathâ Îpa near Canmore. Maps and names, especially colonial ones, have often been used to apportion and divide – we hope this map will be used to build knowledge and foster understanding.



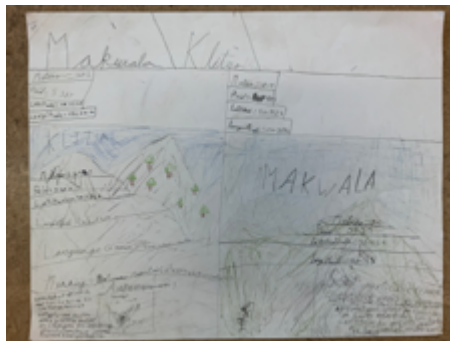
Kwénis



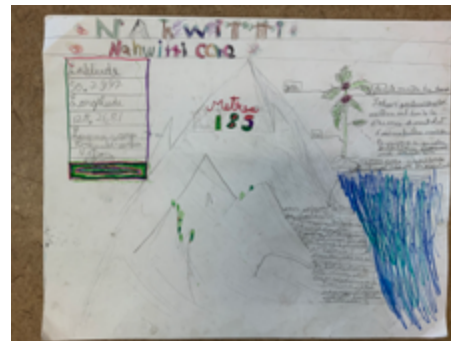
Kwénis



Kwénis



Makwala Klitsa



Nawhitti Cone



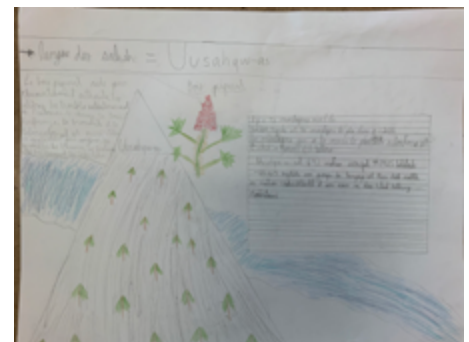
T'iitsk in Paawats



Tyee



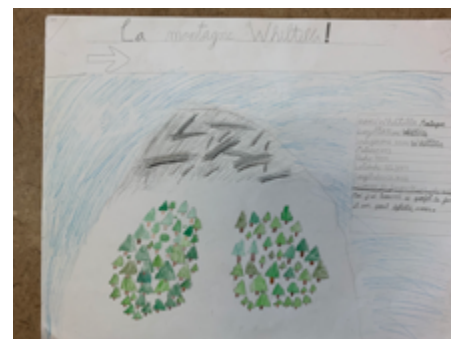
Tyee



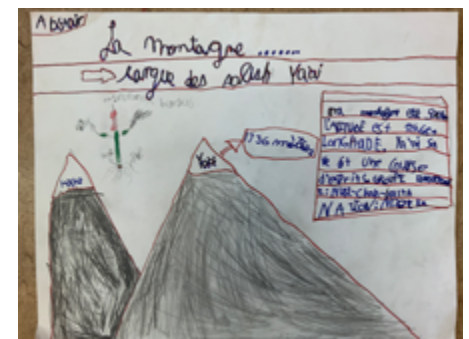
Uusahqu-as



W'as



Whiltilla



Ya'ai

HELP MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE VANCOUVER ISLAND'S MOUNTAIN HUT, Hišimýawił

Dear ACCVI members and friends,

Over the past 18 months, our mountain hut on Vancouver Island, Hišimýawił, has been closed because of COVID-19 restrictions. As soon as we are able to re-open, we will, and you can start booking your stay.

Our income has dried up. Yet, we still have maintenance costs to the hut and to the area. This past winter, with record breaking snow and winds up to 170 km/hour, we have realized the need to stabilize our power sources so that it can remain open year-round.



Photo by Laura Greenfield

Please consider supporting us to:

- Stabilize the power supply by increasing solar capacity to allow us to keep operating through the winter months
- Provide ongoing maintenance



Photo by Martin Hofmann

All donations over \$20 are tax deductible.

You can donate through the following website: https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/web/Shared_Content/Fundraising/SingleFund/Select_Fund.aspx. Go to the bottom of the page to **Hišimýawił Fund** and follow the link.

Or you can write a cheque to Alpine Club of Canada – mention it is for Hišimýawił and mail it to ACCVI Hut Committee, 8223 Thomson Place, Saanichton BC V8M 1S1.

For further information about the hut, go see the ACC Vancouver Island Section website [here](#).

*Thank you.
The Hut Committee*

Historical Photos of ACCVI Members: Pioneer Ridge on Denali

Photos by Jim Cancroft, Rowan Laver, Chuck Maffei, and Randy Waitman

Photo captions by Rowan Laver

Editor's note: You can read more about this climb in an article by Randy Waitman in the American Alpine Club's publications [here](#) and in the Denali Climbing Guide by R.J. Secor [here](#). They even get a special mention in Fred Beckey's Mount McKinley: Ice Crown of North America [here](#).



The Pioneer Ridge on the north side of Denali Alaska is 11 miles long and rises 17,000 feet to the North summit (seen here between light and shadow). When Randy Waitman, Chuck Maffei, Jim Cancroft and I approached it in 1988 the entire ridge had never been climbed. The upper part of the ridge had been climbed many years before and attempts had been made on the lower part.

Photographer unknown



The lower half of the ridge is a knife-blade, double corniced ridge dropping to the Peters Glacier on the North side and the Muldrow Glacier to the South.



The sharp ridge was long and committing as there was no place to camp, so we just kept going.



The lower ridge was mostly steep ice and snow but there was also some rotten rock (above right).



Randy and I had shared many climbs in the Alaska Range and here we are on another one.



We climbed in two rope teams. We had the usual mix of Alaska Range weather but none of the severe storms that we were used to on previous trips in the range.



We climbed through the Alaskan night.



The entire trip took 34 days. I strapped a duffel to my smaller alpine pack. We all lost a bit of weight as we had started with only 24 days of food.





Summit day and heading up towards the rock band.

On the summit of the North peak which is slightly lower than the main South Summit several miles away and behind us.



Possibly the most dangerous part of the trip was crossing the McKinley River on the way out.

To my knowledge, this climb has not been repeated!

Historical Photos of ACCVI Members: Cats Ears

By Robie Macdonald



Rick Eppler and I mounted an extended attack on Cats Ears and got thwarted several times by various issues, one of which was a car accident/rescue. On April 27, 1980, Rick, Al Phillip, Derek Shaw and I set off for the second assault. Derek was feeling off and stopped early on, while Rick, Al, and I continued. As you see, it was a great day and there were splendid views of Canoe Peak and the Mackenzies. We made it to the summit tower, which I climbed up to a small notch. At that point there was a short face, but it was exposed - of the one mistake and big pancake type. We had not carried a rope and it would have been foolhardy to climb up it - and back down. Or so I thought.



Two weeks later we dragged along a rope and climbed the thing on May 11. Here's a picture of Rick, Dave Hobill and me on that first ascent of the summit.

Recommendations on books and films about nature, wildlife, or mountaineering

Summarized by Janelle Curtis

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



The Island Mountain Ramblers, ACCVI, and the Tuesday Hikers hosted a presentation by Paul Shipman about his book *Feast on Adventure: A guide to lightweight, scrumptious meals for the outdoor enthusiast*. To learn more, go to feastonadventure.com. There you can find links to a recipe conversion template, information on where to find ingredients, and a video library. You can also download a complimentary e-book called *A Little Taste of Adventure*.

Angela Dawson recommended *Blue Sky Kingdom* by Bruce Kirkby. She wrote: “a fabulous book but you probably know this already! Highly recommended.” You can learn more about this book [here](#).

Lindsay Elms suggested reading *Step into Wilderness: A Pictorial History of Outdoor Exploration in and around the Comox Valley* by Deborah Griffiths, Christine Dickinson, Judy Hagen and Catherine Siba. Lindsay wrote: “Everyone who has driven up the Island Highway through the Comox Valley can’t help but notice the distinctive Comox Glacier. Like Switzerland’s Matterhorn, the Comox Glacier is possibly the most photographed mountain on Vancouver Island and like the Matterhorn, it is shrouded in history. It has lured the K’ómoks First Nations people, the early pioneering settlers to the multi-cultural population of today. However, it is just part of the spectacular landscape that surrounds the Comox Valley, a landscape that has shaped the lives of the valley’s diverse inhabitants. As the authors wrote: “From expansive shorelines to snowy mountain peaks, the region’s wide variety of attractions – including such landmarks as Forbidden Plateau, Comox Glacier and Mount Washington – have lured people over their thresholds for sustenance, recreation and survival. Step into Wilderness features never-before-seen photos from the Courtenay and District Museum collection, showcasing the growing community’s varied interactions with the wilderness they inhabit, from early hiking and skiing expeditions to encounters with wildlife, afternoon tea in the wilderness, beach races and early outdoor activity clubs. The collection also explores the ways in which inhabitants have altered the landscape, including Comox Estuary fish traps and stump blasting. These unique and arresting photos are complemented by equally engaging accounts of individuals surviving and thriving in the midst of natural beauty and great devastation, including survivors of the Merville fire of 1922 and pioneer skiers on Forbidden Plateau during the Great Depression.” Step into Wilderness was published in the fall of 2020 by Harbour Publishing and royalties from the sale of the book go to the Courtenay and District Museum.” You can learn more about this book [here](#).

Christine Fordham suggested reading *Not on My Watch: How a renegade whale biologist took on governments and industry to save BC’s keystone species, our wild salmon* by Alexandra Morton. Christine found it an enlightening and telling tale. You can read more about this book [here](#).

Catherine Marie Gilbert just published a book on the history of Strathcona Park called *A Journey Back to Nature: A History of Strathcona Provincial Park*. You can read more about the book [here](#).

And here is a link to a podcast about climbing: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-firn-line/id1191897461?i=1000494739068&fbclid=IwAR2rdldi82lAJWP4tW3vI9eY2wMvF0QI9BiwSL8anWs-hVl7QayqqUk9Bhk>

Portrait View: Gear Manager

By Mike Hubbard

Editor's note: We have a column in our ACCVI Island Bushwhacker Newsletter called "Portrait View." The intent of this column is to focus on the contributions of folks on the ACCVI Executive Committee who contribute to our mountaineering community's activities.

Way back in the mists of time when Jules Thomson was Chair – sometime like 2001 or thereabouts- Jules asked me if I would be prepared to take over the Club's gear. I had just moved to 2048 Penzance and had an empty room available so I rather casually agreed. I noticed Jules seemed rather relieved when I showed up at her garage on Pearce Crescent and picked up several bins containing old ice axes, bamboo wands, jumbled up ancient crampons, several tents, well used ropes and miscellaneous bits of gear. Well, I still have some of that stuff as you can see from the list on the section's website, but I have tried over the years to rationalise it and have had help from other members.

I inherited a mishmash of various types of crampons but they tended to be unsatisfactory and ill fitting. On Russ Moir's advice he and I went down to MEC and purchased a number of sets of adjustable Grivel Mont Blanc crampons which fit almost any boot and have BOT plates which are a standard requirement for most club trips as they alleviate ball-up problems.

Avalanche Transceivers have evolved over the years. I started ski touring in the 1960s and the accepted practice then was to trail a red avalanche cord behind one marked in 3 metre intervals so that one's companions could dig down the cord if one was buried. We actually still have one in the gear but have upgraded over the years first to the single antenna Ortovox Focus which I inherited from Jules, then to the 3 antenna French Arva Evo 3, and most recently to the 3 antenna Swiss Mammot Barryvox, which we purchased in 2019 through Jens Ourom's company, OnsiteEquipment, in Squamish; they were most helpful in both selection and price. Two sets of Avi gear (probe, shovel and transceiver) are kept up Island with Val Wootton and Lindsay Elms in Courtenay whilst eight sets are kept with me in Saanichton.

Ropes and rock climbing gear have always been a source of concern as keeping a log of their use and safety checks of their condition has been difficult. I am grateful to Bernard Friesen who took over climbing gear for a period and presently to Erich Schellhammer who now has it. Rock climbing gear is not available for rent but is only for the use of leaders on club trips.

I have made the renting process as simple as possible and



Avi gear ancient and modern

Whilst last-minute requests for gear can occasionally be aggravating, I find my annoyance evaporates when I see the enthusiasm and energy in the often new member of our section who arrives for pick up at our door at Wildwood Cottage on Mt. Newton; now that I am not as active as I used to be I always like to hear where they are off to and often wish I was going too. On return of the gear, which is usually just left on our doorstep, I feel the same relief that I always felt when I led a trip. Thank God we are all safely home with no injuries or loss of life.

[illegible]

*article on History of the Trophies for the ACCVI
Annual Photo Competition*

For those of you who have already started to gobble up the ACCVI Bushwacker Annual 2020 Edition, there is an amendment/correction to my article on the History of the Trophies for the ACCVI Annual Photo Competition that is interesting. Sandy Briggs was kind enough to do more research and send me this by email: "I should learn that guessing is risky. I suggested that the giant machine nut gracing the Humour trophy might have come from his (Don's) father who worked at the Dockyard, likely from a ship or crane. I later learned from Don that he had found this big nut while swimming under or near a big bridge in the BC interior as a youth. The nut was just lying in the river, perhaps dropped during construction. Apparently, this was somewhat before he took up mountaineering and he had just kept the big nut around as a sort of souvenir. Setting that found 'treasure' up as a climbing photo trophy was a way to finally put it to a good use."

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Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival (BCMFF) - Update (June 2021)

By Laura Darling

There is always something entertaining from the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival!

Two choices to get you just what you need.

Make your purchase through our affiliate link <https://filmfest.banffcentre.ca/?campaign=WT-151882> to support ACCVI initiatives.

1) ****New! New!**** The **Award Winners: Monthly Film Series** for June is available June 1 – 31. It includes festival award winners from the last three years – for \$15USD with a 3 day rental period you can watch and re-watch missed films or re-live some of the best that Banff has to offer. The June Monthly Series includes:

- 2019 – Audience Choice: *The Trilogy* (USA, 31 mins)
- 2019 – Creative Excellence Award: *Camel Finds Water* (USA, 9 mins)
- 2017 – Audience Choice, Best Mountain Feature: *Dirtbag: The Legend of Fred Beckey* (USA, 95 mins)

2) And if you missed these earlier or want to watch them again, there are FOUR video programs, **AMBER**, **ONYX**, **RUBY**, and **SAPPHIRE**, available for online viewing as individual programs (\$15 USD/3 day rental period) or in a 2-program bundle (\$28 USD/14 day rental period) or as an "Epic Bundle," including all 4 of the online programs (\$54 USD/14 day rental period).

Contact: BMFF@accvi.ca



The Summer North Face Leadership Camp

Congratulations to **Kara Aschenbrenner** on being accepted for The North Face (TNF) Summer Leadership Camp this summer. The camp will be held in week 5 of the General Mountaineering Camp on the Mummery Glacier. We look forward to hearing her stories after her camp.

This is ACC's flagship program for aspiring Section trip leaders. This is a great opportunity to get excellent Hands On Leadership skills for Summer Mountaineering. For more information, see:

https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/WEB/Camps/Summer_Camps/TNF_Leadership_Summer.aspx

Colonel Foster Summit Traverse: The Grand Finale IQ

By Barry Hansen

Editor's note: This is a reprint of an article that was recently included in the Island Bushwhacker 2020 Annual. Barry Hansen and Rich Priebe also gave a exhilarating virtual slide show presentation to a captivated audience of ACCVI and Island Mountain Ramblers members. They have kindly included a few more of their photos [here](#). You can read their abstract [here](#).

My primary alpine objective for 2020 was to complete the Island Qualifiers. The only thing standing between me and that goal were the summits of Rugged, Elkhorn, and Colonel Foster. Fortunately, my primary climbing partner, Rich Priebe, had shared ambitions and so plans were formulated as the summer climbing season approached.

Every alpinist knows that the ‘*best laid plans of mice and men*’ principle immortalized by Robert Burns also applies to mountaineering objectives and said plans ‘going awry’ are frequently experienced. Unfavourable weather and route conditions, health issues, life interruptions, scheduling challenges, equipment failures, injuries, and a plethora of other circumstances (including a raging pandemic) can all conspire to upend our alpine dreams.

But not in 2020. Instead, we experienced a year of abundant alpine harvest, plucking and savouring the fruits of our labour along the way, including this list of three. First on the list was Rugged Mountain, which we successfully summited on the final weekend of June. Next was Colonel Foster for mid-August and then Elkhorn in September. August arrived and a perfect three-day weather window opened for “The Colonel” and so we committed to it.

But then the unexpected happened. Three days prior to the trip I was longing to get out and asked Rich if he was available and interested in a spontaneous day trip. He suggested Elkhorn. *Elkhorn? That was supposed to be in September. But why not Elkhorn?* And so, Elkhorn it was. I was thrilled at the possibility that my IQ ambition might be achieved sooner than expected. 13.5 hours, 2100m, and 24km later, I had a tired body but a very happy heart. One more IQ to go, in three days.

Now, a little personal background info on Mount Colonel Foster. In years past, photos of it always thoroughly intimidated me. And the first time I visited Landslide Lake and looked up at Uncle Fester’s north aspect, I was terrified at the thought of climbing it. It looked well beyond my reach, and it was. But that didn’t stop me from dreaming the impossible dream. I threw myself into skills development and experience acquisition and as they increased, so did my confidence that one day I might just be ready to attempt this beautiful beast. Rich had the same respect for The Colonel as I did and after a great alpine season in 2019, we both felt ready to make the commitment.

And so, with a healthy dose of nervous excitement, we set out the morning of August 14, 2020, drove to the ERT parking lot, donned our burdens, made quick work of the well-trodden path to Landslide Lake, and then on to Foster Lake before leaving the final vestiges of backcountry civilization to navigate upward over rock and snow to the South Col. While along the lakeshores, numerous parties queried our intentions upon spotting our alpine gear. We simply pointed upward at the magnificent east face, both to their amazement and our own. We were really doing this.



*South Col bivy with Elkhorn in background.
Photo by Barry Hansen*



*Rich on SW summit.
Photo by Barry Hansen*

Up in the South Col under clearing skies, we battled mosquitoes while preparing dinner before settling down to restless sleep in our bivvies in anticipation of the coming day. We awoke early and began our preparations. It was cloudless, windless, and quickly warming as darkness gave way to light. A perfect day was dawning. Two other parties of two were also up and preparing for their own day. One was doing the summit traverse and the other just the two South summits. The traverse party had a one-hour head start on us, which was fortuitous for two reasons: 1) It prevented us from knocking rocks on each other as we alternately ascended and descended the five peaks, and 2) It allowed us to observe, photograph, and briefly converse with each other from across the narrow gaps that frequently separated us.

Before starting out, we hydrated and then filled our vessels to capacity, knowing there would be little to no water refilling opportunities until completing the traverse. The upper glacier was the exception, of course, but we didn't want to waste precious time melting snow so early in the day. Instead, our strategy was to carefully ration the water we began with, which worked fine until it didn't. More about that in a bit.



Not shimmying across the narrow, exposed bridge between the SE and SW peaks. Photo by Rich Priebe

With the rising sun at our backs, we ascended the south gullies and reached the Southeast Peak fairly quickly before dropping down to the notch between it and the Southwest Peak. This is where the adrenaline kicked in and the real fun started. The Island Alpine Select (IAS) description is to 'shimmy across the precariously perched boulders jammed in the gap.' I started to shimmy but then Rich said, "Hey, stand up. It's a great shot!" Since I'm not one to deny a great shot, I gladly submitted to Rich's request and stood upright on the narrow bridge with breathtaking exposure on either side. Oh yeah!

Once across the gap, we quickly scrambled up the Southwest Peak and then a few rappels down to the upper glacier. We topped up our water bottles with snow,

crossed the glacier, and then climbed the short steep wall to the narrow ridge that bridges to the main summit. There's a good view from here of the route to the summit, which first involves traversing a wide ledge before heading up a steep, narrow gully. The ledge was presently occupied by the two climbers in front of us, which made for some great perspective photos.



Barry on Utopian Fin between upper glacier and main summit. Photo by Rich Priebe



Barry rappelling off pinnacle between Utopian Fin and main summit block . Photo by Rich Priebe

We continued on, placing some pro on the short but steep and exposed pinnacle between us and the main summit ledge. Once on the ledge, we carefully stepped past the exposed corner described in IAS that ‘abruptly drops 1000 feet’ and scrambled upward, reaching the scree slope just below the main summit. We met the other party here coming down from the summit and exchanged some congratulatory words before parting ways again. I traversed an obvious ledge that ramps upward to the left while Rich opted for a more challenging direct line. Our paths converged a few meters shy of the summit and a few minutes later we were standing on top of Mount Colonel Foster. And it felt amazing. We took a few minutes to eat, take photos, write in the summit register, and bask in the glory of it before continuing on. After all, we were only halfway—and the hard half was still to come.



Looking south from main summit. Photo by Barry Hansen

We downclimbed and rappelled to the notch between the main summit and the Northeast Peak. From here, IAS describes a short steep 20m scramble but ‘wickedly exposed’ should be added to the description. We set a belay and Rich led the pitch but didn’t like what he encountered above and so came back down. We discussed options and poured over the various beta we had accumulated from various sources before deciding to rappel down from the notch about 50m on the west side to what we believed would be a low sloping gully leading up to the Northeast Peak. It did and we suddenly found ourselves on top of the fourth peak of the day. (*Note: There’s a good bivy shelter here and beside it was a beachball sized snowball, the only snow we saw between the upper glacier and the north-facing ledges above the evacuation gully.)



Rich on Main summit. Photo by Barry Hansen



Barry on Main summit. Photo by Rich Priebe

After a couple more photos and a quick snack, we began a long series of rappels toward the notch between the two north peaks. On one particularly awkward section, our rope got jammed and we couldn't free it up. I volunteered Rich to climb back up, which he did. I made a mental note that I owed him one. Along our descent, we observed the party ahead of us slowly ascending the final peak. We yelled a few words of encouragement and grabbed some cool pics of them. A few more rappels brought us to the base of the Northwest Peak. Fatigue was setting in as we ascended to our final summit. And our water supply was now depleted. We really should have taken a few minutes to melt a piece of that big snowball.

Our mentally and physically exhausted state wasn't prepared for the obstacle awaiting us at the final few meters. We anticipated a scramble like the previous four peaks but instead encountered a wide shelf with a short vertical face separating us from the top. It would have been manageable under normal conditions but we were feeling pretty spent after 13 hours on the go. We searched for an easy way up but it doesn't exist. The most obvious route has a couple of tricky 5th class moves. Rich gave it a go but just didn't have enough fuel in the tank. I seriously contemplated resigning to 'four out of five peaks ain't bad' but I knew Rich wouldn't and that I would quickly regret such a decision. I also knew it was my turn to repay Rich for his rope-retrieval foray on the previous peak and so I mustered what remained of my mental and physical energy, dug into some deep volitional reserves, somehow managed to make the moves, and then belayed Rich up. Mission accomplished. All five peaks. Well, almost accomplished. We still had to get off the mountain.



*Climber on summit of Northwest Peak.
Photo by Barry Hansen*



*Rich on NE summit with main summit in background.
Photo by Barry Hansen*



*Quick break on north side of NW summit before dropping
into Evacuation Gully*

From the NW peak, a knife-edge ridge runs towards the North Tower. To the northwest, the ridge falls steeply into a wide bowl that narrows into a gully dropping off to the west. We observed a bomber rap station here but based upon our interpretation of available beta, we opted for the narrow ridge. However, a short distance along it I told Rich I wasn't feeling super confident about our choice and would like to look at the bowl option again. He agreed and so we backtracked to the rap station. We spotted another rap station further down and a faint path in the scree that traversed the bowl with some large cairns along the way. Much better!

We followed this route, which took us around and then downward to a crossroads of sorts. A series of slings headed down into the evacuation gully and another series paralleled the gully along the north face of the NW Peak. We knew the gully route came with bergschrund warnings but we opted for it because the sun was quickly setting and the party ahead of us had gone that way (we spotted them much further down, but along the lower slopes of the North Tower).

After taking a few minutes to melt some precious snow to quench our severely dehydrated bodies, we made multiple rappels to the top of the gully as the sun disappeared on the horizon. After drinking our fill of icy water, we began the descent in dark, wet, and cool conditions that sharply contrasted the previous 15 hours. We carefully navigated the anticipated obstacles of loose rock and patchy snow and occasionally encountered haphazardly placed pieces of webbing and cordelette, which we gratefully used to assist our descent.

Mild anxiety set in after donning our headlamps to rappel a steep snowy section only to have the rope get jammed while pulling it. We decided that Rich would work at freeing the rope while I recced our next move in the pitch black. At this point, the gully dropped sharply, forcing me slightly upwards to the north to a wide, gentle sloping feature. I searched for a rap station or obvious route down but could locate neither. But then I discovered something better: a small, nearly level spot where the slope met the vertical bluff above. An almost perfect bivy site that could be made more perfect with a little effort.

I walked back to where Rich could hear me and communicated my findings. He agreed but was still working to free the rope and so I went to work upgrading the bivy. Two large rocks required moving. I rolled the first flatter one a couple of times until it was clear. The second rounder one rolled much easier. In fact, a bit too easy as it took on a life of its own. I watched as it slowly rolled towards the main drainage on the left before disappearing into the darkness in a thunderous roar that pierced the sacred silence and lasted an uncomfortable length of time. I yelled to Rich, "Sorry, *that was me!*"



Looking east at top of Evacuation Gully at sunset



Rich rappelling down final section of Evacuation Gully in morning

After freeing the rope, Rich joined me at our bivy site, which we finished together before crawling into our bivy sacks after 16 hours on the move. I should have been hungry but only had enough strength to scarf down a Larabar and guzzle another half-litre of water. My thirst was unquenchable. We laid on our backs under the warm, starry, still, and mosquito-less summer sky and drifted off to sleep.

Since there was no need for anything resembling an alpine start, we allowed our minds and bodies the luxury of sleeping in until it was light. We slowly packed up and then quickly found a bomber rap station with six solid pieces of webbing at the far edge of the slope we spent the night on. Four raps later we were officially off the mountain. It would have been extremely difficult to locate these anchors and safely rappel down in the dark, especially since a couple of them were overhanging, freefall drops. And so, sitting tight that night was right.

We descended the lower snow field, crossed over the north shoulder, and dropped 600m through the forest to the outflow of Landslide Lake. It was around noon, getting hot, and an alpine bath was in order. And so, we indulged. Cold water never felt so good. We redressed, repacked, and quickly retraced our steps back down the ERT to our awaiting chariot.





Happy endings at Landslide Lake. Photo by Barry Hansen

Would I do it again? Absolutely. Would I do anything different? Yes, I'd definitely avoid the evacuation gully, opting for the cleaner and safer descent down the north face of the Northwest Peak. I'd also manage my hydration better. And I'd possibly consider going north to south instead—but that would be a completely different adventure.



Frozen waves. Photo by Keith Battersby, submitted to the 2020 ACCVI photo competition, Nature

An interview with Neil Ernst
Creator of our online discussion forum Discourse
By Catrin Brown

Catrin: Neil, tell us what brought you to Victoria and when you joined the club?

Neil: I moved back to Victoria in 2017 after a decade or so in Vancouver, Toronto and Pittsburgh for work and school. Apart from the job and being closer to family, I greatly missed our mountains and ocean lifestyle (although not the seagulls currently outside my window). I wanted to get back to outdoor living which I feel I kind of lost when in the east and the ACC seemed like - and is! - a great place to experience that with friendly and helpful people.

Catrin: We're glad you found us! What club activities have you enjoyed and what do you look forward to doing when restrictions are lifted?

Neil: I've done a few trips backcountry skiing and really like the club's education program, which I've really missed these past 18 months. We seem to have a nice blend of informal training from highly experienced volunteers, and Jan Neuspiel's Island Alpine Guides outfit. A nice part about being middle-aged is having a bit more money to do formal training and get proper equipment.

Catrin: I understand you have a background in computer technology. What did you notice about the section's online communication channels, and what did you think could be done better?

Neil: Right, I'm a professor at UVic in the computer science department, so hopefully I know a thing or two! I also watch my children use messaging platforms all the time to chat with their peers, mostly to organize video game sessions.

I came of age with bulletin boards systems (remember those?) and then blogs, when we saw the internet as this great equalizing force, open and accessible to all. Recently though, big companies like Facebook have taken over the open internet. I can't deny Facebook's advantages - they make online interaction very simple - but I am philosophically opposed to their closed approach, not to mention some of the other problems like privacy violations, polarization and misinformation. It seems odd to me that an open and welcoming club like the ACC and its sections should require us to sign over personal privacy to a big company just to chat about stuff like backcountry hazards.



Neil Ernst

Catrin: You have helped us set up “Discourse” as an online tool. What advantages and potential does this bring to our community?

Neil: Discourse (discourse.accvi.ca) is a fairly stable, open source discussion platform that comes from the folks who created StackExchange (e.g., outdoors.stackexchange.com). It offers most of the features that Facebook does, but no account is necessary to browse the content. Plus, we get to own the content for trip reports, photos, etc. One thing you realize when you read the Bushwhacker is how long the ACC has been around. Keeping our history alive for folks 100+ years from now seems important, especially for this big H historic year we have had.

The downside is that Facebook and similar products are really good at keeping you engaged, supporting new features, etc. Although creating an account is easy on our Discourse, it’s one more step. Also, the club has to maintain and host it, back up the data, upgrade the software, and so on. However, these last things are pretty easy, and the data is hosted in Canada, which complies with some of our local laws.

Catrin: Yes, I found I only needed to sign in to Discourse the first time, and then it’s a click away from our homepage. I wonder how you might like to see this platform evolve for our section?

Neil: Ideally, we would have tighter integration between the communication channels, add an easy way to link to items for sale, add more mapping abilities for road closures and such. Frankly there are lots of features we could add, but the big question is how much people will use this as a channel for interaction. It’s been a bit hard to judge since we haven’t been doing much this year! But I’ve noticed more uptake, and the ability to archive discussions outside personal emails - for things like hut discussions - seems really valuable. For volunteer clubs it’s often hard to properly hand over to the next person, since so many documents and knowledge are in personal email.

Catrin: That’s a really good point - I like having things shared centrally in this way. I also find Facebook is frustrating with its very short attention span, where messages quickly become superceded. Discourse seems to provide a much better opportunity to archive items like Trip Reports, and the organisation by “categories” helps to access things quickly.

Some of the things you mention above are quite exciting as potential add-ons. If members have queries or suggestions for how to improve our online communication, can they contact you?

Neil: Sure! They could reach out to me on Discourse or via email at discourse@accvi.ca.

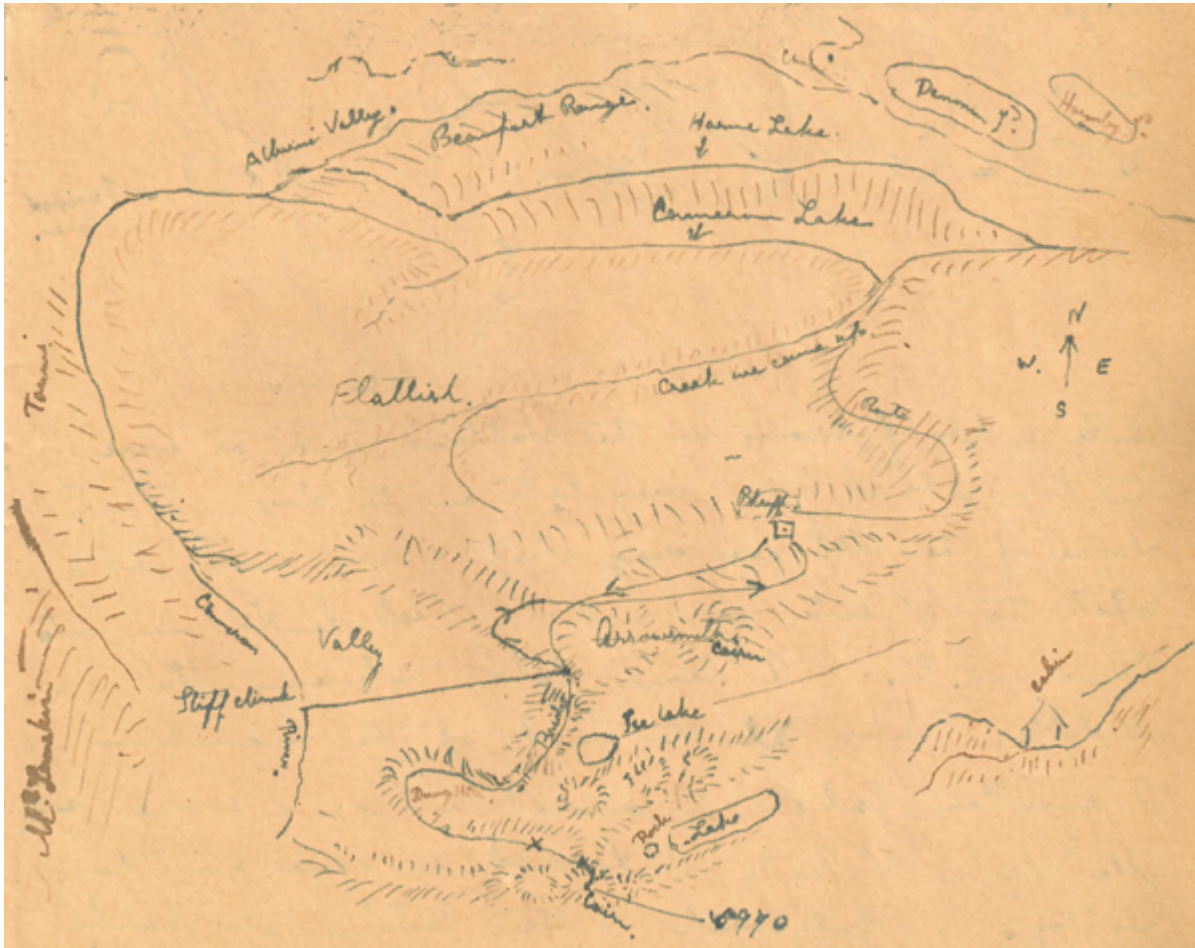
Catrin: Many thanks Neil - for your initiative with this, and for taking the time to explain the background to us. I look forward to watching the use and functions of the platform increase. And let’s hope we can get out together on some trips soon!

And - dear reader - if you haven’t already done so already, check out <https://discourse.accvi.ca> and sign up.

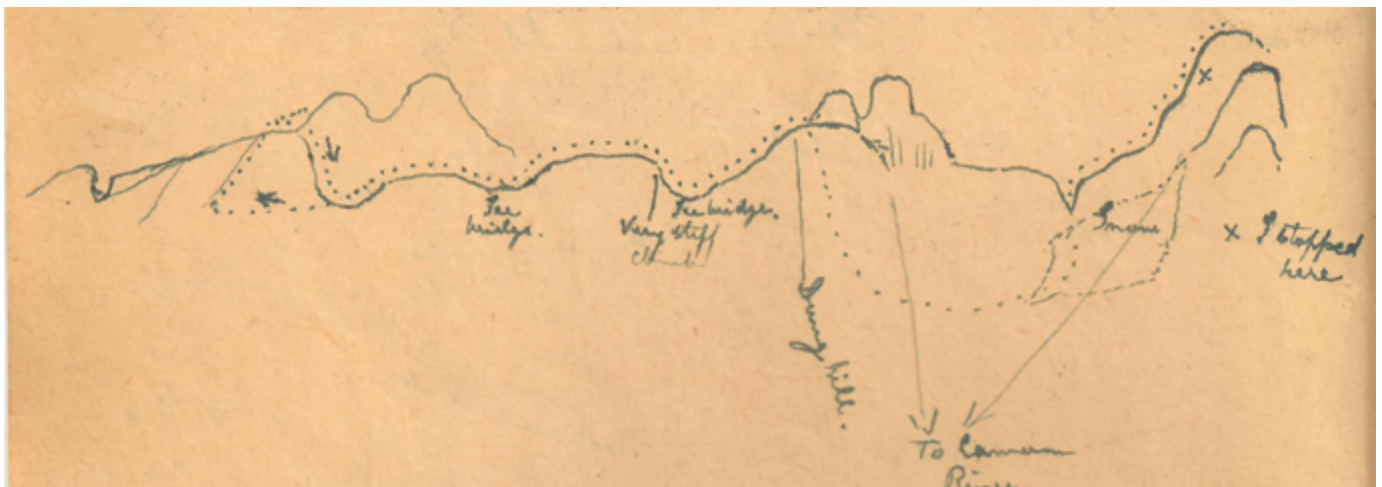


Stanley Baynes drawings

By Lindsay Elms



These two drawings were drawn by Stanley Baynes, a resident of Port Alberni, who in September 1919 made an attempt to summit Mt Arrowsmith with Frederick Godsall, a member of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada. The drawings were obtained from his diary housed in the Alberni District Museum and Archives. One drawing is a general map of the Arrowsmith massif while the second shows the route along the bumps to the final ridge to Arrowsmith's summit. Unfortunately, the tricky rock pitch on the Nose stopped them from reaching the summit. On that day Godsall celebrated his 66th birthday.



South Island Climber's Association (SICA)

By Alois Schonenberger

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](#).



The South Island Climber's Association (SICA) was created in 2019 to represent rock climbers in the South Island area, from Cowichan to Port Renfrew and south to Victoria. Our genesis came about as the Capital Regional District (CRD) was engaging numerous user groups as part of a parks planning process. Previously, Victoria climbers were represented by the Climbers' Access Society of BC (CASBC). CASBC has recently been supporting the creation of a number of local associations such as SICA, so that local climbers are more closely involved.

SICA was established to protect and manage rock climbing areas in southern Vancouver Island, by:

- Promoting sustainable, responsible climbing,
- Building, maintaining, and restoring trails, climbs, anchors, and other needed facilities,
- Participating in planning for and management of public lands,
- Supporting research related to climbing,
- Educating climbers and others with regard to safety, and climbing practices to minimize user conflicts and environmental impacts, and
- Undertaking activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above purposes.

Despite having to put in-person events on hold due to COVID, we've been very busy! SICA is committed to working with landowners to secure ongoing access to the South Island's climbing areas. Many South Island crags are located in public parkland and the CRD has been engaging with SICA as they draft parks management plans. The popular Glen Lake crag is located on private property in Langford, and we have been working with the City of Langford to explore the possibility of protecting it as a climbing site. The SICA board has also been reaching out to local Indigenous governments. We understand that Indigenous communities have higher-priority priorities than building relationships with recreational associations such as ours, but we are nonetheless committed to ensuring that a line of communication is open.

SICA's future looks rosy! There continues to be a lot of interest in memberships, and our first AGM was held (virtually) in late May. We will continue to work with landowners and have plans to support educational goals once larger gatherings are allowed.

To encourage a large user base SICA has kept our member fees as low as possible. We have received financial support from Victoria-area climbing gyms (Crag X and Boulder House), and in both 2019 and 2020, ACCVI provided us with generous donations. We are very grateful for this support, which has been vital in allowing SICA to connect with developers and support route development in the South Island area. In 2020 our bolt fund supported new crag development in the Cowichan Valley area, and we couldn't have done this without the help of ACCVI!

If you are a climber located in the South Island and would like more information, check out our website here: <https://www.southislandclimbers.ca/>



*SICA members giving a tour of the Glen Lake Crag to the City of Langford, discussing the future of climbing in the area.
Photo by Haj Bains*

Griswold Pass Summer Camp 2021

As you may know, we had to cancel last year's camp but hope to run the camp this year in the same location. The recent news from the BC Public Health Office gives us hope that by July we can proceed! As announced previously, our decision to proceed or cancel will be made on June 15th, a key date for a COVID-19 update from the PHO.

For more information and pictures of the location, as well as our General Information Guide and the registration form, please see the **summer camp 2020** section in the "info for members" section of the ACCVI website (<https://accvi.ca/programs/summer-camp/>). Please note the revised dates for this year's camp on the Trip Schedule (<https://accvi.ca/events/>).



Toe of the glacier below Meson Peak. Photo by Liz Williams

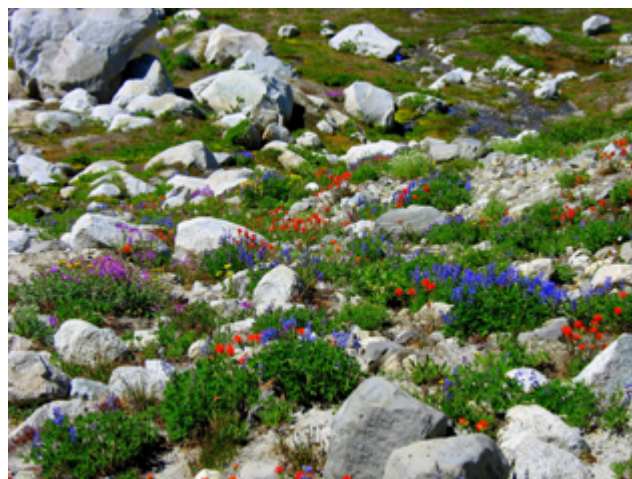


Griswold Camp. Photo by Liz Williams

Currently we are taking a waitlist for all weeks. Please be sure to include your **ACC number and expiry date** with your registration form and send it to summercamps@accvi.ca. We are not taking payment at this time, as we'll wait until June 15th to know if we can proceed. Please email summercamps@accvi.ca with any questions you may have.

Fingers crossed!

The Summer Camp Committee



Alpine flowers. Photo by Liz Williams

ACCVI History 1930

By Lindsay Elms

Since its inception in the winter of 1911/1912, the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada has been holding regular meetings, electing officers, offering day, overnight and multi-day trips and camps into the mountains, and alpine skills workshops. It has been instrumental in encouraging hundreds, if not thousands, of both young and old people into enjoying the wonderful pleasures associated with the outdoors as well as taking on contentious issues to ensure the wilderness of the island doesn't disappear and is protected for future generations - some things haven't changed in over 100 years. Unfortunately, for many decades there was no documentation of its meetings, activities or trips the way we are used to today. However, we now know that much of its history was written and printed in the newspapers - although not everything. The newspapers have revealed how the section evolved and grew. As I sifted through the early Victoria Daily Colonist, I found some incredible stories and a wealth of previously unknown information which wasn't even published in the Canadian Alpine Journal, the annual report by the parent organization. I realised that initially interest of the Vancouver Island members was in the mountains around Victoria, Sooke and Saanich because of the limited road system and transportation issues, but as road and rail was pushed further north up the island access to the mountains on the mid and north island became more feasible. I found stories in the Comox Argus newspaper from the late 1920's which published stories about the ACCVI but also the Comox District Mountaineering Club, a club whose beginnings date back to 1928 and was linked with its Victoria counterpart. I came to the conclusion that these articles and reports were today's equivalent of the Island Bushwhacker Annual - a synopsis of the clubs' activities, its role in society and the island mountaineering history. They are a fascinating insight into the people of the era and how they viewed their island home and the mountains. I therefore have included the CDMC stories in these yearly accounts.

ACCVI Executive: Chairman – Arthur Wheeler; Vice-chairman – William Dougan; Secretary – Kenneth Chadwick; Treasurer – Gordon Cameron; Outings Committee – Claude Harrison; Committee – Irene Bastow Hudson, Robert McCaw, Mrs. Postgate.

February 5 – Club talk by L. E. Taylor on birds at Y.M.C.A.
February 23 – Club trip to Mt. Shepherd.
March 8 – All-day trip to Bluff Mountain.
March 22 – Club trip to Muir Creek fossil beds.
March 26 – Club's 24th annual banquet at the Empress Hotel.
April 12 – Club trip to Mt. Jeffrey.
April 18/19/20/21 – Club camp in Sooke Hills.
May 17 – Club picnic at James White's place at Killarney Lake.
June 30–July 9 – Annual camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills.
August 30/31/Sept. 1 – Club camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills.
September 20 – Club half day trip to Lone Tree Hill.
October 4 – Club trip to Mt. Tzouhalem.
November 1 – Club trip to Blinkhorn Mountain.
November 8/9/10 – Club camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills.
November 30 – Half day club trip to Mt. Scafe.
December 27/28/29 – Three-day camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills.



Section members who attended the ACC annual summer camp at Maligne Lake, Jasper National Park: Irene Bastow Hudson, Lindley Crease.



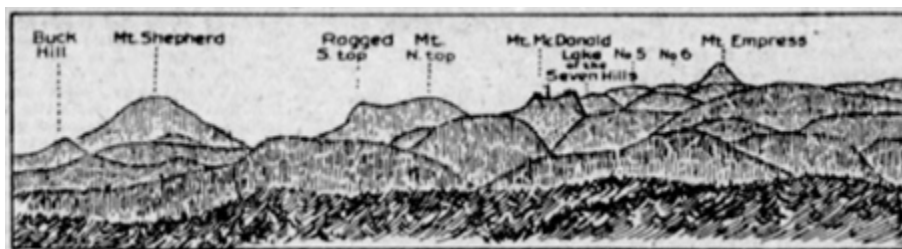
Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Friday February 7, 1930, p. 7.

BIRDS DESCRIBED TO ALPINE CLUB

A fascinating address on birds was given by Mr. L. E. Taylor of Saanichton, at a well attended meeting of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada at the Y.M.C.A. Wednesday evening [February 5]. Mr. W. [William] H. Dougan was in the chair, and Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, convenor of the outing committee, moved the very hearty vote of thanks to the speaker at the close of his talk, which was a very illuminating survey on the habits and origin of the various domestic fowls—pigeons, ostriches, canaries; of the great scavengers—gulls, kites and vultures; of the eiderdown duck, the wild goose and various insect-eating birds. In connection with this last subject, Mr. Taylor showed the essential importance of birds as destroyer of insects. Without birds the world would long have become barren of vegetation through the depredations of potato bugs, the silk worm, the locust, the elm bug and similar pests. Correspondence read included a letter from Mr. James White, of Sidney, extending the customary invitation to Lake Killarney, on May 17, which was received with grateful appreciation, and from the Victoria Real Estate Board asking for the club's co-operation in the preservation of wild flowers.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Sunday February 16, 1930, p. 3.

COUNTRY TO BE EXPLORED BY ALPINE CLUB



In the above picture are seen some of the hills in the Sooke country which are to be the objective of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada expedition this season. Among them will be seen Mount Shepherd, second from the left, which is to be climbed on Sunday, February 23. There are also visible the position in the "skyline" of the Lake of the Seven Hills, which is to be the scene of a week-end camp from April 18 to 21, Good Friday to Easter Monday, inclusive, and the position of Empress Mountain, where a subcamp will be stationed during the Summer camp from June 30 to July 9 at the Lake of the Seven Hills. The local section has a very fine programme of outings drawn up for the year, next Sunday's to be the second. On March 8 there will be an all-day expedition to Bluff Mountain, on March 22 a visit to Muir Creek fossil beds, and on April 12 an all-day trip to Mount Jeffrey.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Sunday March 9, 1930, p. 6.

ALPINE CLUB MEETS A BEAR

Party Climbing Bluff Mt. Yesterday Has Novel Experience.

Spring And Summer Programme Off To Good Start—Fossil Beds Next Destination

Yesterday's Alpine Club expedition to Bluff Mountain in the Sooke country, was made unusually exciting by the advent

of a big black bear on the landscape while the climbers were nearing the summit. Ursus was shy, however, and retreated into the woods as soon as he noted the visitors. Eighteen members joined the outing, which left the city at 9 o'clock in the morning and began to climb about 10 o'clock after parking their cars at the terminus of the Sooke River road. The weather was fine for the first hour or so, but later rain and snow were encountered. The summit of Bluff Mountain was reached about 1 o'clock, and after lunch and a brief tour of exploration the party returned to their starting point via the northern side of the hill. Some rough going was experienced, but under Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison's expert guidance obstacles were circumvented and the different points reached on scheduled time. The outing, which is the third of the 1930 Spring and Summer series, was made additionally enjoyable by the dinner-dance at the Belvedere Hotel, Sooke Harbor, with which it concluded. On their arrival at the hotel the climbing party found about the same number of non-climbing members, and dinner proved a very jolly event, each person responding to his name in the roll-call by a song, story or anecdote which enlivened the proceedings. After dinner there was dancing until midnight, Mr. R. [Robert] McCaw making a versatile pianist. The club's next outing will be on Saturday, March 22, when the Muir Creek fossil beds will be visited. Eight new members joined yesterday.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday March 12, 1930, p. 8.

HEARS LECTURE ON PLATEAU

Mr. C. L. Harrison Spoke To Overseas Club At Victoria

A large number of members of the Overseas League met in Victoria to hear a lecture by Claude L. Harrison on the little-known mountain territory lying between Courtenay and the West Coast and embracing Mount Beecher [Becher], Mount Albert Edward and the Forbidden Plateau. The lecturer said this particular territory was explored during last summer by an expedition of the members of the Alpine Club of Victoria led by himself, and having the ascent of Mount Albert Edward (altitude about 7,000 feet) for its special objective. The region explored by the expedition consists of a series of mountains, valleys and plateaux, plentiful studded with beautiful lakes, and traversed by picturesque mountain torrents and stream, some of which flow through canyons having a depth of from 1,500 to 2,000 feet. The vegetation in the lower valleys and plateaux consists for the most part of patches of heather, rank grass and stunted trees, the heather rather than the grass growing on the higher ground. Many deer, ptarmigan and other animals and birds were seen in the lower-lying country, and unmistakable evidences of the presence of both cougars and wolves were met with. Mr. Harrison exhibited a number of very fine colored lantern pictures showing the great beauty of the country traversed by the expedition. He concluded his address by very insistently advocating the preservation of this territory as a national park reservation and the systematic conservation of the more scenic parts of Vancouver Island from ruthless devastation by logging operators. The members of the league unanimously agreed with Mr. Harrison's conservation contentions, and warmly applauded and thanked him for his very interesting lecture.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday March 12, 1930, p. 8.

SHOULD TAKE OVER FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Provincial Government Asked To Expropriate

It is evident that the Forbidden Plateau is going to be the scene of many expeditions this spring and summer. Mr. H. Barnes and importer of shrubs and trees of Vancouver, is going to take a party of about 26 to the Plateau, probably in July. Mr. G. H. Wailes of the Biological Station at Nanaimo is planning to escort a party of geologists into the region this summer, too, and there is no doubt that there will be many more. The Alpine Club of Vancouver is seeking information about a trip to the Dome Glacier [Comox Glacier] for its Dominion Day holiday. A resolution was passed at the meeting of the Courtenay-Comox Board of Trade on Tuesday [March 10] that the province expropriates the Forbidden Plateau for the purpose of turning it over to the Dominion Government. This was endorsing the action of the provincial board of the B.C. Automobile Club, which is going to put the matter before the government shortly. The president, Mr. P. L. [Leo] Anderton, and Mr. Theed Pearse who have left for Victoria, will co-operate with the B.C. Automobile Club at this end. Mrs. Edna M. Fowlie of Penticton asked the board for lantern slides of Vancouver Island to illustrate a lecture. The matter was considered favorable and was referred to the Publicity Committee. Ald. [William] Douglas reported that five oil-paintings that had been placed at Nanaimo and Victoria very favorably and that the recipients were very pleased with them. Fifty dollars has been voted to the B.C. Advertisers for a page in their folders. A great deal of the time of the meeting was taken up with the consideration of slogans. A committee of judges had sifted the 428 received down to eleven. Some members of the board did not see eye to eye with the judges in their system of judging and a

final decision was adjourned. Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood said he wanted to pay a special tribute of thanks to the Nanaimo branch of the Automobile Club for their assistance in advertising this part of the island to tourists and in that matter of roads. Mr. William Douglas brought forward the names Messrs. Geo. Russell of Denman Island and Mr. L. G. Layton of Courtenay as new members and they were accepted by the board. Mr. William Douglas asked if it were the desire to hold a Klondyke Dance this year and he was told to go ahead. The next meeting will be the annual meeting and it will again take the form of a dinner.



Leo Anderson and Clinton Wood

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Thursday March 27, 1930, p. 5.

ALPINE CLUB ANNIVERSARY DINNER HELD

Beauty Of B.C. And Island Mountain Scenery Theme Of Speeches At Annual Gathering—Local Section Is Rapidly Growing

Glowing tribute to the beauty and inspiration which is to be found among the mountainous districts of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, was paid by several speakers at the twenty-fourth anniversary dinner of the Vancouver Island

section of the Alpine Club of Canada, held last night [March 26] in the Duke of Kent private dining room at the Empress Hotel. The record attendance at this annual gathering testified to growing interest in mountains and mountaineering craft. The majority of the sixty-five guests present were active members who have participated in part or all of the section's climbing programme during the year; and while Hon. F. [Frederick] P. Burden, Minister of Lands, and other speakers touched on the value of such an organization in calling attention of tourists to this province, the primary claims of mountaineering as a healthful sport and recreation were emphasized by all. "To endure as well as to enjoy is an important principle with the Alpinist," Mr. Lindley Crease noted in the course of his response to Mr. R. [Robert] D. McCaw's toast to the "Alpine Club of Canada." This comment suggested the innate character-testing qualities of the pastime. Mr. W. [William] H. Dougan, vice-chairman of the section, presided in the absence of the chairman, Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, F.R.G.S., founder of the Alpine Club of Canada, and now honorary president of the national organization after holding the position of president and director for many years. Both the presiding chairman, Mr. Dougan, and Mr. McCaw paid eloquent tribute to Mr. Wheeler as a mountaineer, the former characterizing the absent chairman as "the grand old man of the mountains." Mr. Wheeler's annual message of greeting was listened to with enthusiasm, being in part as follows:

THE ANNUAL MESSAGE

"My very dear comrades of the great hill, it is my desire to send to you my greetings and congratulations upon the arrival of our twenty-fourth anniversary. When I look back upon the struggles and difficulties of our youthful days, I feel proud to know how firmly and satisfactorily we are established upon the rock of the Canadian Cordilleras. And yet I cannot but doubt whether the luxury of the outdoor life in modern times can equal the joy and enthusiasm of the more primitive equipment of our beginning. For there were giants in those days. And so it is with the mountains themselves. Do not forget that there are still many peaks to conquer in parts that are little known. Always bear in mind that we are the Alpine representative of the Canadian Cordilleras, and as such have a high and definite standard to aspire to as well as a national responsibility." "My message to you is to keep on doing things in the same old way. We have motor cars, we have airplanes, we have speed boats, but with all their speed and elimination of distance they cannot take from us the joy of a glorious climb, its product of our own muscles and our own energies upon a mountain well beset with ice and snow, and the ultimate exaltation of mind on reaching the summit, when the world is at our feet and we have achieved the climax of our endeavour," the chairman's message added. The sixfold objects of the Alpine Club were set out by Mr. R. D. McCaw in his toast to "The Alpine Club of Canada." The promotion of scientific study and exploration of Canadian Alpine and glacial regions; the cultivation of art in relation to mountain scenery; the education of Canadians to an appreciation of their mountain heritage; the encouragement of mountain craft and the opening of new regions as national playground; the preservation of the natural beauties of the mountain places and of the fauna and flora in their habitat; and the interchange of literature with other alpine and geographical organizations.

LARGE MEMBERSHIP

Founded twenty-four years ago the membership numbered about 650 scattered over Canada, the United States and England, local sections being in London, New York, Minneapolis, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria. In responding to this toast, Mr. Lindley Crease noted the improvement which had taken place in the craft of mountaineering with the organization of Alpine clubs and the scientific study of the pastime. Engineers and land surveyors, whose primary objective in climbing a mountain was to get to the top, had gone at it very much on the principle of "catch as catch can." Today it was a science. Some of the great names in mountaineering were recalled, including that of the famous Edward Whymper. The mountains had a stimulating and ennobling influence.

WONDERFUL SCENERY

Mr. C. L. Harrison, in proposing the toast to "The Province," reminded the gathering of the scenic magnificence which British Columbia held within its boundaries. Not the least of the province's resources in this respect were to be found on Vancouver Island, which had some of the finest mountain regions. In this connection tribute was paid to the assistance which the Government was giving in developing and making these accessible, with special reference to the interest taken in making available the beautiful area in the Sooke Hills, now owned by the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, and which about two hundred members and others had visited last year. It was to be hoped the administration would continue to show friendly interest in the development of British Columbia's playgrounds and the setting aside of some such fine areas as were to be found facing the Pacific on Vancouver Island. The attraction of the Fort George riding, which he represents, were called attention to by Hon. F. P. Burden, Minister of

Lands, in his response to the toast to "The Province." British Columbia might well claim to be the premier province of the Dominion, scenically, and should be proud of its great natural playgrounds. If the Alpine Club had no other justification, although he had reason to believe it had, the part which it played in advertising the mountain beauties of British Columbia made it important. The tourist business was daily becoming more important to the province. Messages of greetings were read by the secretary of the Calgary branch, as well as from Mr. Thomas B. Moffat, of Calgary, president of the Alpine Club of Canada. A musical programme, arranged by Mr. R. D. McCaw, include delightful vocal solos by Mrs. McCaw, "Twas April" (Nevin) and "Suzette"; and "On the Road to Mandalay" by Mr. McCaw, Mrs. [Bernice] Chave making an able accompanist. Mr. Gordon Cameron led the choruses, "We've Been Tramping on the Mountain," "The More We Get Together," "Haul! Haul!" and "My Beauties Lies Up in the Mountains," the solo part sung by Mrs. McCaw.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Saturday April 19, 1930, p. 2.

MAYOR WALKS SEVEN MILES WITH POSY

Members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, who went up to the camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills, in the Sooke Mountains, yesterday, found the following freshly chalked on the Jordan River pipe-line high above the river: "The Mayor passed here at 8:55 a.m. Good Friday, April 18." On arrival at the camp, they were met by Mr. John Craig, the picturesque mayor of Leechtown, who had set out in the early dawn and walked seven miles of railway track and mountain trail in order to bring a nosegay of Leechtown daffodils and flowering current to Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, the popular leader of Alpine Club outings, and Mrs. Harrison.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist*
Sunday April 20, 1930, p. 2.

WHERE ALPINE CLUB IS SPENDING HOLIDAY

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada is enjoying its first camp of the year, twelve members going under canvas at the Lake of the Seven Hills (No. 7 on the above map) on Good Friday to remain over the Easter holidays. The weather has been ideal, and under Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison's guidance some good climbs are being experienced in the hills surrounding the beautiful mountain tarn which the club's property embraces. The legend on the accompanying map indicates some of the major eminences in the Sooke district which are accessible from the camp. Members were gratified to find on their first visit of the year to the lake that work on the club hut is progressing, and a number of logs have already been cut and dressed.



Reported in the *Daily Colonist*
Tuesday April 29, 1930, p. 5.

ALPINE CLUB PLAN ANOTHER WEEK-END

Arrangements Already Under Way For Four Days' May Camp—Bonfire Island Inaugurated

Inspired by the success of the recent Easter camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills, Sooke Range, when a total of thirty-eight members and guests registered in during the four days with a maximum of twenty-two under canvas on any one night, the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada is already making plans for a four-days' camp at the Leech River Falls on Empire Day week-end. The main party will leave Victoria at 9 a.m., on Friday, May 23, by

C.N.R. gas train, and camp will not break until the following Monday, although the trip will be so arranged that members who wish to be back in the city on the Monday morning may come out on Sunday evening. Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, outings convener, will be in personal charge of the expedition. A new feature of the recent camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills was the inauguration of Bonfire Island. This island, which is about a hundred feet from the point on the shore where the main camp is situate, has been connected by the mainland by a picturesque rustic bridge, and owing to its isolation and the fact that it is surrounded by water, bonfires can be lighted without the hazard to the country round about. The three evening bonfires held last week-end were very jolly occasions, with impromptu programmes which brought out some good talent from among the guests. Work on the new hut is steadily progressing. The construction is in the hands of Mr. S. W. Baten. The building will be of perpendicularly-placed logs, and the overall measurement of the floor space will be twenty by thirty feet, with an eight-foot verandah. A great stone fire-place is being built. The camp design includes a plan for an open-air table round which the campers will gather for their meals, and it is the intention to have the whole establishment in complete readiness for the ten-days' camp to be held from June 30 to July 9 inclusive, when a sub-camp is to be opened also on Mount Empress.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday May 1, 1930, p.1.

SURVEY PROMISED FOR PLATEAU

First Step To Making Area A National Park

What, it is hoped, will be the first step in making the Forbidden Plateau a national park was taken when Mr. D. C. Coleman, vice president of the C.P.R. and president of the E&N railway, definitely ordered a survey to be made of the area embraced by this park for the purpose of estimating the lumber and mineral values. It is contended by all those who wish to see it a park that most of the timber is quite valueless and that the small stands that would be good for pulpwood at some remote time are so isolated and distant as to be of no merchantable value. As to minerals, although some claims have been staked, no ore of any importance whatever has ever been found and indications are poor that it ever will be. The survey will be made just as soon as it is possible to get into the Plateau with such a survey in view and Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, City Clerk has been given leave of absence for a week to accompany the party as guide.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Sunday May 4, 1930, p. 8.

ENTERTAIN ALPINISTS

The Misses Phyllis and Eileen Pendray entertained at a delightful little dance last evening at their home, 2391 Beach Drive, the guests, about forty in number, being members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, who were present at the Easter Week-end camp at Lake of the Seven Hills, Sooke. A three-piece orchestra in charge of Mr. C. Heston, furnished the music, and late in the evening a buffet supper was served, the table presenting a very attractive appearance with its decorations of yellow tulips and yellow tapers. Lilac and tulips were used in profusion for the decoration of the other reception rooms.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday June 5, 1930, p. 1.

FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Ice And Snow Now All Gone In Open Stretches

Mr. E. [Eugene] Croteau has gone to make camp on the Forbidden Plateau this year. Mr. Ronald R. Ruddiman, Assistant Scout Executive of the Seattle Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, has gone in to spy out the land for the Boy Scouts of America. The ice is off the lakes and in ten days time it will have all gone in the open. A committee of the Board of Trade waited upon Dr. G. [George] K.



Eugene Croteau and his dog Plateau

MacNaughton, M.L.A., and the Assistant District Engineer to ask him to extend the Dove Creek trail two miles and a half from the farm towards the Plateau. This is now the only real available entrance to the plateau as the swinging bridge has been dropped at Bevan, and long stretches of the trail have been obliterated by logs thrown down by the Comox Logging company.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday June 19, 1930, p.1.

MUCH INTEREST IN FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

Annual Meeting Of Mountaineering Club Well Attended

That there is real enthusiasm for hiking and mountaineering in the district was well shown by the excellent attendance at the annual meeting of the Comox-Courtenay and District Mountaineering Club on Friday night in the City Hall when 25 members turned out. This was particularly noticeable among the younger people who appeared very keen. After the ballot, Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood was elected president with Mr. William Douglas as vice-president. The list of the officers is as follows: President – C. S. Wood; Vice-President – William Douglas; Sec.-Treas. – Mr. Geoffrey B. Capes; Executive Committee – the Misses Anderson and Rea and Messrs. W.A. [Adrian] B. Paul, Ben Hughes, Eversfield and Moore. Dr. [Frank] Moore was re-nominated for secretary treasurer but insisted on retiring. On the invitation of the president, Mr. E. [Eugene] Croteau revealed his plan for the camp on Forbidden Plateau this year. He told the members that he expected their support and pointed out that if he did not make a success of it this year it would be difficult for the club to get anyone else to take on the job. He has fixed his camp on a beautiful lake just in the Plateau country proper. He said that Courtenay and the district would derive much benefit from the travel into the Plateau. As to the accommodation on the Plateau he has built a cabin and he already had 12 tents, which had been loaned to him, which would make quite a little city. He suggested that the club should use their influence to get the Dove Creek trail improved and also to getting look-outs with the idea of having them cut by fallers when they were located. A resolution was passed asking the government to continue the Burns Road two miles and a half up the Dove Creek trail. This would mean the length of the trail would be cut 20 per cent; a great advantage. It could be done at comparatively small cost as for part of the road, it could follow an old diamond drill trail. The president, in his resume of the work done for the year, reported that the Mount Beecher [Becher] Cabin still wanted some work done on it to complete it and they owed \$125 on a note. There was a twelve-foot toboggan to be taken up there next year, given by Messrs. William Douglas and A. T. Searle. Some of the lakes on the Plateau had been stocked with fish and seven more would be this year. He would like



The Mt. Beecher cabin in the 1930s

to see a little more interest taking in clubs and hikes. He reported that a great deal of information had been obtained by a party that had climbed the Dome [Comox Glacier] under the leadership of Mr. Paul and the Vancouver [Island] section of the B.C. Alpine Club was coming up at the Dominion holidays to go into the same country.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Sunday June 29, 1930, p. 4.

ALPINE CLUB GOES TO CAMP

About 40 Members Go Under Canvas For Ten Days At Lake Of The Seven Hills—Sub-Camp Being Placed On Mt.

Empress, Where Nightly Bonfire Will Be Visible From Victoria

With registration of about forty, the Summer camp of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, which opens tomorrow at the Lake of the Seven Hills, Sooke Mountains, will go under canvas as the largest camp yet organized at the popular mountain resort. Mr. Claude Harrison, outings convenor, Mr. K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick, the secretary, and one or two others left for the camp yesterday to get things in readiness. Other members will leave today and tomorrow, so that by tomorrow night there should be a record attendance round the camp fire. The camp is to continue until Wednesday, July 9, inclusive, and a splendid programme of climbs has been drawn up for the entertainment of the members. A sub-camp is to be erected on Mount Empress, and will be ready tomorrow, so that the more ambitious members can proceed there at once and start their exploration of the district. While the supplies and equipment at the main camp, Lake of the Seven Hills, are as generous as are usually found at a big camp, those at the sub-camp will be of a simpler kind, demanded by the fact that it is quite a distance from the main trail, and much more inaccessible.

GOING LIGHT

Silk tents and concentrated foods are being taken over. Every night, commencing on Tuesday, July 1, from 10:30 p.m. to midnight, a great bonfire will be lighted on the top of Empress Mountain, and Victoria friends who are interested in the position of the encampment will be able to locate it by looking westward at this time. In the daytime the point may be seen as the highest point on the skyline as seen from the corner of Government and Yates Street, Government and Fort. Six persons will attend the sub-camp every night from July 1 to July 8 inclusive. The nightly bonfire at the Lake of the Seven Hills will not be visible from Victoria, although the camp is high up in the hills. Some months ago it was decided, as a safeguard against the starting of forest fires, to construct these bonfires on the small island in the lake, and to this end a light bridge will be built connecting the island to the mainland. It has added a picturesque feature to the camp surroundings, and the little walk to and from the camp is very attractive.

RADIO OUTFIT

The equipment, which is delivered by pack train to the camp grounds yesterday, includes a radio outfit and a gramophone. The pack train, which is in charge of Mr. S. Batten, will go in and out of camp daily, keeping up a fresh supply of vegetables and meats. Since the last camp a large permanent eating house has been constructed. This is in keeping with the place, being built of logs, and has tables and seats to accommodate forty-four people. The cooking arrangements are also much improved, three open air cooking stoves have been installed. The store house is also of more permanent type. The canoe and rubber boat will be available again, and boating and bathing are certain to be popular. Following are a list of those who are attending the ten days' camp: Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Harrison, Mr. K. M. Chadwick, Mr. R. [Reginald] Chave, Cyril Chave, Miss J. Bell, Mr. Gordon Cameron, A. D'Arcy, W. [William] H. Dougan, Mrs. [Charlotte] Hadow, Miss Audrey Hadow, Mr. A. [Arthur] Haynes*, Miss Marjorie Haynes, Miss Mary Haynes, Mrs. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. J. Holmes, Miss Holmes, Miss G. Johnson, Miss M. Little, Captain Lloyd, Miss E. Melton, Dr. [Mark] Mitchell*, Miss P. [Phyllis] Pendary, Miss E. [Eileen] Pendray, Miss C. Pine, Miss Margaret Watson, Miss K. [Katherine] Wollaston, Mrs. John Nairn, Captain and Mrs. Fleming, Miss E. Loughheed, Miss Hind, Mr. L. Bosch, Miss Vesey, and several visitors.



*Arthur Edward Haynes (1872 – 1935) was born in Victoria, attended Boys Central School and Victoria High School, where he won the Lieut. -Gov.'s gold medal for scholarship. Haynes' father William was a professional musician who arrived in New Westminster in 1859 as bandmaster with the Royal Engineers. He encouraged Arthur to follow a career in music, but soon after joining his father's orchestra, he left to work in the accounts department of the telephone company. By age 25 he had launched a career in finance and real estate, and by 1900 was manager of British American Securities Company. In partnership with Major A. Small he headed Western Lands Ltd and became one of the leaders in the region's rapidly expanding real estate market. In 1898, Arthur married Matilda and built a home at 1512 Beach Drive named "Sandhurst." Matilda and Arthur had five children: Marjorie, Stanley, Harold, Kay and Mary. In 1906, he worked with fellow residents to initiate the incorporation of the District of Oak Bay. He served as a member of the inaugural Council and later in 1924. Haynes was an ardent golfer and a member of the ACCVI. Haynes Park, on Beach Drive, is named in his honour.



Arthur Haynes

*William Eric Marcus "Mark" Mitchell (1897 - 1990) was born in 1897 in Northern Ireland and educated at Campbell College, Belfast, the University of London and St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. Mark Mitchell served in France with the Royal Irish Rifles during the First World War. He was injured and awarded the Military Cross. He returned to St. Bartholomew's for post-graduate training and became chief assistant to a surgical unit there. In 1926 Mitchell immigrated to Canada arriving overland to Victoria where he became the chief of the department of surgery at Royal Jubilee Hospital and at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital. From 1926 to 1939, he left his practice every few years to visit surgical clinics elsewhere, including Australia, the United States and Europe, to learn new techniques. During the Second World War, Mitchell served as lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was officer-in-charge of the surgical division in military hospitals in England, Malta and Egypt, where he served two years in each. After the war, he returned to Victoria and resumed his practice. In 1956, he was the Listerian Memorial Orator for the Victoria Medical Society and in 1965 he was elected an Honorary Member of the Society because of his distinguished service to the Society and the community at large. Mitchell was a member of the Society for sixty-five years. Mark Mitchell joined the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada and in 1946 attended the ACC Bugaboo Creek summer camp with his daughter Patricia, who graduated to active membership on Anniversary Peak. In 1948, he attended the Peyto Lake camp with Bill Lash and his son Mallory and daughter Sylvia; the Maligne Lake camp in 1950; the Mount Assiniboine camp in 1952; the Skoki Ski camp in 1954 with Ted Goodall and Noel Lax; and the Glacier Ski camp in 1955. It was at these camps where he first met Rex Gibson who was to become a close climbing friend. In 1953, Mitchell co-led a section trip to Big Interior Mountain with Gibson, where a young Syd Watts was beginning his mountaineering career. Mitchell was the Chairman of the Vancouver Island section from 1947 to 1953. Mark Mitchell passed away on December 26, 1990, in Victoria. (Obituary in the Times Colonist January 3, 1991, p.C1.) Doctor Peter Banks of Saanich said: "He was the first one to bring neurosurgical techniques to Victoria. Dr. Mitchell was a leader... [and his] standards, ethically and professionally, were the very highest." In 1969, Mitchell wrote a book: Health, Wealth and Happiness. It was a philosophy of life and a guide to living.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Saturday July 5, 1930, p. 4.

FIREWORKS SEEN FROM EMPRESS MOUNTAIN

Alpine Club, Now In Camp At Lake Of The Seven Hills—Enjoys Dominion Day Celebration

According to communications received from the annual camp of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada, now in progress at the Lake of the Seven Hills, Sooke Mountains, the weather is ideal, and the forty or more members are making full use of the days to climb all the higher summits in the neighboring country. The subcamp on Empress Mountain is proving particularly successful, the prearranged capacity of the camp being occupied every night, and with the fine clear mornings the climbers have been rewarded, on reaching the summit with magnificent views. The spectacle of Victoria's Dominion Day fireworks display was distinctly visible on Tuesday evening. The annual camp was in complete operation by Monday evening, with about forty members gathered around the campfire at the Lake of the Seven Hills. The reconnaissance party, headed by Mr. Claude Harrison, had been the occupation for the two previous days, and had everything in readiness, even to the Union Jack floating from the high flagstaff. From quite

early Monday morning, the little bands of mountaineers continued to arrive at the camp, gratified to find everything already in smooth-running order. A pack train, which goes in and out daily, had already brought in abundant supplies as well as the heavier packs, including tents and bedding, and four outdoor stoves were “drawing” splendidly and taking care of the cooking. Tuesday was a busy day. On that evening the first party was installed at the Mount Empress subcamp. Also, from the main camp two expeditions were dispatched, one in charge of Mr. [William] Dougan, making the ring of the Seven Hills. This was a very popular expedition, and with bright, clear weather and a sharp wind blowing, the visibility was splendid from each of the summits, Victoria being seen from Nos. 5, 1 and 2 summits. The lake waters are now quite warm, and on return to camp the climbers went swimming. The second expedition that day was to Mount Empress, the party being limited to six, owing to the capacity of equipment at the subcamp. This first night’s party included Miss P. [Phyllis] Pendray, Miss E. Loughheed, Miss M. Watson, Mr. K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick and Mr. L. Bosch, the leader of the party. As night fell, a beautiful view over the northern part of Sooke Lake and Goldstream Lake, the southern part of Sooke Harbor, the mountains of Leech River and Victoria was visible.

FIREWORKS SEEN

One of the rare sights, which will never be visible any other time of the year, probably, was the display of fireworks at Victoria. These were easily seen, particularly soaring rockets and “star” flares. This section of the party returned to the main camp on Wednesday, and spent the remainder of the day constructing trails. In the afternoon a little variation and excitement in the camp life was provided with the arrival of a consignment of fry from the Cowichan Lake hatcheries. Those planted last year have grown well, and it is hoped that in another two seasons the camp will have plenty of fishing for the members’ diversion, although the intention is to keep this under strict supervision to prevent extinction of the fish. The last dispatch from the camp arrived yesterday, and reports with daily arrival of visitors and members. Among the more recent expeditions to leave camp was one under Captain Lloyd to the Seven Hills, another in charge of Mr. Dougan to Mount Empress subcamp, and a third under Mr. K. M. Chadwick, went in another direction. On Thursday evening a fourth party went out to Mount Empress camp in charge of the outings’ convenor, Mr. C. [Claude] L. Harrison. Although it was a blustery night and slightly cold, everyone enjoyed the outing. Toward midnight there was a fine display of northern lights, visible for about an hour. The shafts of light rose high over the Coast Range from the direction of Vancouver. Yesterday another party, under Captain Lloyd, took in the hills about Grass Lake, and another party left in the evening, in charge of Mr. Chadwick, for Mount Empress subcamp.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Thursday August 14, 1930, p. 3.

ALPINE CLUB TO BEGIN OUTINGS

Schedule Of Pre-Christmas Activities Arranged At Meeting Yesterday—Will Climb Tzouhalem

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada is planning a full programme for the 1930-31 climbing season, and at a special meeting of the outings committee held last night at the home of the section secretary, K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick, Chestnut Street, a schedule of pre-Christmas events was drawn up which will keep the members active up to the end of November. One of these outings to Mount Tzouhalem, will take the club for the first time to the Cowichan district. The season will start with a three-day camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills over the Labor Day weekend, viz, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, August 30, 31 and September 1. Other outings were fixed as follows: Saturday, September 20, half-day expedition to Lone Tree Hill; Saturday, October 4, whole day expedition to Mount Tzouhalem; Saturday, October 18, whole day outing to Bluff Mountain, returning to the Sooke Harbor Hotel for dinner; Saturday, November 1, half-day at Blinkhorn, Mountain; Saturday, Sunday and Monday, November 8, 9 and 10, three-day camp at Lake of the Seven Hills; Sunday, November 30, half-day expedition to Scafe’s Mountain. The annual meeting will take place early in December, but there will probably be no outings during this month owing to the rush of events which always characterizes the pre-Christmas season. C. [Claude] L. Harrison, convenor of the outings committee, presided at last night’s meeting, and other members present were K. M. Chadwick, W. [William] H. Dougan and Mrs. [Charlotte] Hadow. Later in the season another meeting will be held for the purpose of drawing up the programme of outings for the first six months of 1931.



Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday August 21, 1930, p. 1.

HIKERS CLIMB MOUNT KUSAN

Sayward People Get Magnificent View

Sayward, Aug. 16. – During the past week or two, separate parties have scaled the heights of Mount Kusan [Hkusam Mountain], overlooking Johnston Straits, obtaining from the peak a splendid panorama view of the northern end of the island. Messrs. D. McDonald, D. Dixon and Leslie Kay, of the A. & L. Logging Co., left early Sunday morning reaching the peak in the afternoon. The weather was perfectly clear and they obtained to the north a view as far as Queen Charlotte Sound, and south as far as Powell River. Islands and inland channels across to the mainland formed a perfect picture, while numerous peaks and lakes to the west across the breadth of the island completed a delightful panorama. A second party consisting of visiting ladies and gentlemen accompanied by local residents, left one morning at 6 a.m. and reached the summit about six hours later. Haze or smoke somewhat obscured the view, but the party left a white banner on the peak as a mark of their prowess. The return trip was made in the record time of around three hours.



Croteau's camp at Croteau Lake

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Sunday August 24, 1930, p. 6.

ENTERTAIN ALPINE CLUB

Mr. and Mrs. C. [Claude] L. Harrison entertained members of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada yesterday afternoon [August 23] at their home in Uplands. About forty attended and the time was pleasantly passed wandering around the attractive garden and discussing with Mr. Harrison, the outings convenor, the forthcoming season's programme, which will open with a three-day camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills next week-end. The reception rooms were beautiful with flowers, the tea table, at which Mrs. K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick and Mrs. Hugh Mackenzie presided, being decorated with a great bowl of phlox in all pastel shades.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday August 28, 1930, p. 2.

MOUNTAINEERING

At last, the flood of local people, who have been intending to go into the Forbidden Plateau this season, is in full state. They have allowed the long night and fine visibility of July and early August to go by without taking their chance: but September may be fine and clear, though the days are too short for hiking. Mr. W. A. [Adrian] B. Paul and Mr. Arthur Leighton, of Nanaimo, have been in again, Mr. Leighton to revisit the scenes of the old Alpine camp and Mr. Paul to

do some more exploring along the Oyster River canyon. Two or three well-known naturalists have been in and the flora of the Plateau will soon be well known. They include Mr. R.A. Cummings of Vancouver, and Mr. Robt. Connell of Victoria, who writes for the Sunday Victoria papers, and Mr. Tom Stewart of Comox. Mr. Connell climbed and much enjoyed Mt. Washington, some time ago. Quite a large party of Royston people have been seeing its beauties for the first time, including Mr. Chas. Simms. On Sunday the Courtenay council will make an official visit to the watershed and incidentally see the Plateau. They will stay there till Wednesday. On the Saturday and the Sunday several other parties will go in, and the Hotel Croteau will be very busy indeed. It is now getting to the end of the season and any who wish to see the mountain park, would be well advised to hurry.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday September 4, 1930, p. 2.

MOUNTAINEERING

The civic party was very lucky to get such good weather, for after August has passed its meridian, weather in the Plateau is uncertain. The trail is very good as far as Camp 6, beyond, it is too wet and full of roots for very good going. The trail gang Messrs. Radford, Phil Ryan, and C. Burchell, left last week, the grant for the year being exhausted. Mr. W. A. [Adrian] B. Paul has cut a trail to Mount Arthur [Jutland Mountain]. This height had no name before, and as Mr. Paul's name [incorrect], and his eldest born and Mr. Leighton's of Nanaimo (who accompanied him on the first scaling of this peak) is Arthur, so it has been called. He brought horses in from Circle [Circlet] Lake over a well-blazed trail to an altitude of 5,000 feet. It is an easy climb and there are one or two pleasing lakes and meadows and amphitheatres on the way.

Gradually this part of the Vancouver Island is being mapped. Mr. [Alex] Gunning has explored it geologically for the Dominion Government and Mr. W. Regan has cruised it for timber for the E. & N. Land Department, its owners. When a motor road runs to Croteau's Camp and Circle Lake, thousands will come here, but for those who trod its early trails and made them, the glamor will have gone. For these however, as the unknown becomes the known, there are miles of alpine meadow and blue lakes to explore for years to come.

Mr. Eugene Croteau's camp has more than justified itself. It is within the Plateau country and situated on a lovely lake at the foot of rugged Mount Elma. Just at the back of the camp a most perfect panorama of the great peaks to the west and south can be seen. To the end of August, 145 people had stayed and passed through the camp. Where there was one last year there will be a dozen next. It is a good beginning. Before more people come in, freighting needs to be better organized and the trail improved west of Camp 6. We move surely, if slowly. Perhaps, what the civic party sees and experiences this week, will assist.

Mr. Ben Hughes has stumbled on a quicker and easier way to reach the great corridor of rock that leads to the approach to Mount Albert Edward. Following Mr. Paul's blazed trail till it begins to drop down hill to the first lake, then strike sharply uphill. It is well blazed to the tree line and "duck-stoned" beyond. Save for one short rock-slide, a sure-footed cayuse could go up all the way.



A party of climbers carrying firewood up Mt. Albert Edward so they can boil the billy

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday September 11, 1930, p.1 & 6.

EARTHQUAKE SCARED INDIANS

That the Indians were caught by an earthquake whilst in the interior of the island and left it never to go back, is Mr. Robt. Connell's idea of why the region is called the Forbidden Plateau. He writes in the *Victoria Times* of the place to which he has just made a visit. Apart altogether from their botany and geology there is a wonderful charm about these elevated regions of low heath plants. Twice within the last day or two I have been asked, "What is there to see when you get there?" It is a question not easy to answer because even the finest mountain scenery makes no appeal to some people. I have heard the Rockies quite seriously described as "just heaps of dirt." And appreciation of alpine heights is of quite recent growth. I should be inclined to say the reward of the visitor to the Forbidden Plateau or any other region about the upper level of trees is one that's compound of several things. Picturesque scenery is one, mountain air is another. A certain sense of freedom and apartness from the world of men is quite a distinct feature of the enjoyment of many. "There's the wind on the heath brother; if I could only feel that, I would gladly live for ever," said Jasper Petulengaro to Lavengro, and that is one way of putting the feeling I mean. Then there is a wonderful freshness and cleanness about the alpine regions. Someone has said that Scotland looks like a wet pebble, a statement that expresses the aspect of our own hills and valleys and mountain sides where the snow lingers everywhere far into the summer, and in places never disappears. You know how bright and sharp are the colors of the little stones where the waves wash them and how gray and disappointing, they are apt to be when dry; such is the difference between the lowland and the highlands. The bright tints of the mountain flowers, too, are singularly attractive, and are due, no doubt, to the brilliant sunshine of the short summer; perhaps also to the setting in which they grow, a powerful factor in matters of color.

A SINK-HOLE AND ITS HISTORY

Unwilling as we are to leave our elevated plateau—for that is what the summit of Strata Mountain really is: a block of old land surface—we have to leave the "bonnie purple heather" and descend. Remembering our sink-hole we made our way in its direction. At the base of the steepest part of the mountain side we entered a somewhat hummocky region and, in a few minutes, stood by the side of the great orifice which I have called a "sink-hole" though not entirely propriety, since the term is generally restricted to the openings found in the surface of limestone regions through which the rainwater drains away into subterranean channels. Openings of this kind are due to the dissolving influence of water on the lime-bearing rock. But the hole on whose edge we now stood wondering was excavated in shales. Its approximate depth was twenty feet, width fifteen feet, and length thirty. The sides were irregular, showing in places the relatively smooth sides of fractures in the soft material. The bottom, towards which the sides very slightly sloped contained only a little broken shale. A few plants, notably some still-flowering valerian and ferns, had made a start in one or two places, but the sides of the sink-hole were almost wholly bare of everything except moss and lichen, and these not in any great abundance. At the end of the cavity a narrow fissure, a foot or so wide, could be seen passing away under the light covering of heath vegetation.

AN EARTHQUAKE FISSURE

We were standing by an earthquake fissure of which the sink-hole was part, and the broken shale that had once filled the great cavity had disappeared into the depths below. To the north we found the fissure like a military trench extending for some distance, but unlike the work of human hands, the trench in places showed deeper crevices, whose bottom we could not see. This main fissure we followed until we found it cutting across the granodiorite which had intruded into the Cretaceous rocks. Here the fissure was more cleanly cut, and, in its wider places it was filled with great pieces of broken and shattered rock between which we found gaping holes that extended far below. Several parallel fissures were seen, some that approached at varying angles. In one place the fissure across a mass of granodiorite showed evidence of faulting, one side being a little over five feet. That there had been horizontal displacement in a north-south direction. In an article three years ago, it was said the Forbidden Plateau "derives its name from ancient Indian legends and superstitions. It was known to Indians and looked upon with a sort of awe. The suspicion seems to have been that it was forbidden land, probably haunted by spirits of the dead. Perhaps the red snow had something to do with its isolation, or the shapes of the grotesque trees at twilight. In any event the Indians shunned it like the plague."

INDIANS DREAD EXPLAINED

Now, as we looked at one after another of these openings and fissures, some open and exposed, others concealed from the unwary traveler by the low vegetation, the explanation of the Indian dread of the plateau seemed reasonably plain. At some not far distant time Indians, probably hunters, were surprised on the plateau by a great earthquake that fissured the rocks and shattered them with all the dread accompaniments of seismic disturbance. Terrified by the roar of the earth movement and the crash of the splintered and falling rock, they fled precipitately, and the story they told in their lodges of the people effectively tabooed the plateau to Indians thereafter. Such is the interpretation and explanation of the plateau's title of "Forbidden," based on the evidences of rock disturbance in the district. To it I have suggested at the time the name of "Devil's Playground" be given, but since then I have thought that it would be less commonplace to call it "Goblin's Playground," the goblin's being the malicious spirits who haunt dark and hidden places. As I shall show in telling of another visit to this off-the-beaten-track area, such a name well fits the strange and weird character of the terrain.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday September 11, 1930, p. 2.

MOUNTAINEERING

Every time I return from the climb into the alpine lakes and meadows of Vancouver Island known as the Forbidden Plateau since December 1927, when the first article on it appeared in the *Vancouver Sunday Province*—ever since I wonder when my memory has faded a little—if I had not been guilty of exaggeration. But in sober earnest, it is true. There are hundreds of heather-girt lakes. As you walk along the trail from Croteau's Camp to Circle [Circlet] Lake, you have but to swing left or right over the heather and you will find a lake unnamed. For many years to come there will be plenty of lakes to take name from those who have first explored and camped upon them and peaks to be won. A board should be created to see that such names are not too commonplace. Is there any delight greater to the mountaineer than blazing a new trail? The other day I followed the blazes of a man who had scaled and named a new peak: but very soon I grew tired of following any trail but my own, and struck straight up the escarpment to the heights above. Down came the clouds and I was isolated from the rest of the world in its soft folds. It was weird to hear the dull boom of distant avalanches like distant firing of big guns in the high hills through the clouds. There was nothing to do but—being alone and without trail—to blaze the back trail carefully. Each blaze must be perfectly visible from the last blaze, one step to right or left, and the friendly spot of white is hid by trunk of tree or branch. The blazes must be close or they will be lost to the rolling vapor. Up and up into the mist. There is no visibility, no sense of direction, save that of gravity and compass. Presently the trees are so small they give no surface for blazing. Then what? Loose splinters or rock piled one on the other, and known as "duck on a rock" with a pointer for the direction of the downward trail. They must be close together for, at a distance of more than a hundred feet, they merge into the general grayness. Up and up. The swirling vapor clears a little. On the rocks suddenly appear two ptarmigan, white winged as to neck.

THE FRIENDLY PTARMIGAN

They cluck unconcernedly as I stalk them with the camera. At ten feet they decided that this elongated slab of porphyry is altogether too inquisitive and they suddenly glide with spread wings and fluffed feathers to strike my knees and then settle ten feet away, where I snapped them. Not altogether alone in the world even here. After all, man cannot be altogether a gargoyle, if birds have less fear of him than a sparrow hawk nor can his smell be so malodorous if the bear scarcely troubles to amble out of the way—before they know us. Then indeed, we are dread. But the natives of the Forbidden Plateau may continue to be friendly without danger, for it is a game reserve.

THE MIST BREAKS

Ah! Suddenly in the folds of mist above, there is a break and a patch of snow shows through. There is a diffused glow in the mist and a warmth in the air. The vapor rolls forward and back but slowly the veil is rent, and I'm back in the solid world once more. I find that I am on the giant causeway which leads up and up to Mount Albert Edward, the highest peak of the southern island. On either side great cliffs fall to brawling streams and lakes, green with glacial silt. I can see the great sweep of the Mount Albert Edward escarpment with its breast of snow, and down below, the hundreds of little streams tinkling down its face to form the blue lakes of the Oyster River. The familiar outline of the

two-mile long snow-crowned Mount Albert Edward approach is there and since I have no mind to scale that peak again, I turn back and follow my row of little cairns down hill—guides all so necessary now in the open glorious sunshine, where you can see the contour of the country from snow peak to Gulf of Georgia. But before I go, I lie flat and haul myself to the very edge of the causeway. It is well I did for it falls sheer to the scree a thousand feet below, and vertigo may have swayed me over to crash to the eternal silence.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday September 18, 1930, p. 2.

MOUNTAINEERING

The Hotel Croteau will close for the season after a very successful first year. Approximately 200 people have been registered at the camp this year, which is an excellent start. The weather proved fine to the very last. Mr. [Alex] Gunning, and his party, who have been completing the geological survey of the mid-island came down at the week-end and the trail will be deserted till next year.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Thursday October 9, 1930, p. 4.

ALPINE CLUB CLIMB MOUNT TZOUHALEM

Mount Tzouhalem was the destination of thirteen members of the Vancouver Island branch of the Alpine Club of Canada who joined last Saturday's expedition. As usual C. [Claude] L. Harrison, outings convenor of the section, took charge, and the summit was made in good time, members leaving the city early in the morning by motor car. Owing to mist there was not much of a view, but the climb proved highly enjoyable, particularly to the more ardent mountaineers, who revel in a certain amount of rock work and other difficulties. The next expedition will be to Bluff Mountain, an all-day trip to take place on October 18. Dinner at the Sooke Harbor Hotel will be the concluding feature of the day.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday October 23, 1930, p. 2.

MOUNTAINEERING

Stuart Wood and Gordon Blackhall went up to Mount Beecher [Becher] cabin last week-end with a horse and a load of "shakes." They did fine work and all who use the cabin this winter are indebted to them. They finished the second cabin and when the windows are set in it will be snug as the one that has been in constant use for several winters. They also covered in one side of the passage between the two and started on the other. One day's more work would make the whole cabin ship-shape and snug for winter. Two windows and a door will have to be taken up and hung and a few more "shakes": when that is done there will be double the accommodation and twice the comfort of last year for the week-end parties that have provided so much sport for the young people of Courtenay.



Packhorses carrying supplies to the Mt. Beecher cabin in the late 1920s

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Thursday November 27, 1930, p. 20.

HONORS OFFICER OF ALPINE CLUB

S.H. Mitchell, Retiring Secretary Of Parent Society, Recalls History—Club Was Born In 1906

Interesting history was revived last evening when at a delightful reception given in the honor by Dr. Irene Bastow Hudson at her home, 1070 Amphion Street, S. [Stanley] H. Mitchell, who has just retired from the secretaryship of the Alpine Club of Canada, reviewed some of the events in the record of the organization. In addition to the small group of active and life members of the parent society there were present about fifty members of the Vancouver Island section, anxious to show their appreciation of Mr. Mitchell's long and efficient services with the Alpine Club. Mr. Hudson and Dr. Hudson welcomed the guests, and just before supper Lindley Crease, an active member to the parent society, introduced Mr. Mitchell, with his brief testimony to his great popularity in the organization, whether in Summer camp or Winter-time office.

INCEPTION OF IDEA

Mr. Mitchell recalled the inception of the idea of an Alpine Club of Canada. This dated back to 1905, when Mr. A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler, of Sidney, B.C., had written to Mr. McPherson and Sir William Whyte of the Canadian Pacific Railway, requesting passes for delegates who were hoping to go to Winnipeg to discuss the question of formation of an organization of the kind. This meeting was held in March, 1906, and was so successful that the first camp was held in the Rockies that year. The following year was the jubilee of the English Alpine Club, and Mr. Wheeler, who had been created the director of the Alpine Club of Canada, had gone to the Old Country to address the English club. His reception was enthusiastic, and in 1909, when the Canadian Alpine Club met at Lake O'Hara, twenty members of the English club had attended, nearly all becoming life members. The Alpine Club of Canada grew and flourished, and later affiliated with the English Alpine Club. Mr. Mitchell briefly recalled some of the notable Summer camps in the Rockies, and also referred to the famous Mount Logan expedition, sponsored by the organization. The journal of the Alpine Club of Canada was a widely-read publication, and through it much correspondence with famous climbers in all parts of the world and of every nationality is carried on.

REMARKABLE LETTER

One of the most remarkable letters received recently was from a correspondent in the United States who was intending to write an article on the mountains of North America and wished the secretary of the Alpine Club of Canada, to send him "all information about the Canadian Rockies." This said the speaker, was a rather large order. In addition to the hostess and the guests of honor, four other active members of the Alpine Club of Canada, were present at last night's gathering, being Miss Sara Spencer and W. [William] H. Dougan, Lindley Crease and James White. A. O. Wheeler, honorary president of the parent society, and for many years' director, sent regrets that he was unable to be present.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday November 27, 1930, p. 2.

MOUNTAINEERING

You will remember what kind of day last Sunday was; a clammy, foggy, dank, dark day. On the same day at the same time, on Mount Beecher [Becher], the sun shone brilliantly out of a cloudless sky for twelve hours. Twelve hours of golden sunshine on the snow! The rosy spears of dawn shot up from behind the castellated front of the Cascades, blue black in the first ray. The peaks were strangely foreshortened until the light grew, when their feet and lower slopes were seen to be shrouded in a vast white sea. Roughly following the Gulf of Georgia over three thousand feet below this vast sea stretched as far as the eye could reach—we were above the clouds. Underneath lay all the din and clamor of the world. One was aware of a stirring of pity and amazement that anyone could exist under such a blanket of vapor. Nothing but previous knowledge could convince a spectator standing in the serene silence of the upper air that that gigantic covering furrowed white was not as substantial as



*Climbers on the summit of Mt. Beecher
in the late 1920s*

the earth or sea. It appeared so very still, so very ponderable. If you have seen a great frozen lake, the snow on which has been tortured by the wind into innumerable ripples, then you have some conception of the top of the great blanket of cloud and fog. Capes of wooded mountain peaks crept into the great white mass just as they ran into the sea underneath. It had been a mild night and the sun shone all day. There was no nip in the air but it was clear and sweet and exhilarating and so it stayed all day, while down below those others crept about in a clinging gray fog.

The cabin has grown until it is now something to be proud of. The first necessity is now more stove pipe for the two sleeping cabins and the wood shed and kitchen. Trevor Davis et al, did noble work and a little more shingling will complete the woodwork. There are two stoves up there but they lack stove pipe. Sid Williams is preparing another oil-drum which will go up on somebody's willing back. But stove pipe there must be and that at once, or one of these merry week-end parties will find themselves out of luck as the pipe in the first cabin may fall to pieces any day. The visitors book shows that there is scarcely a week-end that a party of young people don't go up to the cabin and if another gang of hunters with no knowledge of the fine hospitality of the mountaineers does not strike the cabin and abuse its privileges, there is there at all times warmth and food. It is the law of the woodsman to use what he finds at his necessity, of wood and food: but he will re-place them for the next need.



Carrying the stove up to the Mt. Becher cabin in 1930

There are many other little comforts that the Comox Mountaineering Club would like to provide if those who use the cabin would pay their fees—only two dollars a year: Dr. [Frank] Moore will be delighted to see you. Very soon now the big toboggan, which was given by Messrs. [William] Douglas and [A.T.] Searle last year, should go up the hill: the snow will soon be deep and crisp enough for it. And there are many who are going to don skills. The trail last Sunday was excellent to the first cabin: beyond it had to be broken, but it was never more than three feet deep and the going easy.



Chores around the Mt. Becher cabin in preparation for winter

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Thursday December 11, 1930, p. 5.

ALPINE CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL

A. O. Wheeler Re-Elected Chairman Of Local Section—Past Year Successful

Arthur O. Wheeler, of Sidney, was re-elected chairman of the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada at its annual meeting, held last night [Wednesday 10] at the Y.M.C.A. Other officers and executive for the following year are as follows: Vice-chairman, W. [William] H. Dougan; secretary, K. [Kenneth] M. Chadwick; treasurer, Gordon Cameron (all re-elected by acclamation); committee, Dr. Irene Bastow Hudson, Mrs. E. Postgate, R. [Robert] D. McCaw and C. [Claude] L. Harrison. The meeting was well attended, and reports of the chairman, A. [Arthur] O. Wheeler; the secretary, K.M. Chadwick; the treasurer, Gordon Cameron; and the chairman outings committee, C.L. Harrison, occupied the major part of the business session. Dr. Hudson also gave an interesting account of her trip to the Purdue memorial hut, which she visited with some other members of the Alpine Club who attended the annual camp at Maligne Lake, Jasper Park, last Summer.

EXCELLENT REPORTS

Mr. Wheeler, who was in the Rockies during one of the most active periods of the local section, of which he is chairman, congratulated Mt. Harrison, director of outings, on the very successful season's programme, and expressed gratification at the increased membership, lively interest, and improved knowledge of mountaineering craft which had been developed during the year. Later he expressed the hope that continued instruction in the use of rope and ice-axe would be stressed during the coming year. The meeting was reminded of the parent organization's recent decision to raise the subscribing membership fee, and Mr. Wheeler also referred to last Summer's camp at Maligne Lake, especially mentioning the fact that Hon. R. Randolph Bruce and Miss Mackenzie had honored the gathering with their presence. Next Summer's camp, it was announced, would be at the head of Prospectors' Valley, close to Lake O'Hara.

108 MEMBERS

A total membership of 108 in the Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada was reported by the secretary. A resume of the club's activities for the year showed that four camps had been held at the Lake of the Seven Hills, and other camps at Leech River and Burgoyne Bay, with a sub-camp on Empress Mountain in July. An average of twenty members had attended each of the nine other expeditions. The treasurer's report showed a satisfactory balance on hand, and the club made a grant from this to the Lake of the Seven Hills hut fund, and passed a small honorarium to the sectional secretary, Mr. Chadwick, in appreciation of his services during the year. S. [Stanley] H. Mitchell, secretary of the Alpine Club of Canada since its inception in 1906, was welcomed to the meeting, and votes of thanks were passed to Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. James White of Sidney, and Dr. Irene Bastow Hudson and Mr. Hudson, for hospitality to the members of the section; to the chairman; and to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. [Charlotte] Hadow, and Gordon Cameron in connection with the sectional camp operations. Mr. Harrison's informal report as outings chairman touched on some of the harder climbs of the season just ended, with special reference to that up Mount Maxwell, Salt Spring Island, and the expedition to the canyons on the north side of the Leech.

Reported in the *Comox Argus* Thursday December 11, 1930, p.2.



Gordon Cameron

MOUNTAINEERING

At a meeting of the Comox and District Mountaineering Club at the home of the Secretary-Treasurer (Mr. Geoffrey B. Capes) on Friday night, some matters of interest to climbers were discussed. There is still owing a hundred dollars on the cabin at Mount Beecher [Becher] and it was felt that it was

not right that a number of people should take out a great deal of enjoyment out of that cabin without helping to get rid of the debt. It was decided to charge a fee of fifty cents a night to non-members and at the same time the membership fee was reduced to one dollar so that the use of the cabin to those who go up fairly frequently will be very moderate indeed. Climbers desiring to join should see Mr. Capes, who is now secretary. Mr. Ben Hughes reported that as far as the actual construction of the cabin went, very little more was required to be done, but stove pipe was needed—lots of it—for both sleeping cabins and also for the kitchen. Also, sacking and empty sacks to finish the bunks in the second cabin. Votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. Tarbells, for stove pipe, and to the Courtenay, and Central Builders for windows for the cabin.

The president Mr. C. [Clinton] S. Wood, is anxious to hear of anyone who is going to take up skiing. Once a man gets a little expert on the skis he can make fine time and get a great deal of enjoyment out of them. The big toboggan is still at Dr. [Frank] Moore's office, but it will certainly be taken up soon now.

Some of the members are taking a great deal of pleasure out of reading a book in the Courtenay library, "The making of a Mountaineer." They find it intensely interesting and full of very useful tips.

Reported in the *Daily Colonist* Tuesday December 30, 1930, p. 4.

ALPINISTS IN CAMP DURING THE YULETIDE

Eleven Members Of Local Section Join Three Days' Outing At Sooke—Experience Perfect Weather Throughout The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada has just completed a very fine advertisement for Victoria's Christmas weather by holding a three-day [December 27/28/29] outdoor camp at the Lake of the Seven Hills, in the Sooke District. During the three days, eleven members visited the camp, the maximum in the campus any single night being ten. Although a gradual thickening sheet of ice covered the lake, the weather was so perfect, with brilliant sunshine during the days and windless moonlit skies by night, that sleeping bags proved quite comfortable and the regular evening bonfires were greatly enjoyed. Members busied themselves with details of camp construction, and before camp broke yesterday afternoon, had completed a large stone incinerator to dispose of the rubbish which invariably accumulates during any holiday gathering. The only animal visitors about the place during the three days were the whiskey jacks which made friends with the members last Summer, and some of the ruby-crowned kinglets. The Alpine Club Lake of the Seven Hills lies at an altitude of 1,450 feet, and a pass nearly 2,000 feet in altitude is traversed to reach it. From the latter the Olympics at the present time are a beautiful sight, covered with snow.



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From the Front Cover:

*Not shimmying across the narrow, exposed bridge between the
SE and SW peaks of Colonel Foster.*

Photo by Rich Priebe

Thank you to this month's contributors:

*Geoff Bennett, Barb Baker, Nick Bachmeier, Keith Battersby, Catrin Brown,
Janelle Curtis, Laura Darling, Angela Dawson, Lindsay Elms, Niel Ernst,
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Peggy Taylor, and Liz Williams*

Well done everyone!

