



❄️ **Next Meeting: April 12, 6:00 PM at Bower Kim Community Hall  
85 Boyce Street. Please bring utensils, plate and cup for Season Wind Up**



## Another Great Week At Blanket Glacier

*Marie and the Blanket Glacier Chalet*

By Don Wales

OK! It looks like nobody else is going to write this trip report so this is my opportunity to tell some lies about the great group of people we had on this trip.

Blanket Glacier is a short 7 minutes helicopter ride from a little south of Revelstoke and it is renowned for its snow; in fact on average 25 meters of snow falls which translates into about a 9 meter base. We have been told if you get 1 or 2 days without snow falling you are lucky but, for the second year in a row, we have been fortunate with only 2 overcast days each week.



*Tree ghosts near the chalet*

The powder snow this year was exceptional and we trashed the area on runs with names like Christmas, Million Dollar, Castor, Pollux, and Home run. Many of these runs are open glade tree skiing but on the second day John and Linda and my friend Dave from Seattle skied to the top of Blanket Glacier.

On these ski weeks the endurance required has nothing to do with the skiing but involve eating our way through some spectacular meals, trying to finish off two kegs of Begby Beer and multiple casks of wine as well as surviving the red hot sauna.

*See Blanket Page 6*

## Parkland Ski Club Executive 2010/2011

The activities and affairs of the Parkland XC Ski Club are managed by elected club volunteers, usually for a minimum term of two years. All club members are expected to take a turn at these leadership positions.

|  |              |                          |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| President: Vance Buchwald                      | 403-346-3934 | vbuchwald@shaw.ca        |
| Vice President: Kelly Bogle                    | 403-343-3882 | rkbogle@telusplanet.net  |
| Past President: Don Wales                      | 403-343-2937 | donmarie@telusplanet.net |
| Treasurer: Dick Pawloff                        | 403-347-3658 | dpawloff@telusplanet.net |
| Secretary: Claude Sam                          | 403-342-2069 | nsam@telus.net           |
| Mountain Tour Director: Richard Townell        | 403-340-0050 | ldtownel@yahoo.com       |
| Day Tour Director: Linda Dickin                | 403-342-1913 | ltdickin@shaw.ca         |
| Publicity Director/Archives: Sandy Vrandenburg | 403-352-2468 | wayuphigh@shaw.ca        |
| Newsletter Director: Steve Bennett             | 403-227-3913 | steve@BentechAPS.com     |
| Social Director: Pat Gleason                   | 403-227-1164 | patjak@telus.net         |
| Loppet Director: Don Wales                     | 403-343-2937 | donmarie@telusplanet.net |
| Website Guy: Brian Davies                      | 403-227-4409 | bcdavies@telusplanet.net |

### Contact Us

#### Web

[www.parklandxcskiclub.org](http://www.parklandxcskiclub.org)

#### Newsletter

Steve Bennett 403-227-3913

[Steve@BentechAPS.com](mailto:Steve@BentechAPS.com)

**This includes Trip Reports!!!**

#### Mail

Parkland Cross Country Ski Club  
Box 21014 BPO Bower Place  
Red Deer, AB, T4N 5E7 Canada

### Contact the Tour Leader to join a trip

#### Cost of a Trip

##### Cost per Weekend

Hostel or Hut Cost noted in Tour Schedule

\$9/weekend for safety equipment

\$5 for an approved avalanche beacon

\$2 for an approved snow shovel

This is typically \$54 for people that require both a beacon and a shovel.

#### Car Pooling

The passengers share car-pooling costs.

The driver's share consists of the use of his car and the driving.

#### Longer trips

Longer trips and those on the icefields cost more. Contact the Tour Leader for information.

## Tour Leaders 2010/2011

|                                 |              |                             |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Vance Buchwald                  | 403-346-3934 | vbuchwald@shaw.ca           |
| Margo Coppus / George Coppus    | 403-281-3573 | margo@coppus.ca             |
| Brian Davies / Carol Lindner    | 403-227-4409 | bcdavies@telusplanet.net    |
| Debbie Davies                   | 403-782-0991 | ddavies@wolfcreek.ab.ca     |
| Jeff Kirtzinger                 | 403-396-9748 | jkirtzinger@bjservices.ca   |
| Jane Davies / Steve Davies      | 403-342-6473 | stevejanedavies@gmail.com   |
| John Duke / Jenni Duke          | 403-309-9380 | dukezoo@shaw.ca             |
| Pat Gleason                     | 403-227-1164 | patjak@telus.net            |
| Steve Irwin / Sandy Vrandenburg | 403-352-2468 | wayuphigh@shaw.ca           |
| Greg Olson                      | 403 505 0751 | olson2500@yahoo.com         |
| Claude Sam                      | 403-342-2069 | nsam@telus.net              |
| Mike Spencer                    | 403-887-5859 | ilovused@telus.net          |
| Marilyn Strilchuk               | 403-347-8494 | marilyn.strilchuk@shaw.ca   |
| Richard Townell                 | 403-340-0050 | ldtownel@yahoo.com          |
| Don Wales / Marie Willett       | 403-343-2937 | donmarie@telusplanet.net    |
| Frank Weber                     | 403-346-2916 | frankyogi@live.ca           |
| Karen Weisgerber                | 403-887-4028 | kweisgerber@wolfcreek.ab.ca |



*Paradise Valley tour group had ideal snow conditions*

## Perfection In Paradise Valley

By Richard Townell

On behalf of Hang and Hov; Arlene; Dave Allen; Marilyn; Debbie; Sue and Richard; Karen; Dianne; Trudy; Lorna and Richard.

If you want guaranteed good weather and gourmet food, go with Marilyn! Twelve of us did on that weekend and enjoyed a beautiful ski on fresh snow in warm weather into Paradise Valley. We started at the Moraine Lake Road parking lot and followed a gradually rising trackset trail up the Moraine Lake Road to the Fairview Loop turn off. A little way up the Fairview Loop we left the beaten track and ascended through the trees to the first bridge in Paradise Valley. Such snow – white and fresh and as much as we have seen there! It is a great route for a beginner to get a sense of the backcountry with minimal risk. We skied pristine meadows to the second bridge and looked around at the mountains, capped with clouds to add a little bit of drama to the landscape. Temple on the left was not visible behind the clouds but the mountains on the right were dramatic. The second bridge was our turnaround point, though the trail goes further, across avalanche slopes, a risk we did not want to take.

So we skied back towards the Fairview Loop again (One of us buried his nose in the snow on the downward path through the trees to show once again that he still has to master the

downhill aspect of skiing) and, instead of retracing our path, turned left to complete the Fairview Loop, stopping at Lake Louise, bathed in sunshine, (The sunshine gave us some waxing problems on the trail, causing the snow to stick to our skies and making us much taller at times) to inspect the ice sculptures (Strangely, there was a disproportionate number

of amply endowed female forms represented in the sculptures, the theme of which was something to do with mythology I think). They were beautifully carved. A quick visit to the hotel shops by a couple and then we were on our way back down the Tram Line to the parking lot.

The highlight of the trip: Asian Cuisine. Salad rolls, made on the spot by experts, set the incredible standard but there were all sorts of wonderful dishes in the theme: soup, stir-fries, exotic fruits, cakes etc. We and everyone else staying at Castle Hostel enjoyed a superb meal.

To pay for it, the next day we all set off with the sun on our backs along the Great Divide Trail, a 15km there and back route, track set and

fairly level; and those who had eaten the most paid the most by skiing all the way to the Lake O'Hara access road before turning back to the lunch spot which most of the others had left by then to go back. It was another day of great weather and a good workout. We were back on the road home by about 2.30 and very happy with ourselves.



*Paradise Valley tour group*



*Andy climbs the Saskatchewan Glacier*

## Sunny Spring Skiing On Saskatchewan Glacier

By Steve Bennett

The original plan was to ski up the Saskatchewan Glacier and onto Castleguard Meadows Friday, dig snow caves then climb Castleguard Mountain on Saturday and ski back out on Sunday but plans change.

Friday morning at 9:00 am nine members of the club loaded up packs and pulks at the big bend in Highway 93 and headed over the hump and onto the long approach to the Saskatchewan Glacier for the clubs final tip of the season.

The weather was warm with a beautiful blue sky and no wind which made for a relaxing ski up the valley. Last season we skied up to the toe of the glacier over wind scoured ice for much of the trip. This year there was a lot more snow, a few inches, which was nicer to ski over but a sign of things to come.

We paused for some quick photos of the glacial ice which is a favorite subject of mine as it changes every year.

We arrived at the toe of the glacier before noon and had a quick lunch then headed up the glacier towards Castleguard

Meadows. The glacier is not very steep but this was my first time using a pulk and I found that pulling the pulk uphill requires different leg muscles than skiing with a pack but the sled slid smoothly over the snow and it was nice not having the weight on my back.

With clear weather we got some teasing views of our next days objective, Castleguard Mountain. As we approached the steep moraine below Castleguard Meadows we began to scout

our exit off the glacier. In previous years they had taken a ramp to the left in the image below which is less steep than some of the other options so we headed there to take a peek.

The exit ramp was a mix of wind loading over ice crust over rotten snow topped with a nice cornice so we backed off and started looking for an alternate route with fewer hazards.

We looked at a couple of other options but most were

plugged with pretty sizable cornices so we made the decision to switch to Plan B and camp below the meadows then look for a safer route the next morning.

Skiing up the glacier we had spotted several potential areas up



*Heading for the moraine below Castleguard Meadows*



*Base Camp on the Saskatchewan Glacier*

on the meadows that offered great potential for snow caving but found no suitable drifts below the moraine. Out came the probes and we found a location with some deep snow pockets and decided to build a hybrid snow cave/quinzee. The plan was to dig down as deep as we could and pile the snow, then dig in and up creating a heat trap in the sleeping chamber. I really missed having a drift to dig into where you can let gravity haul your tailings away but having pulks along saved the day! We broke into two groups and began excavating our homes for the next two nights. Some worked as moles digging while others worked as mules hauling sleds full of snow out of the pits.

Saturday we woke to cloudy weather and headed out looking for a safe path up and over the moraine, still hoping to climb Castleguard Mountain but all the routes were full of sketchy snow and cornices. It was time to switch to Plan C and head up the Saskatchewan Glacier to get some better views of the surrounding mountains, Castleguard would have to wait for another season.

The weather was still warm and the clouds cleared above us occasionally but the Columbia Icefield appeared to be socked

in pretty thick and the wind had picked up. On our way back to camp we came across an ACC Edmonton group who had come up the glacier earlier in the day planning to camp in the meadows and climb Castleguard, like us, they found the exit off the glacier to be too hazardous and decided to set up camp below the moraine.

Back in camp the wind was still building so we fortified our wind breaks and started on dinner and drinks. The sun set and we crawled back into our caves. Not exactly "crawled" as our cave had standing room in the aisle with lots of headroom on the sleeping platforms and room for five so we were pretty comfortable.



*Vance and Karen enjoy their luxury accommodations*

Sunday we slept in, packed up and headed back down the glacier for home. Another beautiful day had us quickly shedding layers. My pulk tried to race me down the glacier and on the steeper sections I would ski with pulk ahead of me allowing it to pull me towards my demise.

We were taunted by one last view of the meadows and Castleguard Mountain then started making plans for next seasons trips.



*Jeff, Debbie, John and Linda, Todd, Marie, Sandy and Ivan at the top of Caribou Ridge*

### *Blanket From Page 1*

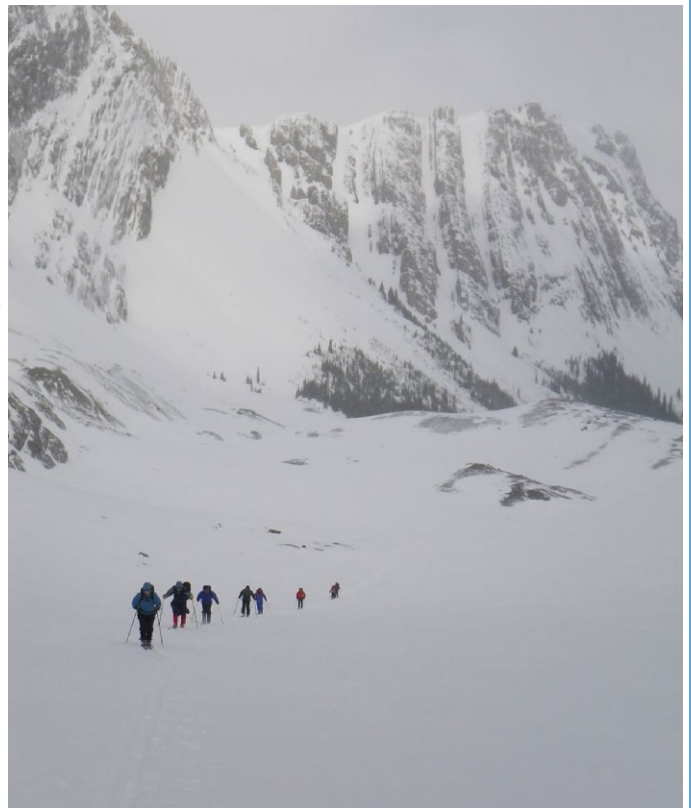
The Chalet is an old style A frame but very comfortable for the 14 of us. We were self catered but had Ron and Louise as caretakers, music makers, and informal guides pointing us in the direction of the best snow. We were even blessed with a visit from 3 mountain caribou who were attracted to the salt content of the disgusting men's pee hole.

**This trip is the highlight of most of our ski seasons and it looks like we will have another opportunity again next year if there is interest. It is on the same Feb 19-26 week in 2012 but you need to let Vance know soon if you are interested and cement the interest with a deposit. It is guaranteed to be a ski trip of a life time.**

## **Long Day On The French/Haig/Robertson Traverse**

By Jane Davies

After a restful night at the Bear Hostel in Canmore (first time the club has stayed there) the group of nine, ( Steve Davies, Jane, Karen, Dave Rideout, Dave Allen, Andy, Todd, Vance and Ivan) set out early. The Burstalll Parking lot had 10-12 ft of snow piled up along the road. We made our way up the French Creek with some long periods of bushwacking often led by 'young' Andy doing the trail breaking. We came across the previous weeks avalanche which had started way up high and came down taking out a swath of trees, 200yds x 100yds, all the way to the creek. During our lunch break we were passed by a couple who then took over the trail breaking. Going up the French Glacier was a long grunt with great snow conditions. We had a break before crossing the Haig and up the headwall to the Robertson. The headwall comprised of sugar snow, slab snow, snow waist deep in gullies, and some bare rock. We all made it up, rested and then began the beautiful, long ski down the Robertson. The conditions were fantastic, which really paid off for the guys with the fat skis. Some wonderful tele skiing was had all the way down to the trees. Then it was back to work for the guys on the fat skis as we skied back to the vehicles. Avalanche conditions throughout were stable. We spent the evening in the Grizzly Paw, downing some well earned beer. A great trip, challenging in parts, but very rewarding.



*Climbing up the French Glacier*