

The Snow Walkers' Gazette

Volume 33 Issue 6

Periodic Newsletter of the Parkland X-C Ski Club

March 1, 2012



❄ Next Meeting: March 13, 7:30 PM at Kerry Wood Nature Centre



*Andrew catches some air on
the Blanket Glacier Tour*

Blanket Glacier Wonderland!

Parkland Ski Club Executive 2011/2012

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: Barb Coulter	403-346-7096	barlou1@telus.net
Mountain Tour Director: Richard Townell	403-340-0050	rtownell@gmail.com
Day Tour Director: Linda Dickin	403-342-1913	ltdickin@shaw.ca
Publicity Director/Archives: Sandy Vrandenburgh	403-352-0864	wayuphigh@shaw.ca
Newsletter Director: Steve Bennett	403-227-3913	Steve@BentechAPS.com
Social Director: Debby Davies	403-782-0991	ddavies@wolfcreek.ab.ca
Red Deer Nordic Director: Alison Rittammer	403-347-7086	akrittammer@hotmail.com
Tracksetting 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

Newsletter

Steve Bennett 403-227-3913

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

\$8/weekend for safety equipment :
\$5 for an approved avalanche beacon + \$2 for an approved snow shovel + \$2 for avalanche probe.

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 2011/2012

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
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Greg Olson	403 505 0751	olson2500@yahoo.com
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Mike Spencer	403-887-5859	ilovused@telus.net
Marilyn Strilchuk	403-347-8494	marilyn.strilchuk@shaw.ca
Richard Townell	403-340-0050	rtownell@gmail.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

HELP NEEDED! Volunteers required to lead day tours in the local area and the mountains.

Please check your calendars and call Linda at 403-342-1913 so I can add your tour to the schedule.

2011/2012 Mountain Tour, Day Tour & Events Schedule

Contact the Tour Leader to sign up for a trip

Date	Day Trip / Tour	Accommodation	Tour Leader / Assistant	Max# of Tourers	Difficulty Level	Hut / Hostel Cost
Mar 9,10	Paradise Valley	Lake Louise	Marilyn Strilchuk Richard Townell	20	Beginner	\$60.80
Mar 16,17	Boulder Pass	Lake Louise	Greg Olson Jane Davies	16	Intermediate	\$60.80
Mar 23-25	Assiniboine	Assiniboine (Nacet Huts)	Margo Coppus George Coppus	12	Intermediate	\$50.00 Heli \$150.00
Mar 30,31	Lake O'Hara Road	Castle	Pat Gleason			\$38
Apr 13,14	TL & Executive Weekend	TBA				\$

Mountain Tours are extended back country tours of the Rockies, open to all club members, with two or more nights in a hostel or snow cave. Tours are designed for all ability levels and are led by Tour Leaders with extensive training and experience in leading groups on safe winter trips in the Rockies. Note: The Mountain Tour dates shown on the above table are the nights booked in the Hostel.

Day Tours are open to both club members and potential members so everyone is welcome to enjoy the day tour, share information about the club, get to know one another, talk about equipment, learn how to wax your skis, develop skiing skills and have fun. Some ski areas may require a fee to ski the trails, each individual skier is responsible for their fee.

China Adventures



When she is not working as a back country lingerie model, Kelly Bogle travels the world to bring you stories of exotic places and will be presenting her China Adventures March 13, 7:30 PM at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre.

Blanket Glacier Wonderland!

By Derry

Backcountry skiers dream of carving turns in beautiful soft powder snow. We may have exceeded our dreams with 165 cms of new snow (over 5 feet) on our Blanket Glacier trip from March 18-25. Too much of a good thing!

Vance lead our merry troupe of powder hounds including: Kelly, Brenna, Derry, Pat, Brian, Andy, Steve & Jane, Linda & John, Rob & Dawn.

After helicopter arrival on Saturday, we formed a daily routine of eating, packing/shoveling snow, great skiing, then return to the Chalet for a sauna/shower, more eating and early to bed. Rob introduced us to a stretching game that requires picking up a paper bag with your teeth. Sounds easy until the bag gets shorter and shorter. Undisputed winners were Kelly, Brenna, Andy and Rob.

Al Schaefer, our host at Blanket Glacier Chalet, provided excellent advice on avalanche risks and safe skiing alternatives. We needed steep slopes for momentum, but not avalanche vulnerable. Climbing was hard work, but the skiing was superb. Andy, Brenna and Vance were amazing as trailbreakers. Their antics jumping or "hucking" off 5 metre cliffs were very entertaining. Digging avalanche snow pits confirmed the avalanche risk and provided an excuse for a major snow fight. No winners were declared.

A medical emergency gave all of us a big scare. Our medical professionals ably dealt with a concussion followed by seizures. The rest of us provided support during the night until a helicopter evacuation was arranged for the morning. After a hospital visits, our patient was declared healthy. None of us will complain again about carrying first aid kits and a satellite telephone.

Key point of wisdom for the week: *AT is short for Aging Telemarkers.*

Andrew comes out smiling after plowing through some deep powder on a run called Xmas which was a fitting name as mother nature just kept giving and giving all week long



Left: Andrew and Vance enjoy a brief moment of sunshine while climbing up Caribou Ridge

Below: Brenna demonstrates how gravity works on the lower slopes of Castor



Above: Derry and Vance show off their new hard bodies developed through a rigorous routine of snow shoveling
Right: Knee deep trail breaking was the norm for most mornings

Tonquin Valley Marathon

Family Day Weekend 2012 *Authored by the group of 5*

---12 members of the ski club say "put the Tonquin Valley ski on your list".

Good snow, warm temperatures, and a great adventure. We had heard that it is a long ski in and by God it was- in fact a ½ marathon long.

Our welcome at the lodge was warm and satisfying with waiting hot coffee, tea, juice, fresh chocolate chip cookies (hot cinnamon buns the next day) and with the reception of our generous and friendly hosts Sara and Caroline. Our very abundant and delicious, made from scratch, meals were served at a round table comfortably seating all 12 of us and equipped with a lazy-susan. One had to be quick with the self-serving as hungry ski-mates around the other side of the table wanted to "spin the wheel" to avail themselves of lasagne, greek salad, scalloped potatoes, ham, pancakes, bacon ...and the list goes on.

For sleeping, the group was accommodated in 5 cabins each with its own style of wood burning stove. Various experiences ensued in getting and keeping fires going but overall it was a success. Maybe we even had some pleasure in rising in the

middle of the night to stoke the fire. And a fact not to be missed, is that, as we were the first guests of the season we had a "fresh" outhouse.

On Sunday some folks played on the hills and others skied to Moat Lake/ Moat Pass. We might have all skied further and longer but we were told that fresh cinnamon buns would be on the table at 3:00 pm sharp and they were (delicious).

With fresh overnight snow, glorious sunny skies, dramatic scenery and a leisurely lunch at McCarib Pass our ski out on Monday was a pleasure (at least until the creek section). One of our group Ivan had left us at an earlier junction as he was remaining in the mountains

for another 6 days to join other ski companions.

For several hours, our group steadily skied towards the parking lot and vehicles except for Wally Wabbit who seemed inclined to bound up the nearby slopes just for the fun of it. The last 2 kilometres along the winding, twisty creek challenged our tired legs and demanded good mental focus to stay out of the open creek. We all did-there were no wet feet..

Thank you very much to George and Margo for a fun, invigorating and overall great trip.



Fondue trip skiers along the Kananaskis river near Ribbon Creek hostel Jan 2012

