



❄ Next Meeting: February 12, 7:30 PM at Kerry Wood Nature Centre

February Presentation: The Grand Ski Traverses of the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains By Chic Scott



Author Chic Scott will tell the story of all the long distance ski traverse in the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains, beginning with Joe Weiss's traverse from Jasper to Banff in 1930 up to the great traverses in the Columbia Mountains in the 70s and 80. Featured with the be the Great Divide Ski Traverse



completed in 1967 by Chic Scott and three companions and the Jasper to Banff Traverse along the 'East Side' completed by Chic Scott and Marg Gmoser in 2010 when they were 64 years old.

Parkland Ski Club Executive 2012/2013

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: Brian Davies	403-227-4409	bcdavies@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	403-710-5096	Steve@BentechAPS.com
Social Director: Debby Kirtzinger	403-782-0991	dkirtzinger@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: Steve Bennett	403-710-5096	Steve@BentechAPS.com

Contact Us

Web

www.parklandxcskiclub.org

Newsletter

Steve Bennett 403-710-5096

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 2012/2013

Vance Buchwald	403-346-3934	vbuchwald@shaw.ca
Margo Coppel / George Coppel	403-281-3573	margo@coppel.ca
Brian Davies / Carol Lindner	403-227-4409	bcdavies@telusplanet.net
Debbie Kirtzinger	403-782-0991	dkirtzinger@wolfcreek.ab.ca
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John Duke / Jenni Duke	403-309-9380	dukezoo@shaw.ca
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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	rtownell@gmail.com
Don Wales / Marie Willett	403-343-2937	donmarie@telusplanet.net
Steve Bennett	403-710-5096	Steve@BentechAPS.com
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.

2012/2013 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
Feb 8,9	Saskatchewan Toe	Rampart	Jeff Kirtzinger Debby Kirtzinger	12	Strong Beginner	\$40.00
Feb 15,16,17	Fryatt Hut	Athabasca/Fryatt	Vance Buchwald Margo Coppus	6	Strong Intermediate	\$95.00
Feb 22,23	Lake O'Hara	Elizabeth Parker	Margo Coppus George Coppus	12	Strong Beginner	\$50.00
Mar 1,2	Family Fun Tour	Ribbon Creek	John Duke Jenni Duke	20	Beginner	\$40.00
Mar 1,2	Panorama Ridge Crowfoot Glades	Castle	Vance Buchwald	6	Strong Intermediate	\$40.00
Mar 1,2	Nordic Skiers	Castle/Elizabeth Parker	Kelly Bogle	20		\$45.00
Mar 8,9	Paradise Valley	Castle	Marilyn Strlichuk Richard Townell	12	Strong Beginner	\$40.00
Mar 9-16	Blanket Glacier	Blanket Hut	Vance Buchwald Brian Davies	14	Intermediate	TBA
Mar 15,16	Molar Meadows	Mosquito Creek	Greg Olson Jane Davies	12	Intermediate	\$61.00
Apr 5,6	TL & Executive Weekend	TBA				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.



**Great turnout for the 28th Annual
Bob Johnstone Loppet last month and
a big thanks to all of the volunteers**



Ribbon Creek Ski Trip and Fondue Feast

Fondue Tour on the top of Blueberry hill. One of the rare times that it is very clear and no wind

Photos By: Marilyn

We set out for beautiful Kanannaskis Country on Friday. This is the first ski trip with the Parkland Ski Club that I have ever participated in. I had heard a lot of good things about the trip before I signed up. I actually heard more about the food than about the skiing itself! The last of us arrived at around 8pm on Friday night at the Ribbon Creek Hostel. It was a cold night, about -26 Celsius, and very dark. We had a trip meeting that night and decided that we would start off the ski as group and then separate into two groups. Marilyn was the leader for one group and Jane lead the other group.

When we woke up in the morning the weather was warming up, it was now -24 Celsius. We packed up and headed out to the Elk Pass parking lot. We waxed up our skis and got on the trail as quickly as possible to avoid getting cold. The trail conditions were excellent as there was a big snow dump a few days before we arrived and most of the trails were groomed. We started skiing with the goal being the summit of Blueberry hill for lunch. Blueberry Hill was a slow, steady climb. But the sun started to come out from behind the clouds and we were rewarded with some great views of mountains. When we arrived at the top of the hill, the view was breath taking. A spectacular view of the Kanannaskis Lakes and mountains. It was like looking at a picture perfect postcard except a bit colder.

Then after lunch, we were all excited to ski down the mighty Blueberry Hill. It was a fun ski down. We then split up again and headed for the Hydro line. This part was ungroomed and we skied through some deep snow and had some fun going down some pretty steep slopes which were ungroomed as well. But we all made it down, some of us "whiter" than others. We then made our way back to the cars via the beautiful Fox Creek Trail. This small and windy trail runs alongside a beautiful little creek. It felt like something out of a Tolkien

novel. We then headed back to the hostel for the famed Fondue supper.

Food. As far as the eye could see! We had 2 chees fondues, a beef broth, and chicken broth fondue. We all had different colored Fondue forks and Frank ended up being the Fondue king as he somehow ended up with 5 green Fondue forks. This was just the beginning! As the chocolate fondue was being prepared, Dion and Phil were fortunate enough to get an extra treat. Phil got to lick the beater that made the chocolate fondue and Dion was rewarded with a finger licking good chocolate covered bowl! We then had chocolate Fondue and Bumble berry Fondue for dessert. With a little bit of wine of course. We all deserved the extra calories after our hard day of skiing. And then it was time for dishes.



Nancy started washing and enlisted a few men to help. But the project really took off after Steve step in and supplied some quality leadership to the dish washing crew! We ended the evening by more conversation, some wine, and a few of us played a board game. We all

slept very well in the nice warm hostel. A few scouts that were there braved the cold and slept in a Quincy they had built.

The next day we skied close the hostel. We skied up to the huge and mighty Troll Falls. They were absolutely wonderful. To the left of the falls, it looked like a small face was carved in the cliff face. The weather was considerably warmer on Sunday and we had amazing ski conditions. After the falls we made our way to the café in Delta Hotel in Kanannaskis Village. We had some food and said our good byes. This was a fantastic trip with great skiing and great laughs. Thanks so much to our fearless leader Marilyn for organizing this wonderful trip. And a big thanks to Jane for being the assistant Tour leader. If you like to eat, then this is must do trip!

By Dion

Destination Mount Gordon

On February 1st our merry band of backcountry skiers set off across Bow Lake enroute to Bow Hut and distant Mount Gordon. The ski across the wind-swept lake was more like skating, but snow conditions improved once we got into the trees. We proceeded carefully through the narrow creek canyon and up into the snow covered alpine. Bow Hut looked so close across the Valley, but it still took us hours to make the steep climb. A warm fire and good food quickly improved our moods.

Laying in our sleeping bags Saturday morning, we could hear the wind howling. It was tempting to stay in bed, but Mount Gordon called. The experienced glacier travelers helped the rookies get roped up and we were soon climbing towards Mount Gordon. Our lunch break was short as we faced

increasing winds and blowing snow. Thoughts of Roland Amundson's race to the South Pole kept rolling through my mind. Early in the afternoon, some of us decided we were not having fun and returned to Bow Hut. Vance, Andrew, Cordula and Ivan continued the ascent and summited Mount Gordon.

Sunday morning we headed out for a few laps of yo-yoing. The snow was great above the Hut, but we had to save energy for our ski out. After a quick lunch and Hut clean up, we headed back to civilization. Fresh snow on the trail made things easier, but skiing with a big pack is always challenging. By late afternoon, we were back at the cars and headed home.

Next trip we will make it to the top of Mount Gordon!

By Derry



Top: Heading up Bow Valley By Steve

Above: Trying to eat lunch on the wind swept Wapta Icefield By Ivan

Above Right: Andrew, Cordula and Ivan on top of Mt. Gordon By Vance

Right: Cordula puts in some turns above Bow Hut By Vance



Excerpts From Newsletters of Yesteryears

The Parkland Poets

A self-imposed duty, as club secretary, has been that of reviewing the mass of paper that arrived at my house, turned over to my keeping by the previous secretary. Thus, I am sorting and reading and reading. Most fascinating are the old newsletters.

However, before I share from them, I need to say my reading of the club history left me in awe of and full of admiration for the many club members who contribute to the success of the club year after year after year often simultaneously wearing multiple "club hats".

Now, some excerpts from the many poems that were part of yesteryear's newsletters.

The sun shines bright, snow's getting brittle.
I think I better get a little
Practice in before the race
To have a chance against the ace.

The gliding's good, the snow is quick
On top of ice- and in the nick
Of time I come upon the hut.
I should go 'round and turn, yes, but
My speed is getting – oh! so heady!
Keep going on – light, straight and steady.

(Two stanza's from a poem by Margrit de Graff)

More steep inclines
Bob's binding broken
Whiskey Jacks calling

The creek flows homeward
ever downward rushing
mountain immortality

(haikus written in 1991-poets Jim, Bob, Frank, Elke, Norm and Marie)

My arms are wings, I'm in control,
But now I'm beginning to slow.
Oh joy, oh joy another chance,
another kick, another dance

(poem penned by Bob Johnstone)

skiing is pleasure but falling
is grief and a snowy
cold lip stand is
hard on the teeth

(from a poem titled On Top of Old Skoki 1993- poet(s) unknown)

next time What Has Changed, What Has Not

